



FURIOUS REACTION

Kangana Ranaut, reacting to a sexist remark, says women are not just for sex, they have other organs too

LEISURE P2



ISRAEL BRIEFLY RAIDS GAZA

Israeli troops and tanks briefly raid northern Gaza, striking several militant targets

INTERNATIONAL P10



HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT

Indian para athletes create history by winning the highest number of medals at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' in 2 more dists

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday launched 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' scheme, aimed at transforming the state's rural landscape, in two more districts. The ₹3,397-crore programme was launched in Khurda and Jagatsinghpur districts, and it now covers nine out of 30 districts. Under the 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' scheme, seven constituencies of Khurda received a total of ₹95 crore, where 2,763 projects will be implemented in 190 gram panchayats, an official release said. In Jagatsinghpur, ₹99 crore has been sanctioned for four constituencies, where 2,922 projects will be undertaken in 198 gram panchayats. P3

Moitra summoned

New Delhi: The Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha has summoned Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra to appear before it October 31 in connection with the cash-for-query allegation against her. BJP MP Nishikant Dubey and advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai gave 'oral evidence' to the panel against Moitra during the day, after which its chairperson Vinod Kumar Sonkar said the committee will also seek assistance from the Ministries of Home Affairs and IT in probing the allegations. P9

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



As a star campaigner or regular campaigner, where should I list the ED?

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX 63148.15	↓ 900.91
NIFTY 18857.30	↓ 264.90
DOLLAR 83.26	↑ ₹0.08
EURO 87.75	↓ ₹0.22
GOLD ₹60,694	↓ ₹132
SILVER ₹71,315	↓ ₹472

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	32.6°C	32.6°C
TEMP MIN	23.6°C	23.5°C
Humidity	71%	68%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Mainly clear sky	

TALKS INCONCLUSIVE

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: The second round of discussion between the state government and members of All Odisha Private Bus Owners' Association - who have put their strike on hold till October 31 - ended without making much headway Thursday, with Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu asking the latter to submit their list of demands 'in writing' by October 30.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting here, All Odisha Private Bus Owners' Association general secretary Debendra Sahu said, "We still stick to our decision to put off our agitation till October 31. Whether we will again go for a strike or not will be decided at our general body meeting October 30."

BUS STRIKE



SHIP AHOY: Naval ships during the first joint exercise between India and the European Union (EU) in the Gulf of Guinea. The exercise followed the third meeting of the EU-India Maritime Security Dialogue in Brussels

Death penalty for 8 Indians in Qatar

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS VOWS TO EXPLORE ALL LEGAL OPTIONS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 26: A Qatar court Thursday handed death penalty to eight former Indian Navy officials arrested in the emirate last year on charges of 'spying on behalf of Israel', even as India sharply reacted to the verdict calling it 'deeply shocking' and vowed to explore all legal options in the case.

The Indian nationals, all employees of Al Dahra - a private company that offers training and other services to the defence and security agencies of Qatar - were arrested in August 2022 reportedly for spying on a submarine program on behalf of Israel. However, neither the Qatari authorities nor New Delhi made the charges against the Indian nationals public.

In its reaction, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said it is attaching 'high importance' to the case and is exploring all legal options. The former Indian Navy personnel are Captain Saurabh Vashisht, Commander Purenendu Tiwari, Captain

The former Indian Navy officials, all employees of Al Dahra, were arrested by Qatari authorities in August 2022 on espionage charges

Birendra Kumar Verma, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Commander Sanjeev Gupta, Commander Amit Nagpal and Sailor Ragesh.

All of the former Navy officers had 'unblemished stints' of up to 20 years in the Indian Navy and had held important positions including that of instructors in the force, they said.

"We have initial information that the Court of First Instance of Qatar has today (Thursday) passed a judgement in the case involving eight Indian employees of Al Dahra company," the MEA said. "We are deeply shocked by the verdict of death penalty and are awaiting the detailed judgement. We are in touch with the family members and the legal team, and we are exploring all

legal options," the ministry said, adding that it will continue to extend all consular and legal assistance to the Indians.

"We attach high importance to this case, and have been following it closely. We will continue to extend all consular and legal assistance. We will also take up the verdict with Qatari authorities," it said in a statement.

The MEA said it would 'not be appropriate to make any further comments at this juncture' due to the 'confidential nature of the proceedings'. India's ambassador to Qatar met the men in prison October 1 after being granted consular access. They had impeccable service records and had taken voluntary retirements in search of greener pastures.

As part of Al Dahra security company, the Indians were kept in solitary confinement for several months before they were transferred to 'two-person' cells.

ED raids Raj Cong chief, summons Gehlot's son

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Oct 26: Turning the heat on the ruling Congress in poll-bound Rajasthan, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) Thursday raided the premises of state Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra in Jaipur and Sikar as part of a money laundering probe into the alleged exam paper leak case and summoned Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son in a foreign exchange violation case.

Besides the premises of Dotasra, a former minister for school education, the agency is also searching the premises of a party candidate from Mahua seat in Dausa, Omprakash Hudla, and some others, official sources said.

The Congress slammed the Centre over the ED's action against its leaders in Rajasthan and accused the Prime Minister of taking the help of probe agencies in fighting polls, and said people would give the BJP a befitting reply. Chief Minister Gehlot flayed the ED action, saying terror has been unleashed in the country. He alleged the BJP was targeting him through ED raids as they could not topple his government.

Elections for the 200-member Rajasthan Assembly will be held November 25. The results will be declared December 3.

Dotasra is the party candi-

Rajasthan Chief Minister flays Enforcement Directorate action, saying terror has been unleashed in the country

date from Lacchmangarh seat of Sikar against BJP's Subhash Maharia. He is also the sitting MLA from this seat while Hudla is an independent MLA and the Congress has fielded him from the Mahua assembly seat this time. The money laundering case stems from FIRs filed by the Rajasthan Police against the accused.

The ED also summoned the Rajasthan CM's son Vaibhav Gehlot for questioning in a case related to alleged contravention of the foreign exchange law.

Vaibhav Gehlot has been asked to depose before the federal agency's headquarters in New Delhi Friday, the sources said. However, he is expected to seek a fresh date for appearance as he needs to gather documents dating from 2011 till now to furnish them to the ED investigators, they said.

Meanwhile, the agency raided residences of West Bengal minister Jyotipriyo Mallick in connection with an ongoing probe into the alleged multi-crore ration distribution scam.

Alarming levels of lead, cadmium in chocolates

AGENCIES

Long-term exposure to the metals can result in nervous system problems, immune system suppression and kidney damage, with greater danger to pregnant women and young children, according to Consumer Reports

REUTERS

New York, Oct 26: Consumer Reports has claimed to have found 'concerning' levels of lead and cadmium in a new array of chocolate products, and renewed its call for Hershey to reduce the amounts of heavy metals its chocolate contains.

It said 16 of the 48 chocolate products from various makers

that its scientists tested recently in seven categories - dark chocolate, milk chocolate, cocoa powder, chocolate chips, and mixes for brownies, chocolate cake and hot chocolate - contained potentially harmful levels of lead, cadmium or both.

All 48 products contained detectable amounts of the metals, and milk chocolate bars, which have fewer cocoa solids, was the only category that did not contain excess amounts, the report found.

Consumer Reports has said long-term exposure to the metals can result in nervous system problems, immune system suppression and kidney damage, with greater danger to pregnant women and young children.

Among the products found to contain excessive metal content were a dark chocolate bar and hot



chocolate mix from Walmart, cocoa powder from Hershey's and Droste, semi-sweet chocolate chips from Target, and hot chocolate mixes from Trader Joe's, Nestle and Starbucks.

The Consumer Reports testing followed its findings last December that 23 of 28 tested dark chocolate bars contained excessive lead or cadmium, in-

cluding Hershey products sold under its own brand and the Lily's and Scharffen Berger brands. The Consumer Reports is again petitioning Hershey to reduce heavy metals in its chocolate. More than 75,000 consumers signed an earlier petition.

Consumer Reports food policy director Brian Ronholm said Hershey, as a 'leading and pop-

ular brand', should commit to eliminating 'dangerous levels' of heavy metals from its chocolate products, making them safer for consumers.

In March, Hershey Chief Financial Officer Steve Voskuil said his company was looking to reduce levels of lead and cadmium, a 'naturally occurring' ingredient that could vary based on which countries its chocolate came from.

"We would love to eradicate it completely," Voskuil said. Hershey referred a request for comment to the National Confectioners Association.

Christopher Gindlesperger, a spokesman for the trade group, said, "Chocolate and cocoa are safe to eat and can be enjoyed as treats as they have been for centuries."

US SHOOTINGS LEAVE 18 DEAD

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lewiston (US), Oct 26: Maine's governor says at least 18 people were killed and 13 were injured in shootings in Maine. Gov. Janet Mills made the remarks at a press conference Thursday.

A man shot and killed the victims at a bowling alley and restaurant in Lewiston and then fled into the night, sparking a massive search by hundreds of officers while frightened residents stayed locked in their homes Thursday under a shelter-in-place advisory.

Mills said the shooting suspect, Robert Card, is considered armed and dangerous.

"This city did not deserve this terrible assault on its citizens, on its peace of mind, on its sense of



security," she said.

A police bulletin identified Card, 40, as a person of interest in the attack in Lewiston that sent panicked bowlers scrambling behind pins, into corners and a back room when shots rang out around 7 pm Wednesday.

Card was described as a firearms instructor believed to be in the U.S. Army Reserve and assigned to a training facility in Saco, Maine. The document, circulated to law enforcement officials, said Card had been committed to a mental health facility for two weeks in the summer of 2023. It did not provide details about his treatment or condition but said Card had reported "hearing voices and threats to shoot up" the military base.

A telephone number listed for Card in public records was not in service. Maine State Police spokesperson Shannon Moss said the bowling alley shooting happened first.

5 LeT terrorists killed in Kupwara

AGENCIES

Srinagar, Oct 26: Five Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) terrorists were killed Thursday as security forces foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir.

A huge cache of arms and ammunition including five AK series rifles and other incriminating materials were recovered from the site of the gunfight in Machhil sector, officials said.

Additional DG of Police Kashmir Vijay Kumar said five terrorists have been killed in the operation so far. He said the joint party launched the operation during the intervening night of October 25-26 at Sardari Nar area along the LoC. P9

leisure



AL PACINO, NOOR ALFALLAH DISMISS SPLIT RUMOURS

Actor Al Pacino and girlfriend Noor Alfalah dismissed rumours about their split as they headed out for a date night in Los Angeles, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.

BLACKPINK TOP STAR JISOO SPLITS FROM AHN BO HYUN

Korean girl group BLACKPINK's Jisoo has split from her boyfriend, Ahn Bo Hyun, after three months of dating. The 28-year-old singer and South Korean actor Ahn Bo Hyun, 35, have reportedly gone their separate ways due to their respective working commitments after a few months of dating.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Today people will actually drag you into altercations, so flash the peace sign if you must. You may face some sort of legal troubles from peace-loving groups. Therefore, Ganesh advises you to meditate, take a walk or just seek out the company of your near and dear ones.

TAURUS
Ganesh sees you in a very romantic mood today. Your thoughts, tender and dreamy, will keep drifting towards someone special; someone of the opposite sex. Come evening and you will, in all likelihood, be sitting closely together, arm in arm, with your spouse or your sweetheart.

GEMINI
Today, you are likely to remain transparent in all your dealings, forecasts Ganesh. You can be optimistic about your chances of success if you choose to propose to that special someone. The day will bring more pleasure than pain.

CANCER
There is something different about today. It is unlike any other day. Just when you will start believing that there is nothing great about the day, it will spring a surprise. There have been days where life has thrown carrots at you; then there have been days when it has hurled bricks.

LEO
You will be in a light-hearted mood today. Be it at the office or at the home, you will be full of joy and will be looking to pass your time leisurely. You will spend time with family and friends. You will be unable to implement your plans for tackling work today in your current mood, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
The artist, the comedian and the showman in you are all set to take the floor today. Entertain people and set the evening ablaze with your arsenal of jokes and gags, says Ganesh. But save valuable time and energy for other pressing matters and responsibilities too.

LIBRA
It is more than likely, and possible indeed, that you will surpass your own past performances today. All this is on the cards, despite the fact that your peers at work will try to outwit you. But it is your consummate set of skills that shall help you pre-empt all such attempts, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO
You will see every colour of the kaleidoscope today – people with different temperaments and different attitudes, many of whom will surprise you with their reactions. You may be shocked at the way your colleagues or close friends react to your strategies or success.

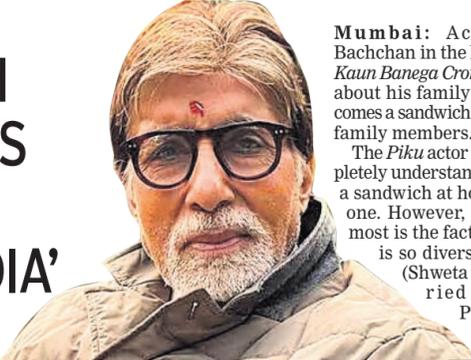
SAGITTARIUS
You may have been experiencing hair loss in the past due to back-breaking stress, but things will begin to clean up today. As complex issues begin to fall in place, you are likely to receive some good news about a promotion or increment.

CAPRICORN
Planning strategic moves will be done with, and all that will remain is execution. But Ganesh says there may be delays in implementing ideas that are crucial to the success of your project, and this may leave you disappointed and dismayed.

AQUARIUS
Ganesh says it's okay to cry on somebody's shoulders. In fact, sharing problems lightens the load, and if nothing else, your friends will think you're as human as them. You will feel much better by evening and will even smile a little, says Ganesh.

PISCES
Now is the time when the inner circle of friends that you have nurtured over the years will prove their worth, says Ganesh. It is good to know that in times of need you can bank on their support and count on their cooperation. You will be able to luxuriate in the benefits of their friendship today.

AMITABH CALLS HIS FAMILY 'MINI INDIA'



Mumbai: Actor Amitabh Bachchan in the latest episode of *Kaun Banega Crorepati*, opened up about his family and said he becomes a sandwich at home with his family members.

The *Piku* actor said, "I can completely understand, even I become a sandwich at home with everyone. However, what I like the most is the fact that my family is so diverse. My daughter (Shweta Bachchan) married someone in Punjab and my son (Abhishek

Bachchan) in the south. We have people from all across the country, it's like a mini India and we love it."

For the unversed, Amitabh Bachchan's son Abhishek Bachchan tied the knot with actor Aishwarya Rai in 2007. They have a daughter Aaradhya Bachchan. On the other hand, Amitabh's daughter Shweta Bachchan married businessman Nikhil Nanda in 1997. Nikhil is also the son of industrialist Rajan Nanda and his wife Ritu Nanda who is the daughter of Raj Kapoor.



Women aren't just for sex: Kangana

Mumbai: Kangana Ranaut became the first woman to perform Ravan Dahan at the Lav Kush Ramleela in Delhi on the occasion of Dussehra.

Commenting on her presence and replying to a post that had her picture in a bikini, former Cabinet Minister Subramanian Swamy wrote,

"According to SPG gossip she is a 'frequent flyer'. Why should SPG gossip? Because of the organisation is overworked. Her being made chief guest in the Ramleela final day is the organisation's conduct unbecoming of respect for Maryada Purushottam."

Kangana soon replied, "With a swimsuit picture and sleazy narrative you are suggesting that I have nothing else to offer except for my flesh to get my way in politics. Ha ha I am an artist arguably the greatest of all time in Hindi films, a writer, director, producer, revolutionary right wing influencer, had there been a young male maverick instead of me who could possibly be a great future leader and deserving of guidance and mentorship would you still imply that he is probably selling his flesh to get his way in politics?"

She further said, "Deep rooted sexism and dormant lust for female body making you sound like a pervert. Women are not just for sex, they have other organs as well like brain, heart, hands, feet and everything else that a man has or it takes to be a great leader So why not Mr. Subramanian?"

On the work front, Kangana takes on the role of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in *Emergency* that she not only leads but also produces and directs.



Katrina on true indicator of success

Mumbai: Actress Katrina Kaif is over the moon with the response she is getting for the song *Leke Prabhu Ka Naam* from *Tiger 3*, said that dancing is one of her true passions and that she takes it as

a compliment that song and dance are a part of the culture.

The Welcome actress stated: "For all these years as an artiste, the one thing that has kept me going is the love of my fans, media, and audience. The true barometer of success is in the love that one gets organically from people. *Leke Prabhu Ka Naam* is being celebrated is such a wonderful feeling for all of us. Dancing for me is one of my true passions and seeing the audience's love is just pure joy."

