



Alia's ignorance

Actor Ranbir Kapoor shares that the first time he met his actress-wife Alia Bhatt, she asked "Who is Kishore Kumar?"

LEISURE | P2



Islamabad shut

Pakistan's capital is put under a security lockdown ahead of protests by supporters of jailed ex-PM Imran Khan

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Selling spree

Foreign investors have pulled out ₹26,533 crore from the Indian equity market this month so far

BUSINESS | P11



Pant shatters record

Resurrected generational talent Rishabh Pant becomes the costliest buy in IPL's history with a ₹27 crore winning bid from LSG

SPORTS | P12



FOR A BETTER TOMORROW: Dharitri and OrissaPOST Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy, climate activist Padma Shri Jamuna Tudu, ecologist Raman Sukumar, Dharitri Climate Grant recipients and dignitaries pose during Dharitri Youth Conclave 2024 at Swosti Premium in Bhubaneswar, Sunday (More on P 5, 6 & 7)

Over 20L women get 'Subhadra' aid

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday distributed ₹5,000 as part of the third phase of the first instalment of the Subhadra Yojana, Odisha's largest women empowerment programme, to more than 20 lakh new beneficiaries.

With the third phase, a total of 80 lakh women in the state have received ₹4,000 crore in assistance.

In the first phase, financial assistance was transferred to the bank accounts of more than 25 lakh beneficiaries. In the second phase, assistance was provided to over 35 lakh women at an event in Baripada, Mayurbhanj.

While disbursing the funds, the Chief Minister said the money would help turn the dreams and aspirations of women into reality.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



If India's richest person can't get things done without paying a bribe, what chance do common people like us have?

MOSQUE SURVEY GOES AWRY

UP police gun down 3

What began Sunday morning as a court-ordered Advocate Commission survey of a mosque in UP's Sambhal, soon turned into a war zone of sorts as widespread stone-pelting, arson and vandalism ensued after a protest grew violent. Three locals were gunned down by UP Police personnel during the clashes even as more than 20 cops were among those seriously injured. Police, however, denied firing bullets. The backdrop of the violence is the same old story; the Mughal-era Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal is at the centre of a contentious legal battle over claims that it was built on the site of a Hindu temple. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav however termed the violence as a premeditated ploy by the ruling party "to divert attention from electoral malpractice" during the recently concluded bypolls where the BJP scored big winning seven out of nine seats



of others, including around 20 security personnel, were injured as protesters opposing a court-ordered survey of a Mughal-era mosque here clashed with police Sunday.

The protesters torched vehicles and pelted stones at the police, who used tear gas and batons to disperse the mob. "Shots were fired by the miscreants. The PRO of the superintendent of police suffered a gunshot to the leg, the police circle officer was hit by pellets and 15 to 20 security personnel were injured in the violence," Moradabad Divisional Commis-

sioner Aunjaneya Kumar Singh said. He said that a constable also suffered a serious head injury while the deputy collector fractured his leg.

Internet services have been suspended in Sambhal tehsil for 24 hours and the district administration declared a holiday November 25 for all students up to Class XII.

Tension has been brewing in Sambhal since Tuesday when the Jama Masjid was surveyed on the orders of a local court following a petition that claimed that a Harihar temple stood at the site.

"Three people, identified as Naeem, Bilal and Nauman, have been killed," Singh said, adding that preparations were underway for their post-mortem examination.

He added that the accused in the violence would be booked under the stringent National Security Act (NSA).

One purported clip showed Superintendent of Police (SP) Krishan Kumar urging stone-pelters not to indulge in violence. Kumar also told reporters that videos are going viral at many places that the police have opened fire.

Refuting such allegations, he said, "Police have used pellet guns. No weapons were used that could take anyone's life. As many as 21 people have been detained. Several kinds of weapons have been recovered from them."

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav lashed out at the BJP, saying the ruling party, government and the administration orchestrated the violence "to divert attention from electoral malpractice".

Eastern region country's growth engine: PM Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted Sunday that his government considers India's eastern region as the country's growth engine, while the area was considered backward earlier.

Addressing a gathering at the Odisha Parba event here, the Prime Minister said the Centre is committed to promoting ease of doing business in Odisha and investments of ₹45,000 crore have been approved within 100 days of the formation of a new Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in the state.

"Odisha has always been a land of seers and scholars. The way the scholars here took our religious texts to every household and connected the public with those, it has played a crucial role in the cultural prosperity of India. There was a time when India's eastern region and the states there were called backward. However, I consider India's eastern region as the country's growth engine. That



is why we have prioritised the development of India's eastern region," he said.

"The Budget that we now allocate to Odisha is three times higher than what it was 10 years ago. We are working rapidly in every sector for Odisha's development and the Budget has been increased by 30 per cent this year," Modi added.

"Last year, the G20 Summit was held in India. During the G20 Summit, we showcased the photo of the Sun Temple (in Konark). I am also glad that all four doors of the Jagannath temple are open now. Besides, the Ratna Bhandar of the temple is also open," he added.

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	29.7°	27.5°
Min Temp	16.1°	16.0°
Humidity	66%	72%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
Dry weather very likely to prevail over the districts of Odisha

Adani notice to go via 'proper channel'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Nov 24: US SEC will have to serve the summons on Adani Group Founder and Chairman Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar in the alleged USD 265 million (₹2,200 crore) payoffs through proper diplomatic channels as it has no jurisdiction to summon a foreign national directly, according to sources.

US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) wants Adanis to explain their stand on allegations of paying bribes to secure lucrative solar power contracts but that request will have to follow the established protocol of routing it through the Indian Embassy in the US and following other diplomatic formalities, two sources aware of the matter said.

The US SEC has no jurisdiction over foreign nationals and cannot send anything by post to them. The 1965 Hague Convention and the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty between India and the US governs such matters.

These clearly lay out the established procedure to be followed in such requests.

No summons has been served on Adanis so far.

US SEC HAS NO JURISDICTION TO SUMMON FOREIGN NATIONAL

SNIPPETS

'Trafficked' Bangladeshi girl rescued in Cuttack

Bhubaneswar: Police have rescued a Bangladeshi girl, who was found wandering aimlessly in Cuttack, and launched an investigation into the suspected trafficking of the minor. The girl was found roaming on Link Road and was rescued November 9, Cuttack DCP Jagmohan Meena told reporters Sunday. He said the police later handed her over to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). The girl has no valid documents regarding her travel to India, the DCP said. CWC chairman Pramod Kumar Acharya said that the 16-year-old girl was brought to Kolkata from Dhaka around August-September and then taken to Bhubaneswar. P3

Winter Session starts today amid Adani row

New Delhi: The Winter Session of Parliament, which begins Monday, is anticipated to witness significant legislative developments. It is expected to be contentious, with the indictment of Gautam Adani and seven others by a US court in a bribery and fraud case likely to overshadow the proceedings in both Houses. Amid demands from the Opposition to discuss bribery charges against the Adani group, the government Sunday said the business advisory committees of both Houses will decide on matters to be discussed in the Winter session and appealed to parties to ensure smooth functioning of Parliament.

Furious India blasts 'unfair' finance deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baku (Azerbaijan), Nov 24: India Sunday fiercely rejected the paltry USD 300 billion climate finance package for the Global South and said the COP29 presidency and the UN climate change office forced through the deal before allowing it to voice its objections.

Making a strong statement on behalf of India at the closing plenary of the UN climate conference here, Chandni

Raina, Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs, termed the adoption process unfair and stage-managed and said it reflected the troubling lack of trust in the UN system.

The UN climate conference adopted a new climate finance package of a meagre USD 300 billion annually by 2035, replacing the USD 100 billion pledge made in 2009.

The USD 300 billion figure is a far cry from the USD 1.3 trillion the Global South has



been demanding over the past three years of talks to tackle climate change. India said its request to speak before the adoption of the climate finance pack-

age was ignored.

"We had informed the presidency and the secretariat that we wanted to make a statement before any decision on the adoption. However, and this is for everyone to see, this has been stage-managed, and we are extremely disappointed with this incident," Raina said.

India said the new climate finance package of a meagre USD 300 billion annually by 2035 is too little and too distant and it does not accept it in its present form.

Musk hails India, takes jibe at US electoral process

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Washington, Nov 24: Tesla CEO Elon Musk has applauded the Indian electoral system after vote counting for two state Assembly elections and by-elections were concluded in a single day, while also taking a jibe at the process in the US where the poll is yet to be called in California.

"India counted 640 million votes in 1 day. California is still counting votes," wrote Musk on X, while sharing a screenshot of an article on Indian election vote counting.

Musk was responding to an

X post that shared a news article with the headline "How India Counted 640 Million Votes in a Day".

The post was captioned "Meanwhile in India, where cheating isn't the primary goal of their elections".

Musk responded to another post on X which said, "India counted 640 million votes in a single day. California is still counting 15 million votes...18 days later."

Over two weeks have passed, however, California is yet to count over 300,000 ballots, reports said.

It's been weeks now since



India counted 640 million votes in 1 day. California is still counting votes

ELON MUSK | CEO, TESLA

Donald Trump was declared the winner of the US elections and the President-elect of the US.

California is the most popu-

lous state in the US with nearly 39 million residents. It saw the participation of at least 16 million voters in the November 5

polls. However, it has been among the slowest states to tally and report election results in recent years. The delay is primarily because of its vast size and pre-dominance of mail-in voting.

According to election officials, it could take weeks to call the poll, as was the case in the 2020 presidential election.

California's elections largely rely on mail-in voting which requires more time and effort to process as compared to in-person voting.

Each mail-in ballot has to

undergo individual validation and processing, a process that takes longer than simply scanning ballots at polling stations.

Earlier, Musk had hailed the Indian government's decision to allocate spectrum for satellite broadband administratively rather than through the auction route.

"Much appreciated. We will do our best to serve the people of India with Starlink," Musk wrote on X, as he scored a win over Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani and Sunil Bharti Mittal who had been battling for the auction of spectrum to ensure a "level-playing field".

leisure

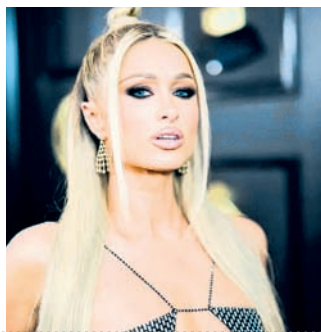


KANYE WEST SUED FOR ASSAULTING MODEL

Former 'America's Next Top Model' finalist Jenn An is suing rapper Kanye West for allegedly assaulting her in 2010. The *Stronger* hitmaker has been accused of choking An and subjecting her to 'pornographic gagging.'

PARIS REVEALS SHE HAS NEVER UNDERGONE COSMETIC SURGERY

Socialite Paris Hilton said that she has never had any cosmetic work done. She talked about the one skincare tip her mother Kathy Hilton gave her during her childhood that she has stuck to this day, reports femalefirst.co.uk.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

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.

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.

GEMINI
You will want some change in your daily routine today. You are likely to be fed up 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. It is certainly not a pleasant sight to see opportunities pass by!

AQUARIUS
You will take the road to spirituality today and give a miss to materialism. You will 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.

Shriya worried over Delhi's poor AQI

Mumbai: Shriya Pilgaonkar has just come from New Zealand, where the Air Quality Index (AQI), was 1 and is shocked to read that Delhi is going through dwindling air quality. The actor says it is not the time to blame the government but to take onus for the same.

In a recent interview with a news portal, Shriya shares her concern about the climate change one is living through and feels the air quality deterioration in Delhi is a red alert signal for the same.

"The crazy part is that I was in New Zealand recently, where the AIQ was 1... To think that it was clean as the air to breathe, and the air we are breathing is so hazardous. Air is the most basic thing that we as citizens need," the actress said.

She went on to add, "It's easy for people to put the blame on the government, but there are so many actions that we also need to take. We need to act collectively. That is when things will change."

The *Taaza Khabar* actor mentions that the current situation sends a jitter down her spine. "It is very scary to me that we are breathing toxic air. Now, I am concerned about how things will worsen in the time to come... We as a country need to come together and understand. Along with government policy, we need to act. Because this is the most basic right of life... To breathe in air. We shouldn't wait for things to get worse before we take action," she said.



Sam's 'bold' remark on her ex goes viral

Hyderabad: Samantha Ruth Prabhu, the celebrated actress currently riding high on the success of her latest project, *Citadel: Honey Bunny*, has once again captured the spotlight.

Amazon Prime Video recently treated fans to a lively chat session featuring Samantha and her co-actor of the project Varun Dhawan, where their playful camaraderie became the highlight.

During the interaction, Varun asked Samantha, "What's the most ridiculous amount of money you've spent on something completely useless?" Samantha, with her characteristic wit, responded, "My ex's expensive gifts."

Taken aback, Varun probed further, "Which is how much?" to which Samantha coolly replied, "Quite a bit."

Her candid remark quickly went viral, setting social media abuzz with mixed reactions. Known for her dignified silence on her past with Naga Chaitanya, Samantha's unexpected comment left fans and critics equally intrigued.

While many appreciated her humor and honesty, others speculated about how Naga might react to the comment.

Some even debated whether her statement was appropriate, with a few of his fans criticizing her for revisiting personal matters in a public forum. The moment has only fueled the curiosity surrounding Samantha's bold and unapologetic personality.

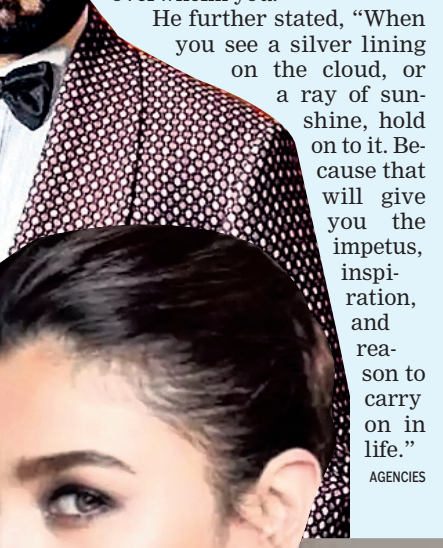


ABHISHEK ON NEGATIVITY

Mumbai: Actor Abhishek Bachchan has spoken about the negatives in life, adding that concentrating on them will overwhelm a person. Speaking with an entertainment portal, Abhishek also said that irrespective of a tough situation, a person should hold on to even a 'ray of hope.' He added that it's easy "to get swallowed by darkness and negativity".

The comments come amid his divorce rumours with wife-actor Aishwarya Rai. Abhishek shared, "There is a word in Hindi perseverance. Somewhere, who you are as a person shouldn't change. Your fundamentals shouldn't change. You have to learn to adapt and evolve, or you will be left behind, but your fundamental values shouldn't change. So, I still do believe that if the bad doesn't let go of itself why should the good change? I cannot change the person I am. I am a very positive person, and you cannot concentrate on the negatives. When you concentrate on the negatives, it's going to overwhelm you."

He further stated, "When you see a silver lining on the cloud, or a ray of sunshine, hold on to it. Because that will give you the impetus, inspiration, and reason to carry on in life."



Mumbai: Actor Ranbir Kapoor, who was attending the 55th edition of IFFI in Goa, shared that the first time he met his actress-wife Alia Bhatt, she asked "Who is Kishore Kumar?"

