



Shruti's admission

Actor Shruti Haasan reveals that earlier she didn't want to be known as 'Kamal Haasan's daughter'

LEISURE | P2



India's demand

India and developing countries demand equal climate finance commitments from developed nations like the US

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Shrinking class

India's city dwellers are cutting expenses on everything from cookies to fast food due to high inflation

BUSINESS | P11



India face Thailand

Indian eyes will play Thailand, Thursday in the Asian CT hockey tourney eyeing to erase mistakes

SPORTS | P12

SHORT TAKES

66% polling in J'Khand 1st phase

Ranchi: A voter turnout of 66.18 per cent was recorded in the 43 assembly constituencies in Jharkhand where polling was held in the first phase Wednesday, officials said. Lohardaga district topped the list with 73.21 per cent polling while Hazaribag district recorded the lowest at 59.13%, officials said. Poll percentage in other districts were: Seraikela - Kharsawan (72.19), Gumla (69.01), Simdega (68.66), Khunti (68.36), Garhwa (67.35), Latehar (67.16), West Singhbhum (66.87) and East Singhbhum (64.87). Former CM Champai Soren and ex-MP Geeta Korra were among the 683 candidates in fray in the first phase.

P8

Vivek, Musk to head Trump's DOGE dept

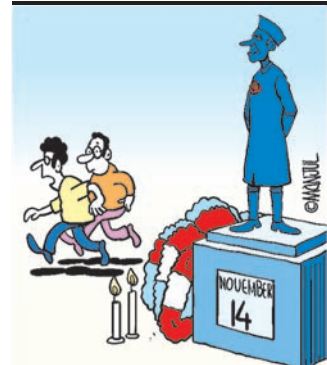
Washington: US President-elect Donald Trump has announced that Tesla owner Elon Musk and Indian American entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy will lead the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) aimed at improving governance and curbing wasteful expenditures. Trump has also given them a deadline of July 4, 2026, the 250th Anniversary of 'The Declaration of Independence'. "I look forward to Elon and Vivek making changes to the federal bureaucracy with an eye on efficiency and, at the same time, making life better for all Americans. Importantly, we will drive out the massive waste and fraud which exists in government spending," said the president-elect. "I am sure the two great American patriots will succeed," Trump added.

P10

Sahney appointed new IOC chairman

New Delhi: Arvind Singh Sahney will be the new chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's largest oil firm, according to an order issued by the Petroleum Ministry Wednesday. Sahney, 54, is currently ED (Business Development - Petrochemicals).

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I didn't know him at all until this government came to power. Now, I know how great he was

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	32.4°	30.0°
Min Temp	21.6°	20.5°
Humidity	73%	82%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
Mainly clear sky

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	77690.95	↓ 984.23
NIFTY	23559.05	↓ 324.40
DOLLAR	84.44	↑ 0.02
EURO	89.89	↑ 0.07
GOLD	₹74,944	↑ ₹43
SILVER	₹89,504	↑ ₹177



CREATING AWARENESS: Members of 'the Mercy for Animals India' hold a demonstration Wednesday at Master Canteen protesting against the unnecessary killing of animals for food

Act proposed to curb exam malpractices

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: The Odisha Cabinet led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi decided Wednesday to frame an Act to prevent various forms of unfair practices in conduct of all public examinations for recruitment of various posts and admission into professional educational institutions, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja stated.

The proposed law will be applicable for public exams conducted by different government agencies including Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) and Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE), Odisha Staff Selection Commission, Odisha Subordinate Staff Selection Commission and Odisha Police Selection Board.

The Cabinet also approved four proposals worth ₹1,823 crore for the development of animal husbandry including 'Goal for Management and Treatment of Animals' (GOMATA) scheme.

The GOMATA scheme will be implemented in the state for three years from the current financial year (2024-25) with a total budget outlay of ₹342.65 crore, the chief secretary said.

P3

SC brake on bulldozers Owners to get land back

'Bulldozer justice' as it is sarcastically referred to was implemented during the first term of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in 2017. Following UP, states like Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Gujarat used bulldozers to demolish properties which they termed 'unauthorised' and 'illegal' leaving over seven lakh people displaced till October 2024. Most of these people belonged to the minority community or were members of the Opposition to the ruling disposition in various states. Seeing the plight of the people, the Supreme Court came down heavily on this method and ordered various governments to stop bulldozing homes without following a proper legal procedure. It had also in the past warned governments what it termed arbitrary destruction of houses and properties. Taking another step forward the Supreme Court observed Wednesday that 'Executive can't replace Judiciary' and laid pan-India guidelines for demolition of structures. It said that for implementation of justice, the affected must have the time to respond and the Executive cannot act in a high-handed and arbitrary manner and be a Judge. It laid down guidelines which all state governments will have to follow failing which the law will intervene.



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 13: Equating 'bulldozer justice' with a lawless state of affairs where might is right, the Supreme Court laid down pan-India guidelines Wednesday and said no property should be demolished without a prior show-cause notice and the affected must be given 15 days to respond. The executive cannot assume judicial powers to punish citizens by demolishing their properties without following due process, the apex court said.

A bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan described as 'chilling' the sight of a bulldozer demolishing a building, rendering women, children and aged persons homeless overnight.

"If the Executive acts as a Judge and inflicts penalty of demolition on a citizen on the

ground that he is an accused, it violates the principle of 'separation of powers'," the bench said in its 95-page judgment. The bench said such high-handed and arbitrary actions where 'might is right' have no place in the Constitution, which rests on the foundation of the rule of law.

"No demolition should be carried out without a prior show-cause notice returnable either in accordance with the time provided by the local municipal laws or within 15 days time from the date of service of such notice, whichever is later," the bench directed.

"The executive cannot become a judge and decide that a person accused is guilty and, therefore, punish him by demolishing his residential/commercial property/properties. Such an act of the executive would be transgressing its limits," the bench said.

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Odisha government has begun the process to return land, both government and private, acquired for Vedanta University, Suresh Pujari, the Revenue and Disaster Management Minister stated here Wednesday.

"The state government has initiated the process for the return of the land acquired from displaced persons. Necessary rectification will be made in the records and land will be reregistered in the name of the owners. The government has also

started a process to take back the government plots leased to the foundation. We will end this procedure within a day or two and begin the process of handing over the land to the people in Puri," stated Pujari.

The revenue minister also

VEDANTA VARSITY IN PURI

said that a notification will be issued in this regard within two days. Later, the district administration will be asked to return the land and give possession to people after denotification and return of the compensation amount. He said

the names of the private landowners will be entered in the revenue records of the lands replacing the name of 'Anil Agarwal Foundation'.

An MOU was signed July 19, 2006 with Vedanta Foundation for the establishment of a world-class, multifaceted and modern university in Puri by the company. The Vedanta Foundation also changed its decision thrice in selecting the name during the process of land acquisition. The minister informed that more than 4,000 acres of land had been leased out to the foundation.

Ramco fined ₹1.52 crore

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Nov 13: Dharmasala tehsildar Subhankar Mohanty in Jajpur district slapped a penalty of ₹1.52 crore on the Ramco Cement grinding unit at Haridashpur under the block over a report by the Principal Accountant General (AG). The report states that the firm has encroached large tracts of land (both rural and forest) and water bodies. It has been alleged that Ramco has encroached 5.42 acres of land. Mohanty in an official letter has also asked the unit head of the compa-

ny to vacate the encroached land as soon as possible. The violation came to the notice of the administration after a report of the AG was published.

Mohanty said Ramco has not responded to the notice or paid the penalty. A reminder will be sent to them shortly. If the company does not respond, further action under the Odisha Prevention of Land Encroachment Act will be implemented.

The investigation over illegal land acquisition gathered pace after a report was published in a premier Odia vernacular daily.

2nd tigress for Simlipal caught

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandrapur, Nov 13: A tigress has been successfully captured for relocation from the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in this district of Maharashtra to the Simlipal Tiger Reserve (STR), a senior forest official said here Wednesday. This marks the first inter-state tiger relocation from Maharashtra to any other state, the official added.

The tigress (T-163) is being transported by road in a specially-equipped vehicle, accompanied by veterinarians for monitoring during the journey.

This relocation is part of a broader effort authorised by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to move two female tigers (aged 2-3 years) from TATR to STR. The move aims to strengthen the tiger population in Simlipal, following the successful relocation of another tigress, T-158, earlier this year.

Jitendra Ramgaokar, field director of TATR, informed that Maharashtra's chief wildlife warden issued the necessary permits for the relocation after the ministry's approval. He added that the field teams of TATR had been tracking potential candidates since October 20.

During the course of translocation, Tigress T-163 was captured in the Zinkanat beat, within the core area of TATR's Karwa range.

Actor-writer Krasinski is world's sexiest man

PRINCE OF WALES FOR THE 2ND CONSECUTIVE TIME WINS THE TITLE OF 'SEXIEST BALD MAN'

AGENCIES

Los Angeles, Nov 13: Let the office debates begin - John Krasinski is 'People' magazine's Sexiest Man Alive for 2024. In another competition, conducted to find who is the sexiest bald man alive, Prince of Wales emerged the winner for the second successive time.

The 'People' magazine announced the actor-writer-director as its pick Tuesday night during 'The Late Show with Stephen Colbert'. Krasinski starred in 'The Office' before launching the 'Quiet Place' franchise and leading the action series 'Jack Ryan'. He joked in an interview

with the magazine that he's hoping his wife, fellow actor Emily Blunt, makes good on a promise to plaster the cover as wallpaper at their home. Krasinski takes the mantle from last year's honoree, Patrick Dempsey.

Krasinski, 45, told 'People' that his immediate reaction to the honour was 'just immediate blackout, actually. Zero thoughts'. He added that he thought he might be getting pranked. Krasinski burst to fame playing the floppy-haired, lanky Jim on the US version of the mockumentary 'The Office' and transitioned into the clean-cut, muscular action star on 'Jack Ryan', playing the 'Tom

Clancy' character previously portrayed by Alec Baldwin, Harrison Ford and Ben Affleck on the big screen.

Krasinski also co-wrote, directed and starred in 'A Quiet Place', which has grown into a three-film franchise, and created short-lived pandemic-era web-

series 'Some Good News'.

Krasinski and Blunt have two daughters together. He told 'People' in the issue that's on newsstands that the honour is likely to result in more than just jokes at home. "I think it's going to make me do more household chores," he quipped.

Now in his 40th year, the first 'Sexiest Man Alive' was Mel Gibson. Other past recipients

include Brad Pitt, George Clooney, John F Kennedy (Jr), David Beckham and Pierce Brosnan.

Meanwhile for the sexiest bald man alive, marketing agency 'Reboot' conducted the polls. "Bald men have stolen hearts of millions of people, from Stanley Tucci to Zinedine Zidane to John Travolta. So, for the third consecutive year, we've conducted scientific research and crunched the numbers to officially crown the 'Sexiest Bald Man for 2024'." Reboot's study said. Actor and wrestler Dwayne Johnson was second while former hoopster Shaquille O'Neal was third.



John Krasinski with his wife Emily Blunt

PHOTO X

leisure



JOAN HART SUFFERS FROM MOM GUILT

Melissa Joan Hart has said that she suffers from mom guilt and has been left heartbroken when she has to leave her children behind to go to work. The 48-year-old actress has Mason, 18, Braydon, 16, and 12-year-old Tucker with her husband Mark Wilkerson.

HATHAWAY THANKS FANS FOR GIVING HER 'SPACE TO GROW'

American actress Anne Hathaway has taken to social media to thank her fans on her 42nd birthday. "To everyone here who has ever shown me grace: thank you so much for the help and space to grow," wrote the *Princess Dairies* actress.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Go with the flow. At least that's what Ganesha suggests where relationships are concerned. You can be your assertive self some other time. Today, you can be large-hearted and fulfill your beloved's wishes, maybe even propose. What say?

TAURUS
You are likely to get into arguments today, predicts Ganesha. You should avoid any open confrontation. Legal disputes may bother you as well. Try your hand at meditation or resort to music of your preference to relax and unwind. It is best if you delay the start of any important activity today, suggests Ganesha.

GEMINI
Today, your house gets a facelift – a new rug, matching cushion covers, or a brand new kitchen. This will take up most of your time. First, you will be busy furnishing and setting up your home, and then you will spend your time flaunting it to your friends, relatives, neighbours, bosses, colleagues, acquaintances.

CANCER
You will take on new responsibilities, says Ganesha. So you will be busy in your task. You may feel exhausted due to hectic work. So it entails mental tension.

LEO
Guides help other people choose the right path in life and to select the correct alternatives. It is a good day for those who are in the teaching or coaching professions. It is also a progressive day for those working in MNC's. Ganesha's blessings are with you.

VIRGO
All the work done in the past will reap rich rewards today, says Ganesha. You'll direct things your own way, and in no way would you take orders from anyone. But don't go overboard with all the authority and keep a cool, calm head.

LIBRA
Nothing overshadows your love for your children today. And love is precisely what drives you incessantly to give them the best possible of everything. Be it special classes for that extra edge in education, or a visit to a holy place to seek divine blessing, you will do it all today. And spending time with children isn't all – you may end up taking a small but sweet trip in the evening, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO
Yet another mundane day in your life, as nothing exciting is on the cards. However, be cheerful and keep trying hard to bring in some spice in life. You never know when the planets change their mood and make an exciting future. Keep the hope alive, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Remember that actions always speak louder than words. You will, in all probability, finish your work that has been seeking your attention for long now. You shall also successfully bring continuing disputes to the table and resolve them logically.

CAPRICORN
Some people do backbreaking work throughout their life, and still don't taste the sweet taste of success. While in your case, success will be easy as pie. You are already loaded with work and some new projects – assignments will be added to that, today. But, you are not complaining as some recreational activities will refresh your mood and energy.

AQUARIUS
It's an uphill struggle today! But the heavens are on your side, and you will be saved from being swindled. Otherwise, it's an eventful day at work. You may initiate big business deals and new projects as well. It will take all your energy, and Ganesha suggests you hit the deck early.

PISCES
For those in the creative fields of marketing or advertising, today is an extraordinary opportunity to tweak your marketing mix into bringing in maximum profits with bare minimum efforts. Your health interests will also take priority now, and you will find yourself spending more time in the gym, says Ganesha.

SHRUTI'S CANDID CONFESSION

Chennai: Actress Shruti Haasan, daughter of Kamal Haasan, recently shared her journey of going to great lengths to establish her own identity after following in her father's footsteps in the industry. In a candid conversation, Shruti revealed there was a time in her life when she didn't want to be known solely as "Kamal Haasan's daughter."

In a chat with YouTuber Madan Gowri, Shruti admitted that, although she is "very proud" of her parents, veteran actress Sarika and Kamal Haasan, she felt burdened by the constant association with her father's fame.

Growing up, Shruti often faced questions about Kamal Haasan, which made her feel overshadowed. She explained that people would re-

fer to her as "Kamal's daughter," which led her to invent a different identity. "I would feel like, I am Shruti. I want my own identity. If anyone asked me, I would say, 'No, my father is Dr. Ramachandran'—it was our dentist's name. 'And I am Pooja Ramachandran,' a name I made up," she revealed.

The *Salaar* actress acknowledged that being raised by two 'stubborn' people like Kamal and Sarika strongly influenced both her and her sister. She moved to Mumbai after her parents separated, which gave her a chance to experience life outside Chennai. In Chennai, she said, it was nearly impossible to escape her father's fame, especially with his posters everywhere. Today, however, Shruti has come to terms with her legacy, admitting, "I don't even want to imagine Shruti without Kamal Haasan."

Mumbai: Soundarya Sharma has had a relatively short stint in the entertainment world but the actor has a diverse array of work already.

In a recent chat with a news portal the *Ranchi Diaries* actress revealed how she missed out on an Oscar-bound film.

Soundarya admits to being selective about her work. Since her debut in 2017, she has only had five roles. "You have to be selective to do quality work, and then people give you gyan. They don't give you work; they give you gyan," says Soundarya with a laugh.

But it has not been due to being selective that we have seen her less on screen, the actor reveals. Once, *Bigg Boss* stole an opportunity from her. "In a very big film, which has recently gone for the Oscars, I was one of the initial shortlisted actors. But I missed the opportunity because I stayed longer in the Bigg Boss house. I had thought I would be out in four weeks but ended up staying much longer," shared Soundarya.

On the work front, Soundarya looks forward to her next release *Housefull 5* starring Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, Fardeen Khan, Sanjay Dutt, Nora Fatehi, and Kriti Kharbanda.

Soundarya on lost opportunity

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Priyanka all praise for her entourage

Ameesha sparks dating rumours

Mumbai: Ameesha Patel has once again captured public attention, but this time, it's her personal life making headlines. The actress recently shared a charming snapshot on social media with businessman Nirvaan Birla, sparking dating rumours and intriguing her followers. In the photo, the two appear relaxed and close, with Nirvaan affectionately wrapping his arms around Ameesha as they smile warmly for the camera at a lively Dubai restaurant.



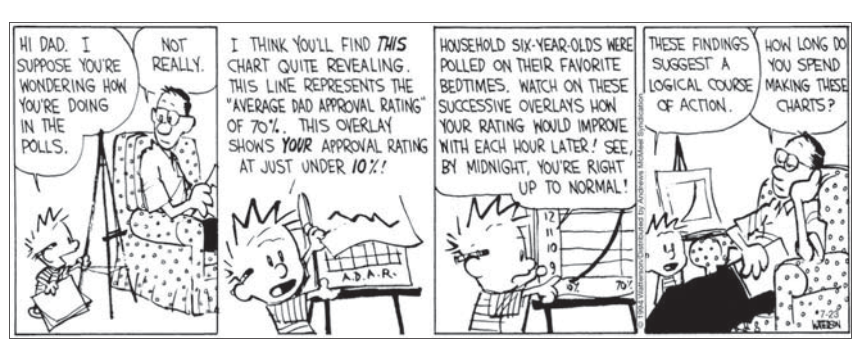
Ameesha posted the picture Wednesday with an affectionate caption that read, "DUBAI – lovely evening with my darling Nirvaan Birla," accompanied by a series of red heart emojis. The heart-warming caption and her choice of words instantly set off speculation, with fans eagerly wondering if there's more than friendship between the two.

What adds an extra layer of interest is the age difference between Ameesha, 49, and Nirvaan, who is 30. The significant age gap has led to a flurry of comments, with fans both supportive and curious about their apparent chemistry. Despite the social media buzz, neither Ameesha nor Nirvaan has publicly addressed the dating rumours, leaving fans guessing. Nirvaan Birla, a rising figure in the business world is also known for his passion for music. Ameesha was last seen in the actioner *Gadar 2*.

