



Dating rumours

Actor Sara Ali Khan is in love again if the recent post she shared on Instagram is any indication

LEISURE | P2



Iran's warning

Iran's supreme leader threatens Israel and the US with "a crushing response" over attacks on Iran and its allies

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Buffett sitting on \$325bn

Warren Buffett is now sitting on more than \$325 billion cash after continuing to unload billions of dollars worth of Apple and Bank of America shares this year

BUSINESS | P11



India fight back

New Zealand reach 171 for nine at stumps in their second innings on day two of the third Test against India Saturday

SPORTS | P12

Maoist camp busted, explosives recovered

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Police busted a Maoist camp in a forest in Nuapada district and recovered explosive materials from there, a senior officer said Saturday.

The recovered materials include 500 detonators, five reels of safety fuse, five improvised IED switches, one gelatin stick (decomposed) and various Naxalite literatures, an officer said.

"On November 1, one SOG Assault team identified a suspected Maoist camp associated with the DGN divisional committee of the CPI (Maoist). The location was in a dense forest near Bhainsamundi (Bahadurpani) village," a statement issued by the police said, adding that during the search operation, huge explosive materials were recovered. "This recovery suggests that the site served as a temporary hideout for CPI (Maoist) cadres, which was raided by security forces," he said.

In addition, another SOG team was deployed November 1 evening to intensify the search operation, the police added.

Rupa gives birth to four cubs at NZP

Bhubaneswar: The Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) here Saturday got new guests with white tigress Rupa giving birth to four cubs. The zoo authorities said that the four cubs were born to 6-year-old Rupa and melanistic tiger Krishna. She gave birth to cubs between 5.43 am and 9.31 am and they are under CCTV surveillance to ensure their health and safety, the authorities said. However, they said it was too early to determine the sex of the tiger cubs. At present Nandankanan has 27 tigers including 17 normal coloured tigers, seven white tigers and three melanistic tigers.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We should call in their ambassador and protest, sir. Accusing you of a murder plot isn't exactly a compliment!

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	33.2°C	31.2°C
Min Temp	23.0°C	22.6°C
Humidity	95%	93%
Rainfall	3.6mm	Nil

FOG/MIST IN THE MORNING

Squirrel with 537K Insta followers euthanised in US

AGENCIES

New York, Nov 2: A squirrel named Peanut who was propelled to the heights of internet celebrity has been euthanised, New York authorities said Friday, biting a government staffer on the way out. With 537,000 followers on Instagram, the domesticated black squirrel had fans around the world who delighted in his exploits, such as nibbling on waffles and donning tiny costumes.

New Yorker Mark Longo said he rescued the animal after seeing its mother killed by a car, going on to bottle-feed the baby squirrel before attempting to release him into the wild.

However, the animal lost part of its tail and returned to Longo, living with him for seven years and starring in posts on the Instagram account [peanut_the_squirrel12](#).

"Internet, you WON. You took one of the most amazing animals away from me because of your selfishness. To the group of people who called (the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation), there's a special place in hell for you,"

Longo wrote in an Instagram post.

He said he was "in shock, disbelief, and disgusted... for the last seven years, Peanut has been my

best friend." The Chemung County Department of Health and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation said in a statement Friday that Peanut, along with a raccoon living with Longo, were possessed illegally, and

had been euthanised to test for rabies.

"On October 30, DEC seized a raccoon and squirrel sharing a residence with humans, creating the potential for human exposure to rabies," the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) said.

"In addition, a person involved with the investigation was bitten by the squirrel. To test for rabies, both animals were euthanised," it added.

The department called on anyone exposed to the animals to consult a doctor.

Longo wrote that "the fight goes on" and called on supporters to donate to his legal bills and plans for an animal sanctuary.



New Yorker Mark Longo rescued Peanut after seeing its mother killed by a car, going on to bottle-feed the baby squirrel before attempting to release him into the wild. However, the animal returned to Longo, living with him for seven years



KEEPING ALIVE AN ANCIENT ART: Participants during the District Kalaripayattu Championship, at Kozhikode Indoor Stadium, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

CM unveils ₹890cr projects in Bolangir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated and laid foundation stones of several development projects worth ₹890 crore in Bolangir district, Saturday.

Among the projects inaugurated by the CM included a Sub-Divisional Hospital (SDH) and a dialysis centre at Patnagarh and Titlagarh. He also laid the foundation stone of a bypass road for Patnagarh town.

He launched three mega and mini water supply projects in Patnagarh and Belpara. The CM also inaugurated the newly-built power house at Bolangir.

A new circuit house building constructed at a cost of ₹8.78 crore at Bolangir was inaugurated by the CM during his visit. This apart, Majhi laid the foundation stone for the upgradation of Tusura airfield to 2B category to be taken up at a cost of over ₹66 crore.

He also laid the foundation stone of the Upper Lanth irrigation project in Belpara block of the district. The Upper Lanth



irrigation project is proposed across river Lanth, a tributary of Tel. The project after completion will provide irrigation for 189.07 sqkm area.

While addressing a public meeting at Belpara ground in the district, Majhi came down heavily on the previous BJD government over the Lower Suktel irrigation project, which he said was inaugurated "in a hurry". He said the foundation stone of the project was laid in 1998 and it was inaugurated in 2024. The project is yet to be

fully functional and as a result, farmers are not getting any benefit out of it, the Chief Minister said.

"Are the farmers getting irrigation for their farmland? Where the money was spent meant for the construction of the Lower Suktel irrigation project?" Majhi asked and alleged that the funds were spent on purchase of buildings, flats, farmhouses and ornaments.

He alleged that Bolangir district has been neglected for the last 24 years during the BJD government.

He said though Bolangir gets less rainfall, still the previous government could not expand irrigation in this part of the state. Majhi said the district has less than 20 per cent irrigation facilities. The previous BJD government continuously neglected Bolangir during their tenure, Majhi alleged.

Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo, his MP wife Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo, Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling and district MLAs attended the CM's programme.

3rd phase Subhadra money by Nov-end

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: The third phase of money in the first installment under Subhadra Yojana will be disbursed among beneficiaries by the end of November this year, informed Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, Saturday.

As many as 20 lakh beneficiaries, who had not received money in the previous two phases, will get ₹5,000 in their bank accounts in the third phase, she said.

"We are trying to add those,

whose applications were earlier rejected during scrutiny, to the scheme through rechecking. If the process is completed soon, they can get the amount in the third phase," Parida said.

About 2.67 lakh applicants were rejected in the verification for availing ₹5,000 under the scheme. The government is making efforts to enroll them under new guidelines.

Besides, the fourth phase of Subhadra money will be given in December. The government is aiming to benefit over 1 crore women beneficiaries by the end

of December this year, she said.

"Not a single beneficiary will be left out of the scheme. The registration process will continue till the last beneficiary applies for the benefits under the scheme," she added.

Over 60 lakh beneficiaries have received Subhadra amount in the first two phases of the first installment. While the amount was credited to the bank accounts of 25 lakh beneficiaries September 17, around 39 lakh women benefitted from the scheme in the second phase October 9.

2 tribal women died of food poisoning: Govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: With the Opposition targeting the government over the death of two women in Kandhamal district by consuming mango kernel gruel allegedly due to lack of food-grains, the state administration Saturday said that they died due to food poisoning.

Rejecting the allegation, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra clarified that the two tribal women had consumed contaminated mango kernel gruel which led to their death.

P3

India defends Shah over Canada row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: India has protested in the strongest possible terms the references made by a Canadian minister about Union Home Minister Amit Shah and such 'absurd and baseless' allegations will have serious consequences for bilateral ties between the two countries, the Minister of External Affairs said Saturday.

The comments came after Canada's Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister David Morrison Tuesday alleged that Shah ordered a campaign of violence, intimidation and intelligence-gathering targeting Sikh separatists inside Canada.

Morrison had also told Canadian Parliament members of the national security committee that he had confirmed Shah's name to *The Washington Post*, which first reported the allegations.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said high Canadian government officials deliberately leaked unfounded insinuations to international media as part of a conscious strategy to discredit India and influence other nations. It only confirms the view that the Indian government has long held about the current Canadian government's political agenda and behavioural pattern, added Jaiswal.



Replying to queries during a weekly press briefing here, Jaiswal said such irresponsible actions will have serious consequences for bilateral ties.

He said India summoned a Canadian High Commission representative Friday and the official was served a diplomatic note to lodge the protest in strongest terms on the 'absurd and baseless' references made by the Canadian deputy minister about India's Union Home Minister.

While addressing the Parliament members, Morrison did not say how Canada knew of Shah's alleged involvement.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had said, a year ago, that Canada had credible evidence that agents of the Indian government were involved in the murder of Canadian Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in June 2023. Dismissing the allegations as absurd, Indian government officials have consistently denied that Canada provided evidence.

P8

leisure



LILY JAMES, PIERCE BROSNAN TO LEAD CLIFFHANGER REBOOT

A reboot of the 1993 action-thriller *Cliffhanger* is in development with Lily James and former James Bond star Pierce Brosnan leading the cast. The upcoming film will be directed by Jaume Collet-Serra, who earlier worked with Brosnan on the Dwayne Johnson-led *Black Adam*.

TOM CRUISE IN TALKS FOR DAYS OF THUNDER SEQUEL

Hollywood star Tom Cruise, who was last seen in *Mission: Impossible 7*, is currently in early stage of talks with Paramount for a sequel to *Days of Thunder*, 1990 NASCAR drama was directed by the late Tony Scott.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Ganesh advises you to look before you leap. One hasty decision may undo a lot of hard work accomplished over a long period of time. After a tense morning, you may simply want an evening with kids, helping them grow the Dahlias.

TAURUS
Impulsive action kicks in as you work and interact today. Do not let the pressure and strain cloud your thoughts, and instead focus on acting on the things at hand. If you find things spiralling out of control, take a break and listen to some music that soothes your heart, suggests Ganesh.

GEMINI
Today, you will decide to become a bit more conscious about your health. You may or may not join a gym or measure your calories, but you will definitely sit up and take notice of your lifestyle and unhealthy food habits, predicts Ganesh.

CANCER
Today, you will be extremely impulsive and spontaneous, feels Ganesh. You better get rid of your negative thoughts and beliefs and start taking charge of things at hand. Also, stop focussing so much on the pitfalls, and start working.

LEO
Always dependable, that is what you are. And today, you will just underline this fact in bold strokes through your fine display of commitment to work, and your dedication to your family, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Ganesh sees you keeping away from a joint venture. You are capable enough to handle big projects yourself. You are most likely to lead and coordinate large teams and extract work from them as you will.

LIBRA
Expect some annoyance from the 'man in the chair', or people in charge who may be looking towards throwing a wench in your way. But know that it is just a blip on the radar. Your fortune is too powerful for anyone to affect it negatively. Stick to your task and dig into your imagination to find a way around the blips.

SCORPIO
The crown jewel of your character will be your supreme confidence today. Try to pick up tasks that require Herculean efforts, and you shall come close to achieving them, predicts Ganesh. Your nerves and buoyant nature will be infective and also leave people awestruck.

SAGITTARIUS
Your business may bring you faster growth rates than bacteria today. Moreover, banking transactions will fetch returns exceeding your expectation. Management institutes will value your expertise and experience, predicts Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Creativity is your innate trait. But how creative can you get when dealing with day-to-day issues? You will not only answer this question with utmost modesty, but will make a great display of your creative skills by cleverly sorting out problems with your siblings, says Ganesh. You will derive pleasure by delving into knotty problems and solving them with ease.

AQUARIUS
Money is on your mind today! If you want to sort out financial matters, today is the day. You may have a good time with friends in the evening. You will also realise how much your friends value you and the respect you command in your wider social circle. Ganesh says maintaining it is important.

PISCES
Today, you will find yourself partitioning your time equally, and more importantly, excelling, at work as well as at home. So, while you will prove to be the right man for the job assigned to you at the office, at home you will establish yourself as the perfect family man, says Ganesh.

Mrunal shares her heartbreak

Mumbai: Actress Mrunal Thakur, who was recently seen in a cameo appearance in *Kalki 2898 AD*, is sharing her heartbreak. The actress recently took to the stories section of her Instagram, and shared a video of herself talking to her followers as she came across a fan who has edited his own picture with many actresses. She said in the video, "Yaar guys, aap log bachhe ki jaan loge kya? Maine wo comment kar diya kuch. Aur pehle jab maine dekha main khush hui. I was like chal kisi aur ke saath na sahi. In ke saath hi sahi, main Diwali toh mana rahi hoon. Phir I opened his page and then I saw he's edited his videos with each and every actress". She further mentioned, "My heart was broken. I was so sad. But I really love his editing skills and I really pray and I hope that he uses his art for the right things. But please don't say bad things to him. His intention was maybe not bad. And I just hope ki wo aur logon ka dil na todein".

Earlier, Mrunal Thakur, scored a big win at IIFA Utsavam as she took home the trophy for performance in a Leading role - female (Telugu) for her portrayal of Yashna in the hit film *Hi Nanna*.



Is Sara in love again?

Mumbai: Sara Ali Khan's recent trip to Kedarnath and her photo with model-turned-politician Arjun Pratap Bajwa has sparked dating rumours. Recently, Sara took to Instagram to share pictures from her recent visit to Kedarnath. "Jai Shree Kedar, The flowing of Mandakini, The aarti sounds, A milky ocean, Beyond the clouds," she captioned the carousel post, which contained pictures of her praying at the shrine and in other parts of the serene valley. One picture that caught netizens attention was that of Sara and Arjun seeking blessings together at Kedarnath, prompting her admirers to wonder if they are in a romantic relationship. Despite the buzz, it is essential to clarify that both Sara and Arjun shared individual photos from Kedarnath on their Instagram handle and there has been no official confirmation regarding their relationship status. Arjun is a popular model and son of politician Fateh Jang Singh Bajwa, currently the Vice President of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Punjab. Arjun is also an MMA fighter and has worked in Bollywood. Coming to Sara's next few projects, the actress will be seen in director Anurag Basu's *Metro In Dino* opposite Aditya Roy Kapur. Anupam Kher, Pankaj Tripathi, Neena Gupta and Fatima Sana Shaikh are also a part of the film.

We're in business of emotions: KayKay

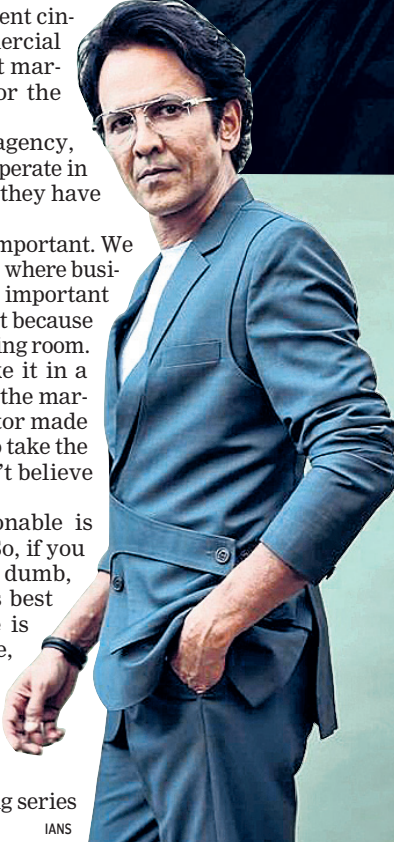
Mumbai: Actor Kay Kay Menon, who was last seen in the streaming series *Shekhar Home*, might be known for his work in middle of the road or independent cinema, but he appreciates commercial cinema as well, and says that market is an important factor for the showbiz.

The actor spoke with this agency, and said that films and shows operate in the business of emotions, and they have to cater to an audience.

He told, "Market is always important. We are in the business of emotions, where business and emotion both play an important part. So, you cannot just have it because you want to see it in your drawing room. So, you have got to also make it in a way that, you know, caters to the market as well". However, the actor made a sharp comment on those who take the audience for granted and don't believe in pushing the boundaries.

He said, "What is questionable is the sensibility, nothing else. So, if you assume that the audience is dumb, then there is a problem. It is best to assume that the audience is intelligent, they are sensitive, everything is there and now you are making something for them".

Meanwhile, on the work front, the actor will be next seen in the upcoming streaming series *Citadel: Honey Bunny*.



Even the Academy couldn't resist Shah Rukh's charm

Mumbai: Shah Rukh Khan, the superstar of Indian film industry is celebrating his 59th birthday and it seems that not just his fans, but The Academy (Oscars) is in awe of the King Khan's charisma.

November 2, The Academy posted a video on Instagram, sharing one of his most iconic scenes from the 2001 super-hit *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*.

The scene begins with Shah Rukh Khan's character, Rahul Raichand, dramatically descending onto the courtyard in a black helicopter. As he emerges, his mother, Nandini Raichand, elegantly played by Jaya Bachchan, intuitively senses his arrival, marking the beginning of a heartfelt and iconic reunion.

The caption accompanying the post reads,

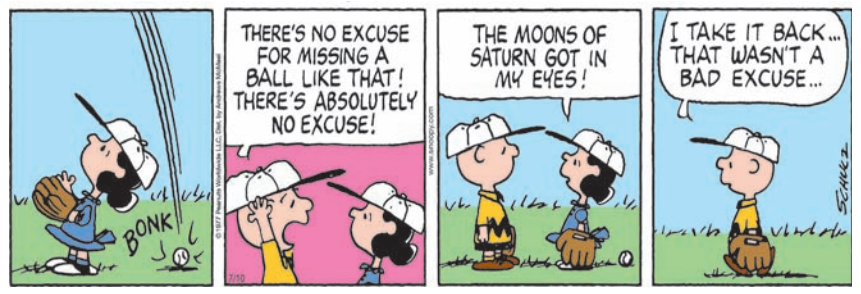
"A mother's intuition is always right." In the comments section, The Academy asked users, "Is this SRK's best entry scene?"

The director of the film, Karan Johar, shared his excitement on social media by reposting the Academy's reel on Instagram. KJo wrote, "This post made me smile wide."

