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BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY | DECEMBER 1, 2024

12 PAGE+SUNDAY POST | ₹5.00



Beware of audio/video calls from **CYBERCRIMINALS** posing as officials from RBI/Banks/Government Agencies/Courier Companies **THREATENING** with Legal Action or **Asking for Immediate Transfer of Money** or **Freezing or Blocking** your bank accounts or debit/credit cards.



DON'Ts

- Don't panic fraudsters may trap you
- Don't share any personal/financial information
- Don't click on unknown links for making payments



DO's

- Always verify the genuineness of the caller/fund request
- Immediately report to cybercrime.gov.in or call 1930 for help





For more details, visit https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in/fraud For feedback, write to rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in



accuracy • reliability • trust

Whip up some excitement

in your life — put on your walking shoes and go

tion in group activities.

TAURUS

You are likely to get extra

predicts Ganesha. If your

GEMINI

Bosses will assign new re-

You may be in one of your

pastimės you usually enjoy.

Your passionate and emo-

tional nature contributes in a big way to your sudden outbursts of emotions, says Ganesha. Today, your anger may erupt abruptly. This makes it very likely for you to get carried

sponsibilities to you, predicts

distress, however, will transform into

jubilation by the end of the day's work,

as you will be able to produce brilliant

more frivolous moods today, foresees Ganesha. Gossip, fun, laughter

and some harmless flirting shall make your day interesting, yet these are not the

away irrespective of your surroundings and

circumstances, both at work and at home.

vour own vou are, by far, the best admi

istrator of your department. Today, find

people under your banner to achieve

swered. So, it's time to settle those old

accounts that are so important to you.

feels Ganesha. This will increase chances

of interesting developments that will con-

tinue to surprise you throughout the day.

greater success, says Ganesha.

You never let a favour go

unacknowledged, or let a

ridicule pass by unan-

SCORPIO

You shall probably realise the fact that seeing is

believing. Learn to trust

your own eves more than what you

the spotlight, advises Ganesha

hear. Don't get lost in the crowd, warns Ganesha. Strive to stand out and be in

Stay clear of a coalition when

tures, warns Ganesha. Alone, you can manage an entire stampede. By

it comes to business ven-

results. Ganesha advises you to delay

bidding for tenders by a few days.

passionate and fervent today

explore some unknown destination.

suggests Ganesha. Keep yourself busy,

but take care not to overdo anything.

Today, you will be the centre of atten-

logic prevails over your heart, things will probably change for better during the

course of the day. It is high time that you

set into motion the poignant side of your character, suggests Ganesha.



HAILEE STEINFELD, JOSH ALLEN ANNOUNCE ENGAGEMENT

Hawkeye star Hailee Steinfeld is engaged to her boyfriend, football quarterback Josh Allen. The couple shared a glimpse of their memorable moment with fans and posted a picture of the two, in which Allen can be seen on one knee proposing to her.

JLo FACES 'ANXIETY' OVER DIDDY'S ARREST

Jennifer Lopez is reportedly struggling with anxiety over her past relationship with Sean 'Diddy' Combs and is trying to evade public questions about him. Diddyis currently held at Brooklyn's Metropolitan Detention Centre, following his arrest on charges of sex trafficking and racketeering.



Lahari to premiere at prestigious KIFF Sharvari

seeks tips for sleep Mumbai: Actress Sharvari

revealed that she is having troubles with sleeping and hence has asked for 'tips" as she is super exhausted. Sharvari took to

Instagram stories, where she wrote: 'Super exhausted.. But not getting any sleep..Tips please." The actress recently shared a string

of glimpses of herself along with her "cheat meal" and her pet, a dalmatian. In one picture the actress is seen making a funny face while in a clip, she is seen getting her hair done. In the clip, Sharvari is seen asking her hairstylist about how many dozens of pins

has she put in the actress' hair, to which the hairstylist hilariously replies only 10 to 12 and not "dozens." For the caption, she wrote: "Me, Miso & My diet being funny this month."

Talking about her professional life, the actress is gearing up for her upcoming film Alpha, a spy thriller. The film also stars Alia Bhatt. It is slated to release in December, 2025. In other news, the actress lauded the Viksit

Bharat initiative November 23.

Bhubaneswar: Odia feature film Lahari is set to have its world premiere at the prestigious 30th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF), starting December 4

Written and directed by Amartya Bhattacharyya and produced by Jhilik Motion Pictures, Lahari is a poignant and visually captivating tale of friendship, fatherhood, and coming-of-age.

The film has an ensemble cast, including Choudhury Jayaprakash Das, Choudhury Bikash Das, Dipanwit Dashmohapatra, Smruti Mahala, Susant Misra, Swastik Choudhury, and Zeinab Doer. The film also features cameos by Babusaan, Hara Rath, Jhilik Bhattacharjee, Debasish Patra, and Prasanjeet Mohapatra, among others. The music has been composed by Kisalov Roy, with playback singing by Gaurav Anand

and Navya Jaiti.

Sharing his thoughts, Bhattacharyya said, "I am excited and happy about the premiere at such a prestigious festival like KIFF. This is my first collaboration with Jhilik and I do feel that every film industry needs to have strong female producers and those who are inclined towards alternate thoughts and ideas.

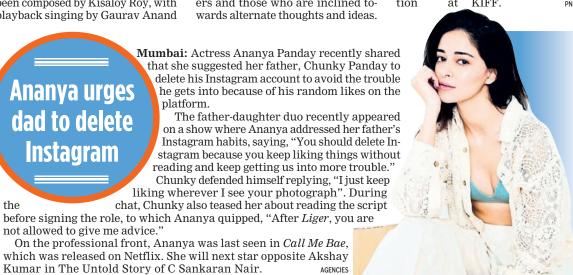
The making of Lahari has been very memorable and I am thankful to Jhilik, and all my cast and crew for the tremendous hard work and dedica tion. I hope Lahari will win hearts in Odisha and beyond."

The film will be screened in the Indian languages competition secat KIFF.

Mumbai: Actress Ananya Panday recently shared hat she suggested her father, Chunky Panday to delete his Instagram account to avoid the trouble **Ananya urges** he gets into because of his random likes on the dad to delete The father-daughter duo recently appeared on a show where Ananya addressed her father's

Instagram habits, saying, "You should delete In-Instagram stagram because you keep liking things without reading and keep getting us into more trouble.' Chunky defended himself replying, "I just keep liking wherever I see your photograph". During chat, Chunky also teased her about reading the script

On the professional front, Ananya was last seen in Call Me Bae, which was released on Netflix. She will next star opposite Akshay Kumar in The Untold Story of C Sankaran Nair.



Geeta Bali's sparkling film career and its tragic climax

not allowed to give me advice.

New Delhi: When ShammiKapoor sings "Tumne mujhe dekha hokar ke mehrban" in slick whodunnit "Teesri Manzil" (1965), the serenade is not just meant for his peeved heroine. but actually a heartfelt tribute to his recently deceased wife the vivacious, spontaneous, and much-admired Geeta Bali.

In her short lifespan of 34 vears, and a film career which spanned two-thirds of it, Geeta Bali had made waves as she danced with the legendary Bhagwan Dada - especially in the faux Hawaiian "Shola jobhadke" from "Albela" (1951), matched histrionics with all the top heroes of her time from Dev Anand to Dharmendra, persuaded Guru Dutt to step in front of the camera, stood her ground against the likes of Madhubala and Suraiya, and

left even Meena Kumari awe-

struck at her capability and versatility. However, despite her suc-

cesses and the acclaim she enjoyed, Geeta Bali, missed one defining role like her top contemporaries - Nargis in "Mother India" (1957), Madhubala in "Mughal-e-Azam" (1960), and Meena Kumari in countless performances. It was her attempt to remedy this contributed to her untimely and agonising death

Born Harkirtan Kaur Bali, the daughter of granthi Pandit Kartar Singh Bali, she was a born performer from her childhood. Uncharacteristically for the age, her parents allowed her and other siblings to learn music, dance, riding, and gatka. Geeta was nine when she, and her sister, tried a public performance in Lahore, but the community objected and police eventually escorted the duo to safety after threats against their

However, very next year, she snagged a role at AIR Lahore, hosting children's programmes, and debuted as a child artist with the Punjabi film "The Cobbler" (1942), while "Badnaami"(1946) was her adult debut. She caught the eye of actor-filmmaker Mazhar Khan, who was impressed by her and invited her to Bombay in 1948. With his

project stalled. Geeta

the attention of ace filmmaker Kidar Sharma, who recognised her ability. Sharma paid off Khan and made her the star of 'Suhaag Raat" (1948), opposite Bharat Bhushan and Begum The film was a hit, but led

to a precarious situation. Her mother, swayed by the money, began signing projects for her right and left without any thought, and Geeta Bali, who had requested Sharma to be freed, was caught in a morass of B- and C-category films that left her career in tatters. She went back to a forgiving Sharma, who ignored her mother though, and gave her another chance with "Bawre Nain" (1950) with Raj Kapoor - and it made her name again.

She went on to impress audiences as the nightclub sing-

SUDOKU

er in "Baazi" (1951) - where "Tadbeer se bigdi taqdeer proved to be a boon for her as well as namesake singer

Courted by Shammi Kapoor since they acted together in "Miss Coca Cola" (1955), she kept putting him off, till one night in 1955, she said yes However, she remained a rare exception to the Kapoor family where daughters-in-law were not expected to work, despite raising two children.

Her desire to craft unique role with "Rano" based on Rajinder Singh Bedi's "Ek Chadar Maili Si' proved fatal as she caught smallpox while shooting in a Punjab village. Brought back to Bombay, she passed away early in January 1965 The film was abandoned.

8

PEANUTS



CAPRICORN A good day always begins

with a good start. It will be a good day for you today as you will start the day with a positive attitude to life, says Ganesha. Your unremitting dedication and determination will not only put you ahead of others, but will also help you get an edge over them. If tiffs with your life partner are rife, you can expect to a peaceful day, at least for today.

AQUARIUS

You are a polished diamond. Adversities come and go, yet you remain unruffled. Today you manage to please your boss, and beloved, and that is a feat! It is yet another day of contentment. And in a cyclical process, this again rejuvenates you into giving your best, says Ganesha

PISCES

Do not let your emotions influence your strategies in any way. Mixing business with sentiments is only for super spies. Keep a close check on your emotions and do not get carried away. Travel for business purposes is indicated, says Ganesha.



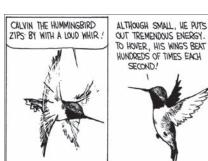








CALVIN AND HOBBES





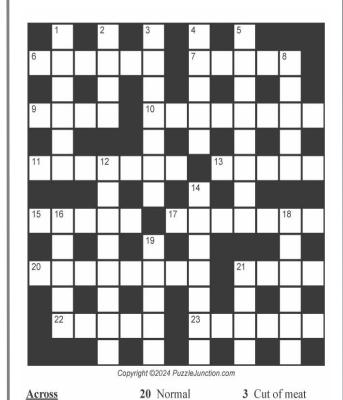




BREVITY



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- 9 Nana author
- 10 Intended to deceive
- 11 Cognomen
- 13 Beneath
- 15 Peruvian beast 17 Souvenir

- **Down**

21 King

23 Floor

2 Taj Mahal

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

covering

22 Follow as a

result

- 1 Japanese robe
- 8 Bordelaise, e.g.

4 Bread starter

12 Vaccinate

5 Glow

- 14 Jury's opinion
- 16 Coffee order
- 18 Serving dish
- 19 Bedouin's mount
- 21 Breakers

3 6 3 5 4 9 9 4 9 2 3 6 4 5

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any

SOLUTIONS

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Sharvari's woes

Actor Sharvari seeks tips from netizens as she is suffering from sleep

LEISURE

अखिल भारतीय पुलिस महानिदेशक / महानिरीक्षक सम्मेलन - 2024

नवंबर २९ - दिसंबर १, २०२४ | राज्य सम्मेलन केंद्र, भुवनेश्वर

ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF

DIRECTOR GENERALS / INSPECTOR GENERALS OF POLICE - 2024

November 29 - December 1, 2024 | State Convention Centre, Bhubaneswar



Insurgency in Syria

Syrian military says rebels have entered large parts of Aleppo during an offensive in which dozens of soldiers were killed

INTERNATIONAL | P8



Rising volatility

The flip in positioning of derivatives traders in Indian stocks indicates that they expect volatility to pick up

BUSINESS | P9



Sindhu, Sen in finals

PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen make it to women's and men's singles finals, respectively, at Syed Modi Int'l Super 300 tournament

SPORTS | BACK PAGE

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BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY | DECEMBER 1, 2024

DGP/IGP MEET PM discusses

policing, security

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed Saturday various subjects on policing and security with top police officers of the country here. Around 250 officers in the rank of DGP and IGP are physically attending the 59th DGPs/ IGPs conference being held here, while more than 200 others are

"Had a productive first day at the DGP/IGP Conference in Bhubaneswar. Discussed various subjects on policing and

Friday said the three-day conference would include deliberations on critical components of national security, including counter-terrorism, left-wing ex-

Its deliberations include formulation and sharing of professional practices and processes in tackling challenges relating to crime control and law-and order management, besides internal security threats.

"This year, some unique

participating in it virtually.

security" Modi wrote on X. The Prime Minister's Office

tremism, coastal security, nev criminal laws and narcotics.

"The prime minister not only listens attentively to all contributions but also fosters an environment of open and informal discussions, allowing for the emergence of new ideas.

features have also been added to the conference. The entire day is being effectively utilised starting from yoga session, business session, break-out sessions and thematic dining tables," the PMO said in a statement. The conference provides a platform for senior police officers to free ly discuss and debate diverse national security-related issues besides various operational, infrastructural and welfare-relat

HIGH-LEVEL MEET: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the All India Conference of Director Generals/ Inspector Generals of Police -2024 in Bhubaneswar, Saturday, while Union Home Minister Amit Shah looks on **BPIA Pannun's latest target**

RREGULAR by MANJUL Of course, he is deeply concerned about minorities . of Bangladesh

First phase of Bhubaneswar Metro by Dec '27

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The first-phase of Bhubaneswar Metro project, encompassing a total of 26 kilometers under 20 stations, would be completed by the end of December, 2027, said Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha MP Aparajita Sarangi Saturday, while adding that 13 trains will run in first-phase, with three coaches in each, showcasing the rich art and heritage of the

Sarangi, who attended the review meeting of the project Saturday, said the first phase would be poised to handle a daily ridership of 95,000 commuters. For which, three stations will be built in Bhubaneswar-Ekamra constituency, four in Bhubaneswar-Central constituency, 10 in Bhubaneswar-North Constituency, and three in Cuttack area.

Notably, the City's first Metro project is executed with a joint-partnership between Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and Bhubaneswar Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), with majority of the cost to be borne by the state government. The 26-km metro rail would connect Bhubaneswar Airport to Trisulia Square, which will include stations such as Capital Hospital, Bapuji Nagar, Bhubaneswar Railway Station, and Ram Mandir Square.

Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun is at it again. While the 59th DGP-IGP conference, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was underway, Pannun issued a fresh threat asking people to avoid Biju Patnaik International Airport December 1 as the facility is on his target. The threat came via an e-mail to a local journalist, leaving security officials in a tizzy. A couple of days ago, ahead of the national-level event, Pannun dubbed Bhubaneswar a 'Terror City' claiming 'Modi-Shah-Doval evil axis' had put it under threat with their participation

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Fear and suspicion gripped the Capital City Saturday morning after Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun sent a threat mail to City-based journalist Akshay Sahoo, exhorting his followers to disrupt the All India DGP/IGP conference. In his latest threat, Pannun



A sniffer dog checks an unclaimed bag at Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

warned to disrupt flight services in the City, asking people to stop flying from and to Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA).

Reportedly, the threat has arrived two days after the first one, in which, Pannun referred Bhubaneswar as 'Terror City', and said 'Modi-Shah-Doval evil

axis' had brought the biggest security threat to the City. In this earlier threat, he called upon his supporters to take cover in temples and hotels in the City

to disrupt the event. In a media presser, journalist Sahoo said he received the mail, with an audio clip attached, Saturday 9:04 am. The

sender claimed himself to be Pannun. He shared the mail's content, which said, "Hindu terrorist Modi has turned Bhubaneswar into a terror City. Pro-Khalistan Sikhs are ready to die for the freedom of Puniab. Indian police chiefs, are you willing to sacrifice your life to defend the territorial integrity

The mail further announced a reward of ₹25 lakhs for Khalistani supporters, who would raise 'Khalistan Flag' near Lok Seva Bhawan.

In a thinly veiled warning for a military attack, the mail had declared 'December 1' as 'D-Day'

Few minutes after the news spread, senior Crime Branch officials reached the office complex of Sahoo and launched a probe into the incident.

'The investigation of the matter is underway. Nothing has been ruled out yet. The IP address of the sender is being analysed to get more details,' said an official.

Later in the day, the City came under high-alert after a suspicious bag, with no owner, was traced by the CISF security personnel in Terminal-1 of BPIA.

However, to the relief of passengers, the authorities ruled out any security threat after a thorough investigation.

2 arrested for killing leopard

ed problems faced by police.

