



## Nora's observation

Canadian dancer and actress Nora Fatehi says all female actors in the Hindi film industry have started looking the same

LEISURE | P2



## Ahead of US prez poll

'Abhishekam' at Kamala Harris' ancestral village temple in TN as villagers pray that she becomes the next US president

TWO STATES | P7



## Ukraine shells NK troops

North Korean troops recently deployed to help Russia in its war with Ukraine have come under Ukrainian fire

INTERNATIONAL | P10



## India bids for Olympics

The Indian Olympic Association submits 'Letter of Intent' to the IOC expressing its desire to host the 2036 Olympics in Ahmedabad

SPORTS | P12

## CM orders probe into mango kernel deaths

**Bhubaneswar:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday ordered an inquiry into the death of two women allegedly after eating mango kernel gruel in Kandhamal district. At least two tribal women died and six others were hospitalised after consuming mango kernel gruel at Mandipanka village under Daringbadi block recently. "Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has directed an RDC (revenue divisional commissioner) level inquiry into mango kernel death issue in Kandhamal district," the Chief Minister's Office said in a statement.

## Odisha to woo UK tourists at World Travel Market

**London:** A delegation from Odisha is attending the World Travel Market (WTM) in London this week to pitch for tourists and investments in India's culturally rich eastern state. Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida, who is leading the delegation, is keen to highlight a range of compelling cross-sector opportunities in several active investment projects in the state.



**POLL DAY:** Voters enter American Legion Post 778 to cast their ballots in Butler Township, Pa., on Election Day, Tuesday

# OWNERS' PRIDE

In a judgment that will bring about curbs on the arbitrary usurpation of privately-owned property, especially those belonging to the poor and weaker sections of the society, by various government agencies, the Supreme Court Tuesday ruled that the state cannot takeover private property solely under the pretext of serving the "common good". The ruling by a nine-Judge Constitution bench added that private property does not qualify as "material resources of the community" - as defined under Article 39(b) of the Constitution - merely because it may meet a certain social or economic criterion. CJI DY Chandrachud, who wrote the judgment for himself and six more Judges, found Justice Krishna Iyer's ruling in the State of Karnataka vs Ranganatha Reddy case of 1978 - which suggested that all private properties could be considered community resources - "unsustainable". However, Justice BV Nagarathna partially dissented, while Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia fully dissented.



take them over for distribution to serve "common good" under the Constitution. The judgement of the nine-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud provided clarity on the interpretation of Articles 31C and 39(b) of the Constitution, pivotal provisions concerning the rights of individuals against the state's authority to control resources for public good. The vexed legal question, which was decided by the top court while hearing 16 petitions, was whether private properties can be considered "material resources of the community" under Article 39(b) and taken over by state authorities for distribution to subserve the "common good". The CJI authored the 193-page majority judgement on behalf of six other judges - Justices Hrishikesh Roy, J B Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Rajesh Bindal, Satish Chandra

Sharma, Augustine George Masih - to decide the two issues. Also were on the nine-judge bench, Justice B V Nagarathna, who partially concurred with the majority view, and Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, who dissented from the majority opinion. The majority judgement did not agree with the view expressed by Justice Krishna Iyer in the case of Ranganatha Reddy of 1978 wherein it was held that private properties could be regarded as community resources. "The direct question referred to this bench is whether the phrase 'material resources of the community' used in Article 39(b) includes privately-owned resources. Theoretically, the answer is yes, the phrase may include privately owned resources," noted the CJI. Judges Nagarathna and Dhulia took exception to the CJI's remark in his judgement related to private properties that the Justice VR Krishna Iyer doctrine did a "disservice" to the broad and flexible spirit of the Constitution. While Justice Nagarathna said the CJI's observations are unwarranted and unjustified, Justice Dhulia strongly disapproved the remarks and said the criticism is harsh, and could have been avoided.

## US polls: Harris or Trump?

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** Voters in the US went to the polls Tuesday to elect their next president. The big question now is will America get Kamala Harris as its first woman president or a second Donald Trump term? According to ABC News Project 538, Harris (48 per cent) has had a small lead over Trump (47 per cent). The Economist predicts that Harris will win 276 votes to Trump's 262. An AtlasIntel poll shows Trump leading Democratic candidate Harris with 49 per cent support, compared to Harris's 47.2 per cent, giving Trump a slim 1.8 per cent edge. '270towin' shows a composite of the latest national polls, according to which Harris is leading Trump by 1.2 per cent. Nate Silver's latest forecast gives Harris a slight edge in the Electoral College, projecting her with a 50 per cent chance of victory compared to Trump's 49.6 per cent, the Newsweek reported.

## Bullets fired at Nandan Kanan Exp

**Bhadrak, Nov 5:** Bullets, allegedly fired by an unidentified miscreant, pierced through the guard's compartment of the Nandan Kanan Express near the Charampa railway station here Tuesday. However, the guard, identified as Mahendra Behera, was not injured in the incident, officials said. The train, en route from New Delhi to Bhubaneswar, was approaching gate no-119 near Charampa railway station around 9:15 am when the incident occurred, according to Behera. He said during a signal change, an unidentified youth fired two shots at the compartment. However, he had a close shave while a pellet shattered the glass window panes of the guard's compartment. After the incident, the train stopped at Baudpur station where Behera alerted the station master and Government Railway Police (GRP). A formal report was then filed at Jajpur Road railway station, and local police and GRP launched an investigation. Station Master Subash Chandra Sahu of Baudpur station said it is unclear whether the incident involved gunfire or stone-throwing. "Investigation will reveal the complete details, including who is responsible for the incident and why it occurred," Sahu added. Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel secured the train and escorted it till Puri, a statement issued by the Railways said, adding that the matter is now under investigation by the GRP.



## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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

## WEATHER

|          | BBSR  | CTC   |
|----------|-------|-------|
| Max Temp | 31.7° | 30.4° |
| Min Temp | 21.9° | 21.0° |
| Humidity | 76%   | 84    |
| Rainfall | Nil   | Nil   |

**FORECAST**  
Light to moderate rain/thunderstorm very likely

## MARKET WATCH

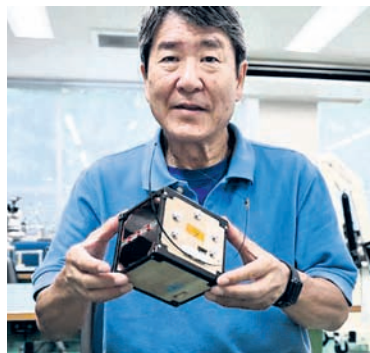
| INDEX  | VALUE    | CHANGE   |
|--------|----------|----------|
| SENSEX | 79476.63 | ▲ 694.39 |
| NIFTY  | 24213.30 | ▲ 217.95 |
| DOLLAR | 84.17    | ▲ 0.01   |
| EURO   | 91.74    | ▼ 0.07   |
| GOLD   | ₹78,400  | ▼ ₹1     |
| SILVER | ₹94,655  | ▲ ₹545   |

## Parl Winter Session from Nov 25

**New Delhi, Nov 5:** The Winter Session of Parliament is scheduled to begin November 25 and continue till December 20, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said Tuesday. Rijiju said a special celebration to mark the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution will be held in the Central Hall of the Samvidhan Sadan November 26, observed as Constitution Day. "Hon'ble President, on the recommendation of the Government of India, has approved the proposal for summoning both the Houses of Parliament for the Winter Session, 2024, from 25th November to 20th December, 2024 (subject to exigencies of parliamentary business)," the Parliamentary Affairs Minister said.

## 1st wooden satellite heads to space

**Kyoto, Nov 5:** LignoSat, world's first wooden satellite, was launched into space Tuesday, in an early test of using timber in lunar and Mars exploration. Developed by researchers at Japan's Kyoto University and homebuilder Sumitomo Forestry, the satellite will be flown to the International Space Station on a SpaceX mission, and later released into orbit about 400 km (250 miles) above the Earth. Named after the Latin word for "wood", the palm-sized LignoSat is tasked to demonstrate the cosmic potential of the renewable material as humans explore living in space. "With timber, a material we can produce by ourselves, we will be able to build houses, live and work in space forever," said Takao Doi, an astronaut who has flown on the Space Shuttle and studies human space activities at Kyoto University. With a 50-year plan of planting trees and building timber houses on the moon and Mars, Doi's team decided to develop a NASA-certified wooden satellite to prove wood is a space-grade material, a Reuters report stated. "Early 1900s airplanes were made of wood," said Kyoto University Forest Science Professor Koji Murata. "A wooden satellite should be feasible, too." Wood is more durable in space than on Earth because there's no water or oxygen that would rot or inflame it, Murata added. A wooden satellite also minimises the environmental impact at the end of its life, the researchers say. Decommissioned satellites must re-enter the atmosphere to avoid becoming space debris. Conventional metal satellites create aluminium oxide particles during re-entry, but wooden ones would just burn up with less pollution, Doi said. "Metal satellites might be banned in the future," Doi said. "If we can prove our first wooden satellite works, we want to pitch it to Elon Musk's SpaceX."



# SAVE MANGROVES SAVE ODISHA

## DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2024

CLIMATE CHANGE : BUILDING RESILIENCE

# 24 NOV

PARTNERS

# leisure



## VAN DYKE'S RARE SOCIAL MEDIA APPEARANCE TO ENDORSE HARRIS

Mary Poppins star Dick Van Dyke, 98, has made a rare social media appearance to pledge his support to Kamala Harris in the US Presidential race, and he did so by reciting a speech he delivered alongside Martin Luther King Jr. at a 1964 civil rights event.

## VICTORIA BECKHAM CARES LESS ABOUT FAME NOW

Fashionista and TV personality Victoria Beckham says she cares less about fame as she gets older and that it only used to be fun in her early days as a Spice Girl.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

#### ARIES

You experience a sense of freedom today. And in this mood you feel like doing all the things that you loved to do in your childhood. It is a nice time to take your family on an outing, says Ganesh. Given your mood, you may start planning for the future of your loved ones.

#### TAURUS

This may be, health wise, a bad day for you. Ganesh urges you to take special care and not to do anything that invites illness or discomfort. The least you can do is to ensure that you do not over exert or get into situations that generate tension and anxiety. Be careful about the food you eat. Make sure that the water you drink is potable and safe. Do not expose yourself to extreme heat or cold. Act sensibly.

#### GEMINI

You will receive unprecedented love and affection from all your friends and family members today. It is a good day to conduct important personal or professional meetings. A lot of joy and happiness awaits, says Ganesh.

#### CANCER

You may donate to a charity organisation, for your mental happiness. On the job front, stick to your routine, rather than taking a new bold step, says Ganesh. A good day on the financial front.

#### LEO

A fun-filled day awaits you. You will enjoy all the activities that you take up today. At the work-place too a progressive day awaits you. You will be worried about the fruits of your labour, but they are likely to be sweeter than you thought they will be, says Ganesh.

#### VIRGO

You will pen down the things to be done today. However, Ganesh suggests that just making a note of them is not enough; you need to set practical goals according to priority. Moreover, Ganesh warns that items you mark on the top of the list will demand immediate action.

#### LIBRA

Ganesh says that your day today will be extremely busy and as a result you will be agitated today. Your happy nature will have to bear the brunt of the sad circumstances and situations that life will shower on you but you will be able to face the situation with your inner strength.

#### SCORPIO

Negative thoughts are likely to surround you today, try to avoid it. You may feel lonely and left-out when the day begins. However, a long list of activities and responsibilities will keep you occupied throughout the day. There are possibilities that you may land up in tricky situations, but you have the knack of handling things gracefully.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Your ways to deal with your team mates and colleagues will be strict and disciplined. However, your perfect ways at work will leave them awestruck. Your personal equations will be least affected by your stern ways, says Ganesh. Do not let success go to your head.

#### CAPRICORN

A penny saved is a penny earned. Your strong belief in this will make you scrutinise your requirements and rearrange the priority list, so that you know where and how to utilise the resources. Your choice of friends will represent your approach and outlook towards life. Ganesh advises you to choose your friends wisely.

#### AQUARIUS

There is nothing like having a good time with your brothers and sisters. Generally, you plan out your routine and activities by yourself, but it is a different day today. Your siblings will make plans for you and you will just go along with the flow, predicts Ganesh. Spontaneity is something new to you, and you will enjoy the change.

#### PISCES

Some unknown fear could haunt you today. You will direct your energies to discovering the source of your worries and eliminate them. Lovers will find some precious time to cozy up with their partners. You will find yourself going out to the movies or to a concert. On the whole it will be a productive day for you, says Ganesh.

# NORA AT HER CANDID BEST

**Mumbai:** Canada-born Indian actress Nora Fatehi recently opened up about fitting in Bollywood and the changing aesthetics for women in the industry.

Nora admitted that, somehow, the aesthetic of all female actors in the industry has become very similar. "My aesthetic is the same as most of the girls in our industry right now. We have started looking the same. I don't know how that happened," she said.

The actor added that due to this, she does not let her stylists dress her up in a similar style as other young actors. Nora explained, "Today when I do have the power to talk. I do tell my stylists, 'This is too much.' The way they dress Ananya (Panday), Sara (Ali Khan), or Janhvi

(Kapoor), they cannot dress me the same way. My body is not the same. I have a lot of conflict where I do have to push this on stylists and directors because they will make certain clothes and be like, 'Well, the others are wearing this.' I am like, 'I get that, but the others don't look like me, unfortunately when I wear it.'"

The actor added that her body type is 'not really familiar in Bollywood' and it gets tough for her to explain to directors and stylists that. However, Nora said that they agree with her once they understand where she is coming from.

AGENCIES



## I'm not a role model: SRK

**Mumbai:** Top star Shah Rukh Khan, recently opened up about quitting smoking after 30 years, thrilling his fans and followers online. After making the announcement, the actor also shared that he does not consider himself a great role model, even though many were inspired to quit smoking following his statement.

On Shah Rukh's 59th birthday, November 2, the actor attended a meet-and-greet event for his fans, where he shared the exciting news of quitting smoking. A video shared by SRK's fan page on Twitter quickly went viral. In the video, King Khan says, "Jab jab zindagi me jaisa achha lage woh karo... Main koi aisa role model nahi hoon... (Whatever you feel is right, do that. I am not a role model)."

The *Jawan* actor also mentioned that it was difficult to give such advice, as he had been smoking for the past 30 years. "We always know it's not good to smoke. If we can give it up - very good. If we can't give it up - very bad. But having said that, jo cheez me jaisa lage apne apne time me waisa waisa karo (Do what you deem fit at the time you deem fit)."

On the work front, Shah Rukh Khan will soon collaborate with Sujoy Ghosh for *King*, in which his daughter Suhana Khan will also play a key role. Abhishek Bachchan will portray the main antagonist in this film.

AGENCIES

**Mumbai:** Salman Khan's ex-girlfriend Somy Ali has recently made so many shocking revelations. Especially amid the death threats given by gangster Lawrence Bishnoi to Salman Khan, Somy's revelations have been the talk of the town. Recently, Somy held an AMA, (*Ask Me Anything*) session on Reddit, where once

again she shared some very shocking revelations about not just Salman but various other subjects of Bollywood.

She stirred controversy by fueling ongoing conspiracy theories, alleging that late actor Sushant Singh Rajput did not die of suicide but was murdered. When a Reddit user asked "What do you think about the Sushant Singh case? The way he was cornered by Bollywood is really disheartening."



Somy's sensational claim on SSR, Jiah

# Samantha admits making mistakes

**Mumbai:** Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu recently admitted to making mistakes in the past.

During an *Ask Me Anything* (AMA) session on Instagram, she discussed her career choices and acknowledged that she had made some errors throughout her journey. Samantha gracefully accepted that she has been going through a rough patch in her professional life. When a fan inquired about her preparation for her upcoming TV series *Citadel: Honey Bunny*, she shared that she made promise to herself to challenge herself with every role she takes on.

The *Khushi* actress responded to a fan, saying, "I made a promise to myself that I'll challenge myself with every role I take on, with each challenge being more difficult than the last. I agree I made some mistakes in the past, and things haven't really

worked out, but I accept failure. I do know that I might not have done my best in my last few films."

Further discussing her latest project, *Citadel: Honey Bunny*, Samantha stated, "I'm already proud of it. I genuinely believe this is the most layered, complex, and challenging role I've taken on in my career. But I'll leave it to you to decide."

The 37-year-old actress also delivered a powerful response to weight critics and shared an inspiring message against body-shaming, saying, "Stop judging people. Let them be, live and let live. Please, it's 2024."

AGENCIES



Somy replied, "He was murdered and was changed to look like a suicide. Ask AIIMS Dr.

Sudhir Gupta who changed his autopsy report. Why?"

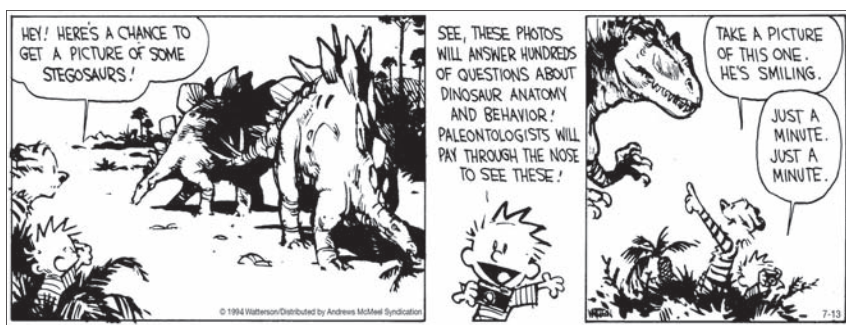
When further asked to give facts, she referred to earlier unfortunate events like Jiah Khan's demise. She mentioned, "Sushant did not commit suicide in fact he was murdered. We still know what happened with Jiah as she was pregnant and found hanging from a ceiling fan, after which Suraj Pancholi sought advice from Salman, resulting in her death."

