

Odisha Universities Act to be amended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: The state government Saturday decided to amend the Odisha Universities Act, 1989 and change certain provisions of the Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR), 2015.

In regard to the proposal to amend the Odisha Universities Act, 1989, a cabinet note said that it aimed to address critical challenges faced by universities. The amendment will help enhance the overall academic excellence, governance and administrative efficiency of the universities, the chief secretary said.

Key aspects of the amendment focus on empowering universities with more autonomy allowing them to make decisions independently while maintaining accountability.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Results are often disappointing. Hence, I never vote

1-1 for NDA, INDIA

The pollsters, who had failed miserably in last general election, appear to have put in some extra efforts this time with the results of Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assembly polls going as per their predictions. BJP-led Mahayuti swept Maharashtra while the INDIA bloc spearheaded by JMM's Hemant Soren crossed the halfway mark comfortably in Jharkhand. For Mahayuti, the result is a resounding reversal of its recent setback in the Lok Sabha polls whereas the BJP-led NDA didn't have that luck in Jharkhand. Neither BJP's allegation that "infiltrators" were changing the state's demographics nor its gambit of wooing JMM No.2 and senior tribal leader Champai Soren to its side worked in its favour. Results for the by-elections to 46 Assembly and two Parliamentary seats in 13 states were also declared. Among them Wayanad in Kerala was much in focus as Congress' Priyanka Gandhi made her electoral debut for the Lok Sabha seat and unsurprisingly she defeated her nearest rival by a margin over four lakh votes.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai/ Ranchi, Nov 23: The BJP Saturday pulled off a stunning performance in Maharashtra winning a record number of seats to propel the party-led ruling Mahayuti alliance to a landslide victory while the INDIA bloc stormed back to power in Jharkhand on the back of a spectacular showing by the JMM.

Such was the BJP's dominance that it helped the Mahayuti to get a three-fourths majority. The party fielded 149 candidates of which 128 won. Four BJP candidates were also leading.

The BJP's highest tally in Assembly elections in Maharashtra was in 2014 when it bagged 122 seats after which Fadnavis became the chief minister for

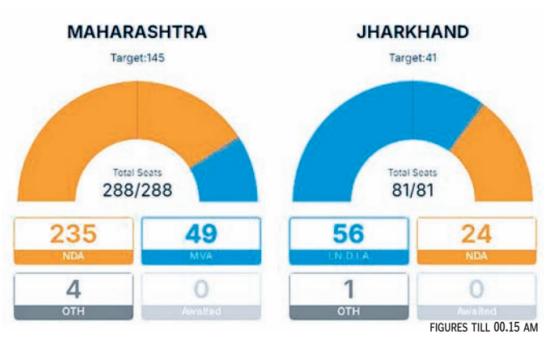
the first time. In 2019, it got 105 seats. Shiv Sena (UBT) chief and former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray called the poll results completely unexpected.

He said the results reflect that there was a "tsunami rather than a wave."

With the Mahayuti walking the road towards power in a runaway win that went ahead of what exit polls had predicted, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said, "People have rejected politics of hatred and revenge, accepted politics of welfare and development."

The focus in Maharashtra shifted to Devendra Fadnavis, the architect of BJP's stunning victory.

"Leaders of Mahayuti parties will decide (on next CM)," Fadnavis said on his part.



Priyanka wins by bigger margin than Rahul

New Delhi: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has won her debut by-election from Wayanad with a bigger margin than her brother Rahul Gandhi. She fills the vacancy left by Rahul when he had moved to Raebareilly in Uttar Pradesh. Her final score stood at over 6 lakh votes when the counting ended this evening, over 4 lakh more than her nearest rival and CPI veteran Sathyan Mokeri's tally of about 2 lakh votes. Rahul Gandhi had won the seat by a margin of over 3.65 lakh votes in the Lok Sabha elections held earlier this year, down from the 4.3 lakh margin he had secured in 2019.

Bypolls: Ruling parties hold sway in states

NEW DELHI: Ruling parties held sway in most of the 13 states in the Assembly byelection results declared Saturday, with the BJP and its allies wrestling seats in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan and the Trinamool Congress sweeping West Bengal.

Out of the 46 seats where byelections were held, the BJP and its allies won 26, a gain of nine seats, followed by Congress with seven -- a loss of six seats. The Trinamool Congress won six, the Aam Aadmi Party three and the Samajwadi Party two seats. The LDF in Kerala and BAP in Rajasthan got one each.

Apart from this, two seats in



Sikkim were won unopposed by Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) candidates.

The Assembly bypolls were held in nine seats in Uttar Pradesh, seven seats in Rajasthan, six seats in West Bengal, five seats in Assam, four seats each in Punjab and Bihar, three seats in Karnataka, two seats in Madhya Pradesh and Kerala, and one seat each in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Meghalaya. P8



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NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA



The results of Maharashtra are unexpected and we will analyse them in detail

RAHUL GANDHI | LEAD OF OPPOSITION

DSPL - 220

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ମନେରଖନ୍ତୁ !

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Chief Electoral Officer Odisha

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IDRIS ELBA TO JOIN CAST OF MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE

British star Idris Elba is in negotiations to join the cast of Amazon MGM Studios and Mattel Films' live-action feature film *Masters of the Universe*. The film is based on the iconic toy line and television show that captivated audiences in the 1980s.

SHAKIRA TO GIFT HER LAMBORGHINI

Singer-songwriter Shakira is giving away her custom purple Lamborghini Urus to one lucky fan, celebrating her new single *Soltera*. The gesture is both a nod to her personal journey and a way to thank fans for their unwavering support.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Your attractive personality is always at the disposal of others, and today you could benefit immensely through it. However, there is room for improvement and you could be drawn towards charity work. Ganesha says you will surely feel satisfied by helping the needy.

TAURUS
This day you will tend to be too bossy, too harsh on your subordinates or employees and end up making them miserable as well as hostile. Their insubordination could corrode the respect you get and, in addition, make things unworkable. This acrimony and ill will is sure to spread and foul up your larger professional connections and interests. Ganesha urges you to be particularly sane and sensible.

GEMINI
You will want some change in routine today. You are likely to be of the rut of daily life and are looking for a refreshing change. You need to apply your inherent creativity to your work to get more satisfaction out of it and to ease the boredom of your daily schedule, says Ganesha.

CANCER
Don't meddle in others' affairs today, suggests Ganesha. For they will not take it kindly. Adopt the middle path. Ganesha feels that you must keep your bravado and boldness in check.

LEO
Your pride and self-confidence will help you to excel in whatever task it is that you take up today. Other people will also praise you. You will buy new clothes and other possessions that you have been desiring since a long time, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Today will be a pleasant day full of surprises and unforeseen changes. You may go for a long drive with your beloved. The trip will be very interesting and will calm your frayed nerves. All in all, Ganesha says, it is an optimistic and happy day, so go ahead and get the best out of it.

LIBRA
Ganesha says you will have a good time with your family members and will have fun with them. You will also be able to organize a picnic or a party for your family members and enjoy the day with them. Ganesha says you will go out for a trip to a religious place or temple, which will enhance your mind and ideas.

SCORPIO
Your sixth sense would work wonders today, as per to what Ganesha has to say. Trust your instincts and work accordingly. Work enthusiastically and dedicatedly. When the pressure of work mounts on you, take a break and unwind with the help of soft music.

SAGITTARIUS
It's time for some entertainment. Movies, picnics and dining out is on your mind. Invite your beloved and enjoy quality time with each other. Also, you will spend time with you family and friends, and attend a music concert together.

CAPRICORN
Actions speak louder than words. Your sincere efforts and honest intentions will motivate others also to put in their best, feels Ganesha. You'll be like a friend, philosopher and guide to them. People will follow you, but it has a darker side to as many will even over take you.

AQUARIUS
You will take the road to spirit and give a miss to materialism visit temples, other religious places, and spiritual leaders to find answers for some of your questions. It will, however, take a while for you to distinguish between mysticism and materialism, and understand that you can have the best of both worlds.

PISCES
You will not take matters to heart needlessly today, and will instead calmly evaluate the bitter words of others to see if there is a grain of truth in them somewhere. This is a good practice and one that should be continued. While you won't be in the mood to tolerate any injustice, you will be able to forgive those who have wronged you and will thus be able to refrain from stoking further, the fires of enmity, says Ganesha.

Suhana's special moment with Agastya

Mumbai: Actress Suhana Khan, the daughter of Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan, has shared a sweet birthday wish for her *The Archies* co-star Agastya Nanda.

This comes amid her link-up rumours with Agastya.

Saturday, Suhana took to the Stories section of her Instagram, and shared a monochromatic picture of herself with Agastya in which she can be seen playfully pulling the ear of her co-star.

She simply wrote on the picture, "Happy birthday".

Earlier, the actress shared rare pictures of her childhood with her father, the Bollywood icon Shah Rukh Khan and her brother, Aaryan Khan on SRK's birthday.

Suhana made her debut with *The Archies* which was dubbed a critical disaster. The film was also panned for being the debut vehicle of Bollywood kids, and was caught in the nepotism controversy.

Meanwhile, Suhana will be next seen in the upcoming movie *King* which also stars SRK in the titular role.



Wedding bells for Tamannah!

Mumbai: Tamannah Bhatia and Vijay Varma have always been in the spotlight for their love life. They are known as one of the most beautiful couple of the Hindi film industry. Speculations are rife that the couple is set to take their relationship to next level as the duo is reportedly on the hunt for a luxurious apartment to settle into after their wedding.

If the rumours are to be believed, the *Babli Bouncer* actress may tie the knot with Vijay, *The Kandahar Hijack* actor in 2025.

Although there has been no official confirmation from them, the news has sparked widespread interest among fans and in the film industry.

The lovebirds confirmed their relationship around the release of *Lust Stories 2* in 2023. Initially, they kept their relationship private, but Tamannah confirmed their romance in June 2023 during an interview, referring to Vijay as her "happy place."



Konkona goes international

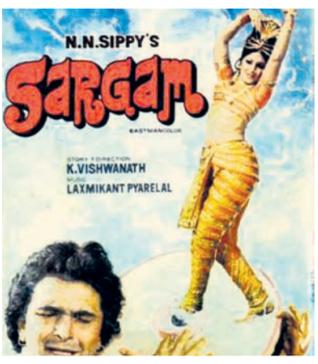
Mumbai: Actress Konkona Sen Sharma, who is known for *Omkaara*, *Page 3*, *Life in a... Metro*, *Wake Up Sid* and others, is set to star as the female lead in the upcoming movie *Mis(s)chief*. The actress will be paired opposite Spanish actor Carlos Bardem, who is the brother of Javier Bardem; the revelation was made at the Film Bazaar in Goa.

The project hails from UK and India-based production outfit Avani Films and is currently in development.

As per reports, it has advanced to the second round at the 2025 Sundance Development Labs as a curated entry. *Mis(s)chief* follows the story of a mother of two trying to succeed as a filmmaker while navigating a failing marriage, the odd bullet from a gangster she has unwittingly managed to annoy and the never-ending schedule of her children's homework. British filmmaker Peter Webber is on board as executive producer and Emmy-nominated casting director Nancy Bishop is assembling an international cast.



How 'Dafli wale' song became a part of 'Sargam'



Mumbai: Actress Jaya Prada has reminisced her association with the late singer Lata Mangeshkar and late music composer Bappi Lahiri. The actress recently appeared on the singing reality show *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa*, and revealed that the song *Dafli wale Dafli Baja* was not originally a part of the movie *Sargam*.

During the special episode of the show, contestant Bidisha delivered a stellar performance on the tracks *Mujhe Naulakha Manga De*

Re and *Dafli Wale Dafli Baja*. Jaya Prada was so impressed by the performance that it transported her back in time to her days of filming *Dafli Wale Dafli Baja*. The actress also shared a few behind-the-scenes anecdotes regarding the song.

She said, "I cannot express it in words, but the way you have sung this song has reminded me of Lata didi today. You are truly superb! In fact, I must say that it is not easy to attempt this song, but you have nailed it. Actu-

ally, the song *Dafli wale Dafli Baja* was not going to be a part of the movie because we had too many songs recorded and shot already. But on the last day of the shoot, everyone decided to film it and we completed it in just one day".

She added, "When it was out in the theatres, people would stop the show and listen to the song repeatedly. It was a very special song for all of us, and instead of being known as Jaya Prada, I was known for this song".

PEANUTS



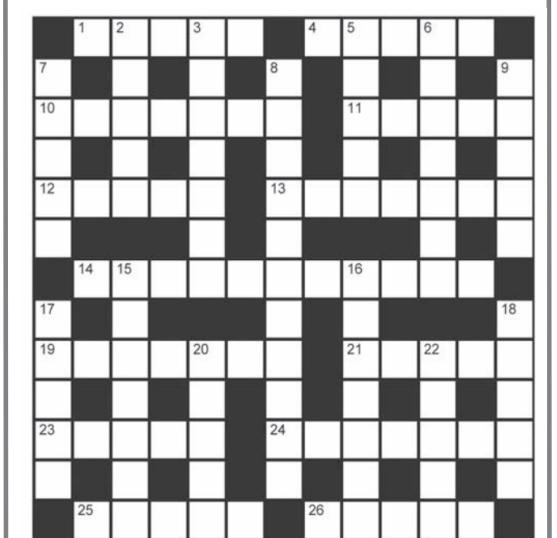
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



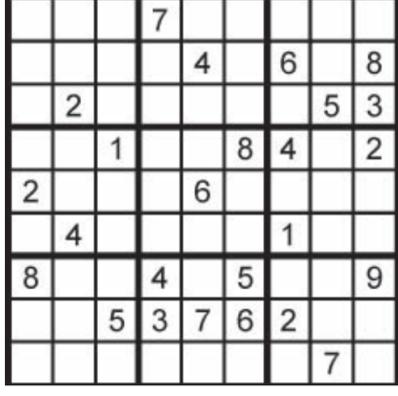
FUN POST CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Old anesthetic
 - 4 Out of practice
 - 10 Oddball
 - 11 Designated driver, hopefully
 - 12 Speak up
 - 13 Elk's bonnet
 - 14 Adroit and imaginative
 - 19 Kittiwake, e.g. (3,4)
 - 21 Prize money
 - 23 Kind of nerve
 - 24 Fear or joy, e.g.
 - 25 Flu symptoms
 - 26 Torments
 - Down**
 - 2 Article of faith
 - 3 Import barrier
 - 5 Overtum
 - 6 Vista
 - 7 Olfactory sensation
 - 8 Paving machine
 - 9 Writing style
 - 15 Type of band
 - 16 Do like Champlain
 - 17 English race place
 - 18 Redhead's dye
 - 20 Verbal white flag
 - 22 Pay elevation

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

**DHARITRI
YOUTH
CONCLAVE**

'PLATFORM TO UNITE CLIMATE WARRIORS'

Cabinet nod to IPR amendment

AGENCIES



Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: The state government Saturday decided to amend certain provisions of Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR), 2015.

Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, who attended the meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maji, said the Cabinet has approved the amendment of two sections of the IPR 2015 in order to enable eligible investors to furnish their claim for incentives in time for which they are entitled to and to make the IPR in line with sectoral policies for smooth administration of incentives.

He said in many cases, it is noticed that delay in submission of claim application by industrial units happens due to their ignorance about various incentives and certifications which they are entitled to under the policy and procedures to claim these incentives as well as related certifications and timelines to apply within.

Also considering the dislocations caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the approval is now given to enhance the timeline for submission of applications from one year to two years for all types of incentives and certi-

fications under Industrial Policy Resolution 2015, Ahuja said.

For delay beyond two years he said, there is provision for delay condonation to be considered at the level of chief secretary. Further, as a one-time relaxation measure, investors who had already commenced commercial production but failed to file their application in time for incentives or certifications within the due date, but submitted within June 30, 2023 will be considered.

It said that the belated applications submitted after June 30, 2023 will not be considered except where it is a fit case to be considered at the level of Chief Secretary for condonation of delay happening due to reasons beyond the control of industrial unit.

Ahuja said that an amendment was made to Odisha Food Processing Policy 2016 (OFPP 2016) November, 13, 2018, wherein Oil expeller, Solvent extraction & Refining of Oil and Packaged drinking water with moderate investment in plant and machinery.



man Sukumar who will discuss elephant safety issues, underscoring Dharitri's commitment to diverse environmental challenges.

The event also recognised last year's Climate Grant-Odisha winners, including Sathee Parivar, Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan (OPSA), Aahwan Foundation (group category), Jalendra Mohalik and Chandan Pan-

da (individual category), and Sattvic Soul Foundation (Dharitri Youth Action Award). They shared insights into their projects.

Environmentalist Soumya Ranjan Biswal of OPSA, a 2023 climate grant recipient and current jury member, credited the grant for aiding mangrove conservation and Olive Ridley turtle protection efforts. "I feel very proud that there is a grow-

ing environmental awareness among Odisha's youth and the impactful work being done state-wide on environment safety," he said. The organisations also shared details of their mission towards environment protection.

Speaking on the occasion, Tathagata Satpathy, Editor of Dharitri and **Orissa POST**, said the conclave is a visionary initiative by the Chief Executive of

the twin publications to create awareness about environment. He voiced concerns over some NGOs misusing foreign funds while failing to deliver results. "This is making the state suffer as in reality nothing is happening," he said while urging genuine environmental heroes to come forward and take the lead. "Dharitri Youth Conclave is always there to support them," he added.

He also acknowledged the remarkable contributions of Odisha's youth in safeguarding environment.

The evening culminated with an electrifying performance by the Virah band, featuring singer Runit Wallia, guitarist and vocalist Utsav Bhardwaj, and percussionist Tarun Kumar.

They began the performance with a stirring rendition of 'Bande Utkala Janani', followed by 'Noor E Khuda' (adopted as Ore Khuda), calling for humanity to cease environmental destruction.

Their original song, 'Thoda Sa', encouraged individuals to make small changes for the sake of the planet, leaving the audience inspired and reflective.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: Over 100 environmental groups from across the length and breadth of the state enthusiastically participated and shared their innovative ideas for environment protection at the 'Green Heroes Speak', on the eve of the fourth edition of the 'Dharitri Youth Conclave 2024: Climate Change - Building Resilience', at the Press Club of Odisha here, Saturday.

Inaugurating the event, Adyasha Satpathy, Chief Executive, Dharitri and **Orissa POST**, highlighted that Dharitri, now in its 51st year, aims to unite climate warriors from across the state through the event and connect them with each other so as to help them work collaboratively towards environment safety.

"That's because the implementation of rules is dependent on you," Satpathy said adding that the conclave consistently seeks to amplify grassroots voices, offering them a platform to share their work and raise awareness.

She said this year's conclave will feature noted ecologist Ra-

Odisha renewable energy conference held

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: Odisha reaffirmed its commitment to renewable energy and sustainability at the Odisha Renewable Energy Roundtable held in New Delhi recently.

Chaired by Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment and Energy, Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, the conference brought together key

stakeholders from government, industry, and investment sectors to discuss the state's renewable energy opportunities and challenges.

Organised by the Society for Legal and Policy Research and Idam Infrastructure Advisory Private Ltd, the event witnessed the participation of 34 delegates representing 23 companies from sectors such as solar energy, wind energy, green hydrogen, green ammo-

nia, and waste-to-energy.

Singh Deo emphasised Odisha's potential in harnessing renewable energy resources, highlighting an estimated 140 GW solar capacity and significant opportunities in green hydrogen production. He reiterated the state's commitment to achieving the Prime Minister's target of 500 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030.

The Deputy CM outlined the Odisha Renewable Energy Poli-

cy 2022, which promotes projects in emerging areas like floating solar, green ammonia, and pumped storage wind energy. He noted that the policy remains open for review, with a focus on fostering a competitive investment climate, safeguarding consumer interests, and managing risks effectively. Singh Deo assured stakeholders that the state government is dedicated to overcoming implementation challenges.

FOCUS ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: The fourth edition of the Dharitri Youth Conclave, themed "Climate Change: Building Resilience," is set to take place Sunday at Hotel Swosti Premium in Bhubaneswar. The event will bring together eminent environmentalists, experts, and youth leaders to discuss pressing global environmental issues, particularly the escalating climate crisis.

With 2024 projected to be the warmest year on record, the conclave will explore how global warming is contributing to rising sea levels and extreme weather events, while addressing the urgent need to curb emissions.

This year's distinguished panelists include renowned ecologist Dr Raman Sukumar, eco-warrior Heeta Lakhani, Lady Tarzan Jamuna Tudu, marine biologist Dr Punyasloke

Bhadury, environmental activist Arun Krishnamurthy, and Dibyakanta Nayak, Team Lead for Disaster Management at the Reliance Foundation.

The panel will engage in thought-provoking discussions about environmental challenges and solutions.

Additionally, nine student speakers from top institutions across the country will share their perspectives on the environment based on their observations and experiences.



DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE -2024-

CLIMATE CHANGE : BUILDING RESILIENCE

STUDENT SPEAKERS



Subhalaxmi Jayasingh
Rama Devi Women's University



Archit Behera
Utkal University



Ridhi Agarwal
SCB Medical College & Hospital



Alok Mohapatra
Ravenshaw University



Anandita Mishra
BJB Autonomous College



Roop Kumar Seth
PN Autonomous College



Shivam Mishra
IIMC, Dhenkanal



Aamir Atique
XIM, Bhubaneswar



Tapan Kumar Das
FM University, Balasore



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EXPERT PANEL



Padma Shri Jamuna Tudu
Environmental Activist



Prof. Raman Sukumar
Asian Elephant Expert



Heeta Lakhani
Climate Educator & Founder, The Climact Initiative



Punyasloke Bhadury
Marine Biologist



Dibyakanta Nayak
Team Lead, Disaster Management, Reliance Foundation



Arun Krishnamurthy
Moderator, Founder, EFI

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FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

NEO-CZARISM



While six Ukrainian missiles caused panic all around the world, Russia's systematic destruction of Ukrainian infrastructure has been normalised – much like Israel's razing of northern Gaza

Following Donald Trump's victory in the 2024 US presidential election, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a Democratic congresswoman from New York, publicly appealed to those who had voted for both her and Trump. She wanted to know what motivated such an apparently inconsistent choice, and the predominant answer she heard was that she and Trump seemed more sincere, whereas Vice President Kamala Harris came off as too calculating.



Slavoj Žižek

IN THE EMERGING MULTIPOLAR WORLD, THE RISE OF STRONG EMPIRES, EACH WITH ITS OWN ZONE OF INFLUENCE, IS QUITE CONCEIVABLE

It was a fruitful exercise, and we can ask the same of leftists who support both the Palestinians and Russia. After all, the latter has been bombing Ukrainian cities until they resemble Gaza, and just as the right-wing parties in Israel's government want to create a Greater Israel, the Kremlin hopes to create a Greater Russia. Russia's eliminationist project should thus remain top of mind whenever we assess developments on the ground.

Immediately after the recent decision by US President Joe Biden's administration to allow Ukraine to launch US-furnished ATACMS missiles (with a range of up to 190 miles) into Russia, the Kremlin warned that any use of Western arms against the Russian Federation could trigger a nuclear response under its new nuclear doctrine. Nonetheless, the Ukrainians countered by firing six ATACMS missiles at a military facility in the Bryansk region (adjacent to the Ukrainian border) the next day.

Although Russia claims that the damage was negligible – five of the missiles were shot down, and there were no casualties – following the letter of its new nuclear doctrine would mean that it is now at war with

the United States and has the right to use nuclear weapons against Ukraine. With some of those around Trump already accusing Biden of taking a dangerous step toward a new world war, is it fair to say that Ukraine went too far? Has it disturbed the fragile balance that kept the conflict limited?

Before jumping to this conclusion, one must remember that the US has permitted Ukraine to target locations primarily in Kursk, the border region from which Russia has been launching many of its attacks against Ukrainian positions. As Josep Borrell, the (outgoing) EU foreign-policy chief put it: "Ukraine should be able to use the arms we provided to them not only to stop the arrow, but also to be able to hit the archers."

Moreover, recall that Russia had escalated its own campaign against Ukraine mere days earlier, blanketing the entire country with drone and missile attacks against civilian energy infrastructure just before the onset of winter. While six Ukrainian missiles caused panic all around the world, Russia's systematic destruction of Ukrainian infra-

structure has been normalised – much like Israel's razing of northern Gaza.

The situation is as obscene as it is absurd. Russia, having launched a war of conquest against its peaceful neighbour, now wants to keep its own territory out of the war, and it accuses Ukraine, the victim, of "expanding" the conflict. If Russia is serious about its new nuclear doctrine, let us offer an equally serious counter-doctrine: If an independent country is attacked with non-nuclear forces by a nuclear superpower, its allies have the right – even the duty – to provide it with nuclear weapons so that it has a chance of deterring an attack.

It is often said that Putin wants a return to the Soviet Union and Stalinism; but this is not right. Rather, his regime is sustained by a vision of the pre-1917 imperial era, when czarist Russia's zone of influence encompassed not only Poland but also Finland. Time will tell if Putin's neo-Czarism is more than a pipe dream. In the emerging multipolar world, the rise of strong empires, each with its own zone of influence, is quite

conceivable.

As Putin told the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in June 2022, "sovereignty cannot be segmented or fragmented in the twenty-first century." Upholding political sovereignty and national identity is essential, he said, but so is strengthening everything that "determines our country's economic, financial, professional, and technological independence." Clearly, only a new imperial Russia, not Ukraine or Belarus or Finland, will be able to enjoy the full benefits of sovereignty.

Making matters worse, on the same day that Putin announced the new Russian nuclear doctrine, the BBC reported that, "air pollution in India's capital Delhi has soared to extremely severe levels, choking residents and engulfing the city in thick smog, disrupting air transport, forcing schools to close, and halting construction. "And experts warn that the situation could get worse in Delhi in the coming days."

While Russia indulges in imperial aggression and rattles its nuclear saber, hundreds of millions of people are finding it harder to breathe. Our media trumpet the use of Western weapons against Russia as front-page "breaking news," and our blinkered leftists regard Ukraine's "excessive" defence as a dangerous escalation. A threat to our very survival, however, barely merits mention.

The writer, Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School, is International Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities at the University of London.

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Take Truth for your force; take Truth for your refuge

THE MOTHER

Beneficial Bangladesh

India and Bangladesh share deep-rooted bonds of history, language, culture, and multitude of other commonalities. The outstanding nature of bilateral ties is reflected in an all-encompassing partnership based on sovereignty, equality, trust, and understanding. This partnership has evolved as model for bilateral relations for the entire region and beyond." These are the words of India's Foreign Ministry, published in its "brief on India-Bangladesh bilateral relations" of 2024.

Currently there are three railway trains operating between the two countries – (i) Maitri Express (since 2008, connecting Kolkata and Dhaka); (ii) Bandhan Express (since 2017, connecting Kolkata and Khulna); and (iii) Mitali Express (since June 2022, between New Jalpaiguri and Dhaka).

Additionally five bus routes are operational between India and Bangladesh connecting Kolkata, Agartala and Guwahati to Dhaka and further up to Khulna. I took the train to Khulna just a few weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic broke out and it will surprise Indians to know how many from across the border use it. This train link was resumed in 2017 after having been closed during the 1965 war.

Bangladesh is India's biggest trading partner in South Asia and India is the second biggest trade partner of Bangladesh in Asia. Bangladesh exported \$2 billion of goods to India in FY 2023-24. In FY 2023-24, the total bilateral trade has been reported as \$4 billion, meaning that it is heavily skewed in favour of India.

The Foreign Ministry's note says that India issues medical attendant visa to three Bangladeshis to accompany one medical patient into India - a highly liberalised process uniquely extended to Bangladesh. Our visa operations in Bangladesh constitute the largest visa operations India conducts worldwide, in terms of application centres present across the host country, the volume of applications received per day as well as number of visas processed and issued.



Aakar Patel

The number of Bangladeshis coming over is remarkable also for the fact that in the same period the rhetoric in India from the political party in office has been one of contempt towards Bangladeshis

This has taken a hit after Sheikh Hasina's government was overthrown and India reduced its diplomatic presence in Bangladesh. The damage from our reduced presence has accrued to India because the liberal visa process has been highly favourable to Indian business, especially medical tourism. Indeed, half of all medical tourists arriving in India, some 325,000 out of a total of 635,000 annually, are Bangladeshis.

