



BEST FOOT FORWARD: CM Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy CMs Pravati Parida and KV Singh Deo, and Sports Minister Suryabanshi Suraj among others play football at the inauguration of 'Utsaha' in Bhubaneswar, Thursday **OP PHOTO**

Hemant Soren takes oath as J'khand CM

Ranchi: JMM leader Hemant Soren took oath as the 14th Chief Minister of Jharkhand in a grand ceremony here Thursday, amid the presence of a galaxy of INDIA bloc leaders. The 49-year-old tribal leader was sworn in as the CM by Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar. This is the fourth stint of the JMM leader as the CM of Jharkhand. He retained the Barhait seat by defeating BJP's Gamliyel Hem-brom by a margin of 39,791 votes in the recent Assembly polls. **P9**

53,480 acre govt land under grab

Bhubaneswar: Around 53,480 acre of government land is under encroachment across various districts of the state, R&DM Minister Suresh Pujari told the Assembly, Thursday. In response to a query of BJD's Arun Kumar Sahoo, he said, "Out of 1,08,773 acre of encroached government land, 55,293 acre has been cleared."

Pannun threatens to disrupt DGP/IGP meet

A video message by Khalistani separatist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun ahead of the three-day all-India DGP/IGP conference in Bhubaneswar, which will be attended by PM Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, NSA Ajit Doval and top security officials from across the country, has sent security establishment in the Temple City to a tizzy. Calling Bhubaneswar a 'terror city', Pannun said the 'Modi-Shah-Doval evil axis has brought the biggest security threat to Bhubaneswar'. He called upon his supporters to disguise and take cover in temples and hotels in the City to disrupt the conference, while inciting Naxals and 'Kashmiri fighters' to infiltrate the City and carry out acts of disruption. Though experts claim Pannun's rhetoric ahead of the critical discussions on national security is more an attempt to internationalise the Khalistani cause and a call for unity among various anti-national outfits, the state police are ensuring no let up in security build up as the timing of the meet coincides with several other high-profile events in Odisha. While the Winter Session of Assembly is underway, the Indian Navy will celebrate Navy Day in Puri December 4, with President Droupadi Murmu as chief guest.

Pannun called upon extremist groups to infiltrate the Temple City and carry out acts of disruption. "Naxals and Kashmiri fighters, I urge you to take cover in the temples and hotels of Bhubaneswar to internationalise your issues," he added.

In response to queries about Pannun's threat, ADG (Law and Order) Sanjay Kumar said, "We're aware of all the threats and have made extensive security arrangements. We'll ensure that no untoward incidents take place."

Kumar said around 80 platoons of Odisha Police, along with 10 companies of the CAPF, have been deployed at key locations. "The meeting venue and other important places are secured with three-tier security, while the PM will have a four-layer security setup, with the SPG handling internal security," he said. Kumar explained that specially-trained police officers have been deployed to manage security. The ADG emphasised that all venues, accommodations, and roads have been thoroughly sanitised.

The PM is expected to arrive in the City at 4:15pm Friday. He will attend the conference November 30 and December 1. The Home Minister will also arrive Friday for the meeting. **P3**



He claimed that the conference, which brings together over 200 officials from agencies like NIA, CRPF, BSF, NSG, IB and CISF under the leadership of the Home Minister, aims to 'orchestrate killings of pro-Khalistan Sikhs, Kashmiri fighters and Naxals'.

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: A day before the commencement of the three-day all-India DGP/IGP conference here, Khalistani separatist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun Thursday issued a provocative video aimed at disrupting the high-profile meet.

Pannun, the founder of banned outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), in a video message, called Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval the 'axis of evil who are bringing the biggest security threat to Bhubaneswar'.

Odisha home to 2,103 elephants

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: A total of 2,103 elephants were found in 38 forest divisions of the state during the three-day winter census exercise, five more than the May survey figures, according to the census report released by the Forest department, Thursday.

However, two elephant experts from different parts of India contacted by **Orissa POST** expressed doubts on the correctness of the census.

"A total of 334 adult tuskers, 12 adult makhnas, 678 adult



females, 186 sub-adult tuskers, four sub-adult makhnas, 305 sub-adult females, 181 juveniles and 403 calves were found in Odisha forests during the census that began November 14 and ended November 16," it said.

The last elephant census carried out in May had pegged the total elephant population in the state to be 2,098, 122 more than the previous count of 1,976 in 2017.

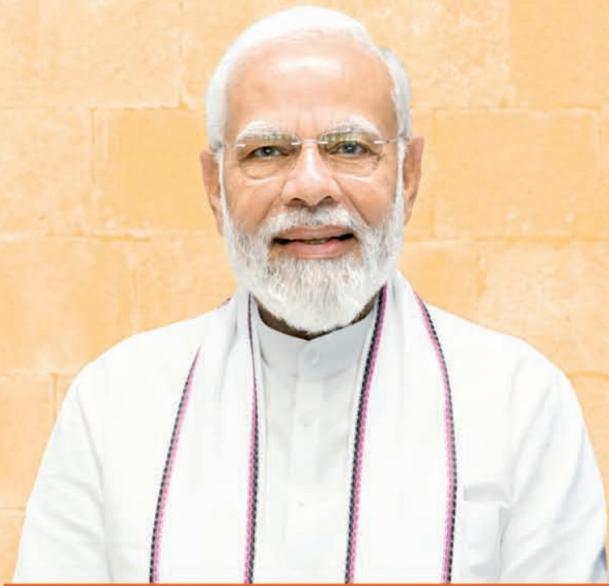
As per the latest census, Dhenkanal (291) has the highest number of elephants, followed by Keonjhar (160), Athgarh (124), Deogarh (123) and Angul (117). "While divisions like Rourkela, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Athamallik and Ghumsur North witnessed a rise in elephant population, Similipal North, Satkosia, Bamra and Rayagada regions reported a decline in the numbers," it said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



So what if the Supreme Court took away our bulldozer? We still hold the power to survey

DADLS-58



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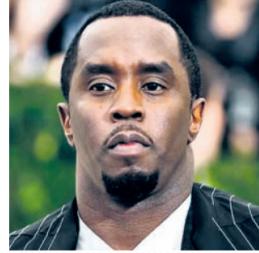


REASON WHY KRASINSKI AVOIDS SOCIAL MEDIA

John Krasinski was recently named People's Sexiest Man Alive, sparking a mixed reaction from fans and followers. While some congratulated him on the title, others were quick to express their disagreement. Now, a new report indicated that the actor is avoiding internet due to all the trolling.

DIDDY DENIED BAIL FOR THIRD TIME

Rapper Sean 'Diddy' Combs, who has been accused of sexual crimes in Hollywood, has been denied bail a third time. A judge cited risk of witness tampering and evidence of violating regulations that prevent him from communicating with third parties.



FORTUNE FORECAST



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ARIES

A new acquaintance will make you feel happy today. You must remember that things don't have to be expressed explicitly; a word or a song from deep within can make a bigger impact. Ganesha says today is the right time to do something which will be more rewarding in the long-term.

TAURUS

This day, your heart is likely to rule your head. You will be driven by your moods feelings and sentiments. Most of the decisions will be based on your emotions, instead of your reason and experience. Ganesha urges you not to allow your emotionality to enter your professional activities. On no account should you be hasty or impulsive. As far as possible do not allow your feelings to interfere in your plans and decisions.

GEMINI

You will meet someone special who is here to stay for good, predicts Ganesha. Your kind and considerate nature will benefit others. You need to understand that it's okay to spend a little on comforts and entertainment. Be ready for a busy, yet cheerful, day ahead.

CANCER

Sometimes acting a little eccentric and adopting an approach that you usually not helps you redefine your style, says Ganesha. Go ahead and do that today! Although you will be open to adapt and bring in some revolutionary changes, you will make sure to follow a proper pattern. Thinking out-of-the-box will allow you give an impetus to your current projects.

LEO

Forget the weather. Today, the only thing shining bright are your chances of spending some quality time with your near and dear ones. Going along these lines, Ganesha wonders how long has it been since you last did the same. So, make the most of this lucky day. Chances are that you shall make new friends, who might turn out to be very supportive in the future.

VIRGO

A mixture of the desirable and undesirable is on the cards today. Sentimental people will tend to think of you as a little immature. However, your sense of humour will be as robust as ever and you will never fall short of jokes. Ganesha advises you to pursue spiritually enriching activities in order to properly channelise your abilities.

LIBRA

The whole point of being a Libran is that you always have the tendency to be two separate things put together on a pair of scales that somehow balance. Ganesha feels that today, you'll bring to the scales the stability of being your own master and servant. It's a fine balance to maintain.

SCORPIO

Your stars indicate splurging of money today. And this time, you do it for your near and dear ones. After all, what is money without friends and family? You may even go out of your way to make them happy by entertaining them with outings and celebrations.

SAGITTARIUS

Staying away from home, for a long business trip may be painful. But, when you strike great deals, it's worth it. Besides good returns from business, Ganesha also has many other surprises in store for you. Be hopeful!

CAPRICORN

You love the people around you unconditionally and such emotions will be more visible now than ever. Today, you will want to keep yourself surrounded with your loved ones, make them happy and have a good time, says Ganesha. Your honesty and sincerity will give depth to your existing relationships.

AQUARIUS

If you're stuck indoors today, make the most of it. There's always carrom, checkers, chess and partying! Shake yourself a bit, and you'll come up with creative ways to spend a leisurely day. You'll find that either way, life is wonderful, says Ganesha.

PISCES

In spite of the hardships that you will encounter on your way, your high spirits, enthusiasm and innate confidence will overcome all obstacles. And no matter how troubled the day starts, it ought to end on a cheerful note, says Ganesha.

Dua Lipa in Mumbai

Mumbai: Singer-songwriter Dua Lipa has arrived Thursday in Mumbai ahead of her concert November 30 in the maximum city.

The singer was clicked arriving at the Kalina airport in Mumbai. He was seen donning a yellow coloured t-shirt paired with black pants. The singer appeared a bit exhausted after her journey as she left the VIP area of the airport.

This is her second trip to India, and her first performance. Dua earlier came to India for a holiday in Rajasthan where she made the most

of her holiday as she went completely unnoticed. However, this time around, the singer means business and is looking to grab the maximum number of eyeballs.

Indian playback singer Jonita Gandhi is set to open Dua's set November 30. A few days ago, Dua spoke about the mash-up of her song Levitating with *Wo Ladki Jo Sabse Alag Hai* from the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer *Baadshah*.

JANHVI WANTS SOMEONE TO 'SAY STOP'

Mumbai: Ditching her diet, actress Janhvi Kapoor gorged on some calorie-filled cookies and ice-cream and wanted someone to say stop to her.

Janhvi took to Instagram stories, where she shared a picture of a bowl with a big cookie and some ice-cream with caramel drizzle.

For the caption, she wrote: "Someone say stop."

Recently, Janhvi expressed her admiration and support for actress

Nayanthara, calling her a "strong woman."

Taking to her Instagram story, the actress praised the recently released documentary *Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairytale*.

Sharing the post, Janhvi wrote, "Nothing more inspiring than watching a strong woman be a strong woman." She also added red heart emoji on the post.



Kartik-Kashika a couple!

Mumbai: Actor Kartik Aaryan has once again caught the attention of his fans by stepping out with a mysterious girl, fuelling curiosity and speculation.

The *Bhool-Bhulaiyaa 3* actor was recently spotted in Mumbai with a mysterious girl. As fans scrambled to identify her,

whispers emerged suggesting she could be actress Kashika Kapoor. While neither Kartik nor Kashika have addressed these rumours, their possible connection has sent fans into frenzy, eagerly speculating about the duo's relationship.

Interestingly, this isn't the first time Kartik and Kashika have caught everyone's attention. A few months ago, the two were seen together at the airport while promoting their film. Their light-hearted laughter, warm smiles, and undeniable chemistry left fans swooning over the duo. Social media was abuzz with admiration, with many labelling them the "ideal couple."

Kartik and Kashika's camaraderie has certainly sparked

curiosity. Fans are wondering if their connection goes beyond professional collaboration.

Notably, the actress, who is steadily making her mark in the entertainment industry, has openly admired Aaryan's work in past interviews.



AKADEMI CELEBRATES GURUPRASAD MOHANTY BIRTH CENTENARY EVENT

Bhubaneswar: The two-day long birth centenary celebration of eminent Odia poet Guruprasad Mohanty, organised by Sahitya Akademi, was inaugurated here at Buddha Mandir auditorium, Thursday.

The event was inaugurated by award-winning Indian poet Rajendra Kishore Panda, while eminent poet and critic Bhagavan Jaysingh delivered the keynote address. He elaborated, with multiple examples, the basic elements of life philosophy in Guruprasad's poetry.

Akademi Secretary KS Rao, in his introductory speech, narrated the purpose and necessity of observing and celebrating the birth centenary of Guruprasad in Odisha. The inaugural session was chaired by the convener of the Odia advisory board, Gourahari Das, who highlighted the poetic acumen as regards the content, configuration, and style of Guruprasad's poetry and its leverage over contemporary world poetry.

Guruprasad's daughter, Priyadarshini Mohanty, who was the guest of honour on the occasion, hinted upon the poetic vibe that prevailed in the family during her father's journey of poetry. Akademi's Odia advisory board member Pabitra Mohan Kar proposed the vote of thanks.

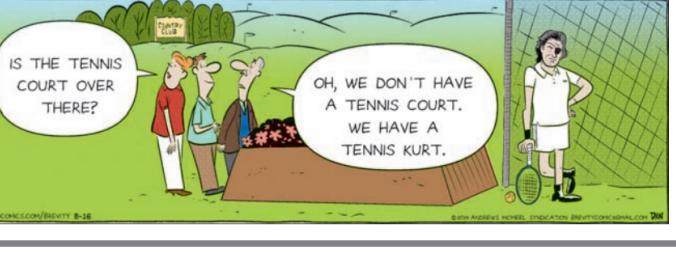
PEANUTS



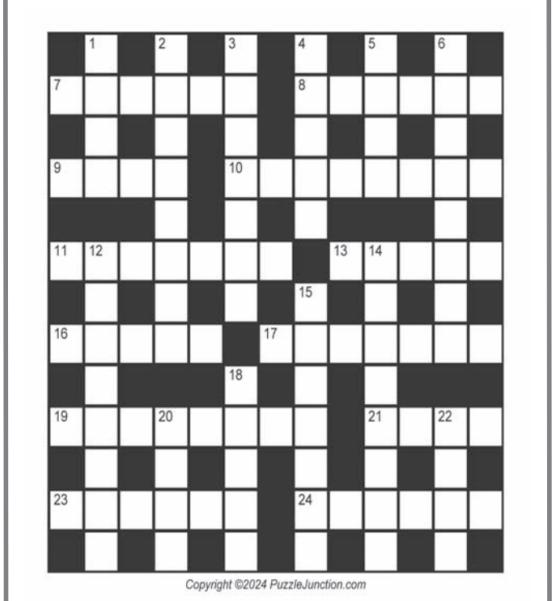
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



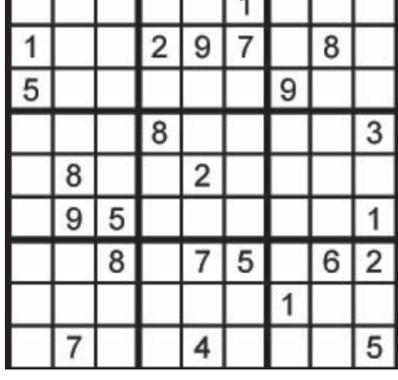
FUN POST CROSSWORD



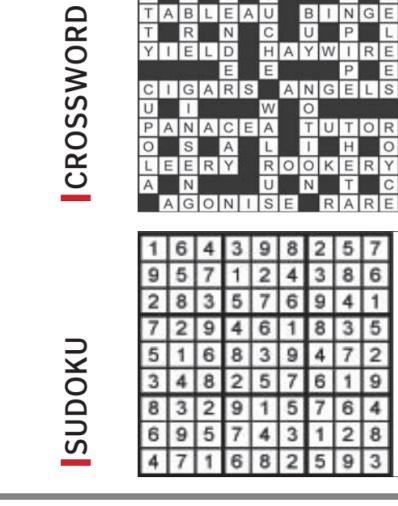
- Across**
- 7 Lunatic
 - 8 Marvel
 - 9 Extended family
 - 10 Put behind bars
 - 11 Enumerate
 - 13 Coronet
 - 16 Vogue
 - 17 Landlocked republic in Africa
 - 19 Uncivilized
 - 21 Wharf
 - 23 Saddle horn
 - 24 Jovian planet
 - 5 Naysayer
 - 6 Consumed
 - 12 Bullfighter
 - 14 Swamp
 - 15 Society reject
 - 18 Carpenter's tool
 - 20 It could be in the road
 - 22 Give a darn
- Down**
- 1 Beach item
 - 2 Aromatic bark
 - 3 Overshadow
 - 4 Used a broom

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

Governor Raghuraj Das, Goa Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai, eminent writer Pratibha Ray and other dignitaries releasing 'Ashara Aloka', an anthology of short stories written by Pillai, at Raj Bhavan in Bhubaneswar Thursday



downtown

POLITICKLE by **MANJUL**



Govt renamed 21 BJD schemes: CM

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi tells House that the BJP government has launched seven new schemes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: The BJP government in state has renamed 21 schemes launched by the previous BJD regime, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi told the Assembly Thursday.

The BJP government took oath June 12 after defeating the 24-year-old Naveen Patnaik-led BJD government in the Assembly elections.

