



Going global

Actor Soundarya Sharma is all set to make her Hollywood debut with John Wick series director Chad Stahelski

LEISURE | P2



'Hezbollah ready'

A senior Lebanese official has signalled Hezbollah's readiness to pull its forces away from the Lebanese-Israeli border

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Trade trouble

October merchandise trade deficit widens to \$27.14 billion, driven by a rise in imports

BUSINESS | P11



Deepika in goal rush

Indian eves hammer Thailand 13-0 as Deepika scores five goals in a match of the Asian Champions Trophy

SPORTS | P12

Class X exam starts Feb 21

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 14: The Annual High School Certificate Examination (or Class X exam), 2025 for regular and ex-regular students will begin February 21 and end March 6 next year, the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) announced, Thursday.

According to the BSE, the examination will start at 9:00am and end at 11:30am for every paper. However, Mathematics examination will end at 11:45am. While First Language and Alternative English examinations will be held February 21, students will have to appear for the Second Language test February 24, it said.

"TLV Practical is scheduled to be held February 25. Mathematics examination will be held February 27, Science March 1 and Social Science March 3. The Third Language examination has been scheduled to be held March 6," the BSE added.



CHILDREN'S FEST: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi felicitates a schoolchild at 'Suravi' in Bhubaneswar, Thursday. Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Surai, School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond and Ekamra-Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh among others are seen

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

CM hikes MDM cost by ₹1

MAJHI ALSO WAIVES FOOD FEES FOR STUDENTS OF 455 SCHOOL HOSTELS

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 14: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi ordered a one-rupee hike in mid-day meal (MDM) price per student and waived food fees for students of 455 school hostels in the state, Thursday.

Speaking at state-level children's festival 'Suravi' here, Majhi said, "Currently, the MDM expenditure is ₹5.90 for a primary school student and ₹8.82 for an upper primary stu-

dent. This (one-rupee) increase aims at ensuring better quality and nutritional value for the students."

Sources said the hike will benefit over 41 lakh students of over 50,000 primary and upper primary schools in the state.

Previously, parents were required to pay a monthly food expense of ₹2,000. But after receiving requests from parents, the CM decided to waive the fees entirely.

"The state government would bear the food fees of 455

school hostels, benefiting inmates of 314 boys' and 141 girls' hostels across Odisha. The annual expenditure for this initiative will be increased from ₹63.70 crore to ₹187.15 crore," Majhi said.

Outlining the government's commitment to improving education in rural areas, the CM announced the launch of 'Godabarish Mishra Adarsh Prathamika Vidyalaya'. Under the initiative, model schools will be established in every panchayat of the state.

Behave: SC to politicians

In what will remind politicians of the limitation to their brazenness, particularly while in public, the Supreme Court Thursday observed that people in leadership must set an example for public behaviour. While rejecting the anticipatory bail plea of senior BJP leader and Sambalpur MLA Jayanarayan Mishra, accused of slapping a woman cop during a protest in 2023, a division bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhatti noted that the privilege could prejudice the probe. Earlier, a division bench of Justices Roy and PK Mishra had granted interim protection from arrest to Mishra and sought response from the Odisha government. However, during Thursday's hearing, the SC called out the Odisha government's 'mellowed stance' on the anticipatory bail plea and remarked 'the colour of an officer's uniform doesn't change with change in government'. Mishra, meanwhile, said he was not aware of the SC developments and accused the previous BJD government of making out a 'false case' against him.



BJP leader Jayanarayan Mishra who is accused of slapping a woman police officer during a protest outside Sambalpur Collectorate in February 2023.

A bench comprising Justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhatti rejected the plea of Mishra, who was represented by senior lawyer Maninder Singh, saying, "Those in leadership positions have to set an example for public behaviour." Mishra, in his reaction, said he was not aware of the development in the top court. However, he claimed that the previous BJD government had made a 'false case' against him.

"They (BJD) were in government and made a case against me under Section 307 of IPC. This is totally politically motivated," he told reporters.

The allegations against Mishra dates back to February 15, 2023 when a BJP-led protest was held outside the Sambalpur Collectorate.

During the protest, which involved a sit-in demonstration by BJP supporters, Mishra allegedly assaulted the female police officer after she approached him to control the advancing crowd.

The case alleged that Mishra used profane language, touched the officer inappropriately and slapped her on the cheek.

The charges against him include outraging the modesty of a woman, criminal intimidation, defamation, obscenity, wrongful restraint and using criminal force on a public servant. The leader has denied any wrongdoing, claiming that the officer was the one who acted aggressively against him.

Following the denial of his bail application by the Orissa High Court November 16, 2023, Mishra sought relief from the apex court, saying his custodial interrogation was unwarranted since the alleged incident occurred in broad daylight and was recorded on video.

Mishra's plea described the case as politically motivated, claiming that local adversaries orchestrated the charges to harass and damage his reputation.

Meanwhile, the BJD demanded the immediate arrest of Mishra following the rejection of his anticipatory bail plea by the apex court.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 14: The Supreme Court Thursday dismissed the anticipatory bail plea of Sambalpur MLA and

Stray dog mauls woman to death

AGENCIES

Balasore, Nov 14: An 80-year-old woman was mauled to death by a stray dog in this district Thursday, police said.

The dog was also beaten to death by locals, they said.

The woman, identified as Basanti Sahu, was sleeping when the dog entered her house in Jayarampur village under Bograi block and attacked her, police said.

"The woman was alone in her home when the incident happened as her family went to attend a village function. The dog pounced on her and bit her several times, killing her on the spot," they added.

Hearing her screams, neighbours rushed to the house. "They then beat the dog to death," police said.

WPI inflation hits 4-month high

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 14: The wholesale price index (WPI) inflation rose to a 4-month high of 2.36 per cent in October as prices of food items, especially vegetables, and manufactured goods turned dearer, showed the government data released Thursday.

The WPI-based inflation was 1.84 per cent in September 2024. It was (-) 0.26 per cent in October last year.

As per the data, inflation in food items shot up to 13.54 per cent in October as against 11.53 per cent in September. This was led by 63.04 per cent inflation in vegetables as against 48.73 per cent in September.

Inflation in potato and onion remained high at 78.73 per cent and 39.25

per cent, respectively, in October.

Fuel and power category witnessed deflation of 5.79 per cent in October against a deflation of 4.05 per cent in September. In manufactured items, inflation was 1.50 per cent in October as against one per cent in the previous month.

The month of October witnessed the second consecutive month of rise in WPI inflation print. WPI higher than October's level was recorded last in June 2024, when it was 3.43 per cent.

"Inflation in October 2024 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, manufacture of food products, other manufacturing, manufacture of machinery and equipment, manufacture of motor vehicles, and trailers and semi-trailers," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Next gen will never handle the great stuff we did... like riding a bulldozer to demolish poor people's homes & shops

Restrictions as Delhi gasps

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality remained 'severe' for a second consecutive day, prompting the central pollution watchdog to invoke restrictions under GRAP-3, including a ban on construction activities and plying vehicles on BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel vehicles in the city and NCR. The restrictions will come into force at 8am Friday. The Delhi government also announced that due to the alarming levels of pollution, physical classes for primary schools will not be held till further orders, but online classes can continue. The city's 24-hour Air Quality Index (AQI), recorded at 4pm every day, stood at 424, up from 418 the previous day. P9

Manipur: AFSPA reimposed

New Delhi/Imphal: The Centre Thursday reimposed the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in Manipur's six police station areas, including the violence-hit Jiribam, with the Union Home ministry asserting that the decision was taken given the 'continuous volatile situation' there due to the ongoing ethnic violence. The Centre's notification on the reimposition of AFSPA came the same day the Manipur police announced the seizure of a cache of arms and ammunition from Jiribam and Churachandpur districts. An area or district is notified as "disturbed" under AFSPA to facilitate operations by the armed forces. P9

Largest coral near Solomon Islands

Measuring 34 metres wide and 32 metres long, the 'mega coral' is three times bigger than previous record holder 'Big Momma' in American Samoa

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Sydney, Nov 14: Scientists say they have found the world's largest coral near the Pacific's Solomon Islands, announcing Thursday a major discovery pulsing with life and colour.

The coral is so immense that researchers sailing the crystal waters of the Solomon archipelago initially thought they had stumbled across a hulking shipwreck. "Just when we think there is nothing left to discover on planet Earth, we find a massive coral made of nearly one billion little polyps, pulsing with life and colour," marine ecologist Enric



Sala said. "The standalone structure had been growing for some 300 years," the researchers said, formed from a 'complex network' of tiny coral polyps. It was distinct from a coral reef, which is made from many distinct coral colonies, they explained.

"Measuring 34 metres wide (111 feet) and 32 metres

long (104 feet)," the team said the 'mega coral' was three times bigger than the previous record holder — a coral dubbed 'Big Momma' in American Samoa.

"While Big Momma looked like a huge scoop of ice cream plopped down on the reef, this newly-discovered coral is as if the ice cream started to melt, spreading forever along the seafloor," said lead scientist Molly Timmers.

It was longer than a blue whale and was thought to be so colossal that it could be seen from space. The coral was discovered at the southeastern tip of the Solomon Islands in an area known as the Three Sisters. It was spotted by a National Geographic team embarking on a scientific expedition in the region.

"Hotter and more acidic oceans have drained the life from corals in many of the region's tropical waters, including Australia's famed Great Barrier Reef. But this latest discovery offered a small glimmer of hope," the team said.

DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2024

CLIMATE CHANGE BUILDING RESILIENCE

AGNEE

DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2024

CLIMATE CHANGE : BUILDING RESILIENCE

24 NOV

PARTNERS

leisure



GAL GADOT TO STAR IN THE RUNNER

Actor Gal Gadot will next be seen in the action thriller *The Runner*. As per report, Kevin Macdonald has come on board to direct the project, which is set in London. In the film, Gadot will play a lawyer whose son has been kidnapped.

REDMAYNE ON CAREER AFTER WINNING OSCAR

From headlining *Fantastic Beasts* movies to playing an assassin in his new series *The Day of the Jackal*, British star Eddie Redmayne says his best actor Oscar win for *The Theory of Everything* has given him the "luxurious notion of choice".



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
If you're looking to get married, buy the ring today. But before you take the leap, weigh all the pros and cons carefully, says Ganesha. All in all, this may be a day filled with activities related to your relationship and by the time the day ends, you may be on cloud nine!

TAURUS
You may face conflicts on the personal front and find your thoughts leaning towards aggression today, says Ganesha. There is a possibility of suffering losses due to loved ones. Exercise restraint in arguments with relatives and siblings, advises Ganesha.

GEMINI
You are desirous of perfection thing that you do, and you practice philosophy in every aspect of your life. You make sure that all of your energies are concentrated on taking forward your efforts in the right direction. You need to replenish your energies and increase your awareness today, to be able to continue your efforts, says Ganesha.

CANCER
Today, your ability to think clearly in the most adverse conditions will be your key weapon as you get cornered by unrelenting assaults of work and deadlines. The clarity will reflect in your work as you deal with inhuman work pressure. Your mind will save the day for you as well as your peers.

LEO
Your children's health may be a cause of concern today, says Ganesha. The best way to put your and your family's fears to rest would be by paying a quick visit to the doctor. As always, kids remain a surprise package of delights; the happiness of your children shall double your joy as a parent.

VIRGO
Expenses will mount uncontrollably today, and they will be mostly wasteful in nature. However, positive energies are gathering momentum, and Ganesha says you would do well in making full use of them, both in your personal and professional spheres.

LIBRA
Ganesha says that that this is the right time to enhance your personality and prove your talents to the world. Today you will be able to buy new clothes too. It is essential that you pay attention to people close to you. Today is the day you will spend in your dream world.

SCORPIO
It's the same old rut today, says Ganesha. Nothing new, nothing exciting. People from the opposite sex, however, may bring you out of the routine and try to enliven your spirits, predicts Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Ganesha foresees business expansion on your cards. Your friends, relatives and other contacts across seven seas will lend a helping hand to develop your business. And thanks to your super communication skills that make the task easier.

CAPRICORN
If at first you don't succeed, try again. Many people underestimate the power of perseverance and patience. But, these qualities will lead you success. Rather than exploding with anger and anxiety, keep your faith in your plans intact, especially when the results are not as per your plans, advises Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
Things have become stagnant to frustrate your spirit. Slow a wins the race and it seems you have imbibed it very well. You will be able to seize opportunities coming your way and march ahead on your path. Financially, you will be on a stable ground, says Ganesha.

PISCES
While you like cooperating with your colleagues, there is nothing like a little competition to spice things up. You will nonchalantly take on the challenges coming your way, and thrive on the sweet smell of success today. Luck is in your favour as well. Make the most of it, says Ganesha.

Soundarya to make Hollywood debut

Mumbai: Actress Soundarya Sharma is all set to make her Hollywood debut with *John Wick* series director Chad Stahelski. Talking about her big debut, the *Housefull 5* actress shared, "I am incredibly thrilled. All I can say is, dream on, dreams do come true. 2024 is incredibly special — it started with *Housefull 5*, all thanks to NGE and my 'godsister' Warda Nadadwala, and now I'm trying and paving my way in Hollywood, which I'm really looking forward to. I had shot a few sequences almost a year ago for the same project, but I never like to talk much until it's executed because I'm superstitious about it."

She added, "I'm super excited to finish my last schedule in Los Angeles and France in January. I shot parts of it this year before my *Housefull 5* schedule. Due to the NDA, I can't share further details regarding this project, but I will soon, as per the ideal timeline."

The former *Bigg Boss 16* contestant also shared pictures with director Chad Stahelski, an American stuntman and filmmaker, is known for projects like *Atomic Blonde* and many more. He's also recognized as the primary stuntman behind successful projects like *Transformers*, *The Matrix*, *Serenity*, *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* and many other massive Hollywood films.



Disha's fascination for Japanese anime

New Delhi: Actor Disha Patani, who is set to make her Tamil cinema debut with *Kanguva*, has opened up about her love for Japanese anime and Korean culture.

Anyone who follows the actor on social media has often seen her post reels of a weekend binge-watch session of anime (Japanese style of film and television animation) and work out to songs by Kai of Korean pop band EXO.

While the "emotional connection" in anime fascinates her, Patani believes content coming out of South Korea draws a lot from Hindi film industry.

"I have grown up watching anime as a kid and *DragonBallZ* and all these. I'm fascinated by anime. The storyline they have, I don't know if you can capture that in a film the way they emote, the kind of stories they have, whichever genre you enjoy. The emotional connection is unreal in most of ac-

"Korea is great when it comes to filmmaking, series, and romance. I feel a lot of it is taken from Bollywood when you watch it. I love their music, fashion, culture and everything about it," she added.

Patani, who recently starred in a pivotal role in the superhit Telugu film *Kalki 2898 AD*, said she often ends up doing "less work" than she thinks she should.

State Film awards for three years announced



'*Sahid Raghu Sardar*', '*Dalcheeni*', '*Pratikshya*' and '*Daman*' win Best Films awards while Anant Mohapatra, Srinivas Mohapatra and Jayeeram Samal to receive prestigious Mohan Sundar Dev Goswami Award for their lifetime contributions to Odia cinema

BHUBANESWAR: The State Film awards for the year 2020, 2021 and 2022 were declared by Odia Language, Literature & Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj here at Sanskriti Bhawan, Thursday.

Among the top awardees, ace writer, director and dramatist Anant Mohapatra has been selected to receive the prestigious Mohan Sundar Dev Goswami Award for his lifetime contribution to the Odia film world for the year 2020. Senior cinematographer Srinivas Mohapatra and veteran comedian Jayiram Samal will receive the prestigious honour for the next two years.

Sahid Raghu Sardar won the award in Best Film category for 2020, while *Pratikshya* and *Dalcheeni* will get it for 2021 and *DAMA.N* for 2022. Talking about performances, Debasish Patra for *Sahid Raghu Sardar* and Amlan Das for *Romeo Raja* were declared winners in Best Actor section for 2020 while the award went to Ankit Kumar and Dipanwit Das Mohapatra for their movies *Bhoka* and *Pratikshya* for the next year. Babushaan Mohanty (*Daman*) will receive the honour for 2022. Similarly, the Best Actress

honour will be conferred on Kavya Keeran (*Sahid Raghu Sardar*) for 2020, Suryamoyee Mohapatra (*Dalcheeni*) for 2021 and Lopamudra Mishra (*Boura Hatabaksa*) for 2022. In direction, for 2020, Rajesh Samal will get the Best Director award for *Romeo Raja* while Suresh Patnaik (*Trishna*) and Sudhanshu Mohan



Sahoo (*Mayavee*) are the winners for next two years. Minister Suraj said that the selection was based on a high court order for these three years. "Both the awards category and cash prizes have been increased. The focus now will be to see that Odia films get attention at national and international levels," added Suraj. The event will be held November 17.

