

3 FOR BJP, 1 FOR CONG

Saffron party sweeps MP, Rajasthan & Chhattisgarh; Congress ousts BRS in Telangana



both parties neck and neck but, as counting continued, the BJP consolidated its lead and won or was ahead in 54 seats. The Congress won or was ahead in 35 seats in the 90-member house.

The KCR-led BRS hoped for a hat-trick in Telangana but was dethroned by the Congress. The Congress won 61 seats and was leading in three in the 119-member House. The BRS bagged 33 and was ahead in six. The BJP put up a good showing and increased its tally in the southern state with the victory of its candidate K Venkata Ramana Reddy in Kamareddy against both the outgoing chief minister KCR and Revanth Reddy, who is the TPCC chief, being the highlight. BJP won 8 seats, up from one seat, and doubled its vote share from the 2018 polls to nearly 14 per cent.

The BJP amplified its pitch around the Prime Minister during the Assembly polls as its manifestoes featured his guarantees, with Prime Minister Modi crisscrossing the poll-bound states, except for Mizoram, to seek popular support to deliver on his welfare and development promises.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 3: The BJP swept Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh Sunday inflicting a resounding defeat on the Congress to tighten its stranglehold in the Hindi heartland, in a big boost for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and setting the tone for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

In some consolation for the Congress in the face of the saffron wave after it lost Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, the party ousted the BRS in Telangana to make it 3-1 for

the BJP in the latest round of Assembly elections billed as a semi-final before next year's poll showdown.

Ruling MP for 18 years, a well entrenched BJP managed to stave off anti-incumbency in a shot in the arm for four-time CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan and dashing the hopes of a resurgent Congress helmed by veteran and former CM Kamal Nath. Winning 141 seats and leading in 24, the BJP got a simple majority and could get two-thirds majority in a House of 230. Congress bagged 45 and was

leading in 19.

With BJP dislodging the Congress hit by factionalism in Rajasthan, the desert state stuck to a nearly 30-year-old 'rivaz' (tradition) of not voting an incumbent party back to power. The BJP got a majority bagging 115 seats after voting was held for 199 constituencies. The Congress notched 69 seats

The Chhattisgarh outcome was a surprise for many Congress leaders who were hoping for another stint in power in the state by fending off the BJP challenge. The day began with

FULL COVERAGE INSIDE



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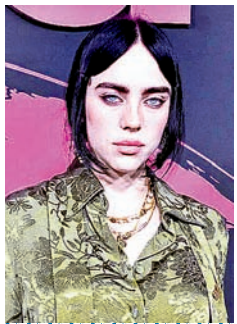
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WHY SHOULD PEOPLE ALWAYS REVEAL THEIR SEXUALITY: BILLIE

Singer Billie Eilish, who revealed last month that she was 'attracted' to women, has never understood why anyone should feel the need to make an announcement about their sexuality. "I kind of thought, wasn't it obvious? I didn't realise people didn't know. I'm just like, why can't we just exist? I've been doing this for a long time, and I just didn't talk about it," she said.

JULIA ROBERTS WAS SCARED TO READ STORY OF HER OWN NEW MOVIE

Actress Julia Roberts was too scared to read the *Leave the World Behind* novel and couldn't open the book after dark. The 56-year-old actress who stars opposite Ethan Hawke in psychological thriller *Leave the World Behind* says she wasn't able to read it after dark because she was so freaked out by the story.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Your attractive personality is always at the disposal of others, and today you could benefit immensely through it. However, there is room for improvement and you could be drawn towards charity work. Ganesh says you will surely feel satisfied by helping the needy.

TAURUS

This day you will tend to be too bossy, too harsh on your subordinates or employees and end up making them miserable as well as hostile. Their insubordination could corrode the respect you get and, in addition, make things unworkable. This acrimony and ill will is sure to spread and foul up your larger professional connections and interests.

GEMINI

You will want some change in your daily routine today. You are likely to be fed up of the rut of daily life and are looking for a refreshing change. You need to apply your inherent creativity to your work to get more satisfaction out of it and to ease the boredom of your daily schedule, says Ganesh.

CANCER

Don't meddle in others' affairs today, suggests Ganesh. For they will not take it kindly. Adopt the middle path. Ganesh feels that you must keep your bravado and boldness in check.

LEO

Your pride and self-confidence will help you to excel in whatever task it is that you take up today. Other people will also praise you. You will buy new clothes and other possessions that you have been desiring since a long time, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

Today will be a pleasant day full of surprises and unforeseen changes. You may go for a long drive with your beloved. The trip will be very interesting and will calm your frayed nerves. All in all, Ganesh says, it is an optimistic and happy day, so go ahead and get the best out of it.

LIBRA

Ganesh says you will have a good time with your family members and will have fun with them. You will also be able to organize a picnic or a party for your family members and enjoy the day with them. Ganesh says you will go out for a trip to a religious place or temple, which will enhance your mind and ideas.

SCORPIO

Your sixth sense would work wonders today, as per to what Ganesh has to say. Trust your instincts and work accordingly. Work enthusiastically and dedicatedly. When the pressure of work mounts on you, take a break and unwind with the help of soft music.

SAGITTARIUS

It's time for some entertainment. Movies, picnics and dining out is on your mind. Invite your beloved and enjoy quality time with each other. Also, you will spend time with you family and friends, and attend a music concert together.

CAPRICORN

Actions speak louder than words. Your sincere efforts and honest intentions will motivate others also to put in their best, feels Ganesh. You'll be like a friend, philosopher and guide to them. People will follow you, but it has a darker side to as many will even over take you. It is certainly not a pleasant sight to see opportunities pass by!

AQUARIUS

You will take the road to spirituality today and give a miss to materialism. You will visit temples, other religious places, and spiritual leaders to find answers for some of your questions. It will, however, take a while for you to distinguish between mysticism and materialism, and understand that you can have the best of both worlds.

PISCES

You will not take matters to heart needlessly today, and will instead calmly evaluate the bitter words of others to see if there is a grain of truth in them somewhere. This is a good practice and one that should be continued. While you won't be in the mood to tolerate any injustice, you will be able to forgive those who have wronged you and will thus be able to refrain from stoking further, the fires of enmity, says Ganesh.

Dia speaks about facing casual sexism



Mumbai: Actress Dia Mirza, one of the most popular names in the industry, recently in an interview spoke about about her initial days in cinema, and how 'casual sexism' was prevalent on the sets of Bollywood films. In an interview with media, the *RHTDM* actress shared that back then women in cinema hardly had privacy, even to change clothes, and also added that access to toilet facilities too were rare.

Mumbai: Actress Katrina Kaif, known for her notable films are *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*, *Bharat*, and *Namaste London*, says rather than falling into a trap of repeating herself, she goes by her instinct when choosing a script. "It is important for all of us as actors to just focus on the script, and the film. As long as we don't try to fall into a trap of repeating ourselves and do instinctively what we feel... If that happens to be action film, it is fantastic, or comedy that's also good," Katrina told PTI in an interview.

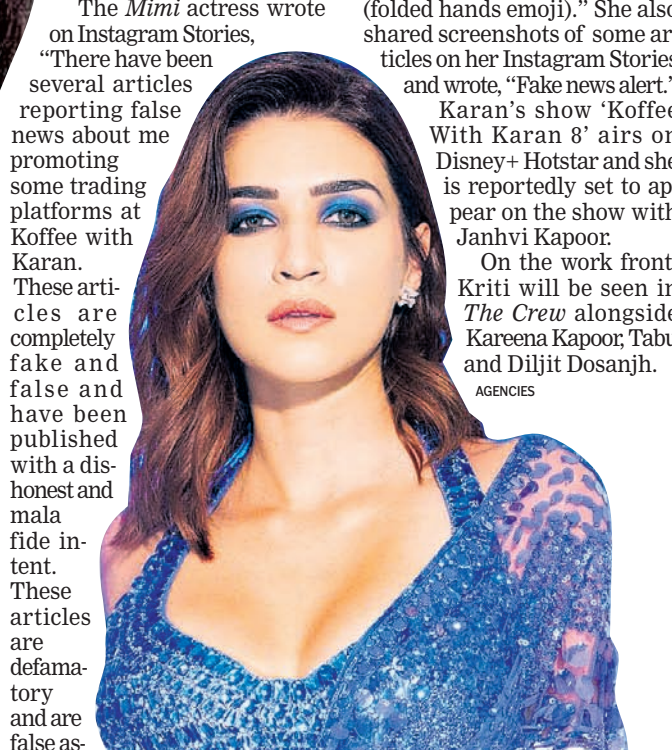
Kat selects scripts instinctively

"It is important to choose films based on the merit of the script and what is connecting to you in that moment. You have to believe in it and you have to go out there and give your 1000 percent and be on set with that conviction. Then the rest is up to god, whether it connects with the audience or not," she added. "I always over think a lot of things. So, I'm always trying to look for ways I can better myself next time, or how can I give something more to the role. That's self-improvement," she ended. On the work front, Katrina Kaif was last seen in *Tiger 3*.

"When we would go to locations to shoot songs, a basic thing like a toilet wouldn't be available," she said. Dia Mirza also added that on such occasions, women used to go behind trees, or rocks, and three people would shield them with large sheets. She also spoke about how there weren't even space to change clothes. "There would be differences in how we were treated, in the amenities that were available to us. Our vanity vans would be smaller. When we would go to locations to shoot songs, a basic thing like a toilet wouldn't be available. Basically, we lacked access to privacy, access to basic hygiene," the *Made in Heaven 2* actress said. She also spoke about the treatment on the sets too were biased and revealed that if a male actor arrives late on the sets, no questions are asked, but if the delay is from the part of a woman, she would be tagged 'unprofessional'.

KRITI reacts to 'defamatory' articles about her

Mumbai: Actress Kriti Sanon has issued a clarification after several reports claimed that she promoted some trading platforms on Karan Johar's chat show 'Koffee With Karan 8' and called such articles completely fake and false. The *Mimi* actress wrote on Instagram Stories, "There have been several articles reporting false news about me promoting some trading platforms at Koffee with Karan. These articles are completely fake and false and have been published with a dishonest and mala fide intent. These articles are defamatory and are false associating me with the trading plat-



forms." She also said, "I have never spoken regarding any trading platform on the show. I have taken legal action against such false articles and reports and issued legal notice. I request everyone to be cautious against such false, fake and defamatory reports (folded hands emoji)." She also shared screenshots of some articles on her Instagram Stories and wrote, "Fake news alert." Karan's show 'Koffee With Karan 8' airs on Disney+ Hotstar and she is reportedly set to appear on the show with Janhvi Kapoor. On the work front, Kriti will be seen in *The Crew* alongside Kareena Kapoor, Tabu and Diljit Dosanjh.

Swara's take on voyeurism



Mumbai: Celebrities such as Alia Bhatt and Anushka Sharma have chosen not to show their baby's face, and for the same, they have been badly trolled on social media. However, actress Swara Bhasker says with the advent of paparazzi culture, and the combination of phone cameras and social media, voyeurism has become the norm in our society. "Why should I reveal my child's face or my child in general...for the cruelty of strangers to be satiated? I'm not ready for that at the moment," she tells us. The anxiety of maintaining the privacy has increased owing to the growing paparazzi culture, where anyone is capable of clicking a picture and uploading it on social media. Talking about the same, and how it has made life difficult, Bhasker said, "I think with the advent of paparazzi culture, and

the combination of phone cameras and social media, voyeurism has become the norm in our society. Harmless gossip about celebrities is one side of that and trolling and vile online abuse is the other side of that coin. The sponsored negative social media campaigns and targeted trolling and cyber bullying that goes in is something that I don't want my child to go through. Hence as a new parent, I completely understand not wanting to expose my child to these kinds of negativity and unkindness." Meanwhile, she has been spending all her time with daughter Raabiya, ever since her birth.



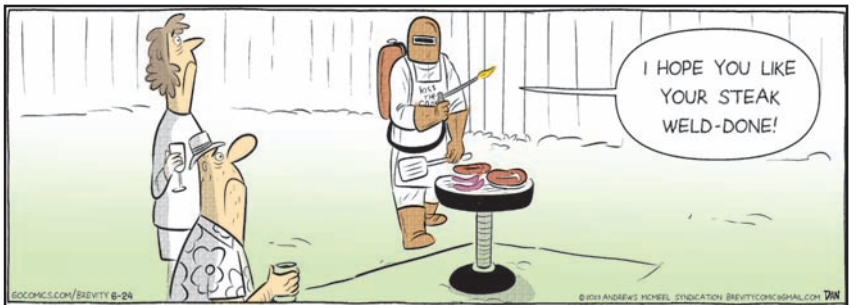
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

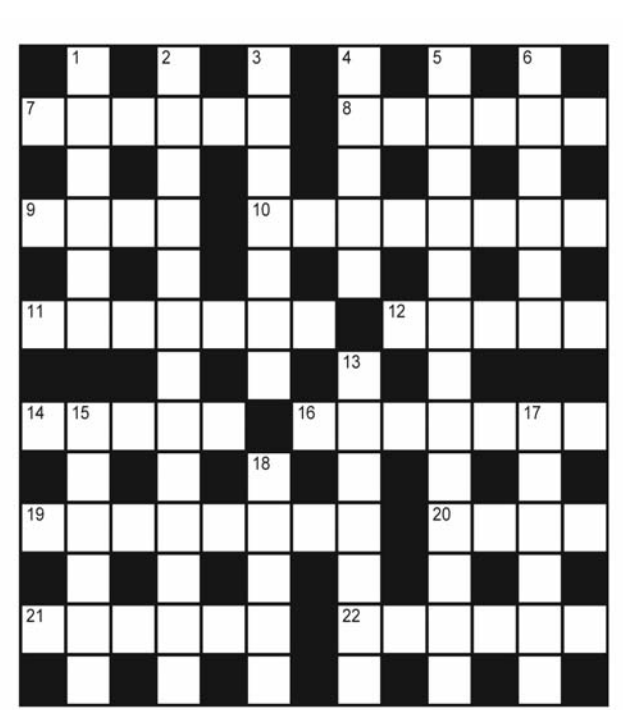


BREVITY



FUN post

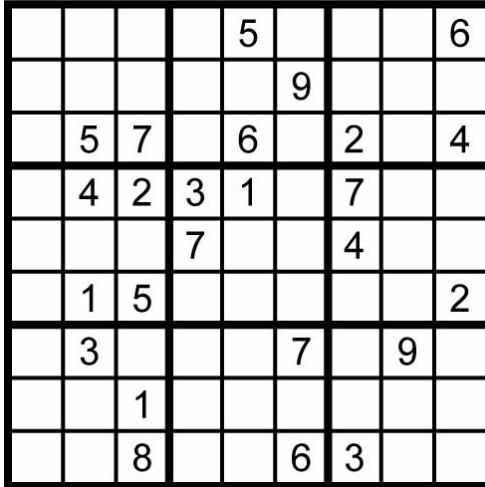
CROSSWORD



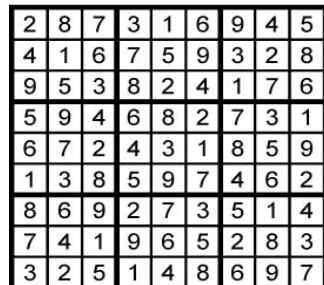
- Across**
- 7 Manx, e.g.
 - 8 Atone
 - 9 Commuting option
 - 10 Double-faced (3-5)
 - 11 Come apart
 - 12 Blue-pencils
 - 14 African grassland
 - 16 Bird with fanlike tail
 - 19 Play venues
 - 20 Old World duck
 - 21 Utilise
 - 22 Cigar
 - 3 Luxury motor car
 - 4 Hilda's transport?
 - 5 Ring outcome, possibly (5,8)
 - 6 Bug
 - 13 Endure
 - 15 Dig up
 - 17 Lowlife
 - 18 Hee-haws
- Down**
- 1 Hold up
 - 2 Snooker venue (8,5)

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



TAMIL NADU ON ALERT

State government makes arrangements as cyclonic storm 'Michaung' is likely to intensify

NATIONAL P9



NO LET UP BY ISRAEL

Israel has shifted its offensive to the southern half of Gaza where it asserts that leaders of the Hamas militant group are hiding

INTERNATIONAL P10



BOON FOR NEERAJ

SAI approves ₹27 lakh for Neeraj Chopra to train abroad ahead of Paris Olympics

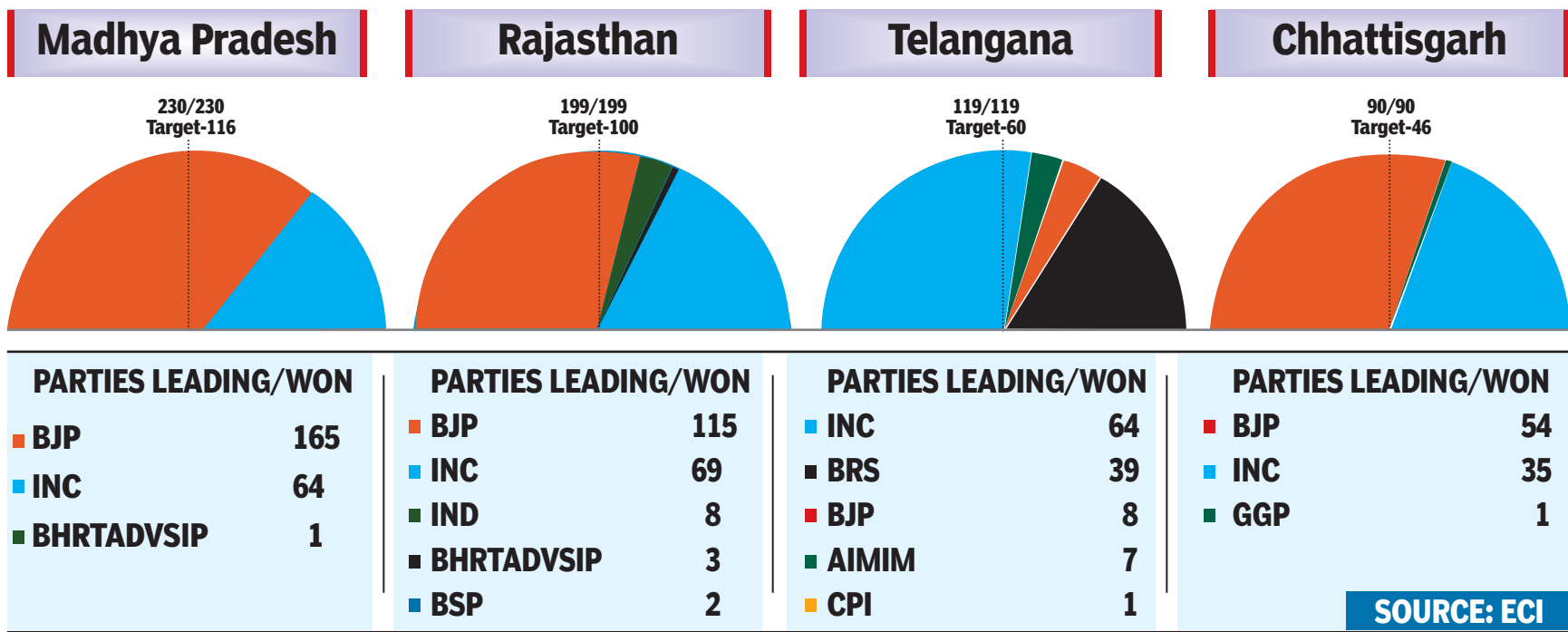
SPORTS P12

The results show popular support for our battle against corruption
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

We humbly accept mandate of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan - battle of ideology will continue
RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

The poll results have given out the message that the country has understood that only Modi ji can provide decisive leadership and empower farmers, the poor and the deprived sections
JP NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

We will overcome temporary setbacks and prepare ourselves fully for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections along with the INDIA parties
MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT



MIZORAM POLL RESULTS TODAY

Aizawl, Dec 3: Elaborate arrangements have been made for the counting of votes for the Assembly elections in Mizoram, which saw a three-way fight between the ruling MNF, the ZPM and the Congress, Monday.