In a written reply to a query by BJD legislator Tusharkanti Behera, the Chief Minister said the state government has renamed 21 existing schemes and launched seven new ones.

According to a statement, the BJP government has rebranded eight schemes that were named after the late Biju Patnaik, father of former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The eight renamed schemes are Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana, Biju Setu Yojana, Biju Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana (distribution of laptop), Biju Saharanchal Vidyutikaran Yojana (BSVY), Biju KBK, Biju Kandhamal 'o' Gajapati Yojana and Biju Sishu Surakhya Yojana (BSSY).

Similarly, the new government has also renamed Kru-



NEW SCHEMES

- Godabarisha Mishra Adarsha Prathamika Vidyalaya
- Corpus Fund for Sri Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA)
- Samrudha Krushaka Yojana
- Subhadra Yojana
- Madho Singh Haath Kharch
- Odia Asmita Corpus Fund
- Establishment of Paediatric Cancer Facilities

KEY CHANGES

- KALIA: CM-KISAN
- KALIA Scholarship: Krishi Vidya Nidhi Yojana
- Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha (AONO): Viksit Gaon Viksit Odisha
- Mo School Abhiyaan: Panchasakha Sikhya Setu
- Mo College Abhiyaan: Ama Gaurav Ama College
- Livestock Health & Disease Control: Goal for Management and Treatment of Animals
- BSKY: Gopabandhu Jana Arogya Yojana
- BSSY: Jashoda

schemes are now called 'Panchasakha Sikhya Setu' and 'Ama Gaurav Ama College'.

Among other schemes, Livestock Health & Disease Control (LHDC), BSKY and BSSY have been rebranded as Goal for Management and Treatment of Animals (GOMATA), Gopabandhu Jana Arogya Yojana and Jashoda.

The Chief Minister also informed the House that the government has launched seven new schemes such as Godabarisha Mishra Adarsha Prathamika Vidyalaya, Corpus Fund for Sri Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), Samrudha Krushaka Yojana, Subhadra Yojana, Madho Singh Haath Kharch, Odia Asmita Corpus Fund, and the Establishment of Paediatric Cancer Facilities.

4 fast-track courts for crimes against women cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: The state government Thursday said four fast-track courts and a National Forensic University would be set up in the state to expedite conviction of women-related cases and other crimes.

This was stated by Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan in the Assembly while replying to a debate on the admissibility of an adjournment motion on "rising crimes against women".

He was replying to the debate on behalf of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who holds the portfolio of the Home department.

Harichandan said that the four proposed fast-track courts will be manned by women for dealing with crimes against women. He assured the House that the government will take all possible steps to punish criminals involved in crimes, particularly the crimes against women.

The minister also claimed that the crime rate has declined in the past five months after Majhi took over the government. He said the cases of human trafficking have shown a downward trend. He urged cooperation from all parties to tackle crimes effectively.

Earlier, participating in the debate, Opposition BJD and Congress members came down heavily on the BJP government and alleged that there has been a significant rise in crime over the past few months.

The Opposition alleged that there has been a surge in crimes against women and minors, including rape, child marriage, newborn trafficking, and accidents.

Sex racket busted in City, 4 rescued

Bhubaneswar: Khandagiri police Thursday claimed to have busted a sex racket operating from a rented accommodation in the area, and rescued four women, including a minor, who had been pushed into flesh trade. IIC Abhimanyu Das said the kingpin of racket, a woman from Nayagarh district, is yet to be arrested. "We have launched a hunt for her," Das said. A case under relevant provisions of PITA Act and POCSO has been filed against the accused. Das said the police are recording the statement of the rescued victims to get further information about the operation of the racket. The owner of the house is being grilled, he added. Khandagiri police recently received a tip off from an informer about flesh trade having been carried out at a rented house in Madhusudan Samabaya area. Accordingly, a raid was conducted at the place Thursday morning. "The victims, who were illegally confined in the house, were rescued," Das said. Interestingly, the racket ran in the residential area for a long time without raising any suspicion. In fact, neighbours were in for a surprise when the cops raided the house in the early hours.

VK Pandian spotted in public after 5 months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: More than five months after BJD's defeat in the Assembly elections, bureaucrat-turned politician VK Pandian made his first public appearance at a wedding function of a BJD leader in Cuttack.

Pandian had June 9 announced to withdraw from active politics after BJD's electoral defeat in the elections.

He was seen at the wedding function at Trisulia in Cuttack Wednesday night. It was the wedding of former BJD MLA Pravat Biswal's daughter and the sister of sitting Cuttack-Choudwar MLA Sou-

vic Biswal.

Pandian did not have any media interaction during his visit to the wedding function Wednesday night, but speculations are rife about his return to active politics.

Though Pandian withdrew from active politics, he remains a close aide of former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

The Tamil Nadu-born IAS officer had opted for voluntary retirement in October 2023 and officially joined the BJD November 26, 2023. He was the star campaigner of BJD and toured the nook and corner of the state while campaigning for the regional party.

Govt nod to ₹1.36L cr industrial projects

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: The state government Thursday approved 20 investment projects worth ₹1.36 lakh crore, an official statement said.

The High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) headed by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi approved the projects, poised to generate employment for over 74,350 individuals and bolster the state's economic growth, it said.

The projects span nine sectors - steel, chemicals, aluminium, aviation fuel, green energy and equipment, apparel and textiles, power and renewable energy and cement. These projects will be set up in Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Khurda, Sambalpur, Ganjam, Kalahandi, Malkangiri, Dhenkanal, Bhadrak and Jagatsinghpur districts, it said.

"Through strong cooperation between the state and central governments, we have fostered a business-friendly environment that attracts investors to Odisha. Our focus is on creating an ecosystem that promotes inclusive growth, sustainability, and job creation," Majhi said.

The HLCA has approved the proposal of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (Tata Steel) for expansion of its integrated steel plant capacity from 0.98 MTPA to 9.50 MTPA with a cost of ₹61,769.03 crore in Jajpur district. Central PSU Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited has proposed to invest ₹11,782.05 crore for setting up of a manufacturing unit from high ash coal to ammonium nitrate plant in Jharsuguda district. Similarly, Hindalco Industries Ltd will expand its smelter capacity with a cost of ₹10,645 crore in Sambalpur.

CM's NODC remarks draws Opposition flak

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday invited criticism from the Opposition BJD over his statement that the state government would not take any decision against the wishes of the people of Sundargarh regarding the proposal of including the mineral-rich district under the proposed North Odisha Development Council (NODC).

Earlier, during a visit to Sundargarh district, Majhi said that the district in the western part of the state should be included in NODC. Majhi made this announcement through his social media post on 'X' hours after Sundargarh MLA Jogesh Singh raised the issue in the Assembly. BJD lawmaker from Bhadrak district Byomakesh Ray also said that there are differences between the culture, language and tradition of western and northern Odisha.

In his post, Majhi said, "The people of Sundargarh have been blessing us for many years and we respect the sentiments of the people of Sundargarh. There-

fore, the government will not take any action against the wishes of the people of Sundargarh. The state government is committed to the overall development of Sundargarh district."

During Zero Hour in Assembly, BJD's Sundargarh MLA Jogesh Singh said despite being the constitutional head of the state, the Chief Minister has made an irresponsible statement. "We condemn the announcement and urge the CM to withdraw the statement," he said. Singh also said that the language, cultural practices, tradition, way of life and geographical features of Sundargarh people have no similarities with north Odisha districts. The government should not create division in the unity of Western Odisha.

Ray, who hails from north Odisha, said the Chief Minister should refrain from making such statements that create division among the people. Meanwhile, protests were reported from Sundargarh district over the CM's statement. Sundargarh District Congress Committee held a demonstration at DRDA Chowk in Sundargarh.

Traffic curbs during 3-day security meet



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Ahead of the three-day All-India Directors General of Police (DGPs) and Inspectors General of Police (IGPs) conference in the Capital City from November 29 to December 1, the Commissionerate Police Thursday announced traffic restrictions on major arterial roads during these days.

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No vehicles to ply between 1-2pm from Airport Square to PMG Square No vehicles to ply between 4.45-5.25 pm from Airport Square to Raj Bhavan Square No vehicles to ply between 6-6.45 pm and 8.25- 8.50 pm from Raj Bhavan Square to Master Canteen Square via Ram Mandir Square No vehicles to ply between 7.30-8.20 pm from AG Square to NALCO Square via 120 Battalion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No vehicles to ply between 6- 8.30 am from AG Square to NALCO Square via 120 Battalion No vehicles to ply between 8.10-8.30 am and 7.55 -8.20 pm from Power House Square to Raj Bhavan Square and AG Square to Raj Bhavan Square No vehicles to ply between 7.30- 8.15 pm from AG Square to NALCO Square 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No vehicles to ply between 4.20- 4.45 pm and 5.15- 5.40 pm from AG Square to Airport Square No vehicles to ply between 8.05- 8.25 am from (I) Power House Square to Raj Bhavan Square (II) AG Square to Raj Bhavan Square No vehicles to ply between 6-8.20 am from AG Square to NALCO Square via 120 Battalion

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Odisha committee to review PM POSHAN

COMMITTEE FORMED TO IMPROVE NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMMES IN THE STATE



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: The School and Mass Education department of Odisha has constituted a committee to examine the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Yojana (PM POSHAN), aiming to improve its implementation and address students' nutritional needs.

The notification, issued Thursday, named the state nodal officer as chairperson, with members including represen-

tatives from the National Institute of Nutrition in Hyderabad, the World Food Programme, the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department, and the Director of Secondary Education, Odisha.

The committee's role is to evaluate the provisions for the nutritional requirements of students enrolled in the PM POSHAN scheme and to propose enhancements for more effective implementation.

Earlier this year, the state

government raised the mid-day meal (MDM) value under PM POSHAN by ₹1 to promote better nutrition and increase school attendance. The increase brought the daily meal cost for primary students to ₹6.90 and for upper primary students to ₹9.82, up from ₹5.90 and ₹8.82, respectively. The last revision was in October 2022.

The revised meal costs are expected to benefit approximately 43 lakh students attending government and government-aided schools across the state. Currently, over 45 lakh students are provided cooked meals in 50,485 primary and upper primary schools in Odisha, according to the PM POSHAN database. The meals served include rice with 'dalma' Mondays and Thursdays, soya bean curry Tuesdays and Fridays, and egg curry Wednesdays and Saturdays.



FOR A STELLAR SHOW: Naval cadets conduct a rehearsal Thursday for the upcoming performance during Navy Day celebrations at Blue Flag Beach in Puri, December 4

OP PHOTO

MLA Sofia Firdous pushes for Cuttack tourism growth

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Barabati-Cuttack MLA Sofia Firdous met with the Deputy Chief Minister Pravat Parida, here Thursday to advocate for the development of tourism infrastructure in Cuttack.

In her meeting, Firdous emphasised the Silver City's potential to become a significant tourist destination, highlighting its rich cultural heritage and historical landmarks.

Firdous, in a letter, outlined the city's assets, including the iconic Cuttack Chandni Temple and the historic Barabati Fort, which exemplify the region's grandeur and cultural signifi-



cance. "Despite these attractions, Cuttack has often been overlooked as a tourism hub, which is a missed opportunity for

growth and development," she said.

By focusing on tourism, Firdous argued, the city could enhance employment opportunities, support local businesses, and preserve its heritage for future generations.

The MLA proposed a comprehensive tourism development plan that includes several initiatives such as the Gadakhai Heritage Development Project, the creation of a dedicated Silver Filigree Hub, improvements around the Judicial Academy Square, a district museum, and the development of the Mahanadi waterfront.

She also recommended proj-

ects aimed at beautifying key locations like Petanala and Bell View Point, upgrading Gadagadia Ghat, creating a park dedicated to an eminent personality, and enhancing sites such as Gora Kabar and Madhubabu Samadhi Pitha.

Firdous expressed her belief that, with support from the Deputy CM and the government, these initiatives could be realised and position Cuttack as a prominent tourism destination in Odisha.

She called for the inclusion of these projects in the state's tourism development plans to boost visibility, create jobs, and celebrate the city's heritage.

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	26.8°	26.8°
Min Temp	16.4°	15.0°
Humidity	68%	68
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
: Dry weather very likely to prevail in the districts of Odisha

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	CHANGE
SENSEX	79043.74	↓ 1,190
NIFTY	23914.15	↓ 360.75
DOLLAR	84.47	↑ 0.45
EURO	89.14	↓ 0.59
GOLD	₹75,724	↓ ₹36
SILVER	₹87,829	↑ ₹149

CLASSIFIED LOST

Notice is hereby given to general public that, I Sri Tapas Gochhayat has lost the original link RSD bearing no. - 11082011174, Dtd. 23.12.2020 executed in favour of Padmini Sethi - in respect of Plot No. 173 from Khata No. 101, Tahasil-Bhubaneswar, Mouza-Krushnapur, Dist-Khordha, while he was coming from court to his residence at chintamaniswar, Bhubaneswar lost the original sale deed somewhere and in spite of his best efforts failed to trace the same. Therefore, if any one has found the same, please contact Advocate Sri NC. Pattnaik, Mob - 9853311189, of LICHL at Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar within 15 days from the date of the publication, failing which the document will lose its legal force and any mis-use of the document will be punishable under law.

Trawler seized; eight detained in Astaranga

ASTARANGA: Despite restrictions imposed by the state government on fishing in Devi river mouth to protect Olive Ridley turtles, a trawler was found operating in the prohibitory zone, and was seized by the Forest department officials Thursday. Eight crew members were also detained by the officials. According to sources, a fishing ban was imposed in the prohibited maritime zones for six months since November 1. However, despite the government's restrictions, hundreds of trawlers have been fishing in the prohibited area near Devi river mouth. Over 28 days of enforcement, the Forest department has seized four trawlers. One such trawler named 'Ma Jaleshwari' (IND-OR04MM443), owned by Rashmirekha Nayak of the Jhading area in Astaranga was recently seized by the department from the prohibited zone, along with the detention of its crew members. The seizure operation was carried out by the Forest department team, including the Turtle Squad.



COURTESY VISIT: Commodore Deepak Aneel, the Naval Officer-in-Charge of Odisha, called on Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Thursday. The meeting was held to discuss and provide an overview of the naval events leading up to the much-anticipated Naval Op Demo 24.

OP PHOTO

67th ASISC conference held at XIM University

BHUBANESWAR: The 67th ASISC Annual Conference 2024, held at XIM University, Bhubaneswar, brought together over 1,500 educators, policymakers, and thought leaders under the theme "Leaders for Transformative Learning." The event showcased the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) commitment to enhancing education through quality, inclusivity, and relevance. A key focus was promoting a growth mindset and empowering rural and underserved schools to ensure no student is excluded due to limited resources. CISCE introduced a new curriculum emphasising critical thinking, digital literacy, and multilingualism, designed to prepare students for global challenges. Additionally, new Key-Stage Assessments and a Comprehensive Development Report (CDR) were unveiled for a holistic view of student progress. A mandatory 50-hour annual training programme for educators was announced for consistent professional development. The event featured prominent speakers, including Sanjay Kumar, Secretary of the Ministry of Education, and Justice Kurian Joseph, highlighting CISCE's vision for modern, adaptable education.

HBT's campaign to end child marriage in Odisha

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Humara Bachpan Trust (HBT) recently participated in the nationwide launch of the Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat (Child Marriage Free India) campaign, inaugurated by the government of India at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

A key partner of the Just Rights for Children (JRC) alliance—a national network of over 250 civil society organisations operating in 400 districts—HBT led district-level inauguration events in Keonjhar and Kandhamal as part of its collaboration with the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation to create child-marriage-free districts.

In Kandhamal, the campaign extended across 50 villages in five Panchayats, including Raikia, Mandakia, Gochhapada, Phiringia, and Kainjhar. Similarly, in Keonjhar, block-level events were conducted in Patana, Hatadihi, and Banaspal blocks, covering 50 villages



across 13 Gram Panchayats.

Approximately 4,300 people actively participated in the campaign, including Anganwadi workers, self-help group members, community-based organisation representatives, panchayat leaders, parents, religious figures, and youths. Activities such as candlelight rallies and oath-taking ceremonies were organised to foster a strong community commitment to ending child marriage.

Key stakeholders involved included the District Superintendent of Police, members of the Juvenile Justice Board, Child Development Project Officers, District Child Protection Officers, members of the Child Welfare Committee, and representatives from Child Care Institutes.

Nod to worth ₹1,265cr project for fisheries devpt in Odisha

THE STATE BENEFITS FROM NEW CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES AIMED AT PROTECTING MARINE LIFE AND SUPPORTING LOCAL FISHERIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: To bolster the fisheries sector in Odisha, the Department of Fisheries (DoF), under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAH&D), has approved a substantial project under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), amounting to ₹1,265.42 crore, with a Central share of ₹564 crore allocated for the development of fisheries and aquaculture in the state.

This was shared Thursday in the Rajya Sabha by Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh.

Through these concerted efforts, the Union government and the Odisha government are

reaffirming their commitment to sustainable fisheries management and the conservation of marine ecosystems in the state.

An essential aspect of the scheme is the support it provides to 24,000 socio-economically disadvantaged traditional fishing community in the state, offering financial assistance for livelihood and nutritional support during the fishing ban period.

Moreover, the project has approved the establishment of 93 artificial reef units along Odisha's coast. These units are designed to enhance fish stocks, providing natural habitats that help sustain marine life and promote sustainable fishing practices.

