



Defining friendship

Actor Nimrat Kaur says friendship should be so strong that people feel jealous just by looking at it

LEISURE | P2



Stop lobbying

State govt prohibits its employees from exercising any form of influence to secure suitable transfer

DOWNTOWN | P3



Goodbye, Vistara

The nearly 10-year-old Vistara is set to bid adieu to the skies as the carrier operates its last flight Monday

BUSINESS | P11



KL likely to open

Head coach Gautam Gambhir says KL Rahul is likely to open for India in the 1st Test against the Aussies

SPORTS | P12



UP IN FLAMES: Smoke fills the sky after an explosion at a refinery of Indian Oil Corporation at Vadodara in Gujarat, Monday

PTI PHOTO

Top court: No religion promotes pollution

Deciding a tricky issue that relates to striking a balance between fundamental rights of citizens and practices associated with beliefs, the Supreme Court Monday chose to side with the Constitution. Taking serious note of reports suggesting the unchecked use of firecrackers in Delhi which led to worsening of air quality in Delhi-NCR, a top court bench comprising Justices Abhay S Oka and AG Masih observed that the right to live in a pollution-free atmosphere is a fundamental right of every citizen which is protected by Article 21 of the Constitution. The bench went on to add, "We are of the view that no religion encourages any activity which creates pollution. If firecrackers are burnt in this fashion it also affects the fundamental right to health of the citizens." The top court came down heavily on the Delhi government and its police over the slipshod implementation of the cracker ban in the region that took a heavy toll on health of citizens. It said that the ban imposed by the Delhi government October 14 was not taken seriously by Delhi Police



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 11: Calling it a mere "eyewash", the Supreme Court Monday came down heavily on the Delhi police for failing to comprehensively implement the firecracker ban in the national capital.

In the wake of rampant use of firecrackers in Delhi during Diwali celebrations which led to a worsening of air quality in Delhi-NCR, the Supreme Court observed that no religion encouraged any activity which created pollution.

"The right to live in a pollution-free atmosphere is a fundamental right of every citizen which is protected by Article 21 of the Constitution of India. We are of the view that no religion encourages any activity which creates pollution. If firecrackers

are burnt in this fashion it also affects the fundamental right to health of the citizens," the bench comprising Justices Abhay S Oka and AG Masih observed. The SC agreed that there was some substance in the grievance made by the Additional Solicitor General that the ban was imposed late.

"We direct the Commissioner of Police, Delhi to immediately take action of informing all concerned about the said ban to ensure that during the subsistence of the ban no licence holder manufacturers, stores or sells firecrackers. We direct the Commissioner of Police to set up a special cell for implementation of the order of ban and hold SHOs of all local police stations responsible for enforcing the ban through the year," the court observed.

The counsel for the Delhi government stated that the government will take a decision on extending the ban throughout the year after consulting all stakeholders.

The court directed the state government to take appropriate decision on or before November 25.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna takes oath as 51st CJI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: Justice Sanjiv Khanna was Monday sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India.

President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to him at a brief swearing-in ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan here. Justice Khanna took the oath in English in the

name of God.

Born May 14, 1960, Justice Khanna will serve as the CJI for a little over six months and demit office May 13, 2025, on attaining the age of 65 years. P8



Mystery shrouds death at de-addiction centre

Bhubaneswar: An inmate of a de-addiction centre at Bahadalpur under Khandagiri police limits died under mysterious circumstances while his wife suspected a foul play, Monday. The deceased was identified as Sumanta Panda, 36, of Ganga Nagar area here. Sumanta's wife said, he was admitted to the facility Sunday night, but she received a phone call from the centre's officials Monday morning about his death. Khandagiri IIC Abhimanyu Das said a case (296/2024) of unnatural death has been registered. "Sumanta's wife suspects that the de-addiction centre staffers must have done something to calm him down, resulting in his death. However, we are waiting for the post-mortem report for drawing any conclusion," Das said.

New dress code for nurses

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: A little over a month after changing the colour and design of school uniforms for Class IX and X students of government and government-aided schools, the BJP government in the state has taken yet another decision to change the dress code for employees of the nursing service cadre.

According to a Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department official, the government has finalised six dress patterns for the nursing employees with different colour codes.

At present, the female nursing staffers wear white sarees or dresses with white aprons, the official said.

According to a letter issued by the H&FW department to the Nursing Director, nursing officers and senior nursing officers (female) will wear light lavender dresses while the assistant nursing superintendents (ANS) will wear cyan blue dresses.

Similarly, the dress colour for deputy nursing superintendents (DNSes)

and nursing superintendents (NSes) will be white with the collar neck portion of the white apron bordered in deep purple.

As per the decision, all the nursing employees (both men and women) will now have to wear scrub suits to perform indoor duty such as ICU, operation theatre and labour room.

However, all the male nursing officers engaged in general wards and casualty services will wear deep navy blue colour formal trousers along with the allotted dress code (shirt).

Further, the female nursing officers, senior nursing officers and assistant nursing superintendent can wear saree or salwar-kameez for general wards and casualty services while the DNS and NS cadres have been asked to wear only saree for such duty. A full-sleeve apron will be provided for all ANSes, DNSes and NSes in general wards while all officers of the cadre irrespective of the rank will have their name and designation inscribed on their uniform, according to the letter.



IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Theoretical knowledge alone isn't enough. Prepare for competitive exams - and also practise facing a lathicharge

11 'Kuki militants' killed in Manipur

Imphal: Eleven suspected Kuki militants were killed in a fierce gunfight with security forces Monday after the insurgents in camouflage uniforms, armed with sophisticated weapons, fired indiscriminately at the Borobekra police station and a CRPF camp located

alongside it in Jiribam district of Manipur, officials said. Two CRPF personnel also sustained injuries during the gunfight and the condition of one of them was stated to be critical. Kuki-Zo Council called for a 13-hour shutdown in the hill areas of the state, Tuesday. P8

1st emperor penguin in Oz from Antarctica

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melbourne, Nov 11: An emperor penguin has travelled about 3,500 km from the north of the icy waters off Antarctic coast to reach Australian south coast and is now being cared for by a wildlife expert, a government department said Monday, while reports have claimed that this is for the first time the largest penguin species (emperor penguin) has been sighted in the island continent.

The adult male was found November 1, 2024 on a popular tourist beach in the town of Denmark in temperate southwest Australia — about 3,500 km (2,200 miles) north of the icy waters off the Antarctic coast, according to a statement from the Western Aus-



Male emperor penguin 'Gus' spotted on a beach near Denmark in Australia recently

PHOTO: AP

tralia state's Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

According to Belinda Cannell, a University of Western Australia research fellow, "The largest penguin species has never been reported in

Australia before, though some had reached New Zealand, Australia's neighbour almost entirely south of Denmark."

Cannell said she had no idea why the penguin traveled to Denmark.

Cannell is advising seabird rehabilitator Carol Biddulph, who is caring for the penguin, spraying him with a chilled water mist to help him cope with his alien climate. The penguin is one-metre (39 inches) tall and initially weighed 23 kg (51 pounds).

A healthy male can weigh more than 45 kg (100 pounds).

Emperor penguins have huge fat supplies, heavy muscles, and densely packed feathers, restricting them to fly with such short wings and heavy bodies.

HUNTING TODAY MAY HAUNT US TOMORROW

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CLIMATE CHANGE : BUILDING RESILIENCE

24 NOV

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leisure



SARANDON'S TAKE ON RELATIONSHIPS

Academy Award-winning actress Susan Sarandon only wants to be with someone who has an open heart and open mind. She isn't concerned about age or gender when it comes to relationships.

OLIVIA COLMAN SAYS SHE'S TOO EMOTIONAL FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

Hollywood actress Olivia Colman may rule the screen with her performance, but she isn't too confident when it comes to social media. She told My Weekly, "I don't do it because I think it would make me cry. I'd be devastated by someone being horrible. I think I'm happier without it."



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Your day is packed full. There are negotiations, commitments, plans and decisions to wade through. You may feel low on energy and swamped due to lack of information and inputs from others. But clarity will return gradually as matters conclude, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
Armed with ingenuity and lateral thinking, you are all set to take on today with practised ease, feels Ganesh. The toughest of problems will crumble like a house of cards before your intellect. A promotion or salary hike is also likely today. Money lenders and brokers will have a profitable day, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
Today, you will do an amazing thing with your work. Despite your preoccupation with work, you will take time off for your family, and even plan out a small outing, leaving them pleasantly surprised. Also, your dreams are about to come true. Now, how many times does that happen in a lifetime?

CANCER
You will spend your day reflecting on your past and thinking what went wrong, predicts Ganesh. But keep in mind that your mistakes won't lead to the end of the world, unless you are a nuclear scientist. So get your act together, and stop brooding over your mistakes.

LEO
On some days, the sun doesn't seem to have risen from the east, and neither does it seem you have gotten up on the right side of the bed. You start your day in a tensed atmosphere in the morning, caused by some annoyance on the part of one of your family members. But the day is not as bad as it seems. Your mood will change for the better as the day progresses, thanks to your attempt to keep yourself busy.

VIRGO
Razor-sharp and aesthetic to the last cell in your body, entertain and enthrall people with your guile, especially at a social do, says Ganesh. But conserve that zest and save the time to pay due attention to matters of supreme importance, warns Ganesh.

LIBRA
Monotonous is the word to describe the way things have been till now, but no more, says Ganesh. It might be a very good idea for you to take a break from things around you and go on a small trip. Invigorate yourself with a small picnic with family and friends. It shall go a long way in boosting your energy and enhancing your awareness and wisdom in the coming future.

SCORPIO
You are in a mood of introspection and analysis, says Ganesh. This is likely to give you a clear vision in the days to come. Your systematic approach towards work will provide you room to think out of the box. Your innovative ideas may bag applause from superiors and bosses.

SAGITTARIUS
Begin your day with a renewed zest. Consider a jump case of lucrative offer. Cracking a telephonic interview may prove to be a milestone in your career path. Your dedication and determination towards your work and goals makes you a deserving employee, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
You will find the day to be taxing, mostly because of the amount of work delegated to you, says Ganesh. But it will take trouble quite an effort to dampen your spirit. You will be in the fray in the latter part of the day, but will leave your rivals trailing behind in terms of business strategies. Success will be yours if you ensure to be mindful of your moves.

AQUARIUS
You may huff and puff, but the day when you'll finish what you started. Don't lose heart, the future is promising. Take a break, says Ganesh, you've worked enough. The results are on the way.

PISCES
An important day today, you can expect to reach a much-awaited milestone either on the domestic front or at the workplace, says Ganesh. Expect your professional status and your social standing to receive a boost.

ZOYA'S JOURNEY

Mumbai: Recently after celebrating 25 years of *Hum Saath Sath Hai*, model-turned-actress Zoya Afroz also announced her upcoming film on Netflix *Sikandar Ka Muqaddar*, directed by Neeraj Pandey, co-starring Avinash Tiwary, Tamannaah Bhatia and Jimmy Shergill.

Expressing her gratitude for the opportunity, she said, "As we recently celebrated 25 years of *Hum Saath Saath Hai*, I was taken down the memory lane. I revisited old photo albums from my early days into acting. Cut to next day we announce my upcoming film on Netflix. It is a long yet fulfilling journey."

Recalling her mem-



ories Zoya added, "The journey is nothing less than a gentle reminder of how far I've come. I can safely say I've grown up "filmy" and loved absolutely every bit of it. I am eternally grateful to Rajshri Productions for making me a part of such a big blockbuster, and giving me an opportunity to experience a Masterclass in acting on set everyday with some of the biggest names of the business ever. Even if it's the Silver Jubilee of *Hum Saath Sath Hai*, this film and the experience of working on it will forever be good."

For the unversed, Zoya featured in the film as Radhika Pandey, the young screen daughter Neelam and Mahesh Thakur, stepping into world of Show-a child actor in like *Mann, Kuch* amongst others, her mark in the industry and Miss India International titles.

KLF Readers Club to be launched Nov 14

Bhubaneswar: In a major initiative to foster a vibrant literary culture in Odisha, the Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF) would launch the KLF Readers Club here at Forest Park, Thursday. This new community-driven platform aims to bring together avid readers, thinkers, and book lovers, creating an inclusive space to celebrate literature, nurture creativity, and inspire critical thinking, shared the organisers.

The club, an extension of KLF's dedication to the literary arts, will provide a unique forum for readers to engage in meaningful discussions, connect with authors, and deepen their understanding of various literary genres. The club's



cuss selected books across genres such as fiction, non-fiction, biographies, and poetry, fostering an environment of open dialogue and intellectual exploration. The club will host interactive events with acclaimed authors, poets, and literary critics, allowing members to gain unique insights from literary experts, it was learnt.

Club members will make book recommendations, reviews, and share their favorite reads, creating a diverse reading list that evolves over time. To encourage exploration of new genres, the club will organise themed reading challenges, broadening members' literary horizons.

mission is to build a passionate community of readers who celebrate literary artistry and seek out shared experiences through the joy of reading, they added. In this club, the members will meet each month to dis-

Bhubaneswar boy Nextion's IBD glory

Bhubaneswar: Smruti Swarup Patra, known by his stage name 'Nextion', has emerged as the first runner-up in the 'Ultimate Finale' of the fourth season of the popular

dance reality show *India's Best Dancer (IBD)*, Sunday.

In the show, Nextion captivated the viewers and judges with his exceptional skills. The Bhubaneswar boy is a hip-hop freestyle artiste who has been dancing professionally for more than five years.

The show marked the debut of actress Karisma Kapoor as a judge, alongside choreographers Geeta Kapur and Terence Lewis.

Recently, Nextion took his admiration for Karisma to the next level by getting a tattoo that reads "Lolo Love," inspired by the actress's signature move.

The 17-year-old Steve Jrywa from Meghalaya emerged as the winner of the show while Harsh Keshri of Patna was the second runner-up.



Mumbai: Actress Nimrat Kaur recently shared a humorous reel about friendships that make people jealous, amidst dating rumours with her *Dasvi* co-star Abhishek Bachchan.

Taking to her Instagram handle, Kaur shared a reel where she sits on the floor and lip-syncs to the trending dialogue, "Friendship should be so strong that people feel jealous just by looking at it. They should say, 'Wow, like that.'"

Alongside the reel, she captioned, "Meri aur KC (Karam Chand) ki dosti toh hai aisi... tag your BFF!! #friendship #bffgoals #sundaytimepass #weekendvibes #pakkadost #trendingreels."

The Airlift star also shared an inspiring quote from Ram Dass on her Insta stories, Monday. The note read, "Our journey is about being more deeply involved in life and yet less attached to it."

Recently, Nimrat has been in the headlines following an unverified Reddit claim that she is in a relationship with Abhishek and that they grew close during the filming of their film *Dasvi*, which was released in 2022. Since then, she has faced backlash on social media, with some

Nimrat's definition of friendship

accusing her of breaking Abhishek and Aishwarya Rai's marriage. However, a source close to the Bachchan family dismissed these rumours, calling them "mischievous, malicious, and utter rub-

bish."

The source stated, "There is not an iota of truth to these rumours. We wonder why the lady (Nimrat Kaur) has not issued a denial. Abhishek is keeping silent as he has a lot going on in his life right now and has been advised to avoid any controversies."

