

Sara's myriad moods Sara Ali Khan shares a string of moods she has including her being cute, nerdy and colourful
LEISURE | P2

Sambhal tense SP MP Zia-ur-Rehman Barq, party MLA Iqbal Mehmood's son Sohail Iqbal booked, and 25 people arrested
NATIONAL | P9

Unrest in Pakistan Policeman killed, 70 injured as former PM Imran Khan's supporters clash with cops
INTERNATIONAL | P10

Glorious triumph Jasprit Bumrah leads a feisty bunch of Indian cricketers to their most dominant Test victory on Australian soil
SPORTS | P12



REMEMBERING THE HORRORS: A woman walks past a mural depicting the Taj Mahal Palace hotel, the site of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, on the eve of the anniversary of the gruesome incident, in Mumbai, Monday

SC bins pleas against 'Socialist', 'Secular'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court Monday dismissed the pleas challenging the 1976 amendment to the Constitution adding terms "socialist", "secular" and "integrity" to the Preamble, observing Parliament's amending power extended to Preamble too.

Rejecting those filed by former Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy and advocate Ashwini Updhayay challenging the inclusion of these words in the Preamble to the Constitution on grounds, including the delay of over 44 years, the top court said terms like "socialist" and "secular" were "integral to the Preamble" making the "prayers particularly questionable".

Authoring the verdict, Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna said, "We do not find any legitimate cause or justification for challenging this constitutional amendment after nearly 44 years. The circumstances do not warrant this court's exercise of discretion to undertake an exhaustive examination, as the constitutional position remains unambiguous, negating the need for a detailed academic pronouncement." The bench also comprising Justice Sanjay Kumar wrote in its seven-page order, "In essence, the concept of secularism represents one of the facets of the right to equality, intricately woven into the basic fabric that depicts the constitutional scheme's pattern."

The words "socialist", "secular" and "integrity" were inserted into the Preamble to the Constitution under the 42nd constitutional amendment moved by the Indira Gandhi government in 1976. The order observed Article 368 of the Constitution permitted its amendment. "The power to amend unquestionably rests with the Parliament. This amending power extends to the Preamble," it underlined.

The SC said the amendments to the Constitution could be challenged on various grounds, including violation of the basic structure of the Constitution.

The petitions do not require a detailed adjudication as the flaws and weaknesses in the arguments are obvious and manifest, it added. "While it is true that the Constituent Assembly had not agreed to include the words 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble, the Constitution is a living document, as noticed above with power given to the Parliament to amend it in terms of and in accord with Article 368," it said.

ASSEMBLY SESSION BEGINS TODAY

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: The Winter Session of the Assembly starting Tuesday is likely to be stormy as both the Opposition BJD, Congress and ruling BJP are gearing up to attack each other over several issues.

Attending the all-party meeting here Monday, Speaker Surama Padya urged the members to cooperate for smooth functioning of the House session, which is scheduled to continue till December 31.

Adani rocks Parl

Aftershocks of the US indictment of billionaire Gautam Adani was felt in the Parliament when Opposition members demanded a discussion over bribery allegations against the tycoon, leading to suspension of proceedings on the first day of the Winter Session. In a video post on X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge reiterated the party's demand for a JPC probe into the allegations. He said the first step the government should take is to have a detailed discussion on the 'Adani saga' which has the potential of tarnishing India's image at the global stage. Meanwhile, the Adani Group suffered a setback when its major French partner TotalEnergies halted investments into the ports-to-power conglomerate saying it was not made aware of the existence of an investigation into the alleged corruption scheme



corruption allegations against the Adani Group and demanded a JPC probe.

Addressing media before the two Houses met, Prime Minister Narendra Modi attacked the Opposition on the issue of disruptions, saying those rejected by people "80-90 times" were trying to control Parliament by resorting to hooliganism for their political gains.

Several Opposition MPs had given adjournment notices in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha seeking suspension of the day's listed business to discuss the issue of the indictment of Adani Group head Gautam Adani and others in a US court on charges of paying bribes. But the notices were disallowed by the Chair, drawing protests from the Opposition benches.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge expressed dismay over the Chair in both Houses of Parliament disallowing the Opposition to raise the Adani issue under Rule 267 and said the government should "let the truth come out" as the matter is affecting the country's image. He demanded a JPC probe into the allegations against the Adani Group.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar Monday disallowed 13 notices served under Rule 267, including seven that sought a discussion on the US indictment on the alleged payment of USD 265 million in bribes. Similar notices were rejected in Lok Sabha also.

The Lok Sabha was adjourned without transacting any significant business amid an uproar by Opposition members on various issues, including the Adani controversy.

Meanwhile, the Adani Group, in a presentation to investors highlighted cash balances of ₹55,024 crore exceeding long-term debt repayments for the next 28 months.

On the other hand, French oil major TotalEnergies halted investments into Adani Group following the US allegations of bribery scheme.

Unnatural death of 71 tigers since 2021

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: Seventy-one tigers died due to unnatural causes, including poaching and seizures, since 2021, the Environment Ministry said Monday.

Responding to a query in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Kirti Vardhan Singh, said Madhya Pradesh reported the highest number of deaths at 20, followed by Maharashtra (15) and Karnataka (4) since 2021.

Twenty tiger deaths were reported in 2021, while 25 big cats died in 2022. In 2023, 25 tigers were reported dead while one casualty due to unnatural causes has been confirmed so far this year, according to the data shared by the minister in his reply.

Tiger population is increasing at a rate of 6 per cent per annum in the country when consistently sampled areas are compared, Singh said.

The tiger population has increased as per the All India Tiger Estimation done in 2022, with an estimated number of 3,682 (range 3,167-3,925) as com-



'Zeenat' released in Similipal Tiger Reserve

Baripada: Authorities of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) released 'Zeenat' - the Royal Bengal Tigress - brought from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra, into the wild from its soft enclosure here, an official said Monday.

'Zeenat' is the second tigress after 'Jamuna', brought from TATR to be released in the core area of Similipal Tiger Reserve. "Tiger Zeenat was released into the core area in North division Sunday night. The tigress, after opening of the gates in the evening, had moved out at 9.30 pm," STR field director Prakash Chand Gogineni, said.

PM in Odisha from Nov 29

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to undertake a three-day visit to the state from November 29 to attend an all-India conference of Director Generals of Police and Inspector Generals of Police in Bhubaneswar.

He will arrive in Bhubaneswar on the night of November 29 and stay in the state till the afternoon of December 1, Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan told reporters here Monday.

During his visit, the Prime Minister will attend the all-India conference of Director Generals of Police and Inspector Generals of Police in Bhubaneswar. The event is being held in the Odisha capital for the first time. It will be a three-day event from November 29 to December 1, he said.

DGP Y B Khurania said that the DGPs of all the states and Union territories, and chiefs of all the security forces will attend the conference.

The state will provide all logistical support for the conference and tight security arrangements will be ensured, Khurania said. Apart from Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and other senior officers of the Intelligence Bureau, all state DGPs, CRPF DG, chiefs of RAW, NSG and SPG will attend the three-day event, sources said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

I admire your systematic approach. Before giving verdict in pending cases, you make sure to settle those from Babur's era

Argentine rodents are Dubai oasis' newest residents

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Al Qudra Lakes (UAE), Nov 25: A desert oasis hidden away in the dunes in the far reaches of skyscraper-studded Dubai has drawn a surprising new set of weary world travellers: a pack of Argentinian rodents.

A number of Patagonian mara, a rabbit-like mammal with long legs, big ears and a body like a hoofed animal, now roam the grounds of Al Qudra Lakes, typically home to gazelle and other desert creatures of the United Arab Emirates.

How they got there remains a mystery in the UAE, a country where exotic animals have ended up in the private homes

and farms of the wealthy. But the pack has already survived several years in a network of warrens among the dunes.

The UAE's Climate Change and Environment Ministry and authorities in Dubai did not respond to questions from AP about the Patagonian maras' presence. One estimate suggests that as many as 200 could be thriving in the area and the wider Al Marmoom Desert Conservation Reserve nearby, as only a few dead maras have been found.

An AP journalist happened upon at least five maras on a recent visit to Al Qudra Lakes, a vast desert area some 40 kilometres south of downtown Dubai. On another visit, he saw multiple



packs of the animals, including one mother still nursing a baby.

Al Qudra sits at the end of a long bicycle track popular in the winter months and draws campers and others who enjoy the outdoors in the cooler weather among the area's lakes. Some have been manmade into the shapes of a crescent moon, two hearts or even an advertisement for Dubai's Expo 2020.

The Patagonian maras first appeared publicly in 2020 during

the height of the coronavirus pandemic. A request for information on their sightings first made a summertime issue of the Dubai Natural History Group's monthly newsletter, with volunteers describing them as being seen both in Al Qudra and on Saadiyat Island near the country's capital of Abu Dhabi.

"This large rodent is a common species in zoological collections and undoubtedly found its way out from captivity," wrote Jacky Judas, who long has studied mammals in the UAE, in a chapter in the recent book "A Natural History of the Emirates."

"They can regularly be seen sleeping or eating grass in the middle of roundabouts at

Al Qudra. This species is not adapted to live in arid environment, although in the absence of his usual predators, like pumas, it can possibly survive in highly modified habitats with tree plantations, lawns and ponds," Judas wrote.

That's the exact environment found at Al Qudra — likely contributing to the maras' continued survival there despite temperatures in the UAE regularly reaching 45 degrees Celsius in the summer with high humidity.

The number at Al Qudra also suggests they are breeding. Patagonian maras mate for life and females only enter heat a few times a year for about 30 minutes apiece.

Dates for ICSE, ISC examinations out

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 25: The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) Monday released the schedule for ICSE (Class X) and ISC (Class XII) examinations.

As per the official schedule, the Class X board examinations will begin February 18 and conclude March 27, 2025. Similarly, the Class XII board examinations will commence February 13 and end April 5, 2025.

leisure



EMILIA SPARKS DATING RUMOURS WITH DJ BASSI

Emilia Clarke, famously known as the "Mother of Dragons" from *Game of Thrones*, may just have a new man in her life. The actress sparked romance rumours after she was seen enjoying a casual outing in London with DJ Bassi Fox.

BRAD PITT COLLAPSES ON THE SET OF F1

Hollywood actor Brad Pitt recently had a scare on the set of his upcoming *F1* film. While filming a scene involving a dramatic car crash, the actor was seen stumbling and ultimately collapsing to the ground. A video of the same is doing rounds on the internet.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You may feel empty, and completely down-and-out today. Ganesha says that this may make you feel a bit more inclined to spirituality. Meditation and prayer will engage more of your attention. You will also make considerable material progress.

TAURUS
You are likely to be in a mood to get away from the daily grind and take a much needed break. You would naturally try to stay free from future concerns and commitments and keep all your woes and worries aside for the day. An adventurous and fun filled outing or a trip to some happening resort, along with your friends and family members is a near certainty, assures Ganesha.

GEMINI
Today, you may encounter unusual challenges, says Ganesha. You will come up with new thoughts and tactics, which will bring about positive changes and results. Avoid any confrontation with those living around you. Ganesha advises you to keep your cool during the day.

CANCER
Financially, you may be in a bit of a bother today. Payment of bills, taxes and loans may keep you busy for most part of the day. You may even contemplate borrowing money to meet the demands. However, you are likely to receive one of your pending payments, which will be enough to get you out of the fix.

LEO
Today, Ganesha advises you to keep the Bhagavad Gita's verses in mind, and persist in fulfilling your duties without bothering about the fruits of your labour. Put in some extra effort to finish off whatever you undertake today. Patience bears its fruits and they are always sweet.

VIRGO
You better identify your worth in the realms of emotions, feelings and sentiments. You shall warm up to and about everything - from play to colleagues to family. Simultaneously, you may realise where your limitations are. Ganesha predicts that the artist in you will flourish beginning today.

LIBRA
Well, today is just not your day. The prospects sure aren't looking too good. However, there's no point in getting anxious over this triviality. Remember, "not good" does not necessarily mean bad. In any case, if it's a stressful day you have had, be sure to have an equally enjoyable evening.

SCORPIO
A creative thought or an innovative idea may spice up your routine work. Apparently, you may seem all worked up and disorganised, but actually you may be quite systematic when it comes to your work. Keep the enthusiasm in you alive to make life happier, tips Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Going to private parties is a high probability today. All in all, make the most of it as you get nostalgic with old friends and make plans with new ones. Moreover, relatives will be pleased to meet you after a long time.

CAPRICORN
Whatever field you are in, your career matters will top your priority list. You will put your personal life on the back burner for a while. This change of places will surely bring you great rewards as your performance will drastically improve and everyone will appreciate your efforts. Credit goes to your family members and well-wishers for believing in you in the toughest of times and supporting you along the way, says Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
Aim. Shoot. Achieve. Today, you will concentrate your energies to execute your plans with precision. Naturally, your work progresses by leaps and bounds. By sundown, you will achieve far more than everyone's estimation. That's the way to go, says Ganesha.

PISCES
You will have difficulty in interpreting the behaviour of your life partner today. It is better to bring transparency in your relationship rather than to doubt it. Speak freely about your problems and communicate with your spouse. Business relationships will also face rough weather.

Kartik living his dream

Mumbai: Actor Kartik Aaryan brought out his inner Prem as he danced with actress Madhuri Dixit on the 1994 song *Pehla Pehla Pyar* but with a twist.

Kartik took to Instagram, where he shared a video of himself along with Madhuri. In the video the two are romantically dancing. The dance hilariously ended with a sprinkle of *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* character Manjulika's deadly twist as Madhuri held Kartik's neck.

Kartik wrote as the caption: Living my dream Rooh Baba and Manjunevery universe #BackToWork #Bhool-Bhulaiyaa3.

Madhuri and Kartik recently featured together in the third installment of *Bhool Bhulaiyaa*. The film also stars Triptii Dimri, Vidya Balan and Rajpal Yadav to name a few.

Directed by Anees Bazmee, *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* was released in theatres November 1. The horror-comedy clashed with Rohit Shetty's cop drama, *Singham Again* at the box office. IANS



Wanted to quit acting: Ananya

Mumbai: Actress Ananya Panday recently talked about her trolling and bullying on social media. The actress also revealed that she had to seek therapy to learn to deal with her emotions and articulate it.

In an interview, Ananya recalled the trolling in the initial days of her career which made her want to quit acting.

The actress shared, "When I started out, there were days I didn't want to go on set. It was the very first year of my career when the college thing and the whole round table thing happened." Around the same time, she was also accused of lying about attending a US college. The *Liger* actress further states, "I have done therapy in the past. I couldn't articulate my emotions. I used to just feel very low. Sometimes I feel with mental health and social media is that you read something in the moment and you may

not realise that it's affecting you because I am fine right now. I will read a comment and I will ignore it but weeks later it could still be there in your subconscious mind and things like that really pile up so I think with therapy I was able to just consolidate my feelings and articulate my thoughts a little better."

AGENCIES



Sara shares her myriad moods

Mumbai: Actress Sara Ali Khan has shared a string of moods she has which included her being cute, nerdy and colourful.

Sara took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a photo collage of her. The first was covering her head with a pink dupatta, the second had the actress flashing a pout at the camera, the third had her wearing glasses and in the last image, the *Atrangi Re* star striking a pose wearing a colour-

ful scarf. She described it as: "Sara keSare Moods" "Pink and cute, Cuty and lazy, Cute and nerdy, Colourful and chirpy," she asked her fans to choose one of the looks.

The daughter of actors Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh, then shared a video of herself in the pool in a Teenie Weenie lime green bikini, which she captioned as: "Golden Rays wale Days."

The actress, who was last seen in the period drama *Ae Watan Mere Watan*, will next be seen in filmmaker Anurag Basu's next titled *Metro...In Dino*. IANS



Malaika's relationship status

Mumbai: Dancing diva and actress Malaika Arora has finally revealed her current relationship status with a hilarious cryptic post on social media.

Malaika took to Instagram stories, where she shared a meme which read: "My relationship status right now".

It had the options of: "In a relationship, single and hehehe" written on it. However, it was the third option marked "hehehe".

The post comes after Malaika and her former beau Arjun Kapoor chose to go separate ways. The two started dating in 2018.

However, neither Malaika nor Arjun ever opened up much about their relationship. They did however, kept sharing romantic pictures from their getaways and birthday wishes. In other news, Malaika last week revealed that she is working on something special, which is going to be an ode to her late father, Anil Kuldeep Mehta, who passed away in September. IANS

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

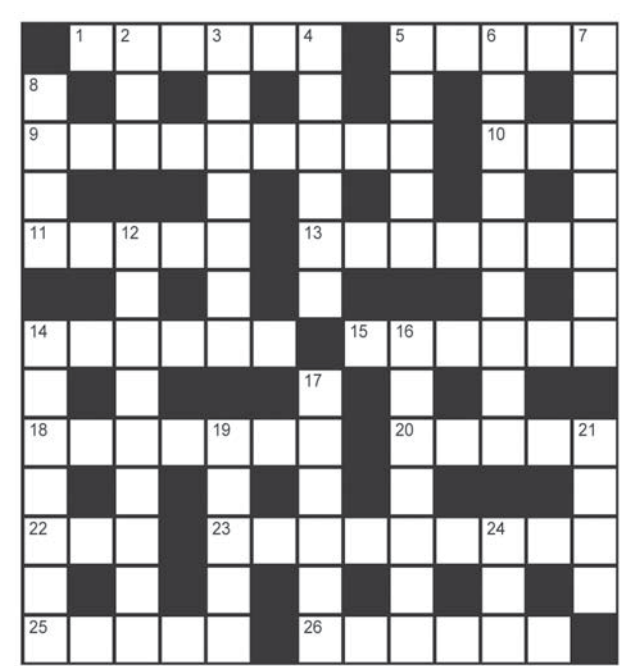


BREVITY



FUN post

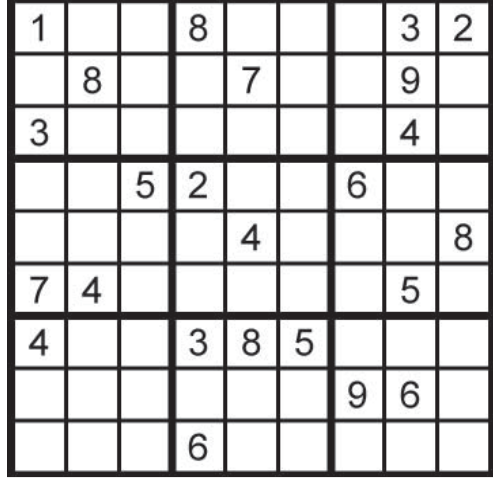
CROSSWORD



- Across
1 Interference
5 Small thin pancake
9 Batman, e.g.
10 Sprocket
11 Boredom
13 Ecstasy
14 Poem, of sorts
15 Frittered away
18 Barbary pirate
20 White heron
22 Switch word
- 23 Conversation
25 Helicopter part
26 Concedes
- Down
2 Useful information
3 Home wrecker
4 Type of pepper or tomato
5 Bite down hard
6 Come across
- 7 Brainiac
8 Cuba's ___ of Youth
12 Type of organisation
14 Assistance in time of difficulty
16 Marine polyp
17 Playful
19 Venomous snake
21 Divi divi, for one
24 Towel holder

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD
ALLY ANACONDA
U I D E U A R
D E N T I S T R A I T A
I E N T R B
T Y R A N T S A V O N
I E A I B S
O A F R O B I N I N K
N O J O C W I
P L E A T R A W L E R
S I C L O M
P R A N K F E L L I N I
O G E O S R S
T H E A T R E S B E T H

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Winter Session likely to be stormy

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: The Winter Session of the Assembly starting Tuesday is likely to be stormy as both the Opposition BJD, Congress and ruling BJP are gearing up to attack each other over several issues.