Phulbani: Two persons were arrested for allegedly killing a leopard in a forest in Kandhamal district, officials said Saturday. The leopard was killed about a fortnight ago in the Kalinga forest in the G Udaygiri range, DFO Prafulla Patel said. The leopard skin, a country-made gun and a dragger were seized from those arrested, he said. The accused were identified as Bhabani Shankar Pradhan (23) and Pramod Pradhan (55), he added. Bhabani was arrested with the leopard skin, and Pramod was arrested from his house in Pukulingia village with the loaded gun. Both have been hunting wild animals in the Kalinga forest for a long time, the officer said.

4 run over by speeding truck in Mayurbhanj

PNN & AGENCIES

Baripada, Nov 30: At least four people were killed and three sustained critical injuries in road accidents under Tiring and Bahalda police limits in Mayurbhanj district Saturday, police said.

The deceased were identified as Dharmapada Patanda of Badadalima village, auto driver Dhanaram Marandi, a couple Lakhan Soren and his wife Pana Soren of Bahalda police limits. Three others sustained critical injuries and admitted to the PRM Medical College and Hospital for treatment.

A Rairangpur bound speeding truck from Tatanagar first hit three persons at Badadalima Chhak killing one person and causing grievous injuries to two others. While fleeing

away from the accident site, the truck dashed against an auto-rickshaw at Bagbeda, the police said.

A couple travelling in the autorickshaw and the driver of the three-wheeler died. Another passenger also sustained critical injuries, they said. Later, the truck skidded off the highway and overturned.

The police are investigating the matter and efforts are underway to track the truck, they said. The mishap sparked tension among the residents as over 500 irate people staged a road blockade demanding compensation to the deceased family. They relented after Rairangpur ASP Narayan Nayak, SDPO Gokulananda Sahu and other officials rushed to the spot and held talks with the agitators.

'No more request to WB for tuber supply' PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: State Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra Saturday alleged that the Mamata Banerjee government is playing politics over the supply of potatoes and that the state government would not request West Bengal to restore supply of the tuber.

Due to restrictions imposed by the West Bengal government, potatoe-laden trucks have not been allowed to cross the border since Wednesday night. Many of these vehicles have also returned to their origin points, officials here said.

Speaking to media persons about the potato crisis, Patra said, "The West Bengal government is playing politics, for which, they restricted supply of potato to Odisha while sometimes they allow it. But, this time, we are not going to request them to supply potato to Odisha."

However, if West Bengal

sends potatoes on its own. Odisunder one country and everyha will accept it, he added. Patra said, "We are not he pointed out. going to have any talks with Mamata Banerjee government for potatoes. She has already stated in the media that her government will not send potatoes to Odisha so there is no point in talking

It is not proper to restrict the gal is also depending on other supply of vegetables or goods to states for fish and other items. If desired, Odisha can also stop any state because all states are the goods vehicles at its border one should live together,

But, we are not going to do so, the minister said. "We have made arrangements for the supply of adequate potatoes to consumers in the state. Potatoes have started arriving in the state from Uttar Pradesh. Besides, the tuber can also be brought from Punjab, added the minister.

The consumers will have to bear an additional burden of ₹2 per kg for potatoes brought from UP, he said.

Patra said that the Odisha government has chalked out an action plan to make the state self-reliant in potato production in next two years.

Due to the restriction imposed by West Bengal

the retail price of the vegetable has increased in local markets in Odisha.

Only 60-70 Maoists active in Odisha: BSF

Maoists in Odisha belong to

neighbouring Andhra Pradesh

Odisha and they are not in any

Home Ministry, seven districts

-- Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Bol-

angir, Malkangiri, Nabarang-

pur, Nuapada, and Rayagada,

have been categorised as Left

Wing Extremism (LWE) affect-

ed but Maoist activities are

mostly confined to the Kalah-

andi-Kandhamal-Boudh-Nay-

agarh (KKBN) region, he said.

has been made, challenges re-

main, particularly in the dense

forests of Kalahandi, Kand-

hamal and Boudh where IED

threats persist. Additionally,

the socio-economic impact of

Naxal-linked narcotics traf-

ficking, especially Ganja cul-

"While significant progress

leadership roles," he said. According to the Union

"Only seven of them are from

and Chhattisgarh.



the eve of BSF's Raising Day, Inspector General of FTR HQ (Spl Ops), BSF Odisha CD Aggarwal addresses media in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

BSF aims to eradicate **Naxalism from Odisha** by March 2026 with enhanced coordination and advanced technology

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Maoist activities have come down substantially in Odisha over the last few years, and only 60-70 members of the proscribed organisation are active in the state, a senior BSF officer said

Addressing a press conference ahead of the BSF Raising Day December 1, BSF IG (Frontier HQ - Special Ops) CD Aggarwal said most of the active

Naxal violence was at its peak.

He said BSF was first deployed in Odisha in 2010 when

Aggarwal said.

"The BSF has conducted anti-Maoist operations in some of the most treacherous terrains and neutralised 250-300 Naxalites, recovered arms and explosives and facilitated the surrender of hard-core cadres, he said.

"In 2024, three dreaded Naxalites were neutralised and 24 hardcore cadres surrendered. Besides, 34 IEDs, 117 grenades, and a large cache of arms and ammunition were seized in the state," he added.

Aggarwal said one of the most significant achievements for the force was transforming the erstwhile cut-off area into 'Swabhiman Anchal'.

"The BSF is committed to eradicating Naxalism from Odisha by March 2026, with enhanced coordination with Odisha Police and intelligence agencies, deployment of advanced technologies like drones and satellite surveillance and strengthening community engagement," he said.

Fourteen BSF personnel gave their lives while combating Maoists in Odisha since 2010,



FOR A CAUSE: Youth Congress members scuffle with police at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar Saturday, protesting the skyrocketing prices of essential commodities and 'worsening law and order situation' in the state

5 former sarpanches among 14 persons convicted

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Fourteen persons, including five former sarpanches of Mayurbhanj district, were convicted by Vigilance courts in the state for corruption, Saturday.

According to the anti-corruption wing sources, the Special Vigilance court in Baripada convicted five former sarpanches—Sita Baskey, Mohadev Tudu, Basen Marandi, Jatindra Singh and Budhiram Singh, all under Udala block of Mayurbhanj—for misappropriation of government funds by showing undue favour to the supplier by installing substandard sodium vapour light in their locality. The court also found electrical supplier Sanjay Kumar Das of

"All the convicts would undergo three-year rigorous imprisonment (RI) with fine," the court ruled.

In another case, former assistant engineer (ITDA, Champua, Keonjhar) Sivananda Pattanaik, former junior engineer, ITDA, Champua, Keonjhar (A/P-AE (Civil), Mahanadi North Division, Jagatpur, Cuttack) Shaktiranjan Singhsamanta and Chaturbhuja Behera, a private person, were convicted for misappropriation of government funds during the execution of a project in Champua block of Keonjhar. The Special Vigilance court in Keonjhar awarded them four years of RI and imposed fines. Sk Usman Khan, a former

Law moharir-cum-tax collector from Cuttack Municipal Corporation, was convicted for misappropriating municipal dues collected as fines. He was sentenced to four years of RI and fined by the Special Vigilance in Cuttack. Odisha Vigilance will request the stoppage of his

pension. Srikanta Mohapatra, a former city-level technical cell (CLTC) professional at DRDAcum-DUDA in Angul, was convicted for demanding and accepting bribe to process data for passing a bill under the PMAY. The Special Vigilance court in Angul sentenced him to undergo four years of RI and also slapped a fine.

Hemanta Kumar Mishra, a former accountant at the office of the DFO (Territorial) in Sund argarh, was convicted for pos sessing disproportionate assets (DA). He was sentenced to three years of RI and fined ₹1 lakh by the Special Vigilance court in Sundargarh.

The court also ordered the confiscation of his DA amounting to ₹3,40,669. Vigilance will pursue the stoppage of his pension. Bhuban Mohan Dash, for mer area manager of MARKFEI in Jagannathpur of Ganjam, and Sk Abdul Ataullah, a former depot in-charge of MARKFED in Jagannathpur, were convicted for their involvement in the shortage of fertilizer stock at Kodala depot, causing a ₹11,35,306 loss to the government.

World AIDS Day: Addressing stigma, mental health

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: On World AIDS Day, the state acknowledges the progress in combating HIV/AIDS and the ongoing challenges.

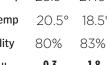
The World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that individuals with HIV are more vulnerable to conditions like to social exclusion and fear of judgment, Kamal Rout, an HIV/AIDS counsellor at DS-RC, BMC hospital, highlighted that these stigmas often lead

Advances in medicine allow people with HIV to lead longer, healthier lives and prevent transmission to babies, he added. Survivor Mamata Sahu (name changed) shared her journey, saying, "When l first tested positive, I felt destroyed. But for my son, I found hope and now educate others about HIV.

WEATHER

BBSR CTC 27.0° Max Temp Min Temp Humidity 80%

FORECAST sky with light rain











Rainfall

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Kumar Jnananjan Panigrahi S/O Kishore Chandra Panigrahi Resident of Baunsalundi, PS: Bhanjanagar, District : Ganjam, PIN - 761126, State - Odisha, Declare By This Affidavit No. - 1470, Dt. 28.11.2024. That Now onwards I shall be known as Aadhaar / Pan Name As Jnananjan Panigrahi for all future Purpose.

KIMS to set up 20 new hospitals across state



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) has announced plans to establish 20 corporate-style hospitals across as many districts in Odisha, each with 100 beds. The announcement was made by KIMS founder Achyuta Samanta during the institute's first-ever 'Health National Conclave' held here

The event, conceived by Samanta and hosted by KIMS, KIIT, and KISS, marked a significant milestone as the first healthcare-focused conclave organised by an institute in Odisha. It brought together dignitaries from India and abroad to discuss critical issues shaping the future of medicine and healthcare in the country.

Samanta shared that the new hospitals would be inaugurated by this time next year, representing a major step for-

ward in Odisha's healthcare infrastructure. The conclave featured prominent speakers. including D Nageswar Reddy, a Padma Bhushan Awardee from the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology, Hyderabad, V Mohan of Dr Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre, Chennai, Vinod Paul from NITI Aayog, and Ved Prakash Mishra from Krishna Vishwa Vidyapeeth, Karad.

Reddy praised KISS's work with tribal communities and described the conclave as a comprehensive forum addressing not just medical but also spiritual aspects of healthcare.

Mohan acknowledged Samanta's unique blend of entrepreneurship and ethical commitment to healthcare, saying, "If the intention is pure, the means will follow," and underscored the transformative nature of

such initiatives. Subrat Acharya, Pro-Chancellor and a renowned gastroenterologist, commended KIMS for its achievements, citing its 15th ranking in the NIRF list and its dedication to providing world-class medical education and services

Samanta reiterated the importance of health as a fundamental pillar of life.

Baripada guilty in the case.

NCLAT allows IL&FS to sell IPRWL to successful bidder

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has given a go-ahead and Financial Services (IL&FS) to sell its subsidiary IL&FS Paradip Refinery Water Ltd (IPRWL) to a successful velopment said. Saturday, IPRWL was set up to meet water requirement of the 15 MTPA Paradip Refinery Project developed by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) in Odisha. The project transports about 100 MLD water from upstream of Zobra barrage over Mahanadi river to According to reports, this may enable IL&FS to repay a debt of around ₹1,000 crore. IL&FS, which is paring its debt through asset resolution, has not received consent from IOCL for sale of its stake in IPRWL. It had approached the NCLAT, which is supervising the process, to direct IOCL to either acquire 100 per cent shareholding in IPRWL at a fair valuation or grant its consent as per the terms of the BOOT agreement and the RFP so as to enable

Water projects improve lives in rural areas commitment to ensuring uni

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Ha tadihi block in Odisha has emerged as a beacon of progress with the successful imple mentation of a Mega Pipe Water Supply (PWS) project. Funded by the Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC), the initiative has provided treated drinking water to the doorsteps of 5,385 households across 19 villages, transforming the lives of over

18,000 residents. Previously, villagers relied on 170 tube wells and sanitary wells, often walking 50 to 200 meters daily to fetch water. The situation was particularly challenging during summers and periods of high demand, impacting women and children the most. With the commissioning of the Mega PWS project, each household in these 19 villages now has a function-



al household tap connection (FHTC), ensuring a consistent supply of safe drinking water.

The development has eased daily struggles, empowered women to focus on education and livelihoods, and improved overall health by reducing waterborne diseases. The time saved has allowed children to concentrate on studies and families to enhance hygiene and sanitation practices.

The transformative project, funded by OMBADC, highlights the effective use of resources from mineral-bearing areas for sustainable development. It exemplifies Odisha's

functional household tap connections, setting a model for equitable growth and progress In Khariar block of Nuapada

district, another Mega Pipe Wa ter Supply project is making a significant impact. This initiative covers 35 villages, benefit ing 33.490 residents across 8.62' households. The project ensures treated drinking water is available at every doorstep, significantly improving the quality of life. Women, who traditionally bore the burden of fetching wa ter, now have the opportunity to pursue education, engage in livelihoods, and dedicate more time to family care.

The project's outcomes extend beyond water access. It has enhanced public health by reducing waterborne diseas es; fostered economic growth through time saved for productive activities.

Odisha's 'Bridge-cum-Bandhara' projects boost rural development

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The state government has adopted the developmental mantra 'Vikshit Odisha for Vikshit Bharat', emphasising sustained efforts toward rural development. Among its innovative initiatives, the Rural Development department's 'Bridge-cum-Bandhara' projects stand out as a remarkable step forward.

These projects not only bolster transportation infrastructure but also play a crucial role in water conservation, thereby contributing significantly to rural economic growth and the improvement of livelihoods.

From June to November 2024, Odisha witnessed the successful completion of 18 'Bridge-cum-Bandhara' projects

spread across various districts. In addition, the government has approved the construction of 71 more such projects, emphasising their importance in the state's developmental agenda.

These structures, designed to serve dual purposes, seamlessly integrate transportation with water management systems. The innovative approach allows these bridges to store water, leading to the recharge of groundwater levels and the provision of a reliable water source for irrigation and drinking purposes.

The water stored by these structures also supports livestock needs and prevents soil erosion, a critical issue in rural areas, while contributing to a more stable and moderated temperature in the surrounding environment.



The significance of these projects was underscored by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi during his budget speech, where he referred to them as 'Bridge-cum-Weirs'.

Highlighting their environmental and developmental potential, he announced an alloca-

tion of ₹88 crore in the budget for the construction of check dams and bridge-cum-weirs on small bridges using raft foundations. The investment aims to reinforce water conservation, ensure consistent irrigation facilities, provide drinking wagroundwater recharge.

 $Several\ examples\ \bar{i}llustrate$ the success and strategic value of the 'Bridge-cum-Bandhara' projects. In the Sundargarh district, a notable structure has been constructed over the Phatatangar Nallah along the Chandrapur-Kulkuta road. In Angul district, a bridge over the Balarampur Nallah on the Rengali-Kulumanialu road has become a vital link for local communities. Similarly, the Kudutuli-Damerikiya road in Kandhamal district and a local Nallah on the Jharasahi-Naktimal road in Deogarh district are examples of how these initiatives are being implemented to transform the region's infrastructure and resource accessibility.

These projects have brought significant changes to the communities they serve, enhancing connectivity and facilitating ac-

By integrating water conservation with transportation, 'Bridge-cum-Bandhara projects contribute to a holistic approach to rural development that aligns with Odisha's broad er goals of sustainable progress

cess to critical water resources

The Department's prioritisation of these initiatives high lights the state's dedication to creating a cycle of economic growth, environmental stew ardship, and social upliftment.

Odisha's efforts are a testament to its vision of contrib uting to a 'Developed Odisha for a Developed India', demon strating that well-planned infrastructure projects can be catalysts for positive change, setting a powerful precedent for other regions to follow.

ter for livestock, and enhance FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT **BOOKING STATIONS** OUR

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Potato Mission hits roadblock

Farmers struggle to get potato seeds amid high demand

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, Nov 30: In the wake of frequent disturbances in supply of potatoes from neighbouring West Bengal, the state government is weighing its options to procure the essential tuber from other states. At this juncture, the state's ability to fulfil its own needs by becoming self-sufficient in potato production assumes much importance. However, not much progress has been made in this regard.

Under 'Potato Mission', the state government has been promoting potato cultivation among rural farmers by ensuring the availability of high-quality seeds through its horticulture initiative 'Udyan Krushi Yojana'. The goal is to empower farmers to grow their own produce during periods of market shortages. Subsidised fertilizers, pesticides, and agricultural implements are also being provided to support

However, these people-oriented government schemes are yet to fully benefit the farmers. In Kendrapara district's Mahakalapara block, farmers eager to grow potatoes face a lack of access to seeds. Forced to procure seeds from the market at exorbitant prices, they also have to prepare their fields at a much higher cost.

In recent years, Odisha has faced recurring potato shortages, making it heavily reliant on



West Bengal. Last year, a surplus harvest in West Bengal led to a temporary halt in potato transportation to Odisha giving way to a severe crisis. The state government had to turn to Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Bihar to import potatoes and stabilise the market. Later, negotiations between the Odisha and West Bengal governments restored the supply, but not for long. The neighbouring state has again halted and returned truck-loads of the tuber in re-

In Gokhakhati village of the Barakandha panchayat, block-level officials report that many potato farmers are facing challenges due to the unavailability of certified potato seeds. According to potato farmer Adhikari Swain, the farmers have been forced to buy seeds from open markets at inflated prices. Several farmers have alleged that genuine potato seeds have not reached them.