PEANUTS



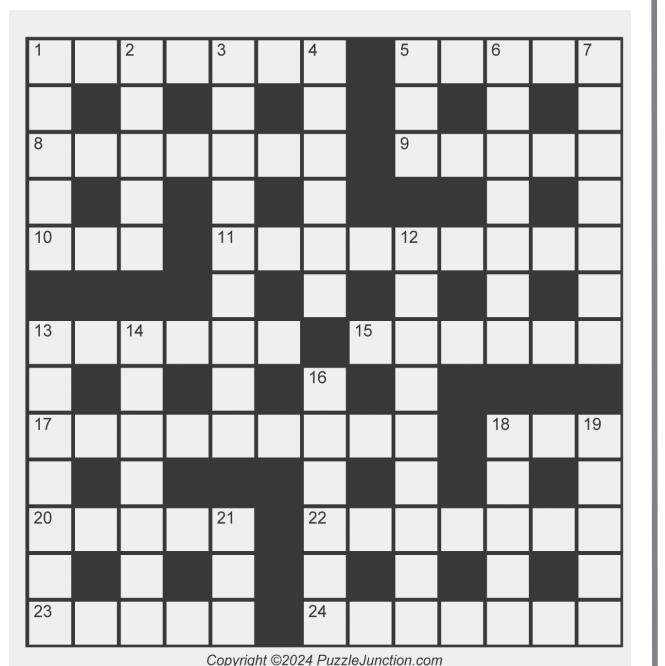
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Old and valuable, maybe
 - 5 Before larceny or duke
 - 8 Maneuvers
 - 9 Lament
 - 10 Snake in the grass
 - 11 Commotion
 - 13 Fancy neckwear
 - 15 Flips over
 - 17 French Riviera (4,5)
 - 18 Summer shade
 - 20 Cow catcher
 - 22 Free time
 - 23 Seaweed offering
 - 24 Eternal
 - 5 Bubble source
 - 6 Underground water supply
 - 7 Baryshnikov and Markova, e.g.
 - 12 Stress
 - 13 Shellfish
 - 14 Painters
 - 16 Flowering shrub
 - 18 Greyish brown
 - 19 Exigencies
 - 21 Sapporo sash
- Down**
- 1 Change
 - 2 Silent
 - 3 Treacherous pit
 - 4 Guarantee

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Artiste D Reshmi performs during dance festival Stabaka at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Monday



downtown



HEAT RESPITE: Shed installed for convenience of devotees on Grand Road in Puri, Monday, ahead of Kartik Purnima

PICT: JAGANWAR MOHANTY

Stop lobbying for transfers, govt tells employees

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The state government Monday prohibited its employees from exercising any form of influence to secure suitable transfer or posting in the administration, a top official said.

Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja conveyed the directive to all the department secretaries through a letter.

"All government employees are, therefore, prohibited from exercising any form of influence, direct or indirect, to secure favourable transfers or postings," the Chief Secretary said in the letter.

Stating that it has come to the notice of the state government that some employees are attempting to influence their transfer and posting by exerting extraneous influence, the Chief Secretary said that this practice is a clear-cut violation of Rule 23 of the Odisha Government Servants' Conduct Rules, 1959.

He quoted the rule that stated, "No government servant shall bring or attempt to bring any influence, whether official or non-official, to bear upon any authority to further his interests in respect of matters pertaining to his appointment under government, promotion, pay and other service conditions." The Chief Secretary also said that government employees are expected to main-

tain the highest standards of integrity and conduct, upholding the principles of fairness and transparency in all service matters.

He said that transfers and postings of employees are usually taken up as per the administrative exigencies, considering merit, and following established procedures.

"Any attempt to circumvent this process will be viewed as a serious misconduct, which will attract disciplinary action, Ahuja said

Govt orders removal of OSCW chairperson

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The state government has ordered the removal of Minati Behera as the Chairperson of the Odisha State Commission for Women (OSCW) over 'unsatisfactory performance'.

The government had issued a show-cause notice seeking Behera's reply over the unsatisfactory performance regarding the disposal of cases and holding of camp courts during her tenure as the OSCW chairperson. She was asked to submit her reply by November 1.

"In pursuance of Provision of Sub-section 3 of Section 4 of the Orissa State Commission for Women Act, 1993, the Chairperson of OSCW was issued show cause notice to submit her reply by 04.00 pm, 1st November 2024 vide this department letter no.24896, dated 29.10.2024," reads the notification issued by the W&CD department.

The state government in the notification further added that the reply submitted by Behera was 'inadequate'.

"After thorough and careful examination of the show cause reply submitted by the Chairperson, OSCW, it is observed that the reply is inadequate and does not justify the unsatisfactory performance of the Commission," the notification further adds.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the reply, the government has ordered Behera's removal from the post of chairperson of OSCW.

Behera, a social activist and senior Biju Mahila Janata Dal leader, was appointed as the chairperson of OSCW by the previous Naveen Patnaik-led BJD government in August 2019.

₹201.10cr boost for state fire services

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The state's disaster response apparatus got a much-needed shot in the arm as the Centre Monday approved ₹201.10 crore for expansion and modernisation of fire services in Odisha.

A high-level committee, headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, also approved ₹376.76 crore for West Bengal and ₹147.76 crore for Chhattisgarh under the 'Expansion and Modernisation of Fire

Services in states', an official statement said.

The committee also comprised Finance Minister Nirjala Sitharaman, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman K Bery as members.

To fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a disaster-resilient India, the Ministry of Home Affairs, under the guidance of Home Minister Amit Shah, has taken several initiatives to ensure effective management of disasters in

the country, it said.

Authorities have taken major steps to prevent any extensive loss to life and property during disasters by strengthening the disaster risk reduction system in India.

The Central government has allocated a total of ₹5,000 crore under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to 15 states, ₹1,385.45 crore from the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) to 11 states and ₹124.93 crore from the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) to three states, it said.

Proposals of 15 states with a total outlay of ₹2,542.12 crore had already been approved.

More than ₹21,026 crore has already been released to the states during this year for various disaster-related aspects.

This includes ₹14,878.40 crore from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to 26 states, ₹4,637.66 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to 15 states, ₹1,385.45 crore from the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) to 11 states and ₹124.93 crore from the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) to three states, it said.

Waqf Bill: JPC holds meeting with stakeholders in City



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 started hearing different stakeholders here Monday.

During the first half period, the JPC held discussions with representatives from the government, state minority commission, state waqf board, senior advocates, social activists and other different stakeholders from the state, said the panel's chairman Jagdambika Pal.

"The stakeholders have given their views and opinions on the proposed Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024. Our Joint Parliamentary Committee will examine the views and incorporate the contents in its report," he told media persons.

Pal said it is the responsibility of the JPC to hear the stakeholders of Odisha and it is doing so. "Whether someone has joined or not, it doesn't make any difference," he said when asked about the absence of the Opposition members in the meeting.

The committee will submit its report to the Lok Sabha Speaker by

the last working day of the upcoming Winter Session of the Parliament, he said.

The Opposition members of the JPC had decided to boycott this tour, alleging that the chairperson was acting in an arbitrary manner and their request to defer the trip was unheeded.

Since the formation of the JPC in August this year, the panel has held discussions with different stakeholders for over 100 hours in 25 formal settings in New Delhi only, said Dilip Saikia, a member of the JPC.

"We have taken views and suggestions from different stakeholders including waqf boards, minority commissions and Muslim institutions/organisations," he said.

The MP said the panel has completed its first phase of tour to different states including Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. However, the Opposition members have boycotted the second phase tour starting from Guwahati Saturday, which is "unfortunate", Saikia said.

"The waqf boards need to be accountable for proper management of

JPC postpones study tour

Bhubaneswar: Late Monday, the JPC postponed its scheduled study tour to Kolkata, Patna, and Lucknow as many of its members are busy in elections, the Panel's Chairman Jagdambika Pal said here. "Many of my colleagues informed us that they have engagements in state elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand. Besides, by-polls are there in many states. So, they were not able to attend the meeting. On their request, I have decided to postpone the study tour," Pal said. He said the study tour to Kolkata, Patna, and Lucknow will be rescheduled. "We wish that all members of the panel should participate in the deliberations," he added. He said that the JPC had a 'very successful' meeting in Bhubaneswar Monday and also in Guwahati two days ago.

its properties, to empower the poor Muslims and to give its benefits to marginal sections of society," he said.

Saikia said the JPC will submit its report to the Lok Sabha Speaker whether the Opposition members take part in the meetings or not.

Similarly, another member of the panel, Aparajita Sarangi said that Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has continued a 31-member JPC to examine the proposed 44 amendments to the Waqf Act, 1995 in the Bill.

"About 38 lakh acres of land is under the control of waqf boards in India. We need to rectify the governance system and administration," she said. Prior to Bhubaneswar, the panel visited other major cities, including Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Guwahati, where discussions covered a range of issues surrounding waqf property management and proposed amendments to the Wakf Act, 1995.

Why do people over-eat? Study claims answer

Working odd hours or night shifts was found to disrupt signals liver sends to the brain telling it if eating is happening in sync with the body's clock, a result that researchers said could help treat the negative effects of eating at unusual times, such as overeating.

Eating at irregular times is said to be related to weight gain and diabetes, largely because it is not in sync with one's body clock, or circadian rhythm - a 24-hour cycle of physical, mental, and behavioural changes, including sleeping and eating.

Researchers from the University of Pennsylvania, US, found that working unusual hours disturbs the liver's internal clock and its signals,



because of which the brain overcompensates, thereby leading to overeating at the wrong times.

The results, published in the jour-

nal Science, suggested that targeting specific parts of the vagus nerve - via which the liver communicates with the brain - could help address overeating in people working night shifts or experiencing jet lag, the team said.

"Both mice and humans normally eat at times when they are awake and alert, and this circuit provides feedback from the liver to the central clock in the brain that keeps the system running smoothly," senior author Mitchell Lazar, a professor of diabetes and metabolic diseases, University of Pennsylvania, said.

"This feedback is through a nerve connection from the liver to the brain," Lazar said.

PTI

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Int'l Symposium on Shree Anna & Forgotten Foods concludes



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The two-day International Symposium on Shree Anna and Forgotten Foods (ISSFF), organised by the department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment at Lok Seva Bhawan here, concluded Monday with commendations and valuable suggestions from state, national, and international participants. The discussions at symposium aimed at creating a roadmap for promoting Shree Anna (millets) and other neglected crops in Odisha. Addressing the gathering, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment and Energy Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo said, "Over the two days, we have reaffirmed our commitment to reviving resilient, traditional crops. Let us carry forward the insights gained here to strengthen sustainable agriculture and food security for Odisha and beyond."

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Women and Child

Development, Mission Shakti, and Tourism Pravatī Parida, remarked, "Millets, or Shree Anna, are more than a food source—they are our heritage and our future. To see them flourish again, we must bring them back to every family's plate. Women, especially mothers, are key to this revival. When mothers adopt millets, they lead a generational shift toward health and sustainability. Through initiatives like Millet Shakti Cafes and the Millet Mother campaign, we are empowering communities to reconnect with these climate-smart crops."

"With the support of our partners and the vision of Prime Minister Modi, I am confident Odisha will lead the way in reviving millets and forgotten foods for a resilient future," she said. Parida added that there are currently 33 Millet Cafes and 263 Millet Tiffin Centres, while 177 blocks across the state's 30 districts host millet-based Mission Shakti and Women's Self-

Help Groups.

A total of five sessions were conducted on the second day of the symposium. All the discussions held were around the theme of the event "Celebrating Shree Anna and Agricultural Heritage of Odisha". During the valedictory function, three publications were released: a recipe book on forgotten foods titled "Forgotten Flavours - Culinary Treasures of Odisha", a millet-based recipe book titled "Adi Anna", and a coffee table book titled "Comprehensive Rice Fallow Management".

Notable representatives from global organisations like the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), various ICAR institutes, the National Institute of Nutrition, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRAN), and the World Resources Institute attended the event.

Other dignitaries included World Food Programme country head (India) Elisabeth Faure, department principal secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee, OUAT vice-chancellor Pravat Kumar Rouf, Agriculture and Food Production director Prem Chandra Chaudhary and Horticulture director Nikhil Pavan Kalyan.



FINISHING TOUCH: Potters from Kolkata applying colours to terracotta wares at the Lower Bali Yatra ground in Cuttack as the mega fair draws near, Monday

OP PHOTO

2nd edition of Yi Run Bhubaneswar by Nite Nov 17

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: CII Young Indians (Yi) Bhubaneswar will host the second edition of the "Yi Run - Bhubaneswar by Nite | Rise above Addiction and Break the Silence," marathon at Kalinga Stadium November 17, the organisers said in a press meet Monday. The event will be organised in collaboration with the department of Sports and Youth Services and the department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD).

The initiative aims to unite the community in raising awareness on mental health and drug abuse, encouraging



open conversations and inspiring a healthier, drug-free life for all. Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Sports and Youth Services Minister Suryabanshi Suraj,

and senior bureaucrats of the SSEPD department along with actor, social activist and national Rugby player Rahul Bose will flag off the event. Chairman of Yi Bhubaneswar Chapter Sonal N

More said, "The marathon is not just about physical endurance; it's a statement against drug abuse and a step towards a healthier Odisha. We hope to inspire individuals, especially the youth, to rise above addiction and contribute to positive change in our society."

The marathon invites all community members, organisations, forums, the medical fraternity, and fitness enthusiasts, school and colleges, senior citizen and corporates to unite and run for drug-free Odisha. Participants have a chance to win cash prizes totaling ₹1,02,000 across three categories: 2.5 km Fun Run (Non-Timed), 5 km Timed Run, 10 km Timed Run.

ECoR manages 657 special trains during Puja festival

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) handled as many as 657 special trains between October 1 and November 10 during the Puja festivals.

During this period, ECoR facilitated the transportation of over 3.33 lakh passengers on special trains, including 2.16 lakh reserved-class passengers and 1.16 lakh unreserved-class passengers. To meet the high travel demand during the Puja festival and ensure safe and smooth transportation, Indian Railways, under the jurisdiction of ECoR, took exceptional steps this year. These included operating a record number of special trains and implementing enhanced crowd management protocols. These efforts aimed to provide comfort, convenience, and safety for passengers travelling during this peak period.

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	31.4°	29.8°
Min Temp	22.6°	21.0°
Humidity	70%	74
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
Light rain very likely to occur

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX	VARIATION		
SENSEX	79496.15	▲	9.83
NIFTY	24141.30	▼	6.90
DOLLAR	84.40	▲	0.02
EURO	89.81	▼	0.56
GOLD	₹75,407	▲	₹1,865
SILVER	₹89,050	▲	₹2,2219

World Skill Center hosts 4th graduation ceremony



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The fourth graduation ceremony of World Skill Center (WSC) was organised on its campus here Monday.

Industries, and Skill Development and Technical Education (SDTE) Minister Sampad Chandra Swain attended the event as the chief guest.

Swain inaugurated the Center of Excellence in Welding on the WSC premises. Similarly, the 'Nano Unicorn' programme, implemented to promote various entrepreneurs at the grass roots level was launched by the Minister. Speaking on the occasion, Swain said, "Each 'Nano Unicorn' will be given a seed money of Rs 1 lakh for setting up their enterprise. Under the state government's 'Skill In Odisha' vision, skill development programmes for the

youth are being augmented to help them realise their potential. Initiatives like setting up centers of excellence in welding and nano unicorns will help in upskilling the youth of Odisha and inculcate entrepreneurial spirit in them."

The minister congratulated the students who completed their training in 2023-24 batch. The best students from each course under School of Engineering and School of Services were selected and awarded as 'Best Trainee'. In addition, certificates were given to all the students who completed the 1-year advanced training in seven trades. Similarly, 21 students were honoured on the stage.

SDTE principal secretary NBS Rajput joined the programme as a special guest and motivated the students on building a successful career for themselves.