Workwise, Shah Rukh will next be seen in the film *King*, directed by Sujoy Ghosh. If the rumours and reports turn out to be true then the audience will see the *Dunki* star sharing screen with his daughter, actress Suhana Khan. The movie is expected to premiere in 2026.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

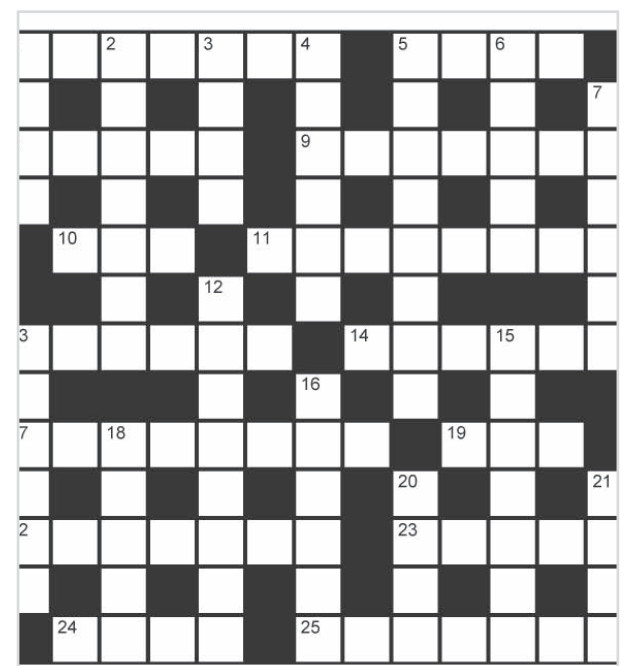


BREVITY



FUN POST

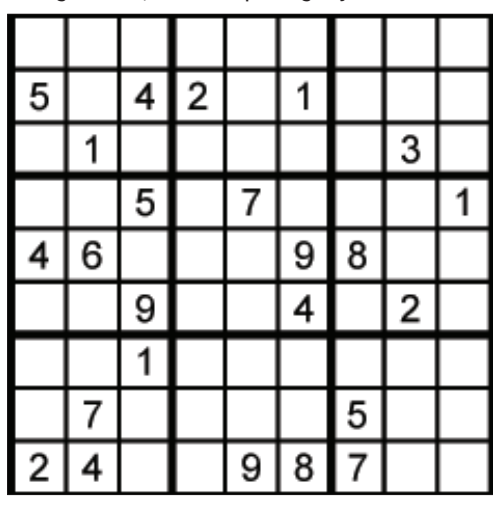
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Tia Maria, e.g.
 - 5 Hook of Holland, for one
 - 8 Intrepid
 - 9 Defile
 - 0 Hog haven
 - 1 Type of belt
 - 3 Gloomy-la
 - 4 Slip away
 - 7 Type of pig
 - 9 Insane
 - 22 Boat race
 - 23 Additional
 - 24 Unwritten
 - 25 Injuries
 - 6 Expensive
 - 7 Battlefield shout
 - 12 Monopoly avenue
 - 13 Top of the line
 - 15 Apparition
 - 16 Yielding
 - 18 Big cat
 - 20 Greek salad cheese
 - 21 Gossips
- Down**
- 1 Test sites
 - 2 Physics type
 - 3 Shangri-la
 - 4 Apportion
 - 5 16th century sailing ships

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

MANGO KERNEL DEATHS IN KANDHAMAL

Govt says 2 died of food poisoning

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: With Opposition BJD and Congress targeting the BJP government in the state over the death of two women in Kandhamal district by consuming mango kernel gruel allegedly due to lack of food-grains, the state administration Saturday said that the two died due to food poisoning.

Odisha Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister KC Patra rejected the Opposition allegation and clarified that the two tribal women had consumed contaminated mango kernel gruel which led to their death.

At least two tribal women died and six others fell ill after allegedly consuming mango kernel gruel in Kandhamal district, police had said Friday

"All the 69 families at Mandipanka village in Kandhamal district have received rice under the public distribution system for July to September. They did not take further rice for October to December as they had sufficient grain at home. The process of rice distribution for the next three months has already started," the minister told reporters.

Kandhamal District Collector Amrit Raturaj also claimed that the residents of the Mandipanka village have received rice and there was no shortage of food-grain.

The Information and Public Relations department in a statement said that the two women - Ramita Patamajhi and Runu Majhi - in Kandhamal district died due to food poisoning after consuming mango kernel. Six others are under treatment at the MKCG Medical College



Hospital in Berhampur.

The state government further said that both the Kandhamal district administration and the Health department have launched an investigation after the two women died October 30.

The official statement also stated that an Anganwadi centre has been functioning in the village. ASHA workers and Child Development Project officer visited the village on a regular basis.

Meanwhile, Director of Health Service (DHS) Bijay Mohapatra said that the preliminary findings showed that the incident was caused by food poisoning. He ruled out the mango kernel causing the death and said it was due to contaminated food and said food and drink samples have been sent for further tests and the reports will be available in 72 hours.

The BJD held the state gov-

ernment "responsible" for the death of two women in Kandhamal and alleged that the villagers consume mango kernel gruel because they have not been provided with rice for four months under PDS.

"The PDS system has completely collapsed in Kandhamal for which the people consume mango kernel gruel for survival. It is unfortunate that two women died. The government should immediately restore the PDS and correct its mistakes," BJD leader Sanjay Dasburma said.

Senior Congress leader Srikant Jena said the state government started rice distribution for October only November 2 after the tragic death of two women.

"The people should be given 15 kg of rice instead of 5 kg per head. They should be given rice for four months at one go," Jena said.

Woman loses hand in bus mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: A woman lost her hand after she was hit by a speeding Mo Bus near Chandrasekharpur petrol pump here Saturday in what came as yet another instance of the terror unleashed by drivers of the City's lone public carrier on the roads, posing serious threat to the lives of motorists and pedestrians.

Incidentally, instead of availing immediate medical help to the victim, the driver of the bus fled from the spot by abandoning the vehicle after the accident, eyewitnesses said.

The victim was identified as Jhilli Sohela, a native of Sambalpur district, who works at a beauty parlor in the City. Sources at the Capital Hospital, where the victim was taken for treatment, said that her left hand was so severely injured in the accident that it has to be amputated.

Eyewitnesses said that the incident occurred at around 11 am when the woman was crossing the road near Punjab National Bank towards the petrol pump on the other side. A speeding Mo Bus (route number 12) hit her in front of the petrol pump.

"The bus was driven at a speed of 60-65 kmph. The driver failed to apply brakes and ran over the



woman," an eyewitness said.

He said it was quite unusual for vehicles to be driven at that speed during peak hours. "CRUT (Capital Region Urban Transport) authorities must pay compensation to the victim, including her treatment," said the witness, who lives in the area.

Another eyewitness said that the culprit driver made good his escape in the melee after locals stopped the bus.

The incident triggered an impromptu blockade of the busy

road by irate locals for over two hours. As a result, vehicular traffic between Nalco Square and Damana Square came to a grinding halt as protestors stopped at least 10 Mo Buses from passing through the route. However, vehicular movement resumed following intervention by Chandrasekharpur police station officials who promised swift action against the culprit driver.

An officer at Chandrasekharpur police sta-

tion said a hunt has been launched to nab the driver.

However, despite several attempts, no official from CRUT was available for comments.

It is worth mentioning that Saturday's mishap came just three days after a Mo Bus crushed an elderly woman to death at the Cuttack Netaji Bus Terminal, Wednesday. The incident was part of a series of accidents caused by recklessly-driven Mo Buses in the twin city over the years.

Law Minister hopes ISKCON to drop 'untimely' Rath Yatra plan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan Saturday said that he was optimistic that ISKCON would not go ahead with its plan to hold 'untimely' Rath Yatra November 9 at Houston in USA.

The minister said that the ISKCON has already stopped the proposed 'Snana Yatra' (bathing ritual) scheduled for November 3 following a letter by Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee headed

■ ISKCON'S HOUSTON UNIT WEBSITE HAS REMOVED ITS PLAN TO HOLD THE SNANA YATRA NOVEMBER 3

■ HOWEVER, THE WEBSITE, STILL MENTIONS THE FESTIVAL OF BLISS-RATH YATRA TO BE HELD FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM NOVEMBER 9

by Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb.

Harichandan said he was optimistic that ISKCON won't go ahead with the Rath Yatra plan November 9 in Houston.

ISKCON's plan has created

an outrage among the devotees of Lord Jagannath who opposed the move and urged the state government to intervene in the matter.

Gajapati Maharaja had written letters to the chairman of the governing body commission, ISKCON Mayapur and the president of ISKCON temple, Houston, urging them to adhere to the 'tithi' as per the scripture and tradition and to cancel the Rath Yatra scheduled for November 9.

ISKCON's Houston unit web-

site has removed its plan to hold the Snana Yatra November 3. However, the website, still mentions the Festival of Bliss-Rath Yatra to be held from 10 am to 4 pm November 9.

According to the practice in Puri, the Snana Yatra is conducted on the full moon in the month of 'Jyeshtha', usually in June.

Similarly, the Rath Yatra or chariot festival is observed on the second day of the bright fortnight of 'Ashadha' month, which falls in June or July.



BEWARE OF DIGITAL ARRESTS



HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

- ⚠️ SCAMMERS USE PHONE CALLS TO TRICK YOU, CLAIMING THAT ILLEGAL ITEMS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN A PARCEL IN YOUR NAME OR THAT YOU'RE INVOLVED IN OTHER UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES
- ⚠️ THEY POSE AS POLICE OFFICERS, FORCING YOU TO STAY ON A VIDEO CALL
- ⚠️ YOU ARE THREATENED, HARASSED AND MONEY IS EXTORTED FROM YOU

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THEY ARE CYBERCRIMINALS

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STOP THINK TAKE ACTION

STAY INFORMED AND FOLLOW CYBERDOST FOR MORE UPDATES ON STAYING SAFE ONLINE



'Advancing med research our commitment'

Institute observes its 2nd annual research day and first regional research conclave

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: With an impressive record of securing around 15 crore in research grants from national and international funding agencies and over 1,000 publications in high-impact journals annually, AIIMS Bhubaneswar is committed to advancing medical research, said institute executive director Ashutosh Biswas.

He was speaking at the institute's inaugural regional research conclave here Saturday.

Welcoming the dignitaries and research fellows, Biswas said that a state-of-the-art central research facility has been established at the institute, focusing on modern biotechnology and product development with translational applications.

He said faculty members have achieved significant milestones, including new patents in orthopaedic surgical applications and advancements in the diagnosis of visual disorders.

Collaborations with IIT-Bhubaneswar have led to the initiation of multiple research projects in AI, further expanding the institute's innovative capabilities, added Biswas.

The event was attended by prominent regional research institutes, including IIT-Bhubaneswar, NISER, Institute of Life Sciences, ICMR-RMRC



AIIMS Bhubaneswar executive director Ashutosh Biswas said that collaborations with IIT-Bhubaneswar have led to the initiation of multiple research projects in AI

Bhubaneswar, KIIT-TBI Bioincubator, SOA University, SVNIRTA, and Hi-Tech Medical College and Hospital.

AIIMS Rishikesh executive director Meenu Singh graced the occasion as chief guest and emphasised the importance of

value-based medicine in conjunction with evidence-based approaches to enhance quality of life and health economics.

Singh highlighted the significance of research on traditional concepts, particularly in a state like Odisha, renowned for its rich cultural heritage.

Joining the event, former director of communicable diseases at south east asia region, WHO Swarup Sarkar enlightened the audience on global health concepts. He discussed how global health policies have successfully tackled issues like HIV and Tuberculosis, while also stressing the need for implementation science in addressing ongoing health challenges in the country.

"India is uniquely positioned to lead in the development of new drugs, clinical trials, and vaccinations," Sarkar said. His remarks underscored the vast potential for the institute, equipped with world-class facilities and a high patient volume, to develop groundbreaking treatment strategies.

Director of Neurology at the Institute of Neurosciences Anirban Biswas said, "Research should focus on addressing common problems, ensuring that the man on the street benefits from our findings."

In recognition of outstanding research contributions, professor and head of Neurology Sanjeev Kumar Bhoi received the best research paper award for his pivotal work on Peripheral Neuropathy Leprosy (PNL), shedding light on the often undiagnosed morbidity it causes compared to skin leprosy.

Several deans, including PR Mohapatra (Academic), Satyajeeet Misra (Research), Soubhagya Kumar Jena (Examination), and Bhagirathi Dwivedi (Associate dean Research) also were part of the event.

The initiative reflects the institute's vision of creating a robust research consortium aimed at enhancing healthcare outcomes in the region.

INDIA'S FIRST ALL-WOMEN COMMUNITY RADIO

'Radio Blue' to be launched in City



RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: In a landmark development for community media, Bhubaneswar will soon be home to India's first all-women community radio station 'Radio Blue'.

The Asia Centre for Development Communication and Research (ACDCR), a prominent institute for development communication, has secured licenses from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the department of Telecommunications for the ground-breaking initiative.

Radio Blue will be the first radio station in the country, which will be solely managed and operated by women, marking a pivotal moment in amplifying female voices and promoting gender equality within Indian media.

The station is set to serve both urban and rural communities, focusing on women's issues, rights, and aspirations.

India, currently hosts over 520 community radio stations, with Odisha leading at 42 active stations. Community radios in the state have garnered both national and international acclaim for their impactful, community-focused programming, consistently earning National Community Radio Awards.

ACDCR assistant director S Kajal underscored the significance of Radio Blue, stating, "We are committed to serving urban and rural communities, particularly women. The station will amplify the voices of the unheard, preserve cultural heritage, and inform communities about their rights and opportunities for growth."

Probe threat to Devi river mouth, govt tells PCCF

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: The state government Saturday directed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) to carry out a detailed investigation into the reported environmental threat to Devi river mouth, a prominent mass nesting site for Olive Ridley Turtles, and submit a report in this regard at the earliest.

The Forest, Environment and Climate Change department's move came on a plea filed by environmentalist Soumya Ranjan Biswal. In his plea, Biswal had informed the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) that Devi river mouth has been facing a threat of extinction due to a host of factors.

The young environmentalist had sought the state government's intervention to address the immediate ecological crisis.

'We work to give poor a better life'

New Delhi: The BJP Saturday asserted that it worked to create a better life for poor under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi. BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi claimed his party believes in creating wealth and distributing it among the poor. Trivedi told reporters that the ruling party had gradually stepped up the scope of its welfare schemes, ranging from health insurance to free grains and cash transfer for farmers, by resorting to the first creation of wealth followed by its distribution.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Shahanaj Akhtar, W/o Sardar Saukat Ali, resident of Plot No. - 71/7, Near Ranasinghpur Moo Bus stop, Jadupur, PO - Dumduma, Housing Board Colony, Bhubaneswar, Dist - Khorda, Odisha, Pin - 751019. Aadhaar Card Number - 0202, Declare by this Affidavit No. - 365/2024, 28.10.2024 that onwards I shall be known as Shahanaj Akhtar for all future purpose.

LOST

Notice is hereby given to General Public that, I Sri Pratap Kumar Behera has lost the original link RSD bearing No-11521401247 dt.17.12.2014 and ROR No-103/37, in respect of plot No-247 and 246, Tahasil-Nimapada, Mouza-Palasudha, Dist-Puri, while he was going from Master canteen to his Residence on 27.10.2024. Lost the original sale deed and ROR described above, somewhere and in spite of his best efforts failed to trace the same. Therefore, if any one has found the same, please contact Advocate Sri N.C.Pattnaik, Mob-9853311189, of LICHL at Rupali Square, Bhubaneswar within 15 days from the date of the publication, failing which the document will lose its legal force and any misuse of the document will be punishable under law.

I am Dhableswar Barik, S/o. Late Narayan Barik, At - Harchandi Sahi, P.S. - Town, Dist. Puri. My dalil No. 2220 dated 05.06.84 was lost near the Jagannath Temple Road on last 15.09.23. If any sympathetic person finds this document, please contact me on the said number. Ph.-8658584459.

STA observes Vigilance Awareness Week in Cuttack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 2: Employees should be sensitised in the beginning of their career to prevent corruption, otherwise it will spread like Covid, said former Director General of Police M Akshay at the valedictory ceremony of vigilance awareness week at the State Transport Authority (STA) here Saturday.



"A public servant should be an example to others and retire with good health, dignity and pension. The work should be done in such a way that there should not be loss to the government exchequer and the public is not harassed," he said.

Akshay added that the state's vigilance department is much stronger compared to the rest of the country.

This year, to commemorate the vigilance awareness week, the state government has adopted the theme 'Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity'.

Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur delivered the welcome address and highlighted various programmes undertaken by the authority as part of the celebration of the week. STA conducted integrity pledge campaign, walkathon, special grievance hearing camp, general knowledge competition and social media awareness at different places.

On the occasion, Thakur distributed prizes to Barsha Rautray, Sai Smaraki Baral and Madhusmita Dash, winners of a debate competition, organised by the Regional Transport Office, at Khan Nagar Government High School.

STA officers and employees were present on the occasion.



HONOURING ACHIEVEMENTS: Senior lyricist Rajanikanta Nayak receives 'Bhikari Bal Sanman-2024' from Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan on the death anniversary of Bhajan Samrat Bhikari Bal at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday. The event was organised by 'YOUTH', a social and cultural organisation

India updates biodiversity action plan, to conserve 30% areas by 2030

India has updated its biodiversity action plan and has committed to conserve 30 per cent of its terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine areas by 2030.

The updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) was unveiled at the 16th UN Biodiversity Conference in Cali, Colombia, and had 23 national targets.

The targets are aligned with the 23 global goals set under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) -- adopted at the 15th UN Biodiversity Conference in Canada in 2022.

Protecting at least 30 per cent of the world's land and ocean areas by 2030 is a key goal of KM-GBF. It will also work to restore degraded ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands, and rivers, to ensure they continue providing essential resources like clean water and air.

The updated NBSAP showed that from 2017-2018 to 2021-2022, India spent around ₹32,200 crore on biodiversity protection, con-



servation, and restoration.

It projects that the annual expenditure for biodiversity conservation through 2029-2030 will reach ₹81,664.88 crore.

India's biodiversity strategy focuses on themes such as reducing threats to biodiversity; meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit sharing and developing tools and solutions for implementation. "Unfortunately, we have col-

lectively developed a major blind spot in biodiversity policies. There's a heavy focus on grand actions such as resource management, but little attention is paid to the everyday behaviours -- like what we consume -- that also drive biodiversity loss," Melissa Marselle, from the University of Surrey and co-author of the study published in the journal Environmental Science and Policy, said.

