



Mantra of life

Actor Sushmita Sen, who was last seen in Arya season 3, believes in putting intentions to action

LEISURE | P2



China's 4 red lines

Xi tells Biden that the issues of Taiwan, democracy, human rights and rights to development are 'red lines' that US must not cross

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Incessant outflow

Foreign investors have pulled out ₹22,420 crore from the Indian equity market so far this month

BUSINESS | P11



Bumrah to lead

Jasprit Bumrah to lead India in the 1st Test against Australia in Perth after Rohit Sharma confirms his unavailability

SPORTS | P12



ON TOP OF THE WORLD: Miss Denmark Victoria Kjaer Theilvig waves after winning the 73rd Miss Universe Beauty Pageant in Mexico City

Manipur in turmoil

AGENCIES

Imphal, Nov 17: Violence continued to rock Manipur Sunday as offices of the Congress and the saffron party were ransacked in the hill district of Jiribam where an unidentified body was found earlier in the day, officials said.

A BJP MLA's ancestral house was vandalised in Imphal Valley while a building owned by Ashab Uddin, the Independent legislator of Jiribam, was ransacked, they added.

Hours after irate mobs torched the residences of four more legislators including a senior minister in various districts of Imphal Valley and security forces foiled an attempt by agitators to storm the ancestral residence of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh Saturday night, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Sunday cancelled his rallies in poll-bound Maharashtra and headed back to Delhi to hold a meeting to review the situation.

Shah directed top officials to take all possible steps to ensure peace in the Northeastern state. The Home Minister is expected to hold another detailed meeting with top officers Monday



and take further steps. The fresh bout of violent protests broke out even as indefinite curfew was clamped and internet services suspended after people, agitated by alleged abduction and killing of six persons by militants in Jiribam district, attacked the residences of three state ministers and six MLAs earlier Saturday.

Three women and children each went missing from a camp for displaced persons in Jiribam, last Monday following a gunfight between armed men and security forces that resulted in the deaths of 10 Kuki youths. On Sunday, the bodies of two persons, believed to be among the six missing people from Jiribam, were found floating in the Barak river in neighbouring Cachar district of Assam. According to senior police officers of Assam, bodies of five missing persons have been found so far.

Meanwhile, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF),

NPP withdraws support to BJP govt in Manipur

The National People's Party (NPP) Sunday withdrew support to the BJP-led government in violence-hit Manipur, claiming that the N Biren Singh dispensation has completely failed to resolve the crisis and restore normalcy in the northeastern state. The NPP currently has seven MLAs in the 60-member Manipur Assembly, and the withdrawal of support will not affect the stability of the government as the BJP enjoys absolute majority in the House with its 32 legislators. The saffron camp has also support of five MLAs of the Naga People's Front (NPF) and 6 JD(U) legislators. In the last few days, the situation in Manipur further deteriorated and many more innocent lives have been lost and people in the state are going through immense suffering, the NPP claimed in a letter to BJP chief JP Nadda. Notably, the Kuki People's Alliance (KPA) had earlier withdrawn support from the BJP-led government in the state in view of ethnic violence.

a leading organisation representing the Kuki-Zo community, said Sunday that the funeral of the 10 youths, killed in an alleged gunfight with CRPF, will not be conducted till their post-mortem reports were handed over to the families.

Minor electrocuted during Bali Yatra

Cuttack: A minor boy died reportedly after being electrocuted near the Cantonment police station here during the ongoing Bali Yatra festival, Sunday evening. The deceased, identified as Biswa Prakash Manthan of Jagatsinghpur district, a Plus II student, visited the Yatra venue accompanied by some of his friends. However, he got electrocuted allegedly after coming in contact with a live wire laid for decorative string lights. Initially he was rushed to the trauma care centre set up on the ground. Later, a police team took him to the SCB Medical College and Hospital here in a critical condition. However, the doctors declared him dead.

Majhi meets biz barons in Singapore

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who is on a four-day official visit to Singapore to woo investors, Sunday urged Singapore-based Orind Singapore Pte Ltd to set up its unit in Odisha. He met Ravin Jhunjhunwala, chairman of Orind Singapore Pte Ltd who is looking to invest in the bio-fertilizers sector, and assured all necessary support from the government. The Chief Minister has also met Vivek Agarwal, promoter of Visa Group Ltd in Singapore, Wong Kim Yin, Group President and CEO of Sembcorp Industries Limited, Edward Morton, founder of CT Metrix, BC Tan, Chairman of UBCT along with Sushant Patnaik, founder & CEO, iHub Inc. P3

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



How can it be news? It portrays a BJP leader in poor light

Successful test of hypersonic missile puts India in elite group

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: In a major boost to its military prowess, India has successfully flight-tested a long-range hypersonic missile off the coast of Odisha, an achievement that has put the country in a select group of nations having the weapon that can strike with extreme speed and evade most air-defence systems.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described the missile test Saturday under the country's first long-range hypersonic mission as a stupendous achievement and a historic moment.

The missile, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), is designed to carry various payloads for ranges



greater than 1,500 km, an official readout said.

"India has achieved a major milestone by successfully conducting flight trial of long range hypersonic missile from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, off-the-coast of Odisha," Singh said on X.

This is a historic moment and this significant achievement has put our country in the group of select nations having capabilities of such critical and advanced military technologies, he said.

Generally, hyperson-

ic missiles, capable of carrying conventional explosives or nuclear warheads, can fly in the range of five times the speed of sound (Mach 5, which is roughly 1,220 kilometres per hour) at sea level.

However, some advanced versions of hypersonic missiles can even fly at the speed of more than Mach 15.

At present, Russia and China are way ahead in developing hypersonic missiles, while the United States is in the process of developing a range of such weapons under an ambitious programme.

Several other countries, including France, Germany, Australia, Japan, Iran and Israel, are also pursuing projects to develop hypersonic-missile systems.

Thanks to Railways, man weds ladylove on time



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata/Guwahati, Nov 17: A Mumbai man managed to reach Guwahati on time to marry his lady love Sunday, thanks to the help from railways that detained a connecting train in Howrah station and shifted the wedding guests to another train on battery-operated vehicles.

The groom and his relatives were getting anxious since Gitanjali Express from Mumbai, on which they were travelling, was getting late to reach Howrah. They were afraid of missing the Saraighat Express which would take them to Guwahati from there.

A member of the 'baraat' posted a

message on the X handle of the railways, requesting help and that set the ball rolling and finally, the bride and the groom tied the knot without any more hassle.

Gitanjali Express was scheduled to arrive at Howrah at 1.05pm Friday, but it got delayed. Saraighat Express was scheduled to depart for Assam at 4.05pm from Howrah station. Following the post of Chandrashekhar D Wagh on X, the Howrah Divisional Railway Manager received an urgent message from higher authorities to do the needful, a senior officer of the Eastern Railways told PTI.

The officials decided to delay the departure of Saraighat Express and

ensured swift arrival of Gitanjali Express to Howrah.

As Gitanjali Express arrived at Howrah at 4.08 pm, railway authorities ensured swift movement of the 'baraat' members on battery-operated vehicles from platform number 24 in the new complex to platform number 9 in the old complex where the Saraighat Express was waiting for them, he said.

The groom and his relatives heaved a sigh of relief after boarding the train which chugged off to Guwahati after a delay of a few minutes.

"We got the help and support of all the passengers of the two trains and the Railway Minister, Chief Commercial Manager, DRM and other senior railway officials took every step to ensure the young groom did not miss his marriage," the ER official said. "It is our moral responsibility to deliver services like these," he added.

The ER, in a post on X, said, IR arranged to detain Saraighat Express at Howrah for a few minutes so that a marriage party with 'dulha' coming by Gitanjali Express and going to Guwahati can catch the train. The marriage party has expressed their thanks to Railways for this helping gesture.

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The usage of the medicine mentioned above is suggestive in nature and it is the choice of the treatment in the management of above-mentioned diseases. Avoid self-medication and always take the medicines under medical supervision.

leisure



FANS DEFEND ARIANA AGAINST BODY SHAMING COMMENTS

Ariana Grande's latest red-carpet look for *Wicked* has sparked a wave of online criticism about her weight loss. However, the actor-singer's fan quickly came to her defense, condemning the hurtful comments and urging others to spread kindness and empathy.

STALLONE HAILS TRUMP AS 'SECOND GEORGE WASHINGTON'

Hollywood icon Sylvester Stallone has become the latest celebrity to publicly support US President-elect Donald Trump. Stallone described Trump as a "mythical character," comparing him to the founding father George Washington and even to Jesus Christ.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you will appreciate beautiful things and exotic artefacts. You may even seriously think of pursuing a business related to such commodities. However, you may not be able to make up your mind, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
You may find it hard to stop the impending outflow of cash while shopping today, says Ganesh. You aren't the one to be dominated and God help anyone who tries to dictate terms to you today. You may end up spending a small fortune, more than lavish to be precise, on the opposite sex today.

GEMINI
Today, you are likely to get encouragement and support for your endeavours from all quarters. You have a gift of gab and your ability to dispel tension will even the simplest of your remarks will be put to test. Still, you will rise to the occasion and prove your mettle. Taking good care of your health is important, and you are no exception.

CANCER
If you are a stockbroker, you may feel that things are not going too well for you. Today, you may regret being a stockbroker. Manufacturers must delay the launch of a new product. However, after a waiting game, you may go on to launch the product with a fanfare. Ganesh wishes you a good luck.

LEO
Everyone wants to be different. But little do they realise that they already are unique, says Ganesh. Today, you may meet a lot of such different people at work, some of whom may even test your patience. Always remember that working in a team means balancing a variety of egos and opinions. Ganesh's advice for you today is to learn to deal with different belief systems, and not simply to look for a way to avoid conflicts.

VIRGO
Take time off all by yourself and introspect today, says Ganesh. Office cubicle looks set to be a war front and pay due attention there, lest things turn to be more difficult, advises Ganesh. New love may just blossom today, and you may even enjoy a nice quiet evening with friends.

LIBRA
Being in charge was never easy, but it's not for nothing that leaders are made of sterner stuff. As a person in charge, you are expected to give directions in a manner that gets the best efforts out of your juniors. Move away from traditional dictatorial style, and build a consensus that enables you to pull off the spectacular, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO
You shall be completely immersed in your routine today. It's the same old humbug of a day for you, says Ganesh. But this exhausting day may transform into an exciting evening - so be prepared to get surprised.

SAGITTARIUS
Cupid is hunting and you are the game today. Cupid's arrows will have you adrift on the ocean of love and turbulent emotions. Your rescue is imminent, when a member of the opposite sex answers your SOS calls.

CAPRICORN
It's a lucky day for your sweetheart! Wonder why it's written in your horoscope? You will pamper him/her to the hilt, take them out on a shopping spree and buy whatever they lay their eyes on, even if it's way beyond reasonable, says Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
You find solace in travel today. But if you plan to include others, beware, as you may end up doing all their dirty work too. But, you will find fulfillment even in that, which, says Ganesh, is your strong point.

PISCES
Today just might be the day when you invent a better mousetrap. However, your ideas have a propensity to wane and wax at the same speed, says Ganesh. Hence, keep a notebook handy to jot down all your earth-shattering revolutionary ideas.



Sushmita's life mantra

Mumbai: Actress Sushmita Sen, who was last seen in the streaming crime-thriller series *Aarya* season 3, believes in putting intentions to action.

Saturday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared a note. She wrote, "An inch of movement is better than a mile of intentions".

She also penned a note in the caption, as she called intention, a "powerful" too but she stressed on the importance of putting the intentions into movement. She wrote, "It's amazing just HOW simple, the journey to achieving anything can be. Intention is a powerful tool, it helps with direction...but without movement, it's a wasted tool. Move & claim your Inch now. 'Inch by inch we cover the mile' #move #littlesteps #giantleaps #hardwork #paitence #dreamsinaction #keepgoing #yougotthis #gentlereminder I LOVE YOU GUYS!! #happyweekend #duggadugga".

Meanwhile, on the work front, Sushmita was last seen in the International Emmy nominated series *Aarya* in which she essays the titular role. She was also seen in the streaming biographical drama *Taali: BajaungiNahi, Bajwaungi* in which she essayed the role of the transgender activist Shreegauri Sawant. The series, directed by Ravi Jadhav, covers the key moments in the life and struggle of Mumbai-based transgender activist Gauri Sawant. **IANS**

Bhumi gets emotional

Mumbai: Actress Bhumi Pednekar recently took to social media to share a heartfelt post reflecting on her past few weeks.

Sunday, the *Toilet: Ek Prem Katha* star posted a series of photos along with a caption offering fans a glimpse into her life over the past few days. Sharing the post, Bhumi wrote, "Past few days: From being on set to finding out my soul sister is getting married, to meeting my friends like family after many months, to spending the day redoing the house, to just living my life. It was," followed by sparkle emojis.

From sharing candid selfies and dropping a video of her doing makeup to dancing at a club, the



Bhakhshak star gave fans a sneak peek into her fun-filled days. Bhumi had earlier posted a series of glamorous photos, writing, "Selfie Game Going #Monday." In the images, Bhumi was seen striking different poses.

On the work front, Bhumi's latest project is the crime thriller *Bhakhshak*, where she plays a fierce journalist determined to uncover the truth. She will next be seen in the upcoming comedy *Mere Husband Ki Biwi*, directed by Mudassar Aziz. The film also stars Arjun Kapoor and Rakul Preet Singh. **IANS**

Guv presents state film awards



Veteran actor and comedian Jayiram Samal receives the Mohan Sundar Deb Goswami Award for the year 2022 at Odisha State Film Awards ceremony organised by Odia Language, Literature and Culture department in Bhubaneswar Sunday. Governor Raghubar Das, Deputy Chief Minister Pravat Parida and Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj presented the award **PIC: BIKASH NAYAK**

In the best film category, *Saheed Raghu Sardar* was awarded for 2020, while *Pratiksha* and *Dalchini* jointly won the award for 2021, and *Daman* won the award for 2022.

The best director category, Rakesh Samal was selected for *Rakesh Raja* released in 2020, Suresh Patnaik for *Trushna* in 2021, and Sudhansu Mohan Sahu for *Mayabi* in 2022. Debashis Patra (2021), Ankit Kumar and Dipanwit Das Mohapatra (2021) and Babushan Mohanty (2022) have received the Best Actor (Male) award.

Kavya Keeran Shukla, Suryamayee Mohapatra, and Lopamudra Mishra were conferred with the Best Actor (Female) award for three years, respectively.

The best tribal film award went to *Dewa* in Koya language for 2022, while no films were awarded for 2020 and 2021.

The recipients of the State Film Awards have been selected by a panel of five jury members under the chairmanship of Odia film director Sabyasachi Mohapatra.

When Naseer made Madhuri go blank

Mumbai: Actress Madhuri Dixit had once opened up about an unforgettable moment from her illustrious career involving veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah.

Reflecting on their collaboration, Madhuri revealed how Shah's extraordinary natural acting left her momentarily stunned during a scene, causing her to forget her lines. A resurfaced video shows the *DhakDhak* girl recounting this experience from the 1996 film *Rajkumar*.

In the video, the *Hum Tumhare HainSanam* actress can be heard saying, "When I shot my first scene with him, in the very first scene when he started talking, he is such a good actor. He started talking so naturally that I forgot my lines. For one, two minutes, I went blank. Then, of course, we picked it up, but he has done an incredible job in this film. He has two shades in the film, contrasting completely opposite personalities. He is brilliant in the film."