The counting was supposed to happen Sunday along with Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana. However, it was deferred by the Election Commission following appeals by political parties, NGOs, churches and students' bodies as Sunday holds a special significance for the people of Mizoram, a Christian-majority state.

The state's Additional Chief Electoral Officer H Lianzela told PTI that the counting will begin in all 13 centres at 8 am amid tight security. One counting hall has been set up for each of the 40 Assembly seats at these 13 centres, he said.

Postal ballots will be counted first, and from 8.30 am, the votes polled in the EVMs will be counted, he added.

Besides three counting centres in the Aizawl district, which has 12 Assembly constituencies, one centre each has been set up in the 10 other districts, Lianzela said.

In some of the seats that have a lesser number of voters, only two rounds of counting will be held, but in most of the constituencies, five rounds will be counted, he said.

More than 4,000 personnel will be involved in the counting process.

Rumblings in INDIA bloc

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: With the Assembly poll results in three states being a disappointment for the Congress, some rumblings have begun among the constituents of the INDIA Opposition bloc ahead of their meeting December 6, with many leaders alleging that the grand old party ignored others, but was unable to win elections on its own.

While some opposition leaders, including Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar and Janata Dal-United's KC Tyagi, have asserted that the Congress' poll defeats in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan will have no impact on the alliance, some other leaders from the bloc have pointed out that the grand old party had dis-

Many alliance leaders allege that the grand old party ignored others, but was unable to win elections on its own

tanced itself from the coalition partners.

Asked about the Congress' electoral performance, Pawar said, "I do not think it will have any impact on the INDIA bloc. We will be meeting at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence in Delhi (December 6). We will speak to those who are aware of the ground reality. We will be able to comment on it

only after the meeting."

Tyagi took a jibe at the Congress and said, "The poll results show the defeat of the Congress and the victory of the BJP. The Congress ignored other INDIA parties, but was unable to win on its own."

Kerala Chief Minister and CPI(M) leader Pinarayi Vijayan said while facing a formidable opponent like the BJP in the three Hindi heartland states, it was necessary to ensure a united front. "Instead of that, the Congress thought it had already won, that it was a big power and no one could defeat it. This very thought led to its downfall," the Left leader said.

TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said it was "more of a failure of the Congress than a success story of the BJP."

CM PROBABLES

Revanth in Telangana, race open in heartland

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 3: Shivraj Singh Chouhan has emerged as a favourite to remain at the helm in MP despite the presence of some challengers, while the leadership race is wide open in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, two states where the BJP has snatched power from the Congress.

In Telangana Anumula Revanth Reddy, who led the Congress' charge, finds himself on the brink of a potential chief ministership.

Union ministers Narendra Singh Tomar, who contested from Dimani Assembly seat, and Jyotiraditya Scindia have long been seen as CM aspirants in MP.

In Rajasthan, political watchers believe a comfortable majority for the BJP means that the party leadership may turn to a new face as its CM choice, even though two-term former CM Vasundhara Raje is a natural contender due to her stature and sizeable support base. Union ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Arjun Ram Meghwal, state party president CP Joshi, Diya Kumari, and Mahant Balaknath are being talked about as probables.

In Chhattisgarh, former CM Raman Singh, state BJP chief Arun Kumar Sao, LOP Dharamlal Kaushik and former IAS officer OP Chaudhary are seen as among the contenders for the top job.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

No matter whom we vote for, BJP forms the govt. So, I decided to vote for the BJP only

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	29.6°C	29.6°C
TEMP MIN	20.2°C	19.5°C
Humidity	74%	72%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: PARTLY CLOUDY SKY

PARLIAMENT WINTER SESSION

BJD to raise 10 issues

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Dec 3: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) will reiterate its demand for the establishment of a Legislative Council in the state along with several other key issues during the Winter Session of the Parliament, beginning from Monday.

The party MPs said that they would demand inclusion of 169 proposals in ST list of Odisha and also demand inclusion of Ho, Mundari, Bhumij, Saora and Kui languages in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.

The BJD MPs would also press for withdrawal of GST on

Kendu leaves. The party would raise issues pertaining to national highway projects, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Minimum Support Price for farmers, implementation of Swaminathan Commission report recommendations and also request for inclusion of 'Ahimsa' in the Preamble of the Constitution, the party leaders said.

Significantly, the Winter Session of Parliament will have a total 15 sittings and it will conclude December 22. At least 21 legislations would be taken up during the session. **More P9**

'Michaung' to trigger heavy rain in state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: The deep depression over the Bay of Bengal Sunday intensified into a cyclonic storm 'Michaung' and is likely to cross the South Andhra Pradesh coast between Nellore and Machilipatnam during the forenoon of December 5 with a maximum sustained wind speed of 80-90 kmph gusting to 100 kmph, the IMD said in a bulletin.

The system could result in heavy rains in most parts of southern Odisha and coastal region of the state, it said. The name Michaung (pronounced as migiaum) was suggested by Myanmar and it means strength



or resilience.

The IMD issued Yellow Warning (be updated) as heavy rainfall (7 to 11 cm) is likely at one or two places in Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, and Ganjam December 4. Similarly, it said that light to moderate rain and thunder-showers may also occur at many

places in Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri, at a few places in Kandhamal, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Nayagarh, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack and at one or two places in remaining parts of the state.

For December 5, the IMD issued Orange warning (be prepared) and forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20 cm) may occur at one or two places in the five districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, and Ganjam. It also issued Yellow Warning (be updated) and forecast heavy rainfall (7 to 11 cm) is also likely at one or two places in Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, and Puri.

IMA objects to NMC logo depicting Hindu deity



New Delhi, Dec 3: The Indian Medical Association (IMA) Sunday raised its objection to the National Medical Commission (NMC) logo depicting the Hindu deity Dhanwantari and urged it to adopt a religion-neutral emblem.

According to Hindu mythology, Dhanwantari is the physician of the gods. The NMC Thursday drew ire from the IMA's Kerala chapter, which said the recent change in the logo was not acceptable. It also drew ire for replacing 'India' with 'Bharat' in the logo. The commission, however, stated that the logo has been in use for over a year.

The IMA said Sunday, "The NMC has adopted a new logo with religious depiction contained therein. The new logo of the NMC is in contradiction with our fundamental values as doctors."

"It is not in conformity with the oath and duty of doctors, which is not towards any particular religion. Such a logo is also inconsistent with the dignity and decorum of an institution such as the NMC," it further said. The logo of any national institution ought to capture the aspirations of all citizens in an equal manner and, by remaining neutral in all respects thereby, eliminating any possibility of any part/section of society feeling aggrieved, the IMA said.

The association called on NMC to adopt a logo that does not contradict the oath and the duty of doctors "towards all our citizens with complete neutrality, especially in shunning any attempt to connect and/or identify the institution with any religion."

Earth running a fever: COP28 focuses on human health

A COP28 DECLARATION BACKED BY SOME 120 COUNTRIES STRESSED THE LINK BETWEEN HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, Dec 3: With Planet Earth running a fever, UN climate talks focused Sunday on the contagious effects on human health.

Under a brown haze over Dubai, the COP28 summit moved past two days of lofty rhetoric and calls for unity from top leaders to concerns on health issues like the deaths of at least 7 million people globally from air pollution each year and the spread of dis-

eases like cholera and malaria as global warming upends weather systems.

World Health Organisation Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said it was high time for the UN Conference of Parties on climate to hold its first health day in its 28th edition, saying the threats to health from climate change were "immediate and present."

"Although the climate crisis is a health crisis, it's well overdue that 27 COPs have been and gone without a serious discussion of health," he said. "Undoubtedly, health stands as the most compelling reason for taking climate action."

After two days of speeches by dozens of presidents, prime ministers, royals and other top leaders — in the background and off-stage — participants were also turning attention to tough negotiations over the next nine days to push for more agreement on



ways to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times.

Temperature rises have worsened natural disasters like floods, heatwaves and droughts, and caused many people to migrate to more temperate zones — in addition to the negative knock-on effects for human health.

John Kerry, the US Climate envoy, said it was "astonishing" to him that it's taken so long for health to become a centerpiece of the climate discussion.

"Our bodies are ecosystems, and the world is an ecosystem," Kerry said. "If you poison our land and you poison our water and you poison our air, you poison our bodies."

He said his daughter Vanessa, who works with Tedros, "repeats to me frequently that we should not measure progress on the climate crisis just by the degrees averted, but by the lives saved."

A COP28 declaration backed by some 120 countries stressed the link between health and cli-

mate change. It made no mention of phasing out planet-warming fossil fuels, but pledged to support efforts to curb health care sector pollution, which accounts for 5% of global emissions, according to the WHO head.

Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, head of climate and health at WHO, said heat alone has put pressure on the body and led to higher rates of infectious disease. "Climate change doesn't need to be on a death certificate for us to be confident that climate change is causing deaths," Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, WHO's head of climate and health, said.

Dubai, the largest city in oil-rich United Arab Emirates, often faces higher levels of air pollution than other places on Earth due to its location — and haze is common. The city sits on the coast of the Persian Gulf, but further inland begins the Empty Quarter, the massive desert that takes up

a third of the Arabian Peninsula.

The city's boom has led to rapid construction, industrial areas and pollution from automobiles, adding to the impacts of sand and particulate churned by the desert winds. Some 3.5 million people now live in Dubai, up from 183,000 less than 50 years ago, and estimates suggest another million commute into the city-state each day for work.

The Dubai government, on its web site devoted to the environment, listed its Air Quality Index level mostly at "good" on Sunday. Switzerland-based IQAir, a technology company that sells air-quality monitoring products, listed Dubai as the city with the 18th-worst air quality in the world with "moderate" air quality levels as of noon local time on Sunday.

It cited high levels of two types of particulate matter in the air, and recommended mask-wearing for "sensitive groups" and a reduction of outdoor exercise.

Time to tap power of women, says Guv

RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY OBSERVES 9TH FOUNDATION DAY, SUNDAY



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: Ram Devi Women's University celebrated 9th Foundation Day here, Sunday with Governor Raghubar Das joining the celebrations as the chief guest along with university vice-chancellor Aparajita Chowdhury and guest of honour Ven Shim San, head monk of Hong Beop Sa Temple, South Korea.

Addressing the university students, Das said, "Women-power has made a huge contribution to the development of India. It is time to promote and utilize this power with wider possibilities. The policy of the government under the leadership of Prime Minister is realistic and progressive. Narishakti Bandana Act is one of them."

He advised the students to be inspired by the ideals of Rama Devi while also calling for successful implementation of the

National Education Policy. The VC of the university addressed the students about emerging challenges like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and deepfake, asking them to take a positive attitude and develop themselves with time.

Joining the event, founder and Chief Executive of Swabhiman Sruti Mohapatra informed that December 3 is also observed as International Day of Persons with Disabilities and in Odisha PwDs are facing many challenges; people should have more empathy while also encouraging them to have a self-belief at all costs.

On the occasion, the Governor inaugurated the Maa Rama Devi Museum at the university where items belonging to Rama Devi are going to be preserved. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was also signed between the university and the Hong Beop Sa Temple for research.

Experts: Enrich rural economy through carbon reduction

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: To meet international emission target, efforts need to be made at all levels particularly by enriching rural economy through carbon reduction, experts opined while putting across their views in a seminar on the theme 'Improving rural livelihood through carbon sequestration' organised by the Orissa Environmental Society (OES) here, Sunday.

"This will pave the way for bringing more fallow land in green cover and will help achieve the country's voluntary declaration to raise 5 million hectares of sink by 2030 committed in COP-26 at Glasgow, UK," they said.

The program was chaired by OES president Sundara Narayana Patro. The chief guest of the occasion was Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Secretary Ashok Kumar Sharda.

Speaking on the occasion, Patro said that the global scenario of climate change demands for change of our lifestyles to reduce the carbon footprints and thus contributing to the desired decrease in global warming.

In his welcome speech, OES Secretary Jaya Krushna Panigrahi said that rural economy can be reinforced by involving the people in plantation programs under the CDM project, thus protecting the environment.

The vice-president Lala AK Singh introduced the guests and BS Patro presented the vote of thanks. Among others, former PCCF Bijay Ketan Patnaik, Nimai Charan Mishra, Sudhakar Kar, Prafulla Kumar Dhal, Nidhi Kumar Routray and Dillip Kumar Satpathy also presented their views.



CAPTIVATING MOVE: Artistes perform Odissi at Konark Dance Festival and International Sand Art Festival organised on the premises of the 13th century Sun Temple in Puri, Sunday

SAI UNWIND sees footfall of over 30K

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: State Industries, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Energy Minister Pratap Keshari Deb Sunday inaugurated SAI International School's 15th edition of SAI UNWIND, a vibrant cultural festival organised by the school's students.

More than 30,000 attendees participated in this year's event, managed by Class XI students from commerce and humanities streams, with support from their mentors.

In his address to students, Deb said, "I am delighted to be a part of UNWIND-2023, where young minds are nurtured with an entrepreneurial perspective and are imparted leadership skills from an early age. It is truly exciting to witness students or-



Industries & Energy Minister Pratap Keshari Deb inaugurates the 15th edition of SAI UNWIND, a vibrant cultural festival of SAI International School, in presence of SAI International Education Group Chairperson Silpi Sahoo on the premises of the premier institution in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

ganize such a significant event flawlessly." Speaking about entrepreneurship, Deb said that UNWIND makes significant contributions in inculcating 21st century skills and the nuances of modern-day businesses among

the participants, inspiring the Gen-Z to be leaders of the future.

Initiated in 2008 by founder-chairman Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, UNWIND has evolved into one of India's leading student-driven cultural event, exemplifying in-

novation and creativity.

During her address, the chairperson of SAI International Education Group Silpi Sahoo said, "It's immensely gratifying to witness my students present such a grand and engaging fest for UNWIND-2023. Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, our founder-chairman, envisioned nurturing critical thinkers and problem solvers, shaping future entrepreneurial citizens of India. Seeing my SAIONEERS following the path set by our founder fills me with immense joy."

The event featured over 100 food stalls with global cuisines, 100 engaging game stalls, and a diverse range of activities including arcade games, e-games, adventure sports, fun rides, cultural performances, a horror house, and an enchanting open-air amphitheater experience.



HANDLOOM EXPO: Visitors having a look at a Sambalpuri saree on the inaugural day of Special Handloom Expo at Ekamra Haat in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

HSE Innovation award for AM/NS India's Odisha Ops

Paradeep: The Odisha Operations of AM/NS India bagged the prestigious HSE Innovation award under large-scale process plant category at QUPID Conference & Awards 2023, organised by Pro MFG Media in Pune. This is a remarkable achievement, considering that there were around 700 nominations in various categories from over 350 organisations across India. On the occasion, Sarang Arun Mahajan, Head -H&S, AM/NS India and Indonesia said, "At AM/NS India, we are committed to zero-incidents and continue focusing on the improvement of HSE policies and standards. This recognition is a testimony to our commitment to excellence and innovation which sets us apart in achieving safety and overall sustainable operation." Suresha G, Executive Director, Odisha Operations, AM/NS India said, "We are honoured to receive the HSE Innovation Award. It reflects our unwavering commitment to fostering a workplace culture where safety is paramount."

Scientist propounds theory of 'no free will for humans'

It seems like we have free will. Most of the time, we are the ones who choose what we eat, how we tie our shoelaces and what articles we read on The Conversation.