She went on add, "A film, an acting performance, a song they all have to connect to our audiences for it to be called a success and I'm grateful that I have found that throughout my career. I know that along with performance in a film, people also are excited to see the songs we do."

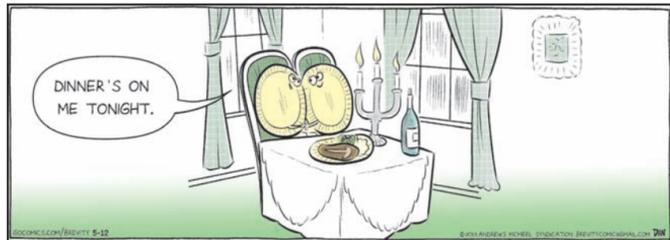
PEANUTS



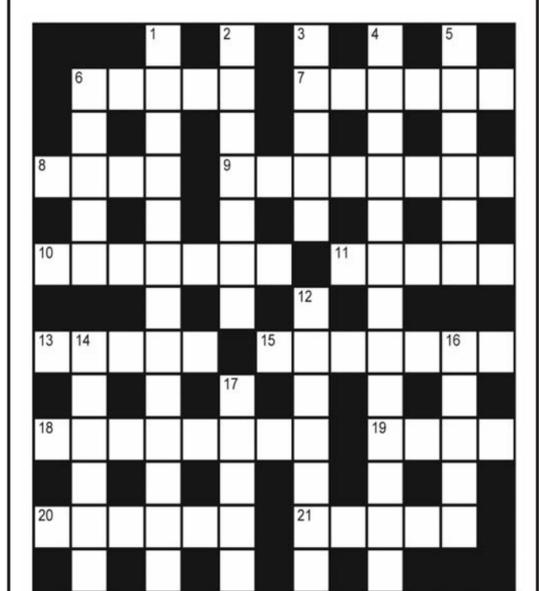
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 6 Man of morals
 - 7 Sanity
 - 8 Traffic marker
 - 9 French pastry
 - 10 Trounce
 - 11 Take forcibly
 - 13 Gambits
 - 15 Dissect
 - 18 Nut cracker?
- Down**
- 19 Influence
 - 20 Packing a wallop
 - 21 Annuls
 - 3 Battercake
 - 4 Emperor of Ethiopia, once (5,8)
 - 5 Respect
 - 6 Reef ring
 - 12 Subjugate
 - 14 Hard stuff
 - 16 Hose woes
 - 17 Shopworn

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.

			4			8	2	
4		1	9					
		3						
	6	2		8		3		
7			6					
4			2			5		
				8		7		
			6	4	5			
5		7					2	3

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

W	O	L	L	M	A	M	M	O	T	H
I	F	E	E	O	P	E				
D	E	F	I	C	I	T	A	P	I	R
E	E	T	H	E	R	A				
F	R	A	U	O	A	T	M	E	A	L
A		R	D		S		D			
F	L	O	W	E	R	C	A	E	S	A
F	L	O	T	T	E	R	O	N		Y
L	O	T	T	E	R		G	E	M	S
U	C	W	S	E	E		C			
E	R	O	D	E		T	O	L	S	T
N	T	R	E	A	S					
T	R	E	A	S						

SUDOKU

1	9	5	8	3	7	4	2	6
6	2	3	1	5	4	8	7	9
8	7	4	9	6	2	3	1	5
4	3	1	6	7	5	2	9	8
2	5	9	3	4	8	1	6	7
7	8	6	2	1	9	5	3	4
3	4	8	7	2	6	9	5	1
9	1	7	5	8	3	6	4	2
5	6	2	4	9	1	7	8	3

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

ANNUAL DAY FETE

Odisha Sahitya Akademi president Hrushikesh Mallick being felicitated during the 66th annual day celebration of Godabarish Sahitya Sansad at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Thursday



WATCO water supply project gets NGT nod

The apex green body allowed WATCO to go ahead with the construction work while ensuring that the elevated water storage tank project remains confined to land area measuring three acres as proposed by the joint inspection committee in its report submitted July 3



Though IDCO has made available four acres of land in question to WATCO for construction of the water tank for which, in any case, 3.22 acres of land is required, the joint committee has noted that as per the layout plan, three acres can be utilised. The NGT directed WATCO not to exceed in any manner the area of three acres

THE JOINT INSPECTION COMMITTEE OVERSAW THE CONSTRUCTION AREA AND HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCALS, DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER OF CHANDAKA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY AND REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS IN THE CASE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: In a significant development, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has finally given its go-ahead for the water supply project of Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) atop Sikharchandi Hills in the Capital city here.

The tribunal had earlier put the project in abeyance after Sachin Mohapatra, a resident of Daruthenga village, had moved the tribunal alleging that trees were felled and big boulders razed at Sikharchandi Hills without obtaining permission from the Forest department or other authorities concerned.

should remain confined to land area measuring three acres as proposed by the joint inspection committee in its report submitted July 3.

“Though IDCO has made available four acres of land in question to WATCO for construction of the water tank for which, in any case, 3.22 acres of land is required, the joint committee has noted that as per the layout plan, three acres can be utilised. We direct WATCO not to exceed in any manner the area of three acres,” read the NGT order.

The joint inspection committee oversaw the construction area and held discussions with the locals, divisional forest officer of Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary and representatives of various stakeholders in the case. The tribunal concluded that the area under Sikharchandi Hills is not part of any notified forest land and the hills also exist outside the eco sensitive zone of the Chandaka Sanctuary. Moreover, as the total area under construction work will be within 12140.6 square metres, there is no need for an environmental clearance.



COURTESY CALL: Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik meets outgoing Governor Ganeshi Lal at Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, to thank him for his service to the state and convey good wishes to him. Lal is leaving Odisha Friday after serving as Governor for nearly five years and five months

30L EVMs needed for simultaneous polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: The Election Commission will require around 30 lakh electronic voting machines (EVMs) and a preparation time of nearly one-and-a-half years for the smooth conduct of simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies, sources have said.

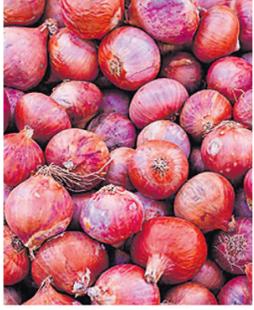
lakh ballot units and about 32 lakh VVPATs for the simultaneous polls, taking into consideration the reserve units kept for replacement in case of any malfunction or damage. Sources said there is a shortfall of nearly 35 lakh voting units -- control units, ballot units and VVPAT units -- for the simultaneous conduct of Lok Sabha and assembly polls. As deliberations on the conduct of simultaneous polls gathered steam, the Election Commission had informed the Law Commission a few months ago that it would also require

adequate warehousing facilities to store the EVMs. The Law Commission, which is working on a report on holding simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and state Assemblies, had organised an interaction with the EC on its requirements and challenges for holding synchronised polls. In the last Lok Sabha elections, there were 12.50 lakh polling stations. The commission now requires around 15 lakh control units, 15 lakh VVPAT units and 18 lakh ballot units for 12.50 lakh polling stations. An EVM has shelf life of 15 years.

Onion brings tears to common man

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/New Delhi/Maharashtra, Oct 26: The price of staple vegetable onion has witnessed a sharp increase across the country, including Odisha, burning a hole in the pocket of consumers already hit hard by the rising food costs. A kilo of onion was sold at Rs 50 per kilogram in Bhubaneswar, while at markets on the city outskirts the veggie cost Rs 45 per kilo (for smaller varieties).



den surge in onion prices to a reduction in production. Citizens have expressed their concerns over the escalating prices of onions, a fundamental cooking ingredient, as it is likely to impact the household budget. At the national level, Maharashtra, the primary onion-producing state in the country, is witnessing a substantial increase in onion prices. At Pimpalgaon market, the price of onions per quintal has surged from Rs 2,500 to Rs 5,000 over the past month. In Delhi, the staple vegetable which was selling at Rs 35 to 40 per kg last week is touching Rs 50-80 across NCR at present. The sharp rise of nearly 50 per cent is attributed by customers across Delhi and Noida to the end of Navratri week. “I purchased onions at Rs 40

per kg last week. But, today I bought them for Rs 80 per kg,” said Shekhar, a resident of Noida. Madhu Sharma, a resident of Yojana Vihar in east Delhi said onions are selling at Rs 60 per kg in her area. Deepak Dogra a resident of Gagan Vihar said that he bought onions from a store at Rs 56 per kg. However, local vendors are selling onions for nearly at Rs 80 per kg in his locality. Rajeev, a resident of Ghaziabad, said that he bought onions from the Mother Dairy near his house at Rs 65 per kg. In Safal stores across Delhi, onions were selling at up to Rs 56 per kg depending upon the quality. The retailers are attributing the rise in price rise in local mandis and increased demand post Navratri.

Bhima Prusty receives 44th Sarala Puraskar

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: Eminent fiction writer Bhima Prusty Thursday received the prestigious ‘Sarala Puraskar’ for his novel ‘Jambuloka’.

The award carries a plaque, a certificate, and a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh.

Prominent Marathi writer Dnyaneshwar Mulay presented the 44th Sarala Puraskar to Prusty at a function held here.

The annual award is given by Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT), the charitable wing of the Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys Ltd.

The ‘Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman-2023’, given every year by IMPACT for lifetime excellence in the field of art, was awarded to Guru Benudhar Mohapatra, a unique pattachitra artist, and renowned flute player Guru Mohini Mohan Pattnaik.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

<p>INDIA'S RANK IN WORLD DEMOCRACY INDEX (2023)</p> <p>132</p> <p>OUT OF 191 COUNTRIES</p>	<p>INDIA'S RANK IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (2023)</p> <p>111</p> <p>OUT OF 125 COUNTRIES</p>	<p>INDIA'S RANK IN GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX (2023)</p> <p>112</p> <p>OUT OF 165 COUNTRIES</p>
<p>INDIA'S RANK IN WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX (2023)</p> <p>161</p> <p>OUT OF 180 COUNTRIES</p>	<p>INDIA'S RANK IN CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX (2023)</p> <p>85</p> <p>OUT OF 180 COUNTRIES</p>	

‘Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha’ in Khurda and Jagatsinghpur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik Thursday launched his government's ambitious ‘Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha’ scheme, aimed at transforming the state's rural landscape, in two more districts.

The Rs 3,397-crore programme was launched in Khurda and Jagatsinghpur districts, and it now covers nine out of the 30 districts.

Under the ‘Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha’ (Our Odisha New Odisha) scheme, seven constituencies of Khurda received a total of Rs 95 crore, where 2,763 projects will be implemented in 190 gram panchayats, an official release said.



The scheme has also been launched in Puri, Nayagarh, Mayurbhanj, Bargarh, Deogarh, Cuttack and Kendrapada districts

been launched in Puri, Nayagarh, Mayurbhanj, Bargarh, Deogarh, Cuttack and Kendrapada districts.

The development of all villages is the goal of the state government, and this programme will make Odisha “a modern, culturally sensitive and progressive state”, Pattnaik said.

The CM said his government is also committed to guarantee education and health facilities. “Every place of worship and heritage site will be developed, which is essential for our future generations,” Pattnaik said.

All villages in the state will now have internet connection, science parks, skill development centres and banking facilities, the release added.



The award comes with a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh and a plaque each.

Sarala Puraskar was introduced by Bansidhar Panda and his wife Ila Panda for the development and prosperity of Odia literature, especially to attract and encourage new writers.

Chief guest Dnyaneshwar Mulay said literature is his first love. “All the secrets of life are told with poetry. Writing and reading give such energy that even when the body is tired, there is no need for any other entertainment,” he said.

On this occasion, the poetry book ‘Rutu Uin Asuchi’ by Dnyaneshwar Mulay, published by ‘Timepass’ and translated by Pravasini Mahakud, was released by the guests. Gracing the occasion, Prusty said as long as there is a human being, there is no end to the story.

Sedentary lifestyle & death risk: Every minute counts

22 MINUTES OF EXERCISE A DAY COULD REDUCE THE HEALTH HAZARDS FROM SITTING TOO LONG

People in developed countries spend an average of nine to ten hours a day sitting. Whether it's spending time in front of a computer, stuck in traffic, or unwinding in front of the TV, our lives have become increasingly sedentary.

This is concerning because prolonged time spent sitting is linked to a number of health issues including obesity, heart disease, and certain types of cancers. These health issues can contribute to earlier death.

But a new study suggests that for people over 50, getting just 22 minutes of exercise a day can

lower the increased risk of premature death from a highly sedentary lifestyle.

What the researchers did

The team combined data from two studies from Norway, one from Sweden and one from the United States. The studies included about 12,000 people aged 50 or older who wore wearable devices to track how active and sedentary they were during their daily routines.

Participants were followed up for at least two years (the median was 5.2 years) during the study period, which spanned 2003-2020.

Analysts took several lifestyle and health factors into account, such as education, alcohol intake, smoking status, and previous history of heart disease, cancer and diabetes. All this data was linked to national death registries.

A 22 minute threshold

A total of 805 participants



died during follow up. The researchers found people who were sedentary for more than 12 hours a day had the highest risk of death (a 38% higher risk than people who were sedentary for eight hours).

However, this was only observed in those who did less than 22 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily. So for people who did more than 22 minutes of exercise, there was no longer a significantly heightened risk – that is, the risk became generally similar to

those who were sedentary for eight hours.

Higher daily duration of physical activity was consistently associated with lower risk of death, regardless of total sedentary time. For example, the team reported an additional ten minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity each day could lower mortality risk by up to 15% for people who were sedentary less than 10.5 hours a day. For those considered highly sedentary (10.5 hours a day or more), an additional ten minutes lowered mortality risk by up to 35%.

The study had some limitations

The team couldn't assess how changes in physical activity or sedentary time over several months or years may affect risk of death. And the study included only participants aged 50 and above, making results less applicable to younger age groups.

Further, cultural and lifestyle differences between countries may have influenced how data between studies was measured and analysed.

Ultimately, because this study was observational, it can't draw conclusions on cause and effect with certainty. But the results of this research align with a growing body of evidence exploring the relationship between physical activity, sedentary time, and death.

It's positive news

Routines such as desk jobs can foster a sedentary lifestyle that may be difficult to shift. But mixing short bursts of activity into our day can make a significant difference towards improving our health and longevity.

Whether it's a brisk walk during lunch, taking the stairs, or even a short at-home workout, this study is yet another to suggest that every minute counts.

BMC asks NHA for FoB near Palasuni

3 BMC CORPORATORS, ACTING ON APPEALS OF A SOCIAL ACTIVIST, WROTE TO NHA FOR A FOOT OVER BRIDGE NEAR PALASUNI SQUARE



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: Three corporators of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) wrote a letter to the regional office of National Highways Authority of India (NHA) Thursday asking for construction of a foot over bridge (FoB) at Palasuni Square in City.

The corporators wrote the letter acting on appeals of a social activist who demanded attention to risks faced by people due to lack of a foot over bridge at Palasuni Square.

For the past five years, Narayan

People have long demanded attention to risks faced by students and local residents while crossing NH-16 due to lack of a FoB at Palasuni Square

Prusty, the activist, along with other citizens and social workers, has been advocating for construction of a foot over bridge. Despite repeated requests, no action had been taken thus far, contributing to a significant

number of accidents in the area.

In their letter, corporators Biplab Behera, Sekh Nurhassan and Minusree Khuntia said that Palasuni Square is a busy locality with no over-bridges or underground roads for pedestrians to cross the NH-16 one side to the other: Inter-state passenger buses and city buses stop at the square to pick up passengers, which adds to the crowd and conjunction.

"Students and people from nearby places like Chakeisiani, Sameigadia, Mancheswar Industrial Estate, VSS Nagar, Prachi Vihar, GGP Colony, Nigamananda Nagar, Bhagbat Sandhan cross the highway everyday for work. As there are no other ways to pass by foot, there is high demand for a foot over bridge," said a local resident.

Prusty warn that if construction for the FoB does not start in a month, people will take to protest on the street. He said, "Palasuni Square is a crucial transportation hub, serving as a major inter-state bus stop. People, including students, in the Palasuni area are exposed to daily risks while crossing the road. So a FoB is most essential."