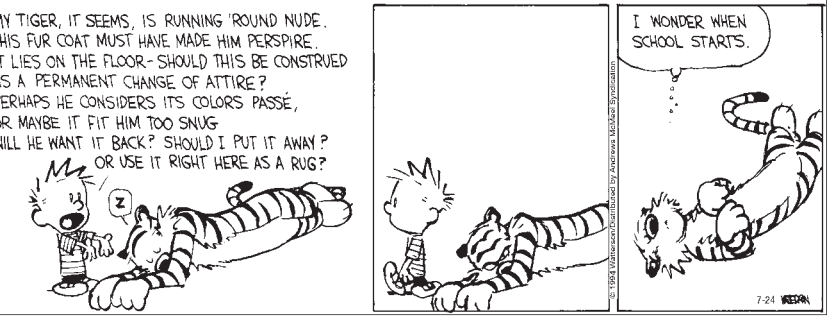
MAJOR WINNERS		
2020 Best Film: Sahid Raghu Sardar Best Director: Rajesh Samal for <i>Romeo Raja</i> Best Actor: Debasish Patra for <i>Sahid Raghu Sardar</i> and Amlan Das for <i>Romeo Raja</i> Best Actress: Kavya Keeran Shukla for <i>Sahid Raghu Sardar</i>	2021 Best Film: <i>Pratikshya</i> and <i>Dalcheeni</i> Best Director: Suresh Patnaik for <i>Trishna</i> Best Actor: Ankit Kumar for <i>Bhoka</i> and Dipanwit Dashmohapatra for <i>Pratikshya</i> Best Actress: Suryamoyee Mohapatra for <i>Dalcheeni</i>	2022 Best Film: <i>DAMA.N</i> Best Director: Sudhanshu Mohan Sahoo for <i>Mayavee</i> Best Actor: Babushaan Mohanty Best Actress: Lopamudra Mishra



PEANUTS



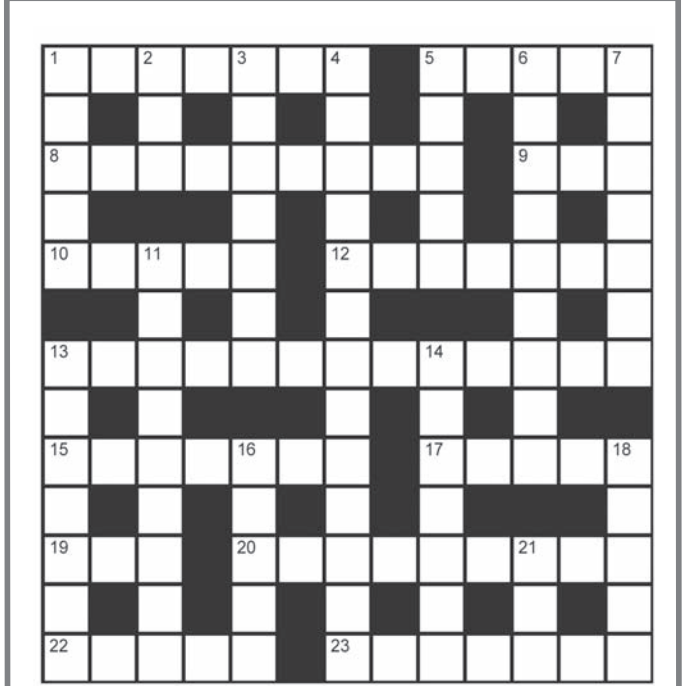
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



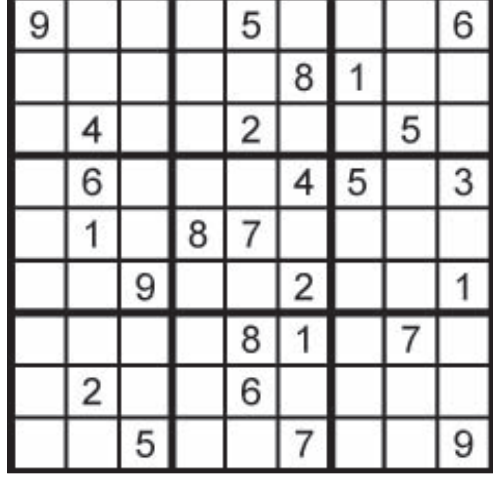
FUN post CROSSWORD



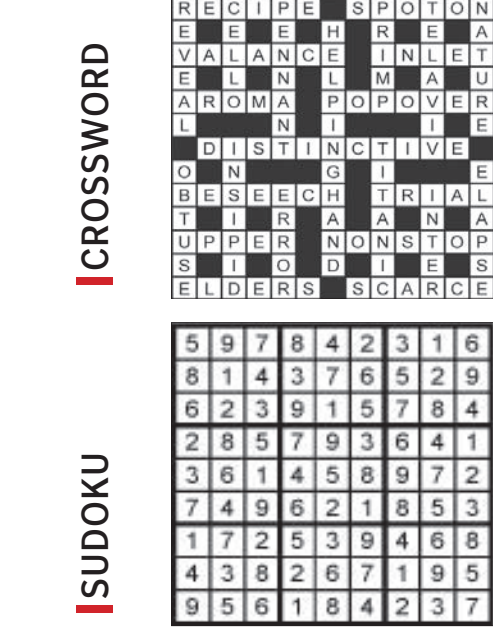
- Across**
- 1 Banker's forte
 - 5 Topical
 - 8 Clothes horse?
 - 9 Tennis shot
 - 10 Drive back
 - 12 Exercise target
 - 13 Mom or dad, e.g. (5,8)
 - 15 Informative
 - 17 Hellenic tongue
 - 19 Japanese sash
 - 20 Latecomer's excuse
 - 22 Flippant
 - 23 Chess master Boris
 - 5 Like composition paper
 - 6 Honeysuckle, e.g.
 - 7 Tyre locale
 - 11 Declares
 - 13 Tailor's stash
 - 14 Masters golf tournament site
 - 16 Often-missed humour
 - 18 Pet name?
 - 21 Dawn goddess
- Down**
- 1 Thighbone
 - 2 Convent dweller
 - 3 Ribbed
 - 4 Tout's odds, maybe (8,5)

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

NATIONAL FEST

Students from Haryana during the concluding day ceremony of National Children and Youth Festival 'Anjali', organised by Swabhimani, at Kalabhoomi in Bhubaneswar, Thursday



PADDY PROCUREMENT FROM NOV 20

CM: Jharpada jail for troublemakers

Odisha to give ₹800 more per quintal of paddy to farmers

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 14: As the state gears up to start procuring paddy from November 20 with an additional ₹800 per quintal to cultivators, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday issued a veiled warning to 'disturbing elements' in cooperative societies who may try to create problems during the process by saying they will be packed to Jharpada jail.

"We will take stringent action against the people who create disturbance in the paddy procurement process. Jharpada jail is there for the disturbing elements in the cooperative societies. The government is keeping a close eye on these disturbing elements and it will not spare them," Majhi said while addressing a function here to mark the 'All India Cooperative Week 2024' celebration.

The CM also asked district Collectors to monitor areas bordering neighbouring states to prevent unauthorised entry of paddy from outside Odisha. For this, additional measures, including enhanced patrolling, have been introduced in border areas, officials said.



The government will start to procure paddy from November 20 with an option for district Collectors to extend the token period by up to seven days, if necessary, officials added.

Majhi said Kharif paddy procurement will commence from Bargarh district November 20, followed by Sambalpur November 22, and then across all districts. From November 20 to December 7, farmers will receive a minimum support price (MSP) of ₹2,300 per quintal for their paddy.

Later, from December 8, they

will get the additional amount of ₹800 after it is launched from Sohela in Bargarh district.

This apart, the government has started information and awareness programmes to inform small and marginal farmers about the paddy procurement process. Special measures, including deployment of grain analyzers, quality analysts, and mandi supervisors at procurement centres, have been put in place, an official release issued by the CMO said.

The CM also said that the government will host a state-level farmers' convention December

8 at Sohela where farmers will be assured an additional ₹800 per quintal. This additional payment, along with the MSP, will be transferred directly to farmers' accounts within 48 hours via direct benefit transfer (DBT), he said.

Farmers will get the additional ₹800 per quintal of paddy as input assistance as Odisha farmers are often affected by calamities like floods, cyclones, drought, dry spells and pest attacks, Majhi said.

The CM came down heavily on the previous BJD government and accused it of "betraying" the trust of Odisha farmers.

"Former chief minister (Naveen Patnaik) at a farmers rally at Sohela in Bargarh district nine years ago had announced a bonus of ₹100 per quintal of paddy. This could have been very helpful for poverty-stricken farmers. But, the farmers did not get even Re 1 as bonus from the government," Majhi said.

The CM alleged that some of the farmers in the state were forced to commit suicide under the debt burden during the BJD government. However, this situation will not occur in Odisha under the BJP government, he claimed, adding that now the farmers of Odisha will get ₹3,100 per quintal of paddy.

Min dedicates 10 EVs to Srimandir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 14: Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi Thursday flagged off 10 battery-operated vehicles in Puri and inaugurated a two-day 'Chintan Shivir' here that focused on the progress of renewable energy in the country.

Joshi handed over the eco-friendly vehicles to the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), aiming to provide a more comfortable and sustainable means of transport for temple visitors. "This initiative is made possible under the divine guidance of Lord Jagannath," Joshi said, emphasising the religious and cultural significance of the project.

The vehicles, which are designed to be both eco-friendly and comfortable for the devotees, will play a key role in advancing India's sustainability efforts. The Indian Renewable Energy



Development Agency (IREDA) will oversee the maintenance and operation of the vehicles for their entire lifespan, ensuring their long-term viability.

While presenting the keys to the chief administrator of the temple, Joshi highlighted the importance of integrating sustainable solutions at cultural landmarks.

"The deployment of these battery-operated vehicles at this historic temple underscores our commitment to green energy and offers visitors an accessible, environment-friendly

transport option," Joshi remarked.

Earlier in the day, Joshi, alongside Odisha's Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, inaugurated the two-day 'Chintan Shivir' in Bhubaneswar. The camp provides an important platform for key decision-makers, industry leaders, and government officials to discuss and drive the progress of the renewable energy sector in India.

"I look forward to the impactful outcomes of this gathering, as we work together to achieve our broader goal of reaching 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030," Joshi said.

"In the last 10 years, we have made significant strides in renewable energy production. Our energy generation from the non-fossil sector has increased dramatically from 75 GW in 2014 to 212 GW today. Similarly, we've seen a 136-fold increase in solar energy generation," he said.

Chain snatching victim dies during treatment

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 14: A 50-year-old woman, who sustained grievous head injuries after she fell off a motorcycle when two miscreants snatched her gold chain Monday, died during treatment Wednesday night.

Significantly, the Airfield police are yet to identify the snatchers.

Zone II ACP Krushnachandra Palei said U Bishnu Patra was on her way to a temple on a bike Monday morning with her husband. At around 11 am when the bike was nearing Labanagiri hill, two bike-borne miscreants tried to snatch her chain. In the process, Patra, who was riding pillion, fell off and sustained serious head injuries. She died during treatment at a private hospital, an officer from Airfield police station said.

The officer said that the cops are scanning CCTV footage near the place of offence to identify the accused. A special team under the supervision of twin city police commissioner Sunil Dev Datta Singh has taken over the probe, he added.

Majhi to inaugurate Bali Yatra today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 14: With preparations nearing completion Thursday, the Millennium City is all set to host the historic open-air fair, Bali Yatra, from Friday.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will inaugurate the fair at 5:30pm, Cuttack Collector Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde said adding that Ambassadors and High Commissioners from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, Laos, Bhutan, Singapore,

Nepal, Malaysia, Indonesia, Nauru, Solomon Island, New Zealand, Fiji, Timor Leste and Brunei are likely to grace the mega event.

Around 2,500 stalls will attract millions of visitors this year out of which ORMAS has placed 500 where women SHG-led products from 'pitha' to pottery and weaving textiles will be demonstrated. Four wide roads have been laid connecting these stalls, while three entrances and an emergency

gate have been erected for smooth movement of traffic. Water mixed with chemicals will be sprayed to ensure settling of dusts, while 385 toilets have been installed for the convenience of visitors.

Cultural evenings by Bal and other Indonesian artists will be the highlight of the fair alongside 'Bhajan Sandhya' and folk music. Ganakabi Baishnab Pani Mancha and Akshay Mohanty Mancha have been created for visitors' delight.

BOITA BANDAN UTSAV

DISHA'S FIRST PORT CREATES HISTORY AGAIN!

Paradip Port is now the **No. 1 Major Port** in India with a record **145.38 MMT** Cargo throughput in FY 2023-24

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
Paradip Port - 754 142, Odisha
@paradipport @paradipportauthority

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of Rajasthan

RISING™ RAJASTHAN
9-10-11 DEC 2024 • JAIPUR

REPLETE • RESPONSIBLE • READY

REGISTER NOW
rising.rajasthan.gov.in

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

SH. NARENDRA MODI
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Summit Industry Partner

Confederation of Indian Industry

Nodal Offices

Bureau of Investment Promotion Rajasthan

RIICO GROUP WITH RAJASTHAN

Department of Industries & Commerce,
Government of Rajasthan

'Diabetes nat'l issue impacting millions'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 14: Diabetes is a national issue impacting millions, and a collaborative effort is a must to keep the rising cases in check, said Union Minister Jitendra Singh on the occasion of World Diabetes Day Thursday.

Highlighting this year's theme, "Breaking Barriers, Bridging Gaps," at an event held in the national capital, Singh called for a united approach to ensure that every individual has access to affordable, high-quality diabetes care.

Diabetes has become a global concern with a whopping 828 million people suffering from the condition worldwide. With 212 million diabetics living in 2022, India has the highest number in the world, according to the latest study published in the journal Lancet. Beyond diabetes treatment, Singh stressed the need to address the "systemic gap" - in healthcare accessibility, awareness, and treatment adherence. The Minister noted that nearly half of those diagnosed remain unaware of their condition or struggle to maintain regular treatment due to financial or informational barriers.

WEATHER table with columns BBSR, CTC, Max Temp, Min Temp, Humidity, Rainfall, and FORECAST.

MARKET WATCH table with columns INDEX, VARIATION, SENSEX, NIFTY, DOLLAR, EURO, GOLD, SILVER.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By an affidavit vide no. 12559, dated 14.11.2024, before Notary Public Rayagada, Odisha, I DAMBURUDHARA NAYAK, resident of Kasturi Nagar, 3rd lane, Ward No. 16, Po/Ps - Rayagada, Dist - Rayagada. Previously called DAMBURU DHAR NAYAK. Now change my name from DAMBURU DHAR NAYAK to DAMBURUDHARA NAYAK. Henceforth I shall be known as DAMBURUDHARA NAYAK for all purpose.

By virtue of an affidavit before the Executive Magistrate, Kanika that I Sukanta Kumar Sahoo (father) and Banita Sahoo (mother) of our daughter Suchismita Sahoo. But it has wrongly written in Aadhaar Card No.- xxxx xxxx 1762 as Biswalaxmi Sahoo instead of Suchismita Sahoo. Henceforth she will be known as Suchismita Sahoo for all official purposes.

BHARATPUR CUSTODIAL CASE

Army officer, fiancée depose before judicial commission

The panel had summoned 16 people including the accused police officers and some students to appear before it



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 14: The army officer and his fiancée who were allegedly tortured in custody inside Bharatpur police station in the Capital city, Thursday appeared before a judicial commission probing into the case and recorded their statement.

Commission secretary Suvendu Mohanty said the panel had summoned 16 people including the army officer, his fiancée, the accused police officers and some students to appear before it.

Several of them including the army man and his girlfriend appeared before the Justice Chittaranjan Dash (Retd) Commission personally, while others were represented by their lawyers.

The next date of hearing was fixed November 30.

Mohanty said the Commission may visit the Bharatpur police station.

He said the commission has received over 500 affidavits on this incident.

Suspended inspector-in-charge (IIC) Dinakrushna Mishra and the other four police personnel did not appear before the judicial commission.

Their lawyers instead represented them before the commission.

The accused police officials have undergone polygraphy tests at a forensic science centre in Gujarat.

The army officer was alleged-

The army officer was allegedly tortured and his fiancée sexually assaulted at Bharatpur police station after they visited it to lodge a complaint over a road rage incident involving the students September 15

ly tortured and his fiancée sexually assaulted at Bharatpur police station in Bhubaneswar after they visited it to lodge a complaint over a road rage incident involving the students September 15.

The state government has appointed the Commission to enquire into allegations levelled by the army officer and his fiancée.

While the army officer was allegedly beaten up by the police officials, three policewomen dragged his fiancée into a cell where some male police personnel, including the ex-IIC of the police station, reportedly thrashed and molested her.

Following a widespread uproar over the incident, Odisha Police had suspended five police personnel. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has entrusted the investigation of the matter to the Crime Branch of the police.

CUO, Koraput to study crop varieties for conservation



Preserving the indigenous crops is essential not only for food security but for promoting health and sustainability

PNN & AGENCIES

Koraput, Nov 14: The Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput has opened a germplasm plot at its Landiguda campus in Koraput to study different varieties of indigenous crops for conservation and potential reintroduction to mainstream agriculture, an official said.

CUO vice-chancellor Chakradhar Tripathi inaugurated the germplasm conservation crop field recently.

Tripathi highlighted the urgent need to revive traditional crops, which are being overshadowed by modern, non-native varieties. "Our traditional farming practices are intertwined with our cultural heritage. Preserving these crops is essential not only for food security but for promoting health and sustainability," he stated.

The germplasm plot is dedicated to conserving 104 varieties of indigenous rice, 87 types of finger millet, 30 species of local

Niger, 15 types of little millet, five varieties of foxtail millet, 15 types of maize, and eight species of wild yam, he said.

These crops, integral to India's agrarian heritage, will be studied for conservation and potential reintroduction to mainstream agriculture, the official said. Tripathi highlighted the urgent need to revive traditional crops, which are being overshadowed by modern, non-native varieties.

"Our traditional farming practices are intertwined with our cultural heritage. Preserving these crops is essential not only for food security but for promoting health and sustainability," he said, expressing hope that the university would emerge as a leading institution in this field.

Sharat Kumar Palita, dean of the School of Biodiversity & Conservation of Natural Resources underscored the importance of bridging scientific research and practical application through a "lab-to-land" approach.

The event was coordinated by Debabrata Panda and Kakoli Banerjee of BCNR, with attendance from distinguished faculty, scholars, students, and staff, including Kapila Khemundu, Nikhil Gouda, Jayanta Nayak, Pradosh Kumar Rath, BK Srinivas, Prasenjeet Sinha, Sumit Kumar Behera and Phangunath Bhoi.

WOMAN SUCCUMBS TO BURN INJURIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack Sadar, Nov 14: A 70-year-old woman has succumbed to the severe burn injuries she had suffered when her clothes caught fire at Paramahansa village under this block. The deceased has been identified as Raja Bhoi.

Sources said the incident occurred Tuesday evening when she was cooking at her home and her clothes accidentally caught fire, resulting in serious burns. She was immediately taken to SCB Medical College and Hospital.

However, she succumbed to her injuries while undergoing treatment, Wednesday. Mangalabag police seized her body and conducted an autopsy Thursday.

SIX ODIA CHILDREN RESCUED FROM WB

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 14: A team of Missing Persons Monitoring Unit of Crime against Women & Children Wing led by DSP Sarat Chandra Patra and team rescued six Odia children (two girls and four boys) from various child care institutes of West Bengal in the last few days.

These children belong to the districts of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Balasore.

They have been brought to the Capital and will be reunited with their parents through Child Welfare Committee. Two officials from Women & Child Development department accompanied the team and rendered necessary assistance.

Bhubaneswar Music Circle to host 'Ragotsav' in City



RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 14: Bhubaneswar Music Circle, the 60-year-old organisation promoting Indian classical music in Odisha, will host its annual flagship event 'Ragotsav' from November 18 to 20 at Utkal Mandap here, the organisers said Thursday.

In the three-day festival, artistes from different cities across India will perform classical music. The event will feature two performances each evening.