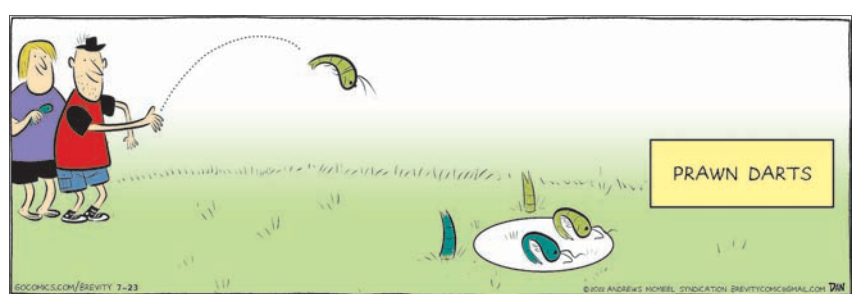
PEANUTS



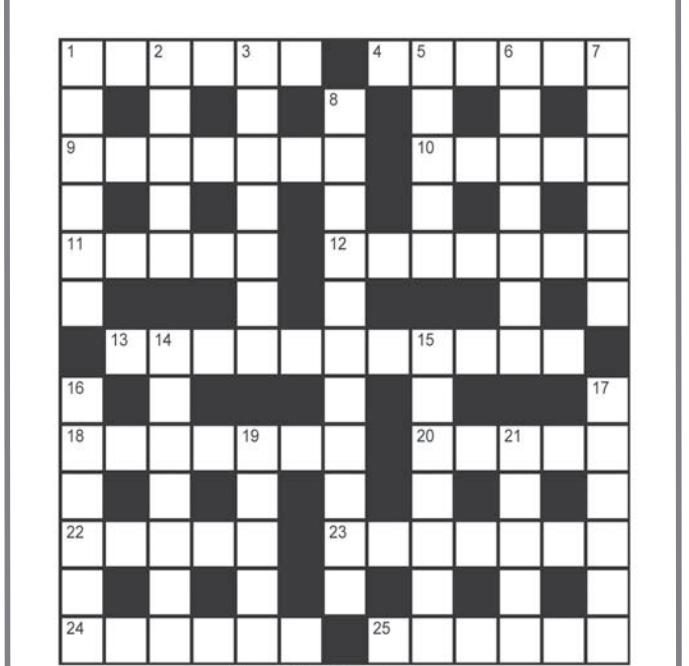
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Chef's secret, maybe
 - 4 "Exactly right" words (4,2)
 - 9 Decorative framework
 - 10 Coastal feature
 - 11 Fragrance
 - 12 Muffin, of sorts
 - 13 Capable of being classified
 - 18 Entreat
 - 20 Courtroom event
 - 22 Certain berth
 - 23 Round-the-clock
 - 24 Church officers (7,4)
 - 25 Meagre
 - 5 Gussy up
 - 6 Israel's ___-Yafo (3,4)
 - 7 Inherent character
 - 8 Assistant's job (7,4)
 - 14 Bland
 - 15 Doomed ship
 - 16 Purlblind
 - 17 Go by, as time instrument
 - 19 Blunder
 - 21 Bury
- Down**
- 1 Unmask
 - 2 Large stringed instrument
 - 3 Tapered flag

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

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

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

CABINET DECISIONS

₹2,239cr boost to fisheries sector



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: In a major fillip to fisheries sector, the state Cabinet led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday decided to implement a new scheme 'Mukhyamantri Maschyajibi Kalyan Yojana (MMKY)' with a budgetary allocation of ₹2,239 crore.

According to the Cabinet decision, the state sector umbrella scheme MMKY, with 17 sub-schemes, will be implemented in the state from financial year (FY) 2024-25 to 2028-29 with a total budgetary outlay of ₹2,239 crore, said Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, who was present at the meeting. The scheme will benefit

IN A NUTSHELL

- Prani Sampad Samruddhi Yojana, with a total budget outlay of ₹1031.19 crore, to be implemented for five years
- ₹696.21 crore to be spent on development of infrastructures in fishery sector
- ₹449.71 crore to be spent on development of infrastructure for livestock sector in three years
- State govt to extend Water Sector Infrastructure Development Programme, with an outlay of ₹9,652.24 crore, upto five years

about 14 lakh fishers including 6,67,500 fishers and 7,32,500 women self-help group (WSHG)

members, in the next five years, he added.

"The state government has also decided to implement 'Prani Sampad Samruddhi Yojana (PSSY)' with a total outlay of ₹1,031.19 crore for five years (from 2024-25 to 2028-29) to enhance meat and egg production in the state.

The government has taken a decision to spend ₹696.21 crore for development of various infrastructure in fisheries sector and ₹449.71 crore for development of infrastructure in livestock sector in three years (2024-25 to 2026-27), Ahuja said.

Further, he said, the state government has decided to extend existing Water Sector Infrastructure Development Programme with an estimated outlay of ₹9,652.24 crore for a period of five years starting from the current financial year to accelerate the pace of irrigation development in the state.

Significantly, the state government will also implement 'Goal for Management and Treatment of Animals' (GO-MATA) scheme that will facilitate phase-wise vaccination of 2.5 crore and treatment of 1.30 crore livestock annually.

Bro-in-law, 2 others burgle man's house



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Kharvelnagar police Wednesday arrested three hoodlums, including the brother-in-law of the complainant, whose house was burgled of several gold ornaments and cash. One more accused in the case is still at large, said a senior police official of Kharvelnagar police station.

One gold chain, a pair of earrings, two gold lockets, six gold bangles, and ₹1.9 lakh in cash have been seized from the accused, he added.

Zone I Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Subhramanyam Muduli said, "Accused Shankar Moharana, Bikash Chandra Swain and Batakrushna Swain, brother-in-law of complainant Pramod Kumar Parida, have been arrested on charges of burglary. Parida, who lives near Sashtinagar area in the City, had gone to his paternal house October 31,

for three days."

On his return, Parida found articles inside his house rummaged, and his cupboard empty. Finding that his house has been looted, he lodged a complaint at the police station November 3, Muduli added.

Prima facie, the ACP said, Parida was suspecting Batakrushna's involvement in the theft, since the latter had a criminal record. However, he failed to provide ample clues that could have substantiated his claim. "However, his doubts came true after Kharvelnagar police had a whiff from a reliable source that two associates of Batakrushna are brokering a deal with a gold financier near Master Canteen Square here, November 11. Soon, the cops sprang back into action, and nabbed the trio near the spot," he added. The police have booked them under Sections 331 (4) and 305 (a) of BNS, and produced them before a local court Wednesday.

SIs' service period for promotion reduced

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: The Home department Wednesday issued a notification announcing reduction in service period from 10 years to seven years for promotion of sub-inspector (SI) of police to inspector rank.

The Home department notification said, "After careful consideration of the proposal of State Police Headquarters, Odisha, Cuttack, the Government has been pleased to relax the eligibility criteria prescribed under Rule 650 (a) (ii) of Orissa Police Manual Rules on one-time basis from 10 years to 7 years of continuous service as on 01.01.2024 rendered in the rank of sub-inspector of police, after passing the S.I.s course of training, for consideration of their promotion to the rank of Inspector of police."

The notification stated the announcement shall come into effect from the date of its issuance.



MATTER OF FAITH: Ahead of Bada Osa, devotees use the new bridge connecting Dhabaleswar Shrine on the other side of River Mahanadi as the old hanging bridge (inset) lies abandoned in Cuttack, Wednesday

PHOTO: RAKISHORE MOHANTY

Onion sells at ₹70; govt asks NAFED to intervene

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: With onion prices reaching ₹70 per kg in the market, the Odisha government Wednesday said it has asked the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) to sell the vegetable at the rate of ₹30 per kg in the state.

State Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra attributed the price rise to the market situation at Nashik in Maharashtra from where the onions are procured.

He said the base price of onions remained at ₹45 per kg in Nashik.

"Onions are not produced in Odisha and hence, the state is dependent on other states. Prices of onion and garlic are high outside the state and it has contributed to the price rise here. We have asked (NAFED) to sell onions at ₹30 per kg in Odisha," the minister told reporters.

According to traders, the state imports onions from Nashik and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh. The Kharif crop in both the regions suffered due



State imports onions from Nashik in Maharashtra and Kurnool in AP while the Kharif crop in these regions suffered due to rains during September

to rains during September.

While the price of good quality old onions brought from Nashik has soared to ₹70 per kg, those from Kurnool (new but medium quality onions) are available at ₹40-Rs 55, depending on the

quality. The price of onions in the retail market was ₹50 a kg a week ago, traders said.

The price of garlic has also increased to ₹400 per kg in retail market in the state.

Odisha Byabsayee Mahasanga general secretary Sudhakar Panda said that the prices might come down in the next four to six days with the supply of new onions in the market.

To a question, the minister said new ration cards will be provided to people in New Year as e-KYC verification process will be completed in November.

He said at least 16 lakh ineligible beneficiaries have been identified.

2 arrested for misbehaviour

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barang, Nov 13: Two anti-socials were sent to court Wednesday, a day after they were arrested on charges of misbehaving with a minor girl at the railway over-bridge near Dadhapatna village under this police limits.

The arrested were identified as Balaram Swain and Dharendra Lenka alias Babu, both residents of Gothapur under Belgachhia gram panchayat.

According to sources, the victim, a resident of Dadhapatna, was on her way back home near the railway over-bridge Monday evening, when the accused duo zeroed in on her and allegedly misbehaved with her. The girl narrated her ordeal before her family members, who lodged a complaint with the police. Barang police registered a case (439/24) and started an investigation into the matter. However, the cops could not arrest the accused duo immediately as they, on learning about the manhunt launched by the police to nab them, had absconded.

Later, acting on a tip-off, a team of Barang police apprehended Balaram and Dharendra Tuesday, and forwarded them to court Wednesday.

Panel soon to resolve interstate disputes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: An inter-ministerial committee will be formed to resolve the disputes of the state with other states.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi took the decision at a high-level meeting chaired by him at Lok Seva Bhawan here Wednesday. Sources said various interstate disputes like Polavaram project, Mahanadi water issue with Ch-

hattisgarh, Kotia border row with Andhra Pradesh and others were discussed threadbare during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, Advocate General Pitambar Acharya, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Nikunja Bihari Dhal, Development Commissioner Anu Garg and other top officials.

CELEBRATING ODISHA'S MARITIME GLORY

South East Asia Pavilion to wow Bali Yatra shoppers

Cuttack, Nov 13: With a day left for the historic Bali Yatra to kick off on the banks of River Mahanadi, all eyes are on South East Asia Pavilion at this year's trade fair that would feature 15 stalls, exhibiting cultural similarities between Odisha and South East Asian countries.

The pavilion will display mythological connections, temple architectures, textiles and terracotta motifs, dance forms and motifs on coins, global trade and commerce network, Maritime Museum in Jobra,



digital map of ancient trade routes, various import and export materials, daily use essentials by the voyagers, masks,

and Ikat sarees. The pavilion's entrance will

be a replica of Jiranga Monastery, situated in Gajapati district and built in the Atanpuri style of architecture, while the exit will be a replica of an Indonesian gate.

At the exit gate, wheels and ropes used during Puri Rath Yatra will be put up for display while special mask dance performances by various troupes from Puri will enthrall the visitors. Quiz on ancient trade and Bali Yatra will be organised regularly through digital displays at the pavilion.

Similarly, for the first time, 13 ambassadors from different nations are scheduled to attend

the trade fair in the Millennium City. Special arrangements have been made for their arrival. Cuttack Collector Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde reviewed the arrangements Wednesday morning.

"From Silver City boat club to Gadagadia Ghat, the guests will

embark on a boat journey. And later they will visit the South East Asia Pavilion and will be briefed about Odisha's maritime glory and tradition. The guests will also attend the inaugural ceremony at the Baishnaba Pani Mancha and visit the ORMAS stall," Shinde said.



KIIT hosts MSME & Startup trade fair Training organised on usage of Odia in govt work

The occasion provides a unified platform for startups to display their businesses, interact with potential investors, and build valuable networks



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Over 65 startups from across the country participated in the three-day MSME and Startup Trade Fair-2024 at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Deemed to be University here Wednesday.

Minister of State for Fisheries and Animal Resources

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Manguli Das, S/o Musha Das, At - Khosalpur, P.O. - Porgadei, Dist. - Jagatsinghpur, declare by this Affidavit No. 1649 Dated 02.04.2024 that now onwards I shall be known as Mangaraj Das for all future purposes.

By virtue of an Affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Bargarh dt. 13.11.2024, I, Debasish Panda, At/P.O. - Dhanger, P.S./ Dist. - Bargarh, Odisha have changed my name from Debananda Panda to Debasish Panda. Henceforth, I shall be known as Debasish Panda for all purposes. Debasish Panda

By virtue of an affidavit before Notary Public, Kantabanji bearing No. 1518/ 12.11.2024, I, Pinki Agrawal w/o Rupesh Kumar Agrawal of Lathor (Harishankar Road), P.S.- Lathor, Dist.-Balangir at present /P.O./P.S.- Kantabanji Dist.- Balangir declare that in some educational documents of my son Som Agrawal my name spells as "PINKY AGRAWAL" but in my Aadhaar Card and Voter Identity Card my name spells as "PINKI AGRAWAL" where as "PINKI AGRAWAL & Pinky Agrawal, W/o Rupesh Kumar Agrawal is same and one.

Before Notary public Berhampur Ganjam I Abhaya Kumar Singh as per my Aadhaar Card (xxx xxx 6408) and in my all Education Certificates, S/o Rajkishor Singh, Sneha mension, Ajodhyanagar, 3rd lane, Nandighosh Ashiyana Apartment, Po- Engineering School, PS-B.N.Pur, Berhampur, Ganjam state that I change my name Abhaya Kumar Singh to Abhaya Singh. Henceforth I shall be known as Abhaya Singh for all future purposes.

Development (F&ARD) and MSME Gokulananda Mallik inaugurated the event and underscored the role of the MSME sector in achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Vikshit Rashtra.

"We are open to supporting MSMEs in every possible way to help Odisha and India move forward toward prosperity," he said. Emphasising the need for big industries to support MSMEs, he mentioned a detailed roadmap for MSME development across all blocks and districts in the state, including initiatives like creating a land bank and adopting the 'one district, one product' approach to boost regional industries.

Speaking on the occasion, KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta expressed pride in providing a unified platform for startups to display their businesses, interact with potential

investors, and build valuable networks.

"Over 25 technocrats from technology-enabled centres are here, encouraging young entrepreneurs to be patient and persistent in their journey," he said.

"The event provides a robust platform for startups to showcase innovations, network, and explore growth opportunities," he added.

Organised under the procurement and marketing support scheme of the MSME Ministry, Central government's principal scientific advisor, Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster Foundation and KIIT Technology Business Incubator (KIIT-TBI), the fair is aimed at boosting MSME growth and startup development in the country, said KIIT's R&D and Innovation DG and KIIT-TBI CEO Mrutyunjay Suar.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: With an aim to equip government officials with the required skills to effectively use Odia language for their official work, a two-day training workshop was organised by Odia Bhasa Pratisthan (OBP) at Sanskruti Bhawan here Wednesday.

The workshop was inaugurated by Odia Language, Literature and Culture joint director Subodh Acharya. Over 100 government officials attended the workshop. A training manual published by OBP was unveiled at the inaugural



ceremony.

In his address, Acharya emphasised the importance of the Odia language in preserving cultural identity and highlighted the role of the language in strengthening Odia heritage. He extended his gratitude to writers, poets and literary con-

tributors for their dedication. He further encouraged all officials to participate attentively and consistently strive to elevate the use of Odia in their official work.

Fanindra Bhusan Nanda from OBP provided an overview of the training pro-

gramme. The training covered various topics, including the use of Odia vocabulary in official work, administrative terminology, drafting orders, memos and notes in Odia language.

Distinguished linguists Kailash Chandra Tikayat and Ramesh Chandra Mallik led the sessions Tuesday. On the concluding day, experts in Odia language and literature along with contributors from the Odia Virtual Academy shared valuable insights to the participants, who received certificates from OBP on the occasion.

Healthcare top priority for Government: CM

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Healthcare, particularly cancer treatment, is a top priority for the state government, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi emphasised during his meeting with a delegation of US-based healthcare institutes including Mayo Clinic here Wednesday. The delegation members discussed steps to strengthen healthcare and cancer treatment facilities in the state.

During the meeting at Lok Seva Bhawan, the representatives held discussion on the need for establishment of modern facilities for the diagnosis of cancer and treatment of patients in the state, a release from Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said.

The CM encouraged the representatives to submit a formal proposal outlining their plan in this regard.

The meeting highlighted the expensive and uncertain nature of cancer treatment, underlining the need for quick DNA testing to determine treatment effectiveness.

It was felt that implement-



Representatives held discussion with CM the need for establishment of modern facilities for the diagnosis of cancer and treatment of patients in the state

The meeting highlighted the expensive and uncertain nature of cancer treatment, underlining the need for quick DNA testing to determine treatment effectiveness

It was felt that implementing this innovative approach in Odisha would enable early diagnosis and effective treatment of cancer

ing this innovative approach in Odisha would enable early diagnosis and effective treatment.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, including Additional Chief Secretary Nikunj Bihari Dhal and Health & Family Welfare Commissioner-cum-secretary Aswathi S.

The delegation included Dev Mukherjee from Mayo Clinic, Charles Miller from Elephes Bio-Sciences, Biren Banerjee, founder and managing director of inDNA Life Sciences, and Devi Prasad Rath, the release added.

Review meet of ULBs held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) principal secretary Usha Padhee chaired the monthly review meeting of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) here Wednesday, focusing on the timely completion of ongoing urban development projects.

During the meeting, Padhee emphasised the importance of adhering to strict timelines and urged all ULBs to respond promptly to public grievances, ensuring effective service delivery and community engagement. Senior officials from the H&UD department presented detailed updates on the current status and progress timelines of key urban initiatives, highlighting both achievements and existing challenges.

The discussion included identifying solutions to overcome any bottlenecks, with a strong focus on maintaining momentum in project implementation. Padhee reiterated the department's commitment to ensuring efficient urban development and addressing citizens' concerns promptly.

To ensure consistent progress, the department will hold monthly review meetings regularly on the second Wednesday of each month, enabling continuous monitoring and accountability for all ongoing projects.

WORLD DIABETES DAY

City Apollo Hospitals holds series of events



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Apollo Hospitals Bhubaneswar Wednesday conducted a series of events to mark the World Diabetes Day which is observed globally Thursday.

The events were organised to raise awareness about diabetes prevention, management, and its effects on physical, social, and mental well-being. People from local community enthusiastically participated in the programmes on the occasion.