AGENCIES

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

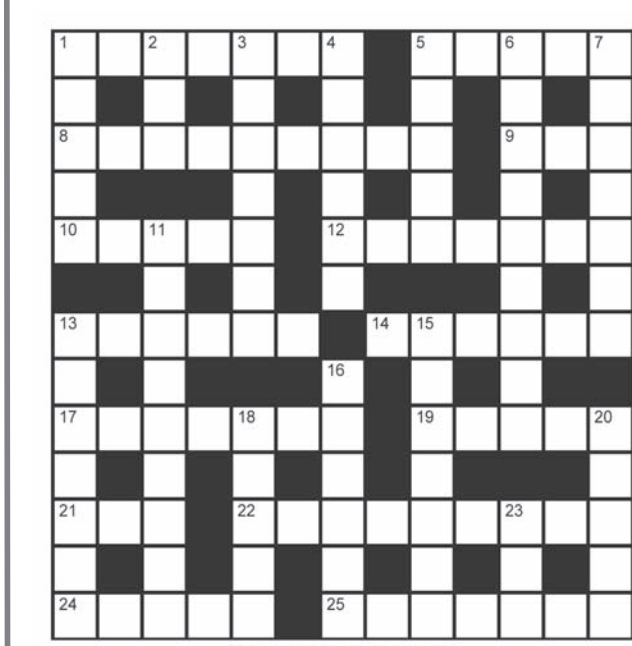


### BREVITY



### FUN POST

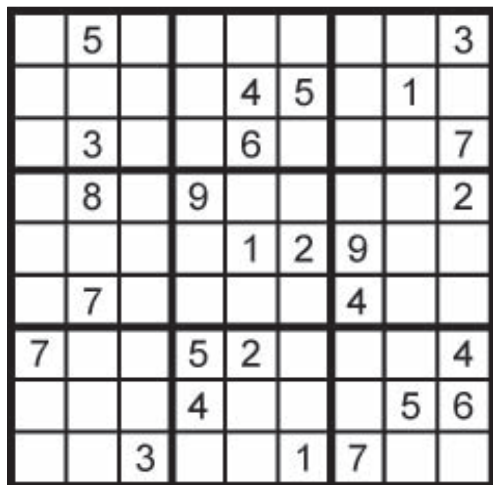
### CROSSWORD



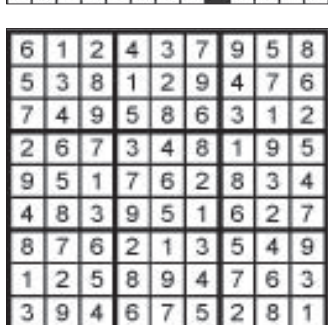
- Across
- 1 High-powered
  - 5 Ancient Italian deities
  - 8 Offensive
  - 9 "This means \_\_\_!"
  - 10 Prize money
  - 12 Perfect
  - 13 Grinding tool
  - 14 Pico de Orizaba locale
  - 17 Peace pipe
  - 19 African tribesman
  - 21 Caustic substance
  - 22 Robert Hooke, e.g.
  - 24 Passé
  - 25 Detectives
  - 6 Disinclined
  - 7 Dust storm
  - 11 Able to bounce back
  - 13 Preserved, like pigs' feet
  - 15 Like the Gobi or Kalahari
  - 16 Moral principles
  - 18 Pondered
  - 20 Hairy humanoids, maybe
  - 23 Follower's suffix
- Down
- 1 Sag
  - 2 Conical buoy
  - 3 Early 1900's touring car
  - 4 French composer born in Poland
  - 5 Suspicious

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Artistes enact play 'Jay Jagadish Hare' during a programme organised by Srujani at Bhanja Kala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



# downtown

## 'DANA' DAMAGE ₹616.19CR

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** A little over a week after severe cyclonic storm 'Dana' pummeled the coastal Odisha, state Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari Tuesday said that the total damage caused in the state due to the storm was pegged at ₹616.19 crore.

Cyclone 'Dana' struck the eastern coast early October 25, triggering torrential rain and high-speed winds uprooting trees and utility poles. The storm also caused significant damage to public infrastructure and standing crops in 14 districts of the state.

Speaking to reporters here, Pujari said it was estimated that the state suffered a loss to the tune of ₹616.19 crore due to the cyclone.

Public infrastructure worth ₹512.26 crore was damaged in the natural calamity, he said.

Similarly, the value of total crops and houses damaged in the cyclone was estimated at



| VITAL STATS              |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Districts hit by cyclone | 14        |
| Blocks affected          | 131       |
| Damage to public infra   | ₹512.26cr |
| Crop loss                | ₹82.92cr  |
| Houses damaged           | ₹21.32cr  |

people in the next two or three days, after getting approval



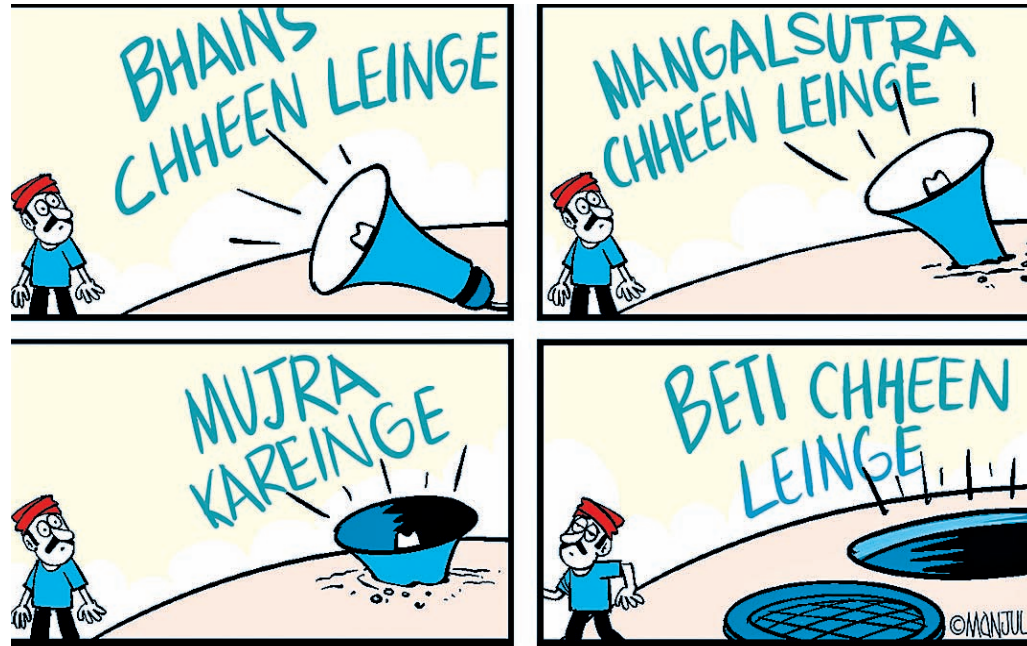
₹82.92 crore and ₹21.32 crore, respectively, he said. Relief will be provided to the affected

from Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Pujari asserted.

Besides, the fund utilised by the district Collectors to meet emergency expenses to tackle the cyclone will also be reimbursed to the districts in two days, he added. A total of 131 blocks in 14 districts have been either partially or fully affected by the cyclone and subsequent heavy rainfall.

The districts are Angul, Balasore, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Khurda, and Puri.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## 3 DETAINED OVER PALASPALLI ATTACK

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** A day after a city-based social worker was attacked by five bike-borne miscreants near Palaspalli area here, Airport police Tuesday detained three persons over their suspected involvement in the incident.

City Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Pinak Mishra said the victim, Shibaprasad Srichandan, is being treated at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here and that his condition is stable.

According to eyewitnesses, Shibaprasad was on his way home around 10pm Monday when a few unidentified miscreants chased and attacked him with sharp weapons near Palaspalli Lane No-5.

Locals said the incident has sparked fear among civilians as the attack took place at a place which is just 500 metres away from Airport police station and 100 metres from the residence of Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik.

The DCP said, prima facie, personal enmity over money lending could be the possible reason behind the attack. The special team is scanning the CCTV footage of the area and examining the evidence from the spot to nab the remaining accused. Notably, Shibaprasad sustained grievous injuries in thighs, arms and other parts of the body and was rushed to Capital Hospital Monday night. However, the doctors referred him to the AIIMS here.

## Houston Rath Yatra plan dropped, says City Iskcon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** Faced with stiff opposition from the devotees of Lord Jagannath for holding an untimely Rath Yatra at Houston in USA, the Iskcon's Bhubaneswar unit Tuesday said the organisation has cancelled its proposed chariot festival there November 9.

The devotees in Houston will instead perform another ritual - Goura Nitai Sankirtan Yatra, the religious body said in a statement here.

The decision to observe the festival in November, deviating from the normal practice at the Jagannath temple in Puri, where it is held in June or July, has not gone down well with the Lord's devotees.

"Finally, respecting the sentiments of Odia devotees of Lord Jagannath, the Houston Rath Yatra is cancelled. They will organise Gour Nitai Sankirtan Yatra," Tukaram Das, vice-president of Iskcon Bhubaneswar, said in the statement. However, till 9:30pm IST, the Iskcon Houston unit's website showed that they will hold the "Festival of Bliss - Rath Yatra November 9 between 10:30am and 4pm CST (local time)." When contacted, a senior functionary of the organisation here said the website might not have revised the programme because of the Presidential elections in the US.

Earlier, the Iskcon had cancelled its plan to hold Lord's 'Snana Yatra' (bathing ritual) scheduled for November 3.

**Finally, respecting the sentiments of Odia devotees of Lord Jagannath, the Houston Rath Yatra is cancelled. They will organise Gour Nitai Sankirtan Yatra**

TUKARAM DAS I  
VICE-PRESIDENT OF ISKCON BHUBANESWAR

Earlier in the day, Puri Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb, said that Iskcon has to stop celebrating untimely Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath anywhere in the world.

Deb, who is also the first servitor of the Lord Jagannath, said that the Iskcon must conduct rituals following scriptures and tradition.

"Enough is enough. Iskcon has been organising untimely Rath Yatra for decades. We will wait till March for its governing body meeting to take a final decision in this regard. If they deviate from the tradition, we will be compelled to take legal assistance," Deb said.

Iskcon celebrates Janmashtami, the birthday of Lord Krishna, on a particular day across the world following the scriptures, but it deviates from tradition in the case of Lord Jagannath, the titular king of Puri claimed. According to the practice in Puri, the 'Snana Yatra' is conducted on the full moon in the month of 'Jyeshtha', usually in June.

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

## Centre to host Mahatab's birth anniv this year

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday said the BJP-led government at the Centre will organise various programmes across the country to mark the 125th birth anniversary of the state's icon Harekrushna Mahatab.

In a post on X, Majhi expressed gratitude to PM Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat for the decision.

"The Government of India has decided to organise the 125th birth anniversary of Utkal Keshari Dr. Harekrushna Mahatab as a national celebration. This is a great tribute to the legendary nationalist leader of Odisha and a testament to #OdiaAsmita," he said.

The state government has also decided to organise various programmes throughout the year to celebrate 'Mahatab Jayanti', officials said.

Besides organising various programmes on his contributions to promote Odisha and its culture, a biopic on him will be exhibited in schools, colleges and universities, they said.

The government also decided to install a statue of Mahatab at his birthplace in Agarpada of Bhadrak district, and build a memorial for him, they added.

PNN & AGENCIES

**London/Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** A delegation from Odisha, led by Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, is attending the World Travel Market (WTM) in London this week to pitch for tourists and investments in India's culturally-rich eastern state.

Parida, along with Vikram Doraiswami - the High Commissioner of India to UK, inaugurated the 'Odisha Stand' at the WTM.

Parida is keen to highlight a range of compelling cross-sector opportunities in several active investment projects in the state.

Parida, charged with the portfolios of Women and Child Development, Mission Shakti and Tourism, has also had meetings in London that align with her focus on women-led entrepreneurial programmes, with UK businesses interested in promoting the concept of homestays in Odisha.

"Tourists can uncover India's best-kept secret, which is Odisha, from their very first visit as they explore our Buddhist heritage, temples, unique tribal culture, handlooms and textiles," Parida said.

"Our approach to tourism is thoughtful and sustainable and it aligns seamlessly with the Prime Minister's women-led development mission. In fact, I have had meetings in the UK that will encourage women entrepreneurs in the homestay sector, which will ensure tourism growth directly benefits local families and lead to women's empowerment," she said.

She highlighted aspects such



as the world-famous Rath Yatra in Puri, the Konark Dance Festival, heritage monuments, the Buddhist trail of Ratnagiri and Udaygiri and the natural beauty of Odisha's 480-km-long coastline as well as one of the country's major mangrove forests as particular tourist draws.

"We have a host of fairs and melas to actively support traditional arts and crafts such as Pattachitra painting and are actively promoting all aspects of cultural tourism to showcase the state's unique heritage," she said.

"Investors in the UK will also find immense potential to engage in our active investment projects, be it in the hospitality sector, sports sector and the growth of hockey or handlooms and textile sector. Odisha is ready for diverse tourism projects through single window clearances encouraging ease of doing business in the state," she added.

Parida held discussions with Doraiswami on strategies to

promote Odisha's rich cultural heritage, vibrant arts, and scenic beauty among UK and European travellers.

Parida met Odia diaspora in Kent, where she inaugurated 'Chilika,' a new Indian restaurant inspired by Asia's largest brackish water lagoon in Odisha.

The Odisha delegation include Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg, Tourism Commissioner-cum-Secretary Balwant Singh, Tourism Director Samarth Verma and Additional Secretary to Chief Minister Anupam Saha.

WTM, among the world's largest annual gatherings for the travel trade, opened in London Tuesday and will run until Thursday. The Ministry of Tourism is leading a delegation of stakeholders from state governments, inbound tour operators, airlines and hoteliers to highlight India's cultural diversity and extensive tourism offerings.

## 5 more arrested over ₹6.28cr online fraud

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** The Crime Branch (CB) of Odisha Police has nabbed five more cyber fraudsters for duping a corporate employee of ₹6.28 crore, taking the total arrests in the case to 29, an official said Tuesday.

According to CB sources, the latest arrests were made in Kerala. "The accused, residents of Malappuram, Tirurangadi and Thrissur areas of the southern state, were brought to Odisha on transit remand Tuesday," they said.

According to the CB, Kuntal Majumdar approached them September 24 alleging that he was automatically added to a WhatsApp group, KOTAK INVESTMENT CLUB, where he was lured into investing ₹6.28 crore with promise of high returns. "The complainant invested ₹6.28 crore between August 1 and 7 to purchase shares at ₹19 each, which quickly inflated to ₹110, raising the fund value to ₹25 crore," they said quoting

the complaint.

When he wanted to withdraw the money, the group admin allowed him to withdraw ₹23 crore August 21. However, when he made an attempt to withdraw his funds, he was removed from that WhatsApp group and the application used for transactions was deactivated, they pointed out.

The Cyber Crime Unit of the CB followed the money trail and found that the entire fraud amount of ₹6.28 crore was transferred to 100 different bank accounts across the country between August 1 and 7.

The cops froze all the 100 accounts with a balance of ₹16.85 lakh, while ₹6.80 lakh was returned to the account of the victim. After getting the details of bank account holders, seven teams of the CB were sent to different parts of the country.

Earlier, the CB teams arrested 24 accused - nine from Tamil Nadu, eight from Gujarat and seven from Rajasthan. They are now in judicial custody, it was learnt.



**SETTING STAGE:** Artisans engaged by Baishnab Pani Sanskritika Mancha set up a stage for the upcoming Bali Yatra in Cuttack, Tuesday

PICT: BAIKISHORE MOHANTY

## Energy transition essential for Odisha: Deputy CM Deo



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** Energy transition is essential for Odisha to become a green and mining hub of India. Our aim should be to move towards a greener and more sustainable Odisha, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo said at an event here Tuesday.

The Deputy CM was addressing a multi-stakeholder meeting organised by International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (iFOREST) in partnership with department of Energy.

Emphasising the need to reduce carbon emission, he said, "We have to be progressive. We will move with the times, with the thought process of our Prime Minister and meet our net zero targets."

The event drew participation from policy makers, government, industry, civil society and media to discuss investments for green industries, re-

newable energy, future-ready workforce and advancing climate action in the state.

During the event iFOREST released a report titled: Just Transition in Odisha for Green Growth and Green Jobs. It is the first comprehensive assessment on the opportunities in Odisha to shift to a low carbon economy while boosting economic growth and jobs.

The report also highlights key policies and targets that the state government can implement in the next 10 years.

According to iFOREST's report, Odisha is one of the highest emitters of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the country, accounting for 9.7 per cent of India's total GHG emissions. The coal-based power plants and the steel sectors contribute to 84 per cent of the state's total emissions. Its per capita emission of 6.9 tonnes is more than double of the country's average of 2.8 tonnes. Odisha, therefore, will have a key role

in building a net zero economy in India by 2070, a target pledged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Glasgow climate summit in 2021.

"Odisha has a huge opportunity to become India's hub of green minerals and metal industry, given its mineral wealth, massive renewable energy potential and human resources. To make this transition beneficial for all, the state needs to develop a comprehensive Just Transition policy," iFOREST president and CEO Chandra Bhushan said.

"Such a policy can guide green investments in fossil fuel dependent districts, strengthen the ecosystem for skilling and jobs and mobilise finances," he added.

Director of Just Transition at iFOREST Srestha Banerjee said, "A Just Energy Transition will allow fossil-fuel dependent states like Odisha to build a green economy without compromising the welfare of workers and communities. Proper planning and investments will be crucial for this. Our report provides actionable recommendations to pursue this goal".

The key recommendations of iFOREST's report include development of Just Transition policy and regional Just Transition plans for Angul-Dhenkanal and Jharsuguda-Sundargarh-Sambalpur mining and industrial clusters.



**IN PROTEST MODE:** Aspirants under the banner of 'Students Against Corruption' clash with police during their demonstration at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, alleging irregularities in recruitment examination conducted by the Odisha Sub-ordinate Staff Selection Commission

## Workshop on effectiveness of women-child desks

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** Centre for the Sustainable use of Natural and Social Resources (CSNR) organised a workshop on 'Police Reforms and Effectiveness of Women-Child Desks Established in Odisha's Police Stations' at National Academy of Broadcasting and Multi Media here recently.

The main objective of the workshop was to assess capacities and limitations of 'Women-Child Desks' in the state and to examine if the appointed personnel have adequate knowl-



edge and skills to address issues related to women and child.

The workshop discussed the challenges faced by desk employees and whether sufficient budgetary resource allotment is being made to support the operations effectively.

Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OS-CPCR) chairperson Mandakinee Kar attended the workshop as chief guest and emphasised the critical role of such desks at the police stations in ensuring protection of women and

children. CSNR secretary Dharendra Panda explained the workshop's purpose to the participants, which focuses on securing the rights of women and children and the necessity of police reforms across the country.

Other notable guests included former DGP Manmohan Praharaj, former SP Sitaram Satapathy, former member of the child welfare committee Manasi Padhi, senior advocate from Orissa High Court Kshirod Rout, social worker Sharmistha Nath, and journalist Rakhi Ghosh.

## Distribute 3 months' rice quota in advance: Majhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday asked the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare department to provide three months of rice in advance to the beneficiaries of the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Majhi issued this direction after he reviewed rice distribution under the Public Distribution System, the chief minister's office (CMO) said in a statement.

The move is significant as it came after allegation of delayed rice distribution among people at Mandipanka village in Daringbadi block of Kandhamal district.

Two women died and six others fell ill in the village after consuming Mango kernel gruel allegedly due to scarcity of foodgrains.

As per the chief minister's instructions, each beneficiary of the National Food Security Act and State Food Security Scheme will get 15 kg of rice

for three months (October to December).

Although the rice distribution process started from October 1, about 40 lakh families have not received rice yet. Therefore, the CM has directed officials to distribute three months' rice to these families immediately, it said.