Attending the all-party meeting here Monday, Speaker Surama Padhy urged the members to cooperate for smooth functioning of the House session, which is scheduled to continue till December 31.

"Today's all-party meeting, before beginning of the session, has been fruitful as the leaders have assured me of full cooperation," Padhy told reporters.

Apart from Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Opposition Chief Whip Pramila Mallik of BJD, Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Ram Chandra Kadam, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mukesh Mahaling and others attended the meeting.

Majhi, who is also in charge of the Finance department, will present the Supplementary



Budget Tuesday.

The three major parties - BJD, Congress and BJP - also held their legislature party meetings ahead of the session.

After the BJP legislature party meeting, Mahaling said, "We are prepared for discussion on any issue to be raised by the Opposition. The BJP members will also raise issues like the state government's achievements."

Alleging that the law and order situation has been severely affected after BJP forming

government in the state since June this year, the Opposition Chief Whip said the party will raise several issues like death of three tribal women by eating mango kernel gruel 'due to lack of foodgrain', selling of newborns in Rayagada and Bolangir districts, rape of minor girls and irregularities in the paddy procurement.

The CLP leader said that Congress MLAs will raise issues like unemployment, price rise and law and order issues. Meanwhile, the police have

made a three-lawyer security arrangement in and around the state Assembly for the session.

Around 30 platoons of police force along with 300 police officers, under the supervision of Bhubaneswar DCP, will look after the security during the session, DGP Yogesh Bahadur Khurania said.

In the 147-member Assembly, the BJP has 78 members, the BJD 51, the Congress 14, and the CPI(M) one, while there are also three Independent MLAs.

Drive to end ganja farming by '26: DGP

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: Amidst a raging debate over health benefits vis-a-vis risks of cannabis use, Odisha Police have launched a massive drive called 'Green Clean Mission' to completely eliminate cannabis cultivation in the state by 2026.

Addressing a press conference here Monday, Director General of Police (DGP) YB Khurania said the drive, which was launched November 1, will continue till March 2025 to bring an end to cannabis cultivation in the state by 2026.

"During the first 24 days of this drive, we have been able to cover 2,375 acres of land in different districts and more than 28 lakh cannabis/ganja plants have been destroyed," Khurania said.

The top cop stated that every day, several acres of cannabis plants are being destroyed. The police are also using new technologies and taking help of satellite and drone images to locate cannabis cultivation in hilly and dense forest areas.

Last year, the police had de-



stroyed cannabis cultivation in about 10,500 acres. "It will be our endeavour to ensure that this year we surpass the previous year's performance," Khurania said.

Stating that Maoists started cannabis cultivation in Odisha forests to augment their financial strength in the state, the DGP said such illegal activities are mostly seen in the districts having large forests and hilly terrain.

"Districts such as Kandhamal, Boudh, Gajapati, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Koraput and other neighbouring areas have become hubs of cannabis cultivation," the DGP said, adding that Odisha Police are committed to eradicate this menace to save the future of the youth.

In addition to cannabis plan-

The joint task force has been able to cover 2,375 acres of land in different districts and more than 28 lakh cannabis/ganja plants have been destroyed, says the DGP

tations, Khurania said the Odisha Police have also been targeting ganja traders.

During this month, so far 5,300 kg of ganja has been seized in 54 cases. The contraband was seized during transportation while 20 vehicles have also been seized along with Rs 15 lakh in cash. So far, 102 ganja peddlers have been arrested, the DGP said. The drive is intended to prevent people from indulging in illegal cultivation of cannabis/ganja plants.

The DGP said that the joint task force comprising personnel from Odisha Police, Excise, Revenue, and Forest departments has been constituted to make 'Green Clean Mission' a success.

IN A FIRST, FLYING LIBRARY TAKES OFF FROM CITY

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: In a groundbreaking initiative, book lovers from the Capital City embarked on a literary journey like no other, participating in India's first-ever Flying Book Club. Organised by IndiaOne Air, in collaboration with Walking BookFairs, the event saw readers travelling to Jeypore in Koraput district while engaging in a silent reading session during the flight.

The onboard library, featuring a curated selection of travel

books from renowned Indian publishing house Speaking Tiger Books, offered passengers the joy of rediscovering physical reading. The collection will change periodically, ensuring a fresh reading experience for frequent flyers.

Akshaya Bahibala, writer and co-founder of Walking BookFairs, Satabdi Mishra, co-founder Walking BookFairs, Prem Garg, CEO IndiaOne Air, Nikhil Pavan Kalyan, Director of Horticulture, and members of the Walking BookFairs Book Club were present during the



launch of the unique initiative. The flying book club was

a first-of-its-kind initiative wherein booklovers from Bhubaneswar travelled to Jeypore in Koraput district on

an IndiaOne Air flight.

On landing in Jeypore, the group engaged in discussions about the books they had read, shared their experiences, and met Koraput Collector V Keerthi Vasani. The day's itinerary concluded with a return flight to Bhubaneswar.

Marking its 10th anniversary, Walking BookFairs is hosting several initiatives to promote reading habits. Satabdi Mishra, co-founder of Walking BookFairs, highlighted the success of the Flying Library and announced the upcoming 2nd Walking BookFairs Travel Writing Festival in December, promising an enriching experience for literature enthusiasts. Prem Garg, CEO of IndiaOne

Air, emphasised the unique charm of physical books, stating, "In smaller airlines like ours, where in-flight entertainment is absent, passengers often turn to personal devices. But no screen can replicate the timeless joy of holding a book—the scent of its pages, the rustle as you turn them, and the immersive escape they provide. Our Flying Book Club reconnects passengers with the simple pleasure of reading, bridging generations and reviving the golden era of books."

With this initiative, IndiaOne Air and Walking BookFairs have set a remarkable precedent in fostering a culture of book reading, making air travel a journey for both the body and the mind.

Man gets life term for killing wife

Bhubaneswar: A local court Monday awarded life imprisonment to a man after finding him guilty of killing his wife in the Capital City here in 2017. Additional Sessions Judge-III Himanshu Sekhar Mallick convicted Jagadis Sahoo for strangulating his wife Nirmala to death at their rented accommodation in Sishupalgarh under Dhauli police limits here March 18, 2017. The court handed down life term for Sahoo and slapped a penalty of ₹20,000 on him for the offence under Section 302 (murder) of the IPC. The court also awarded one year jail term to Sahoo and penalised him with ₹1,000 for offence under Section 309 (attempt to commit suicide) of the IPC. The couple's son, Ganesh Ram Sahoo, approached Dhauli police, alleging Jagadis of killing Nirmala over suspicion of extramarital affairs.



DSPL - 225



ପ୍ରାୟତଃ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ନିମନ୍ତେ ଯକ୍ଷ୍ମା ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାପକ ଟୀକାକରଣ

୨୦୨୫ ମସିହା ସୁଦ୍ଧା ଦେଶକୁ ଯକ୍ଷ୍ମାମୁକ୍ତ କରିବା ନିମନ୍ତେ ଭାରତ ସରକାର ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ଧାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ପୂର୍ବରୁ କେବଳ ଶିଶୁମାନଙ୍କୁ ଯକ୍ଷ୍ମା ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାପକ ବି.ସି.ଜି. ଟୀକା ଦିଆଯାଉଥିବା ବେଳେ ଏବେ ବୟସ୍କ ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କୁ ମଧ୍ୟ ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ଟୀକାକରଣ ଶିବିରରେ ଏହି ଟୀକା ଦିଆଯାଉଅଛି । ଯେଉଁମାନେ ଏହି ଟୀକା ନେବାକୁ ଯୋଗ୍ୟ ସେମାନେ ହେଲେ -

- ୬୦ ବର୍ଷରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ସମସ୍ତ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି
- ୧୮ ବର୍ଷରୁ ୬୦ ବର୍ଷ ବୟସ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଥିବା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଯିଏକି -
 - ବିଗତ ୫ ବର୍ଷ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଯକ୍ଷ୍ମା ରୋଗୀ ଭାବେ ଚିହ୍ନଟ ଓ ଚିକିତ୍ସିତ ହୋଇଥିବେ,
 - ବିଗତ ୩ ବର୍ଷ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଯକ୍ଷ୍ମା ରୋଗୀର ସଂସ୍ପର୍ଶରେ ଆସିଥିବେ,
 - ମଧୁମେହ ରୋଗୀ ହୋଇଥିବେ,
 - ଧୂମପାନ କରୁଥିବେ କିମ୍ବା
 - କୃପୋଷଣର ଶିକାର ହୋଇଥିବେ

ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ପାଇଁ ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟର ୧୫ଟି ଜିଲ୍ଲା (ବଲାଙ୍ଗୀର, ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର, ବୌଦ୍ଧ, କଟକ, ଡେଝାନାଳ, ଗଜପତି, ଝାରସୁଗୁଡ଼ା, କଳାହାଣ୍ଡି, କନ୍ଧମାଳ, କେନ୍ଦ୍ରାପଡ଼ା, ମୟୂରଭଞ୍ଜ, ନବରଙ୍ଗପୁର, ନୟାଗଡ଼, ରାୟଗଡ଼ା ଓ ସୁନ୍ଦରଗଡ଼) ଚିହ୍ନଟ ହୋଇଛି ।

କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମର ସଫଳ ରୂପାୟନ ପାଇଁ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କର ସହଯୋଗ ଏକାନ୍ତ କାମ୍ୟ ।

ଆସନ୍ତୁ ସମସ୍ତେ ମିଶି ଏହାକୁ ସଫଳ କରିବା, ଦେଶକୁ ଯକ୍ଷ୍ମାମୁକ୍ତ କରିବା

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା



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August Presence

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Shri Narendra Modi
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Shri Om Birla
Lok Sabha Speaker

26th November 2024 at 11:00 am
Venue: Central Hall, Parliament House

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- Release of Commemorative Stamp and Coin
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Bangladeshi racket: Cops on lookout for other suspects



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: The Odisha police are exploring possible links to other people involved in alleged rape of a minor girl rescued from Cuttack yesterday.

A couple in Cuttack was detained for allegedly forcing the girl from Bangladesh into prostitution, an officer said Monday.

The police Sunday detained the couple identified as Veera Gujjar Choudhary, 55, of Rajasthan and Jasmine, 36, of Keonjhar district in Odisha. They were arrested based on the allegations made by the

rented house and the role of the house owner is also under investigation.

The minor girl had named five agents, including two women, involved in the flesh trade. She had also mentioned their addresses and contact numbers in her statement earlier recorded by the police.

As per information provided by her, she was brought to Kolkata from Dhaka around August-September and then taken to Bhubaneswar. She is a Bangladeshi but has no identity proof or any travel documents. It is yet to be ascertained how she landed in Cuttack, CWC chairman Pramod Kumar Acharya told reporters.

Meanwhile, Madhupatna Police Station in Cuttack have registered a case under various sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and IT Act. The allegations were framed based on the report of the CWC which counselled the girl.

The DCP said necessary steps are being taken to inform the Bangladesh High Commission about the incident.

16-year-old-Bangladeshi girl who was rescued by police from Link Road area under the jurisdiction of Madhupatna police station area November 9.

The girl was later handed over to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Cuttack, said Cuttack DCP Jagmohan Meena.

Meena said the police started an investigation into the case based on the information provided by the rescued girl who was illegally brought from Bangladesh. The mobile phone call records of the couple "indicate" their involvement in the crime, he said.

Police sources said that the couple ran the racket from a



ENACTING ROLE: Students from Central Sanskrit University, Puri perform a play 'Karna Bhaaram' on the inaugural day of the 3-day Sanskrit Theatre Festival 'Dasharupakam', organised by The CATCH at Bhanja Kala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Monday

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

ECoR GM felicitates staff for exemplary alertness

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: In a ceremony held at the East Coast Railway (ECoR) headquarters, General Manager Parmeshwar Funkwal honoured three railway employees for their exceptional alertness and dedication to duty. Their quick actions were instrumental in preventing major mishaps, ensuring the safety and efficiency of train operations.

The event was attended by Additional General Manager Mohes Kumar Behera and senior officials, including the Principal Chief Safety Officer, underscoring the ECoR's commitment to maintaining high safety standards.

Track maintainer at Mu-



niguda station Yogesh Kumar, token points man (TPMA) of Humma station Pradyumna Kumar Panda, and TPMA of Arangmahanadi Premjit Acharya were felicitated.

These individuals were rec-

ognised for their vigilance and swift action, reflecting the vital role played by maintenance staff such as gangmen, trolley-men, gatemen, OHE technicians, and token porters.

Commending the awardees,

Funkwal praised the relentless efforts of railway staff who work under challenging conditions to ensure smooth train operations. He emphasised the importance of acknowledging their hard work and encouraged all employees to remain committed to their responsibilities.

"Every employee's diligence contributes to the safety and security of our railway network," Funkwal said during the event. "It is essential that we remain vigilant to continue providing safe travel for our passengers," he added.

The felicitation programme highlighted the critical role of alertness and teamwork in railway operations, reinforcing ECoR's focus on safety and efficiency.

GIFT College hosts vibrant business fest



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: The MBA department of GIFT Autonomous College, Gangapada, recently hosted SPARKX 2024, a vibrant business fest sponsored by NALCO, bringing together 312 students from 35 colleges. The event featured dynamic competitions like Brain Teaser, Bizz Tank, Pixel Play, Ad-Mad Show, and cultural highlights such as dance and music performances.

Chief guest Bamadeb Acharya, Registrar of IIT Bhubaneswar, emphasised the value of co-curricular activities in leadership development. Dignitaries like Hemant Kumar Panda, Trilochan Sahu, and Ramesh Chandra Joshi encouraged participants and awarded prizes during the grand valedictory ceremony.

The fest's success was credited to meticulous planning by coordinator Shibani Shubhasmita Nayak and the MBA team. Event coordinator Abdul M Khan expressed gratitude to sponsors and participants for their contributions, ensuring the event was a resounding success.

4TH ICC CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT

52mn trees planted in Odisha: Khuntia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: It is encouraging that 52 million trees have been planted in our state under the Ek Ped, Maa ke Naam campaign, making Odisha the leader in tree planting in the country, said Forest, Environment, and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia, at the fourth edition of the National Conference on Climate Change held here Monday.

The conference was jointly organised by the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB), the Forest, Environment, and Climate Change department, and the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

Khuntia stressed that environmental pollution can be mitigated by creating forest cover, and highlighted the state's progress in tree planting initiatives. He also acknowledged the challenges posed by rapid urbanization, industrial expansion, and increased mining activities, which make land reclamation more difficult. "We all need to be committed to stopping land degradation, improving soil health, and managing waste effectively," Khuntia added.

The Minister also pointed out that achieving a sustainable climate program in the state would require joint efforts from various departments, including



agriculture, transport, steel and mines, and forest.

Addressing the broader challenges of climate change, Khuntia raised concerns over rising temperatures and irregular rainfall patterns. He also drew attention to the 18,000 crore DMF (District Mineral Foundation) funds that remain unused, stressing the need to translate high-level environmental discussions into actionable grassroots initiatives.

Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of India deputy director general AT Mishra spoke about the changing lifestyle and increasing consumption patterns that contribute to environmental degradation. He stressed the need to return to living in harmony with nature to avoid further environmental crises.

Solar water kiosks in City soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Monday took a host of decisions to provide the citizens state-of-the-art amenities including installation of solar-powered water kiosks on major thoroughfares and construction of permanent sheds at key intersections in the City.

The decisions were taken at the 26th General Corporation meeting chaired by Mayor Sulochana Das.

According to the details, the civic body will install solar water kiosks on the main streets while permanent sheds will be constructed at major traffic intersections such as AG Square and Kalinga Hospital Square to protect pedestrians from hail and rain. The sheds will also have solar lighting system.

These apart, a state-of-the-art auditorium will also be built on a two-and-half acre of land at Saheed Nagar.



Moreover, it was also decided to remove encroachments from the main roads ahead of Prabasi Bharatiya Divas to be held in January 2025. These roads will also be beautified. It was revealed in the meeting that the evicted traders would be temporarily accommodated on the conservancy lanes in the respective overpass.

The meeting also approved a proposal over holding of 'Patha Utsav' in three zones of the City next month.

Zonal commissioners have

been directed to identify and notify the location of neighborhood markets in each ward.

The Mayor said, "Beautification work will continue because the Prime Minister and Home Minister are scheduled to attend the all-India DG conference November 29. While President's visit is scheduled December 3, the Immigrant Indian Conference will be held in Bhubaneswar January 1. Therefore, measures are being taken to beautify various places of Bhubaneswar."

HBT launches campaign against gender violence

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: Humara Bachpan Trust (HBT), a Bhubaneswar-based pan-India NGO, has initiated the global 16 days of activism against gender-based violence campaign, which runs from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to December 10 (International Human Rights Day).

The campaign aims to address critical issues such as intimate partner violence, child marriage, and other forms of gender-based violence through a series of activities across Odi-



sha and Madhya Pradesh.

In Keonjhar's Patana block, HBT organised a community event at an Anganwadi centre, which engaged 40 participants,

including members of self-help groups, adolescent girls, and PRI leaders. The programme emphasised the risks and consequences of sexual, physical, and psycho-

logical violence, as well as child marriage. A rally with slogans was held to inspire collective action against these issues.

In Bhubaneswar's Bhagabati neighbourhood, the campaign engaged 26 adolescent girls and women in creative initiatives such as rangoli-making and an oath-taking ceremony. These activities encouraged discussions about safety, equality, and solidarity in the fight against gender-based violence.

In Girongi, Madhya Pradesh, HBT conducted community training sessions on women's rights and legal awareness. The sessions were attended by

45 adolescent girls and women and included interactive discussions and educational videos addressing domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence. The initiative also focused on building legal literacy about laws aimed at protecting women and girls from discrimination and injustice.

Through these efforts, HBT seeks to mobilise communities, empower survivors, and create safer, more equitable societies. The campaign aligns with the global movement to eliminate violence against women and promote lasting solutions to gender-based violence.