Every year, from April 15 to June 14, a uniform fishing ban



is enforced along the East Coast, including a stretch of 480 km of Odisha's coastline. This ban is a critical conservation measure intended to protect fishery resources and support sustainable

marine fisheries. Additionally, the Odisha government enforces a separate fishing ban from November 1 to May 31 across a 120 km stretch of its coastline, encompassing the Gahirmatha

Marine Wildlife Sanctuary and the mouths of the Devi, Rushikulya, and Dhamara rivers.

The measure also aims to safeguard the endangered Olive Ridley turtles during their nesting season. In line with conservation goals, Odisha has reported that the fleet size of mechanised fishing vessels has remained unchanged over the past two decades.

Over the past five years, the DoF has also approved financial assistance for 560 units under the PMMSY, with a total project cost of ₹17.28 crore and a Central share of ₹5.23 crore.

This funding has supported traditional fishermen in replacing boats and nets. The Odisha government reported that ₹5.025 crore has been provided to 201 fishermen during this period for

these replacements, aiding them in maintaining their livelihoods and ensuring safe fishing practices.

In addition, the DoF has approved the construction of a new fishing harbour at Nuagarh (Astarang) in Puri District, Odisha. The project, with a total cost of ₹82.86 crore, includes a central share of ₹49.716 crore under PMMSY.

Further, the modernisation and upgradation of the Paradip Fishing Harbour has been approved, with an estimated cost of ₹99.75 crore, fully funded by the Central government. The initiative is set to modernise one of the most important fishing harbours in the region, facilitating better handling and processing of fisheries products.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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Potato pinch may return as Bengal curbs transportation

Hundreds of trucks stopped, returned from Odisha-Bengal border

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhograi, Nov 28: Skyrocketing potato prices may return to haunt consumers as West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has imposed fresh restrictions on the dispatch of potatoes to states such as Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Tripura, and Assam. This move comes in response to rising prices of potatoes and onions, which Banerjee fears will directly impact the consumers in her own state.



During a meeting Wednesday with West Bengal Agriculture Marketing Minister Becharam Manna, task force members, and senior administrative officials, Banerjee announced the decision to curb potato exports until market prices stabilise in West Bengal.

In response, from Wednesday night, several hundred trucks carrying potatoes to Odisha were intercepted approximately 35 kms from the state border at checkpoints such as the Belda Naka Point and Bhograi border points like Ramnagar and Digha. Police and administrative authorities detained and inspected vehicles transporting potatoes and onions, eventually sending the trucks back.

This decision has sparked concerns over a potential supply crisis in neighboring states dependent on West Bengal for potatoes. Prices of potatoes and onions were increased in Odisha markets Thursday. Potatoes were being sold at ₹35 per kg in various markets across districts like Balasore Wednesday. However, by Thursday, the price jumped to ₹40 per kg, with onions exceeding ₹60 per kg in some places.

The escalation in prices is attributed to restrictions on potato transport by the West Bengal government. The Pragatishil Alu Byabasayi Samiti of West Bengal has been closely monitoring the situation. Meanwhile, the association's state president, Lalu Mukherjee,

has announced that a traders' meeting Friday will determine the future course of action.

With nearly one month and a half remaining for the new potato harvest, these restrictions are expected to significantly impact Odisha's supply chain. The state government faces pressure to resolve the issue swiftly, as delays could worsen the crisis and lead to skyrocketing prices. Concerns have also been raised about traders hoarding potatoes in warehouses following the West Bengal government's transport ban.

The state government is urged to take proactive measures to mitigate the issue, as the shortage and rising costs could heavily burden consumers in the state.

G Udayagiri state's coldest town at 6.2° Celsius

POST NEWS NETWORK

G Udayagiri, Nov 28: G Udayagiri in Kandhamal district has emerged as the coldest town in the state with the mercury dipping to a minimum temperature of 6.2 degrees Celsius Thursday, according to the G Udayagiri Agricultural Research Centre.

Surrounding villages like Mukulingia, Siriki, and Kurlingia are experiencing even colder conditions, though the

exact temperatures remain unmeasured due to the lack of monitoring equipment in those areas.

For the past 12 days, the persistent low temperatures have significantly impacted daily life in G Udayagiri. The harsh cold, compounded by dense fog and biting winds, has brought hardship to many, particularly the impoverished residents. The highest daytime temperature has been recorded at 24 degrees Celsius, leading to chilly conditions even during the day.



To assist the homeless, the local Notified Area Council

(NAC) has set up a nighttime shelter. Residents of the area are reluctant to leave their homes before 10am due to the extreme cold. Cases of cold-related illnesses such as coughs and chills are on the rise, with people staying indoors and gathering around bonfires to keep warm.

The ongoing cold spell has left a lasting impact, emphasising the need for additional support and preparedness for the affected communities.

Straying Kuldiha animals make life tough for locals

Mushrooming of illegal brick kilns, settlements in eco-sensitive zone of sanctuary sparks concerns

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilgiri, Nov 28: Incidents of wildlife straying into human settlements near the Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary in Nilgiri sub-division area of Balasore district have been increasingly reported. With several monkeys and peacocks being spotted in residential areas near the sanctuary, locals have been both surprised and alarmed.

The sudden appearance of these animals has caused fear among villagers, who worry about potential conflicts with wildlife. The situation has drawn attention to the encroachment of wildlife habitats. Despite the villages being part of an eco-sensitive zone surrounding the Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, establish-



ment of illegal brick kilns and encroachment on forest land have been rampant. Unchecked deforestation and setting up of unauthorised settlements within forested areas have significantly affected wildlife, with shrinking habitats forcing animals to move closer to human habitations in search of food and safety.

Concerns have also been raised about pollution from the brick kilns. Coal smoke from chimneys is believed to be a major contributor to environmental

degradation in the area impacting both the sanctuary and the surrounding eco-sensitive zone. Discussions have highlighted the failure of the Forest department to address these violations effectively, allowing such issues to recur frequently.

A joint team comprising officials from State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Revenue, Mining and Forest departments, led by Balasore ADM Sudhakar Nayak and Nilgiri Sub-Collector Subhashree Rath

visited the area Thursday and asked the brick kiln owners to close down the kilns. They also asked the labourers to refrain from working in the kilns.

As many as 15 brick kilns are operating inside the eco-sensitive zone of Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary while eight are running on its periphery. The Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary under Nilgiri sub-division of Balasore district is spread over 272.75 sq km of area while 219.18 sq km is under the eco-sensitive zone.

When contacted, Kuldiha forest ranger Prabir Murmu admitted that animals are facing a shortage of food in the Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary. Simians and peacocks are straying into the human habitats as paddy crops and vegetables are available in the villages near the sanctuary.

Int'l conference on coastal zone mgmt at FMU

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Nov 28: An international conference on coastal zone management commenced Wednesday at Fakir Mohan University here.

The event was jointly organised by the PG Department of Environmental Science and the Department of Science and Technology, Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) of the Central government.

The inaugural ceremony was held under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor Santosh Kumar Tripathy. Bhaskar Behera, Chairman of the PG Council, graced the event alongside the guest of honour, Jay Krushna Panigrahi, Secretary of the Orissa Environmental Society, Bhubaneswar.

The chief guest for the occasion was Subas Chandra Santra, former professor of Environmental Science at the University of Kalyani. The primary aim of the conference is to address the dynamic nature of coastal regions, which are undergoing rapid changes.

2 sent to jail for assaulting, stripping woman on road

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Nov 28: The Jamboo Marine police Thursday arrested two women for their involvement in the assault and molestation of a woman, who was allegedly stripped and attacked on a village road.

According to Kendrapara SDPO Debendra Mallick, police have registered cases against the accused under Sections 126(2), 296, 74, 76, and 351(3) of the BNS Act, along with Section 8 of the POCSO Act, and Sections 126(2), 115(2), 74, 76, 324(4), 351(2), 109, and 35) of the BNS Act.

The accused were produced before the SDJM court, which remanded them to judicial custody.

However, the prime accused, Ashoka Baidya, is yet to be arrested as he is absconding. Raids are underway to apprehend him, the SDPO said.



The police said that the victim was confined to a room where a stray dog was released. The accused also allegedly attempted to sexually assault the victim's minor daughter.

According to Nikunja Kishore Pradhan, the Sub-Inspector of Jamboo Marine police station, the incident occurred in Batighar village under Mahakalapara block. The victim's husband was working in Paradip, leaving

the woman and their minor daughter alone at home.

Taking advantage of the husband's absence, a fellow villager, identified as Ashoka Baidya, allegedly harassed the woman and her daughter regularly, passing vulgar comments and sexually harassing both of them.

The victim filed an FIR alleging that Ashoka Baidya, along with his wife Jinu Baidya and their relative Parbati Baidya, barged into her house and verbally abused her November 20 morning. When she protested, they dragged her out of the house, stripped her on the village road, and assaulted her with an iron pipe.

She was later rescued and rushed to Paradip Hospital in critical condition.

In a second FIR, the victim accused Ashoka Baidya of forcibly dragging her minor daughter into a nearby forest and attempting to rape her.

Cyber criminal held in 'digital arrest' fraud

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: The Crime Branch of Odisha Police has arrested a cyber criminal from Telangana in a case of digital arrest cyber fraud, an official said Thursday.

The accused identified as Abdul Saleem (33) is a resident of Yellammagutta in Nizamabad area of Telangana. He was apprehended over the allegations of Ashok Kumar Behera, a senior citizen of Berhampur in Ganjam district.

Behera in his complaint has alleged that the accused fraudster duped him of ₹1 crore by threatening digital arrest.

"The fraudsters impersonated themselves as officers of TRAI and police personnel from Mumbai Cyber Crime Division and asked about one unknown mobile number linked to his Aadhaar card. They accused that the same number had been used for procurement of illegal arms, drugs and for originating threatening calls to many people in Maharashtra for which he

would have been punished under appropriate sections of law for a minimum period of three to seven years," said a senior Crime Branch official Thursday.

The accused fraudsters allegedly made a video call to the victim through WhatsApp and put pressure on him saying that he is under 'digital arrest'.

"He asked him to transfer all of his money to their given account for verification and lat-

er on the entire amount would be reverted back to his account. Under immense mental pressure, he finally transferred all his savings amounting to the tune of ₹1 crore to the fraudsters account in two transactions," added the CB official.

When the victim found the money transferred to the accused's account was not reverted to his account as promised, he lodged a complaint with the Crime Branch.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER No.C-1118
OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, RANPUR
NAYAGAR (ODISHA), PIN-752026
 E-Mail : eoranpurnac.ranpur@gmail.com
 Tender Call Notice No. 4223 Dt. 27.11.2024
 E-Procurement Notice No. : RNP NAC - 03 / 2024-25

1 Name of the Work	Individual Civil Construction Works as per DTCN
2 No. of Works	12 Nos.
3 Value of Work	Rs. 3,21,440/- to Rs. 16,71,186/-
4 Class of Work	'D' & 'C'
5 Period of Completion	As per DTCN
6 Date of Publication	28.11.2024
7 Date and Time of availability of document in the portal	From Dt. 30.11.2024 at 11 A.M. to Dt. 10.12.2024 upto 5 P.M.
8 Last Date Time for receipt of bids in portal	Dt. 10.12.2024 upto 5 P.M.
9 Date and Time of opening Bid	Dt. 11.12.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
Name and address of the officer inviting bid	Sd./ Executive Officer, NAC, Ranpur

Further details can be seen from e-Procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>
 OIPR-13196/11/0008/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA ee.rwbdk2@yahoo.co.in
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, BHADRAK
"e" Procurement Notice for Building Works
Identification Online Tender 05/RWD/BDK-II/2024-25, Dtd.27.11.2024
 No. O-733: 1. Name of the Work: Building Works as per Annexure. 2. Total Number of Works :-2 Nos. 3. Approximate Estimated Cost:- Rs.18.26 Lakhs-Rs.21.00 lakhs. 4. Class of Contractor:- As per Annexure. 5. Period of Completion:- As per Annexure. 6. Other details:- The details are as follows.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Bid
		From	To		
Executive Engineer, R.W. Division-II, Bhadrak	05	02.12.2024 At 11.30 A.M.	10.12.2024 upto 3.00 P.M.	09.12.2024 upto 1.00 P.M.	11.12.2024 At 11.30 A.M.

7. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in"
 8. Any other changes/Corrigendum may be seen only in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
9. DATE OF TRANSPARENT LOTTERY TO BE CONDUCTED ON DT.19.12.2024 AT 11.30 AM IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, BHADRAK.
 OIPR-25090/11/0007/2425 Sd./ Executive Engineer, R.W.Division-II, Bhadrak

भारत सरकार
 कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
 त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस),
 आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वीं मंजिल,
 प्लॉट P-6, 7, 8, से.-5,
 आई.एम.टी. मनेसर,
 गुडगांव, हरियाणा - 122050
 Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
IICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P - 6, 7, 8, Sector-5,
IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

Form No. STK - 6
PUBLIC NOTICE
[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]
Public Notice: ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2024-25/1223 Date: 30/10/2024
Reference: (1) In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (2) companies in the state of Odisha under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S. No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AB1479322	U72900OR2018PTC029338	MEZOPAN TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AB1438509	U72900OR2014PTC017882	QUESTKOP SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED

(2) Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name(s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application(s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they have undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but if they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names with the registrar of companies.
 (3) Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.
 (4) Any Person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Harihara Sahoo
 Registrar
 Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit
 CBC 07123/11/0582/2425

Hindalco Industries launches digital classroom initiative 'Project Anveesha'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 28: Hindalco Industries Limited and Aditya Birla Group recently inaugurated a digital classroom initiative under 'Project Anveesha'. It has been implemented in seven high schools in proximity to the Hirakud plant in Sambalpur district. The project aims to upgrade the learning environment for students by equipping



them with state-of-the-art technology, which opens doors to enhanced educational opportunities in the digital age.

Sandip Roy, Head of Hirakud FRP plant, said,

"We are dedicated to expanding the digital classroom initiative to ensure that students across Hirakud can benefit from the advantages of modern education technology. By fostering digital literacy and improving access to quality education, the initiative will contribute to the learning process."

Project Anveesha seeks to transform traditional classrooms into interactive, tech-driven spaces, he said.

WATCO
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER,
WATCO DIVISION-I, BHUBANESWAR,
 Vanivihar Square, Bhubaneswar-751022, Odisha, India
 Telefax : +91-674-2542821, E-mail - gmdivoneatco@gmail.com
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT
Invitation For Bids (IFB)
GMWATCO-I/58/2024-25 Dt.26.11.2024

1 Name of the work	16 Nos (Sixteen nos works)
2 Estimated cost	Rs. 4.16 Lakhs to 44.65 Lakhs
3 Period of completion	6 (Six Months)
4 Class of contractor	D, C, B Class
5 Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 11.00 A.M. of Dt. 02.12.24 to 5.00 P.M. of 16.12.2024
6 Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	5.00 P.M. of 16.12.2024
7 Last date & time of seeking clarification	5.00 P.M. of 05.12.2024
8 Date & Time of opening of bids	At 12.30 P.M. of 17.12.2024
9 Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	General Manager, WATCO Division-I, BBSR

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in"
 Sd./ GENERAL MANAGER
 WATCO DIVISION-I, BHUBANESWAR
 OIPR-13257/11/0002/2425

Woman run over by express train

Balasore: A woman was run over by a superfast express train in between Balasore and Halidipada railway stations, Government Railway Police (GRP) said Thursday. The deceased, who is yet to be identified, is assumed to be within 55 years of age. The incident occurred late Wednesday evening when she was crossing the railway tracks. She died on the spot after being hit by the Bangalore-Howrah Superfast Express train. On being informed, Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel sent the body for post-mortem and registered a case.

Bank of India
 Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015
POSSESSION NOTICE
 [Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Mahanadi Vihar Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Co-Borrower in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/Co-Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of India, Mahanadi Vihar Branch** for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. **The Borrowers' attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

MAHANADI VIHAR BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower / Co-Borrower	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of the Property
Borrower: Mrs. Chinta Singh / Co-Borrower: Mr. Satyendra Singh, Both are C/o: Baikunthanath Behura, Sikharpur, College Square, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN - 753003	₹ 10,49,331.67 + interest & expenses thereon	30.08.2024 / 27.11.2024	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Khata No.: 772/3103, Plot No.: 1344, Mouza: Nimpur, P.S./Tahasil: Tangi-Choudwar, Dist.: Cuttack, Area of the Land is Ac. 0.060 Dec., registered in the name of Mrs. Chinta Singh, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 1345, South: Plot No.: 4032 and 1331, East: Plot No.: 1343, West: Road

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 29.11.2024
Chief Manager & Authorised Officer
Bank of India

FOCUS WELFARE

HEALTHY DEMANDS



It is the people's right to demand quality healthcare and it is the duty of the government to do so in a holistic manner instead of limiting the quantum of benefits and to a very limited number of people



PSM Rao

NOT ONLY SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT OVERHAUL THE AB-PMJAY, BUT IT SHOULD INTROSPECT ON ITS DUTY AS A WELFARE STATE TO PROVIDE UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE TO ALL CITIZENS

The government's schemes with too many restrictions, to make them truly inclusive, by focusing only on the target groups, often become utterly counterproductive. They not only yield half-hearted benefits to those covered but also exclude many deserving from the schemes' purview, which is why universal health, education, and public distribution through public expenditure are demanded.

The governments, too, keep promising to work towards that goal with the introduction of partially universal schemes like the Food Security Act, free education up to certain levels, and public-funded health insurance, notwithstanding many incongruities and infirmities in such schemes.