However, the latest book by Stanford neurobiologist Robert Sapolsky, 'Determined: A Science of Life without Free Will', has been receiving a lot of media attention for arguing science shows this is an illusion.

Sapolsky summarises the latest scientific research relevant to determinism: the idea that we're causally "determined" to act as we do because of our histories – and couldn't possibly act any other way.

According to determinism, just as a rock that is dropped is determined to fall due to gravity, your neurons are determined

to fire a certain way as a direct result of your environment, upbringing, hormones, genes, culture and myriad other factors outside your control. And this is true regardless of how "free" your choices seem to you.

Sapolsky also says that because our behaviour is determined in this way, nobody is morally responsible for what they do. He believes while we can lock up murderers to keep others safe, they technically don't deserve to be punished.

This is quite a radical position. It's worth asking why only 11 per cent of philosophers agree with Sapolsky, compared with the 60 per cent who think being causally determined is compatible with having free will and being morally responsible. Is determinism incompatible



with free will?

"Free will" and "responsibility" can mean a variety of different things depending on how you approach them.

Many people think of free will as having the ability to choose between alternatives.

Determinism might seem to threaten this, because if we are causally determined then we lack any real choice between alternatives; we only ever make the choice we were always going to

make.

But there are counterexamples to this way of thinking. For instance, suppose when you started reading this article someone secretly locked your door for 10 seconds, preventing you from leaving the room during that time. You, however, had no desire to leave anyway because you wanted to keep reading – so you stayed where you are. Was your choice free?

Many would argue even though you lacked the option to leave the room, this didn't make your choice to stay unfree. Therefore, lacking alternatives isn't what decides whether you lack free will. What matters instead is how the decision came about.

The trouble with Sapolsky's arguments, as free will expert John

Martin Fischer explains, is he doesn't actually present any argument for why his conception of free will is correct.

He simply defines free will as being incompatible with determinism, assumes this absolves people of moral responsibility, and spends much of the book describing the many ways our behaviours are determined. His arguments can all be traced back to his definition of "free will".

Compatibilists believe humans are agents. We live lives with "meaning", have an understanding of right and wrong, and act for moral reasons. This is enough to suggest most of us, most of the time, have a certain type of freedom and are responsible for our actions (and deserving of blame) – even if our behaviours are "determined".

Incompatibilists must defend themselves better

Some readers sympathetic to Sapolsky might feel unconvinced. They might say your decision to stay in the room, or ignore the child, was still caused by influences in your history that you didn't control – and therefore you weren't truly free to choose.

However, this doesn't prove that having alternatives or being "undetermined" is the only way we can count as having free will. Instead, it assumes they are. From the compatibilists' point of view, this is cheating.

Compatibilists and incompatibilists both agree that, given determinism is true, there is a sense in which you lack alternatives and could not do otherwise.

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Illegal parking on highways spells doom for commuters



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Dec 3: Illegal parking on highways has been causing lethal accidents and claiming precious lives as observation of 'Zero Fatality Week' by the state government went for a toss with as many as 17 lives lost on roads on the very first day of the programme. Eight people were killed when a van they were travelling in rammed into a stationary truck near Balijodi under Ghatagaon police limits in Keonjhar district Friday morning raising concern among the road users, district officials and people from various walks of life. Similarly, three people died in three separate road mishaps at Gelpur in Bhadrak, Chinimahula in Sambalpur, and Anandapur in Keonjhar districts. Later in the evening, six more lost their lives in separate road mishaps across the state. Notably, 186 people were killed

and 479 rendered critical in 576 road accidents within nine months this year in Keonjhar district. The accidents occurred in between January and September this year while figures of the rest four months are yet to be available. Road deaths have witnessed a spurt in this district this year as 272 people had died and 368 sustained critical injuries in 487 road accidents in 2022. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has provision for patrolling on the highways to check over-speeding, drunken driving and illegal parking on roadsides by the errant drivers. However, due to lack of proper enforcement of rules and curbs, drivers are parking on highways illegally with impunity and the menace has increased through the times. As a result, accidents often take place on the busy highway leading to loss of life and properties as hundreds of heavy vehicles carrying minerals pass through this district on a daily basis. The deadly accident that occurred Friday could have been averted had patrolling been undertaken on the national highway. The truck which was parked on the roadside owing to a breakdown could have been relocated to a safe place. Moreover, the NHAI officials could have barricaded the area and put up a warning signage to keep approaching vehicles away. Sources said awareness programmes and raids are being conducted on a large scale in the district to check accidents on roads and highways. However, hardly any action is being taken against rash driving, over-speeding, drunken driving and illegal parking on the highways. Moreover, dhabsas and roadside hotels are mushrooming on the roadside along national highways sans provision for parking. As a result, drivers park their vehicles on the roadside in order to visit the hotels and dhabsas for food. Large number of trucks and other cargo vehicles parked on roadsides is a usual sight on National Highway-20 in areas under Ghatagaon, Sadar, Town and Jhumpura police limits in the district. The NHAI officials have closed their eyes to such wrongdoings and are not doing enough to crackdown on such illegal parking. As a result, approaching vehicles ram into stationary vehicles parked on the highways leading to loss of life and properties.

Notice to patrolling in-charge of NHAI

KEONJHAR: Ghatagaon police issued notice to the patrolling in-charge of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) after it registered a case following the death of eight persons in a road accident on NH-20 near Balijodi village in this district, Sunday. Eight persons were killed and 12 sustained critical injuries on NH-20 near Balijodi village when a van on its way to Maa Tarini temple in Ghatagaon rammed into a stationary truck, Friday. The accident occurring on the first day of 'Zero Fatality Week' shook the state government and authorities of state Transport department. Aggrieved over the development, the regional transport department lodged a complaint against the NHAI authorities. After registration of a case, police summoned two persons including the in-charge and another employee of the private patrolling agency of NHAI to the police station and questioned them in this connection, Saturday. It also issued a notice to the patrolling in-charge Sunday asking him to cooperate in the investigation. Sources said it is the duty of the NHAI to pick up and relocate vehicles elsewhere in cases of breakdown or accident. The NHAI has signed a contract with a private agency to do the work. Police have also registered a case against the NHAI head and conducting a probe. SDPO Sudarshan Gangei confirmed the development stating that the private agency in-charge has been asked to cooperate in the probe and any violation will invite action from their side.

When contacted, RTO Gopalkrushna Das said action will be taken against the owners and drivers of the vehicles parked on highways while steps will be taken to relocate the vehicles in case of a breakdown.

Ghatagaon SDPO Sudarshan Gangei said no patrolling was conducted Friday due to strike by the patrolling staff while the NHAI patrolling staff assisted in the rescue operation after the accident. Meanwhile, all eyes are on the district administration and its action after this gruesome mishap.



CLASSICAL DANCE: Artistes perform at a district-level programme on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities at Biju Kalyan Mandap in Paralakhemundi, Sunday

Jumbo stuck in mud-filled pond rescued

Man killed, minor injured in separate jumbo attacks

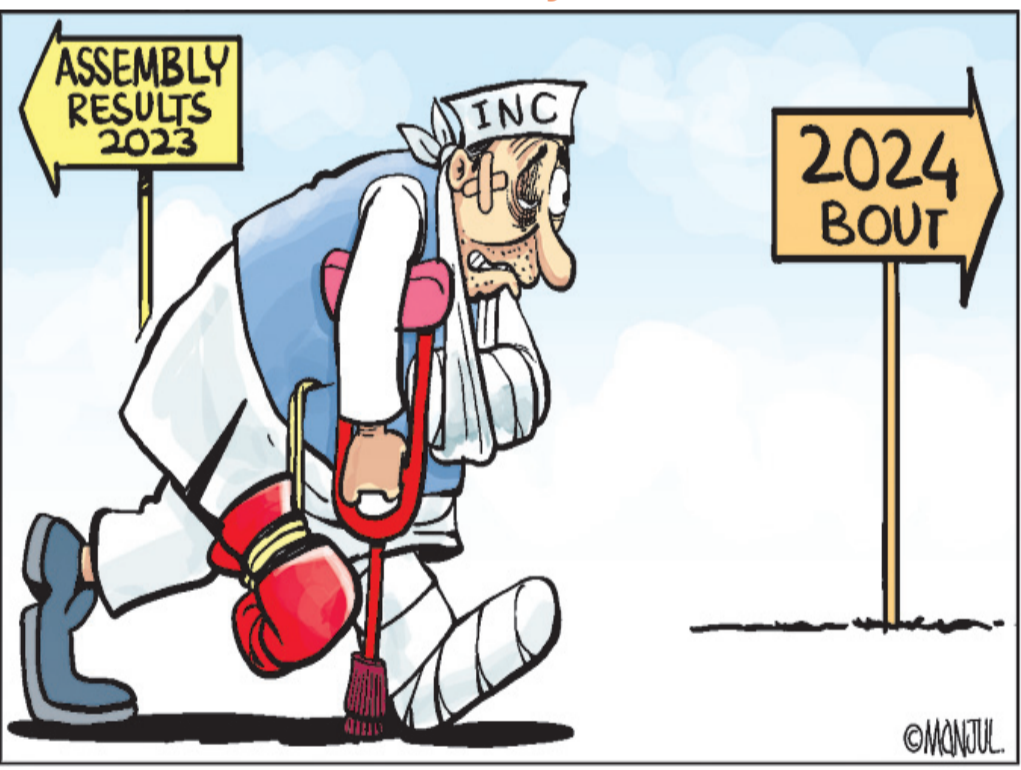


POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Dec 3: A male elephant trapped in a mud-filled pond near a paddy field was rescued Sunday by the Forest department officials at Bhadrabad village under Subdega forest range in Sundargarh district. According to villagers, the elephant had come to the area either in search of standing crop in the field or to quench thirst. However, it slipped into the pond and remained stuck in it all night. It kept on trumpeting after failing to get back up. Early Sunday morning, villagers spotted the animal and then informed forest officials. At around mid-day forest staff came with an earth mover and made an exit for the elephant by digging a large part on one side of the pond. Only then, the pachyderm managed to come out of the mud-filled pond and went into the forest. Sundargarh DFO Pradeep Mirase confirmed that the elephant was rescued in time.

KEONJHAR: In yet another case of man-elephant conflict, a tusker trampled a man to death while he was watching over the paddy threshing ground at Bhejidihi village under Banspal block in Keonjhar district, late Saturday night. The deceased was identified as Banamali Munda, 47, of Sudanga village. He was working as a domestic help to one Shirish Behera of Bhejidihi for the past few years. Banamali was sleeping inside a temporary tent at the paddy threshing ground Saturday night when two tuskers came around 1am at night and trampled Banamali to death. Informed by the Gaja Sathi, Forest department officials reached the spot and sent the body to Keonjhar DHH for a post-mortem. Reportedly, the two tuskers were separated from a 20-member herd at Nayakote beat area under Bhuyana-Juanga-Pidha forest range and wrecked havoc in the adjacent villages of the forest in search of food. Paddy sacks kept at houses lure the elephants towards the villages in the harvest season. Incidents of jumbos breaking walls of houses and eating paddy on threshing grounds are increasing worries for the Forest department, said Bhuyana-Juanga-Pidha ranger Nayanakanta Sahu. An advance amount of ₹60,000 was provided to the deceased's family for conducting the last rights, he added. Nayakote police registered a case (31/23) of unnatural death and handed over the body to the family members after post-mortem. In another incident, a 14-year-old boy Khageswar Munda of Jayantinapur under Champua range sustained injuries when a tusker attacked him. This incident took place Sunday afternoon when he was harvesting paddy. He was admitted to Champua Hospital.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Youth jumps from 30-ft height; dies

BARBIL: A youth committed suicide by jumping from a 30-foot high plant building at Loidapada under Rugudi police limits in Keonjhar district, sources said Sunday. The deceased youth was identified as Sukanta Das, 30, a native of Aul police station area of Kendrapara district. Sukanta was reportedly working as a shift in-charge in the plant where he took the extreme step. As per reports, Sukanta was on duty when he allegedly jumped from the 30-foot high plant building at 10:45am, Saturday morning and received multiple critical injuries. Owing to his injuries, Sukanta died on the spot. After receiving a complaint from the plant authority, Rugudi police reached the spot and seized the body. Police then started an investigation after registering a case (14/23) of unnatural death. It is suspected that Sukanta was in depression for long over some family issues. It might be the reason behind his suicide, said Rugudi PS ASI Tarinisen Bag. However, chatters in the area were abuzz that it is an accidental death.

Truck plunges down Dwarasuni ghat



DRIVER DEAD, HELPER CRITICAL

Bangiriposi, Dec 3: The driver of a sponge iron laden truck died on the spot and the helper was injured critically after the truck plunged down the Dwarasuni ghat on National Highway-49 at Bangiriposi in Mayurbhanj district Sunday. The deceased truck driver was identified as Subas Das, son of Sanyasi Das of West Bengal. As per reports, the truck (WB 58 D 4819) was going from Dwarasuni ghat towards West Bengal when the driver of the truck lost control on wheels and the truck fell down the road. After the accident, the driver was crushed under the truck. Fire brigade team pulled up the truck through crane and after rescuing the dead body of the driver, sent it to hospital for post-mortem. The helper was rescued in a critical condition and rushed to Bangiriposi community health centre and later shifted from there to PRM Medical College and Hospital, Baripada.

Youth critical in bear attack

KORAPUT: A youth sustained critical injuries after a bear attacked him near Rangeiguda village under Mahadeiput panchayat in Koraput district, Saturday night. The critically injured youth identified as Jitendra Kumar Singh, 27, was attacked while he was going to his farmland to guard the crops, Saturday night. He sustained severe injury on his head, ear, mouth and leg. Villagers informed the Forest department about the incident. Koraput ranger Bikash Kumar Patra immediately sent a team to the spot which took Jitendra to Koraput hospital for treatment. However, condition of Jitendra was stated to be critical. All the papers have been prepared to provide compensation to the victim as per the law, said the ranger. On the other hand, Koraput Sadar police has started an investigation after registering a case in this regard.

Ruckus at NMMS exam centre over 'wrong' question

JAIPUR: Tension ensued on Panikoli Government School premises in Jaipur district during an examination for the National Means cum Merit Scholarship 2023 (NMMS), after the appearing students' guardians created din alleging irregularity in the question papers. The first sitting of the test passed off peacefully and was appeared by around 300 students. But the authorities came to know that question papers meant for mental ability test (MAT) were wrongly provided for scholastic aptitude test (SAT) in the second sitting.irate guardians who were waiting for the students outside the school created ruckus over the issue and staged a dharna in front of the institute demanding cancellation of the examination. Korei block development officer (BDO) and a police team from Panikoli PS rushed to the spot and placated the agitating parents. The authorities cancelled the exam after arrival of correct question paper was delayed.

History-sheeter critical in encounter

Nischantakoili, Dec 3: A notorious criminal sustained critical injuries after he was shot at by police during an encounter in Asureswar area under this block in Cuttack district, late Saturday night. The injured criminal was identified as Susant Sahu, 32, alias Dipu of Balipatna village under Tirtol police limits in Jagatsinghpur district. He sustained bullet injuries on his left thigh and was admitted to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack for treatment. A country-made gun, one round of live bullets, a mobile phone and cash worth ₹1,090 has been seized from his possession. He has formed two gangs in five districts and has 66 cases registered against him in various police stations of the state. All his associates managed to escape during the encounter.



According to reports, Susant and his associates were plotting a robbery, during which a police team conducted a raid at Asureswar playground. On spotting the police, Susant fired two rounds of bullets at them in order to escape. However, SI Tapan Nayak retaliated and the bullet hit his left thigh. He collapsed on the spot when police personnel pounced on him and nabbed him.

Ekatra's Ispat Natak Mahotsav underway



Rourkela, Dec 3: 12-day-long theatre festival Ispat Natak Mahostav, which is being organised by Ekatra, was inaugurated Wednesday evening at Civic Centre here. Ekatra is an umbrella organisation of all the leading theatre troops of the Steel City. The first play of the inaugural day was 'Paying Guest' by Pratiidhwani. This women-centric play revolved around five women and their trials and tribulations in day-to-day life. The plot revolves around their pain and anguish and also the sharks waiting to pounce on them at any given moment. And here the lady, Meria aunt, who keeps them as paying guests is also their guardian angel. Written by Pradeep Bhowmick, the storyline certainly touched on some of the burning issues for working women in a society where any wrong move may put them in a tricky situation. The five lady artistes tried their best to give justice to their characters. The representational stagecraft was without any blemish. In his address, the chief guest of the evening Director in-Charge of Rourkela and Bhilai Steel Plants Atanu Bhowmick spoke about the rich cultural heritage of the city. Bhowmick, himself a city boy, knew about the theatre culture of the city. "Rourkela apart from its image as the Steel City is also known for its strong affinity for culture. My city has a very long and vibrant theatre tradition which is very rare to find in an industrial city," said the DIC. He also threw light on the kind of initiatives RSP was going to undertake for the promotion of cultural activities. The guest of honour of the evening former bureaucrat Mahendra Pattnaik spoke about the utility of a theatre culture. "Theatre is a very interesting and challenging activity. It is also more demanding as there is no second chance once you are on the stage," said Pattnaik. He reminded how theatre had influenced Mahatma Gandhi. Earlier, Ekatra president Rajib Pani delivered the welcome address. The annual report was delivered by secretary Suresh Nayak. RSP has also extended its help in organising this 12-day-long festival with 12 theatre groups scheduled to stage their plays.

Be fearless and resolute, all obstacles will melt away before you.