ED seizes ₹1.39cr in search at real estate firm's properties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Monday said it has seized Rs 1.39 crore in cash and various incriminating documents during a search operation carried out in nine places of Odisha, Delhi and Gurugram.

The search operation was carried out in places linked to an Odisha-based real estate company under the provision of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.

Taking to X, the ED said: "ED, Bhubaneswar has conducted search operations at nine locations in Odisha, Delhi and Gurugram under the provisions of FEMA, 1999 22.11.2024 in connection with an investigation being carried out against M/s Z Estates Private Limited (ZEPL) and others."

"During the search operations, unaccounted cash amounting to Rs. 1.39 crore and various incriminating documents have been recovered and seized," the ED said.

During the search, the ED inquired into the sources of income, the origin of transaction initiation points, and contacts through which forex transfers took place. A day after the operation, Z Estates' MD Tapan Mohanty November 23 had clarified that the ED officials conducted a search operation and not a raid.

Searches were carried out at 3-4 places and not 10-11 locations, he claimed, adding it was a normal routine exercise as the company gets foreign investment.

"The ED officials are doing their job and verifying whether all procedures and formalities have been followed and they have not found any incriminating document during the operation," said Mohanty.

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Trouble mounts for BJD leader's brother as 3 more cases filed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, Nov 25: As the CID, Crime Branch Monday started an investigation into the alleged attack on Independent MLA Himanshu Sahoo, the police registered three more cases against an accused, Bhaba Prasad Das who is the brother of senior BJD leader Pranab Prakash Das.

The cases were registered by Jajpur Town police against Bhaba Prasad Das in a local court Monday. He was arrested two days ago and lodged in jail on charges of assaulting a vegetable vendor at Biraja Haat in Jajpur town in the district.

The fresh cases were registered over his alleged involvement in violent protests, gheraoing the Jajpur Town police station and staging roadblocks near the Biraja Haat in the district November 20, the day on which an attack was made on Dharmasala lawmaker who is backed by the BJP.

Additionally, a complaint concerning an assault on another vendor was filed against Bhaba Prasad Das in the local Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) court.

The local authorities have also submitted a formal request to the SDJM court to incorporate these three charges into the ongoing legal proceedings against the accused.

Following the development, Bhaba Prasad Das was produced in the local SDJM court to take cognisance of the three fresh cases slapped against him.

In the latest development, his application for bail was rejected by the SDJM.

Meanwhile, the Jajpur district administration has imposed prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS) in Jajpur town after following the attack on the MLA.

Central team visits Dana-hit villages

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Nov 25: A two-member Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the Cyclone Dana-affected areas in Rajnagar block Monday to assess the damage caused by the cyclonic storm and evaluate the affected areas.

Cyclone Dana made landfall at Habalikhani island within the Bhitarkanika National Park under Rajnagar block October 25.

The two-member Inter-Ministerial Central Team was led by Sunil Kumar, Superintendent Engineer-cum-Regional Officer of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, and Sneha, Deputy Director of the Ministry of Power. The team visited the cyclone-affected villages of Talachua, Rangani, Tikayatnagar, and Pattaparia under Rajnagar block.

The team inspected damaged houses, roads, crops, and fish farms affected by Cyclone Dana. They also interacted with residents impacted by the storm.

Many affected farmers lined the roads to meet the team, showing them damaged paddy crops at various locations. The farmers alleged that the district administration prepared Cyclone Dana assessment reports without conducting field visits



Many affected farmers lined the roads to meet the team, showing them damaged paddy crops at various locations under Rajnagar block in Kendrapara district, Monday

to the affected areas. Speaking to the media, Sunil Kumar stated that the team visited several places and observed damage to houses, crops, and road infrastructure caused by the cyclone.

He said, "We have seen the damages caused by Cyclone Dana and will prepare an assessment report to recommend the Central government to sanction relief funds for the district as well as the state." District Collector Smruti

Ranjan Pradhan, who accompanied the Inter-Ministerial Central Team, mentioned that some affected individuals shared their grievances about not receiving house damage assistance.

The Collector stated that he directed the tehsildar and additional tehsildar of Rajnagar to conduct a re-inquiry and submit a report within a week to provide house damage assistance to those who were overlooked. The district administration

had submitted an assessment report estimating damages of ₹10.02 crore to the State Relief Commissioner (SRC). The SRC has disbursed ₹8.81 crore to the district for post-Cyclone Dana relief and rehabilitation measures.

According to the Collector, the district administration has submitted a damage assessment report to the state government, recommending that ₹55 crore be sought from the Central government as Dana relief assistance.

6 awarded life term for murder of RTI activist

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baliguda, Nov 25: A local court handed down life imprisonment to six persons, including a supari killer, after convicting them in the murder case of an RTI activist in Baliguda area of Kandhamal district, Monday.

The deceased was identified as Abhimanyu Panda, a trader by profession and a Right to Information (RTI) Act activist in Baliguda area. He was opposing the usurping of Jagannath temple land and houses in Baliguda area. As a result, some people connived against him and eliminated him by hiring a supari killer.

Apart from the punishment, District and Sessions Judge Rupashree Choudhury in Berhampur also slapped a penalty of ₹10,000 on each of the convicts. In default, all the convicts have to undergo an additional year of imprisonment, Public Prosecutor Trilochan Parida said.

The court passed the order after examining the statements of 22 witnesses and the police chargesheet, Parida added.

The convicts were identified as Rama Narayan Nahak, 25,

alias Golak of Haridapadar Tarsingh village, his associates Kanhu Charan Sahu, 27, of Kharia Humki village under Aska police limits, K Biswajit Patra, 47, of Sunapanka village in Kandhamal district, and supari killer Bablu Muni, 35, of Badamuni Sahi at MG Road in Aska were produced in the court under tight security during pronouncement of the verdict.

Two others, identified as S Balaji Patra, 34, of Bandhasahi in Baliguda and Rasbihari Das, 34, a resident of Bandhaguda under Baliguda police limits, were out on bail but did not appear in the court during pronouncement of the order.

After an arrest warrant was issued, police arrested them from Goulundi in Berhampur and produced in the court.

According to the case diary, Panda was shot dead by the convicts, December 10, 2019. Acting on a complaint filed by the deceased's cousin Nirmal Sahu, police registered a case and arrested Golak, his associate Kanhu Charan, key conspirator K Biswajit, S Balaji and Rasbihari, December 29, 2019 and produced them in the court. Later supari killer Bablu was also produced in the court.

Students, tourists explore INS Kuthar at Gopalpur Port

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Nov 25: Students of New Age Euro School and other local educational institutions, general public and tourists Monday explored INS Kuthar which has been docked at Gopalpur Port in Ganjam district with an aim to promote awareness among the local populace on coastal security and maritime operations.

Naval officers gleefully demonstrated the exemplary capabilities of the warship during battles. Students were



INS Kuthar is a Khukri-class guided missile corvette, currently in service with the Indian Navy. It was designed by

Indian naval architects and built at the Mazagon Dock in Mumbai. INS Kuthar was part of Western Naval Command till 1998. Later, it moved to be part of Eastern Naval Command.

The naval vessel was open to public, students and tourists Sunday and Monday from 9am to 4.30pm at Gopalpur Port. The two-day visit of INS Kuthar was organised after completion of the fourth edition of the pan-India coastal defence exercise 'Sea Vigil-24' November 20 and 21.

'Zeenat' released to wild in Similipal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, Nov 25: The authorities of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) released 'Zeenat' - the Royal Bengal Tigress - brought from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra, into the wild from its soft enclosure here, an official said Monday.

'Zeenat' is the second tigress after 'Jamuna', brought from TATR to be released in the core area of Similipal Tiger Reserve.

"Zeenat was released into the core area in North division Sunday night. The tigress, after opening of the gates in the evening, had moved out at 9.30pm," STR Field Director Prakash Chand Gogineni said.

Stating that the tigress is being constantly monitored by three teams of Similipal North



division, the official said Zeenat took rest in the forest after being released from the soft enclosure Sunday night.

Earlier, the STR authority had released another tigress 'Jamuna' in the core area. "Currently both tigresses Jamuna and Zeenat are moving freely in Similipal," the official said.

PCCF (Wild Life) Susant Nanda in a post on X said, "Tigress Zeenat was released from its soft enclosure today. The new addition to the Similipal family brought under an interstate translocation programme from TATR of Maharashtra would infuse much needed genetic diversity to Similipal Tiger Reserve."

The officials said that STR for the first time has a tiger supplementation anywhere in the world to enhance the gene pool of tigers.

After being brought to Similipal November 15, tigress Zeenat was kept in a soft enclosure inside the STR.

Zeenat is the second tigress after Jamuna brought to Odisha under the translocation programme to increase the population of tigers in the state. The two tigresses have been radio-collared before being released in the wild, officials said.

STR houses 27 tigers and 13 among them are pseudo-melanistic due to genetic disorder caused by inbreeding which could, in the long run, adversely impact the population of the normal yellow-coated Royal Bengal Tigers.

WHALE SHARK DIES ON SONAPUR BEACH



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chikiti, Nov 25: A rare Whale shark, which was grounded at Sonapur sea beach under this block in Ganjam district Monday afternoon, died after efforts by the villagers to push it back to the sea failed.

The weight of the 10-metre-long fish will be approximately 300 kg, Block Fishery Extension Officer Priyabrata Das said.

Even though Sonapur villagers tried hard to push the shark into the sea, it was not possible owing to the size and weight of the shark and large waves hitting the sea shore. The giant shark eventually died after lying for a long time on the beach. A proper autopsy will be conducted Tuesday and burial will be done on the beach, Das said.

Though it is said that sharks come near the beach after getting old, local intelligentsia alleged that excess use of fishing trawlers and big nets to catch fish despite the fishing ban lead to such incidents.

Bank of India

Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 0674-2362249

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following properties "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for realization of the debts due to the Bank.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrowers/Directors/ Guarantors/Total Dues	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	BHUBANESWAR SME BRANCH (NOW THE BELOW ACCOUNTS ARE TRANSFERRED TO ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH, CUTTACK), PH.: 8249067773 / Borrower: M/s. Premier Cables and Conductors Pvt. Ltd., Regd. Office: At: Rishi Tower, No.: 02-315, 3 rd Floor, New Town, Rajarhat, 24 Praganas, Kolkata, Praganas North, West Bengal - 700156, Corporate Office: Plot No.: 945-947, Bhatakhuri, NH-5, Gangapada, Dist.: Khordha, PIN-752054 / Directors: 1) Mrs. Sushila Devi Gupta (Guarantor), W/o: Mr. Subash Chandra Gupta, At: Gupta Niwas, Cuttack Road, Bhubaneswar-751006, 2) Mr. Manmohan Gupta (Guarantor), S/o: Late Bhagat Ram Gupta, At: Gupta Niwas, Cuttack Road, Bhubaneswar-751006, Correspondence Address: 8-2-293/82/103, Pavani Palazzo, Plot No.: 24, Huda Heights, Road No.: 12, Banjara Hills, MLA Colony, Khairatabad, Telangana, Hyderabad-500034, 3) Mr. Kamal Kumar Agarwalla, S/o: Suresh Kumar Agarwal, At: Gajapati Nagar, Raja Bazar, Jatni, Khordha-752050 / Total Dues: ₹12,62,17,677.60 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Land & Building pertaining to (1) Khata No.: 655/157, Plot No.: 1570 & Plot No.: 1572, Plot Area: Ac. 1.250 Dec. i.e. 54,450 sqft. having Kissam: Gharabari, in the name of M/s. Premier Cables & Conductors Pvt. Ltd., Represented by Director: Mr. Vineet Mohan Gupta, S/o: Ugatram Gupta, (2) Khata No.: 427, Plot No.: 1571, Plot Area: Ac. 0.689 Dec. i.e. 30,012.84 sqft. having Kissam: Sarada Anajalasechita-II, in the name of Mr. Bhagabat Nishanka, S/o: Gopinath Nishanka, Ashamani Samantasinghar, Balamani Mangaraj, Labana Pradhan, Shabana Samantaray, D/o: Chakradhara Nishanka (ROR conversion not done yet), Total Land Area: Ac. 1.939 Dec i.e. 84,463 sqft., Mouza: Bhatakhuri, P.S: Chandaka, P.S. No.: 14, Tahasil: Jatni, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, PIN-752054 along with industrial Sheds & Buildings, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 1579, 1578, 1590, West: Plot No.: 1568/1830/1877, 1567/2557, 1569, North: Plot No.: 1572, 1573, 1571, South: Plot No.: 1570, 1571, Road	₹13,61,74,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) ₹1,36,17,400/- ₹ 50,000/-

Date & Time of E-Auction: 30.12.2024 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.
with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each.

Last Date & Time for submission of EMD & Documents: 30.12.2024 upto 4.00 P.M.

Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 27.12.2024 with prior appointment of the authorised officer

The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

This is also a 30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://ebkray.in/eauction-psb/home>

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 26.11.2024 Authorised Officer, Bank of India

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 50/ET/SBP/ENGG/2024-25, Date: 19.11.2024
e-Tender No. 40-eT-DENC-SBP-24

Name of the work: RECONDITIONING OF WORN OUT POINTS & CROSSING AND OTHER ASSOCIATED WORKS AT VARIOUS STATION YARDS IN SAMBALPUR-DEOGAN ROAD SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ CENTRAL IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹52,11,641.04, Bid Security: ₹1,04,300/-. Completion Period of the work: 12 (Twelve) Months.

Date & time of Tender Closing: 16.12.2024 at 1500 hrs.

No manual offer sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tender, even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.reps.gov.in>

The tenders/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered or IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant papers must have to be uploaded at the time of participating on e-tendering as per instruction.

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg./PR-754IP/24-25)
Sambalpur

AN INVESTOR EDUCATION AND AWARENESS INITIATIVE

Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds.

Date and Venue:
Friday, 29th November 2024; 7:00 p.m. onwards.
at Grand Residency, Palamandap, Badambadi, Cuttack - 753 012, Odisha.
For registration, please contact: Vineet Singh, Mobile: 72056 58060.

Registration is compulsory.
The registration time will be from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
No walk-ins will be allowed.

HDFC
MUTUAL FUNDS
WEALTH AND CARE

An Investor Education and Awareness Initiative

Visit <https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how> to know more about the process to complete a one-time Know Your Customer (KYC) requirement to invest in Mutual Funds. Investors should only deal with registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website (www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html). For any queries, complaints & grievance redressal, investors may reach out to the AMC's and / or Investor Relations Officers. Additionally, investors may also lodge complaints directly with the AMC's, if they are unsatisfied with the resolutions given by AMC's they may raise complaint through the SCORES portal on <https://scores.gov.in>. SCORES portal facilitates investors to lodge complaint online with SEBI and subsequently view its status. In case the investor is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaints raised directly with the AMC's or through the SCORES portal, they may file any complaint on the Smart ODR on <https://smartodr.in/login>.

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.A-616
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
U.K. HEAD WORKS DIVISION, KOLABNAGAR(K), PIN-764011
e-Procurement Notice-SE-UKHW-09/2024-25
Dated 22.11.2024 (ONLINE)

1. Name of Work	: Civil Works
2. No. of Work	: 07 (Seven) Nos.
3. Approximate Value of Work	: 4.84 Lakhs to 16.49 Lakhs
4. Class of Contractor	: Registered & Licensed Contractors of 'C' & 'D' Class
5. Period of Completion	: 45 (Forty Five) days to 03 (Three) Calendar Months
6. Date & Time of availability of bid documents online	: 26.11.24 at 11:00 Hours to 05.12.24 upto 17.30 Hours
7. Date & Place of opening	: 06.12.24 (10.30 Hours) at office of the Superintending Engineer, UKHWD, Kolab Nagar
8. Name of the Officer Inviting Bids	: Superintending Engineer UKHWD, Kolab Nagar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation, if any, required will be published in Govt. website only.
Sd./Superintending Engineer
Upper Kolab Head Works Division, Kolabnagar
OIPR-32015/11/0017/2425

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, GAJAPATI
At/P.O.: Paralakhemundi, Dist.: Gajapati, Phone No.: 06815-222365
e-mail: eemi_gajapati@yahoo.co.in

e-Procurement Notice No. 2045 Date: 21.11.2024
BID IDENTIFICATION No. MIDGJP-05/2024-25
No. A-608: The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Paralakhemundi on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bid in Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the construction of following works as detailed in the Detailed Tender Call Notice (D.T.C.N.) from the eligible class of contractors.

1. Name of the Work	: Construction of Check Dams under MATY Scheme - 2024-25
2. No. of Works	: 05 Nos. (Five)
3. Estimated Cost	: Rs.50.00 to 74.00 Lakhs
4. Period of Completion	: 6 (Six) Calendar months (Including Rain Season)
5. Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal	: From 10.00 hours of 28.11.2024 to 17.00 hours of 07.12.2024
6. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 17.00 hours of 07.12.2024
7. Date of Opening of Bid	: 11.00 hours on 09.12.2024
8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Gajapati, At/P.O.: Paralakhemundi, Dist.: Gajapati, PIN - 761200

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
Sd./- Er. Kiran Kumar Subudhy
Superintending Engineer
MI Division, Gajapati
Paralakhemundi
OIPR-32013/11/0008/2425

FOCUS POLITICS

THE COST OF SOPS



Poll myopia needs an antidote of responsible fiscal leadership for long term sustainable growth. Otherwise, populism is a race to the fiscal bottom

Thus, despite an anti-incumbency factor, farmer distress in Marathwada and Vidarbha, prices dipping below MSP for cash crops like cotton and soyabean and the perception of corruption, the Mahayuti pulled off an amazing victory. This will have national reverberations and will also lead to political realignments in the state.

Every electoral outcome prediction and then post-mortem is a matter of intense debate, theorising and is endless. Depending on one's prior beliefs one can fit any model or theory to fit the observed behaviour. No one theory or explanation is however sufficient. Even the exit polls have gone horribly wrong in their prediction. The recent decisive victory of Donald Trump for the second time in the US is an example of an outcome which many believed was not possible or was very remote. It is clear that what motivates or animates voters is not subject to clean and simplistic explanations. The determinants of voter preference are not purely economic, or even driven by narrow self-interest, as public choice theory would have us believe. It could be purely an emotional response at the ballot box. With the increasing influence of religion-based propaganda and caste identities, it becomes an almost impossible

puzzle to crack as to which is the decisive factor.

However, one cannot deny that the Majhi Ladki Bahin (my beloved sister) scheme launched barely three months before the state's elections has had a significant impact on voter behaviour. This was passed by the Assembly well before the model code of conduct kicked in. In its somewhat hasty implementation, the eligibility checking might not have been as rigorous as needed. As a result, 25 million women now receive ₹1500 per month as direct cash benefit. After elections the entitlement will go up to ₹2100 as per the poll manifesto of the Mahayuti. The total extra burden on the exchequer will be around Rs 63,000 crore per year, exceeding the amount spent on the NREGS or the free food grain scheme. Already Maharashtra's finances are such that 67% expenditure is on "revenue items" comprising of salaries, pensions and interest payment on past debt. That debt will climb to ₹7.8 lakh crore by next year, making the annual interest payment burden alone nearly ₹50,000 crore. This interest burden cannot be defaulted or postponed.