"First time I met Alia she asked me who's Kishore Kumar... it's just circle of life... it's like people are forgotten and new artists come. I think it's very important that we remember our root," Ranbir was heard saying.

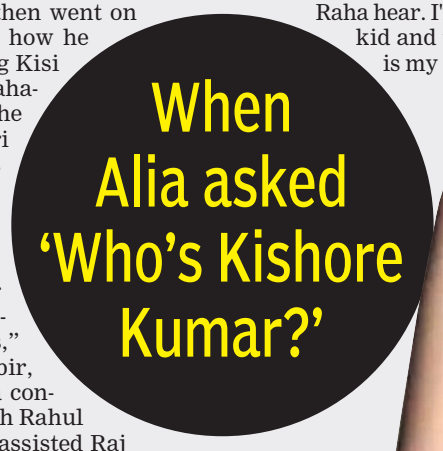
It was in April 2022, when Ranbir and Alia got married in an intimate wed-

ding in Mumbai. The couple then welcomed their daughter Raha in November the same year.

The actor then went on to talk about how he loves the song Kisi Ki Muskurahaton Pe from the 1959 film Anari featuring his grandfather Raj Kapoor. "Kisi Ki Muskurahaton Pe Ho Nisaar is one my favourite songs," said Ranbir, who was in a conversation with Rahul Rawail, who assisted Raj Kapoor.

He then mentioned that it is

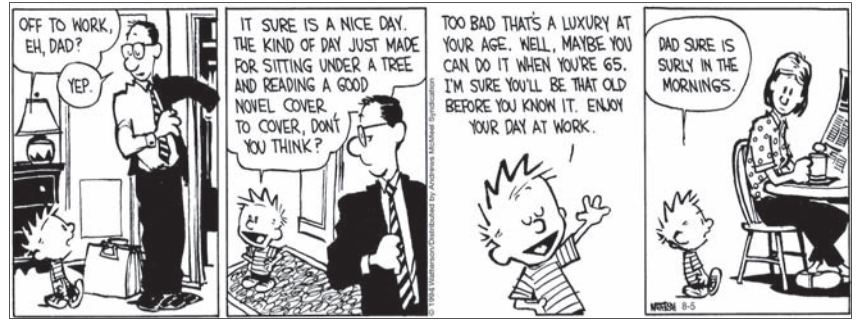
the first song he made his two-year-old daughter Raha hear. "In fact, it is the first song that I made my daughter Raha hear. I'm an 80s kid and this song is my anthem."



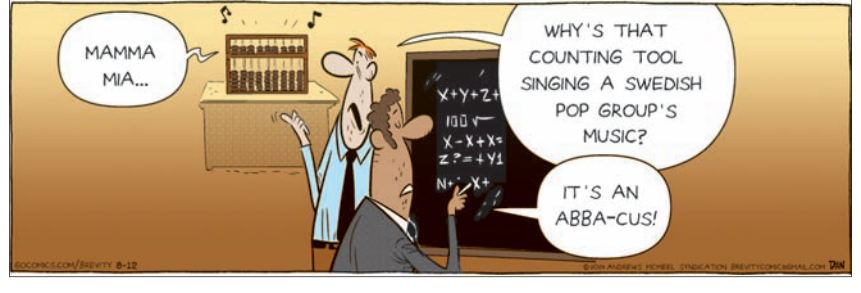
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

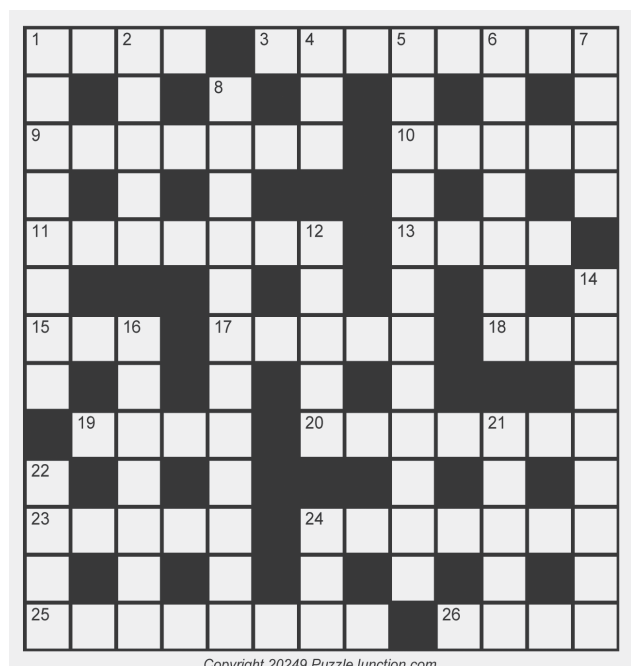


BREVITY



FUN POST

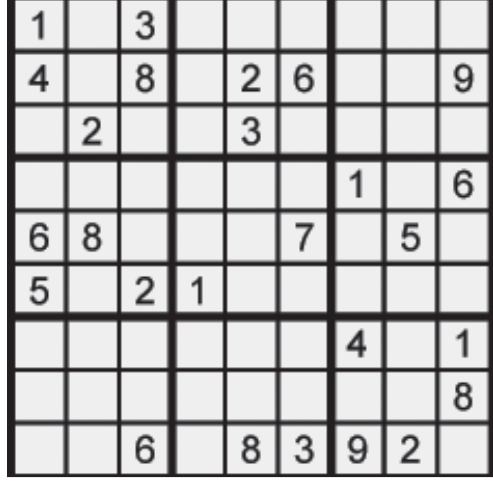
CROSSWORD



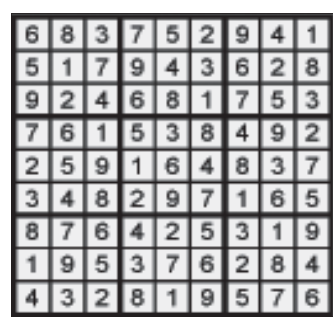
- Across**
- 1 Confederate
 - 3 Really big snake
 - 9 One who knows the drill
 - 10 Side dish
 - 11 Autocrats
 - 13 Stratford-on-
 - 15 Clumsy sort
 - 17 Old World songbird
 - 18 Squid's defense
 - 19 Urgent request
 - 20 Fishing smack
 - 23 Dirty trick
 - 24 *La Dolce Vita* director
 - 25 Play houses
 - 26 *Little Women* woman
 - 6 Capital of Kenya
 - 7 Riyadh or Oman native
 - 8 Evening dress (6,6)
 - 12 Wooden shoe
 - 14 Scrap
 - 16 Leaves
 - 21 France's longest river
 - 22 Good name for a Dalmatian
 - 24 Adversary
- Down**
- 1 Screen test
 - 2 Cruise ship
 - 4 Fishing aid
 - 5 Wishful thinking for bad actors? (7,5)

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

Switch from paddy to oil palm, farmers told

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 24: Farmers grappling with elephant-induced crop damage are being encouraged to switch from traditional paddy cultivation to oil palm farming under the Union government's National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP). The initiative aims to expand oil palm cultivation to 3,28,000 hectares nationwide by 2026, with Odisha playing an active role.

CROP DAMAGE BY ELEPHANTS



According to Sambalpur field officer Brundaban Pradhan, oil palm farming offers a profitable and sustainable alternative for farmers in forested areas. Unlike paddy, which elephants often destroy, the thorny trunks of oil palm trees deter wildlife, making them a safer crop choice. Farmers are eligible for subsidies of ₹5,200 per hectare annually, totaling ₹21,000 over four years, until the plants become fully productive.

profits of up to ₹6 lakh per hectare annually. Additionally, farmers can grow vegetables or pulses as intercrops, adding to their income.

Tusharkanta Panigrahi, an agricultural and livelihood expert, highlighted oil palm's environmental benefits and its potential to stabilize

According to Sambalpur field officer Brundaban Pradhan, oil palm farming offers a profitable and sustainable alternative for farmers in forested areas

Unlike paddy, which elephants often destroy, the thorny trunks of oil palm trees deter wildlife, making them a safer crop choice

Farmers are eligible for subsidies of ₹5,200 per hectare annually, totaling ₹21,000 over four years, until the plants become fully productive

lise farmers' incomes through long-term contracts lasting up to 35 years.

The Forest department is working alongside agricultural officials to raise awareness about oil palm cultivation, emphasising its dual benefits of mitigating human-elephant conflict and boosting farmers' economic resilience. This shift is expected to positively impact both agriculture and wildlife conservation in Odisha.

INS Kuthar anchors at Gopalpur Port

CHHATRAPUR: Indian Navy warship INS Kuthar has docked at berth number 1 of Gopalpur Port, having sailed from Visakhapatnam. The ship is open for public visits Monday, providing a rare opportunity to explore its advanced capabilities and learn about naval history. Visitors, including students, tourists, and locals, can tour the ship from 9am to 4:30pm. The port authorities have arranged buses to transport visitors from the main gate to the jetty. Naval officers aboard INS Kuthar will guide visitors, showcasing the warship's cutting-edge technology and operational strength. This unique initiative offers students an educational glimpse into India's maritime prowess, making it a must-visit experience.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



BJD protests against Waqf Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) held a rally here Sunday, demanding the withdrawal of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill.

The rally organised by BJD Minority cell was held near the Raj Bhavan here where protestors raised slogans demanding the withdrawal of the Bill as they claimed it would affect harmony among the community.

The government has listed 16 bills, including the Waqf Amendment Bill, for consideration in the Winter Session of Parliament beginning Monday.

The protestors also submitted a memorandum to President of India through the District Collector of Khurda where they made certain suggestions



and expressed concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the Waqf Act, 1995.

"We urge that this proposed Bill be withdrawn and that comprehensive consultations be held with stakeholders to address their concerns before any amendments are introduced in Parliament. We, as concerned citizens, are committed to the welfare of our nation, trust in your esteemed office to uphold justice and fairness in this matter", the memorandum said.

BJD Minority cell said that the proposed changes in the Waqf Bill have "far reaching implications" on the autonomy, protection, and governance of Waqf properties, considered as sacred and integral to the religious and social welfare of the Muslim community.

BJD Minority Cell president and MP Munna Khan said that his party MPs will strongly oppose the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in the Parliament.

However, Odisha BJP president Manmohan Samal said that the Central government would not do any injustice to any community. "The Centre will do justice to all and there is no reason to be worried," Samal said while rejecting Munna Khan's allegation that the Waqf land will be taken away by the Central government.

23-yr-old man kills mother for liquor

ANGUL: A 23-year-old man allegedly killed his mother in Angul district Sunday by hitting her with a wooden plank after she refused to give him money for alcohol, police said. The incident happened at Susuda village in Angul Town police station area, they said. Sarat Naik, the accused, is a habitual drunkard who used to always beat up his parents, they added. "This morning, he asked his mother, Lata (60), for money to buy alcohol. As she expressed her inability to give him money, he got infuriated and hit her with a wooden plank, killing her on the spot," inspector-in-charge Dhiraj Das said.

'Trafficked' Bangladeshi girl rescued in Cuttack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: Odisha Police have rescued a Bangladeshi girl, who was found wandering aimlessly in Cuttack, and launched an investigation into the suspected trafficking of the minor.



The girl was found roaming on Link Road and was rescued November 9, Cuttack DCP Jagmohan Meena told reporters Sunday.

He said the police later handed her over to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

"The girl has no valid documents regarding her travel to India," the DCP said.

CWC chairman Pramod Kumar Acharya said that the 16-year-old girl was brought to Kolkata from Dhaka around August-September and then taken to Bhubaneswar.

After counselling, the CWC came to know that the girl was engaged at a massage parlour and was forced into prostitution in Bhubaneswar. She later fled the massage parlour over non-payment of salary and was found wandering in Cuttack.

The DCP said that the CWC has submitted a report to the police based on which a case has been registered under different sections of the BNS, Section 6 of the POCSO Act and Section 5 of the ITP Act.

"The report said that the girl is around 16 years old. It is alleged that she came here from Bangladesh on the false promise of employment. She was later forced into prostitution," the Cuttack DCP said.

The DCP said that as per the statement of the victim, the crime was committed in two

states. She was rescued as a destitute in Cuttack. Multiple teams have been formed to probe the matter, which is also suspected to be a case of illegal immigration, he said.

The DCP said that the Bangladesh High Commission would be informed about the matter.

Replying to a query on the delay in the registration of the case, the DCP said that the girl had not made any allegation on the night she was rescued.

As per the standard operating procedure, she was handed over to the CWC, where she was counselled. A case was registered immediately after receiving the report from the CWC, he added.

Meanwhile, sources said that the police have been interrogating a couple in Cuttack on the matter after getting clues regarding their involvement in the trafficking racket.

The girl also revealed that she came to India through a person with whom she connected on social media.

The person, who received her in Kolkata, later took her to Bhubaneswar and she was forced to work in a massage parlour without any payment.

On the girl working in a massage parlour, the DCP said, "We are keeping a close tab on such illegal activities. Strict action will be taken against those found involved in such activities."

Truck driver burnt alive in accident

AGENCIES

Balasore, Nov 24: Driver of a container truck was burnt alive after the vehicle caught fire when it rammied into a road divider at Laxmannath area here Sunday, police said.

Personnel from Jaleswar police station and fire fighters reached the spot and managed to douse the flames after an hour, they said.



The vehicle suddenly caught fire after hitting the road divider at Laxmannath toll plaza on National Highway-60

The identity of the driver, who was charred to death, could not be ascertained immediately, a police officer said.

The vehicle suddenly caught fire after hitting the road divider at Laxmannath toll plaza on National Highway-60, he said.

Traffic movement was disrupted for some time following the accident, the officer added.

KISS-DU celebrates 4th Annual Convocation

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: The 4th Annual Convocation of the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS-DU) was held Saturday, celebrating academic achievements and honouring distinguished individuals for their contributions to society.

Three prominent figures were conferred with honorary DLitt degrees: Padma Shri Mukesh Batra, founder of Dr Batra's Group of Companies and a pioneer in homeopathy; Padma Shri Savji Dholakia, founder of Hari Krishna Exports Pvt Ltd, known for his leadership in the diamond industry and philanthropy; and Pradipta Mohanty, chairman of SN Mohanty Group of Companies, a key figure in Odisha's industrial and educational growth.

The convocation also awarded eight PhDs and 426 master's degrees to students, marking

a milestone in their academic journeys.

In his keynote address, Rt. Hon. Nick Gibb, former Minister of State for Schools and Former MP, UK, praised KISS as "one of India's top academic institutions" and emphasised education's critical role in India's economic development.

Rt Hon Alan Gammel, MP, UK, lauded KISS and KIIT founder Achyuta Samanta calling him a visionary leader dedicated to empowering marginalised communities. Jeffrey B Liebman, Professor at Harvard Kennedy School, highlighted KISS's mission to educate children from underserved backgrounds, commending its inclusive approach.

The convocation was attended by senior officials, including Umapada Bose, Vice President of KIIT and KISS, and Satya Tripathi, Chancellor of KISS-DU, along with other dignitaries.

12 baby gharials released into Satkosia gorge

PNN & AGENCIES

Angul, Nov 24: A total of 12 baby gharials rescued during the monsoon have been released into Satkosia gorge, a forest official said.