Clearly specifying key aspects of behavioural change could boost the effectiveness of biodiversity policies, the researchers said. This includes identifying the behaviours that need to change, the groups responsible for those actions, and the factors influencing their choices, they said. "There is a clear need to enhance biodiversity policy strategies by incorporating insights

from behavioural science and behaviour change frameworks," the authors wrote.

"This implies specifying target behaviours and groups, diversifying intervention types to include the full range of options available (e.g. environmental restructuring, coercion, and modeling), and involving a wider range of actors for effective implementation," they wrote.

The study identifies 'individuals' as people in roles such as farmers, consumers, local communities, among others.

"By not using proven behavioural science frameworks, we're missing a crucial opportunity to save nature by creating more effective biodiversity policies. As not one global biodiversity target was met in 2020, we desperately need to change this quickly if we are going to meet any global biodiversity targets by the 2030 deadline," Marselle said.

Reducing threats includes eight targets focused on major biodiversity threats, such as land and sea use changes, pollution, overuse of species, cli-

mate change, and invasive species, as well as restoring ecosystems, conserving species diversity, and enabling the sustainable use of wild species.

The theme of meeting people's needs focuses on supporting the sustainable management of agriculture, fisheries, forests, and animal husbandry -- vital to the livelihoods of rural populations, including farmers, herders, fishers, and indigenous communities. It also stresses sustainable use of wild species, ecosystem service management, equitable access to green spaces, fair sharing of biodiversity benefits, and public support for conservation.

The solution-providing theme includes 10 targets focused on adding biodiversity to development objectives, encouraging sustainable production and consumption, reducing waste, repurposing subsidies, fostering skills and knowledge-sharing, mobilising resources, and ensuring inclusive and fair planning in biodiversity conservation.

AGENCIES

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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NINL expansion in the pipeline



Proposal to increase annual production capacity to 9.5 MTPA
4,500 direct and 9,500 indirect employment creation potential from the proposed expansion

Jajpur, Nov 2: Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) at Kalinganagar in Jajpur district will undergo expansion soon as it plans to increase its crude steel production capacity to 9.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA).
The Neelachal Ispat was established in 1982 for iron and steel production. In line with the National Company Law Tribunal's process, the corporate insolvency resolution for NINL began February 6, 2019.
Accordingly, Tata Steel Long Products Limited was declared the successful investor in this process. Share sale and agreement signing was completed between NINL stakeholders and Tata Steel Long Products Limited March 10, 2022. Following this, Tata Steel completed the acquisition of NINL July 4, 2022.
Plans are in place to increase the crude steel production capacity at NINL plant from the present capacity of 0.981 MTPA to 9.5 MTPA annually. The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change of the Government of India has been approached for permission to conduct necessary public hearings regarding this proposed expansion.
According to available information, raw material demand for this steel plant is expected to increase from 4.7 MTPA to 27 MTPA. The plant's maximum power requirement of 758 megawatts (MW) will be met with 557 MW from grid, 288 MW from the captive power plant, and 78.5 MW from renewable energy sources.
The plant will also require around 400 cubic metre to 4,600 cubic metre of water per hour, which will be sourced from the Kharasrota river. The estimated

Landowners' Forum, which has outlined a 34-point charter of demands for fulfillment, raise concerns about the success of the proposed public hearing. Since February, families displaced by the NINL plant have continued their protests in front of the plant due to unmet demands.
Despite a tripartite meeting being held involving plant authorities, protesters and Kalinganagar ADM, a solution has yet to be reached. Consequently, protesters locked up the main gate of NINL and also of Tata Steel May 20 this year and staged an economic blockade.
This apart, office bearers of around 25 organisations across the state gathered at Birbhumi in Ambagadia in Kalinganagar to protest and present their demands. These demands are yet to be fulfilled.
When contacted, trade union leader Babuli Purty expressed support for NINL expansion but stated that the public hearings would be opposed if the demands of the displaced were not met.

WIDOW RAPED BY NEIGHBOUR

Kendrapara, Nov 2: A 32-year-old widow was allegedly raped by her neighbour in Kendrapara district, police said Saturday.
The 36-year-old man was arrested after the woman lodged an FIR stating that her neighbour raped her when she was alone at home.
The police arrested the accused on the basis of the FIR, said the Investigation Officer (IO), Gouramani Murmu.
Police booked the accused person under section 64 (rape) of BNS.
The woman underwent a medical examination at the government hospital in Rajkanika.
The accused was also subjected to a medical test. The accused was later remanded to judicial custody after a local court rejected his bail application, the police officer said.

5 MBBS students expelled from hostel over ragging

Earlier the five students have been rusticated from the campus for six months

Berhampur, Nov 2: Five MBBS fourth-year students of government-run MKCG Medical College here were expelled from the hostel for allegedly ragging juniors, an official said Saturday.
Earlier the five students have been rusticated from the campus for six months. The punishment was imposed as per the decision of the anti-ragging committee meeting held Wednesday, the official said.
The anti-ragging committee has taken such a hard decision to arrest further occurrence of ragging incidents in the medical college campus, said SP (Berhampur) Saravana Vivek M, who is one of the members of the anti-ragging committee of the college.
Suchitra Dash, Dean (in-charge) of the college, however, declined to comment on the development.
The SP said they were also investigating separately against these students based on the FIR



lodged. The statements of the students have been recorded by the police Friday, he said.
While one second-year MBBS student has given a written complaint to the college authorities alleging ragging by senior students, three other complaints of ragging were lodged by parents of the students with the National Medical Council (NMC).
The NMC had directed the college authorities to inquire into the allegations and take action against the students.
After receiving the complaints from the NMC, the anti-ragging committee of the medical college inquired into the matter.
In February this year, the medical college authorities had suspended two fourth-year MBBS students for two months for ragging a second-year student.

Jumbo killed after being hit by goods train in Dhenkanal

Dhenkanal, Nov 2: An elephant was killed after being hit by a goods train in Dhenkanal district Saturday, police said.
The accident took place when a herd of around 40 jumbos was crossing railway tracks in Chinta Pokhari area, around three kilometres away, from the Meramandali railway station, a senior officer said.
The animal was hit by a goods train around 2am, a Forest official said.
Train services were disrupted till the elephant carcass was removed from the tracks, he said.



The Forest department maintained that it had issued an alert to the railway authorities on the movement of elephants from 6:00am to 6:00pm.
The train driver, however, ignored the warning, the Forest official said.
The cause of the accident is

being investigated by the railway authorities, and the elephant carcass was sent for post-mortem examinations, the official said. The Forest department has also started a probe into the accident.

Sub-jail warder dies by suicide

Kendrapara, Nov 2: A 25-year-old warder of Kendrapara sub-jail died by suicide, police said Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Bijay Parida, a native of Gurudijhatia village of Cuttack district.
Other warders found Parida hanging from the ceiling fan in jail barrack Friday night. They informed the superintendent of the jail and shifted him to the district headquarters hospital at Kendrapara, where doctors declared him dead.
No suicide note was recovered at the spot. He is survived by his wife and a two-year-old daughter, police said.
"We are investigating the case," said Inspector-in-Charge of Kendrapara Sadar police station, Bimal Barik.

Indian Bank ZONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR
At: Shyam Arcade, Khetrajpur, Sambalpur - 768003
POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable property)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the following Borrower/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described here-in-below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank, Angul Branch for an amount mentioned herein below with interest & other expenses thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**

ANGUL BRANCH/ Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantors	Amount Payable as on specified date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrower: Mrs. Minati Furniture and Interior, Prop.: Mrs. Minati Pradhan, W/o.: Mr. Dhaneswar Pradhan / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Dhaneswar Pradhan, S/o.: Indramani Pradhan, 2) Mr. Satyabrata Pradhan, S/o.: Mr. Dhaneswar Pradhan, All are At: Geetagram, PTC, Angul, Odisha-759122	₹21,27,368/- as on 06.08.2024 + interest and cost thereon	07.08.2024 / 28.10.2024	All that piece and parcel of Property recorded in the name of Mrs. Minati Pradhan, W/o.: Mr. Dhaneswar Pradhan, At: Geetagram, PTC, Angul, Odisha-759122 having Plot No.: 1/765, under Khata No.: 168/693, Area: Ac.0.09 Dec, Mouza: Turanga Jungle, P.S./Tahasil: Angul, Dist.: Angul, Bounded by North: Hadibandhu Das and Others, South; Raod, East: Plot of Pratap Chandra Das, West: Road

Place: Sambalpur Date: 02.11.2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer Indian Bank

Indian Bank Zonal Office, Indian Bank Building, B-2 (East), Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar- 751007
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (APPENDIX-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6)])
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Constructive (symbolic) possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank, below mentioned Branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" on the properties mentioned below for recovery of outstanding dues due to the Bank / Secured Creditor from the respective borrower(s) and guarantor(s). The specific details of the properties intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below.

Sl. No.	Branch / Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of the Immovable Properties	Outstanding dues / Property ID No. / Encumbrances on property	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount	Date and Time of E-Auction
1.	PATIA BRANCH (Mob.: 9437965841) (1) M/s Sri Sanatan Filling Station (Borrower-Firm), (2) Mr Pritam Kumar Das (Proprietor), both are address at Khata No.257/105, Plot No.528/642, 531/575/643 and 528, At/PO.: Begunia, Tahasil: Begunia, Dist: Khurda, Odisha, Pin- 752062, (3) Mr Prasant Kumar Das (Guarantor / Mortgage), (4) Mrs Jyotsnarani Das (Guarantor), W/o: Mr Pradipta Kumar Das, both are address At/PO.: Begunia, Dist: Khurda, Odisha, Pin- 752062.	Owner of the property: Mr Prasant Kumar Das, Lease Holder: Mr Pritam Kumar Das. All the part and parcel of land situated on Khata No.257/105, Plot No.528/642, corresponding to Khata No.110, Mouza: Balabhadrapur, PS.: Begunia, No.58, Tahasil/Sub-Registrar/ Dist: Khurda, Area: Ac.0.460 dcmli., Boundaries of Plot: North-Nallah, South- Plot No.528/ Prasant Kumar Das, East-Akash Kuntia, West- Nimai Charan Sahoo.	Rs.1,09,97,401.88 as on 15.05.2024 with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon / IDIBSANATAN / NIL	Rs.18,70,000/- / Rs. 1,87,000/- / Rs. 25,000/-	06.12.2024 (Friday) from 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM
2.	PATIA BRANCH (Mob.: 9437965841) (1) M/s Jyotshna Enterprises (Borrower-Firm), Plot No.115/1279, Dadha, Raghunathpur, Nandan Kanan Road, Bhubaneswar, Dist: Khurda, Odisha-751024, (2) Mrs Jyotsnarani Das (Proprietor), W/o: Mr Pradipta Kumar Das, At/PO.: Begunia, Dist: Khurda, Odisha, Pin- 752062, (3) Mr Pradipta Kumar Das (Guarantor), S/o: Mr Sanatan Das, At/PO.: Begunia, Dist: Khurda, Odisha, Pin- 752062, (4) M/s Sri Sanatan Filling Station (Borrower-Firm), (5) Mr Pritam Kumar Das (Proprietor), both are address at Khata No.257/105, Plot No.528/642, 531/575/643 and 528, At/PO.: Begunia, Tahasil: Begunia, Dist: Khurda, Odisha, Pin- 752062, (6) Mr Prasant Kumar Das (Guarantor), (7) Mrs Jyotsnarani Das (Guarantor), W/o: Mr Pradipta Kumar Das, both are address At/PO.: Begunia, Dist: Khurda, Odisha, Pin- 752062.	Owner of the property: Mrs Jyotsnarani Das, All the part and parcel of land situated on Plot No.469, Khata No.359, Begunia, PS.: Begunia, No.73, Tahasil/ Sub- Registrar/Dist: Khurda, Area: Ac.1.00 dcmli., Boundaries of Plot: North-Govt. Land, South- Mr Pradipta Kumar Mohanty and others, East- Govt Land, West- Road.	Rs.1,74,60,912.42 as on 01.05.2024 with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon / IDIBJYOTSHNA / NIL	Rs.99,90,000/- / Rs. 9,99,000/- / Rs. 25,000/-	06.12.2024 (Friday) from 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM

Bidders are advised to visit the website (<https://www.ebkray.in>) of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to support.ebkray@psballiance.com. For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: <https://www.ebkray.in> and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt Ltd, Contact No.: 8291220220. Bidders are advised to use property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <https://www.ebkray.in>

Date: 02.11.2024, Place: Bhubaneswar Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

Robbers' gang busted; 8 held



Rourkela, Nov 2: Police here Saturday busted a gang of armed robbers who were using various dating and meet-up apps to loot gullible persons and arrested eight persons.
Explaining the modus operandi of the group, SDPO Upasana Padhi said the accused were using a dating and meet-up app called 'Grindr' to scout for their victims and luring unsuspecting people into meeting one of them at a particular spot. From there, the accused would take them to a desolate place. Then, they would call all his accomplices to the spot and rob the person.
The accused targeted people who shared their mobile numbers on the app. Using a gun, they assaulted the victims and forced them to transfer money into one of the accomplice's account.
The gang has committed around 10-12 such crimes. However, so far three FIRs had been filed. The cases have been filed under Brahmani Tarang and Raghunathpalli police stations.

Change of command at NCC Odisha Directorate

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: The National Cadet Corps (NCC) Odisha Directorate Saturday announced the handover of command from Cmde J Suresh to Cmde Mahesh Rahangdale, who assumed the role of Deputy Director General (DDG). This transition marks a new chapter for the NCC Odisha Directorate, fostering continuity and commitment to the organisation's mission of instilling discipline, leadership, and patriotism among youth.
Cmde J Suresh, an officer widely respected for his exceptional leadership and service, has made a lasting impact on the NCC Odisha Directorate during his tenure. With a decorated career and a proven track record of operational and administrative excellence, Cmde Rahangdale is well-positioned to lead the Directorate forward.
His strategic insights and leadership skills are expected to enhance the NCC's efforts in Odisha, further strengthening its impact on cadets' lives and broadening opportunities for youth empowerment across the state.

EAST COAST RAILWAY 'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS
The following tenders have been uploaded on website www.ireps.gov.in
No. MCS/Stores/E-Procure/Tender Notice/AJT/B, Dtd : 28.10.2024
TENDER NO. 92245994
DESCRIPTION : SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TRIAL RUN, TRAINING AND COMMISSIONING OF CNC UNIVERSAL AXLE JOURNAL TURNING & BURNISHING LATHE (FOR BG) TREAD DIAMETER-1300-723 MM, AXLE LENGTH-2650-2080 MM (WITH DOUBLE TOOL POST) WITH CONCOMITANT ACCESSORIES AS PER COFHOW SPECIFICATION NO. COFMOW/IR/MT/CNC AJTB/BG/2020, QTY.: 1 NO., ESTIMATE VALUE : ₹ 2,21,61,401/-
Tender Closing Date & Time : At 1500 hrs. of 18.11.2024.
Dy. Chief Materials Manager/CRW/ PR-691/P/24-25 Mancheswar

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: SBP-ELECT-2024-T-225
NAME OF WORK : ELECTRICAL WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH "SETTING UP OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT OF 100 KLD CAPACITY WITH OH TANK AND PIPE LINE CONNECTION AT KANTABANJI, MUNIGUDA, TITLAGARH & BALANGIR STATIONS OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION."
Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 14,48,392.02, EMD : ₹ 29,000/-, Completion Period of the Work : Six Months from the date of issue of L.O.
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1530 hrs. of 25.11.2024.
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website fifteen (15) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/ PR-685/P/24-25 Sambalpur

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. ST-OT-SCADA-TATA/JKPR/437, Dt.: 25.10.2024
NAME OF WORK : SCADA IN THE PROPOSED TRACTION SUB-STATION (TSS) & SWITCHING POST INSIDE M/S. TATA SIDING TAKING OFF FROM JAKHAPURA ON DEPOSIT SCHEME OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Tender Value : ₹ 60,61,107.36, EMD : ₹ 1,21,200/-
Bidding Start Date : 04.11.2024
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1100 Hrs. of 18.11.2024.
No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/ Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigendum issued for this tender.
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, PR-689/P/24-25 Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY
File No. DRW/Engg/KUR/24-25/ E-Tender/74, Dt. 25.10.2024
Tender No. e-Tender-BRIDGEKUR-227-24, Dtd.: 23.10.2024
DESCRIPTION : HEALTH INSTRUMENTATION & CONDITION MONITORING OF ONE SPAN OF BRIDGE NOS. 382 DN BETWEEN BHADRAK - BAUDPUR SECTION, 1046 UP BETWEEN ICHCHAPURAM - JHADUPUDI SECTION, 539 DN BETWEEN NERUGUNDI - KENDRAPARA ROAD SECTION AND 449 DN BETWEEN JAKHAPURA - JENAPUR SECTION OF KHURDAROAD DIVISION.
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 193.80 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2,46,900/-, Completion Period : 12 (Twelve) Months.
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 14.11.2024.
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / PR-684/P/24-25 Khurda Road

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.O-570
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KESINGA
E_mail : eerwkesinga@yahoo.com
1st Corrigendum Notice No. - 2096 Date : 01.11.2024
The 1st corrigendum to Bid Identification No. SERWKSNG-online-01/2024-25
1. The details of corrigendum as table below.
As per tender notice

Procurement officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender
Additional Chief Engineer, Rural Works Division, Kesinga	SERWKSNG-online-01/2024-25	From 01.11.2024 at 11.00 A.M. To 18.11.2024 upto 15.00 P.M.	14.11.2024 upto 11.00 A.M.	19.11.2024 at 16.00 P.M.

As per corrigendum

Procurement officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender
Additional Chief Engineer, Rural Works Division, Kesinga	SERWKSNG-online-01/2024-25	From 06.11.2024 at 14.00 P.M. To 20.11.2024 upto 17.00 P.M.	16.11.2024 upto 11.00 A.M.	21.11.2024 at 11.00 A.M.

