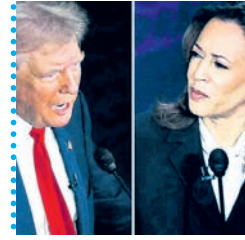




Madhuri Mantra

Madhuri Dixit shares her thoughts on what makes a happy and successful partnership in life

LEISURE | P2



Last ditch efforts

As US presidential elections enter its last stage, Donald Trump and Kamala Harris urge their supporters to vote

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Air purifier sales spike

Demand for air purifiers sees a surge as air quality, especially in Delhi-NCR, drops to hazardous levels

BUSINESS | P11



Wriddhiman retires

Veteran India wicketkeeper-batter Wriddhiman Saha announces his retirement at the end of the current season

SPORTS | P12

GOVT TO BUY KHARIF PADDY FROM NOV 21

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Paddy procurement for the current Kharif season will begin November 21, Revenue and Disaster Management (R&DM) Minister Suresh Pujari said after a meeting here Monday.

Pujari said paddy procurement would start from Bargarh district. "It (paddy procurement) will begin November 21. The minimum support price (MSP) for paddy is ₹2,300 per quintal and the state government will provide additional assistance of ₹800, making ₹3,100 per quintal the total procurement price," the R&DM Minister said.

Designated officials will be deployed at mandis throughout the procedure so as to ensure smooth paddy procurement. "There will be a supervisor for each four-five mandis. Quality testing machines will also be installed at mandis. Additionally, the state government will also take care of the transportation of paddy from mandis to rice mills," he pointed out.

This incidentally is the first time that paddy will be procured at ₹3,100 per quintal directly from the farmers.



DISASTER STRIKES: Onlookers watch anxiously after an IAF Mig-29 fighter jet crashed and caught fire on a farmland near Agra, Monday. The pilot however, ejected safely

NIT doc dies by suicide

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 4: A medical officer (MO) working at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) here died by suicide by hanging himself, police said Monday. The deceased was identified as Dr Santosh Duggar, 27, a native of Bijapur district in Karnataka. The body was found hanging Monday at his quarters on NIT premises, local authorities said.

Police officials from Sector-3 police station, led by Prati-bha Manjari Sahu, inspector-in-charge (IC) and a forensic team arrived at the scene and conducted investigations. They sent the body to the Ispat General Hospital for post-mortem. Duggar, who was a bachelor, had been working at the NIT health centre since 2023 and lived in Block A of the 'Verghese Kurien Hall of Residence'. A suicide note was reportedly recovered near his body, sources said. Authorities stated that Duggar had not reported for duty at 9.00am Monday as scheduled. The previous evening, an on-duty doctor at the health centre tried to contact him, over phone but received no response. When they reached his room, they found him hanging.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We'll come whenever you call, but don't expect us to silence the fre crackers or the communal speeches

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	33.0°	30.5°
Min Temp	21.6°	22.0°
Humidity	81%	82
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST

Dry weather very likely to prevail over the districts of Odisha

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	78782.24	↓ 941.88
NIFTY	23995.35	↓ 309.00
DOLLAR	84.11	↑ 0.03
EURO	91.70	↑ 0.57
GOLD	₹78,538	↓ ₹329
SILVER	₹94,726	↓ ₹757

Oppn plans walkout

Six Opposition MPs in the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) scrutinising the Waqf (Amendment) Bill have written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla protesting against what they call unilateral action by chairman of the panel Jagadambika Pal. They have said that if Pal continues to run the panel in this manner, they will have no option, but to dissociate themselves from the panel. The Waqf panel has lately been in the news over various controversial issues including TMC's Kalyan Banerjee breaking a glass bottle and allegedly throwing it towards Pal during a meeting October 22. Banerjee had then alleged that Pal was biased towards committee member and BJP MP Abhijit Gangopadhyay. Opposition members have also alleged that Pal is not giving them any time to prepare for meetings or for talking to representatives of various communities. Earlier in August they claimed that a large number of Waqf properties are in fact in 'unauthorised' possession of many government bodies including the Archaeological Society of India (ASI). However, it was hotly disputed by BJP members in panel who counter-alleged that land belonging to many government organisations have been claimed by Waqf as its own. Many times during the meetings, there have been heated arguments between the Opposition and ruling party members with no concrete suggestions evolving for the Bill.



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 4: Opposition MPs in the Joint Parliamentary Committee scrutinising the Waqf (Amendment) Bill are likely to meet Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Tuesday over its chairperson Jagdambika Pal's alleged unilateral decisions and attempts to 'bulldoze' proceedings without giving them reasonable time to prepare. The members claimed that they have been 'stonewalled' during the committee's proceedings. They have written in their letter, that they may be forced to disassociate with the panel. Opposition members, including DMK's A Raja, Congress's Mohammad Jawed and Imran Masood, AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi, AAP's Sanjay Singh and TMC's Kalyan Banerjee among others, have written the joint letter addressed to the Speaker. They accused Pal, a seasoned BJP MP, of taking 'unilateral decisions' on fixing the dates of sittings and at times for three consecutive days, and who to call as witnesses. They said it is not practically possible for MPs to interact without preparation. The panel's proceedings have been marred by frequent protests from opposition members over a host of issues, while the BJP members have accused them of deliberately trying to scuttle its work. Pal has rejected the charge that he has not allowed opposition members to air their views, asserting that he has ensured that everybody is heard. Opposition MPs have also questioned the JPC hearing from groups – such as Odisha-based 'Panchasakha Bani Prachar' – arguing that these have no stake in discussions on the Waqf law.

Cyclone Dana damage pegged at ₹600 crore

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Odisha Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said Monday as per preliminary assessment severe cyclonic storm Dana has caused damage to public and private properties worth around ₹600 crore in the state. 'Dana' struck the eastern coast early morning October 25, triggering torrential rain and high-speed winds uprooting trees and electric poles and causing significant damage to infrastructure and crops in 14 districts of Odisha. Speaking to mediapersons here, Pujari said as per preliminary estimate the state suffered ₹600 crore damages due to the cyclone. "The final damage as-

- 14 districts hit by 'Dana', worse affected Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara
- Approximately 41 lakh persons affected by cyclone

essment report will come up in a day or two", Pujari stated. The minister said that a total of 166 blocks in 14 districts have been either partially or fully affected by the cyclone. The districts are – Angul, Balasore, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Khurda and Puri. Approximately 41 lakh people residing in 11,637 villages have been affected due to the cyclone,

Pujari said and added that Balasore, Bhadrak and Kendrapara districts suffered the maximum damages. "The total loss can be assessed after the compilation of district and department-wise damage reports," informed Pujari. "Initial reports indicate that a total of 16,417 houses were damaged, of which 27 were completely destroyed while another 14,680 residences sustained partial damage. The Energy department has suffered severe damage while the Panchayati Raj department is yet to submit its damage report, Pujari informed. After getting the final damage assessment report from Odisha, the central team would visit the state to hold discussions with the government, the minister said.

Canada Hindu temple attack: 3 held

AGENCIES

Brampton (Canada), Nov 4: After a video of the alleged attack on the Hindu Sabha temple goes by pro-Khalistani extremists here surfaced online, the Canadian police arrested three people Monday. However, the police in a chargesheet called the alleged attack just a 'protest' and there was no mention of 'Khalistani' mob.

"Peel Regional Police were present at a demonstration held at a place of worship in Brampton. As a result of these demonstrations, three individuals have been arrested and criminally charged for their actions," the police said. "Several acts of unlawfulness continue to be actively investigated by our 21 Division criminal investigation bureau," police added.

MBBS STUDENT CRIES RAGGING

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 4: A first-year MBBS student of SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCB-MCH) here has approached the hospital authorities alleging that he was subjected to ragging by one of his final-year seniors Sunday. Sources said the anti-ragging committee of the hospital has launched a probe into the allegations. SCBMCH superintendent (in-charge) Lucy Das, however, refuted the ragging claim dubbing it an attempt to malign the reputation of the institution. "A few final-year MBBS students Sunday asked some first-year students about their names and contact details. However, so far, we haven't received any written or verbal complaint in this regard. Such an allegation is baseless," Das pointed out.

The incident comes a few days after five MBBS fourth-year students of MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur were expelled from the hostel for six months for allegedly ragging a few second-year students.

Bengali the only Asian Indian language on New York's ballot papers

MORE THAN 2 LAKH BENGALI-SPEAKING PEOPLE MAY CAST THEIR VOTES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Nov 4: More than 200 languages are spoken in this city, according to the Department of City Planning, backing the claim of it being the melting pot of America. However, the ballot papers in the US presidential elections will have only four other languages apart

from English. And guess what? Bengali represents the Indian languages in this list. The US will Tuesday vote to elect its 47th President. "We are required to service four other languages besides English. It is Chinese, Spanish, Korean and Bengali as the other languages," informed Michael J Ryan, executive director, Board of Elections, NYC. Subhasheesh, who works as a sales agent in a store at Times Square, has Bengali roots. He is happy that his father living in the Queens area will get lin-

guistic assistance when he goes to cast his vote. "People like me know English but there are many in our community who are comfortable in the native language. This helps them at the polling station. I am sure my father will like the idea of seeing a Bengali language ballot paper," said Subhasheesh. The inclusion of Bengali on ballot papers is not just a courtesy but a legal requirement. By law, New York City is obligated to provide voting materials in Bengali at certain poll sites.



Ryan explained the reason why Bengali is among the list of languages the Board of Elec-

tions serves. "There was a lawsuit about language access and as you know India has a lot of different languages within it. The settlement of that lawsuit required within a certain population density to have an Asian Indian language. Then through some negotiations, they settled on Bengali," Ryan stated. The first time the South Asian community in Queen's found ballots translated into Bengali was in 2013. The addition of Bengali-language ballots came nearly two years after the federal government ordered the

city to provide language assistance to South Asian minorities under a provision of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. The Bengali-speaking population includes people coming from Asian countries like India and Bangladesh. While it does not represent the whole gamut of languages spoken in the region, the inclusion of this language is expected to have a significant impact on voter participation within the Bengali-speaking community, stated Dr Avinash Gupta, an official of an Indian association.

leisure



KATHRYN HAHN DOESN'T NEED 'SEX APPEAL' TO LAND ROLES

Kathryn Hahn insists ageing hasn't slowed down her career. The 51-year-old American actress believes not being chosen for roles for her 'sex appeal' has opened more doors for her.

JOHNNY DEPP'S LAWYER 'WOULD NEVER' DATE HIM

After romance rumours were brewing during Johnny Depp's trial with Amber Heard that Johnny was in a relationship with his lawyer Camille Vasquez, she has insisted she 'would never' date the star.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
You feel positive about imbuing the ideas of spirituality today. This will make you open to the idea of accepting the responsibility for old mistakes, and it includes your relations with people in your neighbourhood.

TAURUS
You are not likely to take anything lying down today, says Ganesha. If you find anyone plotting and planning against you, you will not be too polite in dealing with them. Violent outbursts could make you lose the grace and dignity you are known for. You could end up regretting your actions and having second thought about your beliefs and principles.

GEMINI
You will need to curb your ten to pay attention to the professed demands and needs of other people over your own. Your work-load today will demand creative solutions and will require some amount of brain-storming with your colleagues. People of the opposite sex will play an important role in your life today, says Ganesha.

CANCER
You will be attracted to the opposite sex and a love affair may ensue. You will turn more open and generous. You will have a realisation and handle issues with understanding. Ganesha is with you.

LEO
While the schedule you have planned for today will see some major changes, you will still stick by your decisions resolutely. If you suspect anyone of wrongdoing, now is the time to clear your misgivings. The day may start off on a tense note but by evening, things will be peaceful and calm, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Ganesha warns that there may be a lot of problems brewing for you today. You will need to put in a lot of extra efforts in order to complete a lot of work that is pending because you have been procrastinating for a long time. You will feel inclined to share your most intimate secrets with your partner.

LIBRA
Ganesha says today is a day where you will have to make important decisions so be careful before making them. Those of you who are working professionals may find themselves favored by topmost officials who will be pleased with you and may give you promotions or a bonus.

SCORPIO
Your confidence level will be the vanguard of your character today, says Ganesha. On the career front, you are likely to complete things that are seemingly impossible. Your skill and determination will leave people asking for more, predicts Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Like a true Archer, targets are your aim today and focus, the buzzword. On the business front, the fast buck that you expected may not materialise. Though love may portray a rosy picture for you, today you end up having a tough time managing relationship. Be patient, advises Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
Never judge a book by its cover. Same applies to human beings, also. And, you are one of them. At first, you may not be able to impress the other person with your looks, but once you display your communication power, you win him over, feels Ganesha. You are blessed with an art, the art to convince others.

AQUARIUS
What you have been trying to corner of your heart, may come fore today. At work, you will be more patient and calm. Everyone will notice this change in you. Your friends and family members will also be surprised to see a different side of your personality, says Ganesha.

PISCES
Ganesha advises you not to entertain the desire to remain secluded and to spend time with friends and family. If you manage to do this then you will have a happy and exciting day. You will have memorable moments with closed ones and may even end up organizing a small party for them. Ganesha says this might be a especially good day for artists.

Regina: North is unforgiving

Hyderabad: Regina Cassandra, known for her performances in numerous Tamil and Telugu movies, is gearing up for the release of her next film, *Vidaamuyarchi*, alongside Ajith Kumar. The actress, who has also worked in Bollywood, recently discussed the similarities and differences between the South and Hindi film industries. She also highlighted the challenges an artist might face upon entering Bollywood.

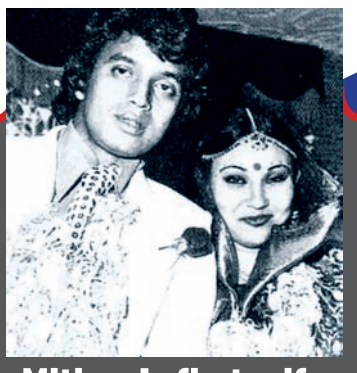
Regina revealed that learning Hindi in school, thanks to her mother's encouragement, turned out to be highly beneficial for her acting career. She noted that many of her South Indian actress friends face language barriers when working in the North, as sync sound is more commonly used there, unlike in the South, where dubbing is typically preferred. Regina explained that Northern industries can be less forgiving about language proficiency. "They are pretty unforgiving in the North; if you cannot get the language right, they are not going to take you. But in the South, if you cannot get the language right, they are still okay with taking you on as part of the film," she added.



Madhuri's secret to happy marriage

New Delhi: Madhuri Dixit Nene has been married for 25 years. The actress has now shared her thoughts on what makes a happy and successful partnership, which she agrees is not "easy peasy."

"It's a lot of things. You have to give and you have to take. And you have to realise that, you know, these are two human beings under one roof. So, there will be positives and there will be negatives and you just understand that," Madhuri told this agency. "And understand the fact that you will always be working towards a goal that's, you know, equal to both of you, right? You both have dreams and you have equal goals. And you're always working towards that," she added. The actress, whose latest release is *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* with Kartik Aaryan, Vidya Balan and Triptii Dimri, said that one has to work towards their marriage everyday. "It's not easy peasy. You have to work at it every day and it's a partnership. There should be respect for each other. There should be love for each other. There should be space for each other also." "I think all these things together make a marriage work," she added.



Mithun's first wife Helena dies in US

Mumbai: Actress Helena Luke, the first wife of actor-politician Mithun Chakraborty, passed away in the US, Sunday. However, the cause of her death is currently not known.

The news of her death was confirmed by dancer and actor Kapana Iyer on social media. Helena was known for her work in the Amitabh Bachchan-starrer *Mard*, in which she essayed the role of a British queen. She and Mithun were married for just four months. Helena later moved to the United States, where she settled and worked in the airline industry. Despite her brief film career and short-lived marriage, she is remembered for her contributions to Hindi cinema. She wrote in her final Facebook post, "Feeling weird. Mixed emotions and no idea why, discombobulated (sic)". Meanwhile, the *Disco Dancer* actor has been feted as the 54th winner of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award. Earlier, this year, the actor was honoured with prestigious Padma Bhushan award.

SAMANTHA'S MANTRA TO DE-STRESS

Mumbai: Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu took the help of some heavy weights to de-stress herself.

Samantha took to Instagram stories, where she shared a video of herself doing some heavy weighted squats. She is seen dressed in a black oversized T-shirt paired with shorts and knee caps. In the clip the actress is seen holding weights, which seems to be above 40 kilos of weight, as she did one squat. For the caption, the actress wrote: "De-stressing #CitadelHoneyBunny premieres today." *Citadel: Honey Bunny*, which also stars Varun Dhawan, is by Raj & DK. While Varun takes on the role of Bunny, a skilled stuntman, Samantha plays a spy in the film.

The storyline revolves around Varun and Samantha as they change their identities and embark on an exciting, globe-trotting adventure. The cast also includes Kay Kay Menon, Saqib Saleem, and Sikandar Kher in significant roles. Samantha Sunday enjoyed a serene holiday in the picturesque landscapes of Rajasthan. She shared a collection of photos from her trip, showcasing her stunning looks, pottery sessions, and delightful food experiences. She showcased a range of outfits, including one featuring the Tamil word "Azhagi," which means beautiful woman and is also described as a girl whose smile could outshine the sun.



