

Actor Shehnaaz Gill says she doesn't see marriage as a necessity in today's

LEISURE | P2



### Largest museum

Egypt inaugurates the Grand Egyptian Museum, the world's largest, dedicated to its ancient civilisation

INTERNATIONAL | P10



### **Paperless Aadhaar**

In a significant move to provide digital convenience to Aadhaar cardholders, UIDAI rolls out fully digital 'Aadhaar'

BUSINESS | P11



### On cusp of history

Indian women's cricket stands on the brink of a watershed moment with the team facing a formidable South Africa in the final

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**BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 2, 2025** 

### SI recruitment scam mastermind Shankar Prusty held in U'khand



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: In a major breakthrough, the Crime Branch of Odisha Police Saturday arrested the main accused in the SI recruitment scam. Shankar Prusty, from the Nepal border in Uttarakhand.

The Crime Branch has started the process to bring him back to the state, a source said, adding that the accused will be produced in a local court in Uttarakhand and brought to Odisha on transit remand.

Prusty had been on the run ever since the scam came to light and a lookout circular was issued against him by the Odisha Police.

With this, the total number of people arrested in connection with this case has reached

More than 1.53 lakh candidates competed for 933 SI positions, but the examination, initially slated for October 5-6, was indefinitely postponed after reports of widespread irregularities surfaced.

Prusty, director of Panchsoft Technologies Pvt. Ltd., a subcontractor involved in conducting the exam, has been accused of masterminding the question paper leak and granting unauthorised access to candidates in exchange for hefty

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The best thing about our star speakers - they've wiped out their biggest critics, the stand-up comics

# State new electronics hub: CM

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: Odisha has taken a major stride in the semiconductor sector and, after Bangalore, is fast emerging as India's new electronics and IT capital, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Saturday.

Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony of SiCSem Pvt. Ltd. at Infovalley, Bhubaneswar — for a semiconductor manufacturing unit with an investment of ₹2,000 crore, the Chief Minister said that Odisha's journey in the semiconductor sector is gaining strong momentum.

'This moment is not just about bricks and cement; it symbolises aspiration, stability, collaboration, and self-reliance." Maihi said.

He added that the semiconductors produced at the new facility will be used in missiles, electric vehicles, defence equipment, railways, and solar energy systems.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister announced that SiCSem Pvt. Ltd. has also established a Research and Innovation Centre at IIT Bhubaneswar with an investment of ₹64 crore.

Additionally, union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has sanctioned ₹5 crore from his MPLAD fund for setting up



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi interacts with officials after laying the foundation stone for a semiconductor manufacturing unit of SiCSem Pvt. Ltd. at Infovalley, Bhubaneswar, Saturday. Among others, Electronics and IT Minister Mukesh Mahaling is seen

a "NaMo Semiconductor Laboratory" at IIT Bhubaneswar.

The initiative, Majhi said, will create greater opportunities for students to pursue advanced research in semiconductor technology.

Majhi stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India is advancing from "chip to ship" in every mission. Odisha, he added, is scripting

a new chapter of self-reliance in semiconductor and electronics manufacturing and will play a

vital role in realising the Prime Minister's Semiconductor Mis-

He revealed that two companies have recently signed MoUs ductor units in Odisha, with a proposed investment of around ₹3,000 crore.

"Odisha will soon be recognised as a national hub for semiconductor manufacturing," the Chief Minister said.

Vaishnaw, speaking virtually, said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision is becoming a reality — Odisha is developing as the gateway to

He emphasized that the establishment of the NaMo Semiconductor Laboratory will foster collaboration between academia and industry. creating "golden opportunities' for young minds to acquire technical expertise and drive innovation.

Odisha Electronics and IT Minister Dr. Mukesh Mahaling said the state is proud to contribute to the Prime Minister's vision of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India).

The event was attended by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, IIT Bhubaneswar Director Sripad Karmalkar, Managing Director of Arcane Chemical Industries Ranjit Pendurthy, SiCSem Pvt. Ltd. Managing Director Guru Thallapaneni, and Class-SiC Wafer Fab Ltd. CEO Jennifer Walls, among

### 9 killed in Andhra temple stampede

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kasibugga, Nov 1: At least nine people -- eight women and a boy -- were killed and many others injured in a temple stampede here in Srikakulam district Saturday, said an official.

However, Srikakulam District Collector Swapnil Dinkar Pundkar earlier put the toll at 10. The stampede occurred at Venkateswara temple in Kasibugga town at around 11.30 am, said Kasibugga sub-division incharge DSP Lakshman Rao. "Nine (deaths). Nine only,

(Condition of) one person is bit serious. He is not dead. Total nine people. One child is there. a 12-year-old child; the remaining (victims) are all female. And it is a private temple. It is not a government temple. It was constructed recently," Srikakulam Superintendent of Police KV Maheswara Reddy told PTI.

The police official further said that the incident occurred due to the collapse of an iron grill near the steps. The public, in fear, thought that something



was falling and panicked. They fell from a height of about six feet. There was no stampede. Since the collapse was from a height of six feet, one person fell on another, and that led to the incident.

"It is purely an accident and due to the owner's mistake. They haven't applied for police bandobust, there were no permissions also," he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was pained by the incident and announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh each from PMNRF to the next of kin of those who lost their lives and ₹2,000 to the injured.

"Pained by the stampede in

Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh, My thoughts are with those who have lost their near and dear ones. I pray that the injured recover soon," he said in a post on X.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also expressed shock over the incident. AP Home Minister

### **GIRL FROM ODISHA AMONG DECEASED**

Agirl from Odisha's Ganjam dis-trict is among the persons who were killed in the stampede at the Venkateswara temple in Kasibugga, Saturday. She has been identified as R Rupa, from Gudiapadar village under the Patrapur panchayat in Ganjam. According to reports, Rupa was crushed to death while her kin. who accompanied her, managed to

Vangalapudi Anitha noted that at least five people were injured. She said at least seven of the dead are in the age group of 35-40. According to her, the temple is located at an elevation on the first floor, and when the devotees were climbing, the railing broke off, resulting in the people standing at a corner falling off and others dropping on them.

Observing that Kasibugga Venkateswara temple is a private one and not under the Endowments Department, Anitha said it is common to see 1.500 to 2,000 devotees turn up here every

### Woman abducted, gangraped while returning from work POST NEWS NETWORK

Birmaharajpur, Nov 1: A 20-year-old woman was allegedly abducted and gangraped near Hikudi under Illunda block in Subarnapur district while returning home from work Friday evening. The survivor lodged a written complaint at the Birmaharajpur police station Saturday

According to reports, the victim, a resident of Hikudi village, was returning home from a private company when three masked men stopped her near the embankment close to the Hikudi ITI College. They allegedly sprayed a chemical substance on her, rendering her unconscious.

The accused then took the woman to a nearby field and raped her. After regaining consciousness, the woman realised what had happened and informed her family about the incident.

Dharamshala outpost officer Basant Kumar Rath reached



senior officials. Subarnapur Su oerintendent of Police Narayan Nayak, Sub-divisional Police Officer Hemant Kumar Rao and Birmaharajpur Inspec tor-in-Charge Saranga Dhar Panigrahi visited the spot and conducted an investigation late Friday night.

Birmaharajpur police registered a case and launched an inquiry. Sources said one of the accused is an acquaintance of the victim. Police have detained two suspects for questioning.

The incident, which occurred along the busy Sonepur-Sambalpur route, has triggered widespread outrage and discussions in the area over women's safety in public spaces

### 'Zaika-e-Lucknow': City of Nawabs gets UNESCO tag The United Nations in In-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 1: From the silken softness of Galouti kebabs to the intoxicating aroma of Awadhi biryani and the cloud-like nothingness of Makkhan Malai, the notes of Lucknow's cuisine are many. each more delectable than the last, and now recognised by UNESCO.

Reaffirming a widely acknowledged matter of fact, Lucknow has officially been inducted into UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (CCN), under the 'Gastronomy' category, marking a global acknowledgement of its culinary heritage.

UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay Friday designated 58 cities as new members of the CCN, which now includes 408 cities across more than 100 countries, "for their commitment to championing creativity as a driver of sustainable urban development".

dia in a post on X said, "From mouth-watering Galouti Kabab to Awadhi Biryani, delectable Chaat and Golgappe, desserts like Makhan Malai and so much more - Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh is a haven for food, enriched in centuries-old traditions.'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to people all over the world to visit Lucknow to discover the city's uniqueness. Modi said Lucknow is synonymous with vibrant culture, at the core of which is a great culinary culture.

"I am glad that UNESCO has recognised this aspect of Lucknow and I call upon people from around the world to visit Lucknow and discover its uniqueness," the prime minister wrote on X.

Lucknow's food has always represented a paradise for gourmands, whether they slurp up its aromatic gravies or savour the silken delicacies.

### Only country with generational smoking ban THE MEASURE ALSO

APPLIES TO VISITORS TO THE NATION OF 1,191 TINY CORAL **ISLETS SCATTERED** *SOME 800KM ACROSS* THE EQUATOR AND KNOWN FOR ITS **LUXURY TOURISM** 

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESEE

Malé, Nov 1: The Maldives began implementing a smoking ban on anyone born after January 2007, becoming the only country with a generational prohibition on tobacco, according to its health ministry.

The move, which was initiated by the President, Mohamed Muizzu, earlier this year and came into effect 1 November,



will "protect public health and promote a tobacco-free genera-

tion", the ministry said. "Under the new provision,

individuals born on or after 1 January 2007 are prohibited from purchasing, using, or being sold tobacco products with-

in the Maldives," it added.

"The ban applies to all forms of tobacco, and retailers are required to verify

The measure also applies to visitors to the nation of 1.191 tiny coral islets scattered some 800km (500 miles) across the equator and known for its lux

The ministry said it also maintains a comprehensive ban on the import, sale, dis tribution, possession and use of electronic cigarettes and vaping products, applicable to all individuals regardless

Selling tobacco products to an underage person carries a penalty of 50,000 rufiyaa (\$3,200), while using vape devices carries a fine of 5,000 rufiyaa

A similar generational ban proposed in the UK is still going through the legislative process while New Zealand - the first country to enact such a law against smoking - repealed it in November 2023, less than a year after it was introduced.

## eisure



### **SCHUMER GRATEFUL** TO BE FREE OF PAIN

American comic and actress Amy Schumer feels so grateful to be pain free following her recent spinal surgery and endometriosis treatment. The Life and Beth actress recently underwent spinal surgery following a surfing accident.

#### **WOODY ALLEN TO MAKE** HIS NEXT FILM IN MADRID

sit around

black in

prompts

After unsuccessful efforts to launch projects in Italy and Barcelona, Woody Allen is set to make his next film in Madrid. The 89-year-old director has obtained £1.27 million from the Madrid Regional Government to help finance the production, according to *El País*.



Expect the unexpected. You may not understand everything that happens, but that's okay, says Ganesha. Avoid too much activity, as you may be too tired to go out in the evening. Put on your sequins and gloss, the stars predict some music and dancing coming your way!

#### **TAURUS**

Today you need to flow with the tide instead of going against it, says Ganesha. This needs to apply particularly in your marital affairs. You'll tend to be guarded and suspicious.. This is likely to sour your re lationship with your spouse. There is an urgent need to have complete trust and full faith in vour partner. Do not react to situations. Accept them and respond calmly, positively.

#### **GEMINI**

Today, you are likely to over-react during a minor argument, and the tiff may blow out of proportion. Ganesha advises you to get a grip on your temper. You are a brave person and you'll need a lot of it today, mostly for accepting your own mistakes. If you are into retail business, it's a profitable day for you.

#### **CANCER**

You must get ready yourself situations in an unusual way, foretells Ganesha. You will probably learn a few lessons in public psychology during the afternoon. Before arriving at any crucial decision, weigh the pros and cons with an unbiased mind, says Ganesha.