On the other hand, what Pakistanis must go through to visit India can be explained through the visit made from Lahore by friends of mine to Bangalore in October 2024. One of them walked across through the Attari-Wagah border and flew to Bangalore from Amritsar on a Thursday night. The next day, he was at the police station to register his entry into Bangalore. Pakistanis are given city-specific visas that require them to register at each city's police stations on entry and exit. The day after that, Saturday, he was again at the police station to record his exit, because the station would be closed on Sunday. He left on Sunday for Delhi and on Monday had to report to the police station there. And so on.

I can empathise with my friend because on some of my visits to Pakistan I have also been given identical 'reporting' visas. They are meant to discourage people from coming and this is the lot of those who actually secure a visa; most people are denied. This harshness is reciprocal and both sides mirror what the other does.

Some 25 lakh Bangladeshi tourists come to India annually compared to about 40,000 Pakistanis. In the first half of 2024, according to the Ministry of Tourism's data, Bangladeshis were the number one tourist arrivals into India, above the US, the UK and Canada, which is remarkable given the number of Indian origin people in the latter three countries. The number of Bangladeshi tourists was about 5 lakh a year till 2010 and in each of the three years before that it was around that number. Then it doubled to around 10 lakh in 2014 and it has since doubled again in the Modi decade.

The number of Bangladeshis coming over is remarkable also for the fact that in the same period the rhetoric in India from the political party in office has been one of contempt towards Bangladeshis. Even in the election campaign that just ended, the message to voters from the BJP leadership was peppered with the threat of "outsiders." Given this constant scare-mongering, most Indians will likely think that the visa regime with Bangladesh is the same as we have with Pakistan. It is not and a look at the actual numbers shows that the BJP has continued with the wise actions of previous governments in building relations with Bangladesh through allowing more free movement of their people. This is, to repeat, beneficial to India as the numbers show.

Of course movement between the two countries is not as free as it is with another neighbour, about whom our Foreign Ministry's note reads: "India and Nepal share close and friendly relations characterized by age-old historical and cultural linkages, open border and deep-rooted people-to-people contacts."

The language is similar to that describing our relations with Bangladesh, but there is one difference. That is of course the fact that we have an open border with Nepal and no visa and not even a passport is required for nationals on either side to visit or find employment in the other country.

WISDOM CORNER

Through pride we are ever deceiving ourselves. But deep down below the surface of the average conscience a still, small voice says to us, something is out of tune

CARL JUNG

Follow your bliss and the universe will open doors where there were only walls

JOSEPH CAMPBELL

To dare is to lose one's footing momentarily. Not to dare is to lose oneself

SOREN KIERKEGAARD

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1642: Dutch navigator Abel Janszoon Tasman, who sailed from Batavia (Jakarta) to investigate the practicality of a sea passage eastward to Chile and to explore New Guinea, skirted the southern shores of Tasmania on this day.

1859: Charles Darwin's On the Origin of Species published. One of the most influential books of all times, On the Origin of Species, put forth the theory of evolution and described the process of natural selection.

1877: Black Beauty is published. The classic novel about the life of a horse called Black Beauty was written by English author Anna Sewell. The book quickly gained popularity and became an important part in the animal rights movement. It was Sewell's only published work.

SPECTRUM JUDICIARY

Injustice to the cause of justice

My younger brother is a lawyer practising in a high court (HC). He is reasonably successful in his profession. We live in the same city, separately in our own houses. During the rendezvous at his place on intermittent evenings for a drink, he treats me to courtroom trivia. As I am inquisitive by nature, I ask pointed questions about the legal profession and the judicial system.



Chander Gupta

THE ISSUE OF TIMELY DELIVERY OF JUSTICE AND JUDICIAL REFORMS IS NEVER MENTIONED IN THE MANIFESTOS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

While glancing at his cause list during our conversations, my brother often exclaims that more than a dozen cases are listed for hearing for the next day. Initially, I presumed that he had a sizeable number of briefs, so much so that on most of the working days he had more than a dozen cases listed where he had to appear for his clients. Gradually, I learnt that only a couple of these were actually heard, though more than a dozen cases were listed. The turn of majority of the listed cases does not come up by the end of day. They are rolled over for a latter period. As the disposal rate is much slower, the number of pending briefs with lawyers keeps piling up.

An interesting fact that he shared with me was that the appointments of HC judges were done in the ratio of 75:25. The 75% of bench strength of a HC consists of direct appointees from the Bar, whereas only 25% are picked up from amongst trial court judges. In other words, only 25% of those elevated to HC are career judges and 75% are directly elevated from the Bar. The earlier ratio of 60:40 was more reasonable. One reform that is desirable is that the elevation to the HCs should be in ratio of 50:50.

What is more significant is that members of the Bar are elevated to the same HC they have been practising in. Therefore, there should be more of inter-HC transfers. In subordinate courts, judges are posted at a centre for not more than 3 years at a stretch. The subordinate judges are transferred every 3 years. Likewise HC judges should also be transferred every 5-7 years. Vacancies in HCs as per the sanctioned strength should also be filled up.

HCs handle cases both in nature of appeals and matters where it has original jurisdiction. There is no data in public domain indicating the ratio of appeals and original jurisdiction cases pending in

HCs. The real battle in the HCs is fought for interim relief: 'bail' and 'stay'. In criminal cases, 'bail' is the immediate goal for both accused and his lawyer. As trials take unduly prolonged period, the relief of 'bail' is much sought after. In civil cases, the petitioner looks for stay/injunction. I have scarcely heard about final adjudication from my brother's lips; it is mostly about interim relief provided through bails and stays.

Upto the district level judiciary, judges are conferred with two designations: one for handling civil cases, the other for handling criminal cases. At the entry level, the designation of a judge is Civil Judge-cum- Judicial Magistrate – 'Civil Judge' while handling civil cases and 'Judicial Magistrate' while handling criminal cases. There are Debt Recovery Tribunals for handling of cases filed by banks pertaining to recovery of debts. For handling consumer complaints, there are District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forums, called Consumer Forums in short. Consumer Forums handle consumer complaints where the value of goods or

services and the compensation claimed does not exceed ₹20 lakh. There are labour courts where judges from the districts judiciary are deputed to. Labour court judges work under the bureaucrat Labour Commissioner. Trial court judges also head the Motor Accident Claim Tribunals. The procedures of courts and tribunals are different. Adding complexity to the dispute redressal structure, revenue cases are heard and adjudicated upon by bureaucrats District Collectors and Sub-Divisional Officers.

The issue of timely delivery of justice and judicial reforms is never mentioned in the manifestos of political parties. The pendency of cases in courts is burgeoning. As the age-long adage goes, "Justice delayed is justice denied". Why are vacancies not filled up in the HCs? There is a clear shortage of judges and lack of physical infrastructure in districts. Is justice not an important enough matter for the nation to be worthy of a poll issue? Ignoring the cause of justice is an injustice.

The writer is a retired banker.

Looming crisis

Sir, The escalating climate crisis demands urgent global action, yet major nations continue to exhibit a troubling lack of urgency and commitment. The recent COP29 conference, a pivotal moment for international climate cooperation, concluded with a disappointing lack of substantial progress. This outcome underscores a broader pattern of complacency and self-interest among powerful nations. A particularly concerning development is the appointment of a fossil fuel advocate to a key position in the US administration. This decision signals a disturbing prioritisation of short-term economic gains over long-term environmental sustainability. Furthermore, the failure of wealthy nations at the G20 summit to pledge meaningful financial support for climate mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries highlights a stark global inequality. The consequences of such inaction are far-reaching and potentially catastrophic. Rising global temperatures, extreme weather events, and sea-level rise pose significant threats to human societies and ecosystems worldwide. A rapid transition to renewable energy sources is imperative, but this requires substantial investment and technological innovation. Developing nations, particularly those most vulnerable to climate change, lack the resources to undertake such ambitious transformations. Innovative financing mechanisms, such as a global tax on the ultra-wealthy, could provide much-needed funds for climate action. However, such proposals have been met with resistance from wealthy nations, who prioritise domestic interests over global solidarity. This lack of international cooperation undermines efforts to address the climate crisis and exacerbates global inequalities.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Loss & damage

Sir, This refers to "No land takeover sans due compensation: SC" (Orissa POST, November 23). As the right to property is no longer considered to be the citizens' fundamental right, the number of land acquisition by the government suddenly gains momentum and the compensation, if at all paid by the government, is meagre. Kudos to the Supreme Court for talking about due compensation prior to land takeover by the government. I think, this due compensation should be determined on the basis of prevailing market rate, otherwise, the landowner shall suffer irreparable losses. If the compensation is directed to pay at the prevailing market rate, the land takeover by force will come down automatically.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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Shoddy construction of Joda flyover out in open



Significant sections of the road have been closed owing to ongoing railing restoration work disrupting traffic

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, Nov 23: Questions have emerged regarding the durability of Odisha's longest flyover recently constructed in Joda of Keonjhar district with funding from the District Mineral Foundation (DMF). Since its inauguration, the structure has required frequent repairs, with large potholes appearing with exposed rebar in many patches. Initially cracks appeared, revealing iron rods protruding from the concrete. Despite intermittent repairs, significant sections of the road have been

concern. Local residents and truck drivers expressed frustration as recent maintenance work caused traffic snarls from Banspani to Jurudi. Truck drivers such as B Gupta, Digvijay Singh, and Dipal Yadav voiced fears over using the flyover, citing safety concerns. They reported that barricades placed to block damaged sections increase the risk of accidents, while the lack of speed control measures have led to overspeeding by smaller vehicles. Purushottam Das, former vice-chairman of Joda Municipality, criticised the flyover's subpar construction, emphasising potential threat to public safety. "The 3-km-long flyover, meant to enhance safety, is now a danger to residents due to poor-quality work," he said.

OBCC engineer Dhaneswar Majhi attributed the issues to heavy vehicular traffic, which he said had damaged the protective road-wearing coat. Majhi assured that repair work was underway to address the problems. Local authorities and residents are urging swift action to ensure the flyover's safety and reliability for public use. Senior BJP leader and youth coordinator Chandra Gupta Prasad said that the hasty inauguration of the flyover and the misuse of DMF funds have led to the deteriorated state of the flyover. He has called for an investigation into the matter.

Leopard hide smuggling foiled, 3 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Umerkote, Nov 23: Acting on a tip-off, Forest officials foiled smuggling of a leopard hide to Chhattisgarh as it detained three persons during a raid at Pandripakhna village near here in Nabarangpur district Saturday. A 7-foot-long leopard hide was seized from their possession as Forest officials brought the three persons to the office and interrogated them in this connection, Divisional Forest Officer Subhendu Prasad Behera said. He said the three persons were smuggling it to Chhattisgarh on a bike with plans to sell the hide at ₹3 lakh.

5 wild boars found dead in well

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 23: Forest officials in the Telkoi range of Keonjhar forest division have recovered the decomposed carcasses of five wild boars from an abandoned well near Kardangi village in Shikheswar reserve forest under Bimla section. The boars are believed to have died of suffocation after falling into the well Friday, though the exact timing of their deaths is unknown. A post-mortem was conducted, and the bodies were buried. Environmentalists have raised concerns about the Forest department's oversight, as wild boars and other animals are increasingly venturing out of the forest in search of food.

IG Park Zoo welcomes 2 big cats

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 23: The Indira Gandhi Park Zoo of SAIL's Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has welcomed two new residents - a male and a female leopard. The big cats were relocated from the Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park in Pune, Maharashtra, as part of a Central Zoo Authority-approved exchange programme November 21. The transfer was supervised by Dr Avijit Biswas, DGM (Horticulture) and in-charge of the Zoo Development Project, and his

Dibyakanta Nayak: Making a difference in disaster zones

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: He has coordinated disaster response initiatives for more than 20 calamities spanning 11 Indian states, including several cyclones, Wayanad landslide, Sikkim glacial lake outburst flood and the Odisha train tragedy. Meet Dibyakanta Nayak, a seasoned disaster management professional and environmental advocate, who will join the Dharitri Youth Conclave 2024 in Bhubaneswar November 24 as a panellist. Currently serving as the Team Lead for Disaster Management at Reliance Foundation, Nayak plays a pivotal role in disaster response and resilience-building programmes. His work involves collaborating with grassroots NGOs, civil society organisations, youth networks, and

government bodies to provide swift and effective relief to vulnerable communities. Nayak's expertise in disaster management is rooted in over a decade of hands-on experience in states including Odisha, Assam, Sikkim, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. He has been instrumental in mobilising communities during some of India's most devastating cyclones, including Dana, Fani, Amphan, Yaas, Asani, Jawad, and Gulab. His leadership extends beyond emergency response to building long-term resilience in disaster-prone areas, particularly in Odisha - his home state. A passionate advocate for environmental conservation, Nayak has spearheaded community-led initiatives for mangrove preservation in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, and Ganjam districts. By engaging local residents, youth, and panchayat members, he has fostered awareness about the critical role mangroves play in mitigating the impact of climate change and coastal disasters. Hailing from a

coastal village in Bhadrak district, Nayak's educational credentials include an MBA in Rural Management from KIIT University and a Master's degree in Commerce from Utkal University. Combining academic rigour with field expertise, Nayak has emerged as a leading voice in disaster management and climate resilience. His efforts have also focused on youth-led initiatives, empowering young individuals to actively participate in protecting their environments. As Odisha grapples with the twin challenges of climate change and disaster vulnerability, Nayak's insights will be a vital addition to the discussions on 'Climate Change: Building Resilience' at the Dharitri Youth Conclave 2024.



Majhi buys Kandhamal turmeric at Delhi trade fair

POST NEWS NETWORK



Daringbadi, Nov 23: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi purchased Kandhamal turmeric at the ongoing India International Trade Fair (IITF) at Pragati Maidan, Delhi. During his visit to the fair, Majhi toured various stalls from Odisha and specifically visited the Mission Shakti stall from Daringbadi in Kandhamal district and bought 500 grams of organically grown Kandhamal turmeric, which has a Geographical Indication (GI) to its name. Chief Minister Majhi appreciated the product's quality and mentioned his familiarity with Daringbadi, having spent considerable time in the region. While interacting with Jharna Sahu at the Mission Shakti stall, he expressed his happiness about Kandhamal turmeric being marketed in Delhi. Later, the Chief Minister also visited a stall from Khurda, representing the Shree Anna Yojana which promotes millet cultivation through organic methods. From this stall, he purchased millet products worth approximately ₹1,000.