HANDCRAFTED: A potter drying clay pots on the ground near Dhauli in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

OP PHOTO

PM reviews projects in 7 states including Odisha

Among the 8 projects reviewed by PM, four were concerned with water supply and irrigation, two projects for expanding National highways and connectivity, and two projects for rail and metro rail connectivity

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday reviewed eight projects spread across seven states including Odisha during the meeting of the 43rd edition of PRAGATI, the ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely

Implementation, involving Centre and state governments.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, Modi reviewed a total of eight projects having a cumulative cost of ₹31,000 crore and relate to Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Haryana, West Bengal, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Among the eight projects, four

were concerned with water supply and irrigation, two projects for expanding National highways and connectivity, and two projects for rail and metro rail connectivity.

The Prime Minister emphasised that PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan Portal in conjunction with technologies such as satellite imagery can help address various issues of implementation and planning relating to location and land requirements for projects.

He also instructed that all the stakeholders executing projects in high population-density urban areas may appoint nodal officers and form teams for better coordination.

For irrigation projects, PM

Modi advised that visits of stakeholders be organised where successful Rehabilitation and Reconstruction work has been done.

During the interaction, the Prime Minister also reviewed 'Mobile Towers and 4G Coverage under USOF Projects'. Under the Universal service obligation fund (USOF), 33,573 villages with 24,149 mobile towers are to be covered for saturation of mobile connectivity. PM Modi asked to ensure setting up of mobile towers in all uncovered villages within this financial year with regular meetings with all stakeholders. This will ensure saturation of mobile coverage in the remotest of the areas, he said.

CSIR-IMMT holds 'Fit India Run' 4.0

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: CSIR-IMMT, Bhubaneswar organised 'Fit India Swachhata Freedom Run' 4.0 recently with the theme 'Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat' for its employees at Konark, a 13th century temple. The event was held as per directive of



Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, government of India.

The Fit India Swachhata Freedom Run was also organ-

ised at Chandrbhaga golden sea beach. Leading the 'Fit India Swachhata Freedom Run' 4.0, Director of the Institute Ramanuj Narayan called upon the staff members and locals to adopt various healthy living habits like walking, running and yoga which will make them physically and mentally fit.

K'taka: 3 Odias held for killing peacocks

PNN & AGENCIES

Tumakuru (Karnataka), Oct 26: Karnataka Forest Department Thursday arrested three Odisha natives for allegedly killing peacocks for their meat in Maranayakanapalya village of the district.

Those arrested have been identified as Bitting Nayak, Baishak Davu and Duba Kapat.

According to the authorities, the accused worked at a brick factory in Maranayakanapalya and killed peacocks for their meat calling it sturdy and tasty.

They were into a killing spree of peacocks in the village and on getting information, the police got into action.

The police have seized 1.5 kilograms of raw peacock meat, two chopped legs, and the cooked meat of the bird.

In addition, nets, trap equipment and vessels used to cook peacock meat were also recovered.

The meat was sent to the FSL for testing and the accused are being tried under the Preservation of Wildlife Act. Further investigation is on.



SUSTAINABLE MATERIAL: People buying household products made from bamboos near Purighat in Cuttack, Thursday

Two ODM students among 20 selected for national sports

BHUBANESWAR:

For the first time, a 20-member team of Odisha Women Mini Golfers has qualified to participate in the 37th National Sports to be held in Goa under 'Kheho India' project, in which two class XI students of ODM School Smrutishree Sahoo and Sudeeksha have been selected. The players will travel to Goa October 30. It is worth noting that around 30 teams from all over the world are participating in the event. Odisha Mini Golf Association's President Satyabrata Minaketan and Secretary Vikas Patnaik, in a joint press release, expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the state government for its support and patronage in promoting the sports. Minketan termed the joint effort, promotion and contribution of the government of India and the state government as a historic step in the field of sports. He also lauded the dedication of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for such historic success.

KIIT signs MoU to develop oral cancer detection kit

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: Supriya Lifescience Ltd, the Mumbai-based pharmaceutical ingredients manufacturing company, has collaborated with Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar, to develop one-of-its-kind oral cancer detection kit, Quickblue.

The kit is designed to detect oral cancer in a cost-effective and efficient manner. This kit seamlessly detects oral cancer and could potentially reduce the need for extensive preclinical and clinical trials. The company has also filed for the patent of the kit.

Satish Wagh, Chairman, Supriya Lifescience Ltd, said that the Quickblue oral kit could reduce the cost of oral cancer detection significantly, eliminating the need for multiple biopsies in cases of non-healing oral ulcers.

"The high prevalence of oral

cancer, with millions of cases reported globally, underscores the importance of early detection. This product is particularly relevant in India and the Asian sub-continent, where a significant percentage of oral cancer patients are found," he said.

Wagh also mentioned, "The development of an oral cancer detection kit is in line with Supriya Lifescience's vision of manufacturing niche products to meet unmet medical needs."

Mrutyunjay Suar, Director General R&D and Innovation, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) University, said, "We are extremely proud in collaborating with Supriya Lifescience Ltd for a novel product. Our research groups of scholars and faculty members worked relentlessly with the expert team of Supriya Lifescience to develop this product. We believe this product can be a lifesaver by early detection of oral cancer."

Increased screen time may signal ADHD risk among kids

Children with a genetic predisposition to autism spectrum disorder (ASD) were more likely to use screens for longer periods, according to a study.

While long periods of screen time in childhood have been suggested to be a cause of ASD/attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), the results of this study suggest that some people may have a genetic disposition to use screens because of ASD.

The findings, published in the journal Psychiatry Research, showed that children with a higher genetic susceptibility to ASD used devices with screens longer (3 hours a day or 4+ hours

a day) from early childhood.

They also found that kids with a high genetic risk of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) gradually increased their screen time as they grew older, even if their initial screen use time was short.

"Overall, those with a genetic risk of ASD were 1.5 times more likely to be in the group with about three hours of screen time per day, and 2.1 times more likely to be in the group with more than four hours of screen time," said lead researcher Nagahide Takahashi of Nagoya University in Japan.

"Screen time may be an early sign of ASD, rather than a cause,



as children with ASD are often more attracted to objects than people. Physicians should know that it is not fair to conclude that prolonged screen time is a risk factor for the development of ASD," Takahashi said.

Researchers examined 6.5 million polymorphisms - referring to the presence of two or more variant forms of a specific DNA sequence that can occur among different individuals or populations -- in 437 children's DNA

to determine genetic susceptibility to ASD and ADHD.

Next, they calculated a genetic risk index that considers the number and size of the effects of changes in genes associated with ASD/ADHD. This is known as a "polygenic risk score".

The researchers then compared it with the amount of time spent using screens devices among a sample of children aged 18, 32, and 40 months.

Takahashi also warned against overexposing children with ADHD to device screens.

"Our results suggest that children at risk of ADHD are at risk of having too much screen time, especially since gaming addiction

is common. As screen time tends to be longer for children who are particularly susceptible to ADHD, parents and caregivers should be cautious about it and make a commitment before it becomes a problem," he noted.

These results may also help parents devise better child-rearing strategies.

"Parents of children with neurodevelopmental disorders may feel guilty or be criticised by others for allowing their children screen time," Takahashi said.

"However, we would recommend offering help to caregivers including offering alternative behavioural management strategies."

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RUN FOR A CAUSE: Participants at a marathon titled 'Fit India Freedom Run 4.0' organised by the Rourkela Steel Plant, Thursday

OP PHOTO

Violent clashes during Durga idol immersion

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: At least five people were injured in a violent clash between police and revellers over the playing of DJ music after the prescribed time during the immersion of goddess Durga's idols in Balasore district.

Some police personnel also suffered injuries in the violence that took place Wednesday.

When the revellers were asked to stop the loud music, an irate crowd pelted stones at the police forcing them to resort to mild baton charge.

According to police sources, Balasore district collector had earlier allowed the puja committees to play DJ music till 12am during the immersion.

However, the music continued to be played beyond the 12am deadline defying the collector's order creating nuisance for the locals and the ailing.

"We received complaints about the loud sound of the DJ box. Many locals even sought police help to stop the playing of DJ music near the District Headquarters Hospital located on the stretch from Cinema Chowk to College Square on social media platforms," said a senior police official.

Later, the police rushed to the spot and asked the members of puja committees to put off the

5 persons have been detained by the Balasore police for involvement in stone pelting

sound boxes.

This irked the crowd who started pelting stones at the police force.

On being informed, Balasore SP Sagarika Nath along with senior police officials, reached the spot and brought the situation under control.

Police also resorted to mild baton charge to disperse the crowd.

Following the incident, police personnel were deployed at Cinema Chhak, Motiganj, Mandal Bazaar, and Barabati areas of Balasore to maintain law and order.

As many as 5 persons have been detained for involvement in stone pelting by the Balasore police.

Meanwhile, two groups engaged in a violent brawl during idol immersion in Bhubaneswar on the same day.

Three people, including two siblings, were injured in a sword attack by the members of the opposing group at Rasulgarh during immersion of goddess Durga Idols.

Tusker carcass found in Athagarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Athagarh, Oct 26: The decomposed carcass of a tusker has been recovered near a farmland close to a cashew forest at Kantapanhra Square near Anshupa lake under Athagarh forest limits in Cuttack district, Thursday.

The carcasses of a wild boar and a cow were also recovered near the farmland. The tusker within 15 years of age is suspected to have died three to four days back. According to reports, the carcass was recovered near the Jenapada Beat area on Anshupa road in Athagarh Forest Division Thursday.

"One wild boar and a cow were also found dead near the elephant carcass. Forest officials started an investigation after locals informed them about the stench emanating from the area," Athagarh DFO Jagnyadutta Pati said.

Forest officials also seized electrical implements for poaching and electric wires from the spot. It is suspected that the three animals might have been electrocuted after coming in contact with live wires laid for poaching wild animals.

However, the exact cause of the elephant's death is yet to be ascertained. Forest personnel said that the exact reason behind the animal deaths can be ascertained after the post-mortem report is available to them.

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MLA steps into doctor's shoes, treats patients at Rajgangpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Oct 26: In a display of the sorry state of affairs in hospitals of the state, the Rajgangpur MLA was seen attending to the patients at the Rajgangpur Government Hospital in Sundargarh district Thursday as doctors did not turn up for two days amid staff shortage in the hospital.

However, the noble gesture by the MLA Dr CS Raazen Ekka has spread cheers in the area as locals including the patients hailed his effort in attending to the patients in the absence of doctors.

Reports said that patients had lined up at the community health centre Thursday morning but were disheartened as doctors were absent. This led to chaos at the hospital. On getting information about the harrowing situation of the patients, Ekka, who holds a medical degree, arrived at the CHC and started attending to patients.

A video has gone viral on social media platforms where Ekka was seen stepping into the doctors' shoes and pre-



scribing medicines to patients. He reportedly took each case one by one and offered services to nearly a hundred patients since 8am in the morning and prescribed medicines for them.

After reports surfaced, patients and locals thronged the hospital to get a glimpse of Ekka attending to the patients. When contacted, Ekka said that he had demanded in the state Assembly to fill up the vacant posts of doctors and appoint specialists in the hospital. However, the state government

is yet to fulfil the demands. Moreover, no step has been taken to meet the shortage of doctors in the hospital by utilising the funds available under District Mineral Foundation (DMF).

Notably, Ekka has prior medical experience as he was serving as a doctor in the Indian Army. The hospital is daily visited by people from 20 wards under Rajgangpur Municipality as well as 10 adjoining panchayats. However, it is an irony that the hospital lacks adequate number of doctors.

Fishers in spot ahead of ban in Gahirmatha



FILE PHOTO

FISHERMEN BLAME ABSENCE OF DEMARCATED AREA IN SEA FOR CONFLICTS WITH FOREST AND COAST GUARD PERSONNEL DURING THE BAN PERIOD

THE CURBS WILL DEPRIVE THEM OF LIVELIHOOD FOR A LONG PERIOD SANS ANY ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF INCOME AND THE COMPENSATION IS ONLY PEANUTS

men association Arjun Mandal, Sumant Biswal and Ratnakar Das said that the state government will impose a seven-month fishing ban in Gahirmatha for the nesting of the sea turtles. During this period fishermen will be asked not to fish from Mahanadi river mouth to Dhamra till 20 km from the coastline. The Forest department is not identifying and demarcating the coastline for which the fishermen always suffer, they added.

In the past, a fisherman from Balasore died during a clash with Coast Guard personnel in mid sea.

Earlier, four persons including three fishermen and a forest official were killed during an exchange of fire in sea. Moreover, as the area of fishing ban in sea has not been demarcated the fishermen are always at the receiving end from the Forest, Marine Police and Coast Guard personnel. More than five fishermen are arrested every year during the period of fishing ban.

When contacted, forest ranger Pradosh Moharana rejected the charges. He said that now every boat and trawlers are fitted with GPS systems which help the fishermen in identifying the area of fishing ban.

However, the fishermen are violating the order and entering the prohibited area on some pretexts to fish in the area. As a result, hundreds of cases are registered every year during the period of fishing ban, he added.

Gahirmatha coast will remain out of bound for fishermen as the seven-month-long fishing ban will come into force from November 1

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Oct 26: Absence of a demarcated sea line has often led to confrontation between fishermen and the Forest and Coast Guard personnel as they are all set to enforce the seven-month-long fishing ban from November 1 ahead of the breeding season of rare Olive Ridley turtles at Gahirmatha in Kendrapara district.

The Gahirmatha marine sanctuary situated within Bhitarkanika National Park limits in Kendrapara district is the world's largest rookery of the sea turtles.

The rare turtles travel thousands of miles in sea to reach Gahirmatha coast for laying eggs and they are set to reach their breeding destination within some days. The place will be filled with lakhs of turtle hatchlings if the environment remains conducive during the breeding season.

Accordingly, the state government will impose a seven month long prohibition on fishing activities within 20-km range of coastline in the marine sanctuary areas from November 1 to May 31 for protection and safety of the turtles.

The restrictions have been able to provide a safety cover for the turtles but fishermen in the area are not happy with it. They alleged that the restrictions will prevent them from fishing in sea depriving them of livelihood for a long period. Moreover, what they get as compensation during the period is only peanuts and falls short of meeting family expenses.

Despite restrictions being imposed within the 20-km coastline of the marine sanctuary, there is no clear demarcation in the sea yet. This is why, the fisherfolk lamented, that they often get into conflicts with Forest and Coast Guard personnel while fishing in sea. There have been instances where bitter disagreements have flared up into a law and order situation in the sea.

Local intelligentsia and fishermen said that the area under ban can be demarcated by using floating plastic balls (known as Baiyan in local parlance) in the sea as the nesting site in Gahirmatha marine sanctuary is a specific spot on the coastline. Office bearers of the fisher-

Dead woman ASI's kin reject autopsy report

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 26: The family of deceased ASI Alice Narmi Lugun, who died October 1 under mysterious circumstances in Rourkela, Thursday rejected the post-mortem report and the expert opinion report from the Department of Forensic, Medicine and Toxicology, AIIMS which said that the woman cop's death was due to 'excited delirium'.

The family members who interacted with the media Thursday morning claimed that the reports were fake and sought a CBI probe into the incident.

The deceased's husband Sanjay Lakra and brother Sushant Mund and brother-in-law Yasobant Lakra interacted with the media exactly 26 days after her death. Initially Sanjay began the address and said, "We don't accept any of the reports and I must say the police did not give us the report initially on the day they received it. We got the report only when we came to know about it from the media. There is something very fishy."



Soon after, Susant took over and speaking in Hindi, he said, "When the SP claimed that there was no injury mark on the body, but the post-mortem report and other report said otherwise. This confusing statement raised our suspicion." He further added, "The right upper cheek was swollen as you can see from the photograph and has a mention in both the reports. Besides, the reports also mention that her heart was healthy. Besides, the SP said that she died due to 'excited delirium', which is not a disease as mentioned by the officer. My other sister is a doctor and she said according to the WHO it is not a disease." Both her husband and brother said that they were going to give a letter to the SP next week. "The SP and the doctors should answer our question raised by us," said the brother.

4 cops injured in attack by gamblers

Gambling is a common practice in Ganjam during Dussehra and Kumar Purnima period which continues till Diwali

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Oct 26: At least four police personnel were injured after they were pelted with stones by gamblers and villagers in Ganjam district, police said Thursday.

A seven-member police team was attacked Wednesday night when they went to conduct a raid on a gambling den at a community centre in Choudhury Tikarapara village under the Nuagaon police station limits, a senior officer said.

The police vehicle was also damaged in the attack, he said.



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

"We have registered a case against the villagers for attacking the police. No one has been arrested so far. An inquiry is on to identify the persons involved in the attack," Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M said. Acting on a tip-off, the police team went to the village to bust the gambling den and 15 people were gambling there at that time, the officer said. Villagers, including several women, and gamblers hurled stones at the police team to evade legal action, he said.

