



## Life's lesson

Actor Ananya Panday, following her breakup with Aditya Roy Kapur, reveals that she will not compromise in a relationship

LEISURE | P2



## Protests called off

Pakistan's jailed former PM Imran Khan's party suspends protests seeking his release following hundreds of arrests

INTERNATIONAL | P10



## See-saw trade

Benchmark BSE Sensex climbs 230 points in a volatile session Wednesday following gains in Adani

BUSINESS | P11



## Gukesh claws back

Indian GM D Gukesh restores parity by defeating Ding Liren in the third game of the World Chess Championships

SPORTS | P12

## SHORT TAKES

### Woman firefighters in Odisha soon: CM

**Bhubaneswar:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Wednesday that the Odisha government was contemplating to recruit women in the fire services and may bring about certain changes in the existing rules for the purpose. Majhi made the announcement at a programme to hand over the appointment letters to newly-recruited firemen and fire truck drivers. "The government is contemplating to induct women in fire services. For this, state has to make some changes like amending 'fireman' position to 'firefighter' or 'Agni Joddha'. This will facilitate women's participation in the fire services," Majhi said. He also handed over appointment letters to 826 firemen and 115 fire truck drivers. **P3**

### Shinde to 'support' BJP's CM decision

**Mumbai:** Notwithstanding the posturing by his Shiv Sena cadre that he continue as Maharashtra Chief Minister, Eknath Shinde made it clear Wednesday that he has assured PM Modi of abiding by whatever decision the BJP takes on naming his successor. Addressing a press conference at his house in Thane, Shinde (60) said he will 'fully support' BJP leadership's decision to name the next CM. "I called PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah Tuesday and told them to decide (on who will be the CM post), and assured them that I will abide by whatever decision they take," Shinde said. "There is no speed breaker from our side," Shinde added. **P8**

### 2 KNP cheetah cubs die

**Sheopur (MP):** Two cubs born to African cheetah 'Neerva' were found dead and their mutilated carcasses were recovered Wednesday at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in this district, an official said. A team of forest staffers monitoring the movement of cheetahs received signals through radio telemetry about Neerva not being in her den. They rushed to the spot for inspection and found the mutilated carcasses of the two cubs inside, he said.

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



To become an EC, you should be terrible at maths - unable to match total votes polled with total votes counted



HOMEWARD BOUND: Displaced residents return to Beirut amid ruins all over the city after the Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire came into effect Wednesday morning

AP PHOTO

## Israel, Hezbollah agree on ceasefire

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Beirut, Nov 27:** A ceasefire between Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah appeared to be holding Wednesday, as residents in cars heaped with belongings streamed back toward southern Lebanon despite warnings from the Israeli and Lebanese military that they stay away from certain areas.

If it holds, the ceasefire would bring an end to nearly 14 months of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, which escalated in mid-September into all-out war and threatened to pull Hezbollah's patron Iran and Israel into a broader conflagration. It could give some reprieve to the 1.2 million Lebanese displaced by the fighting and the tens of thousands of Israelis who fled their homes along the border with Lebanon.

The US and France brokered deal, approved by Israel late Tuesday, calls for an initial two-month halt to fighting and requires Hezbollah to end its armed presence in southern Lebanon, while Israeli troops are to return to their side of the border.

Thousands of additional Lebanese troops and UN peacekeepers would deploy in the south, and an international panel headed by the US would monitor compliance. **MORE P10**

## Girl sold for ₹40K; 7 held

Child selling in Odisha is assuming alarming proportions with a fourth case in November coming to the fore Wednesday. The parents of a four-year-old girl had sold her to a couple living in Pipli for ₹40,000. Coming a day after a newborn was stolen from VIMSAR in Sambalpur, this recent development is a real shocker. Earlier selling of newborns had been reported from the districts of Nayagarh, Bolangir and Bargarh districts. Despite various awareness campaigns to prevent selling of kids and newborns, the malady persists due to the abject poverty among a section of the society. Families with 3-4 kids and the lack of finances to maintain them are selling one of the children.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 27:** In an incident highlighting abject poverty, a Bihar-based couple along with five others was arrested as they sold their four-year-old daughter for ₹40,000. Among those held was the couple from Pipli who had bought the girl and three brokers.



Investigating officer (IO) in the case Partha Sarathi Swain said the couple who sold the child has been identified as

Gudia Devi, 24, and Subodh Kumar Sharma, 37; both natives of Katihar district in Bihar. The minor's biological father passed away few years ago, following which, Gudia and

Subodh fell in love and tied the nuptial knot. They moved to the Odisha capital three-four months back and Subodh started working as a carpenter at a shop near Sushanti Vihar.

Swain said broker Jalli Lenka informed his associates Prasanta Kumar Sahoo and his wife Rashmirekha about the couple from Pipli. Prasanta and Rashmirekha then coaxed Subodh and Gudiya to sell their minor daughter to the Pipli couple, Raghunath Behera and his wife Priyadarshini.

Accordingly a meeting was scheduled near Sushanti Vihar. However, the moment the exchange of cash and the kid took place police arrived at the spot and arrested all the seven present. They were booked under Sections 143 (4) and 3 (5). The girl has been sent to a facility run by the Child Welfare Committee.

In the month of November a newborn in Bolangir district was sold by her parents. In a similar case, a Rayagada couple sold their newborn for ₹20,000 to residents of Andhra Pradesh.

## 'Adani not charged with FCPA in US'

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 27:** Lok Sabha proceedings were suspended for a second day Wednesday after disruptions by lawmakers demanding a discussion of the US indictment of billionaire Gautam Adani, while stocks of his group's companies clawed back some losses.

Last week US authorities accused Adani, his nephew and executive director Sagar Adani and managing director of Adani Green, Vneet S Jaain, of being part of a scheme to pay bribes of \$265 million to secure Indian power supply contracts and misleading US investors.

"Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani and Vneet Jaain have not been charged with any violation of the FCPA in the counts set forth in the indictment of the US DOJ or civil complaint of the US SEC. These directors have been charged on three counts in the criminal indictment namely alleged securities fraud conspira-

Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani and Vneet Jaain have not been charged with any violation of the FCPA in the counts set forth in the indictment of the US DOJ or civil complaint of the US SEC

cy, alleged wire fraud conspiracy, and alleged securities fraud," a group statement said. "The indictment does not specify any quantum of any fine/penalty," the company added.

Former attorney general and senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi backed Adani Group's claims saying in his assessment there are five charges or counts and Adani and his aides have not been charged under Count 1 or 5 which deal with allegations of 'conspiracy to violate the FCPA' and 'conspiracy to obstruct justice' respectively.

## 1.77L names removed from PDS list: Patra

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 27:** The Odisha government has removed the names of over 1.77 lakh dead beneficiaries from the public distribution system (PDS) since June 15, 2024, the Assembly was informed Wednesday. In a written reply to a query by Congress MLA Sofia Firdous, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra said no false ration card has been detected in Odisha since June 15, 2024. "The names of 1,77,068 dead people detected in the PDS database have been deleted," he said.

Patra stated that 24,579 names were deleted in Ganjam district, followed by 14,436 in Balasore district,

12,990 in Bhadrak district, 12,139 in Cuttack and 11,736 in Kendrapara district.

"The names of 1,77,068 migrant labourers/workers have been included after removing the names of dead people. This has been done according to the directions of the Supreme Court of India," Patra stated. "So far 6,19,836 beneficiaries have applied for new ration cards in Odisha," he added.

Replying to a question by BJP legislator Tankadhar Tripathy, the minister informed the House that the Odisha government has been providing free rice to a total of 3.26 crore people under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and 10.03 lakh persons under the State Food Security Scheme (SFSS).

## NEP in Odisha schools by 2025

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 27:** The Odisha government is gearing up to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) in schools across the state by 2025, School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond stated Wednesday. He emphasised the state's commitment to education as the cornerstone of societal transformation.

To oversee this process, a task force panel has been formed, along with six sub-committees that will provide specific recommendations. After gathering inputs and suggestions from all stakeholders, the NEP will be formally implemented, the minister informed.

Gond also addressed concerns about teacher shortage. He said the government is actively working to fill vacancies.

## Bihar village shuns non-veg for 300 years

The village in Gaya district is a perfect example of following cultural traditions for centuries

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Patna, Nov 27:** A village named Bihai in Bihar's Gaya district is indeed a remarkable example of cultural tradition and collective discipline. For over 300 years, the approximately 400 residents of this village have adhered to a vegetarian lifestyle, a custom deeply ingrained in their way of life.

This steadfast commitment stems from a local belief in avoiding the wrath of Brahma Baba, a revered deity in their tradition. The tradition of vegetarianism has been upheld for more than three centuries. Both the elderly and younger generations strictly follow the veg practice, ensuring that the custom is preserved. Even women who marry into the village adopt this vegetarian lifestyle



as part of the village's culture. The village's unique vegetarian ethos has not only made it famous as a 'Vegetarian Village' but also serves as an example of

how cultural and religious beliefs can unify an entire community. This tradition also piques the curiosity of outsiders and has the potential to draw atten-

tion from cultural enthusiasts and researchers interested in understanding long-standing dietary practices influenced by religious and societal norms.

"Our village not only stands for its vegetarianism but also for its prohibition of alcohol, onions and garlic - a practice deeply rooted in its cultural and spiritual beliefs. This tradition has been maintained for centuries, with the villagers attributing their discipline and prosperity to the divine protection of Brahma Baba," said Ran Vijay Singh, a resident of the village.

"Brahma Baba, enshrined in the Brahma Sthan of the village, is the central figure of our faith. His blessings are believed to protect the village from calamities, famines and other adversities, ensuring its prosperity," Singh added.

# leisure



## DICAPRIO SHUTS DOWN ENGAGEMENT RUMOURS

Despite the buzz online, Leonardo DiCaprio is not engaged to his girlfriend, Vittoria Ceretti, according to a reliable source. The speculation began after a tip sent to the popular gossip site Deux Moi suggested that the actor had proposed.

## LIAM'S FAMILY MAY PURSUE LEGAL ACTION OVER HIS DEATH

British singer-songwriter Liam Payne's family is considering legal steps against those potentially responsible for his death at a hotel in Buenos Aires, Argentina. According to reports, the family's legal team is actively involved in the ongoing investigation.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
 You will share wonderful moments with your beloved today. Go ahead and learn some musical instrument, suggests Ganesha: it's a beautiful way to convey emotions. And it provides a perfect means to woo someone anew. Join a class before the mood wanes.

**TAURUS**  
 It is highly unlikely that you will be emotional and sentimental today, predicts Ganesha. Adopt a laid-back attitude towards life to feel at ease. Public servants will have encouraging and affirmative results in their efforts. Your competency will be put to test at the work place.

**GEMINI**  
 If you have children, they will be a pampered lot today, says Ganesha. Your affection, however, may not have its desired impact. Children are known to be unpredictable, but keep an eye on their activities, especially today. You may entertain your loved ones with a sumptuous dinner tonight.

**CANCER**  
 Today, you will need to rise above your emotional leanings and will have to choose between doing the right thing and keeping your loved ones happy. So far, you have managed to strike a balance. It is about time that you learn to deal with your fears, suggests Ganesha.

**LEO**  
 Friendships are supposed to last forever. But it all depends on whether or not the friend is around when most needed. Today, your pals may turn to you for help, and sure enough, you will be there to extend all the support you can, says Ganesha. Get ready to make new acquaintances today, some of whom may go on to become life-long friends.

**VIRGO**  
 You are the banner carrier for those around you today, giving hope and inspiring. Clad yourself in robes of the perfect family man. This should spread warmth and love, and will work wonders in improving relationships.

**LIBRA**  
 Call it two sides of the same coin, but today, you shall have the uncanny desire to be your own master and servant. But this day is all set to be animated and eventful and full of life. Expect a few run-ins with the opposite sex, as you are bound to attract quite a few of them, mainly because of your killer good looks. Hitting the gym pays its dividends, says Ganesha.

**SCORPIO**  
 You may find yourself sulking in your shell today, feels Ganesha. One event or another may lead you to shut out work. Hindsight and bitterness will not lead you anywhere, so Ganesha advises that you must steer clear of negativity. Soul searching and inner cleansing may best be complimented with meditation and yoga.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 A nice, easy and pleasant day is on the cards. Your professional approach will bring you much appreciation, especially in the way you handle complicated problems. The way you balance people's opinions will help you make many friends.

**CAPRICORN**  
 Recognition and rewards are awaiting you at work, and unlike in most cases, colleagues won't be envious of your success. They will, in fact, provide the much-needed motivation for taking up new and challenging projects, says Ganesha. For those of you looking to switch jobs, wait awhile, this may not be the right time.

**AQUARIUS**  
 Today, your social butterflies will set hearts fluttering! Also, whatever you have been working on will reach completion now. You do have a great vision, but you're lost when it comes to executing your plans. Ganesha assures success if only you are a little more practical!

**PISCES**  
 The focus today is on touching base with your near and dear ones, says Ganesha. It is likely that you will renew some old associations in a social function, or in matters related to business. You are likely to surge ahead of your competitors when it comes to work related matters.

## Manisha is 'fifty and fabulous'

**MUMBAI:** Actress Manisha Koirala has shared that the best part of life begins at 50 and it is because of the "freedom, finances and the flexibility to pursue your passions." Manisha took to Instagram, where she shared a video of herself looking gorgeous in a champagne



## Ananya not to compromise in a relationship

**MUMBAI:** Actress Ananya Panday, who reportedly broke up with actor Aditya Roy Kapur in March, has revealed that she will not compromise in a relationship now and shared her idea of romance. Ananya was in a conversation with Raj Shamani on his podcast, where the host asked the actress if she has been in a relationship where she has compromised herself. "We all have... I have seen around that people have been... I have been... I am sure where I have changed myself a lot but not to the point itna kuch burra hua have realised that maybe I have not myself so this isn't the uation for me," said The host what she about in re-



hued satin shirt paired with flared jeans. The actress is seen flaunting perfectly blown out hair and subtle make-up. For the caption, she wrote: "The best part of life begins at 50. You've got the freedom, the finances, and the flexibility to pursue your passions and live life on your own terms." She said that she is "fifty and fabulous!" "This is the decade where you get to reap the rewards of your hard work, pursue your dreams, and live life with purpose and intention. #50andfabulous #lovingyourself #living-mybestlife #reapwhatyousow," she added. The actress recently attended IFFI 2024, where she said that the 'has been actor' is painful, often used for female stars. During the discussion, the actress told Vikramaditya Motwane, "The term, 'has been actor' is painful, and it comes out quite often for female actors but the OTT has changed that. Today there are actresses like Neena Gupta, who have been doling out some of the finest performances on OTT". IANS

which she said: "My likes and dislikes. Like I'll pretend to be as small as haan 'mujhe yeh movie dekhni hai (I want to watch these movies)' and I only do what my partner likes in terms of I'll on-ly eat this kind of food, go to only these kind of places, I won't go out because my partner likes staying at home..." Ananya said that she has done that. "But now I wouldn't. Now I would want my partner to accept me as I am as I would accept my partner for whatever they are," she concluded. AGENCIES

## SAYANI ON OTHER SIDE OF STARDOM

**MUMBAI:** As she traced about her acting journey, popular actress Sayani Gupta decided to share a glimpse of the other side of stardom. While she is known for her candour and straight-forward nature, the actress insisted on the need of intimacy coordinators and explained how often the safety of actors are overlooked or ignored. She further shared her own experiences wherein she also mentioned coming across actors who have 'lingered the kiss' even after completing the take.



In an interview with *Radio Nasha*, Sayani Gupta opened up about doing intimate scenes and expressed how thankful she is about having the intimacy coordinators on sets now. The actress said, "I am grateful that this is a profession that has come to India finally. I had worked with one in *Margarita with a Straw* in 2013. Intimate scenes are the easiest to do because it is technical. Having said that, a lot of people also take advantage, and I have been in situation where an actor will linger the kiss even after a cut and you are like 'uhhh'. Sometimes it's very subtle but that's just indecent behaviour." Recalling her experience about popular web-series *Four More Shots* where she was expected to wear a really short dress, Sayani added, "I felt so vulnerable at that point because there were some 70 men standing in front of me. I was like, 'I just need one person to be with a shawl.'" On the work front, Sayani Gupta recently featured alongside her *Four More Shots* co-star Prateik Babbar and Kubbra Sait in *Khwaabon Ka Jhamela*. AGENCIES

## Rafi biopic in the making

**MUMBAI:** Music icon Mohammed Rafi's son Shahid Rafi has announced a biopic on his iconic father. Shahid also shared that filmmaker Umesh Shukla, known for making films such as *OMG - Oh My God!* and *Dhoondte Reh Jaoge*, is in talks for helming the upcoming movie. The biopic will officially be announced next month, as December 24, 2024 will mark Rafi's 100th birthday. Known for crooning classics such as *Likhe Je Khat Tuihe*, *DardEDil DardEJigar*, *Aaj Mausam Bada Beimaan*, *Main Zindagi Ka Saath Nibhata Chala Gaya*, *Kaun Hai Jo Sapnon Mein Aaya*, *Aaja Aaja*, *Parda*



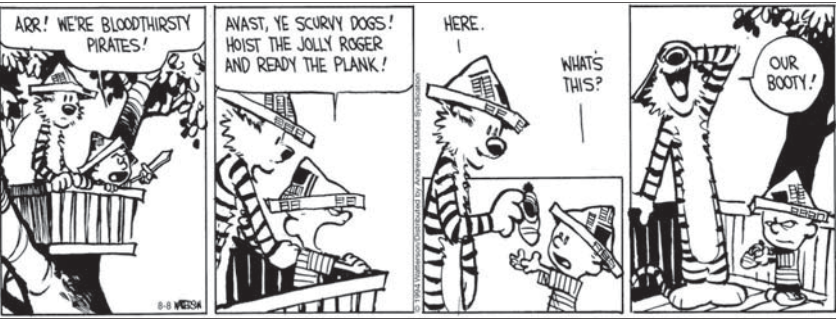
*Hai Parda, Gulabi Aankhein and Kya Se Kya Ho Gaya*, the legendary singer in his illustrious career has lent his vocals to over 1,000 films across Indian and foreign languages.

