



## Sam's desire

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu, 37, despite suffering from rare health conditions, says she still dreams to become a mom

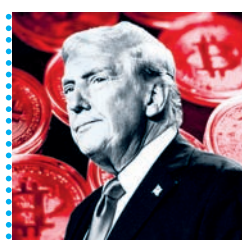
LEISURE | P2



## COP29 summit

Earth's biggest polluters aren't sending leaders to UN climate talks in a year of weather extremes

INTERNATIONAL | P10



## Bitcoin boom

Bitcoin rallies to the verge of \$90,000, riding a wave of euphoria since the election of Donald Trump as US president

BUSINESS | P11



## Deepika shines

Deepika scores two goals as India script a thrilling 3-2 win over Korea in the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey match

SPORTS | P12

## PBD opportunity to showcase state's vibrant culture: CM

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 12:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday said the upcoming Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) celebrations in Bhubaneswar will be an opportunity to showcase Odisha's rich hospitality and vibrant culture to the world. Majhi said this after participating in the launch of the website for the 18th PBD in Delhi along with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. He said the PBD will be celebrated in Bhubaneswar from January 8-10 with around 7,000 guests and delegates expected to attend. The event will be jointly organised by the Odisha government and the Ministry of External Affairs.

## 35 killed, 43 injured as man rams car into crowd

**Beijing/Zhuhai:** Thirty-five people were killed and 43 others injured when a 62-year-old man rammed his car into a crowd of people exercising at a sports centre Monday in the Chinese city of Zhuhai, which is currently hosting the country's prestigious international air show. Terming it a "major vicious incident", local police said the incident occurred around 7:48 pm Monday when citizens were exercising at the sports centre where a large number of people gathered for physical workouts, the official media reported Tuesday.



**POLL BOUND:** Election officials with EVMs and other election materials on the eve of the first phase of Jharkhand Assembly elections, at Morhabadi Grounds in Ranchi, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

## 29 BORDER CHECK POSTS AHEAD OF JHARKHAND POLLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 12:** Ahead of the first phase of polling for the Assembly elections in Jharkhand Wednesday, the Odisha Police have tightened security in the districts sharing the border with the neighbouring state to ensure peaceful voting there. ADG Law and Order Sanjay Kumar said 29 check posts in the border districts have been set up and patrolling intensified in all the sensitive areas.

Security has been tightened in the borders of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Sundargarh districts close to Jharkhand.

"The measures were taken after a meeting with the Election Commission of India (ECI)," the ADG said.

Meanwhile, a report from Rourkela said that the Sundargarh police were in touch with the West Singhbhum district police. The objective of the coordination is to ensure that any attempt by Maoists to disrupt the elections is prevented.

Sundargarh has a 75 km border with Jharkhand and most of the places are forested areas.

The security arrangements were made in the wake of the Bihar-Jharkhand Special Area Committee of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) outfit asking Jharkhand voters to boycott the election through posters and banners.

# HEAVY PRICE

## SOP for dealing with defence personnel at PS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 12:** The state government has issued a standard operating procedure (SOP) for cops in their interaction with defence personnel at police stations, Advocate General Pitambar Acharya informed the Orissa High Court Tuesday.

The move came in the backdrop of the alleged assault on an Army officer and his female friend at Bharatpur police station in September this year.

Sources said according to the SOP, officers at all police stations are required to extend due courtesies to armed forces' personnel. "Grievances and problems of the defence personnel would be promptly attended to by the police officer, and all required legal and logistic support extended to him as early as possible. If any defence personnel make a written complaint, the same would be promptly attended to in accordance with the law," the SOP said.

"Pro-active steps would be taken by the police officer to mitigate the grievance of defence personnel," it added.

*The economic tailspin continues to give rude shocks as the country's retail inflation surged to a 14-month high in October, driven by a jump in food prices. The October retail inflation of 6.21 per cent breached the RBI's tolerance band for the first time in more than a year, according to government data. The RBI is mandated to keep inflation in a range of 2-6 per cent, with a medium term target of 4 per cent. In September, retail inflation surged to a nine-month high of 5.49 per cent. Back home in Odisha, the rising inflation seems to have pinched consumers as never before. With prices of onion touching ₹80 per kg, potato ₹35 and garlic ₹400 in retail market during the Kartik month - when the demand for these vegetables plummets - the state (7.51 per cent) registered the third highest retail inflation in the country, after Chhattisgarh (8.84 per cent) and Bihar (7.83 per cent). Nevertheless, as hopes for a rate cut by the RBI next month appear bleak, the average consumer can ill afford to dream of any 'achhe din' in the near future.*



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 12:** Retail inflation breached the Reserve Bank's upper tolerance level, soaring to a 14-month high of 6.21 per cent in October mainly on account of rising food prices. Inflation based on the consumer price index (CPI) was 5.49 per cent in September and 4.87 per cent in the year-ago month.

Retail inflation trended below the RBI's upper tolerance band of 6 per cent since September last year. It was at 6.83 per cent in August 2023.

The RBI, which mainly factors in the CPI while arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy, has been tasked by the government to ensure retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per

cent on either side. The NSO data showed that during October 2024 significant decline in inflation was observed in the 'pulses and products', eggs, 'sugar and confectionery' and spices subgroup. "High food inflation in October 2024 is mainly due to increase in inflation of vegetables, fruits and oils and fats," the NSO said.

Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA the CPI inflation worryingly soared further to a 14-month high in October 2024, breaching the upper limit of the MPC's medium-term target range of 2-6 per cent.

Nayar further said that with the retail inflation breached the 6 per cent tolerance level and expected to exceed the MPC's estimate for the third quarter FY2025 by at least 60-70 bps, "a rate cut in the December 2024 policy review appears ruled out".

The RBI had kept the key short-term lending rate unchanged after the last monetary policy review in October citing concerns on the inflation front.

## Shutdown in Manipur over 'fake encounter'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Imphal, Nov 12:** Warring Meitei and Kuki-Zo groups staged peaceful bandhs in their respective areas of influence in Manipur Tuesday following the deaths of at least 10 armed men and two civilians in an attack on a police station and a CRPF camp in Jiribam district, and "abduction" of six civilians.

While Meitei organisations demanded the immediate release of the civilians, which included women and children, allegedly kidnapped by the militants, the Kuki-Zo groups alleged that "11 youths of the community" were "treacherously murdered in a fake encounter".

The Manipur Police said 10 suspected militants were killed in a fierce gunfight with security forces Monday after insurgents in camouflage uniforms, armed with sophisticated weapons, fired indiscriminately at the Borobekra police station and an adjacent CRPF camp at Jakuradorh in Jiribam district. However, a senior government



official put the toll at 11.

An uneasy calm prevailed in Jiribam district Tuesday as police patrolled vulnerable areas amid a rescue operation launched for the missing civilians. Police said purported photographs of the six missing persons in captivity of militants doing the rounds on social media could not be confirmed and the rescue operations will continue till they were traced.

Around 100 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were sheltered in a relief camp on the police station compound. Following the attack, the bodies of two elderly IDPs were recovered and another three rescued, while six, including three women and children each, remained untraced.

## Spy sat images reveal historic battle site in Iraq

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Beirut, Nov 12:** Declassified 1970s-era US spy satellite imagery has led a British-Iraqi archeological team to what they believe is the site of a seventh-century battle that became decisive in the spread of Islam throughout the region.

The Battle of al-Qadisiyah was fought in Mesopotamia — in present-day Iraq — in the AD 630s between Arab Muslims and the army of the Sassanid Persian dynasty during a period of Muslim expansion. The Arab army prevailed and continued on its march into Persia, now Iran.

A joint team of archeologists from the UK's Durham University and the University of Al-Qadisiyah stumbled across

the site while undertaking a remote sensing survey to map the Darb Zubaydah, a pilgrimage route from Iraq's Kufa to Mecca in Saudi Arabia built more than 1,000 years ago. The findings were published Tuesday in the journal *Antiquity*.

While mapping the route, the team noticed that a site some 30 kilometers (20 miles) south of Kufa in Iraq's southern Najaf province — a desert area with scattered plots of agricultural land — had features that closely matched the description of the al-Qadisiyah battle site described in historic texts.

William Deadman, a specialist in archaeological remote sensing at Durham University, said the Cold War era satellite images are a commonly used tool by archeologists working



in the Middle East, because the older images often show features that have been destroyed or altered and would not show up on present-day satellite images. "The Middle East has developed so much

in the last 50 years, both agricultural expansion and urban expansion," he said. Some of the distinguishing features at the al-Qadisiyah site, such as a distinctive trench, were "much more pristine and clear" in the

1970s images, he said.

A survey on the ground confirmed the findings and convinced the team that they had correctly identified the site.

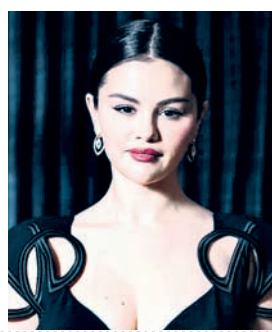
The key features were a deep trench, two fortresses and an ancient river that was reportedly once forded by elephant-mounted Persian troops, said Jaafar Jotheri, a professor of archeology at the University of Al-Qadisiyah who is part of the team that made the discovery. The survey team also found pottery shards consistent with the time period when the battle took place.

Jotheri said that Iraqis of his generation, who grew up under the rule of Saddam Hussein, were all familiar with the battle in minute detail, down to the names of the generals on both sides.

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	32.2°	30.0°
Min Temp	22.8°	21.0°
Humidity	66%	79
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
FORECAST Light rain very likely to occur		

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX	VARIATION	
SENSEX	78675.18	↓ 820.97
NIFTY	23883.45	↓ 257.85
DOLLAR	84.42	↓ 0.00
EURO	89.83	↓ 0.51
GOLD	₹75,012	↓ ₹339
SILVER	₹89,221	↑ ₹39

# leisure



## SELENA HIRED A BOTANICAL GARDEN FOR HER DATE

American singer and actress Selena Gomez once hired out an entire botanical garden for a date with boyfriend Benny Blanco. The loved-up pair enjoy waking up early in the morning before the rest of the world to spend time together.

## ARIANA MADIX DREAMS OF RETURNING TO BROADWAY

Reality star Ariana Madix would love to appear in *Mamma Mia!* on Broadway. The 39-year-old TV star made her Broadway debut earlier this year, when she played Roxie Hart in the award-winning revival of *Chicago*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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#### ARIES

Today people will actually drag you into altercations, so flash the peace sign if you must. You may face some sort of legal troubles from peace-loving groups. Therefore, Ganesha advises you to meditate, take a walk or just seek out the company of your near and dear ones.

#### TAURUS

Ganesha sees you in a very romantic mood today. Your thoughts, tender and dreamy, will keep drifting towards someone special; someone of the opposite sex. Come evening and you will, in all likelihood, be sitting closely together, arm in arm, with your spouse or your sweetheart. The magic of love will raise your spirits and get you in a light and lively mood.

#### GEMINI

Today, you are likely to remain transparent in all your dealings, forecasts Ganesha. You can be optimistic about your chances of success if you choose to propose to that special someone.

#### CANCER

There is something different about today. It is unlike any other day. Just when you will start believing that there is nothing great about the day, it will spring a surprise. There have been days where life has thrown carrots at you; then there have been days when it has hurled brickbats.

#### LEO

You will be in a light-hearted mood today. Be it at the office or at the home, you will be full of joy and will be looking to pass your time leisurely. You will spend time with family and friends. You will be unable to implement your plans for tackling work today in your current mood, says Ganesha.

#### VIRGO

The artist, the comedian and the showman in you are all set to take the floor today. Entertain people and set the evening ablaze with your arsenal of jokes and gags, says Ganesha. But save valuable time and energy for other pressing matters and responsibilities too.

#### LIBRA

It is more than likely, and possible indeed, that you will surpass your own past performances today. All this is on the cards, despite the fact that your peers at work will try to outwit you. But it is your consummate set of skills that shall help you pre-empt all such attempts, says Ganesha.

#### SCORPIO

You will see every colour of the kaleidoscope today — people with different temperaments and different attitudes, many of whom will surprise you with their reactions. You may be shocked at the way your colleagues or close friends react to your strategies or success.

#### SAGITTARIUS

You may have been experiencing hair loss in the past due to back-breaking stress, but things will begin to clean up today. As complex issues begin to fall in place, you are likely to receive some good news about a promotion or increment.

#### CAPRICORN

Planning strategic moves will be done with, and all that will remain is execution. But Ganesha says there may be delays in implementing ideas that are crucial to the success of your project, and this may leave you disappointed and dismayed. But the problem will be short-lived and you will have nothing to worry about as you have all it takes to be a winner.