The Centre recently introduced one such scheme which prima facie appears to be a universal health coverage scheme for all those above 70 years of age. But the devil in the details unfolds the flaws of the scheme, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) for senior citizens above 70. This scheme is an extension of the PMJAY launched in 2018 to benefit the bottom 40% of Indian poor comprising 12 crore households. While the government gloats over its success seen in its coverage and assistance, with 8.20 crore hospitalisations since its inception till 1 November, people are not very happy with the programme because of its non or inadequate coverage of all their health needs besides the indifference of many empanelled hospitals in accepting PMJAY.

Whatever the claims to the contrary, PMJAY could not bring any significant change in our poor, rather sick, healthcare system. Health services have become commercial and the burden on people keeps increasing with ever-ris-

ing health costs. As per a NITI Aayog report, 7% of people, that is about 10 crore persons fall below the poverty line every year due to high out-of-pocket health expenditure.

The new scheme for senior citizens is going to be no better for them. It considers those above 70 as seniors whereas 60 is normally taken as the benchmark. Senior Citizens Act 2007 defines a senior citizen to be one who attained 60 years of age or above. Some state governments give old age destitute pensions to persons even below sixty years.

So, among other things, people are demanding the inclusion of persons aged 60 and above in this seniors' health scheme of the government. Yes, this will involve additional expenditure to meet the additional number of people. The government has initially allocated (towards its 60% share) ₹3,437 crore while states are supposed to meet another 40% of total cost. The number of households is expected to be 4.5 crore and the number of persons above 70 to be 6 crore. There are 14.9 crore persons above 60 as of July 2022 in India as per the UN Population Fund, which means the number of persons between 60 and 70 would be 8.9 crore calculated based on these data sets.

For this additional coverage (of the people between 70 and 60) about 150% of additional expenditure that is, ₹5,100 crore for the current year's six months and next year is required. That would not be a big burden for the central government but would be a great relief to the 8.9 crore sexagenarians. The expenditure is not going to be that big given the fact that a significant number of persons are not using the scheme due partly to lack of awareness; about 68% of those targeted are not aware of the scheme as per one study although it doesn't tally with official estimates. Also, there are those who are sufficiently rich and who, though entitled, are unlikely to utilise the scheme with so many inadequacies.

The second demand relates to the major challenge the beneficiaries face: many empanelled hospitals are turning down eligible patients. Their agony is not difficult to understand when in an emergency the hospitals refuse their admission. That may lead to delayed or no treatment. So, the demand is to make it mandatory for listed hospitals to treat eligible patients without giving them any scope to refuse based on any plea like non-reimbursement of their dues from the government.

The third demand relates to unnecessary paperwork, health cards and other evidence when senior citizens need immediate medical attention. It is, therefore, a genuine expectation of people not to insist on any other paper than Aadhaar. The Aadhaar shows the age of the patient which is the only condition to become eligible under the scheme.

The other two flaws in the scheme that need a review include: i) treatment is limited to the extent of only ₹5 lakh per annum per family. If there are more senior citizens above 70 years in one family (certainly there are more as per the government's data which says the scheme will benefit 4.5 crore families and 6 crore individuals) the ₹5 lakh amount is to be apportioned among the multiple members which will not be adequate, and ii) not every ailment is treated under the scheme; there is a list of diseases and of course, the government has promised to expand it to cover geriatric treatments because of the introduction of the senior citizens' health scheme. The scheme should be revamped in such a way as to cover all the ailments and all the healthcare needs of senior citizens.

Not only should the government overhaul the AB-PMJAY, but it should introspect on its duty as a welfare state to provide universal healthcare to all citizens. The protection of life and personal liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution cannot be ignored by a democratic government. It is the people's right to demand quality healthcare and it is the duty of the government to do so in a holistic manner instead of limiting the quantum of benefits and to a very limited number of people.

The writer is a development economist and commentator on economic and social affairs.

Advantage India

It might be tempting to assume that Donald Trump's return to the White House augurs stability in US-India relations. After all, there is strong bipartisan support in Washington for deeper ties, particularly as a counterbalance to China's growing economic and geopolitical influence.

Not so fast. To be sure, the strategic partnership between the United States and India offers several mutual benefits. Unlike other partners, India is not seeking US financial or military aid. And beyond their personal rapport, there is also a clear ideological alignment between Trump's Make America Great Again (MAGA) agenda and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalism.

Despite this, Trump's second term could pose significant risks to the bilateral relationship, owing to two Indian vulnerabilities. First, although Trump's transactional approach to politics makes him unpredictable, his support for using tariffs to reduce America's trade deficit has been steadfast. His recent pledge to impose a 25 per cent tariff on all products coming into the US from Canada and Mexico, as well as an additional 10 per cent tariff on all Chinese imports, is a prime example.

This spells trouble for India, which maintains some of the world's highest tariffs and has a growing trade surplus with the US (nearly \$46 billion in 2022). Trump's trade czar, Robert Lighthizer, has already labelled India the world's "most protectionist" country, suggesting that heightened trade tensions are all but inevitable.

India's second vulnerability is Chinese expansionism. Although Trump views China's economy and trade practices as existential threats, his concerns do not extend to its military aggression. The security partnership between India and the US, rooted in a shared interest in countering China's territorial ambitions, cannot be taken for granted under Trump.

While Marco Rubio and Mike Waltz - Trump's picks for Secretary of State and National Security Adviser, respectively - are staunch China hawks, the president-elect's own instincts lean heavily toward non-interventionism. More isolationist than interventionist, Trump has often rejected the establishment consensus on the need to maintain Pax Americana.

Given his aversion to interfering in foreign military conflicts, Trump may be inclined to overlook China's actions in Taiwan, the South China Sea, and even the Himalayas if it means securing meaningful trade concessions. Notably, his approach to Taiwan appears to be driven more by the perception that the island "stole" America's semiconductor industry than by its strategic value as an ally. Elon Musk and other influential billionaires within Trump's inner circle, eager to maintain access to Chinese markets, could further encourage him to turn a blind eye to China's expansionist agenda.

How should India manage these risks? One option is to adopt a cautious, wait-and-see strategy, addressing Trump's demands by selectively reducing tariffs, removing trade barriers in key sectors, and increasing military purchases. A more cynical strategy would involve leveraging Trump's personal business interests by steering investments toward his family's hotels and real-estate ventures.

A more principled response would be to initiate talks with the US on a bilateral deal or free-trade agreement (FTA). India stands to gain from trade liberalisation. Its garment and footwear industries, for example, are at a significant disadvantage compared to Vietnamese competitors, which benefit from FTAs, and several African countries that enjoy duty-free access under the US African Growth and Opportunity Act. A bilateral FTA could reduce US tariffs on labour-intensive Indian exports, thereby leveling the playing field.

Such an agreement would also enable India to capitalise on many companies' "China plus one" strategy, whereby firms diversify their supply chains by establishing manufacturing facilities outside the People's Republic. Trump's proposed tariffs on Chinese imports are likely to accelerate capital flight from China, prompting foreign companies to search for alternative investment destinations. With the right policies in place, India could benefit from this trend, just as Vietnam and Mexico reaped the rewards after Trump's previous administration imposed tariffs on Chinese imports.

Moreover, an FTA would give India a rare opportunity to revive its struggling manufacturing sector. Although Trump may prioritise onshoring over "friend-shoring," potentially diminishing India's appeal as an investment destination, an FTA could help ease his reservations. By opening its domestic market to American businesses, India could harness the "China plus one" trend and strengthen economic ties with the US.

Admittedly, market liberalisation could encounter political resistance. But while trade reforms often face domestic opposition, India's reforms may prove less contentious, as its imports from the US are dominated by energy-related products and gold - sectors with few vocal constituencies opposing liberalisation. On the export side, major industries such as gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, apparel, and machinery all benefit from stronger trade ties with the US. Indian apparel exporters, for example, have long decried the preferential access to US markets enjoyed by countries like Vietnam.

In the US, on the other hand, the selling point for an FTA with India would be its asymmetric tariff reductions. Trump has often criticised the disparity between America's low tariffs and the higher duties imposed by its trade partners. By securing reduced Indian tariffs, such an agreement could provide a significant boost to Trump's trade agenda.

Resolving trade tensions could also pave the way for India to tackle other pressing bilateral priorities, such as securing current levels of H-1B visas (for workers with special skills needed in the US) and facilitating cooperation on technological development and defence production. Conversely, failing to address the trade issue risks reducing Trump's willingness to strengthen ties, especially if he views China as a less significant strategic threat than his predecessors have done.

While Trump's tariffs often seem like a solution in search of a problem, they offer India a chance to attract the capital fleeing China and foster bilateral cooperation with the US. Modi's government should act now to convert Trump's obsession into India's opportunity.

The writer, a former Chief Economic Adviser to the Indian government, is a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

SRI AUROBINDO



Arvind Subramanian



While Trump's tariffs often seem like a solution in search of a problem, they offer India a chance to attract the capital fleeing China and foster bilateral cooperation with the US

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Developed world disappoints again

The yearly climate talks have not yielded much result. The UN Environment Programme assessment showed that several major economies, including the US, Canada, Japan, Australia, China and Saudi Arabia are not on course to meet their 2030 emission reduction targets or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). However, countries like India are projected to meet their NDCs though their overall emissions are increasing as they expand energy use to support basic developmental needs. Overall, the global scenario is far from encouraging and targets set at the Paris agreement are likely to be breached by the end of this year itself as the final agreement at the Baku conference was rather disappointing.

Human-caused global warming has already breached 1.50C limit over temperature levels in the 1700s, widely viewed as critical to avert the most devastating impacts of climate change. Meanwhile, the World Meteorological Organisation stated that the January-September 2024 global mean surface air temperature was 1.540C above the industrial average, boosted

by a warming El Nino, a natural phenomenon marked by slightly elevated Pacific Ocean and surface temperatures. Under the Paris agreement, the 1.50 C target has been almost breached though the pact assumed 1850-1900 period as the baseline, not the 1700s. Obviously, the ambitions of the Paris pact are in great peril.

It is significant to mention here the observation of Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change that "if nations can't build resilience into supply chains, the entire global economy will be brought to its knees" and emphasised the need for climate finance at COP29. Though it is very much a fact that an ambitious climate finance goal, called New Collective Quantified Goal, is in the interest of every nation, the required finance may not be forthcoming from developed nations. Reaching the figure may be even more difficult with US President-elect Donald Trump unlikely to make available enough funds for climate mitigation to developing countries.

A report titled 'Raising Ambition & Accelerating Delivery

of Climate Finance' released at the COP29 recommended that climate finance should focus on mobilising \$1 trillion per annum for developing countries by 2030. It warned that "any shortfall in investment before 2030 will place added pressure on the years that follow, creating a steeper and potentially costly path to climate stability."

The group of Like Minded Developing Countries and also G77 had made it clear that anything above \$1.3 trillion annual finance from developed to developing countries is very much needed. India demanded \$600 billion in grant-based climate finance from developed countries out of the overall \$1.3 trillion. India also underlined that developing nations should not be burdened with the rich nations' failures on their pre-2020 mitigation targets and developed countries should not put Intellectual Property Rights barriers to scaling and transfer of technologies to developing nations.

Developed countries agreed on just \$250 billion per annum by 2035 for the developing world, compared to the latter's demand for at least \$1.3 trillion. Experts pointed out that the

final figure of \$300 billion per year in support by 2035, up from the current target of \$100 billion was indeed a disgrace as the developed world was fully aware of the devastating crisis afflicting developing nations and the staggering cost of climate action.

Further, it is understood that the paltry sum includes mostly loans and lacks the crucial commitment to grant-based finance, which is essential for developing nations to address climate impacts and transition away from fossil fuels.

COPs are being held every year and some action has undoubtedly been taken but we are way behind to effectively tackle global warming and control emissions. Firm action is called for by industrialised countries of the West as also China and India to take more stringent steps to tackle the looming environmental challenge. However, finance is a crucial necessity that may not be forthcoming from the Western world, raising the question whether sincere and judicious approach alone can save humanity and mother earth from the looming catastrophe.



Dhurjati Mukherjee

FIRM ACTION IS CALLED FOR BY INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES OF THE WEST AS ALSO CHINA AND INDIA TO TAKE MORE STRINGENT STEPS TO TACKLE THE LOOMING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE

Weakened democracy

Sir, The arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, associated with International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in Bangladesh has aroused outrage in many regions, including India. The Indian government has expressed concern about the arrest and has asked the Bangladeshi government to ensure the safety of minorities. The arrest comes amid an increase in attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh. The monk, who has been protesting crimes against Hindus in Bangladesh, is accused of disrespecting the national flag during a rally in Chattogram in October. This episode occurs during a period of weakened democracy in Bangladesh. The situation of Hindus in Bangladesh is troubling. Bangladesh is experiencing difficulties following Sheikh Hasina's fall from power. The Yunus administration has failed to halt attacks on minorities and Hasina's party members. Yunus had stated in an interview some time ago that attacks against Hindus were not sectarian, but rather the outcome of political turbulence, as most Hindus are believed to favour Hasina's Awami League. Recently, there have been calls to proclaim Bangladesh an Islamic state. The country's Attorney General recently claimed in a High Court hearing that "socialism and secularism do not reflect the realities of a nation where 90 per cent of the population is Muslim." Analysts have linked Bangladesh's current position to the political situations in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is unclear which course the country will go..

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

The pavement surgeon

Sir, It is very easy to hurt than heal. In a world suffering from a dearth of soothing hands to heal wounds, a healer of somewhat different kind recently caught my attention. Ememem is an anonymous French artist who fills cracks on roads and pavements with beautiful mosaics for which he is being affectionately called the "pavement surgeon." He mostly performs his "beautiful surgeries" at night, surprising people at dawn. Can we expect such selfless service in our country too? I doubt that. We even expect the government to fill the pothole in front of our gate!

Noopur Baruah, TEZPUR

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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



Army to pay 46 years rent to land owner

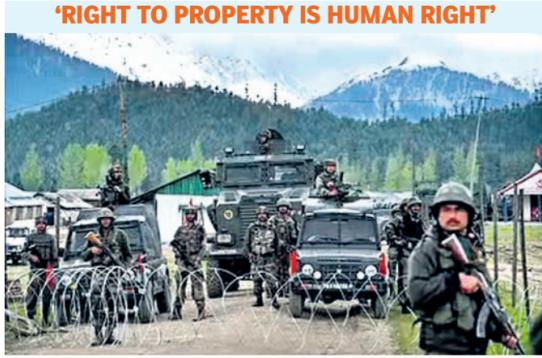
According to the petition filed by one Abdul Majeed Lone in 2014, the Army occupied his land measuring 1.6 acre at Tangdhar near the LoC Kupwara District in 1978. He claimed he had not received any compensation or the rent for his land

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 28: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh recently held that the right to property now falls within the realm of human rights.

Disposing of a petition November 20, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal directed the Army, which had occupied the parcel of the petitioner's land since 1978, to pay the rent accumulated over the last 46 years within a month.

"The right to property is now considered not only a constitutional or statutory right but it falls within the realm of human rights. Human rights have been considered in the realm of individual rights such as right



to shelter, livelihood, health, employment etc and over the years, human rights have gained a multifaceted dimension," the judge underlined.

According to the petition filed by one Abdul Majeed Lone in 2014, the Army occupied his land measuring 1.6 acre at Tangdhar near the LoC

Kupwara District in 1978. He claimed he had not received any compensation or the rent for his land.

"The state in exercise of its power of 'eminent domain' may interfere with the right of property of a person by acquiring the same but the same must be for a public purpose, and therefore, reasonable compensation must be paid," the court held.

While the Centre's counsel contended that the Army had not occupied the land, the revenue department confirmed it had been in the possession of the Army since 1978.

The court ordered a fresh survey with regard to the land in question and found through a report of the revenue authorities that it had been in the Ar-

my's possession since 1978. It further observed that the land owner had never received any rent or compensation.

"The facts mentioned above clearly reveal that the respondents have violated the basic rights of the petitioner and have deprived him of the valuable constitutional right without following the procedure as envisaged under law," the court noted.

The verdict underscored that he state and its agencies could "dispossess a citizen of his property" except in accordance with law.

"The obligation to pay the compensation though not expressly included in Article 300A can be inferred from the said article," it added.

LANDMARK DECISION

Kerala grants menstrual leave for ITI trainees



Last year, the Kerala Higher Education Department announced menstrual leave for female students studying in all state universities under the Department of Higher Education

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 28: The Kerala government announced Thursday a groundbreaking decision to grant two days of menstrual leave each month to female students in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).

The decision was announced by state General Education Minister V Sivankutty, recognising the physically demanding nature of many skill-training programmes in which female students have increasingly excelled, even in traditionally labour-intensive trades.

"In today's era, women are active in every field, including some of the most physically de-

manding skill-training trades. Taking these factors into account, the government has decided to grant two days of menstrual leave each month for female trainees (students) in ITIs," he said in a statement here.

Female students studying in over 100 ITIs in Kerala will benefit from this, officials said.

The exact number of students who will benefit is being ascertained, they added.

Last year, the Kerala Higher Education Department announced menstrual leave for female students studying in all state universities under the Department of Higher Education.

Meanwhile, Thursday, the Kerala government decided to make all Saturdays holidays for ITI students.

"To compensate for the lost training time, ITI shifts will be rescheduled. The first shift will be from 7.30 am to 3.00 pm, and the second shift from 10.00 am to 5.30 pm," it said.

While Saturdays will be holidays for trainees, those who wish to can use these days for shop-floor training, short-term training courses, and other extracurricular activities, the government added.