It was at the ongoing International Film Festival of India (IFFI), where a tribute was paid to Rafi along with several personalities including Raj Kapoor, Tapan Sinha and Akkineni Nageshwar Rao. His son Shahid shared during the session titled Aasmaan Se Aaya Farishta - Mohammad Rafi - The King of Melody, that Umesh Shukla are in a conversation for the yet-untitled upcoming biography. Shahid shared: "The announcement will be made in December. I am making a biopic on Rafi sahab.... It is going to be the life story of Rafi sahab. Songs will also be part of the biopic." IANS

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

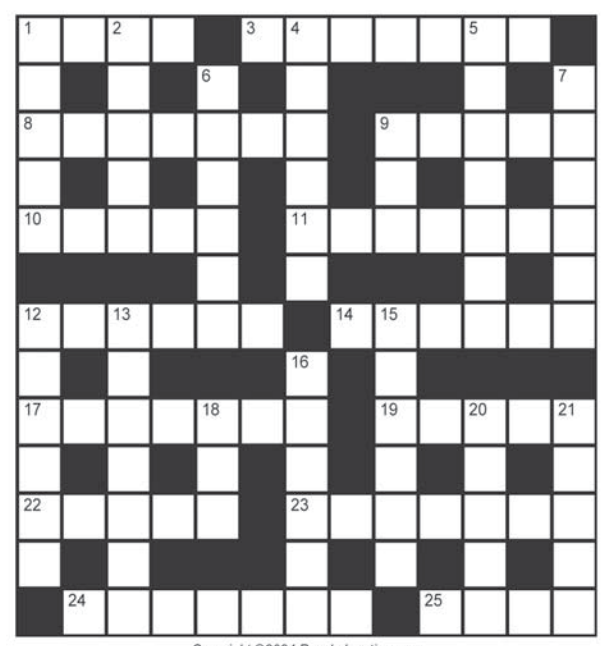


### BREVITY



### FUN POST

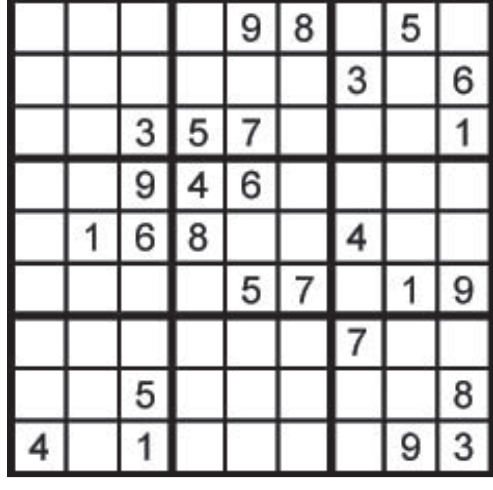
### CROSSWORD



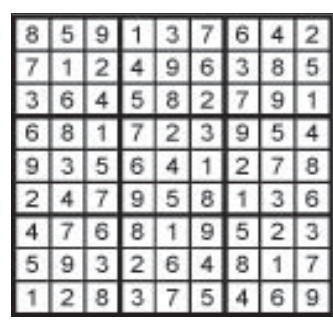
- Across**
- 1 Short run
  - 3 Tackle
  - 8 Any dramatic scene
  - 9 Overindulge
  - 10 Give way
  - 11 Awry
  - 12 After dinner treats
  - 14 Winged ones
  - 17 Cure-all
  - 19 Private instructor
  - 22 Skeptical
  - 23 Breeding ground for birds
  - 24 Suffer
  - 25 Steak order
  - Down**
  - 1 Short simple song
  - 2 Cavalry sword
  - 4 Fencing cry
  - 5 Primitive wind instrument
  - 6 Sore
  - 7 Free-for-alls
  - 9 Purchase
  - 12 Dome
  - 13 Medicinal Chinese herb
  - 15 Mental picture
  - 16 Tusked mammal
  - 18 Low island
  - 20 Greek letter
  - 21 Last name in autos

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown

**ADANI  
ROW  
ROCKS  
HOUSE**

## Dy CM: Govt won't allow mining in Gandhamardan



**It was the BJD government, and not the BJP, which had given permission to the Adani Group to take land for compensatory afforestation in Bolangir district for loss of forest cover due to the company's coal mining project in Sundargarh district**

KV SINGH DEO | DEPUTY CM

**You cannot blame the previous government every time. If you feel it is wrong, the government has authority to cancel it**

PRASANNA ACHARYA | BJD LEADER

Sundargarh district," the Deputy CM said. Reiterating the BJP government's commitment to protecting the sacred Gandhamardan hills, he said, "Gandhamardan will not be allowed to be destroyed. I will also join the protest if any mining operation is allowed in Gandhamardan hills." Pujari, who hails from Baragarh district, also said that the state government would not allow any company to set up its plant in Gandhamardan hills by hurting the religious senti-

ments of the local people. "There was an attempt to start mining in Gandhamardan hills in the 1980s which we all had protested. The agreement was later cancelled due to strong public protest," Pujari said, adding that as per the present agreement, Adani has acquired land for undertaking compensatory afforestation. Later, the company will hand over the forested land to the government, he said. The issue relating to the purchase of land by Adani Group

near Gandhamardan hills was raised by senior BJD leader and deputy leader of opposition, Prasanna Acharya. He voiced concern over reports about permission to Adani Group for mining activities. He said there were more than 400 types of medicinal plants in Gandhamardan hills. Acharya sought to know whether the government has given permission to any company for bauxite mining in Gandhamardan, while recalling that a move in the 1980s to grant permission to a firm to conduct mining in the area triggered massive public protests.

Reacting to the government's clarification in the Assembly, Acharya expressed hope outside the House that the state government would honour its pledge. Asked about Singh Deo's claim that the previous government allowed the Adani Group to purchase land near Gandhamardan, Acharya said, "You cannot blame the previous government every time. If you feel it is wrong, the government has authority to cancel it."

The purchase of land by Adani Group in Bolangir and Baragarh districts has snowballed into a major political controversy with the ruling BJP and opposition BJD exchanging barbs. There is apprehension among the local people about possible exploitation of the sacred Gandhamardan hills which has rich bauxite deposits.

## Soren takes stock of preps at swearing-in venue



**RANCHI:** Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren Wednesday reviewed the preparations for the oath-taking ceremony to be held at Morabadi Ground in Ranchi Thursday.

On the occasion, Soren was briefed by the officials about the stage construction, decoration, electricity, sound and security arrangements at the venue and preparations for welcoming the guests, apart from the seating arrangements. He stressed on robust arrangements for transportation and parking of vehicles at meeting venue, in order to ensure a hassle-free oath-taking ceremony. The CM directed

the officials to ensure availability of all other necessary facilities, including drinking water at the venue. On this occasion, MLA Kalpana Soren, Chief Secretary Alka Tiwari, Additional Chief Secretary Avinash Kumar, Principal Secretary Vandana Dadel, Secretary Amitabh Kaushal, Deputy Commissioner of Ranchi Varun Ranjan, Senior Superintendent of Police Chandan Sinha and many other officials were present. Soren will take oath as the 14th CM of Jharkhand in the grand ceremony at Morabadi Ground, with several prominent political leaders and

dignitaries, including key members of the INDIA bloc, expected to attend. Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar will administer the oath of office and secrecy to Soren at 4pm Thursday. This will be the 49-year-old JMM leader's fourth stint as Chief Minister. Soren retained the Barhait seat by defeating BJP's Gamiyel Hembrom by a margin of 39,791 votes in the recently held Assembly polls. Notably, in the recent Assembly elections, Soren's JMM-led alliance stormed to victory, securing 56 seats in the 81-member assembly, while the BJP-led NDA managed 24 seats.

## Oppn stages walkout over kernel deaths

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 27:** Opposition BJD and Congress MLAs staged a walkout from the Assembly Wednesday alleging the collapse of public distribution system (PDS) which they claimed led to the death of three tribal women after consuming mango kernel gruel 'due to scarcity' of food grains. The issue of people at Mandipanka village in Kandhamal district consuming mango kernel gruel allegedly due to food scarcity was discussed in the House through a notice for an adjournment motion. Both the BJD and Congress members alleged that the people were forced to consume mango kernel gruel as they could not get food grains under the PDS in October. However, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister KC Patra dismissed the allegation and claimed that the three tribal women died due to food poisoning and not due to lack of food. Patra said that the deceased women had consumed the mango kernel gruel which was contaminated. The minister also dismissed the allegation of starvation. "During BJD rule, people died after eating contaminated mango kernel gruel in certain areas in 2001 and 2018," he said.

Initiating the debate, former minister and BJD MLA Ranendra Pratap Swain demanded the resignation of Patra as minister over the issue. Demanding resignation of the minister and the immediate measures to streamline PDS, the opposition members walked out of the House.

## CM FOR WOMAN FIREFIGHTERS IN STATE



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 27:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi attended the state-level firefighter recruitment ceremony organised by Odisha Fire and Emergency Services at OUAT

here Wednesday. On the occasion, the CM said that in coming days women can also be recruited in firefighters' position. For this, necessary amendments will be made to name the position as 'Fire Fighter' or 'Ag-

ni Yodha'. Majhi also handed over recruitment letters to the newly-appointed firefighters. A total of 826 firefighters and 115 fire truck drivers have been appointed. Around 22 per cent of the total number of posts in the

department has been filled in one day. The addition of new firefighters will increase the strength of the department. This will enable the department to work more efficiently and to provide emergency services.

## 'Socialist', 'Secular' should have been in Preamble, says Naveen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 27:** Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Naveen Patnaik Wednesday said that the two words 'Socialist' and 'Secular' should be part of the Preamble of Indian Constitution.

Patnaik said this a day after the Assembly witnessed a pandemonium and was adjourned twice over alleged "insult" to the Constitution as two words 'Socialist' and 'Secular' were missing in the replica of the Constitution which was on display near one of the entry points of the House. "This is a bad mistake. That shouldn't be there. India is very much a secular country," the former CM told reporters while replying to questions on the issue of missing words (Socialist and Secular) in the Preamble of the Constitution which was in display at the entry of the Assembly here.

BJD leaders had raised the issue in the Assembly Tuesday and created a ruckus demanding correction of the alleged

mistake. Referring to the BJD leaders' allegation that missing of the two words - Socialist and Secular - in the display of the Preamble at the Assembly entry gate, was an insult to the Constitution, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mukesh Mahaling said that there is no point to disrespect the Constitution which is sacred for all. "The Preamble is our pride and glory. We gave this preamble to ourselves 26th November 1949. We celebrate November 26 as our Constitution Day. The Constitution that is being displayed in the Assembly here is a heritage constitution. There should be no dispute over this." The minister said: "It was placed in the Assembly November 21, 2023 when Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik was the Chief Minister and the present opposition chief whip Pramila Mallik was the Speaker of the House. This sacred book also has the signature of people who framed the Constitution of India."



## 82ND FOUNDATION DAY

## V-C lauds Utkal's role in shaping state's intellectual landscape

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 27:** Utkal University Vice-Chancellor Sabita Acharya Wednesday lauded the efforts of the premier educational institution in shaping the state's intellectual and cultural landscape. The V-C was addressing the university's 82nd foundation day celebrations on the varsity campus here.

"Utkal University has consistently set benchmarks in education and research, fostering innovation and skill development," Acharya said, while paying tribute to founding

leaders like Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati and Pandit Nilkantha Das. The V-C praised the university's pivotal role in shaping Odisha's intellectual and cultural landscape.

Vice-Chancellor of Ravenshaw University Sanjay Kumar Nayak, who also attended the foundation day ceremony, said, "Utkal University has set a remarkable example in adoption of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. As a former student, I take immense pride in its growth and the contributions it has made to higher education. I am committed to supporting future collaborations



that foster academic excellence and research development." Highlighting the importance

of bridging generational academic gaps, Vice-Chancellor of Sri Sri University Tej Prat-

ap said, "It is essential that we align the aspirations of modern students with the frameworks of past academic generations. Only then can we build a truly inclusive and forward-thinking educational system." A major highlight of the event was the university's initiatives in fostering entrepreneurship. The Utkal Entrepreneurship and Career Hub (UECH) and the Centre for Innovation and Incubation (CII) currently support 22 active student start-ups. Registrar Kanhu Charan Dhir also brought to limelight the university's 22 functional

MoUs with national and international institutions, including a partnership with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. Notably, Utkal University, accredited with an A+ grade by NAAC, is ranked among India's top 100 universities. Its campus features 86 ICT-enabled classrooms, 30 smart classrooms, and an advanced e-library, ensuring a modern learning environment. The ceremony concluded with awards recognizing academic and extracurricular achievements, underscoring Utkal University's commitment to holistic development.

# Cyclonic storm likely to bring rain, temp rise

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Wednesday issued a weather alert for Odisha, forecasting light to moderate rainfall and a rise in night temperatures over the next few days due to a deep depression over the southwest Bay of Bengal.

The system is expected to intensify into a cyclonic storm in the next six hours and move north-northwestwards towards the Tamil Nadu coast, skirting Sri Lanka.

According to IMD, districts across the state will experience light rainfall from Thursday for three days. Coastal and interior regions are expected to witness scattered rain, particularly in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Rayagada, Koraput, and Malkangiri. While the storm poses no direct threat to Odisha, weather officials have advised caution due to the possibility of shallow to moderate fog in several areas during the night and early morning hours.

The system will also cause



The system will cause squally winds with speeds of 45-55 kmph, gusting up to 65 kmph, over the west-central Bay of Bengal until the evening of November 29

IMD also warns that the minimum temperatures in the state are likely to rise by two to four degrees Celsius during the next three days

warned that the minimum temperatures in Odisha are likely to rise by two to four degrees Celsius during the next three days, particularly in the coastal and interior regions.

While light to moderate rainfall is expected in the aforementioned districts, dry weather will prevail in the remaining parts of the state. IMD has urged residents to stay updated on weather advisories and take necessary precautions, particularly during foggy conditions in the coming days.

squally winds with speeds of 45-55 kmph, gusting up to 65 kmph, over the west-central Bay of Bengal until the evening of November 29. IMD has also

## Deputy CM Singh Deo reviews OPGC projects

Bhubaneswar: A review meeting of the ongoing and upcoming projects of Odisha Power Generation Corporation (OPGC) was held Wednesday at Lok Seva Bhawan, chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, who also holds the portfolios of Agriculture, Farmers' Empowerment, and Energy. During the meeting, Singh Deo proposed the use of fly ash collected from OPGC to produce inter-locking bricks, which could be used in constructing houses under the PM AWAS Yojana. He discussed the existing bottlenecks faced by OPGC and stressed the need for better utilization of fly ash in line with Odisha State Pollution Control Board recommendations.

## Odisha Pavilion bags silver at 43rd IITF-2024



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: Odisha Pavilion bagged Silver at the 43rd Indian International Trade Fair (IITF) 2024 in New Delhi Wednesday. Odisha's principal resident commissioner Vishal Gagan received the award from India Trade Promotion Organisation's chairman and managing director Pradeep Singh Kharola.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said, "It is a matter of honour for the state that Odisha Pavilion won silver medal for best performance in thematic category at 43rd India International Trade Fair 2024. The 'Odisha Pavilion' showcased state's art, culture, heritage in a very interesting way. Thanks to all the members for such efforts."

The Odisha Mandap at IITF garnered widespread acclaim for its intricate artistry and elegance, becoming a major attraction. Thousands of visitors, both from India and abroad, appreciated the cultural artifacts

and products showcased at the pavilion, highlighting the state's rich heritage and vibrant craftsmanship.

This year's IITF centered on the theme 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047,' and the Odisha Pavilion successfully balanced the state's traditional excellence with its promising future progress. A total of 25 special stalls displayed a diverse range of Odia products, including tribal art, Mission Shakti SHG products, Kandhamal spices, brown rice flakes, organic rice varieties like Kalajeera rice, palm candy, Berhampur pickles, and Sri Anna delicacies.

The architectural grandeur of Odisha pavilion attracted almost five lakh crowd since the inaugural ceremony November 14. Creative designs of globally renowned Mukteswar and Ratnagiri arch, alongside Sun Temple Konark at the entrance and exit added momentum to the influx of visitors. The stalls made a business of almost ₹55 lakh.



ROLE PLAY: Students from Rajdhani College (Bhubaneswar) perform a play 'Jaati Jeevanam' on the concluding day of Sanskrit Theatre Festival organised by The CATCH at Bhanja Kala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

## No-fly zone marked in Capital for PM visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: Several areas of the Capital city have been declared as no-fly and no-drone zone during the all-India conference IGP-DGP conference here from November 29 to December 1 in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are scheduled to take part, an official notification said Wednesday.

"Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) area, Raj Bhawan area, the event venue Lok Seva Bhawan, IPS Mess at Maitrivihar and the route from BPIA to Raj Bhawan, and from Raj Bhawan to Loka Seva Bhawan, airport to IPS Mess and Maitrivihar and IPS Mess to Loka Seva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar have been declared as no drone and no flying zone during the visit of Prime Minister, Union Home Minister and VIP dignitaries to Bhubaneswar for DGP & IGP Conference-2024 from 29.11.2024 to 01.12.2024," the notification said.

## Agroecology key to address agrarian challenges: Experts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: Climate change is expected to worsen agrarian distress and experts have stressed the urgent need to adopt farmer-centric and landscape-based agroecology transitions. These views were shared at the Eastern India Chapter-2024, organised by the Consortium for Agroecological Transformation (CAT) in Bhubaneswar Wednesday.

Over 70 participants from Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Bihar gathered to address critical challenges, including climate change, food and nutritional insecurity, farmers' livelihoods, biodiversity loss, and natural resource degradation.

Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department principal secretary Arabinda Padhee emphasised Odisha's commitment to promoting agro-biodiversity, highlighting



the state's status as a biodiversity hotspot and its achievement as the first in the country to formally release indigenous landrace varieties. Padhee assured that the state is ready to scale up agroecological interventions if supported by strong evidence.

Horticulture department director Nikhil Pavan Kalyan acknowledged agroecology as a promising concept but called for more clarity and conviction from civil society organisations before its implementation on the ground. Minhaj Ameen from the Bharat Agroecology Fund shared CAT's ambitious goal to transition 30 per cent of farmer

households, covering approximately 40 million hectares, to agroecology within the next decade. Regional Director of the Centre of Organic and Natural Farming under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Jagat Singh highlighted the government's ongoing efforts to promote organic and natural farming and expressed openness to collaboration and new ideas.

Experts at the event underscored the importance of scaling agroecology to larger landscapes, suggesting a landscape-based approach in selected blocks to create ecosystem-level models.