#### AQUARIUS

Ganesha says it's okay to cry on somebody's shoulders. In fact, sharing problems lightens the load, and if nothing else, your friends will think you're as human as them. You will feel much better by evening and will even smile a little, says Ganesha.

#### PISCES

Now is the time when the inner circle of friends that you have nurtured over the years will prove their worth, says Ganesha. It is good to know that in times of need you can bank on their support and count on their cooperation. You will be able to luxuriate in the benefits of their friendship today.

## CASA BACARDÍ ON TOUR IN BHUBANESWAR

# Anuv Jain to regale music lovers Nov 16

**Bhubaneswar:** City music lovers are set to get an extraordinary treat as CASA BACARDÍ On Tour, presented by BACARDÍ Experiences, returns for its highly anticipated Season 4. This exciting event will take place November 16, 2024, at Dreamcity Resorts, featuring the soulful sounds of acclaimed independent artiste Anuv Jain. Celebrated for his soulful sound and captivating lyrics, Jain has garnered a devoted following worldwide. His performance in Bhubaneswar is set to be a highlight for



fans eager to experience his unique artistry in person. The city, known for its rich cultural landscape, provides the perfect setting for this musical celebration. Sharing his excitement about the event, Mahesh Kanchan, Marketing Director at Bacardi India Pvt Ltd, said: "We're thrilled to bring Anuv Jain to Bhubaneswar for the first time. With the artiste trending among Gen Z, it was the perfect moment to bring him closer to his fans here. The response has been absolutely phenomenal since we announced the event."

Considered among one of the most popular Indian indie artistes, *Baarishein* (2018), *Alag Aasmaan* (2020), *Gul* (2021), *Husn* (2023), and *Jo Tum Mere Ho* (2024) are some of his best-known works. Husn charted at No. 1 on Apple Music India and Spotify India charts for all genres. He featured in the Forbes India 30 Under 30 List of 2023.

# Ali Fazal to share screen space with Waller-Bridge



**Mumbai:** Indian actor Ali Fazal will be seen starring alongside Hollywood star Phoebe Waller-Bridge in the upcoming film *Rule Breakers*. He called the actress a powerhouse of talent and that her addition has lifted the film to greater heights.

*Rule Breakers*, directed by two time Oscar winner Bill Guttentag, explores themes of

resilience and defiance in Afghanistan. Known for his previous work in *Victoria* & *Abdul and Furious 7*, Fazal's collaboration with Waller-Bridge is highly anticipated. The film is set for a release in March 2025. "I am thrilled to be a part of *Rule Breakers* and to share the screen with such a talented actress as Phoebe Waller-Bridge," said Fazal. He went on to add, "This project resonates with me deeply, and I believe it's crucial to tell stories that highlight the strength and resilience of individuals in challenging circumstances. I look forward to bringing this narrative to life and reaching audiences globally."



# Sam dreams to be a mom

**Mumbai:** Samantha Ruth Prabhu aka Sam is currently enjoying the success of *Citadel: Honey Bunny*. Co-starring Varun Dhawan, Samantha plays a mother, besides being a spy, in the Raj and DK series. Now, in a recent interview, the actor said that she is hopeful about motherhood.

In an interview with a news portal, Samantha discussed her role as a mother in her recent project and expressed her desire to become a mother in real life. She mentioned that her dreams of entering that phase of life remain unchanged and emphasised that age should not be a barrier to having a child.

Samantha stated, "I don't think it's too late. I still have dreams of being a mother and, yeah, of course, I would love to be a mother. I have always wanted to be a mother; it's quite a beautiful experience. I am looking forward to it. People often worry about age, but I think there is no time in life when you cannot be a mother."

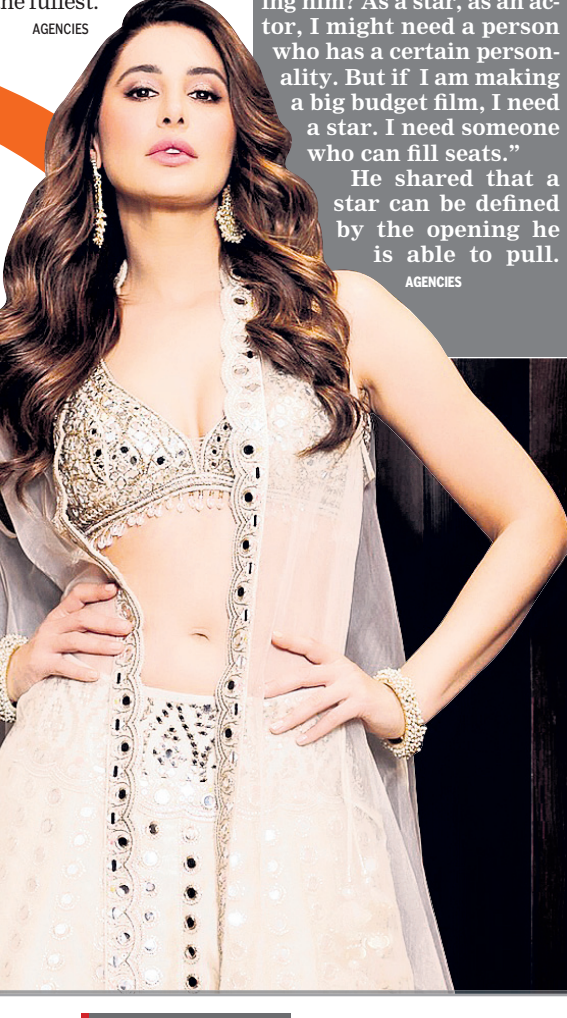
The actor has also been battling myositis. However, she feels that she is currently in a good phase in her life. Samantha said in the same interview, "I think I'm in a very good phase in life. I'm genuinely very happy and I feel I'm blessed to have the opportunity to live every day to the fullest."

# Nargis on life's turning point

**Mumbai:** On the 13th anniversary of her debut film *Rockstar*, Nargis Fakhri reflected on how the Ranbir Kapoor-starrer became a turning point in her life. Imtiaz Ali's musical romantic drama, which was released on November 11, 2011, revolved around the love story between Heer (played by Nargis) and Jordan (Ranbir). As the film celebrates its 13th anniversary today, Nargis shared how it left an indelible mark on her heart and soul.

Fakhri expressed, "*Rockstar* was a pivotal turning point in my life, and the experiences during pre-production, the shoot, and after the film's release were all impactful moments that left a lasting impression in my heart and soul."

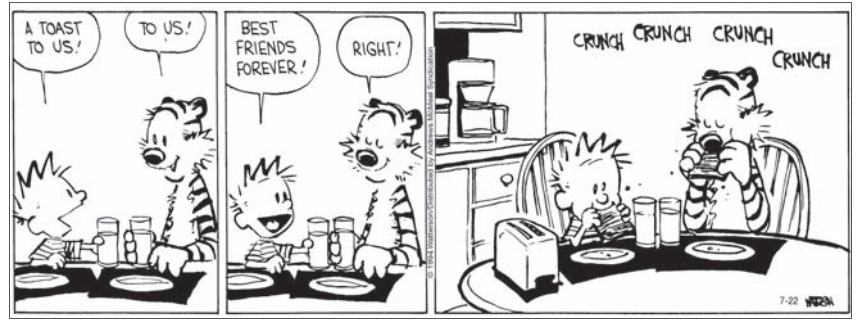
In *Rockstar*, Nargis starred opposite Ranbir Kapoor, and their fresh pairing created an effortless, vibrant chemistry that captivated audiences.



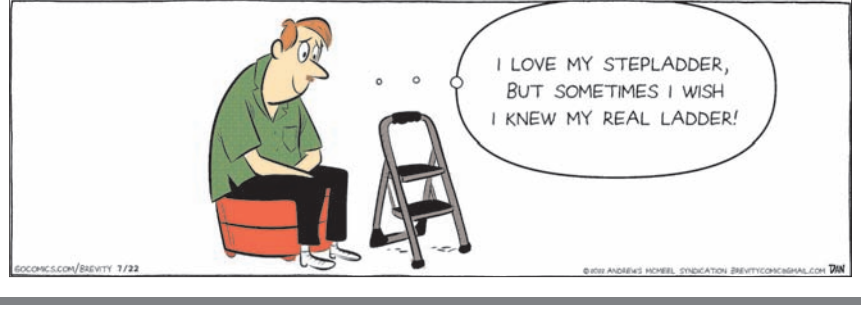
### PEANUTS



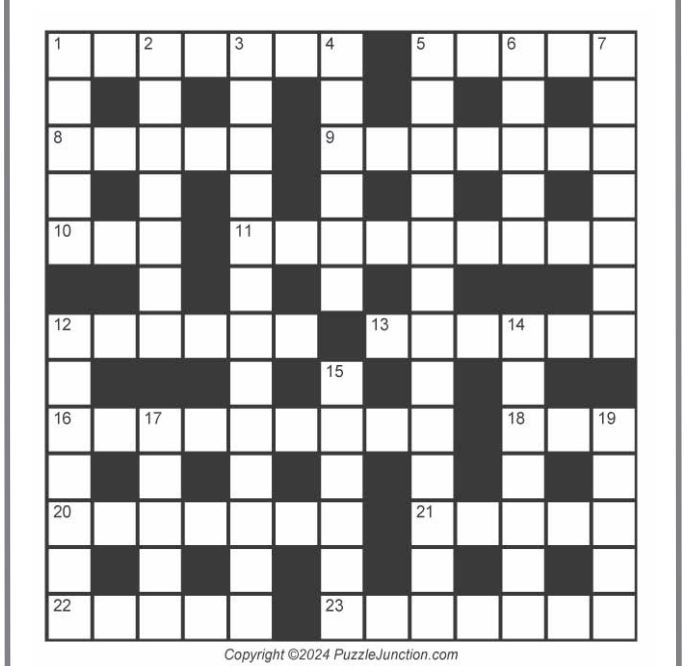
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



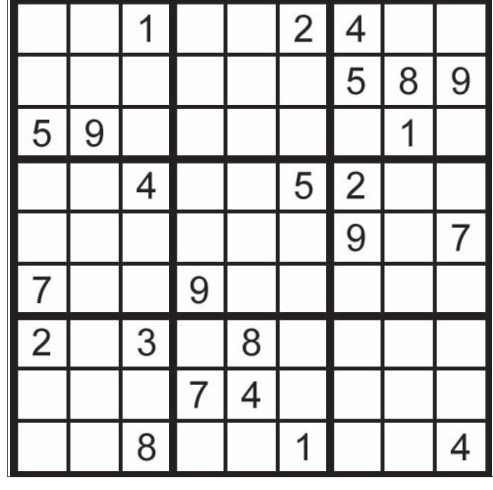
### FUN POST CROSSWORD



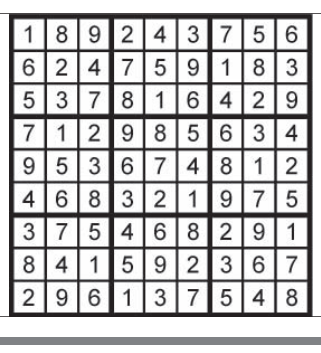
- Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Small indefinite amount
  - 5 Like a superhero
  - 8 Vantage point
  - 9 Cure-alls
  - 10 Fr. summer
  - 11 2nd largest Australian city
  - 12 Formally approve
  - 13 Turkey's highest peak
  - 16 Curious (4-1-4)
  - 18 Cave dweller
  - 20 Nutty
  - 21 Animal with striped legs, e.g.
  - 22 Four-bagger
  - 23 Detective's target
  - Down**
  - 1 Debonair
  - 2 Balm
  - 3 Baker's supply (5,2,6)
  - 4 Tease
  - 5 Bone manipulators
  - 6 Former
  - 7 Banoffee pie, e.g.
  - 12 Codswallop
  - 14 Chest protector (3,4)
  - 15 Builds
  - 17 Expression
  - 19 Tarnish

### 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

## Int'l teams to enthral Bali Yatra shoppers



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Nov 12:** Visitors to 'Bali Yatra Utsav 2024' here will witness mesmerising cultural programmes by renowned international teams, official sources said, Tuesday.

At Ganakabi Baishnab Pani Mancha (Stage I), Thailand team will perform November 16 (8:05pm to 8:35pm), Nepal team November 17 (7:30pm to

8:00pm), Sri Lanka team November 19 (6:30pm to 7:00pm), ICCR team from Slovakia November 21 (6:35pm to 7:05pm) and Bali Indonesia team November 22 (7:55pm to 8:25pm), according to information shared by the district administration.