The Horticulture and Agri-

Bhograi: Following West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's abrupt decision to impose restrictions on potato supply to Odisha and other states, the Pragatishil Alu Byabsayee Samiti in the neighbouring state has warned of a statewide strike starting Tuesday. The decision was taken in an emer gency meeting of traders Saturday afternoon at Tarakeswar, Hooghly to discuss future strategies. They criticised the Bengal government for failing to address traders' concerns before suddenly halting potato exports to other states. West Bengal currently has 485 cold storage facilities housing 7 lakh metric tonne of potatoes. However, traders fear substantial losses as stored potatoes risk rotting if not dispatched within a month. The association's state president, Lalu Mukherjee, expressed concerns about the financial impact on potato traders.

West Bengal potato

traders warn strike

culture department informed that 273 bags (each weighing 50 kgs) of potato seeds have been distributed to 91 farmers across 12 panchayats in the block, including Suniti, Badidihi, Kebi, Dandua, Deulapada, Rajagarh, Barakandha, Karanj, Badakula, Ameipal, Mahakalapara, Ramanagar, and Alailo.

When questioned, Block Horticulture Officer Sourabh Mohapatra clarified that 273 bags of potato seeds were distributed in the first phase. An additional 200 bags are required, and those will be distributed among farmers in the second phase as soon as they arrive, he added.

Upon questioning, Pradhan could not

Following their arrest, Bhabani and Pramod were forwarded to court, while

The authorities are actively pursuing leads to apprehend the remaining suspects involved in the crime.

2 ARRESTED FOR KILLING LEOPARD



POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Nov 30: Two persons were arrested for allegedly killing a leopard in a forest in Kandhamal district, officials said Saturday.

The leopard was killed about a fortnight ago in the Kalinga forest in the G Udaygiri range, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Prafulla Patel said. The leopard hide, a country-made gun and a dragger were seized from those arrested, he said.

The accused were identified as Bhabani Shankar Pradhan (23) and Pramod Pradhan (55), he added.

Bhabani was arrested with the leopard skin, and Pramod was arrested from his house in Pukulingia village with the loaded gun.

Both have been hunting wild animals in the Kalinga forest for a long time, the officer said.

Forest officials were patrolling the Kaliga forest at around 3am November 28 when they noticed Bhabani standing suspiciously near a road close to the Linga Chhak.

provide satisfactory answers, raising suspicions. The authorities carried out a search, leading to the discovery of a leopard skin stashed in his possession.

four others are still at large.

Elephant found dead on farmland

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 30: Forest officials Saturday recovered the carcass of a makhna (male Asian elephant without tusks) from a farmland near Kantalai village under Telkoi forest range in Keonjhar Forest Division.

A team of veterinarians conducted a post-mortem of the carcass and Forest officials launched an investiga-

tion into the jumbo death. Circumstantial evidences and injuries found on the carcass indicated that the elephant aged within 10 might have died during infighting, Divisional Forest Officer

(DFO) Dhanraj HD said. Sources said two herds of around 54 elephants were roaming in the area for long. The herds had a fight near Kantalai village Fri-

day night and the villagers

spotted the carcass lying on a paddy field Saturday morning.

Forest officials rushed to the spot and seized the carcass. The actual reason behind the jumbo death can be ascertained only after the post-mortem report is available, the DFO added. Notably, three elephants have died during last few months in Telkoi forest range area



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6.00 pm to 8.30 pm

DSPL - 234

JSW Foundation distributes mosquito nets to slum dwellers



Barbil: To prevent the spread of dengue and malaria, the JSW Foundation has initiated the distribution of mosquito nets in all slums within the direct impact zones (DIZ) of its mines in Keonjhar district. The distribution of nets commenced in Barbil Ward No. 15 and was later expanded to various DIZ locations. Earlier, fogging was also conducted in and around the slum area. The foundation undertook this mission following a request from the Barbil Municipal Corporation. Mosquito nets were also distributed in Loidapada panchayat in Nuagaon DIZ with the help of the sarpanch.

Additionally, with the help of SEVA Group, JSW foundation distributed the nets to underprivileged beneficiaries at SEVA office. It was informed that all together 2,000 mosquito nets will be distributed in the DIZs in the upcoming days.

SWOSTI PREMIUM BEACH RESORTS, PURI READY TO WELCOME GUESTS



Redefining Hospitality with nnovation & Elegance

Swosti Group proudly announces the grand opening of Swosti Premium Beach Resorts in Puri, a landmark addition to Odisha's luxury hospitality sector. This grand opening marks a significant step in establishing Odisha as a premier destination for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE), blending the state's rich cultural heritage with world-class amenities.

of Puri with modern comforts and conveniences. The Resort is now open for

bookings, inviting guests to experience the perfect blend of Odisha's cultural richness and world-class luxury. **Versatile Banquet Facilities**

The resort is strategically designed to serve as a premier MICE destination, featuring state-of-the-art facilities that cater to largescale conferences, corporate events, and elaborate wedding ceremonies. With expansive



nauguration Ceremony The resort was officially naugurated by Sri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of India, along with other prominent dignitaries on 25th August 2024. Their presence underscored the importance of this development for the state, which promises to elevate Puri's status as a top destination for both leisure and

business travellers.

Next-Gen Resort Experiences Swosti Premium Beach Resorts, Puri, is the latest addition to Swosti Group's portfolio of luxury properties, now open for bookings. Situated in the sacred city of Sri Jagannath Dham, this resort is designed to offer an unparalleled luxury experience, combining the spiritual and cultural richness

open-air landscaped lawns and a modern convention hall spanning 6,000 square feet, the resort offers versatile spaces to accommodate diverse events and gatherings.

Interweaving Odisha's Architectural Splendor & **World-Class Amenities**

The design and architecture of Swosti Premium Beach Resorts are deeply rooted in Odisha's rich cultural heritage. The interiors draw inspiration from the elegant swipes and shapes of Odissi and Mahari dance forms, beautifully reflected in the resort's chandeliers. The ceilings, inspired by the ancient Boita boats of Kalinga, feature graceful curved designs that evoke the region's maritime legacy. Even the staff uniforms are crafted with a nod to Odisha's traditional weaving

culture, incorporating the intricate patterns of Sambalpuri and Ikat fabrics. This seamless blend of cultural inspiration and modern luxury creates an ambiance that is both sophisticated and authentic **Elegant Accommodations** Guests can choose from 125

elegantly designed luxury rooms, including suites that boast sophisticated decor, state-of-the-art technology and stunning views of Puri's

pool, games room and a dedicated kids' zone, ensuring entertainment for all ages. Commitment to Sustainability

The Resort is committed to sustainability, incorporating eco-friendly practices such as energy-efficient systems, water conservation initiatives and the use of locally sourced materials. These efforts reflect the Group's dedication to minimizing its ecological footprint while delivering a



is meticulously designed to provide a perfect balance of comfort and luxury, ensuring a memorable stay for every

Culinary Excellence & Wellness Swosti Premium Beach Resorts offers an exceptional culinary experience, with menus curated by expert chefs. Guests can indulge in a wide range of multi-cuisine dishes and buffets at the Beach Hut, a restaurant that offers breathtaking panoramic views of the ocean. The resort also emphasizes wellness, featuring a state-ofthe-art fitness centre and the

luxurious Ekayaa Spa, where

Swosti Group: A Legacy of

Since its inception in 1984, Swosti Group has been a pioneer in the hospitality industry, renowned for its commitment to excellence. The Group's portfolio includes Swosti Grand and Swosti Premium in Bhubaneswar, Gopalpur Palm Resort at Gopalpur-on-Sea and Swosti Chilika Resort. The Group's success is further supported by Swosti Travels, Odisha's largest inbound tour operator and the Swosti Institute of Management & Social Studies (SIMSS), which plays a vital role in training the next generation



treatments in a serene setting. Additional leisure amenities include a swimming

of hospitality professionals. J K Mohanty, MHCIMA CMD - Swosti Group

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS 2024

1 December

ODISSI Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalay, Bhubaneswar

Malti Shyam & Group New Delhi

4 December

KUCHIPUDI Deepika Reddy & Group

2 December

MANIPURI

5 December

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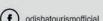
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Evolution is not finished; reason is not the last word nor the reasoning animal the supreme figure of Nature. As man emerged out of the animal, so out of man the superman emerges



Aakar Patel

FOR US INDIANS,

ARE THE WORLD'S

LARGEST NATION,

OUR ROLE HERE

IS LIMITED. WE

BECAUSE WE

HAVE NOT

ARE ONLOOKERS

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WHAT CHINA HAS

UNFORTUNATELY.

THOUGH WE

SRI AUROBINDO

Living In Past

he stunning victory of Donald Trump has sharpened focus on America's relationship with its only peer competitor, China. Eight years ago, Trump had identified China as America's primary threat and had acted to curb its economic rise. He did this by attempting to deny China market access to the US, through tariffs. This was to some extent successful and the tariffs were continued by

Mexico became the US's largest trading partner this year, eclipsing China which had held the position for a decade. Of course, much of Mexico's exports to the US were initially from China so it is unclear what the actual damage to China has been. Biden also took the next step towards trying to handicap China's growth by denying it access to the most advanced microchips and the machinery used to design them. This was explained as a move that was aimed at China's military capability but the real reason is economic. China has responded by starting its own development of these goods and experts estimate it is only a few years behind and will at some point catch up.

China is by far the global leader in electric vehicles and clean energy including solar panels. Meaning its products are priced competitively and often better in quality than what is made in Europe and the US. Tesla owner Elon Musk says that the cars produced by his Chinese plant are the best the company makes. But even Chinese designed cars by local brands in China are thought to have caught up with the best the world has to offer and at a cheaper price.

America is stuck with what they call gas cars and trucks, which are powered by petrol and are a sunset industry. The only way for American giants Ford and General Motors to not only compete today but to survive is by blocking Chinese cars through tariffs and other barriers.

This likely will not go on for much longer for two reasons. The first is consumer interest and denying people cheaper alternatives for strategic reasons is not going to be popular. And the other of course is the fact that electric vehicles are the future and even if they are not mandated will replace those running on petrol.

China is now two thirds the size of the US economy (18 trillion USD to 26 trillion) and the same size as the economy of the entire European Union. In the next 10 years, China will come close to equalling the US. No

other nation has done that or come close to doing it. Before it collapsed, the Soviet Union was a fourth the size of the US economy. But that was a very different time and the Russians never had the dominance of China in key sectors. China is the world's largest manufacturer and makes a third of all goods.

This has happened though Chinese wages have grown multiple times in the last decade and a half. For several years now, it has not been cheap labour that has powered Chinese exports.

China's growth has slowed since COVID but a slow China is still formidable. It is growing at twice the rate of the United States and, based on the latest numbers out on 29 November, at the same rate as India though it has an economy five times larger.

It will not be easy for the United States to stop it from rising further and, given the pace at which China has boomed, the moment of reckoning will be upon us perhaps inside of this decade itself.

This is the primary question and the main issue in geopolitics today: what can the US do to stop China from equalling it? If there is not much, then what happens to the world once China becomes the equal of the US and soon after, the largest power on earth? We will find out the answer to both.

On many key issues, things will likely shift. For one, America and its allies will be less capable of doing what they have done across the world over the last few decades. China claims it is non-interventionist, and perhaps it will turn out to be that way, but then again China has never before been the dominant power in a connected world.

For us Indians, unfortunately, though we are the world's largest nation, our role here is limited. We are onlookers because we have not managed to do what China has. In 1990, India and China were together with economies the same size in per capita GDP (the World Bank data in fact says India was marginally ahead). Three and a half decades of "liberalisation" and one decade under the genius of Modi has not produced any shift. China's per person GDP was USD 7600 in 2014 and ours was USD 1559. A decade later they are at 12614 and we at 2400.

In any case, we no longer have the ambition to rival China save through words. Across the landscape of geopolitics there is as much reference to India as there might be to, say, the United Kingdom or France. Both spent powers and neither especially relevant in the meaningful sense. India is similar. This is a shame for a nation with so much potential and for which there had been so much hope only a few years ago.

On the other hand, of course, we are happy to be fighting ourselves and digging up disputes from centuries ago as a substitute for real development. The present and the future can wait while we will fix the past.

WISDOM CORNER

In individuals, insanity is rare; but in groups, parties, nations and epochs, it is the rule

RIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people

ARTIN LUTHER KING, J

Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope

MAYA ANGELOU

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1761: Marie Tussaud, the founder of Madame Tussaud's museum of wax figures, was born in France.
- 1913: The world's first moving assembly line debuted, used in manufacturing Model Ts at a Ford factory in Highland Park, Michigan; the innovation was the idea of owner Henry Ford, and it revolutionized the auto industry.
- 1955: Rosa Parks' refusal to relinquish her bus seat. This day in 1955, in violation of segregation laws in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks refused to surrender her bus seat to a white passenger and was arrested, sparking a 381-day bus boycott led by Martin Luther King, Jr.
- **1959:** The Antarctic Treaty was signed by 12 countries, making the Antarctic continent a demilitarized zone to be preserved for scientific research.

FOCUS POLITICS

DEMOCRACY NEEDS WORKERS

shocked the world in 2016 when he was elected US president, winning swing states in America's Rust Belt, including Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, that have traditionally backed Democrats. Much the same story played out in November. The country's former industrial heartland overwhelmingly voted for Trump and his promise to "make America great again." According to exit polls, a majority of working-class people in key states - those who did not attend college and earn between \$30,000 and \$99,999 per year - backed Trump. That was true of white, Latino, and Black voters.

This trend is not confined to the United States. In June, 57 per cent of workers voted for the far-right National Rally (Rassemblement National) in the first round of the French parliamentary election. And in September, 50 per cent of workers supported the populist Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ) in the country's general election, while the Alternative for Germany (AfD) won 46 per cent of workers' votes in the Brandenburg state election.

Poland's right-wing party, Law and Justice (PiS), which governed between 2015 and 2023, offers a useful case study of why populist and authoritarian parties are increasingly attractive to workers in Europe and the US, and how the center left can win them back. PiS had a string of legislative wins, including lowering the retirement age, sharply increasing the minimum wage, and providing direct cash transfers to parents with children under the age of 18. By embracing the causes normally championed by social democrats, PiS pro-



The Democratic Party in the US, social democrats in Western Europe, and progressive forces in post-communist countries have all lost traction with the working class

moted the economic interests of Polish workers. As a result, nearly half of this group voted for PiS during last year's parliamentary election (in the end, a coalition of opposition parties won enough seats to form a majority government).

My research on the less-educated and lower-income voters in Poland's small towns and rural areas, conducted on behalf of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, found an almost total disconnect between this group and the center left. Working-class participants in my focus groups associated social-democratic parties with the LGBTQ+ agenda, the sexualization of children, openness to migrants, and efforts to undermine state sovereignty. Instead of consuming traditional media, they get their news from niche groups on social-media platforms. These voters are proud of their anti-establishment stance, and see themselves as engaged in a fight for their livelihoods and access to "objective" information.

These findings match those

of a systematic review of 51 studies examining declining support for center-left parties in the West. The Democratic Party in the US, social democrats in Western Europe, and progressive forces in post-communist countries have all lost traction with the working class. To reverse this trend, they must implement worker-friendly policies and change the way they communicate with this crucial segment of votors.

segment of voters. Progressives on both sides of the Atlantic have campaigned for years on increasing support for working families, including by spending more on public services, health care, education, and infrastructure. This has even helped them win elections (although often against unpopular conservative governments). Consider the 2008 and 2020 US presidential elections, when Democrats Barack Obama and Joe Biden, respectively, won, as well as the Labour Party's resounding victory over the Tories in the United Kingdom's general election earlier this year.

Once in office, however, these parties often fail to deliver on their campaign promises. Talking about creating good jobs in the industries of the future is not the same as actually doing it. Workers want bold, effective leaders who will take concrete action.

The center left must accept that it cannot communicate with blue-collar voters in the same way that it does with wealthy urban elites. Instead of dismissing workers' concerns about migration, globalisation, and the green transition, the Democrats in the US and social-democratic parties in Europe should address these fears on the channels and platforms that this segment of the population already uses. In that sense, they could learn a thing or two from the far right. which has become a dominant force on TikTok and X. Creating videos that put a more positive and pro-democratic spin on populism is less a matter of taste than of necessity.

The working class has played an essential role in building liberal democracies over the past two centuries, pushing for universal voting rights, the creation of social programmes, and other policies expanding economic well-being and underpinning political stability. In times of turmoil, like now, center-left parties must ensure that blue-collar voters can find a home under their tent. That means making a concerted effort to court them, which starts by taking their concerns seriously and meeting them where they are. If they fail, the far right will continue to exploit workers' anger to fuel their anti-democratic agenda.

The writer is an assistant professor in political science at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński

University in Warsaw.

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

Bartosz M. Rydliński

WORKERS

EFFECTIVE

WILL TAKE

CONCRETE

ACTION

WANT BOLD.

LEADERS WHO

The all pervasive power of gold



Dasarathi Mishra

GLOBALLY,
CENTRAL
BANKS HOLD
APPROXIMATELY
20% OF ALL
MINED GOLD,
REFLECTING ITS
SIGNIFICANCE
IN MAINTAINING
FINANCIAL
SECURITY AND
LIQUIDITY

recently in a big way.
On Dhanteras day, 30
October, RBI brought back 102
tonnes of gold, moving the physical gold from Bank of England's vault to RBI vault in Nagpur.
The reason could be geopolitical or sentimental, but it gives a strong signal to the world that India's economy is robust.