Show-on, show-off and showing-up

A stellar artist of Bollywood showbiz ensured a pre-Diwali light up of our city firmament recently as her presence added more sparkle to the store inaugural than the gems and jewels on its shelves. Following the event, eventful happenings followed suit. Suited in a salwar-kameez, our elegant show-stopper not only took the blessings of Lord Shiva at his holy abode but also took the city by storm (hot on the heels of cyclone *Dana*) when, strict prohibitions notwithstanding, pictures from within temple premises emanated from her mobile phone. The ensuing social media fury, surpassed the fury generated by *Dana*. Along with a show-cause notice served to the temple supervisor who possibly got waylaid from serving up temple guidelines to serving celebrity whims, it has been

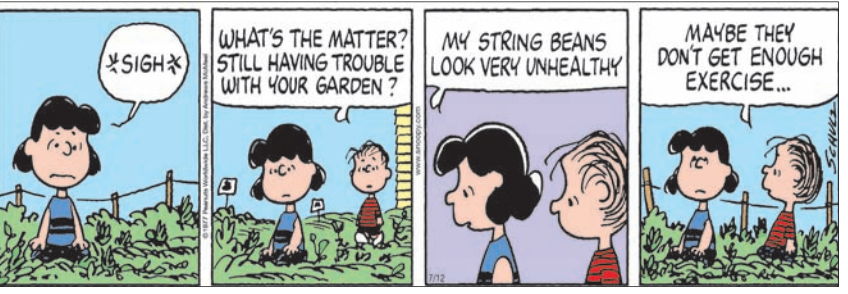


a show running house-full since the past few days. Speaking of shows or show-offs, distant off-shore ones are MAGMA rich volcanoes probably about to burst (somebody else's or their own bubble) in about a week's time. Flipping burgers and serving french-fries to customers at a drive-thru outlet by a certain presidential candidate to have his point (we are as confused as this currently blonde-haired man in aprons doling out fries) driven home to voters may altogether drive them bonkers and flip or fry

his chances (of MAGA). The fast-food giant roped in for the staged gig has meanwhile geo-positioned itself in the Goldilocks territory, claiming its stance is all golden not red, or blue. It is a critical golden hour for people of all colours of this state to decide on which tone of greatness (red/ blue) they desire for their country. Amidst all kinds of bizarre shows, showing-up of an ASHA worker in the face of cyclonic calamity, to carry a paralytic woman on her back to a cyclone shelter touched a chord with people. She was rightfully commended by the head of state and lauded as a hero for her selfless humanitarian act. It is thus fair to derive that the best kind of show is no show at all! But the very design of our fragile life is such that the 'show must go on'.

DR. RACHNA RATH

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

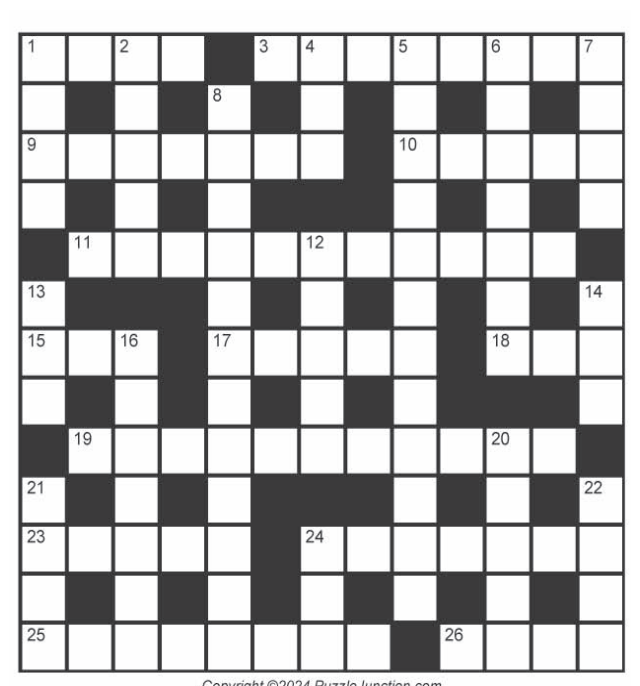


BREVITY



FUN POST

CROSSWORD



- Across**
1 Shoestring
3 Brochure
9 Spotted horse
10 "Mr. Bean"
11 Fortune tellers
15 Colourful carp
17 Cheesy snack
18 Court
19 Guardianship
23 Odd-toed ungulate
- Down**
24 Lightning bug
25 Equestrian sport
26 Computer memory unit
1 Canter
2 Words to live by
4 Put two and two together
5 Wet blankets
6 Philistine
7 Shade
- 8 Ornery
12 South American capital
13 Island strings
14 Herd of seals
16 Picture
20 Peachy-keen
21 Partner of born
22 Harp's cousin
24 Mediterranean tree

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

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

CROSSWORD

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

AM/NS not shifting steel project from Odisha: Min

Industries Minister Sampad Swain said the steel giant has been imparting skill training to 60 diploma engineers from Kendrapara district to engage them in the upcoming project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Industries Minister Sampad Swain Monday said ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS) was "not shifting" its proposed mega steel plant from the state.

The minister accused Opposition BJD of misleading the people by alleging that the AM/NS was shifting its proposed project from Odisha.

"There is no possibility of AM/NS withdrawing from Odisha. We have taken two review meetings where the company showed interest in the project. About 200 company officials both from India and Japan are working on the Odisha project," Swain said.

The minister said AM/NS has been imparting skill training to 60 diploma engineers from Kendrapara district to engage them in the upcoming project.

"AM/NS is a big steel company and they have about 50 steel plants across the world. Their plan to set up another project in any state does not mean that they are withdrawing from here," the minister said.



Besides taking steps to set up the proposed project in Kendrapada, the company has also announced to establish another major steel plant of 7mtpa in Paradip.

The Industries minister also claimed that several companies which had scrapped their projects in Odisha during the previous BJD regime are now coming back after the BJP formed government in the state.

The AM/NS had signed a MoU with the state government to set up a 24 mtpa greenfield mega steel facility in Kendrapara district at an investment of Rs 1.02 lakh crore which will be bigger than POSCO's 23 MT-PA steel mill at Gwangyang in

South Korea, the world's largest. Former Odisha minister and senior BJD leader Pratap Jena told reporters that former chief minister Naveen Patnaik had visited Japan and held talks with the chairman of Nippon and made efforts to set up the biggest steel plant in Kendrapara. "However, the project is now moving to Andhra Pradesh which is unfortunate," Jena said.

"The project, which was supposed to generate a lot of revenue for the state and employment for thousands of youths, is being shifted from Odisha due to an inefficient government in the state," Jena said.

Meanwhile, a senior executive of the AM/NS Monday said that the company has no such intention to drop the 24mtpa steel plant planned in Kendrapara district.

The company official said the AM/NS has been exploring investment opportunities at various locations to further expand its business.

He said required formalities for the Kendrapara project are in different levels of government approvals.

PCC CHIEF APPOINTMENT Cong leaders to accept AICC decision



FLAG BEARERS: Party workers gather outside Congress Bhawan in Bhubaneswar during a core committee meeting of senior leaders, Monday

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: All the senior Congress leaders in the state Monday unanimously passed a resolution agreeing they would accept the new state unit chief to be appointed by the party high command.

This was stated by Congress election committee member Charan Das Mahant, who held a marathon meeting with the party leaders, including some former OPCC presidents, MLAs and MPs, on the matter.

The PCC chief's post remains vacant for over three-and-a-half months after the AICC dissolved the state unit of the party.

"All the senior leaders today passed a unanimous resolution and agreed they will accept any

leader of the OPCC selected by the party high command," Mahant told reporters after the meeting.

Asked when the OPCC will get a new president, Mahant said that it will be any time after the Assembly election results in Jharkhand are declared November 23.

"Soniaji, Rahulji and Khargeji are aware of the party's situation in Odisha. They will elect the new leader to head the OPCC," he said.

Referring to his discussions with the party leaders, Mahant said that all of them have opined that a strong leader needs to lead the party in Odisha.

"Some of them said that the leaders who have performed well in the previous panchayat and urban polls should be given

priority. Some also expressed the view that a group of leaders should lead the party in Odisha. We will inform everything to the party high command which will take the final decision," he said.

He said the selection committee will submit its report to the party after its visit to the state.

"Even if we submit the report, they (leadership) will not be able to go through it till the Jharkhand Assembly election results are declared November 23. Following this, we will hold discussions with the high command and, if required, they will visit the state again," he added.

Mahant, however, declined to comment on the likely names for the OPCC chief.

According to party insiders, former Union ministers Sri-

kant Jena and Bhakta Charan Das, and former MLA Mohammed Moqim are frontrunners for the post.

The names of Koraput MP Saptagiri Ulaka and former OPCC president Prasad Harichandan are also doing the rounds.

Presently, the Odisha Congress is being run by a 15-member coordination committee after the AICC dissolved the party's state unit and dismissed all state office-bearers, including the state president Sarat Pattanayak, following the party's dismal performance in this year's simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the state.

All the district, block and divisional committees of the party in Odisha were also dissolved.

Illegal liquor trade on rise in Kakatpur and Astaranga

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kakatpur/Astaranga, Nov 4: People living in Astaranga and Kakatpur areas have urged the Superintendent of Police (SP), Puri to initiate effective measures to stop the rampant illegal smuggling and trade of liquor, and other narcotic substances, from urban centres to rural pockets in these areas.

Sources said areas in and around Kakatpur and Astaranga in Puri district are fast becoming hotspots for illegal liquor activities. Smugglers are expanding the unauthorised liquor sales beyond markets and into rural areas. Sources said scant and irregular patrolling by the police and Excise department personnel is giving free passage to the transportation of liquor from market places for distribution in surrounding villages. Smugglers are using innovative methods to smuggle and trade liquor as well as narcotics. Peddlers are using scooters to discreetly deliver liquor from licensed shops in rural areas. "Lack of consistent police presence on the main roads has led to open and unchecked trafficking of these substances," sources said.

A local said traders are finding ways to bypass police and Excise department surveillance, enabling both country-made and foreign liquor smuggling operations to flourish.

Probe into 50 unnatural jumbo deaths begins



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) across Odisha Monday began investigating the unnatural death of nearly 50 wild elephants in the past seven months, an official said.

The probe started two days after Forest Minister Ganesh Ram Singhania ordered a detailed inquiry into the deaths, calling the situation "very alarming".

"DFOs of 38 divisions across the state have begun investigations into the deaths," a senior Forest department official said.

At least 56 elephant deaths were reported in the state between April and mid-October this year, of which 10 were natural. Others were due to electrocution, road and train accidents, and unknown reasons, the official said.

According to the elephant census this year, the state has 2,098 pachyderms across 38 forest divisions.

The maximum number of jumbo deaths was reported

from Baripada and Dhenkanal, Angul, Athagarh and Keonjhar forest divisions.

"We have started working on the minister's order," said Angul DFO Nitish Kumar.

Besides ordering a probe, the minister Saturday said that the state government has been taking various steps to prevent the unnatural death of elephants.

"However, there is a need for more care and sincerity on the part of Forest officials to ensure a safe environment with statutory protective measures for the safety of the elephants. Priority must be given on the matter and errant officers must not be let off scot-free," Singhania was quoted as saying in the statement.

The wildlife wing of the Forest department recently re-assigned protection squads from forest division levels to circle levels for more effective wildlife protection.

Besides, the Odisha government has set up 31 special courts across 30 districts of the state to deal with wildlife-related crime cases.

Conduct survey of boundary wall, SJTA urges ASI

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Authorities of Srimandir in Puri Monday urged the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to conduct a scientific survey of the boundary wall of the 12th-century shrine since cracks have been noticed on it.

Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Chief Administrator Arabinda Padhee wrote to ASI, saying that cracks have been discovered on the giant wall around the temple complex.

Padhee has also requested the ASI for immediate repair and restoration of the 'Meghanad Pacheri' (boundary wall).

He said that the civil construction wing of the SJTA has taken steps to prevent water leakage on the wall.

Besides, tender process has also been initiated to improve the drainage system of Anand Bazaar, a place inside the temple where people take 'Mahaprasad'.

Differently-abled Sikkim man hurt after 'hit' by Odisha Police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gangtok/Berhampur, Nov 4: A differently-abled man from Sikkim was injured after being allegedly hit with a lathi by a traffic policeman near Gopalpur beach in Odisha, triggering outrage in the Himalayan state.

Odisha Police ordered a probe into the incident and promised of strict action against anyone found guilty, but claimed that the man had sustained injuries after falling down from a speeding two-wheeler.

Sikkim's Citizen Action Party (CAP) strongly condemned the incident and demanded action against the policeman.

The incident took place Sunday evening when Wegen Sherpa, a differently-abled resident of Sikkim who was working at a fast food centre at Balugaon in Odisha, and his friends were returning from Gopalpur beach.

"They were stopped by traffic police. In the subsequent turn of events, Sherpa was struck on the head with a lathi by a police officer, rendering him unconscious. He was admitted to AIIMS Bhubaneswar in a critical condition," CAP spokesperson Albert Gurung said.

Sources in the Odisha Police, however, claimed that Sherpa, who was riding pillion on a two-wheeler, fell down when the rider, his friend, accelerated to avoid vehicle checking at Sandha Chhaka as they were in

an inebriated condition.

Sherpa was first admitted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur before being referred to AIIMS Bhubaneswar. He is currently out of danger and has been shifted to the general ward for observation, a senior police officer said.

Papun Sahu, one of Sherpa's friends accompanying him, however alleged on social media that Sherpa sustained injuries following assault by police.

Characterising the event as "gross abuse of power and serious violation of human rights," CAP called for immediate action against the officer involved following thorough intervention to ensure justice is served.

"The inhumane and unjustifiable act has not only inflicted severe physical trauma on Mr Sherpa but also shaken the faith of countless citizens in law enforcement," Gurung said.

"We urge the authorities to take this matter seriously and prioritise justice for Mr Sherpa," he said. The CAP is also pressing for measures to prevent future recurrences of such incidents, emphasising the need for law enforcement to respect the rights and dignity of all citizens, including those from outside the state.

Berhampur Superintendent of Police Saravana Vivek M has ordered an inquiry into the incident.

NGT seeks state's report on cracker curbs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) Monday asked the state government and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on the measures taken by them to ensure proper enforcement of the Supreme Court restrictions on firecrackers.

While hearing a plea filed by environmentalist Sanjay Kumar Nayak through advocate Sankar Prasad Pani, the Eastern Zone Bench of the environment watchdog has served notices on the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, Odisha State Pollution Control Board Member Secretary, CPCB Member Secretary, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration Chief Administrator, Special Relief Commissioner and Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives seeking their responses in connection with the



issue within six weeks.

The petitioner had informed the NGT that the apex court had banned the production and sale of all crackers except 'green crackers'. It also banned the manufacture and sale of 'joined crackers', prohibited the use of barium salts in fireworks and said their noise levels should be within permissible limits. The court also banned their online sales and directed that they can be sold only through licensed traders and laid down

the time schedule for bursting on various occasions.

This apart, the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC), Odisha had, in October 2021, ordered similar restrictions on firecrackers.

The authorities, however, have failed to ensure proper enforcement of the restrictions, the petitioner said.

Citing examples, the petitioner said in order to counter growing air pollution, a National Clean Action Plan (NCAP) was made operational in 2018. Under the plan, all cities have to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Those who do not meet these standards are termed non-attainment cities. In all, CPCB identified 102 non-attainment cities in the country. Of these, seven - Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Angul, Talcher, Balasore, Kalinganagar and Rourkela - are in Odisha. In these cities, the

ambient air quality does not meet NAAQS with respect to PM10 and PM2.5. Therefore, any kind of use of firecrackers will further deteriorate the air quality in all such cities, and the NGT has prohibited the use of firecrackers there.

"However, despite the SC and NGT restrictions, especially in the non-attainment cities, people in Bhubaneswar last year used firecrackers even after 10pm. The ambient air quality following the day of Diwali exceeded 900ppm," the petitioner said. Apart from highlighting the ill effects of firecrackers on environment, the petitioner also pointed out some instances where cracker mishaps led to loss of human lives.

"Many people lost their lives in the firecracker mishap seven - Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Angul, Talcher, Balasore, Kalinganagar and Rourkela - are in Odisha. In these cities, the



'Hidden' leprosy can silently affect brain

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 4: A new study by researchers at AIIMS Bhubaneswar Monday showed a 'hidden' form of leprosy can silently affect the brain and spinal cord.

While leprosy is an ancient disease that often leads to disfiguring skin sores, a lesser-known form of leprosy - pure neuritic leprosy (PNL) - can inflict significant damage without any visible skin changes.

This "hidden" form of leprosy primarily affects peripheral nerves, and is often undiagnosed.

Not being diagnosed on time can lead to delayed treatment and potential disabilities.



The study, published in the medical journal Acta Neurologica Belgica, challenges the conventional understanding of PNL as solely a peripheral nerve disease.

It highlights the importance of assessing central nervous system involvement for early detection and treatment, a finding that can lead to new therapies and treatments that can boost outcomes.

A majority of PNL cases have subclinical involvement of the central nervous system, said Dr Sanjeev Kumar Bhoi, Head of the Neurology Department, AIIMS Bhubaneswar.

"This means the disease can silently affect the brain and spinal cord even without causing noticeable skin lesions - a hallmark of leprosy," the doctor explained. The new finding will have significant implications for leprosy diagnosis and management. It will also pave the way for earlier diagnosis and targeted interventions.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I, Rajendra Pradhan, S/o- Srikanta Charan Pradhan, resident of ward No.- 6, Benuda, P.O.- Katisahi, P.S.- Kamarda, Dist.- Baleshwar, Pin- 756035, Odisha declare by this affidavit No.- 169/2024 dtd.- 01.10.2024 that now onwards I shall be known as RAJENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN for all future purposes.

I, Sanjulata Das, W/o- Prabhakar Kumar Das, resident of At- Gohal, P.O.- Jagannathpur, P.S.- Baliana, Dist.- Khorda, PIN- 752101 Odisha declare by this affidavit No.- 1561, dtd.-11.09.2024, that now onwards I shall be known as Basanta Manjari Das for all future purposes.

I, Pravat Kumar Das, S/o- Late Birabar Das, resident of At- Gohal, P.O.- Jagannathpur, P.S.- Baliana, Dist.- Khorda, PIN- 752101, Odisha declare by this affidavit No.-1561, dtd.-11.09.2024, that now onwards I shall be known as Prabhakar Kumar Das for all future purposes.