Bhutan team will perform at Akshay Mohanty Mancha (Stage II) November 18 (7:25pm to 7:55pm), it said.

Meanwhile, Development Commissioner Anu Garg, Information and Public Relations and Rural Development departments' Principal Secretary Sanjay Kumar Singh, Tourism department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Balwant Singh and Cuttack Collector Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde, along with senior officials, took stock of arrangements for the Bali Yatra.

# SRIMANDIR SEES PANCHAKA RUSH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Puri, Nov 12:** Thousands of devotees visited Srimandir here on the occasion of Panchaka amidst tight security Tuesday, officials said.

While at least 30 platoons (one platoon comprises 30 personnel) of security forces were deployed to man the crowd, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) was allowing devotees to enter the 12th-century shrine only through the 'Singhadwar' (Lion's Gate), they said.

"Expecting a huge rush of devotees on the occasion of Panchaka, the administration allowed entry into the 12th century shrine only through the Singhadwar and exit by three other gates. We seek the cooperation of servitors and devotees for smooth conduct of Panchaka," SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee said.

Puri Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain said that the administration has also raised barricades and 'Bada Danda' (Grand Road in front of the temple) has been declared a



## Woman from abroad enters shrine

A foreign lady entered the Srimandir through Singhadwar Tuesday. Some people noticed her presence at the temple gumuta (entry to the main temple) and alerted the security personnel. She was then taken to the police. Her language was beyond the understanding of the police, who let her go after issuing a warning. This incident exposed chinks in the security arrangements at the 12th century shrine, said sources.

'no-vehicle zone' from Municipal Market Square.

"Lifeguards and Fire Services personnel have been deployed on the five-km stretch of beach (from Chakratirtha to Swargadwar) in order to prevent any drowning incident as a large number of devotees take holy dip in the sea

on the occasion of Panchaka," Swain said.

Though Panchaka is celebrated for five days every year, this time it is confined to four as per the almanac. The people of Odisha usually refrain from eating non-vegetarian food during Kartik month.

During the Panchaka, devo-

tees worship Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Narayan. Married women also worship Goddess Brundavati, the wife of the demon Jalandhara, in the form of the sacred tulsi plant, praying for the long life of their husbands.

During the Panchaka, Lord Jagannath is adorned in different beshas (attires). Lord Jagannath is adorned in Lakshmi-Narayan Basha on the first day of the Panchaka. Lakshmi-Narayan Basha is followed by Bankachuda Basha, Tribikrama Basha and Lakshmi-Nrusingha Basha.

## Oram: Our target to see EMRS among top schools in country

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 12:** Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Jual Oram said Tuesday his ministry's target is to place Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) among the leading schools in India.



Oram said this while inaugurating the fifth edition of EMRS National Cultural and Literary Fest and Kala Utsav 2024 - UDBHAV here Tuesday.

More than 1400 EMRS students from 22 states are participating in the cultural festival which will continue till November 15.

To bring prosperity among tribals through education, the establishment of 100 EMRS was conceptualised during the tenure of the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, he said.

The Centre is providing all facilities, starting from education to food, accommodation and daily need items to the tribal students at EMRS free of cost, Oram said.

However, there is a need to enhance the quality of education in the institutes, he said.

"For this, the dedication of teachers and effort of students are needed," he said. The Union Minister said he wants to see EMRS on par with institutes like Central schools.

He encouraged the students to make EMRS the top school in the country. Along with this, he called for the success of this national festival with the cooperation of all.

Oram asked the officials concerned to organise a tour of the participating students to different historical places in Puri and Bhubaneswar.

Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Durgadas Uikey advised students to reflect the ideals of Eklavya in their lives, stating that the exchange of ideas between each other has increased by organising such events.

He said the folk art, culture, music and literature of their respective regions have been allowed to be displayed here in different styles.

ST and SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Minister Nityananda Gond said EMRS is a wonderful initiative towards mainstreaming tribal children.

He said that the unique ideal residential school started by the efforts of Atal Bihari Vajpayee by prioritising the education of tribals is now a special opportunity in the education field in every state of the country.

UDBHAV is an annual celebration aimed at showcasing the diverse cultural and literary talents of students from the EMRS across India.

The participating students will compete in 47 diverse events, including storytelling, music, dance, singing, debate, and elocution, showcasing their talents and creativity.

## Bike-borne miscreants attack man in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 12:** A week after a man was attacked by five unidentified miscreants in Palashpalli area, yet another incident of vicious attack on a 40-year-old man at Badagada Chhak occurred Monday night when two bike-borne miscreants targeted him over suspected political rivalry.

The victim was identified as Deepak Pradhan, who lives in the area along with his family. Pradhan said the incident occurred when he was feeding dogs in the locality after returning from a nearby club around 10:15pm.

"Two miscreants wearing helmets rushed towards me, and frisked me if I was carrying any weapons. I took an objection, since I did not recognise them. To my utter shock, they took out surgical blades and attacked me. As I screamed for help, my friends chased them. However, they sped away on the motorcycle," he added.

Later, Badagada police reached the spot and admitted Pradhan to Capital Hospital.

A senior police official said, "Though we have not found any specific reason behind the attack, initial investigation indicates bitter political rivalry. We are scanning CCTV footage of the nearby area to nab the hoodlums."

Badagada police have lodged a case under Section 3 and 109 of BNS and launched an investigation.

# PM Internship

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Let a truer measure of societal well-being than GDP arise organically from our villages, towns, and cities. Our only hope of combating climate change rests on this reset

In other words, per capita GDP hides the appalling inequality across the world today.

But even if these accounting and statistical flaws of GDP were eliminated, we need to realise it will still not measure human well-being even remotely. We humans are multidimensional beings. We have a diverse set of needs — all of which are critical. Just as a healthy heart is of little use in a body where the liver is giving way or where the kidneys function only at 50%, GDP is a most inadequate and misleading measure of human well-being. All of us seek a prosperous, fulfilling, meaningful life. So, any societal vision and design that cannot provide the opportunity for such a life for all its members is doomed from the start. A good life entails basics like food, shelter, sanitation. It means affordable healthcare and education to enable the body and the mind. It then involves offering each of us work through which we can meaningfully contribute, and feel a sense of belonging, dignity and self-worth — and not just some meaningless employment that merely ensures bodily survival! We need healthy relationships and a sense of community. We need clean air and water, non-toxic food, stable climate and an environment in which all species thrive

and sustain. We need leisure, and time to ponder. We need to have political voice — a say in affairs that matter to us. All this is necessary.

Yes, the 21st century world is very complex. So complex, that any serious thinker could rightly come to the conclusion that we really have no handles to manoeuvre or change it. However, the only way out is to ask fundamental questions, approach things from first principles. That could be our only hope for both truth and simplification. We have to ask, 'What comprises human well-being?' Because what purpose are democratic governments meant to serve other than ensuring the well-being of societies that elect them. GDP could at best be a means to those ends. It cannot be an end in itself. We need to replace the 'single, objective, quantifiable' number of GDP with a dashboard of metrics that give a true picture of how society is faring on each of the aforementioned components of a prosperous, fulfilling, meaningful life.

Fortunately, academicians have not lacked in asking these questions. The 'Beyond GDP' project has been underway for decades — not just in theory but also as experiments here and there. From the GNH of Bhutan, to the GPI of the ecological economists, to Kate Raworth's 'Doughnut', mea-

asures abound. We in India could draw from these, but design one that works best for our context. And in our case, not only do we need to monitor well-being across various dimensions that matter in human life, we need to collect and report the data at a level at least as small as a district. This would help us understand and respond to the specific needs and constraints at the grassroots level of the polity. Let a truer measure of societal well-being than GDP arise organically from our villages, towns, and cities. Our only hope of combating climate change rests on this reset.

India has over 30 million students at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Imagine a biennial exercise where a tenth of them, in groups of 10, along with a teacher spends a month of their summer break in a village, or an equivalent urban agglomeration collecting data on this multi-dimensional measure of well-being. We could easily sample up to 25% of the country in every round. What an exposure to ground realities, of voluntary national service, of character and nation-building, and low-cost, honest, accurate data collection it could be!

Such a revamp will also earn us kudos from top notch Systems thinkers. For Systems theory tells us that for changing large and complex systems, we need to identify leverage points. A leverage point is where a small shift in something causes large, desired changes in the overall system. Changing the goal of a system is amongst the top two or three known leverage points to date. Let's get the goal of our society and economy right. Climate balance, and much else will follow suit.

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



Praveen Singh & Aseem Shrivastava TO CONFRONT CLIMATE CHANGE WITH ANY SINCERITY, WE ARE FIRST REQUIRED TO CALL THE BLUFF ON GDP BEING THE MARKER OF HUMAN WELL-BEING

The first part of this piece proposed the following. Three decades of COP meetings have been unable to bring down global carbon emissions because of our entrenched belief that human well-being is predicated on raising GDP. Since an increase in GDP under present conditions of historic inequalities cannot happen without increasing GHG emissions alongside, it ought to be no surprise that global efforts for thirty long years have failed to bring down emissions, even though humanity is at the edge of the precipice of a grave ecological and climate catastrophe. The simple point being made is that to confront climate change with any sincerity, we are first required to call the bluff on GDP being the marker of human well-being.

To be fair, the critique of GDP is not new. Its many shortcomings are common knowledge. We all know it counts good things — and bad. So, while increase in production adds to GDP, so does the clean-up of dirty air and water! It omits important activities like what mothers do to sustain the household, and what people do for each other in the community, because these transactions are not happening via the market. It considers nature to be a mere exploitable resource. Perhaps the most misleading feature of GDP is that it is a measure of averages — so when we talk of per capita GDP (income per person in the country) it obscures how this income is distributed. Sample this for a 'misleading measure' check: the per capita GDP in India today is roughly Rs 1,84,000 per year. This implies that the average household in India, which has five members, has an annual income of Rs 920,000 per year, or Rs 76,666 per month. The reality is that 80% of Indian households earn less than Rs 20,000 per month!

IN JEST THIS

Moving abroad? Here's an immigration guide

Donald Trump is heading back to the White House, having defeated Kamala Harris in the US presidential election. The last time Trump occupied the White House, numerous travel plans were affected. America became a less attractive destination for students and skilled workers from India and elsewhere.



Melvin Durai

THE LAST TIME TRUMP OCCUPIED THE WHITE HOUSE, NUMEROUS TRAVEL PLANS WERE AFFECTED

Canada and Australia were perhaps the top beneficiaries of Trump's xenophobic rhetoric. They attracted many Indian students who decided to avoid America and any obstacles that the Trump administration would erect for them.

Some Americans joined the throng of people visiting immigration websites for Canada, Australia, Germany and other countries. Australia was particularly attractive, as they wanted to move as far away from Trump as possible.

When Trump lost in 2020, some of these Americans returned home. But now that he has somehow managed to get re-elected, a number of Americans are once again trying to

emigrate. This is understandable. After all, millions of people move to America and other countries to get away from Trump-like figures in their home countries.

I've moved around quite a bit in my life, so I know how challenging immigration can be. Is it worth the trouble? Only if you lack opportunities or freedom in your home country. The grass may be greener on the other side, but you might also have to cut it yourself.

If you're eager to move to another country, you'll be glad to know that there are many countries around the world that welcome skilled immigrants. Here are just some of them and a few of their immigration requirements:

**Australia** You must be of good character and declare all recorded offenses, such as fraud, sexual assault and insurrections.

Your occupation must be on a list of eligible occupations, such as accountant, clinical psychologist, and rugby player.

You must be able to tell the difference between a wallaby and a kangaroo.

**United Kingdom** You must be fluent in English, with a vocabulary that includes basic words such as "blimey," "chuffed" and "knackered."

You must not use the word "soccer." It's called football here.

You must have a job offer with a decent salary, so you can afford to share an apartment with five other immigrants.

**Canada** You get extra points in our points-based immigration system if you are bilingual in English and French. No extra points for English and Punjabi until 2035.

You get maximum points if you are under the age of 30, and much fewer points above 45. But you can compensate for this by being bilingual and showing a willingness to settle in Nunavut and live in an igloo.

Having a graduate degree gets you extra points.

But points are subtracted if your degree is from Trump University.

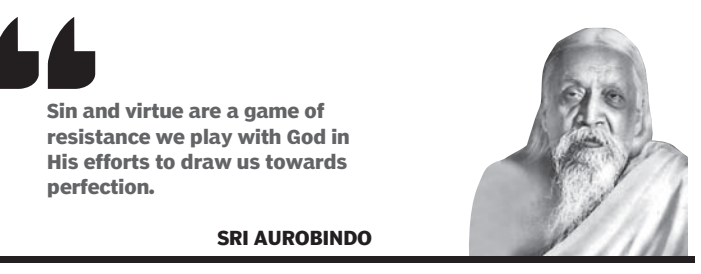
**Spain** If you are a manager at a big company or a researcher at a university, you can apply for a Highly Skilled Visa. If you have no skills but tons of money, you can apply for a Highly Labeled Visa.