Meanwhile, Madhuri is basking in the success of her latest release, *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*. Directed by Anees Bazmee, the horror-comedy stars Kartik Aaryan, Vidya Balan, Sanjay Mishra, TriptiDimri, and Rajpal Yadav. **IANS**



PEANUTS



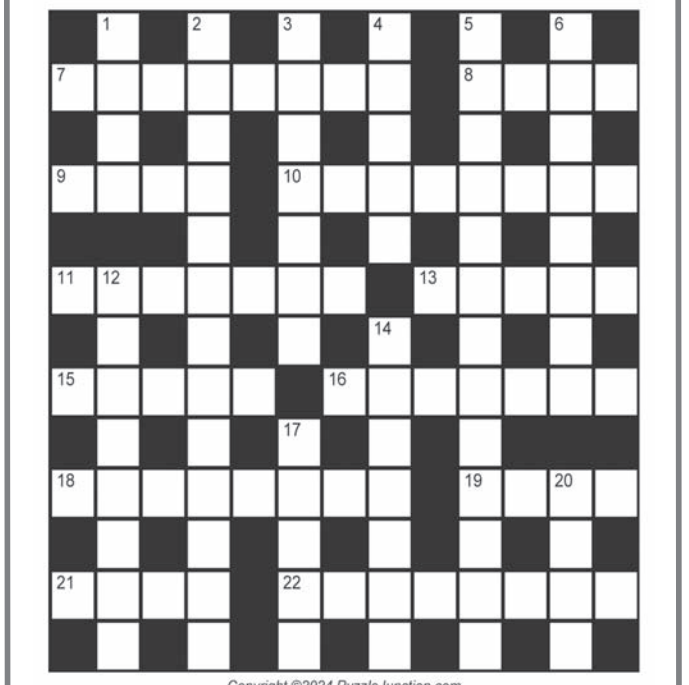
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



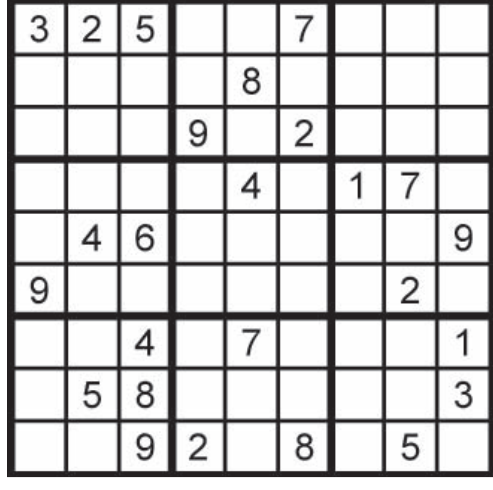
CROSSWORD



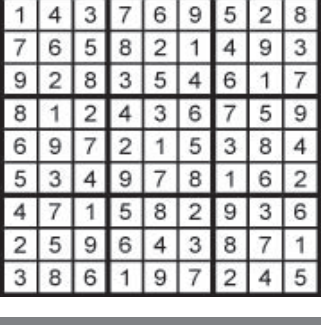
- Across**
- 7 At one time in the past
 - 8 Pizzeria fixture
 - 9 Samarang locale
 - 10 Sot's future
 - 11 Roman deity
 - 13 Genius
 - 15 Speeds
 - 16 Fashion plate
 - 18 Carafe
 - 19 Perceive
- Down**
- 1 Forum wear
 - 2 Unethical politician's gambit (5,8)
 - 3 Apple grower's garden
 - 4 Canticles
 - 5 Decorator's choices (6,7)
 - 6 Vitamin bottle ingredient, at times
 - 12 Abstruse
 - 14 Strong alcoholic beverage
 - 17 Sceptre
 - 20 Dentist's tool

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

People through the Unit IV fish market in Bhubaneswar Sunday on the occasion of Chhadakhai



downtown

CM urges Singapore-based firms to invest in Odisha



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who is on a visit to Singapore, has met several industrialists in the island country and urged them to invest in the state, an official statement said here Sunday.

During the visit, the chief minister met Ravin Jhunjhunwala, chairman of Orind Singapore Pte Limited, who is looking to invest in the bio-fertiliser sector.

Majhi urged Jhunjhunwala to set up a facility in Odisha and assured him of all necessary support from the state government, it said.

The chief minister also held a meeting with Vivek Agarwal, promoter of Visa Group Limited, there and urged him to expand capacity, increase value-added products and create more employment in the state in the steel and ferro-chrome sectors, it said.

A high-level delegation led by Majhi is on a six-day official visit to Singapore to woo investors. The Odisha government dele-

"This is my first foreign visit as chief minister, and we chose Singapore for the Odisha business meet due to its thriving industrial ecosystem and innovative practices. Singapore's excellence in infrastructure, logistics, and urban management presents valuable lessons for our rapidly urbanising state," Majhi said in the statement.

India and Singapore share strong economic, strategic, and cultural ties, and Odisha is poised to enhance this partnership, he said.

The CM said his government is committed to providing full facilitation for investors, offering opportunities in sectors like handloom, seafood, and skilled workers.

"Odisha's strategic location on India's eastern seaboard makes it a major investment hub, particularly for green fuels and renewable energy. Today's engagements provided us with valuable insights to further enhance our industrial ecosystem and attract global investments," said Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain.

The high-level delegation led by Majhi visited Singapore Saturday and scheduled to hold investors' meet there November 19 and 20.

Apart from key industrialists of Singapore, industry leaders from Odisha, including Sunil Gupta from Vedanta Aluminium and representatives from leading business associations, are scheduled to attend the meet.

Man dies after jumping in front of running train

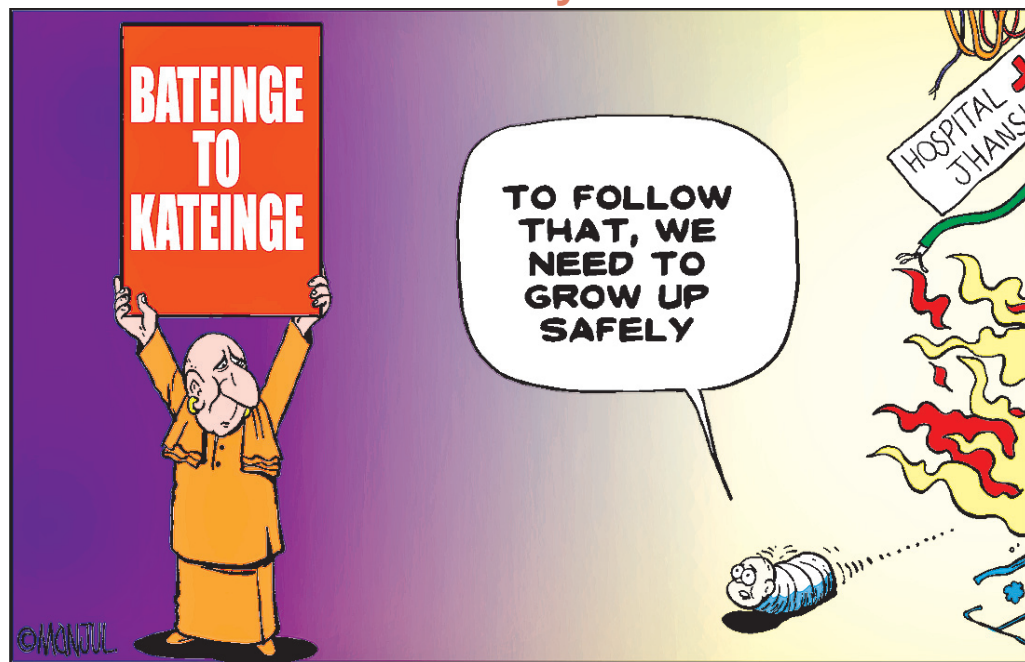
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: An unidentified man, believed to be around 25 years old, ended his life by jumping in front of a running train near Bomikhal railway crossing late Sunday morning, the Government Railway Police (GRP) said.

IIC, GRP, Bhubaneswar, Ashok Kumar Gochhayat said no suicide note was found on the person of the deceased. "Preliminary medicals reports suggest that the man was in an inebriated condition when the mishap took place," he said. People living in the slum adjacent to the accident spot said that they saw a man walking on the tracks around 11 am, a little while before the accident.

The police sent the body for autopsy to Capital Hospital in the evening, he added.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



KALKI AVATAR CLAIMS OSCPCR asks cops to submit report

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: The Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSCPCR) Sunday directed the police to inquire into allegations over a man claiming his minor son to be an incarnation of Lord Vishnu's Kalki Avatar and minting money from unsuspecting people.

OSCPCR chairperson Mandakinee Kar said the Commission took suo moto cognizance of reports of fights on the premises of Baikuntha Ashram near Khandagiri over the issue, and has directed the Bharatpur police to submit a report within 15 days.

"It has come to the light that a minor is being used to gain



illegal publicity over religious preachings. The act is undertaken with a sole interest to mint money. The district child protection officer is assessing whether the child had been a subject of 'illegal labor' or any vested interests for the act. After the receipt of the police report, the OSCPCR officials might visit the Ashram for further enquiry, and record the statement of the child,"

she said. Earlier in the day, high drama unfolded on the premises of Baikuntha Ashram following complaints of a minor claiming himself as "Kalki Avatar" before his devotees. Locals scuffled with the supporters of the self-styled godman after the latter tried to block their entry, said an officer from the Bharatpur police station. Around four days back, the

minor's father, Kashinath Mishra, made claims in a viral video that his son is an incarnation of Lord Vishnu (Kalki Avatar). This snowballed into a controversy as netizens decried the claims and demanded stringent action against Mishra for offending religious sentiments.

Meanwhile, Kashinath uploaded a video on the social media later during the day claiming that he never likened his five-year-old son to an incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

IIC Bharatpur police station, Deepak Kumar Khandayatray said the cops are probing the multiple FIRs lodged against Mishra and others in connection with the controversy. "No one has been arrested as yet," he said.

Bid to sell Srimandir land: Min warns of stern action

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan Sunday said strong action will be taken against people who made attempts to illegally encroach upon and sell land belonging to Lord Jagannath in Puri.

The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Saturday filed a complaint at Baseli Sahi police station in Puri alleging attempts are being made to sell land belonging to Srimandir under Matitota mouza in Puri.

Speaking to media persons here, Harichandan said, "We will take strong

action against all persons involved in the act. If any plot has been sold to some person, we will take stringent action against persons including seller, buyer, sub-registrar, who transferred the land."

The government will not tolerate unauthorised sale of a single inch of land of Lord Jagannath in any circumstances, he assured.

The temple administration has also initiated its move in this direction, the minister said.

The government is mulling steps for settlement of Jagannath temple land available in Odisha and outside as per



uniform policy formulated in 2003, as maximum land parcels are under encroachment, he said, adding, "Through this move, a big corpus fund for the temple can be created."

In a statement, SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee has urged the district Collector and SP to take immediate

measures to stop the illegal sale attempt.

The disputed property, registered under khata no 38, comprises 109 plots that are legally owned by the deity.

The temple administration has cautioned the public against engaging in such illegal activities, warning that any attempts to transfer or encroach on temple property would lead to severe legal consequences, including punishment.

The Jagannath temple in Puri owns around 60,426 acres of land spread across 24 districts in Odisha, besides 395 acres outside the state.

Tribal tag eludes Paharia community

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Nov 17: For centuries, the Paharia community in the state has been leading a life deeply connected to nature with their hamlets nestled in the lush green forests and hills of southwest Odisha. They are scattered across Kalahandi, Koraput, Bolangir, Bargarh, Nabrangpur and Rayagada districts, with their highest concentration in Nuapada district.

However, this primordial community still remains deprived of governmental schemes and benefits due to their lack of official tribal recognition. And, without tribal status, the community is ineligible for many government and non-government welfare programs meant for indigenous communities, leaving them marginalised.

Known as the Kamar tribe in neighboring Chhattisgarh, the Paharias are recognised as a tribal group in the neighbouring state that allows them access to various

welfare benefits.

This recognition raises concerns among the Paharias living in Odisha who believe they might need to move to Chhattisgarh to avail these benefits. However, the question that haunts them is that they will be cut off from their roots in Odisha once they migrate. They are also worried that even if they relocate to Chhattisgarh, they would have to go through the extensive processes of updating Aadhaar and other documentation, before being integrated into welfare schemes, raising doubts and concerns about their future.

The Paharia people's language, attire, festivals, and customs differ significantly from others, embodying a culture that meets all criteria for tribal recognition. According to an UNDP report, they were recognised as a Scheduled Tribe (ST) during the British rule, but lost the status with the formation of the state of Orissa in 1936. They are now officially categorised as a socially

and educationally backward class/ other backward class (SEBC/OBC) in the state.

Unlike in Chhattisgarh, where they receive full tribal status, the Paharia people in Odisha remain excluded from many essential benefits and services.

Despite decades of demands for tribal recognition from the state and Central governments, no success has been achieved under either past governments or the 24-year administration of the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD government.

In 2023, members of the Paharia community had submitted a memorandum to the President of India, advocating for tribal recognition. As a response, the Central Tribal Ministry dispatched members to Odisha March 25 this year to study the lifestyle, traditions, and economic conditions of this community. The delegation held discussions in this regard with the leaders of the tribe at a guest house in Bhubaneswar.

A delegation from Nuapada, led by the then block welfare officer, had attended the discussions where they highlighted the Paharia community's challenges. The collected data was subsequently submitted to the Ministry.

Despite these efforts, the Paharia community remains in a state of uncertainty, torn between hopes for official recognition and fears of continued exclusion. They continue to demand immediate tribal recognition, hoping for the benefits and support it could bring.



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Paddy procurement to begin from Nov 20



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Paddy procurement for Kharif season will start from Bargarh and Sambalpur November 20 and November 22 respectively, said an official Sunday. It was decided at an inter-ministerial review meeting chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo. The meeting noted that preparations for paddy procurement have reached the final stage. Deo emphasised on expe-

ditioning the process of paddy procurement as the dates approaching and stopping all kinds of irregularities including brokering, katni chhatni and providing fair price to the farmers for their crops. An additional input assistance of Rs 800 per quintal with the minimum support price for paddy will be provided for the first time. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will launch the programme at Sohela of Bargarh district December 8. All the farmers who have

sold paddy in the mandies till December 7 will get additional input assistance of Rs 800 per quintal, informed the official. Automatic grain analyzer will be used for grain quality testing. These automatic grain analyzer machines have already been provided for installation in 200 large PPCs with a paddy collection capacity of more than 4000 metric tons. Moisture testing machine has also been arranged along with it. Deo advised the millers to be present in the mandi to stop the Katni Chhatni. Each district will have a control room system for the convenience of farmers. The entire process will be done transparently. For this, nodal officer, supervisor has been appointed at Mandis. Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra, and Cooperation Minister Pradeep Bal Samanta were present in the high level meeting.



IN MEMORIAM: Family members and Trustees of Sarat Kar and Anima Kar Foundation pay tributes to English professor and renowned singer Late Anima Mishra Kar on her first death anniversary at Sai Mandir in Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Sunday

Samanta honoured with FIVB Grand Cross Award



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta has been conferred with the prestigious 'Grand Cross Award', the highest honour from the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB). The recognition was bestowed upon him during the 39th FIVB World Congress, a three-day event held in Porto, Portugal, from November 15 to 17. The award acknowledges Samanta's outstanding contributions to the development of sports, particularly volleyball. FIVB president Ary Graca presented the award to Samanta in a grand ceremony attended by representatives and presidents of volleyball associations from 222 countries. In his acceptance speech, Samanta expressed his gratitude for the honour saying, "Out of representatives from 222 countries, I have been chosen for this highest honour by FIVB. I am deeply indebted to Lord Jagannath for this recognition. I dedicate the award to Lord and to all sports enthusiasts and sportspersons of India, especially those from Odisha, as well as KIIT and KISS."

HRAO suggests action plan for tourism boost

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Hotel and Restaurant Association of Odisha (HRAO) recently wrote a letter to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, urging him to consider 22-point charter of suggestions to be included in the state's vision document 2047, for growth of tourism sector in the state. HRAO chairman Jitendra Kumar Mohanty, in the letter, lauded the efforts and initiatives by the state government, including active participation at various national and international

tourism exhibitions. Mohanty also noted the vast tourism potential and said, "There is an urgent need to progress like other states including Goa, Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand in tourism and strengthen the economy by attracting investment opportunity in this sector." Mohanty said for the development of tourism, there is an urgent need for amendment in tourism policy 2022. Some of suggestions given by HRAO included formation of a special committee on tour-

ism, privatisation of various Panthanivas to generate employment, land assistance and grants to hoteliers, development of tourism infrastructure, single window clearance, capital investment subsidies and promotion of state's architecture and heritage to accelerate Buddhist tourism. The association also suggested preparing a master plan for development of tourist destinations in western and southern parts of the state and carrying out infrastructure revamp in Deomali, Konark, Bhitarkanika and Satkosia.

MANGO KERNEL TRAGEDY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Odisha Khadya Adhikar Abhijan and Civil Society Forum for Human Rights, at a conference in Lohia Academy here Sunday, urged the state government to conduct a survey immediately to identify food insecure families in the state. Noted environmentalist Prafulla Samantara, researcher Ravi Sankar Behera and advocate Sujata Jena raised concerns about the recent death of two women in Kandhamal district due to consumption of mango Kernel. The panel pointed out that due to shortage of food grains, two women of Mandipanka village in Daringbadi block were forced to consume fungus-infested mango kernel gruel, which could have caused food contamination, leading to food poisoning and death. A four-member fact-finding team, recently went to Christian Sahi of Mandipanka village and submitted a report which reveals that the subsidised rice (5 kg per person), provided through public distribution system (PDS) to marginal families is insufficient, as they prefer to eat rice three times a day. "The rice lasts only for 15 to 17 days in a month. When the grain starts to exhaust, they mix rice

Govt urged to identify food insecure families



with mango kernel or mandia or sometimes eat only mango kernel gruel. The families last received rice under PDS in July, jointly for the month of July, August and September. The families were supposed to receive grain in October but got November 3," the report read. The team also found that there is limited or no work opportunity in the village. So most men go to other states such as Kerala in search of work in factories, quarries, hotels, construction sites, rubber plantation and beer bars as migrant labourers. Those who stay back have job cards and get work under MGNREGS for a week or so. They alleged that they have not received work for last three months under the scheme, panelists stated. The report also mentions that the names of few women and children have not been

included in the government's subsidised PDS ration cards due to various reasons. "This omission points to gross administrative negligence," they stated. Around 90 per cent of the total households in the village are living under abject poverty and semi-starvation condition with little or no liquid cash. The incident highlights the dire situation of food insecurity and the state of endemic and chronic hunger, Samantara said. It is essential that the state government undertakes a survey on urgent basis to identify food insecure families. Food grain distribution under PDS must be on regular basis. Each holder should be provided with 12kg of food grain along with cooking oil and dal. Door step delivery of PDS should be undertaken in remote villages, the panelists stated.



