



Robbie welcomes baby

Hollywood star Margot Robbie, whose *Barbie* emerged as a blockbuster, has welcomed her first baby - a boy

LEISURE | P2



US Prez election

Kamala Harris holds several rallies in Michigan, while Donald Trump is jumping between all crucial swing states

INTERNATIONAL | P10



FPIs shocker

Foreign investors pull out a massive ₹94,000 crore from the Indian stock market, making it the worst-ever month in terms of outflows

BUSINESS | P11



Rohit rues loss

India skipper Rohit Sharma calls the 0-3 series loss against New Zealand as one of the 'lowest points' of his career

SPORTS | P12

Mahanadi dispute Discussions on with Chh'garh CM: Majhi

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday said his government is concerned about the Mahanadi water dispute with neighbouring Chhattisgarh.

Majhi said he has already held discussions with his Chhattisgarh counterpart Vishnu Deo Sai twice on the Mahanadi water dispute.

While replying to a media query in Bolangir, Majhi said the state government is conscious about the issue and giving it all importance.

"Discussion on the Mahanadi issue is going on and I personally held discussions with the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister twice during courtesy meetings," said Majhi, who is in charge of the Water Resources department.

The CM further said that the state government is also giving emphasis on expediting the proposed barrages, dam projects on Mahanadi river in Odisha.

Majhi, who was on a two-day visit to Bolangir district for the first time after becoming the Chief Minister of Odisha, alleged that the previous BJD government had neglected the district even though there was no dearth of strong political leadership in Bolangir.

Worrisome waste

NGT FLAGS SOLID, SEWAGE WASTE MANAGEMENT ISSUES IN ODISHA

With waste generation and accumulation assuming gigantic proportions and disposal mechanisms falling short of the desired efficiency, living conditions continue to be hellish for citizens living near the mounting dump yards in cities across the state. The concerns were echoed by the NGT Sunday when the green body rapped the state government for its 'unsatisfactory' management of solid waste and sewage across urban centres, especially in big cities like Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambalpur and Rourkela, as the state failed on account of adequate facilities for the disposal of the present and legacy waste. The state also failed to explain as to how it had utilised the amount it pledged last year before the tribunal towards addressing gaps in waste management.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 3: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) while monitoring the status of waste management across the country's states and Union Territories flagged several issues last month after analysing the progress reports



TRIBUNAL TAKEAWAYS

Uttilisation of installed STP capacities at Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambalpur and Rourkela unsatisfactory

Around 26.58 Lakh MT of legacy waste was yet to be remediated by 33 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Odisha

No proper explanation regarding the details of the EC amount being transferred to the ring-fenced account

submitted by Gujarat and Odisha.

A bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava noted that the two states filed separate progress reports detailing the steps taken to ensure compliance with the Supreme Court's directions regarding solid waste management rules and establishing adequate Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs).

Last year, the tribunal imposed environmental compensation (EC) on various states for the gaps in waste management, including ₹2,100 crore on Gujarat, which had to be kept in a ring-fenced account. It stopped short of imposing the fine on Odisha after the state government gave an undertaking that it would set aside ₹1,138 crore to address the gaps.

The bench also comprising judicial member Justice Sudhir Kumar Agarwal and expert mem-

ber A Senthil Vel said Odisha had a gap of 146.90 million litres per day (MLD) in sewage management. The utilisation of installed Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) capacities at Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambalpur and Rourkela is unsatisfactory. In these cities, urgent action is required to ensure full capacity utilisation.

It said that around 26.58 lakh metric tonne (LMT) of legacy waste was yet to be remediated by 33 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the state. The tribunal also said there was no proper explanation regarding the details of the EC amount being transferred to the ring-fenced account. The tribunal sought fresh reports from both states and posted the matter for considering Odisha's report April 28 next year.

It is pertinent to mention that the solid waste generation in state capital Bhubaneswar stands at 800 tonne per day (TPD), according to Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC). Similarly, Sambalpur generates about 200 tonne, Cuttack 250-300 tonne, Rourkela 333 cubic metre, and Berhampur 100-122 tonne solid waste per day, as per their civic bodies.

HUMILIATING WHITEWASH

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Nov 3: Packed with proven performers, Indian team seemed like a bunch of clueless cricketers as it endured an unprecedented and humiliating 0-3 whitewash at the hands of a resolute New Zealand with a 25-run defeat in the third Test, a result that put the home side to its lowest ebb, here Sunday.

For the first time in their Test history, which goes back to 1933, the 'Tigers' at home had been whitewashed in a series of three or more games.

A courageous Rishabh Pant raised hopes of a great escape with his valiant 64-run knock but once he trudged back to the pavilion following a contentious third-umpire call, the Indian fortress, that had been breached twice in this series before, was completely raged by the Black Caps. In pursuit of a manageable 147, India's famed batters, a few classified as modern-day greats, were a picture of pity as they all folded for 121.

The 25-run loss in the third Test in front of a buzzing Wankhede crowd, that just a few months ago feted a T20 world champion Indian side, was a stunning reminder of how fortunes swing wildly in sport.



- For the first time in 91-year Test history, India suffer a 0-3 whitewash at home
- The last time India suffered a whitewash was in 2000 when it lost 0-2 to South Africa

It is the first time that the India team has been clean swept in a three-match series. The last time India suffered a whitewash was in 2000 when it lost 0-2 to South Africa. The aura of invincibility around the Indian team at home was broken with remarkable ease by the Kiwis, who not only adapted but mastered the conditions that have always favoured them.

India had only themselves to blame in failing to chase a sub-par target on a day three wicket, losing five key wickets for a mere 16 runs at the start for an embarrassing collapse.

SHORT TAKES

Cracks appear in 'Meghanada Pacheri'



Bhubaneswar: The state government has sought help from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to repair multiple cracks that have developed in the Meghanada Pacheri, the boundary wall of Srimandir in Puri. Temple servitors have raised concerns that wastewater from Anandabazar within the temple complex is seeping through these cracks. They also claimed that patches of algae have appeared on certain sections of the wall. Worried about the safety of the 12th-century shrine, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has urged the ASI to undertake necessary conservation work on the wall. "We are

concerned about the safety of the Meghanada Pacheri. ASI officials and our technical team have already inspected the boundary wall, and we hope that ASI will soon carry out the required repairs," SJTA Chief Administrator Arabinda Padhee said Sunday. The temple's administration comes under the state's Law department.

11 injured in Srinagar grenade attack



Srinagar: Terrorists lobbed a grenade at a CRPF bunker near a crowded flea market in the heart of the city here Sunday, injuring at least 11 civilians, officials said. The attack, which took place near a heavily guarded complex housing All India Radio and Doordarshan Kendra near the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC), comes a day after security forces eliminated a top Pakistani commander of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in the Khanyar locality of downtown Srinagar. A senior police officer said the terrorists hurled the grenade at the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) bunker near the TRC. However, the grenade missed the intended target and landed on the roadside, injuring 11

people, the officer said. The blast took place close to the weekly flea market, popularly known as the Sunday market, which is thronged by thousands. The explosion caused panic in the area and sent shoppers scrambling for cover. The officer said the attack was borne out of the desperation of terrorists following Saturday's killing of the LeT commander. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah condemned the attack.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Hindu-Muslim, Hindu-Muslim, Hindu-Muslim... looks like the party manifesto to me

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	33.3°C	30.5°C
Min Temp	21.1°C	21.0°C
Humidity	81%	84%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
DRY WEATHER VERY LIKELY

Flood hit Spaniards toss mud at King

It was an unprecedented incident for a Royal House that takes great care to craft an image of a monarch who is liked by the nation

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Valencia (Spain), Nov 3: A crowd of angry survivors of Spain's historic floods tossed mud and shouted insults at Spain's King Felipe VI and government officials when they made their first visit to one of the hardest hit towns Sunday.

Government officials accompanied the monarch who tried to talk to locals while others shouted at him in Paiporta, an outskirts of Valencia city that has been devastated.

Police had to step in with some officers on horseback to keep back the crowd of several dozens.

"Get out! Get out!" and "Killers!" the crowd shouted among other insults. Bodyguards opened umbrellas to protect the royals and officials as protestors launched mud their way



After being forced to seek protection, the king remained calm and made several efforts to speak to individual residents. One person appeared to have wept on his shoulder. He shook the hand of a man.

It was an unprecedented incident for a Royal House that takes great care to craft an image of a monarch who is liked by the nation.

But the public rage over for the haphazard management of the crisis came to a boil Sunday.

Queen Letizia and regional Valencia President Carlo Mazón were also in the contingent. The queen also spoke to women with small glops of mud on her hands and arms.

Over 200 people have died from Tuesday's floods and thousands have had their homes destroyed by the wall of water and mud. At least 60 of the dead were in Paiporta, an epicentre of suffering.

Indignation of the management of Spain's worst natural disaster in living memory started after the initial shock wore off.

The floods had started filling Paiporta with crushing waves when the regional officials issued an alert to mobile phones that sounded two hours too late.

And more anger has been fuelled by the inability of officials to respond quickly to aftermath. Most of the cleanup of the layers and layers of mud and debris that has invaded countless homes has been done by residents and thousands of volunteers.

"We have lost everything!" someone shouted.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez was scheduled to accompany the king on the visit. But it is not clear if Sánchez was there at the moment the contingent was pelted with mud.

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DEMI TO BE FETED AT FRENCH CINEMATHEQUE

Hollywood star Demi Moore, who is generating Oscar buzz for her performance in *The Substance*, will be honoured with a career tribute at the French Cinematheque in Paris, ahead of the movie's local release. The event is set to be held November 5.

CARDI B LASHES OUT AT ELON MUSK

As the US presidential elections near, Grammy Award-winning rapper Cardi B has called out Elon Musk, the South African-born tech and business titan, for calling her a "puppet" for the campaign of Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You are deeply interested in the occult and the paranormal and today, you may indulge in something to do with it. So, you may buy a full colour 15x10 glossy on shamanic rites or the tantra! Ganesh suggests using such knowledge for peaceful ends.

TAURUS
Love is on the cards, says Ganesh. Your senses are likely to remain highly active today. Stay alert and avoid drifting into your own world at the cost of work. It is best for you to keep your eyes and ears open to avoid any misunderstanding with your near and dear ones, suggests Ganesh.

GEMINI
You have been itching to arrange a family reunion or get-together at your house. Well, today is the perfect day to do it. And why just family? You are also likely to invite some of your close friends and important business associates over to your place.

CANCER
Today, it is quite possible that you have a presentiment of things that are about to happen. Scarily enough, the premonition may not be too far off the mark. All your senses, especially your sixth sense, are likely to remain highly active today.

LEO
To many, you will seem to have got your senses back after a long time. Reason? You will finally have a definite career plan in mind. Although, it's not really a big deal for you when your mind races and yearns to achieve in two warring directions, it may seem quite jarring and unreal to the mere mortals.

VIRGO
Leadership is your forte and you shall receive kudos for the manner in which you handle your team. Much awaited promotions will materialise and so will some extra cash in your wallet. Wisely enough, you didn't get all this by not effectively balancing home and work, says Ganesh. Don't slip on this tight-rope walk.

LIBRA
Ever heard of the phrase, "To stick one's foot in one's mouth"? Well, today you might be doing exactly the same, albeit unwittingly. You are likely to invite trouble, especially if some of those heated discussions get out of hand. A legal dispute does not seem unlikely.

SCORPIO
Your rung in the social ladder just went higher today. But be wary of green-eyed monsters and ill words. Fight tooth and nail - if necessary - to protect our reputation, says Ganesh. But also learn to find your enemies' Achilles' heel and target it ferociously.

SAGITTARIUS
The day may pan out to be more challenging than you had anticipated. An independent free bird as you Archers are, you may find really irritating to find your hands tied up in unpleasant money matters. But, then that's a part of life; put in your best to overcome any situation you come across.

CAPRICORN
Your exuberance and self-confidence will become the talk of the day for those around you. But it's not for nothing that you will attract so much attention. You will derive pleasure in accomplishing herculean tasks today, and Ganesh says you will do justice to work too. At home, everything will go smooth and you will enjoy and share the peace in your life with your wife.

AQUARIUS
Team work and cooperation bring out the best in you, so you must make the most of a chance to work in a group. It could be brainstorming, or campaigning for an environmental cause or even playing beach ball! A game of cards in the evening, and consider your day well spent, says Ganesh.

PISCES
The workaholic in your bursts to the fore with a vengeance, and today will see you tackle pending projects with the zeal of a Holy Templar crusader. Your energy levels will be unflagging, and your enthusiasm to wipe your slate clean admirable.

Kartik's success story

Mumbai: Kartik Aaryan's rise to fame wasn't instant. The actor faced a series of duds before making it big in Hindi film industry and winning over the audience with his charm. However, for a long time, he was recognised mainly for his famous monologue in the film *Pyaar Ka PUNCHAMA* and was referred as the 'monologue guy'.

In an interview, Kartik admitted that although his memorable monologue earned him initial fame, it also led to him being typecast. He shared, "People didn't know my name; they only knew me as the 'monologue guy' from *Pyaar Ka PUNCHAMA*". That seven-minute monologue describing a man's frustrations in a relationship, was widely appreciated for being shot in one take. Despite the popularity, it attracted some criticism for being perceived as sexist. However, it helped Kartik stand out in Hindi film industry, even if it took years for him to move past that one iconic scene.

The real turning point for him came with *Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweeti*, which made him a household name. By that time, he had already spent seven years in the industry, working hard to prove himself. Kartik said that his journey was difficult but starting young worked to his advantage, allowing him the time to build his career patiently.

Meanwhile, the *Dhamaka* star is basking in the success of *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*. AGENCIES



Margot welcomes first child

Los Angeles: Hollywood star Margot Robbie, who's *Barbie* emerged as a blockbuster, has welcomed her first baby, a boy, with her husband Tom Ackerley. Details about Robbie and Ackerley's son, including his name and birth date, have yet to be revealed, reports 'People' magazine.

In July, Robbie made her first appearance since news broke that she was expecting her first baby, attending Wimbledon with Ackerley, also 34.

Robbie and Ackerley first met in 2013 on the set of the World War II drama *Suite Francaise*, where he was an assistant director and she starred as Celine Joseph. They then married in December 2016 during a private ceremony in Australia's Byron Bay. The two never announced their engagement prior to their big day. IANIS



Kriti's rumoured boyfriend

Mumbai: Actress Kriti Sanon, who is receiving a lot of positive response for her maiden production *Do Patti*, was spotted at the Mumbai airport Sunday with her rumoured boyfriend, the UK-based businessman Kabir Bahia.

However, the two refrained from posing together for the shutterbugs. Pictures shared by the paparazzi show Kabir at the airport followed by Kriti. The two avoided posing together, with Kriti opting for a solo photo-op. Interestingly, they both wore matching black outfits as they headed to an undisclosed location.

Kabir, who is the son of Kuljinder Bahia, the owner of a UK-based leading travel agency, is the Managing Director at Worldwide Aviation and Tourism. He studied at the Regent's University London where he specialised in Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services.

Meanwhile, Kriti essays dual roles in *Do Patti* which is written by Kanika Dhillon of *Manmarziyaan* fame. The film touches upon the subject of domestic abuse, and blends it with the elements of thriller with a pair of twins at the opposite ends of the spectrum. IANIS

NARGIS SLAYS IN RED

Mumbai: Actress Nargis Fakhri took to social media to drop her alluring photos in a vibrant red saree.

Sunday, the *Rockstar* actor shared a series of her gorgeous photos where she is seen slaying in sparkling red saree that she paired with stylish heels. Alongside the images, Fakhri wrote, "Red hot & Ready to slay. Celebrating Diwali, yay!"

Nargis opted for a natural, dewy makeup and subtle glow that accentuated her features. She complimented her look with nude lip colour, mascara and kohl-rimmed eyes. Soon after she posted her photos, fans flooded the comments section with compliments. One wrote, "Hottest celebrity ever!" Another user wrote, "prettiest girl on the planet." A third user said, "you look so pretty."

On the professional front, Fakhri, who started her

career as a model at the age of 16, made her debut in 2011 with Imtiaz Ali's musical drama *Rockstar* alongside Ranbir Kapoor. She rose to prominence with her very first film where she played the role of Heer Kaul, who was diagnosed with bone marrow apnea. Nargis later portrayed a war correspondent in the political thriller *Madras Cafe*. She also starred in the commercially successful comedies, *Main Tera Hero Spy* and *Housefull 3*. IANIS

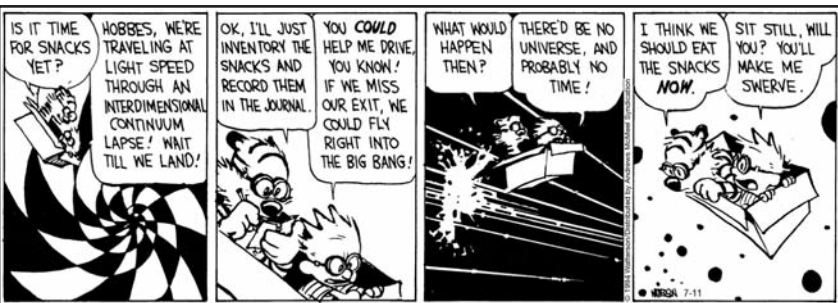


FUN post

PEANUTS



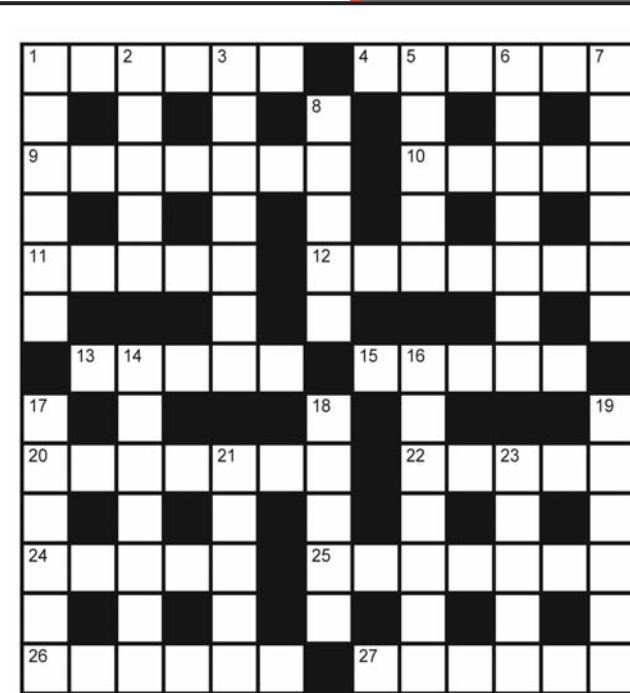
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



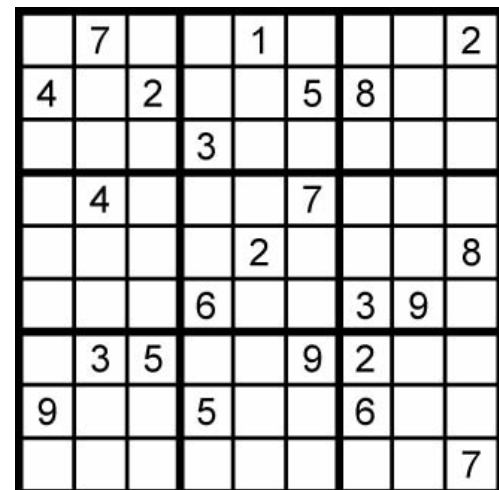
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Brusque in manner
 - 4 Orbit
 - 9 Lessen
 - 10 Like ghost stories
 - 11 Divide
 - 12 Hard work
 - 13 Bead material
 - 15 Lace tip
 - 20 Navigational aid
 - 22 Fatuous
 - 24 Brook
 - 25 Affinity
 - 26 H2O part
 - 27 Deceive
- Down
- 1 Appraise
 - 2 Renegade
 - 3 Gauguin, for one
 - 5 Alpha's opposite
 - 6 Land expanse
 - 7 Tease
 - 8 Cruise ship accommodation
 - 14 State of worry
 - 16 Brief or incomplete view
 - 17 Hitchcock classic
 - 18 Baby bird?
 - 19 Guard
 - 21 It's just over a foot
 - 23 French romance

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

Nine held for razing shop's wall over 'chanda' demands

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: Mancheswar police Sunday arrested nine hoodlums who Saturday bulldozed the compound wall of a shop in Mancheswar area and dug up a pit in front of it in a bid to prevent access of customers after the owner of the shop refused to pay them ₹50,000 'chanda' (donation) for Gajalaxmi Puja pandal in the locality.