827-year-old inscription found at Shiva temple in Maduthuru

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: Researchers from the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) have recently uncovered a stone inscription dating back to nearly 827 years in Maduthuru village, located in Achutapuram mandal, Anakapalli district of Andhra Pradesh.

The inscription was found as part of an initiative to list and document historic Kalingan sites in Andhra Pradesh, a project spearheaded by the Odisha state chapter of INTACH.

This exploration was led by Deepak Kumar Nayak, project coordinator of INTACH, alongside member Suman Prakash Swain and epigraphist Bishnu Mohan Adhikari.

Adhikari, who deciphered



the inscription, explained that the text is carved on a stone panel affixed to the wall of the Chodeswara Shiva temple in Maduthuru village, written in Telugu language and script.

The inscription reveals that the temple was built by three brothers—Prolli Setti, Poti Setti, and Bhami Setti—who were

the sons of Sittamma Setti. It also notes that land endowments were made to support the temple's upkeep and to ensure the perpetual lighting of a lamp. The figure of a couchant bull, the royal insignia of the Eastern Ganga dynasty is found carved in the top portion of the inscribed stone panel.

INTACH project coordinator Deepak Kumar Nayak stated that the grant mentioned in the inscription was issued in the first regnal year of King Rajaraja Deva III, around 1197-98 CE. Rajaraja III was the grandson of famous Eastern Ganga monarch, Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva. Notably, a copper grant of Rajaraja III discovered in Dashaganga village of Puri district, corroborates that the grand Jagannath temple of Puri was reconstructed by Chodaganga Deva.

Devotees flock to Puri to observe Panchaka Brata

Puri: Thousands of devotees, especially Kartik Brata observers and those who could not observe the month-long ritual, have gathered in Puri to observe the last five days of the month, popularly known as Panchaka. This year, according to the temple almanac, the five days of Panchaka have been reduced to four. During these final days, the deities of the Trinity take on new vestas (attires). The Sri Jagannath Temple Administration has made special arrangements, including rescheduling daily rites and rituals, to facilitate the increased number of devotees seeking darshan. Puri District Magistrate Sidharth Shankar Swain informed the media that Panchaka began Monday. With Panchaka shortened to four days, there has been a significant rush of devotees. Devotees are allowed to enter through the Simhadwar (main gate) and exit through the other three gates. "Elaborate arrangements have been made to ensure the ritual is hassle-free and incident-free," he said. Sun shades and coverings with fans have been installed along the Badadandi to protect devotees from the scorching sun. Firefighters have been stationed to sprinkle water on devotees and the road to cool the area. In addition, volunteers are distributing drinking water to devotees waiting in line.

Fourth Puri Heritage Walks explores mutt culture

The walk started from the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Sankaracharya Mutt and culminated at Shankarananda Mutt

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Puri, Nov 11: Around 50 heritage enthusiasts from various parts of the state took part in the fourth Puri Heritage Walks (PHW) here Sunday. The walk 'Mahodadi Monastic Trail: Exploring the Ancient Monasteries' was aimed at reviving the spiritual narratives linked to the mutt culture and its divine connection to the Trinity and the socio-cultural canvas of Puri.

The walk started from the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Sankara-

charya Mutt and culminated at Shankarananda Mutt. The participants visited places like Kabir Chaura Mutt, Bidur Mutt, Bauli Mutt, Swarg Shidi (dwar) and Ramanujkot among others.

Eminent historian and researcher Surendra Mishra explained the uniqueness of the mutt culture. He said, "Mutt culture is a unique cultural tradition in the religious fabric of the Pilgrim town Puri. While they contribute towards building religious inquisitiveness



and spiritual ecosystem, many mutts are also linked to many services of the Srimandir and

some has specific services to offer during the Rath Yatra. Senior member of PHW and

researcher Devi Prasanna Nanda and heritage expert Sidharth Acharya also spoke

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FOCUS CLIMATE ACTION

ONE MORE TIME!



Production requires material resources. It requires energy. In other words, increasing GDP translates directly to increasing emissions

been soaring in India for the last three decades. In reality though, anyone looking at India with eyes even half-open would see a completely different picture. The basic flaw with a market-led economy is that it does not produce for all people—it only produces for those who have buying power, or put simply, for those who have money. And it produces what those with money wish to buy, and not what the hundreds of millions may need.

However, all of the above contradictions pale in comparison to the existential threat trying to raise GDPs comes with. Increasing production of goods and services does not happen out of thin air. Production requires material resources. It requires energy. In other words, increasing GDP translates directly to increasing emissions.

Mere GDP growth does not, by itself, reduce poverty, even if it increases emissions. In fact, certain kinds of growth (which involve an increase in production of luxury goods, such as air travel) actually increase both emissions and inequality. So, the pattern of growth also has to be just. There is research to show that poverty can be reduced much faster through growth with a lower intensity of energy-use (for instance, involving less air travel).

The point of this column is that unless we do away with our obsession with GDP, and find both a better measure, and a different pathway to universal human well-being, there is no way to avert climate catastrophe. The next part of column will discuss how GDP works, and what could be an alternative approach.

Praveen Singh is an independent researcher on socio-economic and political issues. Aseem Shrivastava teaches ecology.

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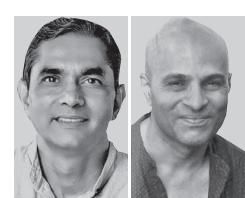
body temperature going to be accepted as 'the new normal.' COP29 is underway in Azerbaijan. It is indisputably the most important gathering to combat climate change. When the Paris Agreement became effective in late 2016, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were to be cut by 43% by 2030 to limit global warming to 1.5C. Global emissions in 2016 were about 48GT of CO2 equivalent. For us to be on course to 1.5C, our emissions in 2023 ideally ought to have been 38GT. Actual emissions in 2023 were over 50GT.

Two clarifications are important before we proceed. One, limiting global warming to 1.5C is no rosy scenario. We are at about 1.1C right now, and climate emergencies in different parts of the world fill the news virtually every day. So, 1.5C is a much worse future than what we are experiencing today. Two, the number 29 in COP29 implies that we have been having these 'high-level global' meetings for three decades now. And the only thing we have to show as output for all these costly meetings is a steady growth of GHG emissions. Should we be disappointed? Surprised? Shocked? Or, was this inevitable? This column contends it was inevitable. Here's why.

While humans are bound to try and save our planet when

it is in crisis, our more constant and primary endeavour is to work for our material betterment. We form tribes or nations in order to have socio-economic-political systems that would ensure the welfare of the constituent members. In this journey, the dominant understanding is that if a country is to ensure the well-being of its citizens, it needs to grow its economy, or in other words raise its GDP.

What is the GDP belief? The assumption is that 'societies who produce and consume more than others are better.' This belief has been drilled into us by economists and policymakers, and amplified by the media. GDP was a measure developed by American economist Simon Kuznets in 1934. Kuznets himself had warned that GDP is a mere national income statistic; it is no measure of welfare. However, this measure proved remarkably effective in the USA during WWII for mobilisation efforts. And then, in late 1940s, Cold War circumstances ensured that it became the key measure of a country's economic strength. Its adoption by countries across the world was both willing and coerced. Consequently, governments understood their role to be encouraging and facilitating the production of goods and services. GDP has



Praveen Singh & Aseem Shrivastava

WHILE HUMANS ARE BOUND TO TRY AND SAVE OUR PLANET WHEN IT IS IN CRISIS, OUR MORE CONSTANT AND PRIMARY ENDEAVOUR IS TO WORK FOR OUR MATERIAL BETTERMENT

"Please Sir, can I have some more?" This is Oliver Twist's refrain in Dickens' novel about abject poverty and the cruel treatment of orphans in industrialising Britain. When it comes to fossil fuels, 'the cloud elites' of today's global world seem to be 'saying' something similar to environmental authorities the world over. The only difference is that, unlike today's gentry, Oliver Twist was poor. This only indicates that the imminent seriousness of climate change has not been adequately grasped. To illustrate our predicament, consider a thought experiment.

You stand before a wall with a small metal plate on it. We ask you to touch it. You withdraw your finger. The reason is that the plate is a bit warmer than your body and getting hotter. Now imagine that you are standing on a large metal plate which is becoming warmer than your body. Again, you jump off the plate soon. But what if the plate is so large (and expanding so fast) that you cannot jump off? Wherever you leap to, the plate is still under your feet. Moreover, it is getting hotter perceptibly fast. There is no place to run to. You risk eventual vaporisation.

Something like this is what is happening to us, the earth and its atmosphere. The difference between touching something 'outside' you which is warming and experiencing (through heat transfer) the rise in temperature of one's own body is narrowing. Notice how readily we know we have fever, even if our body temperature rises just a little, from a normal of 98.4 to 99F. Imagine that it rises to 101.1F, and keeps rising... The physics of heat transfer will ensure that if the earth, with its atmosphere and the oceans all rise by 1.5C (2.7F), eventually, so too will all our bodies. Nor is this higher

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Inequality is destroying mental health

According to an Ipsos poll conducted in 2018, 27% of global respondents said that mental health was one of the biggest health problems. When the poll was repeated this year, that figure had risen to 45%, with mental health overtaking cancer and obesity as the top concern.

They are right to worry. A 2023 study found that half the world's population will develop a mental-health disorder in their lifetime. But as of 2020, average government spending on mental health represented only 2.1% of health expenditures.

While policymakers should increase spending on mental health, prevention is better than treatment. Addressing the problem at its root could mean implementing programmes aimed at reducing poverty, which, given the relentless strain of economic insecurity, is a major risk factor. But a recent United Nations report (which one of us prepared) found that relative poverty (how an individual fares against others) fuels mental illness more than absolute poverty (being unable to afford the essentials) does. This suggests

that reducing income inequality would have a greater impact on mental-health outcomes.

The UN report comes six years after one of us co-authored The Inner Level. That book demonstrated that people living in more unequal countries, such as the US and the UK, suffer more from chronic stress, anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, and addiction than those in more equal societies, including Norway, Finland, and Japan.

With income inequality at alarmingly high levels, and mental health currently a bigger concern than cancer, governments – especially in wealthy countries – evidently need a reminder that the prosperity of the few is not to the benefit of all. As the gap between rich and poor has widened, individuals increasingly value themselves and others in terms of material wealth, driving a mentally damaging race to the top.

This ever-deepening division between haves and have-nots fuels status anxiety about how one is seen or judged by others, releasing a barrage of stress hormones. People compete to

prove their worth by buying more stuff, even if it means going into debt. All this erodes the social capital and weakens the supportive environments that help people cope with stress.

In this bleak landscape of inequity, performative consumption, and isolation, it is hardly surprising that people find themselves more prone to depression, anxiety, and other mental-health problems. And while those at the bottom of the social hierarchy suffer the most, they are not alone. The rich are also more likely to experience status anxiety, as well as worse outcomes on almost every other quality-of-life indicator, the more unequal a society is.

Over the past 40 years, high-income countries have achieved economic growth by privatising public assets, giving tax breaks to corporations and the wealthy, chipping away at workers' rights, and implementing austerity measures. But these efforts to boost GDP have nearly always made life worse for the poor. Reaching a certain level of affluence has triggered spiraling inequality in many countries, canceling

out the gains in well-being that economic growth is supposed to deliver and pushing the rungs of the social ladder farther apart.

Money can buy many things, but health is not one of them. If advanced economies are serious about tackling their frighteningly high rates of psychopathology, their governments must focus on reducing inequality, not chasing GDP growth that only makes the rich richer. Raising taxes on multinationals and the wealthy to fund universal social protection and improved public amenities would be a good place to start.

The world has become more open to conversations about mental health in recent years, but the same is not always true about taxing the rich. Given that it could be one of the most promising ways to address the growing mental-health crisis, policymakers must not shy away from the debate.

Olivier De Schutter is UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. Kate Pickett is Professor of Epidemiology at the University of York.

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Olivier De Schutter & Kate Pickett

THIS EVER-DEEPENING DIVISION BETWEEN HAVES AND HAVE-NOTS FUELS STATUS ANXIETY ABOUT HOW ONE IS SEEN OR JUDGED BY OTHERS, RELEASING A BARRAGE OF STRESS HORMONES



Our life should be governed by the love for the Truth and the thirst for Light.
THE MOTHER

Trump's Ice Maiden

It is often said there is a woman, sometimes two, behind every successful man. The adage is once again confirmed so loudly that the whole world can hear it by the landslide and stunning victory of Donald Trump in the US presidential election. These women have played such a vital role in Trump's success that the President-elect has named one – campaign chief Susie Wiles – as his White House chief of staff. It is such a post that will catapult the most publicity-shy person such as Wiles into one of the most visible and vocal government officials and policymakers in the world. Wiles is Trump's first appointment since winning the election and she is set to run day-to-day operations at the White House. It is not without reason that Trump has chosen her for the vital position. She has been his chief campaign strategist who worked so hard to minimise his weaknesses and help control his worst impulses not by chiding him or lecturing, but by earning his respect and showing him that he would gain more by following her advice than flouting it. At one point in the campaign, when Trump gave a widely criticised speech in Pennsylvania in which he strayed from his talking points and suggested he would not mind the media being shot, Wiles came out to stare at him silently.

But more importantly she chalked out the blueprint for getting Trump the most crucial votes of Latinos, middleclass workers and to some extent Black men that helped him eventually get a clean sweep. This is something that even the most diehard Trump supporter could not imagine possible.

In the process, the Republican Party itself got transformed by winning over categories of the electorate hitherto loyal to the Democratic Party. This development was particularly notable among Hispanic voters and the working class. The brain behind this winning formula is Wiles. In eight years – through his first term in the White House and three presidential election campaigns – Trump, the former businessman, has finally succeeded in enlisting the support of a significant proportion of the American middleclass after the blue-collar workers of 2016 were drawn to him for his efforts to promote protectionism. In keeping with the USA's changing demographics, Trump's campaign team helped him put together a multi-ethnic Republican coalition capable of attracting those at the lower end of the social scale.

Of course Wiles did not always succeed in stopping Trump from going off-script, but she kept damaging media leaks, that had dogged his first presidency, to a relative minimum, launched a bold and successful strategy to get the support of a sizable number of previously pro Blue voters and led Trump to a decisive win.

At the end, it will be unfair not to mention the second woman – Vice President Kamala Harris – as being the other woman responsible for the success of Trump. On hindsight it seems Harris was completely clueless about ground realities. Trump's sweep is a clear indication of how far removed the Dems had become to be unable to gauge the general feeling of the average American. Harris was unable to decide where and what she stood for. May be her support for immigrants and gender mauling policies showed her inner self as did her guffawing laughter that clinched the deal against her.

WISDOM CORNER

One of the great cosmic laws, I think, is that whatever we hold in our thought will come true in our experience. When we hold something, anything, in our thought, then somehow coincidence leads us in the direction that we've been wishing to lead ourselves.

RICHARD BACH

You are the sum total of everything you've ever seen, heard, eaten, smelled, been told, forgot - it's all there. Everything influences each of us, and because of that I try to make sure that my experiences are positive.