REMEMBERING LEGEND: Leader of Opposition in Assembly Naveen Patnaik and guests attend the 91st birth anniversary of veteran politician and former minister Harish Chandra Buxipatra at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

COAST FEST AT ASTARANGA

Stress on biodiversity conservation & Olive Ridley turtles' safety

The three-day event, with support from International Visitors Leadership Programme, draws over 30K coastal residents

POST NEWS NETWORK

Astaranga, Nov 17: The vibrant Coast Fest at Astaranga was held at the Devi river mouth, a region renowned for its rich floral and faunal biodiversity, with the support from International Visitors Leadership Programme (IVLP) Grant, USA. The event, organised under the Community-Led Biodiversity Conservation and Nature-Based Solutions Education

for Climate Resilience at Devi River Mouth initiative, was formally launched by Dibakar Chhatoi, founder member of Sabuja Sakha Astaranga. Held at Jahania Bali Yatra, a local annual festival that draws over 30,000 coastal residents, the three-day event brought together local organisations, including Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan Trust, Puri Wildlife Division, Gobinda Tripathy Smruti Parishad, and Jungle Lore Foundation. The fest aimed to educate and engage the local community, especially children and youth, on the region's rich biodiversity, highlighting the significance of protecting it for climate resilience. Key focuses of the festival included educating attendees on the lifecycle, challenges,



and conservation measures for Olive Ridley sea turtles, including government regulations and the importance of oceanic health. A special display demonstrated the role of mangroves in coastal resilience, shoreline stabilisation, and protection from natural disasters. Interactive activities, including gaming activities on oceanic pollution awareness and photo booths encouraging visitors

to commit to preserving native biodiversity, engaged the community in meaningful ways. Informative leaflets and books provided by the Dakshin Foundation and Puri Wildlife Division, distributed to thousands of visitors, ensuring the spread of knowledge. The event attracted a diverse crowd, including prominent figures such as local Kakatpur MLA Tusharkanti Behera, Nuagarh Gram Panchayat Devi River Mouth Sarpanch Jitendra Kumar Swain, President of the Odisha Traditional Fishermen Association Prasanna Behera, Women Community Leader Charulata Biswal, Sasmita Behera, Block Development Officer Astaranga, and various intellectuals and community leaders. Conservationists and experts

such as Sea Turtle Researcher Rahul Ms. Vidisha Kulkarni from Dakshin Foundation, Rahul Moharana from Odisha Mangrove Clean-up, Soumya Ranjan Biswal, Pintu Patra, Sunjan Pradhan, Bamadev Behera, and Pradyumna Behera from Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan Trust, and Bichitranand Biswal, a Biju Patnaik Wildlife Award-winning conservationist, played key roles in leading the event. Together, they emphasised the importance of protecting coastal biodiversity to enhance the region's climate resilience. The Coast Fest proved to be a successful platform for environmental education, empowering the local community to take action toward safeguarding their natural resources for future generations.

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Fresh excavations at Ratnagiri soon



workers and researchers, he said.

Artifacts dating back to approximately 1,600 years ago were first unearthed at Ratnagiri. In 1903, a preliminary survey of the site was conducted by the then SDO of Jajpur Manmohan Chakraborty. In 1958, ASI initiated excavations, leading to discoveries of more than 3,000 rare artifacts now housed in the Ratnagiri Museum.

Despite logistical challenges, the site was thoroughly explored by ASI officer Debala Mitra from Kolkata until 1962. She faced serious challenges like crossing two rivers and a nullah to reach Ratnagiri. She stayed there for four long years till 1962 and discovered over 3,000 artifacts buried in the ground. Excavations yielded numerous votive stupas (pillars), an ancient seal and other artifacts, inscribed with 'Sri Ratnagiri Mahavihara Arya Bhikshu Sangha', which led to the identification of Ratnagiri as a historical Buddhist university.

Subhendu Kumar Bhuyan, a member of the District Cultural Council, remarked that this resumed excavation, occurring nearly 24 years after previous efforts, promises to bring untapped aspects of Ratnagiri's history to light. Insights from the findings will contribute to further studies and broaden historical understanding of Buddhist heritage in the region. The initial establishment of the ancient Ratnagiri monastic site dates back to the 5th century, with significant development occurring until the 7th century.

Students of Utkal University, Sambalpur University and Assam's Cotton University are likely to participate in the survey

Assam's Cotton University will actively participate in various stages of excavation.

During discussions, Gadnayak stated that Lalitgiri, Udayagiri and Ratnagiri are part of the 'Diamond Triangle' Buddhist circuit, alongside Lalitgiri and Udayagiri. Unlike other sites where monastic ruins like Chaitya Griha (prayer hall) have been discovered, Ratnagiri's main assembly hall remains concealed underground, awaiting exploration.

Initial efforts will focus on excavation of the rear portion of the ancient Mahakal Temple near Ratnagiri Mahavihar-2 site.

Gadnayak believes the principal worship hall may lie buried below the surface. The excavation, expected to proceed over an extended period in phases, will aim to uncover the mysteries of this ancient monastic complex.

Provisions such as drinking water, restrooms and washrooms are limited at Ratnagiri. So, additional support facilities will be arranged for on-site

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Nov 17: Ratnagiri Buddhist monastery in this district is expected to see fresh excavation efforts soon that would bring to light untapped aspects of the historical site.

This was recently informed to the media by Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) Puri Circle head and Archaeology Superintendent Dibishad Brajasundar Gadnayak.

Stating that preliminary surveys are underway, Gadnayak said the initial planning is expected to restart November 20. Students from the History departments of Utkal University, Sambalpur University, and



ROAD SAFETY FIRST: Volunteers, including employees of Barbil Municipality and local residents, participate in a walkathon on the occasion of World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims at Barbil in Keonjhar district Sunday

Pattapur police station among country's top 3

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will hand over the trophy to Pattapur IIC during DGPs' convention to be held at Bhubaneswar from November 29 to December 1



AGENCIES

Berhampur, Nov 17: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has chosen Pattapur police station in Ganjam district as one of the three best police stations in the country in 2024, officials said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will hand over the trophy to the inspector in-charge of the police station during the convention of the Director Generals of Police (DGPs), scheduled to be held at Bhubaneswar from November 29 to December 1.

Joint director and conference secretary, Intelligence Bureau of the MHA, Samir S Ilme has written a letter to Odisha DGP YB Khurania about the selection of Pattapur as the best police station in the country, they said.

The ranking of police stations across the country is an annual exercise by the MHA, with the stations judged on the basis of over 150 different parameters like crime rate,

investigation and disposal of cases, infrastructure, and delivery of public service. About 20 per cent of the total points are also based on feedback about the police station from citizens, they said.

The main objective of the ranking was to improve the quality of policing and make the police stations as friendly.

"We are very happy as our police station stands as one of the three best police stations in

the country. It could be possible due to the teamwork of the staff," said Ganjam SP Suwendu Kumar Patra.

A team of the MHA had visited the 113-year-old Pattapur police station September 28 to assess its infrastructure facilities, said Sanjay Kumar Mohapatra, sub-divisional police officer of Aska.

The team had also taken feedback from public about the community policing and functioning of the police station, officials said.

Besides performance on detection, disposal of various crimes, enforcement, steps taken to prevent crimes, implementation of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS), the police station also has good infrastructure facilities like women and child desk, child-friendly corner, toilets, fire safety measures and open gym for the public.

28 stolen two-wheelers recovered; 2 arrested



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 17: Ainthapali police Sunday seized 28 stolen two-wheelers from Jaranga forest under Jujumura police limits in this district and arrested two persons in this connection. Additional Superintendent of Police Ajay Kumar Mishra said during a presser at the police station Sunday morning.

The accused were identified as Ramkumar Panda, 32, a resident of Bagabara village under Biramaharajpur police station in Sonapur district and Sardul Gaigoria, 39, a resident of Digi village under Manamunda police limits in Boudh district. Ramkumar works as a conductor. Mishra said.

Dheeraj Kumar Pujari of Jagannath Colony filed a complaint alleging theft of his scooter (OD-15-KQ-4169) from near the colony park November 9 following which a case (No-

380) was registered under Section 379(2) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and an investigation started. Acting on a tip-off that the accused were roaming near Ainthapali bus stand with the stolen scooter, sub-inspector Niladri Biswal, the investigating officer of the case, along with his team, reached the spot and apprehended the accused with the stolen scooter. During interrogation, the accused confessed to have stolen the scooter. It was revealed that the two had met earlier while being lodged in Birmaharajpur Jail. Preliminary investigations indicated that both are professional bike lifters.

Based on their statements, the police recovered 28 stolen bikes hidden in Jarang forest in Jujumura. The accused were operating a bike theft syndicate, stealing bikes and hiding them in the forest before selling them at very low prices.

Birsa Munda memorial a non-starter

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Nov 17: A little over a month after the ST & SC Development, Minorities, and Backward Classes Welfare department issued a letter to Sundargarh Collector to identify a land parcel for construction of a grand memorial in honour of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, commemorating the legendary freedom fighter's 150th birth anniversary November 15, reports have suggested that the plan has been stalled, triggering kneejerk reactions from the citizens, with some saying it was a gimmick before Jharkhand Assembly elections.

A report appeared in this newspaper October 16 said the ST & SC department principal secretary Bishnupada Sethi had written a letter (No 21293/SSD, Bhubaneswar, STSCD-BLD-Plan2-0016-2023) dated October 9 to Sundargarh Collector Manoj Satyaban Mahajan to identify a land parcel for the grand memorial.

The letter said, "The memorial shall include a statue of Bhagwan Birsa Munda (150 ft), an interpretation centre, a convention centre, souvenir shop, cafeteria, green lawns and other facilities. The foundation stone for the above shall be laid at a state level function on 15th of November, 2024 at Rourkela. Therefore, you are required to identify a suitable land for all



the above preferably in a scenic backdrop to make it a state of the art monument."

Former engineer in-chief Jagannath Patel was appointed the technical consultant who would have visited the district for discussion and preparation of a preliminary report.

After several reconnaissance, the district administration had finally zeroed in on the land belonging to the government owned 200 acres Kuanrunda Dairy Farm, which is closed now.

However, the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda was observed but the plan has allegedly been swept under the carpet.

"This is an insult to the great freedom fighter of this region. Since the 1st phase of Jharkhand election is over, they have dropped the idea," said Biran Senapati of BJD. He further said, "The entire announcement

was nothing but a trick and they successfully deceived the people of this region. But in the name of politics this was a very nasty plot." Former District Congress Committee president Rashmi Padhi said, "Have they ever garlanded the statue of Birsa Munda ever before. Now, the manner in which the great freedom fighter has been insulted is shameful." During UPA regime, he said, there was a plan to set up a tribal university here. "Why has it been shelved?" he asked.

A resident of Birsa Munda's village Ulihatu near Ranchi said, "We were initially very elated when we heard about construction of a memorial in the name of Bhagwan Birsa Munda but now all of us are really unhappy and upset. The government of the day has no rights to insult Bhagwan Birsa Munda."

Migrant worker turns inspiring farmer in Nuapada

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Nov 17: Once struggling to make ends meet, Chakradhara Sahu, a resident of Saipala village under Sadar block in this district, used to work as a migrant labour as lack of resources stood on his way of cultivating the ancestral land effectively. However, with guidance and support from Agriculture department, he revitalised his farm through water conservation initiatives and modern practices. And, now he has set an example for others by becoming a progressive farmer.

District Collector Madhusudan Das, during an awareness drive for migrant workers, visited Chakradhara's integrated farming system (IFS) on his farmland and expressed happiness over his efforts.



According to sources, Chakradhara and his family used to migrate to other states for work due to insufficient resources to cultivate their

ancestral land. However, with encouragement and guidance from local agriculture overseer Rukmini Arukh and government support, he revitalised

his farm by adopting modern practices.

Recognising his determination, various departments extended their support. The Agriculture department provided high-quality seeds for crops like paddy, green gram, black gram, pulses like arhar and groundnuts, while Livestock department supplied goats, poultry, ducks and cattle.

Horticulture department contributed banana, mango, guava and strawberry saplings. Fisheries department and Krishi Vigyan Kendra facilitated fish farming and other advanced techniques like drip irrigation, vermin compost and sweet corn farming. All these government assistance instilled a hope in the minds of Chakradhara and changed his fate for better.

With renewed energy, Chakradhara now earns around ₹4.5 lakh from his farm per annum and has become an employer, providing livelihoods to others in his community. His family helps him in farm works, and he credits his success to the unwavering support from the agriculture and allied departments, as well as the district administration.

District Collector Das believes Chakradhara's story is a beacon of hope and an example for other farmers to emulate. If others follow his path, the district can soon eliminate migration woes, he added.

Chakradhara, elated by the recognition, views this as an opportunity to inspire thousands of farmers to adopt sustainable farming practices and lead a dignified life in their homeland.

Man gets 20-yr RI for raping minor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, Nov 17: A court in Kendrapara district sentenced a 53-year-old man to 20 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) for raping a minor girl.

The Additional District Judge-cum-Special judge (POCSO) Kendrapara, Pragnay Paramita Roul pronounced the verdict Saturday relying on the evidence of 19 witnesses including the victim and medical reports, said Manoj Kumar Sahu, the special public prosecutor of the court. The court also imposed a

fine of ₹50,000 on the convict Kapilendra Mallick, he said. The court also directed the Odisha State Legal Services Authority (OSLSA) to pay a compensation of ₹4 lakh to the victim girl under the government's Odisha Victim Compensation Scheme, Sahu said.

According to the prosecution, the girl was raped by Mallick, a neighbour June 6, 2022 in his house when she had gone to his house to meet her friend.

The girl's mother had filed an FIR at the local police station leading to Mallick's arrest.

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For registration, please contact: Ranjit Mallik, Mobile: 99370 88035.
Registration is compulsory.
The registration time will be from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
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Picnicker dies, 11 hurt in mishap



POST NEWS NETWORK

Gajapati, Nov 17: A woman was killed and 11 other picnickers sustained severe injuries after a van they were travelling in overturned at Kendughati under Mohana police limits in Gajapati district in the wee hours of Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Sarojini Behera of Chahali village in Nayagarh district. Among the injured are four women and two children.

According to sources, 14 members of a family from Sharanakul and Chadheyapalli areas in Nayagarh district were traveling in a van

from Bhubaneswar to Koraput for a picnic. However, the vehicle lost balance and overturned at Kendughati near Mohana around 4am.

On being informed, Fire Services personnel from Mohana reached the spot, rescued the injured and admitted them to Mohana hospital. After preliminary treatment, three of the critically injured persons were shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital at Berhampur for advanced care.

According to eyewitnesses, the vehicle flipped twice. Injured passengers blamed reckless driving for the mishap.

FOCUS OCEAN CONSERVATION

TROUBLE LURKS BENEATH



Billions of lives depend on urgent global action to protect the ocean. It is imperative that more countries move aggressively to adopt ambitious pledges – and the concrete policies and practices needed to fulfill them

at their disposal, countries can better track their progress, and key stakeholders – not least local coastal communities – can participate more fully in conservation efforts. For that, we need to get tools that have proven invaluable for fostering transparency and accountability, such as SkyTruth's 30x30 Progress Tracker, into more people's hands.

The report also urges wealthy countries to deliver on their promises. In 2022, Global North governments committed to increase funding for developing countries to at least \$20 billion per year by 2025, and to \$30 billion by 2030. However, little of this funding has been delivered. While the recently announced \$163 million in new pledges from donor countries is welcome, such sums are a drop in the bucket. Far more funding is desperately needed to support conservation efforts across Latin America and other regions, especially in the Global South. And it should go without saying that promised financing should be delivered in a timely fashion.

With the COP16 negotiations now paused until a later date, the stakes for getting this right couldn't be higher. Billions of lives depend on urgent global action to protect the ocean. It is imperative that more countries move aggressively to adopt ambitious pledges – and the concrete policies and practices needed to fulfill them.

César Gaviria, a former President of Colombia, is a board member of Oceana. Patti Harris is CEO of Bloomberg Philanthropies.

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The ocean is our greatest natural resource. It provides half the planet's oxygen, helps to feed half the world's people, and, as the world's largest carbon sink, is one of our best defenses against climate change. But it is under attack like never before.

Sea surface temperatures are hotter than ever, which is killing marine life and fueling stronger hurricanes. Many big-fish populations have been decimated. Half of all coral reefs – which serve as essential habitats for marine life and as vital coastal defenses – have been destroyed. This sustained degradation of the ocean is threatening human life around the world. Stopping it is essential, and the good news is that a framework for doing so is already in place.

Two years ago, the world adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which set a target of protecting and conserving at least 30 per cent of the world's land and ocean by 2030. Then, at the COP16 United Nations Biodiversity Conference in Cali, Colombia, last month, representatives from governments around the world took stock of the progress made so far. What stood out is that the host country is an example both of what is possible and of how much work remains to be done.

Over the past decade, Colombia has emerged as a global leader in conservation, and for good reason. Colombia is one of the world's most biodiverse countries, and, as one of only two South American countries with Pacific and Atlantic coastlines, its future is inextricably linked to the bodies of water that surround it. In 2022, the government announced

that it had protected 30 per cent of its ocean area, making Colombia the first country in the Western Hemisphere to do so – and prompting other Latin American countries to follow its lead.

A new report commissioned by Bloomberg Philanthropies through the Bloomberg Ocean Fund, and developed in partnership with other major marine-conservation organisations, shows that Latin America is now leading the way on global marine protection. Around 26 per cent of the maritime area surrounding Latin America and the Caribbean is now under some form of marine conservation protection – higher than any other region in the world.