The CAG of India in its report to the government in May has warned about rising debt burden. Even without the Ladki Bahin (LB) scheme, the state has to plan

repayment of past loans which are becoming due in next seven years. That amount is ₹2.75 lakh crore, which is roughly ₹40,000 crore to be provisioned every year from now on. All this extra debt burden would have been manageable if the growth rate of the state (and hence tax revenue) were to rise. But at least this year the growth rate is expected to be 5.5%, below the national GDP growth. This is well below the 12% needed to achieve a 1 trillion-dollar economy. The state which had a revenue surplus in 2019 now has a revenue deficit projected to 0.5%, and fiscal deficit of 2.6% of the state's GDP. The total debt is getting close to 20% of state's GDP, which is considered the maximum limit under the combined fiscal responsibility framework for states and the Union government.

Seen from this fiscal lens, the short-term benefits of a direct cash transfer scheme have led to a future burden on the taxpayer. The LB scheme has not eliminated others. Indeed, there are more sops such as zero electricity bill and ₹15000 for farmers, ₹10000 for students and so on. The LB scheme has been a successful formula which was used in Jharkhand as well and is part of at least a dozen other states which offer cash or kind benefits targeting women. It pays electoral dividends by increasing female voter participation. But what it does to the fiscal situation, and consequent drag on growth, inflation and interest rates as well as future tax burdens is not well examined.

Poll myopia needs an antidote of responsible fiscal leadership for long term sustainable growth. Otherwise, populism is a race to the fiscal bottom. And the path to a future Universal Basic Income and unconditional cash transfer scheme is jeopardised.

The writer is a noted Pune-based economist.
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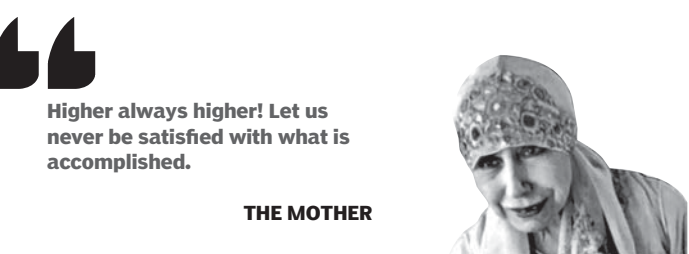
Ajit Ranade

SEEN FROM THE FISCAL LENS, THE SHORT-TERM BENEFITS OF A DIRECT CASH TRANSFER SCHEME HAVE LED TO A FUTURE BURDEN ON THE TAXPAYER

Maharashtra at 14% has the biggest share of the nation's economic output. Its capital Mumbai is also the commercial and financial capital of the country. From this maximum city, the nation collects a whopping disproportionate share of direct taxes comprising of corporate and personal incomes. Mumbai's real estate is more precious than gold. The state's Jawaharlal Nehru Port is India's busiest container port handling about 60% of all containerised cargo, and among the top five ports in terms of total tonnage in the country. It is seamlessly connected to the dedicated freight corridors, with the eastern leg already functional and western leg to be operational soon. Hence it is crucial for India's exports. The proposed Vadhavan port at the northern end of Maharashtra will be state-of-the-art, and among the top ten ports in the world when completed. Mumbai's 22-km trans harbour bridge, commissioned earlier this year, is a crucial link between the island city and the mainland.

There are several roadways, metro and other infrastructure projects underway which will all add to Maharashtra's mighty economic heft. In fact, it has the ambition of becoming India's first one trillion-dollar sub-sovereign economy in the next few years.

So naturally forming the government in Maharashtra is a big prize for any political party. The BJP led coalition Mahayuti achieved a stunning victory in the Assembly polls last week winning 234 out of 288 seats. This is their third consecutive victory, a hat-trick for BJP, in what was once a mostly Congress-ruled state. The victory was all the more remarkable because it came barely five months after the Mahayuti fared very poorly in Lok Sabha elections.



Higher always higher! Let us never be satisfied with what is accomplished.

THE MOTHER

Too Little, Too Late

The shadow of Donald Trump, with trade and economic uncertainties linked to his return to the White House in January 2025, seems to have hung over the just concluded COP29 held in Baku, Azerbaijan. The outcome in terms of the developed countries' funding for fighting climate change is so disappointing for developing countries that the sincerity of tackling global warming is under a question mark like never before. Trump, in his earlier presidency before Joe Biden, had made it clear that the US – the largest donor of such funds – would not provide any money for this purpose. A deal was hastily imposed towards the end of the summit disregarding the objections of poorer nations that shatters global trust and undermines recent progress made in trying to keep the rise in temperature within the prescribed limit. With two dozen industrialised countries, including the US, participating in the deliberations it was supposed to be the "finance COP" where developed nations were expected to pledge to pay developing countries for the damage they had caused to the climate. But, the agreement for shelling out \$430 billion a year by 2035 is slammed by developing countries led by a group that includes India, Nigeria and Bolivia, as "too little, too late." What is worse is that the rich-world governments will be able to dodge their obligations by relying on cash from private companies and international lenders.

According to independent experts, the developing world, excluding China, would need \$1.3 trillion a year by 2035 to fund its green transition and keep temperature rise in conformity with the Paris agreement. The climate finance target fixed at the summit has upset poor nations so much that many of them have called it "a death sentence" for those already drowning under rising seas and facing devastating costs. It is indeed a travesty of justice that the poor world has to accept crumbs for fear of collapsing the entire COP process representing the only forum where they are given a voice. Reports are emerging from the conference that there were last-minute text changes and behind-the-scenes lobbying by fossil fuel interests.

It is a fact that COP29 took place in difficult circumstances. It was ironic that the venue was chosen to be Azerbaijan which is largely dependent for its economy on production of fossil fuel. Some developed countries contended that the final sum agreed at the summit is a step up from rich countries' previous commitment to provide \$100 billion annually in climate finance by 2020. But, the truth is even this target was met two years late, in 2022. There is greater uncertainty in providing this amount of money in view of the second Trump presidency.

For the past couple of years the world has been facing unprecedented drought, flood and food insecurity due to climate change but the industrialised nations in the global north kept dragging their feet on these issues. In this backdrop meeting the Paris agreement's target of 1.5 degrees Celsius before 2025 now seems like a distant dream. Even if nations succeed in honouring their current promises to reduce domestic emissions, the UN warns that the planet is still on track for a scorching 2.7 degrees Celsius rise. This will cause unprecedented climate chaos.

The talks at the UN climate summit COP29 ran 33 hours late, and came within inches of collapse.

The upshot of two weeks of often bitter negotiations in the Azerbaijani capital is that poorer nations have once again been given a raw deal.

WISDOM CORNER

- Man is fond of counting his troubles, but he does not count his joys. If he counted them up as he ought to, he would see that every lot has enough happiness provided for it.** FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY
- Intuition and concepts constitute... the elements of all our knowledge, so that neither concepts without an intuition in some way corresponding to them, nor intuition without concepts, can yield knowledge.** IMMANUEL KANT
- If there were in the world today any large number of people who desired their own happiness more than they desired the unhappiness of others, we could have a paradise in a few years.** BERTRAND RUSSELL

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1924:** After the defeat of the White Russians and the Chinese, the Mongolian People's Republic was proclaimed.
- 1942** Casablanca premiers. The classic movie starring Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart won 3 Oscars – Best Picture, Director and Adapted Screenplay. The film, which is set during the Second World War, follows the life of Rick Blaine, a former freedom fighter and a club owner in Casablanca, Morocco, who has to choose between his love for a woman, Ilsa Lund, and saving her husband from the Nazis.
- 1965:** France launches Astérix. The launch of the satellite from Hammaguir, Algeria made France the 6th country in the world after the US, the USSR, the UK, Canada, and Italy to have an artificial satellite in orbit. The satellite is named after the Asterix the popular comic character created by French writer René Goscinny.
- 1966:** World's first tidal power station opens in France. The Rance Tidal Power Station on the Rance River in Brittany, France was inaugurated by French president Charles de Gaulle. Today, it is one of the largest tidal power stations in the world.

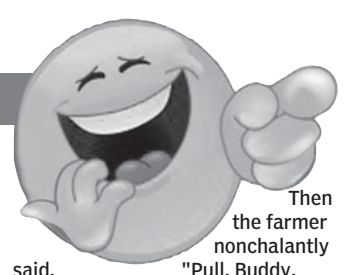
LOL

PULLING THE CAR

An out-of-towner drove his car into a ditch in a desolated area. Luckily, a local farmer came to help with his big strong horse named Buddy.

He hitched Buddy up to the car and yelled, "Pull, Nellie, pull." Buddy didn't move.

Then the farmer hollered, "Pull, Buster, pull." Buddy didn't respond. Once more the farmer commanded, "Pull, Jennie, pull." Nothing.



Then the farmer nonchalantly said, "Pull, Buddy, pull." And the horse easily dragged the car out of the ditch. The motorist was most appreciative and very curious. He asked the farmer why he called his horse by the wrong name three times. The farmer said, "Oh, Buddy is blind, and if he thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try!"

SPECTRUM CONSTITUTION DAY

Constitution, citizens & courts



DV Ramana

IT IS TROUBLING THAT DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED LEADERS OFTEN USE THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS TO SUPPRESS THE VERY PEOPLE WHO ELECTED THEM

I recently read an insightful book by Fali S. Nariman titled You Must Know Your Constitution. As the title suggests, understanding the Constitution is crucial for everyone, as it directly impacts our daily lives. Nariman's book begins with an illustration of RK Laxman's famous depiction of the "common man" accompanied by the phrase, "to the little Indian in whom rests the future of the nation." This reflects the core idea that the Constitution is designed with the common person in mind.

A closer look at the Preamble, the Fundamental Rights, and the Directive Principles of State Policy reveals that the Constitution is fundamentally focused on safeguarding the interests of ordinary citizens.

Unfortunately, we are currently witnessing a shift of power from the citizens to government. It is troubling that democratically elected leaders often use their constitutional powers to suppress the very people who elected them. This is a worrying global trend indeed. The Freedom in the World 2024 report by Freedom House shows a significant global decline in freedom for the 18th consecutive year. The report, which analysed 195 countries, reveals that 52 countries experienced deteriora-

tion in political rights and civil liberties. India's rank is below median. Amidst the conflict between citizens and government, courts have been playing an important role in maintaining constitutional balance. The Supreme Court has the power to strike down laws or executive actions that violate fundamental rights by declaring them unconstitutional.

Nariman's book highlights several landmark judgements of the Supreme Court (SC) that have played a crucial role in protecting the original spirit of the Constitution. Here are some important judgements.

Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973): This landmark judgement established the "doctrine of basic structure." The SC curtailed the Parliament's power to amend fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution.

Bangalore Water Supply & Sewerage Board v. A. Rajappa (1978): The case arose when employees of the Bangalore Water Supply Board challenged heavy fines imposed on them for misconduct, claiming violations of natural justice. The SC in a unanimous decision by a seven-judge bench, rejected the Board's narrow interpretation of "industry" and emphasised a wider interpretation based on

relationship between employers and employees.

Unnikrishnan JP v. State of Andhra Pradesh (1993): This judgement is a major contribution to the field of education and constitutional rights in India, which has a huge implication for citizens. The SC ruled that every child has the right to free education until the age of 14 and emphasised that the state has a constitutional obligation to provide free and compulsory education.

Visakha v. State of Rajasthan (1997): The SC addressed workplace sexual harassment and established the Visakha Guidelines to protect women's rights and ensure safe working environments. The judgement paved the way for open deliberations on gender equality and women's rights in India.

Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018): The SC decriminalised consensual same-sex relationships by striking down parts of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, reaffirming the rights to equality and personal liberty. The judgement has gone a long way in improving the quality of life and dignity of people belonging to the LGBT community.

Indian Young Lawyers Association v. State of Kerala (2018): This ruling overturned the ban

preventing women aged 10 to 50 from entering the Sabarimala Temple, declaring that such exclusion violated fundamental rights guaranteed under various Articles of the Constitution.

These judgements, along with many more, demonstrate how the judiciary has acted as a caretaker of constitutional values, ensuring that fundamental rights are protected, despite challenges posed by legislative actions and societal norms. However, we need to remember that courts alone cannot improve the protection of constitutional rights.

I would like to end with a famous statement of Gandhiji who emphasised the importance of duties over rights. He said, "If instead of insisting on rights everyone does his duty, there will immediately be the rule of order established among mankind. There is no such thing as the divine right of kings to rule and the humble duty of the ryots (farmers) to pay respectful obedience to their masters."

On this significant day, let us solemnly pledge to unite in understanding and upholding the values underlined in the Constitution.

The writer is a professor at XIMB.

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



Confidence booster

Sir, The comprehensive win by Team India under the staunch captaincy of Jasprit Bumra at Perth has given the Men in White of India contingent the much awaited support. The stand-by captain's fifer in the first innings and three wickets in the second, coupled with a double ton by Jasaswi and a hundred from Virat's bat frustrated the Kangaroos' all-out efforts for a draw. This has inculcated a good sense of self confidence in India Test Eleven after a humiliating home series defeat at the hands of the Kiwis recently. With the joining of full time skipper Rohit Sharma and other players with the squad, the team must win the remaining matches to be in the reckoning for a spot in the finals of the World Test Match Championship encounter. From here, no bowing to any defeat by the Team India, if it has to bring home the coveted trophy in the third appearance after failing to lift it in the inaugural and the subsequent match. As cricket is a game of glorious uncertainty, every care has to be taken by the team members and the management to see that focus be on playing natural game by the final playing eleven in each match..

Sanjib Kumar Das, CUTTACK

Democratic backslide

Sir, With the wily Donald Trump having come back to power for the second time, the question remains will the US actually fall to autocracy. Signs are clear that America, at the very least, will become a hybrid regime under Trump 2.0 or a semi-autocratic regime much similar to Hungary as its Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has transformed that country into what the European Parliament has denounced as a "hybrid regime of electoral autocracy." It is very likely that Trump will want to personalise power into his own hands and exercise infinite power in all spheres. While the US will not likely become a full-blown authoritarian country, under Trump the US will certainly no longer be a fully functioning democracy. And the Americans have sadly voted for this.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Child sexual abuse cases surge in Kerala

The report has prompted the state's child rights panel to raise awareness about child abuse among parents, teachers and police officers



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Nov 25: The instances of sexual abuse of children in Kerala are on an upward spiral, leaving them unsafe even in schools and homes.

According to a report released by the Kerala State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights recently, 21 per cent of such cases were reported at children's homes, and four per cent in schools.

"Out of 4,663 cases under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act analysed, 988 (21 per cent) incidents occurred in the children's homes, 725 (15 per cent) in the accused's homes, and 935 (20 per cent) in public places," it said.

In the report, it was noted that in 173 cases, the crime took place in schools, 139 in vehicles, 146 at various other locations, and 166 incidents in isolated areas. Additionally, 60 cases were reported in hotels, 72 in friends' homes, 73 in religious institutions, 16 in hospitals, and eight per cent in childcare institutions.

However, in 791 (17 per cent) cases, information about the crime was not available, the report added.

In 2023, a total of 4663 POCSO cases were reported across Kerala.

According to police data, Thiruvananthapuram district recorded the highest number of cases, while Pathanamthitta district had the lowest, the report said.

Of the 4,663 POCSO cases reported in the year, 4,701 children were survivors, indicating that many cases involved more than one victim.

"This highlights the need to educate children about the POCSO Act and child-friendly procedures, along with providing them self-defense training," the report stated.

As per the figures, the cases are on the rise as 3,322 cases were reported in 2021 and 4,583

in 2022. It was 3,616 cases in 2019 and 3030 in 2020.

The Commission found that, out of 4,582 cases analysed during the specified period, involving 5,002 accused individuals, the relationship between the child victims and the accused was categorised as follows: 873 were known to the children, 631 were neighbours, 439 were family members, 435 were relatives, 477 were friends, 692 were romantic partners, 210 were teachers, 305 were strangers, 896 were undocumented or unidentified, and 36 were van,

As per Section 16 of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights, the report should be laid before the state Assembly along with the recommendations and the action taken by the commission, so that the government can initiate the required measures for the redressal of the matters raised in it

NAZEER CHALIYAM | FORMER MEMBER, KERALA STATE COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS

Commission by the police. The data highlights that girls are disproportionately vulnerable to sexual assault.

Raising concerns of the children who survived sexual abuse, 73 (two per cent) were aged four to six, 423 (nine per cent) were aged five to nine, 1574 (39 per cent) were aged 10 to 14, and 1929 (48 per cent) were aged 15 to 18.

Besides, two (0.03 per cent) children with unclear or undocumented ages were also victims.

This highlights the need for parents and guardians to focus on enhancing children's ability to respond to uncomfortable situations and providing age-appropriate safety awareness.

KV Manoj Kumar, Chairperson of the Kerala State Com-



Workers pluck tea leaves at a tea garden in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

PRICE RISE

Bengal bars export of potato to other states

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Nov 25: With the prices of potatoes, the staple ingredient of any Bengali dish, skyrocketing, export of the vegetable from West Bengal to other states has been barred for the time being, it was announced recently.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the task force constituted by the state government to keep the prices of the essential food items in the retail markets of the state in check.

The ban on exports of potatoes from West Bengal will continue unless the price of the vegetable stabilises in the retail markets.

The decision comes just a day after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had expressed strong reservations about the export of potatoes and onions from West Bengal to other states without meeting the internal requirements within the state.

Stating that her government will act tough on the issue, she said when the state government is providing funds for insurance for the farmers she could not accept the export of such food items before meeting the internal demands in West Bengal.

On Monday, the members of the task force visited different retail markets in West Bengal and one of them expressed anguish over the differential prices of potatoes and onions in different markets.

SAFFRON STRONGHOLD

Trouble simmers over Palakkad by-poll loss

Youth Congress state president Rahul Mamkootathil won the Palakkad seat with a margin of over 18,000 votes, delivering a shock to the saffron party, which had been hoping to emerge victorious in the seat after finishing second in the past few elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



step down as state president of the party, the BJP's national leadership firmly supported the Kerala unit and its chief, asserting that they had mounted a "good fight" in the recent by-elections.

Rejecting reports that Surendran had expressed willingness to quit taking moral responsibility for the defeat in Palakkad, the BJP accused the CPI(M)-led LDF and the Congress-led UDF of "spreading rumours."

Adding to the BJP's woes, the Left improved its performance in the seat, narrowing the gap with the party. "BJP has given a good fight in recently concluded by-elections in Kerala and got a massive mandate in Maharashtra. We will win Palakkad and many more assembly seats in 2026. We are here to make a difference in Kerala politics. People are looking up to BJP," senior BJP leader and party's Kerala in-charge, Prakash Javadekar, said in a post on 'X'.