THE MOTHER



Lotus Blooms

The BJP's emphatic win in the Assembly elections to Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh has come when the party needs it most. The Congress' dream of retaining Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and wresting MP from the BJP is shattered and its ability to oust the K Chandrasekhar Rao-led BRS government in Telangana is a poor consolation, especially when everyone knows these Assembly elections are going to decide whether the BJP or the Congress-led INDIA would be in the saddle of power in Delhi a few months away. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will now breathe easy as he remains unassailable and still retains his charisma despite his government's shoddy management of the country's economy. Not surprisingly, he has celebrated the sweet victory with the rhetorical outburst he is adept at. The results, he has said, indicate the people of the country are "firmly with politics of good governance and development which the BJP stands for." Some may say this is more froth than substance. But, Modi's leadership and the sound and fury he makes have won the day.

The results are in a way unexpected as the Congress became euphoric after its victory in Karnataka and the BJP appeared to be defensive, less confident and desperate to win the three states in the Hindi heartland which alone can pave the way to victory in the Lok Sabha election early next year.

The outcome has once again brought to the fore the weakness of the Congress' electoral strategy and leadership. It has once again proved soft-Hindutva of the Congress cannot be an answer to the BJP's brand of religious politics. For one thing, the people all over the world rally behind the original rather than the copy. Rather the Congress probably could have done better if it would have made the country's economic management its main electoral plank.

The BJP could sway the electorate in MP despite the incumbent Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's bad image. Its promise of presenting a new leadership may have tipped the balance in its favour. On the other hand, the Congress has failed to inspire the people's confidence by projecting an old politician like Kamal Nath with dubious records as its main leader.

The Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led government successfully showcased its significant agricultural achievement such as providing water, power connections for irrigation tubewells soaring from 13.2 lakh to 32.5 lakh between 2010-11 and 2020-21 alone. Net area irrigated under canals, too, has nearly doubled during Chouhan's tenure. That has been partly due to new investments, but also the focus on completing unfinished last-mile projects and improving utilisation of existing irrigation potential, through concrete lining of canals and timely desilting, cleaning and fixing breaches before the cropping season have all contributed.

Again what worked in BJP's favour in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh is the women voters' support. With this demography in mind the party announced special schemes in the manifesto.

MP has 26 million women voters, while the number of women who voted in this election has gone up by 2 per cent in the state. Evidently, this could have been a great contributing factor for the BJP's victory in the state.

The results in Rajasthan were more or less predictable. The state has the history of throwing out the incumbent government every five years for the past nearly thirty years and the pattern has been repeated. But, more than that it is the internecine war in the Congress between CM Ashok Gehlot and CM-aspirant Sachin Pilot that became so sickening and nauseating that the people decided to dump the Congress.

The situation in Chhattisgarh was no better for the Congress despite the hype of tribal welfare that the party's central leadership promised. For Bhupesh Baghel's record was besmirched with corruption charges. The BJP has been able to consolidate the support base, transcending caste and class lines. In Chhattisgarh in particular, it has managed to secure lead in 20 of the 34 tribal seats, which matters in a state where nearly 1/3rd of the population is tribal.

The BJP in Chhattisgarh also promised a slew of schemes just four days ahead of the first phase of polling on November 7. These included cooking gas cylinders at Rs 500 for poor families and Rs 12,000 per year financial assistance to married women. The strategy has paid dividends and countered the Congress campaign on welfare schemes.

Finally, the Congress' appeasement politics has obviously not cut much ice with the people sealing its fate in the states.

The upshot of the results of the four states is that the Congress is left to eat dust. Its position in INDIA bloc as the big brother gets weakened. The BJP is poised to make its bid for the third time rule of the Narendra Modi-led BJP government at the Centre with tremendous confidence.

WISDOM CORNER

Power is given only to those who dare to lower themselves and pick it up. Only one thing matters, one thing; to be able to dare!
FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

Whoever fights monsters should see to it that in the process he does not become a monster. And if you gaze long enough into an abyss, the abyss will gaze back into you.
FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

A civilization which leaves so large a number of its participants unsatisfied and drives them into revolt neither has nor deserves the prospect of a lasting existence.
SIGMUND FREUD

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1533: Ivan the Terrible proclaimed grand prince of Moscow. The three-year-old was proclaimed grand prince of Moscow upon the death of his father, Grand Prince Vasily III, with his mother ruling in Ivan's name until her death in 1538.

1791: First Sunday paper published. The Observer, a British newspaper became the first newspaper in the world to be published and read on a Sunday.

1969: American civil rights leader Fred Hampton, a charismatic member of the Black Panthers, was shot and killed during a police raid in Chicago; his death caused public outrage, and the ensuing investigations brought greater scrutiny of the FBI's attempts to dismantle the Panthers and other Black organizations.

LOL

Giving away a horse

A retiring farmer in preparation for selling his land, needed to rid his farm of animals. So he went to every house in his town. To the houses where the man is the boss, he gave a horse. To the houses where the woman is the boss, a chicken was given. He got toward the end of the street and saw a couple outside gardening. "Who's the boss around here?" he

asked. "I am," said the man. "I have a black horse and a brown horse," the farmer said, "which one would you like?" The man thought for a minute and said, "The black one." "No, no, no, get the brown one," the man's wife said. "Here's your chicken," said the farmer.



FOCUS ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

SILENCE & EMBARRASSMENT

"We must separate the Jews into two categories, the Zionists and the partisans of assimilation," wrote Reinhard Heydrich, one of the architects of the Holocaust, in 1935. "The Zionists profess a strictly racial concept and, through emigration to Palestine, they help to build their own Jewish State....[O]ur good wishes and our official goodwill go with them."

In Heydrich's terms, the creation of the State of Israel thus represented the triumph of Zionism over assimilationism. But it also complicated the traditional anti-Semitic perception of Jews as a deracinated, rootless people. This was Martin Heidegger's view, in 1939, when he called for an examination of "Jewry's predisposition to planetary criminality": "With their marked gift for calculation, the Jews 'live' according to the principle of race, and indeed have done so for the longest time, for which reason they themselves most vigorously resist its unrestricted application. The arrangement of racial breeding stems not from 'life' itself, but from the hyperempowerment of life by machination (Machenschaft). What this brings about with such planning is a complete deracination of peoples by harnessing them in a uniformly constructed and streamlined arrangement of all entities. Along with deracination goes a self-alienation of peoples—the loss of history—i.e., of the regions of decision for being (Sein)."

Underpinning these lines is the philosophical opposition between fully living in a concrete world and denying such spiritual-historical roots by viewing all "external reality" as merely something to be manipulated and exploited. But what happens when a supposedly rootless cosmopolitan race begins to put down roots? With Zionism, the French philosopher Alain Finkielkraut wrote in 2015, "The Jews, they have today chosen the path of rooting."

It is easy to discern in this claim an echo of Heidegger's



By using Jewish victimhood to justify an expansionist agenda, pro-annexation Israelis are cynically exploiting the memory of the Holocaust

belief that all essential and great things require a "blood and soil" homeland. The irony is that anti-Semitic clichés about rootlessness are invoked to legitimise Zionism. Whereas anti-Semitism reproaches Jews for being rootless, Zionism tries to correct this supposed failure. No wonder so many conservative anti-Semites ferociously support Israel's expansion to this day. The problem, of course, is that expansion, under Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's government, now means settling and annexing the West Bank—seeking roots in a place that was for centuries inhabited by other people.

We encounter a similar issue with differing interpretations of the traditional Jewish saying "Next year in Jerusalem," pronounced at the end of the Seder (the ritual meal marking the start of the Passover holiday). As Dara Lind of Vox explains: "Many Jews who believe strongly in the importance of a Jewish state see 'next year in Jerusalem' as an expression of the need to protect Jerusalem and Israel as they exist today. Others think of the 'Jerusalem' mentioned in the Seder more of an ideal of what Jerusalem and Israel could be—for them, 'next year in Jerusalem' is a prayer that Israel will move closer to that ideal. Or 'Jerusalem' could just be a symbol of utopia more generally, and 'next year in Jerusalem' could be a resolution to bring peace to Earth in the coming year."

These versions reproduce the duality of the transcendental and the empirical. "Jerusalem" is either an abstract spiritual site of deliverance or an actual city with real people, buildings, and religious monuments. Not surprisingly, some Muslim fundamentalists are quite sympathetic to the "transcendentalists" who regard exaltation of the actual city as blasphemy. In the mid-2000s, when then-Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad organised a conference calling for the State of Israel's obliteration, he hosted a few friendly "transcendentalist" rabbis. It was an inversion of Heydrich's view: Having Jews in our midst is okay; it is the Jewish state that is unacceptable.

But there is a third, profoundly dangerous version of "Next year in Jerusalem" that offers a synthesis of the two. Those who espouse it say: "Now that we have Jerusalem, we can use next year to demolish the Palestinian buildings and rebuild the biblical Temple on the site where the Al-Aqsa Mosque currently stands." The struggle for Jerusalem thus becomes a sacred undertaking. Even if a crime is committed, the perpetrators will bear no guilt (in their eyes) because they are founding a new legitimate order. It is like the old joke in which the villagers boast of having no cannibals: "We ate the last one yesterday."

But let's be clear about what is really going on. By using Jewish victimhood to justify an

expansionist agenda, pro-annexation Israelis are cynically exploiting the memory of the Holocaust. Those offering unconditional support for Israel thus are also supporting the current Israeli government against the liberal opposition that opposes settlements and expansion. Yet that expansionism is a leading source of anti-Semitism in the world today.

Among the countries offering full support for Israel is Germany, where many on the right warn of "imported anti-Semitism" (importierter Antisemitismus). The implication is that any new wave of anti-Semitism in Germany is not a German phenomenon, but rather a result of Muslim immigration. But why, then, have so many young leftists in the West also refused to express solidarity with Israel following Hamas' attack on October 7? Why are young Americans circulating Osama bin Laden's "Letter to America" on TikTok?

It is too easy to say that they simply sympathise with Hamas. Rather, what unites many of those joining pro-Palestinian protests is the broader view that the foreign policies and military apparatuses of the United States and its Western allies are beholden to Big Capital and its exploitation of the rest of the world. Sometimes, there is a very thin line separating genuine discontent with capitalism from the kind of "anti-capitalist" populism found in Bin Laden's letter.

Many liberals have expressed their support for Israel while simultaneously voicing concerns about the number of civilians—especially children—being killed in Gaza. There is growing sympathy for Palestinians as victims, as well as a recognition of their right to resist expansionist encroachment. But how can they resist without becoming anti-Semites? It is a question that so far has elicited only silence and embarrassment.

The writer is Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM DISASTER

Not necessarily by accident

The nation celebrated the rescue of 41 workers from the Silkyara Bend-Barkot tunnel in Uttarakashi district of Uttarakhand. Once the euphoria of successful effort settles, it will be time to ask whether the tunnel collapse was preventable. The utility and impact of the answers will depend on the questions we ask. Our conduct of post-accident inquiries into causes has been less than satisfactory. A discussion of how we have dealt with railway accidents will illustrate this.

On October 29, 2023, there was a terrible accident involving a collision between two trains in Andhra Pradesh which resulted in the death of 14 and several more injured. On June 02, 2023, over 290 passengers lost their lives while around 1000 were injured in a crash involving three trains in Odisha. Such accidents are published on front pages in newspapers and are on national television news for a few days and then lapse into a collective national apathy until the next catastrophe. The process has become a ritual where politicians at local and national levels an-

nounce payments to families of the deceased and injured. This is followed by a decision to initiate an enquiry into the causes of the accident. And then we happily move on with our lives.

There has been significant amount of research analysing human errors that result in accidents in a variety of situations from healthcare, to aviation, and nuclear power plants. Some of the most respected work has been done by James Reason and Charles Perrow. They have suggested that errors are of two types: active errors and latent errors. Active errors occur at the level of frontline operators, and their effects are felt almost immediately. Active errors are related to the act of omission or commission that may have been occurred when and where the accident happened. They do not tend to affect any other area of the system at any other point in time. Latent errors are prevalent throughout the system. They can, and do, lead to errors in different parts of the system at different points in time and hence are more consequential than active errors. In general, any in-

quiry that is constituted after an accident tends to focus on active errors and not on latent or systemic errors.

There could be a variety of reasons for this. Latent errors are not easily discernible. They typically involve the acts of omission and or commission by higher level officials, and there could be a tendency to avoid confrontation with powerful officials. It is much easier to pick an operator's mistake than to question policy-makers of the organisation.

An audit report by the CAG on Derailment of Trains in India for the years 2017-2021 makes for some very interesting, as well as alarming, reading. The report looked at several aspects of the operation and maintenance of the rail system. One aspect deals with the inspection of tracks with the help of Track Recording Cars (TRCs). The Indian Railway Permanent Way Manual provides that broad gauge routes should be monitored by TRCs as per prescribed frequencies dependent on the type of track. The audit found that the shortfall in conducting the inspections varied from 30 to 100%

across different zonal divisions. The best performing zonal division could only perform 70% of prescribed inspections. In 14 out of 18 divisions the inspections performed were half or less than half the prescribed requirements, and in four divisions no inspections were carried out at all.

The government is moving ahead with ambitious plans for high-speed rail connecting the cities. While we should be celebrating these plans, nevertheless there is sufficient cause for concern regarding our ability to maintain the existing railway assets, let alone the newer, more sophisticated systems. We should not fall into the trap of thinking that we can automate ourselves out of this mess. What is needed is better management at ground level and a real commitment to passenger safety from the government and top management of railways. Until that happens, perhaps it might be better to slow down. And it may be instructive to repeat the audit after a few years to see to what extent the railways have heeded the suggestions.

INFIA



Rajiv Gupta

IN GENERAL, ANY INQUIRY THAT IS CONSTITUTED AFTER AN ACCIDENT TENDS TO FOCUS ON ACTIVE ERRORS AND NOT ON LATENT OR SYSTEMIC ERRORS

Triumph of labour

Sir, Prayers of the entire nation towards rescuing the 41 workers trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarakashi bore fruit after a 17-day ordeal. The mission that has been accomplished successfully is a triumph of human labour over machinery as the rat-hole mining experts managed to manually break through the final 12 meters of rubble, using only hand drills and pulleys. This extensive and challenging rescue work, spanning over 400 hours, showcases the resoluteness and determination of the rescuers and the indomitable spirit of the trapped workers. It also highlights the might of our nation and the combined spirit of its people to stand united in the face of any adversity, and we can go great strengths when it comes to the well-being of our people. But as we watched on television the hardship and struggle over the operations, questions emerged as to whether the mountainous area in Uttarakhand can really withstand this kind of heavy tunnelling work.
Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Threat to ties

Sir, The recent incidents involving the heckling of Indian diplomats by Khalistan supporters at gurdwaras in various Western countries are deeply concerning. These acts of disruption during religious occasions not only violate the sanctity of places of worship but also pose a threat to diplomatic relations. The situation becomes even more critical when political statements or allegations by leaders like Canadian PM Justin Trudeau's comments regarding Indian government involvement in certain cases, embolden these elements to escalate their actions. It's essential for governments to prioritise diplomatic cooperation and take strict action against those misusing platforms for their nefarious agendas. The safety and security of diplomats should remain paramount, and countries must collaborate to address such incidents effectively. This involves not only investigating these disruptions but also ensuring the safety of diplomatic personnel within these countries. Additionally, it's imperative for the responsible authorities to work closely in resolving any pending investigations, such as the case of Hardeep Singh Nijjar's murder, and to share relevant information and evidence for a thorough probe. Upholding the sanctity of places of worship while addressing diplomatic concerns is crucial to prevent such incidents from recurring and maintain international relations based on mutual respect and cooperation.
Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

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

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'1,052 die of heart attack in 6 months in Gujarat'

Ahmedabad, Dec 3: A total of 1,052 persons have died of heart attack in Gujarat in the last six months, with 80 per cent of the deceased being in the 11-25 age group, state education minister Kuber Dindor said.

In view of the rising number of heart attacks, nearly two lakh school teachers and college professors will be provided training in performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), a crucial lifesaving intervention during such medical emergencies, Dindor said.

"As many as 1,052 persons have died due to heart attack during the last six months in Gujarat. Nearly 80 per cent of them were in the age-group of 11 to 25 years and these students and youngsters were not even obese. The 108 ambulance service receives 173 cardiac emergency calls per day," said Dindor while addressing the media in Gandhinagar.

Youngsters are living in fear because a majority of the heart attack victims were in their age group, he claimed.



"We have seen how people died (due to heart attack) while playing cricket or taking part in garba (a traditional dance form popular during Navratri festivities) in the last six or seven months. I urge teachers to take part in this CPR training camp so that they can save lives," the minister said.

Under this initiative of the state Education Department, CPR training camps will be conducted at 37 medical colleges between December 3 and 17 to provide training to nearly two lakh school and college teachers, he said.

Nearly two lakh school teachers and college professors will be provided training in performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), a crucial lifesaving intervention during such medical emergencies

Some 2,500 medical experts and doctors will be present at these training camps and certificates will also be provided to the participants, Dindor added. Such training was given earlier to Bharatiya Janata Party workers and police personnel in the state, he pointed out.

Unseasonal rains in parts of Gujarat

Ahmedabad, Dec 3: Parts of Gujarat received unseasonal rainfall over the last 24 hours with the showers causing waterlogging in some low-lying areas of Bharuch city, officials said Sunday.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast light rains in some districts of south and Saurashtra regions of the state till Monday morning.

In the 24-hour period ending at 6 am on Sunday, Bharuch taluka received 20 mm rainfall, followed by Santrampur taluka in Mahisagar district - 12 mm, Talod taluka (Sabarkantha) - 10 mm, Umreth taluka (Anand) - 10 mm, Ankleshwar taluka (Bharuch) - 9 mm, as per the data provided by the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC).