The day began with a walkathon at 7 am where participants from diverse backgrounds came together to support diabetes awareness. This was followed by a Doctor Awareness Talk at the hospi-

tal's OPD area, where leading medical professionals shared insights on the early detection, prevention, and effective management of diabetes.

The talk featured esteemed experts including chief operating officer and director of Medical Services Alok Srivastava, senior consultants and endocrinologists Abhay Kumar Sahoo and Pitambar Majy, medical superintendent Major Srimanarayan Mishra, chief dietician Sunita Sahoo and nursing superintendent Suchitra.

The doctors at the hospital emphasised their commitment to promoting better health and well-being in the community, focusing on educating the public about the importance of diabetes care and prevention.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: A one-day workshop was recently organised by the School of Women's Studies at Utkal University to commemorate '50 years of gender equality'.

The event was held in collaboration with the Vina Majumdar Memorial Trust, the Centre for Women's Development Studies (New Delhi), and the School of Women's Studies at Utkal University. The theme of the workshop was 'Envisioning Change: Reading towards Equality in the Global Era'.

The chief guest of the occasion, Utkal University vice chancellor Sabita Acharya inaugurated the event. During the inauguration, director of the School of Women's Stud-



ies Jayanti Dora described the theme of the workshop and introduced the distinguished guests.

Berhampur University vice chancellor Geetanjali Das participated as a special guest and delivered a speech on gender equality. In addition, CWDS director N Manimekalai and Renu Adalaka presented key insights on the workshop's objectives.

Ishita Mukhopadhyay (University of Calcutta) also spoke on the topic, while Nityananda Barik proposed a vote of thanks to the dignitaries.

The workshop was attended by 16 students from various states of India, who presented their research papers in three sessions. This was the primary objective of the workshop.

In the fourth session, two notable women Nirupama Mo-

hapatra from a self help group and a self-reliant woman from Raghurajpur, Sasmita Moharana, shared their personal experiences and perspectives.

The sessions were coordinated by Dora, Seema Mallik, Swapna Prabhu, Urmilika Das (Former Head, Women's Studies Research Centre, Berhampur University), Ipsita Pattnayak (UN Women's Empowerment College), Snigdharani Behera, Amisha Dalai, and Alakannada Gahira.

The concluding session featured Higher Education department additional secretary Dharanidhar Nanda who spoke on the role of women in contemporary society. At the end, Snigdharani Behera extended a vote of thanks to all participants and guests.

Tata Steel's support for peacock valley

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Continuing with their environmental stewardship, employees of Tata Steel's Ferro Alloys and Minerals Division (FAMD) donated grains, storage cans and other essentials at the Peacock Valley near Naraj on the outskirts of the Capital city Wednesday.

The employees - as part of their employee volunteerism programme - reached out to Kanhu Charan Behera of the village who has been feeding the national birds in the valley for past couple of years and donat-



ed the supplies required to feed the peacocks. Volunteering to provide vital food support to the peacocks that inhabit the valley, the employees came together to collect and deliver essential supplies, ensuring the majestic birds receive adequate nourishment and care in their natural

habitat.

They visited the village and handed over the essentials to Behera and spent time with the magnificent creatures that thronged the place for food.

FAMD executive in-charge Pankaj Satija said, "We are happy to play a small part in

supporting the peafowl population at Naraj and I believe this volunteer-driven initiative will contribute positively to the spirit of care and responsibility for our national bird. Our humble effort is a token of gratitude towards the conservation of the species having great cultural significance for us."

The peacock valley, renowned for its rich biodiversity and scenic beauty, has long been home to a large population of peacocks. This initiative underscores Tata Steel's dedication to making a positive impact, not just within the industry, but also in the natural environments.

TPCODL to ensure smooth power supply for Bali Yatra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) has taken extensive measures to ensure a reliable and safe power supply for the upcoming Bali Yatra festival in Cuttack beginning November 15.

The entire 130-acre fairground has been electrified by the company. Around 1,000 temporary connections have been provided for stall owners, who have praised the smooth and efficient application and connection process this year. To ensure uninterrupted power supply, TP-

CODL has established 10 Fuse Call Centres, ready to address any grievances or technical issues that may arise, ensuring smooth power management across the fairground. The company has also taken comprehensive safety measures including fencing of substations, the conversion of bare conductors to LT AB cables, and the installation of fire extinguishers.

TPCODL CEO Arvind Singh said, "With our comprehensive planning and robust infrastructure, we are ensuring that the power needs of the festival are met efficiently and safely."

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

RCS orders probe into agri-loan irregularities

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Nov 13: The state government has implemented several schemes for the holistic development of agriculture and farmers. However, allegations of agricultural loans being availed in the name of deceased farmers have raised questions on the transparency and impartiality of some Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) in Jajpur district sparking widespread concern over unethical practices and corruption.



instructions not being effectively enforced, significant irregularities in loan transactions have emerged at the PACS in Palatpur under Dasarathapur block in Jajpur district.

According to complaints from over a hundred farmers including PACS Vice-President Umakanta Barik, Sarpanch Lipika Mallik and others, Palatpur PACS President Ashwini Kumar Nayak and Secretary Bishwajit Dhala have allegedly embezzled approximately ₹23.42 lakhs.

In the 2023-24 fiscal year, 850 farmers, and in 2024-25, 450 farmers were reportedly charged ₹1,500 each for "paper transactions". Additionally, bribes ranging from ₹2,000 to ₹3,000 were reportedly demanded for new loans.

One of the most troubling allegations is that, under various pretexts, passbooks and blank cheques were taken from farmers and kept by the President and Secretary, who then used those to take loans in the farmers' names without their knowledge.

The complaint letter further alleges that loans were obtained

in the names of over 30 deceased farmers within last two years. Panchanan Mallik from Barakuanla village in Biripata Panchayat, who passed away June 12 last year, serves as an example. However, a self-cheque and thumbprint were used to withdraw ₹11,500 in his name from the Dasarathapur branch of Cuttack Central Cooperative Bank September 27, 2023.

A thorough investigation into the personal accounts of both the President and Secretary of the PACS could uncover the full truth. In a complaint letter to the Chief Minister, farmers also pointed out that loans are being given to many non-farmers, while genuine farmers are being deprived of the benefits.

When contacted, Jajpur DRCS Amulya Kumar Sethi stated that an independent team has completed an investigation into allegation of loan withdrawals in the name of deceased farmers. The report will be translated, and appropriate action will be taken accordingly.

Tension at MKCG hosp over maternal death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 13: Tension ran high Wednesday at the MKCG Medical College and Hospital here in Ganjam district over medical negligence following the death of a woman after child birth allegedly due to infusion of wrong group of blood and a lack of timely treatment. The deceased was identified as Suneli Nayak, 24, wife of Prashant Nayak, a resident of Karapada village under Ganjam block.



and gave birth to a son Tuesday morning.

However, a few hours after childbirth, she began to experience heavy bleeding and was moved to the emergency post-partum care room. The doctors informed the family about the need for immediate blood transfusion. Suneli's prior medical report and her Mamata Card showed her blood group as 'O' positive, but tests

at MKCG Medical showed it to be 'O' negative. Initially, the family brought 'O' positive blood, but they were then asked to bring 'O' negative blood instead. While undergoing treatment, Suneli was pronounced dead by the doctors.

Family members claim that Suneli's death was caused by incorrect blood transfusion and lack of adequate post-partum care. Blood group cross-match-

ing reports have since been corrected. Suneli's family members attempted to contact the hospital superintendent and registrar about the incorrect blood transfusion Monday night but were dissatisfied with the response.

They are now demanding a thorough investigation and action. Hemant Nayak, former BJP Kisan Morcha president of Ganjam block and Suneli's uncle, stated that despite her Mamata Card and Chhatrapur medical report showing her blood group as 'O' positive, MKCG doctors administered 'O' negative blood, leading to her death.

Nayak plans to file a complaint with the state Health Minister and Chief Minister with the help of the local MLA.

RSP to provide MDM to 35k kids

Rourkela: The Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has renewed its agreement with the Akshaya Patra Foundation for providing mid-day meals to 35,000 school students on every working day, an official statement said Wednesday. The MoU was signed between PK Swain, CGM in-charge (TA & CSR), RSP and Aurobindo Lenka, general manager (operations and HR), Odisha zone (Akshaya Patra Foundation) Monday. The MoU is valid for a period of three years and would benefit 35,000 students of government and aided schools in Lathikata and Bistra revenue blocks in Sundargarh district.

Ex-sarpanch found dead; murder suspected

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhadrak, Nov 13: The blood-stained body of the president of a cooperative society and former sarpanch of Bandhagain panchayat was found in a paddy field in Bhadrak district Wednesday morning, police said.



Santosh Nayak, a neighbour of the deceased, said Chittaranjan had gone to Panchpada village Tuesday evening to attend a death anniversary ritual. When he didn't return home

last night, his brother Manoranjan Rout began searching for him. He eventually found Chittaranjan's body in a paddy field along the roadside, Nayak said.

Upon receiving information, Bhadrak rural police arrived at the scene and initiated an investigation.

Preliminary investigations suggest that Chittaranjan might have been murdered.

The police officer said there were four injury marks on his body, and both his motorcycle and mobile phone were missing.

Vedanta Aluminium observes Global Handwashing Day '24

Jharsuguda: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, marked Global Handwashing Day 2024 with a comprehensive awareness campaign across 28 villages in this district. The initiative, themed "Why are clean hands still important?" aimed to promote hygiene and disease prevention through proper handwashing and essential health practices. Over 3,000 community members participated in the interactive sessions and demonstrations on handwashing techniques, personal hygiene, and safe food handling. Health experts engaged with locals, answering questions and encouraging practical participation, with the best demonstrators being awarded health kits. Vedanta's social initiatives reach nearly 80 villages, benefiting over 3 lakh people annually. Sunil Gupta, COO of Vedanta Aluminium, said, "This campaign is part of our broader commitment to improving community health. By encouraging hygiene practices, we aim to prevent diseases and promote a healthier environment."

Couple murdered

Berhampur: A 62-year-old man and his wife were murdered Wednesday allegedly by the man's younger brother and his family over a long-standing land dispute in Ganjam district, police said. The assailants attacked the two with a sharp weapon at Somaiguda under Aska police station limits when the two were working in the agricultural field. The man succumbed due to profuse bleeding on the disputed land while his wife Malla Patra alias Laxmi (50) succumbed to her injuries on the way to a hospital. The police detained Bhubuni, the younger brother of Raju, and his wife Ranjita for questioning. Their son Papun is absconding. Ganjam district SP Suwendu Kumar Patra said police officers and a forensic team started investigating the case.

3 cops get Home Minister's accolade for criminal probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Nov 13: Three police officers from the state have been awarded the prestigious Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak-2024 for their outstanding work in crime investigation, an official said Wednesday.

The awardees are Sabyasachi Malla, Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) of R Udayagiri police station in Gajapati district, Rajendra Narayan Pattnaik, IIC of Aska police station in Ganjam district, and Rigan Kindo, IIC of Malkangiri police station.

It is a matter of great pride that three police officers of Odi-

sha have been awarded with the Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak-2024 for excellence in crime investigation, DGP YB Khurania posted on X.

A total of 463 personnel nationwide received the Union Home Minister's recognition.

Pattnaik received the award for his exceptional investigation of a double murder case in Kalinga Nagar, Jajpur district, in 2020. The case, which involved 19 accused, resulted in 17 people being sentenced to life imprisonment by the court.

Malla was recognised for his work on a challenging case involving the murder of an unidentified woman in Ganjam

district in 2021.

After her body was found in a forest area, Malla's team identified the woman after 10 days, using DNA profiling. The accused was later arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Kindo was awarded for solving an unknown murder case in Malkangiri in 2022. His investigation led to the arrest of two persons, both of whom were sentenced to life imprisonment by the local court.

The Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak is awarded to recognise excellence in police work, promote high professional standards, and enhance the morale of the officers.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER DHENKANAL (R&B) DIVISION, DHENKANAL
Email: eedklpvd@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement
No.B-607: **Invitation For Bids**
1st Corrigendum

Bid Identification No. SEDKL (R&B) 20/2024-25
Name of the Work: 10 Nos Bridge Rehabilitation Works.

The following changes have been made in Bid Identification No. SEDKL (R&B) 20/2024-25

1. Availability of Bid documents in Govt. Website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in during the period from dt.20.11.2024 to 17.00 hours of dt.04.12.2024 instead of dt.12.11.2024 to dt.26.11.2024 for ONLINE BIDDING respectively. 2. Online bids shall be received till 17.00 Hours of dt.04.12.2024 instead of dt.26.11.2024. 3. Date of Opening of bid at 11.00 A.M. of dt.05.12.2024 instead of dt.27.11.2024.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Division, Dhenkanal
OIPR-34016/11/0017/2425

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, ATHMALLIK FOREST DIVISION, AT/PO: ATHMALLIK, DIST-ANGUL - 759125
E-mail: dfoathmallik@gmail.com, Mob: 9437004236

Tender Notice No.5756/1F/ 2024 Date:12.11.2024
Short Tender Notice For Construction of Range Officer Residence Building at Bamur Range Office Campus, For Bamur Range of Athmallik Forest Division

No.MM-236: Sealed Tender is hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Odisha, invites Tender for following works from the eligible contractor as detail below.

1. Name of the work: Construction of Range Officer Residence Building at Bamur Range Office Campus, For Bamur Range of Athmallik Forest Division.

Sl No.	Name of Work	Tender Notice No.	Estimated Cost
1	1. Construction of Range Officer Residence Building		23.31 Lakh

2. Place of Work: Athmallik Forest Division, 3. Period of Completion: 90 Days. 4. Commencement of download RFP document on website: www.odishaforest.in Dt.14.11.2024, Time: 11.00 A.M. 5. Last Date of bid submission (by messenger/courier/post): Dt.28.11.2024 Time: 01.00 P.M., Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, PO/PS- Athmallik, Pin-759125, Dist.- Angul. 6. Date of General & Technical and Financial Bid opening: Dt.28.11.2024 Time:04.00 P.M., Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, PO/PS- Athmallik, Pin759125, Dist.- Angul. 7. RFP document Cost (Non-refundable): Rs.6,000/- for each Building by DD issued by Nationalized Bank in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, Payable at Athmallik for each work. 8. Address for Bid submission- Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, At- Athmallik, Angul- Pin-759125. 9. EMD (Refundable): Rs. 20,000/- for each building by DD issued by Nationalized Bank in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, Payable at Athmallik for each work. 10. Bid validity period: 3 Months from the last date of submission of Bid. 11. The work includes retrofitting of existing structure. The bidders are encouraged to visit the site before dropping their bids. 12. Latest Tender document and addendum/ corrigendum, if any, will be published at the websites www.odishaforest.in. 12. Disclaimer: Notwithstanding anything else contained to the contrary in this tender document, DFO Athmallik reserves the right to cancel/ withdraw/ modify fully or partially the "Invitation of Bids" or to reject one or more of the bids without assigning any reason and shall bear no liability whatsoever consequent upon such a decision.

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Forest Division
OIPR-08125/11/0007/2425

RSP TRADE UNION POLLS

RSS wins for record 7th time

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Nov 13: Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) affiliated Rourkela Shramik Sangh (RSS) led by Prashant Behera has won the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) union election for a record seventh time defeating its nearest rival Rourkela Ispat Karkhana Karmachari Sangh (RIKKS), which is affiliated to Bhartiya Majdoor Sangh (BMS).

RSS defeated RIKKS by a small margin of 136 votes. While RSS got 4,199 votes, RIKKS polled 4,036. When the final verdict came late Tuesday night, there was jubilation in the RSS camp.

This time the voting percentage was 94.84 per cent. Voting started at 6am Tuesday and a record number of 8,950 workers voted out of the total work force of 9,437. There were 11 booths, 10 inside the plant and one outside at Ispat Vidya Mandir, Sector-18. For the smooth conduct of the election, a contingent of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and four platoons of police were deployed.

"This was done given the seriousness of the election process," informed SP Rourkela Nitesh Wadhawani Tuesday. The ballot boxes were brought to the Sector-18 high school where counting was completed. The once formidable Rourkela Mazdoor Sabha (RMS) affiliated

to HMS is now a spent force and got only 208 votes and CITU got 162.

The RSS and Gangpur Mazdoor Manch (GMM) led by George Turkey have made a strategic alliance. The alliance started during the last election. RSS won the election in 1995, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2010 and 2021. On the victory, President of RSS Prashant Behera said, "It is the victory of principle and honesty. RSS has worked for the interest of the workers and will continue to do that. I am thankful to all for this victory."

"We are a formidable force and we are with the workers. That is the reason we have been elected for the second time in succession. We will remain devoted to the cause of the workers," Turkey said.

Given the lukewarm response to the strike call given October 28 by joint trade unions by the workers, the polling pattern and victory margin, two things have become clear.

The workers are not in favour of such strikes and at the same time want someone to represent them.

Removal of gratuity ceiling, payment of 39 months arrear, stopping privatisation, handing over the Apollo rural super specialty hospital to AIIMS, wage hike for contract labourers and some other issues were among main agendas for all the unions.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.O-636:

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, BHADRAK
ee_rwbdk2@yahoo.co.in

"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works
Identification Online Tender 04/RWD/BDK-II/2024-25, Dtd.11.11.2024

1. Name of the Work:- Road Works as per Annexure. 2. Total Number of Works:- 1 No. 3. Approximate Estimated Cost - Rs.24.60 Lakhs. 4. Class of Contractor:- As per Annexure. 5. Period of Completion:- As per Annexure. 6. Other details:- The details are as follows.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Bid
1	2	3	4	5
Executive Engineer, R.W. Division-II, Bhadrak	04	14.11.2024 At 4.00 P.M. upto 4.00 PM	22.11.2024 upto 3.00 PM	25.11.2024 at 11.00 AM

7. Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in" 8. Any other changes/ Corrigendum may be seen only on website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. 9. Date of transparent lottery to be conducted on dt.27.11.24 at 12.30 P.M. in the office of the Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Bhadrak. OIPR-25090/11/0005/2425

Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W.Division-II, Bhadrak

Suryo Foods & Industries Limited
CIN: L05004OR1989PLC002264

Extract Of Financial Results For The Quarter Ended On Sep. 30, 2024
Key numbers of Financial Results (Rs. in Thousands)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Half year Ended		Year Ended
		30.09.2024 (Un-Audited)	30.06.2024 (Un-Audited)	30.09.2023 (Un-Audited)	30.09.2024 (Un-Audited)	30.09.2023 (Un-Audited)	31.03.2024 Audited
1	Total Revenue from Operations	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Net Profit / (Loss) (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	171	(158)	1,632	13	11,003	14,114
3	Net Profit / (Loss) before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	171	(158)	1,632	13	11,003	14,114
4	Net Profit / (Loss) after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	171	(158)	1,632	13	11,003	11,314
5	Total Comprehensive Income [Comprising Profit / (Loss) after tax and Other Comprehensive Income after tax]	171	(158)	1,632	13	11,003	11,314
6	Equity Share Capital	39,600	39,600	39,600	39,600	39,600	39,600
7	Earnings per share (of Rs 10/- each) Basic & Diluted (Rs.)	0.04	(0.04)	0.41	-	2.78	2.86

Notes :

- The above financial results of the Company for the quarter and half year ended Sep. 30, 2024 have been audited and recommended by the audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company in their respective meetings held on 13th November, 2024. These results are being published in accordance with Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Statement of Audited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended on Sep. 30, 2024 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Statement of Audited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended on 30th Sep. 2024, are available on the website of the Stock Exchanges - www.bseindia.com as well as on the website of the Company - www.suryofoods.com

Date : 13th November,2024
Place: Bhubaneswar

By order of the Board
For Suryo Foods & Industries Limited
Sd./- Amarendra Dash
(Chairman cum Managing Director)
DIN - 00583036

FOCUS TRUMP 2.0

BRACE FOR DISRUPTION



India's relationship will likely become more transactional with the US in Trump's second term as he makes domestic issues a high priority

divided into a Sinosphere and America dominated sphere, as far as tech is concerned. How is this to be reconciled with still strong US-China trade (currently \$800 billion), and the substantial presence of American companies in China (like Apple, Tesla, General Motors) remains to be seen.