The state government is taking steps to include all the workers registered under the e-Shramik portal in the PDS.

Out of 1.30 crore workers registered under e-Shramik, about 1.31 lakh workers have remained left-out.

So, the chief minister has directed officials concerned to include the left-out workers under the State Food Security Scheme immediately.

The meeting also discussed implementation of the 'One Nation One Ration' programme.

Majhi suggested the officials expedite verification of e-KYC for Odia people who have migrated to other states, the state minister said.

## MANGO KERNEL INCIDENT

# Cong leaders meet Guv, seek compensation for victims' kin

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** Blaming the state government for the death of two tribal women in the Mango kernel incident, the Opposition Congress Tuesday sought Governor Raghubar Das' intervention into the matter. The party also demanded Rs 20 lakh compensation for the family members of the deceased tribal women.

A delegation of the Congress led by Rama Chandra Kadam met Das and apprised him of the recent incident in which two tribal women in Mandipanka village of Kandhamal district tragically died and six others were hospitalised after consuming Mango kernel (Amba Takua).

The delegation also submitted a memorandum to the Governor seeking his intervention. The party said the women were



forced to consume Mango kernel gruel as they had acute food scarcity.

The Congress said that the incident exposed severe food insecurity in the region and total failure of the public distribution system. They alleged that it is total neglect on part on district and state administration.

"Had the food supplies been released on time, the incident—and the loss of two precious lives—could have been averted. Delay in food distribution violates the National Food Security

Act (NFSA) and is a criminal offense," the party said.

Kadam said that the Food Supplies Minister's claims that families had sufficient rice and simply did not collect their October-December quota is totally false and misleading statement intended to hide his own failures.

Villagers are not consuming mango kernels by choice but they are forced to do so because of insufficient food, he said.

The party requested the Governor saying, "As you are the constitutional custodian of tribal rights, we request your visit to these areas to witness the ground realities firsthand. Your presence will bring much-needed attention to the issues, helping to set many things back on track."

The Congress also demanded removal of the food supplies and consumer welfare minister and action against the Kandhamal district collector.

## Int'l Prosthetics & Orthotics Day held

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR) observed International Prosthetics and Orthotics Day here Tuesday.

The occasion was organised in association with Chakradhara Institute of Rehabilitation Sciences, Bhubaneswar and state branch of Orthotics and Prosthetics Association of India.

In a mass rally organised from Ram Mandir to Master Canteen Square, hundreds of prosthetics and orthotics professionals, PwDs and students of both the institutes to raise awareness about the needs of customised prosthetic and orthotic devices.

Later, a meeting was conducted here, which was graced by Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari who was the chief guest. Padma Shri Pramod Bhagat,



the Paralympic badminton gold medalist, attended the event as guest of honour. The meeting was chaired by SVNIRTAR director PP Mohanty. SVNIRTAR deputy director (Technical) KC Mohapatra, CIRS principal PC Singh, and OPAI Odisha State Branch president Rajesh Nanda were the speakers.

Pujari, in his speech, emphasised the importance and need of advanced and modern technology in prosthetics and orthotics in an emerging state of bio-physio-mechanical treatment for biomechanical deficiencies. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by OPAI vice president Satyajit Dash.

## Symposium on Shree Anna & forgotten foods from Nov 10



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** The department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment is going to organise an International Symposium on Shree Anna and Forgotten Foods (ISSFF) at Lok Seva Bhawan here November 10 and 11.

The theme of the event is 'Celebrating Shree Anna and Agricultural Heritage of Odisha'. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will inaugurate the two-day event, set to highlight the important role of

millet and forgotten foods in food security and sustainable agriculture.

"Forgotten food crops are important for dealing with climate change, supporting sustainable farming, and improving nutrition. Many of these crops can resist droughts and pests, making them ideal for sustainable agriculture. Odisha's traditional foods are linked to these crops, which grow well in local conditions without much extra input," the organisers said.

While addressing to the media, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo said, "We need to add millets and other forgotten foods in our diet. In this way, we can safeguard Odisha's agricultural heritage and help the last mile farmer and tribal people by providing them livelihood and also can lead a healthy life ahead."

## WORLD TSUNAMI AWARENESS DAY

# National tsunami mock exercise held in Puri

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** In order to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), in coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) conducted the National Tsunami Mock Exercise (NTME) in Puri Tuesday, coinciding with World Tsunami Awareness Day.

The Disaster Management Organisations (DMOs) of coastal states and union territories, including Odisha, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep Islands, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Diu and Daman and officials from Navy, Coast Guard, and Na-



tional Disaster Response Force, personnel from critical installations such as nuclear power plants, ports and harbours participated in the exercise.

"These exercises provided a great opportunity for all stakeholders to examine their tsunami warning procedures, standard operating procedures and enhance public awareness and preparedness. It will even

help us to identify and fix any gaps in warning chains and be fully prepared for future events," said INCOIS director TM Balakrishnan Nair.

The mock scenario, established for the NTME simulates an event with a 9.3 magnitude earthquake at Northern Sumatra, Indonesia (where 2004 tsunami occurred), followed by an ocean-wide tsunami, in

which a simulated wave will hit all coastal states of India with large wave heights. The exercise took place between 9:30 am and 1:30 pm Tuesday in which INCOIS will generate and issue 7 tsunami bulletins to its registered contacts through email, fax, SMS as well as web channels. Due care was taken to ensure the public is not inadvertently alarmed.

To observe the mock exercise, a ten member team of advisory council of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) trust fund for tsunami, disaster and climate preparedness from various countries, along with INCOIS officials, visited the designated tsunami ready village Narsinghpattana in Puri, to witness the mock exercise.

The team interacted with school children from the village primary school about their knowledge on tsunami preparedness. The UNESCAP members also witnessed a community level tsunami mock exercise, demonstrated by community members and volunteers from Narsinghpattana.

Later in afternoon, UNESCAP members had a meeting with Additional Chief Secretary and Managing Director of OSDMA Deoranjana Kumar Singh here. The members shared their experience on visit to Narsinghpattana and meeting with local community. Singh assured to extend all support and cooperation to INCOIS and UNESCAP in future endeavours for tsunami preparedness in the state.

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# Dip in Hadagarh jumbo population worrisome

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Hatadihi, Nov 5:** Decline in elephant population in Hadagarh elephant sanctuary has sparked concern among the nature lovers and the environmentalists, a report said.



Located in Hatadihi block of Keonjhar district, the Hadagarh elephant Sanctuary, spread over 91.89 sqkm, got official recognition in 1978. Forest department records show that approximately 4,898 people from 868 families reside in 12 villages - Ratnamara, Daliki, Pitana, Sajanapal, Junapasi, Saramundi, Malipasi, Balipal, Mayura, Raighati, Bhanra, and Siadimalia - within the sanctuary limits, indicating human-animal conflict.

In the past six years, authorities registered 11 poaching cases, leading to the arrest of 23 poachers. Confiscated items include ivory, animal carcasses, horns, meat, and animal hides. The Forest department has relocated 170 families from villages like Pitana, Daliki, Ratnamara, and Sajanapal and rehabilitated them at Jhanjhana and Durgapur villages in efforts to reduce human-wildlife conflict.

Local leaders, including former Soso sarpanch Bailochan Nayak and Anandapur Civil Society secretary Bhagaban Mallik, voiced concerns over the protection of elephants and the sanctuary's future. Noting the apparent lack of protective measures in the sanctuary, they raised doubts over effective utilisation of funds provided by the government for the purpose.

Elephant census data reveals a gradual decline in their population over recent years. In 2012, there were 26 elephants which reduced to 25 in 2015 and then 24 in 2024. However, three elephants died between June and September this year, reducing the current jumbo population to 21. Notably, eight elephants have died in the last six years with two in 2019-20, one in each of 2020-21, 2022-23, and 2023-24, and three in 2024-25.

Conservation efforts are being criticised for being limited to slogans and paperwork, as habitat destruction continues to escalate. The sanctuary is heading towards extinction day-by-day. Wild animals are straying into human settlements due to perceived threat as well as lack of food and water in the sanctuary.

Poor fencing, lack of water sources, and encroaching human settlements are cited as ongoing challenges. Local leaders alleged mismanagement of funds and expressed skepticism about the role of Anandapur DFO and the Forest department in protecting the sanctuary. As the elephant population steadily declines, they fear the species may face extinction in the years to come.

## Missing boy's body found

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Nov 5:** The body of a Class V student, who had gone missing in Koel river while bathing November 3, was fished out from Balughat area of Sector 16 here Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Pratik Badaik, a student of an English Medium School here. According to sources, a fisherman was fishing at Balughat Tuesday when he spotted the body floating in the river. "I tied the body with a rope and dragged it back to the bank," the fisherman said. Soon, ODRF and police teams reached the spot and took possession of the body. Pratik, along with three of his friends, had gone to the river Sunday when he drowned. A probe is underway.

## Youth critical in jumbo attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Champua:** A youth, identified as Ashok Naik, was critically injured in an elephant attack at Satahahia village under Champua range in Keonjhar district Tuesday morning. According to information available, Ashok along with his friend had gone to a nearby field to attend the call of nature when a jumbo which had been separated from its herd suddenly came out of the forest and attacked him. The elephant caught hold of Ashok with its trunk and flung him. Luckily however, he landed in a bush and suffered injuries on his left leg. He also suffered bruises all over his body. On being informed, Forest department officials rushed to the spot, rescued Ashok and took him to Champua hospital where he is undergoing treatment. Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF), Akshaya Chhatra reached hospital and took stock of the situation. He said that the department will provide ₹5,000 to Ashok if he undergoes treatment for a week and ₹10,000 if the injured person is in the hospital for more than seven days.



**CLASSICAL FLAVOUR:** Artists perform a recital of classical songs at the 27th Vedvyas Sangeet Nrutyotsav held at the open-air theatre of Bhanja Bhawan exhibition ground in Rourkela

# Man gets lifer for killing wife, kids

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, Nov 5:** The Additional District Court-1 here in Mayurbhanj district Tuesday sentenced a man, identified as Mangal Marndi, a resident of Uchagaon Dhipasahi under Jharapokharia police station limits, to life imprisonment after convicting him for killing his wife, son and daughter in 2022. The judge also slapped a fine of ₹52,000 on the convict. In default the convict will have to undergo an additional nine months in prison, the judge said while pronouncing the verdict.

that there was an accident in the house. He said that his wife, son and daughter had died due to leaking of gas inside the house. On his arrival at the spot Kamkar suspected foul play. He then lodged a complaint at the Jharapokharia police station alleging that Mangal had killed Surakuni, son Jagdish and daughter Sarita.

(No. 107/22). During interrogation, Mangal confessed that he had committed the crime as he suspected that his wife was having an extra-marital affair. He admitted that he had throttled his wife, son and daughter to death.

Police sent a forensic team to the spot and detained Mangal after registering a murder case

The judge pronounced the judgement after verifying statements of 24 witnesses and going through police investigation, medical and forensic reports, informed Public Prosecutor Krushnachandra Das.

## HEALTH DEPT OFFICIAL WITH ₹2.80L HELD

**Keonjhar:** Vigilance sleuths arrested Monday evening, Shekhar Lal Sahu, a senior assistant at the office of the additional district public health officer, Family Welfare (ADPHO -FW), here after cash worth ₹2.80 lakh was recovered from his scooter which he was driving. Sahu was arrested after he failed to give exact information about how he had acquired the cash. A case was registered in this connection and he was produced in court, Tuesday. The scooter (registration number OD-09AA-9348) and the cash have been seized. Officials are now investigating whether Sahu has amassed wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income. Sources within the Vigilance department said they received information that Sahu had collected a huge amount of money through unfair means and was moving with it on his two-wheeler. Accordingly they waited for Sahu and intercepted him near a hotel here. R Prakash, SP Vigilance department, Balasore said they are interrogating Sahu to find out how he had managed to collect such a huge amount of cash.

## ONE KILLED IN ROAD MISHAP

**Jagannathprasad:** In a tragic incident, a 41-year-old man was killed in a head-on collision between his motorcycle and a bus near Chhamunda bridge under this police limits in Ganjam district Tuesday morning. The deceased was identified as Mahendra Pradhan, a resident of Chhamunda village. According to sources, Mahendra was returning home on his motorcycle (OD 33-Y-1780) from Jagannathprasad Tuesday morning when his bike collided with Raghunath bus (OD 07-AA-1907) which was en route to Berhampur. Locals rescued a profusely bleeding Mahendra and rushed him to Jagannathprasad hospital for treatment where he succumbed to the injuries. The driver of the bus has surrendered before the police who have registered a case (442/24) and detained the driver. The body was sent to Bhanjanagar Health Centre for post-mortem, said investigating officer Prabhat Kumar Subudhi.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
Tender No. ELOP-T-10-2024  
NAME OF WORK : ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION CONTRACT (AMOC) OF BIO-TOILETS (DRPE TYPE) IN MEMU COACHES AT MEMU CAR SHED, KHURDA ROAD FOR A PERIOD OF 03 YEARS.  
Approximate Cost of the Work : ₹ 49,29,375.66, EMD (₹) : 98,600/-, Tender Document Cost (₹) : 3,540/-, Period of Completion : 36 Months.  
Bidding Start Date : 08.11.2024  
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1700 Hrs. of 22.11.2024.  
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.  
Complete details and Tender documents will be available at website <https://www.reps.gov.in>  
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**Registered Office :** 19-A Dhuleshwar Garden, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India, 302001. [www.aubank.in](http://www.aubank.in)  
**LOAN AGAINST GOLD - AUCTION NOTICE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS**  
The below mentioned borrower/s have been issued notices to pay their outstanding amounts towards the loan against gold facilities availed from AU Small Finance Bank Limited ("Bank"). Since the borrower/s has/have failed to repay his/their dues, we are constrained to conduct an auction of pledged gold items/articles on **11 Nov 2024 between 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Time)** at below mentioned branches according to the mode specified therein. In the case of deceased borrowers, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs. Please note that in the event of failure of the above auction, the bank reserves its right to conduct another auction without prior intimation.  
**E-Auction Branch Details (E-auction will be conducted by using Weblink <https://gold.samil.in>)**  
**BHADRAK** - 24660000148169 24660000253121 | **CUTTACK** 24660000126831 24660000161804 24660000202138 | **HINJILICUT** - 24660000229007 24660000298775 | **JAJPUR** - 24660000288514 24660000298995 | **KUAKHIA** - 24660000158020 24660000183812 24660000271296 |  
Note: The auction is subject to certain terms and conditions mentioned in the bid form, which is made available before the commencement of auction.  
Sd/- Manager AU Small Finance Bank Limited

# Illegal crusher units flourish on govt land



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jaipur, Nov 5:** There has been a significant increase in the number of illegal crushers in Dhamasala tehsil of Jaipur district owing to the alleged apathy of the district administration in initiating action against these rogue units.

Alok Kumar Kar, the Additional Secretary of the State Water Resources Department, had directed the Superintendent Engineer of the Jaipur Irrigation Division to investigate the matter. The directive emphasised the need for urgent action.

It is also alleged that several officials from the Minor Irrigation Department are receiving monthly bribes from the crusher owners to turn a blind eye to the blatant violation. Illegal blasting and transportation have exacerbated pollution issues in the area. This leaves one wonder how the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and the district administration granted an NOC to a crusher operating on government land. Of late, the Minor Irrigation Department lodged a complaint with the local police, demanding the recovery of government land.

Maruti Stone Products and Suppliers, locals alleged in their letter to the Chief Secretary, has been carrying out business on government land under the Minor Irrigation Department for the past ten years. Although an NOC was issued to the crusher in 2018, it is alleged that the unit has extracted over a hundred truckloads of black stones from the hill near the Paikarapur Minor Irrigation Project. This has resulted in the creation of a pond-like pool in the hill, preventing rainwater from reaching the irrigation project. As a result, farmers are deprived of getting the water required for their irrigation needs.

Notably, in 2015, a notification was issued for strict action against illegal crushers in the Dhamasala and Danagadi tehsils of the district. Following the directive, the district administration had sealed over a hundred crushers in the past nine years. However, many of these crushers resumed operation after a while.