The opening night will commence with an 'Instrumental Ensemble' by artistes from Pune and Gwalior, followed by a solo Hindustani vocal recital by Vidushi Sanya Patankar.

On the following day, Kartik

Chandra Sahoo from Puri will present an Odissi vocal performance while Pandit Kumar Mardur from Dharwad will showcase a Hindustani vocal recital.

The concluding day will feature a Hindustani vocal performance by Biswajit Maharana followed by 'Sur Taal Brahma', a percussion ensemble by Pandit Gobinda Bose and his group from Kolkata.

On the occasion, the organisers will present Tajinder Singh Lifetime Achievement Award to the renowned flute performer Mohini Mohan Patnaik. The award carries a citation and a cheque for ₹60,000.

The award was instituted by managing partner of Kalamandir Sardar Rajinder Singh in memory of his late brother Tajinder Singh, a music enthusiast.

Singh said, "We will be honoured to bestow the award on Patnaik who is known for his immense contribution to the world of classical music."



AIRING GRIEVANCES: CRE-2 selected aspirants stage a protest at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, demanding declaration of physical date for Forester, LSI and Forest Guard exams by Odisha Sub-Ordinate Staff Selection Commission

Unesco certifies 24 new tsunami-ready villages in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 14: Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (IOC-Unesco) has recently recognised communities of 24 tsunami prone coastal villages under six coastal districts of the state as 'tsunami-ready' during the 2nd Global Tsunami Symposium in Indonesia.

Tsunami-ready recognition certificates for Noliassahi of Jagatsinghpur district and Venkatraipur village of Ganjam district were also renewed at the event. These two villages were recognised as tsunami-ready in the year 2020 by IOC-Unesco.

IOC-Unesco's Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme

(TRRP) was implemented in 24 villages, including Jagannathpur, Jayadevkasabapahi, Sahapur and Kanyanagari in Balasore, Mohanpur, Adhuan, Badahabelisahi and Sanakrushnapur from Bhadrak, Kantilo, Tantiapal Sasan and Kaitha from Kendrapara, Bagheipur, Dhanuharbelari, Sahadabedi and Bhuyanjpal from Jagatsinghpur, Keutjanga, Narasinghpatana, Khalakatapatana and Chhotipada from Puri and Uppulaputti, Prayagi, Kantiagada and Markandi from Ganjam.

Various activities, including training and capacity building of various stakeholders, community awareness programmes, distribution of tsunami awareness posters and leaflets, preparation of tsunami



management plans, conducting mock drills, identification of evacuation routes, installation of hoardings and evacuation signage were taken up in these villages.

Members of the National Tsunami Ready Recognition Boards (NTRB), with INCOIS,

Hyderabad scientists and officers of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) visited these 26 coastal villages for verification of the 12 necessary indicators under TRRP in September. After detailed verification of the indicators, the NTRB members recommended

Tsunami ready recognition certificates for Noliassahi of Jagatsinghpur district and Venkatraipur village of Ganjam district were also renewed at the event

IOC-Unesco for recognising the communities of these 26 coastal villages as tsunami-ready communities.

The recognition certificates were presented by Vidar Helgesen, Assistant Director General of Unesco and Executive Secretary, IOC-Unesco to E

Pattabhi Rama Rao, Scientist G, INCOIS, who represented India during this Symposium held in Indonesia.

Unesco's assistant director general and IOC-Unesco's executive secretary Vidar Helgesen presented the recognition certificates to INCOIS's scientist Rao, who represented India in the symposium.

Odisha is currently having 381 tsunami prone coastal villages and habitation. Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) aims at making the coastal communities of all tsunami prone habitation as tsunami-ready in phased manner.

It may be recalled that in the year 2004, tsunami wrought havoc claiming close to 2.3 lakh lives in Asia.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri-Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Stewart School holds Cultural Fest

CHILDREN'S DAY



ricular activities. Today, we not only celebrate their achievements but also encourage them to continue their pursuit of excellence."

Chief guest Satpathy, in his address, spoke about the current environmental challenges and the impact of climate change. "We've experienced two consecutive years of extreme heat, and it's likely that the winter season will not be as cold as before. It is our collective responsibility to protect the environment," he said.

Chief speaker Adyasha Satpathy, reflecting on her own childhood memories, emphasised the importance of using technology responsibly. "This generation is fortunate to live in the digital era. However, it is crucial that they use technology in a constructive way to better the world around them," she said.

The event was a fitting tribute to the spirit of Children's Day, fostering an environment of learning, celebration, and reflection.

itor Tathagata Satpathy graced the Annual Prize Day ceremony as the chief guest while the twin publications' Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy joined as the chief speaker and delivered the keynote address. Others present on the occasion included former IRS & IIS officer Sobhan Kar, school Principal RR Senapati, Secretary FC North, senior coordinator M Pramanik, and other faculty members.

Principal Senapati warmly wished the children on the occasion and said, "It's a pleasure to see our students excelling in both academics and extracur-



ANNUAL DAY FETE: Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy (chief guest) and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy (chief speaker) lighting the ceremonial lamp at the Annual Prize Day 2024 celebration of Stewart School in Bhubaneswar, Thursday. School principal Rashmi Rekha Senapati and secretary FC North are also seen

Bhubaneswar, Nov 14: Stewart School, Bhubaneswar Thursday marked Children's Day by hosting a grand Cultural Fest, making the occasion even more special for students and teachers alike. The event was followed by the Annual Prize Day ceremony.

Col. Sagar K Mohanty, Director, NCC Directorate (Odisha) joined as chief guest in the Cultural Fest, which saw an enthusiastic participation from both students and teachers, creating an atmosphere of joy and camaraderie.

Dharitri and OrissaPOST Ed-

PIL in HC over Dwarasuni ghat road

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Nov 14: A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Orissa High Court over the bad shape of the Dwarasuni ghat road on National Highway-49 connecting Bangiriposhi with Bisoi in Mayurbhanj district, sources said Thursday.

Kalinga Keshari Jena, founder of Bhanja Sena, a local outfit, has filed this PIL (WPC 47993/24) in the high court.

In his petition, the litigant has alleged that travelling on the 17-km stretch of Dwarasuni ghat on NH-49 in Mayurbhanj district, which connects Odisha with West Bengal and Jharkhand, has become a risky proposition for the commuters. Large potholes, uneven and narrow shape of the ghat road has turned the stretch of highway into a deathtrap for the commuters. The petition might come up for hearing next week, his advocate Akash Sharma said.

Thousands of vehicles ply on this road daily but the unsafe road condition has led to frequent loss of life and properties on the stretch. Several



lives have been lost to many small and big accidents that the road witnesses all round the year.

The petitioner has alleged 35 persons have died in 152 road accidents on the said stretch so far this year. Residents have been demanding expansion of the road in order to make it safe for travel but the concerned officials of the Centre and the state governments are not taking any steps in this regard.

Jena in his petition has prayed before the high court to direct the authorities to take necessary steps.

He has prayed to complete the expansion and repairing of the highway in advance including filling up all the potholes and craters, making the road flat and even, and installing reflector lights on the road. He also sought installation of warning signs and speed control barricades

on the ghat road, ensuring proper security arrangements by the administration and establishment of a mechanism for repair works which take a long time.

He mentioned in his petition that despite blasting of the hill was allowed, expansion of the highway has been delayed. He has also submitted all photographs, videos and newspaper cuttings related to risky commuting on the highway.

Harishankar shrine goes polythene, plastic free

Use of organic plates made from Sal leaves and bamboo baskets is being encouraged as an alternative of polythene carry bags

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Nov 14: A campaign has commenced to make Harishankar, a renowned religious and tourist site situated on the foothills of the Gandhamardhan hill in Bolangir district, free from polythene and plastic.

The initiative, a collaborative effort by the Bolangir Forest Division and the Harishankar Temple Trust, has led to a total prohibition on use of polythene and plastic in the temple area. The temple trust, along with the Forest department, local volunteers, and environmental activists, is working continuously to raise awareness among the visitors.

Signboards and banners have been placed to create awareness among the visitors in this regard. Additionally, local vendors are being encouraged to avoid selling offerings such as flowers and food items in polythene bags. The temple trust and Forest department have

informed devotees and shopkeepers about these decisions, emphasising the use of organic plates made from Sal leaves and bamboo baskets instead of polythene carry bags.

Previously, devotees would bring offerings and worship items in polythene bags, but now they are using Sal leaf plates and bamboo baskets. Even in the temple's food distribution centre, disposable plates and bowls made of paper and polythene have been replaced by Sal leaf alternatives.

Visitors to the shrine are lauding the initiative to make Harishankar shrine polythene-free. Furthermore, a decision has been taken to prohibit the use of soap and shampoo by visitors bathing in the nearby waterfall.

Harishankar has gained recognition as a unique religious and tourist destination in the country. In 2023, recognising the significance

of Gandhamardhan hill's unique biodiversity, the state government declared it a biodiversity heritage site. The Gandhamardhan hill is home to more than 1,200 rare species of shrubs and medicinal plants, as well as over 500 rare wildlife species.

Every day, thousands of devotees and tourists from both within and outside the state, and even from foreign countries, visit the shrine attracted by the place's natural beauty, dense forests, towering hills, waterfalls, and rich biodiversity.

The daily influx of devotees and tourists in thousands had been polluting this scenic spot owing to the widespread use of polythene and plastic. The timely initiative by the Bolangir Forest Division and the Harishankar Temple Trust to make the shrine polythene and plastic-free is expected to keep Harishankar and Gandhamardhan clean and green.

UNABATED TREE FELLING IN PROTECTED FOREST

Case registered against 13 persons

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 14: The Forest department has registered cases against 13 individuals for felling a significant number of trees beyond the permitted limit in the Krushnapur protected forest of Kalika Prasad beat under Champua forest range in Keonjhar district.

Although no arrest has yet been made, most of the male residents of the village have reportedly gone absconding following the development.

Meanwhile, residents of Krushnapur village have filed a written complaint at the Chief Minister's grievance cell in Keonjhar demanding action against the Forest officials for aiding in tree felling and subsequent timber smuggling. They alleged that the Forest officials were aware of the development but did not take any step to stop the wrongdoing. According

to sources, Keonjhar Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Dhanaraj HD had authorised the Krushnapur Forest Protection Committee to cut down 2,505 eucalyptus trees in the protected forest.

However, a variety of trees were felled beyond the permitted number, and the Forest department initially remained silent on the matter. Residents of Krushnapur village then submitted written complaints highlighting the issue to the District Collector, DFO, and Champua Sub-Collector. Only then an investigation was ordered.

Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Akshay Chhatria, responsible for the Champua range, was directed by letter no. 3083 dated 09/10/2024 to conduct a re-count of the felled trees. During the re-count, it was found that the number of felled trees exceeded far beyond the allowed

number and the counting was halted midway, the villagers alleged. After evidence of excess tree cutting, the Forest department filed cases against 13 individuals, including Ranjan Kumar Mahanta, the chairman of the Forest Protection Committee, as approximately 1,123 excess trees were found to have been cut.

Forest Officer Sunita Baghel stated that arrests would be made in connection with the incident. However, the accused individuals are currently on the run, causing the village to nearly become deserted as more people involved in the case have fled.

While the Forest department continues its investigation, villagers are demanding accountability from Forest department personnel for allowing such extensive tree felling under their supervision.

Sex racket busted: Couple arrested, 3 women rescued

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Nov 14: Bhanjapur police Thursday busted a sex racket in this town, rescued three girls and arrested a couple on charge of engaging them in flesh trade on the job of providing them jobs and helping them study.

The accused couple was identified as Abhimanyu Sethy and his wife Ruby Sethy, resi-

dents of Raghunathpur area in Baripada town. A case was registered in this connection and the couple produced in the court. Later, they were remanded to judicial custody after the magistrate rejected their bail pleas. Two of the girls were taken back by their families while another was sent to a stay home in the town for rehabilitation.

Police said that the cou-

ple had lured a girl of Balasore town and engaged her in the flesh trade on the promise of job. The breakthrough came as her family members lodged a complaint with Bhanjapur police after the girl did not return home. Police launched an investigation and a tip-off alerted them about ongoing flesh trade in the house of Abhimanyu at Raghunathpur.

MCL MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Jagruti Vihar, Burla - 768020, Dist. - Sambalpur, Odisha
Tel. (EPABX) : 0663-2542461 to 469 Website : www.mahanadicoal.in

NOTICE

All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd www.coalindia.in, respective subsidiary Company, (MCL, www.mahanadicoal.in), CIL e-Procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in> R-5229

SREI SREI EQUIPMENT FINANCE LIMITED
CIN: U70101WB2006PLC109898
Registered Office: "Vishwakarma", 86C, Topsia Road (South), Kolkata - 700046
Head Office: Plot No. Y-10, Block EP, Sector - V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700091
Email: sel@srei.com; Website: www.srei.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public in general and customers of Srei Equipment Finance Limited ("SEFL") in particular, that to optimise operational efficiency, the management has decided to merge Balasore Branch at Plot No. 387, 3rd Floor, City Clinic Road, Balia, Balasore - 756056 with Bhubaneswar Branch w.e.f 16th February, 2025. Accordingly, all activities of Balasore Branch shall henceforth be monitored from Bhubaneswar Branch, situated at Srei Equipment Finance Limited, 1st Floor, Plot No. 11, Satya Nagar, Bhubaneswar - 751007. Customers whose accounts are maintained at Balasore Branch can get in touch with Mr. Anil Kumar Biswal (AVP), M: 9583024365, Email: anil.biswal@srei.com for further queries.

SREI SREI EQUIPMENT FINANCE LIMITED
CIN: U70101WB2006PLC109898
Registered Office: "Vishwakarma", 86C, Topsia Road (South), Kolkata - 700046
Head Office: Plot No. Y-10, Block EP, Sector - V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700091
Email: sel@srei.com; Website: www.srei.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public in general and customers of Srei Equipment Finance Limited ("SEFL") in particular, that to optimise operational efficiency, the management has decided to merge Rourkela Branch at Module - B2, 2nd Floor, Choudhury Complex, Panposh Road, Rourkela - 769004 with Sambalpur Branch w.e.f 16th February, 2025. Accordingly, all activities of Rourkela Branch shall henceforth be monitored from Sambalpur Branch, situated at Srei Equipment Finance Limited, Hota Complex, 1st Floor, Above Syndicate Bank, Ainthapali Chowk, Sambalpur - 768004. Customers whose accounts are maintained at Rourkela Branch can get in touch with Mr. Anil Kumar Biswal (AVP), M: 9583024365, Email: anil.biswal@srei.com for further queries.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

Covering 230+ New Cities Through FM Radio

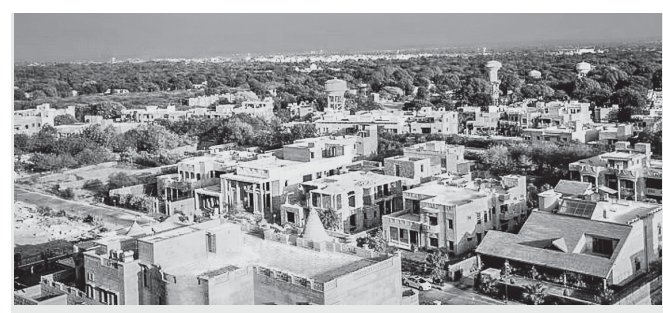
730 PRIVATE FM RADIO CHANNELS
in 234 new uncovered cities across India are available for e-auction in the Third Batch of FM Phase III

Apply Now
Visit www.mib.gov.in or Scan QR code for more details

Last date of submitting applications extended till 9 December, 2024

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

EQUITABLE URBANISATION



The fight against climate change and the struggle to achieve more sustainable and equitable urbanisation are two sides of the same coin

Can the peri-urban—areas around and between cities—be the key to addressing the triple planetary crisis—climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss? When cities struggle to remain inclusive, safe, sustainable and resilient habitats against climate emergencies, peri-urban rural linkages are attracting much attention. The Twelfth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF12), organised by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Cairo, Egypt, from 4-8 November precisely highlighted urban-rural linkages (URL) with the local actions for sustainable cities and communities.



Avilash Roul

CITIES AROUND THE WORLD HAVE YET TO ADDRESS THE TWIN CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION

With a plethora of competing definitions existing on peri-urban, by population density, economic activity, travel patterns, urban infrastructure, bio-regions and so on, it broadly means the area between urban and rural, or, around the urban areas. Among the visible footprints of humankind in altering the planet, it is the establishment of cities and their regulated and unregulated growth and spread beyond, between and around the city limits. Thus, it is no exaggeration to say that the planet has entered an epoch within the Anthropocene. According to the first multicounty research project on peri-urban, the Peri-cene Project, is a new kind of global human-environment system, shaped by peri-urbanisation. The Peri-cene Project, under the able leadership of renowned futurist explorer Prof Joe Ravetz, provided the first-ever global assessment of peri-urbanisation, with its climate impacts, risks and vulnerabilities. Total peri-urban land around the world could be in the order of 1.8 million km² with a growth rate of 3% per annum equal to the size

of Ireland. During the last 25 years, the peri-urban land areas have doubled with the slow growth of urban land areas. As we are aware, nearly 4.4 billion people live in urban areas in the world. Interestingly, in India the urban population has experienced a six-fold increase since 1951, growing from 62.4 million to 377.1 million in 2011 spread across 7935 towns/metropolises. By 2030, 590 million Indians will be urban. Similarly, 19% of Odisha's population resides in urban areas, which is expected to increase up to 21% by 2030. Meanwhile, the growth of peri-urban areas accounts for nearly 40% of the urbanisation in the state. The challenges of urbanisation and achieving Goal 11, making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, and resilient, of SDGs is a top priority in India. Cities are projected to become hotter in future, with almost no inhabitants unaffected by the prevailing carbon-intensive activities. Increasing temperatures across India especially in Delhi in 2024 during pre-monsoon and flooding of almost all cities during monsoon is a pointer towards this crisis. India will have an increase in the intensity, frequency and duration

of heatwaves in the coming decades especially in urban centres. The fight against climate change and the struggle to achieve more sustainable and equitable urbanisation are two sides of the same coin. Cities around the world have yet to address the twin challenges of climate change and sustainable urbanisation. Notably, the peri-urban settlements suffer equally or even more as compared to urban centres due to exposure to extreme weather caused by climate change. In contrast, peri-urban development is also likely to reduce the resilience of urban areas, for example clearing natural barriers like mangroves, blocking the natural drainage of rainwater, disrupting natural water cycles, providing food security and so on. Ironically, the peri-urban areas are administrative overlapping areas which are being left unattended. In Odisha, the Urban Local Bodies and Panchayat Raj Institutions overlap in delivering governance. Despite the district administration facilitating the coordination, the importance of peri-urban areas is not being considered yet. Major cities like Cuttack and Bhubaneswar have been facing the impacts of extreme

weather due to climate change. An attempt to understand the peri-urban areas in the context of climate change for these twin cities would be urgent. For emerging urban centres, it would be wiser to consider the peri-urban rural linkages (PURL) in devising developmental plans, disaster plans and climate change plans. Planning in silos for rural development and urbanisation does not make any sense.