The gharials were released into the gorge Saturday and were sighted in healthy condition by forest officials Sunday.

The gharials, which were four to six inches long at the time of their rescue, have now grown up to one to two feet, Divisional Forest Officer of Satkosia



Wildlife Division, Saroj Kumar Panda, said.

In order to secure the lives of the gharial hatchlings during monsoon, 12 babies were rescued from the gorge and were lodged at Gharial Research and Conservation Unit at Tikarp

ra. As per estimates, there were a total of 35 hatchlings born in the gorge out of which 12 were rescued. He said during the monsoon there was a fear that they might be swept away downstream.

Panda said as mortalities were reported last year, this year special care was taken to prevent such deaths.

They were lodged in a special pool created in the unit.

"We could prevent mortality among the gharial hatchlings. All are in good health conditions after release," he added.

80 held for gambling in Nuapada

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Police arrested 80 people from Janka area of Nuapada district for their alleged involvement in gambling, officials said Sunday. Around ₹29 lakh cash have also been seized from them during raids conducted at an isolated building late Saturday, they said.

"The gambling den was operating in the area for a long time and a large number of people, including local businessmen, indulged in gambling," a police statement said. Police personnel also recovered "gambling paraphernalia" from the spot. A case has been registered in this connection and investigation is underway, the statement added.

Odisha promotes 'Karuna Silk' at IITF

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: The Odisha government has been showcasing a new variety of 'Karuna silk' which is produced without harming silkworms and minus chemical dye at the International Trade Fair in New Delhi, an official statement said.

Promoted by Odisha government's Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts department, the live demonstration of this new variant of silk at 'Odisha Mandap' at the international trade fair showcases the ethical and sustainable silk production redefining traditional methods and is attracting visitors and

fashion lovers, it said.

The 'Karuna silk' production method allows the extraction of silk without killing silkworms. Usually, the cocoon carrying the live worm inside it is boiled in water before extracting the fibres. But in 'Karuna silk' production the silkworm is allowed to grow and fly away as a butterfly by rupturing the cocoon. Then, the hatched cocoons are collected and the silk threads are extracted from them. 'Karuna' means compassion in Odia.

As per experts, the production of a single mulberry silk saree requires between 10,000 and 20,000 cocoons. Similarly, creating a tassar silk saree



requires around 5,000 to 7,000 cocoons. Hence, the same numbers of silkworms lose their lives in the process. However, 'Karuna Silk' has

become an exception, an official said.

For a couple of years, the state government has introduced the sans cruelty 'Karu-

na Silk' as the traditional 'Khandua Patta' for Shree Jagannath Temple, Puri. Weavers from the Rautapada region near Khurda are producing this typical silk by inscribing the verses of 'Geeta Govinda' by Poet Jaydev on it.

Odisha grows four types of silk namely Eri, Mulberry, Tassar and Muga. Earlier Eri silkworms were reared for producing 'Karuna silk'. But recently the silk is being extracted from all four variants. Odisha government encourages the cultivation of various types of silk across 22 districts of the state.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. MCSW-Thincell-24-25-24
Name of Work: WORKSHOP SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF 20 NOS. OF THIN CLIENT PC (EXPANDABLE UP TO 100), 01 NO. OF SERVER, AC SERVER CABINET, OFC CONNECTIVITY, AUGMENTED WITH LAN FOR WORKSHOP WISE IMPLEMENTATION OF WISE MODULE AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP MANCHESWAR.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: MSM-MCC-SBP-14-24
Name of Work: MECHANIZED CLEANING OF COACHES AT COACHING DEPOT, SAMBALPUR FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-AUCTION FOR CATERING STALLS
No. G.129/Catg/E-auction/6291,
Date: 19.11.2024

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No.: ST-SBP-TENDER-2024-31,
Dt. 18.11.2023

EAST COAST RAILWAY

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF AUTOMATIC FIRE DETECTION AND ALARM SYSTEM (AFDAS) OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION FOR 03 YEARS.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No.: ST-SBP-TENDER-2024-31,
Dt. 18.11.2023

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No.: ST-SBP-TENDER-2024-31,
Dt. 18.11.2023

COMPANY NOTICE

RIVER WATERLINK PRIVATE LIMITED

CIN: U61100OR2000PTC006370
Aditya Complex, Chauliaganj, Cuttack, Odisha- 753003 India
Form No. INC-26
(Pursuant to rule 30 the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014)

Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for change of registered office of the company from one state to another

Before the Central Government

Eastern Region, Kolkata

In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND

In the matter of RIVER WATERLINK PRIVATE LIMITED having its registered office at Aditya Complex, Chauliaganj, Cuttack, Odisha-753003 India

...Petitioner

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on **08th November, 2024** to enable the company to change its Registered Office from "State of Odisha" to "State of West Bengal".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director at the address Nizam Palace, MSO Building, 3rd Floor, 234/4, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata-70020 within fourteen days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

For and on behalf of the Applicant
(RIVER WATERLINK PRIVATE LIMITED)
Sd-Yash Director
DIN: 06576229
Date: 25th November, 2024
Place: Aditya Complex, Chauliaganj, Cuttack, Odisha- 753003

FOCUS CONSERVATION

INTERSPECIES MONEY



As a form of universal basic capital, interspecies money aims to redistribute billions of dollars in such a way that increases non-human participation in the economy and encourages solidarity and collaboration among species

more than \$16 billion annually in biodiversity, should provide funding for human-wildlife collaboration. A "Bank for Other Species" dedicated to investing in non-human infrastructure – like the World Bank does for humans – should be established to manage these resources.

As a next step, Tehanu plans to pilot interspecies money with elephants in rural India and ancient beech trees in Romania, among other species. Of course, many details must be worked out for such experiments to be effective at scale. Policymakers and stakeholders must create mechanisms to prevent theft and adjudicate ownership disputes, and design a robust selection process for human trustees. Moreover, guardrails are needed to ensure that trustees act as responsible fiduciaries.

Some may object to putting a price on nature. But the environment is already being monetised, and the interests of non-humans are being sidelined. Interspecies money seeks to change that with its vision for a new planetary economy that can support prosperity and equity for people and animals alike. As a form of universal basic capital, interspecies money aims to redistribute billions of dollars in such a way that increases non-human participation in the economy and encourages solidarity and collaboration among species. But that will require us to treat other living creatures with the dignity they deserve.

Nils Gilman is Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President at the Berggruen Institute. Mutesi Rusagara is State Minister of Finance in Charge of Resource Mobilization and Public Investments of Rwanda.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Each year in Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park, around 25 infant gorillas are named and celebrated in the Kwita Izina ceremony, modeled on the country's baby-naming tradition. The event, now in its 20th year, attracts world leaders, celebrities, and wildlife champions, and the rangers, trackers, veterinarians, and local communities who protect and care for Rwanda's gorilla population every day.

Naming gorillas gives them dignity, or agaciro, a Kinyarwanda concept that has underpinned Rwanda's development journey, including its approach to sustaining its natural economy. But the country's gorilla population – now growing at 3% per year – also has financial value. What if there were a way to pay these magnificent animals what they are worth?

"Interspecies money" could do just that. This radical new approach provides a mechanism for living creatures – such as Rwanda's gorillas – to express simple preferences, and creates strong financial incentives for local communities to protect and nurture them. By bestowing economic value on wild animals, trees, and other species, interspecies money increases the opportunity cost of their decline and extinction, and enables the circular flow of resources between humans and non-humans.

Tehanu, led by futurist Jonathan Leduc, has estimated the financial value of the gorilla population at nearly \$1.4 billion – about 10% of Rwanda's GDP. Tehanu recently worked with the Rwandan government to complete the world's first cross-species payment. In August 2024, a family of mountain gorillas in the Volcanoes National Park received a digital identity and wallet. Acting as a

trustee, Tehanu used artificial intelligence to help identify these animals' interests, and then made mobile payments to the neighbouring citizens who could meet those needs.

Many of the services a gorilla requests through its trustee should boost investment in stewardship and therefore increase incomes for the human populations living alongside and among them. These could include mobile phones and sensors to collect data about the gorillas' well-being, and extra security to ward off poachers and deforesters. Interspecies money thus enables countries and communities to foster economic growth by protecting, rather than exploiting, biodiversity. As early adopters, Rwanda's gorillas are pioneers in what we believe can become a new model for human-wildlife economic collaboration. The main justification for interspecies money is that it largely passes from the beneficiary species to human service providers, because if it does not work for people, it will not work for animals. This requires equity across species and communities.

Buoyed by the Rwanda pilot's early results, we recently co-chaired a working group of leading ecologists, ethicists, and AI and finance experts in "Room 15" – the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal on sustainable ecosystems – of the 17 Rooms Initiative. We discussed the technical, governance, and financial needs for expanding interspecies money to 100 species globally by 2030. Fortunately, many of the technical requirements already exist. Non-humans can acquire a digital wallet linked to their identity – gorillas, for example, are identified by facial and gait characteristics, as well as other markings. AI enables humans to infer other species' preferences and financial value. And the increasing availability of distributed computing makes it possible to build a data-verification system that markets, governments, and, above all, local communities trust.

Crucial to scaling interspecies money is capital. Philanthropic organisations, multilateral institutions, and governments in the Global North, which already invest



Nils Gilman & Mutesi Rusagara

INTERSPECIES MONEY ENABLES COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES TO FOSTER ECONOMIC GROWTH BY PROTECTING, RATHER THAN EXPLOITING, BIODIVERSITY

Incumbents Thrive

In what appears to be a pro-incumbency mandate, the Mahayuti coalition led by the BJP swept the Maharashtra Assembly poll, while the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) led alliance retained power in Jharkhand. The two elections, noted for their use of blatantly polarising slogans such as "batenge toh katenge" and "ek hain toh safe hai" by the BJP led coalition, have lessons for both the ruling and the Opposition camps.

Maharashtra, known for its murky, multi-party politics, saw a stunning reversal of fortunes in a matter of five months since the Lok Sabha polls when the INDIA bloc's Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) had scored a significant lead over the Mahayuti comprising the BJP, the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the Ajit Pawar-led NCP. What changed in the course of these five months holds the key to understanding this election as the state has been reeling under an agrarian crisis with farmers struggling to get commensurate price for their produce. At the same time, Maharashtra has been losing industrial projects, one after another, to neighbouring Gujarat. While the results have come as a shot in the arm for the BJP which has been accused of splitting two major political parties in the state, the outcome serves as a moment of reckoning for the Congress. In Jharkhand, the grand old party has been reduced to a distant junior partner of the JMM in terms of seats. The loss of a significant state like Maharashtra, coming on top of the setback in Haryana, is expected to diminish the Congress' overall bargaining power in the current landscape of coalition politics as the party has been constantly losing political space to its alliance partners in most states.

The Maharashtra results also raise questions on the political future of Maratha strongman Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray, who have already lost their party names and symbols. At the same time, the Mahayuti's landslide reinforces the BJP's dominant position within the alliance. It also makes the chances of the party's biggest leader in the state Devendra Fadnavis returning as the chief minister quite possible.

In Jharkhand, Chief Minister Hemant Soren, out on bail in a money-laundering case, spearheaded a campaign that emphasised his government's welfare initiatives. He also capitalised on public sympathy over the Centre's alleged conspiracy against him. Conversely, the BJP struggled to wrest the mineral-rich state from the INDIA bloc, despite vigorous campaigning by prominent leaders like Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah among others. This setback was primarily due to the NDA's failure to present a chief ministerial candidate, as their campaign largely revolved around issues such as "infiltration from Bangladesh." This once again proves that it is the bread and butter issues that matter the most in state elections.

Another reason that could have possibly led to the incumbents retaining power in both states is the women-centric schemes launched by their governments in the run-up to the elections. Both states experienced an increase in female voter turnout in the elections. In Maharashtra, the Mahayuti government introduced the Ladki Bahin Yojana in August, which offers Rs 1,500 per month to women from families earning less than Rs 2.5 lakh annually. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde later announced an increase in this assistance to Rs 2,100. The scheme benefited 25 million women, primarily from lower middle-class, and to a lesser extent, middle-class women, who received funds directly in their bank accounts. This financial support empowered women, shifting the balance of power in favour of the Mahayuti. Likewise, the Jharkhand government launched the 'Maiya Samman scheme' in August, which seems to have influenced women voters in favour of the JMM. This initiative provides financial support of Rs 1,000 per month to women aged 21 to 50, benefiting approximately five million women across the state.

Whether the parties learn their lessons from these results will become clear when Delhi votes in a few months from now.

WISDOM CORNER

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

LAO TZU

If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end; if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin, and in the end, despair

CS LEWIS

I can control my destiny, but not my fate. Destiny means there are opportunities to turn right or left, but fate is a one-way street. I believe we all have the choice as to whether we fulfil our destiny, but our fate is sealed

PAULO COELHO

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1936: Nazi Germany and Japan sign the Anti-Comintern Pact. The treaty was directed towards the Soviet Union and stipulated that in case of Soviet aggression towards either country, the other would consider it as an act of aggression towards it as well. The pact was later signed by other countries including Italy, Romania, Spain, and Turkey.

1942: Leslie Groves and J. Robert Oppenheimer chose Los Alamos, New Mexico, as the site of Project Y, which developed the first atomic bomb.

1950: "Storm of the century" hits eastern US. Also known as the Appalachian Storm, the storm reached blizzard conditions and dumped nearly 60 inches of snow in the Appalachian area. It brought unseasonal temperatures to the region and caused widespread damage to property. About 150 people were thought to have been killed as a result of it.

1952: Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap opens at London's West End. The longest running show in history, the play began as a radio play called Three Blind Mice. It is based on the death of Dennis O'Neill, who died while in foster care.

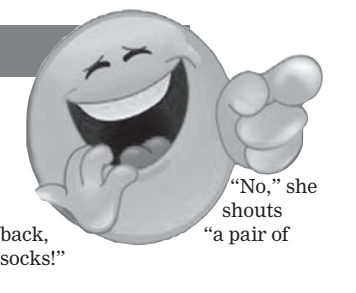
1960: Assassination of the Mirabal Sisters. The 3 Dominican sisters, Patria, Minerva, Antonia Mirabal, were activists that were opposed to the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo. On this day, they were brutally killed and their deaths staged to look like accidents. In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly declared November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

1970: Japanese military base seized by Mishima Yukio. On this day in 1970, Japanese novelist Mishima Yukio and four members of his Shield Society, a private army formed to preserve Japan's martial spirit, seized a military headquarters in Tokyo, and he later committed seppuku.

LOL

A PAIR OF SOCKS

A policeman spots a woman driving and knitting at the same time. Driving up beside her, he shouts out the window... "Pull over!"



back, socks!"
"No," she shouts
"a pair of"

SPECTRUM CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Regain trust to attract foreign investors



Shivaji Sarkar

THERE IS AN IMMINENT NEED TO ENSURE ETHICAL CORPORATE GOVERNANCE WITH DUE TRANSPARENCY AND ALIGN WITH GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES TO RESTORE TRUST

As the Gautam Adani episode unfolds, it underscores the urgency of balancing corporate ambitions with public accountability. Failure to act risks further eroding of India's global economic standing and investor confidence. There is an imminent need to ensure ethical corporate governance with due transparency and align with global best practices to restore trust.