By virtue of an Affidavit sworn before Notary Public, Cuttack dated 02nd Nov. 2024. I, TASNIM HUSAIN KANCHWALA, W/o Husain Kanchwala residing at Metro Plaza, Fez-II, Buxibazar, Cuttack - 753001, declare that I have changed my daughter's name from INSIYA to INSIYA KANCHWALA. Henceforth, she shall be known as INSIYA KANCHWALA for all purposes.

Before Executive Magistrate, Bhadrak I LALITA SAHOO ALIAS RANJULATA SAHU, D/O- SHUKADEB PHUHAN W/O-SUSANTA SAHOO, At.Sodha, PO-Dobal, PS. Dhamnagar Dist.- Bhadrak declared that LALITA SAHOO and RANJULATA SAHU@SAHOO W/O-SUSANTA SAHOO is one and same person in the locality.

I, Anil Kumar Pradhan, S/o Antaryami Pradhan, C-103 Laxmisagar, Bhubaneswar - 751006, have changed my son name from Shriomm Pradhan to Shriomm Pradhan vide Affidavit Dt. 4.11.2024 sworn before Notary S.K. Behera C.F. No.-62. I declare that Shriomm Pradhan and Shriomm Pradhan is one and same person is my son.

BPUT TECH CARNIVAL 2024

State emerging as a skill hub: Governor



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Governor Raghuraj Das Monday said that India is currently home to one of the largest startup ecosystems globally and Odisha is emerging as a skill hub for young entrepreneurs. The Governor was addressing the Tech Carnival 2024 organised by Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT) at the Rail Auditorium here.

in nurturing students to thrive in this fast-evolving technological landscape. According to the Governor, BPUT has significantly contributed to this vision by fostering a culture of innovation and excellence among Odisha's youth. He described the Tech Carnival as more than a display of talent, calling it a platform that showcases the progressive mindset of the state's youth who are eager to shape the future through technology.

The Governor highlighted that by participating in this carnival, students would not only sharpen their technical skills but also develop essential attributes such as teamwork and strategic thinking

Das further remarked that India is currently home to one of the largest startup ecosystems globally, with Odisha emerging as a skill hub for young entrepreneurs. He expressed his satisfaction with BPUT's commitment to integrating skill development courses into its curriculum and noted the state's dedication to creating employment opportunities, ultimately aiming to make Odisha the skill capital of the world.

State's IDPS unit honoured



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: The Odisha unit of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) was honoured for its excellent work in public health surveillance at the 20th commemorative event of IDSP held in New Delhi, Monday.

ment of dedication and commitment of the team in safeguarding the public health in Odisha. Notably, the Sate Surveillance Unit functions round the clock during natural disasters such as floods and cyclones to ensure timely detection and response to disease outbreaks. The control room operates 24 x 7 to monitor disease trends, analyse data, and coordinate with district and higher health officials.

Gujarat Skill Devpt Secy visits WSC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Vinod R Rao, Secretary of Labour, Skill Development and Employment of Gujarat government, visited the World Skill Center (WSC) here, Monday, as part of his two-day visit to the state. Rao explored various state-of-the-art laboratories and interacted with students on the advanced skill courses offered at this premier skilling institution in the Capital City.

Brown sugar peddlers target youth

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nimapada, Nov 4: At a time when there is an uptick in peddling of brown sugar recently, lack of resources and also the required coordination between local police, Excise department and intelligence division have rendered the measures to prevent the illegal trade ineffective. According to reports, drug dealers are primarily targeting college students and unemployed youth. Dealers are especially active under the cover of darkness and are distributing substances along the banks of Kushabhada river.



making it unsafe for women to venture out in the evening. Police interventions often result in temporary dispersal of these dealers, who eventually regroup and return. Dealers are systematically expanding their networks without getting noticed by law enforcement agencies. As a result, the police face challenges in apprehending them. The Excise department is severely understaffed, which contributes to the spread of drugs in the region.

The white poison or drugs are being supplied from nearby regions like Puri, Jatni, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Berhampur. Despite available intelligence, enforcement agencies have not been able to successfully crack down on these operations due to manpower shortages in both the police and Excise departments. Significantly, Nimapada intelligence division is running with one person only. Throughout this year, police and Excise dept flying squads have conducted separate raids, seizing drugs worth lakhs of rupees. Many of those apprehended have been taken to court. However, due to the above mentioned challenges, the drug trade continues to thrive, leaving authorities scrambling for effective solutions.

32ND MEETING OF CENTRAL HINDI COMMITTEE

CM's proposal to promote Hindi in Odisha



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: The 32nd meeting of the Central Hindi Committee was held in New Delhi Monday under the chairmanship of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Attending this meeting, Chief Minister Mohan Charan

Majhi made some proposals for the propagation of Hindi language in Odisha. They include establishment of special Hindi educational institutes with more number of Hindi teachers in the state and setting up of special Hindi educational institutes to promote Hindi literature.

CM Majhi said Odia-Hindi translation centre is required for the propagation of Odia and Hindi languages and translation of the original literary works. For this, the chief minister proposed to establish a special translation centre with the financial support of from the department of offi-

cial languages of the Central government. He said more cultural programmes should be organised at national and state level for cultural exchange between Hindi and Odia language people. Poets, writers, and intellectuals of different states must participate in all these programmes, he added. "An Inter-Language Research Institute should also be set up in the state for research work in both languages, the CM said. The chief minister also asked for Central grants and special assistance to the state for various schemes including setting up of educational institutions for promotion of Hindi. Union Health Minister JP Nadda, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Cuttack MP Bhartruhari Mahtab were present in the meeting.

Fisherman nets huge catfish from Mahanadi



POST NEWS NETWORK

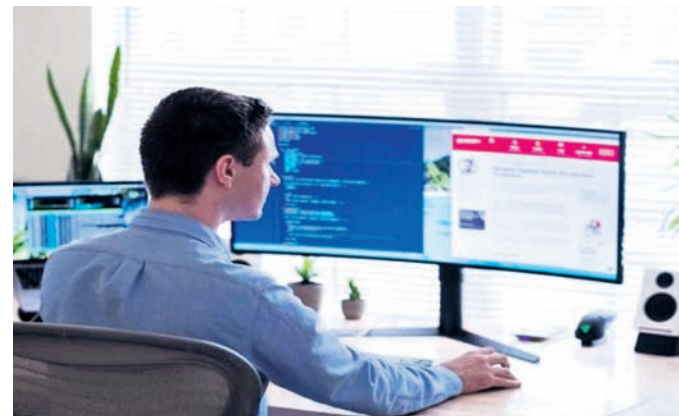
Barang, Nov 4: A fisherman caught a huge catfish from Mahanadi River here Monday. The fisherman, identified as Rabindra Dalei of Sanamundali village was surprised to see the huge catch weighing around 22kg. A crowd gathered to witness this unusual catch in Mundali area. Rabindra had gone to Mahanadi River as usual to catch

fish Monday morning. After casting his net in the river, a big catfish got trapped in his net. He brought the fish back in his boat and sold it to local fish trader Bikash Behera. The fish weighed 22 kg. Rabindra mentioned that he had never caught such a large catfish before. The unique catch attracted a crowd of local villagers who came to see the fish for some time.

Sitting over 8 hours daily can raise health risks even after exercise

Spending long hours sitting daily can increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, muscle weakening, weight gain, and mental health issues like anxiety and depression

a number of health concerns. They include obesity and a cluster of conditions — increased blood pressure, high blood sugar, excess body fat around the waist and unhealthy cholesterol levels — that make up metabolic syndrome. Too much sitting overall and prolonged periods of sitting also seem to increase the risk of death from cardiovascular disease and cancer. It found that those who sat for more than eight hours a day with no physical activity had a risk of dying similar to that posed by obesity and smoking. Importantly, the study showed that a young age or 20 minutes of moderate activity like walking cannot buffer the effects. Instead, vigorous activity like running or cycling for



30 minutes daily can help, but not completely. Chandra Reynolds, Professor in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience at the University of Colorado Boulder in the US, said that "sitting

less throughout the day, getting more vigorous exercise, or a combination of both may be necessary to reduce the risk of premature ageing in early adulthood". The team analysed more than 1,000 people with an average age of 33, and included 730 twins, to explore how prolonged sitting impacts cholesterol and body mass index (BMI) in young adults. The participants logged 9 hours of sitting daily while engaging in moderate physical activity between 80 and 160 minutes. The results, published in the journal PLOS One, noted that "the more one sat, the older one looked". Further, the team said that young adults who sat 8.5 hours per day and performed at or below current exercise recommendations could be in a 'moderate to high risk' category for cardiovascular and metabolic disease. "Taking a quick walk after work may not be enough," said

Reynolds, noting that the "associations are already emerging in early adulthood." On the other hand, people who did a vigorous exercise like running or cycling for 30 minutes daily had cholesterol and BMI measures that looked like those of individuals 5 to 10 years younger. However, it was not enough. The impact of movement can be profound. For starters, you'll burn more calories. This might lead to weight loss and increased energy. Also, physical activity helps maintain muscle tone, your ability to move and your mental well-being, especially as you age. The researchers said that one should reduce sitting time at work by using a standing desk, taking breaks, and organising walking meetings.

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

Closure of research centre hits GI tag demand for green gram

The sugarcane research centre at Panipoila in Nayagarh, which shot to fame for inventing six different varieties of sugarcane seeds, is also lying neglected



remains abandoned. On the other hand, the sugarcane research centre at Panipoila in this district, which shot to fame for inventing six different varieties of sugarcane seeds, is also lying neglected. Local dissatisfaction grows as production of Nayagarh's other economically valuable crops are in decline.

While the sugar factory remains locked up, farmers have drifted away from sugarcane cultivation. People are expressing concerns over the negligence, which even the local representatives are yet to address.

Locals alleged that Nayagarh MLA and former minister Arun Sahu has not taken any step in this regard, while the ruling BJP remains silent on the issue.

Nayagarh's Chief Agriculture Officer Suman Singh Pattnaik said no active research is being conducted at the centre and critical positions remain unfilled. "However, we are yet to receive any letter on shifting of the pulse research centre from Nayagarh to Khurda," he said.

While research on crops like green gram and paddy is ongoing, the public concern over lack of agricultural support to the area reflects a need for government intervention, he added.

was initiated with support from the Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR) in Kanpur. IIPR was sending chickpea seeds for trial to this research centre, which later successfully developed two high-yielding green gram varieties that benefited farmers across the country.

However, several key positions like pulse research specialist remain vacant sans fresh appointments due to a lack of dedicated researchers. As a result, IIPR is not sending the chickpea seeds to the Nayagarh pulse research centre anymore. Instead it is being sent to Khurda's newly established research centre, opened five years ago. Now, question arises about the legitimacy of pursuing a GI tag for the district when the pulse research centre

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Nov 4: Efforts are intensifying to claim a GI (Geographical Indication) tag for the famed Nayagarh green gram (muga dali) known for its distinctive aroma and taste.

However, the pulses and sugarcane research centres here lie abandoned, with no action towards restoring their functionality. With only signboards indicating their existence, both the centres have remained non-operational for nearly three years.

To protect the quality and authenticity of Nayagarh's green gram, a pulses research centre was established on 36 acre land in the district headquarters town of Nayagarh in 1965. It



ACT OF KINDNESS: Feeding stray dogs and monkeys has turned into a ritual for a sexagenarian newspaper hawker Bibhuti Bhushan Tripathi alias Jayi Bhaaina as he never misses a day to feed the animals at Pattanaikia Square under Kanas block in Puri district

OP PHOTO

Jumbo death due to herpes virus raises safety concerns

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hatadihi, Nov 4: The death of a female juvenile elephant due to herpes viral infection in Hadagarh wildlife sanctuary under this block in Keonjhar district has raised concern on health of other animals inside the sanctuary.

The body of the animal was discovered by the Forest department in Chakratirtha area of the sanctuary, September 28. The elephant, around five years old, was found dead and

Forest officials conducted a post-mortem on the scene. However, the exact cause of death initially remained unclear. Later, the post-mortem report confirmed that a herpes virus infection led to the death, Anandapur Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Abhaya Dalei said.

DFO Dalei said the Forest officials are unaware of the virus's symptoms, mode of transmission and measures for prevention and that further information would need to come from veterinarians.

This has raised concerns whether some other elephants are also infected with this virus. Moreover, measures taken by the Forest department to prevent the spread of the infection and protect jumbos and other wildlife in the sanctuary have also remained unclear.

Anandapur Civil Society secretary and advocate Bhagaban Mallik and former sarpanch of Soso panchayat Bailochan Nayak stressed on the importance of preventive measures by the

Forest department to contain the spread of virus and ensure the safety of elephants and other wildlife inside the sanctuary. They apprehended that failure to act could pose a severe threat to the wildlife in future.

According to 2024 elephant census, there were 24 elephants in the sanctuary, but with the recent deaths of three elephants, their population has come down to 21. The gradual decline in the elephant population has become a cause worry for the Forest department.

Kumki elephant Yashoda dead

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Nov 4: Kumki elephant Yashoda died while undergoing treatment at the Jenabil area of Similipal sanctuary in Mayurbhanj district. The trained elephant was unwell and brought to Similipal from Chandaka sanctuary.

"Yashoda was 36 years old at the time of her passing and a veterinary team conducted the post-mortem examination," said Prakash Chand Gogineni, Field Director of the Similipal Tiger Reserve Project.

Notably, Yashoda had been brought to Chandaka from Similipal to monitor the movements of the translocated tigers, Mahavir and Sundari, who had been shifted to Chandaka. After spending a few years there, Yashoda suffered a dislocation in her hip joint, which restricted her movements and eventually worsened her condition. Dr Indramani Nath from the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) had been treating her for the last three years.

Five months ago, the Forest department again transferred her to Similipal. Under treatment, Yashoda passed away October 30, and her post-mortem was conducted October 31.



Incomplete Keonjhar road turns nightmare for locals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 4: Residents of this town are facing huge problems commuting as construction of the road from Belda to Maligaon (earlier NH6) has not been completed. Movement of vehicles and pedestrians on the incomplete road has become an agony, but despite repeated complaints, the district administration is not paying any heed, locals alleged. Locals have warned that it will be held responsible in case of any major accident. They also pointed out that the lack of proper monitoring has raised questions about the sustainability of the road when completed.

It is not that commuting has become a problem. Locals pointed out that the drains full



of dirty water are overflowing and spreading in the local market adjacent to the incomplete stretch. This has also become a headache for the traders and people who visit the market. Locals pointed that the schedule date for completion of work of the 10-kilometre stretch at a cost of Rs 10.55 crore was December 25, 2023. Close to a year has elapsed, but even then, there has been no development. Hence people from

this town and the residents of Ghuturu, Shankarpur, Jhadbelda and Nelung villages are facing huge problems. Many of them said that at times they feel they are commuting through a 'death trap'.

Locals also pointed out that incomplete construction of the road, culverts and drains, are leading to frequent accidents. They pointed out that heavy vehicles like buses and trucks frequently ply on the road and hence the area has turned accident prone.

Repeated calls to the supervising engineer of the project went unanswered. When contacted superintendent engineer Santosh Kumar Behera said that the efforts are on to complete the pending work as soon as possible.

Youth dies in road mishap

Dabugaon: A youth died while another sustained injuries in a road accident near Angi river bridge at Badaolama village under this police station limits in Nabarangpur district late Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Madhu Bhatra, 22, son of Lakinath Bhadra and the injured was identified as Nabin Bhatra, 21. Both were residents of Badasirisiriaguda village under Koshagumuda police limits. According to reports, Madhu and Nabin had gone outside for some work on a scooter. While returning home at night, Madhu lost control of the scooter and rammed into a guard post near Angi river bridge. Both the rider and pillion were flung on the road. Madhu sustained severe head injury and Nabin was also injured. On being informed, a 108 ambulance reached the spot, rescued the injured youths and rushed them to Dabugaon community health centre (CHC), where the doctors declared Madhu dead. Informed, Dabugaon police rushed to the hospital and informed the family members of the deceased.

MAN INJURED IN FIRING AT ROURKELA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 4: A man was injured after being shot at by two bike borne youths near Traffic Gate here, Monday morning. The two assailants immediately escaped from the crime scene.

The youth sustained a bullet wound on the upper portion of his back on the right. Preliminary investigation suggested that it was a revenge shooting owing to past enmity.

The injured man identified as Abesh Ray was crossing the Ring Road Monday morning.

Ray was rushed to Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) and later shifted to the ICU at Ispat General Hospital (IGH) as his condition worsened.

Sources said Ray's mother was killed by two persons in 1997. In response, Ray and one accomplice had killed one Bhagawan Sahoo and his friend at the Traffic Gate area. Monday's shooting was to exact revenge for the killing of Sahoo.

Speaking to mediapersons, SDPO Zone 1 Nirmal Chandra Mohapatra said a special team has been formed to investigate the crime.

Tension after clash in Daitari mining area

Truck owners' associations scuffle; police deployed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 4: Tension was palpable in the mining area under Daitari police limits of Keonjhar district after members of two truck owners' associations clashed Monday over distribution of loading tokens for transportation of iron ore from the Daitari iron ore mines operated by the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) in Keonjhar.

Heavy police deployment is in place to prevent any escalation. Five platoons of police force, led

by an additional superintendent of police (ASP) and two sub-divisional police officers (SDPOs) as well as four inspectors, have been stationed in the area.

Sources said a newly formed tipper owners' association took charge Sunday and a dispute arose over the distribution of loading tokens. Allegations have emerged that some affluent members of the new association attempted to take over loading operations while bypassing the old association.

The conflict escalated when



the new group allegedly sought to exclude the old association from mining operations and seize control of ore transportation. The face-off has prompted the old truck owners' associa-

tion to allege that the new group is illegal and that government officials registered it fraudulently.