#### **LEO**

Making new friends is like having cookies: one is never you take this idea quite seriously, and will make all the efforts to swell your circle of friends today. It is a good thing, since your new friends may prove to be useful to you in times of need. On a more personal ront, Ganesha says your feelings need a free expression in the evening. So, mush things up a bit, light a few candles and lay out a spread. Invigorate the romantic ambience for you and your sweetheart.

### VIRGO

Don't blow up on trivial matters, says Ganesha, lest it may damage close relationships. An out-of-court settlement will terminate all legal hassles. In the evenings, swipe that credit card freely and indulge yourself.

cessiul start to a new Join business venture, so do not lose any time and get going. Carry on in the same enthusiasm, and you will generate magnificent results at work later in the day. Remember, it is the loved ones who shall prove to be very valuable for you today. But then again, it is always the loved ones who are the most valuable, reminds Ganesha.

### **SCORPIO**

A day to get those feet up and enjoy the luxuries of life with your spouse, predicts Ganesha. At work, your table is the best table to get jobs done. Unknown benefactors will support your cause and help you progress, predicts Ganesha.

#### **SAGITTARIUS** Lady luck is all up for you today and your stars shine bright! However, be practical

in your decision making and don't let emotions affect you. Don't take up any task that is beyond your capacity. Stay away from stress and pressure as far as possible.

### **CAPRICORN**

Lovelorn for long, today may be the start of a new chapter, foresees Ganesha And for those of you already in love, your sweetheart may appear sweeter. No. it's not because they will be overpowered by love. They will probably try to make your day special and have you spend your hard-earned money on a nice outing or

### an expensive dinner.

AQUARIUS You have been working your socks off: now take a stop for refuelling. Plan a getaway to a hill-station nearby or just sit in an armchair with coffee mug in one hand and a book in

#### another, feels Ganesha. You need to rejuvenate yourself for a busy day tomorrow.

evening. Good times!

**PISCES** It is a day where you find yourself upbeat and optimistic about your future, says Ganesha. Your hopefulness spurs you on to splurge and indulge your spouse in the



### Star-studded One on One Dhamaal showcases collage of modern India



Actor and stand-up comic Anu Menon in I'm Every Woman

Bhubaneswar: Eight powerful short plays written by eminent playwrights and performed by some of Mumbai's finest theatre and film actors captivated viewers here Rabindra Mandap, Saturday.

Titled One on One Dhamaal. the production—directed and produced by Rage Productions, Mumbaiwas presented by Bhubaneswar-based Zain Foundation Trust as part of its annual

support people affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder. The anthology fea-

tured celebrated theatre and film artistes including Rajit Kapur, Neil Bhoopalam, Anu Menon, Gagandev Riar, Shruti Vyas, Lisha Bajaj, and Zafar Karachiwala, who enthralled

packed auditorium with their compelling perform-

The evening opened with the Actress Shruti Vyas in Mind Blowing Mannequin

English play I'm Every Woman, written by Ayeesha Menon and directed by Faezeh Jalali. Performed by actor and comedian Anu Menon, the 13-minute act explored the inner struggles of a woman juggling multiple roles—a wife, daughter, mother, and daughter-in-law-all embodied in one person.

The Hindi play Kachre Ki Hifazat followed, featuring Rajit Kapur as the bodyguard of a chief minister who dies mysteriously. Written by Ashok Mishra and directed by Kapur himself, the satirical piece drew laughter while exposing the absurdities of political life.

Next came Keeda Saala, a Hinglish play written and directed by Rahul da Cunha



Actor-director Rajit Kapur in Kachre Ki Hifazat

and performed by Zafar Karachiwala, depicting the life and aspirations of a junior artist from Mumbai's Dongri.

In Mind Blowing Mannequin, talented actress Shruti Vyas portrayed a mannequin born with a small defect navigating life with humour and grit. The Hindi play, written by Ashok Mishra and directed by Rajit Kapur, delighted the audience with its quirky take on perfection and acceptance.

Actor Neil Bhoopalam of NH10 and Shaitaan fame took the stage next with Laughing Hyena, an English play about a karaoke DJ dealing with tone-deaf singers and outdated laws. The play was written and directed by Rahul da Cunha. Hum Hain Raahi Pyaar Ke,

performed by Lisha Bajaj, delved into the search for love and companionship. Written by Bajaj and directed by Shiksha Talsania, the Hindi play offered a tender and relatable portrayal of human longing. Anu Menon returned for Hel-

lo Check, an English monologue written and directed by Rahul da Cunha, where she played a glamorous yet insecure housewife navigating her social life with wit and charm. The evening concluded with

TC Rasbihari, a 15-minute Hindi play written by Ashok Mishra, directed by Rajit Kapur and enacted by Gagan Dev Riar, which told the inspiring story of a ticket collector finally standing up against repeated injustices.

Before the performances, Gargi Bhattacharya, Managing Trustee of Zain Foundation Trust, said, "There is still a lot of denial about autism in our country. People with autism have the right to live freely and with dignity. We hope this event will raise both awareness and funds to support them. We are working towards establishing the first residential facility for people with autism."

She went on to add that the foundation has also launched PECS Café, a groundbreaking initiative designed to train young adults with autism in essential social and communication skills through the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). The café aims to create an inclusive environment where participants can learn, grow, and interact with their peers.

Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuia attended the event as the Chief Guest and felicitated the artistes and partners who contributed to the programme.

With its blend of humour, empathy, and artistry, One on One Dhamaal not only entertained but also underscored the power of theatre as a force for social change.

Orissa POST and Dharitri were the print media partners for the event. ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

### Shruti turns her life into story book Mumbai: Multifaceted Shruti Haasan decided to turn her life, as

she sees it, into a storybook this Halloween.

The Salaar actress took to social media and shared her beautiful illustrations with the netizens.

Expressing herself, she penned on her IG, "This year for Halloween I'm a slayer of doubt and my own Made a little moving story book demons so I ,here's my life as I see it in my (brain emoji) these days:) don't give me free time cause I'll

> AI typing out long elaborate forever (Rolling on the floor laughing emoji) happy Halloween everyone stay weird stay spooky Appreciating her, a netizen commented, "Only you could make spooky look this cute; geeky all at once...gr8 one

forever trying to make the hair

though...Happy Halloween @shrutzhaasan mam. (sic)." Another one shared "Shruti is really more apt to do lokah movie!!!"

Several others wished Shruti a Happy Halloween in the comment

### I'll never say never on marriage: Shehnaaz

Mumbai: Shehnaaz Gill has shared her candid thoughts on marriage, saying she doesn't see it as a necessity in today's time. The actress, whose latest release is *Ikk Kudi* said that while she currently has no plans to get married, she wouldn't completely rule out the possibility in the future. Ikk Kudi, which marks

Shehnaaz's debut as a producer, showcases the journey of a girl's struggle to find the right partner. Written and directed by

the film released on October 31. Asked if marriages are important in today's

Amarjit Singh Saron,

time? Shehnaaz told this agency:

"Marriage is not important. If vou don't have to do

it, it's okay. People get married. It's okay. Even though I feel that I won't get married, I can't say that I will never say never. Maybe, I'll have to do it tomorrow. I have to make the right decision for myself." Shehnaaz, who gained the

spotlight with her stint in Bigg Boss 19 and her chemistry with late star Sidharth Shukla in the show, agrees that it is a matter of life.

'You are giving your entire life to a boy after leaving your parents house. You are doing everything for him, it's a big decision.. you are giving your entire life to a boy after leaving your parents' house. It's different. You

don't know who will be your partner. You don't know. So, let's see what happens.

### **PEANUTS**

fundraiser to



IF IT'S ABOUT GOING TO THE SHOW, WHY DON'T WE JUST MEET THERE AROUND ONE? THAT'LL SAVE YOU COMIN CLEAR OVER HERE!







### CALVIN AND HOBBES









### **BREVITY**



### POST **CROSSWORD**

# Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com 21 Big mouth sea 5 Draw

#### Across 7 Armagnac, e.g.

- 8 Igloo dweller 9 Napoleon's
- undoing 10 Mountain pool
- 11 Old hat 13 Deadly
- 15 Juries

20 Assistant

- 2 Earwig 17 Nagoya locale
  - 4 Kicked downstairs

birds

24 Fractures

23 Horse's pace

- <u>Down</u> Killer whale
- 3 African antelope

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- 6 Rainy day defense
- 12 Copies 14 Miscues (4-3) 16 Tease
- 18 Robin Hood was one 19 Excuse

22 Certain

W.M.D.

#### 5 8 3 5 4 6 9 2 2 8 3 6 6 3 8 9 4 5 4

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**

SUDOKU

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SUDOKU

## downtown

### **CM:** Committed to make every woman financially independent

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: The Odisha government is committed to ensure every woman in the state becomes financially independent, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Sat-

Inaugurating the second edition of the Subhadra Shakti Mela here, Majhi said the fair. which will continue till November 12, is a platform to showcase women empowerment and entrepreneurship under the Subhadra Yojana.

"Our goal is to create a prosperous Odisha by 2036 and to make it the growth engine of a developed India by 2047. This goal will be fulfilled when the power of our lakhs of Subhadra mothers is awakened. They will be empowered and their valuable contribution will be in every field of development, he said, adding that Subhadra Yojana is a unique model to achieve that goal.

The CM said Odisha has achieved unprecedented success by creating 17 lakh Lakhpati Didis in a very short time under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship scheme Lakhpati Didi Yojana.



lakh Lakhpati Didis by 2027. To achieve this, we have doubled the revolving fund of SHGs. We have increased the community investment fund for Gram Panchayat-level federations from Rs 35 lakh to Rs 60 lakh," Majhi said, adding that along with this, an interest refund facility on bank loans has also been made.

"Our government is committed to ensuring that every woman in the state becomes financially independent," the CM pointed out.

Meanwhile, the state government Saturday started receiving new applications under the Subhadra Yojana.

"Women, who attained 21 years of age as on April 1,

prosperous Odisha by 2036 and to make it the growth engine of a developed India by 2047. This goal will be fulfilled when the power of our lakhs of Subhadra mothers is awakened. They will be empowered and their valuable contribution will be in every field of development MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI | CHIEF MINISTER

2025, are now eligible for the scheme," Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida said.

Eligible women who are more than 21 years old and below 60 can also apply for the scheme, Parida said.

"Eligible women, who were outside the state or could not apply earlier, can also submit their applications for financial assistance under the scheme,' said Parida, who also holds the Women and Child Development

Subhadra Yojana, an ambitious women welfare scheme of the BJP government, was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday (September 17) in 2024

### Majhi inaugurates 44 sub-registration offices

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday inaugurated 44 new sub-registration offices in as many tehsils across 13 districts.

Majhi virtually inaugurated the sub-registration offices from the Lok Seva Bhawan here.

Another 56 such offices are planned to be opened in a phased manner by the end of this year, the CM said.

Majhi said all such offices are now under smart surveillance, monitored through CCTV to ensure employee punctuality and transparency. This system, he noted, has proven highly effective in making land registration offices corruption-free and eliminating middlemen.

Majhi emphasised that availing government services is the right of every citizen and urged Revenue department employees to deliver quality service with dignity and respect.

Highlighting government's efforts, the CM said that over the past 16 months, several administrative reforms have been introduced to make governance more transparent, accountable, and people-centric.

He added that the government's focus is to bring administration closer to the people's doorsteps through the

### 14 CAPF COMPANIES FOR NUAPADA BYELECTIO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: Two days after Maoists sent a message to continue their activities in Odisha, the state police geared up measures to tighten security, including plans for deployment of 14 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), in bypoll-bound Nuapada, bordering Left-Wing Extremism-hit Chhattisgarh, official sources said Saturday.

"We are planning to deploy 14 CAPF companies, comprising about 1,890 personnel, in Nuapada, where byelection will be held November 11, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) (Law & Order) Sanjay Kumar said.