Considering the livelihood issues of the workers, the administration had promised to relocate the sealed crusher units to four specific clusters in the district. Although the Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) has completed the construction of these clusters, they are still to be operational. As a result, the crusher units continue to operate along national highways and residential roads, leading to significant pollution problems.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No. 42/ET/SBP/ENGG/2024-25, Dated : 28.10.2024  
(1) e-Tender No.32-eT-DENC-SBP-24  
NAME OF WORK : PROVISION OF SAFETY FENCING (WELDED MESH PANEL, METAL BEAM CRASH BARRIER - W-BEAM AND FIXED KNOT FENCING) ALONG THE TRACK OVER 80.94 TKm BETWEEN SARALA (EX-DUNGURIPALI) (EX) UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/BHARHARH FOR RUNNING OF TRAINS ABOVE 130 KMPH TO ARREST TRESPASSING AND CATTLE RUN-OVER IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION.  
Approximate Cost of the Work : ₹ 47,09,23,411.56, Bid Security: ₹ 25,04,700/-  
(2) e-Tender No.33-eT-DENC-SBP-24  
NAME OF WORK : PROVISION OF SAFETY FENCING (WELDED MESH PANEL, METAL BEAM CRASH BARRIER - W-BEAM, FIXED KNOT FENCING) ALONG THE TRACK OVER 43.56 TKm BETWEEN DUNGURIPALI (IN)-BALANGIR (IN) UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/BALANGIR FOR RUNNING OF TRAINS ABOVE 130 KMPH TO ARREST TRESPASSING AND CATTLE RUN-OVER IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION.  
Approximate Cost of the Work : ₹ 25,10,61,448.25, Bid Security: ₹ 14,05,400/-  
(3) e-Tender No.26-eT-SDENW-SBP-24  
NAME OF WORK : PROVISION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY IN LIEU OF LEVEL CROSSING NO. RV-102, 105, 108, 137 AND 141 IN THE SECTION BETWEEN HARIANKAR ROAD, RAHENBATA SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.  
Approximate Cost of the Work : ₹ 27,29,77,284.97, Bid Security: ₹ 15,14,900/-  
(4) e-Tender No.27-eT-SDENW-SBP-24  
NAME OF WORK : PROVISION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY IN LIEU OF LEVEL CROSSING NO. RV-28, 63 AND 67 IN THE SECTION BETWEEN ARANG MAHANADI-KHARIAR ROAD SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.  
Approximate Cost of the Work : ₹ 18,39,80,776.70, Bid Security: ₹ 10,70,000/-  
Completion Period for the Work : 12 (Twelve) Months (for all Tenders).  
Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. of 22.11.2024 (for all Tenders).  
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)  
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering.  
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg./PR-698/P/24-25 Sambalpur

**Bank of India** E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE  
Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 0674-2362249  
Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following properties "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for realization of the debts due to the Bank.  

| Sl. No. | BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantor / Total Dues  | Description of the Properties  | Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount                                       |
|---------|--|--|--|
| 1.      | <b>BHUBANESWAR BRANCH (NOW THE BELOW ACCOUNTS ARE TRANSFERRED TO ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH, CUTTACK), PH.: 8249067773 /</b><br>Borrower: M/s. Maa Tarini Fly Ash Bricks, Prop.: Mrs. Sujata Swain, At: Plot No.: 1187, Khata No.: 210/27, Mouza: Bajabati, PO.: Thanual, Haridaspur, Dist.: Jajpur, PIN-755024 / Guarantor: Mr. Sunil Kumar Swain, S/o.: Golakha Bihari Swain, At: Nuagaon, PO.: Jaraka, Haridaspur, P.S.: Dharmasala, Dist.: Jajpur, PIN-755024 / Total Dues: ₹2,56,53,192.75 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.  | Homestead Land and Fly Ash Bricks Plant having Factory Shed: 11,900 Sqft, Office Room: 690 Sqft including P&M over Khata No.: 210/27 & 129/25 & various plots with Plot No.: 1176, 1177, 1181, 1182, 1187 & 5/324, Land Area: Ac. 1.300 Dec. i.e. 56,628 Sqft, KISSAM: Gharabari, situated at Mouza: Bajabati & Jhadashohala, P.S./Tahasil: Dharmasala, Dist.: Jajpur, Odisha, Standing in the name of Mrs. Sujata Swain, W/o.: Mr. Sunil Kumar Swain, Bounded by East: Road, West: Pvt. Land, North: Pvt. Land, South: Pvt. Land                          | ₹2,25,41,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹22,54,100/- / ₹50,000/- |
| 2.      | <b>GOPALPUR BRANCH, PH.: 9007488999 /</b><br>Borrower: M/s. Harapriya Engineering and Fabrication Work, At: Plot No.: 2273/2985, Tarol, Tangi, Thana No.:45, Cuttack, Odisha-754021 / Managing Partner: Mr. Manas Ranjan Samantaray (Property Owner) / Partner: Mrs. Anitran Das, Both are At: B/N7, Raja Bagicha Labour Colony, Telenga Bazar, Cuttack Sadar, Cuttack, Odisha-753009 / Total Dues: ₹41,23,235/- + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.  | GF RCC Office Room & GCI Shed on Khata No.: 620/970, Plot No.: 2273/2985, Plot Area: Ac.0.075 Dec. i.e. 3267 Sqft, Mouza: Tarol, P.S.: Tangi (P.S. No.: 72), Tahasil: Tangi-Choudhary, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, Standing in the name of Mr. Manas Ranjan Samantaray, S/o.: Mr. Gobinda Chandra Samantaray, Bounded by North: Alekha Swain, South: Babuli Barik & Ranjan Barik, East: Road, West: Ramakanta Biswal   | ₹58,33,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹5,83,300/- / ₹ 50,000/-   |
| 3.      | <b>POKHARIPUT BRANCH, PH.: 9066629742 /</b><br>Borrower : Mrs. Bhabalin Samantasinghar, W/o.: Mruganka Bhusan Mahapatra, Address-1: At: Raulahaja (Kasipur), PO/PS: Narakarpur, Dist.: Khurda-752019, Address-2: Flat No.: 111, Block-B (1st Floor), Ablaze Homz, Ghangapatna, Khata No.: 512/256, Plot No.: 1127/2676, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Khandagiri, P.S.: Chandaka, Dist.: Khurda-752054 / Total Dues: ₹25,83,470.28 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.<br>Mrs. Bhabalin Samantasinghar, W/o.: Mruganka Bhusan Mahapatra, Bounded by East: Open Space, West: Flat No.: 109, North: Corridor, South: Open Space | Flat No.: 111, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Type- 2 BHK, Block-B having Super Built up Area: 920 sqft., Carpet Area: 589 Sqft with undivided proportionate share for the Flat Ac.0.005 Dec. i.e. 217.80 Sqft out of Total project Area: Ac.0.648 Dec., along with parking space in the Apartment name & Style as "ABLAZE HOMZ" bearing Khata No.: 512/256, Plot No.: 1127/2676, KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Ghangapatna, P.S.: Chandaka, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha-752054, Standing in the name of Mahapatra, Bounded by East: Open Space, West: | ₹30,59,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹3,05,900/- / ₹ 50,000/-   |
| 4.      | <b>POKHARIPUT BRANCH, PH.: 9066629742 /</b><br>Borrowers: 1) Mr. Satyanarayan Sahu, S/o.: Gopal Krishna Sahu, 2) Mr. Laxminarayan Sahu, S/o.: Gopal Krishna Sahu, Both are At: LIG-282, K-4, Kalinga Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khordha-751019 / Total Dues: ₹37,85,357.92 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.<br>Gharabari, Mouza: Ghangapatna, P.S.: Chandaka, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha-752054, Standing in the name of Mr. Satyanarayan Sahu, S/o.: Gopal Krishna Sahu, Bounded by East: Open Space, West: Flat No.: 408, North: Open Space, South: Corridor                                    | Flat No.: 410, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Type- 2 BHK, Block-B having Super Built up Area: 920 sqft. Carpet Area: 589 Sqft with undivided proportionate share for the Flat Ac.0.0112 Dec. i.e. 487.87 Sqft out of Total project Area: Ac.0.648 Dec., along with parking space in the Apartment name & Style as "ABLAZE HOMZ" bearing Khata No.: 512/256, Plot No.: 1127/2676, KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Ghangapatna, P.S.: Chandaka, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha-752054, Standing in the name of Mahapatra, Bounded by East: Open Space, West: | ₹30,59,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹3,05,900/- / ₹ 50,000/-   |

Date & Time of E-Auction For Sl. No. 1: 25.11.2024 & For Sl. No. 2, 3 & 4: 09.12.2024 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each.  
Last Date & Time for submission of EMD & Documents: For Sl. No. 1: 25.11.2024 & For Sl. No. 2, 3 & 4: 09.12.2024 upto 4.00 P.M.  
Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day For Sl. No. 1 is before 22.11.2024 & For Sl. No. 2, 3 & 4 is before 07.12.2024 with prior appointment of the authorised officer  
The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.  
This is also a 15/30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://ebkraj.in/eauction-psb/home>  
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 06.11.2024  
Authorised Officer, Bank of India

FOCUS POLITICS

LEFT GOES FAR RIGHT



There is nothing wrong with political innovators drawing new lines of conflict; that is what enables political realignments. But there is a problem when such innovators rely on conspiracy theories and seek to delegitimise their adversaries and the political system in general

wanting to make your former team look corrupt. Wagenknecht's story is more complicated. A talented rhetorician and regular guest on TV programmes, she is effective in repeating dubious claims about Russia's war against Ukraine. But, unlike Kennedy and Gabbard, she is a real political strategist. Her party is designed to fill what she sees as an unoccupied political space - nationalism combined with socialism - in Germany's multiparty landscape, and she has seized on wedge issues to split other parties apart. Prominent figures in her own party are willing to compromise, but Wagenknecht, who seems to want an iron grip on her "Alliance," seeks to discredit any such position. Like Lenin, she appears willing to split her own party rather than lose control and tolerate deviations from ideological purity.

Of course, the political system in a democracy should be open. There is nothing wrong with political innovators drawing new lines of conflict: that is what enables political realignments. But there is a problem when such innovators rely on conspiracy theories and seek to delegitimise their adversaries and the political system in general.

Quinn Slobodian and Will Callison refer to the latter phenomenon as "diagonalism," writing: "At the extreme end, diagonal movements share a conviction that all power is conspiracy." Slobodian and Callison first identified "thinking diagonally" - a translation of the German concept of Querdenken - during the pandemic, when prominent anti-vaxxers fomented protests against public-health policies that often united far-left New Age types and hard-right agitators.

Now, diagonalism appears to be spreading in a world of parallel media universes. There, one finds plenty of pent-up political discontent about singular, overriding issues - whatever they may be.

The writer is Professor of Politics at Princeton University.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

ti-liberalism must lead, sooner or later, to adopting positions shared by one's official political adversaries. But this might be true only at a very abstract level. Socialists and a certain type of conservative can both find fault with capitalism, but the nature of their critiques will differ. The conservative might lament the destruction of traditional ways of life, whereas the socialist will complain about workers' lack of freedom. Likewise, policy prescriptions can look similar at an abstract level - both conservatives and socialists might advocate smaller cooperative communities - but their details will differ dramatically.

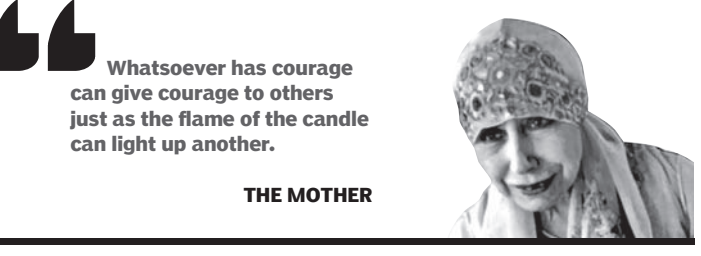
The horseshoe theory also is easily abused by liberals, because it allows for a double punch against criticisms from the left. These can be labelled as not only extremist, but even the stuff of Nazism. Few polemical moves are more effective. In any case, Wagenknecht's political journey is the only one that seems to be based on a comprehensive anti-liberalism. Kennedy and Gabbard's moves, by contrast, appear to be animated by the idea that one issue is of such overriding importance that it justifies switching camps.

For his part, Kennedy is obsessed with vaccines, which he insists are unsafe, even though all such claims have been comprehensively debunked. For

Gabbard, the issue is America's "forever wars." She apparently has concluded that Trump would be a peacemaker-in-chief; and Kennedy embraced Trump as a potential healer-in-chief, because he supposedly wants more policies addressing "chronic disease" (he also reportedly sought a meeting with Kamala Harris' campaign, which showed no interest in his overture).

Coat-switching politicians face an obvious question: Why did you ever ally with people who fail to see the overriding importance of your pet issue, or who drew fundamentally different conclusions about it? Not everyone will respond with a conspiracy theory, but claiming that your former political allies have all been corrupted certainly is the easiest answer. Not surprisingly, Kennedy is notorious for spewing dangerous conspiracy theories, and Gabbard has spent years concocting stories about Hillary Clinton, whom she portrays as an evil warmonger.

So, this is how the shift from the "far out" to the far right can happen. It starts with an issue that is much more important than all others, but which your allies do not regard with the same urgency. When you no longer have their ear, you turn to whomever will have you. But the only party that will have you is the one that has its own reasons for



Canadian Conundrum

Diwali for Hindus in Canada this time around has turned out to be an occasion for alarm and violence and not celebration following an attack by a violent group of men, carrying flags of pro-Khalistani groups, on devotees at the Hindoo Sabha Mandir on Gore Road in Brampton 3 November. The vandalism and vendetta are part of a long campaign by Khalistanis to browbeat the Indian community in Canada. The latest attack adds to a series of such incidents in recent years. Earlier, a Hindoo temple in Windsor suffered defacement with anti-India graffiti. Previous incidents in Mississauga and Brampton saw temples similarly targeted, drawing strong reactions from the Indian community in Canada. Last year in December, gunshots were fired at the residence of the son of Satish Kumar, the president of Lakshmi Narayan Mandir in Surrey.

While Khalistanis have been targeting Hindoo temples in Canada for the past few years, the attack on the temple in Brampton is seen as one on a consular camp Indian diplomats had held in collaboration with the temple to provide consular services to senior citizens. Such camps have been routinely held by the Indian High Commission in temples and gurudwaras. It seems the whole incident was orchestrated to send the message to the Indian foreign service establishment that the ongoing diplomatic row between the two countries would degenerate into a communal backlash on Canadian soil. This is the most ominous ramification of the conflict and shows that the actions by the Indian Government are making the Hindoo community, in a sense, helpless and open to attacks abroad.

Indian diplomats in Canada have been dragged into a controversy following the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar last year in Vancouver for which Canadian Government has blamed Indian agents. The demands by the Indian side to provide evidence have been ignored so far, as claimed by India. The killing and the resultant diplomatic hostilities between the two countries have apparently emboldened the fringe Khalistani group in Canada to carry out its anti-India propaganda. The Indian response, restricted to a persistent denial of its involvement of its consular staff, has left much to be desired. Such handling of the issue and tit-for-tat expulsion of diplomats seems to have given courage to Khalistanis such as Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, belonging to the organisation, Sikhs for Justice, to warn Hindus against celebrating Diwali, threatening disruptions at temples. Pannun, who appears to have the backing of forces both in the US and Canada, recently said that he had been working in close association with Prime Minister Trudeau for the past few years. He had earlier warned of attacks on India's airlines too.

Pannun has been raising the pitch of anti-India propaganda for the past few months making targeted statements against Canadian Hindus. Last year, he released a video, demanding Hindus in Canada "go back to India." The video came in response to Canadian MP Arya Chandra condemning the vandalism of the BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir in Edmonton and other acts of hate and violence by Khalistan supporters in Canada.

The protest by the Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA) against the latest temple attack reflects a growing sense of vulnerability among Canadian Hindus. This is an expected fallout of the conflict between the two governments. It is understood that some Indian politicians wish to behave as cowboys and get famous by supposedly killing or maiming anti nationals across the oceans and want to take credit for being responsible for those deeds. Their actions are putting the Indian community to great stress in those countries.

It is time the governments of the two countries rise above their narrow, immediate and petty political interests and concentrate on their trade and diplomatic relations rather than bickering before things spin out of control. This would help both the countries and the people, especially the Indian diaspora in Canada.



Jan-Werner Mueller

DO THESE POLITICAL MIGRATIONS REFLECT A MERE OPPORTUNISTIC BETRAYAL OF PRINCIPLES, OR IS SOMETHING MORE COMPLICATED GOING ON?

What do Tulsi Gabbard, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and the German politician Sahra Wagenknecht have in common? They all appear to have migrated across the political spectrum. Gabbard and Kennedy are both former Democrats who now vocally support Donald Trump, and Wagenknecht has gone from the far left of Germany's Left Party to strident nationalism. Earlier this year, she founded a new party modestly named after herself. After faring well in elections in three East German states this fall, the Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance seems likely to enter the Bundestag in the 2025 federal election. Do these political migrations reflect a mere opportunistic betrayal of principles, or is something more complicated going on? An obvious explanation is psychological: moves across the political spectrum earn the precious currency of attention. People accustomed to a high profile in the media sometimes need a dramatic gesture to get themselves back in the news. But the limits of such a reductionist explanation are obvious: most - if not all - politicians are after the limelight, but very few switch parties and positions. A more interesting explanation draws on twentieth-century history. When communists and fascists seemed to join forces in opposing liberalism, the world was introduced to "les extrêmes se touchent" (the extremes meet), or what has come to be known as the horseshoe theory of political extremism. Peculiar red-brown mixtures were prominent during the Weimar Republic, when political entrepreneurs combined pro-worker positions and radical nationalism to advocate a Querfront - an alliance cutting across the political spectrum. That said, proponents of "Prussian socialism" or Gregor Strasser's leftist version of Nazism always remained in the minority (Strasser himself was murdered by Hitler's henchmen in 1934). The horseshoe theory relies on the assumption that an-

WISDOM CORNER

You do not need to leave your room. Remain sitting at your table and listen. Do not even listen, simply wait, be quiet still and solitary. The world will freely offer itself to you to be unmasked, it has no choice, it will roll in ecstasy at your feet.

FRANZ KAFKA

The highest manifestation of life consists in this: that a being governs its own actions. A thing which is always subject to the direction of another is somewhat of a dead thing.

THOMAS AQUINAS

We should consider every day lost on which we have not danced at least once. And we should call every truth false which was not accompanied by at least one laugh.

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1860: Abraham Lincoln elected president of the United States. On this day in 1860, Americans elected as their president Abraham Lincoln, whose victory led to the secession of Southern states and the long and bloody Civil War that lasted until 1865 and ended slavery in the U.S.

1888: Benjamin Harrison of the Republican Party was elected U.S. president by an electoral majority despite losing the popular vote by more than 90,000 to his Democratic opponent, Grover Cleveland.

1917: The second phase of the Russian Revolution of 1917 began (October 25, Old Style) as the Bolsheviks seized power in Russia.

1962: United Nations passes resolution to condemn Apartheid in South Africa. The UN General Assembly asked its member states to stand up against apartheid and to cut off relations with South Africa in order to make a point. Apartheid was an official policy of racial discrimination and segregation followed in South Africa. Despite the UN Resolution, it remained governmental policy until 1994, when democratic general elections were held in the country.

1985: Palace of Justice is seized in Colombia. 25 guerrillas from the 19th of April Movement or the M-19 took over the Palace of Justice which houses the Colombian Supreme Court. They took 300 people hostage. The ensuing fight between the rebels and the government's forces left more than 100 people, including 11 Supreme Court justices dead.

LOL

A clergyman walking down a country lane and sees a young farmer struggling to load hay back onto a cart after it had fallen off. "You look hot, my son," said the cleric, "why don't you rest a moment, and I'll give you a hand." "No thanks," said the young man. "My father wouldn't like it." "Don't be silly," the minister said.

"Everyone is entitled to a break. Come and have a drink of water." Again the young man protested that his father would be upset. Losing his patience, the clergyman said, "Your father must be a real slave driver. Tell me where I can find him and I'll give him a piece of my mind!" "Well," replied the young farmer, "he's under the load of hay."

IN JEST THIS

Don't just stand at work, do some moving



Melvin Durai

I LIKE THE IDEA OF A WALKING MEETING. AT MY WORKPLACE, WHENEVER THERE'S A MEETING, I FEEL LIKE WALKING

Many office workers spend eight hours a day sitting at a desk, using a computer. But others have made a switch in recent years to standing desks, which allow them to spend a good part of their day standing. When they want to sit, they use tall chairs or lower their desks. I don't have a standing desk, but I do make an effort to stand whenever I can. I can't stand sitting for too long, nor can I stand standing. I try to follow the advice of doctors and others who have warned us about the health consequences of prolonged sitting. It can increase our risk for all sorts of health problems, including high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease. But if sitting isn't good for us, standing must be better, right? Not exactly. Scientists in Australia have spoiled standing for us. It's no longer

good for us.

A new study from The University of Sydney has found that standing all day, instead of sitting, does not improve your cardiovascular health and can increase your risk of circulatory issues related to standing, such as varicose veins and deep vein thrombosis. The study, published in the International Journal of Epidemiology, is based on health data from more than 83,000 adults in the UK from a period of seven to eight years. "The key takeaway is that standing for too long will not offset an otherwise sedentary lifestyle and could be risky for some people in terms of circulatory health," said lead author Dr. Matthew Ahmadi of The University of Sydney's Faculty of Medicine and Health. So if we're not supposed to sit and we're not supposed to stand, what are we supposed

to do? Lie down?