Nobody is resigning neither (the) party has sought anybody's resignation. I think this will settle the matter

Prakash Javadekar | BJP's Kerala in-charge

ALARMING REVELATIONS

21% OF SEXUAL ABUSE CASES WERE REPORTED AT CHILDREN'S HOMES, AND 4% IN SCHOOLS

OF THE 4,701 VICTIMS REPORTED DURING THE YEAR, 3,972 (85%) WERE GIRLS, WHILE 659 (14%) WERE BOYS

OF THE 4,663 POCSO CASES REPORTED IN 2024, 4,701 CHILDREN WERE SURVIVORS, INDICATING THAT MANY CASES INVOLVED MORE THAN ONE VICTIM



IN 2023, A TOTAL OF 4663 POCSO CASES WERE REPORTED ACROSS KERALA. 3,322 CASES WERE REPORTED IN 2021 AND 4,583 IN 2022. IT WAS 3,616 CASES IN 2019 AND 3,030 IN 2020

bus, or auto drivers.

This data underscores that the safety, protection, and well-being of children can only be effectively ensured if parents, relatives, society, police, and the government diligently fulfill their responsibilities without failure, the report added.

Of the 4,701 victims reported during the year, 3,972 (85 per cent) were girls, while 659 (14 per cent) were boys.

Gender information was unavailable for 70 children (one per cent), as it was not included in the report submitted to the

mission for Protection of Child Rights, said the commission is now focused on raising awareness about child abuse as part of the recommendations outlined in the report.

"As children are being abused in their homes and public places, society has the responsibility to prevent this. To address this, we have provided training for Kudumbashree workers on the Juvenile Justice Act, POCSO Act, child rights, and good parenting in seven districts of the state, and it will continue in the remaining districts," Kumar told PTI.

LABOURER'S JOURNEY TO BECOMING A DOCTOR

From lifting bricks to donning stethoscope

Sarfaraz's story has become a beacon of hope in his village. Once a labourer, he is now an inspiration, mentoring younger children who look to him for guidance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 25: Every morning in a village in West Bengal's Purba Medinipur district, 21-year-old Sarfaraz, the second of three children, hauled 400 bricks under the blistering heat for ₹300 a day. By night, his dusty hands turned the pages of medical textbooks, driven by his mother's unwavering ambition for her son to become a doctor.

Finally, Sarfaraz has turned his dream into reality, having already started his classes at Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College in Kolkata, swapping construction sites for the lecture halls where he proudly dons a white apron and a stethoscope.

"It was my mother's dream that I become a doctor. So, I decided to live her dream. This was my third attempt at NEET. If I hadn't made it this time, I

would have given up. I come from a family where it is a dream come true," he told PTI.

Now, with an impressive score of 677 out of 720 in the NEET 2024, Sarfaraz has turned his mother's dream into reality, embodying a story of grit, sacrifice, and an unyielding belief in the power of education.

Born into a family with limited means, Sarfaraz's childhood was shaped by financial struggle.

After excelling academically, he aspired to join the National Defence Academy. Though he cleared the initial phase, an accident dashed his hopes of qualifying for the final stage.

The Covid-19 pandemic became a turning point. With



Once I become a doctor, I want to come back and work among the poor. They have supported me through my journey. Now, it is my turn to give back to my village

SARFARAZ

monetary assistance from the government, Sarfaraz purchased a smartphone and began preparing for NEET, India's competitive medical entrance examination.

Initially, he relied on free YouTube tutorials by online ed-tech platforms.

Eventually, he enrolled in one such online ed-tech platform course, painstakingly saving for months to afford the discounted fee.

"I used to work from morning to afternoon as a labourer along with my father at times who is also a labourer. Then I used to go back home and study for seven hours at a stretch. This was my daily routine for the last three years," Sarfaraz said.

But setbacks continued to test his resolve.

After clearing NEET in 2023, Sarfaraz got a chance to get admitted to a dental college but had to back out as he could not bear the expenses.

Yet, Sarfaraz refused to give up. Undeterred, he prepared for NEET one last time, deter-

mined to succeed.

"I decided to give it one last shot. I thought I had worked so hard, let me try it once more," he said.

His perseverance paid off when, in 2024, Sarfaraz scored 677 out of 720 in NEET, securing admission to Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College in Kolkata, one of West Bengal's most prestigious institutions.

With his medical classes now underway, Sarfaraz's life has transformed.

Moved by his grit, a philanthropist and owner of an online ed-tech platform, visited Sarfaraz, offering him a new phone, and financial support for his education.

Sarfaraz's ambition doesn't stop at becoming a doctor. He dreams of returning to his village to serve its impoverished community.

His journey from hauling bricks to donning a white coat is a testament to the indomitable human spirit, inspiring his village and beyond as he navigates the rigours of medical school, carrying the lessons of his struggles and the hopes of those who believe in him.

AN INVESTOR EDUCATION AND AWARENESS INITIATIVE
Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds.
Date and Venue: Friday, 29th November 2024; 6:30 p.m. onwards.
at Pipul Padmaja Premium Hotel, Plot No 324, 326, Behind Bharat Petrol Pump, District Center, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar - 751 016, Odisha.
For registration, please contact: Sanket Swaroop, Mobile: 99370 81778.
Registration is compulsory.
The registration time will be from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
No walk-ins will be allowed.
HDFC MUTUAL FUND
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Visit [https://www.hdfcfund.com/information-you-know-how-to-know-more-about-the-process-to-complete-a-one-time-Know-Your-Customer-\(KYC\)-requirement-to-invest-in-Mutual-Funds](https://www.hdfcfund.com/information-you-know-how-to-know-more-about-the-process-to-complete-a-one-time-Know-Your-Customer-(KYC)-requirement-to-invest-in-Mutual-Funds). Investors should only deal with registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website (www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html). For any queries, complaints & grievance redressal, investors may reach out to the AMC's and / or Investor Relations Officers. Additionally, investors may also lodge complaints directly with the AMC's, if they are unsatisfied with the resolutions given by AMC's they may raise complaint through the SCORES portal on <https://scores.gov.in>. SCORES portal facilitates investors to lodge complaint online with SEBI and subsequently view its status. In case the investor is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaints raised directly with the AMC's or through the SCORES portal, they may file an complaint on the Smart ODR on <https://smartodr.in/login>.
Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

ODISHA LIFT IRRIGATION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
L.I. DIVISION, KORAPUT
Email ID: exengerlickpt@gmail.com
e-Tender Notice
Bid Identification No. E.E. OLIC KORAPUT 03/2024-25 Dt. 22.11.2024
No. A-609: Installation & Energisation of 2 Nos. Packages of Lift Irrigation Project Works under Malkangiri District.
Execution of L.I. Project Works- Under Podia Block of Malkangiri District
1. Cost of Projects - 26.96 to 27.03 lakhs each
2. Class of Contractors : Valid Electrical H.T. License with Civil 'D' or equivalent Class (As per specified in DTCN)
3. Availability of Bid in Portal - 27.11.2024 at 10.00 A.M. to 09.12.2024 upto 05.00 P.M.
4. Bid Clarification - On or before 04.12.2024 during office hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, L.I. Division, Koraput
5. Bid Opening - 10.12.2024 at 11.00 A.M. onwards
The bidders who have awarded similar nature of work previously but not satisfactory progress till date or the defaulter contractors need not apply. All other information will available in Govt. Portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, L.I. Division, Koraput
OIPR-32173/11/0003/2425



I and my Cabinet colleagues do not want to be involved in unnecessary discussions and situations that would dent the image of the state government or my own. That is why, on behalf of the state government, our official Jayesh Ranjan wrote a letter (to Adanis)
A REVANTH REDDY | CM, TELANGANA

ARMY LAUNCHES COMMUNITY RADIO STATION IN LADAKH

Northern Army Commander, Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar inaugurated a community radio station set up by the force in Hanle village in Ladakh Monday. These stations are managed by local RJs, offering entertainment and regional content based on local interests to the residents



of the day quote

The EVM manufacturers have closed production and if there is doubt over their functioning, elections should be held using ballot papers on the demand of the public at large
SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | CM, HIMACHAL PRADESH

We must work together to create a future where every individual in Nagaland can live free from the shadows of addiction, and also ensure that our young generation grows up in a safe, healthy and nurturing environment
LA GANESAN | NAGALAND GOVERNOR

The Congress and other opposition parties should admit their failures in the recent elections and prioritise unity over individual ambition
KALYAN BANERJEE | SENIOR PARTY LEADER AND MP

GRAP-IV CURBS SC raps govt for 'serious lapse'

THE TOP COURT DIRECTED THE CAQM TO PLACE THE UPDATED DATA ON AQI IN ORDER TO TAKE A CALL ON GRAP IV MEASURES ON THE NEXT HEARING NOVEMBER 28

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: The Supreme Court Monday censured the AAP government and the Delhi police for a "serious lapse" on their part in the strict implementation of GRAP-IV measures and directed the Commission for Air Quality Management to take action against the erring officials.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih said the authorities made no effort to implement GRAP-IV measures.

"It is apparent that the authorities mentioned in GRAP-IV clauses 1, 2 and 3 have made no earnest efforts to implement action under clauses 1 to 3. Some police teams were deputed at a few entry points that also without any specific instructions," it said.

Calling for action against the erring officials, the bench said, "(Court) commissioners have noted that police were only deployed as November 23 and thus a serious lapse on part of authorities. We, therefore, direct commission to immediately initiate action under Section 14 of CAQM Act 2021."

Section 14 of the CAQM in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 deals with the punishment for non-compliance of its provisions.



A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih said the authorities made no efforts to implement GRAP-IV measures

Refusing to relax GRAP-IV curbs, the top court said unless the court was satisfied of there being a "consistent downward trend of AQI", it couldn't permit the commission to go down to Stage 3 or 2 of the GRAP.

The bench earlier asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, and Senior advocate Shadan Farasat for Delhi gov-

ernment, if there was any written order directing police to station permanently at the checkpoints.

"What steps Delhi government took to inform the people stationed at 13 entry points to stop entry of trucks?" the bench asked.

When Bhati informed the bench that orders were given to the police to deploy personnel at 23 major checkpoints, it remarked, "Why only at 23?"

This is negligence that it was done on only in 23 points. We will direct the commission to prosecute commissioner of Delhi police under section 14 CAQM Act."

The top court directed the CAQM to place the updated data on AQI in order to take a call on GRAP IV measures on the next hearing November 28.

The apex court is seized of the matter related to air pollution in the Delhi-NCR. First implemented in 2017, the GRAP was a set of anti-air pollution measures followed in the capital and its vicinity according to the severity of the situation.

SNIPPETS

Top court weighs mandatory legal, self-defence education for schools

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday sought responses from the Centre and others on a plea seeking directions to compulsorily integrate legal education and self-defence training in school curriculum. A bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan issued notices to the Centre, states and union territories seeking their responses on the plea within four weeks. The counsel appearing for the petitioner said, "If the rights are not known to the child, there is no meaning of those rights." The bench would hear the matter after four weeks. The petition, filed by Delhi resident Geeta Rani, said it was essential for every citizen to understand the basic laws in order to assert and protect their fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution. "Therefore, it is crucial to incorporate basic legal education into the academic curriculum and also to promote self-defence training at the school level to ensure children could protect themselves in case of any unseen adversaries," said the plea, filed through advocate Reepak Kansal.

RG Kar protests: SC orders SIT probe into custodial torture case

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday ordered an SIT investigation into the alleged torture of a woman in police custody following her arrest over protests against the rape and murder of a doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. Observing not everything could be transferred to the CBI, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan modified the Calcutta High Court order ordering a CBI probe and said senior IPS officers of the state need to be entrusted with the investigation. The top court said the SIT, which will comprise officers, whose names were submitted by the state, shall submit its report on the progress of the investigation on weekly basis to the high court. The Calcutta High Court chief justice was directed to constitute a special bench before which the SIT would submit its report besides seeking further investigation.

Beant Singh assassination convict Rajoana's mercy plea sensitive matter: Centre to SC

New Delhi: The Centre Monday told the Supreme Court that there was sensitivity involved in the matter related to the mercy petition of death row convict Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted in the 1995 assassination case of then Punjab chief minister Beant Singh. A bench headed by Justice BR Gavai was hearing Rajoana's plea seeking directions to commute his death sentence to life term due to the "inordinate delay" in deciding his mercy petition. "There is a sensitivity involved. Some agencies will have to be consulted," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the bench, also comprising Justices PK Mishra and KV Viswanathan. Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraaj, who also appeared in the matter, said the issue was being reviewed by the government. He said since the issue was sensitive, some more inputs were required in the matter. The bench said it would hear the plea after four weeks.

SHORT TAKES

Woman, 2 newborns die in ambulance

Korba (Chhattisgarh): A woman and her two newborn babies died in the ambulance while being transferred to a hospital in Korba district of Chhattisgarh Monday, officials said. However, the husband of the deceased who was in her 20s alleged that the deaths were caused by a lack of oxygen in the ambulance transporting them, though health authorities denied these claims. "Kanti Rathiya, an Anganwadi worker, gave birth Monday to twins at her home in Jogipali village under Kartala development block. It was premature delivery in the seventh month of pregnancy. The newborns were weak," said Dr SN Kesari.

2 killed, 12 hurt in road miahap

Pilibhit (UP): Two people were killed and 12 others were injured when two trucks and a bus collided with each other due to fog here Monday, police said. The incident took place at about 7 am when two trucks hit each other near Sarai village toll plaza and a bus going from Gorakhpur to Ludhiana also hit them, Circle officer Deepak Chaturvedi said. Both truck drivers died and 12 people, including the bus driver, were injured, he said.

Two killed by Maoists in J'khand

Chaibasa: Two persons were killed by suspected CPI (Maoists) in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, a police officer said Monday. Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Shekhar said a police team has rushed to Giru village under Gudri block to investigate the incident which took place on Sunday night. One of the deceased was identified as Ravi Paan, the SP said. Two other persons were reportedly abducted by the left-wing extremists from the village, police said.

Coast Guard seizes 6,000 kg of drugs

Port Blair: In a major anti-narcotics operation, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) seized a vessel with six Myanmar crew carrying 6,000 kg of contraband Methamphetamine near Andaman and Nicobar Islands, an official said Monday. The drugs were found packed in around 3,000 packets of 2 kg each, which are worth several crores of rupees in the international market.

AAP expands old-age pension scheme

BJP COUNTERS WITH COMPREHENSIVE ELDERLY COVERAGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal Monday announced that an additional 80,000 people in Delhi are now eligible for old-age pensions, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 5.3 lakh.

However, hours after the AAP announced the inclusion, the BJP countered it with a promise of comprehensive pension coverage on the demand for all elderly people if voted to power in the national capital, where elections are due early next year. "When our government was formed in 2015, 3.32 lakh senior citizens were receiving pensions. Over the past nine years, we added 1.25 lakh beneficiaries. With 80,000 more, 5.3 lakh senior citizens now benefit," Kejriwal said during a press conference.

The Delhi government also launched a dedicated portal Sunday for elderly citizens to apply for pensions. According to Kejriwal, 10,000 applications have already been received.

Kejriwal highlighted that Delhi provides the highest pension rates in the country, with



Rs 2,000 for individuals aged 60-69 and Rs 2,500 for those aged 70 and above.

In a further boost to inclusivity, the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minority communities will receive an additional Rs 500, he added.

Accusing the BJP of halting pensions during his imprisonment, Kejriwal said, "It is a sin to stop pensions for old people. After my release, we not only restarted the pensions but also added new beneficiaries."

Responding to the accusations, the BJP in a post on X called the AAP's announcement a "political sham", claiming that it was made by Kejriwal instead of the appropriate administrative authorities.

If the BJP comes to power in Delhi next year, 100 per cent of the elderly population will

receive old-age pensions on demand, the party said.

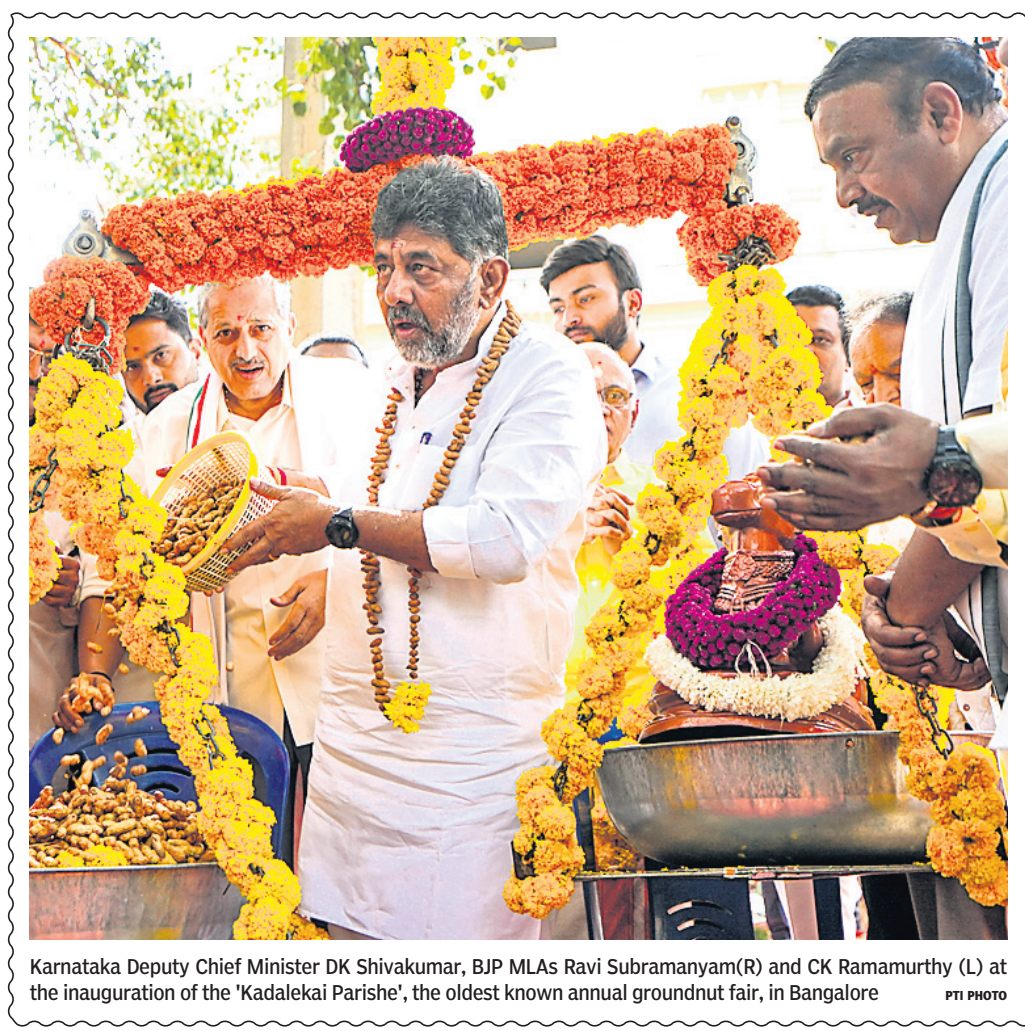
Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said, "Even after this announcement, more than half of Delhi's 10 lakh elderly residents remain uncovered. This is just a drop in the ocean."