But this statistic only reflects the coverage of official marine protected areas. It does not tell us what is going on underwater. There, unfortunately, the data are much less promising. Only 2.5 per cent of the region's ocean, and a mere 1.5 per cent of Colombia's maritime area, appears to be getting the level of pro-

tection necessary to conserve marine life.

The picture is even bleaker in the rest of the world. The United Kingdom, for example, designates 47 per cent of its domestic waters (excluding Overseas Territories) as marine protected areas, but less than 1 per cent have been assessed as effectively protected. Japan, meanwhile, has designated 7.3 per cent of its domestic waters as marine protected areas, with zero per cent assessed as effectively protected.

The ocean can continue protecting and feeding the world only if governments deliver on their commitments to protect it. Recognising the need for an urgent change in course, the Bloomberg Ocean Fund report lays out a series of crucial next steps to help governments effectively protect 30 per cent of their ocean areas by 2030. But, as Mike Bloomberg likes to say: If you can't measure it, you can't manage it.

Increased data collection is therefore essential. With more actionable information



César Gaviria & Patti Harris

SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURES ARE HOTTER THAN EVER, WHICH IS KILLING MARINE LIFE AND FUELING STRONGER HURRICANES

SPECTRUM EDUCATION

Student well-being & academic success

Sushant Rohilla, a third-year law student from a law school in Delhi, committed suicide on 10 August, 2016 for not being able to appear for his semester exams as the college authorities didn't allow him citing his low attendance. Rohilla had 43% attendance whereas a minimum of 70% is required to appear in examinations, as per university norms. He left behind a suicide note saying he was a failure and did not wish to live.

Raghav Sharma, who was Rohilla's friend, also a student at institute, wrote to the then Chief Justice of India, TS Thakur, asking for the institute to be tried for this unfortunate incident. His letter was treated by judges as a PIL which was transferred to the Delhi High Court in 2017. The issue was highlighted on social media and attained national attention. Last month, the court opined that there was an urgent need for a relook at mandatory attendance norms in colleges and universities as teaching methods have substantially changed after the pandemic.

It requested that the Centre and the University Grants Commission (UGC) to issue a

circular to all educational institutions, providing them a final opportunity to establish a 'Grievance Redressal Committee' within two weeks, or face consequences. Accordingly, UGC wrote to all vice chancellors of universities and principals of colleges to submit the details of Students' Grievance Redressal Committee(s) (SGRC) within 24 September.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) says that 6,113 students committed suicide during 2022 which accounts for 7.6% of the total number of the year. They are not limited to general colleges but also to premier institutions like IITs, IIMs, NITs and medical colleges. The NCRB data says that every 40 minutes a student commits suicide in the country.

As per UGC regulations, every institution shall constitute SGRC with a chairperson, four senior faculty members as members and one student representative as special invitee to consider grievances of students. At least one of the members should be a woman and another should belong to SC/ST/OBC category.

Every student's grievance should be acknowledged and heard by the SGRC, which will

then submit a report with any recommendations to the appropriate authority of the institution. A copy of this report will also be provided to the aggrieved student, ideally within 15 working days from the date the complaint is received. If a student is not satisfied with the outcome, they may appeal to the ombudsperson within 15 days of receiving the decision.

Despite repeated reminders by UGC, many universities are yet to come up with provisions related to SGRCs on campuses. As on 15 September, the UGC identified 23 State Universities, 5 Private Universities, and 3 Deemed to be Universities as defaulters for failing to appoint an ombudsperson. There are four universities of Odisha in the defaulters' list.

The SGRCs are formed to provide students with a formal channel to express their concerns regarding various issues, ranging from academic disputes and administrative challenges to instances of harassment or discrimination. They are tasked with actively listening to student grievances, ensuring that their voices are heard. By investigating complaints impartially, SGRCs help in upholding principles of justice within

the institution, ensuring that no student feels marginalised or ignored. These committees act as intermediaries, enhancing communication between students and faculty or administration, thereby fostering a collaborative academic environment. By resolving issues in a timely manner, they can be prevented from escalating into larger conflicts.

Improved student satisfaction, higher retention rates, systemic improvements, empowerment of students, enhanced institutional reputation are the other major benefits of formation of SGRSs in the campus. SGRSs play a vital role in ensuring a fair and supportive educational environment. By providing a platform for students to voice their concerns, these committees help resolve issues promptly and efficiently, promoting student well-being and academic success. By adopting these best practices, educational institutions can create a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where students feel heard and valued.

The writer is founder, Supporting Shoulders, an organisation striving for mental health of students.



Bhaskar Nath Biswal

STUDENTS' GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL COMMITTEES PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN ENSURING A FAIR AND SUPPORTIVE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT



The flame of the aspiration must be so straight and so ardent that no obstacle can dissolve it.

THE MOTHER

Lankan Mandate

Sri Lanka is in the grip of a political tsunami with the coalition of National People's Power (NPP), led by President Anura Kumara Disسانayake, getting a historic two-third majority in the parliamentary elections held 14 November. The country's people have given such an overwhelming mandate to the NPP that the message is unmistakable. There is a clear shift in Lankan politics as the coalition's landslide victory shows the people have been able to come out of the decades-old bloody ethnic enmity and strife and now want to forge ahead together for progress and economic wellbeing for all. It is remarkable that the coalition has got the support of virtually all sections, who had in 2022, thrown out the old political establishment unable to cope with unprecedented economic hardships. The foundation of this success was built in September when the people elected the Left-leaning Disسانayake the country's President.

The election, held a year ahead of schedule, was necessitated by Disسانayake's gamble to dissolve Parliament following his presidential win. While he had won the presidency in September 2024, he had failed to secure more than 50 per cent of the vote. He needed at least a simple majority in Parliament so as to be able to implement reforms and steer the nation's economic recovery. A strong parliamentary majority alone allows the President to strengthen his position and carry out his economic and political agenda. He has promised to bring about economic recovery, adopt anti-corruption measures and effect constitutional reforms to curb the sweeping powers of the President under the existing constitutional arrangements. A parliamentary majority provides the necessary legislative support for these initiatives. More so because the alliance aims at mitigating Sri Lanka's debt crisis at the earliest and attracting foreign investment.

The results are most significant as NPP has made unprecedented gains in Tamil-majority regions, including Jaffna, where it won three out of six seats, defeating traditional Tamil nationalist parties. This shows it is for the first time a Sinhala-majority party has achieved such a victory in Jaffna that reflects the new mood of the country as a whole with the NPP emerging as a multi-ethnic political force.

The NPP's parliamentary majority has tremendous geopolitical importance too. While Disسانayake is known for his pro-China leanings, he has all the same adopted a pragmatic approach taking his people's interests into utmost consideration to reassure India of his commitment to maintaining regional stability and cooperation. He has indeed come a long way from criticizing the 1987 India-Sri Lanka Accord dillydallying with the 13th Amendment, which would have devolved powers to Tamil minorities. However, his recent remarks about granting strong guarantees of political rights to Tamil communities indicate keenness to engage with India on these matters.

Also, Disسانayake is trying to make a well-balanced approach to his policies of transparency. He has criticised projects such as the Adani Group's wind power initiative, citing concerns about Sri Lanka's energy sovereignty. At the same time he has raised issues about Chinese-backed projects, such as the Hambantota Port. This dual focus gives an opportunity to India to try to strengthen economic ties. Moreover, during his presidential campaign, Disسانayake had pledged not to allow Sri Lanka's territory to be used to threaten India or regional stability. This is reassuring for India whose short-sighted policies towards its neighbours have already harmed the country much with Maldives, Myanmar and Nepal veering towards China and Sri Lanka letting its ports be used by China.

India has played a critical role in supporting Sri Lanka during its 2022 economic crisis, providing over \$4.5 billion in assistance. With no strings attached, the package was far better than the one given by the International Monetary Fund at that time. Disسانayake's acknowledgement of this support and his expressed desire to strengthen bilateral ties create opportunities for New Delhi to engage with his administration constructively.

India now has got a chance, which does not come often, to build a firmer bridge with Sri Lanka and keep Chinese influence at bay. It should not be scuppered by any myopic policy that has characterised the Indian foreign affairs establishment during the past one decade.

WISDOM CORNER

Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul - and sings the tunes without the words - and never stops at all.
EMILY DICKINSON

The promise given was a necessity of the past: the word broken is a necessity of the present.
NICCOLO MACHIAVELLI

It's easy to have faith in yourself and have discipline when you're a winner, when you're number one. What you got to have is faith and discipline when you're not a winner.
VINCE LOMBARDI

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1928: Walt Disney released Steamboat Willie, the first animated film with sound to feature Mickey Mouse; the huge success of the cartoon helped make Mickey an iconic character and led to the Disney Company's dominance in the animated market.
- 1959: The American dramatic film Ben-Hur, arguably the best of Hollywood's biblical epics, had its world premiere; it later won an unprecedented 11 Academy Awards.
- 1978: Mass suicides in Jonestown. Over 900 people committed suicide at the behest of Jim Jones the founder and head of a group called Peoples Temple. Formed in Indianapolis, Indiana, in the mid-1950s, members of the group moved to Guyana in 1974 and set up a settlement outside Georgetown and called in Jonestown.

LOL DESIGNATED DECOY

One night a police officer was staking out a particularly rowdy bar for possible DUI violations. At closing time, he saw a fellow stumble out of the bar, trip on the curb and try his keys on five different cars before he found his. The man sat in the front seat fumbling around with his keys for several minutes. Meanwhile, all the other patrons left the bar and drove off. Finally he started his engine and began

to pull away. The police officer was waiting for him. As soon as he pulled onto the street, the officer stopped him, read him his rights and administered the breathalyzer test to determine his blood-alcohol content. The results showed a reading of 0.0. The puzzled officer demanded to know how that could be. The driver replied, "Tonight I'm the designated decoy."

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Green railway

Sir, The Indian Railways is all set to launch its first hydrogen-powered train on a trial run in December. This is a project aiming to fulfill the governments' and the Indian Railways' ambition to eliminate carbon emissions and reduce noise pollution. The train will be operated with hydrogen power putting a full stop to conventional fuels. This again is a goal achieved as the Railways has been working round the clock to fulfill its aim of net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. Manufactured at Perambur Integral Coach Factory, these trains are sure to redefine the railways. These trains use hydrogen fuel cells that combine hydrogen with oxygen to generate electricity, powering its motors. The most remarkable factor is that the byproducts of this chemical reaction are only water and steam thus resulting in zero emissions plus a cleaner, quieter operation. As a whole these trains are environmental friendly and to top it all the journeys will be quieter, safer and faster making it passenger friendly too.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

Climate action

Sir, The climate crisis has been rocking the boat across the world for quite a longer time. Each country has been confronting climate crisis and increasing pressure and huge human activities have just added up to the whole issue. The monsoon pattern in Asia is sometimes volatile and unpredictable if not all the time. But most of the time, it is agricultural activities and farm produce that are being stunted drastically. Great awareness campaigns and proper dissemination of the primary issue have to be spread among the masses. Empowered by the river Thamirabarani and other salient features like fertile soil and good monsoon, my native areas like Korkai, Tuticorin, Tiruchendur, Nagercoil, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu have been able to sustain greater green activities in terms of farming and other tree planting activities. This kind of lifestyle needs to be encouraged now. The international community should do a lot of groundwork through appropriate green strategies to resolve the climate crisis.

P. Senthil Saravana Durai, MUMBAI

JHANSI HOSPITAL FIRE

Nurse's heroic efforts save over dozen babies

At least 10 children died when a fire suspected to have been caused by a short circuit gutted the children's ward of the government-run Jhansi's medical college and hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow/Jhansi (UP), Nov 17: Nurse Megha James was on duty when the fire broke out at the Jhansi hospital and she threw herself headlong into the rescue efforts, playing a hero's role by saving several babies.

Even when her salwar got burned, she refused to give up and was able to evacuate 14-15 babies with others' help.

"I had gone to take a syringe to give an injection to a child. When I came back, I saw that the (oxygen) concentrator had caught fire. I called the ward boy, who came with the fire extinguisher and tried to put it out. But by then, the fire had spread," James said.

Ten babies perished in a fire that broke out at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of the Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College in Jhansi Friday night.

Faced with an enormous blaze, James's mind worked with a frenetic speed, to the extent she cared little about burning herself.

"My chappal caught fire and I burned my foot. Then my salwar caught fire. I removed my salwar and discarded it. At that time, my mind was virtually not working," she told PTI Videos.

James just wore another salwar and went back to the rescue operation.

"There was a lot of smoke, and once the lights went out, we could not see anything. The entire staff brought out at least 14-15 children. There were 11 beds in the ward with 23-24 babies," she said.

Had the lights not gone out



they could have saved more children, James said. "It all happened very suddenly. None of us had expected it."

Assistant Nursing Superintendent Nalini Sood praised James's valour and recounted bits from how the rescue operation was carried out.

"The hospital staff broke the glasses of the NICU ward to evacuate the babies. It was then Nurse Megha's salwar caught fire. Instead of caring for her safety, she stayed there to rescue the babies and handed them over to people outside," she said.

Sood said James is currently undergoing treatment at the same medical college. She said she did not know the extent of her burns.

"The rescued babies were shifted to a ward very close to the NICU ward... When I recall the scene, I feel like crying," she said.

Dr Anshul Jain, the head of

the anaesthesiology department at the medical college, explained the standard rescue operation and claimed the hospital followed the protocol to the T.

"In the triage process during an ICU evacuation, the policy is to evacuate less-affected patients first. The rationale behind this approach is that patients requiring minimal support can be relocated quickly, enabling a larger number of evacuations to be completed in a shorter time."

"In contrast, patients on ventilators or requiring high oxygen support demand more time and resources for evacuation," he said.

"This principle was successfully implemented in Jhansi, playing a significant role in saving many lives," Jain said.

A newborn rescued from the fire died due to illness Sunday, Jhansi District Magistrate Avinash Kumar said.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Top court warns Delhi govt

The bench authorised the special secretary of the Delhi government's Environment department to call officers concerned of the Centre for the meeting, if the involvement of any department of the Centre was required in the implementation of the 2016 Rules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: The Supreme Court has flagged the "complete failure" of agencies in implementing the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 in the national capital and directed the chief secretary of the Delhi government to call a meeting of all stakeholders to discuss the issue.

The apex court observed it is a matter of immense importance that the 2016 Rules are implemented in their true letter and spirit in the capital city.

"If we find that all other authorities do not come together and tell us the time-bound schedule for implementation of the 2016 Rules, the court may have to consider of passing harsh orders," a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih said in its order passed November 11.

The bench said, "We direct the chief secretary of the Delhi Government to call a meeting of all the stakeholders,



The apex court observed it is a matter of immense importance that the 2016 Rules are implemented in their true letter and spirit in the capital city

including the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, to discuss the issue of implementation of the 2016 Rules".

It said all stakeholders must come together and file a common report before the court laying down the time-lines for reporting compliance with the provisions of the 2016 Rules.

The apex court said the exercise of holding a meeting and coming out with a common response shall be completed by December 13.

"As we have been noticing in other cases also, the 2016 Rules have remained on paper. If in the territory of NCT of Delhi, there is a complete failure to

implement the 2016 rules, one can imagine what must be happening in cities in other parts of the country," the bench said.

It noted that on one hand there was no implementation of the 2016 rules due to which garbage or solid waste was being illegally stored in landfill sites which were prone to fires and, on the other hand, a large number of construction activities were going on which adds to generation of solid and construction wastes.

The bench authorised the special secretary of the Delhi government's Environment department to call officers concerned of the Centre for the meeting, if the involvement of any department of the Centre was required in the implementation of the 2016 Rules.

"If the special secretary finds that any of the stakeholders are not cooperating, we permit him to move an application to this court to seek directions," the bench said and posted the matter for further hearing December 16.

Alert goods train loco pilot averts major accident in Bareilly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bareilly (UP), Nov 17: The loco pilot of a goods train averted a major accident by applying the emergency brakes after spotting an iron garter and cement posts on the tracks near the Dibnagar railway station here, officials said.

Superintendent of Police (North) Mukesh Chandra Mishra said the incident occurred late Friday night in the Hafizganj police station area.

PRO of the North Eastern Railway's Bareilly Izzatnagar Division Rajendra Singh said the emergency brakes slowed the train down before it hit the obstruction, limiting the damage to just the engine.

"As the goods train from Pilibhit was making its way to Bareilly, the driver noticed the obstruction on the track. Reacting swiftly, he applied the emergency brakes, preventing the train from derailling," he said.

"However, the impact of the collision damaged the train's engine, but crucially, it did not lead to any further mishap," Singh said. Following the incident, railway and police teams rushed to the scene. The PRO said that miscreants had placed broken posts of a cement bench and a 1.25-meter-long iron garter on the tracks. "It was a narrow escape," Singh said, adding, "The alert loco pilot saved the day. Had he not applied the emergency brakes, the goods train could have derailed, causing substantial damage and loss of life."

Police were informed immediately and a formal report was lodged at the Hafizganj police station.

UP govt launches free ultrasound scheme

The Yogi government's e-rupee voucher initiative aims to enhance the efficiency and accessibility of healthcare services across the state



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 17: In line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision to ensure accessible, affordable, and high-quality healthcare for the people of Uttar Pradesh, the state government is offering free ultrasound services to pregnant women at private healthcare centres through e-rupee vouchers.