Those arrested were identified as Sangram Bhoi, Sagar Bhoi, Dasarathi Nayak, Manas Kumar Behera, Tulu Bhoi, Prakash Behera, Kanhu Bhoi, Kamlesh Behera and Dasrathi Sahoo. While Kamlesh and Dasarathi live in Dhirikuti Sahi near Saheed Nagar, the rest are residents of Bhotapada Sahi under Mancheswar police station.

IIC Manas Kumar Swain said the arrested hoodlums are known history-sheeters who had been

booked for over a dozen of times in the past for various offences.

Swain said Saturday, the hoodlums approached the businessman, who runs a gas agency at Bhotapada, and demanded ₹50,000 as donation for Gaja Laxmi Puja.

When the businessman refused to pay, the miscreants came back in the evening with an earth mover (bulldozer) and knocked down the boundary walls of the shop even as the businessman kept protesting.

They later then dug up a pit in front of the shop in order to make it difficult for customers to access the entrance.

Before fleeing, they told the businessman that he will have to face similar consequences if he didn't contribute donations for other functions.

The arrested were produced in a local court for remand Sunday after they were charged under various BNS Sections.



FRUITS OF LABOUR: With traditional caps on head, farmers harvest paddy from a farmland on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Sunday

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

LEGACY MARCH

'Heads' from various localities in Cuttack join a procession for immersion of Goddess Kali idols on cycle rickshaws to Devigada Ghat, Sunday



CM's statement heats up politics

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: Politics in the state heated up Sunday over Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's statement that discussions are on with the Chhattisgarh government to resolve the long-pending Mahanadi river water sharing dispute.

While Opposition BJD demanded the government to make details of the meeting public, Congress, on the other hand, termed the CM's statement as 'political eyewash'.

BJD leader Prasanta Muduli said Mahanadi is the lifeline of Odisha. He said the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD government had raised its voice against the wrongdoings by the Chhattisgarh government in connection with the Mahanadi water sharing dispute.

"As the BJP government is ruling both in the Centre and the state, the people of Odisha are

MAHANADI WATER DISPUTE



hopeful that the issue will be resolved completely. We welcome the CM's statement over holding discussions on the issue but what transpired during the discussions should also be made public," Muduli added.

Senior Congress leader Narasingha Mishra asserted that the statement made by CM Majhi is just a mere political eyewash and 'jumla'. Mishra said that the Mahanadi water sharing dispute cannot be resolved through discussions.

Earlier in the day, the chief minister had stated that the state government is serious about the Mahanadi river water sharing dispute, and discussions with Chhattisgarh government are on to resolve the issue at the earliest.

Speaking to mediapersons in Bolangir district, CM Majhi said, "The government is aware of the issue and giving emphasis to it. Discussions are on, and I have also held discussions with the chief minister of Chhattisgarh twice after courtesy meetings."

He also stated that the state government is contemplating how to expedite the construction works on various proposed projects on the Mahanadi river such as barrages, dams and anicuts in the coming days.

Notably, Mahanadi is the largest river in Odisha, which originates from Chhotanagpur plateau near Raipur in neighbouring Chhattisgarh. The Odisha government alleged that various projects constructed on the Mahanadi river upstream by Chhattisgarh government have reduced water flow to the state during the non-monsoon period.

The Centre had constituted Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal after a Supreme Court directive in January 2018.

The tribunal completed field visits to places related to the river system located in Odisha and Chhattisgarh in December last year.

MANGO KERNEL HORROR

2 critical patients shifted to SCB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Nov 3: Two critical patients of Kandhamal district allegedly suffering from food poisoning after eating mango kernel were shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital here after their conditions deteriorated, health officials said Sunday.

They were admitted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur and were shifted to SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack late Saturday evening.

Both the patients are now undergoing treatment in the Medicine ICU of the hospital here. "Tuni Majhi, 30, and Jeeta Majhi, 30, were shifted here with severe symptoms like high fever, persistent vomiting and signs of liver infection, said Medicine department head Prof Jayanta Panda.

Panda said a team of doctors drawn from Medicine and Hepatology departments of the hospital are attending to them round-the-clock. "Their conditions are critical but stable at the moment," he said.

"The patients are receiving the best possible care to manage their symptoms and stabilise their condition. Clinical tests have been conducted, and the medical team is awaiting the reports to further pinpoint the exact cause of the poisoning and to tailor the treatment accordingly," he said.

Doctors here are of the view that consumption of mango kernels is not uncommon and not without risks. However, incorrect preparation or the presence of naturally occurring toxins could lead to severe health issues, including the symptoms seen in these patients.

This incident has sparked a call for awareness about the dangers of consuming unhygienic food items without proper knowledge or preparation. Health officials are expected to issue guidelines



Jena seeks FS&CW Minister's scalp

BHUBANESWAR: Congress leader Srikant Jena Sunday demanded resignation of Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra for allegedly making 'irresponsible' and 'false' statements over mango kernel incident. Jena said, "I am shocked and surprised by the statements of Krushna Chandra Patra, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister, regarding the death of two tribal women in Mandipanka village of Kandhamal district after consuming mango kernel. Jena said, "The minister's claim

that the deceased's family had sufficient food and that they did not collect their October-December quota is completely false and it demonstrates a troubling disconnect from the reality. The rice provided in July barely lasted for a month. The ration for October-December was released November 2. Why was October's ration delayed for a month? Isn't it a



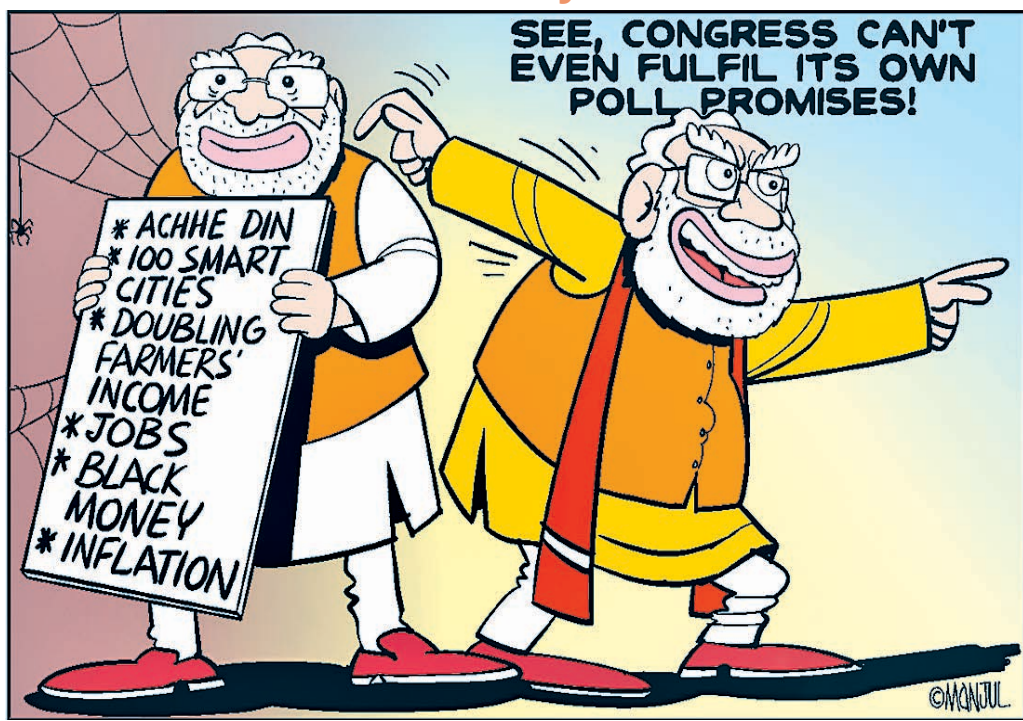
criminal offence?" Had the food supplies been released in October, this incident could have been averted, he added. "The minister's statements are full of lies, intended only to hide their own failures. I strongly feel that the minister should resign," Jena stated.

and warnings to the public regarding the risks of such practices.

At least two tribal women died and six others fell ill Thursday after allegedly consuming mango kernel gruel at Mandipanka vil-

lage in Kandhamal district. The state administration Saturday informed about the death of two women due to food poisoning. The deceased were identified as Rasmita Pattamajhi, 22, and Runu Majhi, 29.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Padmalaya Nanda to attend int'l youth conference in Dubai

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 3: 'Little Miss Universe Internet' Padmalaya Nanda has been invited to attend the 19th International Youth Convocation to be held in Dubai from November 5 to 10.

According to sources, Padmalaya will be leaving from Bhubaneswar November 4 to attend the convocation as a guest. The event has been organised by Y's Men International, an organisation in consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Selected youth representatives from various countries are scheduled to participate in the youth conference.

In 2017, Padmalaya became the first Indian to bag the 'Little Miss Universe Internet' title in Georgia, and was highly praised for presenting the Indian culture and Sambalpuri dance.

She is now pursuing her third year courses in Psychology at Ravenshaw University. Padmalaya is the eldest daughter of Orissa High Court lawyer Prasanna Kumar Nanda and Shubhasudha Priyadarsini.



AI-driven cyber attacks top risk for enterprises, says report

Artificial intelligence (AI)-driven malicious attacks were the top emerging cyber-security risk for enterprises in the third quarter of 2024, according to a new report.

IT vendor criticism and an unsettled regulatory and legal environment are new, top emerging enterprise risks, according to a Gartner report.

According to Zachary Ginsburg, senior director, research in the Gartner Risk & Audit Practice, while the upcoming US election generates headlines over the candidates' regulatory, trade and other proposals, organisations have difficulty considering the actual

risk implications from the many scenarios that might unfold.

"Amplifying this uncertainty are recent US Supreme Court decisions on federal agencies' authority to set and enforce regulations," said Ginsburg.

Beyond politics, other global events, such as the July CrowdStrike outage, have raised questions about whether organisations over-rely on their largest IT vendors. "Because third parties, like SaaS vendors, rely on other vendors, organisations may not realise the full extent of their exposure," said Ginsburg.

Two of the top five most cited emerging risks are in the technology category and two reflect



political concern related to uncertainty around the regulatory and legal environment and the outcomes of global elections.

According to the report, mis-

aligned organisational talent profile moved down from the fourth-place ranking in the second quarter to the fifth most cited risk in the third quarter.

CM to visit Singapore Nov 18, hold roadshow

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will visit Singapore from November 18 for a three-day trip focused on attracting foreign investment to the state. The visit includes a roadshow and an investors' meet aimed at showcasing Odisha's economic potential which is part of a larger series of events leading up to the Utkarsh Odisha Conclave 2025. During his visit, the CM will engage with potential investors, highlighting Odisha's growth trajectory and favorable business environment. This initiative follows the recent investors' meetings held in New Delhi and Mumbai, where the chief minister held discussions with industry leaders.

CM attends 52nd Foundation Day of Dhauuli Peace Pagoda

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi says that heritage sites including Dhauuli to be developed in a coordinated plan



ended with massive bloodshed. Dhauuli continues to sing about the moral victory of the entire humanity.

"Built by the Japan Buddha Sangha and the Kalinga Nippon Buddha Sangha in 1972, the Dhauuli Shanti Stupa is also known as the Peace Pagoda," he said.

The CM said that Dhauuli hill is a symbol of bravery and strength of the brave Kalinga people. It is a symbolic pilgrimage place that tells the sacrifice of Odia heroes.

The chief minister said that after the Kalinga war in 261 BC, Emperor Ashoka took a vow of peace and embraced Buddhism. This pillar of peace was established under the efforts of the Japanese government 52 years ago. From then till today, the monument has been a symbol of peace and friendship.

He also said that when Buddhism is discussed, the name of Odisha comes first. The extent of Buddhism spread in Odisha and in Bihar cannot be seen in any other province of India. Buddhism spread in Odisha from the 6th century BC.

He further said Dhauuli may be an icon of Buddhism but it has become so integrated with the Odia language, culture and traditions that the people of the state have accepted it as a part of their culture.

Eminent Buddhist monk T Okangi and Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan graced the event as guests.



TALENT HONOURED: Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo presents prestigious Ekalabya Puraskar for 2024 to swimming star Pratyasa Ray at an event in Bhubaneswar, Sunday. The award is instituted by IMPaCT and managed by IMFA
PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

Minister orders probe, seeks report

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh ram Singhkhuntia Sunday ordered a detailed inquiry into the unnatural death of elephants in the state.

In a letter to the department's additional chief secretary Satyabrata Sahu, the minister expressed concerns over the death of about 50 jumbos, reported in the current year.

Describing the matter circulated in media as very alarming, minister said that additional care and protective measures are necessary to curb the issue. Khuntia has also ordered for di-

UNNATURAL DEATH OF JUMBOS



vision-wise thorough investigation on jumbo death incidents, to take stringent action against those found responsible, and to submit a detailed report within a month.

"The state government is proactively taking various steps to prevent the unnatural death of the elephants through several steps such as deployment of Gaja Sathis, and Rapid Action Teams," the minister said.

"But, more care and sincerity on the part of forest officials have become need of the hour to ensure safe environment with statutory protective measures for the safety of the elephants. Priority must be given on the matter and errant officers must not be let scot-free," he added.

Responsibilities will be fixed against the officers found negligent and inefficient in safeguarding the life of the jumbos, he stated.

In September this year, the minister made a shocking revelation in the Assembly stating that as many as 719 elephants and 55 tigers have died in the state in the last 10 years.

CM's Grievance Cell to remain closed Nov 4, 11

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister's Grievance Cell will remain closed November 4 and 11. As per an official press release, the date of the next hearing will be announced to the public through print and electronic media. The announcement was made by the General Administration and Public Grievance department Sunday. CM's Grievance Cell was also closed October 28 in view of cyclone Dana and ensuing post-cyclone rescue and restoration efforts.

Dy CM Parida meets Odia entrepreneurs in London



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: Deputy Chief Minister Pratiksha Parida arrived in London Sunday to attend the World Travel Market from November 5.

Upon her arrival at Heathrow airport, Parida was received by Odisha Society of UK president Biswajit Pradhan, and general secretary Sukanta Sahu.

On the occasion, several Odia

entrepreneurs, including Sumant Mansingh, Subhakanta Das and Partha Panda met Parida and extended her a warm welcome. Parida was briefed about the notable works of Odia diaspora in London, particularly in the tourism sector.

Parida will attend the "Tourism Odyssey: Strengthening Ties with Diaspora and Industry Leaders" during her week-long tour to London.

The deputy CM is expected to showcase state's rich tourism potential, highlighting the state's scenic destinations, historic sites, and vibrant cultural heritage to attract tourists from abroad. Additionally, she will outline the state's ambitious plans to encourage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for tourism sector.

The initiative aligns with state's broader goals of boosting economic growth through enhanced tourism and international partnerships.

Parida's participation is anticipated to strengthen ties with the diaspora and industry leaders, promoting Odisha as a premier travel destination on the global map, according to official sources.

The Deputy CM will also inaugurate a restaurant 'Chilika' in London.

Mahatab's birth anniversary celebrations from Nov 21



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: The 125th birth anniversary of former chief minister Utkal Keshari Harekrushna Mahatab will be celebrated for a year. A decision to this effect was taken Sunday in the meeting of the committee formed by the Odia Language, Literature and Culture department.

On the occasion of Mahatab's birth anniversary, a three-day ceremony will be held in Bhubaneswar from November 21 to 23. Also, various programmes will be organised to commemorate the memory of

Mahatab for the next one year. "Mahatab was a nationalist leader. Therefore, his year-long jubilee celebrations will be marked by various programmes to spread the spirit of Odia nationalism," an official said.

Along with this, there is also a proposal to make a biopic on Mahatab and show it in schools, colleges and universities, he added.

Mahatab was born November 21, 1899 and died January 2, 1987.

The meeting was attended by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Cuttack MP Bhartruhari Mahtab among others.

Man kills wife over extra-marital affair

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Nov 3: A 25-year-old man and his friend were arrested in Ganjam district Sunday for allegedly killing his wife over an extra-marital affair, police said.

The incident happened in Badagada in the Sheragada police station area October 17, they said.