I'm definitely willing to lie down at my job. If my boss provides me with a bed, I'm sure I'll be healthier. I will also be more alert - once I've taken my afternoon nap.

If only scientists were advising us to lie down and work, I'd be quite thrilled. But quite the contrary, they want us to move around.

"Take regular breaks, walk around, go for a walking meeting, use the stairs, take regular breaks when driving long distances, or use that lunch hour to get away from the desk and do some movement," said Professor Emmanuel Stamatakis, director of the Mackenzie Wearables Research Hub at University of Sydney.

I like the idea of a walking meeting. At my workplace, whenever there's a meeting, I feel like walking. But I have to sit through a boring meeting instead. A walking meeting

would be a great option, if only I could get everyone to walk at the same time. The other participants are in different offices, but we could all walk with our phones and continue our virtual meeting.

Stamatakis and Ahmadi published research earlier this year showing that six minutes of vigorous exercise or 30 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous exercise per day can help lower your risk of heart disease, even if you are sedentary for more than 11 hours a day.

Standing desks have been growing in popularity, but perhaps more people should invest in moving desks. Imagine a desk that glides around your office intermittently, forcing you to get some exercise while you try to keep up with it.

By the time you get home, you will have burned so many calories, you won't need to go to the gym.

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



Close contest

Sir, This refers to "Tough choice," Orissa Post, Nov 5. The race between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump is tighter than ever before. Now, however, the momentum seems to have shifted to Trump. The seven swing states with 90 electoral college votes that will play a key role in the election are Nevada, Georgia, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Arizona. For the traditional White voter, Trump still offers hope with his Make America Great Again (MAGA) campaign. Whether the USA is ready to accept a woman and one of colour as the next head of state remains to be seen. Their politics are vastly different. Trump is becoming increasingly strident in his opposition to illegal immigrants, crackdown on media and his critics and his soft attitude to Vladimir Putin vis-a-vis Ukraine. He has even vowed to stop arming Ukraine. On the other hand, Harris has had her share of detractors and critics who have painted her as an inept vice president and someone incapable of handling tough issues. Even Black Americans and Hispanics are not fully behind Harris. However, the two choices before the American people are a narcissistic, self-absorbed tyrant or a woman who has worked her way up in the American system through grit and determination.

N Sadasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Negligent organisers

Sir, Although organisers of all bull taming events in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka claim that they follow every clause in the rulebook, casualties during these events are quite common. "Hori Habba," or "Kobbari Hori" that takes place in pockets of north and coastal Karnataka, has witnessed six deaths since January due to negligent organisers who failed to obtain written permission from the authorities to conduct the event. It is pertinent to note that five of the six who died in "Hori Habba" in the last ten months were spectators thereby making it clear that the bulls in their frantic bid to escape from the players ran into the stands. Either there were no barricades or they were too fragile to withstand the strength of the marauding bulls.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

# Rahul inaugurates project in Raebareli

This was Gandhi's first meeting with local officials since becoming an MP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Raebareli (UP), Nov 5:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Tuesday attended a meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA), inaugurated a beautification project and laid the foundation stone for the construction of roads in his parliamentary constituency here in Uttar Pradesh.

Gandhi, who maintained a distance with the media during his visit, later said in a post on Facebook that the people of Raebareli told him about their problems with full authority.

On the way to Raebareli, the leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha paid obeisance at a Hanuman temple at Churwa and met party workers.

Soon after his arrival here, Gandhi inaugurated a beautification project undertaken by



the municipal corporation in Raebareli at the Degree College intersection.

Subsequently, the Congress leader laid the foundation stone for road-construction projects under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and then attended the DISHA meeting.

The meeting focused on various public welfare issues, including schemes such as MGN-REGA, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and others, officials said.

Gandhi presided over the meeting with administrative

officials. A blueprint for the development of the district was prepared at the meeting and central schemes were reviewed.

This was Gandhi's first meeting with local officials since becoming an MP.

According to the Union Ministry for Rural Development, DISHAs were formed to ensure better coordination among members of Parliament, state legislatures and local governments.

Gandhi left for Lucknow after the meeting.

In his Facebook post in Hindi, the Congress leader said, "No

No matter how old my relationship with Rae Bareilly is, it deepens every time I visit the place. All the people of the area have given me a lot of love and told me about their problems with full authority

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

matter how old my relationship with Rae Bareilly is, it deepens every time I visit the place. All the people of the area have given me a lot of love and told me about their problems with full authority."

"As an MP, while presiding over the first DISHA committee meeting of Rae Bareilly, I discussed the problems and progress of the entire area with all the public representatives and officials. I also unveiled the newly-constructed Shaheed Chowk and roads," he said.

"Raebareilly has honoured me by making me their voice -- I am always eager to ensure their prosperity, fulfil their needs and solve their problems," he added.

# Stalin launches co-working, learning space in Chennai

The three-floor building will serve as a place to work, learn, and connect, offering the co-working and learning space at affordable rates, making it accessible to everyone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, Nov 5:** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin Monday launched a new initiative to offer space for co-working and learning with all modern facilities including internet at Kolathur Assembly constituency here.

The "Mudhalvar Padaipagam," which will function under the Greater Chennai Corporation at Jagannathan Street, Zone 6, in the chief minister's constituency, will serve as a "peaceful hub, designed for the people to be creative and explore new businesses," a GCC official said.

The three-floor building will serve as a place to work, learn, and connect, offering the co-working and learning space at affordable rates, making it accessible to everyone.

One can book a space online and enjoy an inspiring environment equipped with facilities to support one's business, work, or prepare for competitive exams.

The CM, who inaugurated this centre in Agaram in the presence of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department Minister PK Sekar Babu and Chennai Mayor R Priya, briefly interacted with students and entrepreneurs on the occasion.

The Mudhalvar Padaipagam is part of the "Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam" (North Chennai Development Scheme) undertaken by the Chennai Metropolitan Development



THE CM ALSO LAUNCHED 77 TRANSFORMER PROTECTION PROJECTS WORTH ₹3 CRORE BESIDES INAUGURATED THREE MULTIPURPOSE CENTRES BUILT AT A COST OF ₹80.90 LAKH, LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR A WOMEN'S GYM FOR ₹43 LAKH, AND A LIBRARY BUILDING AT A COST OF ₹38.50 LAKH

HE DISTRIBUTED LAPTOPS TO 107 STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED THEIR TRAINING, AND SEWING MACHINES AND CERTIFICATES TO 350 GIRLS

chief minister distributed certificates to students and specs to those who underwent eye surgery.

Speaking at the event, Stalin said the fight against the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), which destroyed the dreams of poor and rural students of becoming doctors, would continue.

"One day the Central government will accept Tamil Nadu's voice against NEET," Stalin, who is the president of the ruling DMK said, indicating that the test would be scrapped in the future.

He distributed laptops to 107 students who completed their training, and sewing machines and certificates to 350 girls.

The CM also launched 77 transformer protection projects worth ₹3 crore besides inaugurated three multipurpose centres built at a cost of ₹80.90 lakh, laid the foundation stone for a women's gym for ₹43 lakh, and a library building at a cost of ₹38.50 lakh.

He inspected the renovation of a pond at GKM Colony and ongoing works in Perambur subway.

# Lawyers' indefinite strike in Ghaziabad enters second day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ghaziabad, Nov 5:** Bar Associations in Ghaziabad held separate sit-ins over the recent police baton charge against them in the district judge's court as the strike by city advocates continued for the second day Tuesday.

All four entry gates of the court were locked by the protesting lawyers, allowing only one gate to remain open exclusively for judges, magistrates, and judicial staff.

"Litigants arriving at the district court had to navigate a detour, with approximately 12,000 cases postponed due to the strike," according to a senior judicial officer who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

A clash erupted between police and lawyers October 29 at the Ghaziabad district court in Uttar Pradesh following a heated argument between a judge and a lawyer. Both the Bar Association of Ghaziabad and the District Bar Association were participating in the strike Tuesday, holding separate sit-ins within the court compound to demand the suspension of District Judge Anil Kumar and disciplinary action against the police officers involved in the baton charge incident.

"The court resumed after Diwali Monday, and judicial officers took their seats, but no lawyers appeared for cases," said Nahar Singh Yadav, former president of the Bar Association. He added that Modinagar, Loni and Sadar Tehsil Bar Associations also joined the strike, abstaining from judicial work since Monday. Currently, Ghaziabad district has 72 judicial officers presiding over the district and sessions court, additional district judges' court, magistrates' court, chief judicial magistrate's court, CBI court, family court, POCOS court, and MV Act court.

# UP cabinet clears new rules for appointment of DGP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, Nov 5:** The Uttar Pradesh government has approved a new set of rules for independent and transparent selection of director general of police (DGP) by a committee headed by a retired high court judge.

The Appointment Rules, 2024 were cleared by the state cabinet at a meeting here Monday.

With this, the government will not have to send names to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) panel for the appointment of the state police chief.

"The objective of the Appointment Rules, 2024 is to establish an independent and transparent mechanism for selection of a suitable person for appointment to the post of DGP to ensure that the said selection is free from political or executive interference and is



also in accordance with the specific conditions and policing requirements of Uttar Pradesh," the new guidelines said.

The selection committee will be headed by a retired high court judge. It will have the chief secretary, a UPSC nominee, Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission chairman or nominee, Home Department additional chief secretary or principal secretary, and a retired state DGP as its members, according to the guidelines.

To be eligible for selection, candidates must have six

months of service remaining on the date of creation of the vacancy. Only those officers who are currently serving in the DG role at Level 16 of the Pay Matrix will be considered, the guidelines stated.

The minimum tenure of the DGP will be two years, they said. The new rules adhere to the Supreme Court directives for the removal of DGP before the completion of the stipulated two-year term in case of criminal charges, corruption or failure to perform duties effectively.

They are in line with the directives issued by the SC to states in the case of Prakash Singh and Others vs Union of India in which the court asked for the enactment of a new police law to ensure that police are free from external pressures, safeguard citizen's rights and uphold the rule of law.

# ASI to begin excavation at Amoor in Chengalpattu

The burial site, previously managed by the Forest department, has since been declared a protected site by the ASI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Nov 5:** The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Chennai Circle, will commence excavation work soon at Amoor, a protected site near Thiruporur in Tamil Nadu's Chengalpattu district.

Sources told IANS that the excavations are most likely to commence in January 2025.

The ASI had previously identified a megalithic burial site in the lower Palar valley, which contains ancient cists

and cairns. This site, previously managed by the Forest department, has since been declared a protected site by the ASI.

Sources said that the burial site dates back approximately 2,000 years.

The ASI's headquarters has already approved a proposal from its Chennai Circle to begin excavations, which are set to start in phases following the Northeast Monsoon season.

The ASI has previously conducted excavations on sites along the Palar River. In 2007, ASI excavations at Siruthavur uncovered megalithic sarcophagi, iron objects, and carnelian beads.

Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) has requested



permission from the ASI and the Central government to initiate excavations at four new locations this year: Marungur in Cuddalore, Kongalnam in Tiruppur, Thirumalapuram in Tenkasi, and Chennanur in Krishnagiri.

Applications for these projects have been submitted to the Central Advisory Board

of Archaeology (CABA), and approvals are anticipated soon.

In a notable 2023 excavation, the TNSDA discovered 2,030 graffiti marks, including four with Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions, at Thalukarpatti in Tirunelveli district.

The Tamil Nadu government is now conducting a comparative study to analyse these graf-

fiti marks in relation to signs from the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC).

The TNSDA has also sought renewed permission to continue excavations at four significant existing sites, including Keeladi, a Sangam Era site with evidence of a thriving industrialised settlement from at least 2,600 years ago on the banks of the River Vaigai.

The department is also pursuing fresh licenses for additional excavations at Kilnamandi (Tiruvannamalai), Vembakottai (Virudhunagar), and Porpanaikottai (Pudukkottai). Excavations at Keeladi will enter their 10th phase, while Vembakottai will commence its third phase, and Kilnamandi and Porpanaikottai will enter their second phases.

# PMK state president urges withdrawal of TN Land Consolidation Act

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Nov 5:** Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) state president and former Union Minister Anbumani Ramadoss has called on the Tamil Nadu government to suspend the Tamil Nadu Land Consolidation (for Special Projects) Act, 2023 and withdraw it in the next Assembly session.

The PMK leader noted that the Act had come into effect October 18, despite strong opposition from political parties, including PMK, and several farmers' associations.

Ramadoss claimed that the Act favours private companies rather than public welfare, describing its implementation as "condemnable."

"The Tamil Nadu Land Consolidation (for Special Projects) Act, 2023, was implemented even after opposition from PMK and numerous farmers' organisations," he said.

He added that the Act appears to prioritise the interests of private companies, which is unacceptable. "As per the Act, water bodies can be acquired for infrastructure, commerce, industrial, and agricultural projects by providing alternative land, which would then be handed over to private entities. The number and extent of water bodies are already on the decline," he explained.

The former Union Minister further pointed out that Tamil Nadu once had 41,127 lakes with a combined storage capacity of 347 TMC (Thousand Million Cubic feet), a volume greater than that of the state's large dams.

However, he lamented that only about 27,000 lakes remain now. Since the DMK government took office, he argued, no new projects have been implemented to expand irrigated areas, urging the government to at least safeguard existing water bodies.

## AHEAD OF US PREZ POLL

# Special puja at Kamala Harris' ancestral village temple in TN

The villagers performed prayers at the Sri Dharma Sastha temple in her ancestral village expecting her to trounce former president and Republican Donald Trump, and emerge victorious as Americans vote to elect their next president

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Tiruvavur (Tamil Nadu), Nov 5:** A special 'abhishekam' of sandalwood and turmeric, besides a special 'archana' was performed Tuesday at a temple in the village of ancestors of Democrat Kamala Harris as the villagers prayed that she becomes the next US president.

If she wins, the village leaders are prepared to provide 'annadhanam' (free food/community lunch), local councillor Arulmozhi told reporters.

Meanwhile, three fans of Harris visited the native place

of the American leader's maternal family near here and joined the prayers.

While one is from the UK, two others are from the US and their arrival at Thulasendrapuram, which is about 350 kms from Chennai, was a matter of surprise for the local people. They met the village elders and also took part in a puja held at the temple for Harris' win.

One of the fans said she was from Las Vegas and told PTI Videos, "I came here to Kamala's great grandparents' village to support her because I happen to be in India."



She said they are hopeful of her win. The foreigners touched the garlands brought by the priest before it was offered to the deity, as part of the puja and prayers, in keeping with the tradition.

The villagers performed prayers at the Sri Dharma Sastha temple in her ancestral village expecting her to trounce former president and Republican Donald Trump, and emerge victorious as Americans vote to

her victory the same year. "Our sincere prayers are for the victory of the daughter of the soil in the election and to become the president of the most influential country in the world," said Arulmozhi and her spouse T Sudhakar, who organised a special abhishekam of sandalwood and turmeric, besides a special 'archana' to the presiding deity at the Sri Dharma Sastha temple.

Near the temple, they erected a massive banner carrying her picture, wishing her success in the election.

Similar prayers filled the air in Madurai where Anushanthin Anugraham, a spiritual organisation, held a special prayer November 4.

"Her ancestors are from our village. She is a woman fighting for the big post and we want her to win," Arulmozhi said.

Thulasendrapuram is the ancestral village of Kamala's maternal grandfather PV Gopalan, who was in British government civil service. Her mother Shyamala was Gopalan's daughter.

The village hogged the limelight in August 2020 when Kamala was nominated as the Democrat vice president candidate, and it later celebrated her victory the same year.

■ Thulasendrapuram is the ancestral village of Kamala's maternal grandfather PV Gopalan, who was in British government civil service. Her mother Shyamala was Gopalan's daughter.

■ The village hogged the limelight in August 2020 when Kamala was nominated as the Democrat vice president candidate, and it later celebrated her victory the same year

elect their next president. Thulasendrapuram is the ancestral village of Kamala's maternal grandfather PV Gopalan, who was in British government civil service. Her mother Shyamala was Gopalan's daughter.



The experience of suffering imperial arrogance, like those caused by the bitter opposition to the Ilbert Bill and the passage of the Rowlatt Act, would have hurt their sensibility

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

7,663 SPECIAL TRAINS IN SERVICE

The Railway Board Tuesday said it has notified the services of 7,663 special trains during the festival season from October 1 to November 30, which is 73 per cent more compared to the same period last year



of the day quote

Proba-3 mission of the European Space Agency will be launched by a PSLV rocket from Sriharikota in the first week of December



JITENDRA SINGH | SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY MINISTER

The festival of Diwali has just concluded. The JMM, Congress and RJD are fused Diwali crackers now. BJP is a mighty rocket that alone will take Jharkhand to newer heights



RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

My constituency is my family and my family have love for me. The people will certainly elect me



DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHA DEPUTY CM



Traders with their camels at the annual Camel Fair at Pushkar in Ajmer, Rajasthan

PTI PHOTO

Judges Nagarathna, Dhulia object to CJI's remark on Krishna Iyer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: Supreme Court judges B V Nagarathna and Sudhanshu Dhulia Tuesday took exception to Chief Justice DY Chandrachud's remark during his judgement related to private properties that the Justice Krishna Iyer doctrine did a "disservice" to the broad and flexible spirit of the Constitution.

The nine-judge bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices Hrishikesh Roy, B V Nagarathna, Sudhanshu Dhulia, J B Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Rajesh Bindal, Satish Chandra Sharma and Augustine George Masih pronounced the verdict. The majority verdict pronounced by the CJ I overruled Justice Iyer's previous ruling that all privately owned resources can be acquired by the State for distribution under Article 39(b) of the Constitution.

The CJ I wrote for himself and six other judges on the bench which decided the vexed legal question on whether private properties can be considered "material resources of the community" under Article 39(b) and taken over by State authorities for distribution to subservise the "common good".

Justice Nagarathna partially disagreed with the majority judgement penned by the CJ, while Justice Dhulia dissented on all aspects. In a separate 130-page verdict, Justice Nagarathna quoted Chandrachud saying, "Thus, the role of this court is not to lay down economic policy, but to facilitate this intent of the framers to lay down the foundation for an 'economic democracy'. The Krishna Iyer doctrine does a disservice to the broad and flexible spirit

Justice Nagarathna said the CJI's observations are unwarranted and unjustified, Justice Dhulia strong disapproved the remarks and said the criticism is harsh, and could have been avoided

of the Constitution." Justice Nagarathna said merely because of the paradigm shift in the economic policies of the State, cannot result in labelling the former judges of this court as doing a "disservice" to the Constitution.