Since the scheme's launch in February 2023, over 14.5 lakh e-rupee vouchers have been distributed as of November 9, enabling pregnant women to avail of essential diagnostic services.

Azamgarh has emerged as the top district in voucher distribution, with more than 61,000 vouchers issued, followed by Agra with over 56,000, and Badaun with more than 53,000 vouchers. Furthermore, a total of 6.81 lakh vouchers have already been redeemed by beneficiaries across the state.

Dr Pinky Jowal, Director of the National Health Mission (NHM), highlighted that this initiative reflects the Chief Minister's unwavering focus on maternal and child health. She added, "The e-rupee voucher scheme ensures that pregnant women receive timely and es-

sential diagnostic services to safeguard their health and that of their unborn children. This programme exemplifies the Yogi government's proactive approach to improving healthcare delivery in the state."

The Mission Director highlighted the rankings of the top 10 districts in Uttar Pradesh for issuing e-rupee vouchers. She said, "Prayagraj secured the fourth position, followed by Deoria in fifth, Ghaziabad in sixth, Gorakhpur in seventh, Bareilly in eighth, Ghazipur in ninth, and Hardoi in 10th place. On the other hand, the lowest number of vouchers was issued in Kasganj, with just 4,352 vouchers, followed by Bhadohi with 4,876 vouchers and Shamli with 5,749 vouchers."

She added, "The Yogi government's e-rupee voucher initiative aims to enhance the efficiency and accessibility of healthcare services across the state. This programme has not only ensured timely health check-ups for women but has also played a significant role in curbing corruption. As a fully digital scheme, it guarantees that the benefits directly reach the intended beneficiaries, reflecting the government's commitment to transparency and effective governance."

BJP forms 12-member manifesto committee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: The BJP Friday announced a 12-member manifesto committee headed by South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri to spell out its poll promises and vision for Delhi ahead of the Assembly polls due in February next year.

The committee includes three former Union ministers, as well as other experienced party leaders, including Harsh Vardhan, Meenakshi Lekhi, Vijay Goel, Arvinder Singh Lovely Parvesh Verma, Satish Upadhyay and MLA Ajay Mahawar, a Delhi BJP statement said.

Bidhuri charged that Delhi was turned into a "slum" under

the AAP's 10-year rule with the collapse of basic facilities like roads, drains, drinking water and civic infrastructure, and the BJP manifesto will explain how a turnaround will be brought about if the party won the election.

"The manifesto document will also script how the BJP will fulfil the aspirations and needs of Delhi people that were neglected and betrayed by AAP," he said.

A comprehensive public feedback will be obtained before drafting the manifesto, Bidhuri added.

The Assembly polls for 70 seats in Delhi are due in February. The BJP was routed by



AAP back to back in the previous two assembly polls in Delhi in 2015 and 2020.

A senior functionary in the party said that the BJP will not tinker with the ongoing free schemes of the AAP government and will instead try to add on to the facilities and the services already availed by the people.



Old age homes intensify measures to protect inmates

Delhi's air quality worsened further Sunday, with an AQI of 441, making it the second-most polluted city in the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: With strict restrictions on outdoor activities during peak pollution hours, mandatory mask use, and oxygen cylinders on standby for emergencies, Delhi's old age homes are prioritising the safety of their most vulnerable residents in response to the city's deteriorating air quality.

As Delhi's air quality index (AQI) oscillates between the "very poor" and "severe" categories, it poses serious health risks, including respiratory illnesses from prolonged exposure, to the residents of the city, especially the elderly.

While healthy individuals are affected, those with pre-existing conditions face severe impacts, according to the Central Pollution Control Board.

Old age homes across the city are intensifying measures to protect their residents who are most vulnerable to respiratory and cardiovascular issues. General Bhupendra Singh,



Chairman of Aashirwad Old Age Home, said, "We do not allow anyone to step outside the premises due to the toxic air quality. The elderly, being the worst affected group, are strictly prohibited from ventur-

ing out during peak pollution hours, especially in the morning and evening."

"If they must go out for medical appointments, they are instructed to minimise outdoor time and wear masks for pro-

tection," he added. Rajeshwari, a caregiver at the Sai Sahara old age home highlighted the additional precautions being taken.

"We are focusing on maintaining a healthy diet for the residents and have restricted outdoor activities, including morning walks, due to the severe air quality," she said.

As viral infections are prevalent due to the changing weather, the residents' interaction with outsiders has been minimised to prevent the spread of infections, she said.

"Given the vulnerability of this age group, even a minor viral infection could have severe consequences. Therefore, we are taking extra precautions to ensure their safety," she added. Narayan, the manager at Elderly Care Old Age Home, said special care is being taken of residents with pre-existing respiratory issues such as asthma and chronic breathing problems.

"Those with existing respi-

ratory issues are given special care, and we keep oxygen cylinders on standby for emergencies," Narayan told PTI.

However, due to the high costs, the facility does not have any air purifiers, Narayan said.

Despite a marginal improvement in Delhi's air quality Friday, the air quality Saturday again slipped into the "severe" category. The AQI was recorded at 396 Friday, in the "very poor" category. It was in the "severe" category earlier in the week.

In response, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) invoked GRAP-3 measures in the national capital, including restrictions on private construction activities and other pollution-control measures.

Meanwhile, doctors have reported an increase in patients visiting OPDs with respiratory issues and advised people to minimise outdoor exposure and wear masks during this period of high pollution.

national



Caste should not be a factor while giving tickets to candidates in elections

MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

SPY CAM IN WASHROOM

Police have registered a case against a boy, aged around 17, for allegedly installing a camera in the women's washroom of an Inter-College here, police said Sunday. The boy's father has been detained and is being questioned, they said



of the day note

Meritocracy is being murdered in broad daylight by the party that pulled a fast one on J&K's youth by false promises of rationalising reservation which couldn't be further from the truth

BPL cards are not being cancelled...we have said that we will not give BPL cards to ineligible. Should we give BPL cards to those paying income tax or government servants? Such cases will be shifted to APL (Above Poverty Line) cards from BPL cards. Still, no decision has been made, but there is thinking in this direction

Rajasthanis contributed to nation building by making stellar contribution in education, health and social sectors. One Marwari (people from Rajasthan's Marwar region) can influence 1000 people because of contacts developed through their social work

Kailash Gahlot quits AAP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: In a jolt to AAP ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls, senior leader and Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot quit the party Sunday, alleging "political ambitions" have overtaken its commitment towards people. "Instead of fighting for people's rights we have increasingly only been fighting for our own political agenda," the 50-year-old said in his resignation letter to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal.

Gahlot, a prominent figure in the party, also took a job at Kejriwal as he flagged some "awkward" and "embarrassing" controversies like 'sheeshmahal', saying it makes everyone doubt if "we still believe in being the 'Aam Aadmi'". The BJP had dubbed Kejriwal's former official residence at 6 Flagstaff Road as 'sheeshmahal', alleging that he spent crores on luxury items and modern facilities.

AAP leaders said Gahlot was facing ED probe and had no option but to join the BJP. They alleged it was a "dirty political conspiracy" of the BJP. "Kailash Gahlot has been raided by the ED, Income Tax many times. He was part of the government for five years, and the BJP was continuously conspiring



Gahlot, a prominent figure in the party, also took a job at Kejriwal as he flagged some "awkward" and "embarrassing" controversies like 'sheeshmahal', saying it makes everyone doubt if "we still believe in being the 'Aam Aadmi'".

The BJP had dubbed Kejriwal's former official residence at 6 Flagstaff Road as 'sheeshmahal', alleging that he spent crores on luxury items and modern facilities

against him, he was left with no other option but to go with the BJP... He is now repeating what the BJP says. It is the BJP's conspiracy," AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said.

The BJP said that Gahlot quit the party like several others in the past because AAP has moved away from the values it once stood for to serve the interests of its convener Arvind Kejriwal. In a swipe at AAP, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said it has undergone "political conversion" to become "khas" (privileged). It is now the Arvind Aadmi Party, the BJP leader said.

Gahlot, the MLA from Najafgarh, tendered his resignation from the council of ministers with immediate effect. Official

sources said the resignation was accepted by Delhi Chief Minister Atishi. In April, Raaj Kumar Anand stepped down as Social Welfare minister in the AAP government and quit the party. He joined the BJP in July. Rajendra Pal Gautam, a former minister in the AAP government, quit AAP and joined the Congress in September.

In his letter to Kejriwal, which was shared on X, Gahlot said the "Aam Aadmi Party faces grave challenges. Challenges from within, to the very values that brought us together to AAP. Political ambitions have overtaken our commitment towards people, leaving many promises unfulfilled". "Take for example the Yamuna, which we had promised to transform into a

clean river, but never got around to doing it. Now the Yamuna River is perhaps even more polluted than before," he said.

The resignation by Gahlot, who was in-charge of portfolios of Home, Administrative Reforms, IT and Women and Child Development, comes at a time when the party is gearing up for the Delhi Assembly polls slated to be held in February next year. "Another painful point has been the fact that instead of fighting for people's rights we have increasingly only been fighting for our own political agenda. This has severely crippled our ability to even deliver basic services to the people of Delhi. It is now obvious that real progress for Delhi cannot happen if the Delhi government spends the majority of its time fighting with the Centre," Gahlot said.

Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva welcomed Gahlot's resignation, saying he took a brave step.

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak, however, said it was not a setback for the party as AAP was formed because of two crore people of Delhi. BJP leader and Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta called AAP a sinking ship, a view echoed by Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav.

Congress moves ECI against BJP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: The Congress Sunday lodged a complaint with the Election Commission of India (ECI) seeking stern action against the BJP for allegedly continuing its "communal and divisive" campaign in Jharkhand, days before the second and final phase of Assembly elections scheduled in the state November 20.

In the complaint registered with the poll panel, the second in a week, Congress General Secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh accused Jharkhand BJP of spreading "false and misleading" information on social media. He also alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was indulging in such a divisive campaign despite the registration of a criminal case in this regard.

Sharing the complaint in a post on X, Ramesh said it was the party's second complaint to the ECI against "BJP's false, misleading, and communal" social media posts uploaded on the party's official Facebook and X handles.

"Despite the registration of a criminal case, the BJP has not taken down its earlier social media posts. They are clearly continuing with their communal and divisive campaign in Jharkhand with impunity," the Congress leader alleged.

"We hope the ECI takes strict action against the BJP officials, including their social media in-charge," he added. In the complaint, Ramesh said he was writing to bring to light instances of "continued and egregious violations of the provisions of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) as well as extant electoral law being committed by BJP's Jharkhand unit through its official X account, @BJP4Jharkhand", and Facebook account, "BJP Jharkhand".

In a memorandum submitted to the ECI earlier, the Congress had complained against the "malicious, defamatory, and divisive" social media posts put up by the BJP's Jharkhand Unit. "Pursuant to our complaint, an FIR was registered against the said social media post. However, the post against which the complaint was filed is still there in the public domain," Ramesh claimed.

The Congress leader also claimed that despite the registration of a criminal case, the BJP and its Jharkhand unit have failed to take down the posts from their social media handles. The Congress leader also demanded direct registration of FIR against all individuals involved in the operation and control of BJP's Jharkhand unit and its social media accounts and pass any other such orders that the Commission deems fit in the interest of justice.

IN A MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED TO THE ECI EARLIER, THE CONGRESS HAD COMPLAINED AGAINST THE "MALICIOUS, DEFAMATORY, AND DIVISIVE" SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS PUT UP BY THE BJP'S JHARKHAND UNIT

SHORT TAKES

3 women drown in swimming pool

Mangalore (Karnataka): Three women allegedly drowned in a swimming pool at a resort near Ullal beach here Sunday, police said. The deceased have been identified as Nishita M D (21), Parvati S (20) and Keerthana N (21) - all from Mysore. According to the police, they had come on a pleasure trip to the beach resort 'Vazco' November 16, and were staying there.

MBBS student dies after ragging

Patan (Gujarat): An 18-year-old MBBS student of a medical college in Gujarat's Patan district died after allegedly after being made to stand for three hours during ragging by his seniors, an official said Sunday. The college has started a probe into the incident which took place Saturday. The deceased, who apparently fell unconscious after being made to stand for a long time, was a first year MBBS student at the college.

Group clash in Bengal, 15 held

Kolkata: Two groups of people clashed over an alleged objectionable message on a digital display board at a temporary gate at Beldanga in Murshidabad district, prompting the authorities to clamp prohibitory orders in the area, police said Sunday. Fifteen people allegedly involved in the clash were arrested, while internet services were suspended in the affected area.

Local AAMSU leader stabbed to death

Rangia (Assam): A local leader of All Assam Minority Students' Union (AAMSU) was stabbed to death by a person over a petty issue in Kamrup district, police said Sunday. The incident took place at the youth festival of Brahmaputra Valley Academy in Goraimari near Chhaygaon Saturday night, an officer said. "When the programme was going on, two people started arguing over some issue. Then it escalated into a full-blown fight. Suddenly one of them stabbed the other repeatedly, wounding him grievously," he said in a statement.

9 Kashmiris held with rifles, fake licences in Maha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 17: Nine Kashmiris were arrested in a joint operation of Ahilyanagar (formerly Ahmednagar) police in Maharashtra and Military Intelligence, Sothern Command and nine rifles as well as 58 live cartridges were allegedly seized from them, an official said Sunday.

The probe began after reliable information was received about some persons hailing from Jammu and Kashmir taking up jobs as security guards in cities in Maharashtra and carrying weapons with fake licences, the official said.

As part of the investigation, letters were sent to authorities in J-K to check the authenticity of these weapon licences and raids were carried out after confirmation was received about these not being genuine, he added. Raids led to nine persons being arrested in Ahilyanagar with nine 12-bore rifles and 58 bullets, the official said. They hail from Rajouri in Jammu.

He identified them as Shabbir Mohammad Iqbal Hussain Gujjar (38), Mohammad Saleem alias Salem Gul Mohammad (32), Mohammad Safraj Nazir Hussain (24), Jehangir Zakir Hussain (28), Shahbaz Ahmed Nazir Hussain (33), Surjit Rameshchandra Singh, Abdul Rashid Chidia (38), Tufel Ahmed Mohammed Gazia and Sher Ahmed Ghulam Hussain. "Sher Ahmed Ghulam Hussain is the main facilitator of the racket and took ₹50,000 each to provide 12-bore rifles and their fake licences to ensure the accused got jobs as security guards.



Riders take part in the MRF MOGRIP Supercross Championship 2024, in Bangalore, Karnataka

20 injured in cylinder blast

Chhatarpur (MP): More than 20 persons were injured in an LPG cylinder blast in Chhatarpur district in Madhya Pradesh Sunday, a police official said. The explosion took place in a hand cart selling patties in Bijawar, some 38 kilometres from the district headquarters. Sub Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) Shashank Jain said. "Prime facie, the explosion took place due to heat in the cylinder. Some twenty persons were injured and have been admitted to the district hospital. The exact number of those injured is not known," he said. Meanwhile, Bijawar MLA Rajesh Shukla, who reached the spot, said 35 persons sustained injuries in the incident.

Tomato prices drop 22.5 pc as flow of fresh crop picks up pace

New Delhi: The retail price of tomatoes is on the decline as the arrival of the fresh crop has picked up momentum in the wholesale markets. The all-India average retail price of tomato fell to ₹22.35 per kg as of November 14 which is 22.4 per cent lower than Rs 67.50 per kg October 14, according to a statement issued by the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs Sunday. During the same period, the average prices at Azadpur mandi declined by almost 50 per cent, from ₹5,883 per quintal to ₹2,969 per quintal with the increase in tomato arrivals. Similar declines in mandi prices are reported from benchmark markets such as Pimpalgaon, Madanapalle and Kolar, the statement said. The total annual production of tomatoes, as per the third advance estimate of the Department of Agriculture is 213.20 lakh tonnes in 2023-24, which represents a 4 per cent increase over 204.25 lakh tonnes in 2022-23.

Camera attendant dies on TV shows set

Mumbai: A camera attendant on the sets of popular TV show "Anupamaa" died following electrocution earlier this week, the All India Cine Workers Association has alleged. Police have registered an FIR against the contractor for negligence. Headlined by Rupali Ganguly, "Anupamaa" is produced by Rajan Shahi and Deepa" Shahi under the banner of Director's Kut Productions. It airs daily on TV channel Star Plus and streams digitally on Disney+ Hotstar. According to Suresh Gupta, president of All India Cine Workers Association (AICWA), a camera attendant named Vineet Kumar Mandal lost his life as there were "no safety measures" on the set here. The producers didn't reply when PTI reached out for a comment. Vineet Kumar Mandal was a camera attendant, who was on duty on the sets of the show 'Anupamaa', died due to electrocution November 14 at 9.30 pm. There are no safety measures in place for our workers. The Aarey Police has registered an FIR against the electrical contractor for negligence.

Nepal-India strengthen border security ties

Kathmandu: Nepal and India during an annual meeting agreed to better coordinate on border security and reviewed the work done in the past year in managing related challenges, an official said. Two sides during the eighth Nepal-India Border Security Coordination meeting between the Armed Police Force of Nepal and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) here Saturday discussed "a bunch of issues related to the boundary, border, human trafficking, checking cross-border criminal activities and coordination between the two agencies in border areas", Rishi Ram Tiwari, the spokesperson at the Home Ministry, told media persons. The meeting involving the Director Generals of SSB and APF focused on "several issues pertaining to better coordination on border security", Tiwari said.