Kejriwal further criticised the BJP's claim of "double-engine governments", stating, "In Delhi, where we have a single-engine government, senior citizens receive Rs 2,500. In the BJP-led states, the amount is barely Rs 500-600. Why choose a double engine when a single-engine works better?"

Refuting the claim, the BJP said its government in Haryana provides the highest old-age pension at Rs 2,750 per month.

Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj announced a new Rs 5,000 monthly pension scheme for individuals with over 60 per cent disability, with applications opening soon.

Chief Minister Atishi also praised Kejriwal's leadership, likening him to a modern-day 'Shravan Kumar' for facilitating pilgrimages for over one lakh senior citizens.



Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, BJP MLAs Ravi Subramanyam(R) and CK Ramamurthy (L) at the inauguration of the 'Kadalekai Parise', the oldest known annual groundnut fair, in Bangalore

CRUNCHING THROUGH RECOVERY

Eating almonds could help in post-exercise recovery: Study

After eight weeks, participants underwent a 30-minute downhill treadmill run to induce muscle damage, immediately consuming their daily serving of almonds or pretzels afterward

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: Eating almonds regularly may help recover from exercise by reducing muscle fatigue and soreness, a new study has found.

The findings, published in the journal Current Developments in Nutrition, could promote greater adherence to physical training, a topic that warrants further investigation in future studies, researchers noted.

The research team, which included scientists from San

Diego State University in the US, studied 26 middle-aged adults who exercised one to four hours per week. For eight weeks, participants consumed either 60 grams of whole raw almonds or about 90 grams of unsalted pretzels daily.

After eight weeks, participants underwent a 30-minute downhill treadmill run to induce muscle damage, immediately consuming their daily serving of almonds or pretzels afterward.

The researchers measured perceived muscle soreness, muscle performance (through a muscle contraction test and vertical jump), and blood markers of muscle damage and inflammation, such as C-reactive proteins and creatine kinase.

Measurements were taken before the treadmill run and at 24, 48, and 72 hours afterward, during which participants continued their daily intake of almonds or pretzels.

During the recovery period-



mill run-- the group consuming almonds showed lower levels of creatine kinase, indicating less muscle damage.

Additionally, the almond group demonstrated better muscle performance at both 24 and 72 hours following the treadmill run.

Pain levels in participants who ate almonds were found to be about 37% and 33% lower

at 24 and 48 hours, respectively, compared to those consuming pretzels.

"This study demonstrates that 2.0 (ounces per day) of almonds modestly reduces pain, better maintains muscle strength, and reduces the (creatine kinase) response to eccentric-based exercise," the authors wrote.

The results add to the grow-

One ounce (28 grams) of almonds provides 6 grams of protein, 4 grams of fiber, 13 grams of unsaturated fat, 1 gram of saturated fat, and 15 essential nutrients—including 77 milligrams of magnesium, 210 milligrams of potassium, and 7.27 milligrams of vitamin E

ing body of evidence regarding almonds' role in post-exercise recovery, they said.

"Almonds contain a wide range of nutrients known to support exercise recovery, including protein, antioxidants, and phytonutrients. These nutrients are provided in a whole

food package, as opposed to isolated vitamin supplements, which may explain the benefits observed in this study," said Mark Kern, a professor of exercise and nutritional sciences at San Diego State University.

One ounce (28 grams) of almonds provides 6 grams of protein, 4 grams of fiber, 13 grams of unsaturated fat, 1 gram of saturated fat, and 15 essential nutrients—including 77 milligrams of magnesium, 210 milligrams of potassium, and 7.27 milligrams of vitamin E.

"More research is needed to understand the mechanisms behind how almonds improve exercise recovery. Strategies to improve exercise recovery are important because if you are recovering better, you are likely to be able to train sooner -- or harder -- for subsequent workouts," Kern added.

The study's participants were either of healthy weight or mildly overweight (with a body mass index or BMI between 23-30).

national

“We respect and humbly accept the verdict of the people in the assembly elections. This result is a moment for deep reflection and renewal. We will introspect, learn, and rebuild with honesty, hard work, and an unshakable commitment to the values we stand for”
SUPRIYA SULE | NCP (SP) WORKING PRESIDENT

ENVOYS OF 5 NATIONS PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO PREZ MURMU

President Droupadi Murmu Monday accepted credentials from envoys of five nations, including Japan and South Korea, at a ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Those who presented their credentials included Fesseha Shawel Gebre, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ono Keiichi, Ambassador of Japan and Lee Seong Ho, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, a statement issued by the President's office said



of the day quote

Respect for the Constitution goes beyond symbolism; it is reflected in action
ASHWINI VAISHNAV | RAILWAY MINISTER

The people have rejected the opposition in the recent polls. The country has told that it accepts the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath ji in Uttar Pradesh
APARNA YADAV | UP WOMEN COMMISSION VICE CHIEF

Despite being an MP from Mizoram, I often raised the Manipur issue and the plights of the tribal people there because different tribes of Mizo have settled in Manipur before the British colonisation, and over 6 lakh of them are still living in the neighbouring state
K VANLALVENA | MP, MIZORAM

POST OF THE DAY

KalpnaSoren was an unknown, until BJP decided to jail HemantSoren abruptly. Then KalpnaSoren emerged, and became a winning factor through her skills and abilities.

There are millions of women like her, in India, who are behind the four walls, unknown, talents being wasted, as the system has no place for them. Imagine if this talent pool is unleashed.
@sandeep_PT

SHORT TAKES

4 Rohingya refugees detained in Jammu

Jammu: Four Rohingya refugees were detained for alleged violation of Foreigners Act here as more landlords were booked for renting out properties to them without informing the police, an officer said Monday. "The civil administration has also launched a drive to identify the people who facilitated electricity and water connections to plots housing Rohingyas," said Ajay Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police, city south Jammu. Police have said the action against the landlords was required to curb the influx of Rohingya refugees and to ensure public safety.

WB school jobs scam: Arpita granted bail

Kolkata: A designated ED court here Monday granted bail to Arpita Mukherjee, who was arrested by the central agency in July 2022 in connection with the school jobs scam in West Bengal. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) accused her of being a close associate of former West Bengal education minister Partha Chatterjee, who is also in custody since his arrest on the same day -- July 23, 2022. Granting bail to Mukherjee, who was in judicial remand, the ED court judge at Bankshall Court directed her to furnish a bond of Rs 5 lakh with adequate sureties, half of which should be local.

Centre extends ban on ULFA for 5 years

New Delhi: The Centre Monday extended the ban on the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) for five years for continuing to work with the objective to secede Assam from India and maintaining links with other insurgent groups for extortion and violence.

Sambhal tense day after clashes

SP MP, MLA'S SON BOOKED, 25 ARRESTED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sambhal (UP), Nov 25: Police have booked Samajwadi Party MP Zia-ur-Rehman Barq and local SP MLA Iqbal Mehmood's son Sohail Iqbal and arrested 25 people following clashes between locals opposing a court-ordered survey of a Mughal-era mosque here and security personnel that claimed four lives.

Opposition parties attacked the ruling BJP at the Centre and Uttar Pradesh a day after Sunday's violence, with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav accusing the state government of orchestrating a "riot" and senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra alleging that the ruling party was creating a rift between Hindus and Muslims.

The BJP hit back, dubbing the violence as "pre-planned" and saying that it was instigated by those who have been taken aback by the party's rise in the country, especially after its performance in the Uttar Pradesh assembly bypolls.

In Sambhal, Monday was tense but it went off peacefully. The streets around the Shahi Jama Masjid were de-



serted, there was heavy police presence in the entire area and patrolling was on. Officials said traffic movement was normal and some shops had opened.

Several houses in the area where the clashes occurred were locked and no one was ready to talk to the media.

Tension had been brewing in Sambhal since November 19 when the Jama Masjid was first surveyed on the court's orders following a petition claiming that a Harihar temple once stood at the site.

Trouble started early Sunday when a large group of people gathered near the mosque and started shouting slogans as the

survey team began its work. The protesters clashed with security personnel, torched vehicles and pelted stones.

In the ensuing violence, three people were killed and scores, including security personnel and administration officials, were injured.

All three, aged about 25, have been buried and one more injured person died Monday.

The district administration imposed prohibitory orders and barred the entry of outsiders till November 30. Internet services are suspended in Sambhal tehsil and Monday was declared a holiday for schools. A magisterial probe has been ordered.

'WITH FOLDED HANDS'

Rashid seeks interim bail to attend Parliament



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: Jammu and Kashmir MP Engineer Rashid Monday moved a Delhi court seeking interim bail in a terror-funding case to attend the ongoing Parliament session.

After Rashid urged Principal District and Sessions Judge Vimal Kumar Yadav to grant him the reprieve, the court asked the National Investiga-

tion Agency to file a response by November 27.

Engineer Rashid, appearing virtually in court from Tihar Jail, said, "I have been elected by my people. I was not allowed to attend the last session. With folded hands I request you that I may be granted interim bail."

During the proceedings, the counsel for Rashid and the NIA jointly sought the matter to remain in the court hearing it.

The judge was hearing the matter recommended by a special court, which urged the district judge to transfer the terror-funding case to a court designated to try lawmakers after observing Rashid was now a member of Parliament.

The special court also sent to the district judge an application filed by Rashid seeking regular bail in the case.

Apart from the case lodged by the NIA and the regular bail application of Rashid, the special judge also recommended transferring a related money laundering case to the special court. The district court would resume hearing the matters November 27.

DELHI RIOTS

Gulfisha, Khalid Saifi seek bail in UAPA case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: Student activist Gulfisha Fatima, founder of 'United Against Hate' Khalid Saifi and others Monday sought bail before the Delhi High Court in a UAPA case connected to the February 2020 violence.

A bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Shalinder Kaur will hear the matter December 6 along with a similar plea by former JNU student Umar Khalid.

The accused persons sought bail on account of their prolonged incarceration of over four years in the case under the anti-terror law, emphasising the trial was not likely to conclude any time soon.

The bench listed a few cases, including the bail plea of student activist Sharjeel Imam in the UAPA case, for hearing December 12. Khalid, Imam and several others have been booked under the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and IPC provisions for allegedly being a part of a "larger conspiracy" and the "masterminds" of the February 2020 riots, which left 53 people dead and over 700 injured.

The violence took place during the CAA and NRC protests. The cases are being heard afresh by the high court after a change in the bench hearing them.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Gulfisha, submitted the trial court proceedings were still at the stage of arguments on framing of charges and her alleged associates Devangana Kalita and Natasha Narwal were granted bail by the high court in 2021.



A worker cleans a board on the eve of the 'Samvidhan Diwas', in Nagpur, Monday

ED attaches ₹219-cr worth assets in 'Fairplay' portal case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: The Enforcement Directorate has attached fresh assets worth around Rs 219 crore in a money laundering case against a website that allegedly indulged in online betting on 2023 Lok Sabha election results apart from an illegal broadcast of IPL cricket matches, the agency said Monday.

A provisional order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) was issued last week (November 22) to attach demat account holdings and immovable assets like land plots, flats and commercial warehouses located at Ajmer (Rajasthan), Kutch (Gujarat), Daman, Thane and Mumbai (Maharashtra) in the case against the portal named Fairplay, it said in a statement.

The Central agency said Fairplay was involved in "illegal broadcasting of cricket/IPL matches and various online betting activities including results of Lok Sabha Elections 2024."

The total value of these assets is Rs 219.66 crore, the ED said.

The agency had earlier attached properties worth more than Rs 100 crore in this case. The total attachment now stands at over Rs 331 crore.

The money laundering case stems from an FIR of the Mumbai police cyber cell which was filed on the complaint of Viacom18 Media Pvt Limited against Fairplay Sport LLC and others for causing loss of revenue of more than Rs 100 crore.



MAHARASHTRA ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Sena insists on CM post for Shinde

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 25: The formation of a new government in Maharashtra, which appeared likely immediately after the BJP-led coalition won a thumping majority in the Assembly elections, is delayed due to Shiv Sena's insistence that Eknath Shinde continue as the chief minister, sources said Monday.

After the November 20 elections results were out Saturday, there was talk that the new CM may be sworn in as early as Monday but that has not happened, apparently due to the ruling Mahayuti not reaching



a consensus on who will be the next CM, the sources said.

Shiv Sena spokesperson Naresh Mhaske cited the Bihar model to assert that Shinde should continue as the chief minister. However, BJP MLC Pravin Darekar battled for De-

endra Fadnavis for the CM's post, saying the deputy chief minister is the most capable candidate to lead the state.

The Mahayuti coalition, comprising the Shiv Sena, BJP and Ajit Pawar-led NCP, retained power by winning 230 of the 288 Assembly seats in the just-concluded state polls, leaving the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi with just 46 seats.

Amid the talk of Fadnavis becoming the CM for the third time, came statements of various Sena leaders that Shinde should continue as the landslide win was under his leadership as the CM.

The BJP, led by Fadnavis, won the highest ever 132 seats for the party, while the Shiv Sena led by Shinde bagged 57 seats. "We feel Shinde should be the chief minister, just like in Bihar where BJP did not look at the numbers but still made JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar the CM. Senior leaders of the Mahayuti (in Maharashtra) will ultimately take a decision," Mhaske told reporters Monday.

Mhaske also compared the situation to the leadership dynamics in Haryana, where the BJP contested the Assembly elections recently under Nayab Singh Saini's leadership.

FOUR CHEERS AT KUNO PARK

Prior to this, 17 cheetah cubs had been born at the KNP, where the fastest land animal on Earth was translocated from Namibia more than two years ago

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

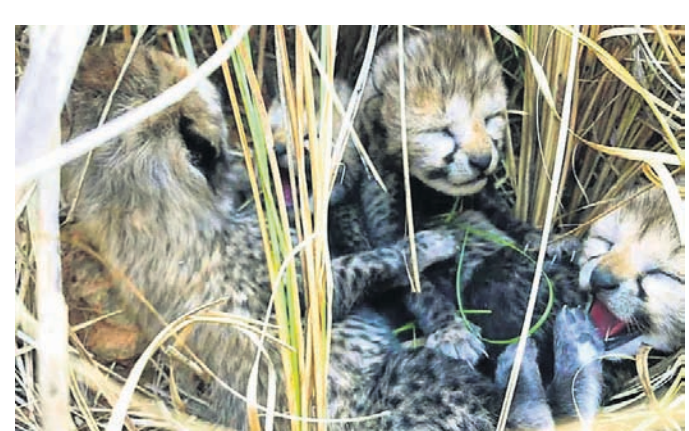
Bhopal, Nov 25: Cheetah Neerva has given birth to four cubs at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said Monday and hailed their arrival as a boost to the

NEERVA GIVES BIRTH TO CUB QUARTET

project that restored a species which vanished from India decades ago.

Prior to this, 17 cheetah cubs had been born at the KNP, where the fastest land animal on Earth was translocated from Namibia more than two years ago. With 12 of those cubs surviving, the count of cheetahs was last reported to be 24. With the birth of four more cubs, their count has gone up to 16.

"Today the Cheetah Project has achieved great success. In Kuno National Park of our - Cheetah State Madhya Pradesh - the female cheetah Neerva has given birth to four cubs, which is a great achievement not only for the state but also for the



country," Yadav stated in a post on X in the evening.

He lauded forest department personnel involved in the Chee-

Today the Cheetah Project has achieved great success. In Kuno National Park of our - Cheetah State Madhya Pradesh - the female cheetah Neerva has given birth to four cubs, which is a great achievement not only for the state but also for the country

MOHAN YADAV | CM, MADHYA PRADESH

department had informed about the birth of cheetah cubs at the KNP without specifying their exact number.

"Good news from Kuno. Female cheetah Neerva has given birth to cubs in Kuno National Park located in Sheopur district," the MP Forest department said in a post on X.

Last month, Chief Minister Yadav had shared information that a female cheetah at the park was pregnant and was expected to deliver cubs soon.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released eight Namibian cheetahs September 17, 2022 - five females and three males - into enclosures at the KNP as part of the world's first intercontinental translocation of the big cats, seven decades after they became extinct in India due to hunting and habitat loss.

In February 2023, a dozen more cheetahs were translocated to the national park from South Africa as part of the Central government's project to reintroduce the big cats in the country.

international



They (International Criminal Court) issued an arrest warrant (for Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, his former defence chief and a Hamas leader), that's not enough. Death sentence must be issued for these criminal leaders
AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI | SUPREME LEADER OF IRAN

IRAQ'S FIRST CENSUS IN DECADES
Preliminary results from an Iraqi national census, the first in nearly 40 years, show that the population has grown to 45.4 million, the Prime Minister said Monday



of the day quote

Indeed, from the circle of Trump supporters and those who have been nominated for future positions in the future administration, the word 'peace' or 'peace plan' is being heard
DIMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN

We take loans or grants based on our national interests as and when we need them from any country or agency. We should not be swayed by the baseless rumour that loan is being taken to entrap the country
KP SHARMA OLI | PM, NEPAL

The statements we heard in the previous days were troubling. There is the reckless use of profanities and threats to kill some of us. I will fight them (regarding VP's statement to assassinate Philippine President)
FERDINAND MARCOS | PRESIDENT, THE PHILIPPINES

New York repeals century-old adultery law

Recognising complexities of human relationships, NYC repeals 1907 law that criminalised adultery in marriage

Albany, Nov 25: New York Friday repealed a seldom-used, more than century-old law that made it a crime to cheat on your spouse, a misdemeanor that once could have landed adulterers in jail for three months.
Governor Kathy Hochul signed a bill repealing the statute, which dates back to 1907 and has long been considered antiquated as well as difficult

to enforce.
"While I've been fortunate to share a loving married life with my husband for 40 years, making it somewhat ironic for me to sign a bill decriminalising adultery, I know that people often have complex relationships," she said. "These matters should clearly be handled by these individuals and not our criminal justice system. Let's take this silly, outdated statute off the books, once and for all."
Adultery bans are actually law in several states and were enacted to make it harder to get a divorce at a time when proving a spouse cheated was the only way to get a legal separation. Charges have been rare and convictions even rarer. Some states have also moved to repeal their adultery laws



in recent years.
New York defined adultery as when a person "engages in sexual intercourse with another person at a time when he has a living spouse, or the other person has a living spouse." The state's law was first used a few weeks after it went into effect, according to a New York Times article, to arrest a married man and 25-year-old woman.
State Assembly member Charles Lavine, sponsor of the bill, said about a dozen people have been charged under the law since the 1970s, and just five of those cases resulted in convictions.
"Laws are meant to protect our community and to serve as a deterrent to anti-social

behavior. New York's adultery law advanced neither purpose," Lavine said in a statement Friday.
The state's law appears to have last been used in 2010, against a woman who was caught engaging in a sex act in a park, but the adultery charge was later dropped as part of a plea deal. New York came close to repealing the law in the 1960s after a state commission tasked with evaluating the penal code said it was nearly impossible to enforce.
At the time, lawmakers were initially on board with removing the ban but eventually decided to keep it after a politician argued that repealing it would make it seem like the state was officially endorsing infidelity, according to a New York Times article from 1965.