BJD leader's brother arrested for assaulting veggies vendor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, Nov 23: Police Saturday arrested BJD's former organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Das's brother Bhaba Prasad Das, popularly known as Lala, for allegedly assaulting a vegetable vendor in Jajpur town. Based on a complaint by vegetable vendor Nagen Nayak, police had registered a case against Bhaba under different sections of Bharatiya Naya Sanhita (BNS) at Jajpur Town police station Friday. Bhaba, the former chairperson of Jajpur Municipality, was detained by the police late Friday night and later arrested Saturday for his alleged involvement in assaulting and threatening the vegetable vendor and taking away his money in the Biraja Haat. Police brought him to the residence of the Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) in Jajpur Saturday following a medical examination. The SDJM remanded him to judicial custody as the accused did not file his bail application. The vegetable seller Nagen Nayak Friday had filed a complaint at Jajpur Town police station alleging that he was assaulted by Bhaba Prasad Das and his associates when he went



to Biraja Haat to sell his vegetables Thursday. "Bhaba along with his accomplices manhandled me and spoiled vegetables worth about ₹10,000. They also snatched away ₹1,200 from me," Nayak stated in his complaint. Two other vendors also filed separate police complaints against Bhaba Prakash Das and his accomplices for allegedly scuffling with them. Based on these complaints, three cases were registered against Bhaba at the Jajpur Town police station. Meanwhile, the case has taken a new turn as supporters of the former municipal chairman are actively pushing to exonerate him from the charges. In a surprising development, the complainant Madan Nayak

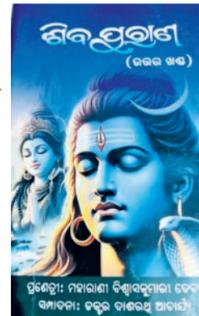
In a surprising development, the complainant changed his earlier statement during a media interaction

changed his earlier statement during a media interaction. Appearing at the police station Saturday, Nayak, visibly shaken, claimed he had falsely accused Das under duress, citing his own lack of education. Nayak further stated to the media that he had apologized to Pranab Prakash Das earlier that morning, admitting that he had been misled into making the accusations. He added that he had approached the police to withdraw the case. Adding to the intrigue, reports suggest that Nayak was transported in a vehicle belonging to an influential BJD leader to the government residence of a judge. It is alleged that an application was submitted there to withdraw the case against Bhaba Prasad Das. The incident has sparked widespread speculation on social media, with allegations of coercion or monetary influence being discussed.

Shiva Purana engraved on palm leaf by former Kalahandi royal published

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Nov 23: Shiva Purana, a mythological text, originally translated to Odia and meticulously inscribed on palm leaf by Maharani Bishwas Kumari Devi of the former princely state of Kalahandi has been published as a book. This endeavour has garnered significant attention due to its cultural and scholarly relevance. The 'uttara khanda' of Shiva Purana consists of 45 chapters. Maharani Bishwas Kumari, the queen of former Kalahandi royal Maharaja Udit Pratap Deo (1853-1881), completed the transcription of the text in 1883. Maharaja Udit Pratap Deo was a poet and Sanskrit scholar who is credited with composing Devi Bhagavata. The Shiva Purana manuscript, originally written in Sanskrit, was translated into Odia and preserved on 186 palm leaf pages, each containing approximately five lines of text. With a total of 7,302 lines spanning 45 chapters, this monumental work reflects the literary and cultural heritage of the region. The palm leaf manuscript was handed over to scholar Dasarathi Acharya by Sudhanu Sekhar Mohapatra from Bhawanipatna's Mandar Bagichapada. Mohapatra entrusted it to Acharya, who edited and published the text as 'Shiva Purana Uttarakhanda'. This historic publication remains a testament to the literary contributions of Maharani Bishwas Kumari Devi and the cultural richness of the Kalahandi region.



Sarada Prasad Parija

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved founding director, Sarada Prasad Parija, who left us on October 30th, 2024. A visionary leader and a true humanitarian, Mr. Parija dedicated his life to advancing healthcare through technology and inspired all of us at Macrosoft Associates with his unwavering commitment to social impact. His work was more than just innovation; it was driven by a deep empathy for the most vulnerable in society, especially the elderly. Mr. Parija was the driving force behind our AI-infused social impacts initiatives, including the creation of the NIMAI mobile app, designed to bring personalized and accessible mobile services to elderly citizens. Through his leadership, he bridged the gap between technology and compassionate care, transforming how care reaches those who need it most. His legacy will live on in every patient whose life has been touched by the technologies he helped bring to life. For all of us who had the privilege of working with him, Mr. Parija was not only a mentor but a guiding light. His wisdom, kindness, and vision have left an indelible mark on our lives and our work. While his absence leaves a void that can never be filled, we are committed to honoring his memory by continuing the mission he held so dear: to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others through innovation and compassion. Sarada Prasad Parija's spirit will remain with us as we move forward, inspired by his dedication and love for humanity. May his soul rest in peace, and may his legacy continue to shape a brighter, healthier future for all.

Sukanya Roy - Bikram Roy

ACT NOW OR PERISH

'Green Heroes Speak', the precursory event of Dharitri Youth Conclave 2024 - Climate Change: Building Resilience, at the Press Club of Odisha in Bhubaneswar Saturday witnessed the enthusiastic participation of young climate warriors, environmentalists, wildlife experts and nature buffs calling for immediate action to face and mitigate the disastrous consequences of the clear and present dangers of climate change. Through extensive discussions and brainstorming, the collective message was unequivocal: Act now or perish



RANJAN KUMAR PATRA
 SRIYAKANT PATNAIK
 BABUL MALIK
 RAMESH MANGULI PRADHAN
 D DEBAHARI REDDY
 PUNYA MURTHY KHRISTODAS
 BAPI GOCHHAYAT
 TRILOCHAN SAHOO
 KUNA KUMAR SAHOO
 SANJAY KUMAR NAYAK
 SAROJ KUMAR OJHA
 BAURI BANDHU BEHERA
 ANAMIKA DAS
 DIGAMBAR UPADHYAY
 RASHMI DHANWAR



BIJOY KETAN PANDA
 NIRAKAR BISOIYI
 NILAKANTHA DASH
 AISHWARYADITYA DAS
 SUBHRASIMA MOHANTY
 ROSHAN KHAMARI
 RAJESH RAY
 KALINGA BISWAL
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 SOUMYA RANJAN ROUT
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 DWITI KRUSHNA LENKA
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 SAGAR KUMAR BISWAL
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 AMBIKA PRASAD NANDA, TATA FOUNDATION CSR HEAD
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 DWITI KRUSHNA LENKA
 ADYASHA PRIYADARSHINI
 SUBASH CHANDRA JENA
 AMIYA PRASAD DAS
 ANKITA GANGADEV
 MALLIKARJUNA PATI



K RAVI
 NIRMAL PARIJA
 PRAKASH CHANDRA NAYAK
 SWASTIK KUMAR DEY
 UPASANA PATTANAYAK
 GYANA RANJAN BISWAL
 AKHAYA SAGAR
 RANJAN KUMAR MOHAPATRA
 DINA RANJAN PANDA
 NIGAMANANDA SWAIN
 CHINMAYEE DAS
 RAHUL MAHARANA
 HARANARAYAN PADHI
 GOUTTAM BEHERA
 PUPUN SAHOO
 BHISMA SAHOO
 RAJENDRA MOHAPATRA
 SIBARAM PANIGRAHI
 SAGAR KUMAR PATRO
 ASISH KUMAR SWAIN
 KSHITI RANJAN SWAIN
 NILIMA MISHRA
 SHIBANI PADHI
 DAYANANDA KHADANGA
 LAXMIDHAR PRADHAN
 PRITISH NAYAK
 SANTOSH KUMAR PRADHAN
 ARUNA NAYAK
 SAROJ BEHERA
 SUBODH KUMAR SAHU
 ASHOK KUMAR PARIDA
 ADYASHA RATH
 ARKA PRATAP MOHANTY
 SONALI SWAIN
 PRIYARANJAN DAS
 PRAFULLA DAS
 BHARAT GOURAV DAS
 PRADIPTA KAR PRADHAN
 CHINMAYEE PANDA
 MANOJ NAYAK
 CHANCHAL MISHRA
 SUNITA NAYAK
 CAPTAIN AKSHAY KUMAR DAS
 BHARAT BHUSAN RATH
 SATYABRATA PRADHAN
 PRATIK JOSHI
 SUBRAT KUMAR SAMANTA
 SATYAJIT GADUA
 AJAYA KUMAR BEHERA
 KASINATH NAYAK
 ABANI KUMAR JENA
 K SANTOSH
 MALLIKARJUNA PATI



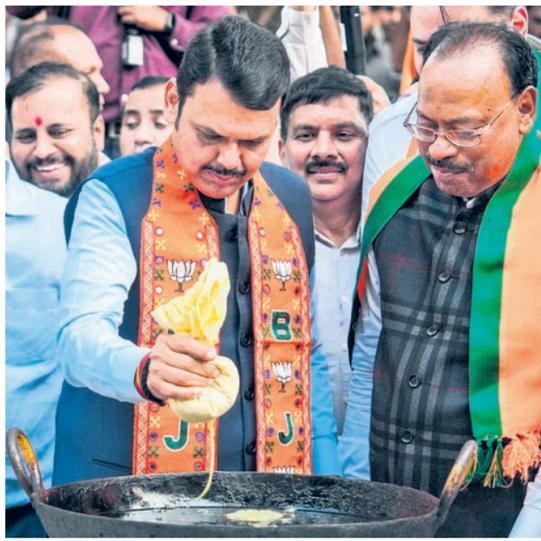
We will keep fighting for the rights of Maharashtra
UDDHAV THACKERAY | SHIV SENA (UBT) CHIEF

DIFFICULT TO DIGEST MAHA RESULTS: CONG

Shaken by the near-total rout in the Maharashtra Assembly elections, the Congress said it is "surprised by the unexpected outcome" as it was going against the public sentiments Saturday



Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and Congress party supporters celebrate their decisive lead in Jharkhand Assembly polls in Ranchi



Maharashtra DCM Devendra Fadnis prepares 'jalebi' at the BJP office after party's win in the Assembly elections



Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra being greeted as she meets party President Mallikarjun Kharge following her massive victory in the Wayanad Lok Saha bypoll

I thank people across various states for blessing NDA candidates in the various bypolls held. We will leave no stone unturned in fulfilling their dreams and aspirations

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Jai Maharashtra! Heartfelt gratitude to the people of Maharashtra for this historic mandate

AMIT SHAH | HOME MINISTER

The credit for this historic victory goes to the visionary leadership and guidance of our Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi. His exemplary leadership continues to steer the double-engine government toward ensuring security, good governance, and prosperity, while inspiring us to implement welfare schemes effectively on the ground

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

We won from Kalyana Karnataka (Sandur), Kittur Karnataka region (Shiggaon), and old Mysuru region (Channarayana). In all the places we won. So, this is very significant

SIDDARAMAIAH | K'TAKA CM

My dearest sisters and brothers of Wayanad, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the trust you have placed in me. I will make sure that over time, you truly feel this victory has been your victory and the person you chose to represent you understands your hopes and dreams and fights for you as one of your own

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

The world, the country and Uttar Pradesh saw the most distorted form of electoral politics in this byelection. There may be a time for lies but not an era

AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

The loss in Jharkhand is deeply painful for me personally, even though we secured victory in all five byelections in Assam. I have witnessed the unwavering dedication and relentless efforts of our Karyakartas in Jharkhand, who gave their all in this election

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

BYPOLLS

Ruling parties hold sway in states

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 23: Ruling parties held sway in most of the 13 states in the Assembly byelection results declared Saturday, with the BJP and its allies wrestling seats in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan and the Trinamool Congress sweeping West Bengal.

Out of the 46 seats where byelections were held, the BJP and its allies won 26, a gain of nine seats, followed by Congress with seven -- a loss of six seats. The Trinamool Congress won six, the Aam Aadmi Party three and the Samajwadi Party two seats. The LDF in Kerala and BAP in Rajasthan got one each.

Apart from this, two seats in Sikkim were won unopposed by Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) candidates. In the bypolls to two Lok Sabha constituencies, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi cruised to her maiden electoral victory from Wayanad Lok Sabha seat in Kerala with a margin of over 4.1 lakh votes against CPI(M)-led LDF's Sathyan Mokeri, but the party lost Nanded in Maharashtra to the BJP.

After the reverses in the Lok Sabha election, the ruling BJP-led alliance secured its hold over the crucial state of Uttar Pradesh with its candidates winning seven out of nine seats. The BJP retained four seats -- Ghaziabad, Khair, Majhawan and Phulpur -- and wrested Katehari and Kundark from the SP while its ally RLD retained one. The Samajwadi Party, which had four of these seats, retained Sishamau and Karhal.

As the results came in, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said it was a testament to the people's unwavering faith in the successful leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The ruling BJP won five of the seven seats in Rajasthan, wresting three from Congress



and one from the RLP. The Bharat Adivasi Party (BAP) and the Congress retained one seat each.

In a boost to the Bhagwant Mann-led government, the ruling AAP in Punjab wrested Gidderbaha, Dera Baba Nanak and Chabbawal Assembly segments from the Congress, which ousted AAP from Barnala. The ruling NDA in Bihar swept the bypolls to four Assembly segments, retaining Imamganj (HAM) and wresting from



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the results of the byelections would help her work for the people. The ruling National People's Party (NPP) in Meghalaya also got a boost as party candidate and Chief Minister Conrad Sangma's wife Mehtab Chandee Agitok Sangma wrested the Gambagre seat from Congress.

The Congress won the byelections to all three Assembly seats in Karnataka, wresting one each from the BJP and its ally JD(S). In Kerala, it retained the Palakkad Assembly seat while the ruling LDF maintained its hold in Chelakkara Assembly seat.

Giving credit to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's leadership as well as the five guarantees for the Congress party's success, Deputy Chief

- Out of the 46 seats where byelections were held, the BJP and its allies won 26, a gain of nine seats, followed by Congress with seven -- a loss of six seats
- The Trinamool Congress won six, the Aam Aadmi Party three and the Samajwadi Party two seats
- The LDF in Kerala and BAP in Rajasthan got one each

ing protests over the RG Kar incident.