The fourth issue is on America's support for wars in the Middle East and Ukraine. Trump once described Ukraine President Zelenskyy as a super salesman, since every time he came to America he walked away with a \$100 billion of military and other aid. That could have been campaign rhetoric, but Trump's next presidency might reduce support for Ukraine. Of course, arms aid and sale both to Ukraine and Israel has helped the fortunes and stock price of defence-related companies. But a relook is bound to happen. This also means that Trump may push America towards isolationism i.e. decrease its role as global policeman. This is due to the perception of American people that they do not seem to benefit adequately with all that global spending on arms and security across the globe. American national debt is \$35 trillion, and high interest rates are making it difficult to sustain the burden. Hence the more inward-looking stance away from global involvement. This means more volatility, instability in various conflict zones, including the seas around Taiwan and China.

The US must brace for very high debt, continuing high interest rates, high inflation aggravated by Trump's hike in import tariffs and a still not strong economy. India's relationship will likely become more transactional with the US in Trump's second term as he makes domestic issues a high priority.

The writer is a noted Pune-based economist.

Since developed countries have been and continue to be major contributors to greenhouse gases, the discussion of finance and repair is one of "climate justice." Trump will deflect or deny the charge of climate injustice even as the US reneges on its pledge. India stands to lose, since to get to net zero by 2070 the funding requirement is more than \$10 trillion. And much of this has to come from multilateral sources including America.

As it is the H1-B new visas as well as renewals have become a lottery with only one third of the applicants succeeding. The rest will have to leave. Even though tech companies will resist any restriction on hiring foreign talent or on moving jobs offshore, Trump will have enough political clout to push through. The mood of the labour force, who are his supporters, is to bring back the jobs onshore to Americans.

The second big issue is immigration. It is worth noting that it was during his campaign that President Obama first coined a new term and verb, "my job got Bangalored." He said, "Say no to Bangalore, say yes to Buffalo." This notion that jobs are moving to outsourced locations has agitated Trump supporters. It is a misleading assertion, because every outsourced job creates more profit, and efficiency for US corporations, and that eventually leads to new job creation. But the person who loses his or her job points a finger at Bangalore. Under Trump 2.0 the deportation of illegal immigrants may be done on a big scale. And there is likely to be some reform of H1-B visa process, making it harder for Indian workers to locate to America to provide software and related services.

The third issue is on trade tariffs. Trump has already announced Robert Lighthizer as his trade chief. Lighthizer is known to be a hardliner and protectionist in his approach. We may find that the US will impose high import duties on imports from not just China and Russia but also India, the EU, Korea and Japan. Perhaps only Canada and Mexico and other free trade agreement partners might have tariff free access to the American consumer. This could result in a tit for tat trade war of escalating tariffs, some of which we saw in Trump's first presidency. The anti-China sentiment is strong, and there is continuity in the hardline stance on China from the earlier Trump, then Biden and now Trump 2.0. We will see the tech cold war play out much more, as the world gets

Let all circumstances, all happenings in life be occasions, constantly renewed for learning more and ever more.



THE MOTHER

Alienating Workers

The outcome of the US presidential election was more of a Democratic loss than a triumph for Donald Trump. The Democrats lost not because US President Joe Biden stayed in the race too long, and not because Kamala Harris is unqualified, but because they have been losing workers and failed to win them back.

The party ceased to be a home for American workers long ago, owing to its support for digital disruption, globalisation, large immigrant inflows, and "woke" ideas. Nowadays, those most likely to vote for Democrats are the highly educated, not manual workers. In the United States, as elsewhere, democracy will suffer if the center left does not become more pro-worker.

While the Democrats did win some previous elections with support from Silicon Valley, minorities, portions of organised labour, and the professional class in large cities, this was never sustainable. Such a coalition is alienating to workers and the middle class in much of the country, especially in smaller cities and the South. The problem was already obvious after 2016, which is part of the reason why Biden adopted a pro-worker industrial strategy in 2020.

The Biden economy did deliver for the working class by creating jobs and strengthening the US industrial base. Wages at the bottom rose rapidly, and policies started moving a little toward the views of American workers on immigration, protectionism, support for unions, and public investment. But the party establishment - especially the highly educated activists concentrated in prosperous coastal cities - never internalised workers' cultural and economic concerns. Instead, Democrats often seemed to be lecturing or scolding them.

Here is my own test for understanding the relationship between the Democrats and American workers: If a member of the Democratic elite is stranded in an unfamiliar city, would he prefer to spend the next four hours talking to a Midwestern American worker with a high-school diploma, or to a professional with a postgraduate education from Mexico, China, or Indonesia? Whenever I pose this question to colleagues and friends, they all assume it's the latter.

With her emphasis on the middle class and patriotism, Harris initially seemed ready to address this problem. If credible, a true effort to win back workers may well have won the election. But by the end, the campaign had centered around the issues that mattered most to the base. The biggest attempt to broaden the coalition came from using Liz Cheney (a Republican former congresswoman who has been banished from her party) to appeal to suburban women on the issue of abortion. Reproductive freedom may be a critical issue, but it was never going to win over the working class, certainly not working-class men.



Daron Acemoglu

Nowadays, those most likely to vote for Democrats are the highly educated, not manual workers. In the United States, as elsewhere, democracy will suffer if the center left does not become more pro-worker

On the economy, Democrats can talk about opportunity and jobs until they turn blue, but unless they distance themselves from the tech and global business elite, such messaging will not translate into a real pro-worker agenda - and workers will see right through it. With even Silicon Valley starting to leave the Democrats (ironically), there is no better time to change course.

But a redirection will be difficult now that Trump and JD Vance's Republican Party has become the main home for workers - especially those in manufacturing and smaller cities - and now that Democratic elites are so culturally disconnected from workers and much of the middle class.

The great tragedy is that while Biden's agenda had subtly started paying off for workers (proving that globalisation and rising inequality are not just blind forces of nature), the next administration's policies will almost certainly support plutocrats. High tariffs on imports from China will not bring back jobs that have left the country, and they certainly won't help keep inflation in check. While Biden's pandemic-era policies (coming on top of Trump's own stimulus measures) did fuel inflation, the US Federal Reserve managed to restore price stability. But if Trump pressures the Fed for more rate cuts (to boost his own popularity), inflation could return.

Moreover, Trump's championing of the crypto sector will probably allow for more scams and bubbles, while doing nothing for American workers or consumers. His promised tax cuts will primarily help corporations and the stock market, with any resulting increase in investment going largely toward the tech sector and automation.

More broadly, the next four years of technology policy could turn out to be a disaster for workers. While Biden issued a major executive order on AI, this was merely a first step. If not regulated properly, AI will not only wreak havoc on many industries; it will also lead to pervasive manipulation of consumers and citizens (just look at social media), and its true potential as a tool that can help workers will go unrealised. By supporting large companies and venture capitalists in Silicon Valley, the Trump administration will fuel the trend toward labour-replacing automation.

Trump's threat to US institutions also poses a big risk for workers. It is no secret that he will further weaken democratic norms, introduce uncertainty into policymaking, deepen polarisation, and undermine trust in institutions like the courts and the Department of Justice (which he will try to weaponise). This behaviour will not lead immediately to economic collapse, and it may even encourage some investment by his favoured companies (including the fossil-fuel industry) in the short run. But in the medium term (say, 10 years or so), weaker institutions and loss of public trust in the courts will take a toll on investment and efficiency.

Such institutional weaknesses are always economically costly, and they could prove truly disastrous in an economy that depends on innovation and complex, advanced technologies, which require greater contractual support, trust between parties, and confidence in the rule of law. Without expert-led regulation, much of the economy - from health care and education to online business and consumer services - will be awash in snake oil, rather than high-quality products.

If the economy can no longer foster innovation and productivity growth, wages will stagnate. Yet even in the face of such adverse outcomes, many workers will not return to the Democrats unless the party truly takes their interests on board. That means not only adopting policies that support workers' incomes, but also speaking their language, however foreign it may be to the coastal elites who have run the party aground.

The writer, a 2024 Nobel laureate in economics, is Institute Professor of Economics at MIT.

WISDOM CORNER

- A man can do what he wants, but not want what he wants. ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER
You can be still and still moving. Content even in your discontent. RAM DASS
There is no way to happiness - happiness is the way. THICH NHAT HANH



Ajit Ranade

WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT TRUMP WILL FULFIL SOME OF HIS HEADLINE PROMISES AND CREATE DISRUPTION IN GLOBAL GEOPOLITICS

The election of Donald Trump for a second presidency is a turning point for the world. The outcome was decisive even as the reasons can be debated and inconclusive. Was it anti-incumbency which hurt Kamala Harris or was it the irresistible charm of Trump and his promises? Or was it due to third party hacking of the election by social media and big money? The latter is improbable, because the Harris campaign raised and spent more money than their rival. What is clear is that Trump will fulfil some of his headline promises and create disruption in global geopolitics. The possible impact on the global affairs and on India is briefly described below.

The first is on climate finance. As the COP29 gets going in Baku, Azerbaijan, it is quite possible that the US will renege on its pledge for contributing to climate finance. In 2015 at COP21 the US had signed the historic deal to strengthen its commitment and provide finance to developing countries. One of the first decisions of President Trump in 2016 was to walk out of the Paris agreement. Collectively since COP15 i.e. from the 2009 Copenhagen conference, developed countries had pledged to provide a \$100 billion every year toward climate finance assistance to developing countries. In the past 15 years this pledge has been fulfilled only once fully. The US has not met its financial pledge between 2017 and 2020. As such the US had dragged its feet for a long time, but nevertheless has not abandoned being part of the negotiations. Under President Trump the commitment is bound to reduce and will weaken the collective resolve of developed countries to finance climate change mitigation and adoption of renewable energy.

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

A carbon credit policy for India

In the 2024 Union Budget, the finance minister has laid a lot of importance on renewable energy sector. However, the transition from use of fossil fuels to greener energies in the production process will be a tough challenge. The current PAT (Perform, Achieve and Trade) system is expected to move towards Indian Carbon Market system.



Sourajeet Pradhani

INDIA IS ONE OF THE LARGEST SUPPLIERS OF CARBON CERTIFICATES

PAT is a regulatory benchmark set by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency to reduce energy consumption in traditionally energy intensive industries. It acts as a tool of measurement of excess energy saving, which can be traded.

To explain in simple terms, a company which produces iron, steel or aluminium, consumes energy (either fossil fuel or green energy). The consumption of fossil fuel impacts the environment detrimentally. The world, through formal institutions such as the International Energy Agency, is making an effort to curb this detrimental effect.

In such a scenario, the energy intensive industries have the following options - either they cut down the emission by reducing production, or continue with existing rate and

buy carbon certificates. The third option for companies is to reduce emissions and earn carbon credits. These carbon credits may eventually be sold in the carbon market.

The need of the hour is to meet the energy efficiency standards i.e. in order to produce a certain quantity of material output, there has to be an attempt to use a prescribed amount of energy. This can be achieved through optimal utilisation of energy resources. Such energy resources include renewal energy sources which aid in reduction of carbon emissions.

The growing population in India, the exponential rise of urbanisation and modernisation, demand similar rate of infrastructure development. The housing schemes of the government catering to the rural population, and the demand for modern housing projects in cities, have been growing at an astonishing pace. The production of raw materials must commensurate to such requirements as well.

On one hand, a developing country like India must grow at a certain rate, and on the other hand India must comply with the environmental norms as well. To achieve both

the goals, the government as well as the private sector must maintain a balance, by replacing the traditional fossil fuels by climate friendly fuels.

Carbon trading or emissions trading implies a market-based approach of controlling emissions by incentivising companies to adhere to renewal energy mode of production. Companies are provided emission targets or 'emission ceiling'. Companies which adhere to such norms, without reducing the production output, are given carbon credits or carbon certificates. In contrast, companies which cross the emission ceiling, have to buy carbon certificates from the carbon market.

For a developing country like India, climate change is not about competing with developed countries of the West, but exploring substitutes to fossil fuel. In the last decade, India has tried to 'decarbonise' certain sectors in order to have acceptance in certain European markets. Lately, the European countries don't prefer to import raw materials produced through fossil fuels.

India has been trying to utilise different forms of renewable energy like solar, wind

and hydel, for its poverty alleviation programmes. Renewable energy can be used in the electrification of villages and agriculture in a sustainable manner. Within the purview of Kyoto Protocol's Flexibility Mechanisms, developed countries of the West can invest in emission mitigation projects in developing countries, and gain carbon credits (carbon certificates). India is one of the largest suppliers of carbon certificates. Energy efficiency is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change, which is a reflection of the seriousness and sincerity with which India is taking the issue of climate change.

India must create its own carbon credit policy, which would include stakeholders of energy intensive sectors like manufacturing. A set of mandatory norms should be created, to which all players would be obligated. One of the challenges would be to have a mechanism to collect the actual data on emissions from such companies. There shouldn't be a case where in companies are manipulating data to suit their cause.

The writer is founder and CEO at Fincist.

Missing tigers

Sir, Ranthambore National Park in Rajasthan, that was officially declared a tiger reserve under Project Tiger, prides on its tigers. But the tiger number in Ranthambore has waxed and waned. In an alarming development, 25 of the 75 big cats have gone missing from the park over the last one year, and this is an official number although unconfirmed reports say 10 of the 25 have been traced. Officials are concerned about monitoring gaps because some of the missing tigers were not captured by camera traps. Laxity in tiger monitoring may prove detrimental to its conservation. Tigers are solitary animals and overcrowding is a big no for them as it may lead to territorial fights for space and survival. Relocation of villages from the buffer zones has not happened in a big way in Ranthambore as expected due to reasons more than one. Poisoning of tigers is not uncommon as tussle for territory has pushed them to villages resulting in the never-ending man-animal conflict.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Threat to unity

Sir, Regional politics has re-emerged with alarming vigour, rekindling old rivalries in states like Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Haryana, and Maharashtra. Once spontaneous, regional divides are now being strategically inflamed by political parties, risking dangerous divisions within the nation. The Karnataka elections of 2023 fuelled the 'North-South' divide. A familiar echo is seen in the recent Maharashtra polls, where the old Gujarat-Marathi rift is being reignited. The painful memories of violence during the Gujarat-Maharashtra bifurcation are being disregarded in the pursuit of political advantage. These artificial 'Indian Brandt Lines' endanger the ideal of India as an 'Indestructible Union,' as envisioned in Article 1 of the Constitution by Dr. BR Ambedkar. It is imperative that the Supreme Court considers expanding the scope of the Representation of the People Act (RPA) 1951 to curb divisive regional politics. Without immediate intervention, 'Unity in Diversity' risks devolving into 'Enmity in Differences.'

Abhisek Pani, NEW DELHI

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



B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

THICK SMOG BLANKETS DELHI

CAPITAL CHOKES

Delhi-NCR records 'severe' air pollution for first time this season

- Delhi pips Pak's Lahore to become world's most polluted city
Visibility drops to zero in some places, many flights cancelled
Low wind speed, temp, high humidity contribute to smog

NEW MEASURE: In a move to tackle the ongoing air pollution crisis in the national capital, Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena Wednesday approved the redeployment of Civil Defence Volunteers (CDVs) for a four-month period from Nov 1 to Feb 28, 2025.

temperature dropping to 17 degrees Celsius (63 degrees Fahrenheit) from 17.9 C a day before.

At least eight flights were diverted from the city's Indira Gandhi International Airport, news agency ANI reported.

Dense fog - defined as that which reduces visibility to 50-200 metres (164-657 ft) - was expected to continue over northwest India for the "next 2-3 days", the India Meteorological Department said.



REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 13: Air pollution in India's national capital increased to 'severe' on an official index Wednesday for the first time this season as temperatures and wind speeds dropped, reducing visibility and affecting some flights.

Delhi overtook Pakistan's Lahore as the world's most polluted city in Swiss group IQAir's live rankings, and India's pollution control authority said the national capital territory's 24-hour air quality index (AQI) score had touched 418.

The Central Pollution Control Board defines an AQI reading of 0-50 as "good", and above 401 as "severe", which affects healthy people and "seriously impacts" those with existing diseases.

The Indian capital battles smog - a toxic mix of smoke and fog - every winter as cold air traps dust, emissions, and smoke from illegal farm fires.

Authorities have on occasion closed schools, stopped some building work, and placed restrictions on private vehicles to curb the problem.

Pakistan's Punjab province, which shares a border with India and is also battling toxic air, has this month banned outdoor activities, closed schools and ordered some shops, markets, and malls to close early.

The concentration of PM2.5-particulate matter measuring 2.5 microns or less in diameter that can be carried into lungs,

causing deadly diseases and cardiac issues - in Delhi was more than 120 times the World Health Organisation's recommended levels Wednesday morning, IQAir said.

Weather department officials also blamed the smog, which reduced visibility to zero in some places, on high humidity, low wind speed, and the minimum

Residents complain of burning eyes, breathing issues

Delhi-NCR woke up to a thick blanket of smog Wednesday morning, severely impacting visibility and leaving residents grappling with hazardous air quality. As commuters braved the roads, many complained of burning eyes and breathing issues. Apart from the national capital, in the NCR cities of Noida and Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh and Gurugram in Haryana there was a toxic smog hanging low in the air, making breathing difficult for residents.