Those arrested were identified as Pintu Naik and his friend Partha Naik (22).

Pintu allegedly killed his wife Jhumuri (24) by hitting her repeatedly with sharp stones tied to a string, and then dumped her body in a forest. The decomposed body was found October 26, police said.



Pintu and his wife Jhumuri got married about five years ago. They have a son, who is now three years old, SDPO (Aska) Sanjay Kumar Mohapatra said.

She fell in love with Pintu's cousin Krushna Chandra Nayak, who frequently visited their house. About three months back, she left home with Krushna, leaving behind her son and husband.

On the day the murder happened, Pintu went with his friend Partha to Krushna's house and pleaded with Jhumuri to come with them to his house, stating that their son was crying inconsolably, the officer said.

Partha was riding the motorcycle, while Pintu and Jhumuri were seated in the back. As they reached a nearby forest area, Partha stopped the motorcycle, and they got down.

There, Pintu allegedly assaulted Jhumuri with sharp stones tied to a string till she died, the SDPO said.

Binayak Rath receives OES lifetime achievement award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: Former vice-chancellor of Utkal University, Binayak Rath was conferred with the Orissa Environmental Society (OES) 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for his contributions to the field of environment protection at the 43rd foundation day and award ceremony of OES here Sunday.

Former adviser to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) Virendra Pratap Upadhyay was honoured with the 'Environment Excellence Award' and former head of Zoology, Utkal University Ajay Kumar Patra received the 'Environment and Science Popularisation Award'.

The 'Nature Conservation Award' was presented to Bivash Pandav of the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

Sharat Kumar Palita, VP Upadhyay, Navin Kumar Dhal



and Pushpanjali Parida were honoured with the title of 'OES Fellows'. Former professor of IIT Bombay Krishna Chandra Sahu, professor Pushpanjali Parida, Parshuram Panda and Tapas Ranjan Mallick were conferred the status of 'Patrons of OES'.

Presided over by the president of OES Sundara Narayana Patro, the programme was at-

tended by former IAS officer and OPSC chairman, Vivekananda Patnaik as the chief guest and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Devidutta Biswal as the keynote speaker.

Patnaik presented a landscape of the current global environment, explaining how its quality standards are degrading, stressing the importance of sustain-

able maintenance.

At the event, Biswal delivered the 'Prasanna Kumar Dash Memorial Lecture', named after the OES founding president. He spoke broadly about the state's forest and wildlife resources.

Speaking on the occasion, experts stated that as long as the nature and environment are protected and the flow of goods and

services derived from them is uninterrupted, it will be possible for the mankind and the entire living world to lead a prosperous life.

"We need to realise that environmental protection is a very sensitive issue. If natural ecosystems are disturbed by human activities and their functioning is affected, the flow of goods and services will be disrupted," they opined.

This imbalance will expose the species to various predicaments, which will lead to their decline and ultimate extinction. In this context, the government, various institutions and the public must exhibit commitment to maintain the quality of the environment through their joint efforts, the experts added.

Senior life members of OES Ekdashi Nandy, Bishwanath Puhan, Prakash Chandra Mishra, Swapna Behera and Ram Narayan Gupta were also felicitated on the occasion.

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Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-889550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Paralakhemundi turns safe haven for gold smugglers

At a time when police from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are raiding several stores and picking up the accused gold traders is nothing new, it was often noticed that Paralakhemundi police have no inkling of it



POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Nov 3: The district headquarters town of Paralakhemundi in Gajapati district has turned into a safe haven for the miscreants involved in smuggling of gold ornaments from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, according to a report.

The miscreants decamp with gold ornaments from the households, commuters and several jewellery stores in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and escape to the town here to sell the precious ornaments to local goldsmiths or jewellery stores. The claim is not unfounded as Andhra and Telangana police have raided around 10 jewellery shops in the town during last one year and seized the orna-

ments with the help of some of the accused in their custody.

At a time when police from other states raiding the stores and picking up the accused traders is nothing new, it was often noticed that Paralakhemundi police have no inkling of the raids and verification of the jewellery stores conducted by the cops from Andhra and Telangana.

The issue shot into prominence again when a five-member team of Telangana police was found moving in Paralakhemundi town, Saturday. The team, while moving, suddenly entered into the jewellery shop of P Ashok Kumar here and scanned some old gold ornaments. Kumar tried to reason with Telangana police when Paralakhemundi police were informed about their arrival.

Left with no option, Telangana police team visited Paralakhemundi police station and explained the purpose of their visit. The prime accused in the theft of gold ornaments was also accompanying the Telangana police during their visit.

According to the accused, Telangana police had seized around 30 gram gold from the store. However, neither the Telangana police nor did the local police register any case against the shop owner.

This has sent the chatters abuzz in the town while many have questioned as to how a police team from outside the state visit the town, conduct probe and seize the stolen gold ornaments without the knowledge of the local police. They alleged that this explains how the police teams from outside the state give importance to the local police.

Confirming the development, Paralakhemundi police station inspector in-charge Prasant Bhupati said Telangana police had indeed come for verification of the jewellery store. They have been asked to report to the local police ahead of their future visits, he added.



SCINTILLATING PERFORMANCE: Artistes perform Odissi at 27th Vedvyas Sangeet Nrityostav-2024 in Rourkela

OP PHOTO

DMF: HC issues notice to Keonjhar Collector

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 3: A two-judge bench of Orissa High Court issued a notice to the District Collector here asking him to submit a reply over alleged irregularities in allocation of funds under District Mineral Foundation (DMF), a report said. The bench led by the Chief Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh issued the notice after a public interest litigation (PIL) was filed by social activist

Subhakanta Nayak of Hatadihi block in Keonjhar district. The bench heard the matter and issued notice to the District Collector asking him to submit the response by November 26.

According to the case diary, several crores from DMF funds have been spent on various developmental works without inviting tenders. The irregularities also include implementation of projects without approval of the trust board,



various agencies failed to submit utilisation certificates (UCs), payment of ₹1.70 crore to PMU

(E&YLLP) towards salary advance and the agency lacking in statements regarding absentee employees.

Similarly, several reports like those pertaining to field visits were lacking, while illegal use of contingency funds has also come to the fore, prompting the petitioner to approach the Chief Minister, the district Collector and the Chief Secretary earlier.

Later, the petitioner moved the HC.

16-yr-old rapes younger sister

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 3: In a shocking incident, a 13-year-old minor girl here in Sundargarh district was impregnated by her elder brother, also a minor, who had raped her six months ago, according to reports. The matter came to light after her mother lodged a complaint at Udit Nagar police station.

According to sources, the 16-year-old boy had allegedly raped his sister six months ago while their parents, who are daily wagers, were absent. The accused threatened his sister not to disclose the incident before anyone.



Recently, when the girl complained of stomachache, her mother took her to the Rourkela Government Hospital where doctors found the girl six months' pregnant and informed her mother about it.

On being questioned, the girl narrated her ordeal. Police have registered a case and started an investigation into the matter.

NHRC notice to Keonjhar DM over violation of human rights

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 3: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notice to the Collector of this district for denial of rights and harassment of physically-challenged persons in receiving their pension due to lack of communication and inaction on part of the local administration. It has asked the district Collector to ensure prompt remedial measures and submit the action taken report within a period of four weeks. Acting on a petition filed by human rights activist and Supreme Court advocate Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC issued the order.

The petitioner drew the attention of the NHRC towards a very disturbing video which went viral on social media platforms. In the video, a 74-year old destitute tribal lady, Pathuri Dehury, was seen crawling on the road for two kilometres to reach Raisun panchayat office under Telkoi block to collect her pension. The petitioner also mentioned



about physically-challenged Madhav Jamuda, of Kuludera Village under Khuntapada block who also had to undergo a similar ordeal.

Tripathy has requested NHRC to ask the concerned public authorities to ensure pension at the doorsteps of the physically-challenged and also arrange wheelchairs for them. He also requested the Commission to direct the administration for construction of all-weather roads on top priority.

In a separate case, the rights body has also issued a notice to the principal secretary of the state Women and Child Development department to submit a status report of the functional toilets in all Anganwadi centres and the steps taken by it for construction of the same in the centres that do not have one. The commission has

also issued a notice to the district magistrate and ordered him to submit a pending report about the unfortunate demise of three children studying in an Anganwadi centre in this district. The deceased were Payal Patra, 3, Bharati Patra, 4, and Abhilipsa Patra, 3. Due to the absence of any toilet at the Anganwadi centre in Hatadihi block they were studying in they had gone out searching for one. In the process, they fell into an abandoned well full with water and drowned. The incident took place April 30, this year. The NHRC has asked whether compensation had been provided to the bereaved families and whether a toilet has been constructed at the centre. It has also issued an order asking all district collectors to construct toilets at those centres that do not have one.

1 more held in labourer murder case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur/Kalinganagar, Nov 3: A day after the arrest of four employees of a consultancy agency in connection with the murder of a labourer inside the plant premises of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) at Kalinganagar in Jajpur district, police arrested another person, Sunday. The fifth accused has been identified as Manas Rout, 26, a native of Joranda locality in Dhenkanal district. He will be produced in the court, Monday. Earlier, police had arrested four employees of Satyam Enterprises for their alleged involvement in the murder.

The accused were identified as operator Jagdish Mohanta of Sansailo village, supervisor Tarini Prasad Mohanta of Joranda village, driver Padmalochan Mohanta and accountant Alok Patra of Harichandanpur area. They were produced in court after their arrest, Saturday. Kalinganagar police registered a case and launched an investigation. All five of them have been accused in the alleged murder of Silu Pradhan, 22, over sharing of illegal money earned through various irregularities in the plant, police said.

Sources said that Satyam Enterprises was managing the operations of NINL plant. Some employees were earning huge amounts by illegally selling of various materials including oil, chips and cement outside. The accused and the victim had a fight two to three days before the murder over distribution of the booty following which the five convined to get rid of Silu.

Accordingly, they switched on a machine when Silu was verifying it. Caught unawares, Silu was sucked in by the machine and was crushed to death. Later, the accused allegedly dug up a pit inside the plant premises and buried the body by mixing a chemical and covering it with a polythene sheet. They also dumped his mobile phone at Panikoli to evade police action. However, after being detained they confessed to their crime during interrogation, Kalinganagar Additional SP Silverious Toppo said.

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Boy swept away in Koel; two rescued

PNN & AGENCIES

Rourkela, Nov 3: Two boys were rescued alive while one went missing after they were swept away in Koel river in Sundargarh district Sunday, police said.

The incident took place near Rourkela between noon and 1pm when four school students went to the river to bathe. Locals responded when one of the boys, who was standing on the riverbank, raised an alarm. They managed to save two of them, but another, identified as

Sarthak Badaik, slipped into the strong currents and could not be rescued, police added.

Fire Services and Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) teams arrived shortly after the incident and launched a rescue operation.

Equipped with scuba divers and rubber boats, they began searching for the missing boy. A member of ODRAF said, "The scuba divers are specially trained for this kind of search and rescue operations. The search will continue until the boy was found."



Barbil lacks dengue testing facility

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barbil, Nov 3: Although dengue cases in urban areas of Barbil in Keonjhar district are rising steadily, the community health centre (CHC) here lacking a testing facility has become a cause for concern.

Previously, there was an ELISA test machine for detecting dengue cases, but it was shifted to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) in Keonjhar. Barbil Municipality authorities have also been criticised for not prioritising dengue prevention measures. Notably, in 2016, the dengue outbreak in Barbil drew nationwide attention when 1,138 people contracted dengue, with five fatalities. Unofficial figures suggested that more than 3,000 individuals were afflicted by the vector-borne disease.

It was then when an ELISA testing machine had to be installed at Barbil CHC. However, it was later moved to the Keonjhar DHH. Since July, patients suspected of having dengue, are being referred to the DHH.

Among them, a patient named

Bira Biswakarma from Sriramnagar area in Barbil was referred to Keonjhar headquarters hospital, September 1. A test of his blood samples confirmed him of having dengue. He, however, succumbed to his illness while undergoing treatment.

On the other hand, Barbil municipality authorities issued notices to nine private companies in the area, asking them to conduct fogging drives, spray of larvicide, distribution of medicated mosquito nets and launch awareness campaigns in 15 wards, as well as paying door-to-door visits as part of dengue prevention efforts, July 2.

The programme which started July 15 was discontinued after the photos and videos were posted on various social media platforms. When contacted, Barbil CHC's chief medical officer Soubhagya Rashmi Ranjan Samal said they don't have any facility for detection of dengue and thus lack data on the number of cases. Patients suspected of having contracted dengue are being referred to the DHH.

Man held for killing uncle

AGENCIES

Jajpur, Nov 3: A 33-year-old man was arrested in Jajpur district Sunday for allegedly killing his maternal uncle, police said.

According to police, accused Jagan Dhal killed his uncle Dumsanta Nayak, 38, near Gadamadhapur village under Jenapur police station limits Saturday.

Police said Dumsanta had invited Jagan to his home, and the two rode to Chandikhole Bazaar on Jagan's bike to purchase a new motorcycle for Dumsanta.

When Dumsanta did not return home by night, his wife attempted to reach him by phone, but it was switched off. When she asked Jagan about her husband, he claimed he had dropped Dumsanta at Barada Chhak in the evening, police said.

Dumsanta's wife then began searching for him but was unable to trace him. Eventually, she filed a complaint with the local police station.

Jenapur police detained Jagan late Saturday night for questioning. During interrogation, he confessed to killing Dumsanta and hiding his body in Maudei forest near Gadamadhapur. Police recovered the body Sunday and sent it for post-mortem.

Police said a financial dispute might have triggered the murder, as Jagan had allegedly borrowed money from Dumsanta and had not repaid it.

A case has been registered under relevant sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and further investigation is ongoing, police said.

Jagan will be presented in court Monday, said Subhendu Kumar Sahoo, IIC of Jenapur police station.

**पावरग्रिड
POWERGRID**

NOTICE

- Approval under Regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations 1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations 2019 i) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block and ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2024-29 tariff block for: Petition 1: Assets under Eastern Region Strengthening Scheme - VIII (ERSS-VIII) and Petition 2: LILO of 400kV D/C Bongaigaon- Malda Transmission Line at Purnea and Sub-station at Purnea (New) in Eastern Region.
- The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (i) Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd, (ii) West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd, (iii) Grid Corporation Of Orissa Ltd., (iv) Damodar Valley Corporation, (v) Power Department, Govt Of Sikkim, Gangtok, (vi) Jharkhand Biji Vitran Nigam Ltd., (vii) West Bengal State Electricity Transmission Company Ltd.
- Tariff details:

Petition Detail	Asset detail	COD	Completion cost as on 31.03.2024	Tariff	Rs. In lakhs				
					2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1.	Asset-1	29.10.2014	8601.27	Revised AFC based on truing up	1667.30	1631.82	1605.72	1587.72	1573.26
	Asset-2	27.04.2015	629.42		142.23	139.72	138.41	137.98	137.99
2.	Asset-3	01.11.2003	8153.42	Revised AFC based on truing up	822.45	825.39	828.66	834.02	842.53
	Asset-4								
- 2024-29 Block

Petition Detail	Asset detail	Completion cost as on 31.03.2024	Tariff	Rs. In lakhs				
				2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
1.	Asset-Combined	9230.69	AFC	1736.01	1724.49	1714.08	1419.05	1438.53
	Asset-I	8153.42		741.49	750.93	761.08	772.36	785.22
- A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergridindia.in.
- The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4th floor, Chandralok Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Gurgaon Date: 02.11.2024

Sd/-
General Manager (Commercial)

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED

(A Government of India Enterprise)

Corp. Office: "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram-122001, (Haryana) Tel.: 0124-2571700-719
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A MAHARATNA PSU

Indian Bank

ALLAHABAD

**Zonal Office, Indian Bank Building, B-2 (East),
Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007**

**APPENDIX - IV [Rule-8(1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE
(for Immovable property)**

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the following Borrower/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount mentioned herein below with interest & other expenses thereon.

TEMPLE MARG BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantors	Amount Payable as on specified date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrower: M/s. Sanjay Kumar Khuntia, Prop.: Mr. Sanjay Kumar Khuntia / Guarantors: 1) Smt. Jayanti Khuntia, 2) Mr. Satyajit Khuntia, 3) Miss Sushree Suman, All are at EA-572, BJB Nagar, Lewis Road, Badagada, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751014	₹ 67,87,276.13 + interest and other expenses thereon	12.07.2024 / 02.11.2024	The property is in the name of Sri Sanjay Kumar Khuntia situated at Mouza: Mahabhoisan, Khata No.: 64/939, Plot No.: 89/648, Area: Ac. 0.060 Dec., Bounded by North: Bimala Behera, South: Sudarshan Sahu, East: Gangua Nala, West: Road

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 02.11.2024

Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

Whenever in your life, you meet with a hardship, take it as a boon from the Divine's Grace and it will become so.

THE MOTHER



Moment of Reckoning

The 16th United Nations Biodiversity Conference, also known as COP16, held in Cali, Colombia, ended abruptly on 2 November 2024 without reaching an agreement on the establishment of a new fund for nature conservation as rich countries blocked a proposal to set up the fund. The decision made by a group of developed countries, including the European Union, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, and Switzerland sparked outrage among African and Latin American nations, leading some to withdraw from discussions on other issues. The developed countries categorically opposed the proposal to establish a dedicated fund for financing nature restoration in poorer countries, arguing that it would complicate the funding landscape without necessarily increasing the overall resources available.

From this great big macro subject let us jump to a mini sized micro level issue. All this drama is on the global theatre and everyone is seen expressing concern at these developments. We however, need to worry much more for what is happening in front of our gates. Till last year, we all were aware that Orissa celebrated Hindoo festivals like Holi and Deepabali a day later, after most of north India had completed their bit of damaging the environment. People in this state were happy that lately, for the past few years, we behaved more mature and took care of our air and noise pollution when compared to north Indians. This year, along with a very welcome change in the political atmosphere, we are dismayed that a greatly altered situation has been observed in the celebration of Deepabali or Diwali. Originally, the day was marked as Ma Kali Puja. With northern influence increasing, Deepabali got a bigger foothold in Orissa. Yet it remained a single day affair. Kali Puja has been more or less completely forgotten and bursting of poison emitting fire crackers has become the major duty of all true Hindoos.