Meanwhile, the new association has countered these claims accusing the old group of exploiting truck owners and failing to support any peripheral development, allegedly due to corruption.

Keonjhar ASP Dilip Kumar Nayak stated that the situation remains under control and no untoward incident has been reported. He confirmed that loading and transportation of minerals are proceeding peacefully as per tokens distributed by buyers.

27th Vedvyas Sangeet Nrutyotsav-2024 underway

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Nov 4: The 27th edition of the Vedvyas Sangeet Nrutyotsav-2024, a five-day national level cultural extravaganza showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the country, had a vibrant beginning November 2 evening at the open-air stage of Bhanja Bhawan Exhibition Ground here.

The mega cultural event being organised by Bhanja Kala Kendra at the Bhanja Bhawan has evoked enthusiastic response from the audience for the past two days.

The opening evening captivated the audience with some scintillating performances of Odissi classical dance, folk dance of Maharashtra and the rich tribal



dance from Mayurbhanj. Brijesh Kumar Rai, DIG of Police (Western Range), the chief guest on second evening, inau-

gured the programme. Former Raghunathpalli MLA Subrat Tarai was the guest of the evening. The evening began with a

guitar concert by the artists of Bhanja Kala Kendra. Then came a riveting Bharatnatyam dance performance by acclaimed ex-

ponent Guru Rashika Gumaste and her troupe from Pune, which was followed by a scintillating Natua dance performance by 'Horizon Natua Dance Team' from Purulia, West Bengal. The Bodo Folk Dance from Assam was also appreciated by the audience and the icing on cake was the performance of the troupe from Bargharh which performed Sambalpuri folk dance.

Subha Shankar Raychoudhury, CGM, RMHP & President, Bhanja Kala Kendra welcomed the gathering and Radhakrushna Mohapatra, general secretary, Bhanja Kala Kendra coordinated the inaugural ceremony. Sasanka Sekhar Pattnaik, Deputy Manager (PR), RSP and Koena Dastidar anchored the programme.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR ENERGISATION OF OVER HEAD TRACTION WIRE PROFORMA - 10.01

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the East Coast Railway, that the 25,000 Volts, 50 Hz, AC Over Head Traction Wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the Overhead traction lines shall be treated as live at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead lines.

SL. NO.	SECTION	SECTION	DATE OF CHARGING
1	BOUDH - CHAMPAPUR	SAMBALPUR	10.11.2024
2	CHAMPAPUR - PURUNAKATAK	SAMBALPUR	25.11.2024

INTRODUCTION OF AC 25 KV TRACTION "WARNING TO ROAD USERS" PROFORMA - 10.02

It is notified for information of the Public that in connection with "Introduction of 25,000 volts AC Electric Traction over the sections of (i) Boudh - Champapur & (ii) Champapur - Puruna katak of Khurda Road - Balangir New Line in Sambalpur Division of East Coast Railway" height gauges have been erected at all the level crossings with clear height of 4.78 meters above road level with a view to prevent loads of excessive height from coming into contact or dangerous proximity to live Traction Wire (Contact Wire), which shall be at a height of minimum 5.5m above the rail level crossings.

Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for the purpose of loading vehicles and to see that the loads carried in road vehicles do not infringe the height gauges under any circumstances.

The dangers of a load of excessive height are as follows:

- (i) Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the Railway line.
- (ii) Danger to the materials or equipment carried or the vehicles itself.
- (iii) Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the conductors.

Chief Electrical Engineer (Con-1), East Coast Railway / Bhubaneswar
PR-82/CH/24-25

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
TELENGIRI CANAL DIVISION, AMBAGUDA, DIST-KORAPUT
Email: setcdambaguda@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. SETCD-01/2024-25 Dated 04.11.2024
No.A-500: Bid documents consisting of work, Estimated Cost, Cost of bid document, EMD, Time of completion, Class of Contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. Website i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

1. Name of the Work : Civil Works
2. No. of Works : 03 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs.6.11 lakh- Rs.15.19 Lakh
4. Period of Completion : Varies from One Calendar to Two Calendar Months
5. Date & Time of Bidding : From 11.00 hours of 06.11.2024 Upto 17.30 hours of 16.11.2024
6. Last date & time for receipt of bids in portal : 16.11.2024 upto 17.30 hours
7. Bids received online shall be opened on : 12.30 hours of 18.11.2024
8. Name and address of the officer inviting bid : Superintending Engineer, Telengiri Canal Division, Ambaguda

Further details can be seen from the www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Telengiri Canal Division, Ambaguda
OIPR-32434/11/0001/2425

FOCUS GDP

A PERVERSE INDEX



Not to romanticise the past, but the air everywhere was immeasurably cleaner the world over before 'progress' had begun a few centuries ago

for looking after them in old age. Given the global and national dispersion of families, homes for senior citizens already make sense.

The full monetisation of mammalian affections would constitute an economic miracle of global fame. However, society (or what remains of it after the virtual victory of dating apps over it) would stand defeated, if not destroyed. The economic anthropologist Karl Polanyi had pointed out in his prophetic 1944 volume 'The Great Transformation' that the triumph of the market would eventually result in the destruction of "the substance of society."

Finally, consider the fact that every time an oil drill is installed anywhere, Mother Earth heaves a sigh of crushing distress, an accumulating agony which is already turning the human adventure on the planet into a terminal ecological nightmare. Not to romanticise the past, but the air everywhere was immeasurably cleaner the world over before 'progress' had begun a few centuries ago, and species death through climate change or nuclear Armageddon was not even a dystopian fantasy.

The deployment of GDP as a measure of happiness and well-being when such are the stakes presents to us an idea of organised human stupidity today. Perhaps it is the inevitable collateral damage of a 'smart world' exclusively devoted to the organisation of races among 'smart people'. Fashion parades, the original root of the spread of the word 'smart', are now the glamorous metaphors for life itself.

The writer used to be an economist. He now teaches ecology.

©THE BILLION PRESS

origins of the GDP as an official measure of national production are as recent as 1937 when Simon Kuznets (who received a Nobel Prize for his immense dulling labours) made a presentation to the US Congress on the subject. In a time of war, it facilitated a simple way to compare the relative military strengths of two different countries. This aspect of the GDP became ideologically very potent by the time the Cold War took hold of the world after 1945, and capitalist and communist ideologues would be commonly found trying to prove the superiority of their respective systems by making crude GDP comparisons.

The United Nations was formed in 1945. It officially adopted the system of national accounts developed by Kuznets. By 1953, the first international data comparing GDP across countries was released. During the same period, after the famous 1944 conference at Bretton-Woods and when the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were created, the idea of 'development' was hurled upon the world. In the aggressive climate generated by the Western powers (and the Soviet Union) the compulsion to 'develop' was felt by every government in the world, an artificial imperative that survives the last three generations.

As the idea of 'development' came of age in the 1950s, 'welfare economics' was born, pioneered by such stalwarts as Nobel economists Kenneth Arrow and Amartya Sen. They themselves were rarely so crude, but many others of their ilk, as well as policy wonks, businessmen, and governments began seeing GDP not merely as a measure of an economy's production, but as an index of human well-being itself. People — often from within the profession of economics — pointed out the absurdity of such an intellectual leap. But the powers in control of the profession as well as those in high office were not to be deterred. GDP, at least as a proxy measure of human well-being, was here to stay. The fact that its primary purpose was to compare just how much and how quickly a country could produce the steel or military hardware to win wars over its enemies was conveniently overlooked. And it remains that way. A second aspect of GDP as a measure of well-being deserves graver comment. If parents begin charging children retrospectively for having raised them to the age of reason, education, and economic productivity, the country's GDP would rise dramatically. The same result will obtain if children begin charging parents

I was once trained as an economist. For the tribe of economists, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of a country is a sacrosanct measure of national production within the borders of the country. Not just economists and policy-wonks, businessmen, politicians, the media and the universities constantly refer to it. Its textbook definition goes: "the total value of all the goods and services produced in a country in one year." "Value" could be nominal or real (after adjusting for inflation). But it is always stated in monetary terms (in current or constant dollars or rupees or whichever currency you wish).



Aseem Shrivastava

NOT JUST ECONOMISTS AND POLICY-WONKS, BUSINESSMEN, POLITICIANS, THE MEDIA AND THE UNIVERSITIES CONSTANTLY REFER TO IT

The classic textbook example used to be that if a man marries his housekeeper, the GDP of the country would fall. One can come up with a thousand similar stories. My grandmother used to knit sweaters for not just me but the entire (joint) family. Her contribution to the GDP? Nil. If the same sweaters were sold for a profit in the export market, they would have warmed the hearts of GDP-conscious patriots!

The joy that my grandmother derived from making sweaters for everyone was incomparable. So was our happiness when we received such hand-made gifts of love. But there is no room for such things in the economic calculus of today's experts. They know no other index of human well-being than the GDP. In the process they usually track human misery more closely than human happiness. They forget what Einstein (to whom the quote is rightly or falsely attributed) might have meant when he said: "Not everything that can be counted counts and not everything that counts can be counted."

Let us consider three other dimensions of GDP economists rarely speak about. The first has to do with the fact that the

SPECTRUM HEALTHCARE

Liberalising reproductive rights

The World Health Organisation estimates that 29 million unsafe abortions take place globally each year, leading to roughly 40,000 preventable deaths. Many of these deaths are the result of dangerous procedures performed in regions where restrictive laws limit or prohibit access to safe, legal abortion care.

Of course, there is a simpler, proven alternative: self-termination of unwanted pregnancies using drugs like mifepristone and misoprostol, which the WHO recognizes as both safe and effective. But legal and policy barriers continue to limit women's access to these vital options, too. To reduce maternal mortality, governments worldwide must remove these barriers and make self-managed abortion accessible to all.

A recent analysis of abortion laws across 35 countries and four US states underscores the extent of the problem, finding that just 10% allow abortion without the involvement of health-care providers. Worse, nearly half of these jurisdictions require in-person visits or mandate that abortion pills

be taken in a clinical setting, depriving individuals of the privacy and autonomy that self-managed abortion can provide.

These restrictions not only limit access to safe abortion but also push people toward the unsafe methods that policymakers often claim to oppose. In countries with restrictive abortion laws, individuals who cannot access safe options are more likely to resort to such methods. In fact, according to the WHO, 97% of unsafe abortions occur in developing countries, where abortion laws often are particularly strict. These legal barriers have profound public-health implications, as pregnant women risk their lives simply because their governments deny them the right to make their own reproductive choices.

Not all countries remain stuck in the past. Colombia, Ireland, and New Zealand have updated their laws and policies to better align with WHO recommendations, showing that it is possible to foster a legal environment that facilitates self-managed abortions. Likewise, jurisdictions like Mexico City and US

states such as California and New York have embraced telemedicine, enabling individuals to make decisions about their reproductive health and gain access to abortion care safely and discreetly from the privacy of their homes, without unnecessary barriers and government interference.

To be sure, opposition to liberalising access to abortion pills often stems from health and safety concerns. Without clinical supervision, critics argue, medical complications could arise, putting patients at risk. But a growing body of evidence shows that self-managed abortions, when provided with proper information and access to medication, are just as safe as clinic-based procedures.

Nor is there empirical evidence to support the view that loosening restrictions on abortion pills could lead to misuse or overuse. Studies show that women who opt for self-managed abortions seek medical assistance when complications arise, and that adequate information can prevent adverse outcomes. Moreover, when people are not penalized for seeking help, they are far more

likely to receive the care they need if something goes wrong.

The overwhelming weight of evidence counsels governments to trust people's reproductive-health choices. Decriminalising self-managed abortion and lifting unnecessary restrictions, such as prescription- and medical-supervision requirements, are crucial first steps. More importantly, governments should expand access to telemedicine for self-managed abortions, especially in remote and underserved areas where clinics are scarce.

Governments that claim to care about maternal health can no longer afford to ignore reality. If policymakers are truly committed to reducing preventable deaths and defending women's bodily autonomy, they must establish legal frameworks that support and facilitate self-managed abortion. The price of inaction is far too high.

Andrés Constantin is Legal Adviser & Katherine Mayall is Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Center for Reproductive Rights.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Andrés Constantin & Katherine Mayall

GOVERNMENTS THAT CLAIM TO CARE ABOUT MATERNAL HEALTH CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO IGNORE REALITY

WISDOM CORNER

Life is one big road with lots of signs. So when you riding through the ruts, don't complicate your mind. Flee from hate, mischief and jealousy. Don't bury your thoughts, put your vision to reality. Wake Up and Live!

BOB MARLEY

People are basically the same the world over. Everybody wants the same things - to be happy, to be healthy, to be at least reasonably prosperous, and to be secure. They want friends, peace of mind, good family relationships, and hope that tomorrow is going to be even better than today.

ZIG ZIGLAR

Every religion is true one way or another. It is true when understood metaphorically. But when it gets stuck in its own metaphors, interpreting them as facts, then you are in trouble.

JOSEPH CAMPBELL

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1838: Honduras declared its absolute independence, seceding from the United Provinces of Central America.

1872: Susan B. Anthony, a leader in the American women's suffrage movement, cast a ballot in the presidential election, and she was later arrested for voting illegally and convicted in a trial she called "the greatest outrage history ever witnessed."

1914: France and Britain declared war on Turkey, widening the conflict of World War I. World War I was one of the great watersheds of 20th-century geopolitical history. It led to the fall of four great imperial dynasties (in Germany, Russia, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey), resulted in the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, and, in its destabilization of European society, laid the groundwork for World War II.

1930: Social critic Sinclair Lewis won the Nobel Prize for Literature, the first American to receive the honour.

1943: Vatican City bombed. Vatican City was bombed by a fascist Italian aircraft breaching the neutrality of Vatican during the second World War.

LOL GATHERING CHICKENS

The farmer's son was returning from the market with the crate of chickens his father had entrusted to him, when all of a sudden the box fell and broke open. Chickens scurried off in different directions, but the determined boy walked all over the neighborhood scooping up the wayward birds and returning them to the repaired crate. Hoping he had found them all, the boy



reluctantly returned home, expecting the worst. "Pa, the chickens got loose," the boy confessed sadly, "but I managed to find all twelve of them." "Well, you did real good, son," the farmer beamed. "You left with seven."

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, Rasulgarih Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Preserving culture

Sir, A unique tradition is well maintained in Kerala's capital Thiruvananthapuram. Flight services from the city's international airport will be suspended for five hours on 9 November to make way for 'Alpashi Arattu' procession of the Shree Padmanabhaswamy temple. Now what has an airport to do with a procession? The annual procession is traditionally taken on a route to the seashore crosses the runway of the airport. The practice of the procession traversing the current path to reach the seashore for the holy bath of the idols began centuries ago. The runway at the airport remains closed twice a year for the temple procession to pass through. It has to be noted that this ritual continues even after the airport was established in 1932. When the airport was constructed, then Travancore King Shree Chithira Thirunal had made it clear that the facility would be open for public for 363 days in a year and two days for Lord Padmanabha, the titular deity of the royal family. The ceremonial practice followed here is something that reminds us that culture, tradition and heritage are things to be preserved and maintained.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

Digital arrest

Sir, The trend of small-time fraudsters deceiving the gullible through scams and blackmail is now almost obsolete in India. These are the days of "digital arrest" or "digital house arrest." Typically, the offenders exploit the nerves of an individual in digital scams. Impersonating a law enforcement official, most commonly a CBI officer or a Customs official, the tricksters speak in an "authoritative voice" to make the victims believe that they had defied the law. Accusing the individual of sending or receiving "drug" or "contraband" parcels, the scammers often invite the unwary to video calls and force them to remain online the whole day, or more, forcing them to part with a large sum to "clear" their names. By the time the harassed citizen recoups himself, the fraudsters would have vanished without a trace. Such victims should rush to the local cyber police stations or report to cybercrime.gov.in or utilise the cyber helpline number 1930 without delay.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

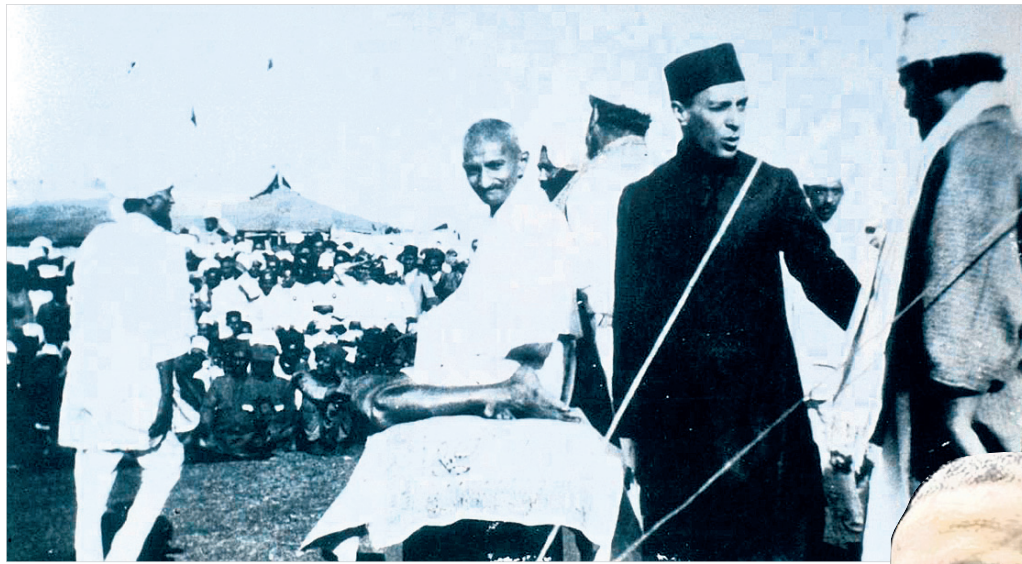
CENTENARY OF BELAGAVI CONGRESS SESSION

CHHATH FESTIVAL RUSH

K'taka govt invites Obama

Travellers face costlier bus rides

The session marked Mahatma Gandhi's launch of the freedom movement against British rule in India



Mahatma Gandhi at the historic Congress session in Belagavi in 1924. In the foreground is Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

this historic AICC convention, held in Karnataka's Belagavi, which holds great significance for the region.