"Merely because of the paradigm shift in the economic policies of the State to globalisation and liberalisation and privatisation, compendiously called the 'Reforms of 1991', which continue to do so till date, cannot result in branding the judges of this Court of the yesteryears "as doing a disservice to the constitution," Justice Nagarathna said.

Justice Dhulia said the Krishna Iyer Doctrine or O Chinnappa Reddy Doctrine is familiar to all who have anything to do with law or life and based on strong humanist principles of fairness and equity.

"It is a doctrine which has illuminated our path in dark times. The long body of their judgment is not just a reflection of their perspicacious intellect but more importantly of their empathy for the people, as human being was at the centre of their judicial philosophy," Justice Dhulia wrote.



SNIPPETS

H D Kumaraswamy booked

Bangalore: A case has been registered against Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy based on a complaint by a senior police officer who alleged that the JD(S) leader had threatened him in connection with a mining case probe against him. Kumaraswamy termed the FIR as "ridiculous and malicious."

J&K: Terrorist killed during gunfight

Srinagar: One unidentified terrorist was killed in a gunfight between the security forces and terrorists in J&K's Bandipora district Tuesday. Officials said that the terrorist was killed during an encounter between terrorists and the security forces in Ketsun forest in Bandipora district.

2 mowed down by DTC bus in Delhi

New Delhi: Two people, including a Delhi Police constable, were mowed down by a DTC bus after the driver lost control of the vehicle due to a technical snag near the Monastery Market here, police said Tuesday. The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus climbed over a pavement, collided with a billboard pole, before hitting the two men, and finally, came to a halt after crashing into a road divider on Ring Road Monday night, they said.

Oppn meet LS speaker to protest Waqf Bill decision

According to a source, Opposition leaders expressed confidence that Birla would step in to reduce the frequency of meetings to allow members to prepare for the sittings and study the presentations made



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

will look into the matter," TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee said.

New Delhi, Nov 5: Opposition members in the parliamentary committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Tuesday to register their protest against alleged "unilateral" decisions by panel chairman and BJP MP Jagdambika Pal.

The members had claimed they were "stonewalled" during the committee's proceedings and had also indicated that they may even dissociate from the panel, as they objected to the manner in which Pal was functioning including on fixing the dates of sittings, which were at times for three consecutive days.

According to a source, opposition leaders expressed confidence that Birla would step in to reduce the frequency of meetings to allow members to prepare for the sittings and study the presentations made. One member said the panel may now have one or two meetings in a fortnight.

After the meeting, the MPs told reporters that Speaker Birla heard them patiently and assured them of a decision at the earliest. "It was a very nice discussion. He was very kind to us. The Speaker has very patiently heard us and said he

Aam Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh and DMK MP A Raja spoke on similar lines. "It was a fruitful meeting, the Speaker assured us of looking into our grievances," Raja said. The MPs also submitted a memorandum to the Speaker detailing their concerns.

According to sources, the MPs submitted a letter to the Speaker, signed by Opposition MPs including Congress's Mohammad Jawed and Inran Masood, DMK's Raja, AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi, AAP's Sanjay Singh and TMC's Kalyan Banerjee.

The MPs, in the memorandum, urged the Speaker to direct the Chairman of the JPC to have a formal consultation with members of the Committee before taking decisions, according to sources.

They had also said they may be forced to "disassociate with JPC once for all as we have been stonewalled".

To a query on the issue Tuesday, the MPs refused to divulge details. "We cannot reveal the details of the conversation," Singh said.

On whether they will continue to attend the meetings of the joint committee of the two Houses, Banerjee said, "Yes we

Dawoodi Bohras want to be kept out of Waqf law

New Delhi: Contending that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill does not recognise their special status, the Dawoodi Bohra community, an affluent but microscopic sect among Muslims, told the parliamentary committee examining the proposed law that they should be kept out of the purview of any Waqf board. Senior advocate Harish Salve appeared for them before the panel headed by veteran BJP MP Jagdambika Pal, and a written submission made by the community noted that it is a "small and tightly-knit" denomination. "Its affairs do not need the kind of regulation that may be considered necessary or even desirable in relation to other denominations that do not believe in any such religious tenet," it said, according to sources.

will attend because the Speaker is looking into the matter".

The committee's proceedings have been stormy amid frequent protests from opposition members over a host of issues, while the BJP members have accused them of deliberately trying to scuttle its work.

Cut beef production to slash carbon emissions: Study

Researchers, including those from New York University, US, said that reducing beef production could serve as a "powerful complement" to, and not a substitute for, efforts directed at lowering fossil fuel emissions, which is core to tackling climate change

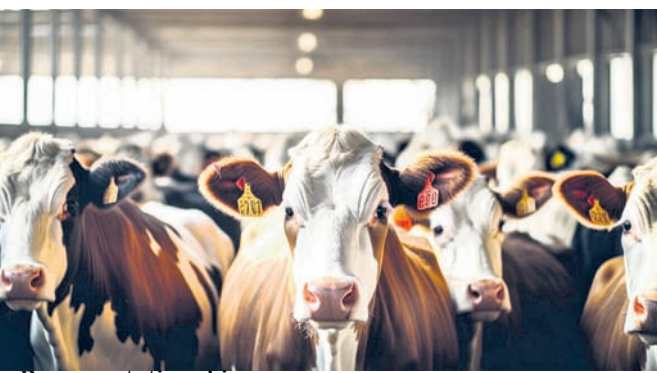
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: High-income countries could remove 125 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide from air -- more than the past three years' global fossil fuel emissions -- if they cut down on beef production by only 13 per cent, according to a study.

As a means to lower emissions, scientists and environmental activists around the

world are increasingly calling for drastic reductions in producing and consuming meat, including beef. The study's authors said cutbacks in meat production in wealthier countries would reduce the land size needed for grazing cattle, therefore allowing forests to naturally regrow on what are currently pasturelands.

The "return of trees" would drive significant decline in fossil



Representational image

fuel emissions, which the team estimated to be about three years' worth of those worldwide.

"We find that removing beef-producing cattle from high-carbon intensity pastures could sequester (or remove) 34 gigatonnes of carbon i.e. 125

gigatonnes of CO2 into ecosystems, which is an amount greater than global fossil CO2 emissions from 2021-2023," the researchers wrote in the study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

"This would lead to only a minor loss of 13 per cent of the global total beef production on pastures, predominantly within high- and upper-middle-income countries," they wrote.

High- and upper middle income-countries are viable for reducing beef production as some of their pasturelands do not produce much grass or exist where grass grows for a short season, the researchers said.

The pasturelands are also located in areas that could instead, grow vast forests with deep soils that work to remove carbon from air, they said.

The trend differed significantly from other regions, such as sub-Saharan Africa and South America, where much more pasture can grow year-round, producing more feed for

animals per acre than northern countries, the research team said. Further, lower-income regions could improve the efficiency at which cattle are fed on grass as a way to counter the minor loss in meat production from higher-income countries, they added.

"This isn't a one-size-fits-all solution. Our findings show that strategic improvements in the efficiency of cattle herds in some areas, coupled with decreased production in others, could lead to a win-win scenario for climate and food production," the study's lead author Matthew N Hayek, an assistant professor in New York University, said. Modest changes to beef production globally could help achieve enormous climate benefits, Hayek said.



# national



The only real answer is that the politics we are seeing in the country and state is not genuinely and honestly working for you  
PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

## CYBER-CRIME SURGES IN MIZORAM

The northeastern state of Mizoram has witnessed a significant rise in cyber-crime or financial fraud, with approximately duping over ₹8 crore in the first nine months of this year, police officials said



## Popular folk singer Sharda Sinha dies



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: Popular folk singer Sharda Sinha, who was undergoing treatment at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)-Delhi, died Tuesday night. She was 72.

"Sharda Sinha expired at 9.20 pm due to refractory shock as a result of septicemia," an AIIMS official said. Sinha was known among her fans for folk songs such as "Kartik Maas Ijoriya" and "Koyal Bin" as well as Bollywood numbers "Taar Bijli" from "Gangs of Wasseypur- II" and "Babul" from "Hum Aapke Hain Koun".

Earlier, AIIMS said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is continuously monitoring Sinha's condition and has prayed for her speedy recovery. Sinha, a Padma Bhushan recipient synonymous with folk songs in Bhojpuri, Maithili, and Maghahi languages, was on ventilator support following a health complication due to multiple myeloma, a form of blood cancer.

"Noted folk singer, Smt. Sharda Sinha is admitted in AIIMS, New Delhi for treatment. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji is continuously monitoring her condition and is in direct contact with the treating doctors. He has conveyed his prayers for her good health and speedy recovery through the treating team," AIIMS in a post on X said earlier.

## 3 dead in collapse of structure on bullet train route in Gujarat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Anand (Guj), Nov 5: Three workers died as a temporary structure collapsed at a construction site on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train corridor in Gujarat's Anand district Tuesday evening, officials said.

The incident took place at Vasad village located on the under-construction bullet train route, said district Superintendent of Police Gaurav Jasani. Police officials earlier said that part of an under-construction bridge collapsed.

However, the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) which is executing the project later said a temporary structure of steel and concrete blocks being used for well foundation work fell down. The site is near the Mahi river near Vadodara, an NHSRCL official said.

A Vasad police station official confirmed that three workers had died and another was undergoing treatment at hospital.

In all four workers were trapped under concrete blocks and two of them died on the spot, said Anand fire officer Dharmesh Gor.

# 'Uneven loading in freight trains major cause of derailment'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: Railway Board Chairman Satish Kumar has asked all the general managers and divisional railway managers to follow the proper procedure of loading and unloading in freight trains to prevent derailment.

According to Kumar, there have been six cases of derailment of BOBYN wagons between April 2023 and November 3, 2024, and in all these cases uneven loading was found to be the cause of derailments.

BOBYN, which stands for 'box open both sides for ballast unloading', is a special type of wagon used for track ballasting

and to carry crushed stones. Safety experts say that each BOBYN wagon is divided into four sections and each section is supposed to be equally filled with crushed stones.

"Not only that, these stones are released by opening four doors at the same time while the freight train moves at a slow speed so that the crushed stones fall along the track to be used as ballast," an expert said.

He added, "When the load of crushed stones is heavier on one side as compared to the other, it becomes uneven loading. Uneven loading impacts several mechanical as well as safety functions and it carries a risk for safe train operations."



Railway officials said that often the doors don't open properly while the train moves resulting in uneven loading that

causes derailment. A section of experts also flag design as well as mechanical flaws as one of the reasons for

Railway sources in various divisions said that derailments due to uneven loading is not uncommon, however, all cases don't come to the knowledge of the Railway Board

uneven loading or unloading causing derailments.

Kumar has asked senior railway officials to follow proper procedures, including repair of doors, and pay immediate attention to safety mechanisms.

## JHARKHAND MINING SCAM

# CBI conducts raids across three states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: The CBI searched 20 locations in three states, including poll-bound Jharkhand, Tuesday in connection with an illegal stone mining case in Nimbu Pahar in which Chief Minister Hemant Soren's alleged political aide Pankaj Mishra is under probe, officials said.

The searches were conducted in Jharkhand, West Bengal and Bihar. The central probe agency launched the operation at 11 locations in Jharkhand's Sahibganj, three in Ranchi and one location each in Patna and Kolkata at the premises of the suspects and their associates, they said. Later, it expanded the searches to two more locations in Sahibganj, one location in Jharkhand's Gumla and one in Kolkata, taking the total number of searched premises to 20, the officials said.

Assembly polls in Jharkhand will take place November 13 and 20. The ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and the INDIA bloc will face the BJP and its NDA allies.

The CBI has recovered ₹50 lakh cash, of which ₹40 lakh was seized from the premises of Ranjan Verma. One kilogram



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

of gold and 61 live cartridges of 9 mm pistol were seized from Bhagwan Bhagat in Sahibganj. Verma and Bhagat are understood to be close associates of Mishra, the officials said.

Sale deeds related to properties, documents related to investments and shell companies, agreement papers and other incriminating documents have been seized, a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

The agency registered the case November 20, 2023, at the direction of the Jharkhand High Court. In its FIR registered November 20 last year, the Ranchi unit of the CBI booked Mishra, Pavitra Kumar Yadav, Rajesh Yadav, Sanjay Kumar Yadav, Bacchu Yadav, Sanjay Yadav and Suvesh Man-

The searches were conducted in Jharkhand, West Bengal and Bihar

The central probe agency launched the operation at 11 locations in Jharkhand's Sahibganj, three in Ranchi and one location each in Patna and Kolkata at the premises of the suspects and their associates

dal. They are allegedly involved in the "pilferage and illegal extraction" of stones at Nimbu Pahar in Sahibganj.

"Investigation revealed that large-scale illegal mining activities in Sahibganj district allegedly caused substantial losses to the government, primarily through unpaid royalties and the violation of mining laws," the spokesperson said.

# SC upholds validity of UP madrassa law

The significant ruling, which overturned an Allahabad High Court decision, would benefit over 17 lakh students studying in over 16,000 madrassas recognised by the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrassa Education under the state law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: In a big relief to madrassas in Uttar Pradesh, the Supreme Court Tuesday upheld the constitutional validity of the 2004 Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrassa Education Law and set aside an Allahabad High Court verdict quashing it on the ground that it was violative of the principle of secularism.

The high court erred in holding that the law was violative of the principle of secularism, said a bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

"We have upheld the validity of the UP madrassa law and moreover a statute can be struck down only if the State lacks the legislative competence," the CJI said while pronouncing the verdict. The order came as a big relief to teachers



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

and students of UP madrassas as the high court had ordered closure of the seminaries and relocation of students to other schools in the state.

The SC said the legislative scheme of the law was to standardise the level of education being prescribed in madrassas.

The top court October 22 reserved its verdict on pleas challenging the Allahabad High Court judgement.

The bench heard a battery of lawyers on behalf of eight petitioners, including Anjum Kadari, besides Additional Solicitor General KM Natraj, who appeared for the Uttar Pradesh government, for almost two days before reserving the verdict.

The Allahabad High Court March 22 declared the Act as "unconstitutional" and violative of the principle of secularism, and asked the state government to accommodate madrassa students in the formal schooling system. In a breather for about 17 lakh madrassa students, the SC stayed the HC order April 5.

# J'khand elections: INDIA bloc releases joint manifesto

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Nov 5: The INDIA bloc Tuesday unveiled its manifesto for the upcoming Jharkhand assembly elections, promising 10 lakh jobs for youth and health insurance coverage of up to ₹15 lakh for the poor.

The '7 guarantees', the election manifesto of the INDIA bloc, includes social justice by enhancing reservations for STs to 28 per cent from 26 per cent, SCs to 12 per cent from 10 per cent and OBCs to 27 per cent from 14 per cent at present.



"INDIA bloc will ensure 10 lakh jobs for youth and ₹15 lakh health cover for the poor," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said while jointly releasing the manifesto with

Modi came here and during his speech, he mentioned my name and said that there is no reliability of Congress's guarantees... Congress fulfills all its guarantees but Modi's guarantees never get fulfilled."

INDIA bloc promised to increase the free monthly ration for the poor to 7 kg from 5 kg and make available gas cylinders at ₹450 in Jharkhand as against BJP's promise of providing it at ₹500 in addition to two free cylinders during festivals.

The other guarantees unveiled include guarantee of do-

micile policy based on 1932 Khatiyana (land record settlement), implementation of a separate Sarna religious code for tribals and protection and conservation of regional languages.

The INDIA bloc also promised that paddy would be procured at a minimum support price (MSP) of ₹3,200 per quintal from the existing ₹2,400 per quintal, besides enhancing MSP for procurement of forest produce by 50 per cent. The BJP, in its manifesto, has announced an MSP of ₹3,100 for paddy.

## DELHI POLLUTION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: Amid worsening air quality in Delhi, hospitals across the city are witnessing a spike in the number of patients with respiratory issues.

While those with pre-existing conditions like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or asthma are the worst hit, numerous people with no prior medical history are experiencing symptoms like chest congestion, headaches, and discomfort, doctors said.

"It's a tough time especially for those with lung and chest conditions as the air quality is putting additional strain on their health," said Dr. Amitesh Aggarwal, Director and Professor, Department of Medicine.

"Most of the patients coming in have pre-existing lung con-

ditions like COPD or asthma," he added. Aggarwal said such patients are experiencing a drop in oxygen saturation and breathing difficulties due to the rising pollution levels.

"Post-Covid, many people have lingering lung issues which reduces their capacity to cope with pollution. Mild chest congestion, headache, and nasal congestion are common complaints, but it's primarily those with existing conditions who are being severely impacted. The numbers have significantly increased," he said.

Delhi experienced a spike in pollution levels following Diwali, with a noticeable increase recorded on Sunday. The conditions have continued to deteriorate with the AQI edging closer to the severe zone in some areas Tuesday.

The 24-hour average AQI



recorded at 4 pm was reported at 381 Monday, the second highest in the country. It was 373 Tuesday.

More than 10 monitoring stations reported the AQI in the "severe" category with readings exceeding 400 since Sunday. Experts warn that due to calm winds and no new

western disturbances, the air quality is likely to remain in the "very poor" category or may even reach the "severe" level.

Most of the hospitals in the national capital are seeing a rise in patients visiting their outpatient departments (OPDs) and in severe cases, requiring

## Most polluted city in October: Report

New Delhi: Delhi was ranked the most polluted city in India in October, with an average PM2.5 concentration of 111 micrograms per cubic metre, according to a new analysis. The analysis by the independent think tank Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) revealed that all the top 10 polluted cities in India in October were located in the National Capital Region (NCR). These cities included Ghaziabad (110 micrograms per cubic metre), Muzaffarnagar (103), Hapur (98), Noida (93), Meerut (86), Gurgaon (85), Greater Noida (86), Charkhi Dabri (86), Gresty Noida (86), Charkhi Dabri (86), and Bahadurgarh (83).

immediate admission.

According to a doctor at the Delhi government-run Lok Nayak Hospital, patients are complaining of shortness of breath, throat irritation, excess mucus production, chest tightness, burning eyes, and

blocked nasal passages.

Dr. Rajesh Chawla, Senior Consultant, Respiratory and Critical Care at the Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals said, "People suffering the most are the elderly, very young, and those with comorbidities". Meanwhile, the doctors have advised vulnerable groups to limit outdoor activities, wear protective masks, and seek prompt medical advice if symptoms worsen.

Dr. Vivek Nangia, Vice Chairman and Head of Pulmonology at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, said, "With the increasing pollution levels, we anticipate a rise in health complications that could extend beyond respiratory issues, potentially impacting the heart and brain, leading to serious conditions like cardiac arrest or stroke."