MAYA ANGELOU

If you're not producing as much as you consume, or perhaps a little more, then clearly we cannot use the big organization of our society for the purpose of keeping you alive, because your life does not benefit us, and it can't be of very much use to yourself.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1833: The great Leonid meteor shower, in which hundreds of thousands of meteors were observed in one night, was seen all over North America, initiating the first serious study of meteor showers.
- 1966: First images of a Solar Eclipse taken from space. The crew of Gemini 12 which included Edwin Eugene "Buzz" Aldrin were able to view and take pictures of the total solar eclipse over South America.
- 1970: The Bhola cyclone struck East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), killing hundreds of thousands of people in the densely populated Ganges-Brahmaputra delta; it was perhaps the deadliest tropical cyclone in recorded history and one of the greatest natural disasters.
- 1981: STS-2 launched. The second space shuttle mission by NASA, space shuttle Columbia was launched from NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida. It was the first time a manned space shuttle had been launched twice.
- 1984: First salvage operation in space. Astronauts Dale A. Gardner and Joseph P. Allen aboard space shuttle Discovery performed a series of space walks to salvage parts from two satellites, the Palapa B-2 and the Westar 6 which had steered away from their orbits.
- 1990: Japanese Emperor Akihito – according to tradition, the 125th direct descendant of Jimmu, Japan's legendary first emperor – was formally enthroned on this day in 1990, nearly two years after the death of his father, Hirohito.

L
EAT MELONS
A farmer in the country has a watermelon patch and upon inspection he discovers that some of the local kids have been helping themselves to a feast. The farmer thinks of ways to discourage this profit-eating situation. So he puts up a sign that reads: "WARNING! ONE OF THESE WATERMELONS CONTAINS CYANIDE!" He smiled smugly as he watched the kids run off the next night

without eating any of his melons.

The farmer returns to the watermelon patch a week later to discover that none of the watermelons have been eaten, but finds another sign that reads: "NOW THERE ARE TWO!"

Letters

TO THE EDITOR
Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
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Linguistic imperialism

Sir, This refers to "Protect at all cost," Orissa POST, Nov 11. A person's mother tongue is often deeply intertwined with their cultural identity and heritage. It reflects the traditions, values, customs, and history of a particular community or region. Preserving and using one's mother tongue helps individuals maintain a strong sense of self and connection to their roots. Also, research has shown that learning in one's mother tongue promotes better cognitive development and academic achievement. The mother tongue is often associated with emotional bonding and comfort. Using one's native language can create a sense of warmth, trust, and familiarity in personal interactions. Unfortunately, many indigenous languages around the world are at the risk of extinction due to globalisation, urbanisation, and other factors. Thus, mother tongue is more than just a means of communication; it is a vehicle for cultural preservation, effective expression, cognitive development, inclusivity, and personal empowerment. The Hindi imposition across the country is a form of linguistic imperialism in which the use of modern standard Hindi is preferred in Indian states that do not use or desire to use Hindi as a regional language.
N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Execution concern

Sir, By the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 2003, also referred to as COTPA, smoking and consumption of other tobacco products in public places is prohibited nationwide. This Act also encompasses other requirements like displaying signboards and effective enforcement. Therein lies the catch because for any law to succeed, the importance of its practical implementation on ground cannot be overstated. Therefore, the decision of the Karnataka government to ban smoking and tobacco consumption in government offices and on their premises, though laudable, boils down to its efficacious implementation. Nevertheless, the move is praiseworthy as it will send a strong message to all stakeholders about the perils of tobacco. Additionally, passive smokers can also have a sigh of relief. The Centre should revisit COTPA, and contemplate on better execution of the Act.
Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA



MID-SEA CRISIS

EXAM DATE ROW

Tamil fisherfolk in deep waters

Since June 16, Sri Lankan Navy has reportedly arrested 425 Tamil fishermen and seized 58 boats. Many of these fishermen are currently held in Sri Lankan jails

Aspirants lay siege to UPPSC HQ



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prayagraj/Lucknow, Nov 11: Aspirants protesting against the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission's (UPPSC) decision to conduct the RO-ARO and PCS preliminary examinations on different dates laid siege to the UPPSC headquarters in Prayagraj Monday, staging a sit-in at Gate No 2 even as a large posse of police personnel tried to diffuse the agitators. Policemen deployed in and around the UPPSC office tried to stop the students from reaching Gate No 2, but the large crowd jostled their way through, raising slogans against the commission. The police even chased the crowd in order to disperse them, but the agitating students soon gathered again, defying the barricades put up on the roads to stop them from marching ahead. On November 5, the UPPSC announced to hold the Review Officer and Assistant Review Officer (RO-ARO) preliminary examination in three shifts

Now, the tricolour will wave in every hand! The atrocities of BJP will not be tolerated! The anti-youth BJP's lathi charge on girl students is a highly condemnable act. We are with the youth

AKHILESH YADAV | CHIEF, SAMAJWADI PARTY

December 22 and 23, and the Provincial Civil Service (PCS) preliminary examination in two shifts December 7 and 8, drawing large-scale criticism from the aspirants. Deputy Commissioner of Police (City) Abhishek Bharti told reporters, "The aspirants and students have been requested to go to the designated dharna spot in the church area under the Civil Lines police station to stage their protest in a peaceful and democratic manner. Their point of view will be conveyed to the higher officials." "Many students have already gone there, but some of them are still protesting in front of the commission office," the

DCP said.

Ankit Patel, one of the agitating aspirants, said the students want the exams to be held in a single shift just like before. Another student, Manorama Singh, claimed the commission's decision to conduct the exams on two days is against the rules.

"In the notification, the commission did not mention that the exams will be held on two days. The students want them to be completed in a single day," Singh said.

Meanwhile, condemning the police "highhandedness", Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav termed the BJP government in the state "anti-youth" and "anti-student".

In a statement issued by the party, Yadav claimed when the candidates raised the demand to stop "rigging" in UPPSC exams in Prayagraj, the "corrupt" BJP government turned violent.

On Sunday, aspirants of various competitive examinations conducted by the UPPSC had warned of a protest in front of its Prayagraj office Monday.



The livelihood of our fishermen is under threat, and thousands who rely on fishing and related activities are facing severe hardship. A sense of fear has already taken hold among fishermen and their families regarding venturing out to sea

A THAJUDHIN | GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE TAMIL NADU MEENAVAR PERAVAI

our fishermen is under threat, and thousands who rely on fishing and related activities are facing severe hardship. A sense of fear has already taken hold among fishermen and their families regarding venturing out to sea." Fresh challenges Thajudhin further explained that the new Sri Lankan government is in the process of nationalising mechanised fishing boats seized from Tamil fishermen in mid-sea.

According to him, this action will devastate the fishing industry, as many fishermen took loans to purchase these expensive boats, expecting to repay them through their livelihood. In response, the fishermen's association has written to the Prime Minister, urging him to intervene and address the issue with the Sri Lankan government. They are requesting an end to the practice of mid-sea arrests and the seizure of cost-

In response to these ongoing arrests, fishermen association leaders in Tamil Nadu are organising large-scale protests across the state

ly mechanised boats that are critical to Tamil fishermen's livelihoods. KM Periasamy, a fishermen leader from Ramanathapuram, highlighted the emotional toll on the fishermen's families. "Families are in deep distress due to regular arrests and attacks in mid-sea by the Sri Lankan Navy," he said, adding, "We are planning to meet with the Prime Minister and the Union External Affairs Minister to discuss the issues affecting our people. The seizure of mechanised boats is financially crippling families who have no means to repay the loans taken to purchase these boats."

He emphasised that Tamil fishermen venture into high seas for fishing and not for any unlawful activities, urging the Indian government to address this matter at the highest level with Sri Lankan authorities. Despite these discussions, the arrests have continued, prompting fishermen associations in Tamil Nadu to plan significant protests across the coastal districts of the state. It may also be recalled that August 1, 2023, an Indian fisherman from Tamil Nadu died after his fishing boat capsized following a collision with a Sri Lankan coastal patrol vehicle.

The deceased was identified as Malaisamy (59), while the missing fisherman was Ramachandran (64). Two other fishermen, M Mookiah (54) and Muthu Muniandi (56), were arrested but later handed over to Indian authorities.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 11: The Sri Lankan Navy arrested 23 Tamil fishermen early Sunday morning for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

Along with the fishermen, the Navy also seized three mechanised boats, according to Tamil Nadu coastal police authorities.

Since June 16, 2024, the Sri Lankan Navy has reportedly arrested 425 Tamil fishermen and seized 58 boats. Many of these fishermen are currently held in Sri Lankan jails.

Anbumani Ramadoss, President of the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) and a former Union Minister, has urged the Union External Affairs Minister to address these ongoing mid-sea arrests of Tamil fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy.

During a recent visit to Sri Lanka, the Union External Affairs Minister raised this issue with the Sri Lankan government, urging them to take steps to prevent further arrests and boat seizures.

In response to these ongoing arrests, fishermen association leaders in Tamil Nadu are organising large-scale protests across the state.

A Thajudhin, the General Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Meenavar Peravai, stated that fishermen associations across the coastal districts are mobilising to protest the frequent arrests.

He noted, "The livelihood of

MAHA KUMBH 2025

UP introduces unique PG facility for devotees

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 11: As Uttar Pradesh prepares for the Maha Kumbh 2025, authorities are bracing for a massive influx of 40 crore devotees, both from across India and abroad.

The Uttar Pradesh government led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is undertaking extensive preparations on the ground to ensure a smooth and memorable experience for the pilgrims.

This scheme aims to offer a warm, culturally immersive stay, relieving pilgrims from the high costs of hotels while providing them with quality facilities at reasonable rates.

Local residents interested in participating are being trained by the tourism department in hospitality, cleanliness, and best practices for interacting with guests.

Training modules cover everything from good behaviour to offering comfort and ensuring a safe, welcoming environment for pilgrims.

To streamline the process, a toll-free helpline and a dedicated WhatsApp number have been set up to guide potential hosts through registration.

Currently, the tourism department has set a goal to establish the PG system in 2,000 local homes, with accommodations and food facilities available for devotees.

This number may expand, depending on demand. To register, homeowners simply need to submit a nominal fee of Rs 50 along with basic documentation, after which they will receive a verified licence valid for three years.

The scheme promises not only to ease the accommodation crunch but also to provide a steady source of income for local families. Hosts are free to set their own rent rates, with no interference from the government.

The Maha Kumbh is a 45-day religious event that is held once in 12 years. Slated to begin on January 14, 2025, the Maha Kumbh is spread across 4,000 hectares along the river bank. The event is being conducted on an estimated budget of nearly Rs 6,382 crore, of which over Rs 5,600 crore has already been set aside for the event and related projects.

Tamil Nadu to detect land encroachments using AI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 11: The Tamil Nadu government is set to launch an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based application to detect land and property encroachments across the state, starting with a pilot programme in Coimbatore.

Following the pilot study, the software will be customised for deployment across other urban local bodies to detect encroachments.

The state's Town Planning Department has invited consultants to develop the AI-powered software and smartphone application.

Consultants have been instructed to roll out the application within six months, after which it will operate for 12 months on a trial basis.

Upon completion, the Department of Town Planning will take over the operation and maintenance of the platform. According to the Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP), the software platform and database will be developed using advanced technologies, including satellite imagery, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and data science.

This AI-based platform will facilitate the automatic detection of encroachments, supported by a database of plot boundaries, existing building footprints, and related information.

The platform will obtain data from city master plans, detailed development plans, and local body records of building and layout approvals for both planned and unplanned areas.

Using this data, the AI system will track progressive changes in land use on both government and private properties, alerting officials to land-use changes, unauthorised constructions, and encroachments.

The application will also monitor green cover across different regions, aiding in the tracking of deforestation and urban expansion.

A senior official of the Tamil Nadu town planning department while speaking to IANS on conditions of anonymity said, "The AI-driven study on encroachments is a huge move which will help detect all encroachments. The green cover will also be on an increase by this technology-driven detection of encroachments."

Cybercrimes on rise in TN cities

POLICE WARNS PUBLIC; CHENNAI, COIMBATORE, 2-TIER CITIES VULNERABLE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 11: The Tamil Nadu Police has cautioned public to remain vigilant as cybercrimes continue to rise, leading many to fall victim to scams and losing significant amounts of money.

According to officials, residents of Chennai and Coimbatore have been notably affected, with individuals in smaller cities also increasingly being targeted.

The Greater Chennai City Police reported that between January and August 2024, a total of 1,679 cybercrime cases were registered, with 1,589 related to financial fraud, amounting to a loss of approximately Rs 189 crore in various scams.

Coimbatore City Police Commissioner V Balakrishnan noted a sharp increase in cybercrime cases this year, with fraudsters siphoning off about Rs 93 crore.

He highlighted that the number of cases reported has been steadily growing year by year. Data shows that in 2021, Rs 3 crore was lost to cybercrime in Coimbatore, which rose to Rs 13 crore in 2022 and Rs 48 crore in 2023.

By November 2024, complaints totalling Rs 98 crore had been received, with ap-



During Jan-Aug this year, a total of 1,679 cybercrime cases were registered, with 1,589 related to financial fraud, amounting to a loss of approximately Rs 189cr in various scams

proximately 50 per cent of the amount (Rs 49.25 crore) successfully frozen by authorities. The state cyber crime unit received 6,798 complaints this year, leading to 255 FIRs, which are currently under investigation.

In these cases, victims reported a combined loss of Rs 93.04 crore. So far, 41 suspects have been arrested, seven of whom have been detained un-

der the Goondas Act.

The police has warned the public to beware of various methods used by scammers, including online share trading fraud, "Digital Arrest" scams involving FedEx or TRAI impersonators, part-time job scams, matrimonial frauds, and gift or electricity bill scams. In response to the increasing incidents of financial cybercrimes,

the police advised victims to register their cases on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) within 24 hours, either by calling the cyber-crime helpline (1930) or visiting www.cybercrime.gov.in.

Reporting on the NCRP initiates the process of freezing the suspicious bank account involved, making it crucial for victims to act swiftly.

Following a directive from the Madras High Court in July 2024, judicial officers were instructed that the recovery process for cybercrime losses can begin based on the NCRP complaint and a report from the cybercrime police, without requiring an FIR.

The police further urged the public to exercise caution when encountering high-profile investment advertisements or unknown investment apps and websites, advising people not to transfer money into unknown bank accounts.

A senior doctor in Chennai recently lost Rs 2 crore to an online share trading scam. After promptly filing a complaint on the NCRP portal, he was able to recover half the amount, with the remainder expected to be retrieved after further investigation, as the scammers had converted part of the money to cryptocurrency and transferred it abroad

EXOTIC FISH SPECIES DOMINATE YAMUNA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prayagraj, Nov 11: The National Green Tribunal has been informed that exotic fish species dominate the river Yamuna, while Indian fish species have declined.

The green body was hearing the issue of the decreasing population of Indian fish species in the Yamuna. It had earlier sought a response from authorities, including the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) in Prayagraj.

In its order dated November 7, a bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava noted that the CIFRI had filed its reply dated September 19, which supported the plea for a decrease in local fish species. The bench also compris-

ing judicial member Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert member A Senthil Vel noted the report about the decline in the number of fish species, including Indian Major Carps (IMCs), large catfishes and Hilsa fishery.

"In the 1960s and 1970s, Indian Major Carps (IMCs) contributed nearly 50 per cent of the total catch. Among the IMCs, Cirrhinus Mrigala (Mrigal/Nain) contributed the most, followed by Labeo Calbasu (Karaunchh/Kalboss), Labeo Rohita (Rohu), and Labeo Catla (Bhakur/Katla). Notably, Labeo Catla has experienced the most significant decline in abundance, indicating ongoing habitat degradation in the river Yamuna," said the CIFRI report submitted to the NGT.



Regarding large catfishes, the report said the important species were Sperate Aor (Tengan/Singhara), Sperate Seenghala (Tengan/Singhara), Wallago Attu (Padhin), Rita Rita (Ritha),

Silonias Silondia (Sinda), Bagarius Bagarius (Gaunchh), and Pangasius Pangasius (Piya-si) and their contribution to the total catch had declined in both composition and size, likely due

to the increasing presence of exotic species and other miscellaneous fish groups.