The year 1990-91 was one of the worst years that Indian economy faced in post Independent period. With foreign exchange reserve depleting fast and worsening balance of payment (BOP) situation, the possibility of default in external payments was looming large. Foreign exchange reserves declined from \$3.1 billion at the end of August 1990 to \$896 million by mid-January 1991. Foreign exchange reserves could roughly support three week's imports. India did not want to become a defaulter internationally. The RBI and the government debated over many options to tackle the crisis. Pledging of gold and raising foreign exchange was found to be the best option, as it was a transient measure. Former Governor Rangarajan in his book Forks in the Road mentions: "the initiative to pledge gold was taken by RBI." It got the permission of the caretaker government led by Prime Minister Chandra

Shekhar. It needed great courage and wisdom to take such timely decision in critical hours. Gold is the last resort to meet a critical situation. The power of gold is demonstrated during a financial crisis for any individual, so also for a nation.

Firstly, the government's

gold with SBI pledged overseas fetched \$200 million. The next major step was to pledge a part of RBI gold reserves of 46.91 tonnes with Bank of Japan and Bank of England to raise \$405 million. The foreign central banking authorities were willing to extend loans only against securities of gold and that too against physical transfer of gold. They did not agree to the proposal that since the RBI was an IMF depository, it could keep the gold with itself. Accordingly, RBI arranged with utmost urgency and secrecy to airlift the gold to Bank of England. The loans raised from foreign central banks were redeemed by repayment between September-November 1991. Dr Rangaraian once mentioned: "Today the amount may look small but this amount was crucial to prevent a default at that time.'

According to an RBI's Management of Foreign Exchange Reserve report, as on 30 September 2024, RBI held 854.73 tonnes of gold of which 510.46 tonnes were held domestically. Thus, 324.01 tonnes of gold were kept in safe custody with the Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements. Further 20.26 tonnes were held in the form of gold deposits. After the transfer of 102 tonnes of gold to India the domestic gold holding has gone up to 426.01 tonnes.

It is pertinent to mention that Dr Subbarao, then RBI Governor, had taken a bold step with RBI's purchase of 200 tonnes of gold from IMF in November 2009. Raghav Bahl in his book 'Superpower' mentions "India did it in truly uncharacteristic style: bold, swift and decisive. There was a delicious amount of revenge built into the transaction as less than two decades ago, India was forced to pledge its gold to raise foreign exchange to meet the international payment obligation."

Globally, central banks hold approximately 20% of all mined gold, reflecting its significance in maintaining financial security and liquidity. With financial sector reforms and bold measures by RBI and GOI, the forex reserve of the country has been on the rise indicative of the country's stronger economy. The forex reserves of the country have gone up from \$5.84bn

in March 1991 to \$682.13bn as on 11 November 2024. Similarly, gold reserves have gone up from \$3.50bn to \$69.75bn during the same period.

Maintaining a healthy gold reserve is a priority for a country. As per World Gold Council Report, 2024, the US holds 8,133 tonnes, Germany 3351 tonnes and China 2264 tonnes of gold reserve. In fact, US gold reserves declined by 11,000 tonnes from 1950 to 1970 as Europe and Japan redeemed dollars for gold. Then US President Nixon shut the window on these redemptions in August 1971. If he had not taken such a decisive measure the US gold vault at Fort Knox would have been largely depleted.

The power of gold is all pervasive. In India, gold holds immense cultural significance; it is considered a symbol of wealth and social status while being integral to various rituals and celebrations. WGC has estimated that the annual Indian demand for the precious metal in recent years has been in excess of 800 tonnes. Further, India's growing economic influence fuels demands for acquiring gold, making it one of the largest consumers of the yellow metal.

The writer is a former central banker.

etters

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:

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate,
Bhubaneswar-751010

Anarchical conditions

Sir, This refers to "Protect all minorities: India to B'desh," Orissa POST, Nov 30. Despite India's repeated counselling measures for the protection of minorities, incumbent rulers in Dhaka have merely looked the other way while politically-supported thugs attack Hindus, looting their homes and shops, very often with police encouragement. Now, the arrest of Iskcon priest Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari comes as a huge shock since his only crime was to peacefully protest the daily atrocities being committed against the Hindu minorities. Such are the anarchical conditions in Bangladesh that the priest's lawyer was lynched by a mob right in the court complex in the very presence of the police. The interim regime headed by Muhammad Yunus seems either unwilling to control the violent elements, or his writ does not run at all. The Indian government's strong reaction to the arrest of the priest and the slapping of sedition charges against him has been called as interference in the internal affairs. The interim regime in Dhaka cannot fob off accountability by merely denying the charges. It needs to protect its credentials as a responsible government capable of restoring order and protecting all sections of the population irrespective of their religious faith and/or political leanings.

cal leanings. . **N Sadhasiva Reddy,** BANGALORE

Superior EVM

Sir, When results come out after elections, politicians and political parties suddenly start blaming the EVM on the plea that ostensibly there is poll rigging. This has even prompted parties to move the apex court and appeal for returning to the earlier ballot paper system. In a case that recently came to the apex court, the jury asked the petitioner that it could not make out how an EVM works perfectly when the party wins and it is otherwise when the party loses. The reality is that there is no point whatsoever to coming back the days of ballot paper polling process as EVM is superior to the former in all respects. The parties favouring a ballot system must keep in mind that EVM is by far the most appropriate alternative for the largest democracy of the world.

Sanjib Kumar Das, CUTTACK



TWO STATES





Over 5.5L aspirants apply for

4,002 constable posts in J&K

2 govt employees sacked over terror links

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha vows to eradicate the terror ecosystem and urged people to shoulder their responsibilities in the fight against terrorism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 30: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoi Sinha Friday terminated two government employees from service for their alleged terror links, officials said.

The fired employees have been identified as Abdul Rehman Naika who worked as a pharmacist in the Health department, and Zahir Abbas, a teacher in the school Education department, they added.

Sinha invoked Article 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution to terminate the two employees after a probe by the law enforcement and intelligence agencies 'clearly established their terror links", officials said.

The LG has ordered termination of several government employees over the past few years under the same provision.

Naika, a resident of Devsar in Kulgam district, was appointed as a medical assistant in 1992.

"His links with Hizbul Mujahideen was unearthed after the police launched a probe into the killing of Ghulam Hassan Lone, a staunch nationalist in Devsar whose three sons are serving in security forces. Lone was killed by terrorists in August 2021. The probe revealed that Naika was one of the plotters of killing aimed at creating a state of fear and insecurity among the patriotic people," officials said.

The investigation revealed that Naika played a key role in nourishing, strengthening and proliferating a conducive ecosystem for secessionism and terrorism, not only in Kulgam, but also in the neighbouring Shopian and Anantnag districts, they added.

After Lone's murder, the police tracked the footprints of the overground workers (OGWs) providing logistical support to the terrorists, they said.

Naika and his associates were nabbed with hand grenades and AK 47 ammunition. During interrogation, he confessed to have received direction from his handlers in Pakistan to carry out a terrorist attack in Kulgam by lobbing grenades on security forces and



political persons, officials said. The second employee to face action -- Abbas -- is a resident of Badhat Saroor area in Kishtwar district.

"A graduate from Aligarh Muslim University, Abbas was posted as a teacher at the government high school in Bugrana in 2012. He was arrested in September 2020 for harbouring three active Hizbul terrorists in Kishtwar. He is currently lodged at the Kot Bhalwal pris-

During investigations into terror activities in Kishtwar, Abbas' role as a hardcore OGW came to light.

"After his arrest, Abbas gave inputs of hideouts where arms and ammunition were stored, besides identifying two fired OGWs -- Gulzar employees have Ahmad and been identified as Abdul Mohammad Rehman Naika who worked they said. as a pharmacist in the Health

department, and Zahir

school

Education

department

Abbas, a teacher in the providing critical information about force movements to his handlers in Pakistan, they added.

also

Abbas

was

"He also helped terrorists on the ground with food, shelter, and arms besides enabling them to evade arrest and plan attacks. His presence in a school where he had the potential to influence, indoctrinate and radicalise students fundamentally contradicts the principles of education and poses

a direct threat to the stability and security of the nation."

"Even today, discreetly obtained intelligence inputs suggest that Abbas continues to indulge in radical activities while in jail," the officials said. The two cases

are "clear examples of Pakistan's ISI stan-based terror out fits infiltrat ing the sys also reveal these outfits' sinister strategy to sustain terror

activities and secure finances from Indian exchequer while subverting the system from within, they said.

The officials added that during a recent security review meeting, the LG vowed to wipe out terrorists, their supporters and those aiding and abetting them from within

demand for age relaxation and rescheduling of

A group of youngsters,

meanwhile, staged a

demonstration here,

reiterating their

the examination

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 30: More than 5.59 lakh job aspirants are slated to appear in an examination for 4,002 vacancies of police constables in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said Saturday. The test is scheduled to commence across the Union Territory from Sunday.

A group of youngsters, meanwhile, staged a demonstration here, reiterating their demand for age relaxation and rescheduling of the examination.

"A total of 5,59,135 candidates are scheduled to appear in the exams for 4,002 posts of constables (Home department) to be held December 1, December 8 and December 22," Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Recruitment Board (SSRB) Chairperson Indu Kanwal Chib said at a meeting here

The meeting of the civil administration and Police department was convened by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to take stock of the preparations made by the deputy commissioners to conduct the exams.

Chib said the exams for the posts of constable (executive/ armed/SDRF) are going to be held December 1 at 856 centres across 20 districts, for which 2,62,863 candidates are set to appear, with the maximum number of 54,296 candidates appearing from Jammu district.

Similarly, for the posts of constable (telecommunications), the SSRB chairperson said 1,67,609 candidates are go ing to appear in the exams to be held December 8 and 1.28.663 are scheduled to appear in the test for constable (photographer) exams December 22.

The meeting was informed that for the first time, male and female gazetted officers have been deployed at each centre as "frisking supervisors", besides ensuring videography of the exams to ensure transparency, an official spokesperson said.

The chief secretary im pressed upon the officers to make adequate arrangements in terms of deployment of staff, including observers, supervi sors, invigilators and other per sonnel, for a smooth conduct of the examinations.

Meanwhile, a group of young sters, who could not apply for the constable posts due to being over-age, staged a demonstra tion here and raised slogans against the administration for not providing them a level-play

The protesters reiterated their demand for age relaxation for the posts of constable and sub-inspector, and demanded rescheduling of the constable examination to allow them to

compete as well. The SSRB has issued a notification for the recruitment of 669 sub-inspectors in the Jammu and Kashmir Police depart ment. According to the official schedule, the application process for recruitment will begin December 3 and conclude Jan uary 2, 2025.

Fresh snowfall in higher reaches of Kashmir The famous tourist resort

town of Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district witnessed the season's first snowfall

Srinagar, Nov 30: Fresh snowfall was recorded in many places, including the tourist towns, in the higher reaches of Kashmir Saturday despite the night temperature settling above freezing point at most locations,

Many places in the higher reaches of Kashmir experienced fresh snowfall under the influence of a western disturbance they said. The famous tourist resort town of Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district witnessed the season's first

Other tourist destinations, including the ski resort town of Gulmarg and Sonamarg, also recorded snowfall.

Snowfall was also reported from Gurez, Zojila axis and a few other upper areas, the offi-



The snowfall on the Zojila axis resulted in the closure of the Srinagar-Leh highway, they added. The Met office said the weather would remain cloudy with the possibility of light rain or snow at isolated to scattered places in the higher reaches of the Valley Saturday.

The weather will be partly cloudy with light rain or snow at isolated places in the higher reaches Sunday.

From December 2, there are chances of light rain or snow at scattered places in the higher reaches over two days.

The weather is likely to stay generally dry during December 4-7, after which light rain or snow is possible at isolated places in the higher reaches December 8, the weather of-

INTERNATIONAL CLOWN FESTIVAL

Not just their noses, clowns

paint Bangalore red too

'Invest Karnataka 2025' shines at UK roadshow

Bangalore, Nov 30: Karnataka Minister for Large and Medium Industries MB Patil Saturday engaged with top global companies in the United Kingdom during a roadshow held to highlight Karnataka's investment potential across the aerospace and defense, automotive, and education sectors, officials said.

As part of the 'Invest Karnataka 2025' roadshow, Patil, who is currently in London, invited leading organisations, emphasising Karnataka's robust infrastructure, business-friendly en vironment, and forward-thinking initiatives such as the Knowledge, Wellbeing, and Innovation (KWIN) City project.

During a meeting with the Rolls Royce Group, the Minister showcased Karnataka's thriving aerospace and defence ecosystem, focusing on composite manufacturing.

A detailed presentation highlighted the state's ease of doing business and attractive incentives, which received positive feedback from Rolls Royce's leadership. Discussions focused on Karnataka's strategic role in

ward lies in the "aha" moment

when people realise clowning is

far more than just telling silly

za says, kept him motivated

through the early challenges of

organising such a unique event.

momentum as we improved

our theatre shows, raised production values, brought in more

skilled clowns, and added a wid-

er variety of acts," D'Souza said.

across five cities, performing

in malls, before combining

mall events with theatre shows.

"We then toured for 45 days

The clown festival gained

realisation. D'Sou-



noted that "Tesco plans to hire 1,500 employees, expand its operations in Bangalore, and set up a distribution centre in Hoskote, creating 15,000 jobs." In the education sector, talks

with the Pearson Group, a prominent UK-based education company, focused on potential opportunities for skill development and collaboration, the statement added.

Patil's office stated that Pearson expressed a desire to expand

its operations in India by

and long-term growth prospects in the state, the statement said.

Dated.28.11.2024 The Superintending Engineer, Ganjam [R&B] Division No.II, Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage

rate bid in single cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE only for the work as detailed below 2 Nature of Work : Electrical work No. of work Class of Contractor MV / HT / Supplier Licensed / Authorized Dealer From 05.12.2024, 10.00 A.M. to 6 Availability of bid 18.12.2024, 4.00 P.M. documents in the website

(Sd./- S. Patel) OIPR-34080/11/0007/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA IR&BI DIVISION NO.11, BERHAMPUR Phone/Fax: 0680-2233996, e-mail: sernb2.ganjam@gmail.com

statement said. The Karnataka

government assured complete

support for these expansions,

reinforcing the state's status

as a global aerospace hub, the

statement added. 'Invest Karna

taka 2025', set to take place in

Bangalore, in February 2025,

will offer a prime platform for

international companies to ex-

plore partnerships, innovations.

marks the final stop of the 10th edition of the 10-city clown festival

intro-

ducing

This year, the clowns also performed in smaller cities like Puducherry, Mangaluru, and Goa, D'Souza said

Bangalore

performances

daily-at 11

am, 3 pm,

pm-until

D'Souza

the 10th

noted that

edition has

been larger

and more

impactful,

featuring

clowning

juggling

and

workshops

December 1

In Bangalore, the shows are being held at Ambedkar Bhavan in Vasanth No.07/SSB Nagar, with three

smaller cities like Puducherry, Mangaluru, and Goa, D'Souza

In Bangalore, the shows are

100 shows," he said.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement] **TENDER CALL NOTICE**

7 Date of opening of Bid : 19.12.2024 at 11.30 A.M. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Furthe details can be seen from the website https://tendersorissa.gov

Superintending Engineer Ganjam (R&B) Division No.II

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER SUNDARGARH (R&B) DIVISION, SUNDARGARH No. B-699 e-Procurement Notice E-mail ID: pwd_sng@yahoo.co.in Bid Identification No. SE-R&B-SNG-39 of 2024-25 etter No. 7004 Date: 28.11.2024 The Superintending Engineer, Sundargarh (R&B) Division or behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in Single Cover System on ONLINE mode from eligible contractors with valid licences for execution Electrical Works (Fire Fighting) as detailed in DTCN Electrical Works (Fire Fighting) 2 Nature of Work 3 No. of Work 01 (One) No. Rs 6 000/-4 Tender Cost Specialized agency with associate 5 Class of Contractor electrical contractor having valid cence from ELBO Availability From 10.00 A.M. Date: 02.12.2024 document in the website to 05.00 P.M. Date: 12.12.2024

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

Date of Opening of Bid 11.00 A.M. on Dt.13.12.2024 The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Furthe details can be seen from the website (https://tendersodisha gov.in). Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender car also be seen in the said website only.

Sd./- Additional Chief Engineer OIPR-34043/11/0030/2425 Sundargarh (R&B) Division

For 55-year-old Martin D'Souza, the mastermind behind the clown festival that has been reshaping perceptions of clowns for the past decade, the true reward lies in the 'aha' moment when people realise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 30: Sevenyear-old Leyla wasn't the only one in stitches at the clowns' antics. Her initially reluctant parents—a techie couple from Bangalore—soon found themselves laughing uncontrollably as the performers mocked each other with exaggerated physical comedy that rendered dialogue unnecessary.

For nearly two hours, 25 clowns from as far away as Belgium and Mexico juggled, unicycled, mimed, and backslapped through skits. With their signature red noses firmly in place, they sniffled, giggled, and entertained the crowd with carefully crafted acts that often ended with a playful "moral of the story" aimed at the children.

This spectacle unfolded as part of the 10th edition of the International Clown Festival, now lighting up Bangalore.

For 55-year-old Martin D'Souza, the mastermind behind the clown festival that has been reshaping perceptions of clowns

Eventually, we expanded to schools and even made hospital visits." he added. Bangalore marks the final clowning is far more than just telling silly jokes stop of the 10th edition of the 10-city clown festival. This year, the clowns also performed in

> being held at Ambedkar Bhavan in Vasanth Nagar, with three performances daily-at 11 am, 3 pm, and 7 pm—until December 1.