In a separate case, three persons were arrested Wednesday for allegedly being involved in attacking the police at Pakalasandha under the Gangapur police station limits during raids on another gambling unit.

A sword, over Rs 36,000 in cash and two mobile phones were seized from the accused persons, another officer said.

Gambling has been a common practice in Ganjam district during the Dussehra and Kumar Purnima period and continues till Diwali.

The police launched a special drive in the district to crack down on the law-prohibiting practice.

The Berhampur SP said the police have arrested 179 gamblers since October 1 in 30 cases and seized Rs 6.58 lakh in cash, 68 mobile phones and 37 motorcycles during the period.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 26: Rourkela has witnessed major development in the treatment of kidney diseases with successful renal biopsy and tunnel dialysis catheter implantation at Ispat General Hospital (IGH) of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP).

One 44-year-old Prabhakar Behera from Dalposh, a resident of the model steel village of RSP was admitted to IGH with a three-month-old issue of swollen legs. After consulting various doctors at Rourkela and Bhubaneswar, he was admitted to IGH. A thorough examination revealed that he was leaking protein through foamy urine. Hence Nephrologist Dr Saroj Rout of IGH successfully performed a kidney biopsy and after the procedure, the patient was stable. Notably, kidney biopsy is an invasive procedure and ear-



The dialysis unit of IGH was started in the year 1984 and has been serving the needs of western Odisha and states like Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh

lier, people from Rourkela had to travel to other cities for this medical intervention.

Similarly, a kidney biopsy was also performed successfully by Dr Rout on another patient

Prasanta Kumar Nayak, an RSP employee with diabetes and inflammatory bowel disease.

Tunnel which is an alternative to AV Fistula for hemodialysis catheter has also been carried out

on two dialysis patients. Two affected persons Natabar Biswal and BC Nayak, both undergoing dialysis in IGH, were facing difficult AV Fistula. Tunnel catheter was implanted in both the patients for the first time in Rourkela.

In another first in Odisha, IGH also installed a home dialysis machine for one of its patients Rajat Bhoi recently.

Notably, the dialysis unit of IGH, one of the oldest in state, was started in the year 1984 and it has been serving the needs of western Odisha and nearby states like Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

Dr Saroj Rout is the chief consultant in the Artificial Kidney Unit, IGH. Along with Dr BK Hota, ED (M&HS) and other senior specialists, IGH has introduced many new state-of-the-art medical facilities for 360 degree kidney care.

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BUILDING TO LAST



Building with an eye on long-term sustainability is a powerful weapon in the battle against climate change

enhancing existing infrastructure can also be a game-changer. Retrofitting can be up to 80% cheaper than building new infrastructure, as per the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Upgrades to existing buildings can protect against earthquakes, corrosion, and other forms of decay. Furthermore, adding modern insulation to buildings lowers energy consumption, and applying new technology to transportation systems reduces emissions.

The Hong Kong-Macau-Zhuhai Sea crossing, completed in 2018 for a staggering \$20 billion, stands as a remarkable engineering feat. It ranks as the world's longest sea crossing and was constructed to withstand earthquakes and typhoons, despite challenging conditions from a harsh marine environment that caused corrosion in its structures. The crossing has been designed to last an impressive 120 years, exceeding the usual lifespan of reinforced concrete buildings, which is typically 50 to 75 years.

Closer home, a lot of our modern infrastructure construction in Odisha has been affected by resource constraint on one hand and corrupt practices on the other hand. It has resulted in numerous accidents even during the construction as well as rapid degradation requiring frequent repair and high maintenance cost. Instead of assets, sometimes these poor quality infrastructure prove to be a liability for the public exchequer besides being a climate-negative product.

To combat global heating, it is essential to prioritise the construction of long-lasting structures. Owners, policymakers, and businesses should encourage preservation of existing structures and advocate renovation and construction of new buildings that are built to last for centuries.

Anindita Misra has a Masters degree in climate change & environment policy from University of Leeds and practices as a sustainability consultant. Dhanada K Mishra, a PhD in Civil Engineering from University of Michigan, is the MD of a Hong Kong-based AI startup.

Centuries ago, Indians were master builders, creating iconic structures like the Taj Mahal and the Jagannath temple that still stand strong today. In contrast, many modern structures, constructed with contemporary materials, have not survived beyond their predicted lifetime. Recently, MIT researchers unravelled the secret to the ancient Roman structures' remarkable durability. These ancient wonders could repair themselves, thanks to the magic of lime clasts embedded in their construction materials. This discovery has the potential to significantly shrink the carbon footprint of concrete, which ranks second in global material use, right after water. Building with an eye on long-term sustainability is a powerful weapon in the battle against climate change.

A recent report rings the alarm, revealing that the infrastructure sector is responsible for a whopping 79% of all greenhouse gas emissions and an astonishing 88% of adaptation costs. Even the creation of construction materials for roads, buildings, and bridges accounts for a significant 11% of global energy consumption. Half of these emissions are tied to the way materials are manufactured and put together. This dire situation calls for the construction of robust and sustainable structures that can help address the climate crisis and reduce negative environmental impacts.

The frequent construction and demolition of infrastructure significantly contribute to air and water pollution, waste generation, and resource depletion. The production and transportation of building materials also pump out carbon emissions. Investing in infrastructure that can withstand the test of time is an effective way to combat such destructive processes.

Additionally, creating resilient infrastructure can help governments and private entities make more efficient use of resources. The World Economic Forum advocates for a rethink of infrastructure policies that can enhance the quality of life and stimulate long-term economic growth. Strong and enduring

infrastructure reduces costs linked to maintenance, repairs, and replacements, lightening the financial load on infrastructure owners and operators.

Creating infrastructure that can endure and last is about integrating smart strategies. Climate-responsive design involves building structures that work harmoniously with local weather conditions. This can mean implementing passive cooling techniques, maximising the use of natural light and ventilation, and introducing green roofs to combat heat absorption.

Furthermore, we should construct infrastructure with adaptability in mind, allowing for easy adjustments to cope with changing climate conditions. For example, building roads with permeable surfaces that absorb water during heavy rainfall and designing buildings with replaceable or upgradable parts can significantly enhance the longevity of our projects. Using eco-friendly materials like bamboo, recycled steel, and robust cross-laminated timber can withstand climate challenges and reduce the overall carbon footprint of construction. Local sourcing of materials further reduces emissions caused by transportation.

Constructing buildings that can withstand extreme weather conditions like storms, floods, and wildfires is crucial. To achieve this, designers must consider future weather patterns instead of solely relying on past data. Implementing effective design solutions such as rain screen cladding systems that block rain, allow moisture to drain away, and provide exterior insulation can make a significant difference. Hurricane-resistant win-

dows, moisture-resistant interior materials that require less frequent replacement, and simplified building systems with manual override functions in case of malfunctions can contribute to creating more resilient buildings. It is also highly recommended to use on-site renewable energy solutions, implement water conservation methods and utilise annually renewed water sources, such as rainwater harvesting, as the main or alternative water source.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and there are several real-world examples of infrastructure that have stood the test of time. Take, for instance, the Hoover Dam and Golden Gate Bridge in the United States. Both were constructed almost a century ago and are still operational today. Then there's the awe-inspiring Konark Temple, which has been standing for almost 800 years.

There are various methods to extend the life of infrastructure. Using high-performance concrete, renowned for its durability and resistance to corrosion, is an excellent choice for buildings, bridges, and other structures. Smart technology, such as wireless sensors and real-time monitoring, can detect structural issues early on, facilitating timely repairs and maintenance. Proactive inspection of structures not only reduces carbon footprints but also leads to long-term cost savings. By identifying issues before they escalate, preventive maintenance helps reduce energy costs, carbon emissions, and emergency repairs, thus minimising the waste generated from frequent construction and demolition. Retrofitting and



Anindita Misra & Dhanada K Mishra

FREQUENT CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION OF INFRASTRUCTURE SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTE TO AIR AND WATER POLLUTION, WASTE GENERATION, AND RESOURCE DEPLETION



Manica Balasegaram

Given the accelerating spread of antimicrobial resistance and the long lead-in time to develop antibiotics, we can't afford to continue overlooking the problem

The Silent Pandemic

The overuse of antibiotics is now widely recognised as one of the main factors contributing to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) – often called the “silent pandemic.” But what is less well known is that shortages of antibiotics also play a role in fueling AMR.

Scarce supplies of paediatric amoxicillin, used to treat Strep A, made headlines in the United Kingdom late last year, as a surge of infections left at least 19 children dead. Far from being an outlier, however, such shortfalls are common and pervasive, affecting countries across the world, and their consequences for both individuals' health and AMR's spread can be dire. That is because shortages of first-line antibiotics often lead to overuse of those that are specialised or kept in reserve for emergencies. Not only may these substitutes be less effective, but reliance on them increases the risk of drug resistance developing and infections becoming more difficult to treat in the long run.

Already one of the world's biggest killers, AMR is on the rise. In 2019, it was directly responsible for an estimated 1.27 million deaths – more than HIV/AIDS and malaria combined – and associated with 4.95 million more. So far, the global response to this growing crisis has focused mainly on trying to outpace drug-resistant bacteria through the development of new antibiotics. But in the short term, there is ample room to reduce the number of AMR deaths, as well as AMR's impact on health more broadly, by addressing some of the causes of shortages and improving access to appropriate treatments.

The same market failures that triggered the global AMR crisis are also largely responsible for antibiotic shortages. Compared to other drugs, antibiotics are often more complex and more costly to manufacture, have stricter regulatory requirements, and are less profitable. As a result, many pharmaceutical companies have significantly reduced or stopped antibiotic research and development over the last few decades.

Not only are very few new antibiotics being developed, but it has also become less attractive to produce those already on the market, partly owing to supply-chain bottlenecks and volatility. All it takes is a disruption in the supply of an ingredient or a quality-control problem, or a supplier increasing prices or halting production entirely, to bring the global supply chain of these medicines to a standstill.

But just as important has been the equally volatile demand for antibiotics caused by sudden outbreaks of bacterial infections and poor management of national supplies, which contributes to stockouts. While shortages are not uncommon in the pharmaceutical industry, they are 42 per cent more likely for antibiotics than they are for other drugs.

Although precise numbers that would reveal the scale of the problem are difficult to obtain, much of this uncertainty could be avoided with better market intelligence. Even though antibiotics are less lucrative than other drugs, pharmaceutical companies can still turn a profit – if they have accurate data. Improved forecasting can thus reduce risks for manufacturers and provide a stronger incentive to scale up production and expand their markets.

There is also plenty of room for improvement in the way that countries – particularly lower-income countries – procure, register, and manage these vital drugs. By expanding the capacity of national regulatory authorities, for example, it would be easier to track and coordinate supplies and create stockpiles to build greater resilience. All of this would also help provide more certainty for drug makers.

SECURE, an initiative led by the World Health Organization and the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (of which I am executive director), aims to work with countries to improve access to essential antibiotics. That involves exploring how national regulatory authorities could serve as centralised hubs to help monitor, prevent, and respond to shortages. Eventually, SECURE intends to create more buoyant and competitive markets by encouraging countries to pool procurement, ensuring a more reliable supply.

Shortages of antibiotics are a serious problem for all countries, but there is plenty that can – and should – be done to prevent them. Given the accelerating spread of AMR and the long lead-in time to develop antibiotics, we can't afford to continue overlooking the problem. Equally important, efforts to address scarce supplies could help ensure that, when new drugs become available, they reach the people who need them.

The writer is Executive Director of Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- Remember, today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday. DALE CARNEGIE
- Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all. HELEN KELLER
- Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. KOFI ANNAN

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1682:** City of Philadelphia founded. The historical city in the State of Pennsylvania was founded by English entrepreneur, William Penn. Penn received the land as a payment to fulfill a debt that King Charles II owed to Penn's father. Philadelphia is the only UNESCO-declared World Heritage City in the United States and it was temporarily the capital of the United States in the 1800s.
- 1961:** The first Saturn rocket was successfully launched, and years later the Saturn V was the launch vehicle used in the Apollo Moon-landing flights.
- 1978:** Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Menachem Begin of Israel were awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace for negotiations that resulted first in the Camp David Accords, then in a peace treaty between their countries.

LOL

Dealing with criminals

A local policeman had just finished his shift one cold November evening and was at home with his wife. “You just won't believe what happened this evening, in all my years on the force I've never seen anything like it.” “Oh yes dear, what happened?”



“I came across two guys down by the canal, one of them was drinking battery acid and the other was eating fireworks.” “Drinking battery acid and eating fireworks!! What did you do with them?” “Oh that was easy, I charged one and let the other off.”

SPECTRUM ISRAEL-PALESTINE

Revisiting Gandhi & Mandela



DK Giri

WITHOUT ANY SHRED OF DOUBT, PALESTINIAN PROBLEM CANNOT BE RESOLVED BY MILITARY ACTION BY EITHER SIDE

One of the best balanced statements on Israel-Hamas war I heard was made by Prince Turki Al-Faisal at the Baker Institute of Public Policy, Huston. He is a Saudi Arabia former Intelligence Chief and its Ambassador to the UK and US. He said, “All militarily occupied people have right to resist their occupation, even militarily. But I do not support the military option for Palestine. I prefer the other option, civil insurrection and disobedience. It brought down the British empire in India and the Soviet empire in Eastern Europe.” He qualified his suggestion by explaining that Israel had overwhelmingly military superiority. The world saw it in the past and can see it now as Israel dominates and controls Gaza and now pounds it to the pulp.

Unarguably, we should have added the fall of South African apartheid under the leadership of Nelson Mandela. Without any shred of doubt, Palestinian problem cannot be resolved by mili-

tary action by either side. But the terrorists on either side would not let it happen. Let me hasten to elaborate when I say terror emanates from either side. In the past, Israelis have resorted to terrorism. Historians recall that the origin of Israel state lay in the violent actions by the Zionist groups like the Irgun and Stern gang such as the assassination of the UN envoy Count Folke Bernadotte and the bombing of King David Hotel in Jerusalem, as well as killing and terrorising of Palestinian villagers. Notably, Irgun's leader Menachem Begin and Stern Gang's Yitzhak Shamir, both went to become PM of Israel. In current times, critics and observers accuse Israel of resorting to violence and terrorising Palestine, running an ‘open air prison’ in Gaza strip and incarcerating Palestinians.

Israel claims that the two-state solution was offered to Palestine at least five times. Bill Clinton mediating for both parties said in exasperation that Arafat stayed for 14 days to negotiate but re-

jected it altogether with three infamous NOS – No peace with Israel, No recognition of Israel and No negotiation with Israel. What is more and worse, PLO launched violent attacks on Israel after the rejection of the accord.

That said, we are here now. The current state of confrontation and lack of compromise will stymie the conflict; or rather will make it worse. The world is reacting in various ways. I have discussed their reactions in the preceding column here last week. Right now, world leaders are asking for a humanitarian pause to allow aid and explore options like release of hostages. The EU's top diplomat Josep Borrell has asked for a ceasefire on humanitarian ground. But Israel is in no mood to listen. PM Benjamin Netanyahu said in an interview that they have made the mistake more than once of listening to the world opinion which was based on ill-information spread by Leftist media about the conflict.

The desirable and workable strategy as referred to herein the

beginning is to shun violence. Terrorism should have no place in Israel-Palestine conflict. A Gandhian approach of civil disobedience is the way forward. And taking a leaf out of Mandela's book, a Truth and Reconciliation Commission should be set up consisting of insiders and other world leaders preferably from India, (land of Gandhi) and South Africa, (land of Mandela).

Such a Commission should negotiate the terms of settlement for peaceful and harmonious existence of two states. In order for this to happen, terrorist organisations like Hamas and Hezbollah have to be countered internationally. And the second stage should be prevailing upon Israel to stop coercion of Palestinians in Gaza or West Bank. Until a legitimate and genuine political authority is established in Palestine, an UN-monitored arrangement could be initiated. This practice has happened in countries which were created out of such conflicts. That is the way to go.