Govt wants to re-enact law on disqualification of MPs

The legislative department of the Union law ministry has floated the draft 'Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, 2024' prepared on the lines of recommendations made by the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit (JCOP) then headed by Kalraj Mishra in the 16th Lok Sabha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: The government plans to repeal a 65-year-old law which lays the ground for disqualification of MPs for holding office of profit and bring a new one which is in sync with present requirements.

The legislative department of the Union law ministry has floated the draft 'Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, 2024' prepared on the lines of recommendations made by the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit (JCOP) then headed by Kalraj Mishra in the

16th Lok Sabha. The proposed Bill seeks to rationalise section 3 of the existing Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 and to remove the negative list of offices provided in the schedule containing offices, the holders of which would incur disqualification. It also proposes to remove the conflict between the existing Act and certain other statutes which have an express provision for not to incur disqualification.

The draft Bill also proposes to omit section 4 of the existing law relating to "temporary suspension" of disqualification in certain cases, and in its place



empower the central government to amend the schedule by issuing a notification. Seeking

views of the public on the draft bill, the department recalled that The Parliament (Preven-

tion of Disqualification) Act, 1959 was enacted to declare that certain offices of profit under the government will not disqualify the holders for being chosen as, or for being, a member of Parliament.

However, the Act contains both the aspects of enumerating the offices, the holder of which would not incur disqualification and those offices the holders of which would incur disqualification.

Parliament has, from time to time, amended the Act. During the 16th Lok Sabha, the JCOP undertook a comprehensive review of the law and sub-

mitted a report.

The committee stressed on the need for the law ministry to take into account obsolete entries in the present law. One of its key recommendation was to have a "comprehensive definition" of the term 'offices of profit'.

It also proposed simplification of language and formatting. The members nominated in various flagship schemes and programmes, such as Swachh Bharat Mission, Smart City Mission, Deen Dayal Upadhyay-Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, and other programmes should be "saved from incurring disqualification", it had recommended.

national



The promises made by the BJP have proven to be nothing but empty words as nearly a decade has passed with little to show for it. Where are the promised jobs, new roads, schools, and hospitals

J&K L-G CHAIRS HIGH-LEVEL SECURITY REVIEW MEET

J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha is chairing a high-level security meeting Sunday in Jammu to review the security scenario in the union territory following the recent attacks by the terrorists



of the day quote

We will not allow anyone to change Dr Ambedkar's Constitution. The Constitution's essence lies in democracy, socialism, impartiality, freedom of speech, and fundamental rights. No one can ever change these features

Unemployment and inflation are on the rise in the country due to wrong policies of the BJP-led government at the Centre. The BJP failed to check the price rise of essential commodities and increase employment opportunities

The people made BJP the number two party in Uttar Pradesh by making INDIA Alliance win with record votes in the Lok Sabha elections. Ever since the BJP lost the Lok Sabha elections, its leaders are unable to sleep

"We want jobs but the BJP government is busy with the agenda of religion and hatred. Now only Rahul Gandhi as the Prime Minister can set things right."

BJP deliberately wants Manipur to burn: Kharge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: As fresh violence erupted in Manipur, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Sunday alleged the ruling party deliberately wants the border state to burn as "it serves their hateful divisive politics".

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has cancelled his poll rallies in Maharashtra in view of the escalating violence in Manipur. Kharge said the people of state will never forgive or forget that Prime Minister Narendra Modi left them to fend for themselves and never set foot in their state to heal their miseries.

"@narendramodi ji, Under your double engine governments, 'neither Manipur is one, nor is Manipur Safe', the Congress president said in a post on X. "Since May 2023, it is undergoing unimaginable pain, division and simmering violence, which has destroyed the future of its people.

"We are saying it with utmost responsibility that it looks that the BJP deliberately wants Manipur to burn, for it serves its hateful divisive politics," he said. Kharge said at least 17 people have lost their lives since November 7, adding new districts are being added to the list of strife-torn regions and the fire is spilling over to bordering northeastern states.

"You have failed Manipur a beautiful border state. Even if you visit Manipur in future, people of the state will never forgive or forget that you left



@narendramodi ji, Under your double engine governments, neither Manipur is one, nor is Manipur Safe

them to fend for themselves, and never set foot in their state to heal their miseries and find a solution," the Congress chief said in a statement.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi also termed the recent string of violent clashes and continuing bloodshed in Manipur "deeply disturbing". He urged Prime Minister Modi to visit the state and work towards restoring peace in the region.

In a post on X, Gandhi said the recent string of violent clashes and continuing bloodshed in Manipur is deeply disturbing. "After more than a year of division and suffering, it was the hope of every Indian that the Central and state governments would make every effort at reconciliation and found a solution," the former Congress chief said. "I urge the PM once again to visit Manipur and

work towards restoring peace and healing in the region," he said in a statement.

AICC general secretary, organisation, K C Venugopal, said the "ongoing surge of violence in Manipur shows the extent to which matters have gotten out of control". "The killings have once again become an everyday occurrence and the mobs rule the streets," he alleged in a post on X.

"When even ruling party MLAs are not safe in Manipur, how can the ordinary citizen have any hope for peace? The crisis has spiralled out of control simply because of the PM and Home Minister's active choice to fuel the politics of hatred," he said in his post.

"The HM is busy campaigning, while the PM is off to yet another foreign visit while Manipur burns again. It is our urgent plea to the Centre to restore peace in Manipur at the earliest," the Congress leader said. A day after the bodies of three out of six missing persons were fished out of a river in Manipur, the protesters on Saturday attacked the residences of three state ministers and six MLAs, prompting the government to clamp prohibitory orders in five districts for an indefinite period besides suspending internet services in parts of the state.

In Imphal, angry protesters ransacked the houses of three legislators, including that of Chief Minister N Biren Singh's son-in-law, and set their properties on fire even as the security forces fired tear gas shells to disperse the agitators.

Vikash Yadav claims 'risk to life' in court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: A Delhi court has granted exemption from personal appearance to Vikash Yadav, accused of attempting to kill alleged Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in the USA, in a case of kidnapping and extortion lodged against him after he claimed threat to life.

Special Judge Sumit Dass granted the exemption to Yadav for November 16 on an application moved by his lawyer, claiming that his personal details have been made public, putting his life at risk. The judge directed him to appear before the court February 3, the next date of hearing.

Yadav was arrested by the Special Cell of Delhi Police in December last year following a complaint by a Delhi-based businessman, accusing him of extorting and kidnapping. A charge sheet was filed in March and Yadav was granted bail in April.

The application before the court stated that "false and frivolous allegations have been levelled against the applicant (Yadav) and the particulars of the applicant such as his residence, his background along with his photographs have been published all over the world, exposing the applicant to serious threat to his life from nefarious elements".

"The applicant is being hounded by continuous surveillance by inimical elements who are trying to trace the applicant at all possible places leaving no option for the applicant but to ensure his safety in confines. Threat to the life of the applicant is clear, present, grave, imminent and potential and physical appearance of applicant before the court is likely to lend an opportunity to annihilate the applicant," the application claimed.

DELHI AIR EMERGENCY

Stage-4 air curbs to begin today



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: The Centre's air quality panel has announced stricter pollution control measures for the Delhi-NCR under Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), effective from 8 am Monday, including a ban on truck entry and a temporary halt on construction at public projects.

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) issued the order as Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) worsened, reaching 441 at 4 pm and rising to 457 by 7 pm due to unfavourable weather conditions. According to the order, no trucks will be allowed into Delhi except for those carrying essential items or using clean fuel (LNG/CNG/BS-VI diesel/electric).

Non-essential light commercial vehicles registered outside Delhi will also be prohibited,

except for EVs and CNG and BS-VI diesel ones. Delhi-registered BS-IV or older diesel vehicles are banned, except for those in essential services, the panel said.

All construction activities, including highways, roads, flyovers, power lines, pipelines and other public projects, have been suspended. The CAQM suggested online teaching for the students of Classes VI to IX and Class XI.

It also recommended that offices in the National Capital Region (NCR) work at 50 per cent capacity, with the rest working from home. Work-from-home options may be introduced for central government employees, the panel said. State governments could also decide to close colleges, limit non-essential commercial activities and implement odd-even vehicle rules, it said.

Tharoor flags stagnant follower count on X

Tharoor, who is among the most-followed politicians in India, also said he had earlier written to X owner Elon Musk flagging the issue and in turn received a reply from a lawyer "flatly denying there was a problem"



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor Sunday raised questions over his followers on X remaining almost the same for four years and said there is clearly something wrong that the people in charge of the microblogging website in India do not care about.

Tharoor, who is among the most-followed politicians in India, also said he had earlier written to X owner Elon Musk

flagging the issue and in turn received a reply from a lawyer "flatly denying there was a problem". Tharoor's remarks came in response to a post by an X user who said, "Who can tell us, @elonmusk, why, despite being tremendously liked by people across various lines, Dr. @ShashiTharoor's @X followers remain stuck at 8.4M?"

Reacting to the post, Tharoor said, "Good question. This has been the case for four years! A source at the old Twitter India told me there was a problem he couldn't understand; he had reviewed my daily statistics over six months, and found a strange pattern my followers went up by over 1,000 a day, about 60-70 "unfollowed" me each day, but my overall followers total wouldn't budge above 8.495 million."



Visitors on a winter morning during smog near the India Gate in New Delhi. The national capital woke up to hazardous air conditions on Sunday as the Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded in the "severe" category

J&K: 40K aspirants join Army recruitment rallies

The recruitment rally in Poonch commenced at Advance Landing Ground in Surankote November 8 to fill 307 vacancies for soldier general duty and 45 vacancies for clerks and tradesmen in the Territorial Army

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Poonch/Jammu, Nov 17: Over 26,000 young aspirants participated in a recruitment rally conducted by the army after a gap of five years in Jammu and Kashmir's border district of Poonch, officials said Sunday.

Separately, another rally at Dugga near Bhalra in Doda district attracted over 12,000 enthusiastic youths eager to serve the nation, they said. The recruitment rally in Poonch commenced at Advance Landing Ground in Surankote November 8 to fill 307 vacancies

for soldier general duty and 45 vacancies for clerks and tradesmen in the Territorial Army, the officials said.

The rally was open to the candidates from 31 Tehsils of Jammu division, including Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi and Jammu districts, for soldier general duty while the candidates from entire Jammu and Kashmir were eligible to apply for clerks and tradesmen positions. "Over 26,000 enthusiastic candidates across the region took part in the selection process, showcasing their physical and mental readiness



to serve the nation during the 10-day rally," said an official of the army recruitment office, expressing satisfaction over the response of the youth. He said the recruitment drive was organised with the objective of providing employment opportunities and encouraging the youth to join the armed forces. The aspirants underwent various physical tests, including a 1.6 km run, chin-ups, and other endurance exercises, followed by medical examinations and documentation checks, the official said. "The response from the local youth has been tremendous. It is heartening to see such enthusiasm and passion to join the Indian Army. We are committed to providing a fair and transparent selection process," an officer of

the Territorial Army said.

He said around 4,000 candidates have cleared the ground test and will participate in the medical examination. The locals lauded the army for organizing the recruitment drive in the border district. "This is a significant step towards addressing unemployment in the border areas and instilling a sense of pride and patriotism among the youth," said Syed Imtiaz Kazmi, a prominent citizen of Surankote.

The officials said the event was conducted with strict adherence to safety protocols, ensuring that the large gathering was managed smoothly.

The recruitment process is expected to continue for the next three days, they said, adding this recruitment rally marks yet another milestone in the Indian Army's ongoing efforts to strengthen its bond

with people, providing new opportunities for the youth in the region that has historically faced challenges related to employment and development.

Many young aspirants expressed hope of securing a place in the prestigious armed forces, with dreams of serving the nation and supporting their families.

Mohd Asad, a local resident of Poonch, said that he joined the rally for the first time.

Another aspirant Mohd Iqbal from Haveli area of Poonch thanked the army for providing them an opportunity to serve the nation. A defence spokesman said the army is also conducting a 10-day recruitment rally for soldier general duty and soldier clerk and tradesmen at Dugga for the domiciles of Reasi, Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts from November 11.

POST OF THE DAY

"We want jobs but the BJP government is busy with the agenda of religion and hatred. Now only Rahul Gandhi as the Prime Minister can set things right."

- Youth of Maharashtra

@dhrvrahtee

SHORT TAKES

Independent MLA booked in Rajasthan

Jaipur: Independent MLA Ravindra Singh Bhati has been booked for obstructing government work during a protest against a private company in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district. The MLA allegedly got two youths, who were detained during the protest, freed from police detention. Bhati, the MLA from Sheo (Barmer), instructed the youths to come out of the police jeep. They got down from the vehicle and went away.

2 workers of bakery killed by fellow staff

Nagaon: Two workers of a bakery were killed by a fellow staff in Nagaon district of Assam, police said Sunday. According to Nagaon Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime) Jayanta Barua, the incident took place during the early hours of Sunday inside the bakery at Mullapatty area of Nagaon town. "We have arrested a suspect, who also worked in the same bakery. We do not know the reason behind this twin murder. It will come out in a detailed investigation," he told reporters here.

Hit-and-run case accused arrested

Udupi (Karnataka): Police Sunday said that they have arrested an accused in connection with the hit-and-run incident that led to the death of an auto driver at Belapu military colony of Kapu taluk November 13. Prajwal Shetty, son of Congress leader Deviprasad Shetty of Belapu, had allegedly sped away after the SUV he was driving rammed into Mohammed Hussain's bike. Hussain (39) died following the accident.

international



In my opinion, the American media's fabrication about a meeting between Elon Musk and Iran's representative is a form of testing the waters to see if the ground for such move exists

ABBAS ARAGHCI
FOREIGN MINISTER, IRAN

LANKA'S NEW CAB

Sri Lanka's new Cabinet will be sworn in Monday in the presence of President Anura Kumara Disanayake, his media office said Sunday



of the day quote

It was important to tell him (Putin) that he cannot count on support from Germany, Europe and many others in the world waning

OLAF SCHOLZ | CHANCELLOR, GERMANY



It will be difficult for North Korea to go to Washington without going through Seoul. That's how firmly we are making the cooperation regime between South Korea and the US

KIM YUNG-HO | UNIFICATION MINISTER, SOUTH KOREA



It was a 'positive phone call that we (Trump, Albanese) had. We spoke for 10 minutes, it was one of the first phone calls that he made

ANTHONY ALBANESE | PM, AUSTRALIA



1,000 days of Russia-Ukraine war

Russia is expending huge amounts of weaponry and human life to make small-but-steady territorial gains to the nearly one-fifth of Ukraine it already controls

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Nov 17: When Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine in February 2022, the conventional wisdom was that the capital, Kyiv, would soon fall and the rest of the country wouldn't last long against a much larger enemy. Instead, it was that narrative that quickly collapsed. The Ukrainian army proved it could slow the advance of Russia's

forces and, if not drive them out completely, then, with enough support from the West, at least forestall defeat.

But nearly three years later, the outlook is again grim. Russia is expending huge amounts of weaponry and human life to make small-but-steady territorial gains to the nearly one-fifth of Ukraine it already controls. Ukraine, meanwhile, is struggling to minimize losses, maintain morale and convince allies that, with more military aid, it can turn the tide.

As this brutal war of attrition grinds toward its 1,000th day, neither side seems eager to negotiate. President-elect Donald Trump has said he could quickly end the war, though it is unclear how or in whose favour he might tip the scales. This backdrop



appears to be driving Russia's strategy in eastern Ukraine, according to Phillips O'Brien, a professor of strategic studies at the University of St Andrews, Scotland. Trump could try to force an end to the war by halting the supply of weapons to Ukraine, he said.

For Ukraine, the key to any cease-fire would be guarantees

from the West that it won't allow Russia to re-invade in the future. Otherwise, O'Brien said, "a cease-fire is a recipe for constant instability in Europe".

In the war's first year, Ukraine lost huge amounts of territory, but it also achieved notable victories. It resisted a much larger adversary with superior air power to survive

Tens of thousands of soldiers from both countries have been killed since the start of the war in 2022, and the UN says at least 11,700 Ukrainian civilians have been killed

as an independent country, and it reclaimed some land through gutsy counteroffensives, giving the underdog and its wealthy allies, the confidence to stay in the fight.

In the second year, which was punctuated by Ukraine's devastating loss of Bakhmut and its failed counteroffensive, the armies essentially fought to a standstill along a 1,000 kilometer front line. Toward the end of that year, the US Congress delayed the approval of a \$61 billion package of aid for weapons, and economic and humanitarian assistance.

Bangladesh will seek extradition of Hasina: Yunus

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dhaka, Nov 17: Bangladesh's interim leader and Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus said Sunday that his administration will seek the extradition of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from India, where she has been in exile since fleeing a mass uprising in August.

In a televised address to the nation on his first 100 days in office, Yunus said that the interim government will try those responsible including Hasina for hundreds of deaths during the student-led uprising that ended her 15-year rule. Yunus took the helm August 8, three days after Hasina fled the country.

He said that not only the deaths in the uprising but all other violations of human rights, including alleged enforced disappearances while Hasina was in power, would be investigated. Bangladesh has sought help from the global police organisation Interpol in issuing a red notice for the arrest of Hasina and her associates.