D'Souza noted that the 10th edition has been larger and more impactful, featuring workshops on clowning and juggling. 'We've been on the road for almost 100 days, performing over

STATE SELECTION BOARD. ODISHA POLICE. (WEBSITE - https://odishapolice.gov.in)

NOTICE

No.D-196: Pursuant to Advertisement No. 02/SSB. dt.22.09.2024, it is for information of all concerned that the Computer Based Recruitment Examination for the post of Sepoys / Constables in Battalions will be held from 7th December, 2024 onwards in different districts of

The candidates concerned are advised to download their Admit Cards to know the details about examination centre and schedule of examination from the portal of State Selection Board, Odisha Police on the website https://odishapolice.gov.in from 02.12.2024 (10 A.M.) onwards using their user credentials.

The Mock Test will be available from 03.12.2024 The candidates may practice the Mock Test at the same website before appearing the examination for familiarizing themselves with the examination process.

Candidates concerned are also advised to be constant touch with the above website to know any further updates

By Order of Chairman, SSB OIPR-12029/11/0043/2425 Sd./- Member

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, At : Ichhapur, Post : Shree Baladevjew, Email : eerwsskendrapara@gmail.com

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement] Bid Identification No. RWS/38/2024-25 Letter No. 5562/Dated. 28.11.2024

The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Kendrapara on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage bid in **SINGLE** cover system in **ONLINE MODE** from eligible Electrical contractors for External Electrification works o different Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes in Kendrapara District of PWS Scheme to Balabhadrapur unde Derabish Block in Kendrapara district No. of Work 01 No. (One) only Rs. 11.11 Lakhs Value of the Work

Concerned tender inviting Kendrapara Cost of Bid documents (Rs.) (Online) Cost of EMD @ 1% (Online) Rs. 11200

Period of Completion 30 days Availability of bid documents in From date. 02.12.2024 at 10.00 A.M. to the website Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification 12 Date of Opening of Bid : 12.12.2024 at 11.00 A.M. onwards he bidders have to participate in the tender through ONLINE bidding only. Further etails can be had from the website i.e. http://itendersodisha.gov.in. The bid shale accompanied with valid Contractor registration Certificate, PAN, GST, No. elation certificate in Schedule-A. Affidavit in support of authenticity of documents in

chedule-F and information regarding current litigation in Schedule-E. Subsequen prrigendum / addendum if required shall only be appeared in the above website

RWS&S Division, Kendrapara OIPR-25004/11/0017/2425

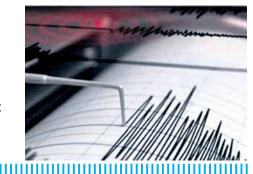
national



The political challenges we face (from the **BJP) today are like** landslides. There are no rules. There are no explanations

QUAKE HITS ASSAM, 11TH TREMOR IN NE IN 34 DAYS

A mild intensity earthquake, measuring 2.9 on the Richter scale, hit Assam's Karbi Anglong district early Saturday, officials said. The Disaster Management officials said that the mild tremor was felt in Karbi Anglong and adjoining areas in the early hours of Saturday



Sabha polls, Maha Vikas Aghadi won 31 seats (out of 48 in Maharashtra) while we

got 17 seats. We accepted the people's mandate. We did not make any allegations about EVMs. In Baramati, my candidate (wife Sunetra Pawar) lost by more than 1.4 lakh votes, while in the assembly election, I won by one lakh votes AJIT PAWAR | MAHA DEPUTY CM

Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji says there should be a 'Lakhpati Didi' in every village

of the country... and for this, banks have launched several schemes for providing financial assistance to women

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER



free of cost to some states and

we have nothing for ourselves. People who earn their livelihood by means of labour work with the blessings of the Mata will lose the opportunity after the ropeway's construction

SHORT TAKES

TMC protests against Waqf Bill

Kolkata: The TMC Minority Cell held a rally in Kolkata Sunday to protest the Waqf Amendment Bill, which its leaders alleged was aimed at seizing properties of Muslims. Addressing the rally, TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee claimed that the BJP-led government at the Centre does not respect the Constitution as it was moving forward on the matter without any discussion with the states Banerjee, who is a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Wagf Amendment Bill, alleged that the federal structure of the country was under threat

Maoist killed in encounter

Chaibasa (Jharkhand): A Maoist was killed in an encounter with police in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district Saturday, a senior officer said. The encounter took place in Tomrong village, located within Tebo police station limits, he added.

Ganja seized at **Kochi Airport**

Kochi: The Customs Department seized ganja worth approximately ₹2.5 crore and arrested a passenger at Kochi International Airport, officials said Saturday. They stated that 7,920 grams of green-coloured dried plant buds, suspected to be ganja, were confiscated from the passenger who had arrived from Bangkok. The accused, identified as Favas from Kozhikode, was produced before the Judicial Magistrate in Angamaly Friday and subsequently remanded to judicial custody at Aluva Sub

Newly-elected MLA booked

Jail, an official said.

Mumbai: Newly-elected Maharashtra MLA Amshva Padvi was booked Saturday after a woman accused him of assaulting and molesting her, a police official said. Padvi won on a Shiv Sena ticket from Akkalkuwa seat in Nandurbar district by a margin which were declared.

SP lawmakers barred from visit

Lucknow/Sambhal Nov 30: Several Samajwadi Party lawmakers, including its Sambhal MP, were stopped from entering the violence-hit district, as the administration Saturday extended the ban on the entry of outsiders and public representatives into Sambhal till December 10 to maintain "peace and order". The earlier prohibition on

outsiders' entry was to expire Saturday. Later, the Samajwadi Party announced that it would provide ₹5 lakh each to the family of the four people who died in the violence over a court-ordered survey of a Mughal-era

It also demanded that the state government give ₹25 lakh each to the families. "The Samaiwadi Partv will provide financial assistance of ₹5 lakh each to the families of those who lost their

lives in the violence in Sambhal due to the failure of the BJP government and administration. The Uttar Pradesh government should give compensation of ₹25 lakh each to the families of the deceased," it said on X. On Saturday, with the ban extended, the Samaiwadi Party's Muzaffarnagar MP Harendra Malik was stopped from entering Sambhal from Ghaziabad.

"Are Opposition leaders and MPs so irresponsible that they can't be allowed to move within the state?" Malik asked. The



Samajwadi Party MP Harendra Singh Malik after he was stopped by police at Ghazipur border

party had announced a 15-member delegation would visit the district to gather information about the violence that broke

out over the Shahi Jama Masjid's sur-SAMBHAL vey. Curbs under **VIOLENCE** Section 163 (power to issue order in urgent cases of

nuisance or apprehended danger) of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, set to expire Sunday, were extended till December 31. In a statement issued in Sambhal, District Magistrate Rajendra Pensiya said, "To maintain peace and order, the imposition of Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita in the district has been extended to December 31." "No outsider, any social organisation or public representative can enter into the borders of the district without seeking permis-

till December 10." he added.

The Supreme Court has since ordered the Sambhal court to halt proceedings in the case and its survey. Malik, who was stopped from entering Sambhal, further said, "Our delegation included MPs Zia-ur-Rehman Barq (Sambhal) and Iqra Hasan (Kairana). The government is acting in an autocratic manner.'

Traffic was choked at the Ghaziabad border as the police stepped up vigil to ensure that no one could move towards Sambhal. "I want to go to Sambhal to apply a healing touch to those affected by the violence but the government is controlling everything," Malik said before he and his convoy were removed from the spot. Hasan, whose convoy was stopped in Hapur, told reporters, "All those affected by the violence are our own people

Sambhal since November 19 when the mosque was surveyed following claims that a Harihar temple previously stood at the site

√Violence erupted during a second survey November 24 as protesters gathered near the mosque and clashed with security personnel

←Four people died and several others were injured in the clashes. The police have denied allegations that it fired at the protesters

and we wanted

to be with them. We will raise the issue in the Lok Sabha."

In Moradabad, Samajwadi Party MP Ruchi Veera's residence was surrounded by cops to prevent her from travelling to Sambhal.

Leader of Opposition in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly Mata Prasad Pandey, who was to lead the delegation, told reporters outside his Lucknow residence that Home Secretary Sanjay Prasad requested him to not visit Sambhal. Heavy security has been deployed outside Pandey's residence since Friday. He added that the situation in Sambhal required an impartial investigation. In a post in Hindi on X, the Samaiwadi Party said the government deploying police at the homes of leaders included in the delegation and preventing them from travelling to Sambhal was "reprehensible"

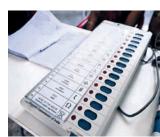
In another post, it alleged that the Yogi Adityanath government was scared of the del-

BJP dares Cong leaders to resign on EVM issue

New Delhi, Nov 30: The BJP Saturday hit back at the Congress for questioning the electoral process, including EVM's integrity, saying its Chief Ministers and other elected representatives like Rahul Gandhi should first resign and announce that they will contest only after ballot papers are brought back.

Such a stand will underscore their trust in the issues being raised by them, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia told reporters, adding that their allegations will otherwise be nothing but empty words. The Congress should move the courts over the issue too, he said, while stressing that the Supreme Court has quite a few times endorsed the transparency of the electoral process and the integrity of Electoral Voting Machines.

Congress Chief Ministers, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra should resign as they were elected through the same electoral process the opposition party is questioning, Bhatia said. It was ironic that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge questioned EVMs on a day Priyanka Gandhi Vadra took oath as a Lok Sabha MP, he said. Bhatia said that the VVPAT (voter verifiable paper audit trail) has a 100 per cent record in matching the votes cast on EVMs. He then added, "You want elections on ballot papers. First of all, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Sukhvin-



The BJP's reaction came after Akhilesh Yadav accused the party of orchestrating violence in Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh where protesters who were opposing a court-ordered survey of a mosque clashed with police **last Sunday**

der Singh Sukhu, Revanth Reddy and Siddaramaiah should resign. They should say they were elected through EVMs, which is full of scandals and that they will not take part in the electoral process till the bal lot papers are introduced."

Speaking on the incidents targeting Hindu minorities in Bangladesh, the BJP spokesperson noted the stand of the Indian government and expressed confidence that India's strong voice cannot be ignored.

Man throws liquid at Kejriwal, detained



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: In a security scare, a man was detained for allegedly splashing some liquid on AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal during his 'padyatra' in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar Saturday, police said.

Reacting to the development, AAP said, "If a former chief minister is not safe in the national capital, where will the common man go?'

Kejriwal was greeting people standing behind a cordon when the man approached him and splashed the liquid on him, following which the security personnel swiftly overpowered him. Kejriwal and the security personnel accompanying him were later seen wiping their faces. The man, believed to be a resident of the same locality, was taken to the local police

'Attacker wanted to burn AAP convenor alive'

New Delhi: Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwai Saturday alleged that the man held for attacking AAP convener Arvind Keiriwal wanted to set him afire after throwing spirit on him on him during his Padvatra campaign. In a post on X, Bharadwaj also alleged that the attacker was connected with the BJP. On Saturday evening, Keiriwal was greeting people standing behind a cordon when the man approached him and splashed some liquid on him, following swiftly overpowered him. Kejriwal and the security personnel accompanying him were later seen wiping their faces. "A man threw spirit on him (Kejriwal). We could smell it. And there was an attempt to burn him (Kejriwal) alive ."

station, an officer said. AAP lashed out at the BJPled Centre for the incident. "Delhi is facing a complete breakdown of law and order under BJP's rule," it said. The Delhi Police functions under the Union Home Ministry. Ahead of assembly elections, due in February, Kejriwal was holding a rally at Savitri Nagar in Malviya Nagar.



People gather near an overturned bus after it fell into a gorge on the bank of the Teesta river near Rangpo border, in Pakyong district, Sikkim. 6 people were killed and 15 others injured as the bus plunged into a 150-ft-deep gorge near the West Bengal-Sikkim border Saturday afternoon, police said

Indian student from Telangana shot dead in US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Nov 30: A youth from Khammam district of Telangana was shot dead by miscreants at a gas station near Chicago in the United States where he was working, family members said Saturday.

Sai Teja Nukarapu (22) was shot at by the assailants in the early

hours of Saturday Indian time, BRS MLC Madhusudan Thatha said, citing preliminary information received from the US. The MLC, who called on the parents of the victim at their residence near Khammam, said Sai Teja was not on duty when the incident happened but helping a friend who asked him to stay on

for some time. The friend had

gone out on some work.

Sai Teja completed BBA in India and is pursuing MBA in US. One of the relatives of the victim told media persons that the deceased was doing a parttime job.

It is sad to know that Sai Teja was shot dead when he stayed on at the place of work to help a friend, the relative said.

Tripura private hospital shuts door for Bangladeshi patients

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala, Nov 30: A day after a Kolkata hospital decided not to treat patients from Bangladesh over alleged atrocities against minority Hindus, a multi-spe cialty healthcare facility in Agartala followed suit Saturday

Agartala-based ILS Hospital, which has been a popular destination for patients from the neighbouring country due to its proximity and affordable treatment costs, said the decision was taken over atrocities against Hindus and disrespect to the national flag in Bangladesh. On Friday, JN Ray Hospital in north Kolkata stopped treating patients from the neighbouring country for the same reasons. ILS hospital chief operating officer Gautam Hazarika said "We extend full support to the demand of suspension of treat ment to people from Bangladesh at our health facility...

Hazarika's remarks came in response to a group of people who had staged a protest at the hospital, demanding that the facility stop providing medical services to Bangladeshi citizens, citing disrespect towards the Indian flag and growing concerns over the treatment of Hindus in the neighbouring country.

Delhi-NCR continues to breathe in 'very poor' quality air

Delhi's air quality remained in the "very poor" category for the seventh consecutive day Saturday with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 346

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 30: The air quality in Delhi-NCR continues to deteriorate, posing severe health risks for the people living in the region. The Air Quality Index (AQI)

in the national Capital Saturday was recorded at 318, categorising it as 'very poor,' according to official data, while the air quality in Noida and Gurugram also continued to fall in the 'very poor' to 'severe' category.

This marks the sixth consecutive day that Delhi-NCR's air quality has remained in the very poor' category, creating significant challenges for pub-

In Anand Vihar, one of the national Capital's most pollut-

ed areas, the AQI reached an alarming level of 505 around 8 A.M., placing it in the hazardous category. This is a stark indicator of the deteriorating environmental conditions.

The toxic air is not confined to Delhi alone, as neighboring cities are also grappling with dangerous pollution levels. Meanwhile, in Uttar Pradesh Saturday morning, Noida recorded an AQI of 267, Greater Noida 286, and Ghaziabad 250, while Haryana's Gurugram saw an AQI of 284, with most areas falling in the 'very poor' to 'severe' categories. The widespread pollution is making life increasingly difficult for residents across the region.

However, Noida's Sector 125 recorded an AQI of 184, which falls in the 'moderate' to 'poor'



range, offering a slightly better scenario compared to Del-

Adding to the worsening air quality, the temperature in Delhi has dropped significantly, intensifying the impact of pollution. On Friday morning, the temperature was recorded at 9.5 degrees Celsius, one degree below the season's normal, marking it the coldest day so far this winter.

To tackle the alarming pollution levels, the Supreme Court has directed that all Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)-4 measures, except those related to schools, will remain in effect until the next hearing December 2.

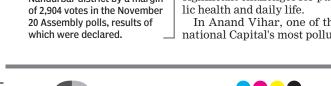
The court emphasised the need for strict enforcement and noted lapses in the implementation of GRAP-4 guidelines. It warned of action against officials responsible for such failures.

While allowing physical classes to continue, the court

declined to ease restrictions under GRAP-3 or GRAP-2 until there was a consistent de crease in the AQI levels. It also instructed state governments to utilise the labour cess collected to support construction workers impacted by the ongoing

construction ban. Authorities have implemented several restrictions under GRAP-4, including a ban on the entry of non-essential trucks into Delhi, except those carrying essential goods or running on cleaner fuels such as LNG, CNG, BS-VI diesel, or electricity.

Construction activities for public infrastructure projects have also been suspended to curb dust pollution, a major contributor to the current



national



during the elections are forgotten once in power, leaving fundamental issues unresolved

BREAST CANCER HELPLINE

Recognizing the critical need for awareness and early intervention, a team of oncologists under the Cancer Mukt Bharat campaign have launched India's first 24x7 free of cost Pink Breast Cancer helpline number to encourage women to take first step towards breast cancer early detection



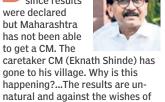


doesn't give assent to the Aparajita Bill, I will



TMC NATIONAL GENERAL SECY

Eight days have passed since results were declared but Maharashtra has not been able



SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

people. There are agitations

It's fine that India is the fifth largest global economy. It's an accomplishment. We are the third largest pur-

all over the state



is to be a developed nation and to be a developed nation, we have challenges and those challenges are the income of our people has to rise eightfold

AGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT





Economy is not even a concern while voting. Once the government is elected, the people who voted, migrate to other states for actual jobs. What scares me is: this model is already proven that to win votes. you don't need good economics. And, is now being adopted at scale

@Akshat_World

SHORT **TAKES**

across India.