Now these two days, 31 October and 01 November 2024, seem to have dealt a solid blow to the environmental crisis already looming large in front of us all. Questions are being raised about reasons for this duality of dates that had never been seen earlier. Truth about the one religious calendar known as panji (almanac) predicting 31 October as Deepabali while another, equally trusted panji predicting the festival of lights to fall on 01 November is being doubted by many. Conspiracy theories speak about a politically motivated machination to integrate the various religious festivals of this state on the same dates as those in north India, thereby destroying its uniqueness. Second theory being floated is that these panjis, mostly prepared and printed by private enterprises with help from unverified astrological sources, are now prone to earning revenues in not so subtle methods. Making a day earlier or later compared to a competitive panji could mean extra business running into millions of rupees for fire cracker business enterprises. Receiving a tiny portion of it from them could mean a lot of money. For business involved in trade of fire crackers, two days instead of one simply means a doubling of revenue which in turn is doubling of profits. This may remind many about the sudden introduction of the Bol Bom (Kawadias) alien culture into Orissa. We never had that belief till late 1990s but then everyone noticed this sudden new practise and as is our character, we quietly accepted it without questioning. For example, none of us ever asked which traders started dealing with and sold those sticks, plastic mugs, flags and the total paraphernalia that was required to be purchased for every single Bol Bom walker. The costs of those useless items have shot up each year. Number of Bol Bom walkers has grown exponentially. We remain mute spectators while business folks pollute and rob us in broad daylight. Every citizen should be conscious of how, under this garb of Hindoo revivalism, the environment and our children's health are being damaged and how financially we are being disempowered.

Let us beware of these double meaning Double Days festivals.

Piate

Tathagata Satpathy



Shivaji Sarkar

IN 2024, THE RBI HAS ADDED 54.7 TONNES OF GOLD TO ITS RESERVES, THE HIGHEST ACQUISITION IN THREE YEARS

In a striking move to safeguard national wealth, India has repatriated 214 tonnes of gold from the vaults of England, a sign of heightened concern over escalating geopolitical tensions and looming sanctions. This shift reflects a broader trend, with central banks globally ramping up their gold purchases.

In May alone, India recalled 100 tonnes of gold from the Bank of England, reinforcing a strategy to shield assets amid global uncertainty. Now, as global gold prices soar toward a potential \$3,000 per ounce, the world is watching closely, with India emerging as a key player in the race to secure precious metals in these volatile times.

A total of 324.01 metric tonnes of gold were held in the custody of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and the Bank of England, while 510.46 metric tonnes were retained domestically. Additionally, 20.26 metric tonnes of gold were stored as deposits.

The Diwali 2024 market sparkle appears subdued for a number of reasons despite cracker sales going back almost to the pre-ban era. The traditional gold sales could not touch previous year's high as the metal was priced around Rs 78,430, almost 30 per cent higher than last year. "Silver sales rose 33 per cent, while gold volume fell by 15 per cent," according to the Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association. The market is stated to be as dizzy as it was in 2015 or 2019, the years marked by slowdown.

In its "43rd Half Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves: April - September 2024," the RBI stated that it had a total of 854.73 metric tonnes of gold in both domestic and foreign repository facilities. The RBI has been buying gold to diversify its forex reserves and hedge against external risks. In 2024, the RBI has added 54.7 tonnes of gold to its reserves, the highest acquisition in three years.

FOCUS COMMODITIES

GLOBAL GOLD RUSH



In May alone, India recalled 100 tonnes of gold from the Bank of England, reinforcing a strategy to shield assets amid global uncertainty. Now, as global gold prices soar toward a potential \$3,000 per ounce, the world is watching closely, with India emerging as a key player in the race to secure precious metals in these volatile times

After the Ukraine war, \$300 billion worth of Russian currency and other assets, kept as reserve in US dollar, euro and sterling pound were seized by the US and other G7 countries. The assets are being used to bolster funding arms and other supplies to Ukraine.

India has since acted cautiously even in deals with the purchase of Russian crude. The recent spat with Canada and Israel's escalation of war to Lebanon and Iran has added to the caution. This has forced repatriation of gold by RBI, which has been purchasing gold and has been stocking abroad for payments in terms of gold instead of dollar. The RBI saves

huge amounts in terms of vault rents as well.

Robust demand in the world's second-biggest gold consumer could further push up global prices, which hit record highs last week. Rising demand for imports of gold could also widen India's trade deficit and put pressure on the rupee. Yes, India's gold purchases have contributed to the rising global gold prices.

This apart, India's gold demand in 2024 is likely to fall to its lowest in four years as a rally in prices to a record high is seen denting purchases during the peak festival season, the World Gold Council (WGC) said. Gold demand in India could stand

around 700 and 750 metric tonnes in 2024, the lowest since 2020 and down from last year's 761 tonnes, according to Sachin Jain, CEO of WGC's Indian operations. This Dhanteras, gold sales dipped in India to 35 tonnes, down from last year's 42 tonnes. Gold has risen to multiple all-time highs this year. Goldman Sachs Research estimates that 100 tonnes of physical demand lifts gold prices by at least 2.4 per cent.

On the other hand, the retail mom and pop shops have problems as footfall was subdued due to many turning to online shopping. Both Amazon and Flipkart reported a strong Diwali season, with Flipkart leading with a 64 per cent market share during the initial October sales. Sales from online platforms saw year-on-year growth of 23 per cent, with goods worth Rs 32,000 crore sold.

Car sales have suffered during most part of the year before just marginally picking up during the Dussehra and Diwali festivals. Maruti Suzuki profits lowered to Rs 3102 crore in September, by 18 per cent, as against Rs 3762 crore a year ago. Maruti CEO RC Bhargava says "affordability is a concern." The demand for cars below Rs 10 lakh is sluggish. Small car inventory levels have hit a "historic high" of 80-85 days, leaving dealers with a stock of 790,000 vehicles worth Rs 800 billion, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations says.

Mobile phones in the below Rs 20,000-range had brisk sales. Mobile phones were among the hottest sellers this festival season, with a 12-15 per cent rise in the average selling price, driven partly by a shortage in device availability. This scarcity led to consumers grabbing whatever stock was available, resulting in an increase in the average price of phones sold.

In sum, the rising gold and commodity prices, fall in rupee value, crunch in income and manufacturing are concerns amid global instability.

INFA

SPECTRUM BANKING

Tracing the forgotten wealth

One of my colleagues was suffering from a disease and was in its last stage. He informed about his bank account details to his only daughter. After his death, the daughter and son-in-law contacted the banks and financial institutions, but could not trace out all accounts. They are confused, as some accounts were without details of financial transactions. This trouble would not have arisen if the deceased had disclosed the particulars of deposits to the family members as and when he opened the accounts with the banks and financial institutions.

It is a fact that in case of a loan, after the demise of the borrower, banks could locate the legal heirs to repay the loan, but in case of deposits, banks rarely take the initiative to identify the kin of the deceased. After the demise of a depositor, most of the accounts go to overdue deposit and if it continues for 10 years, it is sent to RBI, as unclaimed deposit. When it comes to the knowledge of nominees or dependents, it is usually difficult to get back from the RBI. So, it

is in the interest of the family members that all the deposits should be clearly disclosed in a diary and if the deposit receipts and passbooks are available, then the money can be claimed before it is transferred to RBI.

As per guidelines, balances in savings and current accounts, which are not operated for 10 years, or term deposits not renewed within 10 years from date of maturity are classified as "unclaimed deposits." These amounts are transferred by banks to the Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund maintained by the RBI. The depositors are, however, still entitled to claim the deposits at a later date from banks where such deposits were held along with interest, as applicable. However, despite public awareness campaigns undertaken by banks as well as RBI from time to time, the amount of unclaimed deposits has been increasing.

For revival of unclaimed account transferred to the DEA Fund, the legal heir has to submit their KYC documents, death cer-

tificate of the depositor, and relationship proof with the deceased such as legal heir certificate and surviving member certificate. In case of high value shares or deposits, the concerned body may also ask the legal heir to approach the court to obtain succession certificate or probate in case the deceased left a will.

The process is simple in case there is a nominee in the assets. In such a case, the nominee can get the investments faster by providing basic documents. However, it is important to note that the nominee is only a custodian of the investments. Legal heirs can stake claim on the said investments at any time, and their rights are protected under law.

Crores of rupees are lying unclaimed with banks in the country. According to the RBI, the amount with the DEA Fund stood at Rs 62,225 crore at the end of March 2023. By March 2024, this has increased by 26 per cent to Rs 78,213 crore. These amounts are linked to fixed deposits and bank accounts.

To facilitate depositors to search for unclaimed deposits

across multiple banks easily and at one place, the RBI developed a centralised web portal UDGM (Unclaimed Deposits-Gateway to Access Information). By visiting this portal, the deposited unclaimed amount can be checked easily. The claimant also can contact the concerned bank.

The RBI has advised banks for a periodic review of such accounts, measures to prevent fraud in such accounts, grievance redress mechanism for expeditious resolution of complaints, steps to be taken for tracing customers of inoperative accounts or unclaimed deposits including their nominees or legal heirs for re-activation of accounts, settlement of claims or closure and the process to be followed by them.

These instructions were expected to complement the ongoing efforts and initiatives taken by banks and the RBI to reduce the quantum of unclaimed deposits in the banking system and return such deposits to their rightful owners/ claimants.

The writer is a retired banker.



Gopabandhu Mohapatra

A WHOPPING ₹78,213 CRORE HAS BEEN LYING UNCLAIMED WITH BANKS IN THE COUNTRY

WISDOM CORNER

It is better to have your head in the clouds, and know where you are... than to breathe the clearer atmosphere below them, and think that you are in paradise.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

I firmly believe that any man's finest hour, the greatest fulfillment of all that he holds dear, is that moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle - victorious.

VINCE LOMBARDI

Wherever you are, be there totally. If you find your here and now intolerable and it makes you unhappy, you have three options: remove yourself from the situation, change it, or accept it totally. If you want to take responsibility for your life, you must choose one of those three options, and you must choose now. Then accept the consequences.

ECKHART TOLLE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1925: First woman governor of a state in the US. Nellie Tayloe Ross became the first and only female governor of the state of Wyoming in the United States. In addition to being the first woman to be ever elected as a state governor in the US, she was also the first female director of the United States Mint.

1946: UNESCO was officially established as its constitution entered into force; this specialized agency of the UN called for the promotion of international collaboration in education, science, and culture.

1979: A hostage crisis in Iran began as the U.S. embassy in Tehr n was seized by Iranian militants in a move sanctioned by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The 444-day crisis began when a group of students took over the American Embassy in Tehran and took 52 Americans hostages. The crisis led to a breakdown in American and Iranian diplomatic relations.

1995: Yitzhak Rabin assassinated. He was the Prime Minister of Israel when he was killed in Tel Aviv by Yigal Amir, an Israel who opposed the role that Rabin played in the Oslo Peace Accords. The Accords were a collection of agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization that set up the process of Palestinian self-determination and created the Palestinian Authority.

LOL

A free haircut

A man and a little boy entered a barbershop together. After the man received the full treatment - shave, shampoo, manure, haircut, etc. - he placed the boy in the chair. "I'm goin' to buy a green tie to wear for the parade," he said. "I'll be back in a few minutes."

When the boy's haircut was completed and the man still hadn't returned, the barber said, "Looks like your daddy's forgotten all about you." "That wasn't my daddy," said the boy. "He just walked up, took me by the hand and said, 'Come on, son, we're gonna get a free haircut!'"



Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Peace & stability

Sir, The recent withdrawal of troops of India and China along the disputed Ladakh border suggests easing off tension between the two countries. It is not just a military action. It has potential for dialogue between the two countries to avoid intensification of conflicts. The recent exchange of sweets between the soldiers of the two countries during Diwali suggests that the two countries long for peace. On the other hand, the trust deficit between the countries still remains. Economic ties have weakened due to border tension. China needs to stop its regional dominance and work out ways to ease tension along the border and formulate plans to establish peace and stability.

Venu, GS, KOLLAM

Legitimate demand

Sir, This refers to "Hemant requests PM, Shah to clear J'khand coal dues," Orissa POST, November 3. I am at a loss if the demand of the Jharkhand chief minister is bona fide why should he beg for the same with folded hands only to cause an embarrassing situation to the people of Jharkhand? In the event the coal companies refuse to honour the just demand of Jharkhand in spite of provisions in law and judicial pronouncements, the state should seek legal redress from the apex court.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Delhi's doomsday

Sir, Delhi literally woke up to a dark morning Friday, the day following Diwali. "I durst not laugh for fear of opening my lips and receiving the bad air," wrote William Shakespeare. "This could well have been the plight of the people of Delhi as they woke up in the "world's most polluted city." Both the people of the national capital as well as the law enforcing authorities were complicit in bringing Delhi to the brink of an environmental disaster. In the words of the English author, Terry Patchett, "There's one thing you can say for air pollution, you get utterly amazing sunrises." Sad to say, Delhi will be witnessing many "amazing sunrises" as all appeals to not burst crackers were disregarded lock, stock and barrel.

Avinash Godbole, DEWAS

AHEAD OF UP BYPOLLS

Parties engage in slogan war

While Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath coined 'batenge toh katenge' much before the bypolls were announced, a Samajwadi Party worker from the Deoria district put up a hoarding outside the party's office in Lucknow, which read 'judenge to jeetenge'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 3: The age-old saying of 'united we stand, divided we fall' seems to be strongly resonating in the bypolls-bound Uttar Pradesh, with leaders of various political parties coining their slogans, which revolve around this famous line.

While Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath coined 'batenge toh katenge' (divided we fall) much before the bypolls were announced, a Samajwadi Party worker from the Deoria district put up a hoarding outside the party's office in Lucknow, which read 'judenge to jeetenge' (united we win).

The hoardings by another SP worker from the Maharajganj district says 'na batenge, na katenge, PDA ke sang rahenge' (we will neither get divided nor we will fall) and 'PDA jodegi aur jeetegi' (PDA will unite and win).

The BSP too jumped in the slogan fray with its chief Mayawati Saturday saying, "BSP se judenge toh aage badhenge, surakshit rahenge" (people will progress and remain safe with the BSP's).

Amit Chaubey, an SP worker from the Maharajganj district who coined two slogans told PTI, "The Samajwadi Party has coined the term 'PDA' which encompasses all sections of the society. Here 'P' also stands for 'pandit' (Brahmin), and A stands for 'agda' (upper castes). "The SP is a party of all reli-



All these political slogans are innovative, attractive, and hammer on the mind of the people, thereby leaving long-lasting impression, and the impact continues

PRADEEP KHATRI | PSYCHOLOGIST AND COUNSELLOR

gions. Party founder 'Netaji' Mulayam Singh Yadav and party chief Akhilesh Yadav have worked for all sections of the society, and formed policies for them. However, the BJP works by dividing on the basis of caste."

He added that these prompted him to coin the slogans. SP worker from the Deoria district Vijay Pratap Yadav put up a hoarding outside the party office in Lucknow, which read 'judenge to jeetenge'.

A third such poster by SP worker Ranjeet Singh reads 'na batenge, na katenge, 2027 ko nafrat karne waale hatenge. Hindu Muslim ek rahenge to nek rahenge'.

Dwelling into the psychological aspect of such political slogans, Pradeep Khatri, who taught psychology at Lucknow's National PG College, told PTI, "All these political slogans are innovative, attractive, and hammer on the mind of the people, thereby leaving long-lasting impression on people's mind, and the impact continues."

"This is the main reason that leaders of various political parties use slogans most of the time. These make an immediate and effective connection with the voters and masses. These also have an immediate recall value. As a result, these are retained more in the memory of the

masses than the speeches," added Khatri, now a practising clinical psychologist and counsellor.

In an apparent reference to Chief Minister Adityanath's 'batenge toh katenge' remark, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav Saturday said this "negative" slogan is symbolic of the BJP's "disappointment and failure".

He also claimed this slogan will be recorded in the country's history as the "worst slogan" and will lead to the BJP's political downfall.

Reacting to Yadav's comments, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya termed the Samajwadi Party chief's coinage "PDA" as 'Parivaar' Development Agency.

By PDA, Yadav means Pichhade (backward classes), Dalit and Alpsankhyak (minorities).

Meanwhile, BSP chief Mayawati Saturday slammed the SP and the BJP for their "misleading" slogans and said these are designed to divert people's attention from their own shortcomings.

"BSP se judenge toh aage badhenge, surakshit rahenge," Mayawati said.

The BSP supreme's remarks came hours after Maurya sought to delink the BJP from the 'batenge toh katenge' slogan used by Adityanath at Agra in August this year, whose "spirit" was subsequently endorsed by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

SABARIMALA PILGRIMS TO GET LIFE INSURANCE

TDB ANNOUNCES ₹5 LAKH INSURANCE SCHEME FOR THE DEVOTEES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kottayam (Kerala), Nov 3: Sabarimala pilgrims, who visit the Lord Ayyappa Temple during the upcoming Mandalam-Makaravilakku pilgrimage season beginning later this month, will get free insurance coverage of Rs five lakh.

State Devaswom Minister VN Vasavan said here that the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), the apex temple body which manages the shrine, has introduced insurance coverage for all pilgrims coming to Sabarimala this year.

He said arrangements have been completed at the hill shrine to ensure a smooth darshan to all pilgrims.

"An insurance coverage of Rs five lakh will be provided. In case of death of pilgrims, the Devaswoms Board will make all arrangements to bring the body home," Vasavan told reporters during a press conference.

He said all preparations for the annual pilgrimage had been completed and a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan took stock of the final stage of arrangements Saturday.

As many as 13,600 police officers, 2,500 fire and rescue personnel and 1,000 sanitation workers will be deployed at Sabarimala during the pilgrimage season, he said.

The water authority made elaborate arrangements to ensure adequate drinking water supply in all places where pilgrims reach, he said.

While the LSGD institutions and the Suchitwa Mission made arrangements for comprehen-



AS PER PRACTICE, BEFORE SETTING OFF TO THE HOLY SHRINE, A PILGRIM NORMALLY UNDERTAKES AN INTENSE 41-DAY PENANCE WHERE HE DOES NOT WEAR FOOTWEAR, WEARS A BLACK DHOTI, AND STICKS TO STRICT VEGETARIAN FOOD. EVERY PILGRIM CARRIES AN 'IRUMUDI', A KIT WHICH CONTAINS COCONUTS WHICH ARE BROKEN JUST BEFORE CLIMBING THE 18 STEPS, ON HIS HEAD DURING THE PILGRIMAGE AND WITHOUT IT, NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO STEP ONTO THE HOLY 18 STEPS AT THE 'SANNIDHANAM'

sure anti-venom treatment for those who suffer snake bite.