Rains in Bharuch city led to waterlogging in some low-lying areas, officials said.

The IMD in its latest bulletin said light rains were very likely at isolated places in Aravalli, Ahmedabad, Mahisagar, Dangs, Navsari, Valsad, Junagadh and Gir Somnath in the next 24 hours.

Dry weather is likely to prevail in the state from Monday onwards, it said.



The India Meteorological Department has forecast light rains in some districts of south and Saurashtra regions of the state till Monday morning

Last week, widespread rainfall in the state led to the destruction of crops at various places and at least 27 people died, mostly due to lightning strikes.

The state government has ordered a survey of crop damage to compensate farmers for their losses.

CASH-FOR-JOB SCAM 21 govt officials suspended in Assam

Guwahati, Dec 3: At least 21 high-ranked government officers including senior police personnel were suspended by Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria for their alleged involvement in a cash-for-job scam in the recruitment examinations conducted by the Assam Public Service Commission, an official said.

Ten officers of the Assam Civil Service (ACS) and 11 officers of the Assam Police Service (APS) are among the suspended officials. When the previous APSC chairman Rakesh Paul was taken into custody by the police in the Dibrugarh in November 2016, it became apparent that there were alleged irregularities with the Combined Competitive Examination (CCE) that the APSC conducted in 2013, 2015, and 2016. In March this year, he was released on bail.

At least 57 more government officials were detained for their alleged involvement after he was apprehended. After assuming the chair of Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma restarted the investigation and established an inquiry panel led by Justice (retd) Biplob Kumar Sharma of the Guwahati High Court in 2021. Sarma gave the go-ahead to establish a special investigation team (SIT) last month in order to look into the allegations more thoroughly.

The Gauhati High Court will receive the report from the SIT headed by Additional Director General of Police (DGP) (CID) Munna Prasad Gupta in six months.

ASSAM ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS SC to examine validity of Citizenship Act's section 6A Dec 5

SECTION 6A IN THE CITIZENSHIP ACT WAS INSERTED AS A SPECIAL PROVISION TO DEAL WITH THE CITIZENSHIP OF PEOPLE COVERED BY THE ASSAM ACCORD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: The Supreme Court is scheduled to commence hearing December 5 to examine the constitutional validity of section 6A of the Citizenship Act relating to illegal immigrants in Assam.

Section 6A in the Citizenship Act was inserted as a special provision to deal with the citizenship of people covered by the Assam Accord.

The provision provides that those who have come to Assam on or after January 1, 1966 but before March 25, 1971 from specified territories, including Bangladesh, as per the Citizenship Act amended in 1985, and since then are residents of Assam must register themselves under section 18 for citizenship.

As a result, the provision fixes March 25, 1971 as the cut-off date for granting citizenship to Bangladeshi migrants in Assam.

As per the cause list uploaded on the apex court website, a five-judge constitution bench comprising Chief Justice D Y



While hearing the matter in September, the apex court had said the title of the proceeding shall be, "In Re: Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955"

Chandrachud, Justices Surya Kant, M M Sundresh, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra would take up the matter for hearing Tuesday.

While hearing the matter in September, the apex court had said the title of the proceeding shall be, "In Re: Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955."

"During the course of the hearing, it has been agreed that the contesting parties shall consist of (i) those who are challenging the constitutional validity of section 6A of the Citizenship Act 1955 on the one hand; and (ii) those including the Union of India and the State of Assam who are supporting the validity of the provision," the bench had said in its September 20 order.

Several petitions are pending on the issue in the apex court. Under the Assam Accord signed by the All Assam Students Union, Assam government and the Government of India on August 15, 1985 to detect and deport the foreigners, section 6A was inserted to the Citizenship Act to grant citizenship to people who have migrated to Assam.

A Guwahati-based NGO challenged section 6A in 2012, terming it arbitrary, discriminatory and unconstitutional, claiming it provides different dates for regularising illegal migrants in Assam.

A two-judge bench had referred the matter to the Constitution bench in 2014.

Assam: Pact inked for improving healthcare delivery in Kamrup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Dec 3: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati, has joined hands with Tata Medical & Diagnostics Ltd. (Tata MD) and National Health Mission, Assam, for augmenting public healthcare delivery in Kamrup district by establishing a digital nerve centre, an official statement said.

An MoU between the three partners was signed to implement Tata MD's healthcare model through the centre, it said.

The pact was signed by MS Lakshmi Priya, MD, NHM Assam, Girish Krishnamurthy, MD and CEO, TATA MD, and Parameswar K Iyer, Dean PRBR, IIT Guwahati.

Speaking at the event, Assam Health Minister Keshab Mahanta expressed happiness at the setting up of the centre.

"We are grateful to Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and IIT Guwahati for partnering in this initiative. With this MoU, we mark the beginning of a unique transformative journey that holds the promise of better health outcomes, enhanced accessibility and facilitate local employment in this project," he said in a statement.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will provide inputs and share learnings of adapting and implementing innovative models, as well as taking the learnings from the initiative to other states and globally to ensure more women and children have access to life-saving care.

Assam to reserve 5% seats in engineering, medical colleges

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Dec 3: The Assam government has decided to reserve 5 per cent of seats in the medical colleges for students of government schools in the state, officials said Saturday.

The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting held in Tinsukia Friday evening.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "We have made the decision to set aside 5 per cent of seats in BTEch/BE programmes at government engineering colleges for students who attended government schools from grades 7 to 12."

While Sarma had indicated that seats would be set aside for medical colleges as well, the Cabinet's directives, which he posted on his official X handle, made it clear that the five per cent quota would solely apply to engineering colleges. According to Sarma, the cabinet authorised three projects totaling ₹438.27 crore under the 2019 Assam Industrial and Investment Policy, with the goal of promoting industrial growth in the state.

The three projects include a Tata Group hotel in Kaziranga, a second Radisson Blu hotel in Guwahati, and a bamboo crash barrier manufacturing unit by Bhavya Shristi Udyog Pvt Ltd in Bongaigaon.

Together, these three projects, according to Sarma, will generate around 1,400 new jobs in the state.

In order to draw in additional CSR funding for the state, he also announced the formation of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Authority of Assam, which will be led by an IAS officer.

wards, it said. Last week, widespread rainfall in the state led to the destruction of crops at various places and at least 27 people died, mostly due to lightning strikes.

The state government has ordered a survey of crop damage to compensate farmers for their losses.

Guj leads in wind power surge

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ahmedabad, Dec 3: At the heart of India's renewable energy surge, Gujarat stands tall with its 1,600 km of breezy coastline, where winds rush at 10 meters per second, fostering an ideal milieu for wind energy production.

This strategic advantage has propelled Gujarat to the forefront of India's wind power sector, contributing significantly to the nation's environmental goals.

Looking forward, the Global Wind Energy Council's March 2023 report outlines India's ambitious plan to add over 60 GW of onshore and nearly 40 GW of offshore windmill capacity by 2030. These targets reflect a significant commitment to clean energy and a shift away from fossil fuel dependence.

While solar panels cease power generation post-sunset, wind turbines continue to harness energy through the night. This complementary aspect makes wind energy a compelling choice for India's future energy mix.

The Gujarat government, aligning with national objectives, recently unveiled its Renewable Energy Policy for 2023-2028. This policy ambitiously aims to fulfill 50% of the state's energy needs through renewable sources by 2030, eyeing investments worth ₹5 lakh crore.

It encompasses a broad spectrum of renewable projects, including ground-mounted solar, rooftop solar, floating solar, canal top solar, and wind-hybrid projects.

A key feature of this policy is the decentralization of renewable energy (RE) generation, encouraging industry participation. It removes previous capacity restrictions, allowing firms to meet 100% of their energy requirements through their own RE plants.

This is a significant shift from the earlier 50% cap, where industries depended on discoms for the rest. Additionally, companies can now collectively purchase renewable power from Renewable Energy Service Companies (Rescos), saving on various surcharges associated with third-party power sales.

The policy's implementation, however, faces challenges including rate determination under the new rules and replicating the success of rooftop solar projects in the wind sector.

The state's strategic location and proactive policies position it as a key player in India's race for renewables, contributing significantly to the national goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

Currently in development, the Gujarat Hybrid Renewable Energy Park, situated near Vighakot village in the Kutch district of Gujarat, is poised to become a landmark in renewable energy.

Upon completion, this expansive facility is set to generate an impressive 30 gigawatts of electricity, utilizing both solar panels and wind turbines. Covering a vast area of 72,600 hectares, predominantly on wasteland, the park is on track to be the world's largest hybrid renewable energy park.

In addition to its renewable energy generation capabilities, the park will feature a substantial 14 GWh grid-scale battery storage system.

It is estimated to create around one lakh job opportunities and attract investments amounting to ₹150,000 crore. From an environmental perspective, the park is projected to contribute to carbon emission reduction, with an estimated 5 crore tonnes cut annually.



A group of tortoises at Jorpukhuri lake in Guwahati, Assam

PTI PHOTO

IIT Guwahati launches drone technology training

The programme is crafted to combine fundamental and practical aspects of drone technology and operations that would include theoretical, classroom sessions and practical handling



Officers (JCOs) and other officers to modernise the operations of the armed forces, officials said.

The course will also help the participants in choosing post-retirement career options as the programme will equip them with the knowledge, perception and vision required to succeed in the diverse drone industry or as technology entrepreneurs.

This first-of-its-kind programme in the country will focus on providing exhaustive training on drone technologies, pilot training, software operations and applications, IITG's Centre for Drone Technology's Dean Parameswar K Iyer said.

The current batch of the programme has 30 personnel from various armed forces.

"IIT-G is offering a certificate programme on drone technology to skill the armed forces with this technology and to boost their career opportunities post-retirement for senior officers," Head of the Centre for Educational Technology T V Bharat said.

The ongoing training programme by experienced faculty from different departments and centres would provide numerous opportunities as entrepreneurs or any other technology-based second career to members of the defence forces, he said.

The programme is being implemented by the Centre for Educational Technology, Centre for Intelligent Cyber Physical Systems (CICPS), Centre for Drone Technology and IITG Technology Innovation and Development Foundation (IITG TIDF).

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India, which began its wind energy journey in the 1980s, has emerged as the fourth-largest onshore wind energy market globally, boasting a capacity of 41.98 GW

Gujarat accounts for a substantial 9.8 GW of this capacity, making it a vital player in the nation's renewable energy landscape

In 2022, Gujarat achieved the second highest wind energy capacity in India, trailing only behind Tamil Nadu

BJP CANDIDATE DEFEATS KCR, REVANTH REDDY IN KAMAREDDY

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Reddy and state Congress chief A. Revanth Reddy, who is likely to be the next Chief Minister, were both defeated by the BJP candidate in Kamareddy constituency. Venkat Ramna Reddy of the BJP defeated KCR, as Rao is popularly known, by a margin of 5,156 votes. Revanth Reddy finished third. There were many twists



and turns ever since the counting began in the morning. Initially, the BJP candidate had taken the lead. Subsequently, Revanth Reddy was ahead. In a few rounds, KCR was also leading. The counting ended with a dramatic outcome. Venkat Ramna Reddy was the only local among the three main candidates. While KCR hails from undivided Medak district, Revanth Reddy comes from undivided Mahabubnagar district. However, both KCR and Revanth Reddy were elected from their home constituencies of Gajwel and Kodangal, respectively.

BJP GETS MASSIVE MANDATE

An effective booth-level strategy, strong organisational manoeuvre and the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan are among the key factors that turned the tide in favour of the BJP in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls.

Popularly known as "Mama" (maternal uncle), Chouhan is hugely popular among the masses, especially women and youngsters, while the "MP ke man mein Modi" (Modi in the mind of MP) campaign also helped consolidate the support for the BJP in the state, party leaders said.

One of the challenges that the saffron party faced in the run-up to the election was internal factionalism and de-motivated workers. The task was to get everyone working together at the organisational level for the ultimate cause of bringing the BJP back to power in the state, sources in the party said. "The leaders



We accept the decision of Madhya Pradesh voters in this contest of democracy. We, being the opposition party, will stick to our duty. I congratulate BJP and hope that they will live up to the people's support they got

KAMAL NATH
MP CONGRESS CHIEF

the municipal corporations and panchayats.

They organised more than 50 meetings where Chouhan listened to the grievances and sug-

gestions of the party workers. The sources said the BJP leaders' simple and straightforward behaviour as well as constituency visits and the stay of senior leaders in the state played "a big role" in strengthening the mutual trust and coordination among the workers up to the booth level.

An effective poll strategy and campaigns by Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP chief J P Nadda and other leaders created a wave in favour of the party, they added.

BRS BITES DUST

Despite towering image of BRS supremo & CM KCR, along with the party's extensive grassroots network & welfare programmes, the perceived inaccessibility of its leaders led to the growing anti-incumbency sentiments

Factors such as anti-incumbency, voter fatigue, and dissatisfaction among the youth contributed mainly to the poor showing of BRS in the Telangana Legislative Assembly election Sunday. Despite the towering image of BRS supremo and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao, along with the party's extensive grassroots network and welfare programmes, the perceived inaccessibility of its leaders contributed to the growing anti-incumbency sentiments. Additionally, the opposition projection of what they called the BRS family rule in the state further exacerbated this sentiment. The party's decision to renominate most of the 119 MLAs did not yield the desired results either. The BRS has dominated Telangana politics since the state's formation in 2014 and had a significant presence even in undivided Andhra Pradesh since 2001. While the BRS government introduced various welfare schemes, its alleged failure to fulfill key election promises, including providing



Not saddened over the result today, but surely disappointed as it was not in expected lines for us. But we will take this in our stride as a learning and will bounce back

KT RAMA RAO
BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

housing for the poor, ensuring significant job creation, doling out unemployment relief, as well as the delayed implementation of farmers' loan waivers and the leak of recruitment test question papers worked against them. The BJP was initially considered the main opposition to BRS, but the scenario changed after the Congress gained momentum following the Karnataka elections in May. Allegations of an implicit understanding between BRS and BJP, particularly regarding the Delhi excise policy case involving Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao's daughter Kavitha, weakened the BJP leading anti-establishment votes to consolidate in favour of the Congress. Unlike previous elections where sentiments for separate statehood played a crucial role, emotional issues did not significantly sway this election. In 2018, the Congress and TDP formed an alliance, with BRS accusing TDP Chief N Chandrababu Naidu of being anti-Telangana. However, TDP chose not to contest the recent Telangana assembly election due to ongoing legal issues and Naidu's imprisonment in Andhra Pradesh. Similarly, YSR Telangana Party (YSRTP) led by Y S Sharmila, daughter of former undivided Andhra Pradesh CM YS Rajasekhara Reddy, withdrew from the contest, declaring support for the Congress.



Telangana Congress chief A Revanth Reddy (C), along with party leader Vijayashanti, celebrates as the party leads during counting of votes for Telangana Assembly polls

REVANTH'S JOURNEY HAS WEATHERED TURBULENT TIDES

Numula Revanth Reddy, whose political trajectory has surged from student activism with the ABVP to a brief period of incarceration amid allegations of bribery, now finds himself on the brink of a potential chief ministership.

The 56-year-old Congress leader is known among fellow politicians, partymen and people for his never-say-die attitude. A fierce critic of BRS chief K Chandrasekhara Rao, Reddy, the Telangana Congress chief, is often the target of virulent political attacks by the BRS and the AIMIM.

The BRS leaders attack him for changing parties, with regard to the 2015 'cash for vote' case in which he was arrested and for allegedly being the "agent of" TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu. AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi targets him over his ABVP background.

Reddy, who was briefly in BRS (then TRS) was first elected to a political office in a Zilla Parishad election. He was elected as a Zilla Parishad Territorial

Constituency (ZPTC) member then as an independent.

He was elected to the legislative council in undivided Andhra Pradesh in 2007 as an independent. Reddy had joined the TDP and became a confidante of party chief and former chief minister Chandrababu Naidu.

Reddy, a graduate in arts, was elected to the Legislative Assembly on a TDP ticket in 2009 and later in 2014 when Telangana was carved out of Andhra Pradesh.

He faced the biggest challenge of his political life in 2015 when he was allegedly caught on camera trying to bribe a nominated MLA to vote in favour of the TDP in a legislative council election.

He was sent to a jail in Hyderabad but was released after he secured bail. Revanth Reddy lost the 2018 Assembly poll to the BRS candidate and remained in political wilderness for a while.

He quit the TDP and joined the Congress in 2017-18.

SEMI-FINAL BEFORE 2024

We humbly accept the mandate given by the people of Rajasthan. This is an unexpected result for everyone. This defeat shows that we were not completely successful in taking our plans, laws and innovations to the public

ASHOK GEHLOT |
OUTGOING RAJASTHAN
CHIEF MINISTER



BJP workers and supporters outside party headquarters during counting of votes for the Rajasthan Assembly elections in Jaipur

"I sometimes think of leaving it, but the chief minister's post doesn't leave me," Ashok Gehlot famously said earlier this year, in part as a signal to the Congress top brass not to pick someone else for the job if the party wins the

assembly polls.

Over the past several months Gehlot, 72, tried every trick up his sleeve — he has his magician father's blood running through his veins, after all — to retain the post.

Last year, MLAs loyal to him even defied the party high command by boycotting the Congress Legislature Party meeting summoned in Jaipur to possibly pave the way to the CM's post for

Sachin Pilot, who in 2020 led a rebellion against the older colleague. The Gandhis wanted Gehlot to quit state politics and become the next national president of the Congress. But Gehlot succeeded in staying put.