"Security will be strengthened with special focus on tackling any possible Maoist menace," he added.

In addition, five platoons (150 personnel) of Odisha Special Armed Police (OSAP) and Additional Police Reserve (APR) forces, along with 35 mobile patrolling units, 18 flying squads, and 18 static surveillance teams, will be deployed across the constituency, officials said.

Five platoons (150 personnel) of Odisha Special Armed Police (OSAP) and Additional Police Reserve (APR) forces, along with 35 mobile patrolling units 18 flying squads, and 18 static surveillance teams, will also be deployed across the constituency

Odisha Police has been instructed to remain vigilant against suspicious individuals, illegal cash flow, arms and liquor smuggling, and the execution of pending warrants, DGP Yogesh **Bahadur Khurania said** 

**ADGP (Anti-Naxal Operations)** Sanieeb Panda said that anti-**Maoist operation** plans have been finalised for **Nuapada district** 

structed to remain vigilant against suspicious individuals, illegal cash flow, arms and liquor smuggling, and the execution of pending warrants, Director General of Police (DGP) Yogesh Bahadur Khurania said. ADGP (Anti-Naxal Operations) Sanjeeb Panda said that anti-Maoist operation plans have been finalised for the district.

Two days ago, the CPI (Maoist), in a letter from Raipur, had announced that

their Odisha unit would ac celerate its activities despite facing a tough situation in Chhattisgarh.

"Based on intelligence inputs, Odisha Police headquarters directed Nuapa da SP Amritpal Singh to maintain strict law and or ADGP (Law & Order) said, adding that IG (Northern Range) Himansu Kumar Lal has been assigned to oversee security operations in Nua pada as the DIG is on leave and the overall supervision has been entrusted to ADG Rajesh Kumar.

Meanwhile, the district police has been conducting flag marches in all the blocks of Nuapada on a daily basis to ensure that the election Model Code of Conduct is not violated anywhere.

"Cops have also expedit ed the process of executing non-bailable warrants (NBWs) in the district and foot patrolling was being held at politically-sensitive Komna block to boost police visibility, build community confidence, and ensure a peaceful environment ahead of the byelection," a senior

## encroachments on govt land, state told

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: The Orissa High Court has directed the state government to expedite removal of encroachments on government land in a village in Jajpur district.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Harish Tandon and Justice Murahari Sri Raman disposed of a writ petition filed by a group of villagers, issuing the directive in its order.

The petitioners had alleged that government authorities were failing to take adequate measures to remove encroachments from government land and other areas intended for common village use.

Counsel for the state informed the HC that upon learning of the encroachments as reported by the petitioners, the authorities had initiated stens and issued directions for an investigation to ensure that the land was made encroachment-free.

"Our attention is further drawn to a decision of the state government showing no tolerance towards any encroachment on the government land," the bench observed

ernment has instructed all district Collectors to prepare an action plan to evict encroachers from government land across Odisha.

According to an order issued by the Revenue and Disaster Management department, a substantial extent of government land in various parts of the state remains under encroachment. The department emphasised the need for Revenue authorities to undertake proactive, time-bound measures, within the framework of law, for the identification and eviction of encroachments, and to put in place safeguards to prevent future occurrences.

"Since the process of law has already been set in motion and will be brought to its logical conclusion in accordance with the statutory procedures, we do not think keeping the instant writ petition pending would subserve any justice. Since the grievance has been addressed and appropriate action initiated, we direct the authorities to complete the process as expeditiously as possible in accordance with law," the bench

### Expedite removal of HC junks promotion of unreserved category employees in R&DM dept

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: The Orissa High Court has quashed the promotion of a few unreserved category employees in the Revenue and Disaster Management (R&DM) department to the higher post under reserved category. The single judge bench of

Justice Sashikanta Mishra directed the Keonihar district administration to convene a fresh departmental promotion committee (DPC) meeting to carry out promotion on the basis of merit, suitability and seniority of all eligible candidates.

The petitioners (reserved) were deprived from competing on merit with other candidates. Besides, their inherent seniority in the cadre, as per the gradation list, was also ignored. Thus, the very principle envisaged in the rule was ignored, the HC observed.

'Had the petitioners been so permitted and found to be less meritorious and unsuitable than the other candidates, denial of promotion would have been justified but not so in the present scenario where they were not even brought into the fray," the HC ruled.

"Thus, looked at from any angle, the action of the authorities in not considering



he petitioners (reserved) were deprived from competing on merit with other candidates. Besides, their inherent seniority in the cadre, as per the gradation list, was also ignored. Thus, the very principle envisaged in the rule was ignored, the HC observed

the case of the petitioners for promotion and promoting their rank juniors in the cadre amounts to gross violation of the principles of equality enshrined under the Constitution as well as Rule 11 of Orissa District Revenue Service (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1983," the HC said.

The state's apex court, how-

ever, made it clear that no recovery shall be effected from them (beneficiaries) towards the salary and other financial benefits drawn by them during the interregnum.

The HC directed the authorities to convene a DPC meeting for promotion to the post of Revenue Inspector, by considering the inter se merit, suitability and seniority of all eligible candidates. "Basing on the outcome of such review DPC, necessary orders of promotion shall be issued," it added.

"The entire exercise shall be completed within a period of three months," Justice Mishra ruled in the judgement pronounced Friday

### Olive Ridleys face danger as trawlers ply despite ban

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri. Nov 1: Environmentalists and locals of Astaranga in Puri district raised alarms as trawlers continue to ply on the Devi river mouth despite enforcement of fishing ban to provide a safe passage for the endangered Olive Ridley turtles to lay their eggs.

Devi river mouth happens to be one of the three globally significant mass nesting sites for Olive Ridley sea turtles in Odisha, along with Gahirmatha and Rushikulya.

Highlighting the highly in-

adequate preparedness on the ground, the locals alleged that the entire control of the designated protected zone appears to be under unlawful fishing activity. Every single day matters, as each day has the potential to disturb and collapse the outcomes achieved in earlier seasons. Even one day of rampant fishing can destroy the collective conservation effort by disrupting, injuring, or displacing turtles that depend on this area for breeding, they alleged.

It is pertinent to mention here that as per the Supreme Court's 2003 interim directives, the 20-km stretch near Devi river mouth serves as the crucial base zone for 45-60 days, where thousands of Olive Ridley turtles congregate and mate before

They further alleged, while the Puri DFO and frontline Forest staff have extended their cooperation, overall inter-de partmental preparedness re mains lacklustre. Coordination meetings take place, but ground actions are minimal.

The Devi river mouth is not only an ecological heritage site but also a critical indicator of Odisha's marine governance capacity. A lack of early preparedness directly translates into mass mortality, failed nest ing, and international concern over Odisha's conservation commitments.

Notably, the Odisha government has imposed a seven-month fishing ban along its coast from November 1. The decision has been made to ensure the safe breeding and nesting of the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles. The seven-monthlong ban on marine fishing along Odisha's coast will re main effective till May 31.

However, fishermen can venture into the deep sea or be yond 20-km from the coastline for fishing. While mechanised boats or trawlers are strictly prohibited, traditional fishermen using non-mechanised boats with length of less than 8.5-metre are allowed limited fishing outside the turtle pro-



SPREADING AWARENESS: Schoolchildren take part in an awareness rally in Jobra area of Cuttack, Saturday, as part of observation of Vigilance Awareness Week

### Demand to open gate 3 of Utkal University grows louder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: Gate 3 of Utkal University in Bhubaneswar again became a matter of contention after locals of the adjacent VSS Nagar launched a fresh demand to open it for public use as soon as possible.

The demand put forth before Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan who was at the varsity to attend the silver jubilee celebration of Utkal University Retired Employee Association. As per reports, the ace uni-

versity originally had three gates. But the gate 3, near the VSS Nagar, was allegedly closed after erecting a boundary wall in front of it by a former Vice Chancellor. The move effectively curtailed movement of students and varsity employees directly to and from VSS Nagar resulting in inconve-

Members of the VSS Nagar Development Council, including its general secretary Dillip



N Development Council, including its general secretary Dillip Das Sharma and joint secretary Dharanidhar Rout, met Law Minister Prithivirai Harichandan and put forth their demands

Das Sharma and joint secretary Dharanidhar Rout, met the minister and put forth their

Notably, guests of the event also came in support of the demand and urged the state government to open the gate at the earliest.

### **ATV** for Puri lifeguards

Puri, Nov 1: Lifeguards operating along Puri beach to prevent drowning incidents among tourists received a major boost Saturday as the Puri civic body and the Tourism department jointly presented them an all-terrain vehicle (ATV).

The vehicle was handed over in the presence of hundreds of lifeguards during a special event held on the beach.

District Fire Officer Pravat Kumar Rout and Tourism Officer Saroj Pradhan formally presented the ATV.

Capable of traversing sandy stretches with ease, the ATV will help lifeguards patrol the coastline more efficiently and quickly transport rescued persons for immediate medical assistance.

The vehicle will be stationed at the beach outpost for rapid deployment.

Rout said that more equipment would soon be provided to enhance the effectiveness of the lifeguards.

## **Academic leadership key** to higher edu growth: Min



Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: Visionary academic leadership is key to advancing higher education in the state, Higher Education Minister Surjyabanshi Suraj said Saturday.

He was speaking as chief guest at the valedictory session of a "Capacity Building and Leadership Development Workshop" for principals and senior faculty members of government colleges, organised jointly by the Higher Education department, Odisha State Higher Education Council, and Xavier Institute of Management,

Bhubaneswar (XIMB). Held from October 27 to November 1, the workshop brought together principals and senior faculty members from 36 government colleges across Odisha. It covered a wide range of themes, including the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. institutional governance. financial management, academic innovation, pedagogical re-

forms, skill-based evaluation, digital learning, and quality

Minister Suraj said, "Building a world-class educational ecosystem and ensuring quality education for a brighter future of our students is our collective mission. To achieve this, we are focusing on quality education, skill development, qualitative research, and the overall strengthening of the academic

The minister described colleges and universities as the "true nurseries of nation-building," emphasizing their vital role in shaping responsible

education, skill development and research is a collective

citizens. He urged vice-chancellors, principals, and faculty members to lead the transformation of higher educational institutions with vision, commitment, and foresight.

Elaborating on the state's initiatives, Minister Suraj said, "Odisha has undertaken several transformative measures such as implementing the National Education Policy 2020, launching the PM-USHA Scheme in higher education, establishing new Government Degree Colleges in remote districts, enhancing skill development and employability and academic environment through initiatives like Shaktishri."

He further added that such leadership workshops are instrumental in empowering college heads to enhance institutional management and academic excellence.

Higher Education department Additional Secretary Dharanidhar Nanda, Additional Secretary Pratibha Sahu, Xavier Institute of Management Registrar S Anthony, and Associate Dean SS Ganesh graced

### Chief Secy reviews pollution control measures in Odisha assaulting BJP worker in Nuapada

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: An organisational meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja was held Saturday in collaboration with the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) to review the implementation of various pollution control measures and schemes across the state.

The meeting also focused on strengthening inter-departmental coordination to ensure rural areas. Held at Lok Seva Bhawan, the meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Satyabrata Sahu Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee, and senior officials from various departments.

The committee reviewed the implementation status of resolutions passed during its previous (5th) meeting and assessed the progress under the State Clean Air Programme (SCAP) and National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). Cities such as Rourkela, Angul, Talcher. Balasore, Rajgangpur, Cuttack, and Bhubaneswar are part of the NCAP framework, which aims to achieve a 40 per cent reduction in PM10 and PM2.5

levels in the coming years. Officials identified vehicular emissions, industrial activities, road dust, and waste burning as the major sources of particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) pollution. The committee stressed the need for long-term strategies such as transitioning to renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydropower, and promoting electric mobility to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nuapada/Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: Two senior BJD lead ers, including an MLA, were Saturday booked for allegedly assaulting a BJP worker in the bypoll-bound Nuapada Assembly constituency, police said.