Russian drones, missiles level Ukrainian cities



Kyiv, Nov 25: Russian missiles damaged residential buildings in Ukraine's eastern city of Kharkiv and Odesa in the south, and a blizzard of drones caused temporary power cuts in Mykolaiv region and targeted the capital Kyiv, Ukrainian officials said Monday.
Russia, which is making territorial gains in Ukraine's east, is conducting nightly attacks on faraway cities using missiles as well as cheaply produced "suicide" drones and low-cost "decoy" drones, which tie up Ukrainian air defences.
Of 145 drones used overnight, Ukraine shot down 71 and lost track of 71 more, likely due to electronic warfare measures used against them, the air force said. Residents of the capital could hear the buzzing engines of attack drones flying over the city for several hours overnight. The sound of automatic gunfire erupted occasionally as air defences tried to shoot them down.

NK expands missile clout for Russia

Satellite imagery suggests that North Korea is expanding a crucial missile production facility that manufactures weapons similar to those used by Russian forces in Ukraine



Washington, Nov 25: North Korea is expanding a key weapons manufacturing complex that assembles a type of short-range missile used by Russia in Ukraine, researchers at a US-based think tank have concluded, based on satellite images.
The facility, known as the February 11 plant, is part of the Ryongsong Machine Complex in Hamhung, North Korea's second-largest city, on the country's east coast.
Sam Lair, a research associate at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS), located at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, said the plant was the only one known to produce the Hwasong-11 class of solid-fuel ballistic missiles.
Ukrainian officials say these munitions, known as the KN-23 in the West, have been used by Russian forces in their assault on Ukraine.
The expansion of the complex has not been previously reported.
Both Moscow and Pyongyang have denied that North Korea has transferred weapons for Russia to use against Ukraine, which it invaded in February 2022. Russia and North Korea signed a mutual defense treaty at a summit in June and have

The facility, known as the February 11 plant, is part of the Ryongsong Machine Complex in Hamhung, North Korea's second-largest city

- Plant in Hamhung assembles the KN-23 short-range ballistic missile
- North Korean missile has been used by Russia in the conflict: Ukraine
- Facility expansion includes new assembly and housing buildings
- Moscow, Pyongyang deny North Korea has sent weapons for use against Ukraine

pledged to boost their military ties.
North Korea's mission to the United Nations did not respond to a request for comment for this story.
The satellite images, taken in early October by the commercial satellite firm Planet Labs, show what appears to be an additional assembly building under construction as well as a new housing facility, likely intended for workers, according to the analysis by researchers at CNS.
It also appears that Pyongyang is improving the entrances for some of the underground facilities at the complex.
A disused bridge crane that was in front of a tunnel entrance, blocking easy access, was removed, suggesting they might be placing an emphasis on that part of the facility, Lair

said.
"We see this as a suggestion that they're massively increasing, or they're trying to significantly increase, the throughput of this factory," Lair said.
The new assembly building is about 60 to 70 percent the size of the previous building used to assemble missiles.
In 2023, state media published images, which Reuters has reviewed, showing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un walking through new buildings at the complex in Hamhung, where workers were assembling tail kits and nose cones for what appeared to be the KN-23, according to analysts.
In the past, publicly released videos from North Korea state media show that the complex has produced everything from tank wheels to the casings for rocket motors, Lair said.

Khan's party protest: Unrest in Islamabad

One policeman killed, 70 injured, many taken 'hostage' as PTI party's supporters clash with cops in Pakistan



Lahore, Nov 25: A policeman was killed and 70 others injured while many personnel were taken "hostage" when former Prime Minister Imran Khan's supporters clashed with police in different parts of Pakistan, particularly in Islamabad, the Punjab government said Monday.
The 72-year-old former premier issued a "final call" November 13 for nationwide protests November 24, denouncing what he termed as the stolen mandate, the unjust arrests of people and the passage of the 26th amendment, which he said has strengthened a "dictatorial regime".
His supporters resumed march towards Islamabad Monday after an overnight stop on the way amid stiff resistance by the authorities to foil their attempt to enter the national capital and stage a sit-in at the D-Chowk, located close to several important government buildings: the Presidency, the PM Office, the Parliament, and the Supreme Court.
Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari at a press conference here said the condition of five personnel was critical after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters clashed with the police in Punjab and Islamabad.
At least 70 policemen have been injured and one killed in clashes, she said.
"Constable Mubashir lost his life in a clash with the PTI workers. To those who call them a political party, I ask

them if they will say it after this. Imran Khan's supporters taking police officers hostage is this politics," the minister asked.
Bokhari said Khan's wife Bushra Bibi was setting this country on fire. "Bushra is inciting the Pashtuns (Pathans) to get her husband released."
Khan has been implicated in dozens of cases since his government was dismissed through a no-confidence motion in 2022. He has been in Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi since last year facing over 200 cases.
Bokhari said Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz instructed police officers to remain unarmed.
However, the PTI came armed from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to wreak havoc and instigate violence, she said.
Bokhari said KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's province was burning yet he was trying to set Punjab on fire.
"The PTI wants dead bodies to achieve its objectives. However, the State will act with patience and restraint," she said and added that Pakistan could never prosper with Imran Khan in charge.
The PTI, on the other hand, said over 3,500 party leaders and workers were arrested by police in Punjab and Islamabad.

Israel Cab to meet today to discuss Lebanon ceasefire

Jerusalem, Nov 25: Israel's cabinet will meet Tuesday to approve a ceasefire deal with Hezbollah, a senior Israeli official said Monday, while a Lebanese official said Beirut had been told by Washington that an accord could be announced "within hours".
The signs of a diplomatic breakthrough were accompanied by heavy Israeli airstrikes on Beirut's Hezbollah-controlled southern suburbs, as Israel pressed on with the offensive it launched in September after almost a year of cross-border hostilities.
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office declined to comment on reports that both Israel and Lebanon had agreed to the text of a deal. But the senior Israeli official told Reuters Tuesday's cabinet meeting was intended to approve the text.
Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, said Israel would maintain an ability to strike southern Lebanon under any agreement. Lebanon has previously objected to wording that would grant Israel such a right.
In Beirut, Elias Bou Saab, Lebanon's deputy Parliament speaker, told Reuters there were "no serious obstacles" left to start implementing a US-proposed ceasefire with Israel, "unless Netanyahu changes his mind".

SNIPPETS

DHL cargo plane crashes near Lithuania airport, one dies
Vilnius: A DHL cargo plane crashed as it came in to land at Lithuania's Vilnius airport early Monday morning, killing one person on the aircraft and with some debris damaging a house. The three other people onboard were injured but no one on the ground was hurt, officials said. Flames and smoke engulfed the crashed plane as fire crews worked to extinguish the blaze. The scheduled flight was operated by airline Swiftair on behalf of DHL and had taken off from Leipzig, Germany. The cause of the crash was not immediately known and officials said there was no indication so far that it might be a case of sabotage, although Germany is investigating several fires caused by incendiary devices hidden inside parcels at a warehouse in Leipzig for delivery by DHL earlier this year.

Brawl erupts in Serbian Parliament
Belgrade: Scuffles broke out in the Serbian Parliament Monday after Opposition legislators raised banners accusing the ruling coalition of trying to shirk responsibility for the collapse of a train station roof that killed 15 people earlier this month. Radomir Lazovic of the Opposition Green-Left Front party placed a picture of a red hand captioned 'you have blood on your hands' on the speaker's platform, video footage from the N1 television station showed. The health minister, Zlatibor Loncar, approached him and started arguing. Other deputies rushed in front of the speaker's platform shouting, pulling and hitting one another. The Opposition deputies shouted: "Killers, killers". The disaster at the recently renovated train station in Novi Sad has turned into a protracted political headache for Vucic and his ruling party, who the Opposition and many ordinary citizens accuse of nepotism and corruption, charges the politicians deny.

WORLD'S LARGEST REFUGEE CAMP

Many Rohingya insurgents have joined groups loosely allied with their former military persecutors to fight the Arakan Army ethnic militia that has seized much of the western Myanmar state of Rakhine, from which many Rohingya fled

Cox's Bazar, Nov 25: One day in July, Rafiq slipped out of the world's largest refugee settlement in southern Bangladesh and crossed the border into Myanmar on a small boat. His destination: a ruinous civil war in a nation that he had fled in 2017.
Thousands of Rohingya insurgents, like 32-year-old Rafiq, have emerged from camps housing over a million refugees in Cox's Bazar, where militant recruitment and violence have surged this year, according to four people familiar with the conflict and two internal aid agency reports seen by Reuters.
"We need to fight to take back our lands," said Rafiq, a lean and bearded man in a Muslim prayer cap who spent weeks fighting in Myanmar before returning after he was shot in

Rohingyas mobilise to fight in Myanmar



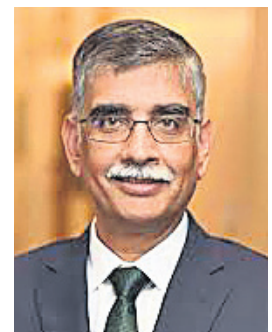
the leg.
"There is no other way."
The Rohingya, a mainly Muslim group that is the world's largest stateless population, started fleeing in droves to Bangladesh in 2016 to escape what the United Nations has called genocide at the hands of Buddhist-majority Myanmar's military.
A long-running rebellion in Myanmar has gained ground since the military staged a coup in 2021. It involves a complex array of armed groups, with Rohingya fighters now entering the fray.
Many have joined groups loosely allied with their former military persecutors to fight the Arakan Army ethnic

The Rohingya, a mainly Muslim group that is the world's largest stateless population, started fleeing in droves to Bangladesh in 2016 to escape genocide at the hands of Buddhist-majority Myanmar's military

militia that has seized much of the western Myanmar state of Rakhine, from which many Rohingya fled.
Reuters interviewed 18 people who described the rise of insurgent groups inside Bangladesh's refugee camps and reviewed two internal briefings on the security situation written by aid agencies in recent months.

The news agency is reporting for the first time the scale of recruitment by Rohingya armed groups in the camps, which totals between 3,000 and 5,000 fighters.
Reuters is also revealing specifics about failed negotiations between the Rohingya and the Arakan Army, inducements offered by the junta to Rohingya fighters such as money and citizenship documents, as well as about the cooperation of some Bangladesh officials with the insurgency.
Several of the people, who include Rohingya fighters, humanitarian workers and Bangladesh officials, spoke on condition of anonymity or that only their first name be used.
Bangladesh's government did not respond to Reuters' questions, while the junta denied in a statement to Reuters that it had conscripted any "Muslims."

Business



Food inflation is a short-term blip and over the next two quarters, I do see that moderating and when that moderates, we do see demand coming back
SUNIL D'SOUZA | TCPL MD & CEO

AIR PASSENGER TRAFFIC UP 5.3%

India's domestic air passenger traffic grew 5.3 per cent to 1.36 crore in October from 1.26 crore in the same month last year, aviation regulator DGCA's monthly data showed Tuesday. During the reporting month, budget carrier IndiGo carried 86.40 lakh passengers, clocking a market share of 63.3 per cent, followed by Tata Group-run Air India and Vistara, which flew 26.48- lakh and 12.43-lakh travellers, respectively.



of the day quote

Aligned with the Government of India's flagship 'Make in India' initiative, Maruti Suzuki is committed to deep localisation and multiplying exports
HISASHI TAKEUCHI | MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA MD & CEO

I had asked CREDAI to consider setting up a team to study whether, at least in the metropolitan cities or the 20 top towns of the country, where we can see the impact of construction leading to pollution, leading to air quality deteriorating
PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION MINISTER

By registering on the Udyam Portal and filing GST returns, MSMEs can enhance the transparency over their level of business activity and financials. This will enhance their credibility and may qualify them for priority sector lending and government schemes, by reinforcing their trustworthiness in the eyes of financial institutions
SWAMINATHAN J | RBI DEPUTY GOVERNOR

Economic outlook cautiously optimistic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: India's economic outlook for the coming months is 'cautiously optimistic', with agriculture likely to benefit from favourable monsoon conditions, increased minimum support prices and adequate supply of inputs, the finance ministry said in a report. "Bright agricultural production prospects make the inflation outlook benign, despite existing price pressures in select food items," the October edition of Monthly Economic Review released by the Department of Economic Affairs Monday said.

Early November trends signalled moderation in key food prices, though geopolitical factors may continue to impact domestic inflation and supply chains, it said.

A bumper kharif harvest is expected to lower food inflation in the coming months, it said, adding that a favourable monsoon, adequate reservoir levels and higher minimum support prices are likely to boost rabi sowing and production. Amidst a clouded global background, and after a brief period of softening momentum over the monsoon months, the report said, many high-frequency indicators of economic activity in India have shown a rebound in October.

These include indicators of rural and urban demand and supply side variables like Purchasing Managers' Index and E-way bill generation, it said.



On the employment front, it said, the formal workforce is expanding, with notable increases in manufacturing jobs and a strong inflow of youth into organised sectors.

With regard to the external front, it said, India's export recovery may encounter challenges due to softening demand in developed markets.

However, it said, trade in the services sector is sustaining momentum. Net foreign direct investment inflows registered remarkable growth in the first five months of FY25, it said.

Supported by stable capital inflows, India's forex reserves increased by USD 64.8 billion so far during 2024, the second-largest increase after China amongst major forex re-

serve-holding countries, it said. Apart from the emerging indications of domestic growth and stability, the dynamics of global interest rates, earning growth and valuation, geopolitical developments and policy decisions of the next administration in the United States will determine the course of trade and capital flows, the report said.

Recent developments in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine have caused some concern in financial markets with safe-haven assets such as US Treasuries and gold finding a bid, it said, adding, that geopolitical conditions remain fragile.

The report said the global economy reveals a mixed outlook as 2024 draws to a close.

S&P cuts India's growth forecast

New Delhi: S&P Global Ratings Monday revised down its estimate for India's economic growth in the next two financial years as high interest rate and lower fiscal impulse temper urban demand. In an update to its economic forecast for Asia-Pacific economies after US election results, the rating agency projected a 6.7 per cent GDP growth rate in 2025-26 financial year (April 2025 to March 2026) and 6.8 per cent in the following fiscal year, down from 6.9 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively in previous projections. For FY25, S&P Global pegged GDP growth rate at 6.8 per cent. "In India we see GDP growth easing to 6.8 per cent this fiscal year as high interest rates and a lower fiscal impulse temper urban demand. While purchasing manager indices (PMIs) remain convincingly in the expansion zone, other high-frequency indicators indicate some transitory softening of growth momentum due to the hit to the construction sector in the September quarter," it said. The agency expects India's GDP to grow at 7 per cent in FY28.

Structural weaknesses in parts of Europe and China's slowdown continued to weigh on growth. In contrast, the US economy has surpassed earlier expectations, maintaining steady expansion.

France's Total halts fresh investments in Adani

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: French energy giant TotalEnergies SE Monday said it was not aware of the corruption investigation its partner Adani group's founder chairman was facing in the US and that it is pausing fresh investments in the conglomerate pending the outcome of the charges.

Separately, QGQ Partners, which made huge bets on Adani group post hammering it saw in the aftermath of the Hindenburg Report last year, said the indictment is against individuals only and the bet it made on the group holds good.

TotalEnergies is one of the biggest foreign investors in billionaire Gautam Adani's business empire and had previously taken stakes in the group's renewable energy venture Adani Green Energy Ltd (AEGLE) and city gas unit Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL). In a statement, the French firm said it learnt of US authorities indicting Gautam Adani and two other executives for allegedly paying USD 265 million bribes to Indian officials to secure solar power supply contracts for AEGLE.

"This indictment does not target AEGLE itself, nor any AEGLE-related companies," TotalEnergies said. "Until such time when the accusations against the Adani group individuals and their consequences have been clarified, TotalE-



Adani touts financial muscle

New Delhi: Billionaire Gautam Adani's conglomerate Monday showcased its cash reserves and profits that are enough to service debt obligations as well as meet growth plans as it reassured investors about business as usual despite a US bribery indictment against the founder. The ports-to-energy conglomerate, whose chairman Adani and two other executives have been indicted in a US court for allegedly bribing Indian officials to secure solar power contracts, in a presentation to investors highlighted cash balances of Rs 55,024 crore exceeding long-term debt repayments for the next 28 months. Equity now accounts for almost two-thirds of its total asset creation, a stark contrast to five years ago. In the past six months, the group invested close to Rs 75,227 crore against a total debt increase of only Rs 16,882 crore.

ergies will not make any new financial contribution as part of its investments in the Adani group of companies."

Adani group has dismissed the allegations brought in the US court as baseless and has said it would seek all possible legal recourse. TotalEnergies holds a 19.75 per cent stake in Adani Green Energy Ltd - the renewable energy arm of the Indian group helmed by Gautam Adani.

HDFC Life Insurance faces data breach

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: HDFC Life Insurance Monday said there have been some instances of data leaks and assessing potential impact of this breach. "We have received communication from an unknown source, who has shared certain data fields of our customers with us, with mala fide intent," HDFC Life said in a regulatory filing. The company has initiated an information security assessment and data log analysis, it said.

A detailed investigation is underway in consultation with information security experts to assess the root cause and take remedial action, as necessary, it said.

The company continues to investigate this further to assess the potential impact, it said, adding, "We will take utmost care to handle concerns of our customers and take actions to safeguard their interest."

Last month, insurance regulator Irdai directed two insurers to carry out audits of their IT systems following concerns over the recent instances of policyholders' data leaks.

Without naming the insurers, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) had said it takes

Last month, insurance regulator Irdai directed two insurers to carry out audits of their IT systems following concerns over the recent instances of policyholders' data leaks.

data breaches very seriously and asserted that it will continue to engage with the companies to ensure that the policyholders' interests are fully protected.

Star Health Insurance had recently admitted data breach. Tata AIG is another insurance company which faced a data leak.

In a release, Irdai had said it is closely monitoring the situation in the case of the concerned insurers and has been in touch with their management.

Regular updates are being obtained to ensure that the policyholders' data and interests are fully protected and the company is taking all steps to arrest the threat posed by this breach, the regulator had said.

SENSEX RECLAIMS 80K MARK

Benchmark indices surge over 1 pc after BJP-led Mahayuti's win in Maharashtra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 25: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty surged more than 1 per cent Monday, helped by a rally in blue-chip stocks and the BJP pulling off a stunning performance in Maharashtra, winning a record number of seats to propel the party-led ruling Mahayuti alliance to a landslide victory.