Abhimanyu Jha, a Delhi resident, voiced the concerns of many as he spoke to IANS, warning that pollution had reached deadly levels. "Pollution has now become fatal," he said, adding that it was causing severe respiratory issues and even cancer among the city's population.

WINTER ACTION PLAN

Delhi to set up 250 pagoda tents for homeless people

The Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board currently operates 197 shelters for the homeless across the city with a total capacity of 7,092 people

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Delhi, Nov 13: The Delhi government has rolled out a winter action plan for the homeless as part of which 200-250 pagoda tents with a capacity to accommodate around 2,000 people will be set up and 16 rescue teams will be formed.

As part of the winter action plan, the government will set up an additional 200 to 250 waterproof and fire-retardant pagoda tents which will accommodate around 2,000 more homeless individuals. These tents will be set up in areas with high concentrations of homeless people.

An official said the government has allocated Rs 3 crore for the implementation of the plan from November 15 this year to March 15, 2025 to provide shelter to the homeless and ensure their comfort.

Sixteen rescue teams will be formed in collaboration with Social Mobilisation Agencies and NGOs. These teams will operate between 10 pm and 4 am every day, rescuing homeless individuals found sleeping in open spaces or on roadsides, the plan stated. Each team will be equipped with a vehicle,

a driver and two attendants. They will transport the rescued individuals to nearby shelters or hospitals if needed, it stated.

According to the plan, a monitoring system will oversee the implementation at multiple levels. The Joint Apex Advisory Committee (JAAC) led by the DUSIB CEO will coordinate efforts among various departments, including the health department, municipal corporations and police.

A centralised control room will coordinate the rescue operations, handle information through a dedicated helpline, mobile app and other sources, the plan stated.

People can also inform authorities about homeless individuals by uploading photographs on the 'Rain Basera' mobile app which will help track their location via GPS for immediate assistance.

Awareness campaigns will also be launched to inform the public about the available shelters and rescue services. Repair and maintenance of shelters have been prioritised to ensure that the facilities are in good condition for the winter season, the plan stated.

The DUSIB has collaborated with various civic agencies to ensure the availability of basic amenities such as drinking water, electricity and sanitation facilities at all shelters, it said.

The shelters will also have facilities like television, hot water, blankets and lockers to store personal belongings, it said.



Civil services aspirants stage a protest against Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission's (UPPSC) decision to conduct the Review Officer and Assistant Review Officer (RO-ARO) and Provincial Civil Service (PCS) preliminary examinations on different dates, in Prayagraj, Wednesday

Traffic chaos awaits Delhiites as wedding season begins

4.5 lakh marriages to be held in three weeks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: Sluggish traffic, road barricades for marriage processions, loud bangs of 'dhols' and DJs during commute, and parking headache awaits Delhiites as the wedding season kicked off Tuesday.

With around 4.5 lakh weddings expected to be held over the next three weeks, Delhi Police have deployed 1,500 to 2,000 traffic personnel to smoothen the flow of vehicles.

The first phase of the wedding season, which spans 18 days, began Tuesday and will continue till December 16, according to the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT). Around 50,000 weddings are scheduled for the day in the national capital, it said.

Wedding bands and banquet halls across the city are witnessing a surge in demand for bookings. A senior police officer said that regular meetings are be-



With weddings spanning sectors such as clothing, jewellery, decorations, electronics, furniture, gifts, and catering, the wedding season will create a wealth of opportunities for service providers and generate significant employment

ing held with banquet hall owners to ensure that parking arrangements are in place. "We advise venues without on-site

HISTORIC FIRST

Maha Kumbh to attract global dignitaries, military personnel

Eminent leaders from powerful nations like Israel, the US, France, and Vietnam are eager to witness firsthand one of the world's largest congregations of faith

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Prayagraj, Nov 13: In a historic first, Maha Kumbh 2025, the grandest spiritual gathering of its kind, will see the participation of dignitaries from across the world, including Israel, the US, France, and several other nations.

These international figures, alongside senior military officers, are set to join the revered Ganga Aarti at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh lending their presence to the sacred ritual that symbolises spiritual unity and reverence.

Millions of pilgrims and devotees from around the globe are expected to converge at this sacred site where the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers meet.

The state administration's commitment to an unparalleled experience for both Indian and international devotees promises to make Maha Kumbh 2025 a truly monumental event.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership has not only positioned the Maha Kumbh as a global spiritual hub but has also drawn international attention.

Eminent leaders from powerful nations like Israel, the US, France, and Vietnam are eager to witness firsthand one of the world's largest congregations of faith. "The growing global interest in CM Yogi and his leadership is palpable, with international figures visiting India to meet him," said Suresh Chandra, President of the Harihar Ganga Aarti Samiti.



Maha Kumbh Mela is one of the largest and most sacred gatherings in Hinduism. It's celebrated once every 12 years

The Ganga Aarti, a key highlight of the Maha Kumbh, holds deep spiritual significance. Initiated in 1997 at Prayagraj, the ritual has become a symbol of India's rich spiritual heritage. This year, the Aarti will feature dignitaries from across the globe, adding to the ceremony's gravity and solemnity.

In a further testament to the event's environmental commitment, prominent saints from Ayodhya will contribute by planting 1,11,000 saplings to promote ecological sustainability.

Swami Dilip Das Tyagi of the Ram Vaidehi Temple shared

that this green initiative will be completed during the Maha Kumbh, ensuring that the spiritual experience also embraces environmental consciousness.

The Maha Kumbh Mela is deeply rooted in Hindu mythology and is considered an opportunity for devotees to absolve sins and attain Moksha, or liberation.

The Maha Kumbh is scheduled to commence January 13, 2025, with the Paus Purnima Snan, and will conclude February 26, 2025, coinciding with Maha Shivratri.

The act of bathing in the holy rivers during the Kumbh Mela is considered a means to attain moksha (liberation) and cleanse oneself of past karmas.

Preparations for the 2025 Mela are underway, with extensive infrastructure developments focusing on enhancing facilities, ensuring safety, and maintaining hygiene to provide a meaningful experience for all attendees.

AEROPONIC AGRICULTURE

Innovative farming method leads to first saffron bloom in Lucknow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 13: In a pioneering effort, a Lucknow-based man has successfully cultivated saffron - traditionally grown in Kashmir's cool climate and unique soil conditions - using the aeroponic technique that requires no soil.

Saffron is traditionally difficult to cultivate outside Kashmir due to its specific needs for cooler temperatures and particular soil types. However, 38-year-old Hemant Srivastava's innovative indoor farming method has led to the first saffron bloom in Lucknow.

Srivastava, who had previously worked for a leading company in the US, left his lucrative career to pursue to get into saffron cultivation in his hometown in Vijayant Khand, Gomti Nagar.

"The idea of cultivating saffron struck me while watching



videos online. When I realised there wasn't much suitable land in Lucknow, I decided to try growing it right at home," he said.

"I travelled to Kashmir, met with local farmers, and learned about their methods. That's when I felt confident I could replicate it in a controlled set up here in Lucknow," he added.

Srivastava employed the aeroponic method to cultivate saffron bulbs in an air-conditioned hall, growing the plants in a soilless and waterless environment.

congestion on main roads," the officer said.

Patrolling bikes have been stationed across the city to help maintain traffic flow, he added.

Wedding vendors in the city are gearing up for a busy month ahead.

Jakir Khan, owner of Rajdhani Band, shared that he has already received 75 to 80 bookings for November. "From today, we're getting five to six bookings every day. A lot of customers booked us in advance, starting last month," Khan said.

Karishma, who runs the Jeera Band Group, also reported a strong start to the season. "We have already received around 80 bookings for November, with 14 just for today," she said. "The number is likely to increase in the coming days. We're also see-

ing a rise in destination wedding bookings," she added.

Mohammad Rihaan, owner of White and Green Wedding Planners, said that his team has secured 50 contracts for weddings this month alone.

Harindra Tomar, another wedding planner, said he has already 25 wedding bookings for this month, and expects the numbers to rise as the season progresses.

Praveen Khandelwal, Secretary General of the CAIT and the MP from Chandni Chowk, explained that the tradition of celebrating weddings after Dev Uthani Ekadashi is rooted in ancient texts, which suggests that Lord Vishnu awakens from his four-month rest on this day.

"From this point onward, auspicious events like weddings begin," Khandelwal said.

According to CAIT's estimates, the wedding season is set to drive economic activity of over ₹6L-cr



One has to learn to differentiate between being aggressive and being uncouth
EKNATH SHINDE | CHIEF MINISTER, MAHARASHTRA

'SEA VIGIL': PAN-INDIA COASTAL DEFENCE EXERCISE TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 20-21

A pan-India coastal defence exercise aimed at assessing the current preparedness of all maritime security agencies, identifying their strengths and weaknesses and enhancing the nation's overall maritime defence framework is set to be conducted November 20-21, the Navy said Wednesday



of the day vote

Don't wait for the 2028 Assembly elections. If you do this, you will not vote for the Left Front. The party leaders and workers must organise agitations on people's woes and oust the BJP government

Prior to 2014, India's annual fish production was estimated at 96 lakh tonne. However, after Modi took office, the country's production has risen to 176 lakh tonne annually, with 132 lakh tonne from inland fisheries

We want crop diversification. What we get per acre from the paddy, we should get the same from other crops like maize, bajra and masoor daal. Paddy is not even a part of our staple diet

JHARKHAND POLLS Over 66% turnout in 43 Assembly seats

The fate of 683 candidates, including former Congress MP Geeta Kora and Rajya Sabha MP Mahua Maji among 73 women nominees, in fray in the first phase has been sealed

Ranchi, Nov 13: Polling in the first phase of elections to 43 Assembly seats in Jharkhand remained peaceful, with over 66.18 per cent of 1.37 crore voters exercising their franchise Wednesday, officials said.

Despite almost half of the 15,334 booths, where polling took place, being in the critical category, no Naxal violence was reported barring one of two incidents in which Maoists tried to prevent voters from reaching booths in West Singhbhum district but the attempts were thwarted by the police and administration, they said. "Approximately 66.18 per cent voter turnout was recorded as per data calculated till 9.50 pm, with Lohardaga district topping the list with 73.21 per cent polling and Hazaribag district recording the lowest at 62.78 per cent," a poll official said. The overall polling percentage in the state surpassed 63.9 per cent recorded in the 2019 Assembly polls, according to the Election Commission.



With this, the fate of 683 candidates, including former Congress MP Geeta Kora and Rajya Sabha MP Mahua Maji among 73 women nominees, in fray in the first phase has been sealed. Barring Lohardaga and Hazaribag, the poll percentage in other districts were Seraikela-Kharsawan (76.02), Gumla (69.01), Simdega (68.74), Khunti (68.36), Garhwa (68.42), Latehar (67.16), West Singhbhum (66.87), Ramgarh (66.32), East Singhbhum (67.10), Chatra (64), Palamu (62.97), Koderma (62.15) and Ranchi (62.56). West Singhbhum, one of the

most Maoist-affected districts in the state saw increase in voting. West Singhbhum Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Chaudhary told PTI, "Polling was peaceful and overall turnout increased in all five constituencies -- Chaibasa, Majhgaon, Jagannathpur, Manoharpur and Chakradharpur -- to 69.96 per cent, 70.80 per cent, 69.84 per cent, 64.03 per cent and 68.61 per cent, respectively, from 66.49 per cent, 68.03 per cent, 65.02 per cent, 61.19 per cent and 65.80 per cent, respectively, in 2019."

55-90% TURNOUT IN BYPOLLS

Jaipur/Wayanad: A turnout ranging from 55 to 90 per cent was recorded in the bypolls to 31 Assembly seats in 10 states while in the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency, the polling percentage was around 65 Wednesday with voting in West Bengal marred by sporadic incidents of violence in which a TMC worker was killed. Voting was conducted in seven seats in Rajasthan, six in West Bengal, five in Assam, four seats in Bihar, three in Karnataka, two seats in Madhya Pradesh, and one seat each in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala and Meghalaya besides Wayanad. Votes will be counted November 23. Most of these seats fell vacant after the sitting MLAs contested the Lok Sabha elections and won while in some constituencies, the bypolls are being held due to death of the representatives. The Wayanad seat was vacated by Rahul Gandhi, who also won from the Rae Bareilly parliamentary constituency which he kept. In Meghalaya, a high turnout of 90.84 per cent was recorded in the lone Ganbegre seat in West Garo Hills district, chief electoral officer BDR Tiwari said. Former TMC ward president Ashok Shaw was killed in the shoot-out-cum-crude bomb attack in Bhatpara in North 24 Parganas in West Bengal, where the voter turnout was last reported to be 69.29 per cent. Bihar saw a voter turnout of 52.84 per cent in the four seats - Tarari, Imamganj, Belaganj and Ramgarh. In Madhya Pradesh, a turnout of nearly 74 per cent was recorded in the two seats of Vijaypur and Budhni. An estimated 76.9 per cent voters turned in the three assembly segments of Shiggaon, Sandur and Channapatna in Karnataka. In Assam, an estimated 72.96 per cent voters exercised their franchise in the bypolls to the five constituencies in Assam amid minor incidents of violence.

The Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala, from where Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra made her electoral debut, saw a voter turnout of around 65 per cent. This was a decline from the close to 74 per cent turnout recorded in the polls held in April, when her brother Rahul Gandhi contested from the hill constituency

IG (Operations) Amol V Homkar said polling was peaceful despite 7,851 booths being in the critical category, and 2,249 in the extreme critical category, out of a total of 15,334 booths.

RG KAR RAPE-MURDER 2 more witnesses testify before court

Kolkata, Nov 13: Two junior doctors were examined in a special court in the RG Kar hospital rape and murder case of a medic Wednesday, taking the total number of witnesses deposing in the case to six.

Prime accused Sanjay Roy was produced before the court of additional district and sessions judge Anirban Das at Sealdah Court for three consecutive days. The court proceedings were being held in-camera daily since Monday. Two junior doctors of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital deposed before the judge Wednesday as the proceedings began at 2 pm. Roy was brought to the court under heavy police arrangements. Two identical prison vans with grill wire mesh fitted on windows were there to transport him. The on-duty postgraduate trainee doctor's body was found in the seminar room of the state-run hospital August 9 morning, sparking outrage across the country. Roy, a civic volunteer, was arrested by the Kolkata Police the next day.

SHORT TAKES

Government doctor stabbed in Chennai

Chennai: A medical oncologist at the Kalaignar Centenary Super Speciality Hospital here was stabbed multiple times Wednesday by the son of a patient allegedly over grievances regarding the treatment of his mother at the same facility, a hospital official said. The man assaulted the doctor inside the outpatient room during a conversation regarding his mother's treatment. He was immediately apprehended by the hospital staff and handed over to the police, and he was arrested. The attack led to an outrage and doctors and nurses gathered in front of the hospital entrance to mark their strong protest.

12 pilgrims hurt in vehicular collision

Jammu: Twelve pilgrims visiting the Shiv Khori shrine were injured when their bus collided with a vehicle in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district Wednesday, officials said. The accident occurred at Simbal Chowk when a bus carrying 35 to 40 pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh collided with another vehicle coming from the opposite direction, officials stated. Twelve pilgrims sustained injuries and were hospitalized, they added. The pilgrims were on their way to visit the Shiv Khori shrine after visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine.

Three killed as bus collides with truck

Banda (UP): A bus carrying wedding guests collided with a truck in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur district, resulting in three deaths and injuring nine others Wednesday, a police official said. Additional Superintendent of Police (Fatehpur) Vijay Shankar Mishra said the accident occurred on the national highway near Mauhar village when the bus was en route from Muderli village in Prayagraj to Noida. The bus, carrying 23 wedding guests, lost control and collided with the truck in front of it, Mishra said.

30 students fall sick after eating breakfast

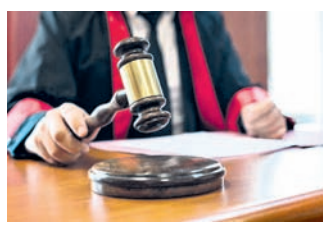
Bidar (Karnataka): About 30 students of a private residential school fell sick after eating breakfast Wednesday in the taluka headquarters town of Humnabad in this district, police said. It is suspected to be a case of food poisoning, they said.

Himachal HC quashes appointments of 6 chief parliamentary secretaries

The court declared the Himachal Pradesh Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances, Powers, Privileges and Amenities) Act, 2006 as void

Shimla, Nov 13: In a jolt to Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu, the Himachal Pradesh High Court Wednesday quashed the appointment of six chief parliamentary secretaries and declared the law under which they were appointed void.

A division bench of the court comprising Justices Vivek Thakur and Bipin Chander Negi also directed that all the facilities and privileges of the six chief parliamentary secretaries be withdrawn with immediate effect. The court declared the Himachal Pradesh Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances, Powers, Privileges and Amenities) Act, 2006 as void. Pronouncing the verdict, Justice Negi said the officials are usurpers of public office and all facilities extended to them be withdrawn with immediate effect. Sukhu had appointed the six chief parliamentary secretaries - Sanjay Awasthi, the MLA from the Arki Assembly constituency, Sunder Singh from Kullu, Ram Kumar from Doon, Mohan Lal Barakta from Rohru, Ashish Butail from



Palampur and Kishori Lal from Baijnath -- on January 8, 2023, ahead of his cabinet expansion. "The impugned Act is quashed as being beyond the legislative competence of the state legislature and consequently, all subsequent actions, including the appointments of the six CPS are held and declared illegal, unconstitutional, void ab initio and, accordingly, set aside," the order said. "Since the Act is void ab initio, the respondents (CPS) are usurpers of public office right from their inception and thus, their continuance in the office, based on illegal and unconstitutional appointments, is completely impermissible and from now onwards, they cease to be holders of the office of the CPS with all the consequences," it added. The protection granted to such appointments to the office of chief parliamentary secretary or parliamentary secretary according to section 3 read with section 3(d) of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Members (Removal of Disqualifications) Act, 1971 is also declared illegal and unconstitutional and thus, a claim of such protection under section 3(d) is inconsequential, and natural consequences and legal implications thereof shall follow forthwith in accordance with law, the order said.

BULLDOZER JUSTICE

New Delhi, Nov 13: With the Supreme Court applying brakes on bulldozer action, Opposition leaders Wednesday hailed the judgement and took a swipe at the BJP, saying the apex court has "parked the bulldozer in the garage forever".