This event is also meaningful to the people of Gadag district, as the famous Kannada poem "Udayavagali Namma Cheluva Kannadanaadu", written by Huyilagola Narayana Rao, was sung for the first time at this session by Gangubai Hanagal.

Minister Patil emphasised the need to promote Mahatma Gandhi's principles and ideals among the youth, saying, "I have been designated as the president of the centenary celebration committee by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The committee will visit Belagavi on Tuesday, November 5, and the centenary celebrations will continue until October 2 of next year," he concluded.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

safety concerns.

Passengers recounted harrowing times saying they are often forced to sit on benches instead of seats due to overcrowding, reflecting the desperation of those determined to reach home for Chhath despite all the inconveniences.

Festival starts today

The auspicious four-day festival of Chhath Puja is set to begin from Tuesday. The festival, spanning over next four days will see a series of meticulously planned rituals and offerings.

The festival begins with Nahay Khay (bathing and feasting), where participants take a ritualistic bath and consume a simple meal. The subsequent day, devotees observe Kharna, which involves fasting throughout the day, breaking it only after sunset as an offering to the deities.

The person observing the fast takes the meal of roti (chappati) and kheer (rice pudding) before the family members and friends gather to eat the same meal on a banana leaf together.

On the third day, the main ritual having immense devotion ascribed to it, takes place. Chhath devotees gather at the water bodies including rivers, ponds and something, before sunrise. Standing waist-deep in water, they offer 'arghya' (offering of water) to the rising Sun, chanting prayers.

Devotees, clad in traditional attire, gather at riverbanks and sacred water bodies, engaging in elaborate rituals that include singing devotional songs and performing dances, creating a vibrant atmosphere of community and spirituality. The sight of colourful decorations, offerings laid on woven baskets, and the collective spirit of devotion paints a striking picture of unity and faith.

In essence, Chhath is not just a festival; it is a celebration of life, health, and the enduring connection between humanity and nature. As Bihar residents around the world partake in these rituals, the festival continues to thrive as a symbol of cultural identity and spiritual richness, bridging the past with the present in a beautiful tapestry of tradition.

The festival is dedicated to the worship of Lord Surya and his sister Chhathi Maiya, the sixth form of Devi Prakriti and is popularly observed in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and West Bengal.

Gadag, Nov 4: The Karnataka government has invited former US President, Barack Obama, to attend a joint Assembly session organised to commemorate the centenary of the 1924 Congress session, chaired by Mahatma Gandhi in Belagavi.

Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, HK Patil, stated Monday in Gadag city that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has already sent a letter inviting Barack Obama to participate in the event.

"It has been decided to organise a joint Assembly session to mark the 100th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's chairing of the All-India Congress Committee (AICC) meeting. The event

will be held at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi," stated Minister Patil, who also serves as President of the committee for commemorating the centenary of the 1924 Congress

session.

"This is going to be a meaningful programme. Mahatma Gandhi visited 120 places across Karnataka, and we will build memorials at 40 selected locations. 'Rath Yatra Jyothis' will arrive in Belagavi on December 26 and 27 from various districts across the state," he said. The government also plans to organise conventions focussed on youth, women, and the community unity.

Minister Patil explained that Mahatma Gandhi chaired the 39th AICC meeting before Independence, issuing a clarion call for freedom and inspiring many to join the struggle against British rule.

The government has decided to celebrate the centenary of

"We will wait for confirmation from Barack Obama before setting the date for the joint session. We have invited this prominent leader and follower of Gandhi, who believes that Mahatma Gandhi is a global leader, not just an Indian one"

HK PATIL | MINISTER FOR LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, KARNATAKA

Over 1L first-time voters in Patna

Sultanganj rly station set to be renamed Ajaibinath Dham

EC begins process to update voters list



The push for new voter registration aligns with poll panel's emphasis on maximizing youth participation and strengthening the democratic process.

Currently, Patna has a total voter count of 49,62,654, comprising 26,10,833 male voters, 23,51,653 female voters, and 168 transgender voters.

With addition of about 1.25

lakh new voters, total number of voters in Patna district is expected to surpass 50.5 lakh by next assembly elections. The Bihar Assembly elections are expected to take place in September or October, next year.

Patna district administration has also launched awareness programs to reach out to the youth, as it seeks to encourage

and enroll new voters above 18. The campaign, comprises of interaction sessions including street plays at popular public locations and interactive sessions at educational institutions.

November 24, 2024 is the last date for applications to add, delete, or modify entries in the voter list. Eligible individuals can register on the official website or through the voter helpline app of the election commission.

Through these efforts, the district aims to ensure that all eligible young citizens are included in the voter list for the upcoming Bihar Assembly Elections in 2025.

PATNA: Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary Monday said that the Sultanganj railway station in Bhagalpur district will be renamed Ajaibinath Dham. He said that the Municipal Council of Ajaibinath Dham has sent a proposal to the state government to change the name of the Sultanganj railway station. "This decision aligns with a longstanding demand from local communities and religious groups, who believe that Ajaibinath Dham better represents the station's cultural significance," he said. He added that the Municipal Council of Ajaibinath Dham had formally proposed the name change, which will soon be forwarded to the Railway Ministry for final approval. He added that to rename Sultanganj has been ongoing for over a decade.

K'taka bans glass-coated string for flying kites

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 4: Accepting animal-lovers' suggestions, the Karnataka government has banned the use of metal or glass-coated string or manja for flying kites to curb harm to humans, birds, and the environment, a statement said Monday.

The government has issued an amendment to its notification under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986, now requiring that only cotton thread, which is "free from any sharp, metallic or glass components, adhesives, or any other thread-strengthening materials", be allowed for kite flying.

The government notification has expanded the ban that was previously restricted only to nylon "Chinese" manja to include strings coated with glass or metal powder, the statement said.

Notifications with similar directions have previously been issued by the governments of Chandigarh, Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Telangana, and Tripura.

The amendment by the Karnataka government follows an appeal from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India to address bird and human deaths caused by manja, said an official release by PETA.

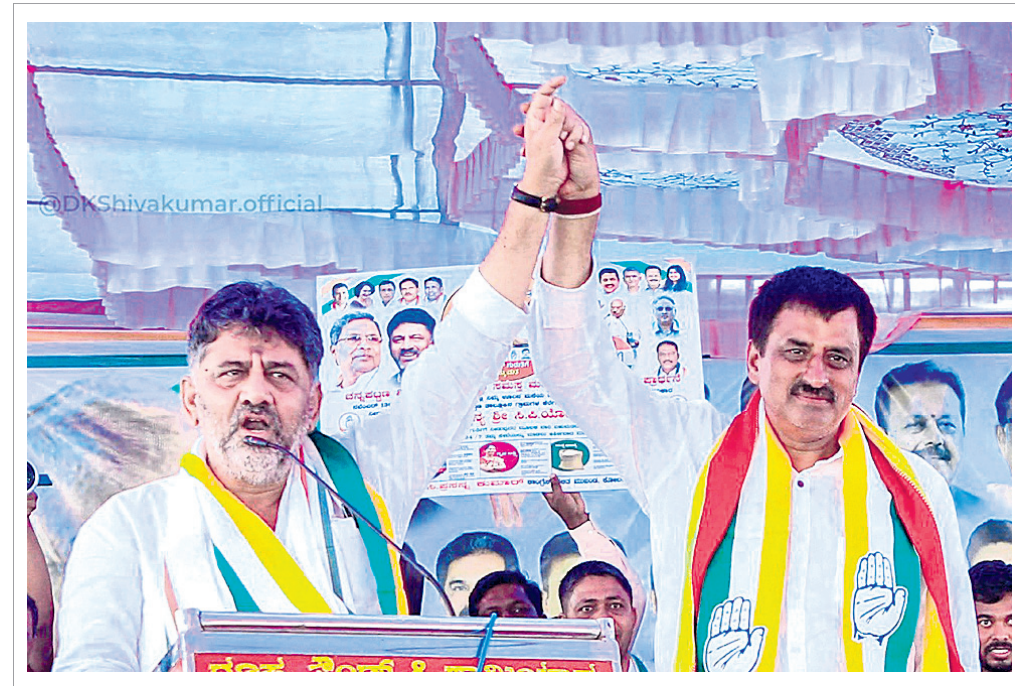
cy Officer Farhat Ul Ain said, "We commend the Karnataka government for addressing the dangers posed by kite strings reinforced with glass and metal in addition to nylon manja."

"This decisive action will save countless humans and animals, including critically endangered vultures, frequently maimed by these dangerous strings. Everyone can help prevent these devastating injuries and tragic deaths by opting for plain cotton kite strings or other forms of entertainment," said the officer.

Manja, in all its forms, puts humans, birds, other animals, and the environment at risk. Razor-sharp strings made of nylon or cotton threads, often reinforced with glass or metal powder, routinely injure and kill humans and birds.

This year, numerous fatalities have been recorded across the country, including a 21-year-old man in Maharashtra, four people in Gujarat, a young boy in Madhya Pradesh, and a 12-year-old boy in Rajasthan whose necks were slit open by the lethal strings.

The harmful threads also have a disastrous impact on bird populations. Manja often slashes or even severs birds' wings and frequently cuts off their feet. Many birds escape with such severe wounds, making it impossible for rescuers to save them, the statement said.



Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar with Congress candidate for Channapatna Assembly bypolls CP Yogeshwara during a public meeting in Channapatna, Karnataka

Bihar gears up to host first int'l hockey tournament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nalanda, Nov 4: The Asian Hockey Champions Trophy (Women) reached the world heritage site of Nalanda Mahavihara in Bihar Monday amid much fanfare.

Hundreds of sports enthusiasts and schoolchildren gave a boisterous welcome to the trophy.

The tournament, which is being jointly organised by Hockey India and the Bihar government, will be held at the newly-developed Rajgir Hockey Stadium between November 11 and 20.

Besides India, the other participating countries are China, Thailand, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan.

The trophy will be taken to various places in the district for public display to encourage

youth, especially women, and also for popularising the event, officials said.

"The trophy was earlier taken to Punjab, Haryana, Odisha and Jharkhand. After that, it was taken to almost all districts in Bihar, and it will reach Rajgir on November 10. It's a prestigious event for Bihar. It's a mega festival for the people of Bihar," Bihar State Sports Authority Director-General Ravindran Shankaran said.

"Our stadium at Rajgir, where the matches will be played, is fully prepared as per the guidelines of the International Hockey Federation. We can even host the 2026 Hockey World Cup in Rajgir," he added.

The trophy was received at the world heritage site by DM Shashank Shubhankar, SP Bharat Soni, and other senior



officers of Nalanda district along with Shankaran.

The Nalanda Mahavihara, located about 95 km southeast of Patna, comprises the archaeological remains of a monastic and scholastic institution dating from the 3rd century BCE

to the 13th century CE. Nalanda is the most ancient university of the subcontinent, according to UNESCO.

"It's a matter of great happiness that the Women's Asian Champions Trophy, 2024 is being organised at Rajgir. All

arrangements have been made to provide the best possible facilities for the players, tourists and people coming from outside for the event," the DM said.

He said translators have been engaged for fans and players coming from China, Japan and South Korea so that they don't have to face any difficulties while interacting with locals.

The SP said comprehensive security arrangements have been made for the event.

"A foolproof security plan has been chalked out for each team. The teams are supposed to arrive here from November 7. Additional forces and escort vehicles will be deployed for the security of the players right from the hotels, where they will be staying, to the stadium. Also, CCTV cameras have been installed at all strategic locations in the city," he said.



Termites of corruption make the country hollow. In Jharkhand, the JMM, Congress and RJD have crossed all limits as far as corruption is concerned. This has impacted the poor, dalits, tribals and the backward communities. Jharkhand CM, MLAs and MPs of JMM-led coalition are neck-deep in corruption

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

INDIA-VIETNAM JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE GETS UNDERWAY IN AMBALA

A joint exercise by the militaries of India and Vietnam aimed at enhancing capabilities for deployment of engineering and medical teams to undertake tasks as part of a UN contingent in peacekeeping operations got underway in Haryana Monday. The fifth edition of 'VINBAX 2024' will conclude November 23 at Ambala and Chandimandir



of the day note

The Congress, wherever it comes to power, gives a booster to anti-national activities. Social unrest and instability always follow wherever the party comes to power

A video has surfaced of a small child being hung upside down and beaten and then two children being forced to inhale chilli smoke. This incident is highly condemnable. I demand the local administration to take strict action against all the culprits in this case

KAMAL NATH | FORMER CHIEF MINISTER, MADHYA PRADESH

BJP is opposed to guarantee schemes, it is because the government is economically and socially giving to all sections of the society through guarantee schemes

SIDDARAMAIAH | CHIEF MINISTER, KARNATAKA

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SESSION

'J&K to make all efforts for restoration of full statehood'

Restoration of full statehood and constitutional guarantees would be a 'befitting reciprocation' of the faith reposed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir in democratic institutions, L-G said in his maiden address to the Assembly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 4: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha assured the newly elected legislative Assembly Monday that the Omar Abdullah government will make all efforts for the restoration of full statehood and constitutional guarantees available to the state.

Restoration of full statehood and constitutional guarantees would be a "befitting reciprocation" of the faith reposed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir in democratic institutions, he said in his maiden address to the Assembly.

Sinha said the government is "fully geared up to realize" the hopes and expectations of people. In the backdrop of the demand for restoration of statehood, the LG said that this aspiration remained strong, pointing out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had, on several occasions, expressed his commitment to it.

"The Council of Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir has recently passed a unanimous resolution calling for the immediate restoration of statehood. This resolution reflects the collective will of the elected representatives, echoing the aspirations of the people for the reinstatement of full democratic governance."

"My government will make



all efforts for restoration of full statehood and constitutional guarantees available to the state. It would be a befitting reciprocation of the faith reposed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir in our democratic institutions," he said in the ceremonial speech that puts forward the government's agenda and is cleared by the cabinet.

In a clear message to all parties, Sinha urged every stakeholder to work together as one team and extend full support to "my government in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people".

Sinha said the high voter turnout in the assembly polls reflected the enduring faith of the people in the democratic process and added that the elections, the first since the abro-

gation of Article 370 in August 2019 and the reorganisation of J&K into a Union Territory, are "a critical milestone" in restoring democratic governance after a period of "political uncertainty".

He also said the government will make efforts to rehabilitate Kashmiri migrants in the valley with dignity, for which a safe and secure environment will be created.

"Work on transit accommodation projects for Kashmiri migrants employees will be speeded up for providing them suitable accommodation at designated places," he said. Welcoming the newly elected members, he said "We gather here after the successful and peaceful conduct of the first democratic elections in over a decade".

MAHARASHTRA ASSEMBLY POLLS

MVA to name CM pick after polls: Congress



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: Asserting that the Maharashtra Assembly polls were not a "kaun banega mukhyamantri" contest but a fight to form an MVA government, Congress leader Jai Ram Ramesh Monday said the coalition's chief ministerial pick would be decided in a "smooth" manner after the results.

In an interview with PTI, he also said the Congress was confident of securing a decisive mandate in Jharkhand and Maharashtra but was "extra watchful" to avoid a repeat of any Haryana-like "last-minute mischief" by the BJP and the local administration.

As the campaign heats up for the Assembly polls in Jharkhand and Maharashtra, Ramesh dismissed suggestions that the momentum had shifted away from the INDIA bloc following the Congress' defeat in Haryana and said the alliance was confident of securing a decisive mandate in the two states.

"It is true that the result in

Haryana was unexpected as far as the Congress is concerned. We are confident in Maharashtra where we have a very strong alliance, and we are very confident in Jharkhand where also we are fighting in an alliance," the Congress general secretary in-charge communications said.

"We are confident but we are extra watchful, we don't want a repeat of the Haryana situation in all the last-minute mischief that can be played by the BJP and the local administration. We are more watchful (this time)," he said.

The Congress has a positive agenda in Jharkhand and the alliance is running on the five years of achievements of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-Congress government, he said.

In Maharashtra, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government was destabilised by the BJP after about two years and the Mahayuti dispensation ruled for three years, he said.

On who the chief minister could be if the MVA won a majority, Ramesh said, "We are not fighting a 'kaun banega mukhyamantri' (contest), we are fighting for -- whose government will be formed -- MVA or that of the Mahayuti. We are fighting for getting a decisive mandate for the MVA and I have absolutely no doubt in my mind that the selection of the CM face will be a smooth affair."

Elections in Jharkhand will be held in two phases November 13 and 20, while Maharashtra goes to the polls in a single phase November 20. The results will be declared November 23.

SHORT TAKES

EC orders immediate transfer of Maha DGP

New Delhi: Ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly polls, the Election Commission Monday directed the state government to transfer DGP Rashmi Shukla with immediate effect following complaints from political parties, including the Congress, sources said. The poll body directed the Maharashtra chief secretary to hand over Shukla's charge to the next senior-most IPS officer in the cadre. The chief secretary was also directed to send a panel of three IPS officers by Tuesday afternoon for appointment as DGP, the sources said. Maharashtra goes to polls November 20.

2 juveniles held for dragging traffic cops

New Delhi: Two juveniles have been apprehended for allegedly hitting and dragging two Delhi Traffic Police personnel on their car's bonnet, officials said Monday. The incident took place Saturday evening at the Ber Sarai traffic signal near Vedant Deshika Marg. The traffic police personnel sustained injuries after they were dragged on the bonnet for about 20 metres "with the intention to kill", according to police. "After the incident, different teams were formed to identify the accused."