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Addressing food waste

Sir, Food waste is a global crisis, especially prevalent in wealthier nations. India faces a significant food wastage challenge, discarding 68.7 million tonnes of food annually, approximately 50 kg per person. India ranks second globally in household food wastage, following China. Shockingly, one-third of its food production goes to waste, leading to malnutrition and starvation, despite being one of the world's fastest-growing economies. In the Global Hunger Index, India ranks 111 out of 125 countries. Diverse causes contribute to the food waste, including agricultural practices, food safety standards, and consumer choices. The impact is far-reaching, involving unnecessary carbon emissions and an economic loss of nearly 1 per cent of the GDP, affecting agriculture and depleting essential resources. Addressing food waste in India is an urgent economic and environmental issue, requiring collective action and coordinated efforts among governments, food producers, retailers, and consumers. These efforts aim to promote sustainable food management, ensuring a healthier and more secure future for India, especially given its low ranking on the Global Hunger Index.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Inhuman activity

Sir, In a recent order, Supreme Court has asked the Central and state governments to frame policies to completely eradicate manual scavenging from India. The top court has asked the Centre to issue guidelines and directions to not allow humans into sewage at any cost by any contractors and authorities. Manual scavenging is the practice of removing waste, including human excreta, by hand from sewers and septic tanks. This inhuman activity is banned in India but still prevails in many forms. People from the lower strata of society are engaged in these activities. Every year cases of deaths are reported due to manual scavenging. This practice now requires complete eradication to save the dignity of human beings. The sewage work should now be shifted to machines which will help save many lives. The Central government should soon release a new set of rules and guidelines to completely ban this. The governments of states and Union territories should ensure that the rules are properly implemented.

Deba Prasad Nayak, DHENKANAL

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

Orissa POST
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

BIHAR GOVT DRAWS FLAK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 26: The Nitish Kumar government in Bihar has drawn flak from allies as well as adversaries over the state Education department's move of striking off the names of more than 20 lakh students from government schools for remaining absent. Those whose names have been struck off also include 2.66 lakh students who were supposed to appear for class 10 and 12 board exams.

The Education department has so far struck off names of 20,60,340 students (till October 19, 2023) from government schools after it began a drive to improve attendance since September 1, 2023, an official said.

The drive was initiated following instructions issued by KK Pathak, Additional Chief Secretary of the Education department. Pathak in a letter dated September 2, 2023, to all District Magistrates ordered drastic measures like expulsion of students who remain absent for 15 days at a stretch and "tracking" boys and girls studying in private schools, or in far-off places like Kota while remaining enrolled in government schools to avail benefits of the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme for textbooks and uniforms.

CPI (ML) Liberation MLA Sandeep Saurav said, "This is simply a dictatorial decision taken by the department. The department has no right to play with the careers of students. The department must know that government schools are still facing an acute shortage of teachers and classrooms."



THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS SO FAR STRUCK OFF NAMES OF 20,60,340 STUDENTS (TILL OCTOBER 19, 2023) FROM GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AFTER IT BEGAN A DRIVE TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE SINCE SEPTEMBER 1, 2023, AN OFFICIAL SAID

THOSE WHOSE NAMES HAVE BEEN STRUCK OFF ALSO INCLUDE 2.66 LAKH STUDENTS WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO APPEAR FOR CLASS 10 AND 12 BOARD EXAMS

Alliance government in Bihar. Leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly, Vijay Kumar Sinha, said, "If government schools in Bihar are facing acute shortage of teachers, students will have no option to...they (students) will certainly join private coaching institutes to complete their syllabus." The Nitish Kumar government has miserably failed in improving the deteriorating condition of government schools in the state. I must say that students are being victimized by the state government just to hide serious shortcomings in the education system in Bihar. We demand immediate restoration of enrolments of those students whose names have been struck off."

Despite repeated attempts by the PTI, Bihar Education Minister, Chandra Shekhar, was not available for his comments on the issue. The state Education department has come out with a slew of measures to improve the quality of education in the state.

Pathak in his letter, dated September 2, wrote, "There are schools in the state where the attendance of students is less than 50 per cent...It is a matter of serious concern. This requires the intervention of the concerned District Education Officers (DEOs). All concerned DEOs are directed to select such five schools in their respective areas and communicate with the parents of absentee students to improve the attendance of students". There are 75,309 government schools in the state.

ers and classrooms." How can the department expect 100 per cent attendance of students, when there are no teachers to teach subjects like physics, chemistry and mathematics in higher classes? This is the responsibility of the department to provide all basic infrastructural and academic facilities in government schools first and then implement mandatory attendance rules for students".

Saurav, who is also the national general secretary of All India Students Association (AISA) and former JNUSU general secretary said, "We demand immediate withdrawal of this order of the Education department".

The CPI (ML) Liberation is an alliance partner of the Grand

Shri Durga Puja Samiti, Nasriganj (Danapur) at 103.2 dB and Puja Samiti, Naya Gaon (Gai Ghat) at 103 dB.

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Job No. 2023
CBC 34126/11/0042/2324

Govt. OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. S.E. PKL (R&B)-22/2023-24
E-mail address: eeppwd.pkl@rediffmail.com
Tender Call Notice

No.B-1144

1. Name of the work:	- Electrical works
2. Numbers of work	- 2 (Two)
3. Estimated cost:	- Rs.20.96 Lakh & Rs.7.42 Lakh (Approx)
4. Period of completion:	- 1 (One) Calendar month
5. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the	- From 11.00 A.M. of dt.26.10.2023 to 05.00 P.M. of dt. 09.11.2023
6. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	- 05.00 P.M. of dt.09.11.2023
7. Date of opening of Bid	- 11.30 A.M. of dt. 10.11.2023
8. Name and address of the officer inviting Bid	- Superintending Engineer, Panikoli (R&B) Division, Panikoli

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Panikoli (R&B) Division

OIPR-34067/11/0022/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SAMBALPUR (R&B) DIVISION NO. II, SAMBALPUR
E-mail - eesbprndivision2@gmail.com, Phone -0663-2410104

BID IDENTIFICATION No. SE/R and B/ SBP II /12 (online)/2023-24
No.3845 Dated.20.10.2023

E-procurement notice

1. The Superintending Engineer, Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.II, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in Single cover System in ONLINE MODE.

2. No. of works :- 01 (One) No. (Electrical Works)

3. Tender cost :- Rs.6,000/- (online)

4. Class of Contractor :- HT Electrical Contractor

5. Availability of bid document :- 10.00 Hours of 26.10.2023 to 17.00 Hours of 04.11.2023 in the website.

6. Date of Opening of Tenders :- 11.30 Hours on dt.06.11.2023

7. 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./- Superintending Engineer
Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.II

OIPR-34136/11/0017/2324

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER BHUBANESWAR (R&B) Division No.II, BHUBANESWAR
eeb2_bbsr@yahoo.com

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement Bid Identification No. C.C. (R&B) - 02 e-Procurement Notice No.39 of 2023-24

No. B-1136: The Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No-II, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for Three Number works to be received in online bidding, single cover system as detailed in: <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from **04.11.2023 to 5.00 P.M. of 18.11.2023**. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at **11.00 A.M. of 20.11.2023** in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No.-II, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
BBSR (R&B) Division No.II, BBSR

OIPR-34088/11/0023/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SAMBALPUR
Phone No.(0663)-2412791(Off.); E-mail :- eeemisbp@yahoo.co.in
No.2078/Date:-18.10.2023
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
BID REF No.: SE.MID.SBP/05/2023-24

Name of work	: Civil Construction Works
No. of works	: 14 (Fourteen) Nos.
Estimated cost:	: Varies from approximately Rs. 19.39 lakh to Rs. 48.40 lakh for 14 No. of works (Rs. 491.85 Lakh)
Tender paper cost	: Referred to DTCN.
Period of completion	: Referred to DTCN.
Availability of bid through online	: From dt.13.11.2023 at 11.00 AM to dt. 23.11.2023 up to 05.30 PM in website (www.tendersorissa.gov.in)
Period of receipt of bid through online	: From dt.13.11.2023 at 11.00 AM to dt. 23.11.2023 up to 05.30 PM through online.
Date of opening of bid documents	: On dt. 24.11.2023 at 11.00 AM. onwards.
Digital signature certificate of Bidder	: The bidder must possess compatible digital signature certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III.

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

Name & Address of the OIT : Superintending Engineer, M.I.Division, Sambalpur, At-Motjharan, PO-B.S.S.Nagar, Dist.-Sambalpur, PIN-768001, Ph-0663-2412791, E-mail ID-eeemisbp@yahoo.co.in
<http://tendersorissa.gov.in>

Sd./- 18.10.2023, Superintending Engineer,
M.I. Division, Sambalpur

OIPR-32036/11/0007/2324

Many pandals in Patna violated noise pollution norms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 26: Majority of Durga Puja pandals in the state capital violated noise pollution norms during Dussehra festivities, according to data released by Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB).

The noise level was measured higher than 75 decibels (dB) at 521 locations in Patna, the BSPCB data released late on Wednesday night said. As per Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, the noise level at market places between 6 am and 10 pm should be below 65 dB. However, a relaxation of 10 dB is given to allow the upper limit at 75 dB for special occasions.

"The BSPCB monitored noise pollution levels at 950 locations in Patna. Monitoring was done



to measure the level of noise pollution before (October 12) and during the puja (October 21, 22 and 23).

"While the noise level was found between 80 dB to 90 dB at 329 locations, the level was found between 90 dB to 100 dB at 163 locations in Patna. The noise level at 29 locations was measured at more than 100 dB...Which is alarming", BSPCB Chairman Devendra Kumar Shukla told PTI.

Shukla said, "The BSPCB had divided the city in four zones — Patna City to Gai Ghat, Gai Ghat to Gandhi Maidan, Gandhi

Maidan to Digha Ghat and Digha Ghat to Danapur. Officials monitored the sound level of the loudspeakers at pandals in all the four zones and compared it with the noise level monitored on October 12".

According to BSPCB data Shri Shri Bharat Mata Puja Samiti at New Khazoorbanna locality was found the loudest this Navaratra with sound level measuring up to 119.4 dB, followed by Shri Bal Mandali Durga Puja Samiti, Khazekala (Patna City) at 109.8 dB, Durga Puja Samiti, Students Club at 106.2 dB.

The sound level of Shri Shri Manoranjan Panchayat Bhawan Durga Sthan, Gai Tola was measured at 105.6 dB followed by Shri Shri Durga Puja Samiti, Saguna Mode at 103.9 dB, Devi Sthan (Patna city) at 103.6 dB, Shri

ED probe into BPSB teachers' recruitment a must: Manjhi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Oct 26: Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) chief and former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi Thursday said that an Enforcement Directorate (ED)'s probe is required to solve the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSB) teachers' recruitment case as the jobs were reportedly provided on the basis of money.

He said that the "Money for Jobs" scandal took place in the state which is similar to IRCTC land for job scam. "As money for job scandal took place during the recruitment of teachers under BPSB, the entry of ED is required here for the investigation.

"Suppose, if the ED investigates the BPSB teachers' recruitment, the leaders of Ghamandia alliance (INDIA) will say as the election is round the corner, hence raids of probe agencies are on. I firmly believe that the entry of ED required here in the recruitment scam or during transfer-posting in Bihar," Manjhi said.

Right to marry person of choice indelible: Delhi HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: Granting police protection to a couple facing threats from their family post marriage, the Delhi High Court has said the right to marry a person of one's own choice is indelible and constitutionally protected and not even family members can object to such matrimonial ties.

In a recent order, Justice Tushar Rao Gedela emphasised that the State is under a constitutional obligation to provide

protection to its citizens and the high court, being a constitutional court, is expected to further the constitutional rights of the couple.

"The right of the petitioners to marry a person of their own choice is indelible and protected under the Constitution, which cannot be diluted in any manner whatsoever," the court said.

"There is no doubt about the factum of marriage between the petitioners and the fact that they are major. No one, not even the family members can object

to such relation or to the matrimonial ties between the petitioners," the court asserted while dealing with the couple's petition for police protection.

The petitioners submitted that they got married in April against the wishes of their parents and were living together happily since then amid threats from the family members, particularly the mother of the woman.

The court directed the "State to provide protection to both the petitioners and ensure that no harm befalls either of them, par-

ticularly, from the parents or the family members" of the woman and asked the beat officer concerned to periodically check on them.

"In case the petitioners have shifted to a place other than the one shown in the memo of parties, the I.O. Shall intimate the said SHO of the concerned police station having territorial jurisdiction over the residential address of the petitioners, who shall comply with the present order in letter and spirit," the court ordered.

Yamuna Yatra to start from Oct 28

Covering more than 185 km, the nine-day march will conclude in Mathura November 5



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: Ahead of Chhath festival, several social-religious organisations led by Yamuna Sansad will embark on a Yamuna Yatra from Delhi to Mathura to draw attention towards heavy pollution in the river.

Under the Yatra, to be flagged off from Chhath Ghat near ITO in New Delhi on October 28, thousands of people will march following the course of Yamuna towards Mathura, Yamuna Sansad convener Ravi Shankar Tiwari said at a press conference.

Covering more than 185 km, the nine-day march will conclude in Mathura November 5."The Yatra will have eight stopovers during which people living along the Yamuna will be invited to discuss pollution in the river and ways to solve the problem with full public support," Tiwari said.

Several other organisations including Narmada Mission led by Sri Dada Guru will take active part in the Yatra, he said. The seer has been on a mission to conserve and preserve

Narmada from human interventions and marched more than 3,200 Km to create awareness among the people, Tiwari said.

The Yamuna Yatra will be flagged off from Chhath Ghat, by nationalist thinker and former BJP veteran KN Govindacharya. A havan will also be performed praying Varun dev (jal ke devta) for restoration of Yamuna to its clean form, he added.

Govindacharya said around 500 metres of land around the rivers should be kept free from any construction work so that their flow is not hindered and no encroachment takes place. The country should be aware about its rivers and their conservation and people should be motivated to actively engage in environmental service. The governments having huge resources at their disposal should use it to preserve the rivers and prevent them from turning into drains of urban sewer, he said.

After Yamuna Yatra, a gathering of people under the aegis of Yamuna will be held at Ramelela Ground in Delhi to further focus efforts to protect and conserve the natural environment, he added.

Delhi's Dussehra air quality hits 3-year low

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: Delhi's air quality on Dussehra this year was worse compared to the previous two years, primarily due to the festival falling at the end of October, according to an analysis by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

The analysis revealed that the average PM2.5 concentration in Delhi on Dussehra, which was celebrated Tuesday, stood at 101 micrograms per cubic metre, compared to 89 micrograms per cubic metre in 2022 and 93 micrograms per cubic metre in 2021.

Dussehra was celebrated October 5 in 2022 and October 15 in 2021. Several incidents of firecracker burn-



ing were reported in parts of Delhi Tuesday.

In keeping with the practice of the last three years, Delhi had last month announced a comprehensive ban on

the manufacture, storage, sale, and use of firecrackers within the city. A public awareness campaign, 'Patakhe Nah Diye Jalao,' will soon be reintroduced to discourage firecracker burning.

Unfavourable meteorological conditions and a combination of emissions from firecrackers, paddy straw burning and local sources of pollution contribute to hazardous air quality levels in Delhi-NCR around Diwali every year.

One of the primary factors responsible for Delhi's worse air quality on Dussehra this year is the festival's late timing in October, when meteorological conditions favour pollution build-up, said Sunil Dahiya, an analyst at CREA.



Social activists distribute masks and hold placards to spread awareness about the use of masks and increasing air pollution, in Mumbai, Maharashtra



A herd of female blackbucks at Blackbuck National Park in Velavadar of Gujarat



Residents of Kibbutz Kfar Azza, near the border with the Gaza Strip, that was overrun by Hamas militants in the unprecedented Hamas attack on Israel, hold pictures of their loved ones during a protest calling for the return of more than 220 people captured by Hamas militants, in Tel Aviv, Israel



A ring-tailed lemur eats fruit on a pumpkin at Rome's zoo. To celebrate the upcoming Halloween, zookeepers at the Bioparco feast have fed animals with pumpkins stuffed with food



A man holds a 'Kalash' during the flag-off ceremony of 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' under 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' initiative, at SKICC, in Srinagar



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt, Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and others during the Indian Air Force Commanders' Conference, in New Delhi



Young women take part in an 'Arya Samaj' procession, in Beawar, Rajasthan



A potter puts earthen lamps for drying in the Sun ahead of Diwali, in Patiala, Punjab

national



BJP says it wants Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas, but actually means Sabka Sath Sabka Satyanash

MAMATA BANERJEE | BENGAL CM

MANDATORY HELMETS NORMS

The government has issued mandatory quality norms for helmets for police force, bottled water dispensers, and door fittings to curb the import of sub-standard goods and boost domestic manufacturing of these goods



of the day quote

Personally we don't lose anything (if not voted to power). If you defeat us, then we will take rest. We don't lose or gain anything. But you (people) will lose. It is my responsibility to tell you, as the fighters and achievers of Telangana and to guide Telangana in the right way, it is our duty to tell you

We have consistently worked to promote India's traditions with a positive mindset

We have been talking to our INDIA alliance friends from time to time. Sometimes coordination with them (on issues) gets established and sometimes it may not. But in principle and in terms of policies, we are fighting together in the country on the issues of unemployment, inflation and corruption

SHORT TAKES

Mufti re-elected as PDP chief

Srinagar: Re-elected president of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party Thursday, former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti virtually launched her party's campaign for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and exhorted the party cadre to start work right away to strengthen the organisation.