The Motor Vehicle Department will open three control rooms and deploy 20 squads as part of implementing their safe zone project with regard to Sabarimala pilgrimage.

Police aid-posts would be opened in major railway stations and the Forest Department would open 132 service centres to assist devotees trekking along traditional forest paths. As many as 1,500 eco-guards and elephant squads would also be deployed under the Wildlife department.

The disaster management authority has prepared an elaborate action plan in connection with the annual pilgrimage and Rs 17 lakh have been sanctioned for the Pathanamthitta disaster management committee for the same. A total of 90 revenue employees would be deployed for disaster management initiatives, he said.

Forty lakh containers of aravana (prasadam) will be ready as buffer stock by the first day of 'Vricikam', the Malayalam month which marks the beginning the Mandalam-Makaravilakku pilgrimage, the minister said.

sive waste management, the Health Department arranged healthcare facilities at various points including Nilakkal, Sannidhanam (temple complex), and in various hospitals including Kottayam Medical College and Pathanamthitta and Kanjirappally General Hospitals.

Special cardiology treatment facilities have also been arranged in Pamba, Appachimedu, Sannidhanam and nearby hospitals, he said, adding that arrangements have also been made to en-

THINKAL project distributes 7.5L menstrual cups

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 3: THINKAL, an innovative project by the public sector enterprise HLL Lifecare Ltd, has distributed over 7.5 lakh menstrual cups across India, becoming a catalyst for health, environmental, and social transformation.

As of October 31, 2024, more than 7.5 lakh women have benefited from the THINKAL project, implemented by HLL under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, according to an official statement.

The initiative aims to raise awareness and provide access to menstrual cups—a safe, healthy, and affordable menstrual hygiene solution.

Currently, the project is active in seven states, including Kerala, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

The initiative is executed, in collaboration with, various state governments, central public sector undertakings, NGOs, and private institutions and is implemented by HLL Management Academy, the social education and development division of the public sector enterprise.

The THINKAL project was initially conceived in response to sanitary napkin disposal challenges faced during the 2018 Kerala floods.

In Kerala, the project is implemented in collaboration with local self-government bodies, NGOs, and self-help groups, reaching women from urban, rural, and semi-urban communities.

Through this initiative, two villages in Kerala—Kumbalangi Panchayat in Ernakulam and Kallikkad Panchayat in Thiruvananthapuram—have been declared napkin-free panchayats. According to estimates, an average woman uses approximately 15,000 sanitary napkins over her lifetime, costing around Rs 600 annually.

By distributing 7.5 lakh menstrual cups, HLL's initiative has helped reduce an estimated 10,000 tons of napkin waste and 13,250 tons of carbon emissions, the statement added.

ZERO POVERTY SCHEME

Top UP official meets first beneficiary in ground visits

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 3: A family in Salauli village, around 17 km from Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow, was selected as the first beneficiary of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's ambitious scheme to eradicate extreme poverty from the state.

Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh visited several villages before talking a decision on the family that will be eligible for the UP government's 'Zero Poverty Scheme'. He travelled only with his wife and without his usual entourage to identify the beneficiaries, a statement issued Saturday said.

"His search ended in Gosaiganj, Lucknow, where he met a family who truly needed support. Engaging in a heartfelt conversation, he extended Diwali greetings, presenting them with sweets and gifts," the statement read.

"Zero Poverty Scheme" aims to eliminate extreme poverty in Uttar Pradesh by identifying 25 lakh underprivileged families across Uttar Pradesh, enabling

them to access government benefits and boost their annual income to Rs 1,25,000 per family, it said.

A statewide campaign is underway to identify the families. The chief secretary noted in his October 2 communication sent to all district magistrates that the vision of the scheme has to be achieved quickly.

In Salauli village of Gosaiganj, Singh met Ruby, whose family is now the first to benefit from the 'Zero Poverty Scheme', the statement said. Her husband, Ram Sagar, works as a labourer, while she supports the family by working in the fields. They have two young children, Shivansh (3) and Sudhir (around two years old), according to the statement.

"This family of Gosaiganj became the first to benefit from the Zero Poverty Scheme, marking a meaningful start to this impactful initiative," it said.

"After an in-depth conversation with Ruby and a careful assessment of her situation, Chief Secretary Singh selected her family as the scheme's first beneficiary," it said.



Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi with AICC General Secretary and party candidate for Wayanad Lok Sabha seat by polls Priyanka Gandhi during a public meeting, at Mananthavady, in Wayanad district, Kerala, Sunday

RICH BIODIVERSITY

Rare brown vine snake spotted in Dudhwa National Park

ALTHOUGH THE NON-VENOMOUS SNAKE WAS DISCOVERED DEAD -- LIKELY TRAMPLED BY WILD ELEPHANTS -- ITS IDENTIFICATION PROVIDED A SIGNIFICANT ADDITION TO THE LOCAL BIODIVERSITY RECORDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lakhimpur Kheri (UP), Nov 3: The discovery of two rare snake species has underscored the ecological richness of the Dudhwa National Park (DNP), exciting conservationists and researchers alike.

Among the recent findings is the Painted Keelback (Xenochrophis cerasogaster), last documented in Uttar Pradesh over a century ago, and a brown vine snake (Ahaetulla prasina), which had never been seen before in the park's forests, according to officials and wildlife experts.

A few weeks ago, biologists Vipin Kapoor Sainy and Apoorv

Gupta found a Painted Keelback near Nakauva nullah in Dudhwa, marking the first known sighting of this species in the region.

Although the non-venomous snake was discovered dead -- likely trampled by wild elephants -- its identification provided a significant addition to the local biodiversity records.

"The recovery of this snake in Dudhwa after a gap of 117 years was really a feast to the eyes," Sainy said, noting that the species had last been recorded in the Faizabad area in 1907.

The discovery of the brown vine snake, a mildly venomous species with a unique brown morph, occurred several months earlier: Sainy, who was collecting



swamp deer pellet samples at the Bankey Tal in Sonaripur range, noticed a slender, brown snake moving through nearby shrubs.

"I photographed the snake, took it into my lap for an on-

spot observation, and later released it after documentation," he said, describing the encounter.

Subsequent consultations with WWF-India expert Rohit Ravi confirmed it as the brown morph of 'Ahaetulla prasina', marking its first official documentation in Dudhwa.

Officials have praised these discoveries for enhancing the knowledge of Dudhwa's ecological diversity. "With a landscape inhabiting some of the most unique and lesser-known species, Dudhwa has time and again proven to be a hotspot for new wildlife records, showcasing its ecological sig-

nificance," Field Director of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) Lalit Kumar Verma said.

Verma further noted the role of 'Ahaetulla prasina' in maintaining forest ecosystems, calling it a "vital component in preserving regional biodiversity".

Deputy Director Dr Rengaraju T echoed this sentiment, emphasising Dudhwa's outstanding diversity of reptiles and amphibians.

"The Painted Keelback is a prime example of how Dudhwa continues to reveal its secrets and rich biodiversity," he said, adding that each discovery sheds light on the park's complex ecosystem and the importance of ongoing conservation efforts.

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Commendable progress! The decline in TB incidence is an outcome of India's dedicated and innovative efforts NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

DELHI STRUGGLES TO BREATHE

Delhi's air quality remained in the 'very poor' category Sunday with thick fog enveloping the city in the morning. The national capital's Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 369 at 9 am, a significant rise from 290 Saturday, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data. Some monitoring stations recorded 'severe' air quality with readings exceeding 400



of the day quote

The main fight in the country today, that is taking place, is the fight for the Constitution of our country. The protection that we get, the greatness of our country, all emerged from the Constitution RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

Murder of a journalist, pressuring journalists, giving monthly payments to journalists, FIRs lodged against journalists, beating journalists after stripping them, forcing them to drink unwanted things... In BJP rule, every trick is being used to 'encounter the morale' of the media AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

I want to ask the BJP leaders to stop their dirty politics on the bus marshal issue. First, their salaries were stopped in April last year and finally they were removed in October, 2023 due to BJP's conspiracy ATISHI | DELHI CM

Jamiat cautions TDP, JD(U)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: Stepping up its campaign against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind Sunday urged TDP's Chandrababu Naidu and JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar to heed the sentiments of Muslims on the matter and said the parties within the NDA that claim to be secular must distance themselves from supporting this "dangerous" legislation.

It also cautioned that if the legislation is passed, the "two crutches" on which the BJP-led government is running at the Centre would not be able to escape responsibility. Jamiat chief Maulana Arshad Madani made the assertion at the prominent Muslim body's 'Save Constitution Convention' held here at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

"People of the country defeated the BJP. They did not accept their policies. This government is dependent on two crutches - a strong one is Chandrababu and the other is Bihar's Nitish Kumar. I had invited him (Naidu), he excused himself but had sent his party's vice president Nawab Jan. I look at this positively as he will convey the sentiments of the people gathered here," Madani said, gesturing to the large gathering of Jamiat functionaries and supporters.

"If the Waqf Bill is passed ignoring the emotions of the Muslims - it would be as much a responsibility of the crutches as it would be of other powers at the Centre," Madani asserted.

A resolution passed by the Jamiat at the Convention put forward the demand that no individual from any other religion be included in the Waqf



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Jamiat chief Maulana Arshad Madani made the assertion at the prominent Muslim body's 'Save Constitution Convention' held here at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium

Board, and that Parliament's joint committee be bound to consult only Muslims, Muslim organisations, and Muslim leaders.

"Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind supports the stance of opposition parties regarding the proposed Waqf Amendment Bill and appeals to the parties within the NDA that claim to be secular to distance themselves from supporting this dangerous proposed bill and to prove their secular credentials," the resolution read.

In his remarks, Madani said Jamiat has decided that either by the end of this month or in December, it will hold a gathering of around five lakh Muslims in Chandrababu Naidu's "area" and put forward Muslims' feelings before him.

"If this Bill is passed, the crutches on which the government is dependent would not be able to escape responsibility for it," he reiterated. Madani said the waqf is established by "our ancestors and is a part of Allah's

ownership, with mosques built on it". "You (government) should protect them because we live in this country and we have not come from outside. If a Hindu is a Gujjar, a Muslim is also a Gujjar...Hindus are Jats, Muslims are also Jats -- They chant slogans saying that Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs are separate, but we say that 'Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians sab hai bhai bhai'," the Jamiat chief said.

A Joint Committee of Parliament is examining the contentious Waqf Amendment Bill 2024.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was introduced in Lok Sabha in August and referred to a Joint Parliamentary panel after a heated debate, with the government asserting the proposed law, did not intend to interfere with the functioning of mosques and the Opposition calling it targeting of Muslims and an attack on the Constitution.

'BJP will roll out UCC in J'khand, excluding tribals'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Nov 3: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Sunday announced that the BJP will implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Jharkhand if voted to power in the state, but would keep tribals out of its ambit.

Shah, while releasing the saffron party's manifesto, 'Sankalp Patra', for the upcoming Assembly elections in Jharkhand, announced that a Displacement Commission would be formed to ensure the rehabilitation of people displaced by industries and mines in the state. "Our government will introduce UCC in Jharkhand but tribals will be kept out of its ambit. Hemant Soren and the JMM government are spreading false propaganda that UCC will impact tribal rights, culture and religion," he said.

Shah said the saffron party, if voted to power, will create 5 lakh employment opportunities, including 2.87 lakh government jobs, in Jharkhand.

The Home Minister said that BJP will bring in a law to take back land from infiltrators in Jharkhand and identify and deport the illegal immigrants. He claimed that 'Mati, Beti, Roti' (land, daughter and food) were under threat from the illegal immigrants and the BJP would provide security to the indigenous people. The local administrations encourage infiltration in West Bengal and Jharkhand, Shah alleged.

"Crimes against women rose by 29 per cent during the five year tenure of corrupt and insensitive Hemant Soren government, while rape cases saw an increase of 42 per cent during the period," Shah alleged.



Shah said the saffron party, if voted to power, will create 5 lakh employment opportunities, including 2.87 lakh government jobs, in Jharkhand.

He said that though UCC would be implemented, it will ensure that tribal rights are not impacted. "The BJP, if voted to power in Jharkhand, will deliberate on the Sarna religious code issue, and take appropriate decisions," he said.

Shah said the saffron party, if voted to power, will create 5 lakh employment opportunities, including 2.87 lakh government jobs, in Jharkhand.

The Home Minister said that BJP will bring in a law to take back land from infiltrators in Jharkhand and identify and deport the illegal immigrants. He claimed that 'Mati, Beti, Roti' (land, daughter and food) were under threat from the illegal immigrants and the BJP would provide security to the indigenous people. The local administrations encourage infiltration in West Bengal and Jharkhand, Shah alleged.

"Crimes against women rose by 29 per cent during the five year tenure of corrupt and insensitive Hemant Soren government, while rape cases saw an increase of 42 per cent during the period," Shah alleged.

SC to hear ex-Army officer's plea to quash rape charges today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Monday a plea filed by a former army officer seeking quashing of a charge sheet against him in an alleged rape case.

A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Ahsanuddin Amanullah is likely to hear a plea filed by Capt. Rakesh Walia (retired) challenging an order of the Delhi High Court which dismissed his petition.

The plea filed by advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey contended that the high court ignored the important fact that "maliciously, wrongfully" seven FIRs have been registered by the complainant against nine different persons at seven different police stations, including the petitioner, in the last eight years. The high court in its order dated July 31 had said that the trial court is seized of the matter, and will pass an appropriate order after considering the arguments on behalf of the petitioner.

"It is submitted that the petitioner is 63-years-old and a decorated officer of the Indian Army with critical medical ailments, having suffered a massive heart attack with two stents implanted and was also diagnosed with cancer and clinically declared as a highly immune-compromised case," the plea submitted.

"He is the victim of an unscrupulous abuser of the process of Law whose modus operandi is extorting hard-earned monies from respectable citizens like him by misusing benevolent provisions of law like rape and molestation, and implicating innocent citizens in false cases," the plea said.

SHORT TAKES

Portals of Kedarnath, Yamunotri closed

Dehradun: The portals of the Kedarnath and Yamunotri temples were closed Sunday for the winters amid Vedic rituals on Bhai Dooj in the presence of a large number of pilgrims, and temple committee and administrative officials. The Kedarnath Temple was closed at 8.30 am and the Yamunotri Temple at 12.05 pm. After the closure of the gates of the two temples, the idols of lord Shiva to whom Kedarnath is dedicated and goddess Yamuna, the presiding deity at Yamunotri, left in ornate palanquins for their winter abodes of Ukhimath and Kharsali.

Teen shot dead, 3 minors apprehended

New Delhi: A 19-year-old youth was shot dead in Delhi's Shahdara following an altercation over a minor dispute, police said Sunday. Three juveniles have been apprehended in the case, they said. The incident occurred Saturday in the Kailash Nagar area. "A PCR call reporting a shooting was received at the Gandhi Nagar police station. Teams were rushed to the spot immediately. The victim was identified as Sufian and had suffered serious injuries. He was rushed to Jag Prवेश Hospital where he was declared dead," a police officer said.

Local TMC leader beaten to death

Kolkata: A local TMC leader was beaten to death in West Bengal's Birbhum district, police said Sunday. Samir Thandar (40), a member of Kankalitala panchayat, was attacked at Paruldanga near Bolpur town Saturday night by a group of people when he was returning home, they said. He died while undergoing treatment at the Burdwan Medical College and Hospital Sunday, they added. Five people were detained in connection with the incident.

Woman killed by live-in partner

New Delhi: A 25-year-old woman was allegedly strangled to death by her live-in partner in Nand Nagri area of northeast Delhi, police said Sunday. According to the police, they received a call regarding the murder Saturday at 11 pm. "Postmortem report will clear the cause of death," the police said.

Disengagement may lead to further steps: Jaishankar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Brisbane, Nov 3: India and China have made "some progress" in disengagement, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Sunday, describing it as a "welcome" move which opens up the possibility that other steps could happen.

"In terms of India and China, yes, we have made some progress. You know, our relations were very, very disturbed for reasons all of you know. We have made some progress in what we call disengagement, which is when troops were very close to each other, with the possibility that could lead to some untoward incident," Jaishankar said while responding to a question during interaction with the Indian diaspora here.

"There are very large numbers of Chinese troops deployed along the Line of Actual Control who were not there before 2020.



His comment comes days after Indian and Chinese troops completed disengagement at two friction points at Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh

The Indian Army commenced verification patrolling at Depsang while patrolling at Demchok started Friday

And we, in turn, have counter-deployed. There are other aspects of the relationship, which also got affected during this period. So clearly, we have to see after the disengagement, what is the direction we go. But we do think the disengagement is a welcome step. It opens up the possibility that other steps could happen," said the minister.



Vehicles stuck in a traffic jam as people travel to their hometowns ahead of the 'Chhath Puja' at Anand Vihar, in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

Himalayan glacial lakes saw 10.81% area expansion: Report

Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh showed the most notable expansions, signalling a heightened risk of GLOFs and the need for intensified monitoring and disaster preparedness

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: Glacial lakes and other water bodies across the Himalayan region saw a 10.81 per cent increase in area from 2011 to 2024 due to climate change, signalling a heightened risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), according to a government report.

The Central Water Commission's (CWC) report, which was accessed by PTI, states that with a 33.7 per cent expansion of the surface area, the lakes in India experienced an even more substantial rise.

"The total inventory area of glacial lakes within India was 1,962 hectares during the year 2011 which has increased to 2,623 hectares during the year 2024 (September). There is a 33.7

per cent increase in area," the report said. It also identified 67 lakes in India that witnessed an over 40 per cent increase in surface area, placing them in the high-risk category for potential GLOFs. Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh showed the most notable expansions, signalling a heightened risk of GLOFs and the need for intensified monitoring and disaster preparedness.

Glacial lakes and other water bodies across the Himalayan region saw an overall area increase of 10.81 per cent from 5,33,401 hectares in 2011 to 5,91,108 hectares in 2024 due to climate change, the report said.

The rapid expansion of these lakes is attributed to accelerated melting of glaciers due to



rising temperatures in the region, with potentially severe consequences for downstream communities, infrastructure and biodiversity, it said.