Yunus added that about 1,500 people died in protests that brought down Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina this year, and as many as 3,500 may have been forcibly abducted during her 15-year rule.

The estimate by the economist and Nobel peace laureate, who is due to organise elections, is higher than the previous official count of about 1,000 deaths in the student-led demonstrations.

Venezuela frees 225 arrested after anti-govt protests

REUTERS

Caracas, Nov 17: Venezuela has freed 225 people arrested during anti-government protests over the nation's disputed presidential election in July, Attorney General Tarek Saab said late Saturday.

The releases were based on new evidence gathered by prosecutors, Saab said in a statement.

"Between the afternoon of Friday the 15th and Saturday the 16th, 225 measures of liberty were granted and executed to people prosecuted for the acts of violence that occurred after the July 28 elections," the statement said.

Saab, who has said the protests left 28 people dead and nearly 200 injured, said last week he would review at least 225 arrests.

According to Foro Penal, at least 1,800 people were arrested after the July 28 election, which kept President Nicolas Maduro in power despite disputed results. Maduro took office in 2013, and is set to begin his next six-year term in January.

Xi draws red lines for US

Xi Jinping tells Joe Biden that the 'Taiwan issue, democracy and human rights, pathways and systems, and development interests' are China's four red lines that must not be challenged

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Lima, Nov 17: Chinese President Xi Jinping warned the United States Saturday not to cross a "red line" in support for Taiwan, but told his counterpart Joe Biden that Beijing was willing to work with the incoming administration of Donald Trump.

Biden and Xi met on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Peru, two months before Trump takes office and amid concerns of new trade wars and diplomatic upheaval.

China claims Taiwan as its own territory and has refused to rule out using force to seize it, while the United States is the self-ruled island's main security backer even though it does not recognise Taipei diplomatically.

Xi told Biden that the "Taiwan issue, democracy and human rights, pathways and systems, and development interests are China's four red lines that must not be challenged", according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

"These are the most important guardrails and safety net for China-US relations," CCTV reported Xi as saying.

"The separatist actions of 'Taiwan independence' are incompatible with peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," he added.



China is ready to work with the new US administration to maintain communication, expand cooperation and manage differences, so as to strive for a smooth transition of the China-US relationship

XI JINPING | PRESIDENT, CHINA

Taiwan's foreign ministry said Sunday that "China's ongoing military provocations near Taiwan are the root cause of destroying regional peace and stability and the major threat to global economic prosperity".

Xi also told Biden that Washington "should not intervene in bilateral disputes and not condone or support provocative impulses" in the South China Sea, according to CCTV.

Beijing has this year pressed its sweeping claims in the contested waterway with greater assertiveness, despite increased frictions with regional neighbours and a longstanding international ruling that its claims have no legal basis.

Xi also said China's position on the war in Ukraine was "open and aboveboard", and that Beijing would not allow tensions on the Korean peninsula to "descend into conflict or chaos", CCTV reported.

He announced during a separate meeting that China would host the next APEC summit in 2026.

State news agency Xinhua said those talks would aim to "unite Asia-Pacific countries to champion open economic and trade cooperation while reject-

ing protectionist and confrontational trade tactics".

"Smooth transition" But Xi said China would "strive for a smooth transition" in relations with the United States and is ready to work with the incoming Trump government.

"China is ready to work with the new US administration to maintain communication, expand cooperation and manage differences, so as to strive for a smooth transition of the China-US relationship," Xi told Biden through a translator.

In his first White House term, Trump engaged in a bruising trade war with China, imposing tariffs on billions of dollars in Chinese products and drawing retaliation from Beijing.

He embraced a similar stance on the campaign trail this year. Both sides should "keep exploring the right way for the two major countries to get along well with each other," Xi said.

Xi warned Saturday that bilateral ties could "encounter twists and turns or even regress" if one side regarded the other as an opponent or enemy, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

NETANYAHU'S HOME BOMBED

REUTERS

Cairo, Nov 17: Two flash bombs were fired towards Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's home in the northern Israeli town of Caesarea Saturday and fell into the garden, police said.

Neither Netanyahu nor his family were present and there was no damage reported, it added in a statement.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said the incident crossed "all red lines" in a post on X early Sunday.

"It is not possible for the Prime Minister of Israel, who is threatened by Iran and its proxies who are trying to assassinate him, to be subject to the same threats from home," Katz said.

He also called on security and judicial agencies to take the necessary steps.

Israel's President Isaac Herzog condemned the incident in a post on X and said an investigation was underway.

"The incitement against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu crosses all boundaries. Throwing a flash bomb into his house tonight is crossing another red line," Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir also said on X.

Hezbollah's main spokesman killed

The main spokesman for Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group was killed in the first Israeli airstrike on a central Beirut in more than a month Sunday, an official with the militant group told The Associated Press.

Israeli strikes in the Gaza Strip had earlier killed 12 people, Palestinian medical officials said.

The Hezbollah official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media, said



Pope suggests int'l study into genocide in Gaza

Rome: Pope Francis has suggested the global community should study whether Israel's military campaign in Gaza constitutes genocide of the Palestinian people, in some of his most explicit criticism yet of Israel's conduct in its year-long war. In excerpts published Sunday from a new forthcoming book, the pontiff said some international experts say "what is happening in Gaza has the characteristics of a genocide". "We should investigate carefully to assess whether this fits into the technical definition (of genocide) formulated by international jurists and organizations," the pope said in the excerpts, published by Italian daily La Stampa. Israel has denied all accusations of genocide. The Israeli foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the pope's remarks.

Mohammed Afif was killed in the strike in central Beirut.

Afif had been especially visible after Israel's military escalation in September and following the assassination of longtime Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, who was also killed in an Israeli airstrike.

Methane from tropical wetlands risks climate

Four studies published in recent months say that tropical wetlands are the likeliest culprit for the spike, with tropical regions contributing more than 7 million tonnes to the methane surge over the last few years

REUTERS

Baku, Nov 17: The world's warming tropical wetlands are releasing more methane than ever before, research shows, an alarming sign that the world's climate goals are slipping further out of reach.

A massive surge in wetlands methane, unaccounted for by national emissions plans and undercounted in scientific models, could raise the pressure on governments to make deeper cuts from their fossil fuel and agriculture industries, according to researchers.

Wetlands hold huge stores of carbon in the form of dead plant matter that is slowly broken down by soil microbes. Rising temperatures are like hitting the accelerator on that process, speeding up the biological interactions that produce methane. Heavy rains, meanwhile, trigger flooding that causes



wetlands to expand.

Scientists had long projected wetland methane emissions would rise as the climate warmed, but from 2020 to 2022, air samples showed the highest methane concentrations in the atmosphere since reliable measurements began in the 1980s.

Four studies published in recent months say that tropical wetlands are the likeliest culprit for the spike, with tropical regions contributing more than 7 million tonnes to the methane surge over the last few years. "Methane concentrations are

not just rising, but rising faster in the last five years than any time in the instrument record," said Stanford University environmental scientist Rob Jackson, who chairs the group that publishes the five-year Global Methane Budget, last released in September.

Satellite instruments revealed the tropics as the source of a large increase. Scientists further analysed distinct chemical signatures in the methane to determine whether it came from fossil fuels or a natural source, in this case, wetlands.

The Congo, Southeast Asia and the Amazon and southern Brazil contributed the most to the spike in the tropics, researchers found.

Data published in March 2023 in Nature Climate Change shows that annual wetland emissions over the past two decades were about 500,000 tonnes per year higher than what scientists had projected under worst-case climate scenarios.

Capturing emissions from wetlands is challenging with current technologies.

"We should probably be a bit more worried than we are," said climate scientist Drew Shindell at Duke University.

The La Nina climate pattern that delivers heavier rains to parts of the tropics appeared somewhat to blame for the surge, according to one study published in September in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Modi receives Nigeria's national award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abuja, Nov 17: Nigeria Sunday conferred its national award, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger, on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his statesmanship and stellar contribution to fostering bilateral ties, making him the second foreign dignitary to receive the distinction.

In a ceremony at the State House, Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu conferred the national award on Prime Minister Modi.

"Honoured to be conferred with the 'Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger' Award by Nigeria. I accept it with great humility and dedicate it to the 140 crore people of India and the friendship of India and Nigeria," Modi said after receiving the award.

The Prime Minister thanked the government and the people of Nigeria for the honour.

The award citation notes that under the Prime Minister's visionary leadership, India has

SECOND-HIGHEST HONOUR



been positioned as a global powerhouse, and his transformative governance has fostered unity, peace and shared prosperity for all. This was the 17th such international award conferred on Modi by a country.

Queen Elizabeth II was the only foreign dignitary who was awarded GCON in 1969.

In his remarks, Modi said the relations between India and Ni-

geria are based on mutual cooperation, goodwill and respect. "As two vibrant democracies with dynamic economies, we have been working together for the well-being of the people of both countries," he said.

Modi said that in his meetings with the Nigerian leadership, he discussed on making mutual cooperation strong and broad.



We recommend implementing the Odd-Even Rule for Petrol and Diesel Vehicles in the coming months so that a good impact can be seen for the air pollution levels in Delhi, and subsidy on EVs and CNG/CBG vehicles, as this will compel the citizens to shift to greener fuel alternatives

GAURAV KEDIA
 CHAIRMAN, INDIAN BIOGAS ASSOCIATION

CNG RETAILERS WANT PRICE HIKE

City gas companies are mulling an increase in CNG prices after supplies of cheaper input gas was cut for the second time in a month, but the government officials say the retailers must give a cost breakup to justify the hike. The government, with effect from November 16, cut supplies of low-priced natural gas coming from old fields to city gas retailers by up to 20 per cent. This reduction came on the back of a 21 per cent reduction October 16



Business

of the day quote

This week is also shortened due to a holiday, and with the earnings season largely concluded, attention will shift back to FII flows. Foreign institutional investors have been on a consistent selling spree for the past month and a half. Additionally, traders will keep a close watch on global market trends

AJIT MISHRA | SVP, RESEARCH, RELIGARE BROKING



We expect that to hopefully moderate over the next two quarters and then the urban growth is expected to recover because that has been impacted a little bit by the high food inflation that is prevailing

SAUGATA GUPTA | MD & CEO, MARICO



At present, India already has more than 7,000 CNG stations and aim is to have approximately 17,500 CNG stations by 2030 which will further fuel the CNG demand

TARUN GARG | WHOLE-TIME DIRECTOR AND COO, HMIL



FPIs continue to dump equities

Indian markets fell 10% while US markets moved up 10-12% since September. Even Chinese markets have corrected 10%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: Foreign investors have pulled out ₹22,420 crore from the Indian equity market so far this month, owing to high domestic stock valuations, increasing allocations to China, and the rising US dollar as well as Treasury yields.

With this sell-off, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have recorded a total outflow of ₹15,827 crore in 2024 so far.

As liquidity tightens, FPI inflows are expected to remain subdued in the short term. A positive shift in FPI activity is unlikely before early January, keeping overall market sentiment weak, Akhil Puri, Partner, Financial Advisory, Forvis Mazars in India, said.

According to the data, FPIs recorded a net outflow of ₹22,420 crore so far this month. This came following a net withdrawal of ₹94,017 crore in October, which was the worst monthly outflow.

Before this, FPIs withdrew ₹61,973 crore from equities in



BUY CHINA, SELL INDIA

SELLING-SPREE

- FPIs WITHDRAW ₹22,420CR FROM EQUITIES IN NOV
- TOTAL OUTFLOW OF ₹15,827CR IN 2024
- OCT SAW WORST MONTHLY OUTFLOW OF ₹94,017CR

The relentless FPI selling since October has been triggered by the cumulative impact of three factors: one, the high valuations in India; two, concerns regarding the earnings downgrade; and three, the Trump trade

VK VIJAYAKUMAR | CHIEF INVESTMENT STRATEGIST, GEOTFINANCIAL SERVICES

March 2020.

In September 2024, foreign investors made a nine-month high investment of ₹57,724 crore.

“While there is a larger belief that part of selling in November and large part of the year-round selling has been

due to the ‘Buy China, Sell India trade for FPIs’, our sense is that it’s been a ‘Buy US, Sell India + other EMS’ trade due to the Presidential election event in the US,” Piyush Metha, smallcase Manager and CIO at Caprize Investments, said.

This is evident from the US market returns versus Indian markets since September -- Indian markets fell 10 per cent while US markets moved up 10-12 per cent during the same period. Even Chinese markets have corrected 10 per cent from their recent top made in end-September.

ANTI-BLACK MONEY LAW

Failure to disclose foreign assets, income to invite ₹10L penalty

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHORT TAKES

FTA talks on course

New Delhi: Negotiations for all the proposed free trade agreements, including those with the UK and European Union (EU), are progressing as per the schedule and the country's FTAs are not paused, a top government official has said. The official said that an impression is going around that FTAs are paused, which is not correct. “All our FTAs, whether it is with the EU or UK, all are progressing as per the schedule,” the official said. In the coming weeks, a bilateral meeting is scheduled between the commerce secretary and the Director-General of the European Union to take stock of the negotiations for the proposed trade agreement with the European Union. They will also meet as part of the Trade and Technology Council (TTC). Besides the EU and the UK, India is negotiating these agreements with Australia, Peru, Sri Lanka, and Oman.

Top firms take big hit

New Delhi: Eight of the top-10 most valued firms together lost ₹1,65,180.04 crore from market valuation in a holiday-shortened last week, with HDFC Bank and State Bank of India taking the hardest hit in line with a weak trend in equities. Last week, BSE benchmark Sensex fell by 1,906.01 or 2.39 per cent. Equity markets were closed Friday for Guru Nanak Jayanti. Reliance Industries remained the most valued domestic firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, Infosys, State Bank of India, ITC, LIC and Hindustan Unilever. “Mounting concerns over rising CPI inflation and persistent disappointments in corporate earnings weighed heavily on sentiment,” Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Startups raise \$182mn

New Delhi: The Indian startup ecosystem raised more than \$182 million in funding this week, a substantial gain from last week's \$138 million funding. At least 24 Indian startups secured nearly \$182.62 million, led by three growth-stage deals and 19 early-stage deals. Till October this year, Indian startups have raised nearly \$10 billion in funding and were on track to surpass the total funding of \$10.5 billion raised throughout last year.



TAX
The last date to file a belated and revised ITR is Dec 31

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015,” the advisory stated.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the administrative body for the tax department, had said that as part of the campaign it will send “informational” SMS and email to those resident taxpayers who have already filed their ITR for AY 2024-25.

The communication will be sent to such persons who have been “identified” through information received under bilateral and multi-lateral agreements “suggesting” that these individuals may hold foreign accounts or assets, or have received income from foreign jurisdictions.

The purpose of the campaign is to remind and guide those who may not have fully completed schedule foreign assets in their submitted ITR (AY 2024-25), especially in cases involving high-value foreign assets, the CBDT had said.

Debt MFs see strong recovery

₹1.57L-cr inflow on investment in liquid schemes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: Debt-oriented mutual funds witnessed a strong recovery in October, driven by investments in liquid schemes and attracting a net inflow of ₹1.57 lakh crore after huge redemptions in the previous month.

Notably, 14 of 16 debt mutual fund categories reported net inflows during the month, while medium-duration and credit risk funds maintained their trend of consistent outflows.

The positive inflow boosted the asset base of debt mutual funds by 11 per cent to ₹16.64 lakh crore in October-end from ₹14.97 lakh crore at the end of September, according to data with Association of Mutual Funds on India (Amfi).

As per the data, debt mutual funds attracted inflows of ₹1.57 lakh crore in October, marking a sharp reversal from the outflows of ₹1.14 lakh crore recorded in September.

Within the debt fund, liquid funds led the inflows with ₹83,863 crore, accounting for 53 per cent of the total, followed by overnight funds and money market funds with ₹25,784 crore and ₹25,303 crore, respectively.

“Corporates typically channel surplus funds into liquid and money market funds post-tax settlements in September, reflecting a preference for these low-risk, highly liquid op-



BOUNCE BACK

Positive inflow boosted the asset base of debt mutual funds by 11% to ₹16.64-cr in Oct-end from ₹14.97L-cr at end of Sept

Overall, mutual fund industry witnessed inflow of ₹2.4L-cr in the month under review, after an outflow of ₹71,114 crore in Sept

“This is purely a transfer of the domain from our side because we believe it could be useful for them. Whether or not they choose to use it is up to them,” the message added.

In their previous message, the siblings said they had received numerous offers, including some genuine ones offering significant amounts. However, they had said that the domain was not for sale.

While announcing the “journey with jiohotstar.com is coming to an end”, the duo said they are waiting for a draft from the Reliance legal team for the transfer.

“The Reliance IP legal team

₹5,600 crore, ₹4,644 crore, and ₹1,362 crore, respectively.

Additionally, after four consecutive months, banking and PSU funds have seen huge inflows to the tune of ₹936 crore.

In recent months, anticipation of a rate cut has fuelled interest in active duration strategies, with these funds positioned to benefit from potential interest rate declines.

In October, gilt funds experienced inflow of ₹1,375 crore, while long-duration bonds saw ₹1,117 crore. Inflows into these funds are expected to rise further once the rate easing cycle begins. Apart from debt funds, investors pumped in a record ₹41,887 crore in equity-oriented mutual funds during the month under review against an investment of ₹34,419 crore.