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit vide No.3120 date 26.11.2024 sworn before the Notary Public, Barbi I, Bini Rani, W/o. Santosh Kumar Singh, R/o. At- Kadodiha, P.O./P.S. Koira, Dist.- Sundargarh, Odisha declare that in Aadhaar card bearing No.xxxx xxxx 7264 my name is mentioned as Kumati Patra. That both the names Bini Rani and Kumati Patra is belongs to one and same person.

## LOST

I, Sri Ramesh Chandra Khandai, S/o Sri Ratnakar Khandai have lost cancelled sale deed 1087/12.03.1993 and corresponding RoR (Khata No. 375/44, Plot No. 58/1063) of Mouza Kantilo, Keshpur and Dist.-Cuttack along with some important papers somewhere on the way from my village to Pattamundai. Kindly contact 9437044222 if anyone gets the same.

## SAITED hosts aerospace scientist Nambi Narayanan

Over 5,000 attendees gathered for one of India's largest K-12 science fests, hosted by SAI International Education Group. The event celebrated innovation, curiosity, and the transformative power of scientific discovery

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: The SAI International Education Group (SAIIEG) hosted the 8th edition of SAITED, its flagship science and technology fest, with a special appearance by Padma Bhushan S Nambi Narayanan, former director of ISRO. Known as one of the largest K-12 science



fests in the country, the 2024 edition saw over 5,000 attendees and featured the theme, 'Sorcery of Science: Where Magic Meets Matter.'

The event brought together students and educators from schools across Odisha in a celebration of curiosity, innovation, and the transformative power of scientific discovery. SAIIEG chairperson Silpi Sahoo remarked, "This year's theme captures the essence of scientific breakthroughs, where the mys-

teries of the universe unfold into tangible possibilities, just like magic. SAITED 2024 honors the boundless potential of human curiosity, adding new chapters to the story of progress."

The highlight of the fest was the inauguration of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Conclave by Nambi Narayanan, a pioneering aerospace scientist who played a pivotal role in India's space exploration journey. Narayanan's development of the

Vikas engine powered the PSLV and GSLV rockets, forming the backbone of India's space successes, including Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan. His life and contributions were recently celebrated in the critically acclaimed movie, 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect.'

In his keynote address, Narayanan shared his inspiring journey at ISRO, emphasizing the organisation's leadership in STEM fields such as cryogenics, astronomy, medicine, and advanced technology. "We are the leaders in almost every STEM sector," he stated. Recalling his close collaboration with former President APJ Abdul Kalam, he described him as a man of exceptional intellect and humility, saying, "Never have I met someone with such humility, paired with a complete package of unmatched intellect."

lor Pradipta Kumar Nanda and public relations officer Subhadarshini Mishra. SOA is proud to have a significant representation of women in its workforce. Over

54 per cent of the students at SOA are women, and 42 per cent of the university's workforce, including faculty members, is female. Additionally, women hold 45



## 'Femina Achievers' East award to SOA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: The women workforce of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University has been honoured with the 'Femina Achievers' East 2024 award for its committed women workforce in the education sector. The award was presented recently at a ceremony in Kolkata, organised by Femina, the oldest women's English magazine in India.

British Deputy High Commissioner to East and North East India Andrew Fleming and, Alliance Française du Bengale director Nicolas Facino presented the award to SOA vice-chancel-

important positions in the university, including the role of Controller of Examination, occupied by Manjula Das. Three out of 11 institutes at SOA are led by women, with Pravati Tripathy as the Dean of SUM Nursing College, Sanghamitra Mishra as the Dean of Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital, and Neeta Mohanty as the Dean of the Institute of Dental Sciences.

SOA, ranked 14th in India by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024, continues to empower women and foster their leadership in various academic and administrative roles.

WEATHER table with columns for BBSR, CTC, Max Temp, Min Temp, Humidity, Rainfall, and FORECAST.

MARKET WATCH table with columns for INDEX, VARIATION, and various market indices like SENSEX, NIFTY, DOLLAR, EURO, GOLD, SILVER.

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Closure order issued for Aruha quarry



accused persons. Locals alleged that the police are protecting the perpetrators, fuelling public frustration.

Residents and activists remain sceptical whether these closure orders will effectively curb illegal mining or enforcement will falter under political pressure.

Under the directive of the Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS), it was mandated that leaseholders failing to comply with legal requirements—such as appointing mine managers or obtaining blasting permissions—should not be issued e-transit passes (e-TP) for their mines.

Despite this, reports indicate that illegal mining activities continue daily at several locations, including Aruha and other quarries.

In response, Bipin Kumar Behera of Aruha village has filed

a PIL in the high court. It was alleged November 17 that leaseholder Manoj Kumar Samal sent a group of persons to physically assault Behera, a matter that was subsequently reported to the police.

A case was registered at the Dharmasala police station against Manoj Kumar Samal, Nirakar Samal, Suresh Samal, and Pramod Samal. However, questions have been raised over efficiency of the police, as none of the accused has been arrested so far. People have expressed concern over lack of action by the police, with many urging legal recourse.

Separately, the District Deputy Director of Mines (DDM) ordered the closure of 26 black stone quarries in the district November 17. Despite these orders, allegations have emerged that Manoj Samal has been transporting soil, murrums,

and black stone from the Aruha mines over the past three days.

Similar violations have been reported from other quarries such as Rahadpur, and Bichhakhandi, where leaseholders are allegedly disregarding DDM's directives and illegally transporting stone day and night.

Additionally, there are claims that preparations are underway for illegal stone extraction at another quarry on Aruha hill. Villagers have provided information regarding these activities, further highlighting the blatant disregard for DGMS and Mining department directives.

When contacted, Jajpur DDM Jayaprakash Nayak stated that regular raids are being conducted to address illegal mining. He assured that necessary action would be taken against the ongoing illegal operations at Aruha hill.

Vig raid on properties of junior mining officer

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 27: Vigilance sleuths Wednesday raided the properties of junior mining officer Padmanabh Hota from Keonjhar on charges of amassing disproportionate assets.

A Vigilance team conducted simultaneous raids at seven locations, including his residence in Keonjhar, as well as properties in Bhubaneswar, Bhawanipatna, and Jajpur.

The Vigilance department confirmed ongoing investigations at various sites, including residential properties, plots, and other assets. The raids were carried out under search warrants issued by



the Special Vigilance Judge in Bhubaneswar.

The raids targeted various properties, including a two-storey house on a 10,000 sq ft plot in Jagannathpur, Keonjhar; a four-storey building on a 5,800 sq ft plot in Koradakanta, Bhubaneswar; and a farmhouse spanning five acre in Madanpur, Ghasipur. Additional assets include two

plots in Pratap Nagari, Cuttack; a vacant plot in Sundarpada, Bhubaneswar; and nine plots totaling 1.16 acre land in Danagadi, Jajpur.

Officials also seized a four-wheeler, two motorcycles, significant bank deposits, insurance policies, and postal savings. The searches were extended to a paternal house in Jamadeipur, Jajpur and a relative's residence in Balrampur under Dharmasala police limits.

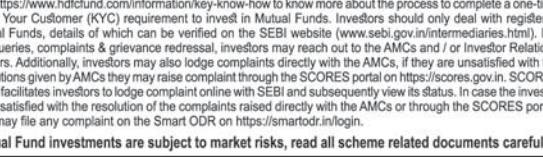
The operation involved seven DSPs, five inspectors, seven assistant sub-inspectors, and other staff members. Investigations are ongoing, according to the Vigilance department.

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Date and Venue: Saturday, 30th November 2024; 4:00 p.m. onwards. at Block - 2, 3rd & 5th Floor, BMC Mall, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar Odisha. For registration, please contact: Mitali Maharana, Mobile: 89081 20343.

Registration is compulsory. The registration time will be from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. No walk-ins will be allowed.



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EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. eT-CRW-MCS-EL-4-2024 Name of Work: MISCELLANEOUS WORK OF NON-AC COACHES DURING POHIOH WITH RELATED JOB TO CARRY OUT IN LHB & ICF NON-AC COACHES IN TL SHOP AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP/ MANCHESWAR FOR 24 MONTHS.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) Tender No. 41-KUR-TRD-OT-2024-25 Name of Work: OHE MODIFICATION IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF GIRDERS OF 02 NOS (950 UP AND 950 DOWN) IMPORTANT BRIDGES (BGM) IN GANJAM-CHHATRAPUR SECTION IN CONNECTION WITH MISSION 3000 MT UNDER KHURDAROAD DIVISION.

BARGARH DHANU YATRA

4 artistes in race for Kansa role



ARTATRANA SUNANI BHUBANESWAR PRADHAN JAGADANANDA MISHRA SUSHIL MEHR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Nov 27: Dhanu Yatra, the grand open-air theatre festival, is set to commence January 3, 2025 and will continue for 11 days.

Selection of the actor who will portray Kansa next year is now underway. According to sources from the district administration, one of the four actors who were ranked between second and fifth position in the previous audition will be selected for the role. The final decision on who will play Kansa in the upcoming edition of the festival will be revealed soon.

Traditionally, an actor is selected every three years to play the character of the demon king

in the Dhanu Yatra. Hrusikesh Bhoi, who portrayed Kansa in the last two editions, had his final opportunity to reprise the role this year. However, controversies surrounding him have led to his exclusion. Reports surfaced that Bhoi, while working as a driver for the district health department's horse service, faced allegations of demanding and accepting bribe for transportation of a body, October 7.

This led to his suspension from duty and Bhatli police filed a criminal case against him. Following public outrage and demands for his removal, the Dhanu Yatra Advisory Committee and the working council decided November 22

to bar Bhoi from participating in the festival.

To replace him, four previous contenders -- Artatrana Sunani, Jagadananda Mishra, Bhubaneswar Pradhan, and Sushil Kumar Meher -- have been shortlisted. These artistes will participate in the selection process, the Dhanu Yatra Committee announced Monday in a press release.

The selected actor will perform in the role only for the upcoming edition of the festival. The usual three-year selection process will resume for subsequent editions. While the date for final audition is yet to be announced, it will be declared soon, said festival secretary Sureswara Satapathy.

Man sentenced to life for killing disabled girl

Baripada: A court in Mayurbhanj district Wednesday sentenced a 35-year-old man to life imprisonment for the murder of a physically challenged girl last year. Rairangpur Additional District and Sessions Judge V Sujata convicted Repo Murmu for killing the 14-year-old Liti Giri. The judgement was based on the statements of 16 witnesses and the medical report, said Additional Public Prosecutor, Pankaj Kumar Das. There was an old rivalry between Repo Murmu and Krushna Giri, the father of the deceased girl. Krushna had accepted the spouse of Repo Murmu as his second wife in Saronda village under the jurisdiction of Gorumahisani police station. Repo Murmu killed the divyang girl with a sharp weapon July 24, 2023 while she was alone in her house. The girl's father lodged a complaint with the police, following which a murder case was registered.

Woman turns beacon of hope for Dongria Kondhs

44-YEAR-OLD LAHARI KUNDIKA HAS TRAINED OVER 500 YOUNG TRIBAL WOMEN IN WEAVING KAPDAGANDA SHAWLS AND PERFORMING TRADITIONAL DANCES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Nov 27: In the foothills of Niyangiri in Rayagada district, Lahari Kundika, a 44-year-old resident of Khambeasi village in Bissamcuttack block, has turned into a ray of hope for the underprivileged Dongria Kondh tribal community. Despite being uneducated, Lahari is actively raising awareness among the tribals about education, health, and development.

Concerned about the decline of Dongria Kondh culture, including their iconic Kapdaganda shawls and traditional dance, Lahari is doing her bit to revive these traditions. She has trained over 500 young women in weaving Kapdaganda shawls and performing traditional dances.

Lahari's efforts stem from her understanding of how lack of awareness keeps the Dongria Kondh community on the fringes of mainstream society. She has taken it upon herself to bridge this gap. After finishing her household chores, Lahari



spends her days working on the farmlands in Niyangiri foothills and dedicates two to three days a week to visit nearby villages.

Moreover, she conducts evening gatherings every Sunday to educate residents about the harms of child marriage, substance abuse, blind faith and superstitions. She also emphasises the importance of accessing government schemes, ensuring fair prices for their goods, and promoting education, particularly for girls.

In addition, Lahari teaches villagers about healthy practices, urging them to use government health services for safe deliveries and other medical needs. She advocates for gender equality, girls' education and the importance of maintaining cleanliness and hygiene.

Lahari's reason behind the commitment is personal—she regrets being unable to educate her eldest daughter due to her own lack of awareness. This realisation motivates her to work tirelessly to educate others. Supported by her family, which includes two sons and three daughters, Lahari has extended her influence on over 1,000 men and women in her community.

Despite making significant impact, Lahari acknowledges that economic hardship and other challenges often hinder the community's development. However, she remains undeterred, stating that collective awareness is the first step towards progress.

With her dedication and the active support of her family, Lahari continues to lead noble initiatives, whether those are government programmes or grass-roots efforts to improve the lives of the Dongria Kondh people.

UTKAL GRAMEEN BANK POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Utkal Grameen Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act. calling upon the Borrowers and Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Table with columns: BRANCH NAME / Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors, Description of the Security Interest taken over possession, Liabilities due on the specified date as per Notice, Date of Demand Notice / Possession Notice. Includes entries for JUNAGARH BRANCH, DHARMAGARH BRANCH, DHARMAGARH BRANCH, BORDA BRANCH, REGEDA BRANCH, KESINGA BRANCH, and KAUDOLA BRANCH.

FOCUS CLIMATE FINANCE

THE COP CONUNDRUM



The world may not get a good deal in every COP but each COP must provide progressive pathways in tackling climate breakdown

As the COP process, established in 1992 at the Earth Summit, the only effective pathway to address global environmental crises, especially climate breakdown? This doubt emerged when the COP29 held at Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11-22, didn't provide a forward-looking agreement until the last moment of the final day. However, the COP endorsed a contentious deal on 24 November with criticism from developing countries including India.



Avilash Rouf

WITH THE MIDDLE EAST AND EAST EUROPE IN WAR ZONE, A CLIMATE SUMMIT IN A CAUCASIAN CITY IS THE LEAST ATTRACTIVE

The agreement sets a goal for developed countries to provide \$300 billion annually by 2035 from all sources towards securing lives and livelihoods in climate-vulnerable developing countries. The agreement also calls on all Parties to work together to scale up finance to developing countries, from public and private sources to the amount of \$1.3 trillion per year by 2035. UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell announced that "this new financial goal is an insurance policy for Humanity." While strongly objecting to the adoption of the agreement and the process, India stated that this document is nothing more than an optical illusion as \$300 billion does not address the needs and priorities of developing countries.

Despite four revised drafts circulated among Parties for agreement, there were deep divisions among the Parties over who should pay and how much. There were stalled negotiations, and even some of the developing countries left the venue with much disappointment. After closed-door talks to avoid no climate deal in Baku, the developed countries (US, UK, Australia and EU) agreed to a \$300 billion yearly contribution for the next decade (2025-2035). It might be the reason why developed countries agreed to the amount as the source of funding, as noted in

the final document, is no longer confined to public funding only.

Initially, under 'new collective quantified goal' (NCQG), in simple terms climate finance, draft text circulated for negotiations on 21 November, proposed no numbers or amount of finance for the Parties to negotiate. Meanwhile, the UN-appointed Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance in its Third Report, released at Baku on 14 November, estimated that climate finance amounting to between \$1 trillion and \$1.3 trillion, would be able to assist vulnerable countries in dealing with climate mitigation and adaptations from 2025-2035. Developing countries, including India, had called for a total of \$1.3 trillion to be mobilised annually by developed countries towards developing countries in the form of grants (and grants equivalent).

The NCQG is intended to replace developed countries' previous commitment to provide \$100 billion in climate finance per year by 2020, as agreed at Copenhagen during COP15 in 2009. However, that goal, which expires in 2025, has been met once in 2022 but with a caveat. Meanwhile, the Baku COP has been labelled as the "climate finance COP" due to the proposed establishment of a new global climate finance goal till 2035.

After much criticism, the subsequent draft texts circulated by Azerbaijan's COP29 presidency proposed that developed nations take the "lead" in providing \$250 billion in annual climate finance by 2035. The draft proposal also calls all Parties to scale up finance to developing countries for climate action from all public and private sources to at least \$1.3 trillion per year by 2035. Members of vulnerable developing countries described the draft proposal as "insultingly low," "a joke," "disgrace," "ridiculous," "insufficient," "outrageous" and "bad deal." The draft proposal was also criticised by wealthy nations for not expanding the contributors' list those who must put money in the climate finance basket.

Under the UNFCCC, it is the obligation of industrialised (developed) countries, who are historically responsible for climate change, to provide climate finance for the needs of climate-vulnerable countries. The Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015) reaffirms the obligation of developed countries; and allows voluntary contributions from developing countries in climate finance.

From the beginning, expectations from COP29 were limited. With the Middle East and East Europe in war zone, a climate summit in a Caucasian city is

the least attractive. It was visible as only 32 heads of government attended the COP. Even, the Prime Minister Modi, who is a front leader in climate action, and the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, didn't attend the summit. In general, the G20 always provides a direction to COP like under India's Chairmanship during 2022-2023. The recently concluded G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has not eloquently sent a message to COP29. On the world stage, the US President-elect, who will be in office for the next four years and a climate change sceptic, may have influenced enthusiasm among the Parties to engage meaningfully. Finally, the domestic budget crunch in most member countries of the EU has pulled them back from any progressive financial commitment.

Climate change negotiations are complex and overwhelming. Converging the varied interests of 198 Parties (197 countries + EU) to build consensus is challenging. The delicate nuances arise from the nature of the issue that involves diverse stakeholders, technical considerations, long-term commitments, political sensitivity, and legal frameworks. This is not a failed COP, and neither multilateralism is ineffective as many commentators have lamented. Multilateralism has not failed; it is the governments of nation-states that have miserably failed to carry out the ethos of multilateralism in addressing global environmental challenges. The world may not get a good deal in every COP but each COP must provide progressive pathways in tackling climate breakdown.

The writer is international advisor, Climate Change Risk and Transboundary Rivers, GIZ.

Do not give way, hold tight. It is when everything seems lost that all is saved.



THE MOTHER

Multilateralism or Bust

At 82, I have lived through countless political and social upheavals, enough to become somewhat inured to history's recurring cycles. But recent developments have left me profoundly shaken and afraid. The bedrock principles of international law, established in the aftermath of World War II, are being flagrantly undermined. The ban on acquiring territory by force, the obligation to protect civilians during conflict, the limitations on the right of self-defence, and the United Nations Security Council's mandate to "maintain international peace and security" are all unraveling, with little regard for the consequences.