The Assembly bypolls were held in nine seats in Uttar Pradesh, seven seats in Rajasthan, six seats in West Bengal, five seats in Assam, four seats each in Punjab and Bihar, three seats in Karnataka, two seats in Madhya Pradesh and Kerala, and one seat each in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Meghalaya.

Despite multiple setbacks, Cong retains Palakkad seat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Palakkad, Nov 23: In a major boost to the Opposition Congress-led UDF, its candidate Rahul Mankootathil retained the Palakkad Assembly seat, winning the bypoll by a significant margin of 18,840 votes, despite challenges posed by the BJP-led NDA and CPI(M)-headed LDF.

Mankootathil secured 58,389 votes against BJP's C Krishnakumar who garnered 39,549 votes, according to the Election Commission of India (ECI).

LDF candidate P Sarin, the former Digital Media Convener of KPCC, who switched to the left after the party announced the candidacy of Youth Congress state president Mankootathil, finished third with 37,293 votes. Krishnakumar initially led the count; however, Mankootathil gained a narrow lead of 1,425 votes in the seventh round of counting and has steadily increased his margin in the subsequent rounds.

In 2021 Assembly polls, Congress leader Shafi Parambil, who got 54,079 votes won the seat with a majority of 3,859 votes against 'Metroman' E Sreedharan, the BJP candidate who received 50,220 votes. LDF

Mankootathil secured 58,389 votes against BJP's C Krishnakumar who garnered 39,549 votes, according to the Election Commission of India

candidate C P Promod finished third with 36,433 votes. According to Congress leaders, Mankootathil won with a record majority of over 18,000 votes, the largest the party has secured in the constituency in the past two decades, and that the party has made significant inroads into BJP strongholds like Palakkad Municipality. This has boosted the confidence of the workers, who are now determined to reclaim the local body, which has been under BJP control for the past few years, they added. The bypoll campaign was marked by several political twists and controversies.

The first major incident occurred when Sarin resigned from Congress in protest over the party's decision to field Rahul Mankootathil as its candidate, later joining the CPI(M)-led alliance and running as an independent candidate.



Leader of Opposition in Kerala Assembly V D Satheesan addresses a press conference after Congress-led United Democratic Front emerged victorious in Kerala's Palakkad Assembly constituency bypoll, in Kochi

VERDICT 2024

NDA sweeps Assam bypolls, retains 4, wrests 1 from Cong

Guwahati: The BJP and its allies Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and the United Peoples' Party Liberal (UPPL) swept the by-elections in Assam, winning all five Assembly constituencies, retaining four and wresting one from the Congress. The BJP wrested the high-profile Samaguri Assembly seat, which witnessed widespread violence during campaigning, from the Congress which had held sway over the constituency for the last five terms. BJP's Dipu Ranjan Sarma defeated his opponent Tanzil Hussain of the Congress, son of former minister and the constituency's five-time MLA Rakibul Hussain, by 24,501 votes. Sarma polled 81,321 votes while Hussain secured 56,820 votes, among 11 candidates in the fray.

Punjab: AAP wrests 3 seats, Cong wins 1, BJP draws blank

Chandigarh: In a boost to Punjab's ruling AAP, the party wrested the Gidderbaha, Dera Baba Nanak, and Chabbawal Assembly segments while the Congress won the Barnala seat in the bypolls, the results of which were declared Saturday. The bypolls, which took place November 20, were necessitated after the incumbent legislators were elected to the Lok Sabha earlier this year. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) managed to breach the Congress bastion in Gidderbaha and Dera Baba Nanak, however, it lost its own stronghold of Barnala to the main Opposition party. The BJP drew a blank in the bypolls as its candidates remained at a distant third spot in the four seats.

RJD emerges as surprise element in J'khand elections

Ranchi: The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) has emerged as a surprise element in the Jharkhand Assembly elections with its candidates winning in four of the six seats where the party is contesting, according to the Election Commission's website Saturday. RJD candidates defeated sitting BJP legislators in four Assembly seats. In 2019, the RJD managed to win only the Chatra seat where Satyanand Bhokta had won. This time, in Deoghar, RJD's Suresh Paswan won by 39,721 votes over his nearest rival and BJP's sitting MLA Narayan Das. RJD's Sanjay Prasad Yadav registered a comfortable win by 21,471 votes in Godda over BJP MLA Amit Kumar Mandal. Party candidate Nares Prasad Singh won by 14,587 votes over BJP's Bishrampur MLA Ramchandra Chandravanshi. RJD's Sanjay Kumar Singh Yadav registered a victory from Hussainabad by 34,364 votes over BJP's MLA Kamlesh Kumar Singh.

Power couple behind JMM's spectacular performance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Nov 23: Call it a charismatic show by the power couple—Hemant Soren and Kalpana Soren—whom the BJP had dubbed as 'Bunty aur Babli,' Jharkhand's JMM is on track to secure a second consecutive term as part of the INDIA bloc.

Both Chief Minister Hemant Soren and his wife, legislator Kalpana Soren, who entered politics after her husband's arrest earlier this year, held nearly 200 election rallies after elections were announced. Loyal party workers have already begun celebrations, bursting crackers and distributing sweets, even though the Election Commission has yet to announce the results.

According to Election Commission, JMM was leading in 31 out of the 43 seats it contested at 1.30 pm. This performance is notable given the challenges faced by the party. Two of



its legislators, Nalin Soren and Joba Majhi, contested the Lok Sabha elections and won.

turns to power in Jharkhand, it will signify the deepened influence of the Sorens among the tribal communities, as they successfully mobilised tribal sentiments following Hemant Sore's arrest January 31 by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money-laundering case linked to an alleged land scam. Both Hemant and Kalpana managed to create a wave

HEMANT-KALPANA

Both Chief Minister Hemant Soren and his wife, legislator Kalpana Soren, who entered politics after her husband's arrest earlier this year, held nearly 200 election rallies after elections were announced

Loyal party workers have already begun celebrations, bursting crackers and distributing sweets, even though the Election Commission has yet to announce the results

of sympathy among the tribal electorate, and despite the anti-incumbency sentiment, the BJP failed to capitalise on this and form a government, according to poll analysts.

In Barhait Assembly constituency, Soren is leading with a margin of 17,347 votes over BJP's Gamliyel Hembrom. His wife Kalpana Soren, credited with revitalising the JMM after the arrest of her husband, is now leading by 1,612 votes after 14th round of counting.

A JMM worker mentioned that Kalpana Soren was referred to as the "helicopter madam" in Gande, a term used by the BJP to suggest that she was an outsider, as she isn't a local resident, unlike Muniya Devi. However, the worker added, "Kalpana may close the gap in the coming rounds."

Hemant Soren was released from jail June 28 after being granted bail by the high court. He was elected July 3 as the JMM's legislature party leader. Champai Soren then submitted his resignation to the governor, clearing the path for Hemant Soren to be sworn in as Chief Minister for a third term.

The JMM's campaign focused on promises of welfare schemes and accusations against the BJP-led Centre for using the ED and CBI as tools against rival parties. Hemant Soren also accused the BJP of spending over Rs 500 crore on "malicious campaigns" against him.



I would like to thank and congratulate the 'Maa, Mati and Manush' from the bottom of my heart. Your blessings will help us work for the people in the coming days. We are not zamindars, but the custodians of the people

MAMATA BANERJEE | CM, WEST BENGAL

FRESH SNOW IN HIGHER REACHES OF KASHMIR

Some places in the higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall Saturday, with the Met office forecasting a spell of wet weather in the Valley amid an increase in the minimum temperature, officials said. The tourist resort town of Sonamarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district and the upper areas of Gulmarg received light snow



8 killed, three hurt in Assam road mishaps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Nov 23: Eight persons were killed and three critically injured in two separate road mishaps in Assam's Bajali and Dhubri districts Saturday, police said.

Five persons were killed and two critically injured when the vehicle in which they were travelling hit a stationary truck in Bajali district.

In another accident, three persons died and another was seriously injured when the vehicle in which they were travelling collided with a stationary truck near Garehat in Agomoni area of Dhubri district.

In the Bajali mishap, the deceased were returning home to Nalbari after witnessing the ongoing 'Ras' festival when their van hit the truck at Bhabanipur, killing five persons on the spot.

The two injured persons have been admitted to Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College and Hospital and their condition was stated to be critical, police added.

In the Dhubri mishap, the victims were on their way from Gauripur to visit an ongoing 'Ras' fair at Cooch Behar in West Bengal when the accident occurred killing three persons on the spot.

The deceased have been identified as Dhanjay Roy, Bikas Kalita and Ram Roy while the injured, Khanindra Roy, is currently undergoing treatment at Dhubri Medical College Hospital.

India's 1st Constitution Museum chronicles values that shaped country

The museum is dedicated to commemorating the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution November 26, 1949

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sonapat (Haryana), Nov 23: India's first Constitution Museum opened at the OP Jindal Global University is designed to provide the citizens with a deep and engaging exploration of the Constitution's essential elements and key provisions that helped shape the nation.

The first-of-its-kind museum was inaugurated by Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Saturday in the presence of university chancellor and BJP MP Naveen Jindal.

At the museum, the visitors can immerse themselves in the sights and sounds of pre-Independence India through a

360-degree visual spectacle. Equipped with cutting-edge technology and multimedia storytelling, the exhibit unfolds the chronological tapestry of events leading to the drafting of the Constitution.

The aim is to make the Constitution both accessible and relevant, demonstrating how its values and ideals have shaped the nation, Professor C Raj Kumar, founding vice-chancellor of the university, said.

"All of us just visited the Constitution Museum. It was certainly an amazing experience, far beyond what I had imagined," Naveen Jindal said. "I plan to spend a whole day at the museum as it would teach me a lot more about the Consti-



tution than by just reading it," Jindal added.

A collaboration between the OP Jindal Global University and IIT Madras, the museum offers a unique experience through a tour guide robot called 'SAMVID' to commemorate the most significant doc-

ument that defines India as a republic, Kumar said.

The museum is dedicated to commemorating the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution November 26, 1949.

On display at the museum is one of the 1,000 photolitho-

graphic reproductions of the Constitution. The elaborately crafted original edition which took nearly five years to complete bears the signatures of the framers of the Constitution.

Prem Behari Narain Raizada rendered the calligraphy, while Nandalal Bose and other artists illustrated the original text. The manuscript was published in Dehradun and photolithographed by the Survey of India.

Anchita B Nair, CEO, Culture, and Head, Centre for Museums, has curated the museum emphasising how it steers away from the typical unidirectional tone taken by conventional museums using a multitude of formats for innovative storytelling.

NOTA usage minimal in Maha, J'khand polls

In Jharkhand, a little over one per cent (1.32 per cent) of the electorate exercised the option

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: The NOTA option once again found few takers, with 0.75 per cent of the electorate pressing the button in Maharashtra and 1.32 per cent in Jharkhand. Votes for the Assembly elections in these two states were counted Saturday.

According to Election Commission (EC) data, less than one per cent (0.75 per cent) electors used the 'none of the above' or NOTA option in Maharashtra where elections were held for 288 seats.

In Jharkhand, a little over one per cent (1.32 per cent) of the electorate exercised the option.

According to the EC, Maharashtra witnessed a 65.02 per cent voter turnout in its single-phase polls November 20.

Jharkhand recorded a voter turnout of 66.65 per cent in the first phase and 68.45 per cent in the second phase November 13 and November 20, respectively.

In the previous set of Assembly polls, more voters in Jammu and Kashmir used the NOTA option against those in Haryana.

In the elections to the 90-member Haryana Assembly, over two crore electors, 67.90 per cent had exercised their franchise. Of these, 0.38 per cent had used the NOTA option.

Introduced in 2013, the NOTA option on electronic voting machines (EVMs) has its own symbol - a ballot paper with a black cross across it.



The EC added the NOTA button on EVMs as the last option on the voting panel after a September 2013 Supreme Court order. Before the apex court's order, those not inclined to vote for any candidate had the option of filling what is popularly called Form 49-O.

But filling out the form at the polling station under Rule 49-O of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, compromised the secrecy of the voter.

The Supreme Court had, however, refused to direct the EC to hold fresh polls if the majority of the electorate exercised the NOTA option while voting.

Recently, former chief election commissioner OP Rawat had said, "In the present situation, NOTA has only symbolic significance and it cannot have an impact on the election result of any seat."

"More than 50 per cent electors will have to opt for NOTA in a seat to show the political community that they do not consider candidates with criminal backgrounds or other undeserving ones worthy of their votes. Only after this, pressure on Parliament and the Election Commission will increase and they will have to think about changing laws to make NOTA effective on the election results," he had said.

Delhi Police constable stabbed to death, 1 held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: A Delhi Police constable was stabbed to death by three people Saturday while he was on night patrolling duty in southeast Delhi's Govindpuri area, officials said, adding that one of the attackers was arrested following an encounter Saturday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (crime) Sanjay Sain said Deepak Max, 20, has been arrested by a team of Crime Branch from Govindpuri.

"Deepak received a bullet wound in his leg in retaliation by our team when he opened fire at them during his arrest near DDA flats in the afternoon," Sain said.

A sophisticated weapon has been recovered from him, he said.

Constable Kiran Pal (28) posted at Govindpuri Police Station was on the night patrolling duty when he stopped three people riding on a scooty.



Another senior police officer said Pal was on his motorbike when he spotted the trio near Govindpuri's lane number 13 around 5.30 am.

The accused also threw stones at the constable to evade arrest but he managed to waylaid them by putting his bike in front of their vehicle, the officer said.

The constable also took away the keys of the scooty and inquired the trio on suspicion. On this, an argument broke out between them.

"The accused whipped out a knife and stabbed him before leaving the spot," the officer said.

The other police personnel who were present at the nearby police booth rushed him to Majidia Hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival. He had two stab wounds in his chest and abdomen.

Sain said soon after the incident, several teams were formed to nab the accused and one of them has been arrested.

The two other accused at large and will be arrested soon, Sain added.

AHEAD OF DELHI ELECTIONS

Mahayuti's win gives BJP shot in the arm



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: With a victory secured in Maharashtra, the BJP received a shot in the arm ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls next year, with its local leaders saying the party is now set to dethrone the AAP government in the national capital with a massive win.