It further said that the Tenualosa Ilisha (Hilsa/Ilish) fishery had been totally wiped out from the riverine stretch in Prayagraj since 2010 due to the construction of the Farakka barrage.

According to the report, the exotic fishery in the Yamuna was primarily represented by Common Carp (Cyprinus carpio), Nile tilapia (Oreochromis niloticus), and Clarias Gariepinus. Other significant contributors included Clarias Gariepinus (Thai Mangur) at Delhi (Wazirabad).

Referring to the studies about their composition, the report said, "These indicate an overall dominance of exotic fish species

in the river Yamuna."

The tribunal, meanwhile, noted the recommendations for addressing the issue, such as prohibiting illegal fishing gears, enhanced monitoring, control and surveillance during the fishing ban, implementing strategic ranching practices, maintenance of proper records of fish catch data, banning the release of exotic fish for rituals, maintaining continuous water flow, addressing source pollution and increasing awareness.

It also sought a response from the secretaries of the Union ministries of Jal Shakti and Fisheries and Animal Husbandry.

"Having regard to the nature of the issue involved in the matter and reports filed, we deem it proper to implead them," the tribunal said.



Anti-tribal activities are going on in the tribal area. People are sent to other places from here and are brought back after brainwashing. Be careful. These are the people who are also doing government jobs and are sending your children to other places. One needs to be cautious of such people

BHAIJANLAL HARMA | CHIEF MINISTER, RAJASTHAN

'VERY POOR' AIR QUALITY PERSISTS IN DELHI

Delhi's air quality remained in the 'very poor' category Monday with an AQI reading of 352, while four monitoring stations reported air quality levels in the 'severe' zone. The 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded until 4 pm daily was reported at 352, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data



of the day quote

As a challenge, I will help her (Priyanka Gandhi) to make Wayanad the best tourism destination in the world

RAHUL ANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER



Today I challenge Narendra Modi that if he can prove these allegations, I will retire from politics. If you cannot, then you should retire

SIDDARAMIAI | CHIEF MINISTER, KARNATAKA



This government is bankrupt, after the election, they'll stop depositing money again, they don't even have money to fill potholes in Bangalore, people are furious

HD DEVE GOWDA | FORMER PRIME MINISTER, KARNATAKA



11 militants killed in gunfight

Two CRPF personnel sustained injuries during the heavy exchange of fire at Borobekra, and the condition of one of them was stated to be critical

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, Nov 11: Eleven suspected militants were killed in a fierce gunfight with security forces Monday after insurgents in camouflage uniforms, armed with sophisticated weapons, fired indiscriminately at a police station and an adjacent CRPF camp in Manipur's Jiribam district, officials said.

Two CRPF personnel also sustained injuries during the heavy exchange of fire at Borobekra, and the condition of one of them was stated to be critical, they said.

Following this incident, fresh violence was reported from multiple places in Imphal Valley where armed groups from the two warring sides engaged in exchanges of fire, police said.

The Kuki-Zo Council called for a total shutdown in the hill areas of the state from 5 am to 6 pm Tuesday "to express our collective grief and solidarity who were brutally shot dead".

In a series of attacks, the militants torched several shops and houses in and around the

MANIPUR VIOLENCE



Jakurador Karong market, besides the Borobekra police station and the CRPF camp located adjacent to it.

As the security forces retaliated, a heavy exchange of fire began and 11 suspected militants were killed, officials said.

In a post on X, the Manipur Police said, "Today, 11th November, 2024 at about 3 pm, the CRPF Post located at Jakuradorh and Borobekra Police Station (located nearby), Jiribam District were attacked by armed militants. The security forces retaliated strongly. Due to the attack, one CRPF constable namely Sanjeev Kumar sustained bullet injury and has been evacuated to Silchar Medical College, Assam and is under

Prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNSS were imposed in the area, according to a notification

treatment." The exchange of fire lasted 40-45 minutes, following which the situation was brought under control, it said.

"After the firing ceased, the area was searched and 10 (ten) dead bodies of armed militants were recovered along with arms and ammunition (3 nos. of AKs, 4nos. of SLRs, 2 nos. of INSAS, 01 no. of RPG, 01 no. of Pump Action Gun, BP Helmets and Mag-

azines). Accordingly, a criminal case has been registered and is being investigated," it added.

Operations were continuing to flush out militants, and reinforcement teams consisting of Assam Rifles, CRPF and police were rushed to the spot, the post said. In the evening, violent clashes were reported from various villages in Imphal West and Imphal East districts, officials said.

Militants allegedly fired at the low-lying areas of Koutruk in Imphal West from the hilltops of Kangpokpi district. It was retaliated by armed "village volunteers", they said.

A few abandoned houses and some other structures were set on fire in Kangchup area of the district by militants, they said.

Two people, identified as Phuritsabam Devananda and Ningombam Romesh, were injured after getting hit by shrapnel of a bomb.

Panic also gripped Lamshang after an improvised mortar shell fell in a residential area in Phumlou Kameng, around 3.7 km from Kangchup, police said.

Incidents of firing were also reported from Chanung and Thamnabokpi areas of Imphal East district, they said.

Intermittent violence was going on in Imphal Valley over the last two-three days, and the incident in Jiribam escalated it, they added.

Khanna hears 45 cases on first day as CJI

Khanna succeeded Justice DY Chandrachud who demitted office Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: Justice Sanjiv Khanna heard 45 cases on his first day as the 51st Chief Justice of India (CJI), and thanked lawyers and bar leaders for wishing him well.

CJI Khanna entered the hallowed CJI's courtroom around noon after being sworn by President Droupadi Murmu in a brief ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

He received a rousing welcome by the bar leaders, lawyers including former attorney general and senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi.

"I wish you a fruitful tenure as the CJI," wished Rohatgi.

Rohatgi had said Friday that after more than a decade and CJI YK Sabharwal (late), the top court will have another CJI from the Delhi High Court.

Other lawyers present in the courtroom also wished the CJI well.

"Thank you," said CJI Khanna, who assembled in courtroom 1 along with Justice Sanjay Kumar minutes after noon.

When a bar leader raised an issue relating to sequencing of cases listed in a day for hearing, the CJI said it was in his



CJI Khanna will serve on the post for a little over six months and demit office May 13 upon attaining the age of 65

mind and he will consider it.

The CJI held the court till 2.30 pm and heard 45 listed matters, mostly commercial disputes. In one of the pleas filed by the West Bengal government against an arbitral award, the CJI said, "The citizens cannot be taken for a ride."

The CJI-led bench refused to entertain the appeal of the state government against the arbitral award that had asked it to pay a Mauritius-based company towards promised tax incentives.

CJI Khanna took the oath in English "in the name of God".

Born May 14, 1960, CJI Khanna will serve on the post for a little over six months and demit office May 13 upon attaining the age of 65.

SHORT TAKES

Five killed in road accident

Silchar: Five persons, including four of a family, were killed in a head-on collision between a goods-carrying van and an autorickshaw in Assam's Cachar district Monday, police said. The accident happened near Ranighat bridge in Borkhola on Silchar-Kalain Road. "The deceased were passengers of the autorickshaw. The driver was also injured in the accident," an official said. The deceased had been identified as Jakir Hussain, his wife Rezia Begum and their two children, Diluwab and Rehana, both in their 20s, and their neighbour Tahiruddin.

DMRC launches bike taxi service

New Delhi: Delhi Metro passengers can now book bike taxi rides through the DMRC Momentum application without juggling between multiple platforms, an official statement said Monday. The service, which was introduced Monday, includes two options -- SHERYDS for women, by women, and RYDR, available to all commuters, according to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). The facility has been presently made available from 12 metro stations.

Phone tapping case: Ex BRS MLA summoned

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad police, probing the case on phone-tapping allegedly happened during the previous BRS regime summoned former MLA Chirumarthi Lingaiah to appear for questioning Monday, but the ex-legislator sought time till November 14 for his appearance. He is the first non-police official who was summoned as part of investigation into the case. The Investigation Officer (IO) of the case had issued notice to him (Lingaiah) for questioning, but he did not appear before the police Monday citing health reasons, a senior police official told PTI. He said he would appear November 14, the official said.

Karnataka to host 25th rural IT quiz

Bangalore: The Karnataka government is set to host the 25th edition of the Rural IT Quiz, aimed at promoting technological literacy among rural students, officials said Monday. Recognised by the Limca Book of Records, the Rural IT Quiz is an annual initiative that has fostered digital inclusion in India since its inception in 2000.

COURT CORNER

SC rejects bail plea of Prajwal booked for rape, sexual assault

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday denied bail to former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, accused of rape and sexual assault. Rejecting the plea, a bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma observed Revanna was a "very influential person". Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing the politician, argued that the chargesheet had been filed in the case without the charge of Section 376 (rape) of the IPC. The bench, however, observed it could not interfere with the Karnataka High Court's October 21 decision denying him bail. Subsequently, Rohatgi sought the liberty to approach the court after six months. The bench said it could not say anything about it and dismissed the plea.

1984 riots: Delhi HC says murder trial to continue against Jagdish Tytler

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Monday made it clear that the murder trial in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler would continue. Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri was hearing a plea filed by Tytler seeking a stay on the trial proceedings taking place against him in a Delhi court. The court would continue with the hearing November 29. "It is made clear the trial will continue. Same will be subject to the outcome of the present proceedings," the judge ordered. Tytler's counsel submitted the case was listed for the recording of evidence of a prosecution witness before the trial court November 12 and the trial court be asked to not proceed till the high court decided his plea against the framing of charges order. Tytler's plea challenging the framing of murder and other charges against him is listed November 29 but he moved court with the plea to stay the trial.

SC junks plea of Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj Party to postpone Bihar by-elections

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday dismissed a plea filed by political strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj Party to postpone the Bihar by-elections scheduled to be held November 13. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan said it was too late to interfere in the scheduled by-polls. Calling it a policy issue, the top court said courts shouldn't interfere in such matters and noted all arrangements had been made for the Bihar by-elections. "Other political parties do not have a problem. Only you have a problem. You are a new political party, you need to know these zig-zags," remarked the bench.

Terror attacks rocked 8 of 10 Jammu districts in 2024

The deceased included 18 security personnel and 13 terrorists, the officials said, adding that among the 14 civilians killed by the terrorists, seven were pilgrims returning from the Shiv Khouri temple while three were village defence guards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 11: Terror attacks have killed 44 people, including 18 security personnel, in Jammu this year with the strikes spreading from the

border districts of Rajouri and Poonch to six other areas in the troubled region, security officials said Monday. Though the Pir Panjal districts of Rajouri and Poonch witnessed a considerable drop in terror activities in 2024 compared to the previous years, the series of incidents in Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Kathua, Udhampur and Jammu from April-May onwards have kept the security agencies on their toes.

To counter the threat and thwart the attempts of Pakistan-based handlers to spread terror in the peaceful areas of the region, officials said the army, in close synergy with the police and the central armed police forces, has launched relentless operations in the vulnerable regions, especially in the dense forests. As per official data, Doda, Kathua and Reasi districts recorded nine killings each this year followed by Kishtwar (five), Udhampur

Worker dies in fire at IOCL refinery

Visuals showed thick plumes emerging from the refinery which can be seen from kilometres away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vadodara, Nov 11: A 32-year-old worker died in a fire triggered by a blast at the Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) refinery in Vadodara city of Gujarat Monday, an official said.

IOCL said the blaze was reported at around 3:30 PM in a benzene storage tank and fire-fighting operations are currently underway.

The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained, it said in a statement Monday night, adding that the operations at the refinery are normal.

"Contractual worker Dhimant Makwana died in the fire at the refinery," said Jawaharnagar police station inspector AB Mori.

Vadodara olice Commissioner Narasimha Komar said things are under control at the IOCL campus.

The blast at the refinery in the Koyali area on the outskirts of Vadodara triggered the blaze, Komar said.

Visuals showed thick plumes emerging from the refinery which can be seen from kilometres away. Several workers were evacuated and can be seen exiting the IOCL campus.

"A fire was reported at around 3:30 PM in a benzene storage tank (1000 KL capacity)



at Gujarat Refinery. The refinery's emergency response team is actively tackling the situation, with firefighting operations currently underway," the IOCL said in a statement.

The adjacent water sprinkler system has been activated to contain the blaze, and dousing efforts are ongoing, the IOCL stated.

Komar said fluid circula-

tion in the IOCL complex was stopped as per the standard operating procedure. Other storage tanks were being cooled to ensure that the blaze didn't spread.

All the employees who were working in the shift have been moved out of the refinery, he added.

"People reaching the refinery for subsequent shifts are

being turned back for safety reasons. It will take time before the benzene in the storage tank is burnt out," the police commissioner said, adding that the evacuation is complete.

Local MLA of Waghadia Assembly constituency Dharmendrasinh Vaghela said a few people sustained minor injuries and were taken to a hospital.



(four), Jammu and Rajouri (three each), and Poonch (two).

The deceased included 18 security personnel and 13 terrorists, the officials said, adding that among the 14 civilians killed by the terrorists, seven were pilgrims returning from the Shiv Khouri temple while three were village defence guards (VDGs). While the pilgrims were killed

in an attack on their bus which also claimed the life of the local driver and conductor, the VDGs were shot in Udhampur and Kishtwar districts.

Seven security personnel lost their lives in terror incidents this year in Kathua, five in Doda, three in Kishtwar, two in Poonch and one in Udhampur, the officials said, adding that

Night patrolling has also been intensified across the region, especially in the border villages, to check infiltration of terrorists from across the border

three terrorists were killed in a two-day long operation in Akhnour sector of Jammu region in October, four in separate encounters in Doda, two each in Kathua, Udhampur and Rajouri. The Rajouri-Poonch belt, which like other parts of Jammu region were almost cleared of terrorism over a decade ago, witnessed deadly terror attacks mostly targeting army vehicles since October 2021, resulting in the death of more than 100

persons, including 47 security personnel and 48 terrorists, besides seven civilians.

Rajouri accounted for 19 deaths in 2021, 14 in 2022 and 28 in 2023. Likewise, Poonch recorded 15 deaths in 2021, four in 2022 and 24 in 2023, the officials said quoting the data. They said the footprints of the security forces have been increased in many areas where they were earlier reduced or completely withdrawn due to the improved security situation over the years. Night patrolling has also been intensified across the region, especially in the border villages, to check infiltration of terrorists from across the border, the officials said.

They added that public outreach in the form of medical camps and other welfare measures under 'Operation Sadbhavana' (goodwill), including frequent interaction with the elders and the youth, have also recorded a manifold increase.