Equating 'bulldozer justice' with a lawless state of affairs where might is right, the apex court laid down pan-India guidelines and said no property should be demolished without a prior show cause notice and the affected must be given 15 days to respond. The executive cannot assume judicial powers to punish citizens by demolishing their properties without following due process, the top court said while terming such excesses "high-handed and arbitrary" and ruling that they need to

Oppn leaders hail top court verdict



be dealt with the "heavy hand of the law". Opposition parties in Uttar Pradesh hoped that with this verdict, the "bulldozer terror" and "jungle raj" in the state would end. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said the Supreme Court has "parked the bulldozer in the garage forever", remarks that were seen as a

dig at the Yogi Adityanath government. Addressing a gathering in Kanpur ahead of the November 20 bypolls, Yadav claimed that the houses of the poor were being demolished in the name of bulldozer action. He claimed that the manner in which bulldozers were used in Ayodhya was the reason behind the defeat of the BJP in the Lok Sabha election. Taking a jibe at the ruling BJP over the top court verdict, he said, "With the Supreme Court's decision, the bulldozer has been parked in the garage forever. There can be no bigger comment than what the Supreme Court said." Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati took to X to welcome the verdict and said, "After today's decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding demolitions and the related strict guidelines, it should be expected that UP and other state governments will manage public interest and welfare properly and the terror of bulldozer will definitely end now." Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Rai said the verdict would end the "jungle raj" in the state while the Samajwadi Party said that "bulldozer action" was "totally unjust, unfair, unconstitutional and illegal".

Parliamentary panel to hear officials on marriage age next week

The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2021 was referred to the standing committee and got several extensions

New Delhi, Nov 13: A Parliamentary Standing Committee will take up the issue of the age of marriage for men and women next week as a bill aimed at bringing uniformity in the matter has lapsed with the dissolution of the 17th Lok Sabha.

The secretary of the Women and Child Development Ministry (WCD) and representatives of the National Coalition Advocating for Adolescent Concerns (NCAAC) and the Young Voices Campaign will appear before the panel at its November 22 meeting on the proposed changes in the marriage age for

children and other women-related legislation. According to the agenda of the meeting, the panel on education, women, children, youth and sports headed by Congress MP Digvijaya Singh will also hear the WCD secretary on the functioning of various statutory and autonomous bodies such as the National Commission for Women, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Central Adoption Resource Authority, and the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development. The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which was introduced



in the Lok Sabha in December 2021 was referred to the standing committee and got several extensions. The Bill ultimately lapsed with the dissolution of the 17th Lok Sabha. Asked about the issue being taken up even as the Bill has lapsed, a senior member of the panel said, "There is no bar on taking up the issue". The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill,

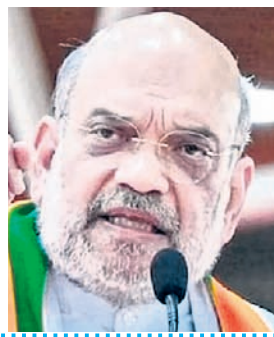
2021, aimed to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, to increase the minimum age of marriage of females to 21 years. The Bill, had it been passed, would have overridden any other law, custom, or practice. Under the 2006 Act, a person married below the minimum age may apply for annulment within two years of attaining majority (that is before 20 years of age). The Bill sought to in-

crease this to five years (that is 23 years of age). At its November 21 meeting, the panel will discuss the New

Education Policy (NEP) and will hear the secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy, the Ministry of Education, and representatives of school teacher federations and civil society organisations on NEP's impact on school education. The secretary will also inform the panel about various schemes like the Samagra Siksha Abhiyan and the functioning of autonomous bodies such as the NCERT, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), and the performance of various schemes implemented by the department.

At its November 21 meeting, the panel will discuss the New

Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Philippines Ambassador to India Josel Francisco Ignacio and others during the celebrations marking 75 years of India-Philippines Diplomatic ties.

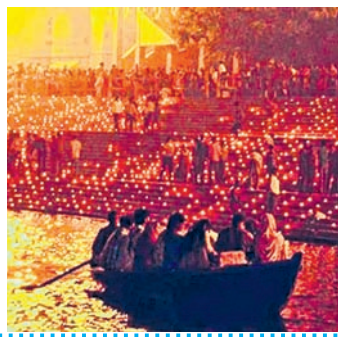


To be raised as an elite troop, the Mahila Battalion will shoulder the responsibility of protecting the nation's critical infrastructure, like airports and metro rails, and providing VIP security as commandos

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

VARANASI DECLARED NO-FLY ZONE AHEAD OF DEV DEEPAWALI FESTIVAL

Varanasi has been declared a no-fly zone ahead of the Dev Deepawali festival on November 15, police said Wednesday. According to an order issued by the Additional Police Commissioner (Law and Order) Shivasimpi Channappa, the restriction under the pre-existing section 163 of the BNS came into force at 12 am on November 12. It will be in place till midnight on November 16.



of the day note

All the scams took place during the BJP government. Our government did not do any corruption and will not indulge in such acts. The Prime Minister is lying

SIDDARAMAIAH | CM, KARNATAKA

Not only BJP supporters, but common people also want a change in the regime. The people of Jharkhand will defeat the corrupt and dishonest alliance of JMM, Congress and RJD, which has supported the Bangladeshi infiltrators

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | UNION MINISTER

Today, while on my way for election campaigning, the Election Commission conducted a routine check of my bags and helicopter. I fully cooperated and believe that such measures are essential to ensure free and fair elections

AJIT PAWAR | DEPUTY CM, MAHARASHTRA

POST OF THE DAY

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

@pbhushan1

SHORT TAKES

12 schoolchildren hurt in road crash

Lucknow: Three e-rickshaws carrying schoolchildren met with an accident with a car here Wednesday morning, leading to injuries to a dozen students, police said. The erring car has been impounded and legal proceedings initiated into the matter, which took place in Alambagh area of the city, they said.

Drugs over Rs 3cr seized in Guwahati

Guwahati: Drugs worth more than Rs 3 crore have been recovered from Assam's Guwahati and four people, including a woman, have been arrested in this connection, police Wednesday. The Guwahati police, in a series of posts on X, said that narcotics substances like heroin and 'Yaba' tablets were recovered from a guest house in Hatigaon area of the city. A senior official said that the total value of the seized drugs will be over Rs 3.08 crore as per Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) standards.

Five fishermen rescued by ICG

Daman: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has rescued five persons from a flooded fishing boat in the Arabian Sea off Daman coast, it said Wednesday. The rescue operation was conducted Tuesday evening, the agency said. Five fishermen on board a boat were airlifted and safely disembarked at Bordi beach in Daman district and provided with necessary ground support and first aid, the ICG said in a release.

NCP Vs NCP ROW

Stand on your own legs: SC to Ajit Pawar

The bench asks the Ajit Pawar faction to circulate an online circular among its leaders, party workers and representatives associated with the Assembly elections that they will not use the picture or video/audio clip of Sharad Pawar, whether it is old or new



The bench says though people are intelligent enough to differentiate between both Ajit Pawar faction and Sharad Pawar faction but they may be confused for a short while in this era of Artificial Intelligence

New Delhi, Nov 13: The Supreme Court Wednesday advised the Maharashtra deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar-led NCP faction to try standing on its own legs and asked it not to use the picture of Sharad Pawar in poll campaigning with whom the party has "ideological differences".

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan also asked both factions of National Congress Party (NCP) led by Sharad Pawar and his nephew Ajit Pawar to focus on the battlefield (Maharashtra Assembly elections) instead of doing rounds of the courts.

"Tell your party functionaries that they will not use old or new video clips or use the photographs of Sharad Pawar with whom your party is having ideological differences. You try to stand on your legs," the bench told senior advocate Balbir Singh, appearing for Ajit Pawar-led faction.

It asked the Ajit Pawar faction to circulate an online circular among its leaders, party workers and representatives associated with the Assembly elections that they will not use the picture or video/audio clip of Sharad Pawar, whether it is old or new.

"People of India are very intelligent and they have a fair idea about who Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar are. They cannot be fooled so easily," the bench told senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Sharad Pawar group after he complained that an MLC from Ajit Pawar faction had circulated a video clip of Sharad Pawar to showcase his support.

Question is that when there is an order of the Supreme

Court, then it needs to be respected, the bench said while referring to earlier orders of the apex court where it had restrained the Ajit Pawar faction from using pictures or symbols of the Sharad Pawar faction.

The bench said though people are intelligent enough to differentiate between both Ajit Pawar faction and Sharad Pawar faction but they may be confused for a short while in this era of Artificial Intelligence, where voice and pictures of leaders can be misused.

The top court listed the matter for hearing Tuesday.

Polling for 288 Assembly seats in Maharashtra will be held November 20 and the counting of votes will take place November 23.

Centre deploys 20 additional CAPF companies in Manipur

New Delhi, Nov 13: The Centre has rushed 20 additional CAPF companies comprising about 2,000 personnel to Manipur in the wake of fresh attacks and law and order issues in the state, official sources said Wednesday.

The sources told PTI that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued orders Tuesday night for airlifting and immediate deployment of these units.

At least 10 suspected militants were killed in a fierce gunfight with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Monday after insurgents in camouflage uniforms, armed with sophisticated weapons, fired indiscriminately at the Borobekra police station and the adjacent CRPF camp at Jakuradhor in Jiribam district.

A huge cache of sophisticated weapons were also seized by the force following the fierce gun-battle.

ED arrests 4 including Bangladeshi nationals

ILLEGAL INFILTRATION

Ranchi, Nov 13: Four people, including two Bangladeshi nationals, have been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case linked to illegal infiltration from Bangladesh into Jharkhand and neighbouring areas.

Rony Mondal and Sameer Chowdhary, both Bangladeshi nationals, and Indian national Pintu Haldar were arrested Tuesday. An Indian woman, Pinki Basu, was taken into custody in this case Wednesday.

All four accused were apprehended from Kolkata, West Bengal for "facilitating" illegal human trafficking into India, the federal agency said in a statement.

The ED is taking transit remand to bring all of them to Ranchi, it said. In this case, the ED launched searches

at 17 locations in poll-bound Jharkhand apart from West Bengal Tuesday.

The agency said its probe found that a "syndicate" operates "extensively" across West Bengal and Jharkhand and it is engaged in facilitating the proceeds of crime out of the said activities. The agents of this syndicate help in illegal infiltration of Bangladeshi citizens into India and provide them fake documents to obtain Indian citizenship, it said.

This is "corroborated" from the seizure of mobile phones containing various incriminating chats relating to monetary transactions in lieu of the said illegal activities including prostitution by the trafficked girls, according to the ED.

During the searches, documents containing the details of payments made in lieu of the prostitution racket being run by the syndicate were recovered, the agency said.

Flash fire at Mathura refinery injures eight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mathura (UP), Nov 13: A day after a blaze at the Indian Oil Corporation refinery here, a senior official Wednesday said a preliminary probe has found that a valve malfunctioned, leading to hydrocarbons mixing with steam that caused a flash fire in which eight people were injured. Refinery officials claimed it was not an explosion as some news reports suggested but a flash fire that caused burn injuries. Renu Pathak, a senior manager of the refinery's corporate communications department, said a committee was being formed to probe the cause of the fire.

"Preliminary findings indicate that the malfunction of a non-return valve in the crude distillation unit allowed hydrocarbons to mix with steam, triggering the flash fire," Pathak said. Tuesday she said the fire broke out after an explosion in the atmospheric vacuum unit of the main plant that was being restarted after a month-and-a-half shutdown for maintenance work. While officials claimed Tuesday that 12 people were injured, a day later they said eight workers suffered injuries in the incident and were being treated at various hospitals.

Junior engineering assistant Irfan (32), shift in-charge Rajiv Kumar (33) and contractual worker Santosh (32) have been sent to the Apollo Hospitals in Delhi, while Samir Srivastav (57) and Moolchand (58) were admitted to the refinery hospital as they had less severe injuries, Pathak said. Doctors have reported that all the injured are in stable condition and are being closely monitored.

"Despite the fire, the plant's operations remained unaffected. The blaze was swiftly brought under control by the refinery's own fire tenders, with no external assistance required," Pathak added. District Magistrate Shailendra Singh said the district administration was in constant contact with the refinery authorities to assess the situation and ensure that appropriate measures were taken.

Govt issues guidelines for coaching centres

Under the new guidelines, coaching centres are prohibited from making false claims regarding courses offered and duration; faculty credentials; fee structure and refund policies



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: The Centre Wednesday released new guidelines to regulate misleading advertisements by coaching institutes, prohibiting false claims like 100 per cent selection or 100 per cent job security. The final guidelines, drafted by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), come in the wake of several complaints on the National Consumer Helpline. The CCPA has issued 54 notices and imposed penalties of about Rs 54.60 lakh till date.

"We have seen coaching centres deliberately concealing information from prospective students. Therefore, we have come out with the guidelines to provide guidance to people involved in the coaching industry," Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare told reporters. The government is not against the coaching centres but the quality of advertisements should not undermine the consumer rights, she said.

Under the new guidelines, coaching centres are prohibited from making false claims regarding courses offered and

duration; faculty credentials; fee structure and refund policies; selection rates and exam rankings; and guaranteed job security or salary increases. The guidelines define 'coaching' to include academic support, education, guidance, study programmes and tuition, but exclude counselling, sports and creative activities.

Coaching centres cannot use names, photographs or testimonials of successful candidates without written consent obtained after selection. They must display disclaimers prominently and disclose important information about courses. "Many UPSC students clear prelims and mains on their own and take only interview guidance from coaching centres," Khare said, advising prospective students to verify what courses successful candidates were actually enrolled in. The guidelines, titled 'Prevention of Misleading Advertisement in Coaching Sector', cover all forms of advertising across academic support, education, guidance and tuition services. However, they exclude counselling, sports and creative activities.



Sikh devotees take part in a 'Nagar Kirtan' procession ahead of Guru Nanak Jayanti, in Hyderabad, Wednesday

THE NEHRU ARCHIVE A digital journey into India's legacy

'The Nehru Archive' will go online next year November 14, the birth anniversary of the former prime minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: If one wants to read or research material related to India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, it will be available next year at the click of a mouse or on mobile phones with a digital archive dedicated to him being in the works.

"The Nehru Archive" will go online next year November 14, the birth anniversary of the former prime minister.

The Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund (JNMF) Wednesday announced "The Nehru Archive", a cutting-edge multimedia digital archive.

It will make easily accessible 100 volumes of 'The Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru', his letters to chief ministers from 1947 to 1964 and published

books by Jawaharlal Nehru such as 'Letters from a Father to His Daughter', 'Glimpses of World History, An Autobiography', 'The Unity of India', 'The Discovery of India', 'A Bunch of Old Letters' and his lesser-known writings.

The digital archive, that is being created on the lines of the US-based Wilson Center, will also house Nehru's speeches from 1917 to 1964, writings on him by his contemporaries, material on him from global archives and lesser-known published and unpublished writings of the former PM.

On whether this was an attempt to counter some of the false narratives about Nehru and the political attacks aimed at him, senior Congress leader and a trustee of the JNMF Jairam Ramesh asserted that this



is not a political exercise but an intellectual and historical one. Ramesh said the digital archive would make easily available for the user material on Nehru which one can search, cross reference and download.

Karan Singh said, "I am sure that this archive will make Nehru more accessible to successive generations who need to be informed of his contribution towards the making of modern India and the world."

It will make easily accessible 100 volumes of 'The Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru', his letters to chief ministers from 1947 to 1964 and published books by Jawaharlal Nehru such as 'Letters from a Father to His Daughter', 'Glimpses of World History, An Autobiography', 'The Unity of India', 'The Discovery of India', 'A Bunch of Old Letters' and his lesser-known writings

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Madhavan K Palat said, "We aim to make the archive as comprehensive as possible, open-ended and dynamic, constantly updated with newer archival sources and when they become available. It should be the single most important source for research and study on Jawaharlal Nehru."

The JNMF was established in 1964 through a Deed of Declaration of Trust. It has published 'The Selected Works of Jawa-

harlal Nehru' and organised the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lecture.

It also awards the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fellowship annually to noted scholars, administers scholarships to doctoral students in different disciplines and manages Anand Bhawan and the Jawahar Planetarium in Prayagraj.

It has, at present, 14 trustees and is headed by Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi.

international



Israel, by the standards it set itself, has accomplished the goals that it set for itself. This should be a time to end the war
ANTONY BLINKEN | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

BOOKER PRIZE 2024
British author Samantha Harvey has won the 2024 Booker Prize for her ambitious and beautiful 'Orbital', which becomes the first novel set in space to win the 50,000-pound literary prize



of the day quote

If the US side requests that we transfer (HAWK missiles) back to them, we will do so in accordance with the relevant regulations and then the United States will decide what to do with them
WELLINGTON KOO | DEFENCE MINISTER, TAIWAN

The government will feel obliged to consider the red notice (to surrender former President Rodrigo Duterte to International Criminal Court over anti-drug operations) as a request to be honored
LUCAS BERSAMIN | PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, THE PHILIPPINES

I want everyone to know just how important the UK-India relationship is, not just to the government but also to the Conservative Party
KEMI BADENOCH | LEADER OF OPPOSITION, UK

SHORT TAKES

China holds drills at disputed Shoal

Beijing: China held sea and air combat drills Wednesday at the disputed Scarborough Shoal, an area of reefs and rocks the Philippines also claims in the South China Sea. On Sunday, China published new baselines for the shoal including geographic coordinates. A nation's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone are typically defined as the distance from the baselines. "This is a patrol and guard activity carried out by the theatre troops in accordance with the law," the People's Liberation Army's southern command said in a short statement. China seized the shoal, which lies west of the main Philippine island of Luzon, in 2012 and has since restricted access to Filipino fishermen there. A 2016 ruling by an international arbitration court found that most Chinese claims in the South China Sea were invalid but Beijing refuses to abide by it.

Sri Lanka set to hold Parl election

Colombo: Sri Lanka is set to hold Thursday its snap parliamentary election, first after the 2022 economic crisis, amid deployment of nearly 90,000 security personnel across the country. Voting will take place at over 13,314 polling stations across the country, from 7 am to 4 pm local time with over 17 million voters from the island's 21 million population eligible to vote for the 225 member Parliament for a five-year term. Nearly 90,000 security personnel from the police and the military would be deployed to provide security at the election venues. There will also be mobile police patrols, police spokesman Nihal Thalduwa said.

Iran executes serial rapist in public

Tehran: An Iranian man convicted of raping dozens of women over the past two decades has been executed in public, the country's state media reported Wednesday. The state-owned IRAN newspaper said Mohammad Ali Salamat was hanged after Iran's Supreme Court confirmed his death sentence earlier in October. He was put to death at dawn Tuesday in a cemetery in the western city of Hamedan. Some 200 women had accused Salamat, a 43-year old who ran a pharmacy and a gym in the city, of rape. He is said to have committed the crimes over the past 20 years. Reports by Iranian media said that in many of the cases, Salamat raped his victims after proposing marriage or dating them.