Sikkim gets 2 new colleges

Gangtok: Sikkim Monday got two new separate colleges of pharmacy and nursing under the Medhavi Skills University (MSU). Established under the theme "Empowering Dreams and Building Futures for Viksit Bharat", the two new colleges were inaugurated by SD Dhaka, Principal Secretary to Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang, at a function here.

4 people electrocuted while installing banner

Tadiparru (Andhra Pradesh): Four men were electrocuted here Monday while tying a flexi banner around a social reformer's statue. The incident occurred at Tadiparru village in East Godavari district Monday morning. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed deep sorrow over the death of four youngsters due to electrocution while making arrangements for the unveiling of social reformer Sardar Sarvarai Papanna Goud's statue, an official statement said.

RG KAR RAPE-MURDER CASE

WB court frames charges against prime accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 4: Eighty-seven days after the body of a woman medic was found at state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, a Kolkata court Monday framed charges against the prime accused, Sanjay Roy.



The court announced that day-to-day trial in the case would commence from November 11. Roy has been booked under Section 64 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (rape), Section 66 (punishment for causing death or resulting in a persistent vegetative state) and 103 (punishment for murder).

"I have done nothing. I have been framed in this rape-murder case. Nobody is listening to me. The government is framing me and threatening me not to

open my mouth," Roy told reporters as he was led out of the Sealdah court.

Roy was arrested by the Kolkata Police August 10, a day after the on-duty woman doctor's body was found inside the seminar room of the RG Kar hospital. Later, the CBI took up the investigation into the case on a Calcutta High Court order.

Senior West Bengal Congress Adhir Chowdhury said that Roy's claims should be taken seriously and probed.

"Such claims of an accused should not be ignored and call for an investigation. We have been saying that such a crime is not possible by a single person. It's a collective crime. We do not know whether the CBI and the Kolkata Police are in an understanding. We are sceptical," he said.

Study links PM2.5 component with poor memory in children

The chemical is formed when ammonia gas -- released from agricultural activities -- reacts with nitric acid produced after burning fossil fuels

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: Exposure to ammonium nitrate, a key component of PM2.5 pollution and a product of agricultural emissions, has been found to affect learning ability and memory in children, according to a new study.

The chemical is formed when ammonia gas -- released from agricultural activities -- reacts with nitric acid produced after burning fossil fuels.

Previous studies have found

ammonium nitrate to heighten risk of ageing-related conditions such as Alzheimer's and dementia -- in which cognition and memory is affected, suggesting that long-term exposure to PM2.5 can cause neurocognitive harm across one's lifespan.

A critical measure of air quality, PM2.5 is a mixture of dust, soot, organic compounds and metals, a particle of which is below 2.5 micrometres in diameter. It is known to travel deep into the lungs, from where it can enter the bloodstream and then pass through the highly selective blood-brain barrier, thereby causing serious health problems.

In a 2020 study, a team including researchers from the University of Southern California (USC), US, looked at PM2.5 as a whole and found no potential impact on children's cognition.



However, this study, conducted by the same team and published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives, analysed 15 chemicals constituting PM2.5 and thus,

ammonium nitrate emerged as a "prime suspect".

Based on residential addresses of nearly 8,600 children, aged 9-11 years, from across the country, the researchers used

spatio-temporal models to analyse yearly levels of exposure to PM2.5 components.

"No matter how we examined it, on its own or with other pollutants, the most robust finding was that ammonium nitrate particles were linked to poorer learning and memory. That suggests that overall PM2.5 is one thing, but for cognition, it's a mixture effect of what you're exposed to," study author Megan Herting, a professor of population and public health sciences at USC, said.

Further, "understanding these nuances is crucial for informing air quality regulations and understanding long-term neurocognitive effects," Herting said.

The study added to mounting evidence that has shown PM2.5 pollution to be detrimental to memory and cognition for peo-

ple of all ages.

"Mixture modelling revealed cumulative negative associations between chemical components of PM2.5 and children's cognitive performance across all three cognitive domains, with the greatest contributions from ammonium, nitrates, potassium, silicon, and calcium," the authors wrote.

"Building upon a decade of research suggesting that PM2.5 exposure is detrimental to cognition, this work links childhood exposure to PM2.5 source mixtures to individual differences in cognition at 9-10 years of age," they wrote.

This study's participants came from the ongoing Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study, tracking brain development and mental health of nearly 12,000 children and adolescents across the US.



I was shocked and saddened to hear the sad news of the death of four workers. Apart from conveying my deepest condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families, I have ordered to pay Rs 3 lakh each from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund to the families of the deceased

ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS: POLLING FOR UP, PUNJAB, KERALA RESCHEDULED

The Election Commission Monday rescheduled from November 13 to November 20 the Assembly bypolls to all nine and four seats in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, respectively, and one seat in Kerala in view of festivals, an official statement said



of the day quote

As part of this pre-emptive attempt, the state government and Waqf board have reportedly begun altering revenue records, transferring ownership of farmers' lands to the Waqf

We have no personal enmity with anyone and this election is not about one caste or other. This election is an election of ideology, an election of two parties and an election about who can serve Dausa better

Paravets are trained to provide animal health services in rural areas, but they face a number of challenges due to lack of resources and inadequate training

36 killed as bus falls into U'khand gorge

Visuals from the area pointed to the magnitude of the accident, the vehicle reduced to a mangled mess as it rolled down the forested, rocky slope and stopped just short of a stream



Marchula (Uttarakhand), Nov 4: A packed beyond capacity bus carrying passengers returning to work after Diwali fell into a deep gorge in Uttarakhand's Almora district Monday, killing at least 36 of the over 60 people on board.

regional transport officers of Pauri and Almora suspended. "The news of the death of many people, including women and children, in a road accident in Almora, Uttarakhand is heart-rending. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of those injured."

A magisterial probe has been ordered and the assistant regional transport officers of Pauri and Almora suspended.

SC raps Delhi govt over pollution level on Diwali

The top court has demanded explanations from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government and the Delhi police regarding the failure to enforce the ban

New Delhi, Nov 4: Expressing serious concern over high pollution levels in Delhi during Diwali festival, the Supreme Court took exception to the violation of court orders and said its directives on firecrackers were hardly implemented.

We want all the orders to be placed on record banning the sale, manufacture and bursting of firecrackers in Delhi.

We are also issuing notice to the Delhi police commissioner on the action police has taken so far against the violators and the steps it is taking to implement the orders of the court, the bench said.

It directed the Delhi government and police commissioner to file their responses within a week saying, there cannot be any dispute that the orders of the court banning firecrackers were hardly implemented.

Firecracker bursting was the major cause of pollution during Diwali and if the orders of the court are not implemented, it will be a chaotic situation, the bench told Additional Solicitor General Archana Pathak Dave, appearing for the Centre, and the counsel for Delhi government.

It posted the matter for further hearing November 14 for compliance of its directions.

The top court asked the Delhi government and the police on the steps that were taken to implement the orders completely banning manufacture, sale and bursting of firecrackers in the national capital and the action they have taken against the violators.

We want the Delhi government to immediately respond as to why this has happened.

Senior advocate Aprajita Singh, who has been appointed amicus curiae in the matter, said orders of the court were violated with impunity. She produced before the court a report of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) which highlighted pollution level rising by almost 30 per cent on Diwali as compared to a day earlier.



I-T dept receives 6,500 suggestions on income tax act review

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: The Income Tax department has received 6,500 suggestions from stakeholders over the past month on review of the Income Tax Act.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Monday chaired a meeting on the Budget announcement of a comprehensive review of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The meeting was attended by Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra, Secretary, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chairman Ravi Agarwal, and senior CBDT officials.

In a post on X, the finance ministry said that Malhotra informed the Finance Minister that 22 specialised sub-committees have been established to review the various aspects of the Income Tax Act.

These committees have actively engaged in numerous meetings both in person and via VC with domain experts to collaboratively explore and recommend improvements to the Act. "During the meeting, the Revenue Secretary also apprised FM Smt. @nsitharaman that 6,500 valuable suggestions have been received through the portal since it was opened 6 October 2024, reflecting active public participation towards further simplification of the IT Act," the ministry added.

Last month, the CBDT's internal committee invited public inputs for review of the six-decade-old I-T Act with regard to simplification of language, litigation reduction, compliance reduction, and obsolete provisions.

Pursuant to the Budget announcement by Sitharaman for a comprehensive review of the Income-tax Act, 1961, the CBDT had set up an internal committee to oversee the review and make the Act concise, clear, and easy to understand, which will reduce disputes, litigation, and provide greater tax certainty to taxpayers.

Public inputs and suggestions were invited in four categories - simplification of language, litigation reduction, compliance reduction, and redundant/obsolete provisions.

POST OF THE DAY



LESSON ABOUT FASCISM Even decorated military officers who were long time fans of Modi are facing abuses & insults the moment they expressed discomfort about language used in SmitaPrakash's godi-media talk show about our airforce & navy. Remember: You are either a slave or an enemy of fascist demagogue.

@Ad_Tel_210168

SHORT TAKES

2 more die in Kerala temple fire accident

Kasaragod (Kerala): Two more people have died from injuries suffered in the recent fireworks accident at a temple near Neelawaram in this district, raising the death toll to four, officials said Monday. Biju (38) and Shibiraj (19), who had been receiving treatment for severe burns at a private hospital in Kozhikode, died Sunday night. Earlier, two persons had also died from injuries sustained in the accident.

Student murdered in farm house

Bangalore: A 21-year-old college student died after he was allegedly attacked by three men at a farm house on the outskirts of the city, police said Monday. Three persons have been arrested in connection with the case. The incident occurred October 26, when Punith, a B.com student, along with seven of his friends, including two girls, had gone to a farm house in Chikkenahalli near here. According to police, the accused from nearby Honnapura area, allegedly reached the farm house at night and started abusing Punith and his friends.

70 cattle rescued after gunfight with smugglers

Jaipur: Police Monday rescued more than 70 cattle from suspected cow smugglers after a brief gunfight in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district, officials said. Acting on a tip-off, a police quick response team attempted to intercept a truck carrying the cattle to slaughterhouses in the early hours of Monday but the smugglers opened fire at them, they said. The police fired in self-defence, the officials added.

SNIPPETS

SC to consider listing PIL related to bridge collapse incidents in Bihar

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday agreed to consider listing for hearing a plea that raised concerns about the safety and longevity of bridges in Bihar after several of them collapsed in recent months. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, in July 29 this year, had sought responses from the Bihar government and others, including the National Highway Authorities of India (NHAI), on the public interest litigation (PIL). A lawyer representing the petitioner Monday, advocate Brajesh Singh, mentioned the plea for hearing. "I will look into this," the CJI said and asked whether an email regarding this was sent to his office. The PIL sought directions for a structural audit and setting up of an expert panel to identify bridges that can be either strengthened or demolished based on its findings.

SC relaxes Kerala journalist Kappan's bail rider

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday relaxed the bail condition imposed on Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan in a UAPA case saying he doesn't have to report to a Uttar Pradesh police station every week. A bench of Justices PS Narasimhan and Sandeep Mehta relaxed the condition imposed by the top court on Kappan at the time of his bail in September, 2022. "The order dated September 9, 2022, is modified and it shall not be necessary for the petitioner to report to the local police station. The other prayers made in the present application can be agitated independently," said the bench.

India condemns attack on temple in Canada

PM Modi asks Canada govt to uphold rule of law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: The "deliberate attack" on a Hindu temple in Canada sparked strong condemnation in India Monday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking the Canadian government to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law.

ensure that such incidents are not repeated. The incident occurred in Brampton, where protestors carrying Khalistani flags clashed with people at the Hindu Sabha temple Sunday and disrupted a consular event co-organised by the temple authorities and the Indian Consulate.



Peel Regional Police Sunday said that a protest occurred at the Hindu Sabha temple in Brampton and unverified videos circulating on social media appeared to show demonstrators holding banners in support of Khalistan, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported

New Delhi said it remains "deeply concerned" about the safety and security of Indian nationals in Canada while Prime Minister Modi also flayed the "cowardly attempts" to intimidate Indian diplomats. The development comes as India-Canada ties remain

deeply troubled over the North American country's alleged support to Khalistani separatists and its accusation of India's involvement in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen who has been designated a terrorist by India. In a post on X, Modi said, "I strongly condemn the deliberate attack on a Hindu temple in Canada. Equally appalling are

The videos showed fist fights and people striking each other with poles on what appears to be the grounds surrounding the temple, the report added

the cowardly attempts to intimidate our diplomats. Such acts of violence will never weaken India's resolve." He added, "We expect the Canadian government to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law."

Tourism Ministry to take part in World Travel Market in London

The Ministry of Tourism says that it is participating at the WTM with a delegation drawn from nearly 50 stakeholders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: India will participate in the World Travel Market (WTM) in London being held from November 5-7, aiming to enhance inbound tourism and position the country as a premier global travel destination.

"A total of 9.5 million foreign tourists visited India during 2023, out of which 0.92 million visits were from the UK, making it the third largest source market for inbound tourists to India," the statement said.

The 'Chalo India' initiative was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to engage the Indian diaspora for promoting India to their non-Indian friends. As part of this initiative, the Indian diaspora will invite their non-Indian friends to explore the grandeur of Incredible India.

This initiative aligns with India's strategic goal to enhance inbound tourism and position the country as a premier global travel destination, the statement added.

The Ministry of Tourism has developed a 'Chalo India' portal where diaspora members can register and refer their non-Indian friends to visit In-



dia. Gratis e-tourist visa to the visiting foreign guests is also being given as an incentive under the programme.

Through this initiative, the Indian diaspora will play a vital role in promoting the country as a premier global tourist destination, showcasing its rich heritage and diverse culture to the world, the statement said.

At WTM 2024, the focus of this year's India Pavilion is wedding tourism, MICE tourism, and 'Mahakumbh'

ings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) tourism, and 'Mahakumbh'. A special mock 'mandapam' has been created in the pavilion to give the look and feel of an Indian wedding, the ministry said.

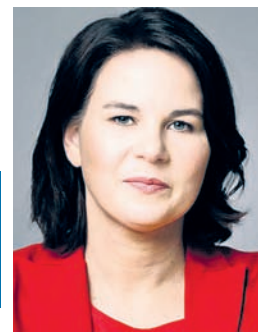
The India Pavilion will showcase India's rich kaleidoscope of cultures, languages, and traditions, each contributing not only to its rich tourism landscape but also to the gamut of niche tourism experiences such as spirituality and wellness, wedding, adventure, ecotourism and gourmet tourism, it added.

Several other stakeholders, including state tourism departments, tour operators, airlines, PSUs, among others, are participating in the India Pavilion at the WTM. The co-participants include state tourism departments from Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Puducherry, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, tour operators and destination management companies, airlines, resorts and the IRCTC, the statement said.

India remains the world's fastest growing major economy and is committed to ensure that its continued growth path is equipped to deal with the challenges of climate change, its goal of achieving net-zero emission by 2070, it said.

The year India held the presidency of the G20, it showcased the diversity and capacity of the tourism potential of the country to the world, the ministry said.

international



We are countering this brutality with our humanity and support, so that Ukrainians can not only survive the winter, but so that their country can survive. Because they are also defending the freedom of all of us in Europe

ANNALENA BAERBOCK | FOREIGN MINISTER, GERMANY

JAPAN LAUNCHES DEFENCE SATELLITE

Japan launched a defence satellite designed for information-gathering and military operations on a new flagship H3 rocket Monday, as the country seeks to build up its military capability amid growing tension in the region



of the day quote

Allow me to say that we in the United Arab Emirates will always choose partnership over polarisation, dialogue over division and peace over provocation

SULTAN AL-JABER | MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, UAE

Our schools are the only education system in the region that includes a human rights program and follows the standards and values of the United Nations. Without education, children slide into despair, poverty, and extremism

PHILIPPE LAZZARINI | COMMISSIONER-GENERAL OF UNRWA

In continuation of the development of Iran-Russia scientific and technological cooperation, two Iranian satellites, Kowsar and Hodhod, will be launched to a 500 km orbit of earth, November 5, by a Soyuz launch vehicle

KAZEM JALALI | IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO RUSSIA

Pak blames India for Lahore smog crisis

Pakistan Monday blames winds from India for worsening smog in Lahore, the city bordering India, urging the Indian authorities to take up the matter seriously



Lahore, Nov 4: Ministers in Pakistan's Punjab province Monday blamed winds from India for worsening smog here, urging the Indian authorities to take up the matter seriously, after the air quality index in the capital city hit a record high over the weekend.

Toxic grey smog has sickened tens of thousands of people, mainly children and elderly people, since last month when the air quality started worsening in Lahore, the city bordering India. The concentration

of PM 2.5, or tiny particulate matter, in the air, approached 450, considered hazardous, the Punjab Environment Protection Department said.

"The wind direction brings air from India into Pakistan, yet India does not seem to be taking this problem as seriously as it should," Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari

told the media here. She urged the Indian side of Punjab state to take this matter seriously.

"Delhi ranks first in smog levels today, with Lahore following closely in second place. Delhi's air quality index is around 393, while Lahore's is close to 280," she said, adding that China has been battling smog for the past 26 years.

Earlier, Punjab senior minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said the province was going to request the Pakistan Foreign Office to take up the issue of cross-border pollution with India.

"The easterly winds from Amritsar and Chandigarh are spiking the air quality index in Lahore to over 1,000 for the past two days," she said.

"The wind from India towards Lahore taking the smog to dangerous levels and the wind is likely to sustain its direction for at least next week. The people should take care of themselves by avoiding unnecessarily coming out of their houses. The elderly and children should be particularly careful," Aurangzeb said.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz also called for climate diplomacy with India and said she would soon write to the chief minister of the Indian side of Punjab to jointly address the issue of smog.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

EU, SK urge withdrawal of North Korean troops

Seoul, Nov 4: South Korea and the European Union Monday jointly condemned North Korea's supply of weaponry to Moscow and demanded that it withdraw troops it has sent as Russia wages war against Ukraine.