In Ukraine and Gaza, occupation has been weaponised as a means of settling disputes, with civilians used as cannon fodder and the right to self-defence distorted to justify acts of retaliation and revenge - in Gaza, these actions border on genocide. Meanwhile, the United States and Russia routinely abuse their veto power at the UN Security Council, reducing it to a toothless body incapable of calling for a ceasefire in either conflict. Amid this geopolitical turmoil, extrajudicial killings, once universally condemned, are celebrated as triumphs.

This breakdown reflects the rapid transformation of the multilateral security system into a multipolar order dominated by three major powers, each singularly focused on protecting its interests and expanding its sphere of influence, leaving the rest of the world increasingly insecure. In today's global landscape, the cardinal rule seems to be: With enough power, governments can get away with murder.

The erosion of international rules and norms is compounded by glaring double standards. Western powers' unconditional support for Israel's actions in Gaza and Lebanon - repeatedly justified by the refrain, "Israel has the right to defend itself" - contrasts sharply with the harsh economic sanctions imposed on Russia. Admittedly, Russia initiated the war in Ukraine, just as Hamas did in Gaza, but Israel's violations of international law have been so numerous and egregious that it has effectively assumed the role of aggressor.

These double standards have been acutely felt across the developing world, where the common perception is that major democracies' commitment to human rights ends at their own borders. Consequently, a profound sense of injustice and hypocrisy has intensified the long-standing distrust between the Global North and South.

Alarmingly, geopolitical tensions are deepening just as humanity is grappling with three existential threats that require close international cooperation: climate change, the nuclear-arms race, and the rise of artificial intelligence.

The climate crisis has already escalated into a full-blown environmental catastrophe, marked by increasingly frequent and severe storms, floods, droughts, and wildfires. Without drastic cuts in greenhouse-gas emissions, global warming is projected to surpass the 2 degrees Celsius threshold set by the 2015 Paris climate agreement and reach 3 degrees C by the end of the century. Yet the international community is unable to agree on the actions and financing needed to avert disaster. US President-elect Donald Trump, who withdrew from the Paris accord during his first term, is widely expected to do so again, jeopardizing progress toward effective climate action.

Similarly, efforts to mitigate the nuclear threat have regressed into a frantic arms race. In stark contrast to Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev's assertion that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought," some nuclear-armed states now openly flaunt their stockpiles. Russia, for example, has repeatedly threatened to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine. Adding to these dangers, the New START Treaty - the last remaining agreement regulating the arsenals of the world's two largest nuclear powers - is set to expire in early 2026.

Like nuclear power, addressing the risks posed by AI requires global oversight and collaboration. But in today's climate of confrontation and brinkmanship, meaningful cooperation between the US, China, and Russia is highly unlikely.

Rising inequality, both within and between countries, is another major driver of global instability. Economic disparities, coupled with growing public distrust of elites, have fueled the recent surge of populism. This is particularly concerning, since history has shown that unchecked inequality creates fertile ground for the rise of authoritarian and fascist leaders.

A new mindset is urgently needed. In the absence of an effective and inclusive security order, the global arms race will intensify, increasing the likelihood of nuclear war. Isolationism and trade wars, which would stifle economic growth and replace the rule of law with rule by force, are not the answer. Instead, governments must recognise that the only path forward is through cooperation and compromise.

It is also necessary to recognise that globalization, while not without its flaws, brings significant benefits. In the face of today's monumental challenges, we can either work to ensure freedom and security for all or watch the world descend into chaos. To those who would call this pie-in-the-sky idealism, here is some hardheaded realism: without a renewed commitment to freedom, equality, human dignity, and solidarity, we face the very real prospect of collective ruin.

The writer, Director General Emeritus of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005, jointly with the IAEA.

PROJECT SYNDICATE



Mohamed ElBaradei

ALARMINGLY, GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS ARE DEEPENING JUST AS HUMANITY IS GRAPPLING WITH THREE EXISTENTIAL THREATS THAT REQUIRE CLOSE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: CLIMATE CHANGE, THE NUCLEAR-ARMS RACE, AND THE RISE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

SPECTRUM STATE

The need for textile industry

On the eve of independence, Biju Patnaik, a dare devil freedom fighter and visionary entrepreneur cum politician, approached Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab, the then Prime Minister of Odisha, to assist him to put a textile mill in Choudwar.



Natabar Khuntia

AGRO BASED INDUSTRIES CAN REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT AND ENSURE REMUNERATIVE PRICES TO FARMERS

Mahtab bluntly denied and said, "Khadi movement was one of the most important arms in the hands of Mahatma Gandhi during freedom movement and we are going to own the much awaited independence soon. How is it that you propose to put a textile mill in Odisha just after the independence? It would be contrary to the wish of Mahatma Gandhi. We will go for spreading khadi instead of mill made clothing."

Biju Patnaik immediately quipped: "Sir, khadi was a symbol of swadeshi movement against the Britishers who were selling mill made clothing manufactured in Manchester denying employment to our workers. Do you think that India can meet the clothing needs of her growing population by spreading khadi? Definitely not. India will have to go for

establishing textile mills to meet the clothing needs of the growing population. We should not continue to import from Manchester. If in Odisha we will not have textile mills then we will have to meet our clothing requirements by importing from other states which are going to start textile mills."

Mahtab was convinced and extended all help to start a textile mill at Choudwar.

The name of the mill was Odisha Textile Mill (OTM) which was incorporated as a public limited company by Biju Patnaik and Pratap Singh on 25 January, 1946 and started production in 1950. OTM had a good reputation as manufacturer of quality clothes. It was the leading textile mill of South-East Asia. Initially more than 10,000 workers were engaged directly, besides a large number of people were earning their livelihood by providing different types of associated services. At that time Odisha was not producing enough cotton to meet the requirements. Cotton was being brought through Cotton Corporation of India from Mumbai. After moderniza-

tion, the number of workers was reduced to around 4,000 gradually.

Unfortunately due to labour unrest, political interference and mismanagement, OTM became sick and was taken over by the Government of Odisha acquiring all the private shares in 1981 after the private management declared lockout. The half hearted attempts of the state government could not revive the mill. It is under the process of liquidation. Legal battle is still going on. But the plant and machinery of the mill have become scarp. OTM couldn't be revived.

Odisha needs a textile industry. The state is now producing 6.65 lakh bales of cotton. Since there is no textile mill and all the spinning mills are defunct, the cotton farmers face lot of problems in selling their produce at remunerative price. They are being exploited by traders from other states. Odisha requires 17,769.98 square meters of fabrics whereas only 1.12 per cent is produced by the handloom sector. The remaining 98.88 per cent of required fabric is brought from outside of the state. It is esti-

ated that annually around Rs 25,000 crore worth of fabrics is being imported.

There is a proverb in Odia, "Dashi Dash Lokaku Poshe" - "cotton provides livelihood to ten persons." It means cotton passes through ten stages to reach the ultimate consumer in the form of fabric. The textile industry is a labour intensive industry which creates employment opportunities for large number of workers compared to mega mineral based industries.

Odisha is infamous for its migrant labourers since employment opportunities are limited in the state. For the last two and a half decades, the state government gave much importance to mineral based mega capital intensive industries almost neglecting agro based industries. Agro based industries such as textile mills can reduce unemployment, ensure remunerative prices to cotton farmers and provide clothing to the common people at affordable price.

The writer is a plant pathologist by education, a banker by profession and a farm activist by passion.

WISDOM CORNER

Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars.

KAHLIL GIBRAN

However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at.

STEPHEN HAWKING

Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.

DALE CARNEGIE

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 their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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

Convenient scapegoat

Sir, It's good to hear that a few Congress leaders like Karti Chidambaram and Mohan Kumaramangalam have questioned the party's oft-repeated stand of blaming the EVM whenever it badly loses an election. The internal security apparatus of an EVM is one time programmable. The "standalone" machine has no wireless access to tools like Bluetooth, among others, which means changing the internal security of such a system would mean changing the whole machine. Congress should introspect on what went wrong in one of India's largest states without finding a convenient scapegoat in the EC and EVM because the foolproof quotient of the EVMs have been widely hailed by experts. Elections in India have come a long way from the ballot box to the ballot papers to the EVM voting system keeping in mind the need to check various factors like fake voting, rigging and invalid votes.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

White Revolution

Sir, Operation Flood started the White Revolution in India and made our country self-sufficient in milk and this was achieved entirely through the cooperative structure. Today around 12 million farmers in more than 22 states across the country own around 250 dairy plants handling around 20 million litres of milk a day. This is a remarkable achievement. While we in India tend to take our achievement for granted, this feat elicited high praise and admiration throughout the world. In 1955 our butter imports were 500 tonnes per year; today our cooperatives alone produce more than 12,000 tonnes of butter. Similarly, we imported 3000 tonnes of baby food in 1955; today our cooperatives alone produce 38,000 tonnes of baby food. By 1975 all imports of milk and milk products stopped. The import permitted was that of food aid under Operation Flood. A separate agency called the Indian Dairy Corporation (IDC) was created to receive grants of food aid and use it in Operation Flood. This agency was also headed by the marvelous Dr. Verghese Kurien. Moreover when Amul started there were so many competitors in the market but Amul stood the test of time and over the years emerged as India's favourite.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI



# Nagaland CM launches economic initiatives



**Launched Economic Empowerment Initiatives. Pleased to unveil UraCab, Nagaland Tourism Connect (Hornbill Edition), & Digital Piggery Insurance. These milestones reflect Govt's commitment to empowering local entrepreneurs and enhancing tourism infrastructure**

NEIPHIU RIO | CM, NAGALAND

**Kohima, Nov 27:** Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio Wednesday launched several economic empowerment initiatives here to improve the state's tourism, transport, agriculture and entrepreneurial sectors.

The CM launched Ura Cabs, a homegrown taxi aggregation platform designed to offer seamless travel experiences for tourists and stable income opportunities for local taxi operators.

He also flagged off the Nagaland Tourism Connect - Hornbill Edition, an initiative that introduces newly branded tourism vehicles.

"Launched Economic Empowerment Initiatives. Pleased to unveil UraCab, Nagaland Tourism Connect (Hornbill Edition), & Digital Piggery Insurance. These milestones reflect Govt's commitment to empowering local entrepreneurs and enhancing tourism infrastructure," Rio said in a post on X.

"Proud to see citizens being empowered through capacity-building programs for homestays, tour guides, taxis & heritage interpreters. Also, handed over financial aid under CM's Life Insurance Scheme. These are significant steps in our journey towards growth, innovation & inclusivity," he said in the post.

Rio emphasised the importance of the Chief Minister's Micro Finance Initiative (CMMFI) which offers up to 42 per cent in subsidies for vehicles procured for commercial

The CM launched Ura Cabs, a homegrown taxi aggregation platform designed to offer seamless travel experiences for tourists and stable income opportunities for local taxi operators.

He also flagged off the Nagaland Tourism Connect - Hornbill Edition, an initiative that introduces newly branded tourism vehicles

He also launched the Digital Piggery Insurance Scheme, an innovative solution tailored to the unique challenges of livestock insurance in remote regions

use in Nagaland, helping local entrepreneurs and creating more job opportunities.

He also launched the Digital Piggery Insurance Scheme, an innovative solution tailored to the unique challenges of livestock insurance in remote regions.

This app-based initiative, developed with the support of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and Tata AIG, ensures efficient, cost-effective insurance processing, particularly for remote farmers.

Rio expressed pride in the strides Nagaland is making towards development, highlighting

# Farmer leader raps Punjab govt over Dallewal issue

Pandher says the state government has not yet given any clarification regarding the forcible removal of farmer leader Dallewal from Khanauri border point



**Chandigarh, Nov 27:** Kisan Mazdoor Morcha leader Sarwan Singh Pandher Wednesday again slammed the Punjab government for forcibly taking away farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal from the Khanauri border point.

Pandher also said farmer leader Sukhjot Singh Hardo-jhanda is sitting on a fast unto death in place of Dallewal.

"Sukhjot's fast unto death enters the second day," he said.

Dallewal, who was to begin a fast unto death to press for farmers' demands Tuesday, was allegedly forcibly removed from the Khanauri border point and taken to a Ludhiana hospital for a checkup Tuesday.

Pandher, while lashing out at the Bhagwant Mann government, Wednesday said that

should tell people of the state about yesterday's incident (taking away Dallewal) and why it was done," he asked.

Pandher asked people to reach the Khanauri border point in large numbers.

The farmer leader also said they will see whether MPs raise the issues of giving a legal guarantee to MSP on crops, farm debt waiver in the ongoing Parliament session.

Dallewal (70) Tuesday was taken to Dayanand Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) in Ludhiana for a medical checkup after he was allegedly forcibly removed from the protest site at the Khanauri border point.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Mandeep Singh Sidhu Tuesday said the administration was concerned about Dallewal's age and health in the wake of his fast-unto-death call.

Farmers are demanding from the Centre to hold talks with them within 10 days to resolve their issues. They said that the union government has not held any talks with them regarding their issues since February 18.

He reiterated that the protesting farmers will march towards Delhi December 6.

The Sanyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha had earlier announced plans to intensify their agitation in support of farmers' various demands, including a legal guarantee for MSP, by starting a fast unto death.

# 70% decrease in Punjab's stubble burning incidents: NGT report

The NGT previously sought regular reports from the authorities in the state on the issue of air pollution caused in the NCR owing to stubble burning



**New Delhi, Nov 27:** The National Green Tribunal has been informed through a report that Punjab's stubble burning incidents have decreased by 70 per cent.

The NGT previously sought regular reports from the authorities in the state on the issue of air pollution caused in the NCR owing to stubble burning.

A report dated November 26 was filed by the director of agriculture and farmers' welfare department, saying "As a result of the efforts made by the state of Punjab, the number of paddy stubble burning incidents reduced from 36,551 November

25, 2023, to 10,479 November 25, 2024 - a decrease of 70 per cent."

The report stated about 19.52 million tonne of paddy straw was expected to be managed in the year through various means, including in-situ (managing paddy straw on the field) and ex-situ (transporting the straw for various uses) methods and using the residue for animal fodder.

"In ex-situ management, primarily balers are used for collection of straw before transportation for industrial and other

uses. As per the demand from farmers, till date 2,183 different types of balers and 2,039 rakes have been made available on subsidy under the crop residue management (CRM) scheme," the report said.

A baler is a tractor-mounted implement to compress crop residue into cylindrical or rectangular bales while a rake collects the straw in rows.

According to the report, more than 6.2 million tonne of paddy straw was managed through ex-situ methods in 2024.

# Village councils to challenge term curtailment in court

**Aizawl, Nov 27:** All Mizoram Village Council Association (AMVCA) has termed the state government's decision to curtail the current term of village councils (VC) as "undemocratic" and said they would challenge the order in high court.

A notification issued by the Local Administration department last week said that the current term of the village councils in Mizoram barring those within three autonomous district council areas in the southern part of the state, has been curtailed by six months and shall end February 19 next year.

AMVCA president K Lalngazuala said that members of village councils during a con-



ference held in Aizawl Tuesday unanimously adopted a resolution to approach the Gauhati High Court to protect the prestige of village councils.

Lalngazuala said that they did not simply oppose the curtailment but termed the gov-

ernment's decision as "undemocratic."

He claimed that they have decided to move to the high court to protect their rights as well as the reputation of village councils.

The reduction of village councils term has drawn flak from different quarters, including Opposition parties.

Congress alleged that the village councils tenure was shortened as the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) led state government found it difficult to cooperate with those VCs dominated by Opposition parties.

Earlier, Mizoram Local Administration (LAD) minister C Lalsawivunga had claimed that the tenure of the existing village councils (VCs) was reduced to ensure effective management and use of state funds as well as to adjust the extension necessitated by the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020.

## GLACIAL FLOOD RISKS

# SIKKIM EMBARKS ON CRITICAL EXPEDITION

**Gangtok, Nov 27:** To mitigate risks of glacial lake outburst floods and enhance climate resilience, the Sikkim government is launching its fourth and final expedition for 2024 from November 27 to December 5.

The mission responds to the alarming increase in glacial lake hazards due to climate-induced glacier retreat, with 40 high-risk glacial lakes identified in Sikkim alone, according to an official release.

In the earlier expeditions, a comprehensive assessment of several high-risk lakes was completed. Additionally, Automatic Weather and Water Level Monitoring stations have been installed at Shako Chho and South Lhonak Lake, with support from the Swiss Development Corporation.

These monitoring stations have started providing daily weather data, water level data, and photographs. They also



have a built-in alert system in case of sudden water level changes, the release said.

Building on the earlier studies, the focus is now on designing robust glacial flood mitigation strategies. The expedition team is exploring two mitigation proposals - lowering the lake water level at Shako Chho and a retention structure at Dolma Sampa.

Accordingly, a lake discharge study and subsurface geophysical analysis of the southern lateral moraine are planned at Shako Chho Lake.

At Dolma Sampa in Lhonak Valley, comprehensive studies will be undertaken, including subsurface geophysical investigations, discharge assessment

of Goma Chu, topographical mapping, debris deposition analysis, and flood-level measurements.

The studies will help refine glacial flood modelling, provide insights into subsurface geology, and inform the design of retention structures to mitigate potential glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs).

The participants include scientists and engineers from the Science and Technology Department and the Mines and Geology Department, supported by the Indian Army's 27 Mountain Division and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.

The expedition team's main challenges will be the high altitude of 17,000 feet and sub-zero temperatures. This expedition underscores Sikkim's commitment to proactive disaster risk reduction, addressing cascading natural hazards amplified by climate change and protecting its communities and ecosystems, the release said.

### AN INVESTOR EDUCATION AND AWARENESS INITIATIVE

Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds.

**Date and Venue:**  
Saturday, 30th November 2024; 6:30 p.m. onwards.  
at Hotel Adhar Regency, Barbil, Odisha.  
For registration, please contact: Debasish Panda, Mobile: 96686 34493.  
Sunday, 1st December 2024; 6:30 p.m. onwards.  
at Hotel Lao Palace, Joda, Keonjhar, Odisha.  
For registration, please contact: Debasish Panda, Mobile: 96686 34493.  
Registration is compulsory.  
The registration time will be from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
No walk-ins will be allowed.

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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](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](http://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 complaints through the SCORES portal at <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 at <https://smartodr.in/odrg>.