In 2023, with the right intention, the Odisha Rural-urban Transition Policy was formulated to proactively recognise the challenges of inadequate access to social infrastructure and civic amenities and services in peri-urban areas. However, the policy didn't take off quite well. Peri-urban panchayats, village panchayats surrounding the municipalities or urban centres, can be identified and recognised. In its 2023 Government Order, Tamil Nadu recognised peri-urban panchayats. Can we go further to institutionalise them with a robust policy framework for the peri-urban panchayats by inserting them into the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments?

In Cairo, the Peri-cene Research Project released the PURL Compendium based on the research and its unique library of 21 case studies on 5 November. Therefore, it is imperative to understand and explore further, make linkages between peri-urban and rural and collaboratively govern the peri-urban areas. Exploring and understanding PURL in devising development plans would minimise the adverse impacts of climate change in both urban and rural areas.

The writer, an international advisor in Climate Change Risk and Transboundary Rivers, GIZ, was part of the Peri-cene Research Project.



Genius discovers a system; average talent stereotypes it till it is shattered by fresh genius.

SRI AUROBINDO

The Asian Bully

For over a decade, China has been using an increasingly aggressive hybrid-warfare strategy to increase its power and influence in the strategically important South China Sea. Countering it will be one of the defining challenges for US President-elect Donald Trump's incoming administration.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's "Chinese dream" of global preeminence depends significantly on achieving dominance in the South China Sea and ending America's primacy in the Indo-Pacific region, an emerging global economic and geopolitical hub. And China has not hesitated to use coercive tactics in service of these objectives.

In recent years, boats belonging to countries whose territorial claims China disregards, such as the Philippines and Vietnam, have faced blockades, ramming, water-cannon attacks, and even bladed-weapon assaults by Chinese vessels. Offshore energy operations endure regular harassment. Simply fishing in waters China calls its own can expose a person to a Chinese attack with iron pipes. Such violent confrontations have heightened regional tensions and undermined stability in a crucial corridor linking the Pacific and Indian Ocean.

One might have expected the United States to take action to rein in China's behaviour, especially given its mutual defense treaty with the Philippines. And yet, three successive presidents – Barack Obama, Trump, and Joe Biden – have failed to offer anything beyond statements of support and symbolic action. In 2012, Obama allowed China's brazen seizure of the disputed Scarborough Shoal from the Philippines to go unpunished.

This was hardly the first time the US failed to live up to its defense commitments to the Philippines. In 1995, the Philippines requested US help to block Chinese forces from capturing Mischief Reef, located just 129 nautical miles from the Philippine island of Palawan. US President Bill Clinton, smarting over the termination three years earlier of America's right to maintain military bases in the Philippines, refused. Mischief Reef is now an important Chinese military base.

The more China has gotten away with, the bolder it has become. Following the capture of the Scarborough Shoal, Xi embarked on a land-reclamation frenzy, creating 1,300 hectares (3,200 acres) of new land in the South China Sea, including seven artificial islands that now serve as forward operating bases. China has built 27 military outposts on disputed islands, which now bristle with short-range missiles, reconnaissance gear, radar systems, and laser jamming equipment. Its larger islands also feature aircraft hangars, runways, and deep-water harbors. By unilaterally redrawing South China Sea's geopolitical map, China is ensuring that it is uniquely positioned to project power in the region.

Even as China has gradually eroded the Philippines' security – including Philippine control of areas within its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) – the US has continued to underscore its "ironclad" defense commitment to its ally. Late last year, the Biden administration affirmed that any armed third-party attack against the Philippine military, coast guard, aircraft, or public vessels "anywhere in the South China Sea" is covered by the US-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty. Yet China remains unpunished – and undeterred.

What explains this yawning gap between rhetoric and action? First and foremost, the US fears escalation, especially when its resources and attention are being consumed by the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East. Moreover, the US prefers not to weigh in on sovereignty disputes in the South China Sea, where it has no territorial claims of its own. It has not even taken a position on the sovereignty of the Japanese-administered Senkaku Islands, which China also claims.

The US has, however, made clear that its security treaty with Japan covers those islands and cautioned against "any unilateral action that seeks to undermine Japan's administration." It should do the same for the Philippines, stating unequivocally that its treaty commitment to the country covers any efforts to compel a change in areas currently under Philippine administrative control, including Second Thomas Shoal, which China has been attempting to besiege.

In support of this stance, the US could cite the 2016 ruling by an international arbitration tribunal that China's territorial claims in the South China Sea have "no legal basis" and that Chinese actions within the Philippine EEZ violated the Philippines' sovereignty. But China's open contempt for that ruling should dispel any hope that the South China Sea's future will be decided by international law, which is why the US must be prepared to back up such a statement with action.

If the US does stand up for its treaty ally, it can take advantage of the nine Philippine naval and air bases to which it has gained access within the last decade, two of which are located just across from Taiwan and southern China. If it does not, China will continue to solidify its dominance over the South China Sea, thereby cornering the region's rich energy and fishery resources and gaining the ability to disrupt supply chains and punish countries for acts it deems unfriendly.

China will not stop at the South China Sea. Under Xi's leadership, China has used a similar combination of deception, bullying, coercion, and surprise to expand its territorial control elsewhere, from the East China Sea to the Himalayas, sparing not even the tiny country of Bhutan. As with any bully, the only way to stop China is to confront it with a credible challenger. The US must be that challenger, and it should start by defending the Philippines.

The writer is Professor Emeritus of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research and Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin.

PROJECT SYNDICATE



Brahma Chellaney

CHINA HAS BUILT 27 MILITARY OUTPOSTS ON DISPUTED ISLANDS, WHICH NOW BRISTLE WITH SHORT-RANGE MISSILES, RECONNAISSANCE GEAR, RADAR SYSTEMS, AND LASER JAMMING EQUIPMENT

SPECTRUM DEMOCRACY

The perils of political bipolarisation

Advanced capitalist countries—including the US, the UK, Canada, Australia, Japan, and several Western European nations—have failed to offer their citizens a genuine range of choices in terms of availability and accessibility of multiple political parties, different ideologies, alternative policy options, and visions for future. Despite relative prosperity and established democratic frameworks, these countries often present limited, binary options within their political systems. These dominant options based on two party system shape political discourse with policies and ideologies that are often indistinguishable. This lack of choice is not accidental; it is a deliberate design to protect the economic interests of both ruling and non-ruling elites within a capitalist framework.



Bhabani Shankar Nayak

A DEVELOPED ECONOMY WITH DEPRIVED PEOPLE IN AN ALIENATED SOCIETY IS NOT IDEAL FOR HUMAN LIVES

Although multiple political parties officially exist and registered in these countries, they often exist in name only or work as interest groups. These smaller parties are frequently marginalised within mainstream political discourse, particularly in the media and in electoral democracy

as elections are too expensive in a market-led society. As a result, they struggle to gain visibility, which limits public awareness of diverse perspectives and reduces the influence of alternative ideas on issues crucial to both citizens and the country. This bipolarisation of politics hinders the deepening of a democracy that serves both people and the planet.

The advocates of capitalism have long argued that capitalism is not only necessary condition for freedom but also essential for democracy. The idea is to reinforce capitalism as central to every democratic decision-making processes, political institutions and structures of governance. However, the primacy of capitalism as an ideological project weakens diversities of decision-making processes within a democratic set up.

Work and starve is not freedom, it is another form of slavery. A developed economy with deprived people in an alienated society is not ideal for human lives. The democratic systems within capitalist societies neither provide genuine freedom nor uphold true democratic values. Instead, they restrict

political choices, limiting the availability of alternative political perspectives, as it is easier to manage a few elite classes than to address the needs of the working masses. The dominance of two-party systems—such as the Democrats and Republicans in the US, Labour and Conservatives in the UK, and similar polarising duality of political trends in France, Australia, and Japan—illuminates how capitalist democracies offer only limited, binary options in their electoral processes.

Capitalism inherently creates cultures of democratic deficit, making true political diversity nearly impossible to realise. By streamlining political processes and consolidating decision-making, capitalism safeguards its own interests, which are threatened by democratic decentralisation. Capitalism often forms alliances with authoritarian, reactionary, feudal and religious forces and ensures their electoral victory with the help of mass media and propaganda. Therefore, capitalism often undermines robust democracies with multi-party systems, advocating for "efficiency" as a justification for

limiting political plurality and centralising power.

The two leading capitalist democracies, the UK and the US, exemplify how democracy can be undermined by the bipolarisation of politics, where two dominant parties offer only two different versions of capitalist interests. This system effectively erases alternatives, even within existing democratic frameworks. Leaders like Jeremy Corbyn in the UK and Bernie Sanders in the US encountered significant obstacles, as the entrenched capitalist political structures suppressed even minimal progressive, liberal, and democratic ideals.

Radical democracy can only be achieved through the political mobilisation of working people, whose struggles have the potential to deepen democracy and embrace a diversity of ideals, policies, and visions for an egalitarian society free from inequality and exploitation. It is impossible to uphold the interests of working people without continuous struggle for radical democracy.

The writer teaches at the London Metropolitan University.

WISDOM CORNER

- We are the representatives of the cosmos; we are an example of what hydrogen atoms can do, given 15 billion years of cosmic evolution.** CARL SAGAN
- There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning.** JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI
- Half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can't, and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it.** ROBERT FROST

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



Commercial challenges

Sir, Despite having friendly connections with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President-elect Donald Trump's policies that prioritise America First may cause challenges for India in terms of commerce and immigration. It is premature to expect Trump to bring about a fundamental shift in the Biden administration's policies toward India, which have recently taken a tough stance. Trump has also targeted India's economic protection policies during his election campaign. Trump, an advocate of America First policies, has already voiced unhappiness with India for tariffs on Harley Davidson motorcycles imported from America. Trump, a former businessman turned politician, made it a point to preserve American industry even during his first administration. In this situation, it is possible that they may take a strong stance against India to defend American products and services. They can apply pressure on India to lower tariffs on many of their products based on their preferences. Furthermore, there is concern that they would cause economic problems for us by raising tariffs on Indian goods. As a result, Indian imports from America may become more expensive. As a result, Indian consumers may encounter difficulties due to rising inflation. However, the American business sector is ecstatic with Trump's achievement, and as a result, the American stock market is soaring.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

Political culture

Sir, The political scenario is hotting up as the stakes are high in Maharashtra elections. Honours are even and fight for supremacy is gearing up. Allegations and counter-allegations are mounting and war of words erupt in a now or never situation. As the manifestos are out, the realities come to light in electioneering. In the public view, election manifestos are issued solely to sway voters, who know they will hear about these promises again only when the next election comes. People will have to simply wait and watch as mute spectators. If parties truly believe in the validity of their manifestos, they should allow voters to judge these promises on their own merits, rather than muddying the waters with divisive or defamatory statements.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

MEDICOS' SAFETY IN FOCUS

Docs protest in TN

Doctors protest over assault on Chennai oncologist; Medical services not affected, says official



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 14: Doctors across Tamil Nadu staged a protest Thursday condemning the brutal attack on a government oncologist at a hospital here, and also demanded safety for medical professionals.

The strike by the members of the Indian Medical Association and Tamil Nadu Government Doctors Association has not affected the medical services to the patients at the government facility, an official said and claimed that the senior oncologist Balaji, assaulted by the son of a patient in the outpatient room Wednesday, was responding well to treatment.

State Health Minister Ma Subramanian visited Balaji Jegannathan, associate professor, medical oncology, Kalaingar Centenary Super Specialty Hospital (KCSSH), Guindy, here, earlier in the day and enquired about his health condition.

"There has been good progress in Dr Balaji's health. His vitals are good without any support. He had breakfast in the morning. He spoke to the Minister of Health saying he is doing well and sought to be shifted to ward," KCSSH director Dr L Parthasarathy said.

When reporters asked about Wednesday's violent attack on hospital premises, he replied, "One is bound to be emotionally upset if diagnosed with cancer. The patient was admitted after the doctors explained about the treatment options to her."

On whether the strike affected the medical services to the patients, he said that there were sufficient numbers of doctors to attend to about 500 to 600

GOVT ACTION: Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma Subramanian announced that a tag system for patient attendants will be introduced in a phased manner across all government medical colleges, district headquarters hospitals, and taluk hospitals

The protest was announced to create awareness among the public and not intended to affect the patients. All medicare facilities were being provided to the patients without any let up

DR L PARTHASARATHY | DIRECTOR, KCSSH

inpatients and those in ICU at KCSSH.

"I hope the issue will be resolved amicably soon," Parthasarathy added.

The 1,000 bedded Kalaingar Centenary Super Specialty Hospital, where the crime occurred, was inaugurated a year ago. In addition to this facility, the National Centre of Aging (NCA), and the King Institute are functioning on the sprawling campus near the Guindy railway station.

Subramanian later informed that Dr Balaji was recovering well and would be shifted to the ward today after tests.

Speaking to reporters after visiting the recuperating doctor, the Minister said all government medical colleges, district headquarters hospitals and taluk hospitals would provide (temporary) identity tags to the patients' attendants.

"The four-colour tag system for patients' attendants was introduced at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in early October and it will be expanded to other

Oppn slams DMK

AIADMK General Secretary and Leader of Opposition Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) has condemned the stabbing incident of a senior doctor at Kalaingar Centenary Hospital, highlighting the failure of law and order in Tamil Nadu. In a post on the social media platform X, EPS stated, "The shocking incident of Dr Balaji being stabbed in broad daylight by unknown assailants underscores the failed law and order situation in Tamil Nadu. Just days earlier, November 5, at Trichy ESI Hospital, a six-member gang attacked government doctor Muthu Karthikeyan. The fact that even government doctors are unsafe in government hospitals highlights the state of law and order under this regime." EPS also noted a rise in similar incidents, emphasising that the deteriorating law and order situation has created an environment where heinous crimes are committed without fear across the state. Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) leader and Tamil superstar Vijay also criticised the DMK government, stating that he had previously warned of an escalating crime rate in the state. Referring to the attack on Dr Balaji, Vijay remarked that it reflected a worsening law and order situation in Tamil Nadu. State BJP Chief Annamalai joined the chorus, holding the state government responsible for failing to address the rising criminal activity. In a post on X, he stated: "Despite repeated assaults on doctors, nurses, and hospital staff, the DMK government has not taken any action. Each time an incident like this occurs, the Chief Minister promises action but ultimately does nothing. This raises serious concerns about public safety."

government facilities," the Minister said.

The incident involved a 25-year-old man named Vignesh, who entered Dr Balaji Jagannathan's outpatient department and repeatedly stabbed him. Vignesh reportedly claimed that his mother, Prema, who was a patient of Dr Balaji, was suffering from acute pain due to inadequate treatment.

Chandigarh sees worst air quality

After Delhi, Chandigarh becomes most polluted city as AQI reaches 'severe' category

ESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Nov 14: Chandigarh recorded the worst air quality in the country Thursday, with its air quality index falling in the 'severe' category for the first time this season.

The air quality in many parts of Haryana and Punjab was also recorded in the 'very poor' category and the 'poor' bracket.

Chandigarh recorded its air quality index (AQI) at 427 at 12 noon, according to the Central Pollution Control Board's Sameer app, which provides

hourly updates.

The AQI was 460 at the ambient air quality monitoring station at Sector 22, 365 at Sector 25 and 455 at Sector 53 in the city, the data showed.

Chandigarh's air quality was worse than Delhi, which recorded its AQI at 424 at 12 noon, as per the data.

The Chandigarh Meteorological Department has also issued a yellow alert in the region stating that the conditions will persist till Friday.

In a post on X, Congress MP from Chandigarh Manish Tewari urged UT Administrator and Punjab Governor G-



lab Chand Kataria to consider shutting down all schools, especially for small children till the situation mitigates.

For the past few days, the air quality of the union territory continued to remain in the 'very poor' bracket, becoming one of the few cities with the worst air quality in the country.

In Haryana, the AQI was 323 in Gurugram, 299 in Panchkula, 293 in Bahadurgarh, 289 in

Hisar, 269 in Sonapat, 246 in Kaithal, 223 in Kurukshetra and 228 in Yamunanagar.

In Punjab, Amritsar recorded its AQI at 325, Ludhiana 211, Mandi Gobindgarh 210 and Bathinda 192.

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

Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana after harvesting the paddy crop in October and November is often blamed for the rise in air pollution

Military Literature Fest marks 25 years of Kargil

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Nov 14: Organisers of the Military Literature Festival (MLF) Thursday announced that the eighth edition of the festival is dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Kargil War.

The event's venues are named after young officers and men who were awarded the Param Vir Chakra for supreme valour and devotion to duty to the point of courting death.

The festival will open with a tribute to the martyrs of the Kargil War through a wreath-laying at the Regional War Memorial at Sector 2 here November 17, led by Gulab Chand Kataria, Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh.

A Bravehearts Ride in the form of a motorbike rally will then carry this message of courage, sacrifice and patriotism to the corners of the tricity through the combined roar of 1,286 motorcycles driv-



en in from distant towns of the region. It will be flagged off from near Chandigarh Club.

Once again, the MLF would showcase technology, youth power and the positive energy of sports and deliver a message of physical well-being and against drugs, crime and terrorism.

Appropriately, the Bravehearts Ride will conclude at the Khetarpal Officers Mess and Institute in Chandimandir here. The main event will be held

November 30 and December 1 at the Lake Club, comprising panel discussions on topics of strategic, military and historical interest featuring the top thinkers, writers, authors and analysts. There will also be discussions on books of appropriate interest.

The usual exhibitions, stalls, books, cultural performances and military equipment display will, as always, enhance the interest and enjoyment of the spectators.

Photos of ten Punjabi literary icons installed

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 14: The Punjab Language Department has installed photos of 10 renowned Punjabi writers at Punjab Bhawan here in the first phase.