ABSENTEES UNDER RADAR

J&K deputy CM holds surprise inspection of govt offices in Jammu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 28: Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary Thursday launched a series of surprise inspections of government offices and expressed dissatisfaction with their functioning.

He also issued stern warnings and asked the officials to perform their duties with accountability and transparency for the welfare of the people.

Choudhary emphasised that action would be taken against the officials lacking accountability in governance and failing to perform their duties.

Taking note of some complaints, the deputy chief minister conducted a surprise inspection of the public works department office in Jammu. During the visit, he reprimanded the officials for absenteeism, poor maintenance of offices, and a general lack of accountability and transparency.

In a strong statement against absenteeism in government offices, Choudhary vowed to take strict action against employees neglecting their responsibilities.

"I have been receiving complaints for some time. So I decided to conduct a surprise visit. I categorically told the officers that this is a people's government. We are answerable to the people and so are they. The situation here is pathetic. Action will be taken," Choudhary told reporters.

Around 60-70 per cent of the employees, including top engineers, were absent from duty during the deputy chief minister's visit. Choudhary also said that accountability of officials would be ensured and the government was committed to setting a precedent.

"I have observed the poor state of the offices. There is no maintenance and accountability is missing. Many officials were absent from duty. This government aims to set a new precedent to ensure accountability and transparency in governance," he said.

Choudhary announced that this was the start of a series of surprise visits to government offices to ensure good governance, accountability, transparency and regularity.



Shiv Sena (UBT) members stage a protest against the alleged attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh, in Jammu, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

Kerala weeds out 827 unrecognised schools

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 28: The survey of unrecognised schools in Kerala has been completed, and further measures are set to follow in the coming weeks, General Education Minister V Sivankutty said Thursday.

Preliminary findings indicate that there are 827 unrecognised institutions that remain outside the formal education system, the minister said in a statement. He added that further actions on this matter would be initiated soon.

"A meeting has been convened by the chief minister to discuss the issue, and a list of

schools along with available details will be handed over to him," Sivankutty said.

He emphasised that no activities negatively impacting the physical or mental well-being of students, such as body-shaming, should be tolerated by teachers or school authorities.

"Similarly, issues such as demanding payment of transportation fees or any other charges should not be addressed in classrooms in the presence of other students. Teachers and school authorities should directly communicate these matters to parents, as most of them now have access to mobile phones," Sivankutty said. He also stated that no student should

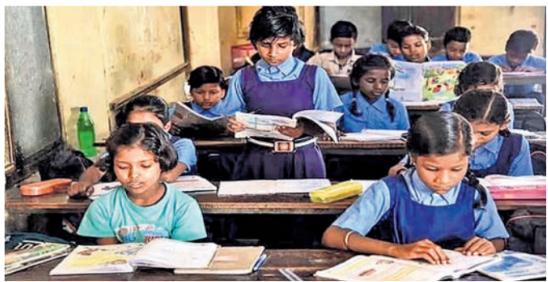
be excluded from school excursions for financial reasons.

"Guidelines concerning school trips and personal celebrations should be implemented immediately. The Director of Public Education has been tasked with submitting a report on the measures taken in this regard within a week," the minister said.

Stating that school excursions are often reduced to mere recreational trips, with some schools charging exorbitant amounts and causing financial strain on economically disadvantaged students, he said such excursions should be organised in a way that is accessible to all students.

The expenses of accompanying teachers and PTA members during school trips should be borne by the respective PTA committees or staff management committees, Sivankutty said.

The minister noted that individual celebrations, such as birthdays of staff or students, are being organised in schools, with students being pressured to bring gifts and discriminatory behaviour towards those who fail to bring gifts also coming to light.



Eva first pet to land at Kochi Airport after AQCS certification



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Nov 28: Eva, a one-year-old mixed-breed cat, has set a unique milestone as the first pet to land at Kochi International Airport after it acquired the Animal Quarantine and Certification Services (AQCS) certification recently.

Eva arrived from Doha aboard Air India flight AI 954, which landed at 10:17 am, a release issued by Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) Thursday said.

She is the pet of KA Ramachandran, a resident of Chelakkara, Thrissur.

The direct import process was efficiently managed by the airport's team, ensuring a hassle-free experience for both

Eva and her owner, the release stated.

CIAL launched its 'Pet Export' facility in July, which has since gained popularity among passengers, according to the release.

With approval from the AQCS under the Central Animal Husbandry Department, CIAL is currently the only airport in Kerala offering comprehensive pet import-export services, the release said.

The airport's pet handling facilities include a fully equipped pet station, veterinary services, and a quarantine centre.

Following Eva's arrival, CIAL is set to welcome another pet, a dog from Belgium, scheduled to land early Saturday (November 30), the release added.

Mercury under free fall in J&K

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 28: Cold wave gripped Kashmir Valley Thursday as Srinagar city recorded the coldest night of the season so far, at minus 2.1 degrees Celsius.

The Meteorological (MeT) Department officials said the night temperatures have fallen across Kashmir as Srinagar city recorded sub-zero minus temperature.

The minimum temperature was minus 2.5 in Gulmarg and minus 5 in Pahalgam.

In Jammu city, the minimum temperature was 10.1, in Katra 9.2, Batote 4.2, Banihal 8.7 and Bhandarwah 1.2.

Three weak western disturbances are likely to hit Jammu and Kashmir from November 29 onwards.

Under the influence of these, light to moderate snowfall is expected in the higher reaches while plains could receive rain during this period.



The 40-day-long period of harsh winter cold known locally as the 'Chillai Kalan' starts on December 21 and ends on January 30 like each year.

During this period, most water bodies in the Valkey freeze at the top making boating difficult. Mornings are mostly covered with a thick blanket of fog during the Chillai Kalan and the day temperatures also hover around 5 to 7 degrees Celsius while night temperatures fall to around 6 to 8 degrees on average.

It is during this period of harsh cold that Kashmiris wear thick garments called 'Pheran'. An earthen pot woven in willow wicker called the 'Kangri' is filled with charcoal and kept under the Pheran to provide the much-needed warmth to beat the extreme cold.

Garbage-free 'New Kerala' project intensifies

All government offices will be declared as green offices January 26 next year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 28: A meeting convened by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Thursday decided to mobilise the masses under the leadership of local self-government bodies to intensify the project of garbage-free 'New Kerala.'

The works of the Sanitation Mission, State Pollution Control Board and Kerala Solid Waste Management Project will be ex-

pedited to address the delay in obtaining technical approvals for using innovative technologies of private entrepreneurs in waste management, an official release here said.

The executive committees of each ward of local self-government bodies have been asked to lead the cleaning activities. The department of Local Self-Government has been directed to convene meetings of all local bodies to ensure that the committees function effectively.



Local self-government bodies will be allowed to facilitate the implementation of

public-private partnership for solid waste management. Any delay in obtaining gov-

ernment approvals for various projects related to waste management will be avoided, it said.

The meeting also resolved to give permission within two weeks after completion of procedures in such applications.

The preparations for 'Total Sanitation Declaration' were also discussed at the meeting. The declaration of 100 percent greening of neighbourhoods and tourism centres will be made by March 30 next year, it added.

All government offices will be declared as green offices January 26 next year. On the same day, the cities in all local self-government bodies will also be declared fully clean and beautiful towns.

The meeting was attended by Local Self-Government Minister MB Rajesh, chief secretary Sarada Muralidharan and 'Navakerala' (New Kerala) action plan coordinator TN Seema, the release said.



The issue of climate change is acquiring a new dimension which needs to be understood and managed. Latest cutting edge technology needs to be applied. I am confident that our armed personnel officers will rise to the future challenges

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

CRACKDOWN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING SYNDICATE

The National Investigation Agency Thursday conducted searches at 22 locations in six states to probe a human trafficking syndicate luring youth to work in call centres engaged in cyber frauds, officials said. They said the searches were being conducted in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi among other places



of the day quote

Getting caught up in matters of religion is not right. It is not good for the unity and integrity of the country, nor is it good for society

This is theft of people's vote. We will seek legal recourse and hit the streets to make people aware

Cases of fraud related to sale of land, giving jobs and financial misappropriation are registered at various police stations. A detailed inquiry is being conducted

LeT member extradited from Rwanda

Salman Rehman Khan, an alleged member of the internationally proscribed terrorist organisation, had assisted in providing arms, ammunition and explosives to further terrorist activities in Bangalore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: Rwanda extradited to India Thursday a member of Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) facing an Interpol Red Notice in an operation coordinated by the NIA and the CBI, officials said here.

Salman Rehman Khan, an alleged member of the internationally proscribed terrorist organisation, had assisted in providing arms, ammunition and explosives to further terrorist activities in Bangalore, they said.

"The Global Operations Centre of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has closely coordinated with the NIA and Interpol National Central Bureau - Kigali for the return to India from Rwanda of Salman Rehman Khan, wanted by the NIA for terror-related offences," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had lodged a case in 2023 related to criminal conspiracy to spread terror in Ban-



galore, they said. An FIR was also registered at Hebbal Police Station, Bangalore. Khan, who was previously imprisoned in a POCSO case (2018-2022), had allegedly facilitated the collection and distribution of explosives for other terror

Fugitive accused of facilitating terror activities in Bangalore brought back to India after global coordination

to further LeT operations in the country besides plotting his escape en route to the court from the prison, the agency said.

When the terror module was busted, Khan managed to give agencies a slip and escaped from the country, it said.

"NIA chargesheeted him in stringent anti-terror law and Indian Penal Code and court declared him a fugitive," it said.

"The CBI on request of the NIA had got a Red Notice issued against the subject from Interpol August 2, 2024. It was circulated to all law enforcement agencies globally for tracking of the wanted criminal," the CBI statement said.

Based on the Red Notice, he was apprehended by authorities in Kigali, Rwanda.

The information was passed on to the CBI which is the designated agency for coordination of Interpol affairs in India and the NIA. After legal proceedings, he was extradited to India. "He was returned to India 28.11.2024 by a security team from NIA," the CBI statement said.

Priyanka takes oath as LS MP



The MP from Wayanad in Kerala held up a red and black copy of the Constitution, which Rahul Gandhi has been displaying at his public meetings, as she took her oath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: Holding up a copy of the Constitution, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Thursday took oath as a Lok Sabha MP to begin her journey as an elected representative of the people five years after she joined active politics.

The debutant MP, whose entry into Parliament has long been a subject of speculation, said her priority would be to raise important issues concerning the nation and fight for the country and her party.

The 52-year-old, who joins her mother Sonia and brother Rahul as an MP in what is a rare instance of three members of a family together in Parliament, took affirmation in Hindi.

The MP from Wayanad in Kerala held up a red and black copy of the Constitution, which Rahul Gandhi has been displaying at his public meetings, as she took her oath.

Dressed in a cream Kasavu saree from Kerala, Priyanka Gandhi rose to take oath amid cheers of 'Jodo Jodo, Bharat Jodo' from

the Congress benches. She took oath with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, her mother and Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chief Sonia Gandhi, husband Robert Vadra, son Rihan and daughter Miraya watching from the galleries.

Congress MPs earlier met at the CPP office in the Parliament premises where Priyanka Gandhi was greeted and congratulated by leaders.

After taking oath, Priyanka Gandhi completed the formalities and then shared a warm hug with her brother and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. She then went and sat in the fourth row with fellow Congress MPs.

Ravindra Chavan (Congress), who won the Nanded bypoll also took oath in Marathi in the name of god.

The House was adjourned after the oaths as opposition members came to the Well of the House and raised slogans, demanding a discussion on the Adani issue and the Sambhal violence.

As MPs exited the House, leaders made a beeline to congratulate Priyanka Gandhi and on the steps of the Makar Dwar. Congress MPs gathered as Rahul Gandhi clicked a photograph of Priyanka Gandhi with the Samvidhan Sadan in the background.

"It will strengthen Rahul Gandhi, the party and the principles of the Constitution because we are fighting for that," she told reporters when asked about the impact of her entering Parliament.

Parl washed out for 3rd day over disruptions by Oppn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: Proceedings in Parliament were Thursday washed out for the third day since the beginning of the Winter Session following disruptions by the Opposition over the Adani issue and violence in Manipur and Sambhal.

Both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned within minutes of convening. The Houses were first adjourned shortly after they met Thursday and were later adjourned for the day soon after reconvening at 12 noon amid the opposition parties' protests.

The Lok Sabha witnessed disruptions during Question Hour, shortly after Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Ravindra Chavan took oath as members of the Lower House.

Opposition members gathered in the Well, raising slogans for action against the perpetrators of the violence in Sambhal during a court-ordered survey of a Mughal-era mosque.

As the Opposition protests continued, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MP Krishna Prasad Tenneti, who was in the chair, adjourned the proceedings for the day. In the Rajya Sabha, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar's appeals that Parliamentary disruption was not a remedy but a malady which weakened the foundation of India's democracy went unheeded as the opposition members protested.

The proceedings of the Upper House were adjourned within minutes after it met at 12 noon, following one adjournment shortly after 11 am.

Blast near PVR in Delhi's Prashant Vihar, 1 injured

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: A low-intensity blast occurred near PVR Prashant Vihar in Delhi's Rohini Thursday, leaving one person injured, police said.



The explosion took place in front of a sweet shop near a park in the same area where a strong blast ripped through a wall of a CRPF school October 20.

The Delhi Police said at 11:47 am, a call was received regarding an explosion in front of Banshi Wala sweet shop in Prashant Vihar.

Chetan Kushwaha (28), the driver of a three-wheeler, which was parked nearby, sustained minor injuries. He was taken to a hospital and discharged after treatment, police said.

The entire area was cordoned off immediately after a bomb detection team, dog squad, police and Delhi Fire Services reached the spot.

White power was recovered from the spot. However, a probe is underway to ascertain more details about the explosion, officials said.

A senior police officer said film screenings were going on inside the multiplex at the time of the blast. Panic ensued among visitors and residents as smoke engulfed the area.

A video showing a cloud of smoke around the multiplex emerged on social media following the incident. The distance between the PVR and blast site is a few meters.

Hours after the blast, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi accused the BJP-led Central government of failing to maintain law and order in the national capital.

According to the police sources, the Thursday morning explosion is similar to the blast that occurred outside the CRPF school's boundary wall in Prashant Vihar last month.

SHORT TAKES

2 terror associates arrested in J&K

Jammu: Police Thursday arrested two terror associates allegedly conspiring to execute subversive activities in Doda and Udhampur districts of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. A police team arrested a hardcore terror associate named Firdous Ahmed Wani from the Dandi area in Doda district's Baderwah belt based on credible intelligence, they said. The accused was reportedly in contact with terrorist handlers across the border through various social media platforms. He was actively working to revive militancy in Doda by establishing a foothold for anti-national elements in the area, officials said.

Ex-ship captain loses ₹11cr in cyber fraud

Mumbai: A 75-year-old retired ship captain here has lost a staggering ₹11.16 crore over four months in a cyber fraud scheme falsely promising lucrative returns on stock market investments, police said. A history-sheeter, Kaif Ibrahim Mansuri, has been arrested and police have found 33 debit cards and 12 cheque books of different banks in his possession in connection with the cyber fraud case, an official said Wednesday. The victim, who had a keen interest in stock market investments, was lured by fraudsters with promises of hefty returns on investments in stocks.

3 workers killed as wall collapses

Jaipur: Three workers were killed and another injured when a wall collapsed on them during construction work at a school in Rajasthan's Jalore district Thursday, police said. The incident occurred in Poshana village under Sayla police station area, they said. The four workers were buried under the debris of a wall that was under construction at the Government Higher Secondary School, police added.

3 of family dead as car plunges into river

Sangli (Maharashtra): Three members of a family were killed after their car plunged into the Krishna river in western Maharashtra's Sangli district in the early hours of Thursday, police said. The accident took place on the Ankali bridge around 12.30 am when two families, the Khedekars and Narvekar, residents of Sangli, were returning after attending a wedding in Kolhapur.

COURT CORNER: Yasin Malik case: SC notice on CBI plea to transfer trial to Delhi; SC raps HP govt over denial of job to 2014 Asian Games gold winner; Punjab, Haryana govts slow in acting against farmers burning stubble: SC; Coal levy 'scam': SC extends interim bail of ex-Ch'garh CM's deputy secretary

Human language, rhythm share a genetic harmony: Study

THE RESEARCHERS FOUND THAT GENETIC VARIANTS KNOWN TO INCREASE THE RISK OF IMPAIRMENTS IN RHYTHM PROCESSING WERE ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH A HIGHER LIKELIHOOD OF DYSLEXIA, A LEARNING DISABILITY THAT AFFECTS READING, WRITING, AND SPELLING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: A new study has revealed genes that are common to both language and music rhythm abilities, offering new insights into the biological basis shared between these human traits.

Published in the journal Nature Human Behaviour, the study found that sixteen regions of the human genome-the complete DNA sequence of a person- are shared by both rhythm and language.

Researchers, including those from Vanderbilt University in the US, indicated that genetic variants in these

regions could affect gene expression in brain cells.

Information in one's genes translate into observable behaviour and traits via gene expression.

The datasets used for analysis included those obtained from 23andMe, a US-based genomics and biotechnology company, which involved more than a million individuals.

The researchers found that genetic variants known to increase the risk of impairments in rhythm processing were also associated with a higher likelihood of dyslexia, a learning disability that affects reading, writing, and spelling.



"The results revealed 16 pleiotropic loci (locations of genes on chromosomes) jointly associated with rhythm impairment and dyslexia, highlighting intricate shared genetic and

Information in one's genes translate into observable behaviour and traits via gene expression

neurobiological architectures," the authors wrote. Pleiotropy is a phenomenon, in which a gene variant is responsible for multiple traits simultaneously.