Corporate bodies such as FICCI, Assocham and PHD Chamber of Commerce must ensure legislative reforms for revival of Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) type laws to reintroduce safeguards against monopolistic practices, as also ensure that Satyam like falsified accounts are not repeated.

Gautam Adani is no ordinary Indian billionaire. Over the past 10 years, in effect he has become an extension of India's government. His conglomerate, Adani Group, builds and buys ports, factories and power plants, often under state contract or license. Adani's business empire has become central to India since 2014.

This 21 November, the US government charged Adani with "multiple counts of

fraud." The US Federal prosecutors accused him and his associates of offering \$265 million to Indian officials and lying about the bribery scheme to Wall Street investors when raising money for a massive renewable energy project, a criminal offence as per the US law.

These incidents have broader implications for India's trade and investment relations, particularly in emerging markets such as Africa and Southeast Asia. Indian companies may face increased scrutiny, stricter compliance requirements, and reduced trust from international partners. This erosion of confidence could lead to a decline in foreign direct investment (FDI), a key driver of India's economic growth.

Perhaps the Adani Group had not committed any offence under the Indian law. It repeatedly stood up against Hindenburg allegations of manipulations in the stock market and sustained through submission of affidavits with the courts of law, SEBI and other agencies. In 2023, Parliament sessions were washed away for these reasons.

The combined market capitalisation of all 11 Adani Group companies fell by Rs 38,000 crore to Rs 11.68 lakh crore fol-

lowing the latest US indictment news. The rating agency S&P Global 22 November revised its outlook on three group entities to 'negative'. But that was not the end. Kenya surviving a political turmoil, scrapped a \$2.6 billion deal with the company. It found the terms too unrealistic, a recall of the Bangladesh situation. Even investments in Sri Lanka are being questioned. India's Adani moment was destined around 2000, when one day suddenly Pramod Mahajan, then Parliamentary Affairs Minister, with keen interest in corporate affairs told a select group of journalists, "The MRTPC is hindrance in corporate growth. We would do away with it." It was a notable moment.

The country's first Prime Minister, Pt Jawaharlal Nehru had never allowed ingress of the Bombay Club, a nomenclature of the Indian corporate given to itself. Despite this club, the Nehru government was able to stand for an anti-monopolistic legal structure as it was concerned about corporate misgovernance and made ways to impose conditions to keep them in check. Under his daughter, Indira Gandhi as prime minister, the government enacted MRTPC Act in 1969 and the

regulator MRTPC to prevent bypassing the law to prevent the concentration of economic power and check monopolies.

By 1991, the PV Narasimha Rao government diluted it to suit the corporate demand followed by the Harshad Mehta scam in March 1992, post Union Budget. In 2002, the Atal Behari Vajpayee government enacted the Competition Act to replace the MRTPC Act. The rest was done by the UPA-I government of Manmohan Singh on 1 September 2009 to formally scrap the MRTP Act that the Indian corporate believed "saved" them from predatory moves as also checks and balances for the corporate to behave ethically, a provision that the Bombay Club detested.

The years 2012 to 2014 were marked by many corporate frauds. Parliamentarians, who once were too vocal about such issues, surprisingly are silent now. MPs, irrespective of party affiliation, should take up such blatant corporate defiance, not to tame them, but to ensure the corporate entity remains safe and adds to growth and benevolence. The return of the MRTP-type law must be a sine qua non.

INFA

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

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

Overwhelming victory

Sir, This refers to "1-1 for NDA, INDIA," **Orissa POST**, Nov 24. The Congress couldn't have imagined a drubbing like the one it got in Maharashtra, where the MVA managed to win only 46 seats. Coming just six months after BJP's Lok Sabha reverses in Maharashtra, the party will interpret its best-ever tally in the state as a revalidation of PM Modi's brand of politics. His authority, following a win in Haryana and sweep in Maharashtra, is now all but restored after the knock it took following the LS results. In his post-victory speech, Modi made it plain he would focus as much on 'development' as on Hindutva themes and the 'virasat' (heritage) platform. A charged-up BJP will push its plans on UCC and one nation, one election more aggressively. Maharashtra's victory is so overwhelming that BJP has won the optics game despite its loss in smaller, and politically less crucial, Jharkhand. The other big political message was that Rahul Gandhi's charge of crony capitalism against BJP is not a theme voters care about much. Congress, after back-to-back losses in Haryana and Maharashtra, has all but lost the leading status it gained among Opposition parties. Alliance partners will again be more aggressive in negotiations and less willing to follow agendas set unilaterally by Congress.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Save Williams

Sir, It is a matter of great concern that Sumita Williams, who has been stranded on the International Space Station for more than seven months now with her fellow astronaut Butch Wilmore is running out of fresh food stock and is now surviving on soup made from their recycled urine and sweat. The world community thinks the United States is responsible for bringing her back safely or providing her with fresh food stock and proper medical care. Still, when an astronaut is on a mission, it is the responsibility of the whole world to take care of that astronaut. I would humbly request PM Modi to take stock of the situation and do the needful. India is now an avid space-exploring nation and we are capable enough to help Williams. We have lost Chawla, we cannot lose Williams.

Noopur Baruah, TEZPUR

THE CLIMATE CHAMPIONS



Eminent ecologist Raman Sukumar lighting the inaugural lamp for 'Dharitri Youth Conclave 2024: Climate Change—Building Resilience' at Swosti Premium in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



Siddharth Mohanty honouring Padma Shri Jamuna Tudu with Lifetime Achievement Award for her relentless pursuit in climate protection as OrissaPOST and Dharitri Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy and the newspapers' Editor Tathagata Satpathy, and ecologist Raman Sukumar look on



Manish Aggarwal felicitating Vichitrnanda Biswal for his remarkable achievement in conservation of Olive Ridley turtles



Pupun Sahoo receiving climate grant of ₹1 lakh for transforming a barren land into a mini forest by planting over 1,000 trees



Trilochan Sahoo receiving the climate grant of ₹1 lakh



Members of Anchalika Vikash Parishad receiving the climate grant of ₹1 lakh for their outstanding efforts in reviving sparrow population



₹1 lakh grant to Jungle Lore Foundation members for their exceptional work in protection of biodiversity



Members of Sangram Foundation receiving climate grant of ₹1 lakh for protecting Similipal National Park's biosphere

Experts bat for youth power

» Raman Sukumar
 Delivering the keynote address, noted ecologist Raman Sukumar emphasised that elephant deaths and climate change are interlinked issues, with human activities severely disrupting natural ecosystems. He also stressed the need for urgent climate action, highlighting that every individual must play a role in addressing this crisis. Criticising existing laws that penalise forest protectors, Sukumar called for legal reforms to empower and support conservation efforts. Underscoring the importance of mangroves in mitigating storm surges, Sukumar advocated prioritising indigenous knowledge systems as part of climate adaptation strategies.

than serious work, she said. "People were shocked when I left my job to pursue the cause of environment protection," Lakhani recalled.

» Punyasloke Bhadury
 Noted marine biologist and environmentalist Punyasloke Bhadury said that bringing young minds to the conclave is a good thing as they are the future of the world. He stressed on the need for finding cost-effective and sustainable solutions to combat climate change. Bhadury also noted the local communities' role in restoring mangroves in Odisha as a result of which the cyclone Dana didn't have much impact on the coastal state.

» Dibyakanta Nayak
 Dibyakanta Nayak, Team Lead for Disaster Management at Reliance Foundation, highlighted the need for young volunteers in mitigating natural calamities. He noted that Odisha, with a 480-km long coastline and 11 river systems, has 381 tsunami-prone villages. This makes the role of young volunteers all the more crucial in relief and rescue operations. Nayak cited the example of the recent cyclone Dana when timely information from young volunteers helped the fishermen community.



Founder of Environmentalist Foundation of India Arun Krishnamurthy moderating a panel comprising Team Lead for Disaster Management at Reliance Foundation Dibyakanta Nayak, marine biologist Punyasloke Bhadury, founder of ClimAct Foundation Heeta Lakhani and Dharitri & OrissaPOST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy



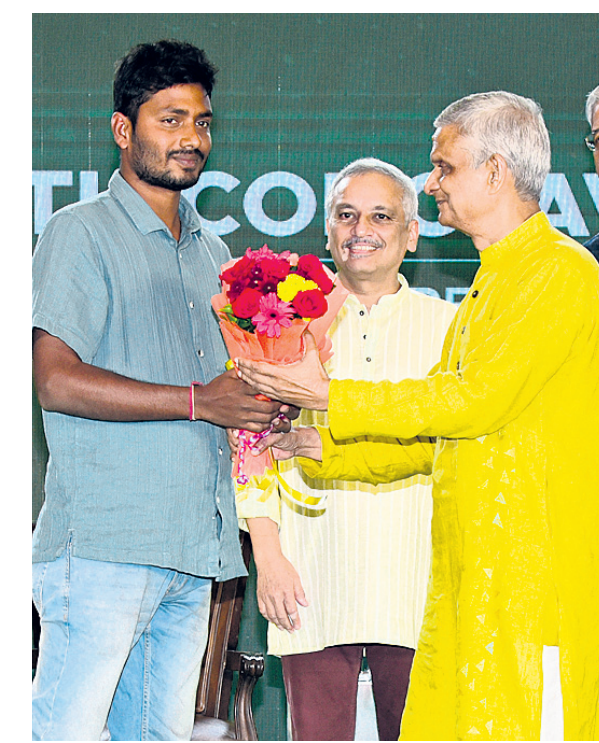
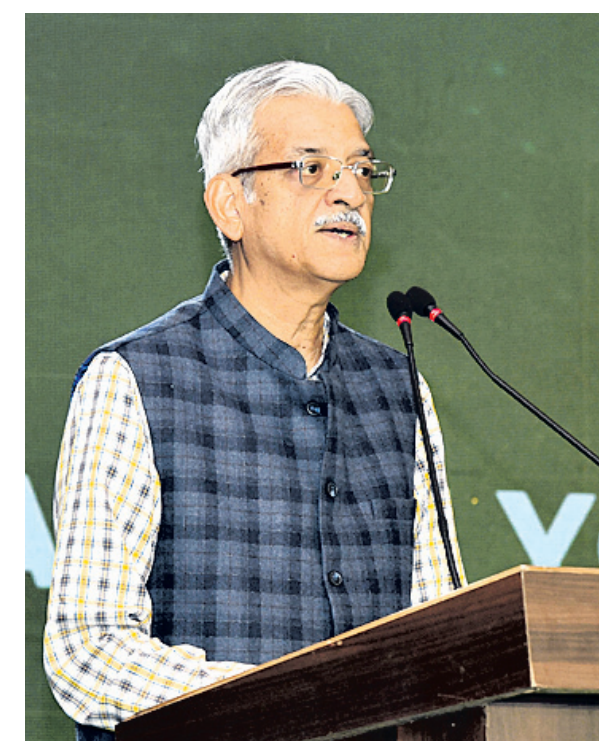
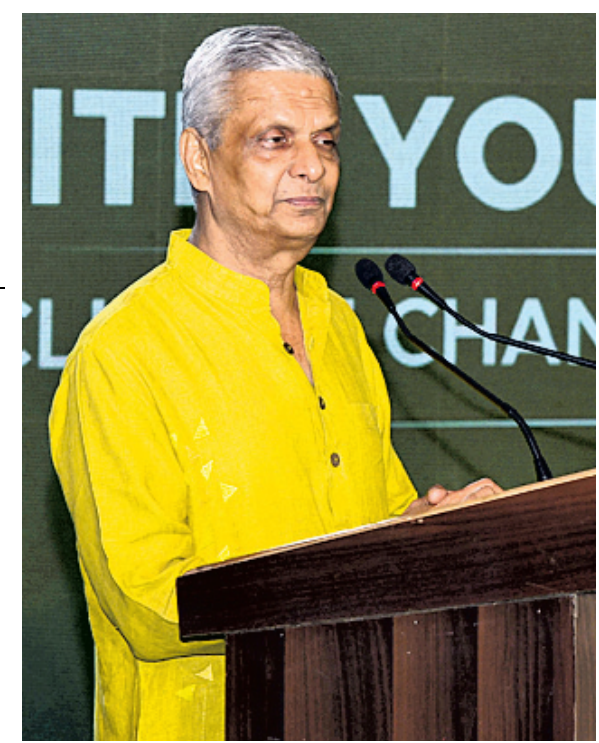
Alok Mohapatra | Ridhi Agarwal | Archit Behera | Aamir Atique | Anandita Mishra | Subhalaxmi Jayasingh | Roop Kumar Seth | Shivam Mishra | Tapan Kumar Das

ACT TODAY FOR A LIVABLE TOMORROW

The fourth edition of 'Dharitri Youth Conclave 2024- Climate Change: Building Resilience' was a grand success marked by an overwhelming participation of young climate warriors, environmental experts, noted domain speakers from across the country and, above all, enthusiastic grassroots crusaders. The conclave proved to be a vibrant platform bringing together a cross-section of individuals and groups working tirelessly towards the common goal of saving the planet from the disastrous consequences of climate change by overcoming all odds. Nevertheless, the message emanating from the gala event was loud and clear: Act today for a livable tomorrow



Dharitri and Orissa POST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy speaks at a panel discussion at the Dharitri Youth Conclave 2024. (From L) Moderator Arun Krishnamurthy, founder Environmentalist Foundation of India, Team Lead for Disaster Management at Reliance Foundation, Dibyakanta Nayak, noted marine biologist Dr Punyashoke Bhadury and founder of ClimAct Foundation Heeta Lakhani look on





Many people from across the parties have helped us in this election (Channapatna). Congress had only 16,000 votes in the previous assembly election. It increased in the Lok Sabha election

DK SHIVAKUMAR | DEPUTY CM, KARNATAKA

AIR INDIA EXPRESS EXPANDS NE FLIGHTS

Low-cost airline Air India Express has announced an increase in flight operations from three major destinations in the northeast - Guwahati, Agartala and Imphal - as part of its winter schedule. This is part of the airlines' expansion of winter services across the country



of the day uote

We suffered huge setbacks in the strongholds of Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray and that of the Congress. It is the failure of not just the Congress party but that of the entire alliance

MOHAN BHAGWAT | RSS CHIEF

What we have to do is, we have to introduce the forgotten pride of India again

YOGI ADITYANATH | CM, UTTAR PRADESH

There are individuals among us who are secretly carrying out anti-national conversions

YOGI ADITYANATH | CM, UTTAR PRADESH

ALL-PARTY MEET

Govt seeks smooth Winter Session

Congress pushes for early debate on Adani issue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: The Opposition Sunday asked the Centre to allow discussions in the Parliament on the US prosecutors' bribery charges against the Adani Group even as Union minister Kiren Rijiju made it clear that the matters to be taken up in the two Houses will be decided by their authorised committees with the consent of the respective Chair.