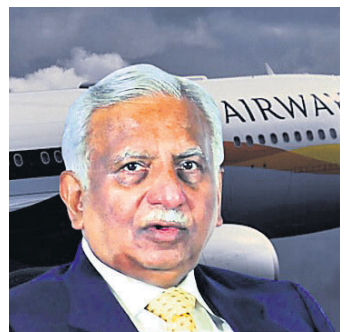


Unity among citizens and integrity of the nation is important to make India a developed nation by 2047. But, unfortunately some people are trying to divide our society on caste, religious, linguistic, men-women, village-city lines due to their vested interests or due to their narrow-mindedness

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE: JET AIRWAYS FOUNDER NARESH GOYAL GETS MEDICAL BAIL

The Bombay High Court Monday granted medical bail to Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal, who is an accused in a money laundering case. In May this year, a single bench of Justice NJ Jamadar granted interim bail to Goyal on medical grounds. Justice Jamadar Monday made the interim order permanent



of the day quote

Jharkhand has been converted into a 'dharma-shala' for Rohingyas and Bangladeshi infiltrators who have been given free rein to spread anarchy

YOGI ADITYANATH | CHIEF MINISTER, UTTAR PRADESH

It does not matter to Congress whether it is in power or not, Congress ruled for many years over the past 70 years, but this time it is crucial, the constitution and reservations are in danger, Congress must form the government in Maharashtra to safeguard both

REVANTH REDDY | CHIEF MINISTER, TELANGANA

The Delhi government is committed to ensuring the safety of its citizens and will provide the necessary financial resources for the marshals' salaries

ATISHI | CHIEF MINISTER, DELHI

Russian Deputy PM hails biz ties with India

The EAM opined that a partnership between an India that has an 8 per cent growth rate for multiple decades ahead, and a Russia that is a key natural resources provider and a major technology leader, will serve both countries and the world well



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 11: Highlighting that Russia-India business relations continue to strengthen amid the external economic pressure, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov Monday outlined development of the transport industry and increasing the potential of the nuclear sector among the priority technological areas of future cooperation between Moscow and New Delhi.

Manturov and External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar met with representatives of

Russian and Indian businesses at the India-Russia Business Forum in Mumbai ahead of the 25th Session of the Intergovernmental Russian-Indian Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation that will be held in New Delhi Tuesday.

The forum, aiming at fostering stronger business ties between entrepreneurs from both nations, featured sessions on key areas of cooperation, including industrial collaboration, transport and logistics, finance, digital technologies,

and interregional connections. Spotting India's long history of strong convergence and deep friendship with Russia, EAM Jaishankar stated that as Moscow consciously focused more deeply on Asia since 2022, many more avenues of cooperation have been created at a time when the world is moving towards greater multi-polarity.

"Our bilateral trade is today at USD 66 billion. This makes the goal of reaching USD 100 billion by 2030 more than realistic. The balance of trade however needs urgent redressal since it

is so one-sided. It is imperative that non-tariff barriers and regulatory impediments are speedily addressed for this to happen. The India-Eurasian Economic Union trade in goods negotiations commenced in March this year. We need to vigorously take it forward," said Jaishankar while highlighting significant developments in the bilateral business partnership.

The EAM opined that a partnership between an India that has an 8 per cent growth rate for multiple decades ahead, and a Russia that is a key natural resources provider and a major technology leader, will serve both countries and the world well.

In his address, Manturov listed development of the transport industry, including the introduction of unmanned technologies and the transfer of vehicles to alternative fuels, and increasing the potential of the nuclear sector - including the production of high-power turbines, equipment for solar and wind generation and improving LNG technologies - as the key areas of bilateral economic cooperation.

SIDDIQUE MURDER CASE

Main shooter, 4 others sent to police custody till Nov 19

Seeking remand, police told court it wanted to probe the financial aspects of the case as well as how the shooter procured arms used in the crime



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 11: A court here Monday remanded in police custody till November 19 alleged main shooter Shivkumar Gautam and four others arrested in NCP politician Baba Siddique's murder case.

The UP special task force and the Mumbai Crime Branch Sunday arrested alleged shooter Shivkumar (20) and four others from Nanpara in Uttar Pradesh's Bhaeraha district.

The four other accused, Anurag Kashyap, Gyan Prakash Tripathi, Akash Srivastava and Akhilesh Pratap Singh, were arrested for sheltering Shivkumar and helping him flee to Nepal.

The crime branch produced the accused before additional chief judicial magistrate Vinod Patil. Seeking their remand, police told court it wanted to probe the financial aspects of the case as well as how the shooter procured arms used in the crime.

Accused Anurag Kashyap provided Shivkumar Rs 2 lakh and there was need to probe the source of this money, police told court.

Shivkumar was in touch with wanted accused Shubham Lonkar and, therefore, his custody was needed to know where the latter was, police said.

Advocate Amit Mishra, ap-

pearing for the accused, said Shivkumar was ready to cooperate in the investigation and he could be remanded in police custody. However, Mishra said, the other four should be remanded for a minimum period as no specific role has been assigned to them in the crime.

They are just accused of providing Shivkumar shelter and helping in his attempt to flee, Mishra argued in court.

After hearing both sides, the court remanded five accused in police custody till November 19.

Former Maharashtra minister Siddique, 66, was shot dead October 12 by three assailants outside his son MLA Zeeshan Siddique's office building in Bandra East, Mumbai. He sustained two bullet injuries on his chest and was rushed to the Lilavati hospital in Mumbai, where he passed away.

According to STF, Shivkumar told them Shubham Lonkar works for Lawrence Bishnoi and that he (Lonkar) had made him (Shivkumar) talk to Lawrence Bishnoi's brother Anmol Bishnoi several times through Snap Chat.

Shivkumar has said he was to get Rs 10 lakh after the murder of Siddique as well as "something or the other" every month, the STF informed. Police have so far arrested 23 accused in connection with the murder.

'ANTARIKSHA ABHYAS'

Space exercise gets underway in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: A first-of-its-kind exercise aiming to secure India's national strategic objectives in space got underway here Monday with Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan asserting that space is now the "critical enabler" of the country's defence and security apparatus.

'Antariksha Abhyas - 2024', an exercise to "war-game the growing threats from and to space-based assets and services", is being conducted by the Defence Space Agency of Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff from November 11-13, the defence ministry said in a statement.

Highlighting that space was becoming increasingly "congested, contested, competitive and commercial", CDS Chauhan impressed upon the military leadership to secure national interests in space by fostering innovation and developing cutting-edge technologies and state-of-the-art systems in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and academia.

The first-of-its-kind exercise is expected to help secure national strategic objectives in space and integrate India's space capability in military operations, the statement said.

In his opening address, the CDS outlined the importance of the exercise. The space exercise aims to provide enhanced understanding of space-based assets and services, and to gain understanding of operational dependency on space segment between stakeholders, the ministry said.



Students pass by a wall painting depicting a scene from 'Krishna Leela' (childhood stories) ahead of the 'Maha Kumbh Mela', in Prayagraj, Monday

PTI PHOTO

Inter-State Council reconstituted with PM as chairman

The vision of the council is to work for Centre-State and interstate coordination and cooperation besides creating a strong institutional framework to promote and support cooperative federalism in the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Inter-State Council, which works for Centre-State and interstate coordination and cooperation, has been reconstituted with



Prime Minister Narendra Modi as its chairman, all chief ministers and nine Union ministers as members and 13 Union ministers as permanent invitees.

According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Union ministers belonging to NDA allies Janata

Dal (United), Janata Dal (Secular), Telugu Desam Party and Lok Janshakti Party are part of the reconstituted council.

Prime Minister Modi will be the chairman, chief ministers of all states and union territories having a legislative Assembly and administrators of union

territories not having a legislative Assembly will be members of the high-powered committee, the notification said.

The vision of the council is to work for Centre-State and interstate coordination and cooperation besides creating a strong institutional framework

to promote and support cooperative federalism in the country.

Members of the council include Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Jagat Prakash Nadda, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Nirmala Sitharaman, Manohar Lal Khattar, Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Virendra Kumar and Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu

Permanent invitees of the council are Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Subrahmanya Jaishankar, HD Kumaraswamy, Piyush Goyal, Dharmendra Pradhan, Jitan Ram Manjhi, Jual Oram, Ashwini Vaishnav, Bhupender Yadav, Kiren Rijiju, G Kishan Reddy, Chirag Paswan and CR Patil.

DRUNK DRIVING

SC notice to Centre for age check at liquor sale points

THE COUNSEL APPEARING FOR PETITIONER NGO 'COMMUNITY AGAINST DRUNKEN DRIVING' SAYS A ROBUST POLICY IN THIS REGARD WOULD HELP IN REDUCING AND PREVENTING THE MENACE OF DRUNKEN DRIVING AND ALSO IN CURBING UNDERAGE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Supreme Court Monday sought the Centre's response on a petition seeking direction for an effective protocol and robust policy for the enforcement of mandatory age checks at liquor sales points. The plea said that the excise policy of different states has age legislation making it illegal to consume or possess alcohol below a certain age but a strict mechanism to check the age of consumers or buyers at alcohol points of sale or consumption is absent. The petition, which also opposed doorstep delivery of liquor service contending it would hasten the formation of the habit of alcohol consump-

tion among underage persons, came up for hearing before a bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan.

The legal drinking age prescribed by different states and Union Territories ranges from 18 to 25 years. The counsel appearing for petitioner NGO 'Community Against Drunken Driving' argued that there was no regime in place to check the age of consumers or buyers at liquor vends, bars, pubs, etc. It said a robust policy in this regard would help in reducing and preventing the menace of drunken driving and also in curbing underage consumption of alcohol.

The petitioner has suggested that any person selling, serving or providing alcohol to minors



should be fined Rs 50,000 or three months in jail or both. "The petitioner understands that many of the respondents herein are considering proposals to allow doorstep delivery

of alcohol. If doorstep delivery is allowed it would facilitate easy access to alcohol for young people and will hasten the formation of the habit of alcohol consumption among underage

The petitioner has suggested that any person selling, serving or providing alcohol to minors should be fined Rs 50,000 or three months in jail or both

persons," the plea, filed through advocate Vipin Nair, said. It has said all outlets serving alcohol be directed to verify, check and maintain a record of those to whom liquor was served.

The plea has sought a direction "to establish an effective protocol and mechanism for

the enforcement of mandatory age check of underage drinking at alcohol sales points namely liquor shops, pubs, bars, restaurants etc via biometrics age match using government issued identity card". It said data collected by the petitioner in 2017 revealed that there was a rise of 20 per cent in accidents caused by drunken driving. "As per research and statistics collected by the petitioner organisation, drunken driving is the cause for more than 70 per cent of road accidents, resulting in more than 1,00,000 road deaths annually across India," the petition said. The plea, which referred to a study by the World Health Organisation (WHO), said alcohol consumption has been steadily increasing in India.

international



There's one promise left that Joe Biden could fulfil, being a transitional figure. He could resign the presidency in the next 30 days, make Kamala Harris President of the United States
JAMAL SIMMONS | FORMER COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT, US

KHAN'S PROTEST CALL

Pakistan's jailed former PM Imran Khan Monday said that in a few days he will announce the date for a nationwide 'protest march' aimed at rallying support for his party's demands



of the day quote

A monitoring team is different from the deployment of troops. The team is not a military unit that operates under a command system. It will consist of a small number of professionals who make a short-term visit (to Ukraine that could possibly take part in analysing North Korean combat tactics)
KIM YONG-HYUN | DEFENCE MINISTER, SOUTH KOREA

I know that we made a commitment to reach this level (supplying 1 million 155-mm artillery shells to Ukraine) by spring and we failed. But we can do it by the end of the year
JOSEF BORRELL | EU FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF

We were instrumental in setting up the (EU) sanctions regime (on violent Israeli settlers) that was already activated two times, and that might be activated a third time soon
JEAN-NOEL BARROT | FOREIGN MINISTER, FRANCE

'PURE FICTION'

Kremlin denies Trump-Putin talk

A report by Washington Post claimed Sunday that Trump called up Putin and the two leaders discussed the conflict in Ukraine



Washington, Nov 11: The Kremlin dismissed Monday reports that US President-elect Donald Trump had spoken to Russian President Vladimir Putin in recent days as "pure fiction."

A source told Reuters Sunday that Trump, who has criticised the scale of US military and financial support for Kyiv and said he will end the war quickly, had spoken to Putin in recent days.

The source told Reuters they were familiar with the conversation, first reported by The Washington Post which cited unidentified sources as saying Trump had told Putin that he should not escalate the Ukraine war.

In an unusual move, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday no such call had taken place between Putin and Trump.

"This is completely untrue. This is pure fiction, it's just false information," he told reporters. "There was no conversation."

"This is the most obvious

Washington Post also said two sources indicated the Ukrainian gov't was informed of the call and did not object to the conversation taking place

example of the quality of the information that is being published now, sometimes even in fairly reputable publications," he said.

Asked whether Putin had plans for any contacts with Trump, Peskov said: "There are no concrete plans yet."

The Washington Post also said two sources indicated the Ukrainian government was informed of the call between Trump and Putin and did not

This is the most obvious example of the quality of the information that is being published now, sometimes even in fairly reputable publications

DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN, RUSSIA

object to the conversation taking place.

Trump spoke to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy last Wednesday.

Asked about the purported Trump-Putin call, Steven Cheung, Trump's communications director, said: "We do not comment on private calls between President Trump and other world leaders."

Republican Trump will take office January 20 after winning the November 5 presidential election. Biden has invited Trump to the Oval Office Wednesday, the White House said.

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said Sunday

Ishiba survives Parliament vote

Japanese lawmakers vote for Shigeru Ishiba to stay PM, leading a minority govt amid economic woes and security challenges



Tokyo, Nov 11: Japanese lawmakers voted for Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba to stay on as leader Monday, after his scandal-tarnished coalition lost its parliamentary majority in a lower house election last month.

Ishiba, who called the snap poll after taking office October 1, must now run a fragile minority government as protectionist Donald Trump returns to office in mainland the United States, tension rises with rivals China and North Korea, and domestic pressure mounts to rein in the cost of living.

His Liberal Democratic Party and coalition partner Komeito won the biggest bloc of seats in the election but lost the majority held since 2012, leaving him beholden to small opposition parties to pass his policy agenda.

"In light of the very challenging election, we must

transform into a national party that serves the people, that empathises with the peoples' struggles, their misery, and their joy," Ishiba said at a press conference after Parliament voted to keep him in his job.

Underlining his party's fragility, however, Monday's vote, broadcast on television, went to a run-off for the first time in 30 years, with no candidate able to muster majority support in the first round.

Ishiba prevailed in that run-off, garnering 221 votes, well clear of the head of the main Opposition Constitutional Democratic Party and ex-PM Yoshihiko Noda, but still short of a majority in the 465-seat lower house.

Japan will hold elections next year for the less powerful upper house, where the ruling coalition's slim majority could also be at risk if Ishiba cannot revive public trust roiled by a scandal over unrecorded donations to lawmakers.

In light of the very challenging election, we must transform into a national party that serves the people, that empathises with the peoples' struggles, their misery, and their joy
SHIGERU ISHIBA | PM, JAPAN

SHORT TAKES

US-led coalition strikes on Yemen

Sanaa: US-British coalition fighter jets carried out nine airstrikes on military sites in the Houthi-controlled northern Yemen Monday morning, the Houthi-run al-Masrah TV reported. The airstrikes, which have continued for its third consecutive day, hit the Houthi military sites in the Harf Sufyan district in Amran province and the As-Safra district in Saada province, said the television, without specifying the casualties or the extent of damage.

Mpx cases in Congo 'plateauing': WHO

London: The World Health Organisation said mpx cases in the region of Congo where a new and more infectious variant was first detected appear to be "plateauing", even as the virus continues to increase in other regions of the country, as well as in Burundi and Uganda. In a report Monday, the UN health agency said the number of mpx infections "shows a general rising trend" but that they may have plateaued in South Kivu, where the more infectious form of mpx was first identified to be spreading earlier this year.

Budget meeting scrapped as German parties wrangle

Berlin, Nov 11: German legislators Monday scrapped a crucial budget planning meeting as parties continued to wrangle over the timing of an election to end a period of political uncertainty after Chancellor Olaf Scholz's coalition broke up last week.

The cancellation of what was to have been the final meeting of the parliamentary budgetary committee this week risks delaying Germany's 2025 budget at a time when calls are mounting for government intervention to avert the economic crisis in Europe's largest economy.