The EU and South Korea were holding their first "Strategic Dialogue" meeting in Seoul, shortly after Washington and Seoul sounded the alarm about North Korea sending soldiers to help Russia.

In a joint statement, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell and South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul condemned the North's "unlawful arms transfers to the Russian Fed-

eration for its use in attacking Ukraine".

They demanded an end to the "unlawful military cooperation" and a withdrawal of the North Korean forces.

Borrell also met South Korean Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun.

"Russia's aggression against Ukraine is an existential threat," Borrell said in a post on X that included a photo of him shaking hands with Kim. "The Republic of Korea is best positioned to understand it. We are united in our support to Ukraine. I encouraged them to step it up."

The two countries also signed a security and defence partnership covering 15 areas including cyber security and disarmament.



US Prez polls showdown today

POLLS SHOW HARRIS, TRUMP RUNNING NECK AND NECK NATIONALLY

REUTERS

Raleigh, Nov 4: A presidential election unlike any other in US history enters its last full day Monday with Donald Trump, Kamala Harris and their campaigns scrambling to get supporters to the polls in a contest each portrays as an existential moment for America.

Even after the astonishing blur of events the last few months, the electorate is divided down the middle, both nationally and in the seven battleground states expected to decide the winner Tuesday, although the closeness of the contest means it could take days for a winner to emerge.

Trump, a 78-year-old Republican, survived two assassination attempts, one by millimeters, just weeks after a jury in New York, the city whose tabloids first elevated him to national fame and notoriety, made him the first former US President to be convicted of a felony. Harris, 60, was catapulted to the top of the Democratic ticket in July, giving her a chance to become

the first woman to hold the world's most powerful job, after President Joe Biden, 81, had a disastrous debate performance and three weeks later dropped his reelection bid under pressure from his party.

For all of that turmoil, the contours of the race have changed little. Polls show Harris and Trump running neck and neck nationally and in the battleground states. More than 77 million voters have already cast ballots, but the next two days will provide a critical test of whether Vice President Harris' or former President Trump's campaign does the better job of driving supporters to the polls.

Voters, both Democrats and Republicans, have broken century-old records in the last two presidential elections, a sign of the passion that Trump stirs in both political parties.

In the final days of this campaign, both sides are flooding social media sites and TV and radio stations with a last round of ad campaigns, and racing to knock on doors and make calls.



As I travel, I see Americans from so-called red states to so-called blue states who are ready to bend the arc of history toward justice

KAMALA HARRIS | DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, US

We're going to cut your taxes, end inflation, slash your prices, raise your wages and bring thousands of factories back to America

DONALD TRUMP | REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, US

erated, but has effectively outsourced most of the work to outside super PACs, allied political groups that can raise and spend unlimited sums of money.

They have been more focused on contacting "low propensity" voters, or voters that often do not go to the polls, instead of appealing to middle-of-the-road voters who can flip to either side.

Many in this category are Trump supporters, but they are not normally reliable voters.

By cherry-picking the voters they want to contact, Trump and his team say they are sending door knockers to places where it makes a difference and being smart about spending.

Trump and his allies, who falsely claim that his 2020 defeat was the result of fraud, have spent months laying the groundwork to again challenge the result if he loses. He has promised "retribution," spoken of prosecuting his political rivals and described Democrats as the "enemy within."

Philippine military drills to seize island in SCS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manila, Nov 4: The Philippine military opened two weeks of combat drills Monday that would include seizing an island in the disputed South China Sea and likely be frowned upon by China.

More than 3,000 Filipino army, navy and air force personnel will take part in the maneuvers, which Philippine military officials said were not directed against any country.

China has rapidly expanded its military and has become increasingly assertive in pursuing territorial claims in the South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety.

The tensions have led to more frequent confrontations, primarily with the Philippines and Vietnam, though the long-time territorial disputes also involve Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and Taiwan.

"Our mission today is very clear, to prepare ourselves comprehensively to respond to any external threats that might challenge our sovereignty," Armed Forces of the Philippines chief General Romeo Brawner Jr said in the opening ceremony of the exercises.

The maneuvers will include live-fire drills using artillery and assault rifles and beach landing drills. In the South China Sea, Filipino forces would simulate taking control of an island, Philippine army Colonel Michael Logico told reporters without elaborating.

Asked how China may react, Logico said he expected Chinese forces to undertake surveillance from a distance but added they would not likely make any hostile move.

"They have a front seat to the exercise. They'll watch and we don't mind," Logico said.

China has opposed such combat drills in the South China Sea, particularly if American and allied forces were involved.

Next year, US and Philippines forces plan to stage their largest annual combat drills called Balikatan, Tagalog for shoulder-to-shoulder, that are also expected to include maneuvers in contested South China Sea areas.

SHORT TAKES

Myanmar junta chief to visit China

Naypyidaw: Myanmar junta leader Min Aung Hlaing will travel to China this week to attend regional summits, state media said Monday, in the embattled top general's first visit to the influential neighboring nation since he seized power in a 2021 coup. Since the coup Myanmar has been in chaos, including areas along its border with China, as an armed resistance movement combined with established ethnic minority militias to wrest control of large territories from the military government. Min Aung Hlaing will attend summits of the Greater Mekong Subregion and the Ayeeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Co-operation Strategy (ACMECS) and join a meeting with Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam November 6 and 7 in Kunming, MRTV said.

Iran executes Jewish citizen

Tehran: Iran Monday executed a Jewish citizen convicted of murdering another man in 2022 following a personal dispute, reports said. It was a rare case of an execution of member of a religious minority in the predominantly Muslim nation. Mizanonline.ir, a website affiliated with Iran's judiciary, said 23-year-old Arvin Ghahremani was put to death after the country's Supreme Court affirmed the capital punishment handed down in the case earlier last year. The report quoted Hamid Reza Karimi, the prosecutor of the western city of Kermanshah, as saying the court and the convicted man's lawyers and relatives had failed to convince the victim's family to abstain from qisas, an act under Islamic penal code that calls for similar punishment, or an "eye for an eye" and effectively pardon his killer. The victim's name was not provided.

Indonesia, Russia hold 1st joint drills

Surabaya: Naval forces of Indonesia and Russia began their first joint military training drills in the Java Sea Monday, the Indonesian navy said, something analysts said showed the Southeast Asian country's willingness to befriend any country. The joint exercise comes as Indonesia's newly inaugurated President Prabowo Subianto has pledged closer ties with Russia on defence, in his bid to forge links with any country as part of his nation's long-held non-alignment foreign policy. The drills will take place in the Java Sea near Indonesia's Surabaya city, east of the capital Jakarta, through Friday after four Russian war ships arrived on location Sunday, the navy said in a statement Monday.

Israel terminates UNRWA deal

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, Nov 4: Israel said Monday it had terminated the agreement facilitating the work of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, the main aid provider in Gaza, in what appeared to be a step to implement legislation passed last month that would sever ties with the agency and prevent it from operating in Israel.

Israel says the agency, known as UNRWA, has been infiltrated by Hamas. UNRWA denies the allegations and says it takes measures to ensure its neutrality.

On Sunday, Israel said its troops had carried out a ground raid into Syria to seize a Syrian it accuses of working with Iran. It was the first time in the current war that Israel announced its troops operated in Syrian territory.

Despite growing pressure from the United States and others in the international com-

munity for a cease-fire in Gaza and Lebanon, intensified Israeli strikes against the Hezbollah militant group are expanding beyond Lebanon's border areas. Israel is also fighting a seemingly endless war against Hamas in northern Gaza.

Since the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah erupted last year, at least 2,900 people have been killed and 13,150 wounded in Lebanon, the Health Ministry reports, not including Friday's toll. Health authorities say that a quarter of those killed were women and children.

More than a year of Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza has killed more than 43,000 people, Palestinian health officials say. They do not distinguish between civilians and combatants, but say more than half of those killed were women and children. The war began after Palestinian militants stormed into Israel October 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians and abducting 250 others.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Roma Street Parklands in Brisbane

Volcanic eruption in Indonesia kills ten

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maumere, Nov 4: Indonesia's National Disaster Management Agency said Monday that at least 10 people have died as a series of volcanic eruptions widens on the remote island of Flores.

The eruption at Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki around midnight spewed thick brownish ash as high as 2,000 metres into the air and hot ashes hit several villages, burning down houses including a convent of Catholic nuns, said Firman Yosef, an



official at the Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki monitoring post.

He said volcanic material was thrown up to 6 kilometers from its crater, blanketing nearby villages and towns with tons of volcanic debris and forc-

ing residents to flee.

Rescuers were still searching for more bodies buried under collapsed houses, said Abdul Muhari, the National Disaster Management Agency's spokesperson. Muhari said all the bodies, including a child, were found with a 4-kilometer radius of the crater.

He said at least 10,000 people have been affected by the eruption in six villages of Wulangi-tang District, and four villages in Ile Bura district. Some have fled to relatives' houses while the local government is ready-

ing schools to use as temporary shelters.

The country's volcano monitoring agency increased the volcano's alert status to the highest level and more than doubled the exclusion zone to a 7-kilometer radius after midnight Monday as eruptions became more frequent.

Photos and videos circulated on social media showed tons of volcanic debris covering houses up to their rooftops in villages like Hokeng, where hot volcanic material set fire to houses.

Business



Our labs are a conducive starting point for enterprises that want to embark on a collaborative journey to develop blueprints for AI and GenAI-led efficiencies, new business capabilities, skilling roadmaps and overall organisational competitive advantage with a pragmatic approach

VIJAY GUNTUR | CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER, HCLTECH

WHITE COLLAR HIRING GROWS 10 PC IN OCT: REPORT

White collar hiring activity witnessed a growth of 10 per cent year-on-year in October mainly driven by a rise in recruitment in sectors, including oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, FMCG, and IT, a report said Monday. The Naukri Job-Speak Index, India's leading indicator of white-collar hiring activity, demonstrated robust growth in October, reaching 2,733 points compared to 2,484 in the same month of 2023, marking a significant 10 per cent year-on-year increase.



of the day quote

For the second consecutive year we have achieved our highest-ever festive retail sales... There has been good momentum and growth in most parts of the country with rural sales catching up with the urban segment in the latter half of the festive season

NIRANJAN GUPTA | HERO MOTOCORP CEO

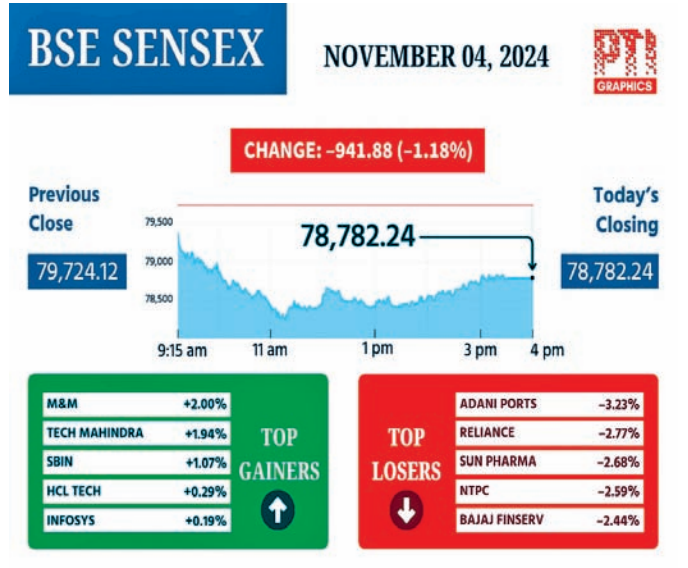
We have continually strived to resolve the needs of multiple industries, which are equally important as health, life and motor, however, the insurers providing such a wide range of insurance coverage is very limited in the country

AATUR THAKKAR | ALLIANCE INSURANCE BROKERS CO-FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR

Our expansion through franchise stores in Tier 3-5 markets, combined with our robust digital presence, is helping us tap into new growth opportunities with strengthened omni-channel approach. Our conscious efforts on Franchise model expansion are showing good results

GUNJAN SHAH | BATA INDIA MD AND CEO

Sensex at 3-month low



MORE PAIN IN STORE

Mumbai: The slide in Indian equities in October, which was the steepest since March 2020, is likely to extend into November as investors continue to lean towards 'sell on rally,' brokerages' analysis of the October equity derivatives series showed. The market-wide open interest (OI), or the total number of active unsettled contracts in futures markets, has fallen for the first time in 12 monthly series, the analysis showed, marking a trend reversal and indicating a bearish outlook. The OI declined to 4,068 trillion rupees (\$48.38 billion) at the start of the November series on Nov. 1, from 4,802 trillion rupees at the start of the October series on Sept. 27, according to Nuvama Alternative and Quantitative Research. Of that, Nifty futures alone started the November series with an OI of 281 billion rupees, nearly half the 451 billion rupees at the start of the October series, according to Nuvama Alternative and Quantitative Research. In line with the OI reversal, the benchmark Nifty 50 index fell during the October series after gaining during each of the previous four series. The index's roughly 8% slide from an all-time high Sept. 27 through the end of October was mainly due to a record-high \$11.2 billion in equity sales by foreign investors over the month. Investors took the chance to 'sell on rally,' a strategy used in a market downturn that involves taking a short position and using a temporary rally to log minor gains. It is the opposite of 'buying the dips.' The derivatives expiry data indicates that the strategy is likely to continue in November, according to Chandan Tapparai, head of equity derivatives and technicals of wealth management at Motilal Oswal.

Rupee hits all-time low on equity outflows

REUTERS

Mumbai, Nov 4: The rupee touched its weakest level on record Monday, as persistent outflows from local stocks blunted the impact of a weaker dollar that helped lift the currency's regional peers ahead of the US presidential election.

The rupee closed at 84.1150 against the US dollar after touching its all-time low of 84.1225 earlier in the session.

Benchmark Indian equity indexes, the BSE Sensex and Nifty 50, fell more than 1% each on the day, their worst single-day performance in a month.

The benchmarks are down about 8% from their respective record highs hit in late September, hurt by the exodus of foreign investors amid a tepid earnings season.

Routine interventions by the Reserve Bank of India, such as on Monday, have helped the rupee avoid sharp declines despite pressure from chunky outflows from local stocks and elevated US bond yields.

The Reserve Bank of India is well-equipped to deal with a rise in market volatility and pressure on the rupee if Republican candidate Donald Trump wins US presidential election, two sources familiar with the bank's thinking told Reuters last week.



The dollar index was down about 0.2% Monday at 103.7 while most Asian currencies rose, with the offshore Chinese yuan rising to a near three-week high of 7.08.

The greenback was likely weighed down by unwinding of long positions in the lead-up to the US presidential election results.

"A Republican clean sweep can send the dollar higher, but probably by less than how much a Harris win could hit USD. The dollar might not rally at all if Trump wins but Democrats secure the (U.S. House of Representatives)," ING Bank said in a note.

Investors are also bracing for some uncertainty as the winner of the US presidential race might not be known for days after voting ends.

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Nov 4: Benchmark Sensex tanked nearly 942 points to settle at a three-month low while Nifty crashed below 24,000 Monday dragged down by heavy selling in Reliance Industries and banking shares and persistent FII outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 941.88 points or 1.18 per cent to settle at 78,782.24, the lowest closing level since August 6. During the day, it slumped 1,491.52 points or 1.87 per cent to 78,232.60.

The NSE Nifty tanked 309 points or 1.27 per cent to close at 23,995.35 with 42 of its con-

stituents ending lower and eight higher. The index tanked 488 points to hit 23,800 level during the day but recovered some of the losses later.

Uncertainty ahead of US presidential elections November 5 and expectations of a fresh stimulus package by China to prop up growth triggered selling in Indian stocks, analysts said. Relentless selling by foreign investors also dampened the sentiments in the equity market.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Adani Ports, Reliance Industries, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finserv, NTPC, Tata Motors,

Axis Bank and Titan were among the major laggards.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Tech Mahindra, State Bank of India, HCL Technologies, Infosys and IndusInd Bank were the gainers.

"As expected, India is underperforming its global peers due to excess valuation. The ongoing sell-off has deepened by weak Q2 earnings, dampening investor sentiment. Continued volatility is anticipated in the short-term, as attention shifts to the closely contested US presidential election. Additionally, key economic events, such as the US Fed and BoE policy decisions, will be crit-

ical in shaping market movements," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

The BSE smallcap gauge fell by 1.65 per cent and midcap index tanked 1.31 per cent.

All sectoral indices ended in the red. Realty slumped 3 per cent, oil & gas tumbled 2.54 per cent, while energy (2.51 per cent), telecommunication (2.11 per cent), power (2.06 per cent), industrials (1.72 per cent), and commodities (1.69 per cent) also declined.

A total of 2,717 stocks dropped while 1,351 advanced and 131 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Manufacturing regains growth momentum in Oct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: India's manufacturing sector growth recovered from September's eight-month low to 57.5 in October fuelled by faster increases in total new orders and international sales, a monthly survey said Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HS-BC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose from September's eight-month low of 56.5 to 57.5 in October, indicating a substantial and accelerated improvement in operating conditions.

In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"India's headline manufacturing PMI picked up substantially in October as the economy's operating conditions continue to broadly improve. Rapidly expanding new orders and international sales reflect strong demand growth for India's manufacturing sector," Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, said.

The upturn in performance was boosted by stronger demand for Indian goods. Moreover, the introduction of new products and successful marketing initiatives helped enhance sales performance.

New export orders also exhibited stronger growth, following the weakest uptick in a year-and-a-half during



September. Panel members reported gains in new contracts from Asia, Europe, Latin America and the US.

On the prices front, the October data signalled stronger inflationary pressures across India's manufacturing sector.