HDK threatens to go on fast

Bangalore: JD(S) state President H D Kumaraswamy Thursday threatened to go on a fast until death if the Karnataka government decides to go-ahead with the proposal to rename Ramanagara district as 'Bengaluru South', claiming that he has emotional relationship with the district. The former Chief Minister has also accepted Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's challenge for an open debate that would be centred around Ramanagara district and the collapse of the Congress-JD(S) coalition government in 2019, in any of the TV news channels or during the upcoming winter session of the Karnataka Assembly.

Mobile internet ban in Manipur extended

Imphal: The Manipur government has extended mobile internet ban for another five days till October 31, officials said Thursday. The move comes barely a week after Chief Minister N Biren Singh had said the government would withdraw the ban within the next few days. The ban was extended following "apprehensions that some anti-social elements might use social media extensively for transmission of images, hate speech and hate videos inciting the passions of the public which might have serious repercussions on the law and order situation," a government notification said.

EC to ink pact with Education Ministry

New Delhi: Asserting that it was necessary for young people to "immediately" get into the habit of exercising their franchise as voters, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar Thursday said the poll panel will soon sign an agreement with the Education Ministry to inform students in class IX and above what democracy actually means.

CASH-FOR-QUERY ROW

Moitra summoned

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 26: The Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha has summoned Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra to appear before it October 31 in connection with the cash-for-query allegation against her.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey and advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai gave "oral evidence" to the panel against the Trinamool Congress MP during the day, after which its chairperson Vinod Kumar Sonkar said the committee will also seek assistance from the Ministries of Home Affairs and IT in probing the allegations.

The panel's meeting began with sharp differences among the 10 members present, excluding the chairperson, on who should they hear first - the complainant or the accused - forcing a vote to resolve the matter.

Opposition members cited the recent case involving BSP MP Danish Ali and BJP's Ramesh Bidhuri to note that another parliamentary panel had called the ruling party member, accused of making derogatory comments in Parliament, first, whereas the Ethics Committee was recording the statement of Dubey, the complainant, in its first meeting.

The vote ended in a tie as the members - five of the ruling BJP and five of opposition par-



The revelation came amid the meeting held in connection to the 'cash for query' allegation against Moitra

The first meeting in connection to the 'cash for query' allegation against TMC MP Mahua Moitra took place earlier in the day

ties - voted on partisan lines, with the Chair casting his deciding vote in favour of hearing Dubey first, as scheduled.

After the meeting, Sonkar, a BJP MP, told reporters, "We have decided to ask Mahua Moitra to appear before us October 31." In his statement before the panel, Dubey pitched for her disqualification saying the matter pertains to Parliament's dignity and is an issue of national security, sources said, adding that he noted it was an "open and shut" case as even businessman Darshan Hiranandani, who allegedly paid her bribes, has ad-

mitted to the charge.

Some panel members belonging to opposition parties, including BSP's Danish Ali and JD(U)'s Giridhari Yadav, called for taking a lenient view in the matter as she was a first-term MP, to which Dubey insisted that an example should be made of her to serve as a lesson to other parliamentarians, sources said.

Dubey cited the 2005 expulsion of 11 MPs, who were caught in a sting operation accepting bribes for asking fixed questions in Parliament, to make his point. The meeting had its share of heated moments as Congress MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy raised the issue of Dubey's alleged fake degree, a matter often flagged by Moitra, prompting a strong rebuttal as he said the matter has been visited by constitutional bodies like the Election Commission and the Supreme Court, sources said.

He said an FIR in the fake degree matter was quashed by a high court and the Supreme Court upheld it while the EC too agreed with his contention. It seems some people think they are above the apex court and that they are involved in corruption and posing a threat to national security, he claimed. Opposition MPs asked Dehadrai and Dubey if they knew each other from earlier to which both replied in the negative.

EC issues notice to Himanta, Priyanka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: The Election Commission Thursday issued separate show cause notices to Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of the BJP for prima facie violation of the Model Code of Conduct.

Officials said the two leaders have been asked to respond by October 30 evening, and if they do not, it will be presumed they have nothing to say and the commission will take decision without making any further reference to them.

Congress general secretary Vadra was served a notice over her "envelop" remarks related to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's temple visit.

The EC action came a day after the BJP filed a complaint against her.

The BJP had accused Priyanka Gandhi of "invoking the personal religious devotion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi" to make false claims during her poll campaign in Rajasthan and urged the Election Commission to take action against her.

Vadra, the BJP noted in its submission, told a public meeting in Dausa October 20 that she saw it on TV that when an envelop of donation made by Modi



at a temple was opened, it carried only ₹21. She added that she saw the news and is not aware if the claim is true or not, the BJP's complaint read.

She then went on to launch an attack on the BJP saying that "envelops" are shown to the public by the party but nothing is found in them after elections.

Referring to the two notices, a poll panel functionary mentioned the recent remarks of Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar expressing concern over the "plummeting" level of poll campaign and the EC's efforts to curb remarks violative of the poll code and law.

Elections in Rajasthan are due November 25. The notice to BJP leader Sarma was issued for his remarks targeting Chhattisgarh minister Mohammad Akbar, the Congress' candidate from Kawardha, during the campaign last week. The Congress filed a complaint with the EC against Sarma Wednesday, Ram, was from what is modern day Chhattisgarh.

Court sets hearing for sentencing in Soumya's murder case for Nov 7

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: A Delhi court Thursday deferred to November 7 the hearing on the quantum of sentence for the five men convicted for killing TV journalist Soumya Vishwanathan in 2008 on grounds that the pre-sentence report and other documents were yet to be filed.

On October 18, Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Ravindra Kumar Pandey had convicted Ravi Kapoor, Amit Shukla, Baljeet Malik, and Ajay Kumar under IPC section 302 (murder) and provisions

of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) and listed the case for hearing arguments on the quantum of sentence Thursday.

Taking note of the fact that certain documents, including the pre-sentence report of the probationary officer, had to be filed mandatorily if the maximum sentence in the case is death penalty, the court adjourned the hearing to November 7.

Five LeT terrorists killed in encounter



REPRESENTATION IMAGE

Srinagar, Oct 26: Security forces Thursday killed five LeT terrorists making an infiltration bid across the LoC in Kupwara district and responded befittingly to unprovoked firing by the Pakistan Rangers along the International Border in Jammu, officials said.

The ceasefire violation in the Arnia sector came hours after the joint operation by police and army along the Line of Control in Machhil sector of Kupwara. A senior BSF official said the Pakistan Rangers opened unprovoked firing at Indian posts around 8 pm and Indian troops retaliated "befittingly".

The exchange of gunfire was underway till last reports came in, the official said. According to reports, some BSF jawans were injured in the firing, but there was no official confirmation. Senior BSF officers were rushing to the spot, officials said.

In the Machhil sector operation, five Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) terrorists were killed as security forces foiled their infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC).

A huge cache of arms and ammunition including five AK series rifles and other incriminating materials were recovered from the site of the gunfight, officials said. Additional Director General of Police Kashmir Vijay Kumar said five terrorists have

A huge cache of arms and ammunition including five AK series rifles and other incriminating materials were also recovered

been killed in the operation so far

"Besides, multiple ambushes were laid by the joint teams along the LoC. Today, the joint team observed movement of terrorists in the thick dense forests of the area who taking advantage of difficult terrain infiltrated to our side. Employing meticulous tactics, the terrorists were intercepted who fired indiscriminately upon the joint team. The fire was retaliated, leading to the elimination of five unidentified terrorists linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT," the spokesperson said.

"All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation. In this regard, Police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated. Extensive search of the area is being carried out and further details if any will be shared accordingly," the spokesperson added. While officials maintain that infiltration attempts have come down significantly, attempts by terrorists to sneak into Indian territory have continued this year.

K'TAKA: 13 DEAD IN ROAD MISHAP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chikkaballapur (Karnataka), Oct 26: Thirteen people were killed when the SUV they were travelling in crashed into a stationary tanker here Thursday morning, police said.

Mourning the deaths, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced a compensation of ₹2lakh to the next of the kin of the deceased. He also sought details regarding the accident from the officials.

The accident occurred on the outskirts of the district headquarters town of Chikkaballapur at around 7 am, they said. The vehicle was plying from Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh to Bengaluru and crashed into the stationary tanker on NH 44 killing 13 passengers, including four women.

A preliminary probe has stated that the victims, including the driver of the four wheeler, who also died in the accident, hailed from Anantapur district.

The exact cause of the accident is yet to be ascertained. However, low visibility due to fog is also suspected to be one of the reasons which needs to be verified, a senior police officer said.

The victims who hailed from Gorantla in Anantapur district do not belong to the same family, he said. "Twelve people died on the spot in the accident while one critically injured person who was being treated at a nearby hospital succumbed to injuries. All of them were travelling in the vehicle from Anantapur to Bengaluru and on the way, the vehicle collided with a stationary tanker," D L Nagesh, Superintendent of Police (Chikkaballapur) told PTI. A case of accident under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code has been registered and efforts are being taken to identify and contact the family members of the victims, police said.

'Take permission before marrying if spouse alive'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Oct 26: The Assam government has barred its employees from marrying another person if the spouse is alive and warned of punitive action if they indulged in bigamy.

The 'Office Memorandum' (OM) by the personnel department, which did not mention about the divorce criterion, instructed employees to take the government's permission before marrying another person if the spouse is alive.

"No government servant who has a wife living shall contract another marriage without first obtaining the permission of the government, notwithstanding that such subsequent marriage is permissible under the personal law for the time being applicable to him," it added.

Likewise, no female government servant shall marry any



REPRESENTATION IMAGE

person who has a husband living without first obtaining the permission of the government, said the OM, which came into force with immediate effect. The notification was issued by personnel additional chief secretary Niraj Verma on October 20, but it came to light Thursday.

It said the guidelines have been issued as per the provisions of Rule 26 of The Assam Civil Services (Conduct) Rules 1965. "In the context of the above

provisions, the disciplinary authority may initiate immediate departmental proceeding... For imposition of major penalty, including compulsory retirement," the order stated.

It termed such a practice as a gross misconduct on the part of a government servant having "large bearings" on society. The OM further asked authorities to also take necessary legal steps whenever such cases are detected.

World is close to irreversible tipping points: UN

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE OVERUSE OF RESOURCES HAVE PUT THE WORLD ON THE BRINK OF SIX INTERCONNECTED TIPPING POINTS THAT "COULD TRIGGER ABRUPT CHANGES IN OUR LIFE-SUSTAINING SYSTEMS AND SHAKE THE FOUNDATION OF SOCIETIES"

AGENCIES

Singapore, Oct 26: The world is heading towards a series of environmental "tipping points" that could cause irreversible damage to water supplies and other life-sustaining systems, the research arm of the United Nations warned Wednesday.

Climate change and the overuse of resources have put the world on the brink of six interconnected tipping points that "could trigger abrupt changes in our life-sustaining systems and shake the foundation of societies," the UN University's Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) said.

"Once these thresholds are passed, the system fails to func-

tion as it normally would, and you get new risks cascading out, and these new risks can transfer to other systems," said UNU-EHS researcher Jack O'Connor, lead author of the report.

"We should be expecting these things to happen because in certain areas they are happening already."

The Interconnected Disaster Risks report, published ahead of COP28 climate talks next month, identified accelerating rates of extinction, groundwater depletion, glacial melt and extreme heat as the major interconnected threats.

It warned that 1 million plants and animals could be wiped out "within decades", with the loss of key species to "trigger cascading extinctions of depend-



REPRESENTATION IMAGE

ent species" and raise the likelihood of ecosystem collapse.

Many of the world's biggest aquifers are already depleting faster than they can be replenished, with Saudi Arabia, India and the United States already

facing grave risks. Run-offs from glacial melt are also set to decline.

"Heat is causing us to extract more of that groundwater because of drought," said Caitlyn Eberle, another lead author. "Many of those glaciers in the

Rocky Mountains, the Himalayas and the Andes feed into these rivers and groundwater systems, so as those glaciers disappear there is less water available."

The researchers also warned of the growing risks posed by space debris, with collisions set to render the earth's orbit "unusable" and make future space activity - including satellite monitoring of environmental threats - impossible.

In another tipping point, worsening climate hazards are now making insurance unaffordable, with half a million homes in Australia alone set to be uninsurable by 2030, they said.

"Once this point is passed, people are left without an economic safety net when disasters strike," the report said.

MATTER OF CONCERN Some areas in the Indo-Gangetic basin in India have already passed the groundwater depletion tipping point and its entire northwestern region is predicted to experience critically low groundwater availability by 2025, according to a new report by the United Nations.

Titled "Interconnected Disaster Risks Report 2023" and published by the United Nations University - Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), the report highlights that the world is approaching six environmental tipping points: accelerating extinctions, groundwater depletion, mountain glacier melting, space debris, unbearable heat and an uninsurable future.

international



The attacks by "extremist settlers" amounted to "pouring gasoline" on the already burning fires in the Middle East since the Hamas attack. It has to stop. They have to be held accountable. It has to stop now
JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT

NIGERIAN SC AFFIRMS TINUBU'S WIN

Nigeria's Supreme Court Thursday upheld President Bola Tinubu's election win, bringing to an end a legal challenge brought by his two main rivals, who argued that his victory was marred by irregularities



of the day quote

The country wants to strengthen cooperation with the United States to combat climate change
HUANG RUNQIU | CHINA'S ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

As the largest developing country, China is a natural member of the Global South. It breathes the same breath with other developing countries and shares the same future with them
HAN ZHENG | VICE PRESIDENT, CHINA

May we let ourselves be moved by the stories of so many of our unfortunate brothers and sisters who have the right both to emigrate and not to emigrate, and not become closed in indifference
POPE FRANCIS

SHORT TAKES

Taliban free Afghan activist

Kabul: The Taliban have freed an Afghan activist who campaigned for the education of girls, a local nonprofit organization said Thursday. Matiullah Wesa was arrested seven months ago and spent 215 days in prison, according to the group, Pen Path. Wesa has been outspoken in his demands for girls to have the right to go to school and repeatedly called on the Taliban-led government in Afghanistan to reverse its bans on female education. Since their takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, the Taliban have barred girls from school beyond the sixth grade. Last December, they banned women from going to universities. Afghanistan is the only country in the world with restrictions on female education.

World War II bomb destroyed

Athens: Greek army specialists Thursday destroyed an unexploded World War II bomb discovered during work on a massive urban development project at a coastal area south of Athens. Authorities said the 500-pound bomb was destroyed without a detonation after traffic in the area was halted for more than two hours and several nearby apartment blocks had been evacuated as a precaution.

Harris to attend AI summit

Washington: Vice President Kamala Harris will attend a summit on artificial intelligence in the United Kingdom next week, shortly after President Joe Biden issues a highly anticipated executive order on an emerging technology that has generated excitement and fear. She's scheduled to leave on Tuesday and return on November 2, and she'll be accompanied by her husband, Douglas Emhoff, according to her office. Harris will deliver a speech outlining the Democratic administration's approach to artificial intelligence on November 1 before attending a summit on the topic the next day.

South Korean scholar acquitted

Seoul: South Korea's top court Thursday cleared a scholar of charges of defaming the Korean victims of sexual slavery during Japanese colonial rule, in a contentious case published in 2013. Thursday's ruling in the criminal case of Park Yu-ha isn't the end of her long-running legal battle, as she faces a separate civil suit.

ISRAELI TROOPS CONDUCT BRIEF RAID IN GAZA

AGENCIES

Rafah (Gaza Strip) Oct 26: Israeli troops and tanks briefly raided northern Gaza overnight into Thursday, the military said, striking several militant targets in order to "prepare the battlefield" before a widely expected ground invasion after more than two weeks of devastating airstrikes.

The raid came after the UN warned that it's on the verge of running out of fuel in the Gaza Strip, forcing it to sharply curtail relief efforts. Gaza has been under a brutal siege — running out of food, water and medicine — since Hamas' bloody rampage across southern Israel earlier this month ignited the war.