Physically, the shrinking of mountain glaciers and expansion of glacial lakes are amongst the most recognisable and dynamic impacts of climate warming in this environment, it said.

"Therefore, under such a changing environment, a close watch on the relative change in

water spread area of even smaller lakes has become very crucial in this region," the report said.

The sudden and often catastrophic floods occur when glacial lakes breach their natural moraine dams, releasing large volumes of water downstream. The CWC stressed that the increased water spread of these lakes demands rigorous monitoring and urgent risk management strategies.

To overcome challenges in

tracking these remote lakes, a senior official said, the CWC has leveraged advanced satellite technology, particularly the Sentinel-1 Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and Sentinel-2 multispectral imagery that enable precise and all-weather monitoring. "The high-resolution capabilities of these satellites allow CWC to detect changes in lake size with 10-metre accuracy, even in challenging conditions such as cloud cover. This monitoring technology is critical in providing timely updates on the state of these high-risk lakes, thereby enabling early interventions when necessary," the official said.

The CWC report also underscored the transboundary risks posed by expanding glacial lakes in neighbouring countries, including Bhutan, Nepal and China. Given the interconnected nature of river basins across the Himalayan watershed, collaboration with these countries is crucial to managing the potential impacts of GLOFs, it underlined.

Woman detained over death threat to Yogi Adityanath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 3: The Mumbai police have arrested a 24-year-old woman for allegedly giving a death threat to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, an official said Sunday.

The woman, identified as Fatima Khan, who has done BSc in Information Technology, resided in Ulhasnagar area of neighbouring Thane district of Maharashtra with her family members.

Her father is into timber business, the official said. The woman is well qualified but is mentally unstable, the police said.

The Mumbai traffic police's WhatsApp number Saturday received a message from an unknown number threatening that if Adityanath did not resign from the CM's post within 10 days, then he would be killed like NCP leader Baba Siddique, the official said. During the probe, the police found Khan had sent the message, he said.



Press the button (AAP's symbol), do not look at other buttons
BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

FARM FIRES CROSS 4K MARK IN PUNJAB

Farm fire cases crossed the 4,000 mark in Punjab with the state witnessing 216 fresh such incidents Sunday. From September 15 to November 3, Punjab has seen a total of 4,132 active fire events, according to the Punjab Remote Sensing Centre data. The state reported 1,779 farm fire cases in the last five days



of the day quote

I spoke at a Waqf event. I did not hold any Waqf Board meeting. What I mentioned then was based on the report given by Anwar Manipadhy's committee. It clearly outlines which prominent Congress leaders have fraudulently encroached on Waqf properties. We (BJP gov't) did not issue any notice to farmers, nor did we seize any farmers' land

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | FORMER K'TAKA CM

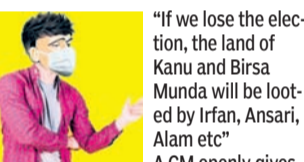
There is no shortage of DAP in the state and there is no need for panic buying

NAYAB SINGH SAINI | HARYANA CM

If Supriya had lost in the Lok Sabha polls, how would saheb (Sharad Pawar) have felt at this age, keeping this thought you voted for her, but now vote for me in the assembly elections

AJIT PAWAR | MAHA DEPUTY CM

X POST OF THE DAY



"If we lose the election, the land of Kanu and Birsu Munda will be looted by Irfan, Ansari, Alam etc" A CM openly gives hate speech against Muslim While the shameless Election commission @ECISVEEP remains mute as usual.

@NHER_WHO

SHORT TAKES

Vijay's party takes on DMK, BJP

Chennai: Actor-politician Vijay-led Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) Sunday brainstormed its way forward in electoral politics and targeted the DMK and BJP-led governments at the state and centre over a host of issues. The fledgling party, that held its first mega public meeting October 27, nudged the state government to hold caste survey and declared that its ideology is based on secularism and social justice. Vijay chaired TVK's meeting of district office bearers and the executive committee here and the party deliberated 'strengthening' its organisational structure, discussed reaching out to the people and passed as many as 26 resolutions, which reflected its stand on various issues.

Delhi lawyers to observe strike today

New Delhi: Condemning "brutal attack on an innocent lawyer in Ghaziabad by the police on the direction of district judge", the advocates of the national capital have decided to abstain from work Monday. After an emergent meeting was convened Sunday, the Coordination Committee of all Bar Associations of Delhi said that a "heinous act of violence" against a member of the Bar cannot be tolerated.

Train services resume in NE

Guwahati/Agartala: Normal train services resumed Sunday in Assam's Lumding-Badarpur Hill Section after the regular train services remained disrupted since Thursday following the derailment of a loaded goods wagon, officials said. After the repair of the railway track inside a tunnel near Mupa, trial runs with light engines and goods trains were conducted Saturday to ensure 100 per cent safety.

Pak conducted artillery tests near LoC: Officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 3: Pakistan has tested various artillery systems including a replica of the SH-15 and a 155 mm truck-mounted howitzer developed by a Chinese firm along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, according to officials.

This comes as the neighbouring country strengthens defence ties with Gulf and Western European countries, and its long-standing ally Turkiye, the officials said. The movement of the 155 mm guns, produced in collaboration with a Gulf nation under the supervision of a state-owned Chinese defence company, along the LoC was observed recently, they said.

The guns -- a variant of SH-15 that is known for its 'shoot and scoot' capability -- can fire a range of munitions, including high-explosive, armour-piercing and smoke rounds, boasting of a maximum range of approximately 30 kilometres and a firing rate of up to six rounds per minute. Among the arsenal being tested is the refurbished M109, which has a firing range of



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The movement of the 155 mm guns, produced in collaboration with a Gulf nation under the supervision of a state-owned Chinese defence company, along the LoC was observed recently, they said

24 kilometres and can launch six shells in just 40 seconds. Initially acquired from a Western European country, this artillery system is now undergoing trials in its enhanced version, the officials said. Turkiye has contributed to this military enhancement with the deployment of a modern 105 mm artillery piece manufactured by a Turkish defence company, FNSS, they said.

This medium-weight tank is equipped with a two-man turret armed with a standard 105

mm rifled gun capable of firing both armour-piercing and high-explosive ammunition.

China has also been instrumental in bolstering Pakistan's military capabilities along the LoC, according to the officials.

This assistance includes construction of fortified bunkers, provision of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), combat aerial vehicles, and advanced communication systems, the officials said in a statement. Early this year, China's North

2 minors sexually assaulted by their neighbours in WB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 3: Two minor girls were allegedly sexually assaulted by their neighbours in Hooghly and North 24 Parganas districts of West Bengal over the past 24 hours, police said.

According to a police official, the perpetrators in both the cases have been arrested. TMC MLA Manoranjan Byapari and senior minister Firhad Hakim have called for strong punishments against the offenders, emphasising that this is a social evil that must be addressed nationwide.

In North 24 Parganas' Mogra, a 16-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by her neighbour when she was home alone Saturday night. The accused has been arrested and charged under relevant sections of the BNS and POCSSO laws, police said. In a similar incident at Gaighata, a 14-year-old girl was allegedly abducted by a neighbour on her way to tuition Saturday. She was taken to a nearby jungle and allegedly raped before being dropped near her home later that night, police said and added that the medical examination of the girl is scheduled for Monday. The father of the Gaighata victim has demanded death penalty for the accused after a fast-track trial.

In another incident Friday, a girl was allegedly raped and murdered, following which enraged villagers lynched one of the accused in Alipurduar district, police said.

In response to the Mogra incident and others like it, TMC legislator Byapari said, "Had I been present, I would have broken and twisted the hands and feet of the accused and then handed him over to police."



Former Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal during his 'padyatra', at Rajouri Garden in New Delhi. Kejriwal Sunday resumed his 'padyatra' which was halted due to festivals

Naxalites attack two cops, flee with AK-47

Sukma (Chhattisgarh): Two Chhattisgarh police constables were injured when Naxalites, dressed as civilians, attacked them with sharp weapons at a weekly market in the insurgency-hit Sukma district Sunday morning, an official said. The Naxalites also took away the service rifles of the two personnel following the incident which took place when the police were deployed on security duty at the market in Jagargunda village, he said. A small 'action team' of Naxalites (typically comprising four-five cadres) suddenly attacked the two constables -- Kattam Deva and Sodhi Kanna -- with sharp-edged weapons and then escaped with their rifles, an AK-47 and one Self Loading Rifle (SLR), the police official said.

Ex minister Sat Sharma returns as head of J&K BJP

Jammu: Former minister Sat Paul Sharma returned as the head of the Jammu and Kashmir unit of BJP, a post he had held for two-and-a-half years between 2015 and 2018. Sharma, 63, was denied a party ticket in the recent Assembly election. He was appointed as working president of the party in September amid resentment over ticket distribution and is now elevated to the post of president, replacing the party's longest-serving J&K unit president Ravinder Raina. Raina, who had replaced Sharma in May 2018 and held the post for six-and-a-half years, has been made a member of the party's national executive.

Death of 10 elephants: Two officials suspended

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav Sunday suspended two senior officials of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve after a high-level team that probed the death of 10 elephants inside the park submitted its report. The report doesn't point to any pesticide or the role of "another side", the CM said. Action has been taken against reserve director Gaurav Choudhary and in-charge assistant conservator of forest (ACF) officer Fateh Singh Ninama for alleged lapses. "The high-level team has submitted its report. Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve director has been suspended for switching off his phone, not returning to work after leave and other reasons," the CM told PTI here.

AAP, BJP & Cong cross swords over Chhath facilities

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 3: The ruling Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi Sunday accused a BJP corporator of demolishing a ghat built for Chhath Puja, triggering a political war during the religious ritual which holds significance for all parties aiming to woo Purvanchal voters ahead of Assembly election in February. AAP MP Sanjay Singh claimed that after a BJP corporator demolished a ghat for Chhath Puja, the Delhi Development Authority claimed that ghats cannot be built. "The BJP is a party opposed to people from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. I myself had to sit on a dharna in the Greater Kailash area to protest against the demolition of a Chhath Ghat in the area by a BJP corporator," he said.

Addressing media persons, he said under the Arvind Kejriwal government the number of ghats available for Chhath Puja had increased 10-fold in the city in the past decade.

"The AAP government has been trying hard to provide facilities in Delhi to people from UP and Bihar who cannot go to their home states for Chhath rituals," he said, adding that party workers will share this information with Delhiites during Kejriwal's ongoing padyatra (foot march).

The political war of words of Chhath Puja facilities got intense with the Delhi Congress President Devender Yadav lashing out at the AAP government for failing to clean the Yamuna before the festival. Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva also pointed to the emergence of toxic foam in the Yamuna in the run-up to the Chhath festivities as an example of the AAP government's insensitivity towards Purvanchalis.

Biscuits play key role in Srinagar anti-terror operation

Senior officials highlighted the importance of the snack in mitigating the challenge posed by stray dogs during the operation against Usman, a commander of the Pakistan-based terror organisation LeT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 3: A successful anti-terror operation that led to the elimination of a high-profile terrorist commander in Jammu and Kashmir was marked not only by strategic planning but also an unconventional solution -- biscuits.

Senior officials highlighted the importance of the snack in mitigating the challenge posed by stray dogs during the operation against Usman, a commander of the Pakistan-based terror organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

Usman was killed Saturday in a day-long encounter in the densely-populated Khanyar locality of downtown Srinagar, marking the first significant gunfight in the summer capital

in more than two years. The operation involved a joint effort from the local police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

The officials said Usman, who was well familiar with the Valley terrain, was a significant figure in orchestrating numerous terror attacks since his initial activity in the early 2000s.

After a stint in Pakistan, he infiltrated back into the region around 2016-17 and was implicated in the shooting of police inspector Masroor Wani last year.

When intelligence indicated Usman's presence in a residential area, a meticulous nine-hour planning phase ensued to ensure the operation's success without collateral damage. A significant concern was the pres-



ence of stray dogs, whose barking could potentially alert the terrorist. To counter this, search teams were equipped with biscuits to pacify the dogs as they approached their target.

The entire deployment was done before Fajar (pre-dawn prayers), with security forces

cordoning off a cluster of 30 homes. The standoff escalated when Usman -- armed with an AK-47, a pistol, and numerous grenades -- engaged in a fierce gunfire exchange with the security forces.

During the confrontation, some grenades detonated, ig-

ning a fire in the house that was quickly contained by the security personnel to prevent it from spreading to nearby structures.

After several hours of intense gunfire, Usman was neutralised. The encounter resulted in injuries to four security personnel who are reported to be in stable condition. The operation represents a significant victory for the forces, particularly against The Resistance Front, a LeT offshoot that has increasingly targeted non-local labourers and security personnel.

The successful mission underscores the lengths to which the authorities will go, including finding unique and unconventional solutions, to ensure their operations' safety and effectiveness.

The encounter not only marks a pivotal moment in counter-terrorism efforts in Jammu and Kashmir but also highlights the ongoing challenges faced by security forces in maintaining peace in the region.

international



Sanctions must increase and be effective. Every scheme to bypass sanctions is a crime against people and the world. These very schemes also enable Russia to strengthen regimes in Iran and North Korea. This is a global threat, and only global, unified pressure can overcome it
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

RESPONSE TO NK'S RECENT MISSILE TEST

US flew a long-range bomber in a trilateral drill with S Korea and Japan Sunday in response to North Korea's recent test-firing of a new intercontinental ballistic missile designed to strike the US mainland



of the day quote

We (in Europe) need to realize that if there will be a pro-peace President in America, which I not only believe in but I also read the numbers that way, if what we expect happens and America becomes pro-peace, then Europe cannot remain pro-war
VIKTOR ORBAN | PM, HUNGARY

We're seeing massive interference by Russia in our electoral process, an effort with high potential to distort the outcome
STANISLAV SECRIERU | PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, MOLDOVA

Our lands, rich in natural resources, have long been home to Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities whose sustainable practices are critical to addressing global environmental challenges
LUIS GILBERTO MURILLO | FOREIGN MINISTER, COLOMBIA

SHORT TAKES

Germany allocates 20mn euros to Pak

Islamabad: Germany will provide 20 million euros to Pakistan for the second phase of a project aimed at the protection and sustainable management of forests in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according to a media report Sunday. An agreement for financial support for the 'Billion Tree Afforestation Support Project' (BTASP) was signed in Islamabad Saturday between Pakistan Economic Affairs Secretary Kazim Niaz and Director of German Development Bank KfW, Esther Gravenkotter. The first phase of BTASP is already under implementation in partnership with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Climate Change, Forestry, Environment and Wildlife Department, the Dawn newspaper reported. It will support the protection and sustainable management of forests in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Taiwan reports rise in Chinese activity

Taipei: Taiwan's defence ministry said Sunday it had spotted 35 Chinese military aircraft, including fighters and bombers, flying to the island's south on the way to exercises in the Pacific, a second day in a row it has reported such activities. China's defence ministry did not respond to a request for comment on the missions, reported just days before Tuesday's US presidential election. Taiwan's defence ministry said that from 9 am (0100 GMT) Sunday it had detected 37 Chinese military aircraft, including J-16 fighters, nuclear-capable H-6 bombers and drones. Of those, 35 aircraft flew to Taiwan's southwest, south and southeast into the Western Pacific to carry out long-range training, the ministry said, adding it had sent its own forces to keep watch.

Lightning strike kills 14 refugees

Kampala: Fourteen people were killed in a lightning strike in a refugee camp in northern Uganda, police said Sunday. The incident happened Saturday in the remote district of Lamwo. Police spokesman Kituuma Rusoke said 34 other people were injured. The victims have not yet been identified, he said. The residents of the Palabek settlement camp, which primarily houses refugees from South Sudan, had been attending a prayer service in the makeshift metallic structure when the lightning struck. Deadly lightning is commonly reported in this East African country during the wet seasons. Rusoke said there was no report of fire breaking out following the strike.

Harris, Trump hit swing states

HARRIS IS HOLDING SEVERAL RALLIES IN MICHIGAN, WHILE TRUMP IS JUMPING BETWEEN PENNSYLVANIA, NORTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA, ALL CRUCIAL SWING STATES



REUTERS
Detroit, Nov 3: Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris campaigns in Michigan Sunday while her Republican rival Donald Trump will stop in three eastern battleground states just two days before Tuesday's US presidential election. Opinion polls show a historically close race, and a New York Times/Siena College poll published Sunday showed Vice President Harris and former President Trump neck-and-neck in the seven states that are likely to determine the outcome Tuesday. A poll showing Harris leading in Iowa, a state Trump won easily in the past two elections, raised the possibility of an unexpected outcome, though another poll showed her trailing in that state. Harris is due to campaign in East Lansing, Michigan, a college town in an industrial state that is viewed as a must-win for

the Democrat. She faces skepticism from some of the state's 200,000 Arab Americans who are frustrated that the sitting vice president has not done more to help end the war in Gaza and scale back aid to Israel. Trump visited Dearborn, the heart of the Arab American community, Friday and vowed to end the wars in the Middle East. Trump is due to hold rallies in three smaller cities that could help him galvanize the rural voters who make up an important part of his base. He starts the day in Lititz, Pennsylvania, before heading to Kinross, North Carolina, in the afternoon and ending with an evening rally in Macon, Georgia. It will be the first day since last Tuesday that the two candidates are not campaigning in the same

state. On Saturday, their planes shared a swath of tarmac in Charlotte, North Carolina, where both candidates held rallies. Harris later flew to New York for a surprise appearance on the "Saturday Night Live" comedy show. **COST OF LIVING** In the campaign's final days, Harris has sought to convince voters that she will bring down the cost of living, a top concern after several years of high inflation. She has also portrayed Trump as dangerous and erratic and urged Americans to move on from his divisive approach to politics. "We have an opportunity in this election to turn the page on a decade of Donald Trump trying to keep us divided and

We have an opportunity in this election to turn the page on a decade of Donald Trump trying to keep us divided and afraid of each other. We're done with that.
KAMALA HARRIS | DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, US

- Polls show historically close race, outcome uncertain in seven key states
- Harris faces skepticism from Arab Americans in Michigan over Gaza war
- Trump rallies to focus on rural voters

afraid of each other. We're done with that," she said in Charlotte Saturday. Trump has argued that Harris, as the sitting vice president, should be held responsible for the rising prices and high levels of immigration of the past several years, which he has portrayed as an existential threat to the country. "The only free aid they are going to get is a free ride back home," he said at a rally in Greensboro, North Carolina Saturday, referring to people living in the US illegally. The stakes are high, with Harris and Trump having starkly different views of the economy, the role of government in American life and the role of the US in the world. Trump's public comments have suggested he could seek to wind down US aid for Ukraine if he wins Tuesday. Nearly 76 million Americans have already cast their ballots, according to the University of Florida's Election Lab, approaching half the total 160 million votes cast in 2020. The winner might not be known for several days, as states like Pennsylvania will need time to tally their mail votes.