Following the customary all-party meeting on the eve of the Parliament's Winter Session commencing Monday, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Rijiju told reporters that the government has appealed to all the parties to ensure smooth conduct of business in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

Forty-two leaders from 30



parties attended the meeting which was chaired by senior BJP leader and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

On Congress' demand to hold discussions on the Adani issue on "priority" apart from a host of other matters, including the Manipur unrest, Rijiju said the business advisory committees of the two Houses will take a

call on the subjects of parliamentary business with the consent of the Lok Sabha speaker and the Rajya Sabha chairman.

Raising the matter at the meeting, Congress' Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, dubbed the Adani issue as a scam, saying the government should not reject or ignore their demand

Forty-two leaders from 30 parties attended the meeting which was chaired by senior BJP leader and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

on any "technicality" as it concerns Indian institutions and investors.

Billionaire industrialist Gautam Adani, whose conglomerate includes a host of companies covering power to ports sectors, has been charged by US prosecutors for allegedly being part of a scheme to pay USD 265 million (about ₹2,200 crore) bribe to Indian officials in exchange of favourable terms for solar power contracts in four Indian states.

The Adani Group has denied the charge, saying the allegations levelled by the US prosecutors are baseless and that

the conglomerate is compliant with all laws.

Congress leader Pramod Tiwari also said the government should set aside other businesses to take up a discussion on the issue on priority.

It is a grave issue involving the country's economic and security interests as over ₹2,300 crore were allegedly paid by the company to politicians and bureaucrats to get favourable deals for its solar energy projects, the Rajya Sabha MP said.

Raising the Manipur violence, Gogoi said the ruling dispensation jailed the Jharkhand chief minister (Hemant Soren) and made changes in Jammu and Kashmir for a variety of reasons, but kept its faith in Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh despite his alleged involvement in violence.

The matter must be debated in the Parliament, he said.

The Winter Session is scheduled to be held from November 25 to December 20.

CRPF sets up 3 new forward bases in Ch'garh's Naxal areas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Raipur, Nov 24: The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has opened three new forward bases in the "hardcore" Maoist violence affected districts of Chhattisgarh's Bastar region to provide security forces with "strategic" hubs for launching intensified anti-Naxal operations.

The forward operating bases (FOB) have come up in Tumpalpad and Rayagudem in Sukma district and Kondapalli in the adjoining Bijapur district. These bases have been made operational over the last week or so, officials told PTI.

The Central force is working on a strategy to make inroads into "hardcore" Naxalite areas of the state where the final battle against Left Wing Extremism (LWE) is concentrated.

The FOBs act as launching pads for all security forces, including the CRPF and state police units, to launch specific and intelligence-based anti-Naxal operations in core areas, they said.

All these three villages in the two districts of Bastar region have served as the logistical centres for the Maoists for decades. Kondapalli, as per LWE theatre experts, used to be an important recruitment centre for the "most vital" PLGA battalion no. 1 of the Maoists.

The village located on the banks of river Talperu also served as a training area for the Maoists. Similarly, Tumpalpad, on the banks of the Chintavagu river, served as a halt area and corridor for the Naxals, the experts said. The Tumpalpad FOB was operationalised by the 74th battalion of the force while the Kondapalli base has been created by the 170th CRPF unit. The specialised jungle warfare unit of the CRPF, Command Battalion for Resolute Action (COBRA), provided active security to the teams which created these FOBs, the officials aid.

These FOBs will act as physical barriers and curb the free movement of Naxals in these areas called as 'no go' territories for government authorities and security forces till now, they said.

Soren to take oath as J'khand CM Nov 28



In a stunning comeback, Hemant Soren's JMM-led alliance stormed to power in Jharkhand for a second consecutive term, winning 56 seats in the 81-member Assembly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Nov 24: JMM leader Hemant Soren Sunday met Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar and staked claim to form the government, soon after leaders of the INDIA bloc in the state unanimously elected him as the legislature party leader.

He resigned as the chief minister, before staking claim to form the government. He will officiate as the acting chief minister till oath is administered to him November 28.

"I met the governor. We staked claim to form the government, and handed over support letter of alliance partners to him. He invited us to form the government. The swearing in ceremony will be held November 28," Soren told reporters after meeting Gangwar.

Soren, who drove to the Raj Bhavan in his car, said the governor asked him to officiate as the acting chief minister in the interim. Soren will be sworn in as the 14th chief minister of Jharkhand, which was carved out of Bihar November 15, 2000. He will be sworn in as the chief minister for the fourth term.

Earlier, leaders and MLAs of the alliance, during a meeting at Hemant Soren's residence here, unanimously elected him as the coalition's leader.

Congress's Jharkhand in-charge and party general secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir and senior party leader Rajesh Thakur also attended the meeting, besides legislators of the coalition parties.

In a stunning comeback, Hemant Soren's JMM-led alliance Saturday stormed to power in Jharkhand for a second consecutive term, winning 56 seats in the 81-member Assembly, despite an all-out blitz by the BJP-led NDA which managed only 24 seats.

The majority mark in the state Assembly is 41 seats. Soren retained the Barhait seat by defeating BJP's Gamliyel Hembrom by a margin of 39,791 votes.

Delhi air quality fluctuates between 'Very Poor', 'Severe'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: The air quality index continued to fluctuate between the "severe" and "very poor" categories in Delhi.

The city's 24-hour average air quality index, recorded until 4 pm Sunday, was 318 (very poor), improving from the severe category recorded the previous day when it was 412, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

None of the 38 monitoring stations in Delhi recorded AQI in the severe category Sunday, compared to 20 stations that recorded severe air quality the previous day, according to the SAMEER app, which provides hourly updates on the National Air Quality Index.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered "good," 51-100 "satisfactory," 101-200 "moderate," 201-300 "poor," 301-400 "very poor," 401-450 "severe," and above 450 "severe plus."

CPCB data identified PM2.5 as the primary pollutant, with its levels recorded at 138 at 3 pm. PM2.5 particles, measuring 2.5 micrometers or smaller (approximately the width of a human hair), pose significant health risks as they can penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream, according to the CPCB.

The Centre's Decision Support System (DSS) for Air Quality Management estimated that vehicular emissions contributed 18.1 per cent to Delhi's pollution Sunday. Stubble burning, another major factor, accounted for 19 per cent of Delhi's pollution Saturday.

The DSS provides daily estimates for vehicular emissions, while data on stubble burning is typically released the following day.

Opposition blames BJP for Sambhal violence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 24: Opposition parties in Uttar Pradesh blamed the BJP for the violence in Sambhal, alleging the survey team was sent to the mosque by the party to nurture its "politics of hatred".

The BJP, in turn, alleged that the INDIA alliance had been trying to create unrest since the Lok Sabha polls. It said that those who do not agree with judicial orders should take legal recourse.

"Nobody has any right to break the law. If a court has passed an order, it will be implemented. The judicial process is available for those who want the order amended," party spokesperson Nalin Kohli said.

Another BJP spokesperson Ajay Alok blamed what he called the "ghamandia alliance" (an alliance full of arrogance), a term BJP leaders have



often used for the INDIA bloc, for the violence.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav lashed out at the BJP, saying its government and the administration orchestrated the violence "to divert attention from electoral malpractice".

"A survey team was deliberately sent in the morning to disrupt discussions about the election. The intention was to create chaos so that no debate on election issues could happen," he said at a press conference in Lucknow.

SHORT TAKES

Terrorist hideout busted in J&K

Srinagar: Security forces Sunday busted a terrorist hideout in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. "Police in Handwara along with security forces have busted a terrorist hideout in the forest area of Mughalpora Kremhora and recovered ammunition and explosives," a police spokesperson said. The forces launched a combing operation in the forest area of Mughalpora Kremhora in the Zachaldara Police Post jurisdiction. "During the operation, a terrorist hideout was discovered, and a significant cache of explosives and ammunition, including 10 grenades were recovered from the site," he added.

Man arrested for gunning down son

Aizawl: Mizoram Police arrested a 48-year-old man for allegedly gunning down his son in a fit of rage. According to police, the incident took place Saturday evening in Aizawl's Dinthar locality, where the accused, Ralthuamliana, was engaged in a quarrel with his 28-year-old son, David R Lalduhawma, over domestic issues. In a fit of rage, Ralthuamliana took his gun and shot his son, who succumbed to injuries in nearby Ebenezer Medical Center, police added

Minor girl raped in forest; 2 held

Raisen (MP): A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a truck driver while his two associates restrained the teenager's male friend in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district, an official said Sunday. Police have arrested two persons, including the truck driver, in connection with the alleged crime committed in Siyarmau forest on Silwani-Sagar Road, some 110 km from the district headquarters, Saturday evening, he said.

Cop hurt in IED blast

Sukma (Chhattisgarh): A District Reserve Guard constable was injured when a pressure improvised explosive device (IED) planted by Naxalites exploded in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district Sunday, police said. Security personnel also recovered another IED planted by Naxalites at a separate place in same area of the district, they said. The IED blast took place at around 11 am near the newly set up Raiguda police camp under Chintalnar police station area when a team of District Reserve Guard (DRG), a unit of the state police, was out on an area domination operation, an official said.

Centre issues guidelines for disability reservation to ensure uniformity

The updated guidelines aim to ensure inclusivity, fairness, and uniformity in the employment of persons with disabilities across central government establishments

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: The Centre has issued comprehensive guidelines to streamline reservation and identification of posts for persons with at least 40 per cent disabilities, mandating periodic identification of such posts and formation of committees to assess them.

The guidelines also state that if a post is deemed suitable for them, all subsequent promotional posts will also be reserved for persons with disabilities.

The guidelines are in line with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016.

The move comes after the Delhi High Court flagged inconsistencies in implementation of the the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 and criticised entities like the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) for unauthorised actions in identifying posts.

The high court earlier this month observed that KVS had overstepped its authority by independently identifying posts for PwBDs and highlighted inconsistencies in the understanding of the Act among various departments.

The court mandated the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities



(DEPwD) to establish uniform guidelines.

The updated guidelines aim to ensure inclusivity, fairness, and uniformity in the employment of persons with disabilities across central government establishments.

The new guidelines also ask ministries and departments to

form committees, including representatives with disabilities, to assess all posts for their suitability.

A comprehensive review of identified posts is required every three years to incorporate technological advancements and evolving job requirements.

The guidelines also mandate

A comprehensive review of identified posts is required every three years to incorporate technological advancements and evolving job requirements

The guidelines also mandate a four per cent reservation in direct recruitment and promotions across categories, including blindness, locomotor disability, hearing impairment, and intellectual disabilities

a four per cent reservation in direct recruitment and promotions across categories, including blindness, locomotor disability, hearing impairment, and intellectual disabilities.

Additionally, they emphasise timely filling of backlog vacancies, wide publicity to ensure accessibility, and a three-year validity period for exemptions from reservation policies.

The government has also

clarified that exemptions from reservation are valid for a maximum of three years and must be periodically reviewed. The move aims to ensure fairness while leveraging advancements in assistive technology.

Effective immediately, these guidelines supersede all previous instructions on the matter, except notifications issued in 2021 and 2022.

Arman Ali, Executive Director, National Centre for Promotion of Employment of Disabled People (NCPEDP), said identifying posts suitable for persons with benchmark disabilities is not just about fulfilling reservation mandates; it's a stepping stone to enabling career growth.

Extending this process to promotional positions ensures that persons with disabilities are not confined to entry-level roles but have equal opportunities to advance in their careers.

national



Those who do not respect women can never win. They demolished my home and verbally abused me
KANGANA RANAUT | BJP MP

MANIPUR GOVT SCRAPS PLAN TO REOPEN SCHOOLS, COLLEGES

The Manipur government scrapped its decision to reopen schools and colleges in Imphal Valley and Jiribam district Monday, officials said. Schools and colleges were shut in Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Kakching, and Jiribam for about a week due to prohibitory orders issued in view of fresh violence in the state, they said



of the day uote

The Ladki Bahin scheme and religious polarisation played a role. Women's participation in large numbers could be the reason for the Mahayuti sweep in Maharashtra. We will study the reasons for the debacle and take necessary steps
SHARAD PAWAR | NCP (SP) CHIEF

We have won in Jharkhand. We will review the reasons behind Maharashtra defeat. But I can say with confidence that we will win the 2025 Bihar elections
TEJASHWI YADAV | RJD LEADER

Similarly, if suitable candidates from Other Scheduled Castes are not available, candidates from Deprived Scheduled Castes will be considered to fill the remaining vacant posts
NAYAB SINGH SAINI | HARYANA CM

UP BYPOLLS Akhilesh, Mayawati allege rigging

Lucknow, Nov 24: A day after by-election results for nine Uttar Pradesh Assembly constituencies were declared, political accusations flared Sunday as Opposition leaders from the BSP and SP alleged electoral malpractice, a charge vehemently denied by the ruling BJP. The BJP and its ally RLD secured seven of the nine seats and the SP grabbed the other two. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) failed to make any mark. Both BSP chief Mayawati and SP president Akhilesh Yadav have now raised concerns over the integrity of the electoral process, accusing the ruling party of irregularities. Yadav accused the BJP of "electronic booth capturing". Calling for a forensic examination of the EVMs used, Yadav claimed that discrepancies in voting patterns would reveal widespread fraud. "Voters were prevented from casting their votes, yet the booths recorded high turnout. This indicates that someone else voted on their behalf," he alleged. Yadav also accused the administration and police of removing SP booth agents and intimidating voters. Referring specifically to the Kundarki constituency, where



- The BJP and its ally RLD secured seven of the nine seats and the SP grabbed the other two. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) failed to make any mark
- Both BSP chief Mayawati and SP president Akhilesh Yadav have now raised concerns over the integrity of the electoral process, accusing the ruling party of irregularities
- Yadav accused the BJP of "electronic booth capturing"
- Calling for a forensic examination of the EVMs used, Yadav claimed that discrepancies in voting patterns would reveal widespread fraud

BJP candidate Ramveer Singh won by around 1.45 lakh votes, Yadav alleged that his party's candidate Haji Rizwan faced severe electoral malpractices. "This is the new-age electronic booth capturing," Yadav said, demanding that the Election Commission review booth records and voter turnout data. Addressing a press conference Sunday, BSP president Mayawati alleged that "fake

the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, unless the EC implements strict measures to prevent fraudulent voting. However, she said that the BSP would continue to contest general elections with full preparation. Responding to the Opposition's accusations, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak launched a sharp counter-attack. Maurya said Yadav was claiming that the SP would win all nine seats, but they were confined to just two. "They had demanded the cancellation of elections on three seats - Kundarki, Shishamau, and Mirapur. Out of these, the Shishamau seat has been won by the Samajwadi Party," he added. "I have received information that the BJP candidate from Kundarki won by a margin of approximately 1.5 lakh votes, which has clearly frustrated Akhilesh Yadav," Maurya told PTI Videos. "In the future, everyone will puncture the Samajwadi Party's cycle, and Akhilesh Yadav, who dreams of coming to power in 2027, will not be seen anywhere near power not just in 2027 but even in 2047," he added. Pathak too accused Yadav of being unable to accept defeat and dismissed his allegations as baseless.