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

### GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

No.A-623

## DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

### 'e' Procurement Notice-BAID 01 of 2024-25

#### BID IDENTIFICATION NO.BAID 01 OF 2024-25

1	Name of the Work	Improvement/maintenance of canal work for the year 2024-25.
2	Total No. of Package	10 Nos.
3	Tender Cost	Rs.8.51 Lakhs to 16.95 Lakhs as per DTCN
4	Bid Security	Rs.8600/- to 17000/-
5	Cost of Tender Paper (Online)	Rs.6000/- as per DTCN
6	Period of Completion	As per DTCN
7	Availability of Tender online for Bidding	From 28.11.2024 at 12.00 Noon to 07.12.2024 upto 5.30 P.M.
8	Date and Place of Opening	Dt.09.12.2024 at 11.00 AM in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Baitarani Irrigation Division, Salapada
9	Tender Inviting Authority	Superintending Engineer, Baitarani Irrigation Division, Salapada

Further details can be seen from the website <http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in/www.dowrodisha.gov.in>. Any Addendum/ Corrigendum/Cancellation to the above notice will be published in this website only.

**Sd./Superintending Engineer**  
Baitarani Irrigation Division,  
Salapada

OIPR-32006/11/0002/2425

### OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, RAYGADA

DIST.- RAYGADA, PIN CODE-765001, ODISHA  
e-mail ID - raygada.hud@nic.in

Letter No. 4675 Date: 26.11.24

#### "e" - TENDER NOTICE

##### Bid Identification No. RGDA-MUN-02/2024-25

No.C-1117:- Bid documents consisting of 12 (Twelve) No. of Civil Works with their Estimated Cost (Work Value), Cost of Tender Paper, E.M.D., Time of Completion, Class of Contractors, Additional Performance Security Deposit and the set of Terms and Conditions applicable for the contract and other required necessary documents can be seen in the Government website (i.e. <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>).

1	Name of the Work	Civil works as mentioned in the website.
2	No. of the Work	12 (Twelve) Nos.
3	Estimated costs	As mentioned in the DTCN.
4	Periods of the completion	As mentioned against the work in the NIT/ DTCN
5	Date & Time of availability of Bid Documents on the Portal	From Dated 28.11.2024, 11.30 A.M. hrs to Dated 12.12.2024, 05.30 P.M. hrs.
6	Bids received online to be opened on	Dated 13.12.2024, 11.30 P.M. hrs.
7	Name and Address of the Officer inviting the Bid	The Executive Officer, Raygada Municipality, Raygada

Further details can be seen from the Procurement Portal <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>

**Sd./Executive Officer,**  
Raygada Municipality

OIPR-13150/11/0037/2425

### GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

No.A-634

## DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

### OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

#### ADDITIONAL SPILLWAY DIVISION, BURLA

PHONE NO.:0663-2430080

E-mails-easdhirakud@gmail.com/seadditionalspillway@gmail.com

#### 'e' Procurement Notice No.ASD-06(01-03)/2024-25 (Online)

1	Nature of Work	Civil Works (details mentioned in D.T.C.N.)
2	Nos. of Work	03 (Three) Nos.
3	Amount Put to tender	Rs. 5.24 Lakh to 18.72 Lakh (Approx.)
4	Period of Completion	As per D.T.C.N. (60 days)
5	EMD	As per D.T.C.N. (Rs.5300/- to Rs.19000/-) to be deposited online
6	Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the Portal	Dt.28.11.2024 at 11.00 AM to Dt.08.12.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
7	Last Date/Time for receipt of Bids in the Portal	Dt.08.07.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
8	Date of Opening of Bid	Dt.09.12.2024 at 12.00 PM
9	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Dt.05.12.2024 upto 04.00 PM.
10	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Superintending Engineer, Additional Spillway Division, Burla AT/PO- Burla- 768017, Dist-Sambalpur Email <a href="mailto:easdhirakud@gmail.com">easdhirakud@gmail.com</a> / <a href="mailto:seadditionalspillway@gmail.com">seadditionalspillway@gmail.com</a>

Further detail can be seen from the e-Procurement portal [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)

**Sd./ Superintending Engineer,**  
Additional Spillway Division, Burla

OIPR-32414/11/0005/2425

# national



There is no escaping the fact that the (US) Department of Justice indictment clearly says that Gautam S Adani, Sagar R Adani, and others 'devised a scheme to offer, authorise, make and promise to make bribe payments to Indian government officials in exchange for the government officials causing state electricity distribution companies to enter into PSAs with SECI' (para 47)

## GOVT BLOCKS 6.69L SIM CARDS

The Centre has blocked 6.69 lakh SIM cards and 1.32 lakh International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers reported by police authorities to check cyber crimes in the country, Rajya Sabha was informed Wednesday



### of the day uote

I had re-signed as a minister of Delhi November 17, and the same day, I had also resigned from the primary membership of the Aam Aadmi Party. I hereby now tender my resignation from the Legislative Assembly of Delhi

KAILASH GAHLOT | FORMER DELHI MINISTER

The Supreme Court has already stated its position on the EVM issue. The top court indicated that the blame for losses should not be shifted to EVMs. The EVMs will continue to operate

The RPI (A), which is a BJP ally, feels Devendra Fadnavis should get an opportunity to become the Chief Minister again. However, if the high command decides to make Eknath Shinde the CM, we will back it

RAMDAS ATHAWALE | UNION MINISTER

# Will back PM, Shah's Maha CM pick: Shinde

With Shinde declaring the Shiv Sena would not be a "hurdle" in the formation of new government, two-time BJP Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, one of the architects of the ruling Mahayuti's grand win in the just-held state Assembly polls, is emerging as a front-runner for the top post

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 27: Caretaker Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Wednesday announced the Shiv Sena would support the decisions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to name the next Maharashtra CM, paving the way for the BJP to head the new government.

With Shinde declaring the Shiv Sena would not be a "hurdle" in the formation of new government, two-time BJP chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, one of the architects of the ruling Mahayuti's grand win in the just-held state assembly polls, is emerging as a front-runner for the top post.

The caretaker CM's declaration at a press conference in his political turf Thane marks a significant step toward a smooth transition of power after the BJP-led ruling alliance achieved a stunning victory in the November 20 polls.

As discussions about the new government intensify, political observers are closely watching the developments that may soon lead to Fadnavis being appointed as the new chief minister with two deputy CMs.

Shinde (60), alongside his outgoing deputies Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), is expected to meet with Shah in New Delhi Thursday to further discuss modalities of the government formation.

Maharashtra NDA leaders are also likely to meet the top BJP brass here Thursday, BJP sources said, indicating the formula of one Chief Minister and



two deputy CMs representing the all three major 'Mahayuti' constituents (BJP, Shiv Sena, NCP) will be followed in the new government.

Shinde, who heads the Shiv Sena, may swap his position with Fadnavis, while Pawar will continue as one of the two deputy CMs, the sources said.

However, the details of the new government are likely to be given a concrete shape in the meeting of the state's ruling alliance leaders with the BJP's national leadership.

Talking to reporters at his Thane residence, five days after the resounding victory of the Mahayuti alliance, Shinde said "I spoke to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister and assured them that there will be no hindrance from our side."

"Our Shiv Sena will fully support the BJP's decision to name the next Maharashtra CM. There is no speed breaker from our side," Shinde said, showing no trace on his face of having to swallow the bitter pill.

Ajit Pawar told reporters the new CM is likely to be sworn-in either November 30 or December 1. There will be two deputy

chief ministers in the incoming government, added the NCP leader.

Shinde rubbished reports he was disappointed for not getting a second term as CM despite the ruling alliance winning a thumping victory under his leadership.

"Nobody is annoyed. We have worked as Mahayuti," the Shiv Sena leader, who assumed the top office in June 2022, asserted.

Asked if he was dismayed that he was not getting a second term, Shinde said, "There is no such thing. You must remember that BJP supported my tenure as CM."

"There is a meeting in Delhi tomorrow with Amit bhai (Shah) and all related decisions will be taken there," Shinde said.

"I thank the people and voters of Maharashtra for this landslide victory in the assembly elections. I am a worker forever; for me, CM is not Chief Minister but Common Man," he noted.

Shinde thanked PM Modi and Home Minister Shah for supporting him during his two-and-a-half year tenure as chief minister.

## JHANSI HOSPITAL FIRE

### Three suspended, Principal removed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 27: Uttar Pradesh government Wednesday removed Jhansi medical college's principal and suspended three staff members after a four-member committee submitted its report on the November 15 fire incident that claimed lives of 10 children.

The action was taken by Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who also holds responsibility of the Health department. Based on the report of the four-member committee, constituted on the instructions of Pathak, the principal of Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College in Jhansi district has been removed, officials said.

Three college staff members -- a chief superintendent, a junior engineer and a NICU ward nursing sister in-charge - have been suspended, they said. "Based on the committee's investigation, college principal Dr Narendra Singh Sengar has been removed from the post. He has been attached to the Directorate General of Medical Education Department," an official said.

The department has also given chargesheets to all those against whom action has been taken. In this charges against them are elaborated and they will have to make a reply to the department, officials said. Chief Medical Superintendent Dr Sachin Mahur is among those given chargesheets, they said.

The college's junior engineer (electrical) Sanjeet Kumar, NICU ward's nursing sister in-charge Sandhya Rai and chief superintendent Dr Sunita Rathore were immediately suspended, the officials said. Deputy CM Pathak said a probe by the Jhansi divisional commissioner has been ordered on the role of Head of Paediatrics department Dr Om Shankar Chaurasia and Incharge of Electrical department in the matter.

# Waqf Parl panel set for extension



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 27: The Parliamentary committee scrutinising the Waqf (Amendment) Bill is set for an extension till the last day of the next Budget Session following a stormy meet of the panel marked by a brief walkout from its Opposition members before a unanimous decision was taken to seek more time to finalise its report.

The Opposition members of the committee staged a walkout and slammed Pal, who is the joint Parliamentary committee chairperson, for asserting that the panel's draft report was ready. Temperatures cooled down after Pal and the BJP members of the committee reached out to them, indicating their willingness to press for an extension of the committee's deadline of November 29 to submit its report to Lok Sabha.

The Lok Sabha, which had constituted the committee, later listed in its list of business for Thursday a motion to extend the time for the presentation of its report "upto the last day of the Budget Session 2025". Earlier, Pal, who is a BJP MP, said after the committee's meeting that its members were unanimous in its view as it has to listen to some other stakeholders, including six states, where there are disputes between the Waqf and the state governments. "We feel that

The Opposition members of the committee staged a walkout and slammed Pal, who is the joint Parliamentary committee chairperson, for asserting that the panel's draft report was ready

Temperatures cooled down after Pal and the BJP members of the committee reached out to them, indicating their willingness to press for an extension of the committee's deadline of November 29 to submit its report to Lok Sabha

there is a need to extend its deadline," Pal told reporters. BJP MP and committee member Aparajita Sarangi said the panel will request Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to extend the time for submission of its report to the House upto the last day of the Budget Session of 2025. Pal and another BJP MP Dilip Saikia will move the motion in the Lower House to this effect. The committee is expected to visit a few states to meet different stakeholders. Following the last meeting of the committee November 21, Pal had said its draft report is ready. He indicated that the committee's consultation with stakeholders is over and its members will now discuss the report and suggest changes, if any, before it is adopted. The Opposition members took strong exception to this stand in the Wednesday's meeting and soon stormed out.

## SHORT TAKES

### Delhi battles 'very poor' air quality

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality remained in the "very poor" category for the fourth consecutive day Wednesday, while the city recorded its second-coldest night of the season. The minimum temperature dipped to 10.4 degrees Celsius, 0.1 notch above normal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), which has also forecast a further drop to 9 degrees Celsius at night. The coldest night of the season so far was recorded November 21, when the temperature settled at 10.2 degrees Celsius. Delhi's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 303 at 4 pm, a slight improvement from 343 the previous day.

### Shiv Sena MPs meet Amit Shah

New Delhi: Shiv Sena MPs Wednesday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah, days after the BJP-led Mahayuti registered a landslide victory in the Maharashtra Assembly elections. Shiv Sena MPs led by Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav, Ravindra Waikar, Sandipan Bhumare, Shrirang Appa Barne, Milind Deora, Dhairyasheel Mane and former Lok Sabha member Rahul Shewale met Shah in Parliament. Mane said the MPs thanked Shah for campaigning extensively for the elections and touring almost every district of the state.

### Heavy rains in Pondicherry

Pondicherry: Chief Minister N Rangasamy Wednesday chaired an emergency meeting of officials from various departments of the union territory to review the situation arising out of heavy rains in Puducherry and Karaikal regions. Preparedness of different departments to tackle the rain and likely impact of the cyclone Fengal were also discussed.

### JPSC scam: CBI chargesheets 60

New Delhi: The CBI has filed a chargesheet against 60 individuals, including the then Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) chairman Dilip Kumar Prasad, for alleged irregularities in the civil services exam, officials said Wednesday. The CBI chargesheet has come 12 years after the central probe agency registered the case in 2012 on the orders of Jharkhand High Court to probe JPSC-two recruitment scam.

## SNIPPETS

### Arrest of Hindu leader in B'desh: Giriraj Singh seeks UN intervention

New Delhi: Union Minister Giriraj Singh Wednesday said the attack on Hindus in Bangladesh reflects that the interim government of that country was in the "clutches of fundamentalists" and sought the United Nations' intervention in the matter. Condemning the arrest of a Hindu leader in Bangladesh, Singh said such attacks are acts against humanity. The BJP, however, refrained from making any comment and said it stands by the "rightful stand" taken by the External Affairs Ministry on the issue.

### Air India pilot dies by suicide, boyfriend held for abetment

Mumbai: A 25-year-old female pilot of Air India hanged herself with a data cable at her rented flat in Mumbai following which police arrested her boyfriend on charges of abetment, an official said Wednesday. Srishti Tuli, who lived at the Kanakia Rain Forest building in the Marol area, died by suicide in the early hours of Monday. Police took her boyfriend Aditya Pandit (27) into custody Tuesday.

### Priyanka likely to take oath as MP today

New Delhi: Congress leaders from Wayanad handed over the election certificate of the parliamentary by-election to party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in the presence of Rahul Gandhi here Wednesday. Sources said Priyanka Gandhi is likely to take oath in the Lok Sabha Thursday. Leaders from Wayanad handed over the election certificate of the Wayanad parliamentary by-election to Priyanka Gandhi and conveyed their best wishes.



A damaged navigation buoy that was floating near Marina beach on the bay of Bengal being retrieved from the shores as rough weather continues due to formation of deep depression following the onset of North East monsoon, near Chennai, Tamil Nadu

## '700 Kuki-Zo people sheltered in Assam sent back to Manipur'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Diphu (Assam), Nov 27: Assam's Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council chief executive member Tuliram Ronghang Wednesday said 700 Kuki-Zo people, who had sought refuge in the district last year due to the violence in Manipur, have already been sent back following discussions with Kuki community leaders and organisations.

Ronghang said the council had covered the travel expenses for the returnees, and they were sent back in buses with security escorts. The council chief also said around 1,000 more Kuki-Zo people, including around 400 families, are currently sheltered in Singhasan Hills and Borjan areas, and efforts will be made to help them return as well. The CEM emphasised that discussions had been held with various stakeholders, including student organisations and village elders from both the Karbi and Kuki communities, to ensure the safe and peaceful return of displaced Kuki families.

However, Ronghang made it clear that land allotments would only be granted to indigenous residents of Karbi Anglong who have lived in the district since its establishment or are long-standing permanent residents.

"We will not allow land rights to individuals migrating from outside, especially those who came from Manipur following the violence," he said. The land documents distribution initiative, aimed at ensuring land rights for the indigenous people, will not extend to these recent migrants, he added. A meeting has been scheduled for November 28 to further discuss the matter, and Ronghang expressed hope for an amicable resolution.

# 994 hoax bomb threats to airlines till Nov 13

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 27: Airlines received 994 hoax bomb threats this year till November 13 and

received from August 2022 till November 13, 2024, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Muralidhar Mohol informed Rajya Sabha November 25.

During the period from August 2022 to December 2022, there were 27 threats and the number rose to 122 last year. From January to November 13, 2024, the total threats received stood at 994, as per the data shared by the minister in a written reply to the Upper House. "The recent threats were

robust protocols are in place to handle such threats, the government has said. To deal with the menace of hoax calls in a comprehensive manner, the civil aviation ministry plans to amend the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Aircraft (Security) Rules, 2023. A total of 1,143 hoax bomb threat messages/calls were

During the period from August 2022 to December 2022, there were 27 threats and the number rose to 122 last year. From January to November 13, 2024, the total threats received stood at 994, as per the data shared by the minister in a written reply to the Upper House



hoax and no actual threat was detected at any of the airports/aircraft in India. As per assessment of BTAC, operations of some of the flights were affected," the minister said. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has mandated robust protocols for handling such threats and Bomb Threat Contingency Plan (BTCP) is in place to handle such threats. "As a part of BTCP, every airport has a designated Bomb Threat Assessment Committee (BTAC) which analyses the threat and act accordingly. As per assessment of BTAC, hoax

bomb calls result in adversely affecting operations of some of the flights resulting in impact on airlines, airports and other stakeholders."

"BCAS has issued advisories to all the Civil Aviation Installations in the country to streamline security measures and to prevent any unlawful interference with civil aviation," Mohol said in another written reply.

As per Section 3(1)(d) of the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation Act, 1982, if any person communicates such information which he knows to be false so as to endanger the safety of an aircraft in flight, the person shall be punished with imprisonment for life and shall also be liable to fine.



# national



Today, I invited the sanitation workers of my area to my home for tea. I understood the challenges they face in their lives. They serve us with a smile every day, and keep our areas clean

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | AAP SUPREMO

## HOWRAH'S AIR QUALITY TURNS POOR

The air quality in Kolkata continued to be 'poor' for the second consecutive day Wednesday as the particulates hung heavy in the lower air causing breathing discomfort. In the industrial belts of Dasnagar and Padmapukur in the neighbouring twin city of Howrah, the air quality was classified as 'very poor', an official of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) said



## of the day uote

From tomorrow onwards, a new inning of Abua Sarkar (our government) will start. The oath-taking ceremony is scheduled on Thursday. I invite you all to attend the ceremony. You all have worked very hard to bring the Abua Sarkar again in power

HEMANT SOREN | J'KHAND CM DESIGNATE

Let's all unite together in condemning the detention of ISKCON Bangladesh Priest 'Chinmoy Krishna Das' by Bangladesh police. We urge and plead Bangladesh Govt (government) under Mohammed Yunus to stop atrocities on Hindus

PAWAN KALYAN | AP DY CM

Threatening someone and taking their thumb impression on a blank paper is also a crime. The honourable Supreme Court should take immediate cognisance and punish all those responsible for this incident by taking punitive action against the guilty government and administration

AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

## POST OF THE DAY

Normal people face investigation & prove their innocence But Adani > Adani : I am innocent > SEBI : Adani told "He is innocent" > Media : Adani is innocent, SEBI told that > BJP IT cell : Let's trend #AdaniNotGuilty , see media reports as evidence

@DrJain21

# Ruckus in Parliament over Adani, Sambhal violence

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 27: Parliament failed to transact any significant business on the second day of the winter session as protests by Opposition members who were pressing for discussions on allegations of irregularities against the Adani Group, Sambhal violence and other issues rocked both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Wednesday.