The FIR, filed at Komna police station, named BJD vice-president and former MLA Pranab Prakash Das and Khariar MLA Adhiraj Panigrahi as accused.

The complaint was lodged by Jitu Adabanga, a tribal youth and BJP worker, who alleged that the two leaders verbally abused and assaulted him at the farmhouse of BJD general secretary Manoj Mishra in Komna Friday evening.

Police said the case was reg istered under various Sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhi-

"Investigation is underway," an officer said.

Adabanga claimed he was rescued by Komna police personnel from the spot.

He was earlier associated with the BJD before joining the BJP after party candidate Jay Dholakia switched sides.

Though Das and Panigrahi were not immediately available for comment, BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said. "The allegations are false fabricated and politically moti vated. The BJP has been filing false cases against our leaders after realising that they will be

defeated in the bypoll. The FIR came a day after police raided the rented house of

PARTY'S SENIOR GENERAL SECRETARY LEKHASRI SAMANTSINGHAR ACCUSED BJP LEADERS OF TERRORISING POLITICAL OPPONENTS WITH THE SUPPORT OF LOCAL POLICE

2 senior BJD leaders booked for

BJD SPOKESPERSON LENIN MOHANTY DISMISSED THE ALLEGATIONS AS FALSE, FABRICATED, AND POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, ACCUSING THE BJP OF FILING FALSE CASES OUT OF FEAR OF DEFEAT IN THE BYPOLL

THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER IN BHUBANESWAR, DEMANDING THE ARREST AND REMOVAL OF DAS AND PANIGRAHI FROM THE CONSTITUENCY TO ENSURE PEACE AHEAD OF BYPOLL

senior BJD general secretary and former minister Prithiranjan Gharai in Komna, following allegations that cash was being stored to influence

At a press conference in Bhubaneswar, BJD senior general secretary Lekhasri Samantsinghar alleged that BJP leaders with help of local police have been terrorising the political opponents.

"BJP's Koraput MLA Raghuram Machha's personal security officer (PSO) fired blanks in the Komna area Friday to terrorise BJD supporters. We demand an explanation from him," Samantasinghar said.

Samantsinghar also alleged that there were attempts to disrupt BJD president Naveen Patnaik's public meeting scheduled for November 3 at Dhanmandi Ground in Komna block.

She alleged that Panchayati Raj Minister Rabi Narayan Naik had encouraged a group of "gram saathis" (village volunteers) to stage a protest rally

"Our Rajya Sabha MP and other leaders met the Nuapa da Collector today, requesting that no other programme be allowed at the venue Novem ber 3," she said, adding that the administration would be "responsible for any untoward incident."

In another press conference at Nuapada, Odisha Congress in-charge Ajay Kumar Lallu accused the BJP of attempting to create disturbance in Nuapada "The BJP is worried because

our candidate, a tribal leader has gained wide support," Lallu claimed.

A BJP delegation led by vice-president Jatin Mohanty met the Chief Electoral Offi cer (CEO) in Bhubaneswar demanding the immediate arrest and removal of Das and Panigrahi from the constituen cy to maintain peace before the November 11 bypoll.

In another petition to the CEO, the BJP submitted a list of 108 sensitive booths in Nuapada constituency and stressed the need to ensure free and fair

### CLASSIFIED

#### AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Notary Public, Dated- 23.09.2025 I, Anjan Kumar Sahoo, At-Kilipal, P.O.-Narijanga, P.S.- Tirtol, Dist.- Jagatsinghpur, PIN-754137 declare that I have changed my name from Anjan Kumar Show to Anjan Kumar Sahoo. Henceforth, I shall be known as Anjan Kumar Sahoo for all purposes. Anjan Kumar Sahoo

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Baripada, Mayurbhanj, I, Rajib Lochan Ratha, S/o-Niranjan Ratha, resident of PO/PS-Bhanjpur, Baripada, Mayurbhanj, Pin-757002, Odisha declare by this Affidavit No.1373 dtd-31.10.25 that I will be known and signed as Rajib Lochan Ratha for all purposes instead of Rajib Lachan Ratha, that reflects in my Matric Certificate.

I, Mvgs Vamsi Krishna, S/o. Mallapragada Subba Rao, Resident of Satyavati Nillayam, Santi Vihar, Raniguda Farm, PO/Dist.-Rayagada, Odisha, Pin-765001, Declared by this Affidavit No.4768, dated 22.10.2025 that now onwards I shall be known as Mallapragada Vamsi Krishna for the future purposes. Sd./- Mallapragada Vamsi Krishna

### **OUAT holds skill training** on mushroom cultivation



Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: The Centre for Tropical Mushroom Research & Training, in collaboration with the All India Coordinated Research Project on Mushroom, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), organised a five-day skill training programme on mushroom production at the university premises.

Arabinda Officer-in-Charge of the Centre, along with mushroom scientists Anita Privadarsini and N

on various aspects of cultivation, processing, and marketing of paddy straw, oyster, and milk mushrooms.

Thirty farmers and farm women from different districts took part in the training. On the closing day, Dean of the College of Agriculture, OUAT, BK Mohapatra attended as chief guest and encouraged participants to take up mushroom cultivation as a profitable enterprise. He also distributed certificates to the successful

### **NAT'L CONFERENCE ON HANDLOOMS & HANDICRAFTS CONCLUDES**

### 'Blend tradition with tech in crafts to boost productivity'

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: In order to boost productivity and reduce drudgery during production of handlooms and handicrafts, traditional craftsmanship needs to blend with modern tools and techniques, said Ministry of Textiles Secretary Neelam Shami Rao, while chairing the concluding session of two-day national conference on Handlooms and Handicrafts 2025 here Saturday.

Organised under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative by Ministry of Textiles, through the offices of Development Commissioners (Handlooms and Handicrafts), the conference brought together senior officials from states and Union



experts to frame a unified roadmap for sustainable growth in the handloom and handicraft

The conference reaffirmed Centre's commitment to reimagining the country's handmade sector as a key pillar of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Speaking at the event, Rao urged design institutions like NIFT and IIHT to proactively forecast design and colour trends and called for smoother

supply chains.

'We must safeguard the very ecosystem we are nurturing. Handlooms and handicrafts are not peripheral — they are premium products of future," said Rao. She also announced that such conferences will be organised every six months to strengthen coordination between the Centre and states, facilitate cross-learning, and review progress of ongoing initiatives.

Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner Anu Garg highlighted the cultural and ecological importance of Odisha's handlooms, citing Kotpad and Dongria shawls as examples of sustainable craft traditions

#### 140 cases adjudicated in **H&UD dept's Camp Court** Bhubaneswar: To ensure citizen-

centric governance and deliver swift justice, a special Camp Court was organised by Housing and Urban Development department at Unnati Bhawan here Saturday. During the hearing, a total of 140 cases were successfully adjudicated, making a notable impact on the backlog of over 400 pending appeals. The session was organised under the direct guidance of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to foster a citizen-first approach to governance. The initiative, spearheaded by department's Principal Secretary Usha Padhee aimed to expedite resolution of appeal cases under the Odisha Development Authorities (ODA) Act 1982. Padhee, in her capacity as the designated appellate authority for cases involving Bhubaneswar **Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation** (BMC), presided over the day-long session This initiative is part of a larger strategy to strengthen the appellate mechanism and expedite case disposal.

### 2 held for Chandaka witchcraft murder

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: In a shocking case of superstition-driven crime, two youths were arrested Saturday for the murder of a 72-year-old man whose skeletal remains were recovered from Chandaka for-

Police identified the deceased as Balaram Deogam (72), whose remains were found by Chandaka police, raising suspicion of foul play.

The accused youths have been identified as Kanhei Hembram and Rama Samada, both residents of the district According to reports, police

recovered a human skeleton from Chandaka forest October 31, leading to suspicion of foul play Police immediately launched an investigation into the inci-

dent, and a scientific team con-

ducted a forensic examination

at the site. During the prelim-

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and a lungi found near the remains were identified by the victim's son as belonging to his father, who had been missing since September 30.

According to police, Balaram had gone to guard his agricultural field that night and never returned. His family initially believed he had left on his own, as he occasionally did.

During the investigation, suspicion fell on Kanhei, a for-

**ERTISEMENTS** 

est watchman, and his friend Rama, both from the same village. Police said Kanhei believed his father had died due to witchcraft allegedly practiced by Balaram. Seeking revenge, he conspired with Rama, who also blamed Balaram for his father's death.

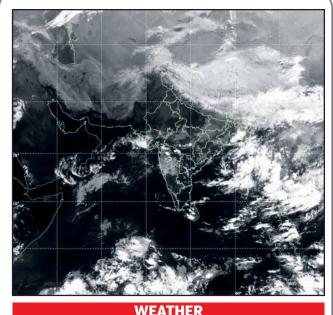
On the night of September 30, the duo allegedly waited near a pond close to Balaram's field. When he arrived, Kanhei

Police recovered a human skeleton from Chandaka forest October 31, later identified as 72-year-old Balaram Deogam, missing since September 30

Investigation revealed that accused Kanhei and Rama killed Balaram, suspecting him of practicing witchcraft that caused their fathers' deaths

reportedly kicked him, and together they strangled him to death. They later buried the body in the forest and threw his belongings into a nearby

Based on the accused's confession, police recovered a bag, torch, water bottle, and lathi from the pond bank. Both were arrested Saturday after admitting to the crime and were booked under Sections 103(1)/238(a)/3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). They were later forwarded to court following a medical ex-



#### **BBSR** CTC **FORECAST** Max Temp 32.6° 30.8° 25.0° 23.0° Min Temp 87% 94% Humidity 1.2mm Rainfall

#### inary probe, a neck ornament amination.

CONTACT

Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816 Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point-9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488

### **NUAPADA BYPOLL**

# Komna voters may tilt the balance woman forest guard seized tractor snatched: video goes viral

Nuapada, Nov 1: With the Nuapada Assembly constituency heading to bypolls soon, Komna block holds a decisive position. In most past elections, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has secured a significant majority from this block, helping the regional party clinch victory.
Former MLA Rajendra

Dholakia won the seat four times—thrice on a BJD ticket and once as an Independent candidate. Komna has long been considered his political stronghold and vote bank. The combination of the BJD's 'Sankha' (conch) symbol, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's popularity, and Dholakia's personal influence had kept Komna voters loyal to the party.

In the 2024 Assembly elections, Dholakia won by a margin of 10,881 votes securing around 3,047 more votes than his nearest rival in Komna block alone. Both the BJD and Dholakia enjoyed strong sup-

However, the political equation has now changed. Dholakia's son, Jay Dholakia, has quit the BJD and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), becoming its candidate for the bypoll. This shift has divided the Komna electorate. Some of Rajendra Dholakia's loyal supporters have also switched to

the BJP following Jay's move. Voters who previously sup-



The political landscape in Komna block has undergone a noticeable transformation as several local leaders who supported one party in the last election have switched sides this time

BJD and Rajendra Dholakia's leadership are now reportedly unsure about their allegiance, said a resident of Jadamunda village in the block.

In the last election, BJD's Rajendra Dholakia garnered 27,637 votes from Komna block, while BJP's Abhinandan Panda secured 18.196. Then Congress rebel Ghasiram Majhi, the party's official candidate this time, had finished second with 24,590 votes. Former PCC president

Sarat Pattanayak, contesting on the Congress ticket then, got only 7,740 votes.

### Shift in political equations

The political landscape in Komna block has undergone a noticeable transformation ahead of the upcoming by-election. Several local leaders who supported one party in the last election have switched sides this time.

Komna block, which comprises 32 gram panchayats and three Zilla Parishad zones. had a majority of sarpanches and samiti members aligned with the BJD in the previous election. However, more than half of them are now backing the BJP.