Three Delhi Police personnel held by CBI

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested three Delhi Police personnel for allegedly receiving a bribe of ₹1 lakh to allow an illegal betting racket (satta) to operate, officials said Saturday, Sub-Inspector Sudip Punia, Head Constable Aiav Kumar and Constable Rambir. all posted at the Raghubir Nagar police chowki in the Khvala police station, allegedly demanded ₹2.5 lakh from the complainant for letting her continue betting (satta)

Six Naxals held in Chhattisgarh

Bijapur: Six lower-rung Naxalites were arrested in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh Saturday, leading to the seizure of explosives, police said. They were apprehended by the 196th battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the 205th battalion of CRPF's elite Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) unit and local police during an area domination operation in Galgam, Nadpalli and Futapalli forest areas, an official said.

Private car plunges into Chenab; 1 dead

Jammu: A woman was killed and two other passengers are missing after a private car skidded off the road and rolled down into Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district Saturday, officials said. The accident took place near Khandote village around 8.30 am and a joint rescue operation by the police, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and local volunteers is on to trace out the missing persons, the officials said.

Fadnavis frontrunner for CM post

While there was no announcement yet on who would be the Chief Minister, BJP sources said Devendra Fadnavis, who has been Chief Minister twice and was deputy CM in the last Eknath Shinde-led government, was the frontrunner for the post

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai. Nov 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the swearing-in of the new Mahayuti government in Maharashtra December 5 evening as BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis emerged as the frontrunner for the post of Chief Minister.

The oath-taking ceremony will take place at 5 pm at Azad Maidan in south Mumbai, state BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule said.

While there was no announcement yet on who would be the Chief Minister, BJP sources said Devendra Fadnavis, who has been Chief Minister twice and was deputy CM in the last Eknath Shinde-led government, was the frontrunner for the post.

Shinde, who is holding the charge as caretaker chief minister and who headed to his native village Dare in Satara district a day before amid

MAHA

CM

DEC 5

speculation that he was not happy with the way the new government was shaping up, has taken ill, an aide said. He was running tempera-

SWEARING-IN the aide said. The swearing-in ceremony will take place at 5 pm at the Azad Maidan ground. said Bawankule in a post on X. PM Modi will attend the cere-

ture of 105 degree F,

mony, he added. Speaking to reporters in Pune earlier in the day, NCP chief Ajit Pawar said the chief minister will be from the BJP. while there will be deputy CMs from the two allies -- his party and the Shiv Sena. Pawar was a deputy CM in the last government.

Talking about Shinde's illness, Shiv Sena leader Shambhuraj Desai, who hails

that Shinde and reporters other party leaders

Delhi early Friday morning after meeting the top BJP leaders, and Shinde has had cough and cold since then.

"Exertion affected him, so we advised him to take rest," said

Sanjay Shirsat, a Shiv Sena leader close to Shinde, said his party must get the home portfolio. Speaking to PTI, Shirsat also claimed that attempts were made to sideline Shinde.

Meanwhile, a BJP leader said a meeting will be held on December 2 to elect the BJP legislature party leader. Fadnavis was likely to get the CM post this time, he added.

Shinde, who heads the Shiv Sena and who was Chief Minister since June 2022, attended a

meeting of the ruling alliance leaders with senior BJP leader Amit Shah in Delhi Thursday night. Before that, he had made it clear that any decision on the Chief Minister's post by the top BJP leadership would be acceptable to him. Shinde is under pressure

from a group of Shiv Sena leaders who think he should not become a deputy CM, having been the chief minister for more than two years. Another group of party leaders insists that he must be part of the new government.

The Mahayuti alliance of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's Na tionalist Congress Party (NCP) retained power with a landslide victory in the assembly elections, the results of which were announced November 23

While the simple majority figure in the 288-member House is 145, the BJP alone bagged 132 seats, followed by Shiv Sena with 57 and NCP with 41 seats.

But the government forma tion was delayed as the alliance failed to evolve consensus on who would be the Chief Min-

Though Shinde appeared to have ceded claim to the top post, indications that there were still some points of disagreements emerged when a meeting of the allies here Friday was put off, and he instead left for his village Dare.

The NCP has already stated that Fadnavis was acceptable to it as Chief Minister.

Every attack makes us stronger: Gautam Adani

Jaipur, Nov 30: Coming out in public for the first time after recent allegations and his indictment in the US. Adani group chairman Gautam Adani Saturday said his conglomerate was committed to compliances and "every attack makes us stronger".

"Less than two week back, we faced a set of allegations from the US about compliance practices. This is not the first time we have faced such challenges. What I can tell you is that every attack makes us stronger," he said addressing the 51st Gems and Jewellery Award here.

The United States Department of Justice and the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) November 20 2024 issued an indictment and a civil complaint in the New York district court against Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani and Vneet Jaain, key functionaries of Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL).

The charges relate to allegations of securities fraud, wire fraud and violation of the SEC guidelines that led to materially false and misleading statements in the bond offering documents of AGEL with respect to anti-bribery and anti-corruption policies. Adani Group had issued a

statement denying all allegations as baseless, and said it would seek legal recourse to defend itself. Speaking at Sat-

urday's event, Adani said that despite a lot of vested reporting. no one from Adani's side has been charged with any violation of the FCPA (Foreign Corrupt Practices Act) of the US or any conspiracy to obstruct justice "The fact is that despite a lot of the vested reporting, no one from the Adani side has been charged with any violation of the FCPA or any conspiracy to obstruct justice. Yet, in today's world, negativity spreads faster than facts," he said.

Adani Green Energy Ltd, the renewable energy arm of the port-to-energy conglomerate, on November 21 scrapped a USD 600-million bond issue.

The 20-vear green bond was over-subscribed three times, hours before the US prosecutors charged Gautam Adani and associates with participating in a scheme to pay over \$250 mil lion bribe to Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms for solar power contracts.

RAINS LASH TN, PONDY; 'FENGAL' MAKES LANDFALL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 30: Cyclone Fengal-triggered heavy rains accompanied by gusty winds lashed northern Tamil Nadu and neighbouring Pondicherry Saturday, prompting a shutdown of the Chennai airport, and inundated many parts of the city but there were no immediate reports of a major damage, the government said.

cyclonic

storm

made a landfall close to the Pondicherry union territory area. Steady rains pounded Chennai, its nearby districts and Pondicherry affecting public transport, including bus, train and flight services and people from vulnerable areas were moved to safe shelters by authorities. From afternoon onwards, there were intermittent rains in most areas and by nightfall, it ceased.

Tamil Nadu Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management, KKSSR Ramachandran informed there were no immediate reports of a major damage in the aftermath of the cyclone and said related details could be known possibly by Sunday. Three persons were electrocuted in different rain-related incidents in Chennai.

The minister also indicated the cyclone did not leave the kind of impact anticipated by the authorities. Hospitals and houses were inundated in Chennai and its neighbourhoods while people used



them as parking lots to avoid a repeat of what was endured during the 2015 floods

Rainwater entered the premises of two state-run hospitals at Chromepet, a general hospital and a facility for thoracic medicine, both of which are located side by side and frequented by people. Water was close to the level of one's ankle even inside the hospital, leaving health care seekers and doctors in a tight spot. Police and local authorities placed sandbags at entry points and said all steps were being taken to address the issue.

Operations at the Chennai airport were hit following the cyclone. Officials announced suspension of operations till 4 am Sunday following inundation of two runways and a taxiway after heavy rains and the 'adverse weather condition' due to cyclone Fengal

'Petition against Shamsi mosque non-maintainable'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Budaun (UP), Nov 30: yet another controversy over religious structures, the management committee of the Shamsi Shahi mosque Saturday told a court here that a petition from a Hindu outfit which claimed that it was the site of an ancient Neelkanth Mahadev mandir

The Masjid Intezamia Committee of Shamsi Shahi mosque and Waqf Board completed their arguments before the fast track court which will now hear December 5 the matter which first

The development comes close on the heels of the violence in the neighbouring Sambhal district where five people were killed and several people, including police personnel, were injured November 24 during violent protest against a court ordered survey of a mosque which the petitioners claimed was built after destroy-

In the Budaun case, the then convener of Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha, Mukesh Patel, had filed the petition seeking permission to worship there claiming that it was a temple.

The Shamsi Shahi Masjid which is built on an elevated area called Sotha Mohalla, is considered to be the highest structure in Budaun town

was not maintainable.

came up in 2022.

ing an old temple.



Students raise slogans during a protest against the 'National Education Policy (NEP) 2020' organised by the All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO), at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi

EC invites Cong to discuss concerns over Maha election

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: The Election Commission Saturday asserted that all poll procedures it followed in Maharashtra were transparent and assured that it would review all legitimate concerns flagged by the Congress, which alleged serious inconsistencies.

In its interim response to the party, the poll authority invited a Congress delegation December 3 to discuss concerns expressed

by it. The Congress Friday raised with the Election Commission "serious and grave inconsistencies" which it said were being revealed in the data relating to the polling and counting processes for the recently-concluded Maharashtra Assembly polls and sought an in-person hearing to present relevant evidence.

Responding to the issue regarding the voter turnout data, the EC asserted that there was no discrepancy in it and the data was available

with all candidates polling sta tion-wise and is verifiable. The gap in the 5 pm polling data and the final voter turnout was due to procedural priorities, as presiding officers perform multiple statutory duties near the close of polling before updating the voter turn out data. As an additional disclo sure measure, an EC press note at around 11:45 pm was introduced during the 2024 Lok Sabha election and followed subsequently during all Assembly polls thereafter, the poll body told the Congress

Cops detain pregnant woman, HC terms it 'abuse of authority'

Lucknow, Nov 30: The Allahabad High Court has come down heavily on the Uttar Pradesh Police for "unlawfully detaining" a pregnant woman accompanied by her two-yearold child for over six hours to record her statement in a kidnapping case filed by her family, terming it "abuse of authority" and "torture'

It directed the police to pay ₹1 lakh to the eight-month pregnant woman and instructed the state government to issue guidelines for police to handle cases involving women more

The woman's family had lodged a complaint with the Agra Police, claiming she was kidnapped in August 2021 while

on her way to appear for an exam. An FIR was lodged but investigation into the case did not see much progress. During the hearing of a ha-

beas corpus petition filed by the woman's husband, their counsels Raghvendra P Singh and Mohd Sheraj refuted the kidnapping charge, saying she got married and has been living with her husband in Lucknow. The petitioner's counsels

told the Lucknow Bench of the high court that Sub-Inspector Anurag Kumar of the Agra Police had taken the eight-month pregnant woman accompanied by her two-year-old child in custody November 29 in Lucknow to record her statement in the kidnapping case.

They claimed the investigating officer neither brought

the case diary nor checked the woman's age before detaining her at the Chinahat Police Station in Lucknow for over six

Justice Subhash Vidyarthi expressed grave concern over the violation of the woman's rights and noted that the "investigating officer failed to apply his In its ruling, the bench of Jusmind to the allegations in the tice Attau Rahman Masoodi and FIR". "The manner in which

Allahabad HC directed the police to pay ₹1 lakh to the eight-month pregnant woman and instructed the state government to issue guidelines for police to handle cases involving women more carefully

police duties were carried out was far from the process of law and amounts to abuse of authority," the bench remarked. The bench ordered that the woman be immediately released, taken back to her home in Lucknow and handed over to her husband in the presence of her

legal counsel. It also directed the Uttar Pradesh Police chief to initi ate disciplinary proceedings against the officer involved and submit a report to the court within three months. The high court bench underlined that the woman, being in an advanced stage of pregnancy and accompanied by her child, should never have been subjected to police custody.

It sought an affidavit from the state within 10 days, outlining the steps taken to comply with the ruling and emphasised that this case should serve as a reminder to police authorities to act with greater sensitivity in matters involving women.

international



The Democratic **People's Republic of** Korea government, army and people will invariably support the policy of the **Russian Federation to** defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity from the imperialists' moves for hegemony

KIM JONG UN | LEADER, NORTH KOREA

'MAHARAJA' MAKES WAVES IN CHINA

Tamil movie 'Maharaja', the first Indian film to be released in China after the last month's accord to normalise ties between the two countries ending the standoff in eastern Ladakh. has earned around Rs 16 crore on the first day of its release Friday



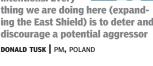


And without antic-

ipating anything, let me simply say that the situation is quite difficult. It is constantly being considered

SERGEI RYABKOV DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

The better the Polish border is guarded, the more difficult it is to access for those with bad intentions. Every-



Bushra Bibi, unfamiliar with such a massive gathering, reportedly expressed concern. saying, 'Who will



KHAWAJA ASIF | DEFENCE MINISTER, PAKISTAN

SHORT TAKES

PIO sentenced to life imprisonment in UK

London: An Indian-origin man who brutally beat up his girlfriend to death at his home in East Midlands region of England, has been sentenced to life imprisonment by a UK court. Police described it as a case of domestic abuse and said it is vital anyone suffering gets the support they need to put a stop before it is too late. Raj Sidpara, a 50-year-old resident of Leicester, was convicted last week of the murder of Tarnjeet Riaz, also known as Tarnjeet Chagger, following a trial at Leicester Crown Court. On Friday, Sidpara was handed a life sentence with a minimum term of 21 years behind bars before being considered for parole, according to Leicestershire Police.

Russia, China hold joint air patrol

Moscow: Russian and Chinese strategic bombers conducted a joint air patrol over the Sea of Japan, East China Sea, and western Pacific Ocean, Russian Defence Ministry said on Saturday. Russian Tu-95 S and Chinese H-6K strategic bombers conducted an eighthour patrol accompanied by fighter jets from both countries. The Russian aircraft took off from and landed at an airfield in China. The Russian ministry said that the flights did not violate the airspace of any foreign country and was not directed against any specific nations.

Syrian rebels sweep into Aleppo

Insurgents launched a major offensive on Aleppo, Syria's second-largest city, breaching its western edge for the first time since 2016

Amman, Nov 30: The Syrian army said Saturday dozens of its soldiers had been killed in a major attack by rebels who swept into the city of Aleppo in the northwest, forcing the army to redeploy in the biggest challenge to President Bashar al-Assad in years.

The surprise attack led by the Islamist Hayat Tahrir al-Sham has jolted the frontlines of the Syrian civil war that have largely been frozen since 2020. reviving fighting in a corner of the fractured country near the Turkish border. The army said it was preparing a counteroffensive to restore state authority.

Acknowledging the rebel advance, the Syrian army command said insurgents had entered large parts of Aleppo, which had been under full state control since government forces backed by Russia and Iran drove rebels out eight years ago.

Images from Aleppo showed a group of rebel fighters gathered in the city's Saadallah al-Jabiri Square after entering the city overnight, a billboard of Assad looming behind them.

"I am the son of Aleppo, and was displaced from it eight years ago, in 2016. Thank God we just returned. It is an indescribable feeling," said Ali Jumbaa, a rebel fighter, television footage showed.

The Syrian military command said militants had attacked in large numbers and from multiple directions, prompting "our armed forces to carry out a redeployment operation aimed at strengthening the defence lines in order to absorb the attack, preserve the lives of civilians and soldiers, and prepare for a counterattack"

ALEPPO ASSAULT IS BIGGEST CHALLENGE TO ASSAD IN YEARS

SYRIAN ARMY COMMAND VOWS TO RESTORE CONTROL OVER ALEPPO

during insurgent

RUSSIAN, SYRIAN WARPLANES CARRY **OUT AIRSTRIKES,**

had stopped the insurgents from establishing fixed positions. It promised to "expel them and restore the control of the state over the entire city and its countryside"

Two rebel sources said the insurgents had also captured the city of Maraat al Numan in Idlib province, bringing all of that province under their control, in what would be another significant blow to Assad.

The fighting revives the long-simmering Syrian conflict as the wider region is roiled by wars in Gaza and Lebanon. where a truce between Israel and the Iran-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah took effect Wednesday.

The attack was launched from insurgent-held areas of northwestern Syria that remain outside Assad's grasp.

Two Syrian military sources

warplanes targeted insurgents in an Aleppo suburb Saturday.

Speaking Friday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow regarded the rebel attack as a violation of Svria's sovereignty. "We are in favour of the Syrian authorities bringing order to the area and restoring constitutional order as soon as possible," he said.

The Syrian Civil Defense, a rescue service operating in opposition-held parts of Syria, said in a post on X that Syrian government and Russian aircraft carried out airstrikes on residential neighbourhoods, a gas station and a school in rebel-held Idlib, killing four civilians and wounding six others.

The two Syrian military sources said Russia has promised Damascus extra military aid that would start arriving in the next 72 hours. Authorities closed Aleppo airport and roads fighters have said the campaign was in response to stepped-up strikes in recent weeks against civilians by the **Russian and Syrian** air forces on areas of **Idlib** province

The opposition

our of the Syrian to the city, the two military order to the area and sources and restoring constitutional a third army source said. The Syrian army has been

> told to follow 'safe withdrawal' orders from the main areas of the city that the rebels had entered, the three military sources said.

Iran's allies in the region have suffered a series of blows at the hands of Israel as the Gaza war has expanded through the Middle East.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, in a phone call with his Syrian counterpart Friday, accused the United States and Israel of being behind the insurgent attack.

The opposition fighters have said the campaign was in response to stepped-up strikes in recent weeks against civilians by the Russian and Syrian air forces on areas of Idlib province, and to preempt any attacks by the Syrian army.