Even as the signs of the landslide victory of the party-led alliance emerged with counting of votes on 288 Assembly seats in Maharashtra, the BJP announced a 'Parivartan Yatra' to end the 10 year-rule of Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the Maharashtra election results were a stamp of public approval to the 'Modi magic.'

"The recent victory in Haryana polls and now, party's landslide victories in Maharashtra and the bypolls in Uttar Pradesh are big morale boosters for us. The party workers encouraged by these results will work with redoubled energy to wipe out the era of

corruption led by AAP in Delhi," Sachdeva told PTI.

He said the party will launch a 'Parivartan Yatra' soon in Delhi, and that it has formed a nine-member committee headed by Satish Upadhyay to firm up the plan.

A confident Delhi BJP posted an animation video on its X account with caption "The Lotus will bloom in Delhi also" and a background voice of late Atal Bihari Vajpayee saying "The darkness will wane, the Sun will rise and the lotus will bloom."

The BJP last won Assembly polls in Delhi way back in 1993.

The Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP has dominated the affairs in Delhi for the last one decade, registering back-to-back landslide victories in 2015 and 2020 elections.

The BJP was routed both times, managing to scrape through with just three seats in 2015 and eight in 2020.

This time, however, the party is confident of staging a comeback and end a long wait at the helm of affairs in the city.

Pets, street animals suffer as pollution levels rise in Delhi

Many animals are experiencing respiratory problems, with symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, vomiting, diarrhea, and chest congestion attributed to the city's worsening air quality

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: Rising pollution levels in Delhi are impacting pets and street animals, causing health issues and behavioural changes that have concerned pet owners and animal welfare activists, veterinarians said.

Many animals are experiencing respiratory problems, with symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, vomiting, diarrhea, and chest congestion attributed to the city's worsening air quality, they said.

Sumit Nagar, a consulting veterinary doctor with the Delhi Forest and Wildlife Department, said that there has been an increase in cases of respiratory distress among animals.

Animals face issues similar to humans, including suffocation, lung damage, and respiratory inflammation. During during Diwali, there are additional cases of shock



from noise pollution and burns, particularly in monkeys that accidentally touch wires, he said.

Pet owners are taking measures such as limiting outdoor walks to protect their pets from toxic air, but this has led to behavioural issues like pent-up energy and aggression in some dogs.

"The morning smog makes it difficult to take my dogs for walks. Exposure to toxic air causes them to cough and vomit," Sujata Bhattacharya, a resident of Pitampura said.

"Since masks are not an option for them, we have reduced outdoor time, but this has made them more aggressive. Outdoor activities are crucial for dogs to release energy, but even bathroom breaks expose them to harmful air," she said.

Cat owners have also observed changes, with many reporting their pets experiencing eye irritation and sneezing while avoiding outdoor spaces.

Ranjana Mukherjee, a pet owner from Gurugram said that her three cats have been sneezing and suffering from eye irritation.

She said her cats have stopped going outdoors, which is unusual for them and they seem low on energy due to the prevailing conditions. For street animals, the situation is even worse. Reduced visibility during smoggy mornings and nights has led to an increase in hit-and-run cases, some animal activists claimed.

LOST OF DOCUMENTS. These are documents i.e. (1) Sale Deed No. - 10821902686, along with ROR Khata No. 497/1652, Plot No. - 879/3500/4036 (2) Sale Deed No. - 10822105763, along with ROR Khata No. 497/1899, Plot No. - 878/3577, 878/3351, 879/4104 (3) Sale Deed No. - 10822001844, along with ROR Khata No. - 497/1751, Plot No. - 879/4104 (4) Sale Deed No. - 10822101872, along with ROR Khata No. - 497/1817, Plot No. - 879/3500/4036 (5) Sale Deed No. - 10821900299, along with ROR Khata No. 497/1600 Plot No. - 878/3417 (6) Sale Deed No. - 10822205896 (Road Agreement), Lease case order sheet no. - 104/95 along with ROR Khata No. - 497/105, Plot No. - 462/2477, 462/3817 (7) Rehabilitation Sale Deed - 822205702 along with ROR Khata No. 497/105, plot no. - 462/2477, 462/3817 (8) Tracing paper of plot no - An FIR has also been lodged for the same, G.D. No. 021 (Jajpur Road Adarsh Police Station) Dt. - 13.11.2024. If anyone finds the said documents then please contact to the following : Sekh Golam Mustafa, Managing Director, RSGM Techno Services Pvt. Ltd. Mobile No. 91-9090268092

इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY. CDAC, Noida, invites applications from Engineering Graduates (SC/ST/ North-East Region Communities) for One year R&D Activities in development of solutions for Electronic Toys Industry. Enhance your R&D capabilities with stipend of Rs. 25000 per month for one year. Eligibility: Engineering Graduates passing out in 2025 in Electronics, Electronics & Communication, Applied Electronics and Instrumentation, Robotics & Automation, CSE & Allied branches of CSE (AI, ML, IT, IoT etc). Selection Procedure: Candidates who meet the eligibility criteria will be shortlisted based on their problem-solving approach and performance in the interview. Important Dates: Last date of Registration: Sat, 14 Dec 2024. Problems Assignment: Fri, 20 Dec 2024. Last date for sharing the solution: Sat, 28 Dec 2024. Interview dates: Mon-Wed, 6-8 Jan 2025. Notification to selected candidates: Fri, 10 Jan 2025. Batch start date: Mon, 27 Jan 2025. Interested Candidates to fill up Registration Form: https://forms.gle/EzhJWdT88fqknnG6A. Separate hostel facility for boys and girls. For queries email at: toyproject@cdac.in. CBC-06130/12/003/2425



We will continue these tests (of new Oreshnik hypersonic missile), including in combat conditions, depending on the situation and the nature of the security threats that are created for Russia

PAK ISSUES SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN

Pakistan has issued a commemorative coin to mark Guru Nanak's 555th birth anniversary as more than 2,500 Indian Sikhs pilgrims who were here to attend the special occasion departed for their homes Saturday



international

of the day quote

We have seen, unfortunately, that criminals leaking top-secret information to the media have consistently gotten those stories wrong (regarding a report linking top Indian leaders to criminal activities on Canadian soil)



We have a plan with the aim of substituting these imports that come from China, and producing the majority of them in Mexico, either with Mexican companies or primarily North American companies



The ROK's high-tech industrial base can provide a concrete and tangible contribution to sharing the burden of maintaining peace and stability, and its support to others in the region is also part of working together for our mutual security benefit



Finance deadlock at COP29

Tension boils as two blocs of vulnerable nations leave negotiations meeting room mid-way

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baku, Nov 23: At least two groups of the world's most vulnerable countries staged a walkout of the negotiation room at the UN climate conference here Saturday expressing strong dissatisfaction with the draft agreement on climate finance for the Global South.



'GROSSLY INSUFFICIENT'

The \$250 billion amount offered by the rich nations is a far cry from the trillions required to tackle the escalating climate emergency

Developing nations have been demanding at least \$1.3 trillion annually -- 13 times the \$100 billion pledged in 2009 -- starting in 2025

They have said that a significant portion of this \$1.3 trillion should come directly in public funding from developed countries

The LDCs and the SIDS - Small Island Developing States - have been demanding that they should be given a minimum of \$220 billion and \$39 billion, respectively, from the total climate finance package.

Other developing nations criticised the draft, calling the proposed climate finance package "grossly insufficient" and "a joke."

Meanwhile, the G77 group, representing over 130 developing countries, called for the draft to reference Para 9.1 of the Paris Agreement, making it mandatory for developed nations to provide finance to developing countries.

Brandon Wu, an expert from the US-based advocacy group Action Aid said the US is demanding that the draft agreement should not refer to Para 1.

They also demanded at least \$500 billion in climate finance

by 2035.

At the UN climate conference here, countries are required to reach an agreement on a new climate finance package -- termed as the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) -- to help developing countries cut greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the warming world.

The summit was scheduled to conclude Friday but spilled into overtime as developed nations only presented a concrete climate finance figure in the closing hours.

Massive Israeli strike in Beirut kills eleven

An eight-storey building was struck with four missiles, including bunker-penetrating types designed to hit underground targets



REUTERS

Beirut, Nov 23: A powerful airstrike killed 11 people in central Beirut Saturday, the health ministry said, shaking the capital as Israel pressed its offensive against the Iran-backed Hezbollah group.

strike this week targeting a central area of Beirut, in contrast to the bulk of Israel's attacks on the capital region, which have hit the Hezbollah-controlled southern suburbs. On Sunday an Israeli airstrike killed a Hezbollah media official in the Ras al-Nabaa district of central Beirut.

An eight-storey building was struck with four missiles, including bunker-penetrating types designed to hit underground targets, said a Lebanese security source.

The Israeli air force also struck Hezbollah targets in the southern suburbs of Beirut, the group's stronghold, the Israeli military said. In a statement on actions Saturday, it did not mention the strike on central Beirut.

Israel has used bunker-busting weapons to kill senior Hezbollah figures, including its veteran leader Hassan Nasrallah in a strike on southern Beirut in September.

It accused Hezbollah of embedding its infrastructure in civilian areas and using the population as human shields, allegations the group denies.

At the site of the Israeli strike in central Beirut, Amin Chirri, a Member of Parliament representing Hezbollah, said there had been no Hezbollah leader in the building that was struck.

Separately, at least five people were killed and two wounded in an Israeli strike on Roum village in southern Lebanon Saturday, according to the Lebanese state news agency.

The Israeli military made no comment. Saturday's blasts shook the capital at around 4 am (0200 GMT) and left a deep crater. Beirut smelled strongly of explosives for hours afterwards.

Israel launched a major offensive against Hezbollah in Lebanon in September, following nearly a year of cross-border hostilities ignited by the Gaza war, pounding wide areas of Lebanon with airstrikes and sending troops into the south.

Rescuers searched through rubble, in an area of the city known for its antique shops. It was the fourth Israeli air-

SHORT TAKES

Indian national charged in US

Washington: A 57-year-old Indian national has been arrested in the US on charges of procuring aerospace components on behalf of Russian entities in violation of export control laws. Sanjay Kaushik, Managing Partner of New Delhi-based air charter services provider Arezo Aviation, was arrested in Miami October 17 after he landed from India on an official travel, the Department of Justice said in a press release Friday.

EU recalls envoy from Niger

Niamey: The European Union will recall its ambassador from Niger after the country's ruling military questioned an EU delegation's management of humanitarian aid meant for flood victims, the European External Action Service (EEAS) said Saturday. Niger's junta issued a statement Friday accusing the EU ambassador in the West African country of dividing a 1.3 million euro fund to assist flood victims between several international NGOs in an non-transparent manner, and without collaborating with the authorities.

No relief for Khan's wife

Lahore: Multiple cases have been registered in Punjab province of Pakistan against jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi for allegedly speaking against Saudi Arabia, officials said here Saturday. At least four cases were registered against Bushra Bibi under the Telegraph Act of 1885 and other provisions on the complaint of citizens who blamed her for inciting religious hatred, misleading the public and attacking a brotherly country, Saudi Arabia, officials said. In a video statement, Bushra Bibi said Khan's problems began when he visited Medina and was seen coming out of his plane without shoes. She claimed then army Chief Qamar Javed Bajwa received calls after the incident.

Sudanese army recaptures capital of Sinnar State

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Port Sudan, Nov 23: The Sudanese government Saturday announced that the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) recaptured Singa, the capital city of Sinnar State in central Sudan, which had been controlled by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

"Today (Saturday), Singa city has returned to the homeland. The moment of justice and accountability shall come, and all those complicit in these crimes. The criminals will be held accountable for their actions," Khalid Aleisir, the Sudanese minister of culture and information, said in a statement.



"The confidence that the Sudanese people have in their armed forces, intelligence, and other regular forces, the joint forces and mobilized forces, will remain strong and unwavering regardless of internal and external threats," he noted, Xinhua news agency reported.

The RSF had controlled Singa for months. Since early October, the SAF has been fighting the RSF in the region to drive the paramilitary forces out of the state.

SNIPPETS

King Charles, Queen Camilla planning India tour: UK media



London: Britain's King Charles III is planning an official visit to India in the near future as part of a government charm offensive and an added boost for his health since a cancer diagnosis earlier in the year, a UK media report claimed Saturday. According to the 'Daily Mirror', the 76-year-old monarch and his wife, Queen Camilla, 77, made a "private stopover" at a wellness resort in Bengaluru last month on their way back from Australia and Samoa and are believed to be planning a return. "It's hugely encouraging to be able to make such plans for the King and Queen given the year the monarch has had, but it's very much full steam ahead," the newspaper quoted a source as saying.

NATO chief holds talks with Trump



Brussels: NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte met US President-elect Donald Trump in Palm Beach, Florida, Friday, a spokesperson for the transatlantic military alliance said Saturday. "They discussed the range of global security issues facing the Alliance," the spokesperson, Farah Dakhallah, said in a brief statement. On its website, NATO said Rutte and his team also met with Congressman Mike Waltz, Trump's pick to be his national security adviser when he returns to the White House, and other members of the President-elect's national security team. On Friday, NATO did not respond to requests for comment on Dutch media reports that Rutte, a former Prime Minister of the Netherlands, had flown to Florida on a Dutch government plane to meet Trump.

Sectarian violence in Pak claims 37

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Peshawar, Nov 23: At least 37 people were killed and several others injured in tribal sectarian violence in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province over last 24 hours, police said Saturday even as government officials said negotiations with local and tribal elders to restore peace are progressing successfully.

The clashes between Alizai and Bagan tribes in Kurram district, bordering Afghanistan, in northwest Pakistan took place following Thursday's attack on a convoy of passenger vans near Parachinar in which 47 people were killed.



Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has issued clear instructions to resolve all issues through dialogue and negotiations, ensuring long-term stability in the region, a government spokesperson said. "At least 37 are dead as now," an official tasked with collecting details of the carnage told the media here. More than 30 people are injured, he added. The tribes are targeting each other with heavy and automatic weapons, police said. Homes and shops have been damaged in the fighting and people from various villages have fled to safer locations.

All educational institutions in the district remained closed on Saturday, confirmed Muhammad Hayat Hassan, chairman of the Private Education Network.

Videos shared from the area showed at least six bodies of the attackers and some charred bodies of the victims. Police also said that there were reports of six women taken as captives but "due to limited connectivity, information and communication is scant to ascertain anything more."