Demand for fair climate finance vows

Like-Minded Developing Countries question the accountability of developed nations in reaching \$100 billion annual climate finance goal set years ago



AGENCIES

Baku, Nov 13: India, as part of the Like-Minded Developing Countries bloc, stood firm in calling for equitable financial support from developed nations at the ongoing COP29 climate negotiations, multiple sources from the grouping said here.

Concerns were also raised that nearly 69 per cent of reported finance came in the form of loans adding burdens on the already vulnerable countries.

At the annual climate talks, India negotiates in key groupings such as the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDCs), G77 and China, and BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, and China), where it aligns with other developing nations to advocate for climate finance, equity, and technology transfer.

On Tuesday, G77 and China, the largest bloc representing around 130 countries at the UN climate talks, rejected the draft text of a framework for negotiating a new climate finance goal.

The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) is the central issue at this year's climate summit, the 29th Conference of Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) collectively negotiating and working to keep global greenhouse gases' emissions

LMDCs emphasised the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" (CBDR) to address the pressing financial gaps hindering effective climate action. In the discussions centered on long-term climate finance, the LMDCs, alongside the African Group and the Arab Group, questioned the accountability of developed nations in reaching the \$100 billion annual climate finance goal set years ago, which remains contentious.

According to the LMDCs, meeting this financial commitment and establishing a clear accounting methodology are crucial steps in building trust among parties. Concerns were raised that nearly 69 per cent of reported finance came in the form of loans, adding burdens rather than alleviating them, according to a negotiator from the LMDC grouping.

Furthermore, the LMDCs voiced strong reservations against new financing principles that might impose stringent investment goals, which they argue, would favour coun-

negotiator added. **Indian youths focus on children's need**
Fighting rising temperatures, Indian youths representing the communities vulnerable to the disastrous changing climate have demanded urgent action at the COP29, urging world leaders to prioritise the unique needs of children and youth in policy.

"Rising temperatures and unchecked development have led to landslides and impacted our way of life," said 23-year-old Manisha Arya, a youth delegate from India's Himalayan region, as she voiced the concerns of millions at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29).

Manisha is one of 20 young South Asian leaders representing the urgent demands of youth in the fight against climate change.

Alongside her is Kartik Verma, a 19-year-old environmental advocate from a farming community in rural India.

Through his "Knowledge for Nature" initiative, Kartik said

At the summit, concerns were raised that nearly 69 per cent of reported finance came in the form of loans adding burdens on the already vulnerable countries

he has reached over 5,000 children and youth to raise awareness about the environmental challenges faced by their communities.

India on air pollution
Describing pollution as a "transboundary" issue, India has urged nations, especially Pakistan and Bangladesh, to take proactive and collaborative measures to manage and mitigate air pollution across borders.

This appeal comes as northern India has been witnessing a rise in pollution with New Delhi's air quality hitting a 'severe' level for the first time this season, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaching 418, Wednesday.

Ministers and heads of delegations from six of the eight countries that share the Earth's tallest cryosphere zone met at a meeting hosted by Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay on day two of the global climate conference COP29 in Azerbaijan Tuesday, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) said in a statement Wednesday.

In the meeting, India highlighted air pollution as a pressing and shared challenge within the Indo-Gangetic Airshed.

Kyiv faces first Russian offence since August

REUTERS

Kyiv, Nov 13: Blasts boomed across Kyiv Wednesday morning after officials said Russia launched its first missile attack on the Ukrainian capital since August, forcing elderly women and small children to take shelter in an underground metro station.

Ukrainians have been waiting for a big missile attack for months, worried that it could deal a new blow to the hobbled energy system and cause long blackouts as winter sets in.

Air defences intercepted two incoming cruise missiles, two ballistic missiles and 37 drones across the country, the air force said. No casualties or major damage were reported in Kyiv.

"Putin is launching a missile attack on Kyiv right now," Andriy Yermak, the head of the President's office, wrote on Telegram.

Falling debris came down in the region outside Kyiv, injuring a 48-year-old man and causing a fire at a warehouse, the head of Kyiv region's administration said.

Kyiv has faced Russian drone attacks almost nightly for weeks. City mayor Vitali Klitschko said a drone was still flying over central Kyiv in the morning.

"Explosions in the city. Air defence forces are working. Stay in shelters!" the Kyiv city administration wrote on Telegram.

Around 100 residents took shelter in the central metro station Universitet, including small children sleeping on yoga mats and elderly women sitting on fold-out chairs.

Some complained of a lack of



sleep from the regular drone attacks, which trigger the air raid alert that sounds across the city and buzzes on phones.

"The mornings are totally ruined. I started college in September and every morning has been ruined by the bloody Russians. I cannot sleep, cannot think and I drink energy drinks all the time," said Mykyta, a teenager hugging his dog in the metro.

MASSIVE ATTACK
Russia targeted Ukrainian power facilities with strikes earlier this year, causing blackouts. The situation has since improved, but officials believe the Kremlin may plan to attack the grid again soon.

Andrii Kovalenko, a senior official at the National Security and Defence Council, warned that Russia was ready to conduct another "massive" attack and had accumulated a large number of cruise missiles.

After Wednesday's strike, power grid operator Ukrenergo said it would limit electricity supply for businesses due to "significantly" lower power imports and lower generation.

The last time restrictions on power supplies were imposed on both businesses and households was after a big Russian missile and drone attack in late August.

Biden greets Trump at WH



REUTERS

Washington, Nov 13: President-elect Donald Trump and President Joe Biden, longtime political rivals, met Wednesday for the first time since Trump won back the White House last week and both promised a smooth transfer of power in January.

The two leaders sat side by side before a roaring fire in the Oval Office, a peaceful scene that belied tensions between them.

Biden, a Democrat, defeated Trump in the 2020 election but dropped out of the 2024 race in July after a disastrous debate with the Republican Trump. He handed his candidacy to Vice President Kamala Harris, who lost.

"We're looking forward to having, like we said, a smooth

transition, do everything we can to make sure you're accommodated. Welcome, welcome back
JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

"Politics is tough, and it's many cases not a very nice world, but it is a nice world today, and I appreciate very much a transition that's so smooth it'll be as smooth as it can get, and I very much appreciate that, Joe," said Trump, who takes over January 20.

It was a sharp contrast to the criticism the two men have hurled at each other for years. Their respective teams hold vastly different positions on policies from climate change to Russia to trade.

Biden, 81, has portrayed Trump as a threat to democra-

cy, while Trump, 78, has portrayed Biden as incompetent. Trump made false claims of widespread fraud after losing the 2020 election to Biden.

TRUMP MEETS REPUBLICAN LAWMAKERS

Trump celebrated his victory earlier in the day with Republicans in the House of Representatives who have a good chance of maintaining control of the chamber as November 5 election results trickle in.

"Isn't it nice to win? It's nice to win. It's always nice to win," Trump said. "The House did very well."

Biden, who initially ran against Trump in the 2024 election before stepping aside and endorsing Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee, will welcome the former and future President into the Oval Office, a traditional courtesy by outgoing Presidents that Trump, a Republican, did not extend when Biden won in 2020.

"He believes in the norms, he believes in our institution, he believes in the peaceful transfer of power," White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre said of Biden's decision to invite Trump. She spoke at a briefing for reporters Tuesday.

Khan issues 'final call' for protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Nov 13: Pakistan's jailed former premier Imran Khan has issued a "final call" for a protest in Islamabad November 24 to press for his release from jail, his sister said Wednesday.

His sister Aleema Khan after meeting him in the Adiala Jail Rawalpindi told the media that everyone from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, including workers, members of Parliament, and party supporters, should join the protest.

"This is the moment when you will have to decide (whether) you want to live under martial law or live with freedom,"

she quoted Khan as saying. "You used your right (to vote) February 8 but the next day, the foundation you had laid for democracy was stolen," she further quoted her jailed brother as saying.

She further said that Khan has addressed his call to four categories of people, farmers, lawyers, civil society and students, who should come out to protest for their rights.

Talking about the 26th Amendment being enacted as law, she quoted Khan as saying, "All of your rights have been taken away; the Supreme Court has been occupied, and the current conditions are even worse than previous martial laws."

UK daily 'The Guardian' quits X

The newspaper becomes first large UK media company to retreat from the platform

REUTERS

London, Nov 13: British news publisher the Guardian said Wednesday it will no longer post to X, citing "disturbing content" on the social media platform, including racism and conspiracy theories.

The left-leaning Guardian, which has 10.7 million followers

on X, becomes the first large UK media company to retreat from the platform that Elon Musk purchased in 2022.

Critics say Musk's hands-off approach has allowed lies and hate speech to spread on the platform formerly known as Twitter. "We think that the benefits of being on X are now outweighed by the negatives and that resources could be better used promoting our journalism elsewhere," the Guardian said in an editorial published on its website.

"This is something we have been considering for a while given the often disturbing content promoted or found on the plat-



We think that the benefits of being on X are now outweighed by the negatives and that resources could be better used promoting our journalism elsewhere
THE GUARDIAN

form, including far-right conspiracy theories and racism." In response, Musk posted on X and said of the Guardian:

"They are irrelevant."

Musk, who supported Donald Trump ahead of his US election victory this month, has said he is defending freedom of speech.

The role of X and other platforms came under the spotlight in Britain this year when far-right and racist violence broke out after online posts falsely claimed that an attack in the northern English town of Southport, where three young girls were killed, was the work of an Islamist migrant.

In recent months, some British charities, health and educational establishments have said they will no longer post to X.

Business



An AI-assisted review of the latest annual reports of Indian banks reveals various instances of productivity gains by Schedule Commercial Banks from digitalisation
MICHAEL DEBARATA PATRA | RBI DEPUTY GOVERNOR

GOLD ETFs WITNESS RECORD INFLOW

Gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) witnessed a record inflow of ₹1,961 crore in October, marking a surge of 59 per cent on a month-on-month (MoM) basis, driven by expectation of increase in the yellow metal prices during the festive and marriage season. This was over two-fold higher than ₹841 crore inflow seen in October 2023, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed.



of the day quote

As the partnership between India and the United States deepens, the Adani Group is committed to leveraging its global expertise and invest \$10 billion in US energy security and resilient infrastructure projects, aiming to create up to 15,000 jobs



GAUTAM ADANI | ADANI GROUP CHAIRMAN

Unprecedented increases in raw material prices have impacted our profitability



ONKAR KANWAR | APOLLO TYRES CHAIRMAN

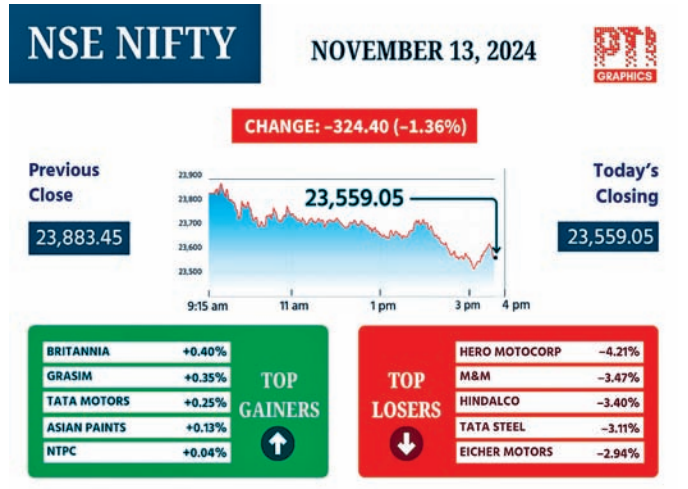
We are extremely excited with the way the current year has progressed thus far, despite volatile gold prices and the ongoing quarter is also witnessing robust footfalls



RAMESH KALYANARAM | KALYAN JEWELLERS INDIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nifty enters correction territory

Waning hopes of a rate cut next month add to concerns over dull earnings and sustained foreign outflows



REUTERS

Mumbai, Nov 13: A wide swathe of Indian shares, including the benchmark Nifty 50, slipped into correction territory Wednesday as waning hopes of a rate cut next month added to concerns over dull earnings and sustained foreign outflows. The NSE Nifty 50 fell 1.36%, its biggest slide in nearly six weeks, to end at 23,559.05 points. That is 10.34% below the record high it hit Sept. 27, confirming the 50-member index is in a technical correction.

The 30-member BSE Sensex ended down 1.25% at 77,690.95, just shy of a correction. But the broader markets were not as fortunate. The more domestically-focused small- and mid-caps lost 3% and 2.6%, respectively, on the day and also ended in correction territory. "This sell-off could intensify further and it's just a matter of time before we go bit deeper into correction," said Saurabh Jain, assistant vice president of retail equities research at SMC Global Securities. "Indian markets were priced

to perfection, and a lacklustre earnings season has added to nervousness among investors and failed to sustain the hype in terms of valuations."

"The relentless foreign selling, rising domestic inflationary concerns and uncertainty over the implications of a (President-elect Donald) Trump regime in the US for emerging markets" are also reasons for the grim outlook, Jain added.

India's retail inflation spiked to a 14-month high in October, data showed Tuesday, dashing hopes of an interest rate cut in December and adding to fears of a consumption slowdown.

All the 13 major sectors declined on the day. But given the small- and mid-caps have outperformed the benchmarks since the start of 2023, aided by steady inflows from domestic retail and mutual fund investors, some analysts think the correction is not yet done.

"Segments in broader markets have not corrected enough, and valuation concerns remain, lending scope for near-term pressure," said Pratik Oswal, chief of passive business at Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company.

Among individual stocks, online food delivery platform Swiggy bucked the market trend, surging about 17% in its market debut.

On the flip side, Hyundai Motor India fell 3.6% after reporting a drop in September-quarter profit on lower domestic sales and geopolitical concerns.

Investors poorer by ₹13L-cr in 2 days of crash

New Delhi: Equity investors suffered an erosion of ₹13 lakh crore in market valuation in two days of crash in the BSE benchmark Sensex which lost over 2 per cent during this period. The BSE benchmark tanked 1,805.2 points or 2.27 per cent in two days. On Wednesday, it slumped 984.23 points or 1.25 per cent to settle at 77,690.95. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies eroded by ₹13,07,898.47 crore to ₹4,29,46,189.52 crore (USD 5.09 trillion) in two days. From the 30-share Sensex pack, Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Adani Ports, State Bank of India, JSW Steel, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Reliance Industries and Bajaj Finserv were the biggest laggards. NTPC, Tata Motors and Infosys were the gainers. The BSE smallcap gauge tanked 3.08 per cent and midcap slumped 2.56 per cent. All sectoral indices ended lower. Realty tumbled 3.23 per cent, industrials (2.95 per cent), capital goods (2.72 per cent), services (2.54 per cent), metal (2.54 per cent) and commodities (2.45 per cent). A total of 3,299 stocks declined while 670 advanced and 98 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Swiggy IPO makes 500 employees 'crorepatis'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: Swiggy's much-anticipated stock market debut Wednesday catapulted over 500 current and former employees to the 'crorepati' club, with the food delivery and quick commerce major's listing poised to unlock ₹9,000 crore in ESOPs for 5,000 staffers, people aware of the details said.

Swiggy's initial share sale had a price range of ₹371-390 a share.

"The total Employee Stock Option Plan (ESOP) pool is worth ₹9,000 crore, with 5,000 past as well as present employees holding them. At the upper price range of the initial share price (Rs 390), 500 employees out of the 5,000 are set to become crorepatitis," a person in the know shared the details requesting anonymity.

Wednesday, shares of Swiggy were listed with a premium of nearly 8 per cent against the issue price of ₹390 on NSE.

Shares of the firm made the market debut at ₹420, a jump of 7.69 per cent on the bourse.

The company's market valuation stood at ₹89,549.08 crore during the early trade.

BIZ BUZZ

EVOS Buildcon celebrates 15th anniversary

Bhubaneswar: EVOS Buildcon celebrated its 15th anniversary with a grand event, 'Avaya'. The celebration highlighted the company's journey of excellence, innovation, and commitment to customer satisfaction, while also showcasing its significant contributions to society. During the event, EVOS Buildcon also unveiled its new magazine, titled 'Avaya', which reflects the company's values and vision. Kalinga Keshari Rath, Managing Director of EVOS Buildcon, expressed his thoughts on the milestone: "For 15 years, EVOS has focused on building lasting relationships and creating spaces defined by quality and trust. Our commitment to innovation and excellence continues to drive us as we aim to set new standards in the industry." EVOS Buildcon's portfolio includes signature developments such as EVOS Alchemy, which offers the region's largest parking capacity, as well as EVOS Amani (bha), Sea Roses in Puri, and Anandika in Dhauli. The company collaborates with renowned partners like Sanjay Puri Architects and Cushman & Wakefield to shape Odisha's urban landscape. As part of its corporate social responsibility, EVOS launched the Dolerium Trust, focusing on initiatives in education, healthcare, and women's empowerment. Under the Dolerium Trust, students of Sri Aurobindo School of Integrated Education in Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar, achieved a remarkable feat by setting a record in the India Book of Records for recalling 53 international organisations' headquarters in just 2 minutes and 24 seconds.



LUBI organises branch dealer meet

Bhubaneswar: LUBI INDUSTRIES LLP based at Ahmedabad since 1965, organised its Odisha Branch Dealer Meet November 13 on occasion of the upcoming 60th year foundation celebration. LUBI as a brand enjoys leading presence in the Odisha market being in top 3 companies with support of channel partners over the years. The event was graced by the company's Marketing Director Ronak Porecha, who shared the company's vision for coming 5 years and overall how the market dynamics are shaping domestically & internationally. When it comes to science of pumping, LUBI Pumps present smart, sturdy, sustainable pumping solutions with over 60 years of unmatched experience. The company caters to a wide range of applications viz :- Domestic / Agriculture / Industrial Segment & is India's leading pump manufacturer with largest product range. The products are also marketed world-wide in more than 80 countries. The event was also attended by Samir Desai Company's GM - Sales & Marketing (Domestic - Agriculture Division) along with Regional Manager Devendra Vaishnav & Bhubaneswar Branch Office team led by Branch Manager AK Das & Area Manger Parikshit Nayak .



Middle class tightens its belt, squeezed by food inflation

REUTERS



Chennai /New Delhi, Nov 13: India's city dwellers are cutting spending on everything from cookies to fast food as persistently high inflation squeezes middle class budgets, threatening the country's brisk economic growth.

Slowing urban spending over the past three to four months has not only hurt the earnings of largest consumer goods firms, it has raised questions about the structural nature of India's long-term economic success.

Since the end of the pandemic, India's economic growth has been driven in large part by urban consumption, however, that now seems to be changing. "There is a top end - the people with money are spending like that is going out of style," Nestle India Chairman Suresh Narayanan said.

"There used to be a middle segment, which used to be the segment that most of us fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) firms used to operate in, which is the middle class of the country, that seems to be shrinking."