Fresh plea in top court seeks probe into US indictment of Adani



New Delhi, Nov 24: A fresh plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a probe into the indictment of billionaire industrialist Gautam Adani who has been charged in the US for alleged bribery and fraud, saying the move "unveiled malpractices carried out by the conglomerate". The plea has been filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari as an interlocutory application in the batch of pleas in the Adani-Hindenburg row over allegations of stock price manipulation by the Indian corporate giant. The US Department of Justice has accused Adani of being part of an elaborate scheme to pay \$265 million (about Rs 2,200 crore) bribe to Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms for solar power contracts in four Indian states. The Adani Group has denied the charge, saying the allegations levelled by the US prosecutors are baseless and that the conglomerate is compliant with all laws. It also vowed to pursue all possible legal recourse. In his plea before the apex court, Tiwari contended that the allegations against Adani are of "serious nature" and should be investigated by the

The Adani Group has denied the charge, saying the allegations levelled by the US prosecutors are baseless and that the conglomerate is compliant with all laws. It also vowed to pursue all possible legal recourse

Indian authorities. "The SEBI has to inspire confidence by concluding the investigations and placing on record the report and conclusion of the probes. As there were allegations of short selling in the SEBI investigation and the present allegations levelled by the foreign authorities might have connection or may not have, but SEBI's investigation report should clear this so that the investors may not lose confidence," the plea said. Floor leaders of several Opposition parties of the INDIA bloc would meet Monday morning to chalk out their joint strategy for the upcoming winter session of Parliament. The leaders would meet at 10 AM at the office of the leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge. Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi is also likely to participate in the deliberations. The Opposition is seeking to corner the government on several issues, including Adani's indictment in the US, Manipur violence, and price rise. The meeting also comes two days after the BJP-led alliance won Maharashtra Assembly elections, while the INDIA Bloc won Jharkhand Assembly polls.

POST OF THE DAY

BJP has made sure there is no opposition left in Maharashtra. Which means BJP can now pass any bill, sell land, sell port, airport, sell business to Gujarat, increase taxes, underpay farmers, without any resistance or discussion in Legislative Assembly. This is dangerous.
#BanEVM_SaveIndia @Pria1NC

Central Hall to host special event to mark Constitution Day

New Delhi, Nov 24: President Droupadi Murmu will address a special function to mark the beginning of the year-long celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution Tuesday. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will also address the function at the Central Hall of the Samvidhan Sadan or the old Parliament building. "The tagline for the year-long celebrations would be 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Swabhiman'," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju told reporters here Sunday. The Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution at the Central Hall November 26, 1949. The Constitution came into force January 26, 1950. A commemorative coin and a stamp will be released on the occasion, besides copies of the Constitution in Sanskrit and Maithili. Two books - "Making of the Constitution: A Glimpse" and "Making of the Constitution and its Glorious Journey" - will also be released, besides a booklet dedicated to the illustrations in the Constitution.



Visitors at a stall at the International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi

SHORT TAKE

Ajit Pawar elected as leader of NCP

Mumbai: The National Congress Party (NCP) Sunday elected its president Ajit Pawar as the leader of the party in the Maharashtra Assembly. The party has won a record 41 seats after contesting 58 constituencies. Ajit Pawar, who broke away from his uncle Sharad Pawar in July 2023, has outsmarted him by winning more seats and has now claimed that the real NCP is headed by him (Ajit Pawar). Ajit Pawar at his official residence, 'Devigiri', in South Mumbai welcomed the newly elected legislators and reviewed the party's stellar performance in the Assembly election.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Pusp Mahakud, W/o - Manas Ranjan Mahakud, resident of MIG-I-58/5, HB Colony, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, Dist - Khordha, Odisha - 751016. I have obtained new correct Birth Certificate of my son Adarsh Mahakud vide issue No. 17459/2024 wherein the correct name of mine is mentioned as Pusp Mahakud and my husband's name is reflected as Manas Ranjan Mahakud.

SNIPPETS

Misled by GPS navigation, car falls into river; 3 dead

Bareilly (UP): Three people died when their car fell into the Ramganga river from a partially constructed bridge here Sunday, police said, adding that they suspect the driver was misled by its navigation system into taking the unsafe route. The accident occurred around 10 am on the Khalpur-Dataganj road when the victims were travelling from Bareilly to Dataganj in the Badaun district, they said. "Earlier this year, floods had caused the front portion of the bridge to collapse into the river, but this change had not been updated in the system," Circle Officer Ashutosh Shivam said. The driver was using a navigation system and did not realise that the bridge was unsafe, driving the car off the damaged section, the police said.

Man held for impersonating IAS officer to dupe people

Ahmedabad: The Ahmedabad police have arrested a 29-year-old man who allegedly posed as an IAS officer and used fake letters claiming to be from various government departments to cheat people, an official said Sunday. Mehul Shah, an engineer who manages two schools at Vankaner in Gujarat's Morbi district, is accused of making lakhs of rupees with bogus documents and false claims, said inspector (crime branch) JK Makwana. Posing as a top government official, the accused contacted Pratik Shah, who runs a car rental business, and asked him to provide a vehicle fixed with a siren and curtains. However, he did not pay the rent, Makwana said. "The accused identified himself as a director in the revenue department and an IAS officer. He produced bogus letters claiming to be from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the "department of science and research development" and a work permit to get the siren and curtain fixed in the car," Makwana said.

Assam Police mount 24x7 vigil along inter-state border

Silchar (Assam)/Imphal: The Assam government, in view of the renewed violence in neighbouring Manipur, has further tightened security along the 204-km-long inter-state border, deploying police and commandos on a 24x7 basis in border districts, officials said Sunday. Assam's Cachar (130.60 km) and Dima Hasao (73.5 km) districts share borders with ethnic violence-devastated Manipur. A senior Assam Police official said that they stepped up security measures along the inter-state border. Cachar's Superintendent of Police Nural Mahatta has been closely overseeing the inter-state border security measures with daily inspections at the border. "Given the current law and order situation in Jiribam district in Manipur, strict security arrangements have been executed to prevent unauthorised entry from Manipur into Cachar and to deter any potential sabotage that could exploit the unrest in Jiribam. Enhanced security measures have also been established along the riverine areas bordering Manipur, including the Jiri and Barak rivers," the official told the media.

'Direct eye banks, hospitals to register transplants with NOTTO'

New Delhi, Nov 24: The Centre has asked states to direct eye banks and hospitals performing tissue or cornea transplants to mandatorily link and register such procedures with the national registry maintained by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO). The hospitals and eye banks will be required to share data on the number of patients waiting for tissue and cornea transplants, the number of donations and transplantations performed as well as the number of tissue and cornea stored

and utilised. Just like the waiting lists for transplant of organs such as liver and kidney can be seen on the centralised platform, the list of patients waiting for cornea transplants will also be made available, a senior official said. "The appropriate authority of each state should also collect data on tissue/cornea donation and transplantation from all such registered centres and furnish the same to NOTTO every month," a letter from NOTTO Director Dr Anil Kumar to all states and Union Territories said. It stated that the necessity for a centralised registry system for cornea donation,



retrieval and distribution was highlighted in a meeting held under the chairmanship of the Director General of Health Services May 14. The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 (THOTA) mandates

that the Central government maintains a national registry for organ and tissue donors and recipients. "All tissue transplants, including cornea, transplant centres and tissue banks, including eye banks registered by appropriate authorities in states, are required to link with the national registry maintained by NOTTO and share the data related to the list of patients waiting for tissue/cornea transplant, number of tissue/cornea donation and transplantation and number of tissue/cornea stored and utilised," the letter stated. It also noted that there are many non-performing eye banks that have been granted registration. According to THOTA rules, 2014, a minimum of 500 corneas are to be collected in five years by each eye bank. "The appropriate authority of state is requested to examine the data on eye/cornea collection annually by the registered eye banks and in case of less performance, the authority can consider issuing a warning notice to the eye bank for augmenting their eye donation activities otherwise in case of under-performance their renewal may not be considered for the next term."

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Ukraine is not a testing ground for weapons. Ukraine is a sovereign and independent state. But Russia still continues its efforts to kill our people, spread fear and panic, and weaken us

IRAN TO HOLD N-TALK WITH EUROPEAN POWERS Iran plans to hold talks about its disputed nuclear programme with three European powers November 29 in Geneva, Japan's Kyodo news agency reported Sunday



of the day quote

We see that Washington, in violation of the 'one China' principle that it recognises, is strengthening military-political contacts with Taipei under the slogan of maintaining the 'status quo', and increasing arms supplies

Without peace, there can be no development, no prosperity, no future. Without peace, there are no human rights and no developments as such

Acts of antisemitism, intimidation, and violence must be condemned wherever we see them

Hezbollah rains rockets on Israel

Lebanon-backed militant group fires about 250 rockets, other projectiles into Israel, wounding at least 7

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jerusalem, Nov 24: Hezbollah fired about 250 rockets and other projectiles into Israel Sunday, wounding seven people in one of the militant group's heaviest barrages in months, in response to deadly Israeli strikes in Beirut while negotiators pressed on with cease-fire efforts to halt the all-out war.



Meanwhile, an Israeli strike on an army centre killed a Lebanese soldier and wounded 18 others in the southwest between Tyre and Naqoura, Lebanon's military said. The Israeli military expressed regret, saying that the strike occurred in an area of combat against Hezbollah and that the military's operations are directed solely against the militants.

- Hezbollah rockets cause damage near Tel Aviv, Nahariya
Israeli airstrike killed 29 people in Beirut Saturday
EU's Borrell says US ceasefire plan awaits Israeli assent
Attack on Lebanese base kills soldier, Israel expresses regret

reported 13 injuries it said were caused by an interceptor missile that struck several homes in Tulkarem in the West Bank. It was unclear whether the injuries and damage elsewhere were caused by rockets or interceptors.

Sirens wailed again in central and northern Israel hours later. Israeli airstrikes without warning Saturday pounded central Beirut, killing at least 29 people and wounding 67, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

Smoke billowed above Beirut again Sunday with new strikes. Israel's military said it targeted Hezbollah command centres in the southern suburbs of Dahiyeh, where the militants have a strong presence.

Israeli attacks have killed more than 3,700 people in Lebanon, according to the Health Ministry. The fighting has displaced about 1.2 million people, or a quarter of Lebanon's population.

On the Israeli side, about 90 soldiers and nearly 50 civilians have been killed by bombardment in northern Israel and in battle following Israel's ground invasion in early October. Around 60,000 Israelis have been displaced from the country's north.

Islamabad locked down ahead of Khan's protests

Large contingents of police and paramilitary personnel have been deployed in riot gear, while mobile phone services have been suspended

REUTERS

Islamabad, Nov 24: Pakistan's capital was put under a security lockdown Sunday ahead of protests by supporters of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan calling for his release.

Highways leading to Islamabad through which supporters of Khan, led by members of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, are expected to approach the city and gather near the Parliament, have been blocked.

Most major roads of the city have also been blocked by the government with shipping containers and large contingents of police and paramilitary personnel have been deployed in riot gear, while mobile phone services have been suspended.

Gatherings of any sort have been banned under legal provisions, the Islamabad police said in a statement.

Global internet watchdog NetBlocks said on X, formerly known as Twitter, that live metrics showed WhatsApp messaging services had been restricted ahead of the protests.

A key Khan aide, Ali Amin Gandapur, who is the chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and is expected to lead the largest convoy into Islamabad, called on people to gather near the entrance of the city's red zone, known as "D Chowk".

Islamabad's red zone houses the country's Parliament building, important government installations, as well as embassies and foreign institutions' offices.



ing, important government installations, as well as embassies and foreign institutions' offices. "Khan has called on us to remain there till all our demands are met," he said in a video message Saturday.

The PTI's demands include the release of all its leaders, including Khan, as well as the resignation of the current government due to what it says was a rigged election this year.

Khan has been in jail since August last year and, since being voted out of power by Parliament in 2022, faces a number of charges ranging from corruption to instigation of violence.

He and his party deny all the charges. "These constant protests are destroying the economy and creating instability. We want the political leadership to sit together and resolve these matters," Muhammad Asif, 35, a resident of Islamabad said in front of a closed market.

The last protest in Islamabad by PTI in early October turned violent with one policeman killed, dozens of security personnel injured and protesters arrested. Both sides accused the other of instigating the clashes.

SHORT TAKES

New Bangladesh EC sworn in

Dhaka: Bangladesh's newly appointed Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin and four other commissioners were sworn in Sunday nearly three months after the resignation of the previous commission as deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's regime was toppled in a student-led mass upsurge. Chief Justice Syed Rezaat Ahmed administered the oath of office to the new commission at the Supreme Court Judges' Lounge at a ceremony joined by the top court judges and concerned officials. The swearing-in ceremony was staged days after a search committee appointed by the interim government of Muhammad Yunus recommended the names of the new Election Commission chief and members who previously served as civil servants, military officers and lower judiciary judges.

Romanians cast ballots in Prez race

Bucharest: Romanians are casting ballots Sunday in the first round of a presidential election that could pit a far-right nationalist against the incumbent leftist Prime Minister in the runoff. Thirteen candidates are vying for the presidency in the European Union and NATO member country, and the vote is expected to go to a second round December 8. Polls opened at 7 am local time (0500GMT) and will close at 9 pm (1900GMT). Romanians abroad have been able to vote since Friday. The final vote could see George Simion, the leader of the far-right Alliance for the Unity of Romanians, or AUR, face off against incumbent Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu, backed by Romania's largest party, the Social Democratic Party or PSD.

Paramilitary attack in Sudan kills 15

Khartoum: At least 15 civilians were killed and 20 others injured in an artillery attack by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in western Sudan, the Sudanese Armed Forces' (SAF)'s 6th Infantry Division said Sunday. The RSF militia attacked the Naivasha market in El Fasher, capital of North Darfur State, "with three howitzer artillery shells Saturday evening," the division said in a statement. The division accused the RSF of systematically targeting civilians via shelling markets and gathering areas. The RSF has not yet commented on the alleged attack. Since May 10, violent clashes have been raging in El Fasher between the SAF and the RSF, Xinhua news agency reported.

SNIPPETS

Japan holds Sado mines memorial despite SK's boycott

Sado: Japan held a memorial ceremony Sunday near the Sado Island Gold Mines despite a last-minute boycott of the event by South Korea that highlighted tensions between the neighbors over the issue of Korean forced laborers at the site before and during World War II. South Korea's absence at Sunday's memorial, to which Seoul government officials and Korean victims' families were invited, is a major setback in the rapidly improving ties between the two countries, which since last year have set aside their historical disputes to prioritise US-led security cooperation. The Sado mines were listed in July as a UNESCO World Heritage site after Japan moved past years of disputes with South Korea and reluctantly acknowledged the mines' dark history.

Russia removes commander in Ukraine for misleading reports

Moscow: Russia has removed a senior general in Ukraine for giving misleading reports about the progress of the war as Defence Minister Andrei Belousov tries to clear out poor commanders, pro-Russian war bloggers and Russian media said. Ahead of winter, Russian forces advanced at the fastest rate in Ukraine since the start of the 2022 invasion, though progress was much slower in some areas, particularly around Siversk in the eastern region of Donetsk. Russian media cited unidentified sources as saying that Colonel General Gennady Anashkin, the commander of the Southern Grouping, had been removed from his command, though there was no official confirmation. Russian war bloggers have long complained about the command of the operation around Siversk where they said poorly supported Russian units were thrown into deadly battles for little apparent tactical gain.