He then set himself on the task of trying to get the Congress

This victory is attributed to people who rejected the misgovernance of the Gehlot government and voted for good government

VASUNDHARA RAJE | BJP LEADER

back in a state that for the last three decades has never returned the same party to office twice in a row. Gehlot introduced a slew of welfare measures, including cheaper cooking gas for the poor and a Rs 25-lakh medical insurance scheme. The old pension scheme was back for government employees.

And the Congress stalwart ensured that he was identified with each scheme. Had the Congress won, most observers feel, it would have been forced to pick Gehlot over Pilot again as CM.

Bharat Adivasi Party registers first victory

The Bharat Adivasi Party registered its first victory in MP by winning the Sailana seat of Ratlam district.

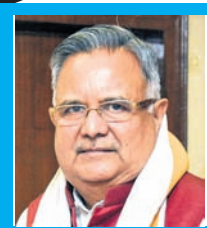
The party's Kamleshwar Dodiya defeated the nearest rival and Congress candidate Harsh Vijay Gehlot in Sailana constituency by a margin of 4,618 votes as per the Election Commission. This is the first

time that the Bharat Adivasi Party, headquartered in Rajasthan, has registered a victory in any election in MP. Sailana seat of Ratlam is located on the borders of Rajasthan.

Bhupesh Baghel, who was getting ready to continue as the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh after exit polls predicted a Congress victory, on Sunday suffered a setback as the BJP wrested the state from the hands of the grand old party.

Baghel, who became the CM in 2018, has emerged as one of the most formidable state-level leaders of the Congress in the last five years. With his welfare schemes, invocation of regional pride and astute political skills which helped him overcome challenges from within the party, he became the face of the Congress ahead of the 2023 Assembly polls.

People fondly call him 'kaka' (uncle), and "kaka abhi zinda hai" (kaka is still



The people of the state have shown faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's works and guarantees. The PM, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda gave sufficient time (for electioneering) in Chhattisgarh

RAMON SINGH | FORMER
CHHATTISGARH CM



BJP workers and supporters celebrate the party's lead in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh during counting of votes for the Assembly elections in Patna

alive) has been Baghel's favourite punch line during public speeches. After the Congress lost Assembly elections in Chhattisgarh for the third time in a row in 2013, Baghel made its state unit chief.

The party had suffered a devastating blow a few months earlier when several of its state leaders were killed in the Jhiram valley Naxal attack of May 2013. Along with then leader of Opposition in the assembly T S Singh Deo, Baghel rebuilt the party in

SURPRISE WIN

Chhattisgarh. When the Congress swept to power in 2018, Baghel emerged as winner in the race for the Chief Minister's post, leaving behind rivals like Singh Deo, Charan Das Mahant and Tamradhwaj Sahu.

In 2023, though the Congress did not declare any chief ministerial candidate, its campaign revolved around him. After becoming the Chief Minister five years ago, Baghel cultivated his image as a 'son of the soil'. The schemes rolled out by his government for farmers, tribal communities and the poor played a major role in increasing his popularity. Baghel was also one of the first leaders from the state to tap the sentiment of regional pride, talking about 'Chhattisgarhiyawaad'

Four of seven BJP MPs win

Four of seven BJP MPs who fought the Rajasthan Assembly elections won their respective seats while three others lost the polls. Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) convener and Nagaur MP Hanuman Beniwal also won from the Khinwsar assembly constituency by defeating BJP candidate Rewant Ram with a narrow margin of 2,059 votes. In the November 25 polls, the BJP had fielded Rajsamand MP Diya Kumari, Jaipur Rural MP Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Ajmer MP

Bhagirath Choudhary, Alwar MP Baba Balak Nath, Jhunjhunu MP Narendra Kumar, Jalore MP Devji Patel and Rajya Sabha MP Kirodi Lal Meena. Diya Kumari, member of erstwhile Jaipur royal family, won Vidhyadhar Nagar seat with a huge margin of 71,368 votes. She defeated Congress' Sitaram Agarwal. Vidhyadhar Nagar seat was held by former vice president Bhairon Singh Shekhawat's son-in-law Narpat Singh Rajvi but he was shifted to Chittorgarh in order to accommodate Diya Kumari. However, Rajvi lost Chittorgarh seat where BJP rebel Chandrabhan Singh Aakya won.

BJP candidate from Vidhyadhar Nagar Diya Kumari flashes the victory sign after winning in the Rajasthan Assembly elections, in Jaipur



of the day quote

People have responded to this positive change brought in by Modi by reposing their faith to take India forward towards realising the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. People's mandate in this election proves their complete support for Modi

SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION PORTS, SHIPPING & WATERWAYS MINISTER

We are planning that in the next traffic calculation, we are going to request that for people who are grounding (aircraft) here for more than a certain period, there should be some sort of higher charges because otherwise it disturbs the operations of other airlines

VIDEH KUMAR JAIPURIAR | DIAL CEO

Our views are not coherent with the ideology of the BJP. We had not asked for votes in the assembly elections to go with the BJP, we sought votes to fight against them

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Woman's body found hanging in homestay

Dehradun: The body of a woman was found hanging from the ceiling of a room at a homestay in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district, police said Sunday. According to preliminary investigation, it is a case of suicide, they said. The woman's family, however, claimed she was murdered and her body was later hanged from the ceiling to make it look like a suicide. The 18-year-old woman worked at the resort in Kafalaun village and her body was found December 1, police said.

UP: 3 killed in road accident

Muzaffarnagar (UP): Three people, including a six-year-old girl, died when the truck in which they were travelling collided with a tractor-trolley here Sunday, police said. Four people were injured in the incident that took place near Kithoda village under the Miranpur police station area, they said. The deceased have been identified as Nekpal (45), Banti (44) and his daughter Nidhi (6), all residents of Moradabad, Circle Officer Shakil Ahmad told PTI.

Truck carrying camel meat seized

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has seized a truck carrying alleged camel meat near Lawrence Road in the northwest area of the city, officials said Sunday. Officials from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), reached the spot and collected samples of the meat and sent it to a laboratory for examinations, they said. "We got a complaint this morning and a team from Keshav Puram Police station rushed to the spot. Our team had seized a truck carrying the meat," Deputy Commissioner of Police (northwest) Jitendra Meena said.

Fake scribe held

Nagpur: A 45-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly claiming to be a journalist and extorting Rs 20,000 from a cafe owner for not exposing certain activities in Nagpur city of Maharashtra, police said Sunday. Police have recovered a fake identity card and a mobile phone from the accused identified as Mushtaq alias Munna Patel. Patel went to the cafe on November 29 night and started recording videos of customers from his phone. He demanded Rs 1 lakh for not reporting to police, an official said.

CYCLONE MICHAUNG

TN govt on alert

The NDRF has deployed 21 teams in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry and eight additional teams have been kept in reserve in view of the impending cyclone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Dec 3: The state government Sunday said all arrangements have been made to handle the situation as cyclonic storm 'Michaung' is likely to intensify and reach north Tamil Nadu coast December 4 before its landfall Tuesday in southern Andhra Pradesh.

The TN Disaster Response Force's 14 teams, comprising 350 personnel and National Disaster Response Force's nine teams of 225 personnel have been stationed in coastal regions of Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, Tiruvallur, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Kancheepuram, Chengalpet and Chennai for relief and rescue operations.

The state and district-level emergency operation centres are functional round the clock with additional staff. For help, the control rooms may be contacted at 1070 (state), 1077 (district) and 94458 69848 (WhatsApp).

Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management, KKSSR Ramachandran and Electricity Minister Thangam Thennarasu held inspections on the state's preparedness to handle the situation. In order to tackle the situation, Thennarasu said the government is prepared with adequate workers and equip-



The government is committed to end all discrimination and create an inclusive, just and equitable society in which our 'divyangjan' enjoy equal opportunities and are able to realise their potential and dreams

MANOJ SINHA | J&K LT GOVERNOR



- Heavy rainfall is expected Monday and Tuesday
- The government said it has deployed disaster response force personnel in adequate numbers
- As many as 121 multipurpose centres and 4,967 relief camps with all basic amenities are ready in northern and other coastal regions of the state
- In Chennai alone, 162 relief centres are ready and, in one such facility, 348 people have been housed

ment. While 1,500 workers are on standby, a stock of more than 3,00,000 electricity poles is part of the inventory. Also, requisite vehicles and machinery such as cranes are ready. As the cyclonic storm Michaung approaches, the government declared Monday (Dec 4) a public holiday in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram and Chengalpatu districts. Essential services such as milk supply and healthcare facilities would be operational.

The railways have cancelled a total of 118 trains. The general public and fishermen have been alerted about the cyclonic storm and over a 1,000 boats have docked at fishing harbours including Krishnampattinam.

The India Meteorological Department said the cyclonic Storm "Michaung" (pronounced Migiaung) over southwest Bay of Bengal lay about 250 km east of Puducherry, 230 km east-southeast of Chennai, and 350 km southeast of Nellore (Andhra Pradesh). It is likely to intensify further and reach west-central Bay of Bengal off south Andhra Pradesh and adjoining north Tamil Nadu coasts by December 4 forenoon.

As regards north coastal Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, the IMD has forecast light to moderate rainfall at most places, heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places and isolated extremely heavy rainfall December 3 and 4 apart from isolated heavy rainfall December 5. Gale wind speed reaching 65-75 kmph gusting to 85 kmph is prevailing over southwest Bay of Bengal.

ANDHRA CM REVIEWS PREPAREDNESS

Amaravati: Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy Sunday directed Collectors of respective districts to take all possible steps to safeguard the lives and property of people as cyclone 'Michaung' is likely to cross the coast in the southern Andhra Pradesh. The Chief Minister held a review meeting on the cyclone threat at his camp office and gave directions to officials about the relief and rescue measures to be taken.

Stage set for stormy Winter Session of Parl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: Buoyed by its victory in the assembly elections, an aggressive BJP will seek to corner the Congress-led Opposition in the Winter Session of Parliament beginning Monday when a report recommending TMC MP Mahua Moitra's expulsion is expected to be tabled in the Lok Sabha.

The leaders of the Opposition INDIA bloc are meeting Monday morning ostensibly to redraw their strategies to take on Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led BJP both inside the Parliament and in the electoral arena.

The Congress, which was hoping to score a big win in Madhya Pradesh and retain Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, had to taste a resounding defeat. However, the grand old party did manage to oust the BRS from Telangana. "If the Opposition disrupts the Parliament, it will face worse

results than what has come today (Sunday)," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi told reporters here when asked about the Winter Session beginning Monday.

The government has presented a heavy legislative agenda for the 15 sittings of the Winter Session with key bills to replace the colonial era criminal laws, a draft legislation to provide for a framework for appointment of the election commissioners.

The report of the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee recommending Moitra's expulsion from the Lower House over a "cash-for-query" complaint is also listed for tabling in the House Monday. The government is also expected to move a motion in the Lok Sabha to adopt the recommendation of the Ethics Committee, which would lead to Moitra's expulsion from the Lower House.



Kuru Kolumn

Film stars to be fielded by the BJP

The Lok Sabha polls may be 6 months away. But the BJP leadership is busy selecting winnable candidates along with elections in five states. Reports emanating from the BJP headquarters suggest that it is looking for new faces from the film industry to be fielded in the Lok Sabha polls. Hema Malini has already crossed the age bar limit of 75 years, she may not be fielded from Mathura this time. Sunny Deol has also conveyed his unwillingness to

contest and the BJP has to find a new face in Gurdaspur. The BJP is already facing a tough challenge in Punjab without an ally and searching for a new face. Similarly, Kiran Kher has not been keeping well for the past some time and the BJP will need a new face in Chandigarh. The names of popular Hindi cine stars Akshay Kumar, Kangana Ranaut and Madhuri Dixit are being mentioned in this regard. Kangana Ranaut has already expressed her desire to enter politics and may be pitched from the Mandi Lok Sabha seat against Congress' Pratibha Singh.

Fadnavis' trial balloon

The ruling BJP's face in Maharashtra and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is a master craftsman also. Recently, he fired a political balloon merely to test the waters and said that seat-sharing with the allies for the Lok Sabha elections has been clinched and the

BJP will contest 26 seats out of 48. Obviously, the remaining 22 seats will go to the Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar faction of the NCP. But all hell broke when allies signaled that no such decision had been taken. It was also claimed that no such discussion took place either. Sensing the mood, Fadnavis tried to calm down the tempers. But the fact remains that the NDA partners had reached an understanding that seats of all sitting Lok Sabha Mps of the alliance will go to the respective parties.

Nitish goes into a shell

After his controversial speeches in the State Assembly and Legislative Council last month linking how women are asserting their right to contain population growth, Nitish Kumar was forced to tender an apology. Since then he has virtually gone into a shell. Even his staunch loyalists in the party and outside are wondering

NAGALAND BYPOLL

Ruling NDPP retains Tapi Assembly seat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kohima, Dec 3: Wangpang Konyak of the ruling NDPP won the by-election to the Tapi Assembly seat in Nagaland's Mon district Sunday, officials said.

He defeated Congress candidate Wanglem Konyak by 5,333 votes, they said. While the NDPP got 10,053 votes, the Congress secured 4,720 votes in the seat, they added. The by-election was held November 7, and recorded a turnout of 96.25 per cent.

Only two candidates fought the by-election as the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) nominee was the joint candidate of the People's Democratic Alliance.

The bypoll was necessitated due to the death of NDPP MLA Noke Wangnao August 28. Wangnao was the MLA of the constituency for the last 10 terms.

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, the leader of the NDPP, congratulated Wangpang Konyak. "Heartiest congratulations to Mr. Wangpang Konyak, @NDPPofficial candidate on winning the by-election for 43-Tapi A/C. I wish him the best in serving his constituents and the people of Nagaland. I also congratulate the Party workers and well-wishers," he posted on X.

Deputy Chief Minister Y Patton of the BJP also congratulated Wangpang Konyak, and ally NDPP for the resounding victory. "This win demonstrates the people's faith in our alliance and the visionary leadership of CM Rio. This emphatic win has shown that the NDPP-BJP alliance truly represents the hopes and aspirations of the Naga people," he said.

POLL RESULTS

TMC blames Congress, CPI(M) stands by Rahul

The BJP was racing towards power in the Hindi heartland states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and had a distinct edge in Chhattisgarh in the counting of votes for the Assembly polls in these states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Dec 3: Opposition INDIA bloc constituents Trinamool Congress and CPI(M) were divided over Sunday's assembly poll results with the former blaming the Congress while the Left party stood by Rahul Gandhi.

The Congress was poised to oust the BRS in Telangana. "In the three states, it is more of a Congress failure than a success story of the BJP," TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said in a social media message.

Asserting that TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee should be made the face of the opposition bloc, Ghosh later said her welfare policies have been a huge success and borne electoral fruits in West Bengal. Leaders of the opposition INDIA bloc are scheduled to meet in Delhi December 6 to chalk out a strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Ghosh claimed that Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh polls results will not have any impact on the Lok Sabha polls next year.

The TMC leader claimed that to win the elections in these states, other parties have imbibed the welfare schemes of Banerjee. Barring for the



Congress, which suffered a debacle in the three states, CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakraborty said it will not be right to suggest that Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' did not have a positive impact.

The CPI(M) leader said soon after the yatra, elections were held in Karnataka, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, where the Congress fared well.

"Congress had snatched Karnataka from the BJP and also won in Himachal," he said in a statement. Claiming it is wrong to suggest a saffron wave because the BJP was winning in the three states, Chakraborty said it will be a different ball game in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Refusing to accept that the Congress is confined to southern India, he said the grand old party has secured a significant percentage of votes in all the four states. Stating that there is space for both the ruling and opposition camps in politics, Chakraborty said losing the elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh does not mean that the Congress has been annihilated.



An Indian Naval ship during rehearsals for the Navy Day celebrations, at Tarkarli in Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra

Gangster shot dead inside Dhanbad jail

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Dhanbad, Dec 3: Gangster Aman Singh, an accused in former Dhanbad Deputy Mayor Neeraj Singh's murder case, was shot dead inside Dhanbad Jail in Jharkhand Sunday, police said.

After six to seven bullets were pumped into Aman Singh inside the jail, he was rushed to the Medical College in Dhanbad,

where doctors declared him dead.

Senior officials, including Deputy Commissioner and Senior Superintendent of Police, rushed to the prison and the state police headquarters dispatched a three-member team to investigate the murder.

A probe is underway to determine who shot Aman Singh

and how the weapon reached the prison. The gangster is the main accused in more than a dozen cases, including the murder of former Deputy Mayor of Dhanbad, Neeraj Singh, contract killings, extortion, threat calls, and recovery of dues.

In the Neeraj Singh murder case, Singh was arrested by the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force outside Mirzapur Jail in May

2021 and handed over to Dhanbad Police. Upon his arrival in Dhanbad Jail, Singh's gang extended its influence not only within the prison but also across the coal belt of Dhanbad.

His gang extorted money from businessmen and doctors in Dhanbad and Bokaro and was also responsible for the murder of BJP leader Shailesh Patel in Valsad, Gujarat.

regarding Bofors gun deal. Once the Gandhis were out of the list, Stalin didn't want to invite Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren or even AAP's Arvind Kejriwal for the function.