The rising death toll in Gaza is unprecedented in the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza said Thursday more than 7,000 Palestinians have died in the conflict, a figure that could not be independently verified.

Even greater loss of life could come if Israel launches a ground offensive aimed at crushing Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since 2007 and survived four previous wars with Israel. Israeli airstrikes in the southern city of Khan Younis levelled more than eight homes belonging to an extended family, killing at least 15 people. Ambulances raced to the scene as dust from the collapses



Palestinians living in Lebanon chant slogans as they hold their national flags during a protest in solidarity with the Palestinian people in Gaza, in front of the United Nations Headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon

ing buildings hung in the air. The blast zone was a chaotic wasteland of crumbled concrete and twisted metal. Rescuers carried wounded people covered in gray dust. The body of a boy was dug out from beneath a concrete slab, where his head had come to rest next to the foot of another person entombed in the wreckage.

The Israeli military says it only strikes militant targets and accuses Hamas of operating among civilians in densely-populated Gaza. Palestinian militants have fired rocket barrages into Israel since the war began. One struck a residential building in the central city of Petah Tikva, without wounding anyone. The conflict has threatened

to ignite a wider war across the region. Hezbollah, an Iranian-funded ally of Hamas operating out of Lebanon, has repeatedly traded fire with Israel along the border. Israel has carried out airstrikes in Lebanon, Syria and even the occupied West Bank.

Israel has vowed to crush Hamas' capacity to govern Gaza

AL JAZEERA REPORTER'S FAMILY KILLED

CAIRO: Al Jazeera's chief correspondent in the Gaza Strip, Wael Dahdoh, was helping broadcast live images of the besieged territory's night sky when he received the devastating news: His wife, son, and daughter had all been killed in an Israeli airstrike on Wednesday. Moments later, the Qatari-based satellite channel switched to footage of Dahdoh entering al-Aqsa Hospital in Gaza before giving way to grief as he peered over the body of his dead son. "They take revenge on us in our children?" he said, kneeling over his son's bloodied body, still wearing his protective press vest from that day's work. Dahdoh's grandson also was declared dead two hours later, the network reported.

or threaten Israel again, while also saying it does not want to re-occupy the territory from which it withdrew soldiers and settlers in 2005. That could prove a daunting challenge, since Hamas is deeply rooted in Palestinian society, with political and charity organizations as well as a formidable armed wing.

Benny Gantz, a retired general and a member of Israel's war Cabinet, said any possible ground offensive would be only "one stage in a long-term process that includes security, political and social aspects that will take years." "The campaign will soon ramp up with greater force," he added.

Israel has the right, and I would add responsibility, to respond to the slaughter of their people and we will ensure Israel has what it needs to defend itself against these terrorists. That's a guarantee
JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT

RUSSIA, CHINA VETO US PUSH FOR UN ACTION ON ISRAEL, GAZA

United Nations: Russia and China vetoed a US push for the United Nations Security Council to act on the Israel-Hamas conflict by calling for pauses in fighting to allow humanitarian aid access, the protection of civilians and a stop to arming Hamas and other militants in the Gaza Strip. The United States put forward a draft resolution on Saturday as global outcry grew over a worsening humanitarian crisis and mounting civilian death toll in Gaza. It made the move just days after it vetoed a humanitarian focused draft from Brazil, arguing more time was needed for U.S.-led diplomacy. The initial U.S. text shocked many diplomats with its bluntness in stating Israel has a right to defend itself and demanding Iran stop exporting arms to militant groups. It did not include a call for humanitarian pauses for aid access. But it largely toned down the final text that was put to the vote.

Canada welcomes India's decision



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India's High Commission in Canada said Wednesday that the country's officials will resume processing some types of visa applications for Canadians applying from across the country as well as abroad

as a terrorist in 2020. India has rejected Trudeau's allegations as "absurd" and "motivated". On Wednesday afternoon, Immigration Minister Marc Miller called India's move "a good sign" after "an anxious time" for his many Canadians.

"Our feeling is that a suspension should never have happened in the first place," he was quoted as saying by CTV News. He said the "really concerning diplomatic situation with India has created a lot of fear in a lot of communities."

Emergency Preparedness Minister Harjit Sajjan, who is also a Sikh, said the resumption of visa processing is good news, but wouldn't speculate on what message New Delhi is trying to send. "It's good to see that they have resumed that. It would have been nice (if) they didn't take it in the first place," Sajjan told reporters.

He said it was important that Indians and Canadians can go back and forth when it comes to events like weddings and funerals.



Chinese research ship Shi Yan 6 is seen berthed at Colombo harbour, Sri Lanka, Thursday. The Chinese research ship docked at the Sri Lankan port Wednesday, likely adding to neighbouring India's concerns about China's growing influence in the Indian Ocean
PTI PHOTO

At least 27 killed by Hurricane Otis

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Acapulco (Mexico), Oct 26: Mexican authorities gave the first human toll for Hurricane Otis' destruction along the country's Pacific coast Thursday: at least 27 dead and four missing.

Tens of thousands of residents in damaged homes without electricity awaited help more than a day after Otis roared ashore in Acapulco. Federal Security Secretary Rosa Icela Rodríguez said there were 27 confirmed deaths and four disappearances. Rodríguez's comments at



President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's morning news briefing were echoed minutes later by Guerrero state Gov. Evelyn Salgado. López Obrador said the destruction was so complete that not a single power line pole remained standing in the impact zone.

Small farmers had their corn crops devastated by Otis' wind and pounding rain, he said. Restoring power to the area was a top priority, he said. "We regret the 27 dead," López Obrador said. The president said Wednesday night he had been told the toll was 18, but it rose early Thursday.

"That's what hurts the most," he said of the deaths, noting material losses could be replaced. López Obrador shared details of only one death: He said one soldier was among the dead after a wall of his home collapsed on him.

China's youngest astronaut crew heads to space station

The spacecraft Shenzhou-17, or "Divine Vessel" and its three passengers lifted off atop a Long March-2F rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China

REUTERS

Beijing, Oct 26: The youngest-ever crew of Chinese astronauts departed for China's space station Thursday paving the way for a new generation of "taikonauts" to advance the country's space ambitions in the future.

The spacecraft Shenzhou-17, or "Divine Vessel" and its three passengers lifted off atop a Long March-2F rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China. Leading the six-month mission was former air force pilot Tang Hongbo, 48, who was on the first crewed mission to the space station in 2021.

His return to the orbiting outpost Tiangong, or "Celestial Palace" in Chinese, also set a

new record for the shortest interval between two spaceflight missions by taikonauts - coined from the Chinese word for space - suggesting a faster rotation of taikonauts in coming years.

Tang, from China's second batch of astronauts in 2010, had to wait more than a decade before he was picked for his inaugural spaceflight in 2021.

By contrast, his fellow Shenzhou-17 crew members Tang Shengjie, 33, and Jiang Xinlin, 35, both travelling to space for the first time, joined China's third batch of astronauts in September 2020. China has already kick-started the selection process for the fourth batch of astronauts, seeking candidates with doctoral degrees in disciplines from



biology, physics and chemistry to biomedical engineering and astronomy. It is also opening the process to applicants from Hong Kong and

The selection and training process will commence soon for foreign astronauts looking to participate in joint flights to Tiangong, a senior official on China's manned space program said this year.

But as much as China is showcasing its efforts to internationalise its space missions, its space program has distinct Chinese characteristics, at least on Tiangong. In a departure from the NASA-led International Space Station (ISS), where English is the working language, only Chinese is used on Tiangong, making Chinese-language skills a key criteria for foreign participants.

Tiangong has become a symbol of China's growing confi-

dence in its space endeavours after being shut out of the ISS program for decades. China is banned by U.S. law from any collaboration, direct or indirect, with NASA.

Tiangong, completed in late 2022, can house a maximum of three astronauts at an orbital altitude of up to 450 km (280 miles) and will have an operational lifespan of more than 15 years.

The Shenzhou-17 astronauts will replace the Shenzhou-16 crew, who arrived at Tiangong at the end of May. The Shenzhou-16 crew, consisting of veteran astronaut Jing Haipeng, Zhu Yangzhu and Gui Haichao, is scheduled to return to earth on October 31.



The UN has accepted India's proposal and asked us to develop a framework on global online dispute resolution with a focus on resolving cross-border B2C e-commerce disputes

ROHIT KUMAR SINGH | CONSUMER AFFAIRS SECRETARY

MAMAEARTH PARENT REVEALS IPO TARGET

Honasa Consumer Ltd, which owns new-age FMCG brands like Mamaearth and The Derma Co, Thursday fixed a price band of ₹308 to ₹324 per share for its ₹1,701-crore initial public offering (IPO). The issue will open for public subscription October 31 and conclude November 2 and the anchor book of the offer will be opened for a day October 30



of the day quote

Institutional investments have slowed down during the September quarter due to limited interest from foreign investors amid a challenging global macroeconomic landscape

SHRINIVAS RAO | CEO, VESTIAN

We should not agree to take binding commitments on free cross-border data flows under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework as the move will lock our policy space

AJAY SRIVASTAVA | CO-FOUNDER, GTRI

Private sector can play a critical role in precision farming in India. It can provide advisory services, agrochemicals, and suitable technology to support agricultural development

RAMESH CHAND | MEMBER, NITI AAYOG

BEAR BLITZ

MIDDLE EAST TENSIONS DRAG STOCKS FOR 6TH SESSION IN A ROW NEAR TO FOUR-MONTH LOWS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 26: Sliding for the sixth straight session, equity benchmark Sensex Thursday plunged about 900 points to crash below the 64,000 mark at 63,148.15. During the day, it plummeted 956.08 points or 1.49 per cent to 63,092.98.

Besides sluggish trends in global markets, deep losses in auto, financial and energy stocks as well as fresh selling by foreign investors added to the gloom, analysts said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex slumped 900.91 points or 1.41 per cent to settle below the 64,000 mark at 63,148.15. During the day, it plummeted 956.08 points or 1.49 per cent to 63,092.98.

A total of 2,232 firms declined, while 1,426 advanced and 142 remained unchanged on the BSE. The Nifty dived 264.90 points or 1.39 per cent to 18,857.25.

Since October 17, the BSE benchmark has tumbled 3,279.94 points or 4.93 per cent, while the Nifty fell 954.25 points or 4.81 per cent.

The BSE benchmark tanked 522.82 points or 0.81 per cent to end at 64,049.06 Wednesday. The

SENSEX SLIPS BELOW 64K TO END AT 63,148.15

NIFTY DIPS BELOW 19K TO SETTLE AT 18,857.25

Nifty fell again for the sixth consecutive session...Even as a series of poor corporate results in the US cast a shadow on the global risk appetite already impacted by the conflict in the Middle East

DEEPAK JASANI | HEAD OF RETAIL RESEARCH, HDFC SECURITIES



The benchmarks have lost nearly 5% over the last six sessions, which pushed the Nifty into oversold territory for the first time in 16 months

"Till date, the actual domestic Q2 results are below par in comparison to the excited earnings forecasted. Similar disappointments are visible in developed economies. A downgrade in earnings and valuation is arising due to the risk of further slowdown of the economy due to geopolitical and elevated interest rates. Also selling pressure intensified due to expiry-led volatility influencing investors to stay cautious," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge fell 1.06 per cent and the smallcap index declined 0.32 per cent. "All the sectors were down 1-2 per cent. Tensions in the Middle East, coupled with sticky US Treasury yields at around 5 per

Nifty fell 159.60 points or 0.83 per cent to 19,122.15.

Mahindra & Mahindra was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, falling 4.06 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints, Nestle, Bajaj Finserv, JSW Steel, Titan, HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra, Tata Motors and Larsen & Toubro.

In contrast, Axis Bank, ITC, HCL Technologies, NTPC and IndusInd Bank were the gainers.

CICs to pay ₹100/day to customers for delay in updation of info: RBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 26: Credit information companies (CICs) will have to pay a compensation of ₹100 per day to customers for delays in updation or rectification of their credit information, the Reserve Bank said Thursday.

Credit institutions (CIs) and credit information companies (CICs) have been given six months to put in place the necessary systems and processes to implement the 'Framework for compensation to customers for delayed updation/rectification of credit information'.

In a circular, the Reserve Bank directed CICs and CIs to implement the compensation framework for delayed updation/rectification of credit information. "Complainants shall be entitled to a compensation of ₹100 per calendar day in case their complaint is not resolved within a period of thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the initial filing of the complaint by the complainant with a CI/ CIC," it said.

The circular further said the complainant can approach the RBI Ombudsman in case of wrongful denial of compensation by CIs or CICs.

Floor price of basmati exports cut

Govt August 27 decided not to allow exports of basmati rice below \$1,200 per tonne to restrict possible "illegal" shipment of white non-basmati rice in the garb of premium basmati rice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: The government has reduced the floor price for basmati rice exports to \$950 per tonne from \$1,200 per tonne amid concerns that higher prices were hurting outward shipments.

In a communication to export promotion body APEEDA, the Union Commerce Ministry has said "it has been decided to revise the price limit for registration of contract for export of basmati rice from \$1,200 per tonne to \$950 per tonne."

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEEDA) has been directed to register only those contracts having value of \$950 per tonne and above.

India's total exports of basmati rice stood at \$4.8 billion in 2022-23 in terms of price, while in volume terms it was at 45.6



The move will reinstate competitiveness of Indian basmati rice shipments in the global markets. Exporters are now working towards regaining the lost ground. As a result, the buying cycle is showing signs of getting the momentum back

ATUL GARG | MD, GRM OVERSEAS

lakh tonne. Rice exporter associations have been demanding from the last two months to reduce this price, stating that India is losing its export market due to the tough price competition from neighbouring countries like Pakistan.

They have been also arguing that India's average export realisations in the last 2-3 financial years have been \$800-900 per tonne.

On October 15, the food ministry had said the government is considering the industry's de-

mand to reduce the floor price.

Based on representations received from the associations that the high FOB (free on board) value is adversely affecting the export of basmati rice from India, Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal had attended a consultative meet with the basmati rice exporters, the food ministry had said.

Seeking to control retail prices of rice, the central government has been taking several steps to boost domestic supply.

In September last year, it banned exports of broken rice, while in July this year, it imposed restrictions on non-basmati white rice. A 20 per cent export duty was also slapped on par-boiled non-basmati rice.

With these curbs, India has imposed restrictions on all varieties of non-basmati rice. As per the final estimate, rice production is estimated to be a record 135.75 million tonne in 2022-23 as against 129.47 million tonne in the previous year.

According to industry, the average export prices of basmati rice stood at \$850-900 per tonne in 2021 and 2022.

This year, it was around ₹1,050 per tonne before the government's August 25 decision not to register contracts below \$1,200 per tonne.

ROBUST MACROS

P-notes investment swells to 6-yr high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: Investment in the Indian capital markets through participatory notes rose over a six-year high at ₹1.33 lakh crore at September-end, making it the seventh consecutive monthly increase, on the back of robust macroeconomic fundamentals.

This is the highest level since July 2017 -- when investment through the route stood at ₹1.35 lakh crore, data from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) showed.

The latest data includes the value of p-note investments in Indian equity, debt, and hybrid securities. Participatory notes (P-notes) are issued by registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly.

They, however, need to go through a due diligence process.

According to Sebi data, the value of p-note investments in Indian markets -- equity, debt, and hybrid securities -- stood at



₹1,33,284 crore at the end of September as compared to ₹1,28,249 crore a month earlier.

In comparison, investment through the route was ₹1.23 lakh crore in July, ₹1.13 lakh crore in June, ₹1.04 lakh crore at May-end, ₹95,911 crore at April-end, ₹88,600 crore at March-end, ₹88,398 crore at February-end and ₹91,469 crore at January-end.

The growth in p-notes generally aligns with the trend in FPI flows. When there is a global risk to the environment, investment through this route increases, and vice-versa.

Market analysts say one of the prime factors for the growth in p-notes investments is the stable Indian economy against an uncertain global macro backdrop.

More alarm bells sound on slowing EV demand globally

EXPECTATIONS FOR PERSISTENTLY HIGHER INTEREST RATES HAS LED FIRMS TO ALTER PLANS AS THEY EYE 2024 WARILY

REUTERS

Washington, Oct 26: High interest rates are derailing the ambitions of climate regulators and automakers to accelerate the shift to electric vehicles, underscored Wednesday by the scrapping of a GM-Honda partnership and a warning from a battery maker.

Electric vehicle sales are still growing strongly, but that demand is not keeping up with the expectations of carmakers and other companies that have invested billions of dollars in the EV space.