They wanted to discuss the allegations of irregularities against the Adani group and the recent violence in Sambhal during a court-ordered survey of a mosque. They trooped into the Well of the House raising slogans as soon as the House met again at 12 noon.

BJP member Dilip Saikia, who was in the chair, adjourned the proceedings for the day after official papers were laid on the table.

In Rajya Sabha, the trouble started after Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar rejected 18 notices under a rule of the House to suspend scheduled business to take up issues including the demand for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into the Adani issue. The proceedings were briefly adjourned due to Opposition protests, and when the House re-assembled at 11.30 AM, there were identical scenes. This prompted Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar to adjourn the proceedings for the day, saying the "House is not in order".

The notices related to the demand for the "constitution of a JPC to investigate the alleged misconduct, including corruption, bribery, financial irregularities of the Adani Group in connivance with other authorities", violence in



THE TWO HOUSES WERE ADJOURNED ONCE IN THE MORNING AND LATER FOR THE DAY AMID CONTINUING UPROAR BY OPPOSITION MEMBERS

SOON AFTER THE LOK SABHA MET, SPEAKER OM BIRLA TOOK UP THE QUESTION HOUR, BUT ADJOURNED THE HOUSE PROCEEDINGS FOLLOWING SLOGANEERING BY THE OPPOSITION MEMBERS

Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh and "rising" incidents of crime in the national capital. Only Congress members demanded a discussion under Rule 267 after the suspension of the house business, on setting up a joint parliamentary committee to probe allegations against the Adani group, while other Opposition parties gave similar notices on different issues.

"Upper House needs to reflect and follow well-established traditions that ruling of the Chair requires reference and not cause differences. I have, in detail, given reasons why, in these situations, notices are not being accepted," Dhankhar said while rejecting the notices under Rule 267 of the House. The Chairman also said that for the last 30 years, the House has reflected a consensual approach concerning Rule 267 every time. "As I have reiterated on sev-

eral occasions, I thought it wise to bestow focused attention given the situation that we are entering the last quarter of the century of adoption of the Constitution of India," he said.

Of the total 18 adjournment notices given under Rule 267, at least nine were from Congress members on the Adani matter, while others sought discussion on violence in Manipur and Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal.

The Congress members who had given the notices were G C Chandrashekhar, Randeep Singh Surjewala, Syed Naeer Hussain, Neeraj Dang, Renuka Chowdhury, Rajeev Shukla, Pramod Tiwari, Akhilesh Prasad Singh and Jebi Mather Hisham.

However, Sanjay Singh of AAP gave a notice for adjourning all other business of the House to discuss the "increasing crimes in Delhi".

Sushmita Dev (TMC), Tiruchi Siva (DMK), Raghav Chahha (AAP) and Sandosh Kumar P (CPI) had given separate notices under the same rule for discussion on violence in Manipur, while John Brittas (CPI-M), A A Rahim (CPI-M), Ram Gopal Yadav (SP) and Abdul Wahab (IUML) gave notices to discuss the recent violence in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh.

## MP: Sarpanch, kin kill Dalit man over land row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shivpuri (MP), Nov 27: A 30-year-old Dalit man was allegedly beaten to death by the sarpanch and seven others over a land dispute in a village in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district, an official said Wednesday.

Narad Jatav was fatally attacked Tuesday evening after he and his maternal uncle objected to a road created through their land to a hotel belonging to the sarpanch, Padam Dhakad, in Indergarh village, the official said. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, who was on a tour to the UK and Germany, directed energy minister and the district in-charge Pardyumna Singh Tomar to visit the village and extend help to the grieving family, an official said.

The CM has directed the release of ₹4 lakh aid to Jatav's family. The Chief Minister also informed that eight persons have been detained in connection with the Dalit man's murder. Yadav has directed officials to take strict action against the culprits, he said.

The chief minister said that elements spreading unrest in the state will face tough action. There is no place for cruelty and anarchy in Madhya Pradesh, he said. Earlier, an official had said that following the dispute over the road, Jatav allegedly removed the water supply line from a common borewell to the sarpanch Dhakad's hotel. Dhakad and his family then beat him with sticks and killed him, Kotwali police station in-charge Kripal Singh Rathore said.

Jatav's family protested in the medical college where his body was taken for autopsy, demanding the registration of a first information report (FIR) against the accused, he said. Later, police pacified them and registered a murder case against the sarpanch and his other family members, including his wife and sons, Rathore said.

## SAMBHAL VIOLENCE

# Protesters to pay for damage to property

Four people died and several others, including police personnel, were injured in Sambhal Sunday after a confrontation erupted over a court-ordered survey of the city's Shahi Jama Masjid in Kot Garvi area



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 27: The Uttar Pradesh government will make protesters involved in the Sambhal violence pay for damage to public property while posters of "stone pelters" will be displayed at public places, an official said Wednesday.

Sambhal police has released several pictures of those involved in violence. In these photographs, nine persons were identified and help is sought from people to identify those who have masks on their faces.

Four people died and several others, including police personnel, were injured in Sambhal on Sunday after a confrontation erupted over a court-ordered survey of the city's Shahi Jama Masjid in Kot Garvi area, following a petition claiming that a Harihar temple once stood at the site.

"The Uttar Pradesh government is adopting a firm stance against the individuals involved in the Sambhal violence. Posters of the stone pelters and miscreants will be displayed

publicly, and recovery of damages will be sought. A reward may also be announced for information leading to their arrest," an official spokesperson said.

Superintendent of Police Krishan Kumar said an estimate of losses to public property is being prepared.

"Stones were pelted on mosque also. Police vehicles, transformer, electric wires were damaged. Department concerned will prepare the estimates," the SP said.

Uttar Pradesh ministers Dharmaveer Prajapati and Narendra Kahsyap both reiterated that loss of public property will be realised from rioters and strict action will be taken against them.

In a similar initiative, the government had previously put up posters of individuals linked with vandalism during the anti-CAA protests in 2020. These posters were displayed across several locations, including the state capital, but were later removed following a court order.

# Changing faith for quota a fraud on Constitution: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 27: In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court has said religious conversions undertaken solely to avail reservation benefits without genuine belief amounted to a "fraud on the Constitution".

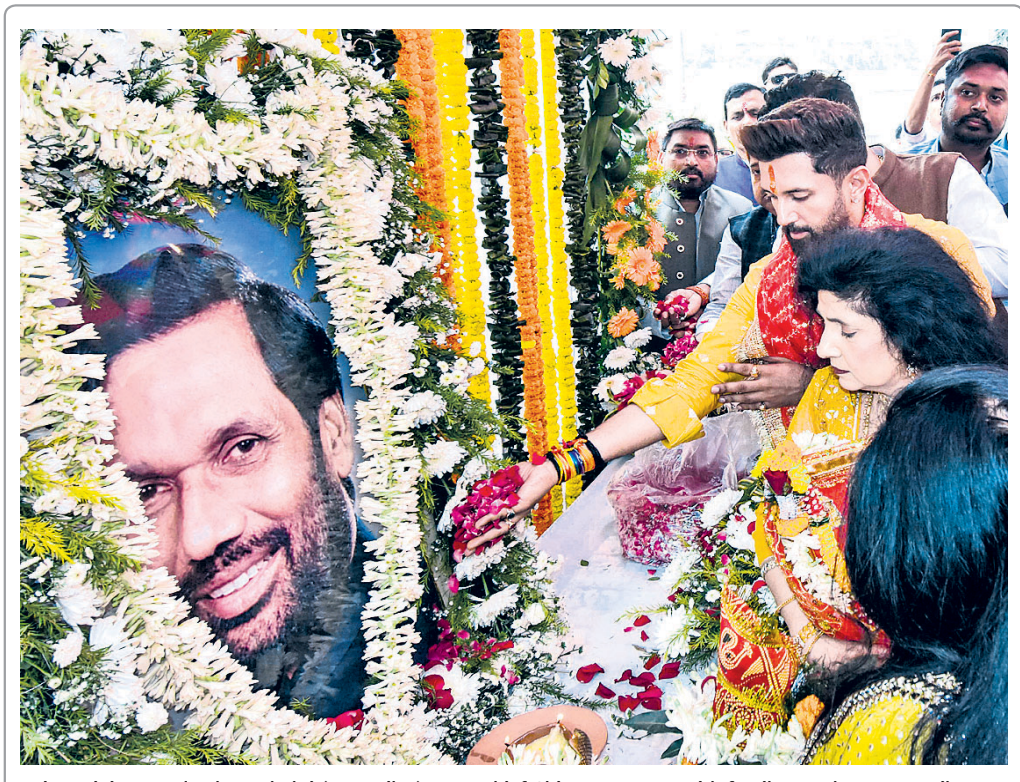
Justices Pankaj Mishra and R Mahadevan passed the verdict November 26 in a case filed by one C Selvarani and upheld a Madras High Court decision of January 24 denying a scheduled caste certificate to a woman who converted to Christianity but later claimed to be a Hindu to secure employment benefits.

Justice Mahadevan, who wrote the 21-page verdict for

the bench, further underscored that one converted to a different religion, when they were genuinely inspired by its principles, tenets and spiritual thoughts.

"However, if the purpose of conversion is largely to derive the benefits of reservation but not with any actual belief in the other religion, the same cannot be permitted, as the extension of benefits of reservation to people with such ulterior motives will only defeat the social ethos of the policy of reservation," he noted.

The evidence presented before the bench was found to have clearly demonstrated that the appellant professed Christianity and actively practiced the faith by attending church regularly.



Union Minister and Lok Janshakti (Ram Vilas) Party chief Chirag Paaswan with family members pays tribute to party founder Ramvilas Paswan during the 'Griha Pravesh' fuction at his new party office in Patna, Bihar

## Speculations about Cabinet reshuffle in K'taka gain momentum

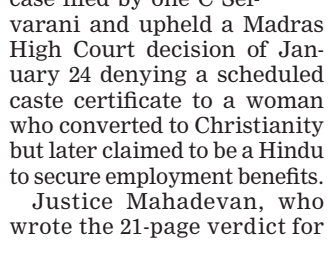
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 27: Speculations regarding the reshuffle of the Siddaramaiah-led Cabinet in the days ahead gained momentum in Karnataka with senior Minister Satish Jarkiholi Wednesday stating that there are talks about such an exercise, but don't know when it will take place.

His statement came a day after Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress president, indicated the possibility of a Cabinet reshuffle, noting that a few ministers have been given a "message" about their term. "There are talks that it will be done. Don't know when it will be done, but there is news that some people will be changed, to change some portfolios. Such discussions are on, but I don't know when...I have not asked for anything. It is left for the high command, whom they will give and how..." Jarkiholi, who is the PWD Minister said.

To a question about whether the reshuffle will be based on performance, he said, "Maybe... it may be they (leadership) are not satisfied with some, or they may continue with the existing ministers and not do the Cabinet rejig. Can't say...there are also several seniors in our party." Asked about whether ministers will be ready to give up the post in case of a reshuffle, Jarkiholi said, "What the high command says is final....if the list comes from Delhi (leadership of Congress), there ends the story. One should vacate the house and go...Delhi is final."

Speculations are rife about Cabinet reshuffle and evaluation of the performance of the ministers, ever since the Lok Sabha poll results. There has also been a demand from a section of MLAs, who are ministerial aspirants, to be inducted into the Cabinet. Some have openly expressed their wish to become ministers.



# Govt to crack down on vulgar content on social media

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 27: Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Wednesday called for stricter laws to curb vulgar content on social media, saying absence of editorial oversight has led to "uncontrolled expression" on such platforms.

Replying to supplementaries in the Question Hour in Lok Sabha, he said there was a vast difference in the cultural sensitivities in India and the countries where these social media platforms were created.

"The cultural sensitivities of India vastly differ from those of the regions where these platforms were created. This makes it imperative for India to make existing laws stricter and he urged everyone to come to a consensus on this matter," the minister said in response to a question raised by BJP member Arun Govil. Vaishnaw said the Parlia-



mentary Standing Committee should take up the issue and also called for a consensus to frame stricter laws in this regard. He said earlier there were editorial checks on publishing content, but the same has diminished since the advent of social media and OTT platforms.

"We are living in the era of social media and OTT platforms. However, the democratic institutions and traditional

forms of the press that once relied on editorial checks to ensure accountability and correctness of content, have seen these checks diminish over time," Vaishnaw said.

He said due to the absence of editorial oversight, social media has become a platform for freedom of press, but at the same time it has also become a space for uncontrolled expression, which often includes vulgar content.

We are living in the era of social media and OTT platforms. However, the democratic institutions and traditional forms of the press that once relied on editorial checks to ensure accountability and correctness of content, have seen these checks diminish over time

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | I&B MINISTER

OTT Platform will put in place adequate safeguard for restricting age inappropriate content for children.

The minister said in March, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken action and blocked 18 OTT platforms for publishing obscene and vulgar content.

"So far as the content on intermediary platforms like YouTube, Facebook, etc. is concerned, IT Rules, 2021

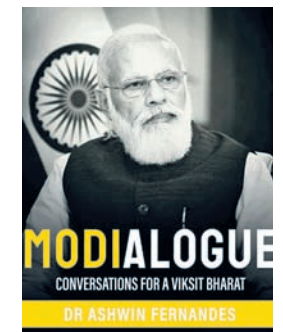
cast obligation on such platforms to make reasonable efforts by itself and to cause the user of their computer resource to not host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, etc. knowingly and intentionally any information which is obscene, pornographic, paedophilic, invasive of another's privacy, including bodily privacy, insulting or harassing on the basis of gender, racially or ethnically objectionable, or that is harmful to child," Vaishnaw said.

# international



The US and India are stronger when we are working together. The United States desires to continue coordinating closely with India to address global security challenges  
TONY BLINKEN | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

**BOOK ON INDIA'S GROWTH STORY**  
A new book exploring India's growth trajectory under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a particular focus on his communication strategy through the radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' was launched at the Nehru Centre in London



## of the day quote

Judging by what is happening on the battlefield, we are still far from a political and diplomatic resolution of the crisis. Washington and its allies remain fixated on achieving a strategic defeat for Russia  
SERGEI LAVROV | FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

I was pleased to accept the official invitation of the President of the Russian Federation V Putin to participate in these important celebrations (World War Two commemorations in Moscow), which I will do  
ROBERT FICO | PM, SLOVAKIA

In these turbulent times, the most powerful force of all is the recognition that we are more united by our common fate than divided by our distinct identities  
ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

## SHORT TAKES

### Philippine cops file complaints against VP

**Manila:** Philippine police officials Wednesday filed criminal complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte and her security staff for allegedly assaulting authorities and disobeying orders in a recent altercation in Congress. The criminal complaints filed by the Quezon City police were separate from any legal action that may arise after she publicly threatened to have President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., his wife and the speaker of the House of Representatives assassinated if she were killed herself in an unspecified plot. She has not provided details of that plot. A presidential adviser, Larry Gadon, separately filed a Supreme Court petition Wednesday to disbar the vice president as a lawyer, citing her assassination threats, which he said were "illegal, immoral and condemnable."

### Ex-Bangladesh PM acquitted in graft case

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh High Court Wednesday acquitted former Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in a corruption case in which she was sentenced to seven years in jail by a lower court, according to media reports. Zia, 79, was convicted in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case in 2018 by a Dhaka court. It also sentenced her to seven years imprisonment under the former PM Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government and fined her Tk 1 million. A bench of Justices AKM Asaduzzaman and Syed Enayet Hossain overturned the decision based on an appeal by Zia, the bdnews24.com news portal reported. The graft case was filed in 2011 by the Anti-Corruption Commission with Tejgaon Police Station, accusing Zia and three others of abusing power to raise funds for the trust from unknown sources, the Daily Star news portal reported.

### US reports new drone activity in England

**London:** Unidentified drones are still being spotted over United States Air Force (USAF) bases in England Wednesday, a USAF spokesperson said, confirming that a fourth base had also been targeted by the week-long airspace incursions. Since the first small unmanned aerial system was first spotted November 20, the number of drones has fluctuated and there have been a range of different sizes and configurations, said the US Air Forces in Europe spokesperson. The drones have also been seen over RAF Fairford, in western England, the spokesperson said.

# Israel-Hezbollah truce takes effect

**The agreement calls for a 60-day ceasefire, with Israeli troops retreating and Hezbollah withdrawing from southern Lebanon**

**Beirut, Nov 27:** A ceasefire between Israel and Lebanese armed group Hezbollah held Wednesday after both sides accepted an agreement brokered by the US and France, a rare victory for diplomacy in the Middle East wracked by two wars for over a year.

Lebanon's army, tasked with ensuring the ceasefire lasts, said it was preparing to deploy to the south of the country, a region Israel heavily bombarded in its battle against the Iran-backed militant group, along with eastern cities and towns and Hezbollah strongholds in the southern suburbs of Beirut.

The military asked that residents of border villages delay returning home until the Israeli military, which has waged war against Hezbollah on several occasions and pushed around 6 km into Lebanon, withdraws. Israel said it identified Hezbollah operatives returning to areas near the border and had opened fire to prevent them from coming closer. There were no signs that the incident would undermine the ceasefire.

The agreement, which promises to end a conflict across the Israeli-Lebanese border that has killed thousands of people since it was ignited by the Gaza war last year, is a major achievement for the US in the waning days of President Joe

Biden's administration. The deal is likely to enable Israel to focus more closely on the conflict in shattered Gaza, where it has vowed to destroy its long-time enemy the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, which led the October 7, 2023, attacks on Israeli communities. "Force must give way to dialogue and negotiation. This has now been achieved in Lebanon, and it must happen as soon as possible in the Gaza Strip," French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot told France Info radio.

Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters that the group "appreciates" Lebanon's right to reach an agreement which protects its people, and hopes for a deal to end the Gaza war. Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati appealed to Israel to fully commit and "withdraw from all the regions and positions it occupied", hours after the truce between Israel and Hezbollah was activated.

Cars and vans piled high with mattresses, suitcases and even furniture streamed through the southern port city of Tyre, which was heavily bombed in the final days before the ceasefire, heading south. Fighting had escalated over the past two months, forcing hundreds of thousands of Lebanese from their homes.



This is designed to be a permanent cessation of hostilities. What is left of Hezbollah and other terrorist organisations will not be allowed to threaten the security of Israel again  
JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

We have pushed them (Hezbollah) decades back. We eliminated Nasrallah, the axis of the axis. We have taken out the organization's top leadership, we have destroyed most of their rockets and missiles  
BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | PM, ISRAEL

Israel has said its military aim had been to ensure the safe return of about 60,000 Israelis who fled from their communities along the northern border when Hezbollah started firing rockets at them in support of Hamas in Gaza.

In Lebanon, some cars flew national flags, others honked, and one woman could be seen flashing the victory sign with her fingers as people started to return to homes they had fled.

Many of the villages the people were likely returning to have been destroyed.

Hussam Arrout, a father of four who said he was displaced from Beirut's southern suburbs but originally from the southern border village of Mays

al-Jabal, said he was itching to return to his ancestral home. "The Israelis haven't withdrawn in full, they're still on the edge. So we decided to wait until the army announces that we can go in. Then we'll turn the cars on immediately and go to the village," he said.

### 'PERMANENT CESSATION'

Announcing the ceasefire, Biden spoke at the White House Tuesday shortly after Israel's security cabinet approved the agreement in a 10-1 vote.

"This is designed to be a permanent cessation of hostilities," Biden said. "What is left of Hezbollah and other terrorist organisations will not be allowed to threaten the security of Israel again."

## Khan's supporters call off protests

*Former Pak PM's supporters end protests in the capital following govt's overnight crackdown*

**Islamabad, Nov 27:** The party of Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan suspended street protests seeking his release, it said Wednesday, following media reports of hundreds of arrests by security forces in a sweeping midnight raid in the capital.



The sit-in had been called off, Zulfiqar Bukhari, a spokesman for Khan's party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), confirmed, citing what he called "the massacre".

He was referring to Tuesday night's raid in Islamabad after the protests resulted in the deaths of at least six people, among them four paramilitary

soldiers and two protesters. Visiting protest sites Wednesday, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said Pakistan's law enforcement agencies had successfully cleared protesters from the spot targeted for the sit-in and other areas of the capital.

"I congratulate the Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps, Islamabad, Punjab, and Sindh police for their courageous role," Naqvi added.

Thousands of protesters had gathered in the centre of Islamabad the previous day, after a convoy led by Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi, broke through several lines of security to reach the edge of the city's highly fortified red zone.

Geo News and broadcaster ARY both said security forces launched a massive raid in pitch-dark central Islamabad, where lights had been turned off and a barrage of tear gas was fired.

The protesters were almost completely dispersed, they added. On Wednesday, city workers were clearing debris and moving away some of the shipping containers authorities had used to block roads around the capital.

The red zone was empty of protesters but several of their vehicles were left behind, including the remains of a truck used by Bushra Bibi that appeared charred by flames, Reuters witnesses said.



Visitors Cha, left, and Chie, center, from the Philippines, play with snow as they take selfies at the Gyeongbok Palace, one of South Korea's well-known landmarks, in Seoul, South Korea

## SNIPPETS

### ICC seeks arrest warrant for Myanmar military chief

**The Hague:** The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) said Wednesday he would seek an arrest warrant for Myanmar's military leader Min Aung Hlaing for crimes against humanity in the alleged persecution of the Rohingya, a mainly Muslim minority. A spokesperson for Myanmar's ruling junta did not answer calls from Reuters immediately after the announcement. A million Rohingya fled, most to neighboring Bangladesh, to escape a Myanmar military offensive launched in August 2017, a campaign that UN investigators have described as a text book example of ethnic cleansing. Soldiers, police, and Buddhist villagers are alleged by UN investigators to have razed hundreds of villages in the remote western Rakhine state, torturing residents as they fled, carrying out mass-killings and gang-rapes. Myanmar has denied the allegations, saying security forces were carrying out legitimate operations against militants who attacked police posts.

### China could launch military drills near Taiwan

**Taipei:** China is likely to launch military drills in the coming days near Taiwan, using President Lai Ching-te's upcoming trip to the Pacific and scheduled US transit as a pretext, according to assessments by Taiwan and regional security officials. Lai will start a visit to Taipei's three diplomatic allies in the Pacific Saturday, and sources told Reuters he was planning stops in Hawaii and the US territory of Guam in a sensitive trip coming shortly after the US election. Lai's office has yet to confirm details of what are officially stop-overs in the United States, but is expected to do so shortly before he departs, sources familiar with the trip have previously said. Beijing could conduct military manoeuvres around or shortly after Lai's trip which ends December 6, said four officials in the region briefed on the matter.

# 'Promote peaceful coexistence for Hindus'

*ISKCON Bangladesh demanded that the Bangladesh government must identify and hold accountable those responsible for the attacks on the Sanatani community*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dhaka, Nov 27:** The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) has urged the Bangladesh authorities to promote "peaceful coexistence" for Hindus in the country as it "strongly" denounced the recent arrest of the prominent community leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari.

Das, the spokesperson for Bangladesh Sammilita Sana-

tani Jagran Jote, was arrested from Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Monday as he was about to fly to Chattogram to join a rally. He was denied bail and sent to jail by the Chattogram's Sixth Metropolitan Magistrate court in a seditious case Tuesday.

In a statement Tuesday, ISKCON Bangladesh General Secretary Charu Chandra Das Brahmachari said, "We express our serious concern and strong-



ly denounce the recent arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das. We also condemn the subsequent violence and attacks against Sanatanis in various regions of Bangladesh."

"We urge the government authorities to promote peaceful coexistence for the Sanatani community," he said.

Underlining that Bangladesh is "our birthplace and ancestral

home", the statement urged the interim government of Bangladesh led by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus "to ensure justice for all and to allow every citizen to practice their religion freely in accordance with their beliefs and conscience".

"Ensuring justice and fair treatment for him is crucial," it said, adding that Das and the Sanatani community deserve justice as citizens of Bangladesh and any form of discrimination against them must not be tolerated.

Das was also a member of the ISKCON, which recently expelled him.

## WORLD'S REACTION

It would not have been possible to envisage a ceasefire in Lebanon without France being involved on the front line. It's a success for French diplomacy and we can be proud  
JEAN-NOEL BARROT | FOREIGN MINISTER, FRANCE

We welcome the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon that has been announced. We have always called for de-escalation, restraint and return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, INDIA

We support all efforts conducive to easing tensions and achieving peace and welcome the agreement reached by relevant parties on a ceasefire  
MAO NING | MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESWOMAN, CHINA

The announcement was welcome news 'first and foremost for the Lebanese and Israeli people affected by the fighting'  
URSULA VON DER LEYEN | EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT

The deal is 'a ray of hope for the entire region'  
ANNALENA BAERBOCK | FOREIGN MINISTER, GERMANY

Hezbollah was considerably weaker than it had been at the start of the conflict, he added.

"We have pushed them decades back. We eliminated Nasrallah, the axis of the axis. We have taken out the organization's top leadership, we have destroyed most of their rockets and missiles," said Netanyahu.

## Russia warns US over missile placement in Japan

REUTERS

**Moscow, Nov 27:** Russia said Wednesday that if the United States stationed missiles in Japan, this would threaten Russian security and prompt Moscow to retaliate.

Japan's Kyodo news agency reported Sunday that Japan and the US aim to compile a joint military plan for a possible Taiwan emergency that includes deploying missiles.

It cited unnamed US and Japanese sources as saying that under the plan, the US would deploy missile units to the Nansei Islands of Japan's southwestern Kagoshima and Okinawa prefectures, and to the Philippines.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova accused Japan of escalating the situation around Taiwan to justify the expansion of military ties with Washington.

"We have repeatedly warned the Japanese side that if, as a result of such cooperation, American medium-range missiles appear on its territory, this will pose a real threat to the security of our country and we will be forced to take the necessary, adequate steps to strengthen our own defense capability," she said.

Zakharova said Tokyo could get an idea of what such steps would entail by reading Russia's updated nuclear doctrine, published last week, which expanded the list of scenarios under which it would consider using nuclear weapons.

On Monday, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Russia would consider deploying short and intermediate-range missiles in Asia if the United States deployed such missiles to the continent.

Asked about that statement, Zakharova declined to discuss where Russia might site such weapons, but noted that half its territory is in Asia so any Russian missiles potentially deployed east of the Urals would be in that region.

She said Moscow had sent a clear signal to the United States and its "satellites" that Russia would respond decisively and in symmetrical fashion to the placing of land-based medium and shorter-range missiles in various parts of the world.



**The Central Government has no role to play in determining the actual rate of fair price shop dealers' margin/commission/honorarium etc and making payment to fair price shops**  
PRALHAD JOSHI | FOOD MINISTER

**OFFSHORE BLOCKS: 13 MINES ON SALE**

The government will Thursday launch the first round of sale of mineral blocks in offshore areas with 13 mines across the Arabian Sea and Andaman Sea set to be auctioned. These mineral blocks consist of a mix of construction sand, lime mud, and polymetallic nodules. These minerals are critical for infrastructure development, high-tech manufacturing and green energy transition



# Business

**of the day quote**

**The landed price of VFP imports is below the sales cost of the domestic industry, straining profitability and return on investments of domestic manufacturer**

**India, with its burgeoning tech talent pool and innovative spirit, is at the forefront of this digital revolution. Therefore, IT services hiring will grow 10-12 per cent in the next 6 months**

**We have allocated Rs 4,500 crore investment for the two models. The investment would go into the overall development of the electric vehicles**

## Equities climb in topsy-turvy trade



**Sharp recovery**  
Shares of all Adani Group firms ended sharply higher, with Adani Total Gas and Adani Power soaring nearly 20 per cent, bouncing back from the previous day's fall

Shares of Ola Electric Mobility Ltd surged 20 per cent following announcement of its foray into the commercial segment with the launch of 'Gig' range of scooters

## Fiscal deficit to be at 4.75% of GDP: IndRa



**Govt capex to be lower by ₹62K-cr, estimates the ratings agency**

elections in May 2024, and capex in 1H FY25 shrank 15.42 per cent year-on-year. To achieve the FY25 (BE) target, capex in 2H FY25 must grow 52.04 per cent, which appears to be a daunting task," it added.

**Mumbai, Nov 27:** Benchmark BSE Sensex climbed 230 points in a volatile session Wednesday following gains in Adani group stocks and foreign fund inflows. The 30-share index rose by 230.02 points or 0.29 per cent to settle at 80,234.08 as 18 of its shares closed in green and 12 in red. During the day, it surged 507.09 points or 0.63 per cent to 80,511.15. In a see-saw trade, the NSE Nifty rose by 80.40 points or 0.33 per cent to 24,274.90. The index moved between a high of 24,354.55 and a low of 24,145.65.

chairman Gautam Adani and his aides have not been charged under the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. They faced three other charges, including securities and wire fraud that are punishable with monetary fines, the group stated.

Adani Ports & SEZ was the biggest gainer among Sensex stocks, rising by 6 per cent. HD-FC Bank rose by 1.43 per cent contributing over 167 points to total Sensex gains. NTPC, Bajaj Finance, Maruti and Axis Bank

were among the other gainers.

In contrast, Titan, State Bank of India, Asian Paints, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Tech, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank and ICICI Bank were among the laggards.

Foreign institutional investors were net buyers in equity markets Tuesday which also bought strengthened the sentiment. FIIs bought equities worth ₹1,157.70 crore Tuesday, according to exchange data.

In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green, while Seoul and Tokyo ended lower. European markets were trading mostly lower. The US markets ended in positive territory Tuesday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.63 per cent to \$73.23 a barrel.

The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 1.18 per cent and mid-cap index went up by 0.34 per cent. Among sectoral indices, BSE utilities soared the most by 3.11 per cent, followed by power (2.74 per cent), services (2.53 per cent), industrials (1.35 per cent), telecommunication (1.17 per cent), capital goods (1.13 per cent) and commodities (1.05 per cent). Realty and BSE Focused IT were the laggards.

As many as 2,593 stocks advanced while 1,335 declined and 112 remained unchanged on the BSE.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Among ministries, railways, and road, transport and highways will breach their FY25 capex allocations, the agency said.

There will be a slippage of 0.10 per cent of GDP on the subsidies front due to higher outgoes on food, fertiliser and petroleum subsidies, the agency said, pointing that the overall spending has been 54.55 per cent higher than the budgeted levels in the first half of the fiscal.

On the revenue expenditure, excluding subsidies, the rating agency's report said actual spending by 43 ministries other than civil aviation, railways, and road, transport and highways in the April-September period was less than 40 per cent of their allocation.

The FY25 gross and net tax revenue will come at 12.02 per cent of GDP and 8.08 per cent of GDP, respectively, which will be a 17-year high, the report said, adding that income tax and corporate tax are estimated to contribute 80.94 per cent and 10.53 per cent, respectively, to the additional gross tax revenue.

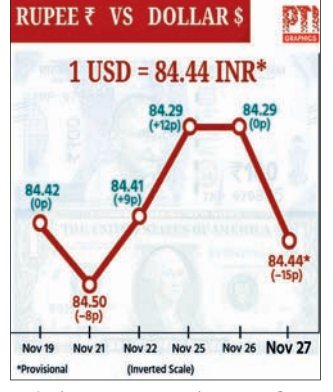
Non-tax revenue and disinvestment receipts are to be lower than the budgeted amount of ₹5.46 lakh crore and ₹78,000 crore, respectively, in FY25, it said.

## ₹ ends lower, \$ bids spurred by currency futures expiry weigh

**Mumbai, Nov 27:** The Indian rupee declined Wednesday pressured by strong dollar demand related to the expiry of the November monthly futures contract and month-end payments by importers.

The rupee closed at 84.4525 against the US dollar, down by 0.1% from its previous close at 84.3275. The currency declined to a low to 84.4750 during the session but avoided deeper losses on likely dollar-selling intervention by the Reserve Bank of India.

Softness in the dollar index in the latter half of the session helped the rupee claw back some losses as demand related to the futures expiry also faded.



Asian currencies took a breather, led by the Thai baht, after declining in the previous session in light of US President-elect Donald Trump's pledge of higher tariffs on China, Canada and Mexico.

US personal consumption expenditure (PCE) inflation data will be in focus later in the day for cues on the future path of the Federal Reserve's policy rates.

Month-on-month core PCE inflation is expected to have held steady at 0.3% in October, according to economists.

The dollar-rupee 1-year implied yield touched a near three-week high of 2.23%.

**SHORT TAKES**

**NBCC bags ₹316cr contract in Odisha**

**New Delhi:** State-owned NBCC Ltd Wednesday said it has bagged a ₹316 crore contract to upgrade school hostels in Odisha. In a regulatory filing, NBCC said it has been "awarded the work of Upgradation of Primary School Hostel (PSH) Under State Sector Scheme at various locations in the state of Odisha amounting ₹316 crore (approx)". The work order has been given by ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Department, Government of Odisha. NBCC is into project management consultancy (PMC) and real estate business.

**SBI fundraise touches ₹50,000cr in FY25**

**New Delhi:** With the raising of ₹10,000 crore from infra bonds, SBI's total fundraise has touched ₹50,000 crore so far during the current financial year. The country's biggest lender State Bank of India earlier this month had raised ₹10,000 crore through its seventh infrastructure bond issuance. The bank garnered ₹5,000 crore AT1 Bonds, ₹15,000 crore Tier 2 Bonds and ₹30,000 crore Long Term Bonds till date during FY25 at a very competitive rate, SBI said in a statement. All these issues have attracted overwhelming responses from investors and were oversubscribed by more than 2 times against the respective base issue size, it said.

## NTPC Green Energy shares shine in debut

**New Delhi:** Shares of NTPC Green Energy Ltd, the renewable energy arm of NTPC, ended with a premium of 13 per cent against the issue price of ₹108 Wednesday. The stock made its debut at ₹111.60, up 3.33 per cent from the issue price on the BSE. During the day, it climbed 13.65 per cent to ₹122.75. Shares of the firm ended at ₹122.10 apiece, rallying 13.06 per cent. On the NSE, it listed at ₹111.50, up 3.24 per cent. The stock ended at ₹121.25, a jump of 12.26 per cent. The company's market valuation stood at ₹1,02,885.49 crore.

**In Asia, market sentiment was mixed due to the potential tariff impositions by the US. Meanwhile, the Chinese market rebounded on expectations of additional stimulus measures**

VINOD NAIK | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEJOIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

## Silver sees steepest single-day jump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 27:** Bullion prices rebounded after two days of sharp fall with silver logging its steepest single-day gain of ₹5,200 to hit ₹95,800 per kg amid strong global trends and buying rush from local jewellers.

Silver saw its steepest single-day jump of ₹5,200 and regained the ₹95,000 per kg level after a gap of two-weeks in the national capital. Earlier, the steepest one-day rise in silver price was recorded October 21 when it had gained ₹5,000.

The white metal had plunged ₹2,700 in the past two days and ended Tuesday's session at ₹90,600 per kg.

Gold of 99.9 per cent purity climbed ₹650 to ₹78,800 per 10 grams in the national capital Wednesday, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The yellow metal had lost ₹2,250 in the previous two



straight sessions. It ended at ₹78,150 per 10 grams on Tuesday.

Price of gold of 99.9 per cent purity jumped ₹950 to ₹78,700 per 10 grams Wednesday.

Traders attributed the increase in precious metal rates to volatile geopolitical situation in the Middle East as well

as the rising consumption in industrial and wearable segments in the domestic market.

In futures trade on the MCX, gold contracts for December delivery jumped ₹702 or 0.93 per cent to trade at ₹75,913 per 10 grams.

"Gold traded with strength as markets continued to factor

## The white metal had plunged Rs 2,700 in past two days and ended Tuesday's session at Rs 90,600 per kg

in geopolitical tensions and dollar volatility. While the broader bullish trend in gold remains intact, short-term uncertainty persists. At ₹75,900 on MCX, gold is slightly off its peak but significantly above the ₹67,500 low seen during the Budget week," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst of Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said.

Silver futures contract for December delivery rose Rs 280 or 0.32 per cent to ₹88,530 per kg Wednesday against the previous close of ₹88,250 per kg.