Scholz's government has been without a parliamentary majority since Wednesday when the neoliberal Free Democrats (FDP) quit the coalition over its more left-wing partners' desire to spend more, using government borrowing if necessary.

The scrapping of the committee meeting makes it less likely that a majority can be cobbled together in the Bundestag to approve a budget, even if Scholz's Social Democrats and the Greens, who remain in government, manage to propose one.

The Opposition conservatives, comfortably ahead in polls, say Scholz is delaying the election for political gain, hoping to score political wins in the time remaining before a vote takes place.

They want President Frank-Walter Steinmeier to intervene to force an earlier election to ensure Germany has a strong government as soon as possible.

"I call on the President to remind the Chancellor of his constitutional duties," said senior conservative legislator Matthias Middeberg.

COP29 focuses on urgent climate finance

Baku, Nov 11: Azerbaijan, the host of this year's UN climate conference, Monday called on all countries to urgently resolve outstanding issues to agree on a new climate finance goal which the UN climate chief said is entirely in the self-interest of every nation.

The negotiating priority of COP29 being held in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, is the new climate finance package, also called the New Collective Quantified Goal. Historic polluters must deliver a package that is ambitious, predictable, time-bound, reliable and delivered as grants not loans for Global South countries.

"If at least two-thirds of the world's nations cannot afford to cut emissions quickly, then every nation pays a brutal price. If nations can't build resilience into supply chains, the entire global economy will be brought to its knees. No country is immune. So, let's dispense with



any idea that climate finance is charity. An ambitious new climate finance goal is entirely in the self-interest of every nation," UN climate change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell said during the opening ceremony.

He said just agreeing to a new climate finance goal is not enough and countries must work harder to reform the global financial system.

Developing countries are calling for a reform of the global financial system to make climate funding more accessible, affordable, and fair. The

current system often requires them to take on debt or pay high interest rates for climate projects, which strains their economies.

COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev said current policies are leading the world toward 3 degrees Celsius of warming, which would be catastrophic for billions of people.

Negotiations over the new climate finance goal in recent months have revealed deep divides, with countries disagreeing on almost every element of the NCGQ, including the amount of funding needed, who

INDIA'S PRIORITIES

Baku: India's approach at COP29 focuses on accountability, green credit, fair financing, and incremental goals for its developing economy, multiple delegates said Monday as the latest edition of the world's most important meeting on climate change kick-started here. While moderate in terms of attendance and scale, India's primary priorities at the conference are expected to include holding developed nations accountable for climate finance, enhancing resilience for vulnerable communities, and advancing an equitable energy transition, a delegate said. Another focus area for India would be to promote green credit and the LiFe (Lifestyle for Environment) philosophy towards sustainability, another delegate said. A member of the delegation said that India's COP29 strategy is expected to challenge developed nations on the gaps in fulfilling climate pledges.

should contribute, the types of projects eligible, and the time period it should cover.

Beijing advancing toward producing first N-powered aircraft carrier

Researchers at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in California said they made the finding while investigating a mountain site in the southwest China, where they suspected China was building a reactor to produce plutonium or tritium for weapons

ered carriers to its fleet would be a major step in realising its ambitions for a true "blue-water" force capable of operating in seas far from China in a growing global challenge to the United States.

"Nuclear-powered carriers would place China in the exclusive ranks of first-class naval powers, a group currently limited to the United States and France," said Tong Zhao, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, DC.

"For China's leadership, such a development would symbolise national prestige, fuelling domestic nationalism and elevating the country's global image as a leading power."

Researchers at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in California said they made the finding while investigating a mountain site outside the city of Leshan in the southwest Chinese province of Sichuan, where they suspected China was building a reactor to produce plutonium or tritium for weapons.

Instead they concluded that



Nuclear-powered carriers would place China in the exclusive ranks of first-class naval powers, a group currently limited to the United States and France

to build a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, but the research by the Middlebury team is the first to confirm that China is working on a nuclear-powered propulsion system for a carrier-sized surface warship.

"The reactor prototype at Leshan is the first solid evidence that China is, in fact, developing a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier," said Jeffrey Lewis, a professor at Middlebury and one of the researchers on the project. "Operating a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier is an exclusive club, one that China looks set to join."

Drawing on satellite images and public documents including project tenders, personnel files, environmental impact studies and even a citizen's complaint about noisy construction and excessive dust, they concluded a prototype reactor for naval propulsion was being built in the mountains of Mucheng township, some 112 kilometers southwest of Sichuan's provincial capital Chengdu.

The reactor, which procurement documents indicate will soon be operational, is housed in a new facility built at the site known as Base 909, which houses six other reactors that are operational, decommissioned or under construction, according to the analysis. The site is under the control of the Nuclear Power Institute of China, a subsidiary of the China National Nuclear Corporation, which is tasked with reactor engineering research and testing.

Mastermind of Karachi airport suicide attack arrested: Pak police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, Nov 11: The alleged mastermind of the Karachi airport suicide attack and four suspected accomplices, including a female bomber, have been arrested, police said Monday.

The five militants were arrested last week from different parts of the restive Balochistan province, Umar Khatab, a senior official of the Sindh Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), said.

The blast 6th October killed four people including the two Chinese engineers and wounded 17 others.

Two Chinese nationals were killed and 17 people injured in the suicide attack by the banned Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) that targeted a convoy of Chinese workers near the Jinnah International Airport October 6. "We were able to identify those responsible for the attack through face verification and one of them is a trained female militant and bomber," Khatab said.



Let us partner to achieve the export target of \$2 trillion by 2030, given that we will cross \$800 billion this (fiscal) year. We will have to really put in a lot of effort collectively to achieve \$2 trillion

PYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

ALL-NEW DZIRE HITS ROADS

Maruti Suzuki India Monday introduced the all-new version of its compact sedan Dzire and said the automaker would continue to cater to all customer segments in order to preserve its high market share in the domestic market. The automaker introduced the new Dzire priced between ₹6.79 lakh and ₹10.14 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi)



of the day quote

Today, in India, almost 10 per cent of our economy evolves from our digital economy, up three times from three and a half per cent a decade ago

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION TELECOM MINISTER

'UK' code to fly into history; Vistara takes last flight

Air India-Vistara merger to be reality from November 12

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: The nearly 10-year-old Vistara is set to bid adieu to the skies as the well-regarded full service carrier will operate its last domestic and international flights as an independent airline late Monday night.



Vistara flight UK 986 will fly from Mumbai to Delhi and UK 115 will fly from Delhi to Singapore. It will be the last time that the flight code 'UK' will be dotting the firmament and from Tuesday onwards, Vistara flights will have the new code 'AI2XXX'.

Interestingly, when the airline commenced operations January 9, 2015, it was the other way around as the maiden flight operated from Delhi to Mumbai.

An official Monday said Vistara's last flights on domestic and international routes are scheduled to be UK 986 and UK 115, respectively. UK 986 is to depart at around 2250 hours from Mumbai to Delhi and UK 115 is to leave Delhi for Singapore at about 2345 hours.

"Thank you for being part of this unforgettable journey and showering us with your #VistaraLove. We will forever cherish these memories. Please follow @airindia for all the latest updates," Vistara said in a post on X.

The enlarged Air India will have a fleet of 208 planes operating on 103 domestic and 71 international routes. It will be flying to 49 domestic and 42 international destinations

A joint venture between Tata Group and Singapore, Vistara will be merged with Air India, following which Singapore Airlines will have a 25.1 per cent stake in the enlarged entity.

The merger will also mark the second major consolidation wave in the country's fast-growing civil aviation space after 2006-2007. Post Vistara merger -- also Tata Group's second significant airlines integration after AIX Connect was combined with Air India Express in October -- there will be only Air India as a full service Indian carrier.

In 2006-07, Indian Airlines merged with Air India and Air Sahara merged with Jet Airways. During the same period, Air Deccan was amalgamated with Kingfisher Airlines.

With a fleet of 70 planes, Vistara operates around 350 flights daily and various initiatives to integrate the systems, people and other elements of the two full service airlines have been progressing since the announcement of the merger in November 2022.

Bitcoin soars above \$82K for first time

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Nov 11: Bitcoin rallied past \$82,000 for the first time, boosted by President-elect Donald Trump's embrace of digital assets and the prospect of a Congress featuring pro-crypto lawmakers.

Trump was declared the winner in Arizona, marking a clean sweep of the seven US battleground states. His decisive victory in the presidential election has prompted celebratory chest-thumping from the digital-asset industry, which spent over \$100 million backing a range of crypto-friendly candidates.

The largest token climbed as much as 6.1 per cent Sunday and extended gains to hit an unprecedented \$82,300 Monday as of 10:21 am in London. Bullish sentiment lifted smaller coins too, including Dogecoin, a meme-crowd favorite promoted by Trump supporter Elon Musk, the world's richest man.

Bitcoin has added about 94 per cent so far in 2024, helped by robust demand for dedicated US exchange-traded funds and interest-rate cuts by the Federal Reserve. The rise in the token, which also scaled fresh records after Tuesday's US vote, exceeds the returns from investments such as stocks and gold.

We will be launching milk...fresh products in Europe by the end of this month

JAYEN S MEHTA | MD, GCMFF



After agriculture, we are the second largest employers in India according to statistics. With every one room added into the country, 10 jobs are created, and opportunities will be huge going forward in line with the rapid expansion of the hospitality industry in the country

NIKHIL SHARMA | MD AND AREA SENIOR VP FOR SOUTH ASIA, RADISSON HOTEL GROUP



TRUMP 2.0 ₹ faces uncertain future



Rupee may fall 8-10% during Trump's fresh regime, says SBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: The rupee may depreciate 8-10 per cent against the US dollar during the Trump 2.0 regime, said a SBI research report, even as the local currency hit its all-time low Monday.

The report, titled US Presidential Election 2024: How Trump 2.0 Impacts India's and Global Economy, emphasised that the rupee can have a brief spell of depreciation against the US dollar, followed by appreciation.

Donald J Trump's historical comeback as the 47th President of the United States adds a morpheus shot to the markets and select asset classes even as the focus is now shifting to wider economic ramifications and supply chain realignments, the report said.

"Trump's victory introduces a mix of challenges and opportunities for India. While the potential for increased tariffs, H-1B restrictions, and a strong dollar could bring short-term volatility...But it also presents India with long-term incentives to expand its manufacturing, diversify export markets, and

enhance economic self-reliance," it added.

It further said the 10-year yield shows no obvious trends, and the effect will be context-sensitive, going ahead.

"USD/INR has shown range bound movement, and the rupee can have a brief spell of depreciation followed by appreciation...Volatility in Indian equity markets showing signs of reduction," the SBI's study said.

Forex traders said the rupee is likely to remain under pressure unless there is a softening in the dollar index or a slowdown in foreign fund outflows.

The report emphasised that "the fear" that the rupee will depreciate sharply is unfounded.

During the Trump 1.0, rupee depreciated by 11%, less than it depreciated during the Joe Biden term

During the Trump 1.0, it said, the rupee depreciated by 11 per cent, less than it depreciated during the Joe Biden term.

While a stronger dollar might result in short-term capital outflows for short-term as investors flock to dollar-based assets, on a positive note, a lower rupee might provide an export advantage, potentially boosting revenues in sectors like textiles, manufacturing, and agriculture, the research report said.

"Still, we expect a depreciation of 8-10 per cent during Trump 2.0," the SBI research report said.

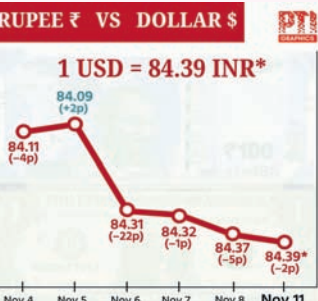
It also noted that the depreciation of the rupee may increase the import cost of oil and other commodities.

"As per our estimate, a 5 per cent decline in rupee will increase inflation by 25-30 bps. So, the impact will be very less on inflation," it said.

Rupee at new low

Mumbai: Declining for the fourth straight session, the rupee dropped 1 paise to hit a new lifetime low of 84.38 against the US dollar Monday, weighed down by persistent foreign fund outflows and a muted trend in domestic equities. Forex traders said the rupee is likely to remain under pressure unless there is a softening in the dollar index or a slowdown in foreign fund outflows.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.38 against the US dollar. During the session, the local currency touched a high of 84.37 and a low of 84.39. It finally settled at 84.38, registering a loss of 1 paise against its previous close. On Friday, the rupee dropped 5 paise to hit the lowest level of 84.37 against the US dollar, registering a decline for the third straight session. In the last four sessions, the local unit has lost 29 paise against the greenback.



Equity MFs, SIP at fresh heights



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: Equity mutual funds witnessed a record inflow of Rs 41,887 crore in October, marking a surge of 21.7 per cent on a month-on-month basis, fuelled by robust investments in thematic funds, despite the heightened volatility in the stock market.

This also marks the 44th consecutive month of net inflow in the equity-oriented funds, highlighting the ever-increasing appeal of mutual funds among investors, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed Monday.

Moreover, monthly contributions from the Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) rose to an all-time high of ₹25,323 crore last month against Rs 24,509 crore in September.

The industry's robust growth is reflected in achieving the historic milestone of retail folios crossing 17.23 crore. The continued surge in SIP accounts, now exceeding 10.12 crore, along with a record monthly SIP contribution demonstrates the growing preference for disciplined investing among Indian investors, Venkat Chalasani, Chief Executive of AMFI, said.

The inflow came despite heightened volatility in stock markets with Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) sucking out a massive ₹94,000 crore in the month under review due to major global events, including the US elections.

Overall, the mutual fund industry witnessed an inflow of ₹2.4 lakh crore in the month under review, after an outflow of ₹71,114 crore in September.

Demat accounts reach 179 million

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 11: As Indian stock markets continue to outperform compared to a global market, the number of total demat accounts increased to 179 million in October, from 175 million in September, a report showed Monday.

The Motilal Oswal Financial Services report, however, also said the new account additions declined to 3.5 million in October, with average monthly additions of 3.9 million in the current fiscal to date. It is the first time in the last four months when demat addition is below 4 million.

The number of active clients on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) increased 2.4 per cent (month-on-month) to 48.9 million in October.

Nationwide MSME cluster outreach programme

BHUBANESWAR: MSME cluster outreach programme was organised simultaneously at 149 locations throughout the country including six locations in Odisha. The main event was held at Pinna Cluster, Bangalore and was presided by Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman. Union Minister of MSME Jitendra Ram Manjhi participated through virtual mode from Gaya. Pankaj Chaudhury, Union Minister of State for Finance and Shobha Karandlaje, Union Minister of State for MSME and Secretary DFS were also present along with other esteemed guests. During the event, Sitharaman addressed the gathering and emphasised that it has been the government's endeavour to promote MSME beneficiaries and various initiatives taken for MSME customers. She also interacted with few MSME customers and advised public sector banks to lend more to MSME sectors in current financial year. UCO Bank as Convener and State Level Banker's Committee, Odisha organised the programme at Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar (Puri), Ramba (Ganjam), Bargarh and Balasore across the state in coordination with six LDMS connected through video conferencing with main function. Around 450 MSME customers and other bankers' representatives & LDMS attended the function as participants. The outreach programme at Cuttack, Balasore, Brahmagiri (Puri), Bhubaneswar, Ramba (Ganjam) and Sambalpur centre were supervised by Arupand Jena, GM, Inspection, Rajesh Upadhyay, GM, Retail, Satya Ranjan Panda, GM, ARBD from Head Office, Kolkata and Goutam Patra, GM & Convener, SLBC, Chinmaya Kumar Sahoo, Zonal Head, UCO Bank, Bhubaneswar Zone, Ashish Kumar Biswal, Zonal Head, Sambalpur and Sudeep Daku, Zonal Head, Balasore. The outreach programme in the state was coordinated by Lingaraj Nayak, In-Charge, SLBC, Odisha.