All three sitting Zilla Parishad members belong to the BJD. Zone 1 member Muralidhar Bhoi and Zone 3 member as well as Zilla Parishad Vice Chairperson Deepanjali Deep continue to work for the BJD. Zone 2 member Abani Ranjan Joshi, who now serves as the district BJD president, remains loyal to the party. BJD ticket aspirant Manoj Mishra, who was with the party during the last election, continues to stay with it.

However, notable defections have reshaped the local balance. Block Chairperson Annasuya Kumbhar and Vice-Chairperson Jayadev Pradhan, both formerly with the BJD, have ioined the BJP and are now actively campaigning for the party. Senior leader Kshyama Singh Nial and Sialti panchayat sarpanch Kalia Pradhan, once loyal to the BJD, have shifted to the BJP.

Similarly, tribal leader Somanath Khamari, Gonda Samaj district president Dibya Singh Majhi, and former sarpanch Bhakta Sabar, who had earlier supported Ghasiram, are now backing BJP candidate Jay.

Meanwhile, several grassroots BJP leaders and workers are reportedly at unease about accepting Jay's leadership.

As the bypoll draws closer, the BJP, BJD, and Congress are all exerting full effort to secure victory. There is also speculation that some leaders from all three major parties maintain covert links with rival camps, prompting senior leaders to closely monitor their activities.

Political observers said that while party leaders are switching sides to protect their personal interests, voters in Komna could still play a decisive role in upsetting the electoral arithmetic of any party.

### **Tension after BJP MLA's PSO fires blank round**

Nuapada: Political tension gripped Nuapada district after a blank firing incident in Komna late Friday night involving the personal security officer (PSO) of Koraput MLA Raghuram Machha. Following the incident, the Congress filed a written complaint at Komna police station, demanding immediate action against the accused. Acting on the complaint, police registered a case and suspended the PSO. According to police reports, a single round of blank fire was discharged near a hotel in Komna where MLA Machha was staying. The incident created panic among local residents. Based on the Congress complaint, police registered a case (319/25) and took PSO Dambaru Hantal into custody. His service firearm has been seized. Additional Superintendent of Police Ranjit Naik confirmed that Koraput Superintendent of Police Rohit Verma has suspended the PSO. The investigation has been assigned to Sub-Inspector Minati Badanayak. Congress leaders alleged that firing a weapon during the election process was an attempt to intimidate voters and influence the by-election in favour of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). "Such an act constitutes a criminal offence under law and could not have occurred without the MLA's direct support," the Congress stated in its complaint.

# Sand mafia assaults

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 1: A woman forest guard was allegedly assaulted by a group of illegal sand smugglers in Keonjhar district when she tried to seize a tractor carrying stolen sand from a stream in a reserve forest. The incident, which was captured on video and widely circulated on social media, has sparked outrage and raised concerns over the safety of women personnel working in remote forest areas.

The matter came to the fore after the forest guard Debajani Mohanta lodged a complaint at Ghatagaon police station Saturday.

According to the complaint Mohanta, posted in the Tando beat in Patana forest range, went to the Atei reserve forest near Pichulabeda village along with another squad member Kailash Mohanta for investigation after receiving a tip-off about sand smuggling from a stream Friday.

Upon arrival, they found a sand-laden tractor (OD-09J-3271) on the spot. As they approached, the workers fled the scene in panic. While Debajani contacted the range officer for assistance and began preparing a seizure list, a group of men led by Prahalad Palei allegedly reached there and confronted her.

In her complaint, the forest  $% \left\{ 1,2,...,n\right\}$ guard alleged that the men verbally abused her, threat-

ened to kill her and her fami ly, and attempted to flee with the tractor. When she tried to stop them, they pushed her to the ground and allegedly tore her uniform. She also accused them of making inappropriate

tinued performing her duties in the area. The accused reportedly unloaded the sand, drove the tractor away from the site, and escaped. They also allegedly tried to run the vehicle over the official. Mohanta sustained

physical contact and issuing

threats of gangrape if she con-

injuries to her finger during the Following her complaint Keonjhar Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Dhanaraj HD said a case has been registered under the Forest Act against the accused, including Prahlad Palei "Notices have been issued for their appearance. If they fail to cooperate, further legal action

The incident has triggered widespread condemnation. with many calling for immedi ate action and improved protection for women forest staff working in isolated areas.

will be taken," he said.

# in Ganjam forest



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, Nov 1: A tusker was found dead with marks of blood stain on its trunk and injury marks on its ears and thighs at Baniapalli reserve forest under Mujagarh forest range of North Ghumusar forest division in Ganjam district

The exact cause of the death is yet to be determined, but forest officials said it could be due to a fight between elephants, gunshot wounds, or an electric shock. Officials said the actual cause will be known after the post-mortem report is available to them.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Himanshu Sekhar Mohanty and Ranger Bimbadhar Sahu visited the site and launched an investigation. A post-mortem of the animal was

conducted after a Joint Task Force (JTF) team from Bhubaneswar reached the spot in the afternoon. Preliminary investigation suggested that the elephant might have died a day

Blood was found flowing from its trunk before death, and there were visible injury marks near its ear and thigh. Marks resembling tusk impressions by another elephant were also seen on its abdomen, adding to speculation that the death was not natural.

Locals claimed the area has frequent instances of "hooking" and suspected that the elephant might have fallen victim to human aggression, possibly by farmers protecting their crops.

The Ghumusar North Division had 56 elephants until Thursday; this death brings the number down by one.

### Tusker found dead 7-month long marine fishing ban comes into effect

#### Kendrapara/Berhampur.

**Nov 1:** The state government Saturday imposed a sevenmonth-long ban on sea fishing activity within 20 km of the coast at the river mouths of Dhamra, Devi and Rushikulya as part of its annual Olive Ridley turtle conservation programme, officials said.

The ban on sea-fishing, however, remains enforced roundthe-year in the Gahirmatha coast, which is widely regarded as the largest habitation corridor of these highly endangered marine species

Besides, Gahirmatha has been accorded the status of a marine sanctuary in view of the congregation of turtles, said

The ban on sea fishing activity would remain effective from November 1 to May 31. It ensures the safety of marine animals during their breeding and mating season, said officials, adding that the ban has been clamped in accordance with Sections 2, 7 and 4 of Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act (OMFRA), 1982 and provisions

of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The ban will be strictly implemented as it is done every year to save turtles, as these endangered species perish in larger numbers either by getting entangled in fishing nets or being hit by fishing trawlers'

### Trawler seized; 8 arrested



Rajnagar: The Forest department Saturday seized a trawler and arrested eight fishermen for unauthorised fishing in the prohibited marine zone of Gahirmatha Wildlife Sanctuary.

Acting on the direction of Gahirmatha Deputy Ranger Kapilendra Pradhan, a forest patrol team led by foresters Sanjeeb Kumar Dash and Mahanta Kumar Mallik intercepted the trawler 'Bharati' near Ekakula coast.

During the raid, officials seized around 25 kg fish catch,

propellers, an official said.

As per the arrangements, a multi-layered patrolling exercise will be done involving the Forest, Fisheries, and Marine Police, besides the Coast Guard personnel.

To ensure effective patrolling, 61 on-shore camps and five off-shore camps have been one GPS device, two VHF sets. and seven fishing nets from the vessel.

The arrested fishermen were identified as Nagendra Majhi, Purustam Jena, Bimbadhar Majhi, Bharat Jena, Rajesh Khatua, Ajay Majhi, Dushasan Tarai, and Nandu Singh-all residents of Balasore district.

According to forest officials, a case has been registered against them under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and they have been forwarded to court.

set up in the state's four wildlife divisions - Bhadrak, Rajnagar,

Puri and Berhampur. The armed police force will flank the Forest and Fisheries patrolling teams. Five highspeed boats, 13 trawlers and support boats are pressed into service to intercept illegal marine fishing in prohibited zones, said Sudrashan Gopinath Yadav, Divisional Forest Officer, Rajnagar Mangrove (Wildlife) Forest Division. Around 11,000 fishermen

families will be affected due to the ban. To compensate for the loss of income avenues, the state government has decided to extend one-time livelihood assistance of ₹15,000 to the affected fishermen families, he said.

Odisha Traditional Fish Workers Union (OTFWU), an organisation of fishermen. however, demanded that the amount be enhanced to ₹30,000 and include all families depending on fishing-related works, including small-time fish traders under the scheme.

K Yellayya, general secretary of the union, said they demand a reduction of the ban period from seven months to five months and from 20 km from the coast to 5 km and provide alternative livelihood support to all affected families, depending on fishing and its related activities

The female turtles virtually invade the nesting beaches usually at the dead of the night for laying eggs, the phenomenon otherwise described as 'Arribada'. After laying eggs, the turtles leave the nesting ground and enter the sea. Hatchlings emerge from these eggs after 45-60 days. It is a rare natural phenomenon where the babies grow without their mother.

### Lanjigarh locals file police complaint over casteist post

POST NEWS NETWORK

Lanjigarh, Nov 1: Residents of Lanjigarh and members of the Lanjigarh Regional Paika Samaj have lodged a written complaint at the Lanjigarh police station over an obscene and casteist vid eo that went viral on social media

According to the complaint, a youth named Mahendra Dalei from Pradhanipada in Lanjigarh died October 28. After his funeral, a few youths from Mahadev Pada in Lanjigarh allegedly made derogato ry and caste-based remarks targeting individuals and organisations belonging to a particular commu nity. The accused reportedly used obscene language in their social media posts, which later went viral.

In response, an emergency meeting of the Lanjigarh Regional Paika Samai and local residents was held Friday at the Lanjigarh Sadar Mandap. The gathering unanimously decided to file a complaint against those involved in the incident The written complaint names six youths — Jogesh Nayak, Shibu Nag, Raja Nayak, Ankit Kumar, Dipesh Suna, and Arun Nayak -who allegedly used obscene language and circulated the video on Facebook and other platforms. More than a hundred residents reportedly signed the complaint demanding strict action against the accused. SI Dolamani Bishi confirmed of receiving the complaint and an investigation is underway.

#### **Teacher arrested over** misconduct with girl

Ganjam: Police have arrested a primary school teacher in Ganjam district for allegedly misbehaving with a Class V girl student inside the classroom. The accused, identified as 40-year-old Lingaraj Mahankuda of Borigaon village, was a teacher at a local primary school under Humma police outpost in Rambha police limits. According to reports, the incident occurred Saturday morning when classes were in session. Taking advantage of a moment when the student was alone, the teacher allegedly gave her a chocolate and behaved inappropriately. The girl later informed her parents about the incident after returning home. Outraged by the allegation, the parents lodged a complaint with Humma outpost incharge Sub-Inspector Satyajit Benia. Police detained the teacher for questioning and registered a case against him before formally arresting him. Confirming the arrest, SI Benia said further investigation is underway. Meanwhile, the accused teacher has denied the allegations levelled against him.

### Student death in college hostel sparks tension

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, Nov 1: Tension prevailed in Panikoili police station area in Jajpur district following the death of a 17-yearold college student, police said The deceased has been identi-

fied as Asish Kumar Pal, a native of Kendudipi village under Danagadi block in Jajpur district. The student was found hanging in the college hostel washroom with the help of a towel late Friday night, police said. While initial reports suggest

it to be case of suicide, his parents alleged that their son was murdered. "The college authorities informed us that our son was ill and he was admitted to Jaipur Road hospital around 3am. When we reached the hospital around 5am, we found out that our son had already died," Asish's father Bijay Kumar Pal said.

"Mv son was a brilliant student and he was always good at studies. Besides, he was very



strong and stable in mind. I am confident he did not die by suicide. He has been murdered," Pal said. When the news spread in the area, family members of the deceased, students, guardians and locals reached the hospital and accused the college authorities of concealing information.