2. The Sl. No. 42 in annexure work name Periodical Maintenance to Badadungriguda to Gajabahal via Abubahal Road at Ch. 0/000 to 1/000 km. for the year 2024-25 is cancelled due to Administrative reason. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
Sd./J Additional Chief Engineer Rural Works Division Kesinga
OIPR-25153/11/0002/2425

FOCUS US ELECTIONS

WHO'S BETTER FOR INDIA?



As long as Washington perceives Beijing as its global nemesis—and the prospects of that remaining the case for the next two decades and more are distinct—no US administration would risk diluting its relations with India in the foreseeable future

tions is in a way its own shield. This is especially because China has been galloping on notching up breakthroughs in these areas and it is crucial for both India and the US to collaborate in order to ensure that Beijing does not run away with them. The other equally important areas are artificial intelligence, quantum computing, biotechnology, and clean energy, all of which will determine the way the world works for the next 100 years.

Not being a globalist, Trump is unlikely to pay any significant attention to India's problematic neighbours like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and to some extent Sri Lanka and Nepal. This could be in contrast to Harris though even she may not choose to get involved any time soon after taking over.

Perhaps the most significant difference between the two would be in dealing with climate change, whose consequences are felt in India and across South Asia every day. Trump has called climate change a "hoax" and could not care less about it while Harris can be expected to be pro-active like Biden, which overall will be beneficial to India.

India has figured out marginally during this presidential campaign as has been the case historically. Trump referred to it derisively while talking about trade and Harris only implicitly while talking about half her ethnic heritage. However, Indian Americans as a voting population could be potentially decisive in the five swing states of Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. A poll by Indian American Impact Fund, that represents Indian and South Asian communities, found that Harris has a whopping 48% lead over Trump among Indian American voters in these battleground states. Indian American votes could prove crucial in what has been considered a historically close race.

The writer is a Chicago-based journalist who hosts an internet show on YouTube.

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Washington's sanguinely friendly embrace of New Delhi in recent years is not likely to lose any of its warmth irrespective of who wins the 5 November presidential election—Kamala Harris or Donald Trump.

If Vice President Harris wins, she would add some sheen to the relations given her half Indian ethnicity from her late Tamilian mother, Dr. Shyamala Gopalan Harris' side. As for former President Trump, his oft-expressed personal friendly equation with Prime Minister Modi is expected to help the two pick up from where they left in 2020 when the former was defeated.

Ever since former President Bill Clinton paid a seminal visit to India in March 2000, after a gap of nearly a quarter century from former President Jimmy Carter's India visit in 1978, ties between Washington and New Delhi have progressively strengthened under his successors George W. Bush, Barack Obama, Trump and Joe Biden. In a sense, that improvement has paralleled the dramatic rise of China in the last three decades now practically rivalling the US in its global influence. It is, keeping in mind the Chinese context, that it would be reasonable to expect neither Harris nor Trump in the White House to materially change the direction.

As long as Washington perceives Beijing as its global nemesis—and the prospects of that remaining the case for the next two decades and more are distinct—no US administration would risk diluting its relations with India in the foreseeable future. This is not withstanding the recent thaw in India-China relations where the two have ended their four-year-old border hostilities. That deal places India in the unique position of having robust strategic relations with America, historically strong relations with Russia and now somewhat normalising ties with China. A Harris-led government is expected to broadly continue the outgoing Biden administration's studiously pragmatic

approach towards India. Of course, New Delhi is unlikely to forget her seemingly sympathetic statement in favour of Kashmir when the Modi government abrogated Article 370 in 2019 saying, "We are all watching." She had also been critical of the human rights situation in Kashmir. However, the passage of five years since that statement is a long time and in her capacity as president her foreign policy compulsions would be of a very different nature compared to her role as vice president. As of now, there is no indication that as president she would choose to ruffle feathers in New Delhi over Kashmir. One main reason is that she would be too preoccupied with a fractious polity at home in the initial stage to jump into issues like Kashmir which have no relevance domestically.

Trump, on the other hand, is expected to be even less engaged with South Asia as a region and India as its centre other than on his favourite fixation on tariffs. He has been explicit in calling India a major abuser in bilateral trade relations and has threatened a blanket tariff structure on all imports from anywhere in the world, including India. It remains to be seen though whether he actually carries out that threat to the extent he has

boasted about imposing between 20% tariffs (on all countries) and 60% (on China). Other than that, he is likely to be amiable towards New Delhi. Given his radical plans to refashion America in his vision should he return to the White House, India is not likely to feature immediately in his scheme of things.

According to an estimate by Bloomberg Economics, India's GDP will be 0.1% lower by 2028 under Trump tariffs. That is a small number but could have a psychological impact on bilateral relations. An aspect that is often not recognised when it comes to Trump and India is his business interests in the country. According to Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author David Cay Johnston, who has covered Trump for the longest period since 1988, "Some of his most profitable investments are in India where he has his name on buildings." That business interest too could have a marginal impact on the way he approaches India.

One area of bilateral relations which is unlikely to be adversely affected under either administration is the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET). The fact that iCET is focused on strategic cooperation over a spectrum of powerful technologies such as space, semiconductors, and advanced telecommunica-



Mayank Chhaya

INDIAN AMERICAN VOTES COULD PROVE CRUCIAL IN WHAT HAS BEEN CONSIDERED A HISTORICALLY CLOSE RACE



Aakar Patel

It is abundantly clear that India is falling short of its domestic and international human rights obligations and its commitments as a member and in its interactions with different UN bodies and mechanisms

Engage Responsibly

The United Nations Security Council has 15 members: five permanent and 10 elected. India has been a non-permanent member of the UNSC eight times, its last term being in 2021-2022. It has now bid for the 2028-2029 term. As the world's largest nation and a democracy we are entitled to having our voice heard in the global body.

In 2021, the then UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet said "although it is the primary responsibility of the UN Human Rights Council, promoting and protecting human rights is one of the best ways for the UN Security Council to achieve its mandate of maintaining international peace and security." Bearing that in mind, let's take a look at India's engagement with the UN human rights system in the past few years.

The fact is that India has not been a strong leader at the UNHRC, willing to take difficult and principled stands with consistent application of human rights values; nor has it engaged particularly constructively with Council mechanisms.

India has been a member of the UN Human Rights Council for 16 of the Council's 18 years – most recently from 2019 to 2024. Resolution 60/251 that created the UNHRC states that "members elected to the Council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights, shall fully cooperate with the Council, and be reviewed under the universal periodic review mechanism during their term of membership."

India has been the subject of 25 critical statements from UN human rights experts and OHCHR since 2019 – during its last two terms of membership – expressing concerns about its domestic human rights issues and lack of compliance with its international human rights obligations.

Between 24 January 2011 and 24 September 2024, the Indian government received over 200 communications from UN Special Procedures, a collection of independent experts created by the HRC and mandated to monitor and report on human rights across the globe. The Indian government has only responded to less than a third of the communications it has received. After 2014, India has facilitated the completion of only two visits by a UN special procedure mandate to the country. It currently has 19 pending visit requests. Some have gone unanswered since 1999 (for example, from the Special Rapporteur on Torture).

In its last Universal Periodic Review, a mechanism by which every state's human rights record is examined and recommendations for improvements made, 21 countries urged India to improve its protection of freedom of religion and rights of religious minorities, with several raising concerns over increasing violence and hate speech and the government's adoption of discriminatory policies such as "anti-conversion" laws. In addition, 19 countries said that India should ratify the UN Convention against Torture, a treaty we signed in 1997 but never ratified. India said in both the 2012 and 2017 UPR cycles that it remained committed to ratifying the treaty. However, it hasn't taken steps to fulfil its commitment even as torture and other ill-treatment continue to be used routinely by police and other security forces to gather information or coerce "confessions."

India is party to only six of the nine core human rights treaties. India's reports under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child are also overdue. India has been the subject of two reports, in 2018 and 2019, from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Kashmir. Both reports called on the Indian authorities to respect international human rights obligations in the region, repeal or amend repressive laws such as the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act and the Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act, end restrictions on journalists and investigate all blanket bans or restrictions. Instead of engaging with the OHCHR, India called the reports "false, with a motivated narrative" and accused the human rights body of "legitimising terrorism."

India has consistently been included in the UN Secretary-General's report on reprisals, which sets out cases of alleged reprisals – against individuals and organisations – for cooperation with the UN in the field of human rights. In the 2020 report, the Secretary-General concluded that "ongoing intimidation and reprisals have reportedly deterred some civil society representatives from cooperating with the United Nations for fear of further retribution" in the country. So why is credible engagement with UNHRC critical in the context of India's UNSC bid? Discussions about reforming the UNSC should not be done in isolation of candidates' performance and behaviour at other UN bodies, most importantly human rights ones. Membership of any of the UN organs should be used to shine a spotlight on, and protect human rights, not to shield members or their allies from scrutiny of their human rights record. This should be the case for all nations and the fact that others are as bad or worse on this issue should not matter. It is abundantly clear that India is falling short of its domestic and international human rights obligations and its commitments as a member and in its interactions with different UN bodies and mechanisms. The discussion on reform of the Security Council may not end soon, but if India is serious about its intention to be a permanent member of the UNSC, it needs to demonstrate that it can engage responsibly with UN human rights entities, including the UNHRC. It must comply with the membership criteria to the UNHRC in a consistent and principled manner. It should commit to upholding the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights to fully cooperate with the UN human rights mechanisms. We harm our chances when we choose deliberately to not do the right thing.

SPECTRUM CLIMATE ACTION

Prosperity requires a healthy planet



Axel van Trotsenburg

SCALING UP INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE MITIGATION IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE EMISSIONS OF MANY MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES ARE PROJECTED TO RISE OVER COMING DECADES

Progress on poverty reduction has slowed almost to a standstill in recent years. With nearly 700 million people still living on less than \$2.15 per day, the world is far from the goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030. At the current pace, it will take at least three decades to reach this target, and more than a century to lift every one above the poverty line of \$6.85 per day used for upper-middle-income countries. Today 44% of the global population falls below this threshold.

Tepid economic growth, the pandemic, ongoing conflicts, and the escalating climate crisis have disrupted – and even reversed – a quarter-century of extraordinary progress, during which the share of the world's population living in extreme poverty plunged from around one-third to one-tenth. While high-income countries have largely recovered from these setbacks, extreme poverty in the poorest countries is still higher than in 2019, and their growth is expected to be weaker than in the decade before the pandemic. And as global warming accelerates, nearly one in

five people will likely experience an extreme weather event from which they will struggle to recover, exacerbating poverty.

According to the World Bank's new Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet Report, altering this trajectory requires recognising that poverty, shared prosperity, and climate risks are interconnected.

Addressing inequality can play an important role in achieving these interconnected goals. In the world's most unequal countries, economic growth leads to a smaller reduction in poverty. If every country experienced annual per capita income growth of 2%, it would take another 60 years to eliminate extreme poverty. But if the Gini index – a measure of income inequality – in every country were to decrease by 2% annually, that target would be reached in 20 years. High levels of inequality also prevent the less well-off from climbing the socioeconomic ladder, depriving them of opportunities to improve their lives. Delivering better-functioning labour markets, investing in education and health, and strengthening social safety nets would enable poor people to benefit from economic growth.

Each country's path forward should be tailored to its specific circumstances in order to deliver the best possible outcomes across these dimensions while managing tradeoffs. For low-income countries supported by the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), that means promoting faster and more inclusive growth and increasing investment in public services and infrastructure to improve access to education and create jobs. Because these countries are home to 70% of all people living in extreme poverty and produce minimal greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions, their anti-poverty efforts do not come at a high environmental cost. The focus in lower-middle-income countries should be on delivering sustained growth and shared prosperity and improving the efficiency of policies to boost income, build climate resilience, and keep GHG emissions in check. Scaling up investment in climate mitigation is especially important because the emissions of many middle-income countries are projected to rise over the

coming decades. Such investments could also lead to better health outcomes – for example, by reducing air pollution.

Lastly, upper-middle-income and high-income countries, which account for four-fifths of global carbon dioxide emissions, must rapidly phase out their dependence on fossil fuels and lead the green transition. Ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity on a livable planet requires bold policy choices, coordinated global action, and a significant increase in financing for sustainable development, which would allow low-income countries to invest in improving the lives and livelihoods of their people. Today, the world has a historic opportunity to overcome the injustices and mitigate the dangers of entrenched poverty, systemic inequality, and climate change. We must not squander this chance to make meaningful, lasting progress toward broad-based prosperity.

The focus in lower-middle-income countries should be on delivering sustained growth and shared prosperity and improving the efficiency of policies to boost income, build climate resilience, and keep GHG emissions in check. Scaling up investment in climate mitigation is especially important because the emissions of many middle-income countries are projected to rise over the

The writer is Senior Managing Director at the World Bank.

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THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1793: French social reformer and feminist Olympe de Gouges—who challenged conventional views on a number of matters, especially the role of women as citizens—was executed by guillotine.
- 1903: Influenced by Philippe-Jean Bunau-Varilla and U.S. interests, a revolutionary junta proclaimed Panamanian independence from Colombia.
- 1956: The film *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) aired on television for the first time and was seen by an estimated 45 million viewers; its repeated airings on TV helped make the movie an enduring classic.
- 1957: The Soviet Union launched Sputnik 2, which carried the dog Laika, the first living creature to be shot into space and orbit Earth.
- 1998: Another section of Great Wall of China discovered. Announced on this day in 1998 was the discovery in the Hui Autonomous Region of Ningxia of a previously unknown 15.5-mile (25-km) segment of the Great Wall of China, which runs a total of about 4,500 miles (7,300 km).

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

A man's world

Sir, The Indian judiciary remains a man's world till today. Women are vastly under-represented at the Bench at the SC and various High Courts in the country. The composition of the Supreme Court collegium also sees a glaring lack of women. In fact, till today only 11 women have served as judges at the SC since its establishment in 1950. Complex reasons like gender bias and discrimination, work-life balance challenges, and lack of support and mentorship are some of the factors for the low representation of women in the SC. Comprehensive measures must be taken to address this discrimination like providing gender diversity in the legal profession and implementing affirmative action policies that prioritise qualified women getting appointed in the SC to accelerate progress towards gender parity. These steps must be taken to promote diversity and equal opportunities, which will strengthen the Indian judiciary system.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

High achievers

Sir, Never had so many Indian players simultaneously taken the chess world by storm like the present bunch of extremely talented youngsters. The exploits of R Praggnanandhaa are too well-known to need reiteration. Likewise, Dhammaraju Gukesh is on the brink of making history as he prepares himself to square off with Ding Liren in the World Chess Championship final in a little less than a month. Meanwhile, Arjun Erigaisi has achieved the stupendous feat of reaching 2800 Elo points in FIDE live rating, becoming only the second Indian after the legendary Viswanathan Anand and the sixteenth player in the world to do so. Known as a risky player, the 21-year-old would not have broken into the top five of world chess at such a young age without his natural attacking style. The razor sharp player's new approach of not bothering about records and ratings but concentrating on the game at hand appears to have paid him rich dividends. High energy and incredible motivation have driven him thus far.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

MAHARASHTRA POLLS

MahaYuti, MVA busy in tough negotiations to calm 50 rebels



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 2: Nearly 50 rebels are giving a tough time to both MahaYuti comprising BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) consisting Congress, Shiv Sena and NCP-SP as both are engaged in negotiations with them for withdrawal of their nominations before November 4 which is the last date for withdrawal. Of the 50 rebels, MahaYuti has 36 and 14 from the MVA.

As per the compilation made by MahaYuti partners, of the 36 rebels, BJP has hit the most with 19 followed by 16 belonging to Shiv Sena and one from NCP. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who had held more than four region-wise meetings last month to review BJP's poll preparations, has already asked the state leadership to make all efforts to contain the rebellion by increasing outreach with rebels.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis Thursday said that efforts will be made to convince the rebels before the last date of withdrawal of nominations November 4. He further added that a meeting was chaired by the Chief Minister Eknath Shinde two days ago and a communication channel has been

opened by respective parties with rebels.

"Our party is big, so naturally we also have a large number of interested candidates. But, contesting elections in an alliance comes with some limitations. It is not possible to give justice to every candidate. But, we will communicate with the rebels. We hope they will listen to us and withdraw their nominations," said Fadnis. He hinted that there will be friendly fights in some constituencies.

However, state BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule said that the party will initiate disciplinary action if rebels fail to withdraw their nominations.

Nine rebel candidates of Shiv Sena have entered into the electoral fray against the official candidates of BJP. These rebels have filed their nominations in Airoli, Belapur, Andheri East and Pachora in Jalgaon districts. Since few seats were bagged by Shiv Sena in its quota, BJP rebels have filed their nominations in those seats. These constituencies include Alibag and Karjat in Raigad district, Buldhana, Borivali and Jalana.

Moreover, nine rebels from BJP and seven from Shiv Sena have filed their nominations against NCP led by Ajit Pawar

while only one rebel from Ajit Pawar faction is contesting against Shiv Sena from Nandgaon constituency in Nashik district.

As far as MVA is concerned, of the 14 rebels, Congress is striving to convince 10 rebels from its fold while Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena is engaged in a series of talks with its four rebels.

NCP-SP chief Sharad Pawar Thursday hoped that the MVA would succeed in pacifying the rebels. On its part, the Congress party has roped in former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to open communication with the party rebels and make them withdraw nomination papers. Party in charge Ramesh Chennithala said that the party hopes that rebels will not stick to their guns but agree to withdraw their nominations.

Congress rebels are contesting against Shiv Sena UBT in Kopri Pachpakhad, Byculla and Ramtek constituencies while rebel from Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena is taking on the Samajwadi Party nominee Abu Azmi from Mankhurd Shivajinagar.

A rebel candidate of the Shiv Sena-UBT is also contesting from Versova in Mumbai and Mehkar in Buldhana. In some places, the rebels from NCP (Sharad Pawar) are contesting against Shiv Sena UBT nominees and Congress while in few constituencies the NCP SP is facing challenge from other allies or independents.

This is not all, the MVA's allies mainly smaller parties have fielded 14 candidates against Congress, Shiv Sena and NCP-SP nominees making the election tougher. The candidates of these parties including Peasants and Workers Party, CPI-M have fielded their nominees in Kurla, Solapur South, Solapur Central, Paranda, Sangola and Pandharpur to mention a few.