Earth bids farewell to its temporary 'mini moon'

Planet Earth is parting company with an asteroid that's been tagging along as a 'mini moon' for the past two months

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cape Canaveral, Nov 24: Planet Earth is parting company with an asteroid that's been tagging along as a "mini moon" for the past two months.

The harmless space rock will peel away Monday, overcome by the stronger tug of the sun's gravity. But it will zip closer for a quick visit in January.

NASA will use a radar antenna to observe the 33-foot asteroid then. That should deepen scientists' understanding of the object known as 2024 PT5, quite possibly a boulder that was blasted off the moon by an impacting, crater-forming asteroid.

While not technically a moon, NASA stresses it was



never captured by Earth's gravity and fully in orbit, it's "an interesting object" worthy of study.

The astrophysicist brothers who identified the asteroid's "mini moon behaviour," Raul and Carlos de la Fuente Marcos of Complutense University of Madrid, have collaborated



A Philippine Air Force helicopter drops water on burning homes as fire broke out at a slum area leaving about 2,000 families homeless Sunday in Manila, Philippines

'Philippine VP's death threat against Prez a security matter'

REUTERS

Manila, Nov 24: The Philippines' Security Council will verify an alleged assassination threat by Vice President Sara Duterte against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, a top official said Sunday, describing it as a "matter of national security".

Duterte, in a strongly-worded morning briefing Saturday, said she had spoken with an assassin and instructed them to kill Marcos, his wife and the speaker of the Philippine House if she were to be killed.

National Security Adviser Eduardo Ano said the government considers all threats to the President as "serious", vowing to closely work with law enforcement and intelligence communities to investigate the threat and possible perpetrators.

"Any and all threats against the life of the President shall be validated and considered a matter of national security," Ano said in a statement.

The Presidential Communications Office, citing the justice ministry, said Duterte's threats are now under investigation and may lead to charges.

"If the evidence warrants, this could lead to eventual prosecution," Marcos' office said in a statement.

Duterte's threat stemmed from an order by lawmakers to transfer her chief-of-staff to a jail for allegedly impeding its probe over the vice-president's alleged misuse of public funds.

In response to Duterte's threat, Marcos' presidential security command said it had tightened its protocols in guarding the Philippine leader and the national police chief had ordered an investigation.

Duterte, the daughter of former President Rodrigo Duterte, and Marcos were once political partners who won an overwhelming mandate to lead the nation's top two offices in 2022.

While not technically a moon, NASA stresses it was never captured by Earth's gravity and fully in orbit

with telescopes in the Canary Islands for hundreds of observations so far.

Currently more than 3.5 million kilometers away, the object is too small and faint to see without a powerful telescope. It will pass as close as 1.8 million kilometers of Earth in January, maintaining a safe distance before it zooms farther into the solar system while orbiting the sun, not to return until 2055. That's al-

most five times farther than the moon.

First spotted in August, the asteroid began its semi jog around Earth in late September, after coming under the grips of Earth's gravity and following a horseshoe-shaped path. By the time it returns next year, it will be moving too fast, more than double its speed from September, to hang around, said Raul de la Fuente Marcos.

NASA will track the asteroid for more than a week in January using the Goldstone solar system radar antenna in California's Mojave Desert, part of the Deep Space Network.

Current data suggest that during its 2055 visit, the sun-circling asteroid will once again make a temporary and partial lap around Earth.



“We have been looking at how to lift and rejuvenate tourism from India to Sri Lanka to the next level. The airline sees India as a place of enormous growth and possibilities
”
RICHARD NUTTALL | CEO, SRILANKAN AIRLINES

REALTY MAJORS SELL RS 35K-CR WORTH PROPERTIES IN Q2

India's 26 major listed real estate firms have sold properties worth nearly Rs 35,000 crore during the September quarter with Godrej Properties reporting highest sales bookings



of the day quote

Global factors continue to pose significant risks. Escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine, alongside rising crude oil prices, have added to inflationary concerns

As far as EV motorcycles ... we are developing in partnership with Zero Motorcycles...it (bike) will be coming in the middle-weight segment

Space sector is something which we have been engaged in through our subsidiary IPL. IPL got repeated mandates from ISRO for helping them in many of their endeavours, including transfer of space satellites

FPI selling spree continues

FOREIGN INVESTORS PULL OUT ₹26,533CR IN NOV, INTENSITY OF OUTFLOW REDUCES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: Foreign investors have pulled out Rs 26,533 crore from the Indian equity market this month so far owing to increasing allocations to China, concerns over muted corporate earnings and elevated valuation of domestic stocks.

While the sell-off continues, the quantum of net outflows has significantly reduced compared to October, when Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) withdrew Rs 94,017 crore (\$11.2 billion) on a net basis.

With the latest pull-out, FPI outflows on a net basis are Rs 19,940 crore in 2024 so far.

Going ahead, the flows from foreign investors into the Indian equity markets would depend on the policies implemented under Donald Trump's presidency, the prevailing inflation and interest rate dynamics, the trajectory of the geopolitical landscape, and the third-quarter earnings performance of Indian companies, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research



India, said. According to the data, FPIs recorded a net outflow of Rs 26,533 crore so far this month (till November 22). This came following a net withdrawal of Rs 94,017 crore in October, which was the worst monthly outflow. However, in September, foreign investors made a nine-month high investment of Rs 57,724 crore.

Concerns over the elevated valuations of Indian equities persist, prompting FPIs to redi-

rect their attention toward markets offering more attractive valuations, Srivastava said.

Additionally, China continues to draw significant foreign inflows at India's expense, bolstered by its compelling valuation levels and the recent announcement of stimulus measures aimed at revitalizing its slowing economy, he said.

Furthermore, India's sub-par corporate earnings and elevated inflation figures have raised concerns about potential delays

“The 'Sell India, Buy China' trade is over, 'the Trump trade' also appears to be on its last leg since valuations have reached high levels in the US
”

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

in domestic interest rate cuts, he added.

VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, flagged investors' concerns surrounding FY25 earnings.

In terms of sectors, FPIs have been buying IT stocks while banking stocks have been resilient despite facing selling pressure, mainly due to support from domestic institutional investors.

On the other hand, FPIs withdrew Rs 1,110 crore from the debt general limit and invested Rs 872 crore in the debt Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) this month until November 22.

So far this year, FPIs invested Rs 1.05 lakh crore in the debt market.

MOMENTUM REGAINED

IPO PIPELINE TO REMAIN STRONG

10 companies aim to raise ₹20,000cr in December

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: The primary market is expected to remain vibrant, with at least 10 companies, including supermarket major Vishal Mega Mart and Blackstone-owned diamond grading firm International Gemmological Institute (India) Ltd expected to raise a combined Rs 20,000 crore in the next month, merchant bankers said.

Education-focused NBFC Avanse Financial Services, TPG Capital-backed Sai Life Sciences, hospital chain operator Paras Healthcare, and investment bank DAM Capital Advisors are also among the companies planning to launch their IPOs in December, they added.

The companies aim to raise a total of Rs 20,000 crore through their public offerings. These IPOs will span various sectors, and deal sizes, and include both fresh issues and offers for sale.

Trivesh D, COO of Tradejini, an online brokerage house, told PTI that the Maharashtra election verdict and the UP Lok Sabha by-election results have created a positive market sentiment that could boost IPO activity and fundraising efforts.

While 2024 has been a strong year for IPOs, some recent issues have struggled in the secondary market, highlighting the recurring challenge of pricing during a bull run when issuers often aim for higher valuations, he said.

“For now, with election-related funds returning to the market and the grey market becoming active again, the IPO space has regained some momentum,” he added.

Vishal Mega Mart is looking to float an Rs 8,000-crore IPO, which will be entirely an offer-for-sale (OFS) of shares by promoter Samayat Services LLP, with no fresh issue of equity shares, according to the updated draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

Gemmological Institute is eyeing Rs 4,000 crore through an IPO. The initial share sale is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 1,250 crore and an OFS valued at Rs 2,750 crore by promoter BCP Asia II TopCo Pte Ltd, an affiliate of Blackstone, draft papers showed.



Avanse Financial Services is aiming to launch Rs 3,500 crore IPO. This comprises a fresh issue of equity shares of up to Rs 1,000 crore and OFS of up to Rs 2,500 crore by the selling shareholders. The company, promoted by Olive Vine Investment Ltd, an affiliate of private equity major Warburg Pincus, proposes to use the funds to increase its capital base for future needs.

Also, diagnostic chain Suraksha Diagnostic, packaging equipment manufacturer Mamata Machinery and Transrail Lighting will float their respective public issues in the next month.

Moreover, 75 companies, including Hyundai Motor India, Swiggy, NTPC Green Energy, Bajaj Housing Finance, Ola Electric Mobility and FirstCry's parent Brainbees Solutions have already mobilised around Rs 1.3 lakh crore collectively via mainboard. This was way higher than Rs 49,436 crore garnered by 57 firms through the route in the entire 2023.

The primary market is experiencing strong interest from both issuers and investors across various sectors.

Going ahead, over 30 IPOs are expected in the coming month. This huge pipeline could strain liquidity and the market's ability to absorb them, especially if foreign investors keep pulling out funds, Saunabh Patwa, Head of Research and Portfolio Manager, Quest Investment Advisors, said.

Additionally, IPO investors over the past five fiscal years have enjoyed significant gains. As many as 236 IPOs were launched between FY21 and FY25 which delivered an average listing gain of 27 per cent for the retail bucket, with current gains soaring to 105 per cent (as of October 31, 2024) Trivesh said.

THE COMPANIES ARE TAPPING THE PRIMARY MARKET TO PROVIDE AN EXIT ROUTE TO THE EXISTING SHAREHOLDERS, RAISE FUNDS FOR EXPANSION PLANS, RETIRE DEBT, AND SUPPORT WORKING CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS

Mcap of eight of top-10 most-valued companies jumps ₹1.55 lakh crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: Eight of the top-10 most valued domestic firms together added Rs 1,55,603.45 crore in market valuation last week, with HDFC Bank and Tata Consultancy Services emerging as the biggest gainers, in tandem with firm trend in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark zoomed 1,536.8 points, or 1.98 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 374.55 points, or 1.59 per cent.

The BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 1,961.32 points, or 2.54 per cent, to settle at 79,117.11 Friday. The NSE Nifty soared 557.35 points or, 2.39 per cent, to 23,907.25.

From the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) were the laggards.

The market valuation of HDFC Bank jumped Rs 40,392.91 crore to Rs 13,34,418.14 crore, the most among the top-10 firms.

The mcap of Reliance Industries dipped Rs 2,368.16 crore to Rs 17,13,130.75 crore.

Reliance Industries remained the most valued domestic firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, Infosys, State Bank of India, ITC, Hindustan Unilever and LIC.

‘Gold prices snub Trump’s aggressive trade policy’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: Gold prices have breached Rs 80,000 per 10 grams levels in major Indian cities, recovering from the impact of Donald Trump's expected high tariff trade policy and a firm US dollar, analysts said.

A flare-up in geopolitical tensions due to the Russia-Ukraine war is bolstering the precious metal, which crossed the \$2,700 an ounce level in global markets, they added.

The uncertainty surrounding the US economy and volatile stock markets are also driving inflows into the safe-haven, however, the US Federal Reserve's (Fed) cautious attitude towards policy interest rate and strong US dollar are acting as headwinds for the bullion, analysts stated.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold prices tanked Rs 6,775, or 8.5 per cent, to hit Rs 73,000 per 10 grams after Donald Trump's victory raised expectations of a restricted trade policy by the US. “Gold prices had fallen 8 per cent after the US election results. The strengthening US dollar index which rose from \$101 to 107.5 pressured gold immense-



“Gold prices surged significantly as geopolitical tensions fuelled safe-haven demand, driven by renewed fears of nuclear risks in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict
”
JATEEN TRIVEDI | VP RESEARCH ANALYST (COMMODITY AND CURRENCY), LKP SECURITIES

ly, while Trump's pro-cryptocurrency stance during his campaign diverted investor funds seeking higher returns,” Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst, Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said.

Further, Trump's pledge to impose a 10 per cent tariff on all US imports further limits the Federal Reserve's ability to ease aggressively, adding to the downward pressure on gold, he said. However, recent missile attacks by Russia at the Ukrainian city of Dnipro heightened geopolitical tensions, bolstering the gold's appeal as safe haven investment.

Rising global unease pushed gold higher by \$38 on Comex, closing at \$2,707 per ounce, and by Rs 900 on MCX, reaching Rs 77,685 per 10 grams.

“This sharp recovery highlights gold's resilience and its role in balancing portfolios

during uncertain times,” he said.

In spot markets, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity surged Rs 1,100 to hit a two-week high of Rs 80,400 per 10 grams, while the price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity soared Rs 1,100, to reclaim the Rs 80,000-mark again Friday.

Meanwhile, in futures trade on the MCX Friday, gold contracts for December delivery rose Rs 69, or 0.09 per cent, to close at Rs 77,685 per 10 grams. Gold regained lost ground, and a bullish sentiment remains intact and the precious metal is likely to trade in a range of Rs 77,000-78,300 on the MCX, analysts said.

The ongoing wedding season in India is also pushing gold buying interest by jewellers and retailers, they added.

SERVICING WOES

Man smashes Ola scooter after receiving ₹90K bill for repairs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 24: A shocking incident involving an Ola electric scooter has gone viral on social media. In this video, a man is seen hammering away at his Ola Electric scooter in the middle of a road.

According to the available information, the customer bought the Ola electric scooter a month ago and started having problems soon after. In the video, the company was accused of issuing a bill of Rs 90,000 for repairing it.

“The showroom made a bill of Rs 90,000, the customer got upset and broke the scooter in front of the showroom,” read the video caption. The video shows a man attacking the scooter in front of the Ola Electric showroom. Also, a large crowd is seen gathered outside the showroom. The Central Consumer Pro-

tection Authority (CCPA) has ordered a detailed investigation into the consumer complaint resolution process of Bhavish Aggarwal-led Ola Electric.

Last month, Ola Electric claimed that 99.1 per cent of the 10,644 complaints on the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) have been resolved. The CCPA had sent a show cause notice to the company regarding the alleged violation of consumer rights.

Along with this, Ola Electric's stock has also seen a huge decline in the last few months. The stock closed at Rs 69.19 Friday, down 56 per cent or Rs 88.21 per share from its all-time high of Rs 157.40 per share. Due to the steep decline, the market cap of the company has been reduced by Rs 38,000 crore. The market cap had reached an all-time high of around Rs 69,000 crore, which has come down to around Rs 31,000 crore.

Internationalisation of UPI going on rapidly

UPI HIT A MILESTONE OF 16.6 BILLION TRANSACTIONS IN OCTOBER

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 24: The internationalisation of the unified payments interface (UPI) is progressing rapidly, as India emerges as a world leader in leveraging digital technologies for transformative change, according to a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report.

The UPI hit a milestone of 16.6 billion transactions in a month in October, with improvements in its capabilities like successful instant debit reversals at 86 per cent (77 per cent in the same month last year).

“India's UPI, an open-ended system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application of any participating bank, is propelling inter-bank peer-to-peer and person-to-merchant transactions seamlessly,” said RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra in the report.