A scuffle reportedly took place between police and the agitators. The father has filed a complaint alleging murder. 'We have registered a case

in connection with the incident and sent the body to Danagadi CHC for post-mortem examination. We are investigating the matter from all angles and the exact cause of death will be known after the autopsy report," said a senior police official.

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 1: At a time when many traditional art forms are fading under the weight of modernity, a painter in the Silk City has kept tribal art alive and thriving.

Dinabandhu Soren, who developed a love for tribal painting as a child, has dedicated over 15 years to preserving and popularising these indigenous art forms both in India and abroad. Today, he works as a master trainer, helping others, especially women to earn livelihoods through painting. His works have brought international recognition to tribal art, making it widely admired overseas.

Recently, the state government granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags to nine tribal folk art forms of Odisha, including Lanjia Saura, Sorai, Gond, Dongria Kondh, Kutia Kondh, Santhal, Kohla, Juang and Oraon paintings

Dinabandhu specialises in Saura, Sorai, Kohla, Juang



Dinabandhu's brush with tribal art leads to glory

and Gond traditions, adapting them onto various mediums for display and sale. This has made the tribal art forms popular in foreign countries.

He began formal training in 2009-10 with a diploma at Gandamunda Art and Craft Training Centre, where he also start-

ed research on tribal painting. He credits Bhikari Maharana, a palm-leaf manuscript artist. and Gokul Bihari Pattnayak, a pattachitra artist, for inspiring

him to pursue this path. Later, he evinced interest

in learning more about tribal Currently, Dinabandhu creates tribal artworks on 62 dif-

ferent surfaces and materials These include tussar silk, can vas, wood, stone, sarees, shirts kurtas, kurtis, and household interior designs, extending his art into everyday essentials. At present, he is training at

least 30 women at Tata Colo ny on the outskirts of the city under the aegis of Srujanika Trust, supported by Tata Steel. The women are not only learning painting but also becoming self-reliant through the art form.

Dinabandhu's have even been purchased by the Norwegian Embassy. He showcased tribal art during a live broadcast at the G20 Sum mit and promoted it across 20 countries while participating in the Jagriti Yatra.

Looking ahead, Dinabandhu said his goal is to establish a tribal folk art museum.



There is nothing mind can do that cannot be better done in the mind's immobility and thought-free stillness



**SRI AUROBINDO** 

### **Hollow Promises**

walk out of my house and onto the street and look around. Not much is different from 10 years ago except that there is more traffic. 'Crores spent, Smart Cities Mission leaves behind more bills, superficial infrastructure', reads a headline from a couple of days ago. The report says what is obvious to those who examine what is around them: that a 10 year programme that ended this year has made no impact. Now that it is dead and buried and no further promises will be made over it, we can sift through its remains.

The Smart Cities mission was set up with a concept note that said the aim was to make cities that would offer 'decent living options to every resident', which would provide a 'very high quality of life comparable with any developed European city', according to the Urban Ministry's concept note on Smart Cities. The government said this would happen by 2020. These Smart Cities were required, Arun Jaitley told parliament in 2014, to service the middle class that Modi's economic policies would greatly expand. The following year, 2015, the language was tweaked to make the target more modest and, instead of emulating a European city, we were told that the Smart City of India would provide citizens with adequate water supply, assured electricity supply, sanitation, public transport, affordable housing for the poor, safety of women, health and education. This was, of course, not different from

what the municipalities in all cities were focussed on in any case. The problem was one of hard governance and not logo and nomenclature alone. This may be why the Modi government's interest in this waned almost immediately. It was reported in 2021 that the 'Smart Cities project had failed to take off, with half of its funds unspent'. The project 'should have been on its winning lap come 2020', the report said, but instead, the reality was that by 2019,

of the total Rs 48,000 crore 'approved' between 2015-19, only half was actually allocated. Of this half, only three-fourth was then actually released, and of what was released a mere 36 per cent was then utilised. While Rs 48,000 crore had been 'approved', only Rs 6,160 crore was spent.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Development said it was 'perplexed about the actual progress made so far under the Mission at ground level' and it also 'observed numerous instances of one agency undoing the work of another'. Out of the 35 states and Union territories, 26 had utilised less than 20 per cent of the funds released. The usual problems associated with India also came to light. The standing committee said it was 'surprised to find that in spite of available mechanisms, the complaints about poor work under the Mission are still pouring in before the Committee'. It recommended that 'all those cases questioning the claim of work done under Smart Cities emanating from local MPs be probed expeditiously and the guilty be brought to book'.

News reports from organs that were still interested in the issue pointed out some primary flaws with the Smart Cities mission. It emphasised high-end infrastructure and technology-driven surveillance, but did not address amenities—water, schools, public hospitals, housing. With its area-based development, it was focussed on spending most of the money on small patches of city centres that were already developed. In Bangalore, for instance, the Smart Cities allocation was used on developing Church Street — which was already developed more than most of the rest of the city — and elite neighbourhoods like Infantry Road, Kamaraj Road, Tata

Lane, Wood Street, Castle Street, Dickenson Road, Kensington Road, St John's Road, Residency Road, Kasturba Road, Bowring Hospital Road, Millers Road, Lavelle Road, McGrath Road, Convent Road, Queen's Road, Hayes Road, Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road and Race Course Road.

In Delhi, it was the area under the New Delhi Municipal Corporation, also already the most developed part of the National Capital Region. The mission was aimed at a particular section, the upper class, which comprised a very small part of the population and not any neo-middle class, which Modi's economic policies in any case didn't produce. The elitism showed elsewhere, for instance in the public bicycle sharing project implemented by many cities, including Pune, Delhi, Bhopal and Coimbatore. The instructions for hiring a bicycle on the company's website were only in English and it only accepted online payment. Smart Cities were pushing India's urban poor further to the margins. 'Allocations' in 2019 remained the same as that of 2018. And. in the 2021 Budget, the phrase 'Smart Cities' was not used at all. The former deputy mayor of Shimla, Tikender Singh Panwar, explained why: 'These smart cities were supposed to be the lighthouses for other cities in the country. The Budget is completely silent over it owing to the fact that it has become one of the biggest embarrassments to the Modi government.'

This is why you likely did not know what the programme was intended to do (other than having a glitzy name), what change it actually achieved or indeed that the programme had been ended, never to be

### WISDOM CORNER

People are just people, and all people have faults and shortcomings, but all of us are born with a basic goodness.

I'm telling you there is hope. I have seen it, but it does not come from the governments or corporations. It comes from

Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world. MALALA YOUSAFZAI

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

**1917:** The British issued the Balfour Declaration, a statement of support for "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people": it was made in a letter from Arthur James Balfour, the British foreign secretary.

1936: The British Broadcasting Corporation officially launched its first television channel, which was also the world's first regular TV service.

**FOCUS UNITED STATES** 

## MAGIC OF BIG LIE



Timothy Snyder

**LIES WORK BECAUSE THEY** SHIFT BLAME. **HOLDING OTHER COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPIOID CRISIS IS AN ATTRACTIVE FORM OF MORAL OUTSOURCING AMERICANS** 

Aakar Patel

**MISSION** 

**HIGH-END** 

**AND** 

**DRIVEN** 

**SMART CITIES** 

**EMPHASISED** 

**TECHNOLOGY-**

SURVEILLANCE,

**BUT DID NOT** 

**AMENITIES**—

HOSPITALS,

**SCHOOLS, PUBLIC** 

**HOUSING. WITH** 

**ITS AREA-BASED** 

**WAS FOCUSSED** 

**ON SPENDING** 

**MOST OF THE** 

**DEVELOPMENT, IT** 

**MONEY ON SMALL** 

**PATCHES OF CITY** 

**CENTRES THAT** 

**WERE ALREADY** 

**DEVELOPED** 

**ADDRESS** 

WATER,

**INFRASTRUCTURE** 

aggressive policy, US President Donald Trump typically offers some grotesque justification -a nonsensical fiction that is supposed to stick in our minds as a rationale for violence. The more we swallow these lies now, the harder it will be to question future falsehoods, because that would challenge our view of ourselves as intelligent beings.

This is the magic of the Big Lie, as Hitler explained in Mein Kampf: Tell a whopper so outrageous that people simply cannot believe it is untrue. Hitler's biggest lie was to claim that an international Jewish conspiracy was the source of Germany's woes a scapegoat that could be blamed for any problem and absolve others of any responsibility. In 1939, Hitler and his propagandists spread blatant falsehoods about Poland as well - that it did not really exist as a state, and also that it was the aggressor that had triggered World War II.

Trump's big lies are almost too numerous to count. Perhaps the most versatile is that his policy focus is on curbing the illicit fentanyl trade. Early in his second term, Trump claimed that Canada attacked the United States first by allowing fentanyl to flow freely across the border. And really, shouldn't it become the 51st US state?

This complaint was a pretext for imposing tariffs on Canadian exports. But when Trump lumps Canada and Mexico together and claims that fentanyl is "pouring in" across the borders with both countries, he is lying. In 2024. only about 0.2% of the fentanyl



The Trump administration is training the press and the American people to associate the military strikes on small boats in international waters with stopping the flow of fentanyl and other drugs

seized by US border authorities came from Canada, which was not even mentioned in the US Drug Enforcement Administration's 2024 National Drug Threat Assessment.

But in the past few months, the Trump administration has constructed an even more sinister geopolitical fantasy: military strikes on small boats in international waters are necessary to deter drug smuggling. These attacks, which many experts view as patently illegal, have been clustered off the coast of Venezuela and have killed at least 61 people so far. Although it is widely recognized that the attacks will not stop the flow of fentanyl into the US, Trump has said that his government will continue "to kill people that are bringing drugs into our country.

The extrajudicial killing of alleged narcotics smugglers is less about drug trafficking and more about power projection – and maybe even regime

change. Although videos of the bombings have become social-media fodder, there is no evidence that the targets

were drug traffickers. The Americans living at the epicenters of the addiction crisis tend to vote Republican; without their support, Trump would never have been elected. Trump and Vance are attuned to the opioid epidemic, in the sense that they see the wellspring of misery as a political resource that can be directed against an enemy of choice - whether an ally like Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney or an adversary like Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. In his 2016 memoir Hillbilly Elegy, Vance recounts how his mother, a nurse with easy access to prescription drugs, was addicted to pharmaceuticals. But his political messaging on immigration and security has spun a different story, with Vance blaming other countries - "the poison

coming across our border" - for her travails. It follows that Americans must view their addictions as an attack from outside.

It is important to understand the psychology Trump and Vance are exploiting. Addicts tend to blame others for their condition. The rise of the far right in US politics has elevated this mindset to a national platform. The belief that someone else must be responsible for the country's problems has come in to form foreign policy, with the Trump administration concocting ever more absurd stories, for example that each strike on a Venezuelan boat saves 25,000 American lives.

Lies work because they shift blame. Holding other countries responsible for the opioid crisis is an attractive form of moral outsourcing for Americans. But fiction on such a grand scale requires an entire alternative reality to be constructed around it. Trump and his administration are training the press and the American public to associate the boat strikes with stopping the flow of fentanyl and other drugs - a prime example of the falsehoods that imperialists tell before launch-

ing doomed wars of choice. Wars begin with words, which implies that words must be taken seriously before conflict erupts. Only by calling out the big liars and telling the small truths can we have any hope of restraining Trump's increasingly aggressive presidency.

The writer is the inaugural Chair in Modern European History at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto.

#### **SPECTRUM**

### **DIPLOMACY**

### India & EU in multipolarity era



Piotr Opalinski

**THE COMING DECADES MAY BELONG TO THOSE WHO ACTIVELY SHAPE THE RULES OF THE GAME RATHER THAN SIMPLY REACT TO UNFOLDING EVENTS** 

etters

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suggestions, preferably by email, to:

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TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

The global order is undergoing profound transformation. The post-World War II system, historically anchored in US leadership and Western European institutions, is giving way to a complex, multipolar environment. Traditional mechanisms of global governance face pressure. In this context, India encounters both strategic challenges and opportunities.