Hemant requests PM, Shah to clear J'khand coal dues



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Nov 2: Ahead of the scheduled visits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to poll-bound Jharkhand, Chief Minister Hemant Soren Saturday requested the Centre with folded hands to clear ₹1.36 lakh-crore coal dues to the state.

Modi is scheduled to address two rallies in Jharkhand November 4 while Shah will address three public meetings Sunday.

"The PM and the home minister are coming to Jharkhand. I once again request them with folded hands to clear the outstanding (coal dues) of ₹1.36 lakh crore to Jharkhandis. This amount is crucial for Jharkhand," Soren posted on X. He also appealed to BJP MPs to facilitate clearance of the amount.

"I would also appeal to my BJP colleagues, especially the MPs, to help Jharkhandis in getting our dues," Soren posted on the microblogging site, sharing a copy of a letter to the prime minister.

Soren emphasised that the dues with central PSUs, like Coal India, are rightful to the state and claimed that non-clearance is causing irreparable harm to Jharkhand's development.

"I, Hemant Soren, the chief minister of Jharkhand, am drawing your attention towards a serious issue which is creating obstacles in the path of the state's development. Our dues from coal companies stand at ₹1.36 lakh crore," Soren wrote in the letter to the PM.

Cong ad targets MahaYuti govt over farmers' issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 2: Ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections, the state Congress Saturday launched its campaign to target the MahaYuti government over its lack of support to farmers.

Congress' Maharashtra in-charge Ramesh Chennithala released an advertisement titled 'Injustice to Farmers - Ata Chalnari Nah!' (not acceptable any more) here.

Speaking on the occasion, Chennithala said the advertisement targets the Mahayuti government over its failure to support farmers.

More than 20,000 farmers committed suicides in the last two years. It was due to the lack of crop loss compensation and failure to provide the minimum support price (MSP), he claimed. The ad also targets the

Mahayuti over false promises and corruption. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis's pet project Jalyukt Shivar has been dubbed as the Jalmukt Shivar in the advertisement.

With farmers' anger simmering across the state, this ad will help the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) focus public outrage against Mahayuti's anti-farmer policies. With the election merely weeks away, this sharpened focus on farmer issues is likely to cost the Mahayuti dearly, Chennithala said.

Elections to the 288-member state Assembly will be held November 20, and the counting of votes will take place three days later. The Congress is contesting the election as part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) with Shiv Sena (UBT) and Nationalist Congress Party (SP).



Sena (UBT) MP Sawant apologises for remark against Shaina NC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 2: Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant Saturday apologised for his alleged insulting remark targeted at rival Shiv Sena's Assembly election candidate Shaina NC, a day after a case was registered against him in this connection.

Talking to reporters here, Sawant maintained that he has never insulted any woman in his life, and added that a controversy was created for political reasons ahead of the Assembly polls.

"I have always been in the forefront of giving women their due respect. My remarks were distorted and I was deliberately targeted. This hurt me. Still if my comments hurt anybody's sentiments, I regret it and apologise for the same. In my 55 years of public life, I have never insulted women," the Member of Parliament (MP) from the Mumbai South Lok Sabha constituency said.

He asked what action was taken when other political leaders earlier called women leaders as Jersey cow and Surpankha.



Devotees perform rituals on the occasion of 'Govardhan Puja' at Geeta Temple in Nagpur, Maharashtra, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Shah to release BJP manifesto for J'khand polls today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Nov 2: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will release the Bharatiya Janata Party's manifesto and address three rallies in poll-bound Jharkhand Sunday.

Shah arrived in Jharkhand capital Ranchi Saturday night.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will release the 'Sankalp Patra' for Jharkhand Assembly elections in Ranchi Sunday. He will also address three rallies at Ghatshila, Barkatha and Simaria Assembly constituencies during the day, the BJP said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Jharkhand November 4 and address two rallies. Modi's visit will be followed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh who is scheduled to hold a public meeting in Jamshedpur November 5.

Shah is likely to release 25 key points of the saffron party's manifesto to underline 25 years of Jharkhand's formation and a 150-point document, marking the 150th birth anniversary of tribal icon Birsa Munda, BJP leaders said.

Jharkhand was created November 15, 2000, which also happens to be the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda.

Earlier October 5, the BJP had released five key points of its manifesto for the Assembly polls, promising financial assistance of ₹2,100 to women every month, five lakh jobs to youths and housing for all if voted to power.

Soren, ex-Jharkhand CMs and their kin in high-stakes battle for power

LEGACY ON THE LINE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ranchi, Nov 2: Jharkhand, now around 25 years old as a state, has witnessed seven Chief Ministers, each leaving a unique mark. This Assembly election puts the legacy of all seven to the test -- current CM Hemant Soren, along with former CMs Babulal Marandi and Champai Soren -- are directly contesting, while the families of the other four former CMs are also in the fray, reflecting a multi-generational stake in the battleground Jharkhand.

Babulal Marandi, Jharkhand's first Chief Minister and now head of the state BJP, faces the formidable challenge of reclaiming power for his party, which lost control in 2019. Marandi is contesting from his home turf in Dhanwar, Giridih, where he previously won as a candidate of Jharkhand Vikas Morcha, a party formed by himself.

This time, the Opposition bloc, INDIA, has fielded two candidates -- from Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and CPI (ML) against him -- making it a three-corner contest. Adding to the dynamics is a rebel BJP candidate, Niranjana Rai, a potential spoiler.

The elder statesman Shibu Soren, though less active these days due to age and health issues, remains a symbolic force for the JMM. His son, CM Hemant



Soren, is vying for re-election, aiming to secure a second consecutive term for the ruling coalition which has never happened in Jharkhand's political history.

Hemant Soren is contesting from Barhait constituency, facing BJP candidate Gamaliel Hembrom, a former teacher and relatively new entrant in politics, adding an intriguing challenge to the race. Shibu Soren's other daughter-in-law Sita Soren has now moved away from the Soren family and this time contesting from Jamtara on a BJP ticket.

Former CM Champai Soren, with over four decades of experience, is also in the race but as a BJP candidate this time, after having left the JMM. He faces Ganesh Mahali, who has similarly switched allegiances from BJP to JMM. Meanwhile,

Champai Soren's son, Babulal Soren, is contesting from Ghatshila, adding another layer to his father's political influence.

Other former CMs are also testing their influence through family members. Meera Munda, wife of Arjun Munda, Jharkhand's second CM, is running from Potka. Arjun Munda declined to fight elections but sought a ticket for his wife which was duly granted by the BJP.

Similarly, former CM Raghubar Das, now Odisha Governor, has his daughter-in-law Purnima Das Sahu contesting in his traditional stronghold, Jamshedpur East. The victory or loss here will be directly linked to the influence of Raghubar Das in the constituency.

INDIA bloc partners in for 'friendly battle' on 3 seats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Nov 2: The INDIA bloc partners in Jharkhand are set for a friendly battle in three Assembly seats in the upcoming assembly polls, bloc leaders said on Saturday.

JMM and CPI-ML have already decided to go for a friendly fight in Dhanwar Assembly seat, while Congress and RJD are still trying to avoid a friendly contest in Chhatrapur and Bishrampur seats, they said at a joint press conference here.

The elections to the 81-member Jharkhand Assembly will take place in two phases

November 13 and 20, with counting of votes to take place November 23.

As many as 1,211 candidates are in the fray for the 81 Assembly seats after completion of nomination withdrawal exercises for both phases of the election.

The JMM has fielded candidates in 43 Assembly seats, Congress in 30 seats, RJD from six and CPI-ML in four seats.

JMM, Congress, RJD and CPI-ML are jointly contesting the Jharkhand polls under INDIA bloc. Excluding three seats -- Chhatrapur, Bishrampur and Dhanwar, seat-sharing arrangements have been settled for all

J'KHAND POLLS



the constituencies in the alliance. The JMM has decided

to go for a friendly contest with CPI-ML in Dhanwar seat, JMM general secretary Vinod Pandey told reporters. RJD and Congress have fielded their candidates from Chhatrapur and Bishrampur seats.

"Discussions are still going on to sort out the issue on both the seats. We hope to see a result in a day or two," Pandey said.

Pandey said that RJD was given six seats, while CPI-ML three seats under the INDIA bloc. Jharkhand Congress president Keshav Mahto Kamlesh said that they would contest the polls jointly and form the government of India bloc again.



"Were women honoured through such comments...A state



minister made derogatory remarks against Supriya Sule.

Was any action taken," he asked. The controversy regarding my remarks was raised for political reasons, he said.

"I had not named anyone. I feel sad that an attempt was made to tarnish my image. The comment was made October 29 and it was remembered November 1," Sawant said.

Shaina, who is contesting the November 20 Assembly election from the Mumbadevi constituency, Friday alleged that Sawant referred to her as "imported maal".

20 years 'maal' shows the mentality of Shiv Sena (UBT), she said.

The Sena leader then lodged a complaint against Sawant, based on which a first information report (FIR) was registered against him under sections 79 (insulting the modesty of a woman through words, gestures, sounds) and 356 (2) (defamation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

National Commission for Women chief Vijaya Rahatkar also sought police and the Election Commission's action in the matter.

national

of the day quote

SC -- 32.1 per cent vacant; ST -- 40.3 per cent vacant; OBC -- 41.8 per cent vacant; 55 per cent posts of Professor category are lying vacant; 71 per cent teaching posts of EWS are vacant; More than 47 per cent of 35,640 non-teaching posts are also vacant

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

Kumaraswamy and his wife represented Channapatna. The current JD(S) candidate has no connection to the constituency and has already lost in Mandya and Ramanagara. Yogeeshwara has returned to Congress because only our party has delivered development in Channapatna

D K SHIVAKUMAR | KARNATAKA DY CM

Ever since bypolls have been announced and BSP decided to contest the bypolls solo on all nine seats, the BJP-BSP 'alliance' have lost their sleep. Except for a couple of bypolls, BSP has not contested byelections here

MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

Four killed after being hit by train

Palakkad (Kerala): Four sanitary workers, including two women from Tamil Nadu, were killed after being hit by the Thiruvananthapuram-bound Kerala Express near Shoranur Railway Station Saturday evening, the Railway police said. The New Delhi-Thiruvananthapuram train struck the workers around 3.05 pm while they were clearing garbage from the railway track near Shoranur bridge, located a few kilometers from the railway station.

Two Nepalese citizens killed in road accident

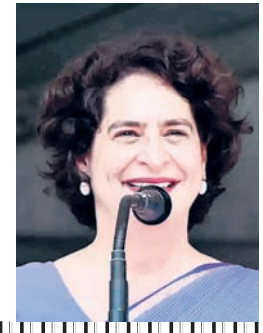
Balrampur (UP): Two Nepalese citizens travelling in a car were killed and three others were injured when an Uttar Pradesh roadways bus collided with their car here Saturday, police said. The deceased were identified as Dinesh Balbase and Anil Sapkora (27), natives of Nepal, they said. Superintendent of Police Vikas Kumar said that Balbase was returning home from Punjab with his wife and some other people in a car.

Minor girl raped in high-rise apartment

Patna: A minor girl was allegedly raped in a high-rise apartment in Patna's Rajiv Nagar locality Saturday. The victim, who sustained serious injuries in her private part, was rushed to Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH), where her condition was said to be critical. Dinesh Kumar Pandey, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) of the central range, said: "The girl had been sent to the apartment by her mother, reportedly for work. However, after the incident occurred, the victim's mother approached the Shastri Nagar police station, which in turn informed officials at Rajiv Nagar."

Sub-inspector shot dead by constable

Imphal: A sub-inspector of police was shot dead allegedly by a constable with his service rifle in Manipur's Jiribam district Saturday, an officer said. Sub-inspector Shah Jahan was shot dead from point blank range allegedly by constable Bikramjit in the Mongbung area of the district and an investigation is on, the officer said.



The Congress started fulfilling the promises made to the people as soon as it formed the government, without waiting for the next elections. Be it Karnataka, Telangana or Himachal Pradesh, people's money is being put into their pockets everyday through guarantees

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

KERALA AIRPORT TO HALT FLIGHTS FOR 5 HRS NOV 9

Flight services from the international airport here will be suspended for five hours November 9 to make way for 'Alpassi Arattu' procession of Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple here, TIAL said Saturday. The annual procession traditionally taken on a route crossing the runway



WAQF LAND DISPUTES

Withdraw all notices sent to farmers: Siddaramaiah



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 2: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah directed officials Saturday to immediately retract all notices sent to farmers regarding Waqf land. This decision followed a high-level meeting with senior officials from the Revenue Department, Minority Welfare Department, and the Karnataka Board of Waqfs.

A statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said, "Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has strictly instructed officials to withdraw all notices concerning Waqf land, ensuring farmers face no disturbance."

Siddaramaiah expressed dissatisfaction with recent actions by certain officials and noted that the JD(S) and BJP might be using the Waqf issue for political gain, potentially disturbing peace in the state. He appealed to the public to ignore any misinformation and emphasised handling the matter sensitively. All notices on land records related to Waqf properties must be retracted immediately, and officials were warned not to harass farmers regarding lands in their possession. Siddaramaiah also ordered that unauthorised changes to land records (Pahani or RTC) should be nullified if done without proper notice or legal procedure.

Verification patrolling starts in Depsang: MEA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Indian Army has commenced verification patrolling at Depsang, the second friction point in eastern Ladakh, the government said Saturday.

Patrolling at Demchok had begun Friday, a day after the Indian and Chinese troops completed disengagement at the two friction points in eastern Ladakh. Replying to a query at a weekly press briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said following the disengagement agreement with China, the verification patrolling has begun on mutually agreed terms in both Demchok

Owaisi draws parallel between Tirupati and Waqf boards

Hyderabad: Taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi Saturday alleged that the new chairman of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) favoured Hindu-only staff policy in Tirumala, whereas the NDA government at the Centre wants to induct non-Muslims in Waqf boards. On Andhra Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's comments in favour of parents having more children, Owaisi claimed that he would have been blamed for "doing population jihad" had he said the same thing. He also said south India would suffer if delimitation of constituencies is carried out on the basis of population.

BJP MP Tejasvi Surya alleged that all district deputy commissioners have been instructed not to serve any notices to farmers under the Waqf Act. He stated that revenue records would be treated as final and administrative actions would align accordingly.

"The Chief Minister has directed all deputy commissioners to withdraw any such notices or letters. The matter is now resolved, though future developments remain uncertain," Parameshwara informed reporters.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, and senior government officials attended the meeting.

Waqf Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan, in Vijayapura, reassured the public that all notices issued under the Waqf Act would be withdrawn, as he had previously informed people Friday. Earlier, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara stated

that issues related to Waqf began after the initiation of Waqf Adalats. According to him, the Waqf Adalat lacks legal validity. The Bengaluru South MP further alleged that the Waqf Adalat is an "unconstitutional invention" of Congress and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Surya claimed that with an upcoming Central law under Prime Minister Narendra Modi aimed at curbing the Waqf Board's power to encroach on properties, the Karnataka government quickly moved to allocate land to Waqf. He alleged that the government's intent behind holding Waqf Adalats was to gift thousands of acres of land to Muslims.

and Depsang. Indian and Chinese troops Thursday also exchanged sweets at several border points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the occasion of Diwali. The traditional practice was observed a day after both countries completed troop disengagement at the two friction points, bringing a fresh thaw in Sino-Indian ties. Sources had earlier said that the areas and patrolling status were expected to be moved back to pre-April 2020 level.

Another example of Canadian strategy to attack India: MEA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: India Saturday slammed Canada for naming it in the list of countries considered cyberthreat "adversaries, describing the "categorisation" as "another example" of the Canadian strategy to "attack" the country.

The National Cyber Threat Assessment 2025-2026 report issued by the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security, Canada's technical authority on cyber security, alleged that Indian state-sponsored actors "likely conduct cyber threat activity against government of Canada networks for the purpose of espionage".

Their senior officials have "openly confessed" that they are seeking to "manipulate global opinion against India", and as on other occasions, imputations are made "without any evidence" Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told reporters in response to queries on the issue.

The October 30 report includes a category 'Cyber threat from state adversaries' with China placed as the "most comprehensive cyber security threat". India is named fifth after China, Russia, Iran and North Korea. It is the first time India has been included in the list. "Another category,

Canada has put India into. This categorisation is as per the cyber report that they have issued. It appears to be another example of a Canadian strategy to attack India," Jaiswal said.

"As I mentioned earlier, their senior officials have openly confessed that they are seeking to manipulate global opinion against India, as on other occasions, imputations are made without any evidence," he said.

While rejecting India being bracketed in that category, the MEA spokesperson said, "You first state absurd and baseless things and then level such an accusation against us. This is absolutely not right". The report, whose last edition was issued two years ago, comes amid an escalating diplomatic row between the two countries.

The relations between the two countries came under severe strain following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September last year of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in Khalistan extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing. New Delhi rejected Trudeau's charges as "absurd". India has been maintaining that the main issue between the two countries is that of Canada giving space to pro-Khalistan elements operating from Canadian soil with impunity

'CYBER ADVERSARY'

Four-year-old girl raped, murdered by uncle in Tirupati

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vennelapalem/Tirupati, Nov 2: A four-year-old girl was allegedly raped and murdered by her relative at a village in Tirupati district and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu Saturday warned that people committing atrocities against women will be dealt with in a stringent manner.

Reacting to the incident, while launching a scheme in Anakapalli district, he said, "There are some rogues in society. Horrible people. Are they humans or animals?... If the law allows, a couple of them should be hanged in the middle of the road. Only then they will fear."

Vowing not to spare such people, the CM said he would take measures to ensure that they tremble and the day of committing an atrocity against a woman "would be their last day".

According to Tirupati district superintendent of police L Subbarayudu, Nagaraju (24), who is the victim's maternal uncle, lured the girl to a secluded place in AM Puram village by offering her snacks Friday evening and committed the crime. "Nagaraju lives near the girl's house and used to play with her everyday. Yesterday (Friday) evening he took her to a shop and bought some snacks. Later, he took her away from her house and sexually assaulted and killed her," he told PTI.

Mumbai cops send proposal for Anmol Bishnoi's extradition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 2: The Mumbai police have sent a proposal for extradition of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi's younger brother Anmol Bishnoi, who has been named as an accused in some high-profile crimes, including the Baba Siddique murder case, an official said.