Opposition sources in touch with Turkish intelligence said Turkey, which supports the rebels, had given a green light

'India needs to address Bangladesh's concerns'

* Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain says that *India needs to address* Bangladesh's longstanding concerns to improve bilateral ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Nov 30: Amid an ongoing diplomatic row over the arrest of a Hindu priest, Bangladesh Saturday said India needs to address Dhaka's longstanding concerns to improve bilateral ties but remained optimistic about good relations with bilateral interests protected. Bangladesh's Foreign Affairs

Adviser Touhid Hossain also acknowledged that there is a "change in the relations" between the two neighbours after August 5 and said it is a "reality."

India needs to address Bangladesh's longstanding concerns to improve bilateral ties between Dhaka and New Delhi, Hossain said adding: "Bangladesh's previous (ousted) government addressed the concerns of India, but India did not address Bangladesh's concerns.

Deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled to India August 5 following widespread protests against her Awami League-led government over a controversial job quota system. Three days later, Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel laureate, took over as the Chief Adviser of the interim government.

The diplomatic row erupted between India and Bangladesh after Hindu priest Chinmoy Krishna Das, a former member of International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), was arrested from Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Monday.



Das, the spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sammilita Sanatani Jagran Jote, was denied bail and sent to jail by the Chattogram's Sixth Metropolitan Magistrate court in a sedition case Tuesday. It triggered clashes between his supporters and the security personnel that led to the killing of a lawyer.

Hossain was speaking a a roundtable titled 'Bangladesh-India Relations: Expec tations, Barriers and Future organised by the South Asian Institute of Policy and Gover nance (SIPG) and the Depart ment of Political Science & Sociology (PSS), North South University here, state-run news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) said.

The Foreign Affairs Adviser acknowledged that "there is a change in the relations after Au gust 5," and said, "This is reality" but remained optimistic about bilateral relationship despite current diplomatic challenges.

"Dhaka wants to remain op timistic that we would be able to establish a good relation with India making sure that bilateral interests are protected," BSS said quoting Hossain.

He emphasised the importance of a national consensus on foreign policy, saying Bangladesh could not fully capital ise its potentials due to political

Hamas publishes video of US-Israeli hostage in Gaza The video shows a pale-look-

Jerusalem, Nov 30: Palestinian militant group Hamas published a video of an Israeli-American hostage Saturday, in which he pleads for US President-elect Donald Trump to se-



The family of hostage soldier Edan Alexander, 20, declined to comment but permitted the 3-1/2 minute video to be published. Alexander was abducted to Gaza during the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas on south-

ing Alexander sitting in a dark space against a wall, identifying himself, addressing his family, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Trump. It is unclear whether his statement was scripted by

Netanyahu said in a statement that the video was cruel psychological warfare and that he had told Alexander's family in a phone call that Israel was working tirelessly to bring the hostages home.

Around half of the 101 foreign and Israeli hostages still held incommunicado in Gaza are believed to still be alive.

Hamas leaders were expected to arrive in Cairo Saturday for ceasefire talks with Egyptian officials to explore ways to reach a deal that could secure the release of hostages in return for Palestinian prisoners.



Police block demonstrators during a rally outside the parliament's building to protest the government's decision to suspend negotiations on joining the European Union for four years in Tbilisi. Georgia

How funeral wreaths sent by K-pop fans became public menace

The often elaborate wreaths, which cost between \$70 and \$170, have become an increasingly common symbol of the extreme parasocial relationships between idols and fans

Barlier this year, one of South Korea's biggest entertainment companies, SM Entertainment, found the plaza outside their headquarters in Seoul filled with hundreds of funeral wreaths. Sent by fans of one of the K-pop groups the company manages, the floral tributes lined the street not in mourning, but as a form of protest at the return of a boy band member they deemed

controversial. Once a solemn symbol of mourning, funeral wreaths have taken on a new role in South Korea, as a symbol of protest.

Korean media reports suggest funeral wreaths started being used as a form of protest first in 2006, after residents who opposed the development of a lake park in South Chungcheong Province sent them to local government offices. Similar protests in 2021 over the death of 16-month-old Jung-in, who was fatally abused by her adoptive parents, brought widespread attention to the systemic negligence in South Korea's adoption process, prompting national outrage and demands for reform. However, what began as a

form of protest aimed at holding government institutions and public servants accountable has now devolved into a tool for K-pop fans to target

young artists for personal choices, turning what was once a means of demanding justice into a weapon for enforcing toxic fandom standards and engaging in public shaming.

RIIZE, a boy band managed by SM Entertainment, was embroiled in controversy after private photos of member Seunghan which showed him kissing an unidentified woman in a bed and smoking a cigarette were leaked in August 2023. Seunghan was put on an indefinite hiatus following outrage by some fans at what they considered inappropriate behaviour for a K-pop idol. In October this year, SM En-

tertainment's announcement that Seunghan would be returning to the band was met with disapproval by fans, who chose to flood the company's headquarters with funeral wreaths carrying messages for the 21-year-old to leave the group. According to Korean media, over 1,000 funeral wreaths were sent, with messages reading, "Who Are You, Hong Seunghan?' and "Seunghan, Leave".

The often elaborate wreaths, which cost between \$70 and \$170 (£55 and £134), have become an increasingly common symbol of the extreme parasocial relationships between idols and fans that entertainment companies in South Korea heavily promote.

Shortly after the wreaths started to arrive, Park Jaehyung, a former member of the South Korean rock band Day6, called them "attempted murder", echoing many others who described the wreaths addressed to individuals as

'The funeral flowers were disgusting. The same people who sent them will be the first ones online mourning the tragic outcome they fought for. God forbid tragedy occurs but I've been on that side before and It was close. I can't imagine the trauma it would cause someone that young," he posted.

"Anyone involved in the flowers should be tried for attempted murder because that is what that was.

Hybe, the multinational entertainment company that manages some of the biggest bands in Korea, including BTS, Seventeen, New Jeans, and Le Sserafim, saw funeral wreaths several times in 2024.

South Korean police have begun to treat the wreaths as symbolic expressions of outrage, routinely classifying them as public civil protests. In some cases, authorities are allowed to and even expected to ensure these displays are protected, since they are considered a legal form of protest under South Korea's public demonstration laws.

Tariffs threat: Trudeau meets Trump in Florida

ASSOCIATED PRESS

West Palm Beach, Nov 30: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Saturday he had an "excellent conversation" with Donald Trump at his Mar-a-Lago club after the President-elect's threat to impose significant tariffs on two of America's leading trade partners raised alarms in Ottawa and Mexico City.

It was unclear, as Trudeau headed back to Canada from Florida, whether the conversation had alleviated Trump's concerns.

A person familiar with the details of the leaders' hastily arranged meeting Friday night said it was a "positive wide-ranging dinner that lasted three hours." The official, who was not authorised to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on con dition of anonymity, said topics included trade, border securi ty, fentanyl, defence, Ukraine NATO, China, the Mideast and pipelines, as well as the the Group of Seven (G7) meeting in Canada next year.

dent-elect has threatened to impose tariffs on products from Canada and Mexico if the countries don't stop what he called the flow of drugs and migrants across their borders. He said he would impose a 25 per cent tax on all products entering the US from Canada and Mexico as one of his first executive orders when he takes office in January

The Republican

As he was leaving his West Palm Beach hotel, Trudeau stopped briefly to answer a reporter's question about the dinner meeting, saying it was "an excellent conversation." Trump's transition team did not respond to questions about what the leaders had discussed.

Trump, during his first term as President, once called Trudeau "weak" and "dis honest," but it was the Prime Minister who was the first G7 leader to visit Trump since the November 5 election.

Business



We are planning to establish equipment by De Beers that will be something like a diamond clinic or a diamond lab, which will enable customers to be able to validate the quality of their diamonds, in a phased manne

AJOY CHAWLA | CEO, JEWELLERY DIVISION,

HOUSE PRICE INDEX RISES 4.3 PC IN Q2: RBI DATA

All-India House Price Index (HPI) increased 4.3 per cent annually in the second quarter of the 2024-25 fiscal year as compared to 3.3 per cent growth in the previous quarter and 3.5 per cent growth a year ago, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).





of outliving one's savings is one of the biggest individuals face

during their lifetime. The solution lies in starting retirement planning early to harness the power of compounding VISHAL SUBHARWAL | GROUP HEAD STRATEGY

From the enormousness of the ocean to the infinite vastness of space. the potential and benefit of India-Italy partnership is immense SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER





skill levels, from beginners picking up a needle for the first time to seasoned professionals

RAKESH KHANNA | SINGER INDIA

SHORT **TAKES**

SBI drive for a/c activation

New Delhi: State Bank of India (SBI) Saturday said it has launched a nation-wide drive to raise awareness about the importance of inoperative account activation. A savings or a current account is treated as inoperative if the customer has no transaction in the account for a period of over two years. Activation of these accounts requires Re-KYC. Necessity of regular transactions in the account and preventing categorization into in-operative was the key message, SBI said in a statement, SBI chairman C S Setty emphasised the need to drive Re-KYC exercise in letter and spirit, to maintain PMJDY accounts in active status and enabling customers to conduct transactions seamlessly.

EPFO approves amnesty scheme

New Delhi: Retirement fund body EPFO Saturday approved an amnesty scheme to encourage compliance by employers, allowing them to deposit past provident fund dues without any penalty. Central Board of Trustee (CBT), the apex decisionmaking body of Employees' **Provident Fund Organisation** (EPFO), headed by Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Saturday recommended the EPFO Amnesty Scheme 2024 to the central government, a labour ministry statement said. The initiative is designed to encourage employers to voluntarily disclose and rectify past non-compliance or under-compliance without facing penalties or legal repercussions, it said.

Coal India arm hikes fuel price

Kolkata: Eastern Coalfields Ltd, a subsidiary of Coal India, Friday announced a hike in the add-on price of coal in the Rajmahal area of Jharkhand to ₹700 per tonne from ₹450, which will earn an additional ₹300 crore revenue to the company. The revision, effective from November 30, reflects adjustments in logistics costs, which are now being passed on to consumers, company officials said. The hike is expected to generate around ₹300 crore in incremental annual revenue for ECL, contributing significantly to the company's financials. "This increase aligns with the need to account for higher logistics expenses, ensuring sustainable operations in the Rajmahal area," an ECL spokesperson said.

Derivatives data signals rising volatility in stocks

Mumbai, Nov 30: The flip in the positioning of a large swathe of derivatives traders in Indian stocks indicates that they expect volatility to pick up in December as the market oscillates in a wider range, according to three brokerages.

The benchmark Nifty 50 has tumbled 8.1% since hitting an all-time high in late September on relentless foreign outflows and moderating earnings growth.

The Nifty's trading range dropped from about 1,834 points in October to 1,274 in November, while volatility inched up to 15 from 12 over the two months, a gradual rise after hovering around 13 for The trading range will wid-

en to about 1,500 points in December, while the rise in volatility picks up pace, according to Nuvama Alternative and Quantitative Research, Motilal Oswal and IIFL Securities.

Their estimate is based on how traders repositioned their expiring monthly derivatives series on Thursday, which caused the Nifty to slide about 1.5%, the most in any session since early October.

Investors have to close or roll over their futures and options contracts as they expire each month and their fresh positions give cues to the poten-



tial trajectory of the market.

High net-worth individuals (HNI) and retail clients raised their single-stock future longs and trimmed longs in the Nifty index in the November series, according to the brokerages.

In contrast, they had added Nifty longs in six of the last nine monthly series, with the exceptions during the midyear national elections when investors typically prioritise

The flip this time also indicates caution and shows traders now prefer to pick individual stocks rather than back the market via the benchmark index, the three brokerages said.

Even foreign institutiontheir Nifty shorts and added

single-stock future longs, the data showed.

Retail traders and FIIs account for about 90% of all derivatives trading.

Moreover, the market-wide open interest (OI) -- the total number of active unsettled contracts in futures markets -- has risen in the past month, indicating rising trading activity.

That, coupled with the caution indicated via the derivatives positioning, could lead to higher volatility, according to Abhilash Pagaria, head of Nuvama Alternative.

The markets will take time to recover from the recent selloff as they remain overvalued, according to equity analysts in a recent Reuters poll.

GAIL signs long-term charter contract with K-Line for LNG ship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: State gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd Friday signed an agreement with Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Ltd for long-term charter hire of a newly built LNG ship.

The pact was signed through the ship-owning company established in Singapore, GAIL said in a statement.

The LNG ship will be a modern two-stroke vessel having a tank capacity of 1,74,000 cubic metres and will be built by Samsung Heavy Industries Co Ltd. Korea, with which the ship owning company has concluded a shipbuilding contract.

The contract was signed in the presence of R K Jain, GAIL Director (Finance), Sanjay Kumar, GAIL Director (Marketing), and R K Singhal, GAIL Director (Business Development) by S Bairagi, GAIL Executive Director (Marketing Shipping & International LNG) and Satoshi Kanamori. Managing Executive Officer (LNG, Carbon Solution Business), K-Line.

"This is the first long-term time charter contract between GAIL and K-Line involving a newly built vessel which is expected to be engaged in transportation of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) for GAIL in 2027,"

GAIL has four LNG vessels -- GAIL Bhuwan, GAIL Urja, Grace Emilia, and Maran Gas Pericles, to transport natural gas in a super cooled form.

India's growth hope hinges on crude prices



As the world's third-largest oil importer, India would benefit from lower oil prices

New Delhi, Nov 30: India hopes that the incoming administration of US President-elect Donald Trump could help keep global crude oil prices low, which would reduce the South Asian country's import bill and support its faltering economic growth. Analysts including those at

Citi Bank predict that President Trump's second term could put downward pressure on oil prices through 2025. driven by potential trade tariffs and increased oil supply.

"We believe one of the possible benefits of the new U.S. administration taking office in 2025 will be continued low energy prices," said V. Anantha Nageswaran, India's chief economic adviser, at a press conference on Friday following the release of quarterly GDP data.

He added that low crude oil prices would be a "very im portant ingredient" for India's growth prospects, while high er prices could hinder growth

India's economy expanded at a seven-quarter low rate of 5.4% year-on-year in July-Sep tember, weighed down by slower manufacturing growth

Officials view low global crude oil prices as a positive factor, however, given India's reliance on oil imports for over 80% of its energy needs. Crude oil imports make up

nearly a third of India's total annual merchandise imports. As the world's third-largest oil importer, India would benefit from lower oil prices.

Oil prices fell on Friday heading for a weekly drop of more than 3%, amid reduced concerns over supply risks from the Israel-Hezbollah conflict and expectations of increased supply in 2025, even as OPEC+ is likely to extend output cuts.

Demand for retail space in malls, high streets up: Report



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: Leasing of retail space in shopping malls and prominent high streets rose nearly 5 per cent during January-September this year across eight major cities, according to Cushman & Wakefield.

Real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield data showed that the absorption or leasing of retail space in Grade-A malls and main high streets across the top eight cities stood at 5.53 million square feet during January-September 2024 against 5.29 million square feet in the corresponding period of the preceding year

These eight cities are -- Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and Ahmedabad.

Saurabh Shatdal, Managing Director (Capital Markets) and

Head-Retail-India, Cushman & Wakefield, said, "India's retail real estate growth remains intact as can be observed from the strong leasing numbers, both in malls and main streets"

Increasing discretionary spending and evolving consumer preferences are driving demand for premium retail spaces, he added.

Shatdal, however, said India would need to accelerate the development of quality retail spaces across major cities to unlock even greater transaction volumes, as it remains highly attractive to global retailers looking to expand their footprint.

Commenting on the data, Akash Nagpal, VP-Leasing of realty firm Trehan Iris, said this growth reflects a strong rebound and a renewed sense of confidence in the retail sector.

FMCG players hike soap prices by 7-8%

New Delhi, Nov 30: Leading FMCG makers such as HUL and Wipro have hiked soap prices by around 7-8 per cent to offset the impact of a surge in palm oil prices, a key raw material for the product.

Companies such as HUL and Tata Consumer have also increased prices of tea recently due to a decline in production caused by erratic weather conditions. During the earning calls for the September quarter, several listed players hinted at a price increase in soaps in the current quarter to safeguard their margins, as they were facing a rise the prices of commodity inputs such as palm oil,

"The prices of palm oil derivatives, a key raw material in soap manufacturing, have risen significantly -- 30 per cent plus increase since the start of this year," Wipro Consumer Care Chief Executive Neeraj Khatri told PTI.

"In response, all major players in the industry have implemented price hikes of approximately 7-8 per cent to partially offset the increase. Our pricing adjustments are aligned with these market trends," he said.

Wipro Consumer Care, part

of Azim Premii-led Wipro Enterprises, owns brands like Santoor and Chandrika in the

soap category. Market leader HUL has also increased prices of tea and skin cleansing products, which comprise its soap business under brands such as Dove, Lux, Lifebuoy, Liril, Pears, Rexona etc.

"The overall commodity atmosphere is benign, except for tea and crude palm oil which are witnessing inflation. Consequently, we have taken selective price increases in tea and skin cleansing. While making any price changes, we always ensure that we maintain a competitive price-value equation,' said a company spokesperson.

Palm oil prices have gone up by around 35-40 per cent since mid-September because of the increase in import duty as well as a rise in global prices. Palm oil is mainly imported

from Indonesia and Malaysia. Currently, palm oil is priced at nearly Rs 1,370 per 10 kg. Prices of Lux soap (pack of 5 soaps) have gone up to Rs 155

from Rs 145, and of Lifebuoy (pack of 5 soaps) to Rs 165 from Rs 155. Similarly, prices of Pears (pack of 4 soaps) have gone up to Rs 162 from the previous Rs 149. Besides, prices of other per-

sonal care products from HUL have also gone up, according to a distributor.