90-YEAR-LONG JOURNEY

Star India to make web series on RBI

Reserve Bank awards ₹6.5cr to make the web series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: Star India will make a web series on the Reserve Bank of India's 90-year-long journey to help people have a better understanding about the central bank's vital role in the country's fast-growing economy.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which was set up in 1935, completed 90 years in April this year.

Star India Private Limited, Viacom 18, Zee Entertainment Network Limited and Discovery Communications India did not qualify beyond the technical evaluation round, Star India Pvt Ltd and Viacom 18 made it to the final round.

According to the RBI, Star India has been awarded the tender for Rs 6.5 crore to make the web series.



(RFP) in July.

While Zee Entertainment Network and Discovery Communications India did not qualify beyond the technical evaluation round, Star India Pvt Ltd and Viacom 18 made it to the final round.

According to the RBI, Star India has been awarded the tender for Rs 6.5 crore to make the web series.

As per the RFP document, the RBI had desired the creation of a web series of five episodes of approximately 25-30 minutes

each, which can be aired on national TV channels and/or OTT platforms, commemorating 90 years journey of the RBI.

The five-episode series will serve as a valuable resource for enhancing public understanding of the central bank's vital role in the economy, fostering greater engagement, and building trust and confidence in its operations and policies, it said in the document.

The RBI had invited proposals from production houses, TV channels, and OTT platforms.

The primary objective of the project, according to the RBI, is to create a comprehensive and engaging series to provide an in-depth exploration of the RBI functions and operations over its 90-year journey.

"By achieving these objectives, the series with a total of 5 episodes with a duration of approx. 25-30 minutes each will serve as a valuable resource for

SEE-SAW TRADE

Sensex, Nifty settle flat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 11: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed flat in highly volatile trade on Monday as continuous FII selling, disappointing quarterly earnings and weak trends from Asian markets dented investor sentiment.

After gyrating between highs and lows, benchmark Sensex eked out gains of 9.83 points or 0.01 per cent to settle at 79,496.15. The barometer gyrated 1,100.8 points between the day's high of 80,102.14 and a low of 79,001.34.

The NSE Nifty dipped marginally by 6.90 points or 0.03 per cent to 24,141.30.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Asian Paints tumbled over 8 per cent after the company on Saturday reported a 43.71 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹693.66 crore for the September quarter, impacted by soft-demand con-



ditions, material price inflation and a decline in decorative and coatings business in the domestic market.

Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, JSW Steel, NTPC, Adani Ports, Bajaj Finserv and Larsen & Toubro were also among the gainers.

However, Power Grid, HCL Technologies, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services and ICICI Bank were among the losers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets Monday, as they offloaded shares worth ₹2,306.88 crore, according to exchange data.

Bumrah to lead if Rohit absent: Gambhir

Uncertainty still prevails over Indian captain's participation in the Perth Test starting Nov 22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 11: Head coach of the Indian cricket Gautam Gambhir said Monday that Jasprit Bumrah, as designated vice-captain, will lead India in the opening Test against Australia in Perth if regular skipper Rohit Sharma is unavailable for the game due to personal reasons. The straight-talking former opener also indicated that KL Rahul will compete in the series-opener.

“At the moment, there is no confirmation. We will let you know exactly what the situation will be. Hopefully, he is going to be available,” Gambhir told mediapersons at a press conference here. “Bumrah is the vice-captain, so obviously if Rohit is not available, he is going to lead in Perth,” the coach added.

Rohit's possible absence also leaves a spot vacant at the top of the batting order and Gambhir said one among the uncapped Abhimanyu Easwaran and KL Rahul, who both played in the unofficial Tests against Australia A for India A, will be picked.

“Obviously, there is Easwaran, there is KL there. We will take a call closer to the first Test match if Rohit is not available,” Gambhir stated. However he gave enough indications that Rahul's experience might prevail over rookie Easwaran's current form. “There are times when you go with experienced



Gautam Gambhir smiles during his interaction with the media Monday in Mumbai

players, and that is the quality of the man. He (Rahul) can actually bat at the top of the order, he can bat at No. 3 and at No. 6 as well,” said the former southpaw. “So I feel that if needed be, I think he (Rahul) can do the job for us, especially if Rohit is not available for the first Test match,” Gambhir said.

The coach backed uncapped all-rounder Nitish Reddy, who has a batting average of 21 in first-class cricket, and was picked ahead of veteran pace bowling Mumbai all-rounder Shardul Thakur.

“It is also about moving forward and I feel that this is the best set of players that we have selected to do

the job for the country,” Gambhir said He indicated that doors are closed on Shardul for the time being.

Harshit Rana was not sent with the India A squad for the unofficial ‘Tests’ in Australia to be ready for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, but Gambhir said the management did not want to add to his workload

Head coach hits back at Ponting

Mumbai: Gautam Gambhir fired back Monday at Ricky Ponting for questioning Virat Kohli's form and place in the Indian team. He said the Australian legend should only be concerned about cricket in his country. “What does Ponting have to do with Indian cricket? I think he should think about Australian cricket. More importantly, I have got no concerns whatsoever for Virat and Rohit (Sharma),” Gambhir said. It should be stated here that Kohli has just one fifty this year – 70 against Bangladesh in Kanpur Test – while his last Test century came in July 2023 against the West Indies. Ponting had stated that only because of his name Kohli is being favoured by Indian selectors.

by getting him to play first class games.

“He (Rana) had played a first class game against Assam and he did reasonably well (took five-for and scored a half century). We all thought that he has had enough bowling under his belt rather than just sending and playing him another match,” Gambhir pointed out. “For us, it is important for a fast bowler to be fresh as well,” he added.

Gambhir said the hunger to do well is ‘incredibly important’ for the Indian team especially after the loss to the Kiwis. “The hunger in that dressing room is incredibly important for me and for the entire group of people as well and especially after what has happened in the last series (against New Zealand),” Gambhir asserted.

PCB seeks clarity from ICC on India's refusal



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, Nov 11: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will seek clarity from the ICC on hosting of the Champions Trophy since they have only been intimated that India will not travel for the tournament but there was no word on hybrid model being proposed. The PCB was told by the ICC that BCCI won't send its team to Pakistan after the decision was communicated to the world governing body.

“There is no talk about hav-

- PCB claims that there have been no discussions on the tournament being conducted on a hybrid model
- PCB also warns ICC of legal action if India matches in the tourney are shifted to another nation

tion is being gauged by the PCB. No decision has been taken on the next step. Yes the PCB is in touch with the Pakistan government for consulta-

2025 CHAMPIONS TROPHY

ing the Champions Trophy on a hybrid model system as of now,” a reliable PCB source said here Monday. A hybrid model was followed during the Asia Cup last year, when India's matches were held in Sri Lanka while other matches were played in Pakistan. It is being speculated that Dubai can host India's matches in the tournament, which is scheduled to be held in February next year.

“An email is to be sent to the ICC with the advice of its legal department in which the PCB wants clarifications from the ICC on the Indian decision,” the source informed.

“As of now the entire situ-

tion and directives if required,” the source added.

The source said the PCB was awaiting policy guidelines from the government regarding India, which will be cited to seek clarification from the ICC about India's refusal to participate. He also pointed out that there could be legal implications for the ICC if the Pakistan government decides to take a tough call on cricket relations with India.

“There would be legal implications from commercial partners as the ICC has provided undertakings to the broadcasters, sponsors that all top cricket playing nations will participate in its tournaments,” the source stated.

SHORT TAKES

Amorim ready for Man U challenge

Lisbon: Manchester United's new manager Ruben Amorim, who is set to take charge Tuesday has said that he is ready for the 'new challenge'. Amorim expressed excitement about his move but was realistic about what it means to take over one of England's biggest clubs. “I feel ready for the new challenge,” he said. “I'm not naive. I know it's going to be very different, very tough.” Amorim's departure from Sporting CP has marked the start of a new era at Manchester United. Amorim's impressive track record – most recently, a 4-1 Champions League win over Manchester City – has given Manchester United fans some hope.

Kirti to contest DDCA elections

New Delhi: Former India cricketer-turned-politician Kirti Azad has announced his intention to run for the top position in the upcoming DDCA elections by filing his candidature November 19. The DDCA will hold elections for all members of the apex council December 13 to 15. “I was going to do it (file nomination) on December 14, but I will do it on the 19th. It's because I have to go to my constituency due to some urgency,” said Azad Monday. He is an MP for the Trinamool Congress from Bardhaman-Durgapur. He is a member of the 1983 World Cup-winning squad. The 2021 DDCA elections saw Rohan Jaitley emerge victorious in the president's race.

Ruud beats Alcaraz

Turin (Italy): Carlos Alcaraz looked little like the player who won two Grand Slams this year in a 1-6, 5-7 loss to Casper Ruud at the ATP Finals here Monday. It marked Ruud's first victory over Alcaraz in five career meetings and the result could make it difficult for Alcaraz to advance from the round-robin stage at the season-ending event for the year's top eight players. Alcaraz won the French Open and Wimbledon this year to boost his career total to four Grand Slam titles. But he also struggled at the Paris Masters recently and dropped behind Alexander Zverev to No. 3 in the rankings this week. The Spaniard looked listless and lost the first set without a fight.

Sindhu, Sen eye form



Lakshya Sen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kumamoto (Japan), Nov 11: Shuttlers PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will be eager to regain form when they lead the Indian challenge at the Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500 badminton tournament beginning here Tuesday.

Both players have struggled to find their best form since the Paris Olympics. While Sindhu reached the quarter-finals at the Denmark Open, Sen suffered early exits at both Arctic Open and Denmark Open. The two players have struggled to close out deciders after staying competitive in their matches.

Sindhu, after a shock first-round exit to Canada's Michelle Li in Finland, made it to the quarter-finals in Odense but lost to Paris bronze medalist Gregoria Mariska Tunjung of Indonesia in a tense deciding game. Lakshya, on the other hand, fell short against Chinese Taipei's Chou

Tien Chen and China's Lu Guang Zu in Finland and Odense.

Despite these setbacks, Sindhu has expressed confidence in her preparations, having worked closely with new coach Anup Sridhar and Korean legend Lee Syun Il.

“I'm in good shape, physically and mentally fit,” said Sindhu, who will open her campaign against eighth-seeded Thai Susann Ongbamrunphan. “We've been working on different aspects, like speed and defence. I hope to perform well in Japan and China with their guidance,” she added.

Lakshya possesses the game to challenge the world's best, but his mental resilience has been questioned following his near-miss at the Tokyo Olympics, where he slipped from a medal position in a heartbreaking loss. The 23-year-old will open against Malaysia's Leong Jun Hao.

Eves begin on confident note

Hosts trounce Malaysia 4-0 in women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajgir (Bihar), Nov 11: Young striker Sangita Kumari scored a brace as defending champions India defeated Malaysia 4-0 to open their campaign at the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament on a confident note here Monday. Sangita (eighth, 55th) struck twice, while Preeti Dubey (43rd) and Udita (44th) were the other goal-getters for the hosts. India will next play South Korea Tuesday.

In other matches of the day, Japan and Korea played out a 2-2 draw, while reigning Olympic silver medalist China thrashed Thailand 15-0.

The Indians completely dominated the proceedings in the first quarter even though Malaysia had the first shy at the Indian goal in the form of a penalty corner in the fifth minute which they wasted. Thereafter, it was India all the way as they mounted attack after attack to put pressure on the Malaysian defence. India secured two penalty corners in two minutes and Sangita scored with a variation from the second effort. Preeti then came close to doubling In-



The Indian players celebrate after scoring a goal Monday against Malaysia

dia's lead twice. First, her push from close range was saved by the Malaysian goalkeeper, and then a minute from the first quarter, she struck the side post.

India continued in the same vein in the second quarter and dominated the share of exchanges with persistent attacks on Malaysia but lacked the finishing touch. The Indians earned four penalty corners in the second quarter but failed to capitalise.

The Indian eves kept up the pressure after the change of ends and secured another penalty corner two minutes after the changeover but failed to get past the Malaysian goalkeeper.

The hosts doubled their lead through Preeti who deflected in Navneet Kaur's flick as India went for another variation from a set piece. A minute later, India extended their lead when Udita found the net with a slap shot from another penalty corner.

Five minutes from the final hooter, Sangita scored a brilliant field goal. She first collected an excellent through pass from the deep, ran past two defenders and slammed the ball into the net with a fierce reverse shot.

Earlier Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar inaugurated the tournament at the newly-developed hockey stadium here.

ABINASH STUNS 2ND SEED NISHANT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: Abinash Mohapatra caused a major upset Monday in a match of the All Odisha Billiards and Snooker State Ranking Championships-2024 being played here at the 6 Pockets Club. On the day, Abinash stunned second seed Nishant Biswal 3-2 in a snooker match. It was thrilling encounter in which the two players fought for every frame, but in the end Abinash kept his cool to emerge a worthy winner.

There were a couple of other closely-contested matches. Jiten Sarangi overcame a tough challenge provided by Jagdish Mohanty 3-2, while seeded player Mishal Swain beat Godwin Kullu by an identical margin.

In other matches played on the day, Rakesh Roshan Pradhan defeated Ashit Choudhury 3-1, Chirag Arora beat Manas Behra 3-0, Syed Altaf Ali was given a walk-over by indisposed Kunal Agrawal while Runit Gupta trounced Atanu Nayak 3-0.



Abinash Mohapatra



SHINING STARS: The Odisha roll ball boys' team emerged champions in the IIIrd East Zone Roll Ball tournament played November 9-10 in Kolkata. In the final they defeated Assam 10-0. The girls' team finished runners-up after losing to Assam in the same tournament

BARCA SUFFER SHOCK DEFEAT

AGENCIES

Madrid, Nov 11: La Liga leaders Barcelona fell to a 0-1 defeat Sunday at Real Sociedad as they had a Robert Lewandowski goal controversially disallowed. Seraldo Becker's 33rd-minute goal consigned the Catalan giants to their second league defeat of the season. Lewandowski's early disallowed strike led to furious debates over whether the Polish forward had been offside or not. Barcelona were without teenage star Lamine Yamal after he suffered a blow to his ankle in the Champions League win at Red Star Belgrade midweek and badly missed his spark.

Title for Aravindh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 11: A late surge by GM Aravindh Chithambaram in the last two classical rounds helped him secure the Chennai Grand Masters title while GM V Pranav remained unbeaten throughout to claim the Challengers crown here Monday.

With the Masters category witnessing a three-way tie for the top spot, Aravindh defeated GM Levon Aronian in the first blitz play-off and then held his nerves to draw the second with black pieces to clinch the second edition of the competition.

Aravindh catapulted himself into title contention by registering his second suc-

cessive win in the competition while overnight joint leaders GM Arjun Erigaisi and Levon Aronian played out a draw.

Aravindh, who had ended Arjun's unbeaten run in the earlier round, dominated the final round game against GM Parham Maghsoodloo with black pieces. He opted for the Queen's Gambit declined in the English opening and took control of the board in the middle game after Parham traded the queens in the 24th move. He then drove home the advantage in a knight-pawn ending and force a three-way tie for the top spot.

In the title clash, Aravindh pounced on a late error from Aronian to win a rook-pawn end game with white in the first blitz game.