**BIZ BUZZ**

### Honda enters e-2W market

**Bangalore:** Japanese two-wheeler maker Honda Motorcycle & Scooter Wednesday unveiled two electric scooters, 'ACTIVA e' and 'QCI' here, marking the company's entry in the fast-growing domestic electric two-wheeler market. Bookings for the latest offerings will commence from January 1 next year while the deliveries will start from February, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Ltd (HMSI) said without revealing the vehicles' prices. "The introduction of ACTIVA e: and QCI marks a defining step in our commitment to sustainable mobility in India. It is in line with Honda's global 'Triple Action to ZERO' concept to realize carbon neutrality by 2050, which focuses on three areas: carbon neutrality, clean energy, and resource circulation," said Tsutsumu Otani, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India.



### Infosys to dish out 90% bonus

**New Delhi:** IT services company Infosys is handing out a 90 per cent average performance bonus to eligible employees for the quarter ended September, sources said. The payout which will be disbursed with November-end salaries, covers employees in the mid to junior levels. The performance bonus averages about 90 per cent this time around, sources said, adding it was at about 80 per cent in Q1. Last month, India's second-largest IT services company posted a nearly 5 per cent rise in its second-quarter net profit and raised revenue guidance for the year on broad-based recovery in demand, particularly from its key financial industry clients.



**BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING**

## Samsung's first female CEO outside founding family

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Nov 27:** Samsung has reached a historic milestone by appointing a woman outside its founding family as the chief executive officer of a group company for the first time in its 86-year history.

The group has named Kim Kyung-Ah as the president and CEO of Samsung Bioepis Co, according to Bloomberg.

Kim's appointment comes amid a broader management reshuffle at Samsung and high-lights gradual progress in gender diversity within the South Korean giant.

Samsung has reached a historic milestone by appointing a woman outside its founding family as the chief executive officer of a group company for



the first time in its 86-year history. The group has named Kim Kyung-Ah as the president and CEO of Samsung Bioepis Co, as per reports.

Kim's appointment comes amid a broader management reshuffle at Samsung and high-

lights gradual progress in gender diversity within the South Korean giant.

**Who is Kim Kyung-Ah?**  
Kim Kyung-Ah, 56, holds a doctorate in neurotoxicology from Johns Hopkins Universi-

ty, specialising in the effects of chemical and biological agents on the nervous system. With over two decades of experience in biologic development, Kim joined Samsung Bioepis in 2015 and has since played a pivotal role in its product innovations.

Before her time at Bioepis, she worked at the Samsung Advanced Institute of Technology, the company's research and development arm, as a principal scientist and later as vice president. Her focus included developing antibody therapeutics for oncology.

Kim is only the second woman to head a Samsung affiliate, following Lee Boo-jin, the granddaughter of Samsung's late founder Lee Byung-chull and CEO of Hotel Shilla Co.

**BSNL DEBT LOWEST AMONG PEERS**

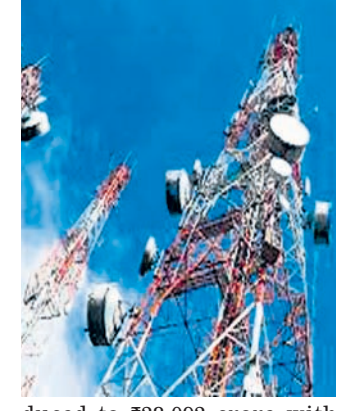
## Telcos' debt reaches ₹4.09L-cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 27:** The total debt on four major telecom operators in the country stood at ₹4,09,905 crore in the financial year 2024, with state-owned BSNL recording the lowest debt among competitors at ₹23,297 crore, Parliament was informed Wednesday.

According to data shared by Minister of State for Communications Pemasani Chandra Sekhar in a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Vodafone Idea registered a debt of ₹2.07 lakh crore, Bharti Airtel ₹1.25 lakh crore and Jio Infocomm ₹52,740 crore as of March 31, 2024.

BSNL had a debt of ₹40,400 crore in FY22, which was re-



TELECOM FIRMS	DEBT
Vodafone Idea	₹2,07L-cr
Bharti Airtel	₹1,25L-cr
Jio Infocomm	₹52,740cr
BSNL	₹23,297cr

ating costs of BSNL/MTNL. In 2022, a revival package amounting to around ₹1.64 Lakh crore was given. It focused on infusing fresh capital, restructuring debt, viability gap funding for rural telephony etc," Sekhar said.

The minister also said that the government approved the allotment of 4G/5G spectrum to BSNL with a total outlay of around ₹89,000 crore.

"As a result of these packages, BSNL has started earning operating profits from FY 2020-21," Sekhar said.

duced to ₹28,092 crore with the help of a revival package and financial support from the government.

"In 2019, the first revival package amounting to around ₹69 thousand crores was given that brought down the oper-



I have been competing for the last 10-12 years and I have given sample during all tournaments, during the India camps. But the government's motive is to break us, make us bow down to them. If I join the BJP then I think all my bans will be lifted

BAJRANG PUNIA



# BAJRANG BANNED

## NADA bans Olympic medallist wrestler Bajrang Punia for refusing to give urine sample

suspension period. "Needless to say the lifting of the provisional suspension for the period from 31.05.2024 to 21.06.2024 shall not be credited into the total period of ineligibility of four years," the ADDP clarified.

In the hearing before the ADDP, Punia argued that his refusal to give a sample for testing was not deliberate but driven by mistrust lack of trust in NADA's processes. He also claimed that the sample collector was using an expired kit and cited previous instances in which expired testing kits were allegedly provided. He claimed that his objection was to NADA using the expired kits and not

for providing a sample.

Punia also claimed that the situation was exacerbated by his dispute with the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) and his involvement with the protests against its former president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

On its part, NADA maintained that the athlete's actions were deliberate. "The outright refusal by the athlete to provide a urine sample for the dope test was intentional and deliberate" and demonstrated disregard for anti-doping responsibilities outlined in Articles 20.1 and 20.2 of the 2021 rules. The ADDP accepted NADA's contentions and imposed a four-year ineligibility on Punia, who won a bronze medal in men's freestyle 65kg in the Tokyo Olympics.

Bajrang Punia is one of India's most decorated wrestlers with multiple medals in the World Championships, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Asian Championships, and Commonwealth Championships in a decade-long international career starting with the 2013 Asian Championships in New Delhi, when he came into the limelight. He has been awarded the Arjuna Award (2015), Khel Ratna, and Padma Shri in 2019.

ting (UWW), the sport's world governing body, also suspending Bajrang in April, the Indian wrestler will not only be unable to participate in events but also can't take up coaching roles till the end of the

### WRESTLER DEFENDS HIMSELF

**New Delhi:** Suspended for four years due to his "refusal" to provide sample for dope test, Olympic medallist Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia Wednesday said it was a vindictive move by the government which would quash the ban if he joins the BJP. "It is not shocking because this issue about trial has been going on for last one year. I have said in the past too that I have not refused to give sample to NADA. When they visited my home to conduct the dope test, they came with an expiry kit (in December, 2023). I have also posted this on social media," Bajrang told reporters. Bajrang added in his defence, "You can't give expiry kit to any player and as far as I am concerned, my team was there, so they saw it. They came carrying expiry kits dated 2020, 2021, 2022. I gave my urine sample but then my team checked the kit and found out that it was expired. So we made a video of the kit and we mailed NADA, called them to inform about the mistake. But they did not accept their mistake."

as an anti-doping rule violation.

Punia had challenged his provisional suspension, which was imposed April 23, 2024, with NADA's Anti-Disciplinary Doping Panel (ADDP) and got it revoked in May 2024, pending a formal notice of charge. NADA eventually served a formal notice June 23, 2024. After written submissions from Punia and hearings held September 20 and October 4, the ADDP ruled in favour of NADA and ordered the enforcement of a four-year ineligibility period starting April 23, 2024.

With the United World Wres-

## Shuttlers cruise into second round



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



**Lucknow, Nov 27:** Top seeds PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen advanced to the second round of the women's and men's singles respectively at the Syed Modi International Super 300 badminton tournament after registering straight-game victories here Wednesday.

Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu defeated rising shuttler Anmol Kharb 21-17, 21-15, while Lakshya, 2021 world championships bronze medallist, powered past Malaysian qualifier Sholeh Aidil 21-12, 21-12 in another match.

Sindhu, who is returning to the tournament after a two-year hiatus, will face compatriot Ira Sharma, who triumphed over Deepshikha Singh 21-13, 21-19 in her opening match.

"I'm happy to be back here after two years. I couldn't play last year because of injury, but it feels great to be playing on home soil again," Sindhu said after her win.

"I was playing against Anmol for the first time, and she did well. We've played together in the Asian Team Championships before, so I was con-

fidant. It was my first match, and I made some mistakes, but overall I'm happy with my performance."

Lakshya will next face either Ravi or Israel's Daniil Dubovenko.

"It's always great to play in front of the home crowd. I've competed here in the past, but right now, I'm focusing on my next match. My goal is to do well in the BWF tournaments and at the World Championships," said Lakshya, the 2022 Commonwealth Games champion.

In the men's singles, third seed Kiran George, eighth seed Ayush Shetty, and Meiraba Luwang Maisnam also progressed to the second round.

In the women's singles, second seed Malvika Bansod, fifth seed Anupama Upadhya, Isharani Baruah, Devika Sihag, Unnati Hooda, Tasnim Mir and Shriyanshi Valishetty all advanced to the next stage.

Malvika defeated Viktoriya Dabczynska 21-16, 21-7, while Anupama overcame Azerbaijan's Keisha Fatimah Az Zahra 19-21, 22-20, 21-15. Hooda, meanwhile, beat Thailand's Thamonwan Nithiitkrai 21-12, 21-16.

### SHORT TAKES

#### WI end losing streak

**North Sound:** Alzarri Joseph took two wickets in the first session on the fifth day as West Indies wrapped up a 201-run win over Bangladesh in Antigua in the first match of the two-Test series. Bangladesh lasted less than seven overs Tuesday as the West Indies sealed their first home Test win in over two years. Joseph (2-32) dismissed Hasan Mahmud (0), before ending Jaker Ali's stand on 31. That left Bangladesh on 129-9, and Joseph then sent a fierce bouncer into the shoulder of Shoriful Islam. Shoriful attempted to continue, but lasted just eight balls before he was forced to retire hurt, ensuring Bangladesh's innings came to an end and giving the home side victory. It was the first time the West Indies Indies have won a test at home since they beat Bangladesh in June 2022, ending a four-match winless streak.

#### Messi's son debuts

**Buenos Aires:** Thiago Messi, the eldest son of the Argentina star, has made his debut in the "Newell's Cup" tournament in the countryside city of Rosario. The 12-year-old Messi played with the No 10 jersey of an Inter Miami youth team, which lost 1-0 Monday to host Newell's Old Boys in the traditional under-13 competition. The team also played Tuesday. Lionel Messi took his first steps as a footballer in the Argentinian club in Rosario, 300 kilometers (186 miles) northwest of capital Buenos Aires. Thiago's mother, Antonela Roccuzzo, and several members of his family, including grandparents Jorge Messi and Celia Cuccitini, were in the stands to watch him play. Lionel Messi did not attend.

## India thrash Thailand in junior Asia Cup hockey

*Firm favourites to lift the title, the Indians made a solid start to the tournament*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Muscat, Nov 27:** Defending champions India started their men's junior Asia Cup campaign on a rousing note, thrashing lowly Thailand 11-0 in a lop-sided Pool A match here Wednesday.

Besides India and Thailand, Chinese Taipei, Japan and South Korea are the other teams in Pool A. Pool B consists of arch-rivals Pakistan, Malaysia, Bangladesh, hosts Oman and China.

Arajeet Singh Hundal (2nd minute, 24th), Arshdeep Singh (8th), Gurjot Singh (18th, 45th), Sourabh Anand Kushwaha (19th, 52nd), Dilraj Singh (21st) and Mukesh Toppo (59th) struck from field play for India, while Sharda Nand Tiwari (10th) found the net from a penalty corner. Rohit (29th) converted a penalty stroke for the winners.



India will next take on Japan Thursday.

Arajeet started the scoring with a reverse flick on the near side which was later doubled by Arshdeep with an easy conversion on rebound. Later, Sharda Nand added another goal with a powerful down-the-line drag-flick in the 10th minute.

The Indians continued to put pressure on the Thai defence with repeated raids but the opposition goalkeeper Thawin Phomjunt made some brilliant saves to deny the rivals.

Gurjot made it 4-0 for India on the reverse but this time on the far side of the goalkeeper.

It was raining goals for India as Dilraj scored a brilliant field goal by deflecting a long pass in the back of the net. Arajeet scored his second goal of the day with a brilliant tomahawk to find the top-left corner of the Thai goal in the 24th minute.

## Gritty Gukesh outplays Liren

INDIAN GRANDMASTER REGISTERS FIRST WIN IN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Singapore, Nov 27:** Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh clinched his first win over defending champion Ding Liren in the World Chess Championship, outplaying the Chinese on time control in the third round to draw level on points here Wednesday.

Having lost the first game rather badly with black pieces, Gukesh struck gold thanks to his preparation that gave him a huge advantage on the clock as Liren spent a lot of time mulling his moves in the first phase of the game.

Both players now have 1.5 points each after the second game ended in a draw Tuesday.

By move 13th, the 18-year-old from Chennai had a lead of one hour on the clock as he had spent just four minutes compared to Liren's one hour and six minutes.

With 40 moves to make in the first 120 allotted minutes without any increment, the complicated middle game had the desired impact on Liren and Gukesh was relentless in finding out some difficult yet perfect moves to increase the pressure.

The players followed a much less-played variation in the topical Queen's Gambit declined and Gukesh followed an idea played by former world champion Vladimir Kramnik of Russia in a rapid game against highest rated Indian Arjun Erigaisi.



While that game had ended in a draw after Erigaisi survived a real scare, Gukesh delved deeper in the position and capitalised on some unforced errors by Liren.

The 32-year-old Liren had his light square Bishop under the scanner after the Queens were traded early leading to a queenless middle game. With imaginative manoeuvres, Gukesh trapped the bishop paring with just two pawns in the process.

If Liren thought there was still counter-play, Gukesh disagreed completely as he put his pieces around the centre to keep his position intact and gave no chances whatsoever in the resulting position.

Adding to the Chinese' woes

was the clock as he barely had two minutes to make the last nine moves. Gukesh was at the top of his game and went for some tactical complications threatening to trap the black king or to win more material.

Liren fell further on the clock and was just left with less than 10 seconds for the last six moves.

It was a hopeless situation when Liren ran out of time after 37 moves giving Gukesh his first victory in the showpiece.

Gukesh is aiming to become the first Indian after Viswanathan Anand to claim the coveted crown. Anand won the world championship five times in his glorious career and has been a mentor to Gukesh.

### ICC TEST RANKINGS

#### Bumrah regains top spot; Jaiswal at 2nd

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, Nov 27:** India pacer Jasprit Bumrah Wednesday topped Kagiso Rabada and Josh Hazlewood to regain the top spot in ICC Test bowling rankings on the back of his match-winning spell against Australia in the first Test at Perth.

Stand-in skipper Bumrah returned with excellent match figures of 8 for 72 as India crushed Australia by 295 runs to take 1-0 lead in the five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Bumrah, who was at No 3 ahead of the Perth Test, now has career-best 883 ranking points while moving ahead of South African Rabada (872 points) and Aussie Hazlewood (860 points).

Bumrah's teammate Mohammed Siraj also made good ground, moving up three places to 25th following his five scalps against the Aussies.

Yashasvi Jaiswal, who made a scintillating 161, leaped to second spot with career-best (825 points) behind England's Joe Root (903 points) in the rankings for batters.

Star batter Virat Kohli continued charting his way up as he improved nine spots to reach 13th following his 30th Test century.

India wicketkeeper batter Rishabh Pant maintained his sixth slot with 736 points.

Indian duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin remained the top players in the Test all-rounders ranking despite not featuring against Australia in the Perth Test.

## Lewandowski joins Ronaldo, Messi in 100-goal club

THE 36-YEAR-OLD BARCELONA STRIKER REQUIRED 125 MATCHES TO REACH THE CENTURY MARK, TWO MORE THAN MESSI (123) AND 12 FEWER THAN RONALDO (137)

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Rome, Nov 27:** Robert Lewandowski joined Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi as the only players in Champions League history with 100 or more goals. But Erling Haaland is on a faster pace than anyone by boosting his total to 46 goals at age 24 Tuesday.

Still, Haaland's brace wasn't enough for Manchester City in a 3-3 draw with Feyenoord that extended the Premier League champion's winless streak to six matches.

Lewandowski's early penalty

kick started Barcelona off to a 3-0 win over previously unbeaten Brest to move into second place in the new single-league format. The Poland striker added goal No 101 in second-half stoppage time.

Ronaldo leads the all-time scoring list with 140 goals and Messi is next with 129. But neither Ronaldo nor Messi play in the Champions League anymore following moves to Saudi Arabia and the United States, respectively.

Barcelona also got a second-half score from Dani Olmo. The top eight finishers in

the standings advance directly to the round of 16 in March. Teams ranked ninth to 24th go into a knockout playoffs round in February, while the bottom 12 teams are eliminated.

Haaland converted a first-half penalty to eclipse Messi as the youngest player to reach 45 goals and then scored City's third after the break to raise his total to 46 goals in 44 games.

Inter Milan beat Leipzig 1-0 with an own goal to move atop the standings with 13 points, one more than Barcelona and Liverpool, which faces Real Madrid Wednesday. The Serie

A champion is only club that conceded a goal.

the hasn't goal.

It's a nice number. In the past I didn't think I could score more than 100 goals in the Champions League. I'm in good company alongside Cristiano and Messi

ROBERT LEWANDOWSKI



## India awarded hosting rights of 2026 Asian Rifle/Pistol Cup

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 27:** India will host the 2026 Asian Rifle/Pistol Cup, the national shooting federation announced Wednesday, continuing its drive to bring big-ticket events to the country. The decision to give India the continental tournament was taken by the executive committee of the Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC).

In a letter to National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) secretary general K Sultan Singh from his counterpart at ASC, Eng Duajj AlOtaibi, the host federation has been asked to inform the continental body of the proposed



dates for the same. Reacting to the development, Sultan Singh said, "We are delighted to have been allotted yet another top international Shooting competition. We are extremely grateful to the executive committee of the ASC and assure them of putting our best foot forward as always."