The proposal was sent after the US authorities informed the Mumbai police about Anmol Bishnoi's presence in their country, the senior police official said Saturday. Last month, the Mumbai police's crime branch moved the special Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) court here stating that it intends to "initiate the extradition procedure of fugitive criminal Anmol Bishnoi". It filed an affidavit "for further necessary action", which was allowed by the special court.

The Mumbai police have sent the proposal for Anmol Bishnoi's extradition to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which will then be forwarded to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the police official said.

Both Lawrence and Anmol Bishnoi have been named as wanted accused in the April 14 firing incident outside the Bollywood actor Salman Khan's Galaxy Apartment in Mumbai's Bandra area.

Vicky Gupta and Sagar Pal had carried out the firing. They, along with Sonukumar Bishnoi, Mohammed Rafiq Choudhary and Harpal Singh, were arrested and are currently in judicial custody.



A participant during 'Paragliding World Cup 2024' at Bir, in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

India records 17.7 pc decline in TB incidence: WHO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: India has recorded a 17.7 per cent decline in tuberculosis incidence from 237 per lakh population in 2015 to 195 in 2023, which is more than double the global decline of 8.3 per cent, Health

Ministry sources have said citing a WHO report.

In its Global TB Report 2024 released October 29, WHO has acknowledged the tremendous progress India has made in closing the gap of missed tuberculosis cases since 2015, the sources said.

The source said WHO has "acknowledged a drop in India's tuberculosis incidence from 237 per lakh population in 2015, to 195 per lakh population in 2023 accounting for a 17.7 per cent de-

cline."

"This is more than double the pace of decline as compared to the global decline of 8.3 per cent," the source said. The Health Ministry sources asserted that the leap in coverage has been due to the momentum India has created around tuberculosis case finding and reflects the efforts of decentralisation of healthcare services through over 1.7 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs in the country.

While WHO had downsized its estimation of tuberculosis mortality in India last year, the current report documents the sustained reduction in deaths due to the disease achieved by India from 28 per lakh population to 22 per lakh population, a 21.4 per cent decline, they said.

The government has been able



to strengthen and expand the National TB Elimination Programme with sustained domestic financing, official sources said. The tuberculosis budget saw a historic 5.3 times leap in allocation from R 640 crores in 2015 to ₹3400 crores in 2022-23. The WHO report noted that a majority of the funding for the TB programme comes from gov-

ernment resources. Over the years, India has been able to scale up state-of-the-art molecular diagnostic tools, introduce newer and more efficacious treatment regimens and provide free screening, diagnosis and treatment to all tuberculosis patients. The government is procuring over 800 artificial intelligence-enabled

In 2023, India is estimated to have had 27 lakh TB cases, of which 25.1 lakh were diagnosed and put on treatment. This has buoyed India's treatment coverage to 89 per cent in 2023 from 72 per cent in 2015, thereby bridging the gap of missing cases

OFFICIAL SOURCE

portable chest x-ray machines to complement India's extensive TB laboratory network, the largest in the world with 7,767 rapid molecular testing facilities and 87 culture and drug susceptibility testing laboratories, the sources said.

"This acknowledgement by WHO signifies the paradigm shift India has brought to tu-

berculosis care over the past eight years. In October, the government announced the enhancement of support under Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) from ₹500 per month to each patient for the entire duration of the treatment to ₹1,000," another source said.

To date, ₹3,202 crore has been disbursed to 1.13 crore beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer under the scheme. While enhancement of NPY support will benefit all 25 lakh tuberculosis patients in a year, the introduction of Energy Dense Nutritional Supplementation (EDNS) would cover approximately 12 lakh under-nourished TB patients.

EDNS would be provided to all eligible patients for the first two months of their treatment.



Do not worry. Now I am out and your bills will be waived when the AAP comes into power in February
ARVIND KEJRIWAL | AAP NATIONAL CONVENOR

APEX COURT TO HEAR RAJOANA'S PLEA NOV 4

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear November 4 a plea by Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted in the 1995 assassination case of the then Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh, seeking commutation of his death sentence to life term due to an "inordinate delay" in deciding his mercy petition



of the day quote

We have come to know from many districts, from officials that candidates from the ruling parties are getting financial assistance for polls, that police vehicles are being used. Officials of the police department have also said that

SHARAD PAWAR | NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY (SP) PRESIDENT

Such attacks have been taking place for a long time and are not happening for the first time. What about the last 10 years? We took over the government some 15 to 20 days back. The National Conference suffered the most with a large number of its workers, leaders and ministers falling to terrorism

SURINDER CHOUDHARY | J&K DY CM

This will prove beneficial for them. A good advice is that 'if you nurture something, nurture good thoughts'. Today's positive society says, we don't want BJP

AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

NC: Inquiry needed into rising attacks in Valley



In a huge achievement for the security forces, a top Pakistani commander of the banned LeT outfit and two other terrorists were killed in two separate encounters in Srinagar and Anantnag districts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 2: The ruling National Conference (NC) Saturday sought an inquiry into the spike in terrorist attacks in the Valley since Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was sworn in, saying some elements were trying to destabilise an elected government.

"Violence is taking place. There should be an investigation into it. Those involved should be arrested alive. We will get to know who is doing it because there are attempts to defame us," NC president Farooq Abdullah said at a function here.

He questioned why such attacks are on the rise after the NC formed the government in Jammu and Kashmir. The NC chief also said he apprehended that some elements were trying to destabilise the J&K government led by his son Omar

Abdullah. "There should be an investigation as to know how these are taking place after government formation. I have doubts that perhaps it is being done by those who want to destabilise this government. Why were not these taking place before? Why are they happening now? There should be an independent inquiry," he added.

He said the peaceful assembly election was a big achievement for the people of Kashmir, and it united the entire community. "We need to remain united, keeping our egos aside. Enemies are trying to attack us from all sides but we have to fight them," he said.

Asked if he believed Pakistan was responsible for the attacks, Farooq Abdullah reiterated that an investigation should be conducted into the rise in such incidents after the recently-concluded Assembly elections. "Rather than killing them (perpetrators), they should be caught and asked who is behind them. We should check if any agency is trying to destabilise Omar Abdullah (government)," the NC chief added.

His remarks come amid a spate in terror incidents in the Valley since the formation of the NC government in the UT. In a huge achievement for the security forces, a top Pakistani commander

Violence is taking place. There should be an investigation into it. Those involved should be arrested alive. We will get to know who is doing it because there are attempts to defame us

FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NC PRESIDENT

of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit and two other terrorists were killed in two separate encounters in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar and Anantnag districts Saturday, officials said. The LeT commander, identified as Usman, was active in the Valley for several years and was also involved in the killing of Inspector Masroor Wani, a senior police officer said.

Meanwhile, NC's alliance partner Congress also raised suspicion over the timing of the attacks in the valley.

"It is a matter of grave concern and the timing of it is actually very suspicious because we had very peaceful elections. Before the elections, we had a very peaceful time, and immediately after the elections, all this has started," J&K Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra told PTI Videos here. Karra called for a holistic and inclusive approach to handle the matters of security.

"When LG Manoj Sinha took the security review, I said that time also that it has to be a holistic, inclusive approach like the state government and LG's office should work in tandem," he said. "On the contrary, things are going crossroads. I don't find a kind of a congenial environment between the two. It is not in the interest of people and the national interest," the Congress leader said.

"Instead of going for one-upmanship, national interest has to be kept paramount as we have very hostile neighbours," Karra added.



People from the Christian community offer flowers at a grave as they observe 'All Souls' Day', in Kolkata, West Bengal PTI PHOTO

WhatsApp bans over 85L accounts in Sept

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 2: Meta-owned WhatsApp banned more than 85 lakh "bad" accounts in India in the month of September for violating its policies.

Between September 1-September 30, the company banned 8,584,000 accounts and 1,658,000 of these accounts were proactively banned, before any reports from users, according to the social media platform's monthly compliance report under the new IT Rules 2021.

The popular mobile messaging platform, which has more than 600 million users in India, received 8,161 grievances from the country, and the records "actioned" were 97.

WhatsApp also received two orders from the Grievance Appellate Committee in the country and complied with both, according to its monthly compliance report.

"We will continue with transparency to our work and include information about our efforts in future reports," said the company.

Centre constitutes team to probe MP elephant deaths

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Union government has initiated an inquiry into the death of 10 elephants in the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh this week.

Four wild elephants were found dead in Sankhani and Bakeli under the Khitoli range of the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve October 29, with four more dying October 30 and two the next day. Preliminary reports from Madhya Pradesh officials suggest that the elephants may have died due to poisoning.

The Union Environment Ministry said in a statement that the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has set up a team to investigate the elephant deaths.

The Madhya Pradesh government has also formed a five-member committee, led by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), to look into the incident.

The head of the State Tiger Strike Force (STSF) is also investigating the matter. The STSF

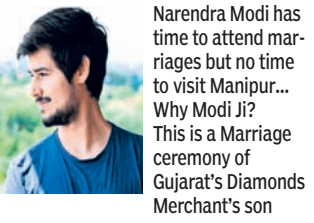
Four wild elephants were found dead in Sankhani and Bakeli under the Khitoli range of the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve October 29, with four more dying on October 30 and two the next day

Preliminary reports from Madhya Pradesh officials suggest that the elephants may have died due to poisoning

has been searching the forests and nearby villages and is conducting an in-depth inquiry into the incident, the statement said. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden of Madhya Pradesh is currently in Bandhavgarh to oversee the investigation and ensure that appropriate actions are taken.

The additional director general of forests (Project Tiger and Elephant), member secretary of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, and AIG NTCA, Nagpur, visited the sites to discuss with state officials the issues and causes of the elephant deaths.

XPOST OF THE DAY



Narendra Modi has time to attend marriages but no time to visit Manipur... Why Modi Ji? This is a Marriage ceremony of Gujarat's Diamonds Merchant's son

SHORT TAKES

Two Bangladeshis held in Meghalaya

Shillong: Meghalaya Police and BSF in a joint operation Saturday arrested two Bangladeshis from East Khasi Hills district for entering Indian territory without any valid travel document, officials said. Acting on intelligence inputs the BSF and Meghalaya Police jointly launched an operation and stopped a vehicle at Pynursia town about 50 km from the international border, they said. "During the search of the vehicle two Bangladeshis nationals and an Indian taxi driver, suspected of facilitating the crossing over of the two Bangladeshis, were apprehended, and the vehicle was seized," the BSF said in a statement.

Massive fire at factory in Alipur

New Delhi: A massive fire broke out in a fire in factory located in outer Delhi's Alipur area Saturday evening, an official said. A call regarding the fire at the factory in the Forni area of Alipur was received around 4 pm and 30 fire tenders were pressed into service, the Delhi Fire Service (DFS) official said. No one has been injured in the blaze and a dousing operation is underway, he said.

Siblings die of electrocution

Banda (UP): A 17-year-old girl and her younger brother died of electrocution while their mother suffered severe burn injuries after coming in contact with an inverter in Fatehpur district's Chandpur area, police said. Fatehpur Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Vijay Shankar Mishra said the deceased have been identified as Jyoti and her brother Shivkumar (13).

Woman forced to clean hosp bed after hubby's death

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Nov 2: Two officials associated with a hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Dindori district were suspended after a pregnant woman was forced to clean the blood-stained bed on which her husband succumbed to injuries, an official said Saturday.

The man had sustained severe wounds during a brutal attack on his family. The action (suspension of two officials) by Dindori district administration came hours after a video showing

the woman cleaning a bed surfaced on social media, creating outrage.

Medical officer Dr. Chandrashekar Singh, who was also in-charge of the primary health care in Gadasarai (from where the episode of woman cleaning bed was reported), has been transferred. The deceased was one of the three members of a family who were brutally attacked by a group of around 25 people following a long-standing



land dispute in Lalpur Sani village Thursday evening. The injured individuals were spotted in a field and were rushed to the hospital from there. Dharam Singh Marawi (65), and

MP SHOCKER

Around 98% schools have separate toilet facilities for girl students: Centre to SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Centre has informed the Supreme Court that more than 97.5 per cent schools in the country, including government, government-aided and private ones, have provided separate toilets facilities for girl students.

It has filed an affidavit in a pending PIL moved by Congress leader and social activist Jaya Thakur seeking directions to the Centre and states to provide free sanitary pads to girl students of Classes XI to XII and ensure separate toilet facilities in all government, government-aided and residential schools. The Centre has told the top court that states and Union territories, such as Delhi, Goa and Puducherry, have achieved 100 per cent targets and complied with the earlier orders of the court.

It has also informed the court that 16 lakh toilets for boys and 17.5 lakh toilets for girls have been constructed in more than 10 lakh government schools and 2.5 lakh toilets for boys and 2.9 lakh toilets



for girls have been made available in government-aided schools.

The Centre had pointed out that in West Bengal, separate toilet facilities have been provided for girl students in 99.9 per cent schools and in Uttar Pradesh, 98.8 per cent schools have separate facilities for girls.

The figure is 99.7 per cent in Tamil Nadu, 99.6 per cent in Kerala, 99.5 per cent in Sikkim, Gujarat, Punjab, 99.6 per cent in Chhattisgarh, 98.7 per cent in Karnataka, 98.6 per cent in Madhya Pradesh, 97.8 per cent in Maharashtra, 98 per cent in

Rajasthan, 98.5 per cent in Bihar and 96.1 per cent in Odisha, it has informed the court. The north-eastern states lag behind the national average of 98 per cent, the Centre has said, adding that even Jammu and Kashmir has provided separate toilet facilities for girls in 89.2 per cent schools.

The Centre July 8 informed the top court that a national policy on the distribution of menstrual hygiene products to adolescent schoolgoing girls is at an advanced stage of formulation. The public interest litigation (PIL) plea moved by Thakur has high-

The Centre has told the top court that states and Union territories, such as Delhi, Goa and Pondicherry, have achieved 100 per cent targets and complied with the earlier orders of the court

lighted the difficulties faced by adolescent girls from poor backgrounds in schools.

The Centre had earlier said it was in the process of collating all necessary material to form a national policy on the distribution of menstrual hygiene products to schoolgoing girls in terms of the court's orders dated April 10, 2023 and November 6, 2023.

The top court had directed the Centre to lay down a national model for building toilets commensurate with the number of girl students in all government-aided and residential schools across the country.

SANCTIONS ON INDIAN ENTITIES

We are in touch with US authorities: MEA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: In the wake of the US imposing sanctions on several individuals and entities, including from India, for allegedly supporting Russia's military-industrial base, the MEA Saturday said New Delhi is in touch with Washington to clarify issues.

Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, in response to a query during his weekly briefing, also said, its understanding is that the sanctioned transactions and companies are "not in violation of Indian laws".

"India has a robust legal and regulatory framework on strategic trade and non-proliferation controls. We are also a member of three key multilateral non-proliferation export control regimes - the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Australia Group and the Missile Technology and Control Regime, and have been effectively implementing relevant UNSC sanctions and UNSC Resolution 1540 on non-proliferation," he added.

However, in keeping with India's established non-proliferation credentials, "we are working with all relevant de-

partments and agencies" to sensitise Indian companies on applicable export control provisions and also inform them on new measures being implemented that could impact Indian companies in certain circumstances, he said.

The MEA spokesperson also said that regular strategic trade, export control outreach events for Indian industry and stakeholders are being carried out by agencies of the government of India.

The US has imposed sanctions on 275 individuals and entities, including 15 from India, for allegedly supporting Russia's military-industrial base. The US Department of Treasury said in a statement Thursday that companies from China, Switzerland, Thailand, and Türkiye have also been slapped with sanctions for supplying Russia with advanced technology and equipment that it desperately needs to support its war machine. In addition to disrupting global evasion networks, this action also targets domestic Russian importers and producers of key inputs and other material for Russia's military-industrial base, the statement said.

international



America deserves better than what Donald Trump is offering. America deserves a president who understands our role and responsibility to our people and to the rest of the world to be a model
KAMALA HARRIS | VICE PRESIDENT, US

ANCIENT TOMB UNEARTHED

Archeologists from Egypt and the United States unearthed an ancient tomb with 11 sealed burials near the famed city of Luxor, Egyptian authorities said. Egypt's Tourism and Antiquities Ministry said the tomb, which dates back to the Middle Kingdom, was found in the South Asasif necropolis, next to the Temple of Hatshepsut on the Nile's West Bank in Luxor



of the day quote

The first thousands of soldiers from North Korea are near the Ukrainian border. Ukrainians will be forced to defend themselves against them. And the world will watch again
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

Just as we cannot tax and spend our way to prosperity, nor can we simply spend our way to better public services
KEIR STARMER | PM, BRITAIN

Diwali is a reminder of the many ways Americans of South Asian descent have enriched the United States
ANTONY BLINKEN | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

SHORT TAKES

Gunman turns Halloween tragic

Orlando: A gunman who opened fire during a Halloween street celebration that drew thousands of costumed revelers to downtown Orlando killed two people and wounded six others early Friday, authorities said. Officers quickly arrested a 17-year-old male suspect, the city's police Chief Eric Smith said during a briefing. Authorities have not yet determined a motive. The shooter fired in the city's downtown bar and restaurant district around 1 am. Officers responded as costumed celebrants fled on foot, and the same gunman then fired again about a block away, Smith said. The six wounded, who range in age from 19 to 39, were taken to a hospital and were in stable condition, Smith said.

29 Nigerian kids face death trial

Abuja: Twenty-nine children could be facing the death penalty in Nigeria after they were arraigned Friday for participating in a protest against the country's record cost-of-living crisis. Four of them collapsed in court due to exhaustion before they could enter a plea. A total of 76 protesters were charged with 10 felony counts, including treason, destruction of property, public disturbance and mutiny, according to the charge sheet seen by The Associated Press. According to the charge sheet, the minors ranged in age from 14 to 17 years old. Frustration over the cost-of-living crisis has led to several mass protests in recent months. In August, at least 20 people were shot dead and hundreds more were arrested at a protest demanding better opportunities and jobs for young people. The death sentence was introduced in the 1970s in Nigeria, but there have been no executions in the country since 2016.