The entrance floor features photos of Bhai Vir Singh, the founder of modern Punjabi literature, and celebrated writer Amrita Pritam.

The first floor, near the Chief Minister's office, showcases photos of three prominent Punjabi poets - Shiv Kumar Batalvi, Pash, and Surjit Patar.

Similarly, the second floor features photos of Ishwar Chander Nanda, the father of Punjabi theatre, and Dr Mohinder Singh Randhawa, known for his pioneering work for Punjabi art and culture.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. ST-OT-AMC-EI-SIEMENS-439, Dt. 08.11.2024
Name of Work: PROVISION FOR COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING SYSTEMS (WESTRACE MAKE) BY M/S SIEMENS RAIL AUTOMATION PVT. LTD. AT DIFFERENT STATIONS IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.
Tender Value: ₹11,80,28,625.93, EMD: ₹7,40,200/-, Cost of Tender Document: ₹11,800/- (Including 18% GST).
Bidding Start Date: 18.11.2024, Date & time of Tender Closing: 11:00 hrs of 02.12.2024.
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders, even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.
Divisional Railway Manager (S&T) Khurda Road
PR-725/PI/24-25

Viral diseases, fevers grip Tamil Nadu

Chennai and its surrounding districts -- Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, and Tiruvallur -- are witnessing a significant increase in cases of fever, respiratory infections, and viral diseases. Reports of malaria and leptospirosis have also emerged from various parts of the state.

Officials highlighted symptoms such as high fever, chills, cough, sore throat, body aches, and headaches. The public has been urged to seek immediate medical attention if these symptoms occur.

Rajani Varrier, an entomologist at a private hospital in Chennai, told IANS, "The dry cough

seen in children often persists for more than two weeks, indicating a viral infection." She noted that since the onset of the northeast monsoon October 17, there has been a noticeable rise in cases of fever, headaches, and throat infections, particularly affecting children and the elderly.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 14: Amid heavy rainfall in several districts of Tamil Nadu, the State Health Depart-

ment has issued a public advisory warning of a surge in viral infections, including dengue, influenza, and other fever-related illnesses.

Vulnerable smooth-coated otter discovered

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 14: A recent research report on the Vaigai River and its surrounding areas has confirmed the presence of the smooth-coated otter (Lutrogale perspicillata) in the dense forest regions at the river's origin.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has classified this species as 'vulnerable'. In addition to the otters, researchers recorded 35 mammal species, including deer and mongoose, as well as 67 types of plant species.

The study also documented 175 bird species in the area, with 12 of them classified as vulnerable. Conducted by the Madurai Nature Cultural Foundation from August 28 to September 6, the research aimed to assess pollution levels in the Vaigai River.

Results indicated that the river is heavily polluted and unsuitable for consumption. Water samples collected from 28 points along the river were found to be highly contaminated and classified under cate-



RARE SPECIES

gory 'E,' the lowest in water quality grading.

Additional samples from 36 points showed alarming levels of contamination, largely due to pesticide pollution. Sources from the Water Resources Department (WRD) stated that while water quality is better at the river's origin, it deteriorates downstream due to human activity.

The study noted the presence of birds like coots and the glossy ibis, which are typically found in waters with high sew-

age contamination. Alarmingly, there has been a decline in the number of storks, a species sensitive to water quality.

The drop in stork populations serves as an indicator of severe water pollution. Researchers also highlighted the proliferation of invasive plant species, such as water hyacinth and various types of grasses, which obstruct the waterway and further degrade water quality.

The research team included botanists N Raveen-

dran and N Karthikeyan, along with a group of dedicated volunteers. R Palaniswami, a Professor of Environmental Studies based in Tamil Nadu, urged the government to take immediate action to restore Vaigai River.

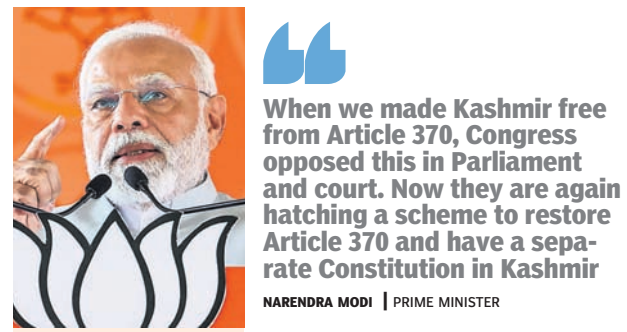
"The Vaigai is the lifeline of several southern districts in Tamil Nadu and holds cultural significance. Strong intervention at the level of the Chief Minister is essential to restore the river to its former state," he said.

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda
REGIONAL OFFICE (SAMBALPUR REGION), 1st Floor, At: Christian Para, G.M. College Chowk, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768001, Mob.: 7682829040
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 6(2) and 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to be held on 03.12.2024 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers / Guarantors that the below described Immovable properties Mortgaged/Charged to the Secured Creditor, will be sold on the basis of "PHYSICAL POSSESSION" of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Guarantors/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

PROPERTY INSPECTION DATE AND TIME : 29.11.2024 time 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM.
Contact Person - Branch Manager, Rayagada, Mob: 7752050861
Status of Possession of Properties: Physical, Encumbrance Known to Bank - NIL
Last Date of Submission of online payment of EMD : 03.12.2024 latest by 6.00 P.M.
The scheduled date of Auction to be held on 03.12.2024 from 2.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Co-Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of the Properties & the Owner	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increase Amount	Total Dues (Type of Possession)
1.	RAYAGADA BRANCH / 1) Borrower: Mohammed Murtaza, S/o.: Mohammed Aslam, Raniguda Farm, Back Side of Deepti Convent School, Dist.: Rayagada, Odisha, PIN-765001 / Co-Borrower: Wajada Tabassum, W/o.: Mohammed Murtaza, Raniguda Farm, Back Side of Deepti Convent School, Rayagada, Odisha, PIN-765001, 2) Borrower: M/s. Myra Mart, Prop.: Mohammed Murtaza, C/o.: Mohammed Aslam, Shop No.: 2 and 4, Seetaratnam Enclave, Near Shiv Temple, Near Uma Shankar Theatre, PO/P.S.: Rayagada, Dist: Rayagada, Odisha, PIN - 765001 / Guarantor: Wajada Tabassum, W/o.: Mohammad Murtaza, Raniguda Farm, Back Side of Deepti Convent School, Dist.: Rayagada, Odisha, PIN-765001	Equitable Mortgage & Extension of Equitable Mortgage over Land and Building located Khata No.: 50/7664, Plot No.: 145/255/6947, Area: Ac. 0.051 Dec, Kissam: Gharbari, Mouza: Rayagada, Tahasil: Rayagada, P.S.: Rayagada, P.S. No.: 151, Dist.: Rayagada, Odisha, in the name of Wajada Tabassum , Bounded by East: Layout Plot No.: 93, West: Layout Plot No.: 91, North: 33 ft. Municipality Road, South: Layout Plot No.: 100	₹1,10,00,000/- ₹11,00,000/- ₹20,000/-	₹ 97,46,163.19 plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon from 10.10.2024 till full payment (Physical)

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://ebkcray.in>
STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR FOR SUBSEQUENT SALE UNDER RULE 6(2), 9(1) AS PER AMENDED SARFAESI ACT 2002
This may also be treated as notice under rule 6(2), 9(1) of security interest (Enforcements) Rules, 2002 to the Borrowers / Guarantors of the said loan about holding of E-Auction sale on the above mentioned date
Place: Sambalpur
Date: 14.11.2024
Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda



When we made Kashmir free from Article 370, Congress opposed this in Parliament and court. Now they are again hatching a scheme to restore Article 370 and have a separate Constitution in Kashmir
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

5 SELECTED AS RHODES SCHOLARS FOR STUDYING AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY

A law student committed to citizenship rights, a literature major who wants to pursue museum anthropology, a philosophy student who aims to study epistemological injustice, an aspiring astrophysicist from IIT-Bombay, and a veterinarian are among the Indians selected as Rhodes scholars for 2025



of the day uote

The JMM-Congress-RJD alliance has given love jihad and land jihad to the state in past five years. Instead of people's welfare, the government carried out jihad welfare
ANURAG THAKUR | BJP LEADER

Today, welfare happens, but women are given self-respect by saying I am earning my own profit. It is not just kindness but an understanding that they are capable of adding value, creating something, and doing something that has market potential
NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | UNION FINANCE MINISTER

When people vote, and when a party wins 10 per cent of the seats, that party will get the opposition status. When we have a majority, we will form the government
N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | CM, ANDHRA PRADESH

Modi has not read Constitution: Rahul

Gandhi's retort came after Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party claimed that the Congress leader was showing a copy of the Constitution with blank pages inside at his campaign rallies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nandurbar /Nanded (Maha), Nov 14: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi thinks that the Constitution of India is "blank" because he has never read it.

Modi would have pursued different policies had he read the country's foundational document, he said at election rallies at Nandurbar and Nanded ahead of the November 20 Maharashtra assembly elections.

Gandhi's retort came after Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party claimed that the Congress leader was showing a copy of the Constitution with blank pages inside at his campaign rallies.

In Nanded, the Congress leader was also campaigning ahead of the Lok Sabha byelection, necessitated by the death of sitting Congress MP Vasant Chavan. The Congress has fielded his son Ravindra Chavan while the BJP has fielded Santuk Hambarde.

"The prime minister says I show a blank Constitution,"



If Modi had read the Constitution, he would not have behaved the way he does. Modi waives loans of ₹16 lakh crore of 25 rich people but not those of the poor and farmers
RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

Gandhi said in tribal-dominated Nandurbar in north Maharashtra, adding, "The Constitution is blank for him, because he has never read it in his life. He has no idea what is written in it." In Nanded in central region, Gandhi said the Constitution

does not teach discrimination. "If Modi had read the Constitution, he would not have behaved the way he does. Modi waives loans of ₹16 lakh crore of 25 rich people but not those of the poor and farmers," he added.

Referring to strife-torn Manipur, he said for the first time in the country's history, a prime minister has not visited a state which has been burning for more than a year.

As to BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis questioning the red cover of the Constitution showed by Gandhi at his ral-

lies and connecting it to "urban Naxals", Gandhi said, "It does not matter what colour is the Constitution, whether red or blue, what matters is what is written inside and we are committed to defend and protect it even at the cost of our life."

While the Constitution refers to tribals as Adivasis, which means original owners of land, forests and other resources, the BJP deliberately describes them as 'Vanvasis' or forest-dwellers, Gandhi said, adding that the saffron party does not want tribal children to study and become doctors or engineers, but wants to confine them to forests.

Against the eight per cent tribal population in the country, their participation in the government and other institutions was almost negligible, the Congress leader claimed, adding that of the 90 top bureaucrats running the central government, just one officer belongs to the Adivasi community and even he was sidelined.

Caste census was the only solution to end this discrimination, he added.

UPPSC postpones RO, ARO exams



A number of aspirants are protesting outside the UPPSC office to press their demand for holding the exams in one shift

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prayagraj (UP), Nov 14: Keeping in mind the demands of aspirants, the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) Thursday postponed the Review Officer and Assistant Review Officer exams, and announced that it will hold the Provincial Civil Services (PCS) preliminary exam-2024 on the old pattern on a single day.

The Commission also announced to form a committee on Review Officer (RO) and Assistant Review Officer ARO exams to ensure its transparency and fairness.

While the announcement of conducting the PCS preliminary exam on a single day brought happiness to some candidates, those preparing for the RO and ARO exams appeared a bit disappointed. The protesters said they will continue the agitation till a decision is taken on the RO and ARO exams.

On the directives of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the UPPSC has decided to postpone the RO and ARO exams and hold the PCS preliminary exam on the old pattern, Commission Secretary Ashok Kumar said here outside the UPPSC office.

The committee for the RO and ARO exams will study all the aspects in detail and sub-

mit its report soon so that the purity and credibility of these examinations can be ensured, he said.

Kumar said in view of the incidents of paper leak in many parts of the country in recent months, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to ensure the purity and transparency of the selection examinations.

For this reason, the Commission had announced to conduct the proposed PCS and RO/ARO examinations in multiple shifts in December.

However, after the demand of the students and the intervention of the chief minister, now the PCS preliminary examination will be held in a single day. This decision will bring great relief to lakhs of students who are preparing for this exam, a government spokesperson said.

A number of aspirants are protesting outside the UPPSC office to press their demand for holding the exams in one shift.

Aspirant Rahul Pandey said they will continue the agitation till a decision is taken on the RO and ARO exams.

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak when contacted said the government will work in the interest of the students and will also stand with them.

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav raised the demand in favour of the students during his Prayagraj visit earlier in the day.

The Commission had declared the dates of December 7 and 8 for the PCS preliminary exam, while December 22 and 23 were declared for the RO and ARO preliminary exams.

SHORT TAKES

Khichi elected as next Delhi mayor

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Mahesh Khichi was elected as the next mayor of Delhi Thursday, in a major boost to the ruling party in the national capital ahead of the Assembly polls due early next year. Khichi, a Dalit candidate fielded by the Arvind Kejriwal-led party, defeated the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Kishan Lal by a wafer-thin margin of three votes. While Khichi got 133 votes, Lal secured 130 votes.

Hoax bomb threat: Flight lands safely

Raipur: An IndiGo flight from Nagpur to Kolkata Thursday made an emergency landing here after receiving a bomb threat which turned out to be a hoax, officials said. The flight with 187 passengers and six crew members onboard landed at the Swami Vivekananda Airport here sometime after 9 am following the threat, Raipur Senior Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh said. A police team and a bomb squad also reached the airport. "After complete inspection, the bomb threat was found to be a hoax. The passenger who had informed about the bomb was detained and is being questioned," the police official added.

₹1.5cr cash seized from bike rider

Nagpur: Police have detained a 42-year-old scooter rider after seizing ₹1.5 crore cash from his possession in Maharashtra's Nagpur city, officials said Thursday. The Election Commission has been notified about it due to concerns that the money could be linked to electoral malpractices, ahead of the November 20 state Assembly polls, they said. The man, resident of Yashodhara Nagar, was stopped during a routine check in Central Avenue area Wednesday night, an official from Tehsil police station said.

25 injured as bus overturns in Pilibhit

Pilibhit (UP): A bus carrying a group of workers overturned into a ditch here Thursday, injuring 25 people, officials said. Station House Officer Deepak Kumar said the bus was transporting around 60 workers from Nawabganj and nearby villages in Bareilly district to a kiln in Bihar. The bus veered off the road near Balrampur Chowki.

India to seek Arsh Dalla's extradition after arrest in Canada

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 14: India Thursday said it will pursue an extradition request with Canada for Arsh Singh Gill alias Arsh Dalla, the de-facto chief of the Khalistan Tiger Force, following his arrest in that country.

Dalla was designated in India as a terrorist in 2023. In July 2023, India had requested the Canadian government for his provisional arrest.

"In view of the recent arrest, our agencies will be following up on an extradition request," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"Given Arsh Dalla's criminal record in India and his involvement in similar illegal activities in Canada, it is expected that he will be extradited or deported to face justice in India," he added. Dalla was reportedly arrested by the Canadian Police late last month.

"We have seen media reports circulating since November 10 on the arrest in Canada of proclaimed offender Arsh Singh Gill alias Arsh Dalla, the de-facto chief of the Khalistan Tiger Force," Jaiswal said. "Canadian print and visual media have widely reported on the arrest. We understand that the Ontario Court has listed the case for hearing," he added. Jaiswal was replying to media queries regarding the arrest of Dalla.



Children look the wax statue of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru at a museum on the occasion of the Children's Day, in Thiruvananthapuram, Thursday

COVID-19 SCAM

The SIT will only probe the irregularities and crime and not the recovery of the public money

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 14: The Karnataka cabinet Thursday decided to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the alleged irregularities in the purchase of equipment and medicines during COVID19

Karnataka Cabinet decides to set up SIT

pandemic when the BJP was in power in the state, based on the interim report submitted by Justice Michael D'Cunha Commission.

"After examining the interim report submitted by Justice Michael D'Cunha, the state cabinet has decided to constitute an SIT to conduct further investigation and take action," Karnataka Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil told reporters. The Minister said an Inspec-



tor General of Police rank officer will head the SIT. However, the Chief Minister will decide the officers in the SIT.

"Once the SIT comes into existence, it will start working and the moment it felt the need

to file FIR, they will do it and start investigation," Patil said.

He said the final report, once submitted, will also be forwarded to the SIT to investigate.

According to him, the SIT will only probe the irregularities and crime and not the recovery of the public money.

"The recovery aspect will not be taken up by this SIT. The committee may give its recommendation on recovery. The recovery can be done by a separate agency of the Depart-

ment of Revenue because it will be like a recovery of revenue dues," Patil said.

He added that the recovery aspect was not discussed in the Cabinet meeting in detail.

He further claimed that largescale corruption had taken place in the name of COVID-19 management.

The Minister alleged that the then BJP government behaved in the most inhuman way when it was supposed to protect people from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Doctors call for continuous upskilling in diabetes care

PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF DIABETES COMPLICATIONS IS THE TOP PRIORITY FOR DOCTORS LOOKING TO ENHANCE THEIR EXPERTISE, WITH 82 PER CENT WANTING TO LEARN MORE IN THIS AREA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 14: Ninety per cent of the 3,000 diabetologists and endocrinologists surveyed have emphasised the importance of continuous upskilling in diabetes management.

According to the survey findings, clinical case discussions and peer reviews were chosen by 75 per cent of participants as their preferred method for professional development.

The findings of survey by Medvarsity, healthcare EdTech company, released on the occasion of the World Diabetes Day highlights the priorities, barriers and future perspectives of healthcare providers committed to advancing diabetes care through continuous learning and innovative technologies like artificial intelligence (AI).

Prevention and management of diabetes complications is the

top priority for doctors looking to enhance their expertise, with 82 per cent wanting to learn more in this area. Close behind is advanced insulin management, with 78 per cent of doctors keen to sharpen their skills in this specialist field.

The survey found that while doctors are eager to learn, they face real challenges. Time constraints emerged as the most common barrier, affecting 65 per cent of respondents, followed by cost of programmes (60 per cent) and difficulty balancing personal and professional life (58 per cent). Despite these hurdles, there's



The survey revealed that healthcare professionals are increasingly looking to AI to enhance diabetes management

a strong appetite for AI training, with 78 per cent of doctors wanting to learn how to use automated insulin dose calculators along with high interest in continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) analysis systems and diabetic retinopathy screening tools.