Gunfire continued in Balishkhel, Khar Kali, Kunj Alizai and Maqbal through the day, police said, adding, currently there is intermittent firing from at least three areas in the district, while the Thall-Sa-

da-Parachinar Highway remained closed from traffic towards Kohat district.

As officials struggled to reinforce peace in the volatile region, communication from the elders of both the tribal sects suggested further intensified attacks.

Meanwhile, the KP provincial government dismissed reports of firing at a helicopter carrying a high-level government delegation comprising Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Law Minister, Chief Secretary and Inspector General of Police going towards the Kurram tribal district.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government spokesman Barrister Saif dismissed as "baseless" the reports of firing on the helicopter in Parachinar area and confirmed that the delegation was completely safe.

Russian strikes have damaged 321 ports: Zelenskyy



REUTERS

Kyiv, Nov 23: Russian drone and missile attacks have damaged 321 Ukrainian port infrastructure facilities since July last year, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Saturday.

Twenty merchant ships belonging to other countries were also damaged by Russian strikes, he added.

"Overall, Ukrainian food exports provide food for 400 million people in 100 countries around the world," Zelenskyy said. "Food prices in Egypt, Libya, Nigeria, and other countries in Africa directly depend on whether farmers and agricultural companies in Ukraine can operate normally."

Moscow has repeatedly denied that it attacks civilian targets. Ukraine is a major global wheat and corn grower and before the Russian invasion it exported about 6 million tons of grain per month via the Black Sea.

When Russia launched its invasion in February 2022, it blockaded Ukraine's Black Sea ports. Shipments were resumed in July 2022 under the Black Sea Grain Initiative, a deal mediated by the United Nations and Turkey. But a year later Russia exited the agreement.

Since then, Ukraine has exported grain and other food products using its own corridor, which passes through the territorial waters of Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey.

Moscow bans children adoption to gender-transition countries

The bills, which were previously approved by both houses of Russia's Parliament, follow a series of laws that have suppressed sexual minorities and bolstered longstanding conventional values

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Nov 23: Russian President Vladimir Putin Saturday signed into law a bill banning adoption of Russian children by citizens of countries where gender transitioning is legal.



The Kremlin leader also approved legislation that outlaws the spread of material that encourages people not to have children.

The bills, which were previously approved by both houses of Russia's Parliament, follow a series of laws that have suppressed sexual minorities and bolstered longstanding conventional values.

Russian lower house Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin, who was among the new bill's authors, said in a Telegram post in July that "it is extremely important to eliminate possible dangers in the form of gender reassignment that adopted children may face in these countries."

The adoption ban would apply to at least 15 countries, most of them in Europe, and Australia, Argentina and Canada

couraging population decline. Putin and other top officials in recent years have increasingly called for observing so-called traditional values as a counter to Western liberalism. As Russia's population declines, Putin has made statements advocating large families and last year urged women to have as many as eight children. Russia last year banned gender-transition medical procedures and its Supreme Court declared the LGBTQ+ "movement" to be extremist.

In 2022, Putin signed a law prohibiting the distribution of LGBTQ+ information to people of all ages, expanding a ban issued in 2013 on disseminating the material to minors.

Since he sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022, the Kremlin leader has repeatedly characterised the West as "satanic" and accused it of trying to undermine Russia by exporting liberal ideologies.

Independent journalists, critics, activists and opposition figures in Russia have come under increasing pressure from the government in recent years, intensifying significantly amid the conflict in Ukraine. Hundreds of nongovernmental groups and individuals have been designated as a "foreign agent", a label that implies additional government scrutiny and carries strong pejorative connotations.



India is setting standards in pharmaceuticals. As US FDA Standards are useful for exports, can we, in India, not have Bharat Food and Drug Administration (FDA) which can give global standards and benchmarks? We need to focus on that

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FM

MYNTRA PILOTS FORAY INTO QUICK COMMERCE

Flipkart-backed lifestyle e-commerce platform Myntra is piloting a quick delivery service that guarantees delivery within two hours in select areas of Bangalore. The pilot project, "M-Now," is operational in a few pin codes in Bangalore and offers a limited selection of products "to see how it works", according to a source



of the day **note**

Fresh allocations or significant investments are likely to occur once there is greater clarity regarding the Trump administration's policies

VIPUL BHOWAR | SENIOR DIRECTOR, LISTED INVESTMENTS, WATERFIELD ADVISORS

On Monday, the market will react to the outcome of state assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand along with other global triggers including developments in the Russia-Ukraine war

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA | HEAD (RESEARCH, WEALTH MANAGEMENT), MOTILAL OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

With growing investments in AI, automation, and security, the industry is poised to deliver enhanced resilience and inclusivity

HARIN MEHTA | CHAIRMAN, ANMI

SHORT TAKES

Hyundai, Kia recall over 2L EVs in US

New York: Automakers Hyundai and Kia are recalling nearly 208,000 electric vehicles (EVs) in the US owing to an issue that could cause the vehicles to suddenly lose power. As per filings with the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the issue is with the Integrated Charging Control Unit (ICCU) that "may become damaged and stop charging the 12-volt battery, which can result in a loss of drive power." "Dealers will inspect and replace the ICCU and its fuse, as necessary. In addition, dealers will update the ICCU software. All repairs will be performed free of charge," said the recall notification on NHTSA website.

Bansal steps down from PhonePe board

New Delhi: Flipkart's co-founder Binny Bansal has stepped down from the board of PhonePe, the fintech company said Friday. PhonePe also announced the appointment of Manish Sabharwal as an Independent Director and Chair of its Audit Committee. In this role, Sabharwal will be instrumental in upholding the integrity and effectiveness of PhonePe's financial reporting, internal controls, and risk management practices, the company said in a release. "PhonePe also announced that Flipkart's co-founder, Binny Bansal has stepped down from its Board of Directors. Binny acquired PhonePe in 2016 and has been on its Board since then," the release said.

REALTY CRISIS

Construction cost for housing sector zooms

39% rise in 4 years on surging rates of building materials, labour, says Colliers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: The average cost of construction for housing projects in big cities has increased by 39 per cent in the last four years to Rs 2,780 per sq ft, with building materials and labour becoming expensive, according to Colliers India.

Real estate consultant Colliers India data shows that the average construction cost for premium housing projects stood at Rs 2,000 per square feet in October 2020.

The construction cost rose to Rs 2,200 per square feet in October 2021, Rs 2,300 per sq ft in October 2022, Rs 2,500 per sq ft in October 2023 and Rs 2,780 per square feet in October 2024.

Colliers India said these are average costs for a Grade A residential building of 15 floors. The data pertains to tier-1 cities. Over the last one year, the consultant said the average cost of construction of housing projects rose 11 per cent due to a significant surge in labour costs coupled with a moderate price increase in construction materials like sand, brick, glass, wood etc.

Notably, the cumulative effect of a rise in the prices of four key construction materials, including cement, steel, copper and aluminium, has been relatively low.

Average cement prices have seen a steep decline of 15 per



The construction cost rose to ₹2,200 per sq ft in Oct 2021, Rs 2,300 per sq ft in Oct 2022, ₹2,500 per sq ft in Oct 2023 and ₹2,780 per sq ft in Oct 2024

cent, while average steel prices have witnessed a marginal 1 per cent decrease over the last 12 months. However, the consultant pointed out that the labour cost rose 25 per cent in the last one year.

The average rate of copper and aluminium increased by 19 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively.

Badal Yagnik, Chief Executive Officer, Colliers India, said, "While the rise in prices of key construction materials was relatively modest over the last year, labour costs have been driving the overall cost of construction upward".

"With labour accounting for more than one-fourth of overall construction cost, a 25 per cent

annual rise in labour costs has stretched construction budgets and impacted operational expenses."

Moreover, Yagnik said the need for skilled labour and the associated costs for training, safety and regulatory compliance further add to spiralling labour costs.

To navigate the steady rise in overall construction costs and associated challenges, Colliers India said that developers are optimising costs by reassessing budgets. Real estate developers are also looking at improving supply chain management by diversifying suppliers and opting for localised sourcing of key construction materials, the consultant added.

US charges linked to only one contract: Adani CFO

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 23: A US bribery indictment of Indian billionaire Gautam Adani is linked to one contract of Adani Green Energy that makes up some 10% of its business, and no other firms in the conglomerate are accused of wrongdoing, the group's CFO said Saturday.

On Wednesday, Gautam Adani, one of the world's richest men, and seven others were indicted for fraud by US prosecutors over their alleged roles in a \$265 million scheme to bribe Indian officials to secure power-supply deals.

Adani has denied all allegations calling them "baseless".

Group CFO Jugeshinder Singh sought to defend the allegations Saturday saying none of Adani's 11 public companies "are subject to indictment" or "are accused of any wrongdoing in the said legal filing".

The allegations in the US indictment relates to "one contract of Adani Green, which is roughly 10% of overall business of Adani Green", Singh said on X.

The US indictment has already had a significant impact on the business.

The group entity's shares have plummeted, some global banks are considering temporarily halting, opens new tab fresh credit to Adani and Kenya has cancelled two deals with Adani worth over \$2.5 billion.

Adani, which has several other global projects, is also charged with misleading US investors about Adani Green's compliance with antibribery principles and laws. Singh said

BRIBERY CASE



Adani denies allegations, calls them baseless

US charges impact Adani's shares, credit access

Adani Green accused of misleading US investors on compliance

Saturday, they became aware of the "specificity" of the US charges only two days ago.

"We were aware that something is afoot," he said, adding the company disclosed as much to investors in its \$750 million 2024 bond offering, about

\$175 million of which was raised from financial institutions in the United States.

The US indictment, however, says the bond offering "contained false and misleading assurance about, among other things, the Indian Energy Company's (Adani Green's) 'corporate governance' and touted 'maintaining transparency and compliance in every aspect'."

The charges also put the spotlight on Sagar Adani, a director at Adani Green and millennial scion of the company who kept track of hundreds of millions of dollars of alleged bribes to Indian officials on his mobile phone.

US prosecutor charges are the biggest setback for \$143bn Adani Group, which was last year hit by Hindenburg Research's allegations of improper use of offshore tax havens, claims the company denied

India, EU firm up roadmap for green H2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: India and the European Union (EU) have finalised an extensive roadmap for the green hydrogen sector that includes development of infrastructure, technology co-operation and boosting supply chains.

The two sides deliberated on ways to enhance cooperation in the sector at the 10th meeting of the India-EU Energy Panel held Thursday in Brussels.

At the meeting, a "work plan" was adopted for the third phase of the India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership 2025-28, which will focus on deeper cooperation in five priority areas, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

The priority areas are green hydrogen, offshore wind energy, regional connectivity, electricity market integration and smart grids, energy efficiency, and energy and climate diplomacy.



"The two sides have set out an extensive agenda for green hydrogen cooperation, which includes assessing infrastructure development feasibility, regulatory and technology co-operation, and strengthening of supply chains," the MEA said Saturday.

It said the energy panel focused on the energy transition priorities of the two sides and took stock of the achievements of the second phase of the India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership 2021-2024.

The two sides undertook and completed joint initiatives involving technical cooperation in 51 activities divided into nine sectors, it added.

"The two sides have also charted out the framework for green hydrogen cooperation, which includes cooperation on green hydrogen policies of India and the EU," the MEA said.

The EU and EU member states participated in the international conference on green

The priority areas are green hydrogen, offshore wind energy, regional connectivity, electricity market integration and smart grids, energy efficiency, and energy and climate diplomacy

hydrogen this year in India.

On its part, India joined as an exclusive country partner of European Hydrogen Week 2024.

"India and the EU also entered into long-term research commitments to jointly support research in clean energy projects as part of the India-EU trade and technology council working group on clean and green technologies, which was established in January 2023," the MEA said.

APRIL-OCTOBER PERIOD

India's bilateral trade with ASEAN sees 5.2% growth



ASEAN, as a group, is one of the major trade partners with about 11% share in India's global trade

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 23: India's bilateral trade with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) saw 5.2 per cent growth to reach \$73 billion during the April-October period this fiscal, the government informed Saturday.

ASEAN, as a group, is one of the major trade partners with about 11 per cent share in India's global trade. The bilateral trade in FY2023-24 was \$121 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The sixth ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITGA) joint committee and related meetings for discussions on the review of the AITGA were held from November 15-22 in the national capital.

The leaders and delegates from all 10 ASEAN countries - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam - participated in the meeting.

The visit of ASEAN delegates to New Delhi and their presence was utilised by convening bilateral meetings with Thailand and Indonesian teams on the sidelines for discussion on bilateral trade issues.

The Indian and ASEAN chief negotiators also had a separate meeting to develop a mutual understanding of the issues under discussion and the way forward.

"The review of AITGA will be a step forward in enhancing trade with the ASEAN region in a sustainable manner. The next meeting of the AITGA Joint Committee is scheduled in February 2025 in Jakarta, Indonesia," according to a ministry statement.

There are eight sub-committees under the AITGA joint committee to negotiate aspects related to market access, rules of origin, SPS measures, standards and technical regulations, customs procedures, economic and technical cooperation, trade remedies, and legal and institutional provisions.

Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures are biosecurity measures designed to protect human, animal or plant life or health from the introduction, establishment and spread of pests and diseases, additives, toxins and contaminants in food and feed.

India among top 10 nations with AI readiness

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 23: India is among the top ten countries in Artificial Intelligence (AI) readiness, and the country holds immense potential for public sector transformation through AI, according to a report.

"Readiness" for AI refers to an economy's ability to effectively implement and integrate AI. The report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) based on data from 73 economies showed that India ranks second globally in AI specialists, and third in research publications, with a strong base in AI-related patents.

On the other hand, over 70 per cent of the economies studied score below average in critical areas such as ecosystem participation, skills, and research and development.



"India ranks second globally in AI specialists and 3rd in research publications, with a strong base in AI-related patents," said Mario Gonsalves, who leads BCG's Public Sector practice in India.

The report further showed that AI exposure spans several

key sectors in India. Business services account for 16 per cent of GDP and have significant AI exposure, with potential improvements in administrative efficiency for government operations.

Retail and wholesale make up 10 per cent of GDP, where AI

India's journey to becoming an AI contender underscores the nation's emphasis on integrating technology into high-priority sectors like agriculture, education, and healthcare. As one of the top 10 countries in AI readiness, India holds immense potential for public sector transformation through AI

SAIBAL CHAKRABORTY | INDIA LEADER, TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL ADVANTAGE PRACTICE, BCG

could streamline public distribution and supply chain management, reducing wastage. Public services represent 6 per cent of GDP, with opportunities for AI to enhance service delivery and emergency response.

Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries contribute 17 per cent

of GDP and could use AI in precision farming and risk assessment to boost productivity.

The construction sector, at 8 per cent of GDP, can utilise AI for infrastructure planning and asset maintenance. Arts, recreation, and personal services, also at 8 per cent, could benefit from AI in managing public facilities.

"Realising this potential requires a multi-faceted approach: strengthening infrastructure, enhancing AI research capabilities, and expanding workforce training. Investments in research hubs, cloud capabilities, and data systems are critical, alongside efforts to expand AI education in rural areas and foster public-private collaborations," Saibal Chakraborty, India Leader, Technology and Digital Advantage Practice, BCG.

India gain complete control

■ Jaiswal, Rahul shine bright as Men in Blue lead with 218-run

■ Bumrah deservedly got his 11th five-wicket haul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Perth, Nov 23: Yashasvi Jaiswal combined game awareness with perfect shot selection while KL Rahul remained technically unflappable in an unbroken opening stand of 172 as India looked set to bat Australia out of the match with an overall lead of 218 runs on the second day of the opening Test here.

After skipper Jasprit Bumrah's game-changing 11th five-wicket haul decimated Australia for 104, young Jaiswal (90 batting, 193 balls) and seasoned Rahul (62 batting, 154 balls) decided to grind it out with some old fashioned Test match batting by waiting for the loose deliveries and respecting good fast bowling.

The Indians showed their compact defense by scoring 88 runs in 31 overs during the post-tea session as Jaiswal inched towards a coveted ton on his maiden outing on Australian soil.

With enough time at their disposal and signs of cracks appearing on the surface, this is going to be India's Test match to lose.

The way Rahul wore down the Australian attack was a sight to behold. There was no chatter from the slip cordon and at one point, the stitches of the Kookaburra came out.

The live grass died by the second afternoon and the seam movement also went out of equation making batting easier.

But no one can take away any credit from the two who were hardly troubled except for a

mix-up that could have led to Rahul's run-out.

Jaiswal also showed that he had learnt his lessons from the first innings and curbed his urge to drive on the up initially, which was the best



part about his batting. Each of his seven fours and two sixes were well-executed shots.

Once he had defended enough deliveries, the Australian pacers didn't have any option but to try either short or full length which he utilised well.

The whip over mid-wicket to hit Starc for one-bounce four and then induce a grin from the pacer by telling him "you

are slow", spoke volumes about how fearless the current generation of Indian cricketers is.

In the final session, he flicked him for good measure for a maximum.

Rahul's back-drive off Pat Cummins can easily be called the shot of the match but it was heartening to see Jaiswal put in a big stride forward while driving Mitchell Starc through

covers apart from getting under the bounce and playing the ramp shot.

In case of Rahul, he kept a very loose bottom-hand and that helped with the deliveries, even the ones that took the thickish edge only to fall way in front of the slip cordon.

There was a spell of play in the post-tea session when Indians were kept quiet by Na-

than Lyon but neither Jaiswal nor Rahul ran out of patience. Jaiswal's half-century came off 123 balls, his slowest in 15 Tests and spoke volumes about his adaptability.

For Rahul, it was about forgetting the unfortunate dismissal Friday and concentrate, which he did splendidly.

Any target above 300 would be very difficult to chase on this track and Washington Sundar can come into play if those cracks open up, not to forget the three quicks who can use the variable bounce to good effect.

In the morning, India captain Bumrah deservedly got his 11th five-wicket haul while debutant Harshit Rana bowled a fiery opening spell to dismiss the hosts for 104 at the stroke of lunch despite a stiff last-wicket resistance from Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood.

Starc (26 off 113 balls) shielded Hazlewood (7 not out off 31 balls) admirably during their 25-run last-wicket stand that lasted 18 overs.

The day began with Bumrah (5/30 in 18 overs) getting one to rear up from back of the length and Carey's edge carried at a good height to Rishabh Pant behind stumps.

The skipper's celebration was understated as he purposefully strode back to his bowling mark even before Nathan Lyon had arrived. At the other end, the burly Harshit Rana (3/48 in 15.2 overs) carried on from where he had left off on the opening day.

The rookie speedster used more short balls, and one such well-directed delivery accounted for Lyon, who was pounced at gully by KL Rahul.

■ SANTOSH TROPHY

Odisha rout Chhattisgarh 4-1 to make final rounds



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amritsar, Nov 23: Odisha qualified for the final rounds of the 78th National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy from Group F qualifiers when they defeated Chhattisgarh 4-1 at the GNDU Sports Complex Saturday.

Odisha won both matches in the three-team group to collect six points. They scored 10 goals and conceded two.

Odisha began their onslaught early and picked up the first goal in the fourth minute. Skillful striker Roshan Panna, always in the thick of things, did the initial spadework by cutting past a couple of defenders before sending a cross from the right.

Jitu Muduli, who was waiting inside the area, gave the final touches with a deft header. Kartik Hantal, another notable creator of Odisha attacks, added the second goal in the 39th minute.

Odisha continued pounding the rival goal in the second half and picked up their third goal in the 53rd minute when Kartik Hantal added the second to his individual tally by making the most of a counter-attack. He ran into an empty Chhattisgarh box to slam home.

The next goal came a couple of minutes later. Muduli and Panna played among themselves to clear the defence before the latter found the target. Avishek Kunjam scored the consolation goal for Chhattisgarh off a penalty in the 84th minute.

SUNDAY FIXTURES

Group A (Amritsar): Jammu and Kashmir vs Ladakh; Himachal Pradesh vs Punjab

Group E (Nalbari): Assam vs Meghalaya; Arunachal Pradesh vs Nagaland

Group H (Kozhikode): Lakshadweep vs Railways; Kerala vs Pondicherry

SHORT TAKES

Singh betters own NR

New Delhi: Asian Games bronze medallist Gulveer Singh Saturday bettered his own national record in 10,000m race while winning gold in the 2024 Hachioji Long Distance meet in Japan. The 26-year-old Singh clocked 27 minute 14.88 seconds to win the race at Hachioji, near Tokyo. His earlier national record in the event was 27:41.81s which he had clocked March 16 at The TEN event in San Juan, USA. He had won a bronze medal in the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games with a time of 28:17.21s. Singh currently holds both the 5000m and 10000m national records. In September also, he had bettered his own 5000m national record with a time of 13:11.82s at the Japan athletics meet.

Kane's new milestone

Munich: Harry Kane is the quickest player to score 50 goals in the Bundesliga after scoring a hat trick on his 43rd appearance Friday. Kane's three goals - including two penalties - gave Bayern a 3-0 win over Augsburg, stretching the Bavarian powerhouse's lead to eight points ahead of the rest of the 11th round. Kane scored 36 goals in 32 league appearances last season, his first for Bayern after joining from Tottenham. It was also the first season since 2012 that Bayern failed to win the title, as Bayer Leverkusen went undefeated to snap Bayern's winning run. As well as 14 league goals this season, Kane has scored five in the Champions League and one in the German Cup.

WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Gukesh overwhelming fav but Liren can't be ruled out

This year's tournament marks the first time in 138 years that two Asian players will pitted against each other in the World Chess Championship, that is offering a prize fund of \$2.5 million.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Nov 23: Aggression will be the name of the game when Indian youngster D Gukesh, already an overwhelming favourite, and seasoned Ding Liren clash in the World championship match even as top players cautioned against writing off the formidable Chinese player.

Starting Monday with the first game, the players are slated to play a maximum of 14 Classical games and the one to cross the 7.5 points marker first will be declared the winner in the \$2.5 million championship.

In case of a tied result, the games of shorter duration will be played to determine the winner.

As per history, the defending champion has always been given preference over the challenger but the recent performances by both Gukesh and Liren have turned the tide in the favour for the 18-year old Indian, who is incidentally the youngest ever challenger and has the chance to be the youngest ever world champion.

For the records, Liren has slipped to number 23 in world



rankings following a string of below average performances since he won the title in 2023.

Gukesh, on the other hand, has risen to number 5 in world ranking and was simply dominant when he annexed the Candidates' title that qualified him to take on Liren earlier this April.

Liren's freefall has been attributed to some mental health issues including depression that kept the Chinese away from competitive chess for the major part of 2023. His return in early 2024 was marked by below par performances and the Chinese had himself conceded that he might lose the match badly

some time back.

However, the match is a different ball game in chess wherein it's not only the skills but also a contest of characters. Liren has proven once that he holds the aces as far as playing tough matches is concerned by beating Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi last year while Gukesh is still looking for that experience.

According to highest rated Indian and world number four Arjun Erigaise, "Gukesh will crush Liren" but world number one Carlsen believes that Liren at his peak will be a well-rounded player compared to the Indian at his peak.

Satwik-Chirag bows out of China Masters semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shenzhen (China), Nov 23: The Indian men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty bowed out in the semifinals of the China Masters Super 750 badminton tournament, losing in three games to Korea's Jin Yong and Seo Seung Jae Saturday.

Competing in their first event since the Paris Olympics, the former world number one Indian pair, who had reached the finals in the last edition, couldn't maintain the pressure in a 74-minute encounter, going down 18-21, 21-14, 16-21 to the unseeded Korean duo.

The opening game saw a neck-and-neck battle, with both pairs engaging in fierce rallies. Satwik and Chirag held a slim 11-10 lead at the mid-game interval. The Indians then established a 15-12 ad-

vantage as Jin struggled with rhythm during short rallies. However, a service fault call against Chirag and a lucky net chord for the Koreans helped them level at 16-16.

The left-handed Korean pair gained momentum, taking a 17-16 lead and eventually clinching the game after Chirag's return found the net.

In the second game, the Indians played with energy, leading 8-6 before winning a thrilling 47-shot rally to extend their lead to 15-10.

The final game began with Chirag once again called for a service height fault.

Trailing 7-13, the Indians mounted a spirited comeback, winning six of the next seven points to close the gap to 13-14. They kept the pressure on, staying within striking distance at 15-16, but the Koreans held firm, extending their lead to 18-15.



■ CT IMBROGLIO

PCB says no meeting with ICC, BCCI bosses



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, Nov 23: The Pakistan Cricket Board Saturday brushed aside reports that its officials will be holding a virtual meeting with their counterparts at International Cricket Council (ICC) and Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) November 26 to resolve the uncertainty surrounding the Champions Trophy.

The announcement of the schedule for the marquee event has been delayed after BCCI has conveyed its inability to send the Indian team to Pakistan for the tournament.

"We have no information from the ICC about any meeting between us, BCCI and ICC," a reliable PCB source told PTI.

He also said the PCB is yet to receive any response from the ICC on the email it has sent to the global body asking for the reasons about India's reluctance to send the team to the neighbouring nation.

However, an ICC source clarified that an internal meeting Tuesday could take place to find a solution for the vexed issue.

"It is a virtual meeting of the Executive Board members to resolve the issue of the Champions Trophy schedule once for all," he disclosed.

He said the meeting has been called since the broadcaster of the event has been putting a lot of pressure on ICC to finalise the schedule.

"There is a chance that there could be a vote on what to do and whether the event should be held - in Pakistan, relocate it or adopt the Hybrid Model as suggested by the BCCI with India playing its matches in the UAE," he added.

The official conceded that this time the PCB has also taken a strong stance and was not willing to budge from its stance of holding the Champions Trophy in Pakistan, as they have no issues in hosting any team. "The PCB has also made it clear that even if the Hybrid model is adopted it will not play its group match against India in Dubai," the source said.

577 PLAYERS TO GO UNDER THE HAMMER

IPL Auction: Pant set for date with history

There will be ₹641.5 crore cumulatively in the kitty of 10 teams with 204 possible slots to be filled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), Nov 23: The bids on Rishabh Pant could well soar like his audacious no-look six at Perth as he seems poised to become the highest paid player among the 577 who will go under the hammer at the two-day IPL mega auction starting here Sunday.

There will be Rs 641.5 crore cumulatively in the kitty of 10 teams with 204 possible slots to be filled but one can be rest assured that all eyes will be trained on Pant's name when it comes up. Punjab Kings, with Rs 110.50 crore in their coffers, are ready to outbid the other franchises.

Royal Challengers Bangalore, with Rs 83 crore, can be

another serious bidder, so can be Delhi Capitals, who have Rs 73 crore and a Right To Match (RTM) card to get their skipper for past few seasons back.

However, it is reliably learnt that Pant doesn't want DC to flash the RTM card as their parting of ways has not been the most pleasant and he no longer feels a part of the franchise. His comment that "my Retention wasn't about money for sure" is a reflection of his thought process.

But the biggest question will be whether Pant can become the first Indian player to breach the Rs 25 crore mark? The answer lies in how the 10 franchises are stacked up and how they are looking at their



team composition.

A Chennai Super Kings (CSK) or Mumbai Indians (MI), with only Rs 45 crore, wouldn't even be going for the star keeper-batter.

But Punjab Kings, known for changing their team every

two years, have kept their entire purse on advice of their head coach Ricky Ponting, who wants to reunite with his favourite player.

There are 81 players bracketed in Rs two crore category base price and two sets of mar-

quee players but one can trust the current India internationals to breach the million dollar mark (Rs 8.5 crore).

If Pant would be the cynosure of this auction, Arshdeep Singh, with a staggering 96 T20 International wickets in three seasons, can easily have multiple teams going for him.

Punjab has the RTM card but they wouldn't know where the bidding stops as it could be north of Rs 20 crore.

Fast bowlers - both Indian and foreign - will be in high demand during the two days while in case of batters, most of the star Indians save Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul are taken. Iyer is believed to be Delhi Capitals' choice for captaincy.

Pant, Rahul and Iyer are three potential captains as RCB, Kolkata Knight Riders, Lucknow Super Giants, Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings are also going to shop for possible leaders. Among Indians, Ishan Kishan will keep the auctioneer busy although MI might not be in a position to shell out Rs 15.25 crore like last time as they need some good bowling support for Bumrah.

The other interesting name would be Mohammed Shami, who Sanjay Manjrekar thinks won't attract too many bidders, something the player didn't take too kindly to. He is playing the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and how his bidding goes would be noteworthy.