Pak offers free visas for Sikhs

Islamabad: Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that Sikh pilgrims from the US, UK and Canada will receive free online visas within 30 minutes upon arrival in the country to pay respect to their religious sites. Naqvi's remarks came as he met with a 44-member foreign delegation of Sikh pilgrims in Lahore Thursday. The minister warmly welcomed the Sikh pilgrims to Pakistan. He acknowledged that the Sikh pilgrims faced difficulties while visiting Pakistan in the past, according to a statement by the Ministry of Interior. Naqvi announced that the government has made the visa process easier for Sikhs by making it online.

MIDDLE EAST BURNING

Khamenei warns Israel, US

Any further attacks from either side could engulf the wider Middle East, already teetering over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip and Israel's ground invasion of Lebanon, into a wider regional conflict just ahead of the US presidential election this Tuesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, Nov 2: Iran's supreme leader Saturday threatened Israel and the US with "a crushing response" over attacks on Iran and its allies.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei spoke as Iranian officials are increasingly threatening to launch yet another strike against Israel after its October 26 attack on the Islamic Republic that targeted military bases and other locations and killed at least five people.

"The enemies, whether the Zionist regime or the United States of America, will definitely receive a crushing response to what they are doing to the resistance front," Khamenei said in video released by Iranian state media.

The supreme leader did not elaborate on the timing of the threatened attack, nor the scope. The US military operates on bases throughout the Middle East, with some troops now manning a Terminal High Altitude Area Defence, or THAAD, battery in Israel.

The 85-year-old Khamenei had struck a more cautious approach in earlier remarks, saying officials would weigh Iran's response and that Israel's attack "should not be exaggerated nor downplayed." Iran has launched two major direct attacks on Israel, in April and October.

But efforts by Iran to downplay the Israeli attack faltered as satellite photos analysed by The Associated Press showed damage to military bases near Tehran linked to the country's ballistic missile programme, as well as at a Revolutionary



Guard base used in satellite launches.

Iran's allies, called the "Axis of Resistance" by Tehran, also have been severely hurt by ongoing Israeli attacks, particularly Lebanon's Hezbollah and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Iran long has used those groups as both an asymmetrical way to attack Israel and as a shield against a direct assault. Some analysts believe those groups want Iran to do more to back them militarily.

Iran, however, has been dealing with its own problems at home, as its economy struggles under the weight of international sanctions and it has faced years of widespread, multiple protests. After Khamenei's

speech, the Iranian rial fell to 691,500 against the dollar, near an all-time low. It had been 32,000 rials to the dollar when Tehran reached its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

General Mohammad Ali Naini, a spokesman for Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard which controls the ballistic missiles needed to target Israel, gave an interview published by the semi-official Fars news agency just before Khamenei's remarks were released. In it, he warned Iran's response "will be wise, powerful and beyond the enemy's comprehension."

"The leaders of the Zionist regime should look out from the windows of their bedrooms

The enemies, whether the Zionist regime or the United States of America, will definitely receive a crushing response to what they are doing to Iran and the Iranian nation and to the resistance front
AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI | SUPREME LEADER, IRAN

and protect their criminal pilots within their small territory," he warned. **Iran-US old wounds**

Khamenei Saturday met with university students to mark Students Day, which commemorates a November 4, 1978, incident in which Iranian soldiers opened fire on students protesting the rule of the shah at Tehran University. The shooting killed and wounded several students and further escalated the ten-

sions consuming Iran at the time that eventually led to the shah fleeing the country and the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The crowd offered a raucous welcome to Khamenei, chanting: "The blood in our veins is a gift to our leader!" Some also made a hand gesture — similar to a "timeout" signal — given by the slain Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in 2020 in a speech in which he threatened that American troops who arrived in the Mideast standing up would "return in coffins" horizontally.

Iran will mark the 45th anniversary of the US Embassy hostage crisis this Sunday, following the Persian calendar. The November 4, 1979, storming of the embassy by Islamist students led to the 444-day crisis, which cemented the decades-long enmity between Tehran and Washington that persists today.

US bolsters ME presence

WASHINGTON: Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin is sending additional bomber aircraft and Navy warships to the Middle East to bolster the US presence in the region as an aircraft carrier and its warships are preparing to leave, US officials said Friday. Austin ordered several B-52 Stratofortress bomber aircraft, tanker aircraft and Navy destroyers to deploy to the Middle East, according to four US and defense officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss troop movements. The moves come at a critical time as Israel's wars with Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon rage, even as officials press for a cease-fire. The US has repeatedly said it will defend Israel and continue to protect American and allied presence in the region, including from Yemen-based Houthi attacks against ships in the Red Sea. The long-range nuclear-capable B-52 bomber has been repeatedly deployed to the Middle East in pointed warnings to Iran and it is the second time this month that strategic US bombers will be used to bolster its defenses in the region. Earlier this month, B-2 stealth bombers were used to strike underground Houthi targets in Yemen. Officials did not provide specific number of aircraft and ships that will move into the region. There have been as many as 43,000 US forces in the region recently.

Badenoch new leader of Conservatives

SHE BECOMES UK CONSERVATIVES' FIFTH LEADER SINCE MID-2016

REUTERS

London, Nov 2: Kemi Badenoch won a race Saturday to become the new leader of Britain's Conservative Party, vowing to return the once dominant party to its founding principles to win back voters who handed the Conservatives their worst election defeat in July.

Badenoch, 44, replaces former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and has pledged to lead the party through a period of renewal, saying it had veered towards the political centre by "governing from the left" and must return to its traditional ideas.

The first Black woman leader of a major political party in Britain, Badenoch will bring a right-wing tone to the role, likely to back policies to shrink the state and challenge what she says is institutional left-wing



thinking. "The time has come to tell the truth," she told an audience at the final count of a months-long leadership contest, promising to answer the main questions over how the Conservatives lost the July election so badly. "It is time to get down to business, it is time to renew."

Badenoch becomes the Conservatives' fifth leader since mid-2016 after 53,806 party members voted in favour of her over a former immigration minister, Robert Jenrick, in the final

The time has come to tell the truth
KEMI BADENOCH | LEADER OF CONSERVATIVES, UK

stage in a long contest that saw a field of six whittled down to two. Jenrick won 41,388 votes.

With forthright views on everything from what she calls identity politics to the value of officials, Badenoch attracts both strong admirers and detractors. She is certain to shake up the Conservatives, who saw their contingent of lawmakers in the 650-seat parliament fall in July to 121 from 365 seats in 2019.

With the Labour government off to a bumpy start following the party's landslide election, some Conservatives are increasingly optimistic that they could win back power at the next election, which has to be held in 2029.

iPhones to detect throat cancer in UK

The innovative adapter providing a 32mm lens and accompanying app can turn an iPhone into a portable diagnostic gadget to be used by nurses to detect or rule out throat cancer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 2: The UK's National Health Service (NHS) Saturday claimed that thousands of patients could receive the all-clear for suspected throat cancer faster as a result of a new iPhone device and app piloted at some of its hospitals.

The innovative adapter providing a 32mm lens and accompanying app can turn an iPhone into a portable diagnostic gadget to be used by nurses to detect or rule out throat cancer.

The device captures live endoscopy examinations of the



throat in high definition (HD), which can then be instantly shared with specialist head and neck consultants via a secure data cloud. A consultant then reviews the video footage and can rapidly detect any traces of cancer reporting this back directly to the patient.

"Detecting cancer early is key to providing treatment as soon as possible to help give patients the best chance of survival. For

those needing tests to investigate suspected cancer, it can be an extremely worrying time.

"And being able to rule out the disease sooner can make a huge difference for people and their families," said Dr Cally Palmer, NHS England National Cancer Director.

"Through pioneering new innovations like this iPhone device, which could be used in any setting, we hope we'll be able to

This new technology is a shining example of how innovation and research can tackle waiting lists, improve patient experience and speed up diagnosis
KARIN SMYTH | MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH, UK

detect many more cancers sooner and in ways that are more convenient and less invasive for patients," she said.

An initial trial on triaged low-risk patients at North Midlands University Hospitals NHS Trust in England found that no cancers were missed using this device with patients receiving their results within 23 hours of the test taking place.

With the technology being rolled out across the West Midlands initially, NHS England says this "pioneering" gadget could be used in any NHS setting, helping to free up time and resources in hospitals for cancer patients and reduce waiting times for treatment.



Police launch tear gas to disperse supporters of former President Evo Morales who have been blocking roads for days to prevent him from facing a criminal investigation over allegations of abuse of a minor while he was in office, in Parotani, Bolivia

16th UN nature conference ends sans finance pact

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: The 16th UN biodiversity conference concluded in Colombia's Cali Saturday, running 12 hours past its scheduled end and without an agreement on increasing biodiversity-protection funding.

The conference, the largest of its kind to date, did yield an important agreement to establish a subsidiary body that will include indigenous peoples in future discussions and decisions on biodiversity conservation.

The participating countries also agreed to establish a new global fund dedicated to sharing the benefits of digitally-sequenced genetic data taken from plants and animals with the communities they come from.

COP16 aimed at assessing the progress on the agreement reached in 2022 in Canada to halt biodiversity loss, with more funding for biodiversity protection being a central issue.

Observers noted a clear divide between the Global North and Global South during the talks.

Wealthier nations were hesitant to increase funding, while developing countries argued that they cannot enhance their efforts without additional financial support.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), adopted at COP15 in Canada in 2022, set 23 targets to be achieved by 2030, including placing 30 per cent of land and sea areas under protection and restoring 30 per cent of degraded ecosystems.

The conference also saw several mega-diverse countries, including India, Peru and Thailand, submitting their action plans to protect biodiversity. However, 150 countries, including Brazil, are yet to publish their biodiversity plans.

US PREZ POLLS

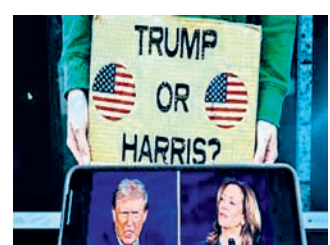
Big blow for Harris

Chunk of traditional Democratic Indian-Americans, Muslim voters in Michigan swing to Trump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Detroit, Nov 2: A section of Indian-Americans, Muslims, and African-Americans in the battleground state of Michigan, who traditionally supported Democratic candidates in previous elections, have shifted their support towards Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump — a move that could significantly impact the results of the November 5 US election.

Michigan is one of the seven battleground states in the 2024 elections with a razor-thin margin of victory expected. As the auto capital of the world, Detroit drives Michigan's economy, gen-



erating numerous jobs in the manufacturing sector, particularly in the automotive industry. The state's strong working-class presence and robust labour unions add to its significance in the electoral landscape.

Michigan boasts of a significant Muslim population and several Congressional districts predominantly represented by African Americans. Detroit, in particular, is home to a rapidly growing Indian American community, evident in the increasing number of temples, restaurants, and grocery stores catering to this population over the past decade.

Business



“We ensured the price of petrol and diesel did not rise even when the international benchmark went up by 40-70% compared to Congress-led UPA-II government when because of their folly of floating oil bonds worth Rs 1.41 lakh crores, the country is being forced to pay back Rs 3.2 lakh crores in return”
HARDEEP SINGH PURI | OIL MINISTER

DIGITAL LIFE CERTIFICATES

More than 1.8 lakh pensioners generated their digital life certificates on the very first day, even as the government rolled out the largest-ever campaign, the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions said



of the day quote

“The aspirations of Indian consumers are evolving rapidly, and we see incredible opportunities to bring in products that blend Yamaha’s global expertise with the unique needs and desires of Indian riders”
ITARU OTANI, CHAIRMAN | INDIA YAMAHA MOTOR



“The festive sales momentum in October with Navratri, Durga Puja, Dussehra, Dhanteras and Diwali celebrated in the same month contributed strongly to the customer deliveries at the dealerships. It surely revitalised demand compared to the previous few months of muted activity for the industry”
KUNAL BEHL | HONDA CARS INDIA VICE PRESIDENT



“We witnessed a strong demand for our SUV portfolio during festive period, leading to our highest-ever monthly SUV sales at 37,902 units, including the highest-ever monthly domestic sales of the Hyundai CRETA at 17,497 units”
TARUN GARG | HMIIL CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



IMF sees India driving growth in Asia-Pacific

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 2: India remains the world’s fastest-growing economy with investment and private consumption driving growth, according to the IMF’s latest Regional Economic Outlook for Asia-Pacific.

The IMF, in its World Economic Outlook report released October 2, had retained India’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecasts at a robust 7 per cent and 6.5 per cent for FY25 and FY26, respectively.

While growth in Asia is expected to slow down in 2024 and 2025 — reflecting fading support from the pandemic recovery and factors like ageing — short-term prospects were more favourable than expected in April, the regional economic outlook report said.

IMF said that the growth for the Asia Pacific region in 2024 has been revised up marginally by 0.1 percentage point to 4.6 per cent, primarily reflecting the robust performance early in the year. With this, the Asia and Pacific region are expected to contribute roughly 60 per cent to global growth this year.

However, “the outlook is subject to sizable economic and geopolitical uncertainties,” the



report states.

A blog post released by IMF along with the regional outlook report stated that while manufacturing has been the driver of growth in Asia, a transition to modern, tradable services could be a new source of growth and productivity.

It said that the growth of services has already drawn about half of the region’s workers into the sector, up from just 22 per cent in 1990, as hundreds of millions moved from farms and factories.

“This shift is likely to accelerate with further expansion of international trade in modern services such as finance, information, and communication technology, as well as business

outsourcing, for example, as already done in India and the Philippines,” the blog post said.

In 2025, more accommodative monetary conditions are expected to support activity, resulting in a slight upward growth revision to 4.4 per cent from 4.3 per cent in April. Inflation has retreated in much of the region. At the same time, risks have increased, reflecting rising geopolitical tensions, uncertainty about the strength of global demand, and potential for financial volatility. Demographic change will act increasingly as a brake on activity, though structural shifts into high-productivity sectors such as tradable services hold promise to sustain robust growth, the report added.

Warren Buffett sitting on \$325 billion cash

Berkshire Hathaway sold off more Apple shares in the third quarter after halving its massive investment in the iPhone maker last quarter

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Omaha, Nov 2: Warren Buffett is now sitting on more than USD 325 billion cash after continuing to unload billions of dollars worth of Apple and Bank of America shares this year and continuing to collect a steady stream of profits from all of Berkshire Hathaway’s assorted businesses without finding any major acquisitions.

Berkshire said it sold off more Apple shares in the third quarter after halving its massive investment in the iPhone maker last quarter. The stake valued at USD 69.9 billion at the end of September remains Berkshire’s biggest single investment, but it has been cut drastically since the end of last year when it was worth USD 174.3 billion.

Berkshire said Saturday that investment gains again drove its third quarter profits skyward to USD 26.25 bil-



lion, or USD 18,272 per Class A share. A year ago, unrealised paper investment losses dragged the Omaha, Nebraska-based conglomerate’s earnings down to a loss of USD 12.77 billion, or USD 8,824 per Class A share.

Buffett has long recommended that investors pay more attention to Berkshire’s operating earnings if they want to get a good sense of how the businesses it owns are doing because those numbers exclude investments. Berkshire’s bottom-line profit figures can vary widely from quarter to quarter along with the value of its investments regardless of whether the company bought or sold anything.

By that measure, Berkshire said its operating earnings were only down about 6% at USD 10.09 billion, or USD

7,023.01 per Class A share. That compares to last year’s USD 10.8 billion, or USD 7,437.15 per Class A share.

The four analysts surveyed by FactSet Research predicted that Berkshire would report operating earnings of USD 7,335.11 per Class A share.

Berkshire’s revenue didn’t change much at USD 92.995 billion. A year ago, it reported USD 93.21 billion revenue. That number was ahead of the USD 92.231 billion revenue that three analysts surveyed by FactSet predicted.

Berkshire owns an assortment of insurance businesses, including Geico, along with BNSF railroad, several major utilities and a varied collection of retail and manufacturing businesses, including brands like Dairy Queen and See’s Candy.

SHORT TAKES

CIL steps into 50th year

New Delhi: State-owned Coal India Limited (CIL) stepped into its 50th year of inception, recording a spectacular 8.7-fold growth in production from 89 million tonne (MT) during 1975-76, to a massive 773.6 MT output in the FY 2024. With 80 per cent of its entire supplies directed to coal-based power plants at highly competitive rates, CIL plays a key role in enabling citizens to get power at a just price. Congratulating the coal giant, Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy said, “As Coal India enters into its Golden Jubilee Year with many milestones under its belt, I convey my best wishes to the company. Coal is yet to peak to its full potential in India.”

Hero MotoCorp sales rise 18% in Oct

New Delhi: Hero MotoCorp said its overall sales increased by 18 per cent year-on-year to 6,79,091 units in October. The country’s largest two-wheeler maker has sold 5,74,930 units in October 2023. Domestic dispatches to dealers rose to 6,57,403 units compared to 5,59,766 units in the year-ago period, the company said in a statement. The company’s exports rose to 21,688 units last month from 15,164 units in the year-ago period, it added. This significant growth was primarily driven by robust demand from key urban and rural areas, particularly in the 100cc and 125cc segments during the festive period, the company said.

Amazon India logs highest-ever visits

New Delhi: In a perfect example of growing rural consumption, Amazon India on Saturday said it witnessed highest-ever 140 crore customer visits during its month-long festive sales, with more than 85 per cent of them coming from non-metro cities. Almost 70 per cent of participating sellers hailed from tier 2 and beyond cities, and the e-commerce giant also witnessed highest-ever number of sellers (from tier 2 and 3 cities) receiving a sale compared to the festive season last year.

DIIIs hold market steady amid massive FIIs’ selloff



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 2: Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) sold a whopping ₹113,858 crore worth of equity in the Indian stock market in the month of October, contributing hugely to the about 8 per cent decline in benchmark indices from the peak.

Despite the massive FII selling in financials, the market is resilient since the valuations are fair and every selling is being absorbed by domestic institutional investors (DIIIs) and individual investors, particularly high-net-worth individuals (HNIs).

According to market watchers, the FII selling through the exchanges in October is the single-highest absolute selling ever in a month by them.