PM's Raths to be doubled

In order to reach out to all 2.55 lakh panchayats covering 6.64 lakh villages across the country to promote the Prime Minister's welfare schemes, the number of Raths (buses) are to be doubled now. Earlier, it was decided that 1,500 buses will be needed to complete the task within the next 70 days. But under the revised estimate, more than 2,500 buses will be pressed into service. It also emerged that one Rath will not be able to cover three panchayats in a day but only two. One Nodal Officer is deployed and supporting manpower are traveling in each of the Rath to interact, resolve their problems on the spot and promote the PM's various welfare schemes.

international



It's painful that the truce has been broken. That means death, destruction and misery
POPE FRANCIS | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

N KOREA BEGINS SPY SAT OPS

North Korea has begun reconnaissance satellite operations, state news agency KCNA said Sunday, after the country launched its first military spy satellite last month in a move that drew new sanctions from the US and its allies



of the day quote

Joe Biden is not the defender of American democracy, Joe Biden is the destroyer of American democracy
DONALD TRUMP | FORMER PRESIDENT, US

I want to ask you all here, does anyone want war? Nobody does. Look at Hong Kong and think of Taiwan. We don't want Hong Kong-style peace. We want dignified peace
TSAI ING-WEN | PRESIDENT, TAIWAN

We will do our best to get the International Criminal Court to punish [Israel] for this genocide
RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT, TURKEY

SHORT TAKES

Earthquake shakes Philippines; 1 dead

Manila: Philippines residents were allowed to return to their homes Sunday after a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck the country's south, killing at least one person, with disaster officials reporting minor damage to some infrastructure. The Saturday night quake shook parts of Surigao Del Sur and Davao Oriental provinces, triggering coastal evacuations and tsunami alerts in the country and in Japan. A woman was killed when a wall collapsed as she and her family was fleeing their home in search of safety in Tagum city in Davao del Norte province, said disaster official Mon Cabonilas.

Pak sees 34% rise in militant attacks

Islamabad: Anti-state violence in Pakistan surged 34 per cent in November, with 63 militant attacks recorded in the country during the month, a think-tank report said Sunday. The 63 militant attacks in November resulted in 83 deaths, including that of 37 security forces personnel and 33 civilians, the Dawn newspaper reported, citing data by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) think tank. Additionally, 89 individuals, including 53 civilians and 36 security forces personnel, sustained injuries, according to the Islamabad-based think tank.

ISRAEL UPS THE ANTE

Nowhere safe in Gaza

Palestinians in Gaza are running out of places to go as Israel raises its offensive to the southern half of the territory where it claims that Hamas leaders are hiding

REUTERS

Gaza/Cairo, Dec 3: Israeli forces bombed wide areas of the Gaza Strip Sunday, killing and wounding dozens of Palestinians, as civilians in the besieged territory sought shelter in an ever-shrinking area of the south.

The Jabalia refugee camp in the north of the Hamas-ruled enclave was among the sites hit. A Gazan health ministry spokesperson said several people were killed by an Israeli air strike there.

Footage obtained by Reuters of the aftermath of the strike showed a boy covered in grey dust, sitting weeping amid crumbled cement and rubble from collapsed buildings. "My father was martyred (killed)," he cried in a hoarse voice.

Bombardments from war planes and artillery also concentrated on the cities of Khan Younis and Rafah in Gaza's south, residents said, and hospitals were struggling to cope with the flow of wounded.

The renewed warfare followed the end Friday of a seven-day pause in the fighting between Israeli forces and Hamas militants which had allowed an exchange of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners.

The violence took place despite calls from the United States - Israel's closest ally - for Israel to avoid further harm to Palestinian civilians.

More than 15,523 have been killed, according to Gaza's health



ministry, in nearly two months of warfare that broke out after a Hamas cross-border raid on southern Israel October 7 in which 1,200 Israelis were killed and more than 200 taken hostage.

Israel says it is acting to annihilate Hamas, saying it poses a mortal threat to the Jewish state's very existence. The initial Hamas attack and the ensuing war amount to the bloodiest episode in the decades-old wider Israel-Palestinian conflict.

GROUND OFFENSIVE FEARED

Gaza residents said Sunday they feared an Israeli ground offensive on the southern areas was imminent. Tanks had cut off the road between Khan Younis and Deir Al-Balah in central Gaza, effectively dividing the Gaza Strip into three areas, they said.

The Israeli military ordered Palestinians to evacuate several areas in and around Khan Younis. It posted a map highlighting shel-

About 1.8mn people, or 80% of Gaza's population, have fled their homes since the conflict began Oct 7

ters they should go to west of Khan Younis and south towards Rafah, on the border with Egypt. But residents said that areas they had been told to go to were themselves coming under attack.

There was hardly any space for more displaced people in the south after hundreds of thousands had fled the Israeli ground invasion in the north of the enclave, the residents said.

More than 400,000 displaced people have sought shelter in Rafah and nearly 300,000 have taken shelter in Khan Younis, according to the UN humanitarian office.

UN officials and residents said it was difficult to heed Israeli

WAR CRIME

Russian forces killing surrendering Ukraine soldiers, blames Kyiv

Russia denies committing war crimes during its 21-month-old war in Ukraine

REUTERS

Kyiv, Dec 3: Kyiv officials accused Moscow of committing a war crime after a grainy video on social media appeared to show several soldiers shooting two surrendering military personnel who emerged from a dugout at gunpoint.

The unverified video shows one soldier coming out of a fox-hole on the battlefield with his hands up and then lying on the ground. A second soldier stumbles out and also lies down. The Russian troops then appear to open fire and the video ends.

The Ukrainian General Prosecutor's Office said: "The video shows a group of people in Russian uniforms shooting, at point-blank range, two unarmed servicemen in the uniform of the Armed Forces of Ukraine who were surrendering."

Deepstate, a popular Ukrainian war blog which posted the video clip, said the footage was filmed near Stepove on the Avdiivka front line in Donetsk region.

The General Prosecutor's Office said the incident took place in Pokrovsk district, a



The execution of those who surrender is a war crime! This is another violation of the Geneva Conventions and disrespect for international humanitarian law
DMYTRIO LUBINETS | HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSMAN, UKRAINE

large area of the Donetsk region that runs close to Avdiivka, site of some of the fiercest fighting in recent weeks.

Oleksandr Shtupun, a spokesperson for Ukraine's Tavria military command, told the Ukrainska Pravda news website that the video was "glaring confirmation" that Russia violates the rules of warfare on a daily basis.

In March, a Ukrainian sniper was seen being shot dead in a video after defiantly saying "Glory to Ukraine," or "Slava Ukraini," a phrase that has taken on special significance as a common public greeting since the start of the war.

INDIA MATTERS

India to pull back troops from Maldives: Prez

New Delhi: India's government has agreed to withdraw its soldiers from the Maldives, the Indian Ocean archipelago's President Mohamed Muizzu said Sunday. Muizzu won the presidential election in September, having campaigned to alter the Maldives' "India first" policy and promising removal of a small Indian military presence of some 75 personnel. "In the discussions we had, the Indian government has agreed to remove Indian soldiers," Muizzu told reporters. "We also agreed to set up a high level committee to solve issues related to development projects." India and China have been vying for influence in the region, with the coalition that supports Muizzu considered to have a leaning more towards China.



S'pore shoplifting: 2 more Indian students held



Singapore: Two more Indian students have been jailed in Singapore for conspiring to steal apparel worth over S\$1,700 (over Rs 1 lakh) from a retail store by removing the items' price tags. Brahmabhatt Komal Chetankumar and Christian Arpita Arvindbhai, both 27-years-old, pleaded guilty December 1 to shoplifting offences and were sentenced to 40 and 45 days' jail respectively. The Straits Times newspaper reported. In a court ruling last month, the two who were on student passes in Singapore, had initially stated that they had no intention to steal. District Judge Eugene Teo called their acts "disgraceful" and told them not to commit such offences again. Komal and Arpita lived together in the same flat with four other Indians who were part of a group that stole apparel from the Uniqlo store. The court documents identified three more Indian nationals -- Bhavik, 24, Vishal, 23, and Darshan, 22 -- in the conspiracy.



Cars make their way on snow covered roads after heavy snowfall hit Bavaria and its capital Munich, Germany. Trains were halted and airports were closed because of the weather condition
REUTERS

Philippine bombing: 'Foreign terrorists' behind explosion

REUTERS

Manila, Dec 3: Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr condemned a deadly bombing Sunday, blaming "foreign terrorists", as police and the military strengthened security in the country's south and around the capital Manila.

At least four people were killed and at least 50 injured after a bomb exploded during a morning Catholic Mass in a university gymnasium in Marawi, a city in the south of the country besieged by Islamist militants for five months in 2017.

"I condemn in the strongest possible terms the senseless and most heinous acts perpetrated by foreign terrorists," Marcos said in a statement. "Extremists who wield violence against the innocent will always be regarded as enemies to our society."

Law enforcement operations to bring to justice the perpetrators of the "terrorist activity" will "continue unabated", Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro told a press conference.



There were "strong indications of a foreign element" in the bombing, Teodoro said, refusing to elaborate so as not to compromise ongoing investigation.

Fragments of a 16-mm mortar were recovered at the scene, senior police official Emmanuel Peralta told the press conference.

The blast in Marawi, capital of Lanao del Sur province, followed a series of military operations against local pro-Islamic State groups in the southern Philippines, the military chief said, including one Sunday in Lanao del Sur that led to the killing of a leader of the Dawlah Islamiya-Maute group.

The Islamic State-linked Maute seized Marawi May 2017, seeking to make it a Southeast Asian "wilayat" - or governorate - for Islamic State. In the ensuing five-month battle, Islamist fighters and Philippine forces killed more than a thousand people, including civilians.

COP28 India opts out of Health and Climate Declaration

THE DECLARATION, AIMED AT ADDRESSING THE CRITICAL INTERSECTION BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL HEALTH, EMPHASISES THE NEED FOR SWIFT AND SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Dec 3: India Sunday refrained from signing the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health, with sources pointing out that curbing greenhouse gas use for cooling in the health sector, which is one of the points in the document, may not be practical or achievable within the country's healthcare infrastructure in the short term.

The declaration calls for climate action to achieve "benefits for health from deep, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, including from just transitions, lower air pollution, active mobility, and shifts to sustainable healthy diets".

On the occasion of the first Health Day at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) Sunday, the declaration expressed grave concern about the negative impacts of



climate change on health.

The declaration is signed by 124 countries till now with the US and India, which are among the top greenhouse gas emitters, absent from the list of signatories.

A sticking point emerged as the draft outlined a commitment to reducing green-

house gases for cooling applications within healthcare infrastructure - a measure India finds difficult to comply with, sources said.

India, a nation grappling with significant healthcare challenges, including those exacerbated by climate change, expressed concerns that

As one of the leading global emitters worldwide, and the home of 1 billion of the world's population, the absence of India from the list of over 120 countries endorsing the COP28 health declaration is striking
JESS BEAGLEY | POLICY LEAD, GLOBAL CLIMATE AND HEALTH ALLIANCE

greenhouse gas reduction for cooling in the health sector could hinder its ability to meet the growing demands for medical services, particularly in remote and underserved areas, a delegate from Kenya said.

India had put emphasis on resilient health in its G20 declaration. The three health priorities of India's G20 presidency were building a resilient healthcare system, creating a platform for improving access to medical countermeasures

India reduces emission intensity by 33%

India reduced its GDP emission intensity by 33 per cent between 2005 and 2019, achieving the target 11 years in advance, according to a government report. The report also said India's GDP grew at a cumulative annual growth rate of 7 per cent but its emissions rose by only 4 per cent per year during this period, suggesting that the country has been successful in decoupling its economic growth from planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions. Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said that India reduced its GDP emission intensity by 33 per cent between 2005 and 2019, achieving the target 11 years in advance. India created an additional carbon sink of 1.97 billion tonne of CO2 equivalent during this period. However, the country's total emissions (including the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry sector) have increased by 4.56 per cent with respect to 2016. The emission intensity of the economy refers to the total amount of greenhouse gases emitted for every unit increase of gross domestic product (GDP). It is different from absolute emissions.

and creating a platform for sharing digital goods between countries. The COP28 Declaration underscores the importance of addressing the broad spectrum of impacts that climate change has on health.

This includes considerations for mental health and psychosocial well-being, preser-

vation of traditional medicinal knowledge, protection of livelihoods and cultures, and dealing with climate-induced displacement and migration.

The declaration aims at promoting a holistic approach to understanding and mitigating the diverse health challenges posed by a changing climate.



India's energy requirement is set to double just by the end of this decade
MUKESH AMBANI | CHAIRMAN, RELIANCE INDUSTRIES

INDIA RE-ELECTED TO IMO COUNCIL

India was re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council with the highest tally, and the term of council will be for the biennium 2024-25, according to an official statement. The statement said India's re-election falls under the category of 10 states with "the largest interest in international seaborne trade"



of the day quote

A stable political environment could further boost investors' confidence and drive the markets higher, with the possibility of benchmark Nifty attaining 20,500-20,800 levels going ahead appears bright



PRASHANTH TAPSE | SENIOR VP (RESEARCH), MEHTA EQUITIES

We are going to open our branch very soon in the GIFT City. It should happen during the current financial year itself. This will enhance our foreign operations



SIDDHARTHA MOHANTY | CHAIRMAN, LIC

India as the second-largest buyer of gold in the world can play a crucial role in the global economic order as central banks are still buying the precious metal in large quantities



ALOK KUMAR CHOUDHARY | MD, SBI

COVETED CLUB NSE firms cross \$4tn feat

In a first, NSE listed companies' market capitalisation surpasses \$4 trillion milestone just days after BSE touched the mark amid unprecedented bull run

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: The market capitalisation of listed companies on the NSE has surpassed the \$4 trillion (Rs 334.72 trillion) mark for the first time ever, with the benchmark Nifty hitting its all-time high of 20,291.55 last Friday.

The benchmark Nifty climbed 134.75 points or 0.67 per cent to settle at an all-time high of 20,267.90 Friday. During the day, the benchmark reached its intraday record high of 20,291.55.

The Nifty-500 index also touched an all-time high of 18,141.65 on the same day, indicating that the equity market rally is not restricted to only the large-cap stocks.

"The achievement of this milestone is a testament of the vision outlined for the Amrit Kaal which includes a technology-driven and knowledge-based economy with strong public finances, and a robust financial sector," NSE said in a statement on Sunday.

The journey of market capitalisation of listed companies rising from \$2 trillion (in July 2017) to \$3 trillion (in May 2021) took about 46 months, whereas the last \$1 trillion i.e., from \$3 trillion to \$4 trillion took only about 30 months, it said.

The combined market valuation of all listed companies on the BSE also reached the USD 4 tril-



NSE listed companies' market capitalisation surpassing the \$4 trillion mark is an important milestone in the country's journey towards the \$5 trillion economy. The positive sentiment in the economy has provided a thrust to the capital markets

SRIRAM KRISHNAN | CHIEF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, NSE

lion-milestone for the first time ever Wednesday (November 29).

The market cap of listed companies increased at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 17.5 per cent in the last 10 years, the exchange said.

The top three companies by market valuation - Reliance Industries Limited, Tata Consultancy Services and HDFC Bank - retained their positions when NSE's valuation hit the \$2 trillion, \$3 trillion, and \$4 trillion mark, it added.

"While India ranks amongst the top five nations based on market capitalisation, the mar-

ket cap of listed companies on the NSE to India's GDP stood at 1.18 or 118 per cent, which is lower as compared to developed markets such as the United States of America or Japan," NSE said in the statement.

The share turnover velocity at NSE for the year 2023 as on date stood at 47 per cent, which is way below some of the global markets such as the US, Japan, South Korea, China and Brazil, it noted.

A very low percentage of companies listed on the exchange and comparative lower share turnover velocity indicates an immense growth potential for deep-

ening of the Indian market in the years to come, the NSE added.

While the \$4 trillion market capitalisation is an important milestone, data suggests that only 0.35 per cent of the total private companies registered with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, are listed on the exchanges indicating an enormous number of companies which can tap the equity market for their funding needs, it noted.

The daily average turnover has seen a year-on-year growth of 27 per cent in the equity segment and 5 per cent in equity derivatives in this financial year as compared to the previous financial year.

In the last 10 years, the equity segment's daily average turnover has increased by over 6 times and that of equity derivatives' daily average turnover has increased by over 5 times, the exchange said.

The resource mobilisation by corporates including the small and medium enterprise in the primary market has been encouraging and has provided an effective alternative mechanism in addition to the traditional methods of fundraising.

"In the current financial year as of October 2023, more than ₹5,00,000 crore have been mobilized through primary markets across equity and corporate bonds," it added.

FPIs again making comeback in D-St

FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTORS INFUSE ₹9K-CR IN EQUITIES IN NOV; INFLOW IN DEBT AT 6-YR HIGH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: After turning net sellers in the past two months, FPIs again made a comeback in the Indian stock markets in November and pumped in ₹9,000 crore amid fall in US treasury bond yields and the resilience of the domestic market.

Additionally, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) made a net investment of ₹14,860 crore in the debt market last month, making it the highest level in six years, data with the depositaries showed.

According to the data, FPIs made a net investment of ₹9,000 crore in Indian equities in November.

This came after FPIs dumped Indian equities worth ₹24,548 crore in October and ₹14,767 crore in September. Before the outflow, FPIs were incessantly buying Indian equities in the last six months from March to August and brought in ₹1.74 lakh crore during the period.

Additionally, the US Fed in its policy meeting last month agreed to proceed carefully and only raise interest rates if progress in controlling inflation



The cumulative trend for 2023 remains healthy, with FPIs pouring in ₹1.15L-cr so far this calendar year

flattered, but it did not provide any indication concerning the timeline for rate cuts.

With regards to bonds, the debt market attracted ₹14,860 crore in November, after receiving ₹6,381 crore in October, data showed.

This was the highest inflow since October 2017, when they had poured ₹16,063 crore.

The inclusion of Indian G-Sec in the JP Morgan Government Bond Index Emerging Markets has spurred foreign fund participation in the Indian bond markets.

So far this year, overseas investors have net invested ₹50,270 crore in the debt market.