Safeguarding long-term economic and security interests requires New Delhi to look beyond traditional partners and to build relationships anchored in institutional stability, technological sophistication, and shared values. The European Union represents a key strategic partner, offering economic scale, institutional coherence, and avenues for long-term collaboration. It combines economic clout, institutional coherence, and adherence to rules. Its rules-based approach to international engagement provides a stable reference point for Indian foreign policy. Policies in cybersecurity, critical infrastructure protection, and defence modernisation are particularly relevant, creating opportunities for sustained cooperation that extend beyond ad hoc arrangements or unilateral agreements

Economically, the European Union is India's largest trading partner. In the fiscal year 2023-24, EU-India trade reached \$137.5 billion, comprising \$75.85 billion in exports from India and \$60.68 billion in imports from the EU, accounting for approximately 12.3% of India's total trade. By comparison, the United States and China recorded lower trade volumes: \$120.3 billion and \$118.4 billion, respectively. This underscores the EU's pivotal role in supporting India's economic growth and industrial expansion.

The EU provides Indian businesses with access to advanced manufacturing, high-value technologies, and sustainable energy solutions. Within the EU. Central European economies such as Poland offer particular opportunities for industrial collaboration, joint ventures, and knowledge transfer. Leveraging Poland's position allows Indian companies to access broader European markets under uniform regulatory standards, enhancing efficiency and reducing transactional risks. Poland's diversified economic structure, covering sectors such as automotive, electronics, green technologies, and IT, aligns with India's domestic priorities, including Make in India, clean energy expansion, and digital infrastructure development. Collaborative projects in these areas can accelerate technological advancement while embedding India more deeply within European value chains. India's defence require-

ments are increasingly com-

ogy acquisition, and interoperability. Engagement with EU member states provides India access to advanced defence technologies, strategic intelligence, and frameworks for collaborative research and development. Countries such as Poland, with experience in integrating advanced systems, maintaining readiness along eastern borders, and balancing NATO commitments, offer comparative insights valuable for India. While Poland is not an Indo-Pacific neighbour, its approach to balancing regional security priorities with multilateral commitments provides lessons relevant to India. In addition, EU-wide collaboration allows India to access technology, training, and intelligence-sharing platforms that support both conventional and asymmetric defence capabilities. Such partnerships enhance India's preparedness while reinforcing long-term strategic trust between Europe and India. India and EU countries share

plex, encompassing moderni-

sation of armed forces, technol-

democratic governance frameworks, rule of law, transparency, and accountability. These shared norms facilitate predictable policy coordination and reduce friction in trade, intellectual property, and environmental regulation. Poland's transition from a post-communist state to a consolidated democracy provides practical insights into managing rapid economic transsocial cohesion—a lesson applicable to India's ongoing modernisation and urbanisation challenges.

formation while maintaining

India's pragmatic foreign policy, blending economic ambition with strategic autonomy, exemplifies effective navigation in a multipolar era. Strengthened cooperation with the EU enhances India's global leverage while enabling it to manage challenges in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

Countries such as Poland contribute technological expertise and policy capacity within the EU framework, supporting effective engagement. Together, India and the EU can build a partnership that is economically productive, technologically advanced, and strategically resilient.

India's engagement with Europe, leveraging shared values, technological collaboration, economic complementarity, and defence cooperation, enables New Delhi to secure critical advantages while strengthening Europe's global standing.

India and Europe, by combining foresight, innovation, and practical partnership, have the potential to redefine global geopolitics—not through dominance, but through resilience, trust, and shared development.

> The writer is an expert, Centre for International Relations, Poland.

### Cong's political amnesia

Sir, Sonia Gandhi's criticism of the BJP's centralisation of education sounds righteous but rings hollow. The roots of this control lie not in the BJP era but in the Congress' own political history. It was Indira Gandhi, during the Emergency, who moved education from the State List to the Concurrent List through the 42nd Amendment, tightening New Delhi's grip over State policies. What the BJP has done since 2014 is merely to operate within this Centralised framework that Congress itself built. The steady expansion of the UGC, the rise of private institutions under Congress rule, and the politicisation of academic appointments all deepened the erosion of autonomy long before NEP 2020 appeared. To decry Centralisation now, after decades of nurturing it, is sheer political amnesia. If Congress truly seeks to restore State authority in education, it must first admit to having been the architect of the very system it now condemns.

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

### Bar's independence

 $\boldsymbol{Sir},$  This refers to the news report "Probe agency can't summon lawyers: SC" (Orissa POST, November 1). I would like to comment that lawyers give advice to clients in criminal probes not to perpetuate crimes but to ensure that no legal steps are left untouched for acquittal of clients. This being the fundamental right of lawyers can neither be denied nor could lawyers be victimised for rendering legal advice. Any advice to clients shall be treated as strictly confidential and cannot be divulged under any pressure. We have to bear in mind that lawyers are always expected to be loyal to law and not loyal to crimes allegedly perpetrated by clients. These basic principles of law must be upheld by all probe agencies. Undue pressure on counsel erodes public confidence in the justice system and deters honest professionals from fearless representation. Upholding the bar's independence is therefore essential to preserving democracy itself.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA



### TWO STATES





## BMC allows 'controlled feeding' of pigeons

The permission for controlled feeding at the newly identified sites will be permitted only if voluntary organisations come forward to take responsibility for managing it, the civic body said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 1: Mumbai's civic body, Friday said it has permitted "controlled feeding" of pigeons at four new locations in the city for two hours in the morning.

In a release, the Brihan-

mumbai Municipal Corporation said this is an interim measure until a report from an expert committee and further orders from the High Courts

lowed at Worli Reservoir in G South ward, a mangrove area near Lokhandwala Back Road close to Vesave STP project in Andheri West (K West ward). Airoli-Mulund check post along the Airoli-Mulund Link Road in Mulund East (T ward), and at Gorai Maidan in Borivali West (R Central ward)," the release

At these sites, pigeon feeding will be allowed only between 7 am and 9 am, it said. The permission for controlled feeding at the newly identified sites will be permitted only if voluntary organisations come forward to take responsibility for managing it, the civic body added.

"The organisation will be required to ensure cleanliness, avoid obstruction to pedestrian or vehicular movement, address citizen complaints and execute an undertaking to comply with all conditions. Assistant municipal commissioners of nodal officers, and signages will be installed to spread awareness about health concerns," the release said.

The BMC clarified that existing 'kabutarkhanas' or pigeon-feeding spots that were shut following directions of the Bombay High Court will continue to remain closed and have not been permitted to reopen. These spots were closed in August, with some, like the one at Dadar, being covered with plastic sheets to deter people from feeding pigeons.

The civic body further said it has received 9,779 objections, suggestions and complaints so far from citizens regarding pigeon feeding in Mumbai.

It includes issues such as closure or continuation of pigeon feeding spots, sanitation and the need for controlled feeding

**FOUNDATION DAY SPECIAL** 

### Revisiting charm of Delhi tourism



New Delhi, Nov 1: When Delhi became a Union Territory in 1956, the Centre planned to make tourism accessible for all by transforming the national capital into a cultural and tourism hub by developing its key heritage sites, public amenities and rest houses to attract

Delhi attained Union Territory status on this day 69 years ago, November 1, 1956, following the reorganisation

An archival record from July 1956, accessed by PTI, shows that the Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog) and the Union Ministry of Transport approved several schemes under the second Five-Year Plan for tourism development in Delhi. The project focused on creating public amenities and visitor facilities around the heritage and recreational sites such as Qutab, Suraj Kund, Tughlaqabad, Hauz Khas and Okhla, marking some of the earliest coordinated efforts to promote tourism in post-Independence Delhi.

The document, issued by the Delhi Secretariat, includes detailed proposals for building pavilions, canteens, parking lots, gardens, rest houses and drinking water facilities.

It also includes plans for developing the lake at Hauz Khas and creating a low-in25 beds at Tughlaqabad, indi cating efforts to make tourism accessible for all.

come group rest house wit

According to the records the Centre financed projects such as the Qutab pavilion, canteen, car park and cloak rooms with a budget of Rs 1.02 lakh, Suraj Kund's devel opment with an outlay of Rs 56,000, and similar works at Tughlaqabad, Hauz Khas and Okhla, bringing the total allocation to Rs 6.02 lakh.

Some provisions were also made for the development of spas in Delhi at Sona, with de tails finalised by the transport ministry, according to records

Delhi, now officially known as the National Capital Terri tory (NCT) of Delhi, is both a city and a Union Territory that houses New Delhi, the national capital.

The city lies along the Yamuna River, extending mostly to its western bank, and shares its borders with Uttar Pradesh to the east and Haryana on the other three sides.

Historically, Delhi has been the heart of power and culture for centuries. It served as the capital for several dynasties from the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire to the British.

Its strategic location along the ancient trade routes and its political centrality made it a natural choice for India's capital after Independence.

### CSM Hospital gets extra beds in Thane

Thane, Nov 1: The civic body in Maharashtra's Thane city has increased the bed capacity in the maternity ward of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital to 90, an official said,



view of the growing number of women coming to the civic-run hospital for delivery. which caters not only to residents of Thane city but also to patients from Thane Rural and Palghar districts, the Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) stated in a release.

Municipal Commissioner Saurabh Rao has also directed officials to modernise the maternity ward at Swatantra Sainik Hakim Ajmal Khan Hospital in the Mumbra area and grant it the status of an extended centre of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital, it stated.

According to official data, 200 outpatients visit the obstetrics department of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital every day. The department currently has 70 beds in its postpartum ward, with an average of 18 deliveries conducted each day. In October, the daily delivery

count rose to 22, with as many as 98 women admitted simultaneously on several occasions, exceeding the available bed capacity, the release said. During a high-level meeting.

Friday, Commissioner Rao instructed officials to prepare a comprehensive plan to operationalise modern maternity services at the Ajmal Khan



An anti-smog gun is being used to spray water droplets to curb air pollution, near Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New

# SRK@60: Fans from world gather in Mumbai to celebrate

Mumbai, Nov 1: As Shah Rukh Khan turns 60: fans from across the globe are gearing up to celebrate not just the movie star, but the man who showed them the many shades of love through his films

Sunday, the actor, fondly known as SRK or King Khan, will celebrate his 60th birthday. Often hailed as one of the last true superstars of Hindi cinema, alongside Salman Khan and Aamir Khan, Shah Rukh continues to have a global fan following.

Among them are Claudia Calle and Manigret Aparicio, who have travelled to Mumbai all the way from their home country Peru, just to witness the charm of their beloved star.

Claudia, an artist by profession, runs the SRK Peru fan club and remembers how she fell in love with the actor after watching his 2004 hit "Veer Zaara".

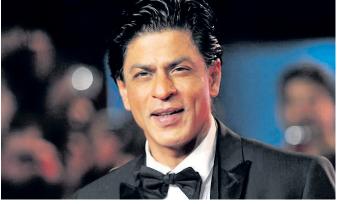
"I saw the movie with my husband and I instantly fell in love with Shah Rukh. Afterwards, I watched all of his past films on DVD, including 'Karan Ariun'. 'Baazigar', 'Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa' and 'Dilwale Dulhania Le

"We are crazy Shah Rukh Khan fans. Our home is a tribute to him, filled with posters and memories. Words can hardly capture our love for him. Shah Rukh means love. We are so looking forward to meeting him." Claudia told PTI Their admiration for SRK runs

so deep that they've named their home in Peru "Mannat", inspired by Shah Rukh Khan's iconic sea-facing residence in Bandra. Claudia said they've made a special handmade gift for Shah Rukh.

"We've made about 26 to 27 figurines of his popular onscreen characters from different films like 'Ra.One', 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham', and 'Jawan',

among others," she said. The Delhi-born actor started



his acting journey with TV serials such as "Fauji" and "Circus" before making his feature film debut with Raj Kanwar's "Deewana" in 1992.