Overall, the mutual fund industry witnessed an inflow of ₹2.4 lakh crore in the month under review, after an outflow of ₹71,114 crore in September. The huge inflow was due to investments into debt schemes.

“The Reliance IP legal team

India registers 12% rise in deal volume in Jan-October YoY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 17: India saw 11.9 per cent increase in deal volume (year-on-year) in the January-October period, bucking the overall trend in the Asia-Pacific region, a new report has said.

On the other hand, China experienced YoY decline in deal volume by 22.9 per cent during the period, according to GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company.

A total of 11,808 deals (mergers and acquisitions, private equity and venture financing deals) were announced in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region during January to October 2024, which was a year-on-year (YoY) decline of 4.8 per cent, compared to the 12,406 deals announced during the same period in 2023.

An analysis revealed that during January-October, the number of private equity and venture financing deals declined by 16.3 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively.

Meanwhile, the M&A deals volume experienced a marginal YoY improvement during the review period.

Tata, Pegatron JV for iPhone plant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: India's Tata Electronics has agreed to buy a majority stake in Taiwanese contract manufacturer Pegatron's only iPhone plant in India, forming a new joint venture that strengthens Tata's position as an Apple supplier, two sources told Reuters.

Under the deal announced internally last week, Tata will hold 60% and run daily operations under the joint venture, while Pegatron will hold the rest and provide technical support, said the two sources, who declined to be named as the details are not yet public. Apple is increasingly looking to diversify its supply chain beyond China amid geopolitical tensions between Beijing and Washington. For India's Tata, the Chennai Pegatron plant will bolster its iPhone manufacturing plans.

Tata is one of the largest conglomerates in India and has been fast expanding into iPhone manufacturing, rivaling the only other iPhone contract manufacturer operating in India, Foxconn.

The announcement for the deal's closure was made internally at the iPhone plant Friday, said the first source.

The second source said the two companies plan to file for an approval of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in the coming days.

The Tata-Pegatron plant, which has around 10,000 employees and makes 5 million iPhones annually, will be Tata's third iPhone factory in India.

GENEROUS GESTURE

Reliance gets jiohotstar.com 'free of cost'

The unique website ID was said to have been initially registered by a Delhi-based app developer last year amid speculation about the potential merger of Reliance Jio and Disney Hotstar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: Dubai-based siblings Jainam and Jivika, the owners of jiohotstar.com domain, have decided to transfer it to Reliance “free of cost”, resting speculations on social media platforms.

The story of the internet domain name, which grabbed a lot of attention on social media platforms in the recent past, ended with “seva and kindness”, according to the duo.

The unique website ID was said to have been initially registered by a Delhi-based app developer last year amid

speculation about the potential merger of Reliance Jio and Disney Hotstar.

Last month, the developer came up with the demand for funding his higher studies at the Cambridge University in return of the domain's ownership transfer, days after Reliance Jio and The Walt Disney formally announced the merger of their media businesses.

Later, the Dubai-based siblings purchased jiohotstar.com domain from its registered owner. According to industry observers, the domain was sold to Dubai-based siblings after Reliance declined his offer.



The siblings now shared an update, saying the Reliance IP Legal team approached them and the duo has decided to pass the ownership to them (Reliance), hoping that it would be “useful for them”.

“There have been some rumours online suggesting that there is a payment or deal involved, but we want to make

it clear -- this is not true,” the message said.

Moreover, the duo in his video also clarified there is “no pressure from anyone” and denied of having a “deal of any kind”.

“This is purely a transfer of the domain from our side because we believe it could be useful for them. Whether or not they choose to use it is up to them,” the message added.

In their previous message, the siblings said they had received numerous offers, including some genuine ones offering significant amounts. However, they had said that the domain was not for sale.

“The Reliance IP legal team

has contacted us. We have told them that the domain transfer will only happen after the agreement is signed. They have asked us to visit Mumbai to sign the agreement,” they said, expecting the agreement to be signed soon.

“As soon as this happens, we will transfer the domain and this website will come to an end,” the message said.

Reliance had last week announced completion of the merger of its media assets with the India business of global media giant The Walt Disney, forming a joint venture worth around ₹70,352 crore (\$8.5 billion).

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.

Eves notch up 5th win on trot

India top group on Asian CT and will once again face Japan in one of the semifinals



Deepika (right) celebrates with the other goal-scorer Navneet Kaur after successfully converting a penalty corner against Japan in the Asian Champions Trophy game played Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajgir (Bihar), Nov 17: Defending champions India stormed into the semifinals of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy (CT) with an unbeaten record, defeating Japan 3-0 here Sunday. They had already qual-

ified for the last four stage with their 3-0 win Saturday over China. Sunday's victory meant that the hosts did not drop a single point in the group stage.

Continuing her stellar form, star striker Deepika netted a quickfire brace from penalty corners in the final quarter

to seal the victory, following vice-captain Navneet Kaur's opener in the 37th minute.

With this win, India topped the league stage with maximum 15 points from five matches, ahead of Olympic silver medalists China (12 points). India will face fourth-

- Deepika so far the leading goal-scorer in the tournament with 10 goals
- India have only conceded 3 goals so far, 2 against Korea and 1 against Malaysia

placed Japan in the semifinal Tuesday, while China will play third-placed Malaysia in the other last-four game.

Deepika, the tournament's leading scorer, now has 10 goals in her kitty, including four field goals, five penalty corners and one penalty stroke, underscoring her dominance.

In the day's other matches, Malaysia beat Thailand 2-0, while China defeated South Korea by an identical margin.

The Indians secured their first scoring chance in the form of back-to-back penalty corners in the eighth minute but Deepika's flick from the second effort was brilliantly saved by Japanese goalkeeper Yu Kudo. India earned another penalty corner in the 13th minute but yet again wasted the chance.

The Indians continued to dominate and secured their fourth penalty corner in the 25th minute but once again Kudo rose to the occasion and made three brilliant saves to deny the hosts. A minute after the change of ends, Kudo again came to Japan's rescue to deny Deepika.

India eventually broke the deadlock through Navneet's brilliant reverse hit to the second post. It was indeed a special goal as Navneet was half-facelining her own goal post, but still managed to find the corner of the net.

Smith wants to be proactive in battle against R Ashwin



Australia will bank heavily on Steve Smith in the series against India

AGENCIES

Melbourne, Nov 17: Australian batting talisman Steve Smith wants to adopt a proactive approach against Ravichandran Ashwin in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy to avoid his struggles against the Indian spinner during the 2020-21 series.

Ashwin had nicked off Smith thrice during that rubber, and later in 2023 the Indian off-spinner dismissed the Aussie twice as he could only make 22 runs against his old foe.

"I don't like getting out to off-spin in Australia. But he's (Ashwin) also a very good bowler and he came in with

some decent plans. There were a couple of occasions where he got on top of me," Smith was quoted as saying in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

"But then I got on top of him at the SCG when I was a bit more proactive (Smith made 131 and 81 at Sydney). So, that's key for me. Just be proactive against him and not let him settle and bowl the way he wants to," added the experienced Australian batter.

Ashwin's Test bowling average stands at a modest 42.15 in Australia compared to his home average of 21.57. Smith hoped to land the first blow on the 38-year-old to gain an early upper hand in the five-match

series, beginning at Perth November 22.

The Tamil Nadu man recently said that he had worked out Smith after some initial struggles against him. "I think I've kind of figured out what he does or how he bats, I've had an edge over him. I've had the wood over him," Ashwin had told *Channel Seven*.

But Smith did not read too much into it. "Ashwin and I have had some good battles over the years. When you have five matches, if someone gets on top of another player, they could have 10 innings against them," Smith stated.

"So, you're facing those mental challenges each game, and if it goes one way early, they will feel under pressure against that player. There's nowhere to hide in five games like there are in a two-game series," said the New South Wales man.

Put Kohli under pressure: McGrath

Melbourne: Pace legend Glenn McGrath feels Australia have the 'ammunition' to target an 'emotional' Virat Kohli, who will be under pressure if he gets off to a poor start at the five-match Test series. "Without a doubt, especially after coming off a 3-0 loss against New Zealand, you've got plenty of ammunition to back yourself up," *Fox Cricket* quoted McGrath as saying. So put the pressure on them (India) and see if they're up for it," he added. McGrath however, pointed out that the Aussies should not overdo the 'aggressive' part. "If they go hard at him (Kohli), if he gets in the fight with emotions, there's a bit of chat out there, who knows he might sort of lift," said the 54-year-old former Australia pacer.

SHORT TAKES

Shami to play in 50 overs matches

New Delhi: Despite taking seven wickets in his first competitive game in almost a year, Mohammed Shami is not going to Australia very soon. Sources in the BCCI said Sunday here that the selectors want Shami to play a few white ball games in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) which is a 50 overs tournament. Accordingly, Shami will play for Bengal in the tournament. They want to judge Shami's fitness over a period of time and not just a single game. Shami took seven wickets playing for Bengal in the Ranji Trophy against Madhya Pradesh. However, the board and the selectors do not want to rush Shami to Australia. They want him to play a few games before he is put in an aircraft to Australia. There is a possibility of Shami joining the Indian team before the third Test," sources added.

Gymnast coach Bela Karolyi dead

Washington: Bela Karolyi, the charismatic if polarizing gymnastics coach who turned young women into champions and the United States into an international power in the sport, has died. He was 82. USA Gymnastics said Karolyi died Friday. No cause of death was given. Karolyi and wife Martha trained multiple Olympic gold medalists and world champions in the US and Romania, including Nadia Comaneci and Mary Lou Retton. "A big impact and influence on my life," Comaneci, who was just 14 when Karolyi coached her to gold for Romania at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, posted on Instagram.

Rory on a roll

Dubai: Rory McIlroy capped off a tumultuous year by winning the World Tour Championship and his sixth title as Europe's No. 1 player here Sunday. He birdied two of the last three holes for a 3-under 69 to win by two over Rasmus Hojgaard. McIlroy hit a wedge to within a foot on the 16th hole to break out of a tie with Hojgaard, then closed with a six-foot birdie for his third title in the European tour's season finale. He won the Race to Dubai — previously known as the Order of Merit — for the sixth time in his career, leaving him two behind the record held by Colin Montgomerie and tying him with the late Seve Ballesteros.

Fritz sets up Sinner date

First US player to reach the final of the ATP Finals since James Blake in 2006



Taylor Fritz waves to the crowd as he leaves the court after his win over Alexander Zverev at Turin

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turin (Italy), Nov 17: Taylor Fritz is starting to make reaching big finals a habit. He feels like he belongs among the very best players in tennis, too. The American followed his runner-up finish at the US Open by beating Alexander Zverev 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7-3) here Saturday to play for the trophy at the

ATP Finals.

"I have believed that I belong, that I'm one of the best players," Fritz said after his match. "It's not results-based. It's more I can feel how I'm playing. This week is huge."

In the final, Fritz will face top-ranked Jannik Sinner — the player he lost to in the US Open final. Sinner also beat Fritz in straight sets

in the group stage this week. Sinner advanced with a rapid 6-1, 6-2 win over Casper Ruud.

Fritz became the first American finalist since James Blake lost the 2006 final to Roger Federer. The last American to win the elite eight-man event was Pete Sampras, who beat Andre Agassi in 1999.

"I trust my game and I trust my level and I don't feel nearly as uncomfortable in these situations anymore because I've been playing the top guys at big events a lot lately," Fritz said. "I'm getting more comfortable in the moment. I'm really, really confident in my game," he added.

Fritz is trying to match Coco Gauff. If Fritz wins the trophy, it will mark an American sweep of the season-ending events after Gauff won the WTA Finals last week. Fritz is playing at the ATP Finals for the second time. On debut two years ago, he beat Rafael Nadal in his opener and made it to the semifinals, losing to Novak Djokovic.

"It's awesome to come back and already go a step further," Fritz said. "I'm all about always trying to do better than the year before."

22-member squad for Santosh Trophy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: The Football Association of Odisha (FAO) has selected a 22-member team for the 78th Santosh Trophy football tournament which will be played in Punjab November 21 to 25. Odisha are in Group F and will play all their games at Amritsar. The team have already left for the venue, officials said Sunday. The other teams in Odisha's group are Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Odisha will play their first game against MP November 21 while they will take on Chhattisgarh November 23. If they qualify for the knockouts, they will have to play at a different venue.

The squad: (Goalkeepers): Sanjay Hembram, Siddhanta Pradhan, Rahul Oram; **(Defenders):** Abinash Muduli, Ashok Bag, Baisal Tigga, Mahesh Hansda, Rakesh Oram, Wangdan Lama; **(Midfielders):** Bikash Kr Sahoo, Arpan Lakra, Chandra Mohan Murmu, Rakesh Kr Sahoo, Manachitra Marandi; **(Forwards):** Prakash Naik, Roshan Panna, Arbin Lakra, Kartik Hantal, Dinabandhu Das, Jitu Muduli, Rahul Mukhi and Sanjiv Khora.

Akshaya Das has been appointed then head coach of the side while Mahabir Nath, Abani Mohan Mohanty and Suraj Thappa will be his deputies.

BUMRAH TO LEAD AS ROHIT OPTS OUT

Indian skipper to join team only ahead of Adelaide Test



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, November 17: Jasprit Bumrah will lead India in the first Test against Australia beginning November 22 at Perth, officials of the BCCI informed Sunday. They said that Rohit Sharma wants to spend some more time with his family after the birth of his son, who has been christened as 'Surya'.

"Rohit has said he will join up with the team before the second Test at Adelaide. There is a gap of nine days between the Perth and Adelaide games.

- Rahul had suffered an injury on his elbow Friday
- Devdutt Padikkal asked to stay in Australia as back-up

Hence Rohit will have ample time to adjust and settle down," a source close to the team said.

"Bumrah is the designated vice-captain of the Indian team. Hence in Rohit's absence, the mantle of captaincy will be taken up by him," the source added.

Meanwhile KL Rahul batted at the India nets Sunday in Perth, allaying concerns surrounding his fitness ahead of the first Test. It is more or less certain that Rahul will open the innings with Yashasvi Jaiswal. The team's think tank is banking on Rahul's experience.

Rahul had left the field for medical attention Friday after sustaining a blow on his elbow by pacer Prasidh Krishna while batting in an intra-squad practice match at the WACA ground. But on this day, the 32-year-old batted without any major discomfort.

"He (Rahul) looks fine now, and the physio will continue to monitor him for the next few days to ensure that there is no discomfort," a BCCI source said.

Titles for Harshit, Lalit, Arish



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Harshit Ranjan Sahu of Cuttack emerged winner of the senior category at the 2nd All Odisha Open Championships which was held Sunday in the City. In the junior category, Lalit Ranjan Sahu of Cuttack emerged triumphant with five points, while the sub-junior category was won by Arish Nanda Goswami representing Bhubaneswar. He also finished with five points.

In the sub-junior category, Manish Mishra (4.5 points) and Aditya Jena (4.5 points) finished second and third respectively. Even though both had identical scores, Manish was adjudged runner-up as he had better Buchholz score.

In the junior segment Rohit Mallick (Jajpur) and Atul Panigrahi of Bhubaneswar (both with four points) finished second and third. Here also the Buchholz score was taken into account as four players had finished with four points.

Magnus magic floors rivals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 17: World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen completed a remarkable double at the Tata Steel Chess tournament, clinching the blitz title with a round to spare here Sunday. Just days after securing the rapid title, the 33-year-old Norwegian maestro produced a scintillating performance, including a dramatic turnaround against Indian prodigy Arjun Erigaisi in the penultimate round, to reach an unassailable 12 points.

Carlsen capped off the tournament in style, defeating Vidit Gujrathi in the final round to finish with three consecutive wins and a total of 13 points to claim the blitz crown. This marks his second double victory here, replicating his triumph Mallick (Jajpur) and Atul Panigrahi of Bhubaneswar (both with four points) finished second and third. Here also the Buchholz score was taken into account as four players had finished with four points.



Magnus Carlsen poses with his blitz and rapid trophies

PTI Photo

day. I was lucky that Wesley was the one who went on a big streak because he couldn't realistically catch me. Overall, the tournament win is good. The score is not great but very decent, so I'm happy," Carlsen said at the end of the day.

"I'm heading to Singapore in a few hours to promote 'Freestyle Chess' with Fabiano Caruana. I'll

be playing a match with Fabi in a few days. It should be fun, and being a tourist at the World Championships for a couple of days will be exciting," Carlsen added.

The Indian contingent performed admirably, with Erigaisi (10.5 points) claiming third place, followed by R Praggnanandhaa (9.5) in fourth, and Gujrathi (9) in fifth.

MANOLO EYES FIRST VICTORY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Nov 17: India football head coach Marquez Manolo has not notched up a win in three matches, and he admitted Sunday his team need "to improve in everything" during the international friendly against familiar opponents Malaysia to be played here Monday.

Under Manolo, who was appointed head coach in July, India have so far lost once while drawing twice. India drew against Mauritius and lost 0-3 to Syria in the Intercontinental Cup in September. The team drew with Vietnam 1-1 in their last match October 12.

"Obviously, we want to win after a long time. Football is about attack, defence, transitions and set pieces. We need to improve in everything," Manolo said at the pre-match press conference.

"People say your team played a great second half in Vietnam. I say 'yes', but we still made some big mistakes," he added.