Goods producers were also more willing to take on additional staff, which coupled with rising material costs, added to business expenses. Both input prices and selling charges increased at stronger rates.

"Input and output prices are both increasing as a result of persistent inflationary pressures in materials, labour and transportation costs," Bhandari added.

On the employment front, not only did manufacturers

hire extra staff at the start of the third fiscal quarter, but also to a greater degree than in September. Around one in ten panellists reported an increase in employment, while 1 per cent shed jobs.

Going ahead, Indian manufacturers became more optimistic regarding future output volumes.

"To start the third fiscal quarter, business confidence is also very high due to expectations of continued strong consumer demand, new product releases and sales pending approval," Bhandari said.

The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 manufacturers.

Bank of Maharashtra observes Vigilance Awareness week

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Vigilance Awareness Week was observed from October 28 to November 3 by Bank of Maharashtra. As a part of the event, a walkathon was organized by the Bank's Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar at Rupali Square, Bhubaneswar, displaying placards on anti-corruption, Sunday.

The walkathon was led by Alok Kumar Mishra, Zonal Manager and the participants included Sanjeeb Kumar Dash, Dy Zonal Manager, Ravishankar Kumar, CM CPC, Deepak Dandapat, CM, Bhubaneswar Branch and Ashish Kumar, Zonal Vigilance Officer.



The thrust was to create awareness to maintain transparency and honesty in every transaction, maintain highest standards of ethical behaviour, raise voice against corruption, not to take nor give bribe and to report any sort of corruption to appropriate agency.

Haier Group plans JV with JSW Group

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: Haier Group, a leading Chinese appliances manufacturer, has plans to set up a joint venture with India's JSW Group envisaging a proposed investment of Rs 1,000 crore, sources said.

The proposal of Shandong-based Haier Group has been submitted to the government as it attracts Press Note 3 of 2020, under which all firms in countries that share land borders with India need mandatory government approval.

The source said the proposal was put up before the committee that scrutinises such applications. There is an inter-ministerial committee headed by the Home Secretary to consider applications under the press note.

Countries which share land borders with India are China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and Afghanistan.

An email query sent to both companies remained unanswered.

Last year in November, the USD 24-billion JSW Group signed a JV with China's auto major SAIC Motor to acquire a 35 per cent stake in MG Motor India.

The JV was named JSW MG Motor India Private Ltd. Around 51 per cent of the company's shares are with Indian entities, including JSW, which has a 35 per cent stake.

Haier Group is operating here through its subsidiary Haier Appliances India, which was established in 2003. Headquartered in Greater Noida, the India unit is a subsidiary of Haier Singapore Investment Holding Pte.

It is one of the leading brands in the home appliances and consumer electronics market and operates two manufacturing units - Pune, Maharashtra and Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

Haier, which has over Rs 8,000 crore business in India, is constantly expanding its manufacturing capacity to meet the growing demand for appliances from rural and smaller towns and the Indian middle class from urban markets with its affordable options.

India is the third largest market for Haier Group globally after China and the US, where it has invested Rs 3,500 crore so far.

It has a consolidated manufacturing capacity to roll out 9 million units annually combined from both plants.

Earlier this year, Haier, which competes in the Indian market with brands such as Samsung, Panasonic, Whirlpool of India, and Bosch besides some homegrown manufacturers such as Godrej Appliances, Bajaj Electricals, Voltas etc, said it has lined up a "huge expansion plan".

Air purifier sales spike over 50% as air quality worsens

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: Demand for air purifiers has witnessed a surge as air quality, especially in Delhi-NCR, dropped to hazardous levels, according to manufacturers of the product.

Companies, including Kent RO Systems, Xiaomi, and LG Electronics India, said in the festive season, air purifiers sales grew up to 50 per cent as the Air Quality Index (AQI) of Delhi and the adjoining moved towards an alarming level.

Like the previous year, the appliance makers have witnessed growth in the last 2-3 weeks in sales and enquiries for air-purifiers and expect a further uptick with the increase in the AQI index in the coming weeks.

Air purifier is a very small segment of the appliances market and its sales generally peaks in October and November, when the pollution level in North India, particularly Delhi NCR, and some other parts worsens due to stubble burning and Diwali celebrations.

LG Electronics India Senior VP- Home Appliances Sanjay Chitkara said: "As Delhi battles one of its worst pollution seasons yet, suddenly the demand for air purifiers has surged in Delhi NCR".

The city's AQI has crossed hazardous levels, with pollutants that are much smaller than the common PM2.5 particles, making them extremely dangerous and hard to filter out, he said.

Kent RO Systems CMD Ma-



hesh Gupta said sales of air purifiers and filters witnessed a significant surge during the winter months in India, coinciding with the deterioration in air quality. The alarming levels of pollution, especially in the northern regions, create a sense

of urgency among consumers to protect their health, he said. "During the festive season, we observe a noticeable increase in sales of about 20-25 per cent as consumers become more conscious of indoor air quality and their overall well-being," he said.

Xiaomi said amid rising pollution levels, particularly in the North region, there has been a noticeable shift in consumer behaviour, with a growing focus on health and cleaner indoor environments.

"This has driven a sharp rise in Xiaomi's air purifier & air purifier filter sales, with numbers climbing over 50 per cent higher than usual in the past month," said a Xiaomi spokesperson. According to a report from EMR, the India air purifier

market size attained a value of Rs 777.75 crore in 2023. The market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 16.30 per cent between 2024 and 2032, it said.

Some of the makers such as Panasonic and Daikin have either scaled down their presence in the segment or have exited due to below-expectation growth and seasonal sales.

British tech firm Dyson, a global market leader in the premium range of air purifiers said, "With the continued spike in pollution, it's important for people to take proactive measures to protect their family members from the harmful effects of smog and pollutants. To safeguard themselves from the AQI outside, many restrict their movement and prefer to stay indoors."

EMBARRASSING START FOR INDIA'S HEAD COACH

Gambhir's position in a fix

NZ whitewash has put the maverick Delhi man under the lens

ing decent turn. Even Gambhir's philosophy of playing the same way, come hell or high water, is something that those associated closely with Indian cricket have failed to fathom.

Agreeing to send pacer Mohammed Siraj as night-watchman on the second evening of the third Test against New Zealand in Mumbai and Sarfaraz Khan at No 8 in the first innings are some of the tactical moves that are being questioned by everyone.

"Gautam Gambhir was given access which his predecessors Ravi Shastri and Rahul Dravid didn't have. The BCCI's rule book doesn't allow coaches to be a part of the selection committee meetings, but for Australia tour selection meeting, an exception was made. The head coach was allowed to attend considering the magnitude

Right after Gambhir took over the reins, India lost an ODI series to Sri Lanka for the first time in 27 years, and then New Zealand completed a 3-0 whitewash of his side in Tests at home Sunday, something the team never experienced in its long cricketing journey

of the tour," a senior BCCI source told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

At least two players -- Delhi and KKR speedster Harshit Rana and Andhra and SRH all-rounder Nitish Reddy -- are in the

Border-Gavaskar Trophy (BGT) squad on the insistence of the head coach.

However, Rana wasn't given any white-ball game in either Sri Lanka or during the home series against Bangladesh. It was reported that he was released before the last match as he was unwell but within a week, he was back bowling in the India nets in Bangalore. And then, he had a good Ranji Trophy outing against Assam.

There was a school of thought that believed Rana, rather than featuring in Ranji Trophy, could have been sent to Australia with the India A team as playing one or two first-class games on bouncy tracks there would have allowed him to hit the right length before the Test series.

Instead, he was turned into a net bowler for the just-concluded Test series in which two of the three tracks were rank turners.

Coming to Reddy, he got into a tangle while facing a short ball in the 'A' game and his bowling, which is certainly not good enough to be among the main five bowlers, has also raised concerns.

Impressed with Reddy's T20 skills, Gambhir was convinced that he can be the ideal replacement of Hardik Pandya as the seam bowling all-rounder.

The Australia series will be an acid test for Gambhir as he might have to also become the harbinger of doom for some senior players and show them the mirror as the board watches his moves from the sidelines.

'Superman' Wriddhiman announces retirement

One of India's finest keeper-batter to retire after this year's Ranji Trophy



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: Spectacular with the big gloves, quietly assured with the willow and yet happy to be in the shadows, Wriddhiman Saha, in his 40 Test matches for India, has certainly been more than the sum total of all his parts.

But having been out of India reckoning for over three years now, the 40-year-old has decided to call it quits from the game at the end of his team Bengal's ongoing Ranji Trophy campaign. The announcement was made on his social media page late last night.

"After a cherished journey in cricket, this season will be my last. I am honoured to represent Bengal one final time, playing only in the Ranji Trophy before I retire," Saha said.

"Let's make this season one to remember," he added in a post that went up late Sunday night, typically unambiguous from the unassuming player.

He never had the aura of a Mahendra Singh Dhoni or the insane daredevilry of a talented Rishabh Pant but Saha, with his hands as safe as a house, was more than a mere hyphen between the two powerhouse performers of Indian cricket.

The 104 dismissals behind the stumps, including 92 catch-

es in Tests, some of them absolutely splendid, Saha's three centuries and six fifties aren't

The 40-year-old Bengal stumper has featured in 40 Tests and nine ODIs since making his international debut in 2010

always spoken about for their effectiveness. Neither the eight six-laden centuries in a losing cause for erstwhile Kings XI Punjab in the 2014 IPL final.

But Saha, for the better part of the 17 years since his Ranji debut in 2007, was happy to stay out of the spotlight.

Patience came easy to him as he had to wait nearly two years between his debut and second Test and nearly three years between his second and third Tests.

He was always that ever present understudy to Dhoni, knowing well that he will have to wait till the great man called time in whites.

Saha was an old fashioned Indian keeper like Syed Kirmani or Nayan Mongia -- brilliant behind the stumps and a safe batter, who could be used as a floater in the middle order.

Whether keeping up to R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja on perennially under-prepared Indian tracks or gauging the wobbly seam movement of Ishant Sharma's deliveries, between 2015 and 2018, Saha was undoubtedly one of the world's best glove-men at work.

And one can say that with assurance despite his contemporaries being Matthew Wade, BJ Watling, Mushfiqur Rahim, and Jonny Bairstow.

There were moments behind the stumps that one simply cannot forget. A flying catch to pouch South Africa's Faf du Plessis off Ashwin's delivery in front of silly point, which earned him the moniker of 'Superman WriddhiMan', was a moment of sheer brilliance.

His keeping was so exceptional that despite an IPL hundred, three Test tons and a brilliant Irani Cup double ton in a tricky chase, his batting never got the due it deserved.

And when Pant burst into the scene with his 'X-factor' batting, he was again confined to being the second keeper.

SHORT TAKES

Shami's return delayed

Banaglore: Mohammed Shami's return to competitive cricket has been further pushed back after the veteran pacer was not named in the Bengal squad for the next two rounds of the Ranji Trophy against Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. Bengal will take on Karnataka at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here from Wednesday, before travelling to Indore to take on MP from November 13. Shami was expected to play the fixture against Karnataka to test his fitness in a real-match situation as he bowled at full tilt at nets after India's recent Test match against New Zealand here, though with bandage on his operated leg.

Australia beat Pak

Melbourne: Captain Pat Cummins kept his nerve on his return to international cricket to lead Australia to a nervy two-wicket win over Pakistan in the first one-day international Monday. A calm Cummins made an unbeaten 32 off 31 balls to steer Australia to 204-8 with more than 16 overs to spare, after the middle-order had stumbled in a modest run chase. Searing pace from Mitchell Starc (3-33) had earlier helped to bowl out Pakistan for 203 with Cummins, playing his first international since the T20 World Cup in June, picking up 2-39 after he won the toss and elected to field.

Balaji-Andreozzi lose

Metz: Indian tennis player N Sriram Balaji and his Argentine partner Guido Andreozzi made an early exit from the Moselle Open after losing their men's doubles first-round match here. The Indo-Argentine duo squandered a one-set lead, ultimately losing 7-6, 2-6, 7-10 to the Dutch team of Matwe Middelkoop and Jean-Julien Rojer Sunday. Balaji and Andreozzi relied on their strong first serve to secure the opening set in a tie-break. However, Middelkoop and Rojer dominated the second set, winning it 6-2. Sumit Nagal had also made a first-round exit after losing to France's Corentin Moutet from the singles competition earlier Sunday.

Verstappen wins Brazilian Grand Prix

The Red Bull racer climbed up from 17th on the grid to win the Grand Prix, one of his greatest victories taking him to the brink of a fourth world title

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Sao Paulo, Nov 4: Max Verstappen won a chaotic, rain-lashed Brazilian Grand Prix Sunday, roaring back from 17th on the grid to reignite his push for a fourth successive world title.

The Red Bull driver came home ahead of Alpine duo Esteban Ocon and Pierre Gasly, who benefitted when the race was earlier red-flagged, with ti-



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

tle rival and pole-sitter Lando Norris only managing a sixth-place finish in his McLaren.

Victory was Verstappen's first in a grand prix since Spain in June and he now boasts a

62-point lead in the championship with three races left in the season. "You know what that is? Simply lovely," said Verstappen on the team radio as he crossed the finish line.

WTA FINALS

Gauff beats Pegula to commence quest

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Riyadh, Nov 4: Coco Gauff enjoyed a successful start by beating Jessica Pegula 6-3, 6-2 in an American matchup at the WTA Finals. Second-seeded Iga Swiatek rallied to beat Barbora Krejickova 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 in her first match in two months.

Gauff converted five of her eight break-point opportunities to win her opening match at the year-ending tournament for the top eight ranked players.

Gauff will face Swiatek Tuesday with the winner taking control of the Orange Group.

SNIPPETS

India Seniors win silver at Bridge Olympiad

Buenos Aires: India Seniors signed off with a silver medal as they went down 165-258 to USA in the final of the 16th World Bridge Olympiad here. The Indian team comprised Kamal Mukherjee, Vibhas Todi, Badal Das, Pranab Bardhan, Arun Bapat, Ravi Goenka and Girish Bijoer, who is the non-playing captain. In the 96 board final, which took place over two days and six segments, the competition was neck and neck after the first two segments. However, the USA won the third segment decisively, with a score of 53-7 IMPs, and from there, they never looked back, despite the Indian team's determined efforts. Meanwhile, in two pairs events held alongside the final, the young Indian duo of Sanjit Dey and Binod Shaw excelled, finishing as the top performers in both events and ending their maiden international competition on a high note.



IPL auction at end of November in Riyadh

New Delhi: The Indian Premier League's high-profile auction will be held in the Saudi Arabian capital city of Riyadh in the last week of this month, sources in the BCCI confirmed Monday. "The IPL auctions will be held in Riyadh and it has been notified to the franchisees. The likely dates are November 24 and 25," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity. This year's auction is a mega one with high profile India stars like Rishabh Pant, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer and Arshdeep Singh are going to go under the hammer. The 10 franchises will collectively have around Rs 641.5 crore to spend for 204 slots that are available. Out of those 204 slots, 70 are earmarked for overseas players. As of now, 46 players have been retained by the 10 franchises with cumulative expenditure of Rs 558.5 crore.



Women's FTP 2025-29 fixture announced

Dubai: India will host Australia and England in high-profile home series as the International Cricket Council (ICC) Monday gave significance to Test matches and bilateral rubbers while announcing women's cricket Future Tours Programme (FTP) for the 2025-29 cycle. Apart from the storied rivals, India will also face Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, who was unveiled as the 11th member of the FTP, at home during the four-year period. The Women in Blue will also travel to New Zealand, West Indies, Ireland and South Africa in this phase as each member nations are scheduled to play four series at home and abroad. Apart from this, India will also feature in a tri-series in England ahead of the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup, the third team being reigning champions New Zealand.



ManU off to worst league start in 40 years

United fans will have to hope that it is a good omen that Erik ten Hag was fired this week and replaced by Ruben Amorim

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, Nov 4: A tumultuous week for Manchester United ended with a 1-1 draw against Chelsea and the unwanted statistic that the club has made its worst league start for almost 40 years.

Moises Caicedo's stunning long-range volley secured a point for Chelsea and left United on 12 points which Opta, the Premier League's stats supplier, said was its lowest after 10 games since the 1986-87 season.

That was the year Alex Ferguson was hired and went on to lead the club to a period of unprecedented success, winning 13 Premier League titles and two Champions Leagues. "Whenever you see a man-

ager go you have to take some of the blame on yourself, it is because the team is not doing so well," United captain Bruno Fernandes said Sunday. "I spoke to the manager (Ten Hag) and apologized to him. I was disappointed he has gone and I tried to help him."

Fernandes fired United ahead from the penalty spot in the 70th minute against Chelsea as interim head coach Rued van Nistelrooy looked to win back-to-back games during his temporary reign, having beaten Leicester 5-2 in the League Cup Wednesday.

But in front of the watching Olivia Rodrigo, Caicedo's strike from the edge of the box four minutes later ensured the points were shared.

"I think we did the most difficult thing in this stadium against this team ... we were down and we came back immediately," Chelsea head coach Enzo Maresca said.

Chelsea moved up to fourth in the standings, ahead of Arsenal on goal difference, while United is six points behind in

DRASTIC DOWNFALL



13th and playing catchup in the race for Champions League qualification.

Tottenham beat Aston Villa 4-1 earlier in the day.

Ten Hag was fired Monday and while Amorim has been confirmed as his replacement, he does not take charge until November 11. Van Nistelrooy is holding the reins until then and for a short while was making top-flight management look relatively simple.

Fernandes' penalty put United in sight of a win that would

have moved it to within four points of the top four. That was until Caicedo's strike.

"I am disappointed we didn't win, we had the better of the chances in the game but overall the performance was fantastic. They left their all out there on the pitch," Van Nistelrooy said.

The Dutchman's future is unclear once Amorim takes over. But he has two games - against PAOK Salonika in the Europa League and Leicester in the league - until he hands over to the new head coach.