A Non-Lucrative Visa allows you to live in Spain, as long as you have a good source of income, private health insurance, and no sign of Ebola.

You must demonstrate the ability to run away from bulls. **Mexico** You must be willing to use the phrase "Señora Presidenta" (Madame President).

Mexico welcomes retirees who are receiving at least \$1,620 per month (Rs 1.3 lakh) from their pension, Social Security or rich uncle.

You must not blame any of your economic struggles on Mexicans. If any blame needs to be made, please point your finger at AGE (Americans, Guatemalans, and Ecuadorians).



Profession & Religion

Kerala government's suspension of two IAS officers - Kerala Industries and Commerce Director K Gopalakrishnan and Agriculture Department Special Secretary N Prasanth - is yet another evidence of how deep communal poison has infected the country's body politic. What causes alarm is that religion, as famously articulated by Karl Marx, turns out to be the opium not simply of the masses, as a section of the highly educated class in the country too appears to be not immune to this addiction. Last year, top scientists of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) unabashedly displayed their blind religious faith mixing it with the pursuit of science promoted by the government flouting the Constitution in which there is no place for any particular religion regarded as a person's private article of faith.

Gopalakrishnan, a 2013-batch officer, has courted controversy this month following the formation of a WhatsApp group called "Mallu Hindu Officers." Prasanth, a 2007-batch officer, caused a commotion during the past three days making multiple posts in the social media against another IAS officer, Additional Chief Secretary A Jayathilak, calling him a reporter of a well known newspaper for articles critical of him appearing in it.

The Kerala government took the punitive action based on reports from Chief Secretary Sarada Muraledharan. The Revenue Minister K Rajan made it clear that the government would "not allow officials to act as they feel" and that they are bound to "work as per norms and procedure."

The controversy snowballed after the "Mallu Hindu Officers" group was formed 30 October adding the names of several senior IAS officers, who were Hindu, as its members. However, it was deleted within hours of its creation as several officers vehemently questioned the propriety of such a group. Days later, Gopalakrishnan filed a police complaint claiming that the group was created after his phone was hacked and that several other groups, including one called "Mallu Muslim Officers," had also been created.

However, it appears such a plea was Gopalakrishnan's after thought. For, the order suspending him said that a police investigation revealed there was "no evidence indicating that the device was hacked" as had been claimed. It is also revealed that repeated 'factory reset' of the mobile phone was done by Gopalakrishnan himself before submitting his phones for forensic examination. This technique is used to delete the existing data of a mobile in its entirety. The report shows the officer in a sinister light.

The government order on the suspension shows it is of the view that the WhatsApp group "was intended to foment division, sow disunity and break the solidarity within the cadres of the All India Services in the state." It was also prima facie found to be creating communal formations and alignments within the cadres of the All India Services in the state.

This is indeed a damning report and confirms what is long been believed that communal parties have been trying to invade the state apparatus through indoctrination of the police and administrative cadres so as to take political control through them. Nothing can be more dangerous for the country since an administration biased towards any one religious faith not only runs counter to the country's laws and Constitution, but is capable of doing gross injustice to the populace owing allegiance to different religious faiths and practices. Today some may favour Hindus but when real trouble starts the same mindset could veer elsewhere, in support of some other beliefs. Historically, it has always been observed that internal sabotage alone had been responsible for the defeat of Indian kings in wars against outsiders. Unfortunately, there existed no minorities to blame at those historical times.

The country had been in the eye of a storm when ISRO scientists, including chairman S Somanath, visited Hindoo temples before the launch of the Chandrayaan-3 mission. Religious dogma is anathema to scientific temper. That is what the nation deserves and desires. A former ISRO chairman G Madhavan Nair even went to the length of justifying the scientists' action by distorting Albert Einstein's belief in God. Nair said that even great scientists such as Einstein were of the view that there is something beyond the visible universe and referred to it as God or creator. However, Einstein said: "I believe in Spinoza's God who reveals himself in the orderly harmony of what exists, not in a God who concerns himself with the fates and actions of human beings."

The Kerala episode needs to be understood well. The attitude and actions of those bureaucrats needs to be dealt with firmly and in an exemplary manner so as to ensure the sanctity of the Constitution and prevent government officers - bureaucrats or scientists - from mixing religion with public service for which they get their salaries with the money provided by the country's tax-payers who are of every caste, religion and creed.

WISDOM CORNER

Treat those who are good with goodness, and also treat those who are not good with goodness. Thus goodness is attained. Be honest to those who are honest, and be also honest to those who are not honest. Thus honesty is attained.

LAO TZU

Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing.

HELEN KELLER

If you are the kind of person who is waiting for the 'right' thing to happen, you might wait for a long time. It's like waiting for all the traffic lights to be green for five miles before starting the trip.

ROBERT KIYOSAKI

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1850: Robert Louis Stevenson—the Scottish essayist, poet, and author of fiction and travel books who was best known for his novels Treasure Island (1881), Kidnapped (1886), The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1886), and The Master of Ballantrae (1889)—was born.
1916: During World War I a costly four-month Allied offensive against German positions along the Somme River ended.
1918: Egyptian patriot Saad Zaghloul formed Al-Wafd al-Mi r (Arabic: "Egyptian Delegation"), the nationalist political party that was instrumental in gaining Egyptian independence from Britain.
1940: The animated film Fantasia had its first public screening, and it became one of Disney's more controversial works, derided for its portentousness and praised for its stunning visual virtuosity.

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



Growth paradox

Sir, India's economic growth presents a paradox, as it coincides with worrying trends like a decline in rural-urban migration and stagnant rural wages. These developments indicate that economic opportunities may not be reaching all sectors equally. For years, rural-urban migration has signified economic dynamism, but recently, a marked reduction in migrant flows to cities, as evidenced by declining daily train passengers, signals otherwise. The pandemic's disruptions, coupled with government welfare programmes such as MGNREGA, have influenced labour preferences, potentially reducing the need or appeal for rural workers to seek urban employment. A key concern is that urban areas may not be creating sufficient high-quality jobs. Despite economic expansion, the rate of urban job creation may be too low to sustain a steady influx of rural migrants. This trend suggests that economic growth, while evident in GDP figures, is not translating into widespread employment opportunities. Government welfare programmes have improved rural income security, but may unintentionally lessen the incentive to migrate, as people find sufficient support locally. Additionally, the pandemic caused many rural workers to reconsider migration, with health risks and economic instability making urban areas less attractive. Simultaneously, rural wages, particularly when adjusted for inflation, have stagnated, highlighting an underlying economic inequality. Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

New vision

Sir, After Chandrayaan-3's successful moon landing, some might question why a developing country like India is so keen on sending missions to the moon, given its many political and socio-economic problems. I would argue it is because initiatives like these help articulate a vision that emphasises technological progress and futuristic thinking, helping spur growth and innovation. States without a progressive vision tend to fall into decay. There are many opportunities for us to shift away from our reliance on agricultural commodities and geostrategic rent-seeking but we rarely make use of them. We need to invest more in science and technology if we want to compete and remain relevant in this fast-changing world. Jubel D'Cruz, MUMBAI

# Priyanka faces key test in Wayanad

Strengthen Cong bastion and surpass Rahul's victory margin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wayanad (Kerala), Nov 12: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, in her maiden electoral contest in Kerala's Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll Wednesday, faces a key test -- not only to hold onto the party's stronghold but also to widen the victory margin her brother, Rahul Gandhi, achieved in the last two elections.

The constituency, which Rahul won this year with a victory margin of over 3.5 lakh votes, was vacated by him following his success in the Rae Bareilly LS seat also, necessitating a bypoll in Wayanad

During the nearly month-long, high-voltage campaign, Priyanka has relied heavily on her brother's tenure as Wayanad MP and his popularity in the constituency to boost her prospects, frequently highlighting the "love and affection" he has for the people of Wayanad and how they supported him during challenging times.

Rahul, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, has also joined her at public meetings and roadshows in the constituency on several occasions, urging the people of Wayanad to show her the same support they gave him.

Meanwhile, her rivals, LDF's



Sathyam Mokeri and NDA's Navya Haridas, are hoping that Priyanka's lack of electoral experience will discourage voters from choosing her.

Mokeri has a history of contesting from the Wayanad LS seat in 2014 and reducing the victory margin of then UDF candidate to 20,000.

The LDF and NDA campaign also focused on pointing out that Rahul allegedly rarely

came to the constituency after his win from there in 2019 and that he abandoned them after his win in 2024.

Both political fronts have claimed that Priyanka too will follow in her brother's footsteps.

The LDF and NDA are also of the view that Rahul won in the general elections held in April as the people thought he would be the next prime minis-

ter, which would not be the case this time round.

Priyanka has answered the LDF and BJP's statements questioning her experience by pointing out that she has been active in politics for 35 years, since 1989, when she campaigned for her father, Rajiv Gandhi.

She also said that she would keep coming to Wayanad if she wins from here, till the people tell her not to come there so frequently.

The Congress leader further contended that she was a "fighter" and would fight for the interests of the people of Wayanad on every platform.

The constituency, which Rahul won this year with a victory margin of over 3.5 lakh votes, was vacated by him following his success in the Rae Bareilly LS seat also, necessitating a bypoll in Wayanad.

He won the constituency in 2019, with a margin of over 4.3 lakh votes.

## 16 candidates vying for support of over 14L voters

A total of 16 candidates, including Congress's Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, CPI's Sathyam Mokeri and BJP's Navya Haridas, are vying for the support of the over 14 lakh voters in the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency where a bypoll will be held Wednesday. The constituency, which Congress leader Rahul Gandhi won this year with a victory margin of over 3.5 lakh votes, was vacated by him following his success in the Rae Bareilly LS seat also, necessitating a bypoll in Wayanad. While the Congress plans to retain the seat -- considered to be a UDF bastion -- by fielding Rahul's sister Priyanka, the CPI and the BJP are hoping to wrest the hill constituency from the grand old party. The last day of by-election campaigning in the hill constituency saw roadshows Monday by all three major political fronts, with Rahul showing up in person to garner support for his sister, who is making her electoral debut. Meanwhile, extensive preparations have been made in the constituency, where a bypoll was announced by the Election Commission October 15. The Wayanad LS constituency comprises seven Assembly segments - Mananthavady (ST), Sulthan Bathery (ST), and Kalpetta in Wayanad district; Thiruvambady in Kozhikode district; and Eranad, Nilambur, and Wandoor in Malappuram district. Several companies of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Armed Police Battalion have been deployed for election duties in the seven Assembly segments, according to details shared by the respective district administrations. Polling will be conducted in over 1,000 booths across the constituency and special security arrangements have been made at the places where there was a Maoist presence or which are considered to be trouble-prone, the district administration said. The preparations also include setting up 24-hour control rooms and round-the-clock police patrolling ahead of the polling, which will commence at 7 am Wednesday. The counting of votes will be done November 23.

# Security agencies conduct mock drill at Chenab bridge



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 12: Multiple security agencies conducted a mock drill at the Chenab Railway Bridge, the world's highest rail bridge and a critical infrastructure of the country, in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district Tuesday, an official said.

Spanning over 1.3 kilometres, the bridge is a vital link in the 111-km stretch from Katra to Banihal, which forms part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla section of the Kashmir Railway project, officials said.

"The district police in Reasi, along with various security agencies, successfully conducted a full-scale mock drill at the Chenab Railway Bridge in Kouri, lasting over two hours," a police officer said.

Seven security agencies participated in the drill, including the Police, Special Operations Group (SOG), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), General Railway Police (GRP), Railway Protection Force (RPF), State Disaster Response Force

(SDRF), and Village Defence Groups (VDG), the officer added. Fire and Emergency Services, as well as medical teams, also were a part of the mock drill at Kouri.

The exercise was designed to assess the preparedness of the forces to respond quickly and effectively to potential threats from anti-national elements. "This was a proactive step to safeguard critical infrastructure," the officer said.

The Chenab bridge, an engineering marvel, is an arched steel and concrete structure connecting Baramulla to Jammu via the Udhampur-Katra-Qazigund route, with a travel time of approximately six-and-a-half hours, railway officials said.

Standing 35 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the bridge is designed to withstand a blast of up to 40 kg of TNT and an earthquake of magnitude 8 on the Richter scale. It can also endure winds of up to 260 km/h and has an estimated lifespan of 120 years.