As for Maia Sandu, you know that she is not, in our understanding, the President of her country, because in the country itself, the majority of the population did not vote for her, and we are talking about a very, very divided society. These contradictions will certainly continue

DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN, RUSSIA

POPE'S RARE VISIT

Pope Francis Tuesday stepped out of the Vatican and paid a rare home visit to Emma Bonino, a veteran politician best known in Italy for her successful campaign in the 1970s to legalise abortion



of the day quote

Getting some principles or some reactions regarding the expansive activities and admittedly illegal activities of China in the South China Sea is a very good first step, and that's what we should be working on

Our (Australia-India) Comprehensive Strategic Partnership is growing steadily. Reflected in stronger political ties, robust defence & security cooperation, expanded trade, greater mobility and deeper educational linkages

All NATO allies must invest more (on defence), and I trust that Germany will continue to step up

Americans vote in pivotal election

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS HEADED TOWARDS POLLING STATIONS TUESDAY TO ELECT THEIR 47TH PRESIDENT, CAPPING ONE OF THE MOST BITTER PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS IN THE COUNTRY'S HISTORY



AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 5: The dizzying presidential contest between Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris hurtled toward an uncertain finish Tuesday as millions of Americans headed to the polls to choose between two sharply different visions for the country.

A race whipped up by unprecedented events, two assassination attempts against Trump, President Joe Biden's surprise withdrawal and Harris' rapid rise, remained too close to call, even after billions of dollars in spending and months of frenetic campaigning.

The first ballots cast on election day mirrored the nationwide divide. Overnight, the six registered voters in the tiny hamlet of Dixville Notch, New Hampshire, split their votes between Harris and Trump in voting just past midnight.

Elsewhere on the East Coast, polls began opening at 7 am (1200 GMT) in more than two dozen states.

Trump's campaign has suggested he may declare victory on election night even while millions of ballots have yet to be counted, just as he did four years ago. The former President

NO MATTER WHO WINS THE WHITE HOUSE, HISTORY WILL BE MADE

dent has repeatedly said any defeat could only stem from widespread fraud, echoing his false claims from 2020. The winner may not be known for days if the margins in key states are as slim as expected.

Harris, 60, the first female vice President, would become the first woman, Black woman and South Asian American to win the presidency. Trump, 78, the only President to be impeached twice and the first former President to be criminally convicted, would also become the first President to win non-consecutive terms in more than a century.

Opinion polls in the campaign's final days have shown the candidates running neck-and-neck in each of the seven states likely to determine the winner: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Reuters or Ipsos polling

shows a significant gender gap, with Harris leading among women by 12 percentage points and Trump winning among men by 7 percentage points.

The contest reflects a deeply polarized nation whose divisions have only grown starker during a fiercely competitive race. Trump has employed increasingly dark and apocalyptic rhetoric on the campaign trail. Harris has urged Americans to come together, while also warning that a second Trump term would threaten the very underpinnings of American democracy.

Control of both chambers of Congress is also up for grabs. Republicans have an easier path in the US Senate, where Democrats are defending several seats in Republican-leaning states, while the House of Representatives looks like a toss-up.

The candidates spent the final weekend barnstorming the swing states in search of every available vote. Trump staged his final rally Monday evening in Grand Rapids, Michigan, while Harris held twin rallies in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

More than 80 million Americans had already voted before Tuesday, either via mail or in person, according to the University of Florida Election Lab.

KAMALA HARRIS

AGE: 60 PARTY: DEMOCRAT

Vice President Kamala Harris announced her candidacy for the Democratic nomination for President after Biden withdrew from the ticket and endorsed her July 21. Harris would be the first Black woman and first Asian American to lead the ticket of a major political party.

Harris is the highest-ranking female political official in US history. She previously served as a US senator, California attorney general and the San Francisco district attorney.

With her presidential campaign in full swing, Harris has voiced support for continuing many of Biden's measures, such as abortion rights, providing tax credits to middle-class and lower-income families, lowering drug costs and eliminating so-called junk fees.

Harris has vowed to support Ukraine "for as long as it takes", and represented the US at Kyiv's "peace conference" in Switzerland in June 2024.

Kamala Harris says that Israel has the right to defend itself and she will always ensure Israel has the ability to defend itself

Tim Walz is in his second term as Minnesota governor and chairs the Democratic Governors Association. A onetime high school teacher and football coach who served in the Army National Guard, Walz later spent 12 years in Congress, representing a conservative-leaning rural district in Southern Minnesota.

DONALD TRUMP

AGE: 78 PARTY: REPUBLICAN

Former President Donald Trump launched his bid to reclaim the White House in November 2022, aiming to become only the second commander in chief to win two non-consecutive terms. Trump continues to deny the outcome of the 2020 election that he lost to Joe Biden and promotes baseless conspiracy theories about election fraud.

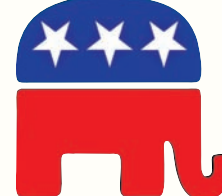
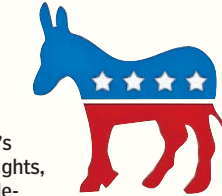
Before launching his successful 2016 presidential bid, Trump was a real estate developer, businessman and a reality television star as host of "The Apprentice."

Trump has said he would overhaul key factions of the federal government and slash social safety net programs. He has vowed to prevent the importing of Chinese-made vehicles, slash energy costs by expanding oil and gas drilling and promised the largest deportation effort in US history.

The Republican has an isolationist foreign policy and wants the US to disentangle itself from conflicts elsewhere in the world. He has pledged to end the war in Ukraine "within 24 hours" through a negotiated settlement with Russia.

Trump told Netanyahu he wants Gaza war over by time he enters office

JD Vance was elected to the US Senate from Ohio in 2022 after receiving a boost from Donald Trump in a contentious Republican primary. A venture capitalist and the author of the best-selling memoir "Hillbilly Elegy," Vance had once been a key voice in the "Never Trump" movement during the 2016 election.



SHORT TAKES

South Korea fines Meta \$15million

Seoul: South Korea's privacy watchdog Tuesday fined social media company Meta 21.6 billion won (\$15 million) for illegally collecting sensitive personal information from Facebook users, including data about their political views and sexual orientation, and sharing it with thousands of advertisers.

2 Chinese nationals shot at by Pakistan

Karachi: Two Chinese nationals were injured Tuesday when a local security guard opened fire at them following a quarrel in Pakistan's port city of Karachi, police said.

Explosion occurs at Turkish oil refinery

Ankara: An explosion occurred at an oil refinery in northwestern Turkey Tuesday, an official said, adding the situation was "under control" and there were no reports of any casualties.

Badenoch picks Priti Patel as her shadow foreign secretary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 5: Former British Indian home secretary Priti Patel has been chosen by the newly elected Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch as her shadow foreign secretary to join her top team on the Opposition benches in the House of Commons Tuesday.

Gujarati-origin Patel, 52, was one of the early contenders who went head-to-head in the race to replace Rishi Sunak as Tory chief and Leader of the Opposition.

With two other opponents in the election, Robert Jenrick and Mel Stride appointed shadow justice secretary and shadow chancellor respectively. Badenoch's picks for her frontbench is being seen as an attempt to unite a divided Conservative Party.

UK plans to ban smoking outside schools, hospitals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 5: The UK government tabled a new Tobacco and Vapes Bill in the House of Commons Tuesday which aims to create a "smoke-free generation", starting with a ban on smoking outside schools and hospitals in England.

The bill includes measures to phase out the sale of tobacco products across the UK to anyone aged 15 or younger this year, in an effort to "break the cycle of addiction and disadvantage".

It will also restrict advertising and sponsorship of vapes, including a range of flavours, display and packaging of all types of vaping and nicotine products. "This government is taking

bold action to create the first smoke-free generation, clamp down on kids getting hooked on nicotine through vapes, and protect children and vulnerable people from the harms of second-hand smoke," said UK Health Secretary Wes Streeting. "This historic legislation will save thousands of lives and protect the NHS [National Health Service]. By building a healthy society, we will also help to build a healthy economy, with fewer people off work sick," he said.

Ukraine shells NK troops in Russia

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Nov 5: North Korean troops recently deployed to help Russia in its war with Ukraine have come under Ukrainian fire, a Kyiv official said Tuesday.

It is the first time a Ukrainian official has said that Pyongyang's units were struck, following a deployment that has given the war a new complexion as it approaches its 1,000-day milestone.

"The first North Korean troops have already been shelled, in the Kursk region," Andrii Kovalenko, the head of the counter-disinformation branch of Ukraine's Security Council, wrote on Telegram. He provided no further details.

Western governments had expected that the North Korean soldiers would be sent to



Russia's Kursk border region, where a three-month-old incursion by the Ukrainian army is the first occupation of Russian territory since World War II and has embarrassed the Kremlin.

US, South Korean and Ukrainian intelligence assessments say up to 12,000 North Korean combat troops are being sent by Pyongyang to the war under a pact with Moscow.

The North Korean troops, whose fighting quality and battle experience is unknown, are

adding to Ukraine's worsening situation on the battlefield. Ukrainian defences, especially in the eastern Donetsk region, are buckling under the strain of Russia's costly but relentless months-long onslaught.

Russian advances have recently accelerated, with battlefield gains of up to 9 kilometers in some parts of Donetsk, the UK Defense Ministry said Tuesday on the social platform X.

It said Russia has superior troop numbers, and despite heavy casualties the Kremlin's recruitment drive is providing enough new troops to keep up the pressure.

Russia has held the battlefield initiative in Ukraine for the past year. Ukrainian officials have long complained that Western military support takes too long to arrive in the country.

Pak, China conclude air forces' exercise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Nov 5: Air Forces of Pakistan and China Tuesday concluded an exercise aimed at validating interoperability between the two countries in the face of "contemporary air combat challenges."

Indus Shield-Chinese, a bilateral module of Exercise Indus Shield 2024, was conducted separately between Chinese and Pakistan air forces at an operational air base of Pakistan Air Force, according to an official statement from Rawalpindi.

The exercise witnessed participation from People's Liberation Army Air Force of China with its personnel and high-tech equipment. The equipment comprised AESA Radar and Long Range BVR Equipped J-16 & J-10C fighter aircraft, Lethal HQ-22 Surface to Air Defence system, Potent Airborne Electronic Warfare YTG-9 Platform, alongside KJ-500 Airborne Early Warning system.

The Chinese personnel and equipment were pitched against Pakistan Air Force's J-10C and JF-17 Block-III fighter jets, simulating contemporary aerial combat scenarios.

"The successful execution of such a large-scale exercise demonstrates Pakistan Air Force's joint operational readiness among allied nations while addressing contemporary security challenges," the statement said.

Aimed at validating interoperability between China and Pakistan in the face of contemporary air combat challenges and by simulating various military tactics in near realistic multi domain operations training environment, Indus Shield-Chinese has maximised the warfighting potential of both the participating air forces, the statement added.



"NHS treatments, including nicotine replacement therapy, are helping thousands of adults each year to live healthier lives and we have seen adult smoking rates drop by more than half in the last three decades," the Indian-origin medic said. "But there is more to do, so we welcome this public health intervention and look forward

to working with the government to help the next generation grow up smoke and vape-free," he added. The new bill will also include powers to introduce a licensing scheme for retailers to sell tobacco, vape and nicotine products in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and will introduce on-the-spot fines of

GBP 200 to retailers found to be selling these products to underage people.

According to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), smoking claims around 80,000 lives a year in the UK, putting huge pressure on the state-funded NHS and costing taxpayers GBP 3.1 billion a year.

The cost of smoking to the economy is estimated at GBP 18 billion lost in productivity every year, as smokers are a third more likely to be off work sick.

Subject to consultation, the government is considering extending restrictions in places that are currently smoke-free to also become vape-free, especially in areas where there are children and young adults.



**While discussing the future of solar, we need to keep this smart approach in mind. We have to not only maximise efficiency but also contribute to a more sustainable energy ecosystem**  
PRALHAD JOSHI | UNION MINISTER

## SEBI ASKS MFs TO SEPARATELY DISCLOSE EXPENSES

Markets regulator Sebi Tuesday introduced separate disclosure requirements for expenses, half-yearly returns, and annualised yields in both direct and regular mutual fund (MF) plans, along with a colour-coded system for the existing risk-o-meter. These requirements will become effective from December 5 and aim to improve investor protection and clarity around MF disclosures.



### of the day quote

**JK Tyre** maintained its volumes and presence in the passenger car segment despite lower demand in the category. Commercial vehicle segment also witnessed slackening attributable to general election and unusual heavy rains affecting revenue growth during the quarter



LAGHUPATI SINGHANIA | CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, JK TYRE & INDUSTRIES

**We are not averse to acquisitions** but it has to make immense sense for us and it cannot be only for the purpose of adding revenues. It has to be for certain competencies and benefits



ROHIT KAPOOR | SWIGGY'S FOOD MARKET-PLACE CEO

**Extended monsoons, adverse weather, and flooding** in some key markets made this a tough quarter, although we saw strong traction towards the quarter's end. This resulted in an almost flat revenue performance and moderate single-digit volume growth



ABHIJIT ROY | BERGER PAINTS MD AND CEO

### SHORT TAKES

#### GAIL profit up 10%

**New Delhi:** State-owned GAIL (India) Ltd Tuesday reported 10 per cent rise in September quarter net profit after an increase in earnings from gas transmission business and turnaround in petrochemical business neutralised fall in marketing margin. Consolidated net profit of Rs 2,689.67 crore in July-September FY25 compared with Rs 2,442.18 crore in the same period a year ago, according to a stock exchange filing by the company. India's biggest natural gas transmission and marketing firm reported almost flat revenue from operations at Rs 33,981.33 crore.

#### Titan net profit down 23.1%

**New Delhi:** Leading jewellery and watchmaker Titan Tuesday reported a 23 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to Rs 704 crore for the second quarter ended on September 2024. The company posted a net profit of Rs 916 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from Titan. However, its sales were up 25.82 per cent to Rs 13,473 crore during the quarter under review. It was Rs 10,708 crore for the corresponding quarter. Total expenses of Titan increased 20.23 per cent to Rs 13,709 crore in the June quarter.

#### Dr Reddy's net profit falls 9.3%

**New Delhi:** Pharma major Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) Tuesday reported a 9.35 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to Rs 1,341.5 crore for the second quarter ended September 2024. DRL had posted a net profit of Rs 1,480 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from the Hyderabad-based firm. However, its revenue increased 16.51 per cent to Rs 8,016.2 crore in the September quarter from Rs 6,880.2 crore in the year-ago period.

# Sensex rebounds ahead of US polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 5:** Benchmark Sensex recovered its early losses to close higher by 694 points Tuesday on late buying in banking, steel and oil & gas shares amid firm trends in global equities ahead of the US presidential elections.

Bouncing back from Monday's sharp fall, the BSE Sensex jumped 694.39 points or 0.88 per cent to settle at 79,476.63. During the day, it soared 740.89 points or 0.94 per cent to 79,523.13.

The NSE Nifty climbed 217.95 points or 0.91 per cent to settle at 24,213.30 as 39 of its constituents advanced and 11 declined.

Stock markets opened on a weak note and traded in a range with a negative bias in the first half as investors turned cautious ahead of the US presidential elections. Sensex hit a low of 78,296.70 while Nifty touched 23,842.75. Value buying in the afternoon session helped indices recover losses and closed in the green.

"Markets witnessed a remarkable turnaround towards the closing hours as value buying in banking stocks along



tak Mahindra Bank and UltraTech Cement were also among the big gainers.

Adani Ports, ITC, Bharti Airtel and Asian Paints were among the laggards.

"The domestic market experienced a sharp recovery, reclaiming most of the previous day's losses amid uncertainty surrounding the likely downgrade in Q2 GDP forecast and closely contested US presidential election," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said. However, the recent rebound

cent), realty (0.68 per cent) and utilities (0.67 per cent) also advanced.

IT, Teck and services were the laggards.

A total of 2,468 stocks advanced while 1,478 declined and 112 remained unchanged. In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory while Seoul ended lower. European markets were trading higher.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.60 per cent to USD 75.53 a barrel.

# Festive consumption growth halved in 2024: Nomura

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 5:** Japanese brokerage Nomura Wednesday said the growth rate in festive consumption halved to 15 per cent in the current year.

Analysts at the brokerage attributed their findings to "rough estimates" and added that the same growth had stood at 32 per cent in 2023 and 88 per cent in 2022.

"Anecdotal data suggests retail sales (offline and online) rose during this festive season, but overall growth rates are slower," they said in a note.

It said while festive demand remained steady in rural areas and tier-2 and tier-3 cities, metros and industrial demand was "weak," leading to "mixed" overall festive consumption trends.

Last month, the Union Ministry of Finance had said urban demand was weak.

The Nomura analysts said weddings in December should provide a fillip to the festive sales.

"There are broadly two ways to assess the strength of festive demand. One is to sift through anecdotal evidence and compare trends with previous years. Another, in the case of



'hard' conventional data, is to aggregate economic activity across the September-December period and compare across years, which helps to iron out the 'date effect' on growth rates," it explained.

Under anecdotal evidence, it cited The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) expectations on retail sales growth slowing down to 13.3 per cent in 2024 from 36.4 per cent in the year before, growth in e-commerce sales and gold volumes falling even though sales have picked up. On the 'hard' data front, the

brokerage said incoming inputs are suggesting stability but there are fireworks.

It said retail auto sales are up 14 per cent adjusted for the period of shradh, but on the wholesale side, passenger vehicles and MHCV have fared poorly in 2024.

A 'cyclical growth slowdown' is underway in the economy, it said, adding that the Reserve Bank of India's 7.2 per cent real GDP growth estimate for FY25 looks "overly optimistic" and there are "rising downside risks" to its own projections of 6.7 per cent growth.

# Embassy REIT CEO steps down following SEBI order

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 5:** Aravind Maiya, the CEO of Embassy Office Parks Management Services that manages Embassy REIT, will step down from his post following market regulator SEBI's direction to suspend him and appoint an interim CEO immediately.

SEBI's direction follows a National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) order that barred Maiya for 10 years from undertaking any audit in respect of financial statements or internal audit of the functions and activities of any company or body corporate. It also imposed Rs 50 lakh penalty on Maiya.

Embassy Office Parks Management Services Pvt Ltd (EOPMSPL) is the manager of Embassy Office Parks REIT, which was sponsored by Ban-

galore-based realty firm Embassy Group and global investment firm Blackstone.

Embassy REIT is India's first publicly listed Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT).

In a regulatory filing Tuesday, Embassy Office Parks REIT said, "While we are reviewing the order and evaluating all options, in compliance with SEBI's directive, effective immediately, Aravind Maiya will be stepping down as CEO of Embassy REIT."

He will assume the role of Head of Strategy for Embassy REIT.

The REIT's Board, and the management team will oversee all its operations and capital allocation to ensure that normal business is not compromised in any manner whatsoever, while evaluating the most appropriate approach for the interim CEO position, it added.