The survey revealed that healthcare professionals are increasingly looking to AI to enhance diabetes management. Early detection and diagnosis of diabetes complications (88 per cent) and personalised treatment plans (85 per cent) were the most anticipated AI applications, while 80 per cent

Time constraints emerged as the most common barrier, affecting 65 per cent of respondents, followed by cost of programmes (60 per cent) and difficulty balancing personal and professional life (58 per cent)

Despite these hurdles, there's a strong appetite for AI training, with 78 per cent of doctors wanting to learn how to use automated insulin dose calculators along with high interest in continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) analysis systems and diabetic retinopathy screening tools

varsity, said, "We're witnessing a fundamental transformation in diabetes care that will reshape the future of medical practice. The convergence of AI technology and clinical expertise represents more than just a technological upgrade, it's a complete paradigm shift in the approach to patient care."

"Our survey reveals that healthcare professionals aren't just passive observers in this revolution, they're actively seeking to master these new tools. Medvarsity is helping doctors bridge this gap, giving them the skills they need to use these innovations and give their patients the best possible care."

By supporting upskilling in high-priority areas and promoting training in emerging AI tools, Medvarsity is helping shape a healthcare workforce ready to tackle the challenges of diabetes with precision and empathy.

of doctors see automated blood sugar monitoring as the key, pointing to the importance of continuous monitoring in diabetes care. Gerald Jaideep, CEO of Med-

national



Hemant Soren and his company have indulged in corruption and looted public funds, but they will be bid adieu November 23
AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

DOMINICA ANNOUNCES TOP NATIONAL HONOUR TO MODI

The Commonwealth of Dominica will bestow its highest national award, the Dominica Award of Honour, upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi this month, the Dominica government said. The award is in recognition of Modi's contributions to Dominica during the COVID-19 pandemic and his dedication to strengthening the partnership between the two countries



of the day quote

Leaders of BJP are camping in the state but they don't utter a word for development, progress and peace in Jharkhand. They are only dividing people in the name of religion

HEMANT SOREN | CM, JHARKHAND

The kind of situation prevailing in Himachal Pradesh must not befall Maharashtra. The people of the state must understand the Congress will not fulfil its promises

JAIRAM THAKUR | FORMER CM, HIMACHAL PRADESH

This Assembly election in Maharashtra is not just an election but a war between destruction and development, between corruption and good governance

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION MINISTER

AFSPA RETURNS IN MANIPUR

In a notification, the Union Home Ministry said the decision was taken given the continuous volatile situation there due to the ongoing ethnic violence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Imphal, Nov 14: The Centre Thursday reimposed the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in Manipur's six police station areas, including the violence-hit Jiribam, with the Union home ministry asserting that the decision was taken given the "continuous volatile situation" there due to the ongoing ethnic violence.

The Central government notification on the reimposition of AFSPA came the same day the Manipur police announced the seizure of a cache of arms and ammunition from Manipur's Jiribam and Churachandpur districts.

During cordon and search operations in Champanagar, Narayanpur and Thangboipunjre areas of Jiribam district Wednesday, one 2-inch mortar, thirty-six live barrel cartridges and five empty barrel cartridges were seized, a police statement said.

The police statement also said that one .303 rifle, one 9mm pistol, two short-range locally made cannon, two long-range locally made cannon, five AK 47 live rounds, two 9mm live rounds, four 12-bore cart cases, and eighteen .303 rifle modified live rounds were also seized from H Kotlian village in Churachandpur district.

An area or district is notified as "disturbed" under AFSPA



to facilitate operations by the armed forces. AFSPA gives armed forces sweeping powers to search, arrest and open fire if they deem it necessary for the "maintenance of public order".

The decision to reimpose AFSPA was taken given the continuous volatile situation there due to the ongoing ethnic violence, the Union Home Ministry said in the notification.

The police station areas where AFSPA has been reimposed are Sekmai and Lamsang in Imphal West district, Lamlai in Imphal East district, Jiribam in Jiribam district, Leimakhong in Kangpokpi and Moirang in Bishnupur.

The Manipur government imposed AFSPA in the entire state October 1, barring 19 police station areas that included these six.

The police stations excluded from the Manipur government's order were Imphal, Lamphal, City, Singamei, Sekmai, Lamsang, Patsoi, Wangoi, Porompat, Heingang, Lamlai, Iriblung, Leimakhong, Thoubal, Bishnupur,

Govt bans Meghalaya-based insurgent group HNLC

New Delhi: Meghalaya-based insurgent group Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC) was Thursday declared banned by the government for five years for its involvement in violent incidents and for carrying out activities prejudicial to India's sovereignty and integrity. In a notification, the Union Home Ministry said the Central government is of the opinion that the HNLC has declared objective for secession of areas in the Meghalaya, largely inhabited by Khasi and Jaintia tribes, and continued intimidation and bullying of the civilian population to extort funds for their organisation. It said the group is also maintaining links with other insurgent groups of the northeastern region for carrying out extortion and intimidation and indulging in 48 criminal cases, including that of explosion or planting of explosives in Meghalaya, from November 2019 to June 2024. During this period, 73 cadres of the outfit were also arrested by the security forces.

Nambol, Moirang, Kakching, Jiribam.

The Manipur police Monday said 10 suspected militants were killed in a fierce gunfight with security forces after insurgents in camouflage uniforms and armed with sophisticated weapons fired indiscriminately at a police station and an adjacent CRPF camp in Manipur's Jiribam district.

The suspected militants allegedly abducted six civilians, including women and children from the same district.

The police station areas where AFSPA has been reimposed are Sekmai and Lamsang in Imphal West district, Lamlai in Imphal East district, Jiribam in Jiribam district, Leimakhong in Kangpokpi and Moirang in Bishnupur

SDM SLAP ROW

Rajasthan candidate Naresh Meena held

About 60 people were arrested in the early hours of Thursday following the violence that also saw crowds pelting stones at police personnel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tonk (Rajasthan), Nov 14: Independent MLA candidate Naresh Meena was arrested Thursday following high drama and escalating violence in which a mob assaulted a PTI reporter and video cameraperson and burnt their camera.

The attack, a day after the Congress rebel contesting as an Independent in the bypolls slapped SDM Malpura Amit Chaudhary outside a polling booth in front of hundreds of people, came while the PTI crew was covering a protest following the arrest.

PTI reporter Ajeet Shekhawat and cameraperson Dharmendra Kumar were badly injured and rushed to the Jeevan Surgical Hospital in Sawai Madhopur.

In a selfie video sent to the PTI head office in Delhi, Shekhawat can be seen bleeding from under his left eye. He said his colleague Dharmendra suffered a gash on the head and his arm may be broken.

The two came under attack when they were about to interview Agriculture Minister Kirodi Lal Meena, who had gone to the trouble spot to assess the situation in Tonk district's Samravta village, about 100 km from the state capital Jaipur. The chief minister's office



(CMO) instructed senior police officers to provide security cover to the PTI team and also asked the chief medical and health officer (CMHO) of Sawai Madhopur to ensure the two men get proper treatment.

The violence has been going on since Wednesday evening when police tried to stop Naresh Meena's supporters from sitting on dharna.

The slap, videos of which were circulated widely on social media platforms, set in motion differing protests from both his supporters and Rajasthan Administrative Service officials. The tension that started outside the polling booth snowballing into outright violence through the night and into Thursday.

Work across government offices in the state was hit in the morning with officials of the RAS Association and allied services going on a pen-down strike demanding that Meena be arrested. They said they would continue till a meeting with Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma.

Ranged against them were Meena's alleged supporters. About 60 two-wheelers and 18 four-wheelers, including police vehicles, were torched in the violence that erupted outside the polling booth in Samravta village in the Deoli-Uniara assembly constituency when police tried to prevent the dharna.

POST OF THE DAY



Fantastic Judgement of the SC on punitive Demolitions which were demolishing the rule of law! SC has ordered that no demolitions w/o provable notice of at least 2 weeks, hearing the noticee & giving him at least 15 days to challenge demolition order. Any violation by officers will lead to their penalisation & recovery of damages from their pockets. This will hopefully put the brakes on this 'Bulldozer Justice' Salute

@pbhushan1

SHORT TAKES

3 RG Kar witnesses testify before court

Kolkata: Three doctors testified in a special court in the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital rape and murder case Thursday, taking the total number of witnesses deposing in the matter to nine. Prime accused Sanjay Roy was also produced before the court of additional district and sessions judge Anirban Das at Sealdah Court for four consecutive days. The court proceedings are being held in-camera daily since Monday. A senior doctor and two medics deposed before the judge during the day.

Assam bypolls: 76% voting in five seats

Guwahati: Nearly 76 per cent of 9.1 lakh electors cast their votes during the bypolls to five Assembly constituencies in Assam, according to official data published Thursday. According to the Election Commission, an estimated 75.67 per cent of 9,09,057 electors, including 4,54,963 women and 19 belonging to the third gender, exercised their franchise on Wednesday to decide the fate of 34 candidates. There were also 2,617 service voters in these five constituencies, where polling took place according to pre-delimitation data, an official said.

GoC visits forward areas in J&K's Poonch

Jammu: General Officer Commanding of the Army's 16 Corps, Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva, visited forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district Thursday and reviewed the security situation. "GoC White Knight Corps and GOC Romeo force visited Khanetar, Poonch sector, and commended troops for their efforts," the White Knight Corps said on X.

SNIPPETS

Jharkhand Assembly appointments: SC stays HC order for CBI enquiry

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday stayed the Jharkhand High Court verdict which directed the CBI to enquire into the alleged irregularities in appointments and promotions made in the state legislative Assembly. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and KV Viswanathan agreed to hear the plea filed by the Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha and others challenging the September 23, 2024 judgement of the high court. The plea, filed through advocate Tulika Mukherjee, said the high court had erred in directing the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to enquire into the issue in the absence of any criminality or cognisable offence, that too in a civil matter which involves complicated and pure questions of law and facts with respect to service jurisprudence and others. "The high court erred in directing the CBI to investigate as the first investigating agency in absence of any cogent and convincing reason that the state-investigating agency is not fit to investigate into the alleged irregularity or illegality," it said.

SC dismisses plea to mandate doctors to specify drugs' side effects to patients

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday dismissed a plea seeking a direction to mandate medical professionals to specify to patients all kinds of possible risks and side effects associated with a drug being prescribed. The apex court was hearing a plea challenging the Delhi High Court's May 15 order which had rejected the petition. "It is not practical," said a bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan. Advocate Prashant Bhusan, appearing for petitioner Jacob Vadakkanchery, said the plea raises an important issue as to whether the doctors should be obliged to inform their patients about the possible side effects of medicines they are prescribing. The bench observed a general practitioner may not be able to cater to more than 10 to 15 patients if this is followed and then there may be cases under the Consumer Protection Act.

SC refuses to entertain PIL for action against inflammatory speeches

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday refused to entertain a PIL that sought urgent intervention against inflammatory speeches by public figures, alleging these statements endanger national unity, security and promote divisive ideologies. Observing that there was a difference between hate speeches and wrong assertions, a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar told the counsel for PIL petitioner 'Hindu Sena Samiti' that it was not inclined to issue notice on the petition. "We are not inclined to entertain the present writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, which in fact refers to alleged references. Further, there is a difference between hate speech and wrong assertion. In case the petitioner has any grievance, they may raise the same in accordance with law," the bench said.

Congress lodges complaint with EC against Modi, Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 14: The Congress has lodged a complaint with the Election Commission against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, accusing them of making "false, divisive, malicious and slanderous" statements during their recent election campaign.

The Opposition party has urged the Commission to ban Modi and Shah from conducting any election-related activities for the remainder of the election period, conduct a thorough investigation in the matter and direct the registration of a criminal case against all the individuals involved in "the BJP's vitriolic and blatantly violative electoral campaign" in Maharashtra and Jharkhand.

In his memorandum to the EC against Modi, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said his party wants to apprise the poll panel of several statements issued by the star campaigner of the Bharatiya Janata

Party (BJP) and the incumbent Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, during an election rally for the ongoing Maharashtra Assembly elections.

Modi, during election rallies in Nasik and Dhule November 8, Maharashtra, made a series of "false, malicious, and slanderous" statements targeting the Congress (INC) and its allies, Ramesh alleged.

In his statements, Modi levelled allegations against prominent leaders of the Congress and former prime ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, he said.

Modi alleged that the Congress leaders were opposed to the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities and Other Backward Classes (OBC), Ramesh pointed out.

The Congress leader urged the EC to conduct a thorough investigation in the matter and direct the registration of a criminal case against all the individuals involved in "the BJP's vitriolic and blatantly violative" electoral campaign in Maharashtra.

DELHI AIR POLLUTION GRAP-3 curbs imposed, primary schools shut

The national capital's air quality remained in the 'severe' category for a second consecutive day, prompting the authorities to impose the stringent anti-pollution measures

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 14: Delhi's air quality remained "severe" for a second consecutive day, prompting the central pollution watchdog to invoke restrictions under the third stage of GRAP, including a ban on construction activities and plying vehicles on BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel vehicles in the city and NCR.

The restrictions will come into force at 8 am Friday. The Delhi government also announced that due to the alarming levels of pollution, physical classes for primary schools will not be held till further orders, but online classes can continue. The city's 24-hour Air Quali-



ty Index (AQI), recorded at 4 pm every day, stood at 424, up from 418 the previous day.

Out of Delhi's 39 monitoring stations, 27 reported air quality in the "severe" category. These stations include Anand Vihar, Ashok Vihar, Aya Nagar, Bawana, Dwarka Sector 8, IGI Airport, ITO, Jahangirpuri, Mandir Marg, Mundka, Najafgarh, Narela, Nehru Nagar, North Campus, Patparganj and Punjabi Bagh.

In an order, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) said that the Delhi government and NCR states will

impose strict restrictions on BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel (four-wheelers) in the national capital and neighbouring Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar. Any violation will attract a fine of ₹20,000.

Under the third stage of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), all inter-state buses from NCR states - except electric vehicles, CNG vehicles and BS-VI diesel buses - will be prohibited from entering Delhi, alongside a stringent ban on construction and demolition activities, mining-related ac-

tivities are suspended, water is sprinkled on major roads daily and students upto class 5 can be considered for online classes.

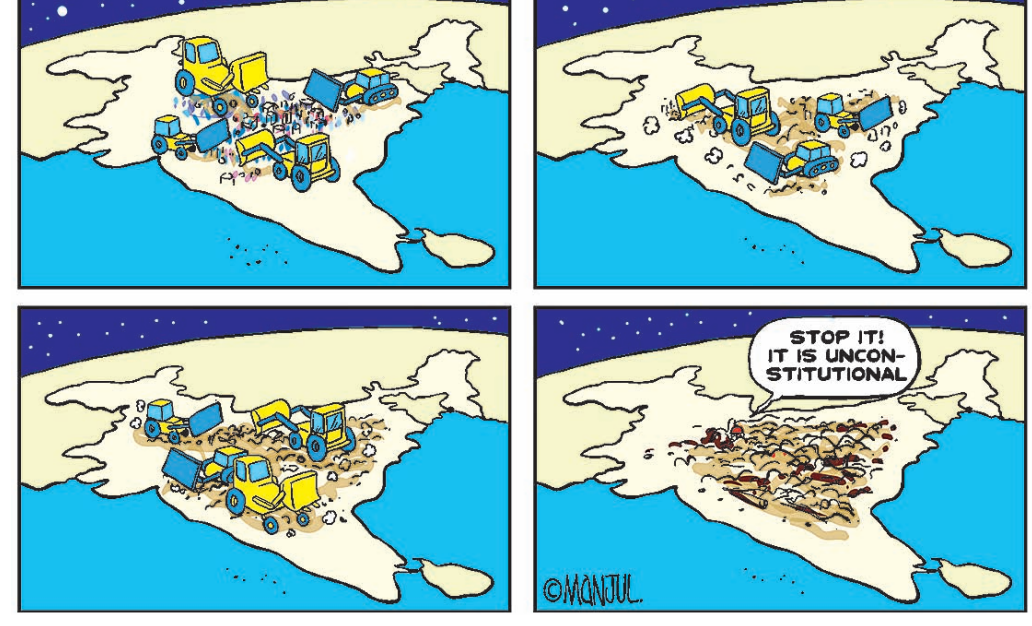
The CAQM, however, said that construction-related activities, which are relatively less polluting and less dust-generating, will be permitted in the NCR, subject to strict compliance with the C&D Waste Management Rules.

The air quality in the national capital had been in the "very poor" category since October 30 and the city recorded the first severe air quality of this season Wednesday.

According to the Centre's Decision Support System for Air Quality Management, vehicular emissions were the top contributor to Delhi's pollution, accounting for approximately 12.2 per cent of the total.

A political blame game erupted Thursday, over the deteriorating levels of pollution. The BJP lashed out at Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai and demanded his resignation saying the air quality in the city is moving towards hazardous levels.

politickle by manjul





The fact that international tensions and regional tensions do exist, this shows that the space for negotiation (with Iran) and diplomacy is not getting bigger, it is getting smaller

24 STARLINK SATELLITES LAUNCHED

SpaceX successfully launches its second set of Starlink satellites November 14 in an incredible display of efficiency, according to Space.com



RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

NATO, EU press China to help stop NK's involvement



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, Nov 14: NATO and the European Union are ramping up efforts to persuade China to help get North Korea to stop sending troops and other support to Russia to back its war on Ukraine.

Up to 12,000 North Korean troops have been sent to Russia's Kursk border region to help beat back Ukrainian forces there, according to US, South Korean and Ukrainian intelligence assessments. NATO says Russia is sending missile technology to North Korea in return.

With Russia exploiting its military advantage in Ukraine, the United States wants its allies to exert political pressure on China to rein in North Korea. Since Pyongyang and Beijing established diplomatic ties in 1949, their relationship has been described as being "as close as lips and teeth".

One political lever is the threat of any increased Western activity in China's backyard, the Asia-Pacific region. Just last week, the EU sealed security pacts with regional powers Japan and South Korea.

In an opinion piece for Politico last week, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said that China bears particular responsibility here, to use its influence in Pyongyang and Moscow to ensure they cease these actions. Beijing cannot pretend to promote peace while turning a blind eye to increasing aggression.

Trump opts for personal ties

Trump is picking people who have been familiar faces at his campaign rallies, frequent visitors to his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida or reliable defenders of him on TV

REUTERS

Washington, Nov 14: In staffing his incoming administration, President-elect Donald Trump has so far veered from the conventional to the confounding. But his choices all seem to have one thing in common: A bond with Trump himself.