Construction of the bridge began in 2002 but was halted in 2008-09 to address safety concerns for rail passengers due to high-velocity winds in the area. The project was completed in 2024. Indian Railways successfully conducted a trial run of an eight-coach MEMU train on the Chenab bridge June 20 this year, paving the way for the start of rail services on the route from Reasi to Baramulla in Kashmir.

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, which includes the 48.1-km-long Banihal-Sangaldan section, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi February 20, 2024.

Phase I of the project, covering the 118-km Qazigund-Baramulla section, was inaugurated in October 2009 under the Congress-led UPA government. Subsequent phases included the inauguration of the 18-km Banihal-Qazigund section in June 2013 and the 25-km Udhampur-Katra section in July 2014.

# NGT slams authorities over jaundice outbreak in Shopian village



The bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava said the authorities failed to take remedial measures to ensure the residents of Pahnoo village had access to clean drinking water

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has pulled up the authorities over the outbreak of jaundice at a village in the district, and also castigated the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee and the Shopian Deputy Commissioner for filing a "casually prepared" report on the matter.

The bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava said the authorities failed to take remedial measures to ensure the residents of Pahnoo village had access to clean drinking water.

It directed the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Deputy Commissioner of Shopian to ensure the village had proper sanitation and safe drinking water.

The green body took suo motu cognizance of a news report regarding several children in the village getting jaundice earlier this year ostensibly because of drinking contaminated water.

In its order passed November

# First seaplane of Kerala takes off from Kochi, lands in Idukki

Kerala plans excellent transport facilities, connecting four international airports, state-of-the-art national highways, hill highways, and upcoming high-speed rail corridors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Nov 12: The first seaplane of the Kerala state, took off from the backwaters here and landed in Mattupetty dam in the hill district of Idukki Monday.

Tourism and Public Works Minister PA Mohamed Riyas flagged off the amphibious aircraft from the Boglatty Palace Waterdrom in the port city. The Minister also took a short trip on the 17-seater aircraft, along with Industries Minister P Rajeev, General Education Minister V Sivankutty and senior government officials.

Riyas said that with the addi-



tion of seaplane services, it will be possible to reach remote areas of the state in less time and at a lower cost.

Kerala plans excellent transport facilities, connecting four international airports, state-of-the-art national highways, hill highways, and upcoming high-speed rail corridors, he said.

"Seamless connectivity for tourists arriving at our four international airports to reach hinterland destinations is something everyone wants," Riyas said. The minister further said that the objective of the government is to popularise the seaplane services. "We are trying to make this affordable

and accessible to everyone. A detailed plan on this is getting ready," Riyas added.

Mayor M Anilkumar, Aviation Secretary Biju Prabhakar, Tourism Secretary K Biju, Additional Tourism Director P Vishnuraj and Kerala Travel Mart Society officials were also present in the function.

A Switzerland-based private company and SpiceJet operate the De Havilland Canada, which arrived here after trial services in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. SpiceJet operates the services, while Canadian aircraft manufacturer De Havilland offers engineering expertise and assists with technical and logistical challenges, according to an official statement.

The seaplane service is provided under the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)'s Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN. Kerala targets increasing connectivity among its airports, hill stations, and backwaters by offering subsidised fares, it said.

# 'INDUSTRY 4.0' IIIE-2024 to kick off in Kochi with over 300 exhibitors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Nov 12: The India International Industrial Expo 2024 (IIIE-2024), organised by the Kerala State Small Industries Association (KSSIA) and Metro Mart, is set to begin December 13.

The three-day event, which aims to accelerate and promote industrial growth across the state, will be held at the KINFRA International Exhibition Centre in Kochi, running until December 15. The Expo will be officially inaugurated December 13 by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, according to a statement from KSSIA Tuesday.

Union Minister of MSME Department, Jitan Ram Manjhi, will inaugurate the closing session December 15.

Supported by the Industries and Commerce Department of Kerala, the MSME Department of India, K-BIP, KINFRA, and Metro Mart, IIIE-2024 will feature more than 300 exhibitors, including some of the leading

machine manufacturers from Kerala and beyond. The event will also include participants from international markets.

This expo is expected to play a key role in advancing the 'Industry 4.0' concept in Kerala, providing a significant boost to the state's industrial landscape.

"This prestigious event will welcome over 10,000 trade visitors, including industry professionals, decision-makers, and potential business collaborators, creating a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and new business ventures," said M A Nizarudeen, state president of KSSIA.

The expo aims to attract more investment to Kerala, positioning the state as a hub for industry-friendly initiatives, said K P Ramchandran Nair, Chairman of the Expo Organising Committee.

The event will also feature a variety of seminars and product presentations, including sensors, robots, and software, added the release.

# Tourism threatens Himalayan brown bear habitat

The tribunal had noted that according to a study, 75 per cent of the diet of bears in the area comprised human-made garbage dumps including plastic and organic food waste

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: The National Green Tribunal has been informed that tourism activities and tunnelling projects in Kashmir's Sonamarg have negatively impacted the habitat of the Himalayan brown bear.

Earlier, while hearing the issue of the depleting habitat of the Himalayan brown bear because of the several reasons, including the unplanned disposal and treatment of waste in the Sonamarg region, the tribunal sought a response from the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC).

The tribunal had noted that according to a study, 75 per cent of the diet of bears in the area comprised human-made garbage dumps including plastic and organic food waste.

In its reply dated November



Sonamarg was among the few Himalayan bear habitats in the Yatra, besides connecting the Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh

11, the JKPCC said it had directed the regional director of the pollution control committee in Kashmir to submit a comprehensive report.

Pursuant to its directions, the committee formed a panel to find the status of tourism and its impact on brown bear habitat, besides assessing the quanti-

fication and disposal of the food waste in the area, the reply said.

The panel's report, which was annexed to the reply, said Sonamarg was among the few Himalayan bear habitats in the country. It was a key tourist place, serving as a stopover for the pilgrims of the Amarnath Yatra, besides connecting the Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"Tourism activities, such as the construction of hotels, guest houses, restaurants, markets, roads and various tunnelling projects, have led to habitat fragmentation and increased human intervention in an area that once entirely served as a habitat for various species of wild animals including the Himalayan Brown Bear," the report said.

Quoting the report, the JK-PCC's reply said between 7-10

metric tons (MT) per day of solid waste was generated in Sonamarg, which increased to up to 20 MT during the peak season.

Regarding waste management, the reply said, "Huge quantity of solid waste was found dumped around the solid waste management facility (established by the Sonamarg Development Authority) and piles of untreated solid waste were also found stacked inside the facility without proper disposal arrangements in place for the compost generated."

It said action would be taken against the authority for violating environmental rules.

The reply also recommended fencing the facility, installing a weigh bridge for quantifying the waste, secondary segregation of the waste in the facility and prohibiting open dumping of waste around it.



**“We must work together across borders and disciplines to create a safer world”**  
P K MISHRA | PRINCIPAL SECY TO PM

## LAWYER HELD OVER DEATH THREAT TO SRK

A lawyer from Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur was arrested by the Mumbai police Tuesday over allegations of threatening to kill Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan and demanding Rs 50 lakh last week, an official said



## of the day uote

The loot is everywhere in the state. The existing government ruined the state's rich wealth of forest, minerals and water

**SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN** | UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ended terrorism and Naxalism from the country

**AMIT SHAH** | UNION HOME MINISTER

Soybean farmers are very upset as they are not getting the right price despite good yield

**RAHUL GANDHI** | CONGRESS LEADER

## ILLEGAL BANGLADESHI INFILTRATION CASE

# ED raids in J'khand, Bengal

*“Incriminating” items like fake Aadhaar cards, forged passports, illegal arms, immovable property documents, cash, jewellery, printing paper and machines and blank proforma used for forging Aadhaar ID were recovered during the raids carried out at a total of 17 places in the two neighbouring states by the Ranchi office of the federal probe agency*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi, Nov 12:** The Enforcement Directorate Tuesday raided multiple locations in poll-bound Jharkhand apart from West Bengal in a money laundering investigation linked to alleged illegal infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals, official sources said.

“Incriminating” items like fake Aadhaar cards, forged passports, illegal arms, immovable property documents, cash, jewellery, printing paper and machines and blank proforma used for forging Aadhaar ID were recovered during the raids carried out at a total of 17 places in the two neighbouring states by the Ranchi office of the federal probe agency, the federal agency said in a statement. The action came a day before the first phase of polling in Jharkhand.

Visuals of CRPF personnel positioned outside a hotel located on Bariatu Road in Ranchi and a resort in the city were captured by press teams as ED teams scoured for documents, ledger entries and financial records inside. Sources said a few people have been detained and are being questioned by the ED officials.

The ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) slammed the BJP-led Centre alleging that the central agency's action was an attempt to “help the saffron camp establish its Bangladeshi infiltration narrative”. The Congress, an ally of the government, also made a similar



allegation saying the raids are not for Bangladeshi infiltrators but a last attempt to save BJP's political ground in the state.”

The searches came after the ED had in September filed a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to probe an instance of alleged infiltration and trafficking of some Bangladeshi women into Jharkhand leading to the generation of alleged slush funds.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other BJP leaders have accused the state government of aiding such infiltration leading to the altering of the demographic landscape of the tribal-dominated areas of Santhal Pargana and Kolhan regions during the recent poll campaign.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Monday accused the ruling JMM-led coalition of converting Jharkhand into a ‘dharmashala’ for Ro-

hingyas and Bangladeshi infiltrators. Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced in Seraikela Monday that a committee would be formed, if BJP is voted to power in Jharkhand, to identify and drive out infiltrators from the state besides reclaiming land grabbed by them.

The first phase of the Assembly polls is slated for 43 constituencies Wednesday, while the second for 38 seats will be held November 20.

The ECIR (enforcement case information report) filed by the central agency stems from a Jharkhand Police FIR filed at the Bariatu police station (Ranchi) in June.

The police FIR, filed on the complaint of a Bangladeshi woman who allegedly infiltrated into the country from along the India-Bangladesh border with the help of touts to find work, has named around six women as accused who were arrested following a raid at a

local resort. The woman who filed the complaint escaped from a similar guest house and reached the police station. Police also recovered a “fake” Aadhaar card from one of these women.

Police pressed multiple IPC sections like 420 (cheating), 467 (forgery of valuable security), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating), 471 (using as genuine a forged document) and 34 (common intention) in the FIR.

It also slapped section 12 of the Passport Act (knowingly furnishing any false information or suppressing any material information with a view to obtaining a passport or travel document) and 14A of the Foreigners Act (penalty for entry in restricted area) in the complaint.

The FIR quoted the woman complainant saying they were trafficked into India from Bangladesh allegedly for prostitution by luring them in the name of getting a job in beauty salons. ED sources had earlier said the agency will investigate the “entire gamut” of infiltration from across the eastern borders, including Bangladesh, into Jharkhand including in the tribal districts of Santhal Pargana and Kolhan.

Prime Minister Modi, while addressing a poll rally a few months ago, accused the Jharkhand government of encouraging Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltration for vote bank politics and criticised it for “rampant corruption”.

## KERALA WHATSAPP GROUP CONTROVERSY

# Suspended IAS officers face serious charges



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 12:** The suspension orders issued by the Kerala government against two IAS officers, K Gopalakrishnan and N Prashant, cite violations of service rules and serious indiscipline, alleging that the former's action sowed disunity within the All India Service Cadre, while the latter's conduct undermined the public image of the state's administrative machinery.

Gopalakrishnan was suspended for creating a religion-based WhatsApp group for government officials, and Prashant faced action for publicly criticising a senior IAS officer on social media.

In the suspension orders issued late Monday night, the government made it clear that the act of both civil service officers amounted to grave indiscipline and violation of various sections of the All India Service Conduct Rules, 1968.

The order said that it has come to the notice of the government that a WhatsApp group was created recently, of which Gopalakrishnan, Director of Industries, was stated

to be the administrator of the said group. The order, issued by Chief Secretary Sarada Muraledharan, further stated that a police inquiry revealed that there was no evidence indicating that the mobile phone of Gopalakrishnan was hacked, as claimed by the officer.

It is also revealed that a repeated factory reset of the mobile phone was done by the officer himself before submitting his phones for forensic examination, according to the order.

It was also prima facie found to be creating communal formations and alignments within the cadres of the All India Services, the order added.

Meanwhile, in a separate order placing Agriculture Special Secretary N Prashant under suspension, the government accused the officer of making “derogatory statements” on social media against A Jayathilak IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department.

As per the order issued by the Chief Secretary, these remarks amount to grave indiscipline and that such remarks undermine the public image of the administrative machinery in the state.