The study also found that the reverse was also true: genetic variants linked to more accurate rhythm skills were associated with better performance on language and reading

tests, such as higher grades in foreign language classes.

The results suggest a "complex genetic and neurobiological architecture" shared by musical rhythm and the capacity for learning and maintaining human language, said senior author Reyna Gordon, an associate professor at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Potential future applications of this research could include detecting genetic risk factors and personalising treatments based on an individual's genetic inclinations of impairments in rhythm and language (during childhood), the researchers noted.

national



Indian culture resonates globally! Wherever I go, I see immense enthusiasm towards our history and culture, which is extremely gladdening
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

IAF BEGINS WHITE WATER RAFTING EXPEDITION IN ALAKNANDA RIVER

The Indian Air Force Thursday started a white water rafting expedition in the Alaknanda river in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district. The expedition, led by IAF Wing Commander Vijay Bhatt, will conclude in Rishikesh December 3



Delhi reports 'isolated' case of Japanese Encephalitis

All public health measures have been instituted as per the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC) guidelines, the sources said, adding there was no cause for concern.



After the patient's blood sample was collected November 6, he tested positive for Japanese Encephalitis. He was discharged November 15, the sources said.

According to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme data, in 2024, 1,548 Japanese Encephalitis cases were reported from 24 states and Union Territories, with 925 cases from Assam alone. The Central government guidelines, two doses of the vaccine have been a part of the Universal Immunisation Programme since 2013. Adult Japanese Encephalitis vaccine has been introduced in high-burden states, sources said. "No outbreak of Japanese Encephalitis has been reported in Delhi in the past although occa-

sional isolated cases have been reported from tertiary hospitals like AIIMS, Ram Manohar Lohia and Safdarjung among others - mostly from neighbouring states," a source said. While all public health measures have been instituted according to the NCVBDC guidelines, there is no cause for concern due to this isolated case of Japanese Encephalitis, the source said. The Japanese Encephalitis virus is normally carried by waterfowl and amplified in pigs from where it is accidentally transmitted to humans through the bite of infected culex mosquitoes.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: The national capital has reported an "isolated" case of Japanese Encephalitis, official sources said Thursday. All public health measures have been instituted as per the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC) guidelines, the sources said, adding there was no cause

for concern. Referring to an order issued by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi Wednesday, the sources said that the 72-year-old man from west Delhi was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences November 3 following chest pain. The patient was diabetic, had coronary artery disease, bilateral lower limb weakness and bowel and bladder inconti-

GRAP IV measures in place till Dec 2



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: The Supreme Court Thursday refused to relax emergency measures under Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to deal with air pollution in the national capital, ordering it to continue till December 2 even as the Centre said the AQI was in "manageable limits".

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih said the report submitted by the court commissioners showed an "abject failure" of authorities in implementing the GRAP IV curbs in letter and spirit. "We make it clear that all GRAP IV measures except the measures which are modified in respect of the schools will continue to operate till Monday. In the meantime, Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) will hold a meeting and come out with the suggestion about moving from GRAP IV to GRAP III or GRAP II. We also make it clear that it is not necessary that all measures which are provided in GRAP IV should be dispensed with," the bench said.

The top court further clarified that the entry of all trucks - except those carrying essential goods or providing essential services and LNG/CNG/electric/BS-VI-fitted trucks - were banned in national capital as per GRAP-IV measures. On the issue of action against officials for a "serious lapse" in ensuring the GRAP IV curbs, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati said notices have been issued to commissioner of police, special commissioner (traffic), additional chief secretary, transport commissioner, commissioner (MCD) seeking their explanation by December 2. The top court said the action against officials needed to be expedited. Bhati said the AQI was in "manageable limits" and the court should consider relaxing the norms. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good"; 51 and 100 is "satisfactory"; 101 and 200 is "moderate"; 201 and 300 is "poor"; 301 and 400 is "very poor"; whereas between the range 401 and 500 it is "severe".

ED team attacked during Delhi raids

An Enforcement Officer was slightly injured in the attack but received first aid and is continuing his search duties, according to officials



Incriminating material including multiple PAN cards, bank cheque books, passbooks, pen drives, credit and debit cards, seals and CPUs have been seized

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: An Enforcement Directorate (ED) team undertaking searches at a farmhouse in Delhi in a cyber fraud linked money laundering case was allegedly attacked Thursday, injuring an agency official. The federal probe agency said it is filing an FIR with the Delhi police about the incident which took place in the Bijwasan area of the national capital. The farmhouse falls under the Kapashera police station in southwest Delhi. The raids took place at some other locations of the national

capital too. Police said the farmhouse belonged to a person named Ashok Kumar, a Chartered Accountant (CA). The ED team, according to the police, was led by ED Assistant Director Suraj Yadav. A picture of a broken chair, kept in the farmhouse, was shared by the ED on X. ED officials said an Enforcement Officer (EO) suffered minor injuries during the attack but he continued with the searches after he was given first aid. The agency said in a statement that the searches were part of a money laundering investigation against "organised" cyber crimes like Phishing, QR

code cheating and part-time job fraud leading to duping of many people. The agency said it analysed these cases with the help of the Indian cyber crime coordination centre (I4C) and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). "It was found that an organised network of CAs and crypto traders was at work. Around 15,000 mule accounts were used to layer proceeds of cyber crimes. Subsequently, debit and credit cards were obtained which were used to top up virtual accounts on Pyypl and funds were layered to buy crypto-currency," the ED said. It said "incriminating" material including multiple PAN cards, bank cheque books, passbooks, pen drives, credit and debit cards, seals and CPUs have been seized. "At one premises at Bijwasan, suspect Ashok Sharma and his brother assaulted an ED officer and managed to escape after causing hurt. An FIR is being filed. Searches are on," it said. The Delhi Police said in a statement that it received an information regarding "manhandling" of an ED team in the Bijwasan area. The Kapashera Station House Officer (SHO) along with his staff reached the spot. Two lady officers of the CRPF were also present in the raiding team of the ED. "Yash, who is a relative of Sharma (Ashok), has been apprehended in connection with the case and is being further interrogated," the police said.

Soren takes oath as 14th CM of J'khand

Soren reaffirmed his commitment to working for the welfare of all sections, particularly the poor, deprived, and exploited



Chief Minister Hemant Soren pays homage to Birsa Munda at Birsa Chowk in Ranchi, Thursday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Nov 28: JMM leader Hemant Soren was sworn in as the 14th chief minister of Jharkhand in a grand ceremony here Thursday in the presence of a host of INDIA bloc leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. The 49-year-old tribal leader was sworn in by Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar. Soren reaffirmed his commitment to working for the welfare of all sections, particularly the poor, deprived, and exploited. "This Jharkhand government will work day and night for all sections of people of Jharkhand including the poor, deprived and exploited. Abua government," Soren said shortly after taking oath of office and secrecy. In a historic on X, he said, "Today's important occasion is dedicated to the struggle of the

immortal brave martyrs, great revolutionaries of Jharkhand Today's emotional moment is dedicated to crores of people of Jharkhand." Before taking oath, Soren, dressed in a white kurta, pyjama, and 'Nehru jacket,' sought blessings from JMM supremo and his father, Shibu Soren, his mother Rupri Soren, along with his wife Kalpana Soren and two sons. After the ceremony, he paid floral tributes to tribal icons such as Birsa Munda and Sido-Kanho and rushed to Project Building where he began his fourth innings as CM. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Soren on his re-election as CM, extending his best wishes for his tenure. "Congratulations to Shri Hemant Soren on taking oath as Jharkhand CM. Best wishes to him for his tenure ahead," PM Modi posted on X.

Lokayukta police quiz ex-MUDA Commissioner

Mysuru: The Lokayukta police probing the MUDA site allotment case Thursday quizzed its former Commissioner PS Kantharaju, Lokayukta sources said. Kantharaju was the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) Commissioner for over two years, from September 2017 to November 2019.

Minor girl raped in moving ambulance

Mauganj (MP): A 16-year-old girl was allegedly raped in a moving ambulance in Mauganj district of Madhya Pradesh, police said Thursday. The shocking incident in the ambulance being operated under '108' emergency service took place November 22 and two of the four accused in the case, including the driver, have been arrested, they said. The girl, accompanied by her sister and brother-in-law, was travelling in the ambulance (none of them was a patient), said Deputy Inspector General.

Court notice on Ajmer dargah plea sparks intense debate

The plea seeking directions to start worship in the temple was filed in September and the next hearing is December 20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ajmer/New Delhi, Nov 28: "Worrisome", "painful", "what is the problem"... the rift over a claim that the famed shrine of Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti was built over a Shiva temple widened Thursday with politicians, community leaders and others weighing in on the potentially volatile issue. A local court in Ajmer Wednesday, known the world



over as home of the dargah visited by thousands of devotees cutting across religious divides

every day, issued notices to the dargah committee, the Ministry of Minority Affairs and the Archaeological Survey of India on the plea seeking to declare the shrine a temple. The notice came just days after four people were killed in Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh in violence following a local court ordering survey of a Mughal-era shrine, the Shahi Jama Masjid, which petitioners said was built after destroying an

old temple. And set off fears that Ajmer could become another communal tinderbox. While dargah committee officials declined to comment, Syed Sarwar Chishti, secretary of the Anjuman Syed Zadgan, a body representing the khadims (caretakers) of the Ajmer dargah, described the petition as a deliberate attempt to fracture society along communal lines. He said the dargah which he

described as a symbol of communal harmony and secularism comes under the Minority Affairs ministry and the ASI has nothing to do with it. "The community accepted the decision in the Babri Masjid case and we believed nothing will happen after that but unfortunately such things are happening again and again. The example of Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh is in front of us. This must stop," he told PTI.

UG students to get option for flexible degree durations: UGC chief

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has introduced rules allowing undergraduate students to shorten or extend their degree programs, with credits adjusted per semester

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) will soon be able to offer an option to undergraduate students to shorten or extend their study durations instead of the standard duration of their degree programmes, UGC Chairman Jagadeesh Kumar said. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved the SOPs for HEIs to offer the Accelerated Degree Programme (ADP) and Extended Degree Programme (EDP) in a meeting

this week. The draft norms will now be put in the public domain for feedback from stakeholders. While the degrees will mention a self-contained note that the academic requirements needed in a standard duration have been completed in a shortened or extended duration, they will be treated at par with standard duration degrees for academic and recruitment purposes. Top foreign universities also offer the option to students to finish their degree earlier or later than stipulated duration. "Students can use this op-



tion to shorten or extend their study durations based on their learning abilities. ADP allows students to complete a three-year or four-year degree in reduced time by earning additional credits per semester, while EDP enables an extended timeline with fewer credits per semester," Kumar told PTI. "Under ADP and EDP, students earn the same total cred-

its as in the standard-duration programme. The higher education institutions will establish committees to evaluate students' eligibility for these programmes. These degrees will be equivalent to standard duration degrees for all employment and academic purposes," he added. According to the SOPs, the institutions may earmark up to 10 per cent of the sanctioned intake for ADP. The HEIs may constitute a committee to scrutinize applications received at the end of the first or the second semester under EDP and ADP and select

students accordingly. In the ADP, students will follow the same curriculum content and total credits prescribed for the programme for a standard duration. "The only change will be in the duration of the programme. Students shall have the option to choose ADP either at the end of the first semester or the second semester and not beyond that. Students opting for the ADP will earn additional credits per semester starting from the second or third semester, depending on when they transition to the ADP," Kumar said.

POST OF THE DAY

It took just 11 years for the regime to teach Indians that their primary goal should not be looking at the stars and reaching for the moon, building for the future and creating for the world, but instead it is looking down, digging up the past, and settling multiple old scores one by one by one by one, against fellow citizens, even as an entire generation of young Indians is laid to waste, and in the process, feeling extremely proud of this new national goal. 20 years later, a wasted generation will wonder how we ever allowed this madness to take over our good positive selves.

@sandeep_PT

SHORT TAKES

India, Russia to expand joint military exercises

New Delhi: India and Russia have decided to expand joint military exercises to further solidify the operational synergy. The decision was taken at a meeting this week of the working group on military cooperation under the India-Russia Inter Governmental Commission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC). The defence ministry said the meeting "marked a significant milestone in advancing the long standing strategic partnership between the two countries".

Minor girl raped in moving ambulance

Mauganj (MP): A 16-year-old girl was allegedly raped in a moving ambulance in Mauganj district of Madhya Pradesh, police said Thursday. The shocking incident in the ambulance being operated under '108' emergency service took place November 22 and two of the four accused in the case, including the driver, have been arrested, they said. The girl, accompanied by her sister and brother-in-law, was travelling in the ambulance (none of them was a patient), said Deputy Inspector General.

Lokayukta police quiz ex-MUDA Commissioner

Mysuru: The Lokayukta police probing the MUDA site allotment case Thursday quizzed its former Commissioner PS Kantharaju, Lokayukta sources said. Kantharaju was the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) Commissioner for over two years, from September 2017 to November 2019.



Mexico will stop people from going to our Southern Border, effective immediately. This will go a long way toward stopping the illegal invasion of the USA
DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT-ELECT, US

SUNITA'S THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION IN SPACE

NASA astronaut Sunita Williams is set to celebrate Thanksgiving in space with 'smoked turkey, mashed potato'



of the day quote

The Chinese People's Liberation Army shoulders the sacred mission of safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and will resolutely defeat all secessionist attempts for 'Taiwan independence' and thwart all interference by external forces
WU QIAN | DEFENCE MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

We're in talks with the US and we thank them for their positive response on how the Cyprus Republic can make the best use of these opportunities, so when everything is in its place, the country can become a member state of NATO
NIKOS CHRISTODOULIDES | PRESIDENT, CYPRUS

It should be noted that the war is led by Russia, and from the stance of heads of the Russian military units, they are likely to send the North Korean platoons to the most dangerous and difficult areas
KIM YONG-HYUN | DEFENCE MINISTER, SOUTH KOREA

SHORT TAKES

UK ex-soldier found guilty of helping Iran

London: A British soldier was found guilty Thursday of collecting sensitive information for people linked to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and gathering the names of special forces personnel. Daniel Abed Khalife collected sensitive information between May 2019 and January 2022, prosecutor Mark Heywood told jurors at the start of the trial at Woolwich Crown Court. Khalife, who was discharged from the armed forces after he was charged, was also accused of leaving a fake bomb on a desk before absconding from his barracks in January 2023.

Top military official in China under probe

Beijing: China has suspended a high-ranking military official while he is being investigated, its Defence Ministry announced Thursday. The official, Miao Hua, is director of the Political Work Department on the powerful Central Military Commission that oversees the People's Liberation Army (PLA). He is one of five members of the body that oversees the world's largest standing military, in addition to China's leader Xi Jinping, who heads the commission. Defence Ministry spokesperson Wu Qian said Miao is under investigation for "serious violations of discipline," which usually alludes to issues of corruption. It is the third recent major shakeup for China's defence establishment.

CEASEFIRE GOES UP IN SMOKE

Israel, Hezbollah trade blames

Iran-backed militant group, Israel traded accusations of violating the terms of a ceasefire deal that paused over a year of fighting between them



ISRAELI TANK FIRE HITS SIX AREAS IN LEBANON, SECURITY SOURCES SAY
BIDEN TO FOCUS ON GAZA; ISRAEL KEEPS UP STRIKES ON THE ENCLAVE

Beirut, Nov 28: Israel and Hezbollah traded accusations that their ceasefire had been breached Thursday, a day after a truce went into effect halting more than a year of fighting in Lebanon.

The Israeli military said the ceasefire, brokered by the United States and France, was violated after what it called suspects, some in vehicles, arrived at several areas in the southern zone.

Hezbollah lawmaker Hassan Fadlallah accused Israel of violating the deal.

"The Israeli enemy is attacking those returning to the border villages," Fadlallah told reporters after a Parliament session, adding, "there are violations today by Israel, even in this form".

Israeli tank fire hit six areas within that border strip Thursday morning, striking Markaba, Wazzani and Kfar-chouba, Khiyam, Taybe and the agricultural plains around Marjayoun, state media and Lebanese security sources said.

All of the areas lie within two kilometres of the Blue Line demarcating the border between Lebanon and Israel. One of the

security sources said two people were wounded in Markaba.

Lebanese families displaced from their homes near the southern border have tried to return to check on their properties. But Israeli troops remain stationed within Lebanese territory in towns along the border and Reuters reporters heard surveillance drones flying over parts of southern Lebanon.

There was no immediate comment on the tank rounds from Iran-backed Hezbollah or Israel, who have fought in parallel with the Gaza war.

The agreement, a rare diplomatic feat in a region racked by conflict, ended the deadliest confrontation between Israel and the Hezbollah militant group in its other arch foe, the Palestinian militant group Hamas, in the Gaza Strip, in response to the deadly Hamas-led raid on southern Israel October 7, 2023.

Israeli strikes on Lebanon have killed at least 3,823 people and injured 15,859 others since October 2023, the Lebanese health ministry said Tuesday. Hezbollah strikes have killed 45 civilians in northern Israel and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. At least 73 Israeli soldiers have been killed in northern Israel, the Golan Heights, and in combat in southern Lebanon, according to Israeli authorities.

Under the ceasefire terms, Israeli forces can take up to 60 days to withdraw from southern Lebanon but neither side can launch offensive operations.