From his chief of staff to those he's tapped to lead the Justice Department, the Pentagon and Department of Homeland Security, Trump is picking people who have been familiar faces at his campaign rallies, frequent visitors to his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida or reliable defenders of him on TV.

It's a sharp contrast from his first go-round in the White House, when Trump, then a neophyte Republican politician, ended up with members on his team with whom he had no prior working relationship and no level of trust.

For Trump 2.0, the President-elect is rewarding his staunchest allies with plum roles. Some have almost no relevant experience for their positions, and a few could face a difficult Senate confirmation process even with a Republican majority.

Trump has tapped Pete Hegseth, a Fox News personality with no administrative experience, to oversee the sprawling Pentagon; nominated Matt Gaetz, a longtime conservative provocateur who lacks a law-enforcement background as attorney general; and asked the governor of rural South Dakota, Kristi Noem, to be the nation's top Homeland Security official.

He also has tasked billionaire Elon Musk and former presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy, Trump rally mainstays, with streamlining the federal bureaucracy although neither has ever worked in government.



Trump's choices of Hegseth and Gaetz were among those that were met with skepticism and surprise among some leaders in Washington.

NO MORE STRANGERS

After Trump's 2016 win, he called upon strangers such as Rex Tillerson, the former CEO of ExxonMobil, to helm the State Department, and Jim Mattis, a retired general, to head up the Pentagon. He named an outsider, Reince Priebus, who was chair of the Republican National Committee, as his chief of staff.

Trump eventually became disillusioned and replaced Tillerson and Mattis, and cycled through four chiefs of staff during his first term.

This time around, he seems determined to avoid similar missteps. Trump has had four years to learn the job of chief executive and better understand what he wants from his appointees.

He quickly named Susie Wiles, his trusted co-campaign manager, as his chief of staff.

He chose Tom Homan, who ran the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency during Trump's first term, to be his "border czar" in charge of the mass deportations of migrants that Trump has promised. He tapped John Ratcliffe, who previously served as Trump's director of national intelligence, to now become CIA director.

"In many ways, President Trump was able to run a four-year university in term one that has allowed him to provide training to so many people who are now aligned with his agenda," said Matt Mowers, a former US State Department official and a Republican strategist.

Observers say Trump's approach to appointments has been noticeably more efficient than eight years ago, when he sacked his transition chair, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, over disagreements on personnel.

Biden to bid farewell at APEC, G20

President Joe Biden heads to South America Thursday for a curtain call with global leaders after over 50 years in US politics, but the man he tried and failed to keep from returning to power is likely to be the focus of many meetings: incoming US President Donald Trump. Biden will hold private meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and the heads of Japan, South Korea and Brazil during the summits of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC, in Peru and the Group of 20 leading economies, or G20, in Brazil. The meetings over six days are not expected to yield any major new agreements, senior Biden administration officials said, even as they are likely to touch on trade, security and global alliances.



President Joe Biden speaking at a podium during a summit.

Observers say Trump's approach to appointments has been noticeably more efficient than eight years ago

Trump's Wednesday again included loyalists who made the rounds for him on the trail and TV during his successful campaign and are unlikely to push back against his plans for his second term.

for supporting isolationist policies and showing disdain for "wokeness," as his director of national intelligence.

Gabbard has little direct experience with intelligence work. But she made a home for herself on Fox News and other conservative channels, and likely soon will be defending Trump on the air again in her new role.

SHORT TAKES

Sri Lanka votes for new Parliament

Colombo: Sri Lanka Thursday voted to elect a new Parliament, a first major test for the ruling National People's Power (NPP) party led by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake. The snap parliamentary polls are the first after the 2022 economic crisis. Dissanayake said he would be happy to finish short of an absolute majority of 150 seats in the 225-member Parliament. Polls monitoring groups said the voter turnout was lower than the high 79 per cent recorded at the presidential election held in September. The election commission said it anticipated an overall turnout of 65 per cent in the polling concluded in a largely peaceful manner across the country.

62 cases against Khan

Islamabad: Sixty-two cases have been registered in Pakistan's capital city of Islamabad against jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan, the high court was told Thursday. Islamabad High Court Justice Arbab Mohammad Tahir, who was briefed about the number of cases against Khan, the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, asked Police Spokesperson DSP Sajjid Cheema to provide a detailed report when he proposed submitting an interim report, according to The Express Tribune. Khan, 72, has been incarcerated in multiple cases since August last year. Cheema said there were 62 cases against Khan in the capital and additional inquiries were ongoing at the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

SNIPPETS

Over 2k Sikh pilgrims from India arrive in Pak

Lahore: Over 2,550 Sikh pilgrims from India arrived here Thursday to participate in festivities marking the 555th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev. Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) Secretary Fareed Iqbal, Additional Secretary Shrinis Saifullah Khokhar, and Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (PSGPC) president Ramesh Singh Arora, also a minority minister in Maryam Nawaz's cabinet in Punjab, welcomed the pilgrims at the Wagah border. Khokhar said masks will be provided to all pilgrims to protect them from heavy smog. He said extraordinary security arrangements have been made to ensure the pilgrims' safety. "As many as 2,559 Indian Sikhs arrived in Lahore today via special trains. They were transported to Nankana Sahib on special buses," ETPB spokesperson Ghulam Mohayuddin told PTI. The main event celebrating Baba Guru Nanak's birth anniversary will be held Friday at Gurdwara Janamasthan in Nankana Sahib.

Won't help illegal miners inside closed mine: SA

Johannesburg: South African police were in a standoff Thursday with hundreds of illegal miners believed to be underground in a disused shaft, a day after a cabinet minister said the government was trying to "smoke them out". Police have been trying for weeks to empty the abandoned gold mine in the North West province as part of a crackdown on illegal mining, which has plagued South Africa for decades through small-time pilfering and organised criminal networks. More than 1,000 illegal miners resurfaced after police cut off their food and water supplies, but a police spokesperson said hundreds more could still be underground. A decomposed body was brought up Thursday. On Wednesday, asked whether the government would send help to the zama-zamas, a local term for illegal miners, Minister in the Presidency Khumbuzo Ntshavheni said: "We are not sending help to criminals. We are going to smoke them out."

Lebanese officials signal Hezbollah's withdrawal

REUTERS

Beirut, Nov 14: A senior Lebanese official has signalled that Hezbollah is ready to pull its forces away from the Lebanon-Israeli border in any ceasefire, whilst rejecting Israel's demand for freedom to act against the Iran-backed group in the future.

Pressing its offensive against Hezbollah, Israel launched airstrikes on Beirut's southern suburbs for a third consecutive day, levelling more buildings in the area of the Lebanese capital controlled by the group.

Ali Hassan Khalil, speaking to Al Jazeera late Wednesday, said Lebanon was ready to "precisely" implement a UN Security Council resolution

that ended a 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah. Its terms require Hezbollah to remove fighters and weapons from areas between the border and the Litani River, which lies about 30 km from Lebanon's southern border.

Asked whether Hezbollah had informed him of a readiness to withdraw to the Litani, Khalil, a close Hezbollah ally and top aide to Lebanon's Parliament speaker, said the group had expressed its commitment to 1701. The resolution, he added,

"contained a clear set of provisions". "Yes, the party is committed to what is stated in these texts," he said. Israel has dealt

Hezbollah heavy blows since launching an offensive against the group in Lebanon in late September, unleashing airstrikes, sending troops into the south, and killing top Hezbollah leaders including Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.

Despite the blows it has suffered, Hezbollah has kept up rocket fire into Israel and has been battling Israeli troops on the ground in the south, where



Israel said Wednesday six soldiers had been killed in combat.

The United States and other world powers say a ceasefire must be based on UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which demands that areas south of the Litani be free of any weapons other than those of the Lebanese state.

POSSIBILITY FOR A TRUCE

White House envoy Amos Hochstein, the US official who has led several fruitless attempts to broker a ceasefire over the last year, told Axios earlier this week that he thought "there is a shot" at a truce in Lebanon soon.

Khalil said Lebanese negotiators had reached agreement on "a certain text" with Hochstein during his last visit to Beirut.

No more monkey mania in Thai town after clampdown

Troops of macaques had taken over buildings, often confronting residents, stealing food and causing accidents

REUTERS

The macaques, believed to bring good fortune, also inhabit nearby forests and have long been a part of the city's history.

But after Lopburi came out of the pandemic lockdown in mid-2022, its residents found that the monkeys, without people feeding them, had become unruly.

Troops of macaques had taken over buildings, often confronting residents, stealing food and causing accidents. Gangs of monkeys also brawled with one another, shocking local residents. Some people resorted to caging themselves within their homes.

"They were ready to snatch anything off your hands, any bags they suspect contain food or items like mobile phones."

Small children, elderly women and even policemen carried around slingshots to try to



scare away the macaques.

Reuters journalists made half a dozen trips to Lopburi in 2024, including during the height of the monkeys' aggression in early 2024.

As complaints mounted after February, the authorities, armed with slingshots and traps, sprang into action

ready to steal anything they can from us."

By May, the authorities stepped up the push against the monkeys, including boosting sterilisation efforts that began during the pandemic.

"Our goal is to neuter all the monkeys, 100 per cent of them," local veterinarian Patarapol Maneorn from the government wildlife department said in September.

The monkeys would then be put into a designated area where they will be looked after, he said.

Five months after the start of the government's campaign, Lopburi's primate pandemonium has finally come under control, with about 1,600 monkeys in captivity.

Some animal rights groups agree with the authorities on neutering the monkeys, but not putting them in cages.

AHEAD OF G20

Suspected bomber dead outside Brazil top court

REUTERS

Brasilia, Nov 14: Police have identified the man who killed himself in a blast outside Brazil's Supreme Court Wednesday night as a former city council candidate from ex-President Jair Bolsonaro's right-wing party with a history of heated political rhetoric online.

The explosions outside the court and in a nearby parking lot, which federal police called "attacks," raised security concerns days ahead of the G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro and Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to the capital Brasilia.

A police report seen by Reuters, confirmed as authentic by people familiar with the matter, said Francisco Wanderley Luiz,

59, threw an object at the court building that caused no damage and lay down to explode a homemade bomb in an apparent suicide.

Brazil's electoral records show he lost a 2020 race for city council in Rio do Sul, in the southern state of Santa Catarina, as a member of Bolsonaro's right-wing Liberal Party.

Before and after losing the 2022 race to Lula, Bolsonaro sowed doubts about the legitimacy of an electoral system run by the courts and attacked Supreme Court decisions as illegitimate.

Brazilian Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes said Thursday that the suicide bomber had intended to blow up the building.

Business



Q-Com has a challenge to the local retailer and it is a challenge which will come to the political front
UDAY KOTAK | FOUNDER, KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK

BIZ CLASS: INDIGO'S NEW CHAPTER

IndiGo Thursday operated its first flight with business class seats on the Delhi-Mumbai route. In due course, these seats will be available on the airline's flights connecting business and busiest routes in the country



of the day quote

The Indian economy is sailing smoothly, powered by buffers like strong macroeconomic fundamentals, a stable financial system and a resilient external sector
SHAKTİKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RESERVE BANK

The government is planning to begin the auction of offshore mineral blocks in the next two to three months and around 10 such mines are likely to be auctioned in the first phase
G KISHAN REDDY | COAL AND MINES MINISTER

States with a strong IT infrastructure and inclusive policies see higher female participation in the workforce. Conversely, male dominance persists in states with traditionally male-dominated sectors such as manufacturing and engineering
SUCHITA DUTTA | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ISF

MEDIA GIANT

The firms form joint venture valued at ₹70K-crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 14: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries has completed the merger of its media assets with the India business of global media house Walt Disney and formed a joint venture with a valuation of over ₹70,000 crore. The JV will be one of the largest media and entertainment companies in India with a combined revenue of approximately ₹26,000 crore and will be led by Nita Ambani as its chairperson, according to a joint statement. The venture formed after the merger of the media and

Reliance completes merger with Disney



JioCinema businesses of Viacom18 into Star India "has become effective". It has allotted shares to Viacom18 and RIL as consideration for the assets and cash, respectively. "The transaction values the JV at ₹70,352 crore (\$8.5 billion) on a post-money basis, excluding synergies," it said. At the closing of the transactions, the said JV is controlled

With the formation of this JV, the Indian media and entertainment industry is entering a transformational era
MUKESH AMBANI | CHAIRMAN & MD, RIL

By joining forces with Reliance, we are able to expand our presence in this important media market and deliver viewers an even more robust portfolio of entertainment, sports content, and digital services
ROBERT A IGER | CEO, THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY

₹ drops 7 paise to close at fresh low of 84.46 against \$

Mumbai, Nov 14: The rupee depreciated by 7 paise to close at an all-time low of 84.46 against the US dollar Thursday weighed down by unabated foreign fund outflows and strong dollar demand from investors. Forex traders said the downward pressure on the USD/INR pair is largely driven by persistent inflation and significant foreign fund outflows. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.40 against the US dollar. During the session, the local currency touched a high of 84.39 and a low of 84.47. It finally settled at its fresh all-time low of 84.46 against the greenback, 7 paise lower than its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee moved in a narrow range and settled flat at 84.39 against the US dollar. "The US dollar index has hit a fresh cycle high of 106.76 as it approaches the stiff resistance at 107.50," said Praveen Singh - Associate VP, Fundamental Currencies and Commodities, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading higher by 0.30 per cent at 106.80. Forex traders said the USD-INR pair may touch ₹85 level in near-term, though the intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may slow the pace.

Trade deficit widens



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 14: India's merchandise exports in October rose by an impressive 17.25 per cent year-on-year, highest in over two years, to \$39.2 billion, while the trade deficit widened to \$27.14 billion on a sequential basis. According to the government data released Thursday, imports increased by 3.9 per cent to \$66.34 billion in October compared to \$63.86 billion in the year-ago period, mainly due to a 13.34 per cent rise in crude oil imports. The trade deficit (gap between imports and exports) narrowed as compared to \$30.42 billion recorded in October last year. However, it has widened from \$20.78 billion recorded in September this year. The country's merchandise exports have recorded the previous high growth of 30.12 per cent in June 2022. The data showed that the estimated value of service exports during April-October 2024 increased to \$215.98 billion from \$191.97 billion in the same period last year. Imports during that period at \$114.57 billion was also higher from \$102.32 billion in April-October 2023. Crude oil imports in October rose to \$18.2 billion from \$16.1 billion in the same month last year. Gold and Silver imports, on

India, addressing non-tariff barriers, and conducting trade promotion events. "We are formulating strategies to promote exports in these focus countries and I am sure that the strategy will help us in showing excellent result by end of this year," he added. Healthy christmas demands could be one of the reasons for exports to register double digit growth in October. At export front, engineering exports rose by 39.37 per cent to \$11.25 billion. Petroleum prod-

During April-Oct this fiscal, exports increased by 3.18% to \$252.28bn, and imports by 5.77% to \$416.93bn. The deficit during the latest seven-month period was \$164.65bn as compared to \$149.67bn during April-October 2023

the other hand, slightly dipped to \$7.13 billion and \$0.33 billion, respectively, during the month under review from the two comparable figures of \$7.23 billion and \$1.31 billion recorded in October 2023. Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that the government's strategy to focus on six sectors - engineering, electronics, pharma, chemicals, plastics and agriculture - as well as 20 countries is yielding positive result. These 20 countries account for 60 per cent of the total global imports and these six segments have a share of 67 per cent in global imports. The commerce ministry has undertaken deeper economic integration in these nations through market access initiatives, promotion of brand

- Trade deficit widens to \$27.14bn on a sequential basis
- Exports jump 17.25% to \$39.2bn, highest in over 2 years
- Imports rise by 3.9% to \$66.34bn mainly due to crude oil

This has been an extremely good month for exports...if we continue in this manner, we will cross \$300 billion of exports (goods and services together) this (fiscal) year
SUNIL BARTH WAL | COMMERCE SECRETARY

GRIM OUTLOOK

BENCHMARKS ON DOWNWARD SLIDE



Shares log sixth weekly losses in seven on dull earnings, foreign outflows

REUTERS

Mumbai, Nov 14: Indian shares inched lower Thursday, logging their sixth weekly loss in seven, as worries about a slowdown in consumption added to concerns over earnings moderation and foreign outflows. The NSE Nifty 50 fell 0.11% to 23,532.7, closing below its 200-day moving average for the first time since April 2023. The BSE Sensex shed 0.14% to end at 77,580.31. Both the benchmarks lost about 2.5% for the week. Twelve of the 13 major sectors logged weekly losses. The small- and mid-caps underperformed, losing 4.6% and 4.1%, this week. The Nifty and the small- and mid-cap indexes had slipped into correction in the previous session after a prolonged weak spell. Adding to that, data earlier this week showed inflation jumped, fanning fears of a consumption slowdown and dampening hopes of a domestic rate cut in the near-term. "We see further pain for

Swiggy's share turns stale

Online food delivery and quick commerce company Swiggy shares slipped 7.54 per cent to close at ₹421.60 Thursday - just 24 hours after its strong public debut in a bearish market - due to profit booking on higher level. During the intra-day trading, shares of Swiggy touched ₹489 on higher side and ₹418 on the lower side. Trading volume and value in the trading session stood at 5.61 crore and ₹2,522 crore on the NSE, respectively. The ₹11,327 crore IPO of the online food delivery company was open for retail investors between November 6 and 8. The IPO received a mixed response from investors and was subscribed more than 3.50 times.

domestic equities, given the relentless foreign selling, earnings weakness and the slowing volume growth in consumption, the largest part of the economy," said Pramod Gubbi, co-founder of Marcellus Investment Managers. The weakness, which pulled the Nifty down 10% from its record high Sept 27 and confirmed the correction, has chiefly been due to a disappointing corporate earnings season and foreign outflows worth \$15 billion in the last 33 sessions.

S&P projects 6.5-7% annual growth for economy through '27

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 14: S&P Global Ratings Thursday projected the Indian economy to grow between 6.5-7 per cent annually in the three fiscal years till March 2027 as infrastructure spending and private consumption drive growth momentum. In its global bank outlook report, S&P also said that good economic growth prospects will continue to support banks' asset quality, while healthy corporate balance sheets, tighter underwriting standards and improved risk management practices will further stabilise asset quality. It said structural improvements and good economic prospects will support the resilience of India's financial institutions. "India's infrastructure spending and private consumption will support robust economic growth. We forecast GDP will expand 6.5-7.0 per cent annually in fiscal years 2025-2027 (year ending March 31). India's good economic growth prospects will continue to support banks' asset quality," S&P said. For the current fiscal, the Reserve Bank has projected economic growth to be 7.2 per cent, lower than 8.2 per cent in 2023-24.