## SHORT TAKES

### 12 TN fishermen detained by SL navy

**Chennai:** Twelve fishermen from Tamil Nadu's Nagapattinam district were apprehended by the Sri Lankan navy November 11, allegedly for trespassing and fishing in the island waters, a fisheries department official said Tuesday. Their counterparts in Rameswaram staged a protest in Pamban demanding the Central government's immediate intervention to secure the release of the Nagapattinam fishermen and also others from the state arrested by the Lankan navy.

### Sitharaman meets Russian first dy PM

**New Delhi:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Tuesday met Russian first Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov and exchanged views on measures to strengthen ties between the two nations. The finance ministry in a post on X said Sitharaman and Manturov discussed issues of bilateral and multilateral interest. “They exchanged views on measures to strengthen financial and economic ties between the two nations,” the ministry said.

### Indian national dies in road accident in Nepal

**Kathmandu:** A 32-year-old Indian national died in a road accident in Nepal's Siraha district, police said Tuesday. Pankaj Kumar, a resident of Madhubani Thana in Bihar, was riding a motorcycle when he met with an accident near the Balan river bridge in Bhagwanpur Rural Municipality Monday night, police said. Pankaj, who sustained injuries, was rushed to a hospital, where he was declared dead, they added.

### Several shanties gutted in Kolkata

**Kolkata:** Several shanties were gutted in a massive blaze in Kalikapur area of Kolkata Tuesday evening, a fire official said. Four fire tenders were deployed to douse the blaze that erupted around 5.15 pm, he said. The fire also spread to adjacent buildings which were partially damaged, the official said.

### Indore: 42 evacuated as fire breaks out

**Indore:** As many as 42 persons were evacuated after a fire broke out on the second floor of a six-storey commercial building here Tuesday night, a civic official said. There was a chaotic situation inside the building, located near Vijay Nagar intersection and housing shops and offices, but the fire was doused in time, he said.

## WAYANAD BYPOLL

# LDF accuses Priyanka of ‘misusing’ religious places

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Wayanad (Kerala), Nov 12:** With just hours left for the Wayanad Lok Sabha by-poll, the CPI(M)-led LDF Tuesday lodged a complaint with the Election Commission (EC) accusing Congress candidate Priyanka Gandhi Vadra of “exploiting religious sentiments to influence voters”.

E J Babu, the chief election agent of LDF candidate Sathyan Mokeri, filed the complaint, alleging that Priyanka and her supporters were “using religious priests to conduct public prayers and promote her campaign, thereby exploiting religious sentiments to influence voters.”

“This practice appears to violate the Election Code of Conduct and provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951,” the complaint stated, urging the EC to launch an immediate investigation into the allegations. The LDF also

called for a cease-and-desist order to prevent Priyanka and her supporters from organising or promoting religiously oriented events for campaign purposes, arguing that such practices undermine the integrity of the electoral process and exert unfair influence on voters.

The complaint demanded strict penalties, including potential disqualification, if violations were confirmed, citing the Model Code of Conduct and the Representation of the People Act.

“I urge the Election Commission and Returning Officer to act swiftly to address these violations to ensure that the election remains free, fair, and secular. This matter requires urgent attention and appropriate action to uphold the integrity of the electoral process,” Babu wrote.

The Wayanad by-poll has 16 candidates in the fray, including Mokeri, Priyanka, and BJP-led NDA's Navya Haridas.



**FOR A CAUSE :** Senior BJP leader Kirori Lal Meena climbs a water tower to talk with aspirants protesting for the cancellation of the SI recruitment exam in Jaipur

## PM to travel to Brazil next week to attend G20 summit

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Brazil to attend the annual G20 summit and to Nigeria and Guyana as part of a three-nation tour beginning November 16, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Tuesday. Modi's first destination will be Nigeria and it will be the first visit to the resource-rich African country by an Indian Prime Minister in 17 years. From Nigeria, Modi will travel to the Brazilian city of Rio De Janeiro on a two-day trip beginning November 18 to participate in the G20 summit. India is part of the G20 troika along with Brazil and South Africa. The Prime Minister will put forward India's positions on various issues of global importance and build on the outcomes from the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration and Voice of the Global South Summits, the MEA said.

# Draft Bill on IWRM authority circulated among states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 12:** A draft model Bill proposing to set up an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Authority which will be responsible for developing water security plans from villages to cities, groundwater management and floodplain management has been circulated among the states, a senior official said Tuesday.

Rakesh Kumar Verma, Additional Secretary, Department of Water Resources, said that to achieve water security as part of the vision for Viksit Bharat, the government has proposed the Integrated Water Resources Management Authority (IWRM) at the state level which will coordinate and integrate efforts of multiple water-related

## The ministry of Jal Shakti also has a national strategy for accelerating innovation in the water sector

departments and agencies. “A draft model Bill has been circulated to all the states. This state IWRM authority, under the overall supervision of an IWRM council headed by chief minister, has been vested with various regulatory powers to set the direction of water sector development,” he said at the inaugural session of the 10th Water Innovation Summit organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and



CII-Triveni Water Institute. “It will be responsible for developing water security plans from villages and cities to districts and state level, groundwater management, floodplain management and river conservation zones,” Verma said. The official said a new draft

National Water Data Policy is another significant step in this direction.

The ministry of Jal Shakti also has a national strategy for accelerating innovation in the water sector. “This policy aims to make innovation a driving force for transformational

change in the water sector to achieve water security for all. Its mission is to create open collaboration opportunities and enabling platforms for public-private partnership across the water sector to drive innovation,” he said.

Verma also said there is a need for achieving better efficiency in the industrial use of water. “About 40 billion cubic metres of water is used in industrial areas of the country. The water use efficiency in Indian industries continues to be much lower as compared to developed countries. There is considerable scope available for improved water use efficiency,” he added.

Speaking at the event, Kimmo Lahdevirta, Ambassador of Finland to India, talked about

the integrated water management strategy in his country.

Lahdevirta stressed on recycling waste water and said India recycles only 30 per cent of its waste-water and that most of the installed sewage treatment plants are not in an active condition.

Nikhil Sawhney, Chairman, CII-Triveni Water Institute, highlighted that by 2050, an estimated four billion people will live in water-stressed areas and 1.6 billion people will be exposed to floods.

He said the Water Institute is a nationally accredited institute for undertaking water audits with a team of over 40 water auditors certified by the Central Groundwater Authority, Ministry of Jal Shakti.



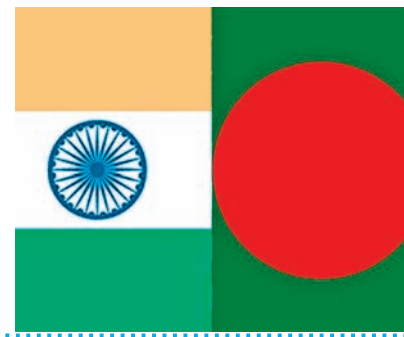
# national



The clock is ticking and it is imperative for all of us to adopt proactive measures to mitigate the effects of climate change  
**BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM**

## BOOSTING TIES

India and Bangladesh Tuesday decided to enhance cooperation in building infrastructure and operational efficiency at the various land ports and check-posts located along the 4,096-km long shared international border



## of the day quote

**request you to take immediate diplomatic efforts to prevent further arrests of our fishermen and to ensure the prompt release of all detained fishermen and their fishing boats**

**Public funds cannot be wasted for political gain**

**Feedback will be taken from the people about the sitting MLAs and the ticket-seekers**

## CISF's first all-women reserve battalion sanctioned

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: A first-ever all-women CISF reserve battalion comprising more than 1,000 personnel has been sanctioned by the Union government keeping in mind the burgeoning duties of the force at airports and other vital installations.

Officials told PTI that the unit will be raised from within the sanctioned manpower of the force of about two lakh personnel.

The Union Home Ministry issued a sanction order this



week approving an exclusive women reserve unit in the force with a total strength of

1,025 personnel led by a senior commandant-rank officer, they said.

## Maha Cong chief compares BJP to 'dog', sparks row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Akola, Nov 12: Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole's remarks urging OBC voters to shun the BJP, which he claimed likened the community to dogs (kutta), drew sharp condemnation from the saffron party.

Addressing a gathering in Akola West constituency, Patole also said the time had come to treat the BJP like a dog. "I want to ask the people belonging to the OBC community in Akola district, will you vote for the BJP who calls you 'kutta'?" Now, the time has come to make the BJP 'kutta', Patole said, speaking at a meeting in support of Congress candidate Sajid Khan Pathan.

He also accused the BJP of attempting to undermine national unity through fear tactics. Patole's remarks evoked sharp criticism from the BJP, with its former MP Kirit Somaiya saying that such comments reflected the Congress party's growing frustration.

"These statements indicate the declining state of the Maha Vikas Aghadi. They are moving from disappointment to dejection," Somaiya said. "Sharad Pawar is saying something, Uddhav Thackeray is verbally abusing the Election Commission, and now Congress is calling the BJP a 'kutta' because opinion polls show that Mahayuti is going to win the elections," Somaiya said. The rival alliances, Mahayuti and MVA, are in a fierce battle for power in the run-up to the November 20 state Assembly election.

## Air quality 'very poor' for 14th day in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Delhi's air quality remained "very poor" for a 14th consecutive day Tuesday, with an AQI reading of 334, as vehicular emission was the biggest contributor to the city's pollution, accounting for 15.4 per cent. The Air Quality Index (AQI) has been in the "very poor" category since October 30, when it was recorded at 307.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", 401 and 450 "severe" and above 450 "severe plus". According to the Centre's Decision Support System for Air Quality Management, vehicular emissions will remain the top contributor to Delhi's pollution over the next two days, with an estimated share of approximately 10 per cent.

The national capital's 24-hour average AQI, recorded at 4 pm every day, stood at 334, down from 354 Monday. Air pollution levels reached the "severe" category at one station in Anand Vihar. Across the country, three stations registered "very poor" air quality, including Delhi, while one station in Bihar's Hajipur recorded the AQI in the "severe" category with a reading of 427. Delhi recorded the fourth-worst air quality in



the country, ranked behind Hajipur, Chandigarh (343) and Patna (340), according to the data.

Meanwhile, the prominent pollutants in Delhi Tuesday were PM10, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

PM10 refers to a particulate matter that is 10 micrometre or less in diameter.

The sources of PM10 include dust, pollen, mold, vehicle exhaust and industrial emissions, which can cause respiratory problems as they penetrate deep into the lungs, potentially leading to issues such as asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases.

Long-term exposure to it can also increase the risk of heart and lung diseases. Apart from transportation, other contributors to Delhi's pollution include farm fires, though data was not available on the website of the Consortium for Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modeling from Space, which tracks the number of stubble-burning incidents reported each day.

## Cong takes dig at govt over rising food prices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: The Congress expressed concern Tuesday over the high inflation due to food prices rising beyond the RBI's tolerance level and took a dig at the government, saying in such a situation, all it could do was exclude food prices from inflation measurement.

"Food inflation is now surging to double digits. Vegetable prices jumped 42.18 per cent in October. Onions are now selling in places like Mumbai at prices as high as ₹80 per kilogram. Retail inflation is now above the RBI's tolerance ceiling of 6 per cent.

"All this is happening with sluggish consumption, lukewarm investment, stagnant real wages, and widespread unemployment. And when faced with this food price rise, the government's impulse is only to exclude food prices from inflation measurement," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

Retail inflation breached the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) upper tolerance level, soaring to a 14-month high of 6.21 per cent in October mainly on account of the rising food prices.



Inflation based on the consumer price index (CPI) was 5.49 per cent in September and 4.87 per cent in the year-ago month. Retail inflation trended below the RBI's upper tolerance band of 6 per cent since September last year. It was at 6.83 per cent in August 2023.

The RBI, which mainly factors in the CPI while arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy, has been tasked by the government with ensuring that retail inflation remains at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. According to data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) Tuesday, inflation in the food basket increased to 10.87 per cent in October, compared to 9.24 per cent in September and 6.61 per cent in October 2023. The Congress has been critical of the BJP-led Centre over its failure to control food prices.

## POST OF THE DAY

Breaking: BJP alliance leader Ajit Pawar says Gautam Adani was present in the meeting where he decided to break MCP and support BJP. What is Adani doing in political meetings? This is a massive allegation.

@RoshanKrRai

## SHORT TAKES

### 6 students killed in road accident

Dehradun: Six students were killed and another was seriously injured when their car collided with a truck here in the early hours of Tuesday, police said. The collision, which reduced the car to a mangled wreck, occurred around 1.30 am at the ONGC Chowk. The car rammed into the truck from behind and the six died on the spot, Circle Officer (City) Neeraj Semwal said. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama, who was on a visit to Uttarkashi and Rudrapur, expressed grief at the loss of lives in the accident.