RETURNING HOME

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had instructed the military not to

More than 1 million Ukrainians in dark

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Russia of a 'despicable escalation', saying it had used cruise missiles with cluster munitions

REUTERS

Kyiv, Nov 28: Russia unleashed its second big attack on Ukraine's energy infrastructure this month Thursday, cutting power to more than 1 million people in the west, south and centre of the country.

President Vladimir Putin said Moscow had struck in response to Ukraine's strikes on Russian territory with US medium-range ATACMS missiles. He said Russia's future targets could include "decision-making centres" in Kyiv.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Russia of a "despicable escalation", saying it had used cruise missiles with cluster munitions.

Damage to infrastructure facilities was recorded in nine regions across the country, Ukraine's Interior Ministry said.

The attack reinforced fears of long power cuts during the winter months as temperatures across Ukraine hover around zero.

Ukrainian officials said it was the 11th major strike on the energy system since March. Russia has knocked out about half of Ukraine's available generating capacity during the course of the war, damaged the distribution system and forced authorities to impose long blackouts.

Ukraine's military said Russia used 91 missiles and 97 drones in Thursday's attack.



RUSSIAN ADVANCE ACCELERATES IN DONETSK REGION

More than 33 months after Russia invaded Ukraine, the war is at a critical juncture, with Russian ground forces advancing at their fastest pace so far this year in the eastern Donetsk region.

Russia fired a new hypersonic intermediate-range ballistic missile at Ukraine this month in response to the US and Britain allowing Kyiv to strike Russian territory with advanced Western missiles.

"Putin does not want peace. We must force him into peace through strength," Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said, reiterating Kyiv's call for more air defence and long-range capabilities from its Western allies.

Lviv regional governor Maksym Kozitskyi said Thursday's Russian strikes had cut off electricity to about 523,000 people in the western region adjoining Poland.



Rescue workers and people search for bodies after landslides following heavy rains buried 40 homes in the mountainous district of Bulambuli, eastern Uganda

Hasina condemns arrest of Hindu leader

Deposed Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina Thursday demands immediate release of Hindu leader Chinmoy Krishna Das

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Nov 28: Deposed Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Thursday demanded the immediate release of Hindu leader Chinmoy Krishna Das, echoing India's concerns over the safety of the minority community in the neighbouring country.

Hours earlier, the Bangladesh High Court rejected a petition seeking a ban on the country's chapter of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), the organisation to which Das previously belonged.

In Kolkata, members of Bangiya Hindu Jagaran Manch took out a rally to the office of the Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner, protesting atrocities on the Hindu community and Das' arrest.

The Bangladesh court's observation followed the killing of a lawyer Tuesday allegedly by Das' supporters when they clashed with security personnel after the Hindu leader, arrested on sedition charges, was denied bail and sent to jail.

Hasina, who fled to India August 5 following a mass protest against her government, also condemned the lawyer's killing,



Religious freedom and security of life and property of people of all communities should be ensured
SHEIKH HASINA | DEPOSED PM, BANGLADESH

calling the perpetrators "terrorists" and slamming what she called the "unconstitutional" government led by Muhammad Yunus for failing to provide security to common people.

"A top leader of the Sanatan religious community has been unjustly arrested. He must be released immediately," Hasina said in a statement in the Bengali posted on her Awami League party's X account.

In a separate statement, her party said the "unlawful arrest of a lawyer Tuesday allegedly by Das' supporters when they clashed with security personnel after the Hindu leader, arrested on sedition charges, was denied bail and sent to jail."

Hasina said that a temple had been burnt in Chattogram, recalling that mosques, shrines,

churches, monasteries and homes of the Ahmadiyya community were attacked, looted and set on fire in the past.

"Religious freedom and security of life and property of people of all communities should be ensured," said Hasina.

She said those involved in the murder of the lawyer should be found and punished quickly. Those who beat him to death were terrorists. Whoever they are must be punished," Hasina said.

Hasina appealed to people to stand united against this kind of "terrorism".

She said those who grabbed powers have failed in all areas. They have failed to control the price rise and failed to provide security to people, she said referring to Yunus, who took over as the Chief Adviser of the interim government three days after her ouster.

Earlier, a spokesman of the attorney general's office said that a two-member High Court bench of Justices Farah Mahbub and Debashish Roy Chowdhury declined to ban the ISKCON activities in Bangladesh.

A lawyer had sought a ban on ISKCON after placing some newspaper reports related to the organisation Wednesday.

Australia passes social media ban for kids under 16

Sydney: Australia Thursday passed into law a social media ban for children aged under 16 after an emotive debate that gripped the nation, setting a benchmark for jurisdictions around the world with one of the toughest regulations targeting Big Tech. The law forces tech giants from Instagram and Facebook owner Meta to TikTok to stop minors logging in or face fines of up to \$49.5 million (\$32 million). A trial of methods to enforce it will start in January with the ban to take effect in a year. The Social Media Minimum Age bill sets Australia up as a test case for a growing number of governments which have legislated or said they plan to legislate an age restriction on social media amid concern about its mental health impact on young people. Countries including France and some US states have passed laws to restrict access for minors without a parent's permission, but the Australian ban is absolute.

Georgia suspends talks on joining EU for 4 years

Tbilisi: Georgia is suspending talks on its bid to join the European Union for four years, its Prime Minister said Thursday, in view of what he described as "blackmail and manipulation" from some of the bloc's politicians. The statement by Irakli Kobakhidze came hours after he was reappointed to the job by members of the governing Georgian Dream party after its disputed victory in last month's parliamentary election that has sparked protests and led to an opposition boycott of Parliament. The October 26 election was widely seen as a referendum on the country's aspirations to join the European Union. The Opposition said the vote was rigged under the influence of Russia seeking to keep Georgia in its orbit, and declared a boycott of Parliament. The EU has previously announced that the talks on Georgia's accession to the bloc had been de-facto halted because of its backsliding on democracy.

World's longest-living bird found in Australia

The Carnaby's cockatoo is a large black cockatoo endemic to the southwest of Australia's state of Western Australia which has been officially recognised as an endangered species since 1999



Cockatoos have a low rate of reproduction, with females typically laying only two eggs every year and fledging one hatchling

tions looked at eight live wild birds, five females and three males, and found their ages ranged from 21 to 35 years.

It puts the species in the top 2 per cent of all wild birds globally in terms of longevity. The oldest bird, a male, was photographed by the researchers in 2021 and identified by a leg band it was fitted in November 1986. "This sighting was the first

time the cockatoo had been observed since the breeding season in 1986 when it fledged from a nest hollow 5.7 kilometres from where it was photographed," the study said.

"Its estimated hatching date was September 24, 1986, and it was 35 years old when photographed. This is the oldest living Carnaby's cockatoo recorded in the wild." All eight of the studied birds were still breeding at the time when they were photographed by the researchers.

The 35-year-old had strayed the furthest from its natal site, with the remaining seven all remaining within 2.5 kilometres.

The researchers said that the findings show that conservation efforts for the species should focus on older adults as well as juveniles.

China, US swap detained citizens

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Nov 28: Three American citizens imprisoned for years by China have been released and are returning to the United States, the White House said Wednesday, announcing a rare diplomatic agreement with Beijing in the final months of the Biden administration.

The Chinese government also announced Thursday that the US had returned four people to China, including at least three Chinese citizens who it said had been held for "political purposes," and a person who had been sought by Beijing for crimes and had been living in the United States. It did not identify the four.

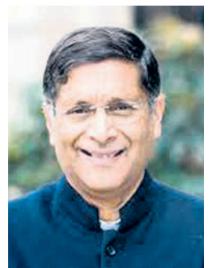
The three Americans released by Beijing are Mark

Swidan, Kai Li and John Leung, all of whom had been designated by the US government as wrongfully detained by China. Swidan had been facing a death sentence on drug charges while Li and Leung were imprisoned on espionage charges.

A plane carrying the three men from China landed late Wednesday night at a military base in San Antonio, Texas.

US-China relations have been roiled for years over major disagreements between the world's two largest economies on trade, human rights, the production of fentanyl precursors, security issues that include espionage and hacking, China's aggressiveness toward Taiwan and its smaller neighbours in the South China Sea, and Beijing's support for Russia's military-industrial sector.

Business



'China plus one' opportunity is opening up for India and Tamil Nadu is doing its best to take the state's competitive advantage in attracting foreign direct investments
ARVIND SUBRAMANIAN | FORMER CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER

DEPOSIT GROWTH OUTPACES CREDIT

Credit growth in the fortnight ending November 15 slowed to 11.15 per cent year-on-year (YoY), while deposit growth slightly outpaced credit growth, reaching 11.21 per cent YoY, according to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India



of the day quote

Negotiations (mutual recognition agreements) are ongoing with over 30 countries with promising progress and discussions with Japan and South Africa



SANJAY KUMAR AGARWAL | CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL BOARD OF INDIRECT TAXES AND CUSTOMS

We are also taking the aircraft for the refit programme. So, the number of wide-body aircraft available will shrink a little bit



CAMPBELL WILSON | CHIEF, AIR INDIA

Indian flexible office space operators are geared up to fulfil the requirements of large conglomerates. They have added 1.84 lakh seats within a year, reaching close to 1 million as of H1 2024



SHRINIWAS RAO | CEO, VESTIAN

UNFAIR BIZ PRACTICES

Google under CCI scanner

The probe follows a complaint by Winzo Games, accusing Google of abusing its dominant position and unfairly favouring select gaming categories, thereby distorting competition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: Fair trade regulator CCI Thursday ordered a probe against Google and its affiliates for alleged unfair business practices with respect to listing of real money gaming apps on Play Store.

While passing the order, CCI said the "the Commission directs the Director General ('DG') to cause an investigation to be made into the matter under the provisions of Section 26(1) of the Act".

The Commission also directed the DG to complete the investigation and submit a consolidated report within 60 days.

The probe follows a complaint by Winzo Games, accusing Google of abusing its dominant position and unfairly favouring select gaming categories, thereby distorting competition.

In its 24-page order, the regulator noted that the selective inclusion of DFS and Rummy apps gives them an undue competitive advantage.

"Direct access to end-users via the dominant Play Store provides a significant edge to



The regulator also pointed out that Google's dominance in the Android ecosystem made it imperative to assess its policies for anti-competitive outcomes

DFS and Rummy apps, potentially disadvantaging other RMG applications," the Commission said in its order.

CCI also flagged concerns regarding Google's sideloading warnings displayed when users attempt to download RMG apps. These warnings, Winzo claimed, tarnish its reputation

and discourage potential users from accessing its app. Winzo also alleged that warnings on sideloading and payments were standard security measures aimed at safeguarding users.

The regulator also found that Google's justifications for its pilot programme and advertising

policies were inconsistent and ambiguous.

"The long duration of Google's pilot programme, risks perpetuating the advantages conferred upon selected participants, such as DFS and Rummy apps. This temporal extension amplifies the anti-competitive effects by ensuring these apps continue to enjoy preferential access and visibility, which other competitors are denied," the CCI noted.

The regulator also pointed out that Google's dominance in the Android ecosystem made it imperative to assess its policies for anti-competitive outcomes.

The Play Store, being pre-installed on all Android devices, is deemed a "must-have" platform for app developers.

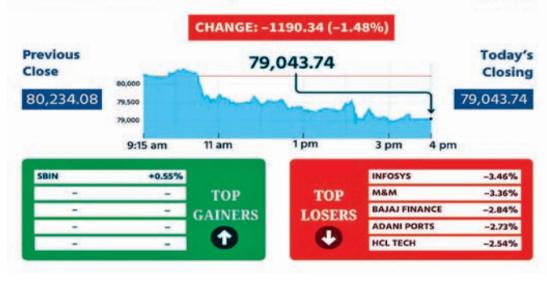
The exclusion of non-DFS and non-Rummy RMG apps from the Play Store amounts to a denial of market access, the Commission said.

While ordering its Director General (DG) to investigate the matter within 60 days, the CCI clarified that its observations were prima facie and not a final judgment.

Indices tumble as heavyweights drag

SENSEX TUMBLES NEARLY 1,200 PTS TO SLIP BELOW 80K; NIFTY DROPS 360 PTS

NOVEMBER 28, 2024



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 28: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty surrendered early gains to plunge nearly 1.50 per cent Thursday, weighed down by intense selling in market heavyweights Infosys, RIL and HDFC Bank amid a mixed trend in global equities.

Besides, deep losses in IT, auto and consumer durable stocks amid escalating geopolitical tensions also added to the weak investors' sentiment, analysts said.

The BSE benchmark Sensex slumped 1,190.34 points or 1.48 per cent to settle at 79,043.74. During the day, it tanked 1,315.16 points or 1.63 per cent to 78,918.92.

The NSE Nifty tumbled 360.75 points or 1.49 per cent to 23,914.15.

Shares of five of the 11 listed Adani Group firms ended higher Thursday, with Adani Total Gas soaring nearly 16 per cent.

Stocks of Adani Energy Solutions zoomed 10 per cent, Adani Green Energy soared 10 per cent, and Adani Enterprises climbed 1.63 per cent. Meanwhile, Adani Ports declined 2.73 per cent.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Mahindra & Mahindra, Infosys, HCL Technologies, Adani Ports, Bajaj Finance, Tech Mahindra, Titan, Tata

Consultancy Services, Reliance Industries and Power Grid were among the laggards.

On the other hand, State Bank of India was the only gainer.

The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.41 per cent while the midcap index dipped 0.06 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, the BSE Focused IT tumbled 2.35 per cent, IT lost 2.26 per cent, teck (2.12 per cent), auto (1.39 per cent), consumer durables (1.20 per cent), bankex (0.81 per cent) and consumer discretionary (0.70 per cent).

In contrast, BSE utilities, oil & gas and realty were the gainers. In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled in the green, while Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.

European markets were trading higher. The US markets ended lower Wednesday. The decline in tech companies dragged major American indices lower.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹7.78 crore Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.49 per cent to \$73.18 a barrel. On Wednesday, the BSE benchmark climbed 230.02 points or 0.29 per cent to settle at 80,234.08. The Nifty rose 80.40 points or 0.33 per cent to 24,274.90.

FinMin to review windfall tax efficacy

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry would review the efficacy of windfall tax on the export of petrol, diesel and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) as global crude oil prices have stabilised, sources said. Phenomenal profits made by some oil refiners on exporting fuel at the expense of domestic supplies had prompted the government to introduce an export tax on petrol, diesel and ATF in July 2022. The finance ministry is going to review the windfall tax and tax being mobilised out of this, sources said. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has already written to the Finance Ministry in this regard, sources said. The government in September slashed the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to 'nil' per tonne. The tax is levied in the form of Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) and is notified fortnightly based on average oil prices in two weeks.

FinMin proposes to raise FDI in insurance to 100%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: The finance ministry has proposed to amend various provisions of the Insurance Act, 1938, including raising foreign direct investment (FDI) in insurance sector to 100 per cent, reduction in paid-up capital, and provision for composite licence.

The Department of Financial Services (DFS) has sought public comments on the proposed amendments by December 10.

As per the proposal, the FDI limit in Indian insurance companies will be raised from 74 per cent to 100 per cent.

This is the second public consultation that the DFS has sought on the proposed amendments to the Insurance Act 1938, the Life Insurance Corporation Act 1956, and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

The finance ministry in December 2022 invited comments on the proposed amendments to the Insurance Act, 1938, and the Insurance Regulatory Development Act, 1999.

According to an office memorandum dated November 26, 2024, it is proposed to amend certain provisions of insurance laws to ensure accessibility and affordability of insurance to citizens, foster expansion and development of the insurance industry, and streamline business processes.

In this regard, a comprehensive review of the legislative framework governing the sector has been done in consultation with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and the industry, it said.

The proposed amendments primarily focus on promoting policyholders' interests, enhancing their financial security, facilitating entry of more players into the insurance market leading to economic growth and employment generation, the memorandum stated.

Such changes will help enhance efficiencies of the insurance industry, enabling ease of doing business and enhancing insurance penetration to achieve the goal of 'Insurance for All by 2047', it said.

"The proposal includes raising the FDI limit in Indian Insurance Companies from 74 per cent to 100 per cent and enabling an insurer to carry on one or more classes of insurance business and activities related/incidental to insurance," it said.

BIZ BUZZ

Lalchnd relaunches 'Kaun Banega Lakhpati'

BHUBANESWAR: Lalchnd Jewellers, a trusted name in the jewellery industry since 1948, has relaunched its popular 'Kaun Banega Lakhpati' (KBL) scheme with a bang. Under this scheme, customers stand a chance to win ₹1 lakh every month, along with the opportunity to drive home an MG Windsor EV in Lalchnd's Mega Lucky Draw. Customers can enter the draw with every jewellery purchase of ₹25,000 or more, earning a coupon for a chance to become a monthly lakhpati winner. For purchases of ₹1 lakh or more, they will receive a coupon to win the luxurious MG Windsor car. Speaking at the relaunch event, Sunjoy Hans, founder and chairman of Lalchnd Group, said, "Since its inception in 2011, KBL has been a crowd favourite. The overwhelming love from our customers, coupled with popular demand, has led us to bring it back. Over the years, 188 people have become lakhpatis, winning a total of ₹1.88 crore, alongside 24 cars and five flats." Lalchnd Jewellers continues to prioritise customer satisfaction with its commitment to HUD gold and certified natural diamonds, ensuring the highest standards in the industry.