# BIZ BUZZ TP Odisha Discoms launches second edition of 'Oh My Beautiful Odisha'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** TP Odisha Discoms, a joint venture between Tata Power and the Odisha government, has announced the second edition of its photography contest, 'Oh My Beautiful Odisha', inviting participants to capture the state's rich cultural, natural, and architectural heritage. Following the success of last year's competition, this year's theme 'Cultural Heritage of Odisha', focuses on showcasing Odisha's cultural beauty through the lens of photography.

The contest is open to all residents of Odisha, with entries accepted until November 13, 2024. Participants can sub-



mit their photographs via the provided online link [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/oh\\_my\\_beautifulodisha](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/oh_my_beautifulodisha) with a brief description and personal details. Each entry should

adhere to the specified guidelines, including a file size limit of 10MB and no use of filters or AI enhancements.

Top 12 winners will receive exciting cash prizes and have their photographs featured in the TP Odisha 2025 calendar. The winning cover photograph will gain special recognition. A distinguished panel of judges will evaluate submissions based on creativity and relevance to the theme.

The contest aims to promote Odisha's cultural and natural heritage, supporting tourism and local pride. By inviting photographers to participate, Tata Power seeks to further highlight Odisha's unique beauty and contribute to the state's on-going development.

# Govt to sell 2.5% in HZL, aims to raise over Rs 5,000cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 5:** The government will sell up to 2.5 per cent stake in Hindustan Zinc at a floor price of Rs 505 per share through an offer for sale (OFS).

The stake sale would fetch over Rs 5,000 crore at the floor price.

The two-day OFS opens for institutional bidders Wednesday and for retail investors Thursday.

"Offer for sale in Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) opens tomorrow (Wednesday) for non-retail investors. Retail investors can bid on Thursday, 7th November. Government will divest 1.25 per cent equity with an additional 1.25 per cent as greenshoe option," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said in a post on X.



The government is selling over 5.28 crore shares, or 1.25 per cent stake, with a greenshoe option to retain additional subscription of similar amount.

The floor price is at a discount of 9.7 per cent over Tuesday's closing price of Rs 559.45. Shares of HZL closed at Rs 559.45, up 2.99 per cent over previous close on the BSE.

# 7 developers seek govt nod for cancellation of SEZs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 5:** As many as seven developers, including Kerala State Information Technology Infrastructure Limited (KSITIL) has sought denotification of its two IT/ITeS proposed zones in Kerala.

The developer has requested to de-notify the entire area of the two SEZs.

"As regards reasons, the developer has stated that due to lack of demand for SEZ space, their board has decided to transfer the land to the Industries Department for setting up an industrial park," the document said.

Arshiya Ltd has submitted an application for full de-notification of their FTWZ (free trade warehouse zone) at Nagpur, Maharashtra.

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Qubix Business Park has asked for partial denotification of 1.47 Ha out of 10.17 Ha of their IT/ITeS SEZ at Rajiv Gandhi Infotech Park, Pune, Maharashtra.

"The (Qubix) developer wishes to operate as a DTA (Domestic Tariff Area) without availing duty benefits and operate as an industrial IT park for non-SEZ clients," it said.

Similarly, Vikas Telecom has asked for partial denotification of 0.75 Ha out of 22.50 Ha of their IT/ITeS zone in Bangalore.

As regards reasons for partial cancellation, the developer has proposed that the land has been lying vacant since long; demand for SEZ space has sub-

stantially decreased in the last few years; and implementation of a sunset clause for availing of Income Tax benefits, it added.

Zydus Infrastructure too has submitted a proposal for partial denotification of 22.91 Ha out of 114.77 Ha of their pharmaceutical SEZ at Ahmedabad.

"The developer has stated that the purpose of this partial denotification is that Zydus group of companies have intended to utilise these lands for establishment of a medical device park majorly for domestic tariff area market and also for the reasons that the developer is not receiving any query for setting up of units in their SEZ," the document said.

Further, the Gujarat Industrial Developer Corporation (GIDC) has sought partial de-notification of 15.65 Ha out of 20.41 Ha of their apparel park SEZ at Khokhra, Ahmedabad.

As per SEZ rules, the government on the recommendation of the BoA on the application made by the developer, if it is satisfied, modify, withdraw or rescind the notification of a SEZ.

Exports from special economic zones grew over 4 per cent to USD 163.7 billion in the last fiscal. SEZs are key export hubs which contributed over one-third of the country's total outbound shipments in the last fiscal.

# Global RE investment to touch \$3.1 trillion mark in 2024: Report

Solar segment leads the RE investments, accounting for 59 per cent of the total, driven by lower costs, with Asia Pacific region emerging as the top investing region

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 5:** The renewable energy investment globally is likely to register 29 per cent growth to touch USD 3.1 trillion in 2024 against USD 2.4 trillion in 2023, a report said Tuesday.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), in a statement, said that as per the World Investment Report, the solar segment leads the renewable energy investments, accounting for 59 per cent of the total, driven by lower costs, with APAC (Asia

Pacific region) emerging as the top investing region.

"The latest report highlights a global shift toward sustainable energy, with energy investments rising from USD 2.4 trillion in 2018 to USD 3.1 trillion by 2024," the report said.

The report was released by MNRE Minister and ISA President Pralhad Joshi at the ongoing assembly of the International Solar Alliance held in the national capital.

Joshi also launched three other reports, namely the World Solar Market Report, World Technology Report,



and Green Hydrogen Readiness Assessment for African Countries, the statement said.

The World Solar Market Report said exceptional growth was witnessed in solar, with global capacity soaring from 1.22 GW in 2000 to 1,418.97 GW in 2023.

The manufacturing in the segment is also expected to exceed demand, making solar more affordable. Solar jobs have surged to 7.1 million, and global capacity may reach 7,203 GW by 2030, it said.

The World Technology Report showcased advance-

ments in solar technology, emphasising breakthroughs in efficiency, sustainability, and affordability.

The report on Readiness Assessment of Green Hydrogen African Countries highlighted green hydrogen's potential to decarbonise industries heavily reliant on fossil fuels like steel and fertiliser production.

Produced through renewable-powered electrolysis, green hydrogen offers a viable alternative to coal, oil, and gas, supporting Africa's transition to cleaner energy, it said.

# India bids for 2036 Olympics

'Letter of Intent' submitted to IOC with Ahmedabad emerging frontrunner to host the Games

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 5:** India has submitted a 'Letter of Intent', expressing its desire to host the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games, to the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Future Host Commission, taking the first concrete step in an ambitious plan after months of informal dialogue with the IOC. The letter was submitted October 1 by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), a source in the Sports Ministry informed here Tuesday.

"This monumental opportunity could bring substantial benefits, fostering economic growth, social progress, and youth empowerment across the country," the source said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had first talked about his government's aspiration to host the 2036 Olympics last year.

A decision on the host will not be taken before the IOC elections next year and India will also have to face competition from several other nations like Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey, who are positioning themselves as strong contenders to host the huge sporting spectacle.

However, with the submission of a 'Letter of Intent', the nation has progressed from 'Informal Dialogue' to the 'Continuous Dialogue' stage of the host election process. In this stage, the IOC conducts a 'feasibility study' of the progress of projects asso-



IOC president Thomas Bach with Prime Minister Narendra Modi

FILE PHOTO

ciated with the Games in the potential host.

"As part of the feasibility assessment, independent sources in a wide-ranging number of areas are taken into consid-

eration, including in human rights, through business for social responsibility (BSR) and sustainability, through the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)," the

IOC stated on its website. The next phase of the process would be "Targetted Dialogue", which would require the submission of an edition-specific formal bid, which would be assessed

■ Along with India, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar are keen to host the Games

■ Current IOC president Thomas Bach has already supported India's bid to host the Olympics

by the Future Host Commission. The process would finally end with a host selection.

India's plan has been backed by current IOC head Thomas Bach. The last time India hosted an international multi-sport extravaganza was the 2010 Commonwealth Games here. But for the 2036 Olympics, Ahmedabad is being seen as a frontrunner to be the host city.

India's top sports administrators, including IOA president PT Usha, were at the Paris Olympics earlier this year to lobby for the country. It is also learnt that India would be pushing for the inclusion of indigenous disciplines like yoga, kho kho and kabaddi if the bid is successful.

The Sports Authority of India's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) has even presented a detailed report on the measures needed for a successful bid to Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

In this document, MOC has identified six disciplines, including yoga, kho kho, kabaddi, chess, T20 cricket and squash for inclusion in the Games if India gets to host the quadrennial extravaganza. This will also boost India's medal chances.

# 1,574 cricketers to go under IPL hammer

Auction to be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia Nov 24, 25

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 5:** A whopping 1,574 cricketers, including 1,165 Indians, have signed up for the mega auction ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 which will be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, November 24 and 25, the BCCI announced Tuesday. The list includes 320 capped players, 1,224 uncapped players and 30 players from the Associate Nations. Among the capped players, 48 are from India. Moreover, 965 uncapped players of the country will also go under the hammer.

This is the second successive year the auction is being held overseas as Dubai hosted the previous one ahead of the IPL 2024. However, the auction will clash with the scheduled third and fourth day's play of the first Test between India and Australia in Perth, which begins

■ South Africa with 91 players are the second largest in the players pool

■ 965 uncapped Indian players part of the auction

November 22. Each franchise will be able to form a maximum squad of 25 players (including respective retained players) and a total of 204 slots will be up for grabs from the auction.

This year's auction will feature some high-profile India stars such as Rishabh Pant, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer and Arshdeep Singh.

South Africa with the second largest players' pool in the auction with 91, followed by Australia with 76 players. There are 52 cricketers from England and 39 from New Zealand while West Indies (33) and Afghanistan (29) and Sri Lanka (29) follow in the list.

The Associates make their presence felt through USA (10), the Netherlands (12), Canada (4), Italy (1), UAE (1) and Scotland (2).



## SHORT TAKES

### Jangra becomes world champion

**New Delhi:** Indian professional boxer Mandeep Jangra has won the World Boxing Federation's super featherweight world title after defeating Britain's Conor McIntosh in the Cayman Islands. The 31-year-old, who trains under former Olympic silver medalist Roy Jones (Jr) and has faced only one defeat in his professional career so far, had the upper hand in most rounds. "This is one of the biggest victories of my career. I am thankful to my chief coach Roy Jones," Jangra said in a media release. "I have worked hard for years to achieve this. It is a matter of pride for me that I could bring glory to the country," he added.

### Neymar injured again on return

**Riyadh:** Neymar picked up another injury in just his second game since returning from a 12-month absence as Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal defeated Esteghlal of Iran 3-0 in the AFC Champions League Elite. The Brazilian has only recently recovered from a torn ACL and came off the bench after 58 minutes. However, the 32-year-old forward had to come off with three minutes remaining, having seemed to pull up after stretching his leg out for the ball in the penalty area. Aleksandar Mitrovic scored a hat trick for Al-Hilal, the four-time Asian champions who have now won all four games in the group stage.

### Djokovic pulls out of ATP Finals in Turin

**New Delhi:** Two-time defending champion Novak Djokovic withdrew from the ATP Finals, which will be held November 10-17 in Turin, Italy, citing an 'ongoing injury'. Djokovic, who will finish the year without a Grand Slam title to his name, shared the news via an Instagram story Tuesday. "It's quite an honour to qualify for the @nittoatpfinals in Turin. I was really looking forward to being there, but due to ongoing injury, I won't be playing next week. Apologies to those who were planning to see me. Wishing all the players a great tournament. See you soon!" the seven-time ATP Finals champion wrote. Djokovic has a 37-9 match record in the year, highlighted by his victory at the Paris Olympics, where he completed the career Golden Slam by winning his 99th tour-level title.

# Sabalenka seals spot in semis



Aryana Sabalenka in action during her match against Jasmine Paolini

AGENCIES

**Riyadh, Nov 5:** Aryana Sabalenka reached the semifinals of the WTA Finals here Monday with a 6-3, 7-5 win over Jasmine Paolini for a second straight victory in the group stage. The top-ranked Sabalenka cruised in the first set after building a 4-0 lead, then saved two set points in the second to advance at the year-ending tournament for the top eight ranked players.

Sabalenka will face already

eliminated Elena Rybakina Wednesday in the final group match of the week. Another round-robin win will secure her the year-end No. 1 ranking for the first time in her career.

"I'm proud of myself. Not only myself, my team," said the 26-year-old Sabalenka. "We were able to overcome a lot of things. To be able to show such great tennis and become World No.1 is indeed a proud feeling. It's teamwork, it's not only me. Nobody sees the behind-the-scenes work. But they do a

lot for me. I really appreciate them for everything they do for me. This is motivation for me to keep winning on this court," Sabalenka added.

An early double break of serve saw Sabalenka - a two-time Grand Slam champion in 2024 - hit the ground running against Paolini, and while the 28-year-old fourth seed cancelled out one of those breaks, she could do little to challenge her big-hitting opponent.

The second set, however, told a different tale. Though Sabalenka reeled off four consecutive games after an early break for Paolini, she grew frustrated as the Italian - enjoying a breakthrough season on the WTA Tour - mounted a comeback to go 5-4 ahead.

But after saving two set points, a switch flicked for Sabalenka, immediately breaking Paolini's serve once more before wrapping up the match at the first time of asking.

"The second set was quite tricky. I'm really happy to close this match in straight sets," Sabalenka said. In the other Purple Group match, Zheng Qinwen defeated Rybakina 7-6 (7-4) 3-6, 6-1 to maintain chances of advancing. It was Zheng's first career win over Rybakina in three tries.

Zheng and Paolini will play each other Wednesday, with the winner advancing to her first WTA Finals semifinal.

# Odisha face Rajasthan in Sr National opener

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** Hockey Association of Odisha announced Tuesday an 18-member team that will participate in the Senior Men's National Hockey championships in Chennai which started Monday. In their opening game Wednesday, title-contenders Odisha will take on Hockey Rajasthan. The other teams in Odisha's pool are Hockey Arunachal and Le Puducherry Hockey.

The coach of the Odisha hockey team, Bijay Kumar Lakra expressed optimism ahead of the tournament and stated that the team will give their very best. "Our boys have undergone rigorous training over the past few months, while blending into each other's game style. The preparatory matches have played a crucial role in honing their skills and evaluating their readiness. The team feel confident about their performance

in the tournament and I am optimistic about our prospects in the championship," Lakra stated in a release.

As the team have players like Dipsan Tirkey, Neelam Sanjeev Xess and Shilanand Lakra who have played for the country in various tournaments, it is expected that Odisha will do well in the senior nationals. Lakra said that the squad is a blend of youth and experience. It is however, strange that the Hockey Association of Odisha has not nominated a captain for the team.

**The squad: (Goalkeepers):** Dilip K SA, Sahil Kumar Nayak; **(Defenders):** Kerobin Lakra, Amandeep Lakra, Pratap Lakra, Dipsan Tirkey, Neelam Sanjeev Xess; **(Midfielders):** Ashish Kumar Topno, Sumit Kindo, Mangal Lohar, Prasad Kujur, Amit Kumar Toppo, Sunit Lakra; **(Forwards):** Rajat Akash Tirkey, Matiyas Dang, Ajay Kumar Ekka, Sudeep Chirmako and Shilanand Lakra.



# IYER BACK FOR ODISHA MATCH

PNN & AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Nov 5:** Middle-order India batter Shreyas Iyer returned to defending champions Mumbai's 16-member side for the Ranji Trophy Elite Group A clash against Odisha starting here Wednesday, but opener Prithvi Shaw was excluded.

Iyer had missed Mumbai's previous away clash against Tripura - a contest which was drawn - due to personal reasons and is now available for selection for the upcoming clash to be played at the Sharad Pawar Cricket Academy in Bandra-Kurla Complex.

However, Shaw, who was also dropped before the team's trip to Agartala for their last game, did not find a place. The right-handed opening batter was left out due to fitness and disciplinary issues.

It certainly will be a tough game for Odisha who lost their last match against Baroda. Out of the three matches they have played, Odisha have managed to get three points from only a single game where skipper Govind Poddar got a century against Jammu and Kashmir. They will have to play out of their skin to achieve a favourable result in the game against Mumbai.

The defending champions have players like Ajinkya Rahane, Shardul Thakur, Shams Mulani and Siddhesh Lad in their ranks.

# Injury woes plague Man City

AGENCIES

**Manchester, Nov 5:** Pep Guardiola believes Manchester City will struggle to overcome a mounting injury crisis but he is however, hopeful that the club will do well in Champions League.

Man City travel to Portugal after consecutive defeats to Tottenham in the League Cup and Bournemouth that ended an 11-month unbeaten run in the Premier League. Ballon d'Or winner Rodri, who is out for the remainder of the season with a knee injury, leads a stellar cast of absentees in Guardiola's squad that also includes Oscar Bobb, Ruben Dias, Jack Grealish and John Stones.

Kevin De Bruyne could make his first appearance in seven weeks in the Champions League match against Sporting Lisbon, but he is unlikely to start. Kyle Walker, Nathan Ake, Manuel Akanji, Jeremy



Doku and Savinho are also not fully fit.

"You know the situation with Rodri, nominated the best player in the world," Guardiola said Monday. "We know we will struggle, and we have to accept that, and it is fine. The games will be difficult; in previous seasons it was smooth. Personal reasons, injuries, we

won six Premier Leagues in seven years. Things change, we have to accept that at times," Guardiola added.

Guardiola will come up against one of his future rivals as Sporting boss Ruben Amorim takes charge of the Portuguese champions for the penultimate time before beginning his role as Manchester

United manager. The sides last met in the last 16 of the 2021/22 Champions League when City romped to a 5-0 victory in Lisbon and on aggregate.

"They have changed players but have same manager and same mentality," said Guardiola on the challenge Sporting provide. "Winning the league for first time in 20 years and then doing it again last season shows what a good job he (Amorim) has done."

Guardiola urged City not to make excuses despite their injury woes. "With a full squad we are stronger, there's no denying that. We have a lot of unbelievable players missing," he said.

"We have not been able to count on Kevin for six weeks. Rodri is out for the season and other players out shorter times. But we never find excuses. We have never been about that, we know how to overcome the hurdles," Guardiola added.

# Tough challenge awaits Kalinga Lancers in HIL

RESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 5:** Delhi SG Pipers will play Visakhapatnam franchise, Gonasika in the opening match of the men's competition of the revamped Hockey India League (HIL), starting December 28 in Rourkela. Kalinga Lancers will play their first game December 30 against the UP Rudras

The franchise-based tournament is set to return after a hiatus of seven years in a new look with the event being organised for both men and women co-currently. While the men's competition will feature eight teams, the women's event will be played at Ranchi among four teams.

The men's HIL will be conducted in two phases, with the opening phase witnessing all the eight sides playing against



each other once between December 28 and January 18.

The second phase starts January 19, where the eight teams will be clubbed into two groups of four each. While Pool A will feature Delhi SG Pipers, Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers, Soorma Hockey Club and Vedanta Kalinga Lancers, Pool B consists of Gonasika, Hyderabad Toofans, Tamil Nadu Dragons and UP Rudras.