However, FIIs were buyers in the primary market with an

investment of ₹19,842 crores in October. Market experts said that the rally in Chinese stocks appears to have tapered off as reflected in the declining trend in Shanghai and Hang Seng indices in recent days. Global markets will respond to the US presidential elections for a few days, after which fundamentals like US GDP growth, inflation and rate cut by the Fed will influence market moves, said experts.

Meanwhile, in a new monthly record, DIIIs infused more than ₹1 lakh crore in Indian equities in October, keeping the stock market healthy compared to its global peers. So far, the DII investments have been more than ₹4.1 lakh crore, with two more months to go, driven by growing retail participation through mutual funds.

ADB lauds India’s fossil fuel subsidy reforms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: India has since 2010 made noteworthy progress on fossil fuel subsidy reform through a calibrated ‘remove’, ‘target’, and ‘shift’ approach, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a new report.

“By carefully balancing the combined effect of three key policy levers - retail prices, tax rates, and subsidies on selected petroleum products - the country was able to reduce its fiscal subsidy in the oil and gas sector by 85 per cent, from an unsustainable peak of USD 25 billion in 2013 to USD 3.5 billion in 2023,” it said.

In its ‘Asia-Pacific Climate Report’, ADB said India gradually phased out the subsidy on petrol and diesel (from 2010 to 2014) and carried out incremental tax increases (from 2010 to 2017), which created fiscal space to increase government support for renewable energy, electric vehicles, and strengthening of electricity infrastructure.

“The additional tax revenues from increases in excise duty on petrol and diesel from 2014 to 2017, a period of low international crude oil prices, were also redirected to improve access and target subsidies for expanding the use of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) among the rural poor,” it said.



Subsidies for LPG have since grown and “may now require efforts to improve targeting and to incubate non-fossil-fuel cooking alternatives,” it said.

From 2010 to 2017, Government of India introduced a cess (tax) on coal production and imports. Around 30 per cent of the cess collections were channelled to a national clean energy and environment fund that supported clean energy projects and research.

ADB said the cess significantly contributed to strengthening

the budget of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy during 2010-2017 and provided the initial funds for the country’s Green Energy Corridor scheme and its National Solar Mission, which helped bring down the cost of utility-scale solar energy and fund many off-grid renewable energy solutions.

“However, with the introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India after 2017, the cess on coal production and imports was subsumed within the country’s GST compensation cess, the flows of which

were redirected to compensate states for revenue losses associated with the new tax regime,” it said.

As a result of India’s subsidy reforms and taxation measures, the country’s fossil fuel subsidies plummeted from 2014 to 2018.

“Its renewable energy subsidies also reached a peak in 2017 but are now once again growing, with major support schemes targeting solar parks, state-owned enterprises, and distributed renewable energy,” the report said.

Defence exports to touch ₹50K cr in 2029-30: Rajnath

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kanpur, Nov 2: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Saturday said that India’s Aatmanirbhar drive was “yielding the desired results” and the country was poised to reach ₹50,000 crore in defence exports by 2029-30.

Addressing the 65th Foundation Day celebrations at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, the Defence Minister called upon Indian youth to indigenously develop high-end technologies, which the country imports, to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of ‘Viksit Bharat’.

He stressed on the need to get a hold on high-end technology, urging the young ignited minds to realise their potential and contribute to the country’s progress. He termed institutions like IIT Kanpur as academic engines, which can provide dynamism to India in

the present competitive environment.

Singh said that the government’s efforts to achieve self-reliance are turning out to be highly successful as defence exports, which were around just ₹600 crore 10 years ago, crossed a record number of ₹21,000 crore in financial year 2023-24. He exuded confidence that the progress will continue and defence exports will reach ₹50,000 crore by 2029-30.

Highlighting the increasing role of technology in the defence ecosystem across the globe amidst ongoing conflicts, the Defence Minister said that the use of drones, laser warfare, cyber warfare, precision guided missiles and hypersonic missiles has transformed warfare into a technology-oriented one.

“The biggest hurdle in achieving ‘Aatmanirbharta’ in defence is that we are compelled to import some high-end



technologies necessary for our items. There is a need to focus on the defence application of modern cutting-edge technologies in view of the changing

nature of warfare,” he added. Singh assured the government’s full support in this endeavour and reiterated the commitment to take all stake-

holders, including the private sector and academia, together to make India self-reliant in defence.

“India has dreamed of becom-

ing a developed nation by 2047 on the strength of our youth. We must put in all our power to realise that dream. There is a proverb, ‘If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together’. We need to walk together to achieve our target,” he said.

Enumerating the steps taken by the government to promote self-reliance and innovation in defence, Rajnath Singh spoke about the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative which provides a grant of ₹1.5 crore to innovators and start-ups.

He added that Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITT) scheme was launched to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies, wherein start-ups are eligible to receive grant-in-aid of up to ₹25 crore for their research, development, and innovation endeavours in defence technology.

India take command back

OFC'S AWAY WIN HUNT CONTINUES

Spinners' impressive show, time for batters to salvage Test pride

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 2: Exploiting the spin-friendly conditions, Ravindra Jadeja and R Ashwin chiselled through the New Zealand batting line-up to bring India to a stage from where they can force a face-saving victory in the third Test which is now headed for an intriguing finish.

New Zealand ended day two at 171 for nine with an overall lead of 143, which might look small but even a target in the vicinity of 150 will pose serious challenge for the Indian batters, considering the fast deteriorating Wankhede track.

This was after half-centuries from Shubman Gill (90) and Rishabh Pant (60) and a crucial 38 not out from Washington Sundar gave India a slender 28-run lead as they put on board 263.

A total of 15 wickets fell on the second day, underlining the fact that life won't be easy for the hosts while batting fourth.

Ashwin (3/63) found his rhythm while Jadeja (4/52) added four more dismissals after his 5/65 in the first essay to keep India's hopes alive to avert a clean sweep at home for the first



Yes, definitely it's one of my better knocks that I've played in Test cricket. In lead up to this Test, it was all about me working on the areas that I've worked before the England series that we played



SHUBMAN GILL

time. Ajaz Patel (7) was at the crease when Jadeja cleaned up

Matt Henry (10) for the penultimate wicket on the final ball on the second day.

Will Young's gutsy 51 was the only resistance from the Kiwis who succumbed to pressure, after Patel (5/103) recorded yet another five-wicket haul.

Having made a subdued impact so far, Ashwin's delight on getting Rachin Ravindra (4) stumped was evident as he beat the charge of the batter with bounce and turn.

With Glenn Phillips (26) using the long handle to a good effect, Ashwin cleaned up the New Zealand batter for another crucial breakthrough.

Young, who batted as solid as he did in the first innings, was

Ashwin's third victim giving the bowler catching practice after being outfoxed on a carrom ball.

The 37-year-old Ashwin made impact beyond his bowling when he took an outstanding catch to end a stubborn 50-run association between Young and Daryl Mitchell (21), who, for a passage of play, threatened to take the game away.

Young and Mitchell had steadied the ship after New Zealand's top-order was blown away, but the latter's charge against Jadeja proved costly as he did not get the distance in his stroke.

From mid-off, Ashwin covered 19 metres running side-ways to his left and put in a fabulous dive to complete the dismissal, post which New Zealand crumbled further.

Tom Blundell (4) chopped one onto his stumps off Jadeja while Ashwin cleaned up Phillips,

who had switched to aggressive batting knowing New Zealand desperately needed more runs.

At the start of Kiwis' reply, Akash provided a rare sight of a pacer disturbing a batter's furniture on turning track when he dismantled Tom Latham's (1) off and middle stumps in the first over.

Earlier, India's progress suffered a severe blow with the exit of Pant towards the end of the morning session, as its effects were felt acutely when play resumed post lunch.

BRIEF SCORES
New Zealand: 235 all out and 171 for 9 in 43.3 overs (Will Young 51; Ravindra Jadeja 4/52, Ravichandran Ashwin 3/63).
India: 263 all out in 59.4 overs (Shubman Gill 90, Rishabh Pant 60; Ajaz Patel 5/103).

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: After a determined draw against Mumbai City FC, the Kalinga Warriors now travel to Guwahati to face NorthEast United FC Sunday.

Odisha FC has shown resilience and form, riding on the momentum after their recent 2-1 home victory over East Bengal FC and a hard-fought draw in Mumbai. An 80th-minute red card for Ahmed Jahouh against Mumbai left the team with ten men, but they stood firm under pressure.

Goalkeeper Amrinder pulled off a crucial save, while Carlos Delgado's defensive header showcased Odisha's commitment. In the match against East Bengal, Isak's incisive pass set up Roy Krishna, who calmly slotted the ball past Gill, putting Odisha in the lead. Jahouh's pinpoint free-kick then found Fall, who doubled the advantage with a strong header.

Odisha FC will be without Head Coach Sergio Lobera, who is suspended for this match, along with their influential midfielder Ahmed Jahouh due to red card. Assistant Coach Anthony Fernandes, who will step in for this fixture, expressed confidence in the squad's ability to adjust.

Assistant Coach Anthony Fernandes and forward Rahim Ali addressed the media in the pre-match press conference.

When asked about Hugo's availability, Coach Fernandes explained that Hugo has resumed full training and responded well to recent medical evaluations. With one more training session scheduled before the match, the decision on his involvement will be made soon. Coach Anthony conveyed optimism, noting that Hugo's progress has been promising.

Regarding NorthEast United's form and the challenge posed by the league's top scorer, Ajaraie, Coach Anthony

acknowledged the quality and momentum of the opposition. He pointed out that while Ajaraie is a significant threat, NorthEast United's success comes from cohesive teamwork, with players like Chretien also adding to their offensive strength. Rather than focusing on a single player, Odisha FC's strategy has been to prepare a team-wide tactical approach to counter NorthEast's collective strength, highlighting defensive discipline and structured plays to break down their attack.

On the topic of Odisha FC's finishing, Rahim Ali acknowledged that converting chances has been a recent struggle. The team has been training rigorously to improve composure and accuracy in front of goal. He mentioned that the squad is focused on hitting the target more consistently, which he believes will soon translate into more goals.

NorthEast United FC has emerged a much-improved team this season, coming off a commanding 5-0 victory over Jamshedpur FC. Their offensive strength, led by Ajaraie — currently the league's top scorer — poses a serious threat.

The highly anticipated match kicks off at 5:00 PM. The game will be live on Sports18 and Jio Cinema.



SHORT TAKES

Anas hangs boots

Malappuram: Former Indian defender Anas Edathodika has announced his retirement from professional football, drawing curtains on his 17-year senior professional career. The 37-year-old has represented India on 21 occasions, besides featuring in 172 competitive club encounters. Taking to his social media handles Saturday, Edathodika shared an emotional video of his accolades, besides penning a passionate note. "It's time to hang up my boots and say farewell to professional football. From the fields of Malappuram to stadiums across India, this journey has been a dream come true," he noted.

37 in an over: Bopara hammers Uthappa

New Delhi: Former England all-rounder Ravi Bopara broke the internet as he did the unthinkable by hitting 6 consecutive sixes in an over. Taking on Robin Uthappa's India in the Hong Kong Sixes tournament, Bopara went hammer and tongs against none other than the opponent team's skipper. Uthappa went on to concede a whopping 37 runs in an over, conceding 6 sixes and a wide in the 6 legal deliveries that he bowled. In the process, Bopara went on to complete his half-century in just 14 balls. Bopara hit sixes to Uthappa on the first 5 deliveries of the over before the Indian delivered a wide on the 6th. On the 7th delivery of the over, Bopara hit another maximum to fetch a total of 37 runs from the over.

Boxers shine at U19 World Boxing C'ships

New Delhi: Young Indian boxer Krishna Verma won the gold in the women's 75kg category while five other signed off with silver medals at the inaugural U-19 World Championships organised by World Boxing in Colorado, USA. While Krishna notched up a unanimous 5-0 decision over Germany's Simon Lerika in the 75kg summit clash. Chanchal Chaudhary (women's 48kg), Anjali Kumari Singh (women's 57kg), Vini (women's 60kg), Akanksha Phalasalwal (women's 70kg) and Rahul Kundu (men's 75kg) lost their respective finals. The tournament is World Boxing's first global event.

Task cut out for India A as Australia A eye victory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mackay (Australia), Nov 2: India A's first-innings batting collapse came back to haunt them as Australia A nosed ahead of the visitors after being set a target of 225 on the third day of the first 'Unofficial Test' here Saturday.

The home team was 139 for three at stumps, needing another 86 runs for victory as the Indian bowlers could not get enough wickets to put pressure on the Australians in their second essay.

Skipper Nathan McSweeney and Beau Webster were batting on 47 and 19, respectively, at the close of play.

McSweeney, one of the top contenders to bag the vacant opener's slot in the Australian team for the marquee Test series



against India, forged an unbroken partnership of 54 runs for the fourth wicket along with Webster after Australia A slipped to 85 for three.

India were all out for 312 in their second innings, a far better batting display than their forgettable outing on the first day, when they crumbled for 107.

Resuming the day on 96, Sai Sudharsan (103) duly completed his century but Devdutt Padikkal fell for 88, adding only eight runs to his overnight total of 80 after having stitched a partnership of 196 runs for the third wicket with the former.

India started the day on 208 for two. The Australian bowlers, led by pacer Fergus O'Neill (4/55) and off-spinner Todd Murphy (3/77), fought back by taking the two big wickets in quick succession and after that, the visiting batters did not show enough application to stretch their lead.

Sudharsan was the first to go, after attempting an expansive cover drive off the bowling of Murphy. Padikkal was trapped in front of the wicket by Murphy 13 balls later after the batter went on the backfoot to tackle the off-spinner.

ZVEREV STORMS INTO PARIS MASTERS FINAL



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Nov 2: Alexander Zverev reached the Paris Masters final for the second time after beating former champion Holger Rune 6-3, 7-6 (4) Saturday.

Zverev, a runner-up here in 2020, next plays 2018 champion Karen Khachanov or 15th-seeded Frenchman Ugo Humbert.

Rune saved a match point with a brilliant cross-court forehand winner, but the third-seeded Zverev held his nerve on the next with a crisp backhand volley at the net.

Zverev was mostly in control against Rune in their fourth ca-

reer meeting and first on indoor hard courts. The French Open runner-up improved to 3-1 overall against his rival, who won the Paris Masters in 2022 by stunning Novak Djokovic in the final.

Rune saved a break point in his opening service game as he struggled from the back of the court. Zverev broke him in the fourth game when Rune's two-handed backhand went out, and he held serve for a 4-1 lead in a commanding first set, clinching it when his opponent returned long.

A long 11th game saw both players miss chances and it went

Bopanna-Ebden pair bows out

Veteran Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden made a quarterfinal exit from the Paris Masters after suffering a hard-fought defeat in the men's doubles contest here. The third seeded Indo-Australian duo toiled for one hour 46 minutes before going down 6-7, 5-7 to the Dutch-Croatian combo of Wesley Koolhof and Nikola Pietrangeli at the ATP 1000 event on Friday. Earlier this week, Bopanna and Ebden had clinched a spot in the prestigious season-ending ATP Finals.



to a sixth deuce before Rune finally won it with a backhand volley at the net.

The big-serving German is bidding for his second title of the year and 23rd overall.

F1 braces for more Verstappen-Norris drama

New elements could spice up the clash between the drivers, who have received penalties in the past two races in Austin, Texas and Mexico for their boldness on the track



McLaren driver Lando Norris won Saturday's F1 sprint race at the Brazilian Grand Prix to cut his deficit to championship leader Max Verstappen

rain is expected all weekend, and Verstappen received a five-place penalty on the grid after he and Red Bull decided to use a new engine.

Friday's free practice was not a good omen for Verstappen; he finished 15th, more than one second behind Norris, who clocked the best lap in his

McLaren. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who also has a shot at the title, was sixth.

The sprint race qualifier in the afternoon was better for Verstappen; he was fourth but almost one second behind leader and Norris teammate Oscar Piastri. Norris was second.

Saturday will feature the penultimate sprint race of the season and a tribute to three-time world champion Ayrton Senna, who died 30 years ago. Seven-time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton will drive a McLaren once steered by Senna in front of 60,000 fans.

Norris closed the gap on Verstappen to 47 points in Mexico after a furious encounter that caused penalties to the Dutchman amounting to 20 seconds. The British driver was penalized in the previous race at the US Grand Prix as he battled the defending champion.

The Monegasque driver also had to face the stewards in Brazil

“We want to do well, but of course it also needs to be possible. We still have a good lead. I just try to enjoy the moment, try to just always optimize the performance”

MAX VERSTAPPEN

for swearing in a press conference after the Mexican GP last weekend. He was fined 10,000 euros (almost \$11,000), of which half is suspended as long as there is no further breach of a similar nature within the next 12 months.

“During the hearing Leclerc expressed his regret for his momentary lack of judgment and shared that he understood his responsibility as a role model for the sport,” the stewards’ decision said.

Verstappen was punished with one day of community service for the same reason during the Singapore GP.

AFC ‘recognised’ club’s decision to forego match in Iran: Mohun Bagan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 2: Mohun Bagan Super Giant Saturday said the Asian Football Confederation has “recognized” the top Indian club’s pullout from their AFC Champions League 2 match in Iran last month as a case of force majeure.

Keeping the players’ “safety and security” in mind, Mohun Bagan SG last month decided to forego their October 2 match against Tractor FC in Iran due to the volatile situation prevailing in the West Asian nation at the time.

The continental body reacted promptly and the Kolkata-based club was withdrawn from the tournament, pending further decision on the matter.

According to the MBSG, the AFC has now recognised their concerns but added the club remained withdrawn from the tournament.



“On 2nd November 2024, Mohun Bagan Super Giant has been communicated by the Asian Football Federation (AFC) that in response to the club’s appeal, the AFC Competitions Committee has decided to recognise the matters raised by Mohun Bagan SG as an event of force majeure,” the club said in a statement.

“Consequently penal consequences, as per clause 5.7 of AFC Champions League 2 Competition Regulations shall not apply to Mohun Bagan SG.”

MBSG added in their statement, “However, in terms of AFC Champions League 2 Competition Regulation clauses 5.5 and 5.6 even in case of force majeure events MBSG shall stand withdrawn from the tournament for ongoing season.”

Mohun Bagan SG were scheduled to play Tractor FC October 2 in a Group A match of the ACL – the continent’s second-tier club competition.