Lahore air pollution hits historic high



REUTERS
Karachi, Nov 3: Unprecedented air pollution levels in Pakistan's second-largest city of Lahore prompted authorities to take emergency measures Sunday, including issuing work-from-home mandates and closing primary schools. The city held the top spot on a real-time list of the world's most polluted cities Sunday after recording its highest ever pollution reading of 1900 near the Pakistan-India border Saturday based on data released by the provincial government and Swiss group IQAir. The government has shut primary schools for a week, advising parents to ensure children wear masks, said Senior Minister of Punjab Marriyum Aurangzeb during a press conference, as a thick blanket of smog enveloped the city. Citizens have been urged to stay indoors, keep doors and windows shut, and avoid unnecessary travel, she said, adding that hospitals had been given smog counters. To reduce vehicle pollution, 50% of office employees would work from home, said Aurangzeb. The government has also imposed a ban on three-wheelers known as rickshaws and halted construction in certain areas to reduce the pollution levels. Factories and construction sites failing to comply with these regulations could be shut down, she said. Aurangzeb described the situation as "unexpected" and attributed the deterioration in air quality to winds carrying pollution from neighbouring India. "This cannot be solved without talks with India," she said, adding the provincial government would initiate talks with its bigger neighbour through Pakistan's foreign ministry. The smog crisis in Lahore, similar to the situation in India's capital Delhi, tends to worsen during cooler months due to temperature inversion trapping pollution closer to the ground.

BRICS could expand further next year

Moscow: The BRICS could expand further in 2025 as the member countries will deliberate on new full-fledged entrants as well as the criteria for partner countries, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has indicated. "People in countries of the global East vote primarily for politicians proclaiming their plans to establish closer relations with BRICS one way or another. I have already said that a number of countries are seeking full-fledged membership. This issue will be considered throughout the next year," Lavrov said in an interview with TV BRICS, Russian media reported. The Russian minister noted that many countries want to take part in BRICS events. "There are more than 30 of them. As I have said, the criteria for the partner country category will be agreed upon. After the summit in Kazan, the Russian presidency sent invitations to several countries that applied to join our work. Ten such countries enjoy a consensus among the existing BRICS members," he said. "We have an accord that as soon as we receive a reply from the invited country, this country will be proclaimed as joining BRICS as a partner country. We believe that they will have an opportunity to take part in all BRICS events," he added.

SK's Yoon raised risk of N-war: North Korea

Seoul: North Korean state media released a white paper Sunday accusing South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol of exposing his country to the danger of nuclear war through his policies toward the North. The document, compiled by North Korea's Institute of Enemy State Studies and released by state news agency KCNA, criticized Yoon's "reckless remarks" about war, abandoning elements of an inter-Korean agreement, engaging in nuclear war planning with the United States, and seeking closer ties with Japan and NATO. "Its ever-worsening military moves resulted only in the paradoxical consequences of pushing (North Korea) to stockpile its nuclear weapons at an exponential rate and further develop its nuclear attack capability," the paper said. Yoon, a conservative, has taken a hard line on North Korea, which has forged ahead with developing its arsenal of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles in defiance of United Nations Security Council resolutions. Sunday's white paper also listed Yoon's domestic political woes, including scandals involving his wife, which have driven his approval ratings to record lows.

Moldovan official accuses Russia of meddling in Prez runoff

Chisinau: A Moldovan security official accused Russia Sunday of "massive interference" as Moldovans voted in a tightly contested presidential election that could see Moscow claw back influence in a country drawing closer to the European Union. Pro-Western incumbent Maia Sandu, who has accelerated the nation's push to leave Moscow's orbit and join the EU, faces Alexandr Stoiianoglo, an ex-prosecutor general backed by the traditionally pro-Russian Socialist Party. "We're seeing massive interference by Russia in our electoral process, an effort with high potential to distort the outcome," Sandu's national security adviser Stanislav Secrieru wrote on X. There was no immediate comment from Moscow, which has denied past allegations of meddling, as Moldova has accused Ilan Shor, a fugitive oligarch living in Russia, of spending millions of dollars to pay off voters to oppose Sandu. He denies wrongdoing.

Improved 'working conditions' lure more Indian women to Saudi

A spokesperson in the ministry says Indian workers, including women, play a vital role in Saudi Arabia's labour market, comprising a substantial portion of the expatriate workforce

RIYADH, Nov 3: Indians represent the second-largest expatriate community in Saudi Arabia and "welcoming conditions" for women are increasing the kingdom's appeal for Indian women seeking meaningful employment here, according to the country's human resources and social development ministry. Official figures show that as of 2024, over 2.4 million Indian workers reside in the kingdom, with 1.64 million in the private sector and 785,000 in domestic work. Bangladesh has the highest number of expat workers at 2.69 million. A spokesperson in the ministry said Indian workers, including women, play a vital role in Saudi Arabia's labour market, comprising a substantial portion of the expatriate workforce. "Comprehensive reforms, expanded workplace support, and



investments in skills development create welcoming conditions for women from diverse backgrounds," the spokesperson said. "Improved infrastructure, including women-only transportation and childcare support, further enhances the appeal for Indian women seeking meaningful employment, enabling them to contribute to the kingdom's growth while pursuing their professional and personal aspirations," the spokesperson told PTI. Asked about some instances of Indians being duped by agents and touts in India on employment opportunities in Saudi Arabia, he said Saudi Arabia is dedicated to upholding international labour standards and has implemented substantial labour reforms to protect workers' rights. "To further support these efforts, Saudi Arabia has estab-

CEASEFIRE HOPES DIM

Israeli attacks kill 31 people in Gaza

Palestinians said the new aerial and ground offensives aimed at emptying two north Gaza towns and a camp of their populations to create buffer zones
REUTERS
Cairo, Nov 3: Israeli forces stepped up bombardment of the Gaza Strip Sunday killing at least 31 people, Palestinian medics said, with over half the deaths in northern areas where the army has waged a month-long campaign it says is to prevent Hamas from regrouping. Palestinians said the new aerial and ground offensives and forced evacuations were "ethnic cleansing" aimed at emptying two north Gaza towns and a camp of their populations to create buffer zones. Israel denies this, saying it is fighting Hamas militants who launch attacks from there. Medics said at least 13 Palestinians were killed in separate attacks on houses in Beit Lahiya town and Jabalia, the largest of the enclave's eight historic refugee camps and the focus of the army's new military offensive. The rest were killed in separate Israeli air strikes in Gaza City and the southern areas. On Saturday, the Israeli military sent a new army division to Jabalia to join two other operating battalions, a statement said. It said that hundreds of Palestinian militants have so far been killed in the "battles" since the raid began October 5. Meanwhile, COGAT, the Israeli army's Palestinian civilian affairs agency, said it facilitated the launch of the second round of a polio vaccination campaign in northern Gaza Saturday and that 58,604 children have received a dose. The Gaza health ministry said Israel's military offensive in northern Gaza was stopping them from vaccinating thousands of children in Jabalia, Beit Lahiya, and Beit Hanoun. It said one clinic came under Israeli fire while parents brought their children for the anti-polio dose Saturday, where four children were injured. The head World Health Organization said in a statement the incident took place despite a humanitarian pause agreed upon by the two warring parties, Israel and Hamas, to allow the vaccination campaign. "A WHO team was at the site just before. This attack, during humanitarian pause, jeopardises the sanctity of health protection for children and may deter parents from bringing their children for vaccination," Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a post on X Saturday.

Official figures show that as of 2024, over 2.4 million Indian workers reside in the kingdom, with 1.64 million in the private sector and 785,000 in domestic work

Improved infrastructure, including women-only transportation and childcare support, further enhances the appeal for Indian women seeking meaningful employment, enabling them to contribute to the kingdom's growth while pursuing their professional and personal aspirations

SAUDI ARABIA'S RESOURCES AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON

success. The spokesperson said that efforts by the ministry to support and empower women in the workforce have led to an unprecedented reduction in female unemployment in the kingdom. By the second quarter of 2024, the rate dropped to 12.8 per cent, down from 14.2 per cent in the first quarter; a 1.4 percentage point decrease and a 3.1 percentage point drop from the same period in 2023. The spokesperson said in recent years, Saudi Arabia, through the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, has introduced various labour reforms to im-

prove the working conditions of expatriate workers, including those from India. "These reforms focus on enhancing workers' rights and ensuring that our policies and practices align with internationally established standards, through, for example, our strong partnership with the International Labour Organization," he said. In 2014, Saudi Arabia officially launched the Musaned platform aimed at facilitating a structured and transparent recruitment process through licensed agencies, and guarantees standardised, digital contracts that ensure workers understand their rights and responsibilities.

of the day quote

India is poised to become the second-largest fibre broadband market globally with 110 million active fibre lines by 2030, which poses a rising challenge in managing the environmental impact of telecom infrastructure

PARITOSH PRAJAPATI | CEO, GX GROUP

With an ever growing Indian economy, the real estate market is demonstrating mature growth and we are hugely benefiting from this growth

ANUJ PURI | CHAIRMAN, ANAROCK GROUP

The upcoming week is poised to be eventful on the global front. The US presidential election on November 5 is a key focus, and the US FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting will be crucial. Geopolitical tensions and oil price movements will remain key variables as well

SANTOSH MEENA | HEAD OF RESEARCH, SWASTIKA INVESTMART

SHORT TAKES

Valuation of six of top-10 cos zooms

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of 6 of the top-10 most-valued firms surged ₹1,07,366.05 crore last week, with State Bank of India and ICICI Bank becoming the biggest gainers. Leading stock exchanges BSE and NSE conducted a one-hour special 'Muhurat Trading' session on the occasion of Diwali November 1, marking the start of the new Samvat 2081. Last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 321.83 points, or 0.40 per cent. While Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) were the gainers, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, and Infosys faced erosion from their market valuation. Reliance Industries remained the most valuable firm of the country followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, ITC, Hindustan Unilever and LIC.

Deen Dayal sale: ONGC draws blank

New Delhi: State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) third attempt to get a partner to rescue the Deen Dayal gas field in the KG basin in Bay of Bengal has met with the same fate as previous efforts as it got no bids, sources said. The tender offering stake to technical and financial partners in the Deen Dayal field, which ONGC had acquired from a Gujarat government firm for \$1.2 billion, received no bids, two sources aware of the matter said. ONGC June 12 sought expression of interest from "global oil and gas companies with requisite technical expertise and financial strength to join as partner (with participative interest) for firming up a viable strategy" for the field, according to the tender document. Bids closed September 12.

Canara Bank aims ₹6K-cr recovery

New Delhi: State-owned Canara Bank aims to recover about ₹6,000 crore from bad loans during the second half of the current fiscal. "We are anticipating recovery somewhere about ₹3,000 crore in the third quarter and a similar amount in the fourth quarter," Canara Bank managing director and CEO K Satyanarayana Raju told PTI. The bank has recovered ₹2,905 crore, including recovery in written-off accounts, in the second quarter. Slippages would be much less than recovery as the bank would be underwriting good loans, Raju said.



We are made to understand that some 'few lakhs' marriages are being planned across the country (in November). So we are pretty hopeful that it will also give us good traction in terms of our retail sales

PARTHO BANERJEE | SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER (MARKETING AND SALES), MARUTI SUZUKI

FESTIVE BOOST FOR E2WS

Festive season turned out to be an electrifying month for EV two-wheeler manufacturers as retail sales of Electric two-wheelers increased 85 per cent on a YoY (Year on Year) basis to 1,39,031 units in October 2024. Last year this figure was 75,164 units. The increasing sales of EV vehicles show that the trend is now gradually shifting from petrol vehicles to electric vehicles



FPIs log record outflows

Foreign investors withdraw ₹94K-cr from equities in Oct on attractive Chinese valuations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: Foreign investors pulled out a massive ₹94,000 crore (around \$11.2 billion) from the Indian stock market in October, making it the worst-ever month in terms of outflows, triggered by the elevated valuation of domestic equities and attractive valuations of Chinese stocks.

Before this, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) withdrew ₹61,973 crore from equities in March 2020.

The latest outflow came after a nine-month high investment of ₹57,724 crore in September 2024.

Since June, FPIs have consistently bought equities after withdrawing ₹34,252 crore in April-May. Overall, FPIs have been net buyers in 2024, except for January, April and May, data with the depositories showed.

Looking ahead, the trajectory of global events like geopolitical developments, interest rate movements, progress in the Chinese economy and the outcome of the US Presidential election will play a crucial role in shaping future foreign investment in Indian equities, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director, Manager Research,



The major factor is the elevated valuations of Indian equities. This has triggered a shift in investments towards China, where valuations are currently more attractive

HIMANSHU SRIVASTAVA | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR (MANAGER RESEARCH), MORNINGSTAR INVESTMENT RESEARCH

Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

On the domestic front, key indicators like inflation trajectory, corporate earnings, and the impact of festive season demand will also be closely watched by FPIs as they assess opportunities in the Indian market, he added.

According to the data, FPIs

recorded a net outflow of ₹94,017 crore in October. The intensity of net outflows could be gauged from the fact that except for one day, FPIs were net sellers throughout the month, bringing their total investment for 2024 down to ₹6,593 crore.

This relentless selling resulted in about an 8 per cent decline in

BEARISH SENTIMENT

- The latest outflow came after a nine-month high investment of ₹57,724cr in Sept
- Since June, FPIs have bought equities after withdrawing ₹34,252cr in April-May
- Overall, investors have been net buyers in 2024, except for January, April and May

benchmark indices from their peaks.

Several factors contributed towards this massive withdrawal of foreign capital from the Indian equity markets in October.

Despite the massive FPI selling in financials, this sector is resilient since the valuations are fair and every selling is being absorbed by DIIs and individual investors, particularly HNIs, VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

In addition, FPIs pulled out ₹4,406 crore from the debt general limit and invested ₹100 crore from the debt Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) during the period under review.

So far this year, FPIs invested ₹1.06 lakh crore in the debt market.

PNB Sambalpur circle organises Vigilance Awareness Week '24

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 3: Punjab National Bank (PNB) Sambalpur circle observed Vigilance Awareness Week 2024 from October 28 to November 3, as per the decision of the Central Vigilance Commission.

On this occasion, the bank organised a walkathon October 28 under the leadership of circle head Ajit Kumar Meher.

The walkathon started from the circle office in Budharaja and ended at CDS branch in Ainthapali.



It was organised to create awareness against corruption among the general public.

This year the theme of the vigilance awareness is "Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity".

The bank staff from circle office and nearby branches participated in the walkathon.

AM/NS plans ₹1.4L-cr steel project

THE FIRM PLANS TO SET UP ONE OF THE LARGEST GREENFIELD PROJECTS IN RECENT TIMES

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 3: AM/NS India, a joint venture between ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel, is set to launch a massive steel project in Andhra Pradesh. This integrated steel project, with a capacity of 17.8 million tonne, will involve a total investment of ₹1.4 lakh crore and will be completed in two phases.

In the first phase of the project,



ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel will establish a 7.3 million metric tonne per annum (MMTPA) capacity blast furnace steel plant with an initial investment of ₹80,000 crore.

The company has sought 2,600 acres of land for the first phase.

In the second phase, AM/NS will add a capacity of 10.5 MMTPA with an investment of ₹60,000 crore and has sought an additional 2,000 acres of land.

Manoranjan Kumar, chief of ports operations and development at AM/NS, said: "We plan to have a steel manufacturing capacity of 40 MMTPA by 2035. As part of this expansion plan, we were looking for coastal locations in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. The key issues in setting up a steel project are the availability of land and port facilities. Nakkapalli fulfills both the criteria."

The steel project was swung on a Zoom call between Andhra Pradesh IT minister Nara Lokesh and ArcelorMittal CEO and billionaire scion Aditya Mittal in July.

Lower sales realisation hits cement makers' margins

The industry faced challenges such as extended monsoon, floods, and a slow pickup in government demand, cumulatively leading towards a weak despatch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: Major cement manufacturers reported a decline in margins in the September quarter, mainly on account of lower prices, leading to lower sales realisation.

Barring three leading cement producers - UltraTech Cement, Ambuja Cement, and Dalmia Bharat - other smaller players, including Nuvoco Vistas Corp, JK Cement, Birla Corporation, and Heidelberg Cement, reported a decline in topline and sales volume in the second quarter of the current fiscal year.

Industry observers said the increase in sales volume of UltraTech and Ambuja Cements is mainly due to the several acquisitions by both companies

that consolidated their position further in the industry.

The all-India average cement price was around ₹348 per 50 kg bag in June 2024. It decreased 11 per cent year-on-year to ₹330 per bag in September, though it increased 2 per cent on a month-on-month basis.

In the first half of FY25, cement prices declined 10 per cent year-on-year to ₹330 per bag. A year earlier, the average prices stood at ₹365 per bag and ₹375 per bag in FY23, according to an Icria report.

Leading cement maker Ultratech reported a 68 per cent capacity utilisation with a 3 per cent growth in volume terms. However, its sales realisation for grey cement declined 8.4 per cent year-on-year (YoY) and 2.9 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ), in the July-September period.

Ambuja Cements, the country's second-largest cement maker, reported a growth of 9 per cent YoY in sales volume at 14.2 million tonnes (MT) in the September quarter. However, its earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation (EBITDA) was 15 per cent lower at ₹1,074 crore.

Dalmia Bharat's volume grew 8.4 per cent YoY to 6.7 MT during the quarter. However, revenues dropped 2 per cent to ₹3,087 crore due to a sharp decline in cement prices, the management said in the earnings call.



Another FMCG maker Dabur India also said the demand environment was challenging in the September quarter marked by "high food inflation and a re-

FMCG companies hint at price hike

THE RURAL MARKETS, WHICH WERE EARLIER LAGGING BEHIND, CONTINUED THEIR GROWTH JOURNEY AHEAD OF URBAN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: Leading FMCG companies reported a decline in margins in the September quarter on account of higher input costs and food inflation, which ultimately slowed down the pace of urban consumption.