BoB gets new zonal secretary

BHUBANESWAR: After separation of Bank of Baroda Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar Zone from erstwhile Bank of Baroda, Zonal Office, Patna Zone April 1, All India Bank of Baroda Officers Association (AIBOBA), a leading association of Bank of Baroda has established its Zonal Office at Bhubaneswar and Sidhartha Sourav was elected as its new Zonal Secretary and has taken over the charge. During election other nine committee members are also elected. There are five regions under the jurisdiction of Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar from both Odisha and Jharkhand. At present 328 branches/offices are operating throughout every corner of Odisha and Jharkhand wherein around 800 officers are working as active members of the association. Sidhartha expressed his sincere thanks to AIBOBA, President RK Chatterjee, General Secretary, Prem Makkar, Zonal Secretary, Patna Zone Dharmendra Kumar and Regional Secretary of Bhubaneswar Region, Babaji Charan Pradhan and also assured to strengthen the association and bank with the co-operation of all members.



THREE-WEEK LOW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: Silver prices tumbled to a three-week low by losing ₹4,900 to ₹90,900 per kg, while gold slipped ₹100 to ₹78,700 per 10 grams in the national capital Thursday on frantic selling by stockists and retailers, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Silver dropped ₹4,900 to trade at ₹90,900 per kg, marking a steepest fall on poor offtake by jewellers and coin makers.

Earlier, the white metal had slumped ₹4,600 November 4. On Wednesday, 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.

The yellow metal of 99.5 per cent purity declined ₹400 to ₹

Silver prices crash yet again

GOLD & SILVER



78,300 per 10 grams Thursday. Price of gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity closed higher at ₹78,800 and ₹78,700 per 10 grams, respectively, Wednesday.

Traders said the sentiment was downbeat largely in sync

with a firm trend overseas amid uncertainty over the implications of US President-elect Donald Trump's tariff plans on economic prospects and the Federal Reserve's (Fed) interest rate outlook.

Meanwhile, in futures trade

Banks review Adani Group exposure after US charges

SBI HAS LARGEST EXPOSURE TO THE ADANI GROUP AMONG INDIAN BANKS, WITH SANCTIONED LOANS OF ₹ 338BN

REUTERS

Mumbai, Nov 28: Indian lenders, including State Bank of India, are reviewing their exposure to Adani Group and examining whether they need to tighten their due diligence when offering new loans to them, after the US accused Chairman Gautam Adani of bribery, eight bankers said.

Bank of India, Union Bank, ICICI Bank, Canara Bank, IDBI Bank and RBL Bank, which have a relatively smaller exposure to the group, are also undertaking a similar exercise.

A review would not necessarily entail any change in the lenders' credit approach with regards to the group. A regulatory source aware



of the development said from a banking system perspective there is no need to panic as no entity at this point is over exposed to the group.

The Reserve Bank of India did not reply to an email seeking comment. SBI has the largest exposure to the Adani Group among Indian banks, with sanctioned

loans of ₹338 billion (\$4 billion), according to IIFL Securities, a brokerage.

SBI won't stop lending to ongoing Adani projects that are nearing completion, sources said, but added the bank will exercise caution while disbursing loans to ensure all terms and conditions are being met by the group.

SUPPORT REAFFIRMED

Abu Dhabi's International Holding Company (IHC), one of the largest sovereign funds that manages assets close to \$100 billion, has reaffirmed its support to the Adani Group, saying its outlook on investments in the group remains unchanged despite the US indictment of the conglomerate's founder chairman Gautam Adani. "Our partnership with the Adani Group reflects our confidence in their contributions to the green energy and sustainability sectors," IHC, one of Adani group's key foreign investors, said in a statement. "As with all our investments, our team continues to evaluate relevant information and developments. At this time, our outlook on these investments remains unchanged." The IHC statement comes soon after Adani group emphasised that its chairman and his aides have not been charged under the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act but faced three other charges, including securities and wire fraud that are punishable with monetary fines. Sri Lanka Ports Authority chairman Admiral Sirimewan Ranasinghe (Retd) has reportedly stated that there are no discussions regarding the project's cancellation. The project will be operational in the next couple of months. Also, the Tanzanian government has reaffirmed its commitment to its agreements with Adani Ports, as it feels that there are no concerns regarding the ongoing projects and that all contracts fully comply with Tanzanian law.

Crucial meet to end CT imbroglio

ICC WILL ASK PCB TO ACCEPT HYBRID MODEL AS WITHOUT INDIA THE EVENT WILL LOSE ITS SHEEN



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Nov 28: Even as the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) remained adamant not to host the Champions Trophy cricket tournament on a hybrid model, the executive board of the International Cricket Council (ICC) will meet here Friday to find a solution to end the present impasse. The ICC finds itself in a spot of bother as India has made it very clear that it will not play a single game in Pakistan. The meeting will be held virtually and India's decision not to send the team to Pakistan has placed the future of the marquee event in balance. "At this point, the hybrid format is the best option. We hope that all the parties in-

involved will take a wise call for the sake of the tournament. It's not good for the tournament to have it without India and Pakistan," a source close to the development told this agency Thursday. The host broadcaster - Jio Star - has already contacted the ICC top brass to convey its dismay at the delay in arriving at a final decision regarding the schedule. As per the contract between the ICC and the broadcaster, the governing body was expected to give it the schedule of the tournament at least 90 days in advance and that deadline has already been breached. So, will the members discuss the possibility of placing India and Pakistan in different groups in

- PCB has already informed the ICC that it doesn't want Champions Trophy in a hybrid model
- Broadcasters want at least one India-Pakistan game in the group stage because of financial gains

the league stage to avoid Men in Blue's travel to the neighbouring country? "I don't think the television rights holders will agree to that. They will demand an India versus Pakistan match in the group stage itself as an assured way to raise the profile and monetary income, and it will be a bonus if the teams then meet in the knockouts,"

the source said. "Even otherwise, if India enters the knockout stage, it will have to be taken out of Pakistan as BCCI has already made its stand clear. So, the discussion will be around the hybrid model," the source added. The Sri Lanka A team's tour to Pakistan had to be cut short a couple of days ago due to intense political protests in Islamabad. This recent development also puts the PCB on a sticky wicket as the BCCI has always addressed security concerns to send a team to Pakistan. The pulling out of the Sri Lankan cricket team has added fuel to the ongoing debate. So, the primary target of the ICC members will be to

make PCB embrace the 'Hybrid' model, at least for the league stage, in all likelihood, in the UAE and the knockouts in Pakistan. However, what if the PCB remains rigid and decides to pull out of the Champions Trophy in the event of ICC deciding to take it to a neutral venue? "It's a very unlikely scenario. It can have very far reaching consequences for Pakistan cricket, which is not at its best in terms of financial health. India is set to host a few tournaments in the next couple of years including the Asia Cup next year," the source stated. "If Pakistan decides to boycott the Champions Trophy, then they will also have to boycott tournaments to be held in India, which in turn, can bring a lot of financial liabilities to PCB," he added. The ICC is trying its best so that the PCB embraces the hybrid model. It has promised the PCB additional financial incentives other than the assured sum. The PCB, for the Champions Trophy has carried out renovations at various stadiums including the ones at Karachi and Lahore. The ICC has said that it will provide the expenses needed for modernisation of stadiums. However, so far the PCB hasn't changed its stance. A source confirmed that PCB has also reminded the ICC to inform whether the BCCI had submitted a letter in writing from their government stating that clearance was not given to the Indian team to play in Pakistan. "Under ICC regulations if any team says their government is not allowing them to play in another nation on whatever grounds that board has to submit their government's directives in writing which we have not seen so far," the source said.

Sindhu, Sen seal quarterfinal spots



Lakshya Sen in action during his second round match Thursday. PFI PHOTO

Odisha pair Rutaparna and Swetaparna also advance in women's doubles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 28: Star shuttler PV Sindhu survived a scare before beating unheralded compatriot Ira Sharma in three games to enter the women's singles quarterfinals at the Syed Modi International Super 300 badminton tournament here Thursday. Sharma, ranked 147th in the world as against 18th of Sindhu, stretched the second round match to the decider after winning the second game. Top seed Sindhu, a two-time Olympic silver medallist, recovered in time to pocket the deciding game and win the match 21-10, 12-21, 21-15 in 49 minutes. The 29-year-old Sindhu has been struggling for some time and she last clinched a title at the Singapore Open in 2022. She faces China's Dai Wang, ranked 118th in the world, in the quarterfinals. Wang beat Devika Sihag of India 19-21, 21-18, 21-11 in another second round match.

Unlike Sindhu, in the men's section, top seed Lakshya Sen easily won his second round match against Daniil Dubovenko of Israel 21-14, 21-13 in just 35 minutes to also book a quarterfinal berth. Sen meets compatriot Meiraba Luwang in a place for the semifinals. Meiraba was a 21-15, 21-13 winner against sixth seed Nhat Nguyen of Ireland. In other men's singles matches, Ayush Shetty beat Hoh Justin of Malaysia 21-12, 21-19 to seal a spot in the last eight. However, third seed Kiran George suffered a 21-19, 20-22, 11-21 shock defeat to Shogo Ogawa of Japan. In women's singles, India's 17-year-old Unnati Hooda, unseeded in the tournament, stunned fourth seed Pornpicha Choeikeewong of Thailand 21-18, 22-20 in 46 minutes to enter the last eight stage. However, second-seeded Malvika Bansod lost to 17-year-old compatriot Shriyanshi Valishetty 12-21, 15-21. In women's doubles the Indian pair of Rutaparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda played flawlessly to beat Dhanyaa Nandakumar and Arul Bala Radhakrishnan 21-15, 21-10.

SHORT TAKES

Odisha eves win as HP forfeit tie

Secunderabad: Hockey Association of Odisha eves were awarded victory by a 5-0 margin after Himachal Pradesh forfeited the game Thursday in the IVth Hockey India Sub-junior Women's National Championship 2024 being played here. No reason was provided by Hockey India officials as to why Himachal Pradesh players did not take the field in the Pool C game. In a match of Pool B, Hockey Jharkhand trounced Hockey Association of Chhattisgarh 5-0.

68-member team for Deaf Games

New Delhi: A 68-member Indian team will take part in the Asia-Pacific Deaf Games to be held in Kuala Lumpur December 1 to 8. The tournament is at par with the Asian Games for individuals with speech and hearing impairment and also serves as a precursor to the Deaflympics, which will be held in Japan next year. India will have representation in seven disciplines including athletics, badminton, chess, judo, table tennis, taekwondo and wrestling.

Rodri eyes return

Manchester: Ballon d'Or winner Rodri is hopeful he will play again this season after sustaining ACL damage. The Manchester City midfielder was expected to be out for the rest of the campaign following surgery in September, but has said he is making good progress in his recovery. "My target is to come back this season. In terms of my mentality it is going to be positive for me to don't give up the season and throw it," Rodri said in a podcast. "I don't want to make any mistakes. My target is six or seven months," he added.

Kaul retires

New Delhi: Pacer Siddharth Kaul announced Thursday his retirement from Indian cricket, having represented the country in three ODIs and as many T20s in 2018-19. The 34-year-old Punjab pacer, who played in the IPL for Delhi Daredevils, KKR, SRH and RCB made the announcement on social media. "The time has now come to call time on my career in India and announce my retirement," wrote Kaul on 'X'.

Albanese lauds Indian team

Australian PM hosts reception for visiting cricketers



Players of the Indian cricket team share a light moment with Australian PM Anthony Albanese, Thursday. AP PHOTO

AGENCIES

Canberra, Nov 28: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese hosted a reception Thursday for the travelling Indian cricket team ahead of their two-day pink ball practice match against PM's XI here starting November 30. The game will take place at the Manuka Oval and will serve as good preparation for the day-night Test in Adelaide from December 6.

Following the protocol, India skipper Rohit Sharma introduced all his teammates to Albanese, who praised heroes

of the first Test including Jasprit Bumrah and Virat Kohli. "Anthony Albanese @AlboMP Big challenge ahead for the PM's XI at Manuka Oval this week against an amazing Indian side," the prime minister posted on X after the meeting at the Australian Parliament. Rohit also addressed the Australian Parliament briefly. In his speech, he highlighted the rich history of bilateral relations between India and Australia including their shared love for cricket. He also said Indian players love the challenge of playing in

Webster added to Australian squad

Sydney: Australia have added uncapped all-rounder Beau Webster to the squad for the second Test against India as cover for Mitchell Marsh, whose fitness remains a concern. Webster, also a right-hand pace all-rounder like Marsh, has been the stand out performer in the Sheffield Shield over the past two years. The 30-year-old has scored 1788 runs including five hundreds and nine 50s. "To get a few runs and wickets (for Australia A) was pleasing against a strong Indian side," Webster was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au ahead of the announcement Thursday.

Australia and enjoy exploring the country and its culture. Cricket diplomacy is an integral part of India-Australia relations. Albanese, with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, had met players of both teams during a Test in Ahmedabad last year. "Good time at Perth. Bloody hell, as if we were not suffering enough at point," the Australian prime minister said as he met the Indian team. It was Kohli's reply that won everyone's hearts on social media. "Always got to add some spice to it," Kohli said in response.

Advantage Gukesh ahead of 4th game



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Nov 28: With nerves no longer a concern for him, teenaged Indian Grandmaster (GM) D Gukesh will hold the psychological edge against a slightly shaken defending World Champion Ding Liren when the two resume their intriguing battle for the World Championship crown in the fourth round here Friday. With a maximum of 11 games remaining under classical time control, the scores are tied at 1.5-1.5. This was after Liren won the opener and the second game ended in a draw. Gukesh has clearly shown better preparation, while Liren's calculations let him down in the third game. "It's always nice to win a game, also for the first time against such a strong opponent. I think it means more that I got a win in the World Championship, and a very important win," a visibly

pleased Gukesh had said after Wednesday's game. Gukesh also spoke about his preparations for the third game. "I was prepared until the 13th move, I guess he was trying to remember something but maybe he mixed up I thought the way he reacted was not the most precise way and then I think I just got a very nice position," Gukesh stated. With scores level, it is unlikely that Liren will pull out all the stops in the next game. Instead, a more cautious approach is expected, as the Chinese champion will hope his skills hold up in crucial moments, avoiding a repeat of the previous slip-ups. "...the result of the game will may influence my emotions during the rest day," the 32-year-old Liren said candidly after Wednesday's loss and it remains to be seen how he pulls himself together. "However, I will always back my abilities and I hope to bounce back soon," he added.

India overcome stubborn Japan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Muscat, Nov 28: Defending champions India toiled hard before registering a narrow 3-2 win over Japan, their second win on the trot, in a Pool A match of the men's Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament here Thursday. The goals for India were scored by Thokchom Kingson Singh (12th minute), Rohit (36th) and Arajjeet Singh Hundal (39th). Both the Japan goals came from penalty corner conversions by Neo Sato (15th, 38th). In a game where fortunes swung like a pendulum, the Indian juniors held their nerves to emerge victorious. Hundal's goal gave them the lead just after Japan had restored parity and in the end it proved to be vital. The Indians slowly and steadily got into the rhythm with controlled possession. They scored when Thokchom picked up a rebound and hit the target from close. Japan were not to be left behind as they equalised three minutes later through Sato's perfect flick into the right corner of the Indian goal. In the second quarter Indian custodian Bikramjit and his Japanese counterpart Koki Orogasa made some fine saves and the two teams went into the interval with the score reading 1-1.

KIIT, Utkal University swimmers dominate

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: KIIT with five medals and Utkal University with three dominated proceedings on the opening day of the North East Zone Inter University Swimming (Men & Women) Championships 2024-25 here Thursday. The event is being organised by KIIT and will end November 30. Over 500 swimmers from 110 universities are taking part in the event. Divyanka Diyajyoti Pradhan of KIIT won the gold in the women's 200m breaststroke and a bronze in the women's 400m freestyle events. The women's 400m medley gold was bagged by Firdoush Kayamkani of KIIT while Nilabja Ghosh won a bronze in the women's 50m



butterfly event. KIIT then added the women's 4x200m relay gold to their tally. Divyanka, Firdoush, Nilabja and Ritvikita Mittapaalli represented KIIT in the event. As expected Utkal University's Pratyasa Roy, who is national level medal winner, dominated the events she participated in. She put on a spectacular display to win gold medals in the women's 100m backstroke, 400m freestyle and a silver in the women's 400m medley. She won two events by a handsome margin.

SL bowled out for lowest-ever total in Tests

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Durban, Nov 28: Sri Lanka were bowled out by South Africa for 42 at Kingsmead here Thursday, their lowest total in Tests. Sri Lanka's previous worst was 71 just over 20 years ago in Kandy against Pakistan. Left-arm pacer Marco Jansen (7/13) was the wrecker-in-chief for the hosts. Kamindu Mendis top-scored with 13 in the Sri Lanka line-up that had four players being dismissed for ducks. South Africa needed only 83 legal deliveries - 13.5 overs - to rout the Sri Lankans in their first innings. The hosts scored 191 in their first innings.

LIVERPOOL END REAL JINX

First victory for English side against the Spanish giants in 15 years

AGENCIES

Liverpool, Nov 28: Liverpool regained top spot in the Champions League table and registered a first victory over Real Madrid in 15 years Wednesday night with a dominant 2-0 win courtesy of goals from Alex Mac Allister and Cody Gakpo. Such was the Reds' superiority that they could afford the luxury of a rare Mohamed Salah penalty miss in between goals as they claimed a fifth win from five games to sit two points clear at the head of the new-look league format.



FLYING HIGH: Cody Gakpo rises above the Real Madrid defenders to score Liverpool's second goal. AP PHOTO

On a miserable night for the Spaniards, now 24th in the 36-team competition, Kylian Mbappe was well-shackled

and also missed a penalty that would have drawn Real level against the run of play in the second half.