EV demand next year could be lower than expectations," Lee Chang-sil, chief financial officer at South Korean battery maker LG Energy Solution said Wednesday, due to global economic uncertainty.

Also Wednesday, Honda and

General Motors announced they were ending a \$5 billion plan to develop lower-cost EVs together just a year after announcing the effort. GM Tuesday said it would focus near-term EV efforts on meeting demand rather than hitting specific volume targets.

"We're taking immediate steps to enhance the profitability of our EV portfolio and adjust to slowing near-term growth," GM CEO Mary Barra told analysts.

Investors have responded to the changed outlook. Over the last three months, the iShares Self-Driving EV and Tech exchange-traded fund has plunged more than 24%, far more than the 8.3% fall for the MSCI All-World Index, a proxy for global equities.

EV sales are growing, however. They topped 300,000 units in the United States for the first time in the third quarter, ac-



ording to a Cox Automotive report. They rose 14.3% in September in the European Union and 22% in China, the world's largest EV market.

FALLING RAW MATERIAL PRICES

Germany's Volkswagen last week cut its profit margin outlook for the year, blaming negative effects for raw material

hedges at the end of the third quarter. Some of those materials are used in EV batteries.

Like many other industrial firms, carmakers hedge against commodity price swings, and with EV demand slowing, raw material prices have softened, including those used heavily in batteries.

Lithium prices have tumbled

I am worried about the high interest rate environment that we're in. As I just can't emphasize this enough that the vast majority of people buying a car is about the monthly payment. If interest rates remain high or if they go even higher, it's that much harder for people to buy the car

ELON MUSK | CEO, TESLA

67% so far this year based on spot lithium carbonate prices assessed by Fastmarkets. Prices of cobalt metal on the CME have slid 20% this year and more than halved since May last year.

US automaker Ford earlier this month said it would temporarily cut one of three shifts at the plant that builds its electric F-150 Lightning pickup truck,

and in July slowed its EV ramp-up, shifting investment to commercial vehicles and hybrids.

Shares of Japan's Nidec logged their biggest decline in a decade and a half Tuesday, tumbling more than 10% on investor concerns over the motor manufacturer's prospects in an increasingly tough Chinese market for EVs.

The Japanese motor manufacturer now expects a 15 billion yen (\$100 million) full-year loss at its key e-axle business, rather than the profit it had previously seen. E-axle manufacture combines motors, gears and power-control electronics.

China's CATL, the world's largest battery maker for EVs, said last week that third-quarter profit rose 10.7%, its weakest quarter since the start of last year due to slowing demand and stiff competition.

INDIA CREATE HISTORY IN HANGZHOU ASIAN PARA GAMES



SACHIN SARJERAO KHILARI

AGENCIES

Hangzhou, Oct 26: Indian para athletes Thursday created history by winning the highest number of medals in the Asian Para Games, taking country's tally to 80, including 18 gold medals.

India have now gone past the earlier best of 72 achieved in the 2018 edition in Indonesia. India's medal tally read 18 gold, 23 silver and 39 bronze, and the count will keep on increasing till the end of the fourth day of competitions.

With two more days left in the Games, the country is on

course to achieving its target of 100 medals in this Hangzhou edition. India had won 72 medals (15 gold, 24 silver, 33 bronze) in the last edition in Jakarta which was the best before this Hangzhou Games.

Sachin Sarjerao Khilari won the first gold of the day in men's F46 shot put with a Games record throw of 16.03m while Rohit Kumar took the bronze with 14.56m. Para shooter Sidhartha Babu then bagged another gold in R6 mixed 50m rifle prone SH1 event as he shot an Asian Para Games score of 247.7.

The compound mixed team of Sheetal Devi and Rakesh



Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games

Kumar won a gold after defeating their Chinese counterparts Lin Yueshan and Ai Xinliang 151-149 in the final.

India also won a bronze medal in archery men's doubles W1

event with the pair of Adil Mohamed Nazir Ansari and Naveen Dalal defeating the Kazakh pair of Nurshat Toleukassym and Sagdat Duisembayev 125-120.

Simran and Bhagyashri Madhavrao Jadhav won a silver each in women's T12 100m and women's F34 shot put respectively. Simran clocked 26.12 seconds while Jadhav cleared 7.54m.

Narayan Thakur won a bronze in men's T35 100m with a time of 14.37 seconds. Shreyansh Trivedi also took a bronze in men's T37 100m with a time of 12.24 seconds.

In para badminton, Sukant Indukant Kadam (men's singles SL4), Sivan Nithya Sumathy (women's singles SH6), Manisha Ramadass (women's singles SU5), Mandeeep Kaur/Manisha Ramadass (women's doubles SL3-SU5), Krishna Nagar/Sivarajan Solaimalai (men's doubles SH6) and Pramod Bhagat/Sukant Indukant Kadam (men's doubles SL3-SL4) won a bronze medal each after losing their respective semifinal matches.

In chess, Bhaveshkumar Rathi Himanshi picked up a bronze in women's individual standard VI-B1 event.

India miss out on gold, record at Asian Shooting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: The Indian junior men's 10m air rifle team missed out on a sure-shot gold and an Asian Shooting Championships junior record, when one of the three marksmen, Dhanush Srikanth, was disqualified from the competition in Changwon, Korea Thursday due to 'improper stiffness' of the apparel that he was wearing during competition.

The Indian team, comprising Umamahesh Maddineni, Dhanush and Abhinav Shaw shot 628.5, 627.9 and 625.6 to aggregate 1882, which would have

post-qualification check on the trousers and found Dhanush's trouser not conforming to the ISSF rule," Dubey told PTI from Changwon.

"As per the ISSF rules, the jury should have checked the thickness of the trousers at five designated points, but they didn't do it as per the layout (diagram) of the apparel.

"Only one part stiffness was 2.9. It should be 3.0 as per ISSF rule. They should have checked at five designated points on the trouser and made three attempts. But they did checks only at two points and also made just two attempts," he elaborated.



15TH ASIAN SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP
CHANGWON, KOREA
22 OCTOBER - 2 NOVEMBER 2023

earned them the team gold with an Asian junior record, but the marksman's disqualification meant, India being deprived of a medal.

The trouser that Dhanush was wearing in competition had a stiffness of 2.9, while the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) rules stipulate it should not be less than 3.0.

In shooting events, like 10m air rifle and 50m rifle 3-positions events, it is mandatory to wear stiff jackets and trousers as precision can only be achieved if the body movement is minimum.

All three marksmen also made it to the eight-shooter finals, but Dhanush was disqualified and his qualification scores scrapped by the jury at the range following a random post-qualification check.

A rifle coach accompanying the contingent, Deepak Dubey, said, "It is unfortunate that we missed out on a sure-shot team gold with an Asian junior record. They (range juries) conducted a

written protest had been made with the jury of appeal", adding: "The jury also did not show Dhanush the red card after completing the random check. We were all in the finals range preparing our shooters for the title showdown when we got the news," he added.

Asian Games gold medallist in double trap, Ronjan Sodhi said, it is "really unfortunate" for an athlete to go through this ordeal. "I sympathise with the coaches and the athlete who has had to go through this ordeal. The government is spending so much of money to train and send these athletes for competitions. This is the biggest Indian contingent ever to be sent for the Asian Championships. Number-wise, the contingent is even bigger than China and the host country," said Ronjan, a Khel Ratna awardee.

"Something as small as a trouser or jacket is a question mark. I don't know how things are going," he added.

Sri Lanka maul England



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 26: England's reign as the 50-over World Cup champion sunk into serious jeopardy as resolute fifties by Pathum Nissanka and Sadeera Samarawickrama along with a set of on-the-money bowlers spurred tenacious Sri Lanka to an eight-wicket victory here Thursday.

England, opting to bat first, suffered a baffling batting implosion and were bundled out for a paltry 156, courtesy the five wickets shared among themselves by comeback man Angelo Mathews (2/14) and impressive Lahiru Kumara (3/35).

Despite losing a couple of early wickets, Sri Lanka confidently finished their chase as Nissanka (77 n o, 83b, 7x4, 2x6) and

Samarawickrama (65, 54b, 7x4, 1x6) led the process with an unbroken 137-run stand for the third wicket.

With just two points from five matches, England retain a mere theoretical chance to make it to the semifinals, while the Islanders, who now have four points, can eye a few stronger outings in the remaining four matches.

England might have hoped for a miracle when they dismissed opener Kusal Perera and Lankan captain Kusal Mendis through left-arm pacer David Willey (2/30) to reduce their opponents to 23/2.

But Nissanka and Samarawickrama, two of SL's best ODI batters this year, combined to produce a solid partnership to ease Lanka's nerves guiding them towards their fifth straight win over England in

World Cups.

England, on the other hand, lacked determination on the day. It was just a matter of a couple of batters sticking out in the middle for the Three Lions to reach a far better and competitive total.

Other batters barring Ben Stokes (43, 73b, 6x4) and Dawid Malan (28) did not even remotely attempt to bat with purpose for a team that was playing in a must-win match.

There was a bit of spongy bounce on the M Chinnaswamy Stadium deck and the Lankan bowlers were accurate but the shambolic way in which the England batsmen played could not be shielded.

Opener Malan who milked 45 runs with his partner Jonny Bairstow, could be excused

though. Mathews, an injury replacement for pacer Matheesha Pathirana, put him in two minds with a delivery that bounced from the length just enough to take an edge off his bat to Mendis behind the stumps.

Unfortunately, several subsequent batters were culpable of playing really poor cricket. Stokes did try on his own, but that was not enough. But the inept batting display of England should not rob the Lankan bowlers of the just credit.

BRIEF SCORES

England 156 (Ben Stokes 43, Dawid Malan 28, Lahiru Kumara 3/35, Angelo Mathews 2/14, Kasun Rajitha 2/36) lost to **Sri Lanka 160/2** (Pathum Nissanka 77 n o, Sadeera Samarawickrama 65 n o; David Willey 2/30) by 8 wickets.

Do-or-die battle for Pakistan against Proteas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 26: His captaincy on line after a hat-trick of defeats, Babar Azam will be keen to find some inspiration and that exclusive piece of Pakistani magic when his team squares off against a formidable South Africa in a do-or-die game of the World Cup here Friday.

One more defeat and knock-out doors will be shut on Pakistan and Babar, who is already feeling the heat, might end up losing captaincy as it will be virtually impossible for his team to salvage the campaign in remaining three games even if they win those.

From here on, Pakistan need to win all their matches and expect Australia to falter in at least two of their remaining four games.

The gulf in performance between two teams has been huge despite Proteas' shock defeat against the Netherlands at Dharamsala. The difference in approach is evident when one looks at the boundary count of the two sides. South African batters have hit 155 fours and 59 sixes while Pakistan managed only 24 sixes and 136 boundaries in five games.

An embarrassing statistic is Pakistan batters hitting a six in Powerplay after consumption of 1200 deliveries across games in first six overs.

A win for SA would put them firmly in contention to qualify for the semifinals. In head-to-head, Proteas enjoy a 51-30 record in 82 clashes.



Laxman likely to be in-charge for T20Is against Oz

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: National Cricket Academy (NCA) head VVS Laxman could be in-charge of the Indian team for the five-match T20I series against Australia, which will start within a week after the conclusion of the ODI World Cup.

Head coach Rahul Dravid's contract will run their course at the end of the World Cup and obviously the BCCI has the option of requesting the former India captain to reapply as the board will have to reinstate applications for the post following the norm.

It will be interesting to see if 51-year-old Dravid wants to continue as head coach of the national team, which involves extensive travelling and constant pressure. There is a possibility that Dravid, who has previously coached IPL teams like Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan Royals, might return to the T20 league fold.

But it is highly likely that Dravid, as well as the entire squad save Suryakumar Yadav, will be given much-needed rest after a gruelling campaign in which they had to travel more than 10,000 kms across the country.

"VVS Laxman has always been in charge when Rahul has taken a break and same thing is likely to continue for the series just after the World Cup," a BCCI source told PTI on condition of anonymity.

Haaland ends CL barren streak with brace



STUNNING STRIKE: Erling Haaland sends a right-footed curler into the Young Boys' net, Wednesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bern (Switzerland), Oct 26: Erling Haaland's barren streak in the Champions League is over. Two second-half goals by the scoring phenom led Manchester City to a 3-1 win at Young Boys and the brink of the knockout stage already in their title defense.

Haaland hadn't scored in his previous five matches in the competition, stretching back to last season's semifinals in May, but he ended that improbable run by blasting a spot-kick down the middle in the 67th to put City 2-1 ahead. The Norway striker wrapped up the victory

by curling a shot into the top corner with his weaker right foot in the 86th minute.

It's now 37 goals in 33 Champions League games for Haaland, who is into double figures (11) for the season in all competitions as he looks to follow up a debut campaign for City when he netted 52 times.

A third straight win by City to open Group G extended their unbeaten streak in European competition to 17 games, which is tied for the longest by an English team.

GROUP E

Feyenoord are in a position to

advance in their first time back in the group stage in six seasons. Santiago Gimenez scored twice and Ramiz Zerrouki also found the target as the Dutch champion beat visiting Lazio 3-1.

Feyenoord moved a point ahead of Atletico Madrid, who were surprisingly held to a 2-2 draw at Celtic. Lazio were a point behind Atletico and three above Celtic.

Antoine Griezmann and Alvaro Morata scored a goal in each half as Atletico had to twice come from behind to salvage the away draw. Celtic scored before halftime through Kyogo Furuhashi and Luis Palma.

Barca beat Shakhtar

BARCELONA: Barcelona beat Shakhtar Donetsk 2-1 Wednesday to keep a perfect record and stay on course to advance to the knockout rounds of the Champions League after two straight group-stage eliminations. Ferran Torres and Fermin Lopez scored a goal each in the first half to help Barcelona secure their third straight victory in Group H. The Catalan club reached nine points, three more than Porto, which won 4-1 at winless Antwerp. Shakhtar stayed with three points. Barcelona, the five-time European champion, haven't advanced past the group stage since Lionel Messi left in 2021. The victory kept the Spanish club unbeaten in 13 matches overall this season, with 10 wins and three draws.

GROUP F

PSG bounced back from their 4-1 humiliation at Newcastle to move top of their group. France forwards Mbappe and Randal Kolo Muani scored either side of halftime. Teen midfielder Warren Zaire-Emery set up two goals, including PSG's third for South Korea winger Lee Kang-in near the end.

PSG moved two points clear of Borussia Dortmund and Newcastle after the German team won 1-0 at St. James' Park. Felix Nmecha turned in Nico Schlotterbeck's cross in the 45th minute to hand the Saudi-owned English team a first loss on its return to the competition after 20 years away.

Eves look to showcase real potential in ACT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Oct 26: The failure to clinch the gold medal at the just-concluded Asian Games still fresh in their minds, the Indian women's hockey team will look to showcase its real potential in the Asian Champions Trophy when they start their campaign against Thailand here Friday.

India had lost 0-4 to China in the semifinals of the Asian Games in Hangzhou but defeated Japan 2-1 to clinch the bronze medal. The bronze medal, however, was a disappointing result for the Indians, who started as favourites and were eyeing a gold in the Asiad, which would have given them a direct ticket to next year's Paris Olympics.

The ACT, however, will provide a perfect platform for the Savita Punia-led side to avenge their defeat against reigning Asian Games champions China and silver medallists Korea.

Six teams, including hosts India, China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand will compete in the tournament. As per the format, all six teams will play each other in the round-robin league stage and the top-four teams will advance to the semifinals.

After Thailand, India will play Malaysia (Oct 28), China (Oct 30), Japan (Oct 31) and Korea (Nov 2). The semifinals and final are scheduled for November 4 and

5. The tournament will also serve as a platform for India ahead of next year's Olympic qualifiers to be played here.

"In tournaments like these, no team can be taken lightly. We are looking forward to these matches as they will help us test our mettle against some of the most formidable teams in Asia," said skipper Savita.

"Of course, we want to win every match and perform well here. We are also looking to prepare for the Paris 2024 Olympics Qualifiers, which will also be hosted in Ranchi. This tournament serves as a vital preparatory test before the ultimate challenge of securing an Olympic berth," she added.

India's chief coach Schopman agreed with Savita. "Playing these matches ahead of the Olympics Qualifiers is a great opportunity. It allows us to study the other teams and assess how players perform their assigned roles. Our recent performances in the Asian Games were promising, and I am excited and eager to see our team in action," the Dutch said.

India will also be aiming to secure their second women's ACT title after seven years. India had won the title once in 2016 and finished runners-up in the 2013 and 2018 editions, besides finishing third in 2010. The women's ACT is being hosted in India for the first time.