Nestle India, which makes Kit Kats and other well-known goods, reported its first quarterly revenue drop since the COVID-hit June quarter in 2020. While there is no officially defined income bracket for Indian middle class households, they are broadly estimated to account for a third of India's 1.4 billion people.

They are considered a key demographic both economically and politically, with middle class frustration seen as a significant factor behind Prime Minister Narendra Modi's weaker election performance this year. Asia's third-largest economy is expected to expand 7.2% in

the financial year ending March 2025, the fastest among its major peers.

Belying those rosy projections, however, are signs of a sharp slowdown in the household sector. Indian urban consumption hit a two-year low this month, according to an index published by Citibank that captures indicators such as airline bookings, fuel sales and wages.

"While some of the fall could be temporary, the key macro drivers remain unfavourable," Citi's chief India economist Samiran Chakraborty said. Growth in inflation-adjusted wage costs for listed Indian firms - a proxy for earnings of urban Indians - has remained below 2% for all the three quarters of 2024, well below the 10-year average of 4.4%, data from Citi showed.

Chakraborty cites this as a key factor impacting urban consumption, along with declining savings and tighter rules for personal loans. Headline inflation has averaged 5% over the past 12 months, but food inflation has held above 8% as weather shocks elevated prices of veg-

etables, cereals and other essential foods. In October, retail inflation hit a 14-month high of 6.2% while food prices jumped to 10.9%.

Anecdotal data suggests retail sales rose close to 15% year-on-year during the 2024 festive season, which runs from August to November, Nomura said in a note last week, about half last year's pace. "During this festival season, we have not spent at all," said Rajwanti Dahiya, 60, who survives on her husband's monthly pension of 30,000 Indian rupees (\$356.76). "Savings are low, barely there."

India's central bank expects 7.2% GDP growth for the fiscal year ending March 2025 on the back of improved rural demand and a strong services sector.

Higher government investment could also support demand, said Rahul Bajoria, head of India and ASEAN economic research at Bank of America. "If government spending kicks in, that probably does have some multiplier effects on private consumption spending as well," said Bajoria, who expects GDP growth at 6.8% in the current financial year.

SBI, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank in RBI's too-big-to-fail list

REUTERS

Mumbai, Nov 13: India's central bank Wednesday said the State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank remain the three domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs) and that the first two would need to maintain an additional capital buffer starting April 2025.

Systemically important banks are financial institutions whose failure or distress could trigger a broader financial crisis and threaten the stability of the entire financial system. These institutions are also perceived as being "too big to fail".

The Reserve Bank of India had issued a framework for dealing with D-SIBs in July 2014, under which it named the designated banks and placed them in appropriate "buckets" depending on their systemic importance.

A higher bucket requires higher the bank to maintain a larger capital buffer, along with other financial metrics.

SBI and ICICI Bank were classified as D-SIBs in 2015 and 2016. While HDFC Bank



was added to the list in 2017, it was moved to a higher bucket in December 2023 following its merger with parent HDFC. The RBI said that SBI and HDFC Bank have to set a higher additional capital buffer and capital surcharge from the next financial year which begins April 1, 2025.

SBI's additional capital requirement will increase by 20 basis points to 0.80% in proportion to its risk-weighted assets, from 0.60% currently.

Meanwhile, HDFC Bank will be required to maintain a capital surcharge of 0.40% in proportion to its risk-weighted assets, up from 0.20% currently.

Global luxury goods market to shrink in 2025: Study

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milan, Nov 13: Global sales of personal luxury goods are forecast to shrink in 2025 for the first time since the Great Recession, according to a Bain consultancy study released Wednesday. Its author said the outlook could worsen if the sector is hit by tariffs promised by Donald Trump.

"This could be a nightmare if implemented," Claudia D'Arpizio, who led the study for Italy's Altagamma association of luxury producers, told The Associated Press. "European brands could end up being super expensive in an already expensive environment." Trump has pledged tariffs of

up to 20% on imports, saying it would create factory jobs, shrink the federal deficit and lower food prices.

While the study did not address the possible impact of tariffs, D'Arpizio said the impact on European luxury producers would depend on how the tariffs are implemented on the category, if at all. She noted that a dearth of American luxury substitutes may lead to an exemption.

Any negative impact could also be offset by moving production to the United States, or by higher sales to US tourists in Europe.

The United States is the second-largest luxury market,



following Europe, worth about 100 billion euros (\$106 billion), or nearly one-third of all global high-end sales of apparel, leather goods and footwear.

Sales of luxury goods are forecast to drop by 2% to 363 billion euros (\$385 billion) next year, from an expected 369 billion euros in 2024, due to

steep price increases imposed by brands and global turmoil, Bain said.

The sector made a speedy rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic, surpassing 2019 sales by 2022, largely thanks to pent-up spending that was delayed by lockdowns. Even next year's modest dip would leave the market 28% higher than it was in 2019, and two-and-a-half times larger than the Great Recession lows in 2008.

Social and political turbulence, including wars and a slate of national elections, have eroded consumer confidence, D'Arpizio said. In addition, brands' strategy to increase prices while focusing on more

"subtle luxury" often lacking novelty has "brought a strong negative impact on the willingness to buy", even among wealthy consumers, she said.

The creativity crisis is also alienating Gen-Z shoppers, many now in their 20s, the study found.

The result is the luxury market has shrunk by 50 million customers, to an estimated 250 million to 360 million, as the luxury base shrinks for the first time.

"We have 50 million fewer customers either because they can't afford to shop, or they don't want to because they don't feel there is enough juice," D'Arpizio said.

ACT WOMEN'S HOCKEY

India eye semis spot

A win against Thailand Thursday will virtually seal India's place in the semifinals before tough matches against China and Japan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajgir, Nov 13: Buoyed by back-to-back victories in as many games, hosts India will look to work on the finer points of the game with an aim to thrash minnows Thailand in the women's Asian Champions Trophy here Thursday.

Both India and reigning Olympic silver medallist China are unbeaten so far from two matches but the hosts have an inferior goal difference.

China are atop the points

table with a goal difference of 20, while India have a goal difference of five and a handsome victory Thursday will only help their cause ahead of final two round robin matches against China and Japan.

Japan are placed third in the points table ahead of Korea. The top four sides from the round robin stage will qualify for the semifinals of the six-team continental tournament.

In both the matches India created plenty of scoring chances but failed to score the amount

of goals they would have liked.

While India defeated Malaysia 4-0 in their tournament opener, they scored a late goal to eke out a narrow 3-2 win over South Korea.

The Indian players were guilty of rushing and faltered in choices once inside the opposition circle, a fact which chief coach Harendra Singh admitted.

"We could have scored more goals. We were guilty of rushing and did not look for the right choices," Harendra said after

Tuesday's match.

"We will watch clippings of the match and analyse where we went wrong and work on the finer points," he added.

Another factor which would be a cause of concern for Harendra is the team's poor penalty corner conversion rate.

Against Malaysia India secured as many as 11 penalty corners but utilised just three and that to from indirect attempts.

If that was not enough, India failed to make use of eight set pieces they managed to earn against Korea Tuesday.

The bright spot for India has been the performances of forwards Sangita Kumari and Deepika, both scoring three goals apiece.

Sangita specially has been a livewire upfront with her deft stick work, but the likes of Sharmila Devi, Preeti Dubey, Beauty Dung Dung need to share more responsibility.

Skipper Salima Tete and her deputy Navneet Kaur too need to pull up their socks in the midfield.

Going by rankings, ninth placed India are the second best side in the tournament after world No 6 China.

And Thailand, who are ranked 29th in the world, should be an easy outing for the Indians.

Meanwhile in other matches of the day, Korea will take on Malaysia while China will be up against Japan.

Tilak, Abhishek power India to 219

Tilak's maiden ton, Abhishek's 50 fire Men in Blue to 219/6 against South Africa in third T20I



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Centurion, Nov 13: Tilak Varma (107 not out) produced a batting masterclass while slamming his maiden international hundred as India posted a massive 219 for six against South Africa in the third T20I, here Wednesday.

Tilak got ample backing from Abhishek Sharma who made a brisk 50 after SA skipper Aiden Markram invited the visitors to bat first.

The 22-year-old Tilak tore into the South African pacers as he hammered seven sixes and

eight fours during his innings off a mere 57 balls, powering India to their second highest score against the Proteas in this format.

On his part, Abhishek banished a poor run with the bat with a stroke-laden half-century, scoring 50 off only 25 balls laced with five sixes and three fours as the two southpaws dazzled with the bat.

With his rich arsenal of strokes in all directions, Tilak dominated the bowling with complete authority and also helped India stay on course through the blips.

First, he forged a 107-run stand with Abhishek for the second wicket to build a strong platform after the early dismissal of Sanju Samson (0).

As India stuttered in the middle overs with Keshav Maharaj (2/36) applying the brakes, Tilak ensured his team did not squander the advantage with a late charge — his last 52 runs came off only 22 balls in the last six overs.

Tilak's charge also masked the failure for skipper Suryakumar Yadav (1), Hardik Pandya (18) and Rinku Singh (8).

At the start, Samson was beaten by low bounce on the second

I was waiting for this moment for a long time. Coming after injury and scoring a hundred...it is incredible. We (Abhishek and me) both were under pressure and this knock was important for both of us

TILAK VARMA

ball from Marco Jansen as the Indian opener, who made a hundred in the first match, fell to his second successive duck in this series. But unlike the last game, India made a strong recovery as Tilak and Abhishek made merry on the track which had true bounce and carry.

Abhishek provided a huge relief to the Indian camp with his fifty as hitting through the line after making room served him well. The 24-year-old also ended his eight-match barren run with this knock.

SHORT TAKES

Afridi reclaims top spot

Dubai: Pakistan's premier fast bowler Shaheen Afridi has reclaimed the No 1 position in the ICC Men's ODI Bowler Rankings, a spot he initially held during last year's Cricket World Cup in India. Afridi's recent performance in Pakistan's victorious series against Australia, where he claimed eight wickets across three games at an impressive average of 12.62, helped propel him to the top spot once more. Afridi's rise comes as part of a reshuffling in the rankings, with South Africa's spinner Keshav Maharaj slipping to third and Afghanistan's Rashid Khan maintaining his position at second. Afridi's dominance on the field, combined with Pakistan captain Babar Azam's leading spot in the ODI batting rankings, makes Pakistan the only team with the No 1-ranked player in both ODI batting and bowling.

Parthiv joins GT staff

New Delhi: Gujarat Titans have entrusted former India keeper-batter Parthiv Patel with the dual responsibility of serving as their assistant and batting coach in the upcoming IPL, the franchise said Wednesday. Parthiv will perform the dual role in the support staff led by head coach Ashish Nehra. "The Gujarat Titans are pleased to announce the appointment of Parthiv Patel as their new assistant and batting coach. With a distinguished 17-year career as a former Indian wicketkeeper-batter, Parthiv brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the team," the franchise said in a statement.

Johl new CEO of PGTI

New Delhi: The Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) Wednesday announced the appointment of Amandeep Johl as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from January 2025. A respected name in Indian golf, Johl brings extensive experience to his new role. The appointment comes alongside another recent significant leadership addition, with the legendary cricketer Kapil Dev assuming the role of PGTI President in June this year. Johl replaces Uttam Singh Mundy, who has essayed a key role in the organisation since its inception.

Fixtures announced

New Delhi: AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 will take place between March 1 to 21 as Football Australia announced dates and venues for the tournament Wednesday, following the AFC Women's Football Committee meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The tournament will be hosted across the Gold Coast, Perth and Sydney, with five iconic venues — Stadium Australia, Western Sydney Stadium, Gold Coast Stadium, Perth Rectangular Stadium, Perth Stadium — selected as the venue to host.

Nodirbek emerges sole leader

Carlsen, Narayanan joint second in Tata Steel rapid chess

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 13: Uzbekistan's young grandmaster Abdusattorov Nodirbek emerged sole leader in the open section of the Tata Steel Chess India Rapid tournament here Wednesday.

Abdusattorov scored 2.5 points out of a possible three, securing victories over talented German Vincent Keymer in round two and India's R Praggnanandhaa in round three, while drawing his opening game with Daniil Dubov.

Magnus Carlsen, the World No 1, had a solid start, drawing his first two games against India's Praggnanandhaa and Nihal Sarin before finishing the day with a win over Vidit Gujrathi, placing him in joint second position with two points.

Carlsen shares this slot with India's SL Narayanan, who also logged 2 points with a win against Keymer in round one and two draws against Wesley So and Arjun Erigaisi.

In the women's section, Indian talent Vantika Agrawal stood out, sharing the lead with Aleksandra Goryachkina and Kateryna Lagno, each scoring



two points from three rounds.

Vantika achieved a significant victory over Valentina Gunina in the opening round and followed it up with draws against Aleksandra Kosteniuk and Nana Dzagnidze.

Meanwhile, India's Koneru Humpy, Dronavalli Harika, and Divya Deshmukh each trail the leaders by half a point after drawing all three games on day one.

With six more rounds remaining in the Rapid event, the players have ample opportunity to make their mark before the Blitz rounds commence Saturday.

KUMAMOTO MASTERS JAPAN 2024

Sindhu advances; Lakshya crashes out in first round

With the exit of Sen, Sindhu is the lone Indian in contention

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kumamoto (Japan), Nov 13: PV Sindhu won her first-round clash while Lakshya Sen crashed out of the men's singles draw as India had a mixed day in the Kumamoto Masters Japan 2024, the BWF World Tour Super 500 series badminton event here Wednesday.

Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu, who is hoping to make up for a disappointing season by winning the women's singles title in this event, defeated eighth seed Busanan Ongbamrunphan of Thailand 21-12, 21-8 in 52 minutes on Court 1 at the Kumamoto Prefectural Gymnasium.

Lakshya Sen, the Paris Olympic Games semifinalist, ran into Malaysia's Leong Jun Hao and crashed out in three games, losing 22-20, 17-21, 16-21 in a 74-minute battle



of attrition.

India's top women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand lost in the first round Tuesday.

Seeking to win her first title since the Singapore Open in 2022 and end a 24-month drought, Sindhu did not have a good start as Ongbamrunphan opened up a 5-1 lead. But the Indian shuttler, ranked 20th in BWF Rankings, fought back her way into the game and was leading 11-10 at the break.

The 29-year-old Sindhu took total control of the game after that as she won seven points

in succession to win the first game. She continued at the same tempo in the second game and took a 4-0 lead before the Thai girl won her first point.

Ongbamrunphan tried to fight back in the second game but Sindhu was in a good rhythm and in dominant form as she won 11 of the last 12 points to breeze to victory and set up a second-round clash with Michelle Li of Canada in the second round in the draw of 32 players. Michelle Li beat Japan's Natsuki Nidaira in straight games in her opening-round match.

Team Gonasika launch website

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Team Gonasika, the new franchise of the Hockey India League launched the website of the team at an event in Bhubaneswar Wednesday.

The website will showcase team's journey, latest news, match updates, and exclusive behind-the-scenes content showcasing the athletes who bring the game to life.

On the occasion, Team Gonasika owner Tarini Prasad Mohanty, Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, Olympic medalist and Team Gonasika member Birendra Lakra were present.

The team's anthem track was also released along with the introduction of the team's iconic players.

With HIL's 2024-2025 season kicking off December 28 at the Birsu Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela, Team Gonasika is set to face off against Delhi SG Pipers in a much-anticipated opener.

The team boasts four talented players from Odisha — Nilam Sanjeep Xess, Birendra Lakra, Dipsan Tirkey, and Anmol Ekka.

Hot-shot Sinner sees off Fritz

WORLD NO 1 MADE IT TWO WINS IN A ROW AT THE ATP FINALS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turin (Italy), Nov 13: The soccer-like "Ole" chants. The vast array of fans dressed in his theme color of orange. The banners and signs — one of which declared, "Sinner for president."

Late in the second set of his victory over Taylor Fritz at the ATP Finals Tuesday, Jannik Sinner used all the adulation in his home country to his advantage.

When the top-ranked player produced a backhand passing shot up the line while on the run, he held his finger up to his ear to encourage the crowd to cheer louder.

"I read a little bit where he was playing and I just tried to pass him somehow because if not, it would have been a very easy volley for him," Sinner said. "The crowd is helping me a lot. This is a very special occasion for me."

"I've always liked playing at home. If you like the fans and the people supporting you, it's a big help," Sinner added.



Sinner made it two wins in two matches before his home fans at the finals, beating Fritz 6-4, 6-4 in a rematch of the US Open final that the Italian also won in straight sets.

Sinner turned up his intensity when it mattered most. He survived a marathon service game midway through the first set then broke his American opponent with a huge forehand up

the line on his first set point.

Earlier, Daniil Medvedev moved back into contention with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over De Minaur following a tantrum in his previous match.

Medvedev didn't face a single break point and was generally much sharper than in his straight-set loss to Fritz Sunday — during which he smashed his racket and lost his cool twice.

Bopanna-Ebden semis hopes over

Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden's hopes of making the semifinals at the ATP Finals 2024 are all but over following their second straight defeat here Wednesday. The sixth-seeded Indo-Aussie duo went down 5-7, 3-6 to the top-seeded pair of Marcelo Arevalo from El Salvador and Mate Pavic of Croatia in a 68-minute contest, placing them at the bottom of the standings in the Bob Bryan group. This tournament marks the last for Bopanna and Ebden as a team, concluding their two-year partnership. Earlier, they suffered a loss against the home favorites Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori in their opening match. Bopanna and Ebden will next face Germany's Kevin Krawietz and Tim Putz in their final group-stage match, but their chances of advancing to the semifinals are slim. The duo climbed to the No 1 spot in the ATP Rankings after clinching the Australian Open title earlier this year.



CHAMPIONS TROPHY ROW

Pak should stop playing cricket with India: Latif

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: Former wicket-keeper batter Rashid Latif says if had the power he would not let Pakistan play against India in any tournament and also suggested that ICC should not grant the hosting rights of global events to both countries until they resolve their issues.

The BCCI has refused to send its team to Pakistan for the upcoming Champions Trophy and there speculation that the entire tournament could be moved out of the country.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has written to the International Cricket Council (ICC) asking for a written confirmation from the BCCI for India's inability to travel to Pakistan for the tournament.

"There's a big possibility that Pakistan can stop playing cricket against India. Had I been in power, then, yes, I may have



taken this strong step. I would not blame anyone for this. If you don't want to play (in Pakistan), then don't play against us (at all)," Latif, known for his plain speak, told PTI Videos.

"If I would have been there, I would have taken this decision, and fought against the BCCI." He suggested that the ICC should also stop giving major tournaments to both India and Pakistan till issues are resolved.

"In my opinion, ICC should withhold the hosting rights for both countries until these issues between them are resolved; until their problems are settled," said the former wicketkeeper-batter who played 37 Tests and 166 ODIs.