Besides, heavy buying in capital goods, energy and banking stocks also boosted investor sentiments, traders said.

Extending its previous day's sharp rally, the BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 992.74 points or 1.25 per cent to settle at 80,109.85. During the day, it soared 1,355.97 points or 1.71 per cent to 80,473.08.

As many as 2,697 stocks advanced, 1,352 declined, and 165 remained unchanged.

The NSE Nifty surged 314.65 points or 1.32 per cent to 24,221.90.

"The ability of the market to surprise was evident in the 557 points spurt in the Nifty Friday. This sharp upswing will continue today assisted by the super NDA performance in Maha-



ashtra. The political message from this election is huge and highly positive from the market perspective," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said. From the 30-share Sensex pack, Larsen & Toubro, State Bank of India, Adani Ports, Reliance Industries, Power Grid, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Axis Bank were the biggest gainers. On the other hand, JSW Steel, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Maruti, Asian Paints and HCL Tech were the laggards. Online food delivery giant Zomato will become a part of the benchmark BSE Sensex, replacing JSW Steel from December 23.

This is part of the latest reconstitution announced by Asia Index Private Ltd, a subsidiary of BSE.

The BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.86 per cent and the midcap index went up by 1.61 per cent. All sectoral indices ended higher. Industrials soared 3.29 per cent, capital goods (3.27 per cent), oil & gas (3.26 per cent), energy (2.56 per cent), realty (2.22 per cent), bankex (2.06 per cent), financial services (1.89 per cent) and healthcare (0.97 per cent).

"Major state election results lifted market sentiment and increased the scope of stability in government spending in H2FY25 to meet the capex target. The rally was broad-based, while capex-linked sectors like

Investors richer by ₹14.20 lakh cr

New Delhi: Investors' wealth soared Rs 14.20 lakh crore in two days of spectacular rally in the equity market where the BSE benchmark Sensex jumped nearly 4 per cent during this time. The Sensex has surged 2,954.06 points or 3.82 per cent in the past two days, regaining the crucial 80,000 mark. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms soared Rs 14,20,004.4 crore to Rs 4,39,58,912.41 crore (USD 5.22 trillion). The relief rally backed by robust short-covering ahead of the monthly expiry this week continued for a second straight session as benchmark Sensex breached the psychological 80k mark on all-round buying support.

infra, capital goods, and industrials outperformed in expectation of a surge in new order inflows. The prospects of H2 remain positive due to a good monsoon, festival, and marriage season, which could ease the impact of earnings downturn that happened in Q2," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said. In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled higher, while Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the red.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.40 per cent to USD 74.87 a barrel.

Logistics, e-comm to drive workforce growth in H2: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 25: With 59 per cent of employers planning to increase headcount in October-March FY25, 7.1 per cent workforce growth is expected during the period, driven by logistics, e-commerce, and manufacturing sectors, a report said.

According to TeamLease Services' Employment Outlook Report for October 2024 to March 2025, an additional 22 per cent will maintain their current staffing levels.

The report is based on primary and secondary research, taking inputs from 1,307 employers across 23 industries in 20 cities.

These findings reveal a dynamic hiring landscape where industry-specific demands and macroeconomic factors are significantly shaping employment trends, the report added.

This growth will mainly be driven by sectors including logistics, EV & EV infrastructure, agriculture and agrochemicals, and e-commerce, which are heavily investing in infrastructure and technological advancements, it said.

Logistics, for instance, stands out with a 14.2 per cent net employment change, as 69 per cent of companies in the sector look to increase headcount.

This growth is attributed to the sector's adoption of 5G logistics, green supply chain initiatives, and benefits from National Logistics Policy implementations, it noted.

Logistics is followed by EV and EV Infrastructure (12.1 per cent), agriculture and agrochemicals (10.5 per cent), and e-commerce and tech startups (8.9 per cent), where startups are capitalising on AI-enabled



customer insights, Web 3.0 applications, and seasonal demand from the festive period, it said.

As technology continues to evolve, the automotive industry is also seeing 8.5 per cent growth, spurred by integrated smart technologies, while the retail sector's 8.2 per cent growth reflects the popularity

of hyperlocal deliveries and smart-store concepts.

The report further said that cities like Coimbatore (24.6 per cent) and Gurugram (22.6 per cent) are becoming job hubs, representing a decentralisation of employment opportunities beyond traditional metros.

While Bangalore (53.1 per cent), Mumbai (50.2 per cent),

and Hyderabad (48.2 per cent) remained central employment anchors with high workforce demand, demand in cities like Coimbatore, Gurugram, Jaipur, Lucknow, and Nagpur signals a broader spread of job growth across India, reinforcing the appeal of smaller cities as viable alternatives for job seekers and companies alike, it added.

According to the report, major economic initiatives are also shaping workforce expansion. Policies such as the Global Capability Centres (GCCs), which are projected to add USD 60 billion to India's economy by 2025, are creating high-skill roles in technology and R&D.

Meanwhile, National Industrial Corridors aim to generate 1 million direct jobs and 3 million indirect jobs in manufacturing and logistics. The semiconductor mission seeks to

add 80,000 jobs by 2025 through an investment of Rs 1.25 lakh crore, underscoring India's drive toward high-tech manufacturing.

"The employment landscape is increasingly shaped by technology and policy-driven shifts. Our latest findings underscore the diversity in job growth across India, from established urban hubs to emerging cities, and reveal a workforce that is evolving rapidly to meet demands in sectors like logistics, EV, and tech startups," TeamLease Staffing CEO Kartik Narayan said.

As companies embrace flexible staffing models, digital skill sets such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and cloud technology are not only in demand but essential for maintaining a competitive edge in today's economy, he noted.

PERTH-ETIC HUMILIATION FOR OZ

WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Gukesh lets it slip as Liren draws first blood



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Nov 25: Grandmaster D Gukesh paid dearly for unwarranted complications in his middle game as defending champion Ding Liren of China drew first blood by defeating the teenaged Indian in a high-pressure opening game of the World Chess Championship here Monday.

The victory with black pieces gave the Chinese an early lead in the 14-game showdown scheduled to last till mid-December.

"It can happen; it's a long match. About my opponent's form, I expected nothing else. I expected the best version of him, and we have a long match ahead, so it's only more exciting now," Gukesh said after the game.

Winning with black not just meant a full point but also huge psychological advantage for Liren in the \$2.5 million prize money event because he entered the competition with patchy form. The first player to reach 7.5 points among the two will claim the coveted crown.

Gukesh, the youngest ever challenger for the world championship crown, came up with an early surprise in the opening by pushing his king pawn forward. It's a move that symbolises attacking intentions and the Chinese chose the French defense to combat the situation.

"Of course I was nervous but once I started playing, I calmed down but then the momentum kind of slipped," said the Chennai-lad.

The line chosen by Gukesh was exactly what the legendary Viswanathan Anand picked in his first world championship-winning contest against Alexei Shirov of Spain in 2001.

Bumrah leads team to biggest Test win on Australian soil as the Kangaroos witness first Optus Stadium defeat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Perth, Nov 25: Jasprit Bumrah led a feisty bunch of Indian cricketers to their most dominant Test victory on Australian soil, winning by a massive 295 runs in a remarkable turnaround that will find a pride of place among the country's golden moments in international cricket.

The stand-in skipper led by example with a match-haul of 8/72 as India bowled out the hosts, who were in pursuit of a mammoth 534, for 238 in 58.4 overs on the fourth afternoon of the opening Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy here.

India's previous biggest winning margin in terms of runs was 222 during a 1977-78 series game in Melbourne when Australia played an under-strength side due to mass exodus for the Kerry Packer World Series.

"We were put under pressure in the first innings, but the way we responded was great," a smiling Bumrah said after the match.

"I played here in 2018 - I remember the wicket started soft. This one was less spicy, we were really well prepared. I told everyone to keep faith... If you have faith in your abilities, then you can do something special," he added.

While Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul will be among the heroes with their solid second innings batting performances, it was Bumrah's unbelievable skill-set and self belief during Australia's first innings rout that formed the cornerstone of India's win.

Not many teams have come back after being 150 all-out on the first day but this Indian team has time and again showed that it is built different.

Prior to the Test, Bumrah



Men in Blue are now 1-0 up in the five-Test series with regular skipper Rohit Sharma ready to take over during the Day/Night game starting December 6 in Adelaide

spoke about embracing challenges and he did walk the talk during all four days. It was evident from the

manner in which he allowed Mohammed Siraj (match haul of five wickets), debutants Harshit Rana (match haul of four wickets) and Nitish Reddy (41 and 37 not out and one wicket) bowl from the Member's End so that they can get extra help due to the ball keeping very low.

Washington Sundar (two wickets and 29 runs), who was preferred after the team management felt that Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja with 850 plus Test wickets

between them, would not be as effective on this track, also did his bit in mopping up the tail.

The victory will bear greater significance because of India's shocking 0-3 whitewash at

Special win, first win as captain. We were put under pressure and we showed the character. We can take confidence from this game but we need to start fresh in the second Test. We need to carry forward the learnings as well to Adelaide

JASPRIT BUMRAH | INDIAN CAPTAIN

You're going to lose some games. The biggest challenge and the biggest, the most important thing is how do you bounce back? What's your next move? So that's what we've got to do this week

PAT CUMMINS | AUSTRALIA CAPTAIN

home by New Zealand.

Gabba 2021 evokes nostalgia for every Indian cricket fan but Perth 2024 will certainly be right up there considering that no one, save those eleven and the few others in that change room, could have believed that something like this is possible.

Credit must also go to head coach Gautam Gambhir, who copped a lot of flak after the defeat to the Black Caps and it was widely believed that rookies Reddy and Harshit got Test caps on his insistence.

Gambhir, who seldom smiles, could afford a grin under the Perth Sun as the burly Harshit and the sinewy Nitish didn't deviate from the script handed to them for the better part of the game.

India reclaim top spot in WTC points table

Dubai: India reclaimed the top spot in the World Test Championship points table following their 295-run hammering of the hosts Australia in the opening Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy here Monday. India were leading the WTC standings by a significant margin but a 0-3 loss to New Zealand on their home soil led to the world No 2 Test side slipping down to the second spot, with the defeat also denting their hopes of making the final of the competition next year. The huge win over Australia has bolstered India in the standing, who now have 61.11 percentage points and the top spot. Australia are placed second with 57.69 percentage points. The ICC confirmed that India will still need to win remaining three of their four Tests against Australia to ensure direct qualification for the WTC final.

SHORT TAKES

Hockey great Ashok suffers heart attack

New Delhi: Former India hockey player and son of legendary Major Dhyan Chand, Ashok Kumar suffered a heart attack after being hospitalised here for discomfort in chest but is now stable and out of danger, sources in his family said Monday. The 74-year-old will undergo an angioplasty later Monday. The former inside-right player, who was known for his ball control, was a member of the Indian team that won the 1975 World Cup under Ajit Pal Singh. He was also a member of Indian team that won a bronze medal in the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Shuttlers eye titles

Lucknow: PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will aim to end their title droughts when they spearhead India's challenge at the Syed Modi International Super 300 badminton tournament starting here Tuesday. Fresh off a semifinal finish in their comeback tournament post the Paris Olympics, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, the former world No 1 doubles pair, enter as favourites in the men's doubles category.

Clinical OFC crush Hyderabad FC

Kalinga Warriors register massive six-goal win to snap winless run against the hosts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Nov 25: Odisha FC broke their three-game-long winless run with an emphatic 6-0 victory against Hyderabad FC in the Indian Super League here Monday.

It was a complete team performance from Sergio Lobera's men as the likes of Isak Vanlalrutafela, Diego Mauricio, Mourtafa Fall, Lalithanga Khawlhing, and Rahim Ali found themselves on the scoresheet.

The game started with great intensity, with both teams taking the attack to the opposition.

However, the game's first real opportunity fell to Roy Krishna, who outpaced Stefan Sapic, but his subsequent effort struck the post on its way out. The Fijian completely bamboozled the Hyderabad FC backline with his pace, as Ahmed Jahouh showed great vision to pick the long ball.

Hyderabad FC with their foreign forwardline of Allan Paulista and Edmilson Correia caused some problems for Odisha FC but were dealt with by Mourtafa Fall.



Eventually, the visitors struck first courtesy of Isak Vanlalrutafela's opportunist strike in the 12th minute on his 50th ISL appearance. It was a pinball situation in the Hyderabad FC penalty area and Isak was the quickest to react as he steered it past Lalbiakhlua Jongte in goal.

Odisha FC made Hyderabad FC pay for not taking their chances as Puitea stole the ball from Lenny Rodrigues in the middle and followed it up with a great run.

The initial period of the second half saw Odisha FC throw

IPL MEGA-AUCTION

Bhuvneshwar leads pacers' 'Pay Day'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jeddah, Nov 25: Out of national reckoning for more than two years, Bhuvneshwar Kumar's experience was in demand among the IPL franchises with Royal Challengers Bangalore buying him for Rs 10.75 crore, while the 13-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi bagged a Rs 1.10 crore contract with Rajasthan Royals on the second day of the mega auction here Monday.

Suryavanshi, talked about as a prodigy, made his T20 debut for Bihar in the ongoing Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy against Rajasthan Saturday and made a 6-ball 13 before falling to Deepak Chahar.

But before the youngster sprang a surprise, lesser-fancied Indian fast bowlers hit pay dirt.

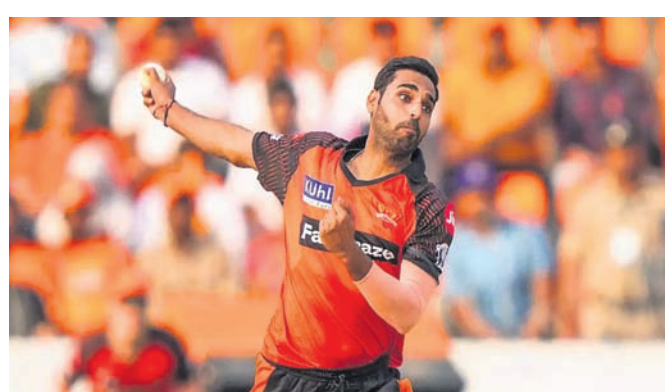
The Mumbai troika of Shardul Thakur, Prithvi Shaw and Ajinkya Rahane along with New Zealand stars Kane Williamson and Glenn Phillips were among the unsold players.

Bhuvneshwar, who will be 35 before the start of next IPL, has 300 wickets from 287 career T20 games and an economy rate of less than eight. But he last played for India during a tour of New Zealand in November 2022 and is considered well past his prime at the international level.

However, with at least three Indian pacers needed per team, the pool is not large enough to ensure equal distribution among the 10 teams.

Therefore, an out-of-favour Bhuvneshwar, an injury-prone Deepak Chahar (Rs 9.25 crore for Mumbai Indians) and a Test reserve Mukesh Kumar (Rs 8 crore RTM by Delhi Capitals) got good deals on the second day when franchises came with leaner purse after splurging Sunday.

In Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult, MI have two of the world's finest fast bowlers and they will be expected to inflict the bulk of damage on the



opposition batting line-up, but Chahar is ready to play his part with the new ball as well as in the death.

"As a bowler, I like to take up challenges and perform to the best of my ability. At CSK, I had my roles, and now at MI, I will have different roles, but I'm ready for it. I hope to do well with both bat and ball, and contribute to MI's win. Wankhede has a seaming track, and in my past performances I've done well there. So, I'll be looking to continue doing well for my team."

Akash Deep, the Test pacer, got a Rs 8 crore deal from Lucknow Super Giants.

What works for Chahar and Bhuvneshwar is their ability to swing the white ball in powerplays. Mukesh has takers for his wide yorkers at the death.

Even a Tushar Deshpande, who has an economy rate of close to 10 runs per over, was snapped by Rajasthan Royals at Rs 6.50 crore. He is currently recuperating from an ankle operation.

Former RCB skipper Faf du Plessis became the biggest bargain buy for Delhi Capitals at a base price of Rs two crore while Gujarat Titans were smart to lap up India all-rounder Washington Sundar for Rs 3.20 crore.

The paucity of good seam bowling Indian all-rounders in the auction list allowed South African Marco Jansen to laugh his way to the bank with a Rs

Vaibhav Suryavanshi IPL's youngest player

Bihar's Vaibhav Suryavanshi became the youngest-ever player to be signed by an IPL franchise at 13 years as Rajasthan Royals bought the prodigy for Rs 1.10 crore in the mega auction here Monday. Suryavanshi made headlines recently when he became the youngest batter to score an international century, achieving the feat in a Youth Test for India Under-19 against Australia U-19 in Chennai. Suryavanshi made 104 off 62 balls in that match. His base price was Rs. 30 lakh and Delhi Capitals made the opening bid. RR entered the fray at Rs 35 lakh and eventually got the better of DC to get the player on board.



seven crore deal from Punjab Kings.

Englishman Sam Curran, who had once attracted a Rs 18 crore bid, only had a couple of takers with CSK bringing him back home at Rs 2.40 crore.

Shardul, Shaw and Rahane can come back for the accelerated auction if the franchises pick them for it.

Sinner leads Italy to consecutive Davis glory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Malaga, Nov 25: Italy went nearly a quarter-century without winning the Davis Cup. Then along came Jannik Sinner, and now the country is celebrating its second consecutive title.

The No 1-ranked Sinner clinched the championship in the annual team event and capped his breakthrough season by beating Tallon Griekspoor 7-6 (2), 6-2 Sunday for a 2-0 win over the Netherlands in the final of the Davis Cup.

Matteo Berrettini put Italy ahead with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Botic van de Zandschulp — the last man to beat Rafael Nadal — in the opening sin-



JANNIK SINNER

gles match on an indoor hard court at the Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martin Carpena in southern Spain.

The Italians, backed by a loud contingent of singing fans playing drums and armed with megaphones in the crowd of 9,200, became the first team to win the Davis Cup twice in a row since the Czech Republic in

2012 and 2013.

Italy's women won the Billie Jean King Cup by defeating Slovakia Wednesday.

"They make us even more proud," Davis Cup captain Filippo Volandri said.

After Sinner finished off his win, Berrettini and other teammates rushed onto the court to begin the party, wrapping their

arms around one another and bouncing in unison. Volandri grabbed Sinner and lifted him off the ground.

It was clear who was key to this success. Sinner went 4-0 in Malaga, including a victory in doubles with Berrettini against Argentina in the quarterfinals.

Sinner's ascension is one of the year's biggest stories in tennis. He went 73-6 with eight singles titles in 2024, with his first two Grand Slam trophies at the Australian Open and the US Open. The latter came shortly after he was cleared of wrongdoing in a doping case connected to two positive tests for steroids in March; the World Anti-Doping Agency's appeal of that ruling is still pending.