SHORT TAKES

Top firms shine

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of nine of the top-10 most valued firms climbed ₹1,30,391.96 crore last week, with Bharti Airtel and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) emerging as the biggest gainers, amid an overall optimistic trend in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,511.15 points or 2.29 per cent. Barring Reliance Industries, nine other companies including HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Infosys and Hindustan Unilever witnessed addition in their market valuation. In the ranking of top-10 firms, Reliance Industries retained the title of the most valued firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, Bharti Airtel, ITC, State Bank of India and Bajaj Finance.

Honda to up rates

New Delhi: Honda Cars India plans to increase prices of its vehicles from January in order to partially offset the impact of rising input costs, according to a senior company official. The Japanese carmaker sells three models -- Elevate, City and Amaze -- in the Indian market. In an interaction with PTI, Honda Cars India VP Kunal Behl said the company will increase the prices of its models from next month due to pressure on input costs. Maruti Suzuki, Mahindra & Mahindra and Audi India have also announced plans to hike prices of their passenger vehicles in January 2024 citing reasons, including cost pressure driven by overall inflation and increased commodity rates. Besides, Tata Motors and Mercedes-Benz India are mulling increasing the prices of their models from January.

Sharp dip in FDI into India from Cayman Islands, Cyprus in H1

FDI into India declined 24 per cent to USD 20.48 billion in April-September 2023-24, dragged by lower inflows in computer hardware and software, telecom, auto and pharma

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: Foreign direct investment (FDI) into India from Cayman Islands and Cyprus contracted significantly during April-September this fiscal as the overall inflows declined by 24 per cent, according to the government data.

FDI from Cayman Islands dipped 75 per cent to \$145 million during April-September from \$582 million in the same period last fiscal, the data showed.

Similarly, inflows from Cyprus contracted by over 95 per cent to \$35 million during the six-month period as against \$764 million in April-September 2022-23.

Experts have attributed the sharp fall in FDI from Cyprus and Cayman Islands to a heightened scrutiny of applications.

Anjali Malhotra, Partner - Regulatory, Nangia Andersen India said FDI inflows from other tax havens such as Singapore, and the UAE have also lost their sheen along with Cayman Islands and Cyprus during first half of



2023-24.

"...The recent decline in investment from Cayman Islands and Cyprus may be attributed to enhanced scrutiny of these investments," Malhotra said adding the recent decline in investment from tax havens is also in line with an overall fall in FDI during first half of 2023-24.

The reason for overall decline may be attributed to increased interest rates owing to high inflation in the US and other western nations exacerbated by geopolitical situations in Eastern Europe and West Asia, she said.

Sanjay Kumar, Partner, Deloitte India, said it is worth noting that the overall FDI outflow from Cyprus to the world has been declining at a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 62 per cent.

For Cayman Islands, Kumar said that in October this year, the region was removed from the grey list by FATF (Financial Action Task Force) and this may result into positive FDI flow from Cayman Islands in coming times.

ECONOMIC GROWTH COMFORTABLE

'RBI to maintain status quo'

THE RBI HAS LEFT THE KEY POLICY RATE UNCHANGED AT 6.5% IN ITS PAST FOUR BI-MONTHLY MONETARY POLICIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 3: The Reserve Bank is likely to maintain the status quo on the short-term interest rate in its monetary policy review later this week, with inflation staying in comfort zone and economic growth moving at an accelerated pace, opined experts.

The RBI has left the benchmark policy rate (repo) unchanged in its past four bi-monthly monetary policies. The RBI had last increased the repo rate in February to 6.5 per cent, thus ending the interest rate hiking spree which began in May 2022 in the aftermath of Russia-Ukraine war and subsequent disruptions in the global supply chain resulting in high inflation in the country.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das-headed Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled to begin its three-day deliberations December 6. Das would unveil the decision of the six-member MPC December 8 morn-

ing. The MPC meeting is scheduled for December 6-8, 2023.

India retained the tag of the world's fastest-growing major economy, with its GDP expanding by a faster-than-expected rate of 7.6 per cent in the July-September quarter on booster shots from government spending and manufacturing.

On expectations from the RBI's monetary policy, Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda, said the central bank is most likely to maintain the status quo on rates as well as stance this time.

"The high growth witnessed in Q2 in GDP will provide assurance that the economy is on track. The low core inflation numbers in the last few months will provide comfort that there is no need to increase rates even while headline inflation is likely to be volatile in the upward direction," he said.

The successive pause in interest rate hikes reiterates RBI's commitment to provide broad-based growth in the economy with financial stability. The policy decision will facilitate a stable ecosystem for economic activity

MOHIT JAIN | MD, KRISUMI CORPORATION

Some direction on liquidity will be useful to the market as the system is in deficit for quite some time, he said, and added there can be some upward revision in the GDP growth numbers though will not be very significant.

The government has mandated the central government to ensure that the retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stays at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

The retail inflation eased to a four-month low of 4.87 per cent in October, mainly due to cooling prices of food items. The Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), in its October meeting, projected CPI inflation at 5.4 per cent for 2023-24, a moderation from 6.7 per cent in 2022-23.

Walmart joins list of big firms pulling ads from Musk's X

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

San Francisco, Dec 3: Retail giant Walmart has confirmed that it is not advertising on Elon Musk-run X (formerly Twitter), according to a report by CNN.

"We aren't advertising on X as we've found other platforms to better reach our customers," a Walmart spokesperson was quoted as saying.

The departure of Walmart adds to the growing list of firms leaving X after Musk endorsed an antisemitic post last month. Apple, Disney, IBM, Comcast and Warner Bros Discovery are among the companies no longer buying ads on X.

Following this development, Joe Benarroch, head of Operations at X, said that brands who advertise on the platform are able to get in front of massive amount of users, the report mentioned.

Earlier this week, Musk apologised for what he called his "dumbest" social media post to date. However, he lashed out at sponsors that abandoned his site.

"I don't want them to advertise," Musk said at the New York Times DealBook Summit. "If somebody's going to try to black-mail me with advertising, black-mail me with money? Go f*** yourself," he added.

India's biogas blending plan to slash LNG imports

PROPOSED 5% BIOGAS BLENDING WITH NATURAL GAS CAN CUT LNG IMPORTS WORTH \$1.17 BILLION, SAYS IBA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: The proposed 5 per cent blending of biogas with natural gas supplies in the country can cut LNG imports worth \$1.17 billion annually, says a study by the Indian Biogas Association (IBA).

The study comes against the backdrop of the government's recent mandate to blend one per cent biogas with piped natural gas (PNG) supplies in the country from April 1, 2025 under the compressed biogas blending obligation (CBO) scheme.

The biogas blending is proposed to be further increased to 5 per cent by fiscal year 2028-29.

According to the study, this blending initiative gels well with the government's macro-level move to make India a gas-based



economy, with a target to increase the current share of gas in the energy mix from 6 per cent currently to 15 per cent by 2030.

The IBA estimates show that 5 per cent blending of biogas with natural gas can reduce LNG imports worth \$1.17 billion. This can also bring down

per capita CO2 emissions by two per cent, benchmarked to the 2019 figure, which was 1.9 metric tonne of CO2 per person in India.

Additionally, the body says preventing organic waste going to landfills can bring innumerable benefits.

The CBO scheme shall en-

This is going to improve India's energy security, as it is the world's third largest energy importer. Blending biogas with PNG and CBG can help reduce this dependence, which is invaluable

courage investment of around ₹37,500 crore and facilitate the establishment of at least 750 compressed biogas (CBG) projects by overnment estimates.

Biogas blending has the potential to demonstrate a positive correlation with agricultural income growth too, which is the case with ethanol as well.

Every additional large-scale plant can ensure that almost

1,000 acre of nearby biogas plant area can be converted into organic agriculture.

Biogas can be produced from various organic waste sources, such as agricultural waste, municipal solid waste, and food waste.

This can create new economic opportunities for farmers, waste management companies, and other stakeholders involved in biogas production.

Blending of biogas with natural gas will streamline the market for biofuels, making it more investor-friendly by reducing capital and operational costs, the body says.

It also needs to be emphasised that selling biofuels in the market will become smoother, and the ecosystem will benefit from increased investor confidence, IBA stated.

EXPEDITING E-MOBILITY

Ather ready to share charging technology with rivals: CEO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: Ather Energy is open to provide free help to players in the electric vehicle space to adopt its charging connector, which has been recognised as standard by the Bureau of Indian Standards, to accelerate adoption of electric mobility, the company's Chief Business Officer Ravneet S Phokela said.

The electric two-wheeler maker is also working to increase its own charging network to 2,500 by March 2024 from the current 1,600 even as it is in talks with other manufacturers for adoption of its charging connector.

"We have an IP on this (charging connector). We are talking to multiple Original Equipment



Manufacturers (OEMs) and told them if you want to adopt it, we will help fast-track that journey," Phokela told PTI.

"Our engineers can come and work with your engineers so that you don't have a steep learning curve. We have already made the investments. We already know technologies, we will just help you adopt," Phokela told PTI.

He was responding to a query on if Ather is willing to share its expertise of its charging connector with other EV makers.

Football fan stabbed to death in France

Nantes (France): A supporter from Nantes died Saturday following a fight that took place before the club's 1-0 win over Nice in the latest outbreak of violence to mar French soccer this season. Nantes said in a statement Sunday that the fan was 'stabbed and fatally injured' close to the club's stadium. According to the *L'Equipe* newspaper, the fan was a member of the 'Brigade Loire', Nantes' main group of diehard fans. "The 31-year-old collapsed after being stabbed. Despite the intervention of emergency services, the club said in a statement.

Title for Ramkumar

Kalaburagi: Ramkumar Ramanathan thrashed Austrian David Pichler in straight sets in a lop-sided men's singles final to secure his third ITF title by winning the Kalaburagi Open tennis tournament here Sunday. Ramkumar, who won the ITF Mumbai Open last week, took just 64 minutes to quell Pichler's challenge 6-2, 6-1 at the Chandrashekar Patil Stadium here. Ramkumar, a member of the Indian Davis Cup team, pocketed the winner's cheque of USD 3,200 and 25 ATP points, while the visitor was richer by USD 2120 besides gaining 16 ATP points.

Panel named

New Delhi: Retired Supreme Court judge Justice AM Khanwilkar will chair the 12-member Major Dhyana Chand Khel Ratna, Arjuna, Dronacharya Award selection committee, the Sports Ministry announced Sunday. The committee comprises of six eminent sports persons including the legendary former hockey skipper Dhanraj Pillay, Olympian boxer Akhil Kumar, shooter Shuma Shirur, eight-time national champion paddler Kamlesh Mehta, former Indian women's cricket captain Anjum Chopra and shuttler Trupti Murugunde. Danik Jagran's sports editor Abhishek Tripathi is the media representative, while SAI DG Sandeep Pradhan, CEO Target Olympic Podium Scheme Pushpendra Garg and Joint Secretary (MYAS) Prem Kumar Jha are the government officials in the committee.

SAI boost for Neeraj

OLYMPIC AND WORLD CHAMPION TO TRAIN IN SOUTH AFRICA AHEAD OF PARIS GAMES

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 3: The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has approved Olympic and World Champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's proposal to train in South Africa as part of his preparations for the upcoming Paris Games seven-and-half-months from now, sources said here Sunday. The Tokyo Olympic champion will head to Potchefstroom in South Africa later this month to train for his Olympic title defence. Neeraj had submitted a proposal to SAI under the 'Target Olympic Podium Scheme' (TOPS). He sought permission and also allocation of funds to train at the North-West University at Potchefstroom in South Africa. Neeraj's proposal has been approved, sources informed. He



will be training in South Africa for a period of 85 days. His training is set to begin December 5 and will continue till February 29, 2024. He will then be shifting his base to Europe and also take part in some tournaments as a build-up for the Olympics. The Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) approved Neeraj's proposal worth ₹27.67 lakh earlier this week. He will be accompanied

by coach, Dr Klaus Bartonietz and physiotherapist Ishaan Marwaha. Other than defending his gold medal at the Olympics, Neeraj has also repeatedly talked about breaching the 90-metre mark. He achieved his best-ever throw of 89.94m at the Stockholm Diamond League in 2022. There can be no doubt that he will lay special emphasis on

going past the 90-metre mark. The current world record of 98.48m stands in the name of Jan Zelezny, the legendary thrower from the Czech Republic. Neeraj enjoyed a terrific season in 2023. The year saw him become the first Indian athlete to win the gold medal at the World Athletics Championships. He also defended his Asian Games gold. In the Diamond League Final, he ended up as the runner-up after winning the Doha and Lausanne legs earlier in the year. SAI has also approved a sum of ₹73 lakh for the training of the badminton doubles duo Chirag Shetty and Satwik Rankireddy. The two are currently coached by Danish doubles expert Mathias Boe. He takes a salary of ₹7 lakh per month to train the Indian pair. Boe will now be training them till the Paris Olympics as the Indians are also medal contenders.

India to bid for 2029 World Athletics meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amritsar, Dec 3: India is set to bid for the 2029 World Athletics Championships after dropping the earlier intention to host the 2027 edition of the prestigious tournament, a top official of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) said Sunday. The AFI was earlier considering to bid for the hosting rights of the 2027 World Athletics Championships but it is now learnt that it has decided to look to host the 2029 edition. "Yes, we are interested in bidding for the 2029 World Athletics Championships," AFI senior vice-president Anju Bobby George said. "India has expressed interest to host the 2036 Olympics and 2030 Youth Olympics. So, it will be very good if we can host the 2029 World Athletics Championships," added the legendary long jumper. The time period for the formal bidding for the 2029 Athletics Worlds is not known yet. The World Athletics has published the bidding timeline for the 2027 World Athletics Championships - which began early this year -

No more national training camps

Amritsar: In a significant development, the AFI decided Sunday to stop running national camps for elite athletes after the Paris Olympics, leaving the door open for public and private entities to take care of the top players. "We have decided to wind up national senior training camps after Paris (next year). We have communicated this to the Sports Ministry, which has appreciated our move," AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said. The AFI's move would mean that top athletes like Neeraj Chopra, Murali Sreeshankar and Avinash Sable will not train under the aegis of the AFI after 2024 Paris Games, though it will continue to monitor them.

but not for the 2029 edition. The AFI has also decided to prepare a strategic plan till 2036 with a target of 5-6 medals from athletics in the Olympics that year. "We want to produce world beaters and win 5-6 medals in the 2036 Olympics," AFI planning commission chairman Lalit Bhanot stated.

Issy show sinks India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 3: A fine all-round performance from Issy Wong (2/18 and 28 n o) played a decisive role as England Women's A team defeated India Women's A by two wickets to clinch the three-match T20 series 2-1 here Sunday at the Wankhede Stadium. In a low-scoring thriller, the Indian eves fought hard until the end but paid the price for poor batting, as they were shot out for 101 in 19.2 overs after electing to bat on a slow turner. In reply, England finished at 104/8 in 19.1 overs. In the end fittingly it was Issy who hit the winning runs. The other England batter who made a substantial contribution was skipper Holi

Armitage (27). For India, Shreyanka Patil (2/13) and Minu Mani (2/24) bowled well. Issy had won England the second game single-handedly when she struck a 15-ball unbeaten 35 to help the visitors level the series after India had won the first game. Earlier, when India A batted, none of the batters could dominate the disciplined England attack. Uma Chetry (21) and Disha Kasat (20) got starts but failed to convert those into substantial scores. **Brief scores:** India Women's A 101 in 19.2 overs (Uma Chetry 21, Kirstie Gordon 2/17, Issy Wong 2/18) lost to England Women's A 104/8 in 19.1 overs (Issy Wong 28 n o, Shreyanka Patil 2/13) by two wickets.

ASHWINI, TANISHA BEATEN IN FINAL

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Dec 3: The Indian pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto produced a valiant fight before going down in a thrilling three-game women's doubles final at the Syed Modi International Super 300 badminton tournament here Sunday. The World No 32 Indian pair lost 14-21, 21-17, 15-21 against third seeds Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakanishi of Japan in a 77-minute clash. The seventh-seeded Indians made good starts in all the three games, but couldn't sustain the pressure in the opening and the third game and that led to their heart-breaking loss.

Bowlers script thrilling win

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Dec 3: Bowlers came to the party as India defeated Australia by a narrow margin of six runs to wrap up the five-game T20I series 4-1 here Sunday. Defending a below par 160 for eight, the Indian bowlers restricted Australia to 154 for eight to assert their supremacy on the proceedings. Pacer Mukesh Kumar (3/32) was the pick of the Indian bowlers. He was well-supported by fellow pacer Arshdeep Singh (2/40) and spinners Ravi Bishnoi (2/29) and Axar Patel (1/14). In fact, the spinners restricted the run rate to build pressure on the Australian bat-



ters and the pacers exploited the situation beautifully. Ben McDermot (54, 36b, 5x6) defied the Indian bowlers to some extent. However, players like Travis Head (28) and Matthew Wade (22) failed to complete the job against some accurate Indian bowling. Earlier Shreyas Iyer (53, 37b, 5x4, 2x6) held the Indian innings together after the hosts lost early wickets. Riding on Iyer's knock and some useful lower-order contributions from Axar Patel (31,

21b, 2x4, 1x6) and Jitesh Sharma (24, 16b, 3x4, 1x6), India posted a competitive 160 for the loss of eight wickets after being put in by the visitors. At 55 for the loss of four wickets, India looked set to finish with a below par total. However, a fifth wicket stand of 42 runs between Iyer and Jitesh and then another 46 runs for the sixth between him and Axar took India past the 150-run mark. The Indian top-order for once failed to get going as Yashasvi Jaiswal (21), Ruturaj Gaikwad (10), skipper Suryakumar Yadav (5) and Rinku Singh (6) fell cheaply. However from then on, it was Iyer who held the innings together.

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