### Lokayukta raids 9 govt officials

Bangalore (Karnataka): The Karnataka Lokayukta conducted raids on nine government officials across various parts of the state Tuesday, officials said. Raids were carried out at 40 locations linked to these officials in several districts, including Belagavi, Haveri, Davangere, Kalaburagi, Mysore, Ramanagara, and Dharwad, they added.

### Four die in mud mound collapse

Kasganj/Agra (UP): Three women and a 10-year-old girl died after a mound of mud fell on them Tuesday morning in Mohanpura area in Kasganj district, police said. The incident occurred around 7 am when they were collecting mud from a ditch dug for the construction of a bridge between Rampur and Katarua village.

### Class IV student killed as bus hits scooter

Kolkata: A Class IV student was killed and two others were injured as their scooter was hit by a speeding bus in Salt Lake near Kolkata Tuesday, police said. The accident, which happened around 11.30 am, sparked a huge protest by locals. They blocked a road resulting in a major traffic jam in and around the Salt Lake.

## COURT CORNER

### HC quashes lookout circular against Ashneer Grover, wife

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has ordered cancellation of a lookout circular (LOC) issued against Ashneer Grover, the former MD of payment app BharatPe, and his wife Madhuri Jain Grover, noting that the FIR lodged against them over allegations of cheating and forgery has already been quashed. Justice Sanjeev Narula passed the order Monday after the court was informed that another bench of the high court quashed the FIR on the same day. The FIR was quashed by Justice Chandra Dhari Singh after considering a plea moved by the Grovers stating that they have arrived at a settlement with the fintech company.

### Excise policy scam: HC asks ED to respond to Kejriwal's plea

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Tuesday sought response of the Enforcement Directorate on a plea by AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal challenging summons issued to him on the agency's complaint in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise scam. Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri refused to stay the trial in the criminal case and said the trial court's order, which has been challenged by Kejriwal, is two months old and not a fresh order. The high court issued notice to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on the petition which has challenged the summons issued to the former chief minister of Delhi on the complaint filed by the agency in the case.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## No more oral mention, write in for urgent hearing: CJI

The CJI has outlined a citizen-centric agenda for judicial reforms and said ensuring easy access to justice and equal treatment to citizens regardless of their status is the constitutional duty of the judiciary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna Tuesday said no oral submissions for urgent listing and hearing of cases will be permitted and urged lawyers to either send emails or written letters for it.

Usually lawyers mention their cases before the CJI-led bench at the outset of the day's proceedings for out of turn

listings and hearing of cases on grounds of urgency.

"No written or oral mentions anymore. Only in email or written slip/letters. Just state the reasons for urgency," the CJI said.

The CJI has outlined a citizen-centric agenda for judicial reforms and said ensuring easy access to justice and equal treatment to citizens regardless of their status is the constitutional duty of the judiciary.



Justice Khanna, who was sworn in as the 51st CJI by President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Monday, expressed deep honour in leading the judiciary, the third pillar of democracy.

"Judiciary is an integral, yet distinct and independent part

of the governance system. The Constitution trusts upon us the role of constitutional guardian, protector of fundamental rights, and responsibility to fulfil the important task of being a service provider of justice," the CJI had said in his first statement Monday.

He said, "The justice delivery framework in terms of providing equal treatment necessitates fair opportunity to succeed to all, regardless of status, wealth or power, and a just and unbiased adjudication. These mark our core principles."

"The responsibility entrusted upon us affirms our commitment as protectors of citizens' rights and as dispute resolvers. It is our constitutional duty to ensure easy access to justice to all citizens of our great nation," he said.

Chief Justice Khanna identified pressing challenges facing the judiciary, including the need to reduce case backlogs, make litigation affordable, and simplify complex legal processes.

Recognising that the justice system must cater to all citi-

zens, he outlined a vision to make courts more approachable and user-friendly.

The CJI aimed to adopt a self-evaluative approach which is receptive and responsive to feedback in its working, the apex court said in a statement. "Making judgments comprehensible to the citizens and promoting mediation will be a priority," it said.

With a focus on criminal case management, the CJI pledged to prioritise reducing trial durations, adopting a systematic approach, and ensuring that legal procedures are not grueling for citizens.

He also highlighted the importance of promoting mediation to resolve disputes efficiently and provide timely justice.



**“We continue to support an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership to a total in the mid-twenties. We want to see permanent African representation, and permanent seats for Brazil, Germany, India and Japan”**  
 ARCHIE YOUNG | UK AMBASSADOR TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**SECRETARY OF STATE NOMINEE**  
 Foreign policy hardliner and India backer Marco Rubio will be President-elect Donald Trump's nominee for the nation's top diplomatic job, according to several media outlets



# international

**of the day** **QUOTE**

Generally speaking, it is surprising to what extent the current generation of European politicians wants to drag the (Russia-Ukraine) war into their territory  
**DIMITRY MEDVEDEV** | FORMER PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

The maximum pressure campaign of Trump has failed, even if people have been burdened by it. What is important will be actions and not words, but we recommend Trump to take into account the failure of his past policies  
**FATEMEH MOHAJERANI** | GOVERNMENT SPOKESPERSON, IRAN

What we see is an increasing demand by Beijing for us to concede our sovereign rights in the area (South China Sea)  
**GILBERTO TEODORO** | DEFENSE SECRETARY, THE PHILIPPINES

# Major pollution emitters ignore COP29

**Earth's biggest polluters aren't sending leaders to UN climate talks in a year of weather extremes**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Baku, Nov 12:** World leaders are converging Tuesday at the United Nations annual climate conference in Baku, Azerbaijan although the big names and powerful countries are noticeably absent, unlike past climate talks which had the star power of a soccer World Cup.  
 But 2024's COP29 climate talks are more like the International Chess Federation world championship, lacking the recognisable names but big on nerd power and strategy. The top leaders of the 13 largest carbon dioxide-polluting countries will not appear. Their nations are responsible for more than 70% of 2023's heat-trapping gases.

"The people who are responsible for this are absent," said Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko during his speech at the summit. "How effective are our actions at this meeting, when the President of France, which was the country which was responsible for the Paris is not even here, feels it's not relevant? There's nothing to be proud about."  
 France isn't the only one. The world's biggest polluters and strongest economies, China and the United States, aren't sending their No. 1s. India and

How effective are our actions at this meeting, when the President of France, which was the country which was responsible for the Paris is not even here, feels it's not relevant? There's nothing to be proud about  
**ALEKSANDR LUKASHENKO** | PRESIDENT, BELARUS

Indonesia's heads of state are also not in attendance, meaning the four most populous nations with more than 42% of all the world's population aren't having leaders speak.  
 "It's symptomatic of the lack of political will to act. There's no sense of urgency," said climate scientist Bill Hare, CEO of Climate Analytics. He said this explains "the absolute mess we're finding ourselves in."

**LEADERS HIGHLIGHT INEVITABLE WARMING**  
 The world has witnessed the hottest day, months and year on record "and a master class in climate destruction," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the world leaders who did show up.  
 But Guterres held out hope, saying, in a veiled reference to Donald Trump's re-election in the United States, that the "clean energy revolution is here. No group,



**The world's biggest polluters and strongest economies, China and the US, aren't sending their No. 1s. India and Indonesia's heads of state are also not in attendance**

no business, no government can stop it."

United Nations officials said in 2016, when Trump was first elected, there were 180 gigawatts of clean energy and 700,000 electric vehicles in the world. Now there's 600 gigawatts of clean energy and 14 million electric vehicles.  
 Host Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev kicked off two scheduled days of world leaders' speeches by lambasting Armenia, western news media, climate activists and critics who highlighted his country's rich oil and gas history and trade, calling them hypocritical since

the United States is the world's biggest oil producer. He said it was "not fair" to call Azerbaijan a "petrostate" because it produces less than 1% of the world's oil and gas.  
 Oil and gas are "a gift of the God" just like the sun, wind and minerals, Aliyev said. "Countries should not be blamed for having them. And should not be blamed for bringing these resources to the market because the market needs them."

**UK, SMALLER NATIONS FILL THE VOID**  
 One of the most notable leaders to make the talks is UK

# HINDU TEMPLE IN CANADA CANCELS CONSULAR EVENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ottawa, Nov 12:** The Brampton Triveni temple in Canada has cancelled a consular event after the Canadian police warned them of an "extremely high and imminent" threat level of violent protests.

The Life Certificate event, organised by the Consulate General of India, Toronto, was scheduled for November 17 at the temple premises. It was part of the consulate's many camps for issuing Life Certificates for pension purposes.

On Monday, the temple authorities said the event was cancelled due to "official intelligence from Peel Regional Police, stating that there is an Extremely High and Imminent Threat Level of violent protests".  
 "We must make the appropriate decision to cancel to ensure the safety of Brampton Triveni Mandir devotees, community visitors, and the general public," the temple authorities said in a statement.

"We are deeply saddened that Canadians now feel unsafe coming to Hindu Temples in Canada," it added.  
 Temple authorities called on Peel Police to address the threats being circulated against the temple and provide security guarantees to the Canadian Hindu community and the general public.

# Iran, Russia link banking systems

*The move is part of a raft of sanctions that were imposed on Iran, Russia*

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Tehran, Nov 12:** Iranian bank cards can now be used in Russia, state television reported, as the two countries linked their banking systems in the latest bid to counteract sanctions.  
 Iranian banks have been excluded since 2018 from the SWIFT international financial messaging service, which governs the vast majority of transactions worldwide.

The move is part of a raft of sanctions that were re-imposed on Iran after the United States withdrew from a landmark 2015 nuclear deal.  
 The operation was made possible by connecting Iran's interbank network Shetab to its Russian equivalent Mir, the channel said.  
 Iranians can currently withdraw money in Russia, and will in the future be able to use their cards to pay for in-store purchases, it added.  
 "The plan is also going to be implemented in other countries that have a wide range of financial and social interactions with Iran, for example Iraq, Afghanistan and Turkey," it said.  
 Both Iran and Russia have sought to counteract the ef-



fects of sanctions on their economies.  
 Since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Moscow has faced mounting sanctions, and its ties with Tehran have grown closer in parallel.  
 Ukraine and its Western allies have since the start of the conflict accused Iran of supplying Russia with both drones and missiles for use in the war.

**Blinken heads to Europe**  
 The outgoing Biden administration's top diplomat, Antony Blinken, heads to Brussels Tuesday for talks with European allies concerned that President-elect Donald Trump could abandon Ukraine in its war with Russia.  
 In his first overseas trip since Trump's November 5 election victory, Secretary of State Blinken will stop in Brussels ahead of scheduled visits to Peru and Brazil later this week, according to an announcement.

# Ahead of US deadline Israeli army opens Gaza aid crossing

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Jerusalem, Nov 12:** Israel's army announced the opening Tuesday of an additional aid crossing into Gaza, on the eve of a US-imposed deadline to improve humanitarian conditions for Palestinians in the war-ravaged territory.

"As part of the effort and commitment to increase the volume and routes of aid to the Gaza Strip, the 'Kissufim' Crossing was opened today," the army said in a joint statement with COGAT, the Israeli defence ministry agency responsible for civilian affairs in the Palestinian territories.  
 "The operation includes the delivery of food, water, medical supplies, and shelter equipment to central and southern Gaza," they said, adding it involved the military, COGAT and defence ministry.  
 "The IDF (Israeli army), through COGAT, will continue to operate in accordance with international law to facilitate and ease the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip."

Last month, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin warned Israel it had until November 13 to improve aid delivery to Gaza or risk the withholding of some military assistance from the United States, Israel's biggest supporter.



Aircraft of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force's Red Falcon aerobatic team perform at the China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, or Airshow China, in Zhuhai, Guangdong province, China November 12

# New York judge delays proceedings

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**New York, Nov 12:** A judge postponed a decision on whether to undo President-elect Donald Trump's conviction in his hush money case, after his lawyers called for freeing and ultimately dismissing the case so he can run the country.  
 New York Judge Juan M Merchan had been set to rule Tuesday on their earlier request to throw out his conviction because of a US Supreme

# TRUMP HUSH MONEY CASE



Court ruling this summer on presidential immunity. Instead, he told Trump's lawyers Tuesday he'd delay the ruling until November 19.  
 According to emails filed

in court, Trump lawyer Emil Bove asked for the delay over the weekend, arguing that putting the case on hold and then ending it altogether, is "necessary to avoid unconstitutional impediments to President Trump's ability to govern."  
 Prosecutors agreed to the delay.  
 Trump won back the White House a week ago but the legal question concerns the Republican's status as a past President, not an impending one.