According to Nuvama Institutional Equities Executive Director (Research) Abneesh Roy, after HUL, now most other players would also take a price hike.

"In FMCG generally everyone follows market leader, so gradually all players will take a price hike," he said. Last week, Tata Consumer

Products Ltd (TCPL) Managing in an interview with PTI said that the company has increased prices by about 25-30 per cent in segments such as tea in phases and has not passed on the bur den to consumers in one go. It had gone for a gradual

price hike as it wanted to continue the momentum on the volume side.

"We don't want a demand shock coming in. So we have to be comparative. We have to make sure the category contin ues to be chugging along. So we have translated bit by bit, and we will be taking gradual price increases," he said.

In the quarterly earnings statement, Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL) flagged a rising trend in prices of palm oil and its derivatives which have increased in high double-digits since the start of the

Hinting towards a judicious hike, the maker of Cinthol and Godrej No. 1 soaps had said the GCPL management has decided not to pass on the entire cost increase to consumers and hence pricing growth will lag the in crease in input prices

India plans to expand EV manufacturing incentives

New Delhi, Nov 30: India plans to expand electric vehicle incentives to automakers building models at existing factories in the country, instead of limiting the benefits to automakers willing to build new plants, a person with direct knowledge of the matter said.

India's EV policy, which is still being finalised, was originally designed to encourage Tesla to enter the market and manufacture locally but the U.S. automaker backed off from those plans earlier this year.

Other foreign automakers have shown interest in making EVs in India at existing and new factories, according to minutes of a meeting with India's ministry of heavy industries that was seen by Reuters. It is hoped that changes to the policy will encourage EV investment from the likes



source said.



of Toyota and Hyundai, the

Under the policy announced in March, an automaker investing at least \$500 million to manufacture EVs in India with 50% of components sourced locally is entitled to a huge cut on import taxes - a drop to 15% from as high as 100% for up to 8,000 electric cars per year The government will now al-

so consider EV investments at existing factories that currently build gasoline-engine and hybrid cars, said the source who was not

authorised to speak to media and declined to be identified.

The electric models must, however, be built on a separate production line and meet the local sourcing criteria, the source said.

In the case of a new factory, in-

vestment in machinery and tools to build EVs will be counted in full towards the \$500 million reauirement even if the equipment is also used to manufacture other types of cars, he said.

To ensure automakers are treated fairly, the government will set a minimum EV revenue target for a plant or a production line which must be met to qualify for the scheme, he said. He added that the policy

would be finalised by March. According to the minutes of

the meeting, Toyota officials asked if the EV policy would allow for investing in a separate assembly line within a plant that produces multiple powertrains. It also sought to understand if the manufacturing and installation of charging stations would be counted as part of the \$500 million investment requirement. Toyota and the heavy in-

dustries ministry did not re-

spond to Reuters requests for comment.

Hyundai asked if money spent on research and devel opment could be counted as part of the \$500 million invest ment requirement, the minutes showed. The source said it would not be counted.

Hyundai Motor India is awaiting the rollout of the final policy and guidelines, a spokesperson said.

Volkswagen's India unit wanted more leeway with the investment timeframe. It asked if 75% of the \$500 million could be invested in the first three years of the five-year scheme, instead of 100% as currently required. It also sought to understand if investments by suppliers would qualify, the minutes showed. Volkswagen said it was

studying the latest EV policy "in detail" and would evaluate a way forward accordingly.

Home clash against

table-toppers today

Sindhu, Lakshya make it to finals

tained the lead.

I was just trying

out a few strokes and

overall, I was confident

with the way I was play-

ing," Sindhu, a two-time

Olympic medallist, said af-

Lucknow, Nov 30: PV Sindhu and Lakshva Sen cruised to the women's and men's singles finals with dominating victories at the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament here

Top seed Sindhu outclassed the 17-year-old compatriot Unnati Hooda 21-12, 21-9 in just 36 minutes in the semifinal, while Lakshya outclassed Japan's Shogo Ogawa 21-8, 21-14 in 42

minutes. Hooda struggled to challenge Sindhu, committing a series of unforced errors that allowed



throughout the match.

today's

mance. From

the begin-

"I am happy with

perfor-

vincing straight-game victory over China's Zhi Hong Zhou and Jia Yi Yang.

The fifth-seeded Indians secured a 21-16, 21-15 win in the 42-minute semifinal. They will meet Thailand's sixth-seeded pair Dechapol Puavaranukroh

Supissara Paewsampran. Indian men's doubles

pair of Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy and Sai Pratheek K entered final with a 21-17, 17-21, 21-16 win over fellow Indians Ishaan Bhatnagar and Sankar Prasad Udavakumar. Indian women's doubles pair

of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand beat Thailand's Benyapa Aimsaard and Nuntakarn Aimsaard 18-21, 21-18, 21-10 to advance to the finals.

But top seeds Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa missed out of a summit clash after going down 21-15, 16-21, 13-21 to China's Bao Li Jing and Li Qian in another semifinals.

In men's singles, second seed Priyanshu Rajawat went down 13-21 19-21 to Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh in 48 minutes to end his campaign at the semifinal stage.

Sindhu vs Hooda

Sindhu's semifinal contest saw her gradually take control as she moved to a 5-3 lead with a precise cross-court drop shot, while Hooda initially kept pace with well-placed pushes and

However, the 17-year-old's errors, particularly in the length lead 11-8 at the break.

Hooda's determination to stay in rallies often resulted in smashes and drops going wide.

Sindhu extended her lead to 15-8 without relying on her trademark baseline smashes. Unforced errors continued to trouble Hooda, allowing Sindhu to close out the first game comfortably. After the change of sides, Sindhu continued to dominate the proceedings, surging to 8-3 lead before extending it to 11-4 at the interval.

She continued her aggressive play with a smash, an overhead cross-court drop, and a body smash, taking the score to 18-7.

Hooda saved one of Sindhu's 12 match points but ultimately faltered with another error handing Sindhu the match.

Reflecting further on her game, Sindhu said, "I am definitely happy with the way I am going. Definitely, there is a scope for a lot of improvement. It's not just that if we finish training or if we are at the top, we don't have to train. Every day is a new process, and I am doing that.'

Addressing her recent struggles, including her Paris Olympics campaign, Sindhu said, "I know Paris was not a good one for me. I have tried my best, but it doesn't matter. I need to get back stronger. So, I am working on myself." Sindhu, who has been working with coaches Anup Sridhar and Korea's Lee Hyun-il, also spoke about adapting her fitness regimen.

'Every athlete has a different style of fitness. You keep growing, and at the same time, your movements need to be perfect. Maybe back in my twenties, the training programme might have been different. Now, it's completely different. It depends on age, how I am playing, and my movements. Accordingly, we keep changing it.'

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Odisha FC is set to clash with Bengaluru FC in an Indian Super League (ISL) match at the Kalinga Stadium here today. After their emphatic 6-0 victory over Hyderabad FC, the Kalinga Warriors will look to carry

their momentum into this high-

stakes duel against the league

leaders, whereas Bengaluru FC

will hope to breach Odisha FC's

'fortress' Odisha FC snapped a threegame winless streak in style with a commanding performance in Hyderabad. Goals from Isak Vanlalruatfela, Diego Mauricio, Mourtada Fall, Puitea, Rahim Ali and an own goal from Parag Shrivas highlighted the team's attacking prowess. Goalkeeper Amrinder Singh played a crucial role with a spectacular save to deny a rare Hyderabad chance, while

The Bengaluru side sits at the top, boasting six victories and a couple of draws. The Blues defeated Mohammedan SC 2-1 in their last away outing.

substitutes added to the domi-

The Juggernauts are unbeat-

en in their last two encounters with Bengaluru FC in the ISI -- one win and one draw. They also have won each of their two previous ISL games against Bengaluru FC at the Kalinga

Stadium. Bengaluru FC have netted multiple goals in each of their last two ISL matches. Their frontline has been boosted by the presence of former India captain Sunil Chhetri, who came off the bench to bag a brace against Mohammedan

SC in the last game. Odisha FC head coach Sergio Lobera stressed on the need of getting on to a positive rhythm and securing wins that can help them seal their fate towards the end of the campaign.

"The first step is the next game. For sure, we know we have six points in play in the coming couple of matches. Get ting points is important to get in a good position, which will help us in the final leg of the competition," Lobera said.

Bengaluru FC head coach Ge rard Zaragoza understands that good summer acquisitions and a formidable pre-season have been central to their success so far this year.

SHORT **TAKES**

Hybrid model for Champions Trophy

its boycott threat, the Pakistan Cricket Board has told the ICC that it is willing to accept the 'Hybrid' model for hosting next year's Champions Trophy provided the world body allows the same arrangement for events to be held in India till 2031. What was divulged by a PCB source in Karachi was all but confirmed by its chief Mohsin Naqvi in Dubai hours later

Dubai/Karachi: Backing down from

India vs PM XI: Play abandoned due to rain

Canberra: Unrelenting rain forced the abandonment of the first-day's play of the two-day practice match between India and Prime Minister's XI here Saturday, robbing Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill of some much-needed Pink ball game time ahead of the day-night second Test against Australia at Adelaide. The teams have agreed to play a 50-over-a-side match on Sunday at the Manuka Oval, weather permitting.

FIFA inspection praises Saudi Arabia

Geneva: Ahead of giving Saudi Arabia the men's 2034 World Cup to host, FIFA approved the quality of its bid in a 110-page evaluation Saturday that noted higher risks related to human rights in the oil-rich kingdom. FIFA's in-house inspection team noted Saudi Arabia must invest "significant effort and time" to fulfill promises for the tournament that comply with international standards, which were widely criticised this year at the UNHRC.

SA beat Sri Lanka in 1st test by 233

Durban: South Africa wrapped up a 233-run win over Sri Lanka and medium-pacer Marco Jansen finished with 11 wickets in the first test at Kingsmead Saturday. Sri Lanka was set an improbable 516 target and started the fourth day in a deep hole at 103-5. It was all out for 282, hastened by the dismissal of Dinesh Chandimal. who led the resistance with 83. Pranavi tied-third in Spain Malaga (Spain): Pranavi Urs added a solid 3-under 69 to her first round of 6-under 66 to be tied third after the second round at the Andalucía Costa del Sol Open de España, here.

U-19 ASIA CUP

Pak beat India by 44 runs; Suryavanshi disappoints

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai. Nov 30: Teen prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi's struggles against seam bowling was apparent during his brief stay as India U-19 comprising IPL contract owners struggled badly during their 43-run defeat to Pakistan in the Youth Asia Cup

After muscular left-hander Shahzaib Khan thrashed Indian bowlers to submission with 10 sixes in his 159 off 147 balls, Indians were never in sight of victory target of 282.

They eventually got out for 238 in 47.1 overs but rising youngsters like Suryavanshi (1), Ayush Mhatre (20), C Andre Siddarth (15) and left-arm spinner Hardik Raj (0/47 in 6 overs) won't be amused with their performance.

However it must be mentioned that Mhatre with his touch and range looked a cut above the rest in the Indian team as he got out for 20 which had five boundaries.

left-hander bulky

Survavanshi, who has had a very poor Ranji season, just got a solitary run as tall medi-

> Subhan troubled him a lot. Lot is expected of the Rajasthan Royals' Rs 1.10-crore signing but at 13 year and 8 months, he needs a lot of work to be even consistent at U-19 international level.

um pacers Ali Raza and Abdul

Subhan squared up Mhatre with a delivery that rose from length and moved a shade to take his outside edge, while Suryavanshi' feet didn't move when Raza slipped an angular fuller ball that he edged to the keeper. The biggest disappointment turned out to be skipper Mohammed Amman, who dragged his way to 16 of 43 balls and his innings was one of the reasons that India U-19 couldn't really get the momentum once Mhatre was gone.

Nagal, Vaishnavi clinch singles at PSPB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Nov 30: Sumit Nagal and Vaishnavi Adkar clinched men's and women's singles titles respectively at the 43rd PSPB Inter-Unit Lawn Tennis Tournament, while Rajkumar Dubey secured a double crown in the veterans' events here Saturday.

Representing Indian Oil, country's top singles player Nagal defeated ONGC's J Vishnu Vardhan 6-4, 6-3 to claim the

In the women's category. BPCL's Vaishnavi Adkar outclassed Indian Oil's Riya Bhatia 6-3, 6-3 for the championship.

Dubey of BPCL A dominated the veterans' events, winning both the singles and doubles titles.

He edged past teammate Munesh Sharma 8-6 in the singles final and then partnered with Sharma to defeat OIL's Siddharth Bharali and Diganta Bora 6-4, 6-3,

In the veterans' team event, ONGC defeated IOCL 2-1, with KS Rawat leading the charge by winning his singles and doubles matches

FIDE WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2024 Gukesh, Liren draw after 40 moves

Singapore, Nov 30: Indian challenger D Gukesh played out a hard-fought draw with white pieces in the fifth game of the World Chess Championship against defending champion Ding Liren of China here Sat-

The second draw in a row left both players with an identical tally on 2.5 points apiece, still shy of 5 more points in order to win the championship.

The two players signed peace after 40 moves. It was the third draw of the match.

The 32-year-old Liren had won the opening game before the two played out draws in the second and fourth game.

The 18-year-old Gukesh is the youngest ever challenger for the crown and had won the third game Wednesday. After missing out on a sim-

ple rook trade that could have made life easy, Gukesh admitted that he blundered midway, though he survived the scare.

"I realised I blundered but I don't know how it happened. I didn't know how bad it was really... my position almost col-



lapsed. Yeah, I just blundered but it was OK... I was confident that I would hold on," said Gukesh in the post-game press conference

On the 14th and 15th move, Liren spent a lot of time and found the best solution when it just looked that Gukesh was ready to press for more.

However, the aggression shown by Gukesh only made things worse for him when a draw looked imminent.

"I just should have gone for

the rook's trade and the game would have been a draw any way," said Gukesh.

"I am not sure why the opponent did not play (a Bishop manoeuvre) that I was very worried about," he added.

On his performance so far in the match, Gukesh said, "It is still early, not even halfway through Important games are yet to come Considering I was trailing after losing the first game, it is nice to be here. I am trying to take one game at a time.

Target set on WC medal, I want to achieve it'

New Delhi, Nov 30: India men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh has two Olympic bronze medals in his cabinet, but rues missing out on World Cup glory, an anomaly that he wants to set right in the next edition of the mega event in 2026.

India have till date won three World Cup medals -- bronze in 1971 (Barcelona), silver in 1973 (Amstelveen, Netherlands) and gold in 1975 (Kuala Lumpur) under Ajitpal Singh's leadership.

Harmanpreet, who won backto-back Olympic bronze in Tokyo and Paris, the second one under his leadership, however, had won the Junior World Cup in Lucknow in 2016.

"The goal will always be to bag Olympic gold and a World Cup medal. The way we performed in Paris shows that we can compete with top teams and win." Harmanpreet told PTI.

"Our immediate target is

next FIH Pro League matches and then win the Asia Cup and qualify directly for the World Cup. A World Cup medal hasn't come for a long time and I want to fulfil that in my career," said Harmanpreet, one the best defenders and drag-flickers of the world right now.

... Hope we can relive those golden days during our career. We will not surrender till we achieve that," he added. The 2026 men's FIH Hockey

World Cup will be the 16th edition of the quadrennial tournament scheduled to be held from August 15 to 30 in Wavre, Belgium and Amstelveen, Netherlands

"Drag-flick is getting tough day-by-day and the goal is to work on how to improve myself, bring in more variations and remain fit," he said.

By his own admission, hockey was a coincidence in his life as Harmanpreet never aspired to play the sport.

"Hockey has chosen me as in

my family there was no player, neither I had interest in hockey. I had interest in many sports volleyball, ball. athbasketball," he said. "A coach in my school

said try hockey and from the day I started hockey, I became a fan of it. I started the sport at 7-8 years." Harmanpreet was the

toast of the revamped Hockey India League auction recently, bagging Rs 78 lakh bid from Soorma Hockey Club of Puniab.

The HIL will be revived this season after seven years. The franchise-based league will be held in both men's and women's categoory this time.



The goal will always be to bag Olympic gold and a World Cup medal. The way we performed in Paris shows that we can compete with top teams and win

HARMANPREET SINGH I CAPTAIN, INDIAN HOCKEY TEAM

The men's league will begin December 28 in Rourkela, with matches continuing through two stages until the final showdown February 1, 2025.

The maiden women's league will start from January 2, 2025 in Ranchi, with their grand finale slated for January 26.

Harmanpreet believes the HIL will be a good learning experience for youngsters and will be a feeder line to the national team.

"The biggest thing is that HIL is starting again. Happy that the highest bid was for me. These things give you motivation. Financially also you need to be strong. These things help in personal life," he said.

The HIL is a good opportunity for youngsters to learn. In my career HIL helped me a lot and definitely it is a chance to play against top players of the

"They (youngsters) will get to know what is their thinking, their understanding. HIL is going to benefit Indian hockey in "We can get a lot of players

from here who can represent India in future. This is the best opportunity before them,' he noted.

But Harmanpreet said the hefty price tag will not add any pressure on him during "There is no pressure be-

cause till the last day of my career every match will be tough I will take it as a responsibility "The scenario will be the

same in HIL as well, I will try to live up to the responsibility given to me," he said.

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