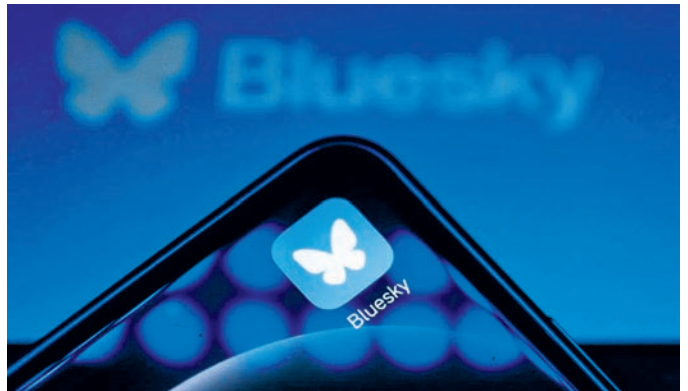
US ELECTION AFTERMATH

Championed by former Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, Bluesky adds 1mn users since US polls as people seek alternations to Musk's X

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles, Nov 14: Social media site Bluesky has gained 1 million new users in the week since the US election, as some X users look for an alternative platform to post their thoughts and engage with others online. Bluesky said Wednesday that its total users surged to 15 million, up from roughly 13 million at the end of October. Championed by former Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, Bluesky was an invitation-only space until it opened to the public in February. That invite-only pe-

X users defect to Bluesky



riod gave the site time to build out moderation tools and other features. The platform resembles Elon Musk's X, with a "discover" feed as well as a chronological feed for accounts that users follow. Users can send direct messages and pin posts, as well as find "starter packs" that provide a curated list of people and custom feeds to follow. The post-election uptick in users isn't the first time that Bluesky has benefitted from

had set new records. The platform saw a 15.5 per cent jump in new-user signups on Election Day, X said, with a record 942 million posts worldwide. Representatives for Bluesky and for X did not respond to requests for comment. Across the platform, new users - among them journalists, left-leaning politicians and celebrities - have posted memes and shared that they were looking forward to using a space free from advertisements and hate speech. Some said it reminded them of the early days of X, when it was still Twitter. On Wednesday, The Guardian said it would no longer post on X, citing "far right conspiracy theories and racism" on the site as a reason. At the same time, television journalist Don Lemon posted on X that he is leaving the platform but will continue to use other social media, including Bluesky. Lemon said he felt X was no longer a place for "honest debate and discussion".

TOUGH TIMES

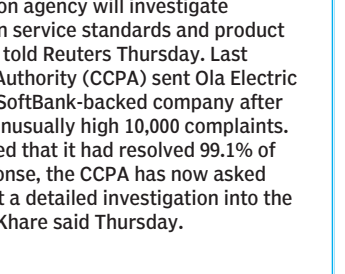
Fake docu: SECI weighs criminal proceedings against RPower

Mumbai: India's top renewable energy agency has sent a notice to Anil Ambani-run Reliance Power asking why it should not initiate criminal proceedings after a subsidiary of the power producer submitted fake documents for a bid, according to a notice dated Wednesday. Last week, Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) barred the power firm from participating in its clean energy project tenders for three years after it found that a unit of the company had submitted a fake endorsement of a foreign bank guarantee. SECI said Wednesday that the bank guarantee submitted by the unit, Reliance NU BESS, was also fake. "The repeated submission of a fake bank guarantee along with its counterfeit endorsement has been deemed a deliberate act by the bidder, intended to vitiate the tendering process and to secure the project capacity through fraudulent means," SECI said. Last week, the company said that it would legally challenge SECI's ban and had lodged a police complaint against the third party that arranged the bank guarantee. The notice and ban come as Reliance Power, a coal power generator, is looking to expand into the domestic and overseas renewable energy sector. In August, Anil Ambani was banned from the securities market for five years and fined about \$3 million by the Indian markets regulator on charges of fund diversion.



Service, product standards: CCPA to investigate Ola Electric

New Delhi: India's top product certification agency will investigate e-scooter maker Ola Electric's deficiency in service standards and product issues, India's consumer affairs secretary told Reuters Thursday. Last month, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) sent Ola Electric a notice seeking an explanation from the SoftBank-backed company after the consumer rights agency received an unusually high, 10,000 complaints. Ola, India's top e-scooter maker, responded that it had resolved 99.1% of the complaints. After reviewing that response, the CCPA has now asked the Bureau of Indian Standards to conduct a detailed investigation into the matter, consumer affairs secretary Nidhi Khare said Thursday.



Indian eyes rout Thailand

Hosts score 13 goals against Thailand with star striker Deepika alone hitting the target 5 times



AWESOME SHOW: Indian striker Deepika is all smiles after scoring her 3rd goal against Thailand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajgir (Bihar), Nov 14: Young striker Deepika slammed five goals as defending champions India thrashed minnows Thailand 13-0 to virtually assure a semifinal berth in the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here Thursday. It was a completely one-sided match as the Indians found the net at will, with Thailand failing to take a single shot at the opposition goal.

Deepika (third, 19th, 43rd, 45th, 45th) achieved a hat-trick,

while Preeti Dubey (ninth, 40th), Lalremsiami (12th, 56th) and Manisha Chauhan (55th, 58th) scored a brace each. Beauty Dung Dung (30th) and Navneet Kaur (53rd) were the other goal-getters for India who registered their third consecutive win in the round-robin league stage.

India had earlier defeated Malaysia 4-0 before eking out a close 3-2 win over South Korea. They will next play Olympic silver medalists China, Saturday.

India are now in second spot in the standings with nine points, the same as China who,

however, are on the top on the basis of a better goal difference. China have a goal difference of +21 as against +18 of India. The top four teams out of six at the end of round-robin league stage will qualify for the semifinals.

It was complete domination from India from start to finish as they continuously toyed with the Thai defence, which looked clueless against the home team's relentless attacks. The Indians also improved on the penalty corner front, converting five out of 12 they secured in the match.

- 3rd successive win for India in the tournament
- Hosts 2nd in standing due to goal difference with China

It took India just three minutes to surge ahead through a fine field goal by Deepika. She beautifully controlled a defence-spitting pass from Neha and positioned herself perfectly to find the back of the net with a reverse hit. Six minutes later, Preeti doubled India's lead, tapping in Sangita Kumari's pass from close range.

Goals continued to flow as Lalremsiami scored from a rebound after skipper Salima Tete's initial try was saved by Thai goalkeeper Siraya Yimkrajang.

India continued to mount raids and secured their first penalty corner in the 17th minute but the Thai custodian made a triple save. Two minutes later it was 4-0 as Deepika scored her second goal of the day.

The Indians then wasted three penalty corners before scoring from the next set piece just at the stroke of half time through Beauty, who found the net from a goal-mouth melee as the hosts went into the breather with a comfortable 5-0 lead.

An unmarked Preeti beat the onrushing Thai goalie neatly and found the net in the 40th minute for her second goal of the match. Minutes later, Deepika converted a penalty corner with a flick to the top right corner of the Thai goal and completed her hat-trick.

Within a span of two minutes, Deepika scored two more goals – one from field play and the next from penalty corner – to hand India a comprehensive 9-0 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Shami back with a bang

Pacer may be flown to Australia ahead of second Test once he is cleared by BCCI's medical team



Mohammed Shami in action during the Ranji Trophy game against Madhya Pradesh at Indore, Thursday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 14: The beleaguered Indian team could get the Mohammed Shami boost during the challenging Australia tour after the pace-bowling stalwart made an impressive comeback from injury by grabbing four wickets in a Ranji Trophy match at Indore, Thursday.

Playing his first red-ball game in more than a year, Shami, who represents Bengal, bowled four spells across 57 overs in Madhya Pradesh's first innings and returned with figures of 19-4-54-4. Three of his victims were bowled while one was caught behind.

Shami's performance is no doubt great news for Indian cricket. However, the national selection committee will look at how his body holds up in the second innings and whether there is any swelling or pain at the end of the contest. If

Shami has bowled 19 overs in the 1st innings and if he bowls another 15-18 overs in the 2nd it will be decent show

BCCI SOURCE

he ticks all the boxes, it is almost assured that he will join forces with pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah before the second Test, which will be a day/night affair.

The Bengal-MP Ranji Trophy game ends November 16 and Shami could join the squad before the first Test, beginning November 22 in Perth 22, but that could be cutting it too fine.

More than the wickets he took, the team management and national selection committee along with the BCCI's sports science & medical team want to check how his body holds up. This was the first competitive

game Shami played after the 50 overs World Cup final November 19, last year.

A Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) source said national selection committee member Ajay Ratna had specifically come along with NCA medical team head Dr Nitin Patel to watch Shami bowl at Indore. Their feedback will be sent to chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar, captain Rohit Sharma and head coach Gautam Gambhir before a final call is taken.

"Obviously, Shami was asked to play this game keeping in mind that the next round of Ranji Trophy will only start January 23 after the Test season is over," a source said. "He bowled 19 overs in the first innings... suppose he bowls another 15-18 overs in the second innings and doesn't have any problems with his body, then that is a good sign," he added.

SHORT TAKES

Sindhu crashes out of Japan Open

Kumamoto (Japan): India's campaign came to a premature end as PV Sindhu crashed out in the pre-quarterfinals of the Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500 badminton tournament here Thursday. Sindhu squandered a game lead to lose 21-17, 16-21, 17-21 against Canada's Michelle Li, ranked 23rd in the world, in a women's singles match that lasted 75 minutes. This was her second successive loss to Li after having suffered a reverse in the Finland Open. In the second and third games it was neck and neck till 16-all and 17-all. However, Li then found an extra gear reeling of five and four points respectively to win the match.

Carlsen emerges solitary leader

Kolkata: World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen played flawless chess and recorded the highest partnership in the women's section to secure the sole lead following three victories on day two. She took her tally of points to five out of a possible six as she defeated India's Vantika Agarwal and R Vaishali.

Goa batters set new Ranji record

Porvorim (Goa): The duo of Snehal Kauthankar and Kashyap Bakle scored triple centuries and recorded the highest partnership in Ranji Trophy's history, adding 606 runs to help their team hammer Arunachal Pradesh by an innings and 551 runs in their plate group match here Thursday. While Kauthankar smashed 314 off 215 balls, Bakle blazed away to 300 off just 269 balls to propel Goa to a mammoth 727 for two declared in only 92 overs and gain a 643-run first-innings lead. Their unbeaten partnership surpassed the 594-run stand for the third wicket between Maharashtra duo of SM Gugale and AR Bawne against Delhi at Wankhade Stadium in 2016. This was only the second instance of two batters recording triple tons in the same innings of a Ranji Trophy game.

Alcaraz beats sickness, Rublev

AGENCIES

Turin (Italy), Nov 14: Carlos Alcaraz had his drop shot clicking and it helped him overcome physical issues to claim a 6-3, 7-6 (8-6) victory over Andrey Rublev at the ATP Finals in a match played Wednesday night.

The win put Alcaraz back into contention for a spot in the semifinals of the year-ending tournament for the top eight players, after he was beaten by Casper Ruud in straight sets in his opener. Also, Alexander Zverev made it two wins in two matches by beating Ruud 7-6 (7-3), 6-3, thus keeping Alcaraz's hopes alive. However, the Spaniard will have to beat Zverev and hope that Rublev defeats Ruud.

Alcaraz said after the Ruud match Monday that he hadn't been feeling well and was 'uncomfortable in the stomach'.

"I just tried to focus on my game, on what I have to do, and forget about that I'm not feeling well, I'm sick and all that stuff," Alcaraz said after the match.

Alcaraz produced several drop-shot winners, and on the occasions when Rublev did run down the short balls, the Spaniard hit winners into the open court on his next shot.

"I felt like the last month I



Carlos Alcaraz

couldn't hit good drops," said Alcaraz, who dropped behind Alexander Zverev to No. 3 in the rankings this week. "And I was thinking, 'What's going on?' You know, my style, my game is about playing these kind of shots... so I tried to do it today."

Zverev served 11 aces and didn't face a single break point to stay on course for a third trophy at the finals after titles in London on 2018 and in Turin in 2021.

Meanwhile Zverev extended his winning streak to seven matches following a title run at the Paris Masters. After his matches lately, Zverev has come back out to practice more.

"I want to develop my game further so I can compete with Jannik (Sinner) and Carlos,"

Tilak dedicates ton to SKY

AGENCIES

Centurion, Nov 14: When Suryakumar Yadav knocked on Tilak Varma's hotel room door to inform that he will bat at No. 3 in the third T20 International, the talented left-hander promised his skipper that he wouldn't let him down. Once he reached his century, Varma pointed towards the dug-out and blew a flying kiss to acknowledge his captain, who sacrificed his own batting position for the youngster.

"It was for 'SKY', our skipper because he gave me a chance to bat at No. 3," Varma told reporters after India's 11-run win in the third T20I against South Africa. Chasing India's total of 219 for six, South Africa ended on 208 for seven with Marco Jansen scoring a 17-ball 54 (4x4, 5x6). Arshdeep Singh (3/37) was the pick of the Indian bowlers. Even though Varun Chakravarthy picked up two wickets he went for 54 in his four overs.

Varma said his preferred batting position has always been No. 3. "I love batting at No. 3, but in the last two matches, I batted at No. 4. Last night (Tuesday) he came to my room and said that 'You will bat No.



SCINTILLATING KNOCK: Tilak Varma drives through the off-side en route to his century against South Africa, Wednesday

Despite back-to-back injuries, I remained patient as I knew when I will get my chance I will score runs

TILAK VARMA

3' and go and express yourself. I told him, 'You have given me an opportunity, I will show you on the ground,'" said the second youngest Indian centurion in T20 Internationals.

The stylish Hyderabad batter spoke about missing out on international tours of Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka

due to back-to-back finger injuries. "During the last IPL, I had a finger dislocation and was ruled out for two months. Then during nets post recovery, I sustained another fracture. So I missed two back-to-back series against Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka," Varma informed. "But I remained patient and I knew when my time will come, I will score runs," he added.

Varma is a handy off-spinner and feels that he has worked hard on his bowling as he wants to be seen as an all-rounder.

Samal century keeps Odisha in hunt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 14: Swastik Samal's (118, 240b, 9x4, 2x6) helped hosts Odisha take a vital first innings lead of 38 runs in their Elite Group A Ranji Trophy encounter at the Barabati Stadium here Thursday. In reply to Maharashtra's first innings score of 162, Odisha riding on Samal's knock, managed to score 200 on the second day of the four-day game. The visitors were 78 for the loss of three wickets at stumps, an overall lead of 40 runs.

As things stand, with two days left, this match will be decided outright, unless of course the weather intervenes. And in this aspect, Odisha may rue the fact that they did not build a sizeable first innings lead as chasing anything over 150 can be a bit dicey on the pitch which has a lot of turn in it. Odisha lost their last seven wickets for 66 runs with only Rajesh Dhupar (11) managing a double digit score. Had it not



FIGHTING KNOCK: Swastik Samal celebrates after his century against Maharashtra at the Barabati Stadium, Thursday

been for Samal's knock, Odisha could not have even reached the 100-run mark.

From 134 for three, Odisha were reduced to 136 for six losing skipper Govind Poddar (1), Karik Biswal (0) and Suryakant Pradhan (0) in quick succes-

sion. The first innings lead then looked a distant dream. However, Samal and Dhupar put on 31 runs for the seventh wicket to ensure the first innings lead for the hosts. After Dhupar's departure, Samal went for his shots and added valuable runs to the total.

Rajneesh Gurbani (3/34), Ramakrishna Ghosh (3/50) and Satyajeeet Bacchav (2/50) contributed admirably with the ball for Maharashtra to restrict Odisha to just 200.

When Maharashtra batted a second time, Tarini Sa (2/27) struck twice in quick succession to keep Odisha in the game after the visitors had an opening stand of 57 runs with Sachin Dhas (38) looking ominous. However, Poddar who opened the bowling, dismissed him a few minutes before stumps to regain the initiative.

Brief scores: Maharashtra 162 and 78 for 3 (Tarini Sa 2/27) versus Odisha 200 (Swastik Samal 118, Rajneesh Gurbani 3/34). Match to continue.

Sarfراز hit during training, but okay

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Perth, Nov 14: Middle-order batter Sarfaraz Khan was struck on the elbow while batting at the nets during India's practice session at the WACA here Thursday but there was no need for an MRI. A video posted by 'Fox Cricket' showed the Mumbai run-machine holding his right arm as he walked off the nets. He looked in some discomfort. However, it has been learned that the injury is not serious and the batter was not required to undergo an MRI.

Sarfraz could play the Border-Gavaskar Trophy opener here as India captain Rohit Sharma's participation in the first Test remains in doubt. Rohit is still in Mumbai for the birth of his second child.

If Rohit is unavailable for the series opener then KL Rahul could be asked to partner Yashasvi Jaiswal at the top of the order, opening up a slot in the middle-order for Sarfaraz.

Coach faces disciple in state snooker final

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 14: Veteran cueist Subrat Das will fight against his one-time disciple Ashutosh Padhy in the final of the 30th All Odisha Billiards & Snooker State Ranking Championship-2024 which is being played at the 6 Pockets Club here. In the semifinals played Thursday, Subrat defeated Chirag Arora 5-4 in a thrilling encounter while Ashutosh had an easier outing, winning 5-2 against Rakesh Roshan Pradhan.

The encounter between Subrat and Chirag was a keenly-contested one with fortunes swinging like a pendulum. None of the players could establish a dominating lead in the nine-frame contest. It went down to the wire at 4-4 where the experience of Subrat helped him to win the contest. It should however, be stated that Chirag gave Subrat a run for his money.



Ashutosh Padhy (L) and Subrat Das

In the match between Ashutosh and Pradhan, the latter at one stage led 2-1. The audience then was contemplating an upset. However, Ashutosh hit the button at the right juncture to reel off four frames in a row and emerge a comfortable winner.

This will be the third time that Subrat will be squaring off against Ashutosh. Their head-to-head record stands at 1-1. Subrat has so far won the state snooker title five times while Ashutosh has achieved the feat twice. It remains to be seen who has the last laugh – the coach or his disciple.