# Meta allows military agencies to access its AI software

*The decision appears to contravene Meta's own policy which lists a range of prohibited uses for Llama, including 'military, warfare, nuclear industries or applications'*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sydney, Nov 12:** Meta will make its generative artificial intelligence (AI) models available to the United States' government, the tech giant has announced, in a controversial move that raises a moral dilemma for everyone who uses the software.  
 Meta last week revealed it would make the models, known as Llama, available to government agencies, "including those that are working on defence and national security applications, and private sector partners supporting their work".  
 The decision appears to contravene Meta's own policy which lists a range of prohibited uses for Llama, including

"military, warfare, nuclear industries or applications" as well as espionage, terrorism, human trafficking and exploitation or harm to children.  
 Meta's exception also reportedly applies to similar national security agencies in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The situation highlights the increasing fragility of open source AI software. It also means users of Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and Messenger, some versions of which use Llama, may inadvertently be contributing to military programs around the world.  
**What is Llama?**  
 Llama is a collation of large language models, similar to ChatGPT, and large multimodal



models that deal with data other than text, such as audio and images.  
 Meta, the parent company of Facebook, released Llama in response to OpenAI's ChatGPT. The key difference between the two is that all Llama models are marketed as open source and free to

use. This means anyone can download the source code of a Llama model, and run and modify it themselves (if they have the right hardware).  
 On the other hand, ChatGPT can only be accessed via OpenAI.  
 The Open Source Initiative, an authority that defines open

source software, recently released a standard setting out what open source AI should entail. The standard outlines "four freedoms" an AI model must grant in order to be classified as open source: Use the system for any purpose and without having to ask for permission, study how the system works and inspect its components, modify the system for any purpose, including to change its output, share the system for others to use with or without modifications, for any purpose.  
 Meta's Llama fails to meet these requirements. This is because of limitations on commercial use, the prohibited activities that may be deemed harmful or illegal and a lack of transparency about Llama's

training data.  
 Despite this, Meta still describes Llama as open source.  
**INTERSECTION OF TECH INDUSTRY, MILITARY**  
 Meta is not the only commercial technology company branching out to military applications of AI. In the past week, Anthropic also announced it is teaming up with Palantir, a data analytics firm and Amazon Web Services to provide US intelligence and defence agencies access to its AI models.  
 Meta has defended its decision to allow US national security agencies and defence contractors to use Llama. The company claims these uses are "responsible and ethical" and "support the prosperity and security of the United States".



We are the only brand which is not having any stocks, because our model is direct to consumer, and we have no stock at dealer partners enabling them to invest in better sales and service facilities

NSE INKS PACT WITH ZOMATO The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) Tuesday said it has inked a pact with online food delivery platform Zomato to promote financial literacy and investor awareness programmes among the gig economy workers.



of the day quote

Just look around, we are living in a world where there is so much change... The year 2025, for me, is definitely going to be a lot more about technology adoption and more of strategic partnerships



The sluggishness in the investment activity by corporates in traditional sectors such as food and beverages, auto and pharma for the last few years is a temporary blip



Our automotive booked business is USD 88 billion approximately and has been growing consistently, reflecting the trust our customers have in us. Our non-automotive businesses have been growing consistently, contributing to overall growth with stability and diversification



RESULTS CORNER

Mondelez India net profit up 72%

New Delhi: Confectionary major Mondelez India Foods Pvt Ltd posted a 71.85 per cent increase in profit at ₹2,020.87 crore in FY24, according to the RoC filing from the beverages major.

Hyundai PAT declines 16%

New Delhi: Hyundai Motor India Tuesday reported a 16 per cent year-on-year decline in consolidated profit after tax to ₹1,375 crore for the second quarter ended in September 2024, hit by lower sales in the domestic market.

Bosch net profit falls 46%

New Delhi: Auto components firm Bosch Tuesday said its consolidated net profit declined 46 per cent on-year to ₹536 crore in the September 2024 quarter. The company reported a net profit of ₹1,000 crore in the July-September quarter of last fiscal.

Investors lose over ₹5 lakh cr in single day



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 12: Benchmark BSE Sensex tumbled by nearly 821 points or more than 1 per cent and broader Nifty plunged below 23,900 level Tuesday due to heavy selling in banking, power and auto shares and sluggish global trends.

Investors' wealth eroded by ₹5.29 lakh crore to ₹437.24 lakh crore (USD 5.18 trillion). From the 30-share Sensex pack, NTPC, Asian Paints, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India, Tata Motors, JSW Steel, Maruti and Power Grid were among the major laggards.

Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth ₹2,306.88 crore on Monday, while domestic institutional investors infused ₹2,026.63 crore in shares, according to exchange data.

The markets remained under pressure, shedding over a per cent, extending the ongoing correction phase. Despite an initial uptick, Nifty witnessed sharp swings in the first half before selling pressure in heavyweight stocks shifted the momentum downward.

Official data released Tuesday showed retail inflation rose to 6.21 per cent in October from

Rupee hits fresh all-time low

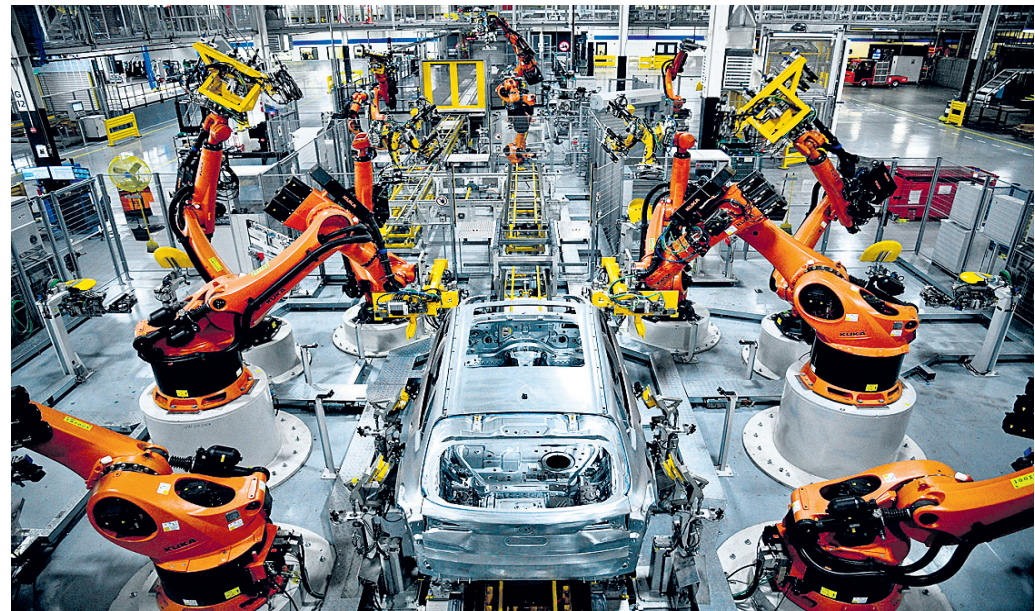
Mumbai: The rupee fell 1 paise to a new lifetime low of 84.39 against the US dollar Tuesday as persistent foreign fund outflows and a strengthening greenback against major crosses overseas dented investor sentiments.

5.49 per cent in the preceding month mainly due to higher food prices, breaching the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) upper tolerance level.

The BSE smallcap gauge tanked 1.26 per cent and midcap index declined by 0.98 per cent. Among sectoral indices, power slumped the most 2.79 per cent, followed by utilities (2.20 per cent), capital goods (2.14 per cent), auto (1.95 per cent), industrials (1.82 per cent) and metal (1.52 per cent).

A total of 2,742 stocks declined while 1,226 advanced and 93 remained unchanged on the BSE. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.56 per cent to USD 72.23 a barrel.

Factory output rises 3.1% in Sept



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: India's industrial production expanded by 3.1 per cent in September after recording a contraction in the preceding month, as all three major segments - mining, manufacturing and power generation - showed improvement.

The factory output had turned negative in August at (-) 0.1 per cent, mainly on account of floods affecting mining operations in the different parts of the country.

According to the data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), mining sector output grew by 0.2 per cent, manufacturing production by 3.9 per cent and electricity output by 0.5 per cent in the month of September 2024.

The IIP growth rate for the month of September 2024 is 3.1 per cent which was (-) 0.1 per cent in the month of August 2024," NSO said in a statement.

Consumer durable goods production expanded by 6.5 per cent during the reporting month, up from one per cent in September 2023. According to the data, infrastructure/construction goods reported a growth of 3.3 per cent in September 2024, down from a 10.1 per cent expansion in the year-ago period.

The expansion in the intermediate goods segment was 4.2 per cent. Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA said that the IIP expanded by 3.1 per cent on a year-on-year basis in September 2024 after declining by 0.1 per cent in August 2024, amid a favourable base.

PSBs show robust performance in H1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: The finance ministry Tuesday said public sector banks (PSBs) have shown robust performance in the first half of the current fiscal year with a 26 per cent growth in net profit, increase in business and decline in non-performing assets (NPAs).

The aggregate business of 12 public sector banks (PSBs), including State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank, stood at ₹236.04 lakh crore during the April-September period, registering an 11 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth.

During the first six months of FY25, credit and deposit portfolio grew 12.9 per cent and 9.5 per cent YoY, and stood at ₹102.29 lakh crore and ₹133.75 lakh crore, respectively. The operating and net profit during the period was ₹1,50,023 crore (14.4 per cent YoY growth) and ₹85,520 crore (25.6 per cent YoY growth).



In a statement, the finance ministry said banking sector reforms and regular monitoring have addressed many concerns and challenges, and resulted in setting up enhanced systems and processes for credit discipline, recognition and resolution of stressed assets, responsible lending, improved governance, financial inclusion initiatives, technology adoption, etc.

"These measures have led to a sustained financial health and robustness of the banking sector as a whole, which is reflected in the current performance of the PSBs," the statement added.

During the first six months of FY25, credit and deposit portfolio grew 12.9 per cent and 9.5 per cent YoY, and stood at ₹102.29 lakh crore and ₹133.75 lakh crore, respectively

The ministry further said major banking reforms such as implementation of enhance access and service excellence (EASE), enactment of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), putting in place a robust governance framework, setting up of National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL), amalgamation of PSBs, among others, were undertaken in the last few years.

AI-Vistara merger becomes reality

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Marking a significant consolidation in the fast-growing Indian aviation space, Air India Tuesday completed the Vistara merger to create an integrated airline, partly owned by Singapore Airlines, that will be flying over 1,20,000 passengers daily and connect more than 90 destinations.

The completion of the much-awaited amalgamation, which was announced in November 2022, comes within six weeks of the integration of Air India Express and AIX Connect. The two mergers have created a full service carrier and a low-cost carrier of scale for the Tata Group, which is seeking to establish a "world class global aviation company with an Indian heart".

Earlier in the day, the nearly 10-year-old Vistara -- a joint venture between Tata and Singapore Airlines -- flew into the sunset and its last flight was from Delhi to Singapore. As part of the merger, Singapore Airlines (SIA) will invest an additional ₹3,194.5 crore in the enlarged entity.



operate over 5,600 weekly flights, connecting more than 90 domestic and international destinations with a fleet of 210 aircraft, according to an Air India release. Also, the new entity will fly over 1,20,000 passengers every day and offers an extended worldwide connectivity to over 800 destinations through more than 75 codeshare and interline partners.

Record-breaking bitcoin surges towards \$90,000 on Trump boost

REUTERS

Singapore/London, Nov 12: Bitcoin rallied to the verge of \$90,000 Tuesday, riding a wave of euphoria since the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president on expectations his administration will be crypto friendly.

"The crypto enthusiasts think they have a like-minded incoming president," said Alvin Tan, head of Asia FX strategy at RBC Capital Markets. "The thing about bitcoin at the end of the day is that there is no valuation anchor to it, it's hard to get a grip on fair value. So when sentiment is very positive, it does get carried away a lot more than other asset classes."



Trump embraced digital assets during his campaign, promising to make the United States the "crypto capital of the planet" and to accumulate a national stockpile of bitcoin.

"Additionally I think it would be a crazy catalyst for the U.S. listed bitcoin miners ... given possibilities of such entities getting nationalised."

MARA Holdings and CleanSpark leapt nearly 30%. Software company and investor in bitcoin MicroStrategy announced it had spent about \$2 billion buying bitcoin between Oct. 31 and Nov. 10. Shares rose 26% Monday.

across the crypto landscape with smaller tokens such as ether and dogecoin surging, although they dipped on Tuesday morning in Europe. Crypto investors see an end to increased scrutiny under U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Gary Gensler whom Trump has said he will replace.