According to Patra, innovations in the digital credit landscape such as Account Aggregators, OCEN, and financial services on ONDC have also contributed to productivity gains. As of March 2024, ONDC op-



erates in over 720 cities, with orders at 49.72 million. The Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) addresses the credit gap of MSMEs estimated at around Rs 52.2 trillion by connecting them with banks, and clients, with a reduction in funding costs up to 2.5 percentage points. “The value of invoices financed through TReDS have surged more than 23 times. As of October 2024, around 5,000 active FinTechs are involved in providing various financial and technical solutions to businesses, including MSMEs, helping businesses better manage their

operations and improve supply chain finance,” wrote Patra.

Around 40 per cent of the rural population and 78 per cent in the 20-30 years age group in the overall population use internet in India, with approximately one-third of households engaging in online purchases of consumables and services, one-fourth in buying of consumer durables, and nearly one-tenth in food purchases.

The rising importance of embedded financing is reflected in its share in FinTech funding, which has grown from two per cent in 2020 to nine per cent in 2024, wrote Patra.

“India's UPI, an open-ended system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application of any participating bank, is propelling inter-bank peer-to-peer and person-to-merchant transactions seamlessly
”

MICHAEL DEBABRATA PATRA | DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

Taking these developments into account, a summary measure of digitalisation for India has been constructed by using a dynamic factor model (DFM). “The index has been rising, reflecting the ongoing digital revolution. The spread of digitalisation has spurred research on assessing the effects of digitalisation on the economy and the transmission of monetary policy,” said Patra.

India is uniquely positioned to unlock new growth avenues and optimise existing ones with its digital public infrastructure (DPI), a vibrant information technology (IT) sector and a burgeoning youth population, including one of the largest AI talent bases, noted the RBI Deputy Governor.

'KING AND THE PRINCE'

India in winning position

Kohli, Jaiswal centuries set the tone as Men in Blue eye win in Perth



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Perth, Nov 24: Virat Kohli brought all his technical expertise into play while dealing with vagaries of variable bounce during his 30th hundred after their apparent Yashasvi Jaiswal's classy 161 put India in sight of a remarkable Test victory against a nervous and fumbling Australia here Sunday.

The Indians dominated the third day to first set an improbable 534-run target for the hosts before reducing them to 12/3 at close of play.

Once Kohli reached an unprecedented seventh Test century Down Under, Indian skipper Jasprit Bumrah declared at 487 for 6 with five overs to go flat out.

The skipper then immediately disposed off debutant Nathan McSweeney (0) and Marnus La-

It was a very special moment for me. I always wanted to tour Australia and do well and this knock is very important for me. I always wanted to play with a fearless mindset. I always believe in myself and take brave decisions

YASHASVI JAISWAL

buschagne (3), both of whom got balls that kept perilously low. The nervousness was palpable when rival captain Pat Cummins walked in as the night-watchman and the decision proved to be a not so wise one.

The match would be memorable for many reasons and one of them would be the exhibition of top quality batsmanship by the 'King' and 'Prince' of current India batting but in contrasting

conditions and different match situations.

Jaiswal built a fascinating structure with care and Kohli (100 not out, 143 balls) polished it and put a beautiful coat of paint while throwing caution to the wind while reaching the landmark.

The 22-year-old Jaiswal, Sunday, emerged as the unofficial flag-bearer of Indian batting for the next decade and a half during his 297-ball stay at the wicket, giving a glimpse of his ever-improving technique and composed temperament.

But it was veteran Kohli, who showed how to play on a wicket that consistently misbehaved during his second hundred at the Perth Stadium and 30th overall, which incidentally took him past Sir Don Bradman's 29 Test tons.

There were deliveries that simply didn't bounce. One from

Indians dominated the third day to first set an improbable 534-run target for the hosts

Jaiswal became the second youngest Indian batter after Sachin Tendulkar to score a ton at Perth

Mitchell Starc was upper cut for six over backward point while the shot of the day was an on drive off Cummins.

When Nathan Lyon started turning the ball square, he either got a big stride forward or brought the sweep shot, which he doesn't play often, out of his closet. His hundred, in fact, came off a sweep.

The straight six off Lyon with the turn was exhilarating as young Nitish Reddy (38 not out off 27 balls) only enhanced his reputation with some muscular IPL-like strokes that took India past the 500-run mark.

Before 'King Kohli' took charge, the new 'Prince

Jaiswal', just a month short of his 23rd birthday, notched up a classic fourth century in Tests. The knock has provided his skipper Bumrah with enough ammunition to exploit the treacherous bounce that is starting to trouble batters.

The post-lunch session turned out to be the most productive one for Australia since the opening day as India, starting the session at 275 for 1, slumped to 321 for 5 but by then, the lead was well past the 360-run mark and it didn't hurt the team much. With no seam movement, Kohli was able to control the other factor - variable bounce - and his front-foot stride was way more assured than the first essay.

However, if India go on to win the Test match, Jaiswal and KL Rahul (77)'s 201-run opening stand would be as important as Bumrah's first innings five-for.

OFC TO TAKE ON HYDERABAD FC

The teams are separated by just two points in the table and a win could take Odisha FC into top six

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: The Kalinga Warriors to return to action against Hyderabad FC in a crucial clash Monday as the league table takes shape. They secured a point in their last encounter against Mohun Bagan Super Giant at home, but will be eager to get three points as the league table takes shape.

Coach Sergio Lobera has no fresh injury concerns heading into the game, and should have the entire squad at his disposal. In the same fixture last season, Odisha FC emerged out victors with 3-0 score against a depleted Hyderabad side.

However, the two sides are separated by just two points in the table, and a win could take Odisha FC into the top six.

Odisha FC conducted their pre-match press conference Saturday, with Head Coach Sergio Lobera and Saviour Gama.

Speaking about the team's

performance against Mohun Bagan, Lobera highlighted the areas of improvement while praising the overall progress.

"We didn't concede chances against a very strong team like Mohun Bagan and created opportunities ourselves. We need to be more clinical in the final third, but I am happy with the improvement we've shown," Lobera remarked.

Lobera emphasised taking things one game at a time with a demanding schedule ahead. "My focus is entirely on Hyderabad. After this match, we'll evaluate the squad and prepare for the next one. There are no excuses; we need to compete well in every situation," he added.

On facing Hyderabad FC, Lobera acknowledged the challenge posed by the opposition. "Hyderabad has improved significantly. The biggest mistake would be to approach this game based on last season. We need to be 100% focused to secure a positive result," he cautioned.

The kicks off at 7:30 PM November 25 at Gachibowli Stadium, Hyderabad. The game will be live on Sports 18 and Jio Cinema.



SHORT TAKES

Zimbabwe stun Pak

Bulawayo: All-rounder Sikandar Raza inspired Zimbabwe to a stunning 80-run win on the DLS method in the rain-affected first one-day international against a new-look Pakistan white-ball team Sunday. Raza made a crucial 39 runs and lifted Zimbabwe from a precarious 125-7 to 205 all out by sharing a 62-run eighth wicket stand with No 9 batter Richard Ngarava, who top-scored with 48. Under overcast conditions, Raza (2-7) picked up two wickets in one over as Pakistan limped to 60-6 in 21 overs before it rained and denied further play as Zimbabwe took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Pakistan's second-string new ball bowlers - debutant Aamer Jamal and Mohammad Hasnain - couldn't make an impact on Zimbabwe's openers.

Shock draw for Barca

Barcelona: Celta Vigo gave 10-man Barcelona a shock by scoring two late goals and snatching a 2-2 draw at home in the Spanish league. Barcelona was minutes away from a win to pad its league lead after Raphinha and Lewandowski had put Barcelona ahead. But the game dramatically swung after Barcelona defensive midfielder Marc Casado was sent off with a second booking in the 81st.

IPL auction: Pant, Iyer fetch record bids

With an increased purse of ₹120cr per franchise, ₹30cr more than the previous auction three years ago, bidding records were set to be shattered and they were

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jeddah, Nov 24: Resurrected generational talent Rishabh Pant pipped Shreyas Iyer to become the costliest buy in IPL's history with a ₹27 crore winning bid from Lucknow Super Giants, while Venkatesh Iyer was the surprise show-stopper as teams expectedly broke the bank for marquee Indian players at the mega auction here Sunday.

Shreyas, who captained the Kolkata Knight Riders to the title earlier this year, and Delhi Capitals' icon Pant, reaped the benefits of making themselves available at the auction following differences with their respective teams.

Venkatesh was also a part of Shreyas' triumphant KKR outfit and the franchise had to pay a whopping ₹23.75 crore to bring him back via the Right to Match card after not retaining him.

The big-hitting all-rounder, who has become an integral part of the KKR setup over the years, gained from an intense bidding battle between the Kolkata side and Royal Challengers Bangalore to end with a massive sum.

Shreyas, on the other hand, was the first one to surpass Mitchell Starc as the IPL's most expensive buy with cash-heavy Punjab Kings shelling out ₹26.75 crore for their potential captain before Pant overtook the fellow Indian by attracting ₹25 lakh more from LSG. Delhi Capitals used the Right To Match to buy back Pant at ₹20.75 crore but LSG raised the bid to ₹27 crore and the former decided against matching that amount.

Both Shreyas and Pant are expected to lead their new teams in IPL 2025, which will begin March 14.

Rajasthan Royals, having retained six players, had the least amount to spend - ₹41 crore -



and they were spectators for a majority of day one. Their only buys were injury-prone pacer Jofra Archer (₹12.5 crore) and Sri Lankan spinner Maheesh Theekshana (₹4.40 crore).

Among the second set of players, leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal drew an impressive winning bid of ₹18 crore from Punjab Kings while former LSG captain KL Rahul turned out to be a bargain buy for Delhi Capitals at ₹14 crore.

India pacer Mohammed Shami, who recently made a comeback from injury, was bought by SunRisers Hyderabad for ₹10 crore.

Among others, Punjab Kings bought back left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh for ₹18 crore via RTM while South African speedster Kagiso Rabada, who was released by Punjab Kings, was bought for ₹10.75 crore by Gujarat Titans.

Australian veteran Starc got a much lower price than last year's ₹24.75 crore and was sold to Delhi Capitals for ₹11.75 crore this time. England's Jos Buttler went to Gujarat Titans for ₹15.75 crore.

After the lunch break, it was Venkatesh's hefty price tag that attracted the most attention. Another significant develop-

ment was India veteran R Ashwin going back to the franchise of his home city - Chennai Super Kings. CSK paid ₹9.75 crore to secure Ashwin, who broke into the India squad following his exploits at the franchise under Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra were two good buy backs for CSK in the session, going for ₹6.25 crore and ₹four crore respectively.

Destructive Australian batter Jake Fraser-McGurk went back to Delhi Capitals for ₹9 crore after the franchise exercised its RTM.

However, IPL stalwart David Warner had no takers on the opening day of the auction as he went unsold at a base price of Rs two crore. Similar was the case of Indian batter Devdutt Padikkal. They might come back in the accelerated auction Monday.

Towards the end of the day, it was time for fast bowlers to land fat paychecks. Among them were Josh Hazlewood (₹12.5 crore, RCB), Prasidh Krishna (₹9.5 crore, Gujarat Titans), Avesh Khan (₹9.75 crore, LSG), Trent Boult (₹12.5 crore, Mumbai Indians) and Archer.

BATTLE OF GMS

Gukesh up against China's Liren in world championship clash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Nov 24: The weight of expectations sits lightly on his teenaged shoulders and Grandmaster D Gukesh would bank heavily on his calm mind when he takes on Chinese Ding Liren in the World Championship showdown beginning here Monday, aiming to become the first Indian after Viswanathan Anand to win the coveted title.

The majority of the chess world is rooting for the 18-year-old in-form Indian, who already displays the poise of a champion. What remains to be seen is how he handles the pressure of the big occasion during the fortnight-long showpiece.

Liren had won a match of fluctuating fortunes against Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia in 2023 to be crowned the world champion but since then, the Chinese has suffered from mental health issues and competed very less compared to Gukesh in the last one year.

Djokovic hires old rival Murray as new coach

Former World No 1 hopes to win 11th Australian Open title

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, Nov 24: After fighting many pitched battles with him for nearly a decade, former World No 1 Novak Djokovic has appointed his one-time rival Andy Murray as his coach for the 2025 season's first Grand Slam in Australia.

The 37-year-old Djokovic of Serbia took to social media Saturday to announce that longtime friend and rival Andy Murray will be his new coach starting from the next Australian Open in Melbourne. Murray retired from professional tennis earlier this year at the Paris Olympics.

Born one week apart in May 1987, both climbed to the top of the ATP Rankings and battled on the world's biggest stages. Djokovic and Murray clashed in 36 ATP head-to-head show-



downs, with the former winning 25 of them. They met in 19 finals, including the championship match at seven majors and the 2016 ATP Finals. They

most recently played in the 2017 Doha final.

Announcing their partnership in a video message on his social media channel, Djokov-

ic said, We had some of the most epic battles in our sport. They called us game-changers, risk-takers, and history-makers. I thought our story might be over. It turns out it has one final chapter. It's time for one of my toughest opponents to step into my corner. Welcome aboard the coach, Andy Murray.

"I'm excited to have one of my greatest rivals in my team, on the same side of the net, this time as my coach, Djokovic said per his official website. I'm looking forward to starting the season together with Andy and having him by my side in Melbourne, where we've shared many extraordinary moments throughout our careers, Djokovic said.

Murray too was excited about the partnership. "I'll be joining Novak's team during the preparation period, helping him get

in the best possible shape for the Australian Open, Murray said. I'm very excited about it and I am looking forward to being on the same side of the net for a change. I'm also grateful for the opportunity to assist him in achieving his goals for the coming year.

In 2024 Djokovic recorded a 37-9 match record according to Infosys ATP Stats. In January he will attempt to win an 11th Australian Open title to reach 100 career titles.

Djokovic is the most successful player in the Open Era, having won a record 24 Grand Slam titles, while the 37-year-old Murray won three Grand Slam titles, including the Wimbledon titles in 2013 and 2016. Both of them along with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal were part of tennis's Fab Four for many years.

Verstappen captures 4th F1 championship

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Las Vegas, Nov 24: Max Verstappen cruised to a fourth consecutive Formula 1 championship by finishing fifth in the Las Vegas Grand Prix.

Verstappen needed only to finish ahead of Lando Norris of McLaren to give Red Bull a fourth straight driver championship. The Dutchman started fifth but was already up to second by the 10th lap around the street circuit that includes the famed Las Vegas Strip Saturday night.

Norris, who had to score at least three points more than Verstappen to extend the championship fight, finished sixth. Verstappen needed only to finish higher than Norris to win the title, which he did with two races remaining on the season.

"Max Verstappen you are a four-time world champion," team principal Christian Horn-



er said on the radio. "That is a phenomenal, phenomenal achievement. You can be incredibly proud of yourself as we are."

Verstappen, only the sixth driver in F1 history to win at least four titles, sounded unusually emotional on the radio.

The race was won, meanwhile, by George Russell who was followed by Lewis Hamilton in the first 1-2 sweep for the Mercedes drivers since 2022. Hamilton came from 10th on the grid - two weeks after a demoralizing race in Brazil - to capture his podium finish.