Rising prices of commodity inputs such as palm oil, coffee and cocoa were also accentuated and some FMCG firms have hinted at a price hike.

HUL, Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL), Marico, ITC, and Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) have expressed concerns over squeezing urban consumption, which according to industry experts forms 65-68 per cent of FMCG total sales.

"We think this is a short-term hit and we will recover the margins through judicious price increase and stabilising of costs," said GCPL Managing Director and CEO Sudhir Sitapati in a Q2 earning statement.

GCPL, makers of Cinthol, Godrej No 1, HIT had a steady quarter given the headwinds of oil costs and tough consumer demand in India and its stand-alone EBITDA margin was lower, caused entirely by high inflation in palm oil.

The rural markets, which were earlier lagging behind, continued their growth journey ahead of urban. Besides, FMCG players reported growth from premium products and from sales through quick-commerce channels.

Another FMCG maker Dabur India also said the demand environment was challenging in the September quarter marked by "high food inflation and a re-



sultant squeeze in urban demand."

The maker of Dabur Chyawanprash, PudinaHara and Real juice reported a decline of 17.65 per cent in its consolidated net profit to ₹417.52 crore and revenue from operations slipped 5.46 per cent to ₹3,028.59 crore.

Recently, Nestle India Chairman & Managing Director Suresh Narayanan also raised concerns over decline and said "middle segment" is under pressure as high food inflation continues to cripple household budgets.

Over the rise of food inflation, Narayanan said there is a "sharp uptick" in prices of fruits and vegetables and oil prices.

Nestle India, which owns brands such as Maggi, Kit Kat, and Nescafe also reported a marginal decline of 0.94 per cent and its domestic sales growth was at 1.2 per cent.

TCPL MD & CEO Sunil D'Souza also said urban has softened and has an impact on consumer spending in urban areas.

HUL CEO & MD Rohit Jawa said the market volume growth trajectory remained muted in this quarter. At an MAT (moving annual total) level, total FMCG volume growth has slowed down slightly in recent months.

HUL, which owns power brands such as Surf, Rin, Lux, Pond's, Lifebuoy, Lakmé, Brooke Bond, Lipton and Horlicks, reported a 2.33 per cent decline in consolidated net profit.

ITC, which operates in the FMCG segment with brands such as Aashirvaad, Sunfeast, Bingo!, YIPpee reported marginal drop of 35 basis points in margins amidst inflationary headwinds in input costs.

India rises as global player in petroleum, gemstone, sugar exports

THE COUNTRY IS NOW THE THIRD-LARGEST EXPORTER GLOBALLY AGAINST THE 5TH POSITION IN 2018

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: India's export competitiveness has witnessed healthy gains in multiple sectors - particularly petroleum, gemstones, agrochemicals and sugar - during the last five years, as these segments have increased their share in global trade, according to the commerce ministry data.

The other sectors where the share of India's exports has increased during 2018 and 2023 are electrical goods, pneumatic tyres, taps and valves, and semicon-

ductor devices. The ministry data analysis showed that petroleum exports rose to \$84.96 billion in 2023, with India's market share surging to 12.59 per cent last year from 6.45 per cent in 2018, positioning it as the second-largest global exporter. It was ranked fifth in 2018.

In the precious and semi-precious stones segment, the country's share in global shipments has soared to 36.53 per cent last year from 16.27 per cent in 2018. It has propelled the country to the top position in the category, with exports reaching \$1.52 billion in 2023 from \$0.26 billion in 2018. It was at the second spot in 2018.

Similarly, in cane or beet sugar, the country's outbound shipments have more than quadrupled to \$3.72 billion from \$0.93 billion in 2018.

India has achieved tremendous growth in the export of cane or beet sugar, with its global



market share increasing from 4.17 per cent in 2018 to 12.21 per cent in 2023.

"As the world's second-largest exporter of sugar, India's success can be attributed to both favourable agricultural policies and its strong production base. The country has capitalised on the growing global demand for

sugar, especially in regions like Southeast Asia and Africa," an official said.

India's share of the global market for insecticides and fungicides has also shown healthy improvement. The country increased its global share from 8.52 per cent in 2018 to 10.85 per cent in 2023, with exports reach-

MARKET SHARE SURGE IN 5 YEARS		
PETROLEUM	GEMSTONE	SUGAR
India now 2nd-largest global exporter in 2023 from fifth in 2018	India takes world's top position in 2023 from 2nd spot in 2018	India becomes world's 2nd-largest exporter as exports rise 4X in 5 yrs

ing \$4.32 billion.

India's ability to meet international agricultural and environmental standards and its emphasis on innovation in agrochemicals have led to this improvement, the official said.

Further, the country's position in the global market for rubber pneumatic tyres has also strengthened, with exports growing to \$2.66 billion in 2023 from \$1.82 billion in 2018.

India now holds a 3.31 per cent share of the global market, up from 2.34 per cent in 2018, and the country has moved up to the eighth position globally from

13th in 2018, indicating the rising demand for Indian-manufactured tyres, particularly in emerging markets.

The data also showed that exports of semiconductor and photosensitive devices have increased from a mere \$0.16 billion in 2018 to \$1.91 billion in 2023, with the country's share in the world market rising to 1.4 per cent, and the country now ranks ninth globally compared to 25th in 2018.

This underscores India's potential to become a key player in the global semiconductor supply chain.

Indian cricket's doomsday

A very low point of my career: Rohit

HOSTS WHITEWASHED IN HOME SERIES AFTER A GAP OF MORE THAN TWO DECADES

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Nov 3: The fortress had been breached already. It just crumbled to the ground Sunday with the Indian dressing room sitting stone-faced, trying to process a fall so spectacular that nobody saw it coming.

For the first time in their Test history, which goes back to 1933, the 'Tigers' at home had been whitewashed in a series of three or more games.

The humiliation was inflicted by New Zealand, a side that landed here after being thrashed 0-2 by a Sri Lankan team who are in transition. The Black Caps were also without their biggest batting star - Kane Williamson, thanks to injury.

The 25-run loss in the third Test in front of a buzzing Wankhede crowd, that just a few months ago feted a T20 World Champion Indian side, was a stunning reminder of how fortunes swing wildly in sport.

Having already conceded the series 0-2, the Indians should have been able to pull one back. It wasn't an unfair expectation, the chase was a mere 147 runs but it was on a track that looked like a mine-

field to the entire home line-up except Rishabh Pant (64, 57b, 9x4, 1x6). All Pant needed or wanted was for someone to hang in there. Nobody seemed capable of doing that.

Five key wickets were lost for a mere 16 runs at the start of an embarrassing collapse with Jogeshwari's very own Ajaz Patel (6/57) making them dance to his tunes for a haul of 11 wickets in the match.

The left-arm wipinner now has a staggering 25 Test wickets at the Wankhede in just two matches, making him the most successful overseas bowler at the venue after the great Ian Botham (22). It is the first time that an Indian team have been white-washed in a three-

match series. The last time India suffered a humiliation of this scale was more than two decades ago in 2000 when it lost 0-2 to South Africa.

With 55 runs needed in the post lunch session and five wickets intact, India's hopes rested on Pant but he ended up falling to a contentious third-umpire call. It ended a heroic push-back from the fearless man, who pulled the side out of a rut after it had been reduced to 29 for five.

India's ineptness had exerted pressure on Pant, who could not have responded any better against the odds until the ghosts of inaccurate technology in the game



Rishabh Pant plays the sweep during his defiant knock Sunday

PTI PHOTO

STAT FACTS

- 1** 1st time New Zealand have won all 3 Tests of an away series
- 4** Number of Test defeats at home in 2024, the joint highest for India; it had also happened in 1969
- 2** The second lowest total India failed to chase down, the 1st being in Bridgetown when they had a target of 120
- 13.3** Skipper Rohit Sharma's batting average in 10 Tests, the 2nd-lowest by a captain in a home season

arrived to haunt him and India. Pant was contentiously ad-

judged out caught behind by the third umpire. DRS replays showed a tiny spike, which Pant felt was the sound of his bat brushing the pads, but former Australia player and third umpire Paul Reiffel ruled against the Indian.

Until he fell to Patel for his fifth wicket in the innings and 10th in the match, Pant had thoroughly dominated the New Zealand spinner, clobbering five fours and a six to collect 34 runs off his 27 deliveries.

Sarfraz Khan (0) went for a pre-meditated sweep shot on the first ball for the second time in the Test and paid a heavy price too, top edging it for Rachin Ravindra to move in from deep square leg and complete a pair for the batter. And the rest just came and returned as Pant watched with an utter look of despair on his face. He knew that all was lost.

WTC POINTS TABLE (TOP 5)						
TEAM	M	W	L	D	Points	PCT
AUSTRALIA	12	8	3	1	90	62.50
INDIA	14	8	5	1	98	58.33
SRI LANKA	9	5	4	0	60	55.56
NEW ZEALAND	11	6	5	0	72	54.55
SOUTH AFRICA	8	4	3	1	52	54.17

BRIEF SCORES
New Zealand 235 and 174 beat India 263 and 121 (Rishabh Pant 64, Ajaz Patel 6/57) by 25 runs.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 3: India captain Rohit Sharma described Sunday the unprecedented 0-3 white-wash to New Zealand at home as 'a very low point of my career' and took full responsibility for the debacle in the Test series.

"Something like this will be a very low point of my career and I take full responsibility for it," Rohit said at the post-match press conference. "It is not easily digestible. Yes absolutely (bitter pill to swallow). We didn't play our best cricket. New Zealand played better throughout the series. There were a lot of mistakes we committed," Rohit pointed out.

"We failed as a unit. When you are chasing a target like that (147), you want runs on the board. That was in my mind and it did not come off. When it does not come off it does not look great," added the Indian skipper.

Rohit also admitted that he was disappointed with his own performance in the series. "I go in with certain plans and those did not come off this series. We

I was not at my best as captain in leading the team as well as with the bat. We did not perform as a team

ROHIT SHARMA

Still doubtful

Mumbai: Rohit Sharma remains doubtful for the first Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia in Perth later this month due to personal reasons, with the India skipper stating Sunday he has his 'fingers crossed' on his participation. The first Test of the series starts November 22. "Not sure whether I will be going, fingers crossed," Rohit said Sunday. In case Rohit misses the Test, vice-captain Jasprit Bumrah will lead the side in the series opener while Abhimanyu Easwaran is likely to open the innings.

did not play our best cricket in these conditions and are facing the results of that," Rohit stated. "I was not at my best as captain in leading the team as well as with the bat also. Collectively as a unit we failed to perform," the India skipper said.

Elaborating on his batting, the skipper who endured a poor run in the series, said he will review his game. "My defence... I have not defended a lot because I have not been there much. I need to look at it. I try to put my team in best situations, sometimes you fall on the other side," Rohit said.

"I don't say that I have lost my faith on my defence. I accept I haven't batted well in this series," he added.



NOWHERE TO HIDE: India skipper Rohit Sharma tries to shield his face with the cap after India's loss Sunday

PTI PHOTO

SHORT TAKES

Odisha capital to host ITF tourney

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Tennis Association (OTA) in collaboration with the Sports and Youth Services department, government of Odisha will be hosting the International Tennis Federation (ITF) USD 25,000 prize money tennis tournament in the city November 4 to November 10. The tournament will be held at the Kalinga Stadium tennis centre, OTA officials said in a release Sunday. Other than hosts India, players from the US, Australia, Germany, Japan, Russia, Ukraine and Moldova will take part in the competition. There will be 32 players in men's singles while 16 pairs will vie for doubles honours. Odisha's own Kabir Hans, Amruty Mohanty and Pratyush Mohanty have been included in the main draw as wildcard entries, officials said.

Easy for Sabalenka

Riyadh (Saudi Arabia): Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka eased to a straight-set victory over Zheng Qinwen in the opening match of the WTA Finals in Saudi Arabia here late Saturday night. Sabalenka won 6-3 6-4 to extend her perfect record against the Chinese player to 5-0. It was also her 21st win in her last 22 matches. In the other match of the day fourth-seeded Jasmine Paolini of Italy beat fifth-seeded Elena Rybakina 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 in the Purple Group.

Title for Anahat

New Delhi: Teenage squash sensation Anahat Singh secured her sixth PSA Challenger title of the year Sunday by winning the women's singles crown at the Costa North Coast Open 2024 in Coffs Harbour, Australia. Seeded third in the tournament, the 16-year-old defeated Japan's sixth seed Akari Midorikawa in straight games 3-0 (11-6, 11-6, 11-7). Throughout the tournament, Anahat displayed remarkable form, dropping only one game. Earlier in the semifinals, she defeated Hong Kong's seventh seed Kirstie Wong 3-1 (11-5, 7-11, 11-7, 11-9), after having previously swept aside Bobo Lam and Helen Tang from Hong Kong in the initial rounds. Anahat won bronze medals in both the women's team and mixed events at the Hangzhou Asiad.

Zverev sinks Humbert in Paris Masters final



AGENCIES

Paris, Nov 3: Alexander Zverev dominated home favourite Ugo Humbert 6-2, 6-2 to win the men's singles title at the Paris Masters tennis tournament here Sunday.

The German World No.2 and Tokyo 2020 Olympic gold medalist quickly silenced the capacity crowd inside Bercy's Palais Omnisports, needing just 37 minutes to wrap up the first set.

Humbert was broken in the third and fifth games with the German dropping just one point on serve in the whole of the first set. It was a similar story in the second as Zverev raced into a 4-

0 lead. The Frenchman won just five points on return in the whole match as Zverev continued his fine year in the French capital.

"I knew I had to play like this to win today," said Zverev after the match. "Ugo is an incredible player; but here in Paris, he plays even better than he usually does and I knew that. Once the crowd gets involved, it's going to be difficult. So, I had to take that away early, and I did, so I'm happy about that," Zverev added.

The 27-year-old now has seven ATP Masters 1000 titles and moves ahead of Jannik Sinner with a tour-leading 66th win of 2024.

Boxers shine at U-19 Worlds

Girl pugilists win 3 gold medals in various weight categories

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: Parthavi Grewal, Vanshika Goswami and Hemant Sangwan punched their way to gold as Indian boxers made a strong impression, clinching 17 medals at the inaugural U-19 World Championships organised by World Boxing in Colorado, USA. It was the female boxers who stole the show with 10 of them standing on the podium at the age group tournament.

While Parthavi notched a dominant 5-0 win over Netherlands' Aaliyah Hoppema in the women's 65kg final, Vanshika emerged victorious in the woman's +80kg category against Germany's Victoria Gatt by referee stops contest (RSC) one minute and 37 minutes Saturday.

In the next bout, Hemant clinched India's sole gold medal in the men's category by securing a 4-1 split decision victory over the USA's Rishon Sims in the 90kg category.

Nisha (51kg), Supriya Devi Thokchom (54kg) and Kritika



Parthavi Grewal poses with her gold medal

LIST OF MEDAL WINNERS		
GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Krishna Verma (F75kg), Parthavi Grewal (F65kg), Vanshika Goswami (F+80KG), Hemant Sangwan (M90kg).	Nisha (F51kg), Supriya Devi Thokchom (F54kg), Kritika Wasan (F80kg), Chanchal Chaudhary (F48kg), Anjali Singh (F57kg), Vini (F60kg), Akansha Phalasalwal (F70kg), Rahul Kundu (M75kg).	Rishi Singh (M50kg), Krish Pal (M55kg), Sumit (M70kg), Aryan (M85kg), Lakshay Rathi (M90+kg).

Wasan (80kg) lost their respective finals to sign off with silver medals. This significant medal count was highlighted by the contributions of 11 Khelo India Athletes (KIAs), of which eight

are SAI National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) trainees. The medalists also included three NCOE trainees who are non-KIAs, all training out of NCOE Rohtak.

Valiant OFC lose to NEUFC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: Odisha FC's (OFC) hopes of achieving their first away win suffered yet again Sunday as they lost 2-3 to North East United FC (NEUFC) in a match of the ISL played at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati.

A brilliant brace from Alaeddine Ajarai and a goal by substitute Guillermo Fernandez was enough for NEUFC to bag all three points. Hugo Boumous and Diego Mauricio found the net for the visitors but couldn't salvage anything from the five-goal fiesta.

The hosts were eventually rewarded for their start when



Hugo Boumous, who scored one goal for OFC, in action during the game

PHOTO ISL

Moroccan Ajarai combined with Parthib and found a pocket of space just outside the penalty area. Ajarai pulled the trigger from distance after taking a couple of touches, beating Amrinder Singh all ends up.

In the 40th minute Ajarai got

his second goal after Jithin had provided him with the perfect through ball.

In the second session, OFC played a much better game and Boumous reduced the deficit with a brilliant strike after dribbling past two defenders.

Ticket prices for India-England ODI announced

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: The Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) conducted a meeting Sunday in which the rates of tickets for the upcoming India-England ODI to be played at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack was fixed. The match will be played February 9, 2025.

The OCA said in a release that lowest price of a single ticket will be ₹800. The Barabati Stadium has a total capacity of 44,524.

The rates of tickets are as follows: Gallery 7 (₹800); galleries 2 and 4 (₹1,000); galleries 1, 3 and 6 (₹1,200); gallery 5 (₹1,500); special enclosure (₹7,000), AC Box (₹9,000); New Pavilion (₹10,000); Corporate Box (₹20,000).

Secretariat, Yubi Creation bag corporate cricket titles

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: The Secretariat women's cricket team emerged winners of the IIIrd Corporate Cricket for Women and Men' which ended Sunday at the Cricket Academy of Pathans ground. Manipal Hospital women's team finished as runners up. A total of 18 teams in the men's category and six in the women's segment took part in the event from Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Kendrapara. The men's segment was won by Yubi Creation while Manipal Hospital again finished runners-up.

The tournament is an initiative by 'Insig Edu Sports LLP', a sports and education startup company. It was conducted to promote fitness and wellness for the corporate personnel es-



Secretariat women's cricket team

pecially women employees. This tournament is in continuation to the two earlier editions. Insig Edu Sports is primarily a women-run company and Sagarika Mahapatra and Ajeeta Khanamare are the co-founders of it. The company is aggressively promoting basic education for elite level athletes and health and wellness for corporate employees.