Over the years, he captured the hearts of audiences with his unforgettable performances as the brooding hero of "Baazigar" and "Darr" or as the epitome of romance in "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge", "Dil Toh Pagal Hai" and "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai".

SRK has displayed remarkable range, taking on inspiring roles in Swades and Chak De! India, and reaffirmed his superstardom with two action blockbusters in 2023, "Pathaan" and "Jawan". Ahead of his birthday, his fan clubs have begun planning a series of celebrations. Two of the biggest -- SRK Universe, and Team Shah Rukh Khan- boast a significant presence on social media.

Yash Paryani, co-founder of SRK Universe fan club, which has 613K followers X (Formerly Twitter), and 147K on Instagram, said they're doing a lot of charity work on SRK's behalf.

The club was founded in 2013 by a Maldivian citizen Muhammad Ashraf, and Paryani joined in 2014. "Instead of celebrating his

birthday for one day, we are

celebrating it for a week. We're

doing it as SRK week. We start-

ed with charity work for can-

cer patients, senior citizens, and differently abled children. We've done blood donation drives, we've screened 'Main Hoon Naa' for underprivileged kids, and food distribution drive outside Nair hospital," Paryani, a businessman, told PTI.

"He has been an inspiration to millions like us to follow our dream and be successful. He has inspired me to do well for society and be a better person,' he added.

Chennai-based Sudhir Kothari, who leads the SRK Chennai fan club, founded in 2013, said they've planned a special surprise for Khan on his birthday.

"We've planned some activities outside Mannat, like flying drones and releasing something. We've made huge size banners with a special message. We don't want to reveal much. This birthday, we want to celebrate his entire journey as an actor, and his first national award. For us 60 is just a number, we don't think he is 60, we don't want to highlight. For us he is young, age is just a number," Kothari told PTI.

Shah Rukh's residence is currently going through renovation work with the actor and his family, including his wife Gauri Khan and three children Aryan, Suhana and Abram, shifting to an alternative place.

### Delhi: Missing 11-year-old boy rescued

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 1:** An 11-yearold boy, who had been missing for nearly a month, was rescued from Delhi's Shakurpur after a woman allegedly lured him with 'prasad' and forced him into collecting garbage while subjecting him to physical abuse and starvation, police

said, Saturday. Police registered a case of kidnapping and launched a search after the parents of the boy, both daily wagers, reported the matter at Subhash Place police station October 5, a day after his disappearance.

The investigators followed a lead provided by the boy's mother, who received a brief phone call from an unknown number after her son had gone

"She heard a child's voice saying 'mummy' before the call got disconnected. Attempts to reach the number later failed," a police officer said. Acting on the lead, police conducted local inquiries, analysed technical data, and examined the residents of the area before shortlisting a few suspects, the officer said.

Police traced the boy to Shakurpur on the basis of technical surveillance and field verification, from where he was rescued safely, the officer said.

The boy told police that a woman who lived in Shakurpur lured him by offering 'prasad' and later forced him into collecting garbage. The accused allegedly subjected him to physical abuse and starvation, the officer said. The boy also said that he once managed to call his mother but the woman snatched the phone moments later. Efforts are being made to trace and arrest the woman, whose details have been shared with local police, the officer said.

### **CULTURAL EVENTS RUSH**

### Delhi issues traffic advisory

New Delhi, Nov 1: The Delhi an advisory for commuters. warning of traffic restrictions and diversions in some areas until 10 pm, due to an event at the Red Fort and the Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra.

A large gathering was organised at the Red Fort, where the Delhi government's education and culture departments hosted an event to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, as well as the Delhi Foundation Day.

The Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra also commenced from the Red Fort around noon, with a large number of devotees participating in the procession. A heavy footfall along Netaji Subhash Marg and adjoining areas throughout the day was anticipated, it said.

"To ensure smooth traffic flow, pedestrian safety, and public convenience, traffic arrangements, restrictions, and diversions will remain in force on Saturday from 12 noon to 10 pm," the advisory said.

Buses and commercial vehicles coming from the Daryaganj side were diverted from the T-point at Subhash Marg towards Shanti Van, while vehicles from GPO and Kodia Pul heading to the Red Fort were rerouted towards Ring Road via Chhatta Rail

OIPR-25062/11/0041/2526



Chowk. Additional diversions may be imposed at Shanti Van Chowk, Delhi Gate Chowk, and GPO Chowk depending on traffic conditions, police said.

Commuters visiting park only at designated parking lots such as ASI Parking (Nishad Raj Marg), Dangal Maidan Parking (SPM Marg). Omaxe Mall Parking (HC Sen Road), and Aadi Maidan Parking.

"No e-rickshaws, auto-rickshaws, or cycle rickshaws will be permitted beyond Chhatta Rail Chowk and the T-point at Subhash Marg, the advisory said, adding that pedestrians should use footpaths and designated crossings only.

#### **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION. BOUDH GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-Procurement Notice**

"D", "C" & "B"

Bid Identification No. 09/BMID/2025-2026 E-mail ID: bmidbdh@gmail.con No.A-803 Letter No.1532 / Date 25.10.2025 Improvement of M.I.Ps in different Blocks of Boudh District under MIP-SP, DPIW & Critical

02 Numbers of Work

Tender Amount 04 Class of Contractor 05 Tender paper Cost (Online) 06 Period of Completion

07 Availability of Bid Document

08 Last date & Time of receipt of Bid 09 Date of opening of Bid

10 Date of Lottery 11 Digital Signature Certificate of

12 Name and address of the OIT

M.I. Division, Boudh 21.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. Signature Certificate (DSC)

Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Bargarh

upto 05.30 P.M. in website

Scheme for the year 2025-2026 08 (Eight) Nos Varies from 12.71 Lakh to Rs.42.37 lakh

Rs.6000/-03 (Three) & 06 (Six) Calendar Months

From 01.11.2025 at 10.00 A.M. to 14.11.2025

(www.tendersorissa.gov.in) 14.11.2025 upto 05.30 P.M. through online

15.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. in the office of the SE.

The bidder must process compatible Digital

Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Boudh At/P.O.: Malisahi, District: Boudh, PIN-762014

Further details can be seen from the Government of Odisha Web-site: www.tendersorissa.gov.in OIPR-32279/11/0022/2526

#### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARGARH e-Procurement Notice No. ONLINE-BGH-15 of 2025-26 No. O-1165 Building work during 2025-26 in the district of Bargarh 1 Name of the Work EMD @1% of the Estimated Cost put to tender

3 Other details As per DTCN Availability of Tender online Last date & time Bid Identification Procurement Officer of seeking tender of opening of for bidding clarification tender Executive Engineer, Rural ONLINE-BGH-01.11.2025 14.11.2025 14.11.2025 15.11.2025 Works Division, Bargarh 15 of 2025-26 at 11.00 A.M. upto 5.00 P.M. upto 4.00 P.M at 11.00 A.M Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**.

# national



There is no need for media or the people in Congress to search for a leader. Only what the Chief Minister and I have spoken matters. Apart from that, no one else's words carry

### ARMY CONDUCTS DRONE, **COUNTER-DRONE EXERCISE**

The Indian Army has conducted a drone and counterdrone exercise, focused on developing and testing doctrinal precepts for their operations strengthening the force's response capability against evolving aerial threats, officials said Saturday. The exercise, 'Vayu Sananvay-II', was held October 28-29 in the forward areas of the desert sector under the Pune-based Southern Command



is our reply to the opposition

eradication of extreme poverty

from the state, Kerala, "as a lab

oratory of welfare initiatives'

was presenting a new model to

the nation that other states can

He said that the project was

successfully completed due to

public participation and the co

ordinated efforts of the various

government departments and

measures like providing social

security pension to about 62

lakh families, houses to about

4.70 lakh homeless families, and

other similar welfare measures,

"have helped to significantly re-

duce the extent and intensity of

He said that the achievement

has proved that if people step

up and move forward with a

sense of purpose, nothing is

is a new beginning. We will

ensure that extreme poverty

"But this is not the end, it

extreme poverty in Kerala".

Vijayan further said that

emulate and benefit from.

The CM said that with the

leader," he said.

local bodies.

impossible



part of the nation-building process. While the government is doing its bit,

people cannot afford to be silent spectators in the nation's

RAJENDRA VISHWANATH ARLEKAR |

It's an interesting election there, and it's the people's hagathbandhan forms the government, and the entire country is watching what

happens in Bihar ASHOK GEHLOT | FORMER CHIEF MINISTER, RAJASTHAN

The upper caste community in Uttar Pradesh politically very aware. There is



MAYAWATI | BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY CHIEF

### SHORT **TAKES**

#### **Paddy procurement: Farmers protest**

Palakkad(Kerala): A section of farmers led by BJP held a protest, with their mouths gagged with black cloth, in the north Kerala district Saturday claiming lack of paddy procurement by the government and mill owners. Later in the day, state Minister for Agriculture P Prasad said that in view of the paddy procurement issues created due to the stand taken by mill owners, the **Food Supplies Department's** SupplyCo will take steps to collect the harvested rice grains from the farmers. The decision was taken following an urgent meeting of the Agriculture and Food Supplies departments, the minister said. He also said that in Palakkad and some other places in the state, collection centres will be set up by the SupplyCo to procure and store paddy collected from

#### **Former Sabarimala** executive officer held

### Pathanamthitta (Kerala):

The SIT probing the alleged disappearance of gold from the Sabarimala temple has arrested former executive officer Sudheesh Kumar, officials said Saturday. Kumar, who served as the executive officer of the hill shrine in 2019, was arrested after being questioned at the Crime Branch office in Thiruvananthapuram, sources said. He has been accused of concealing that the Dwarapalaka (guardian deity) idols were goldplated, instead recording them as copper sheets in the temple's official documents. Sources said Kumar had been associated with Sabarimala since the 1990s and was aware that the sanctum sanctorum, including the Dwarapalaka idols, had been

#### Man gets death for rape, murder of minors

gold-clad during 1998-99.

Shahjahanpur (UP): A court here has sentenced a man to capital punishment after he was convicted of raping a seven-year-old girl and murdering her younger sister four years ago, an official said Saturday. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 1.37 lakh on the convict. Additional District and Sessions Judge, Shahjahanpur, Manoj Kumar Siddhu, in a verdict on Friday, held Anil alias Chameli guilty and ordered that the accused be hanged till death.

### **CUSTODY BATTLE**

# SC: Don't want to pass orders hurting India-Russia relations

New Delhi, Nov 1: The Supreme Court has observed that it does not want to pass any order which could hurt India-Russia relationship as it expressed concern over sincere efforts in tracing a Russian woman, who has fled to Moscow with her child amid a bitter custody battle with her estranged Indian husband.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi emphasised the need for proper coordination as it pointed out to the diplomatic challenge for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Indian Embassy in Moscow and Russian Embassy in Delhi to find a resolution of the issue and take steps to restore the child to the custody of the apex court.

It noted that in a report of the MEA, it has been pointed out that the embassy had already reached out to the office of prosecutor general for assistance and cooperation on the basis of principles of mutuality and comity and fresh requests under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) were issued October 17 through the Indian embassy at Moscow to the office of the prosecutor general of Russia.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, said that the MEA is coordinating with Delhi Police for further investigation into other involved persons, including Nepali citizens, through the MLAT channel with Nepal.



he top court was informed July 21, that the Russian woman. pitted in a bitter custody battle of her child with her estranged Indian husband, seems to have left the country with the minor via the Nepal border and might have reached her country through

The father of the child is fighting the custody battle for the child with the estranged Russian woman and alleged she wasn't complying with the court's order of custody of the minor

The bench, which noted the complicity of Russian embassy officials in helping the Russian woman to flee the country with the child via Nepal and Sharjah in UAE, said Delhi Police sent notices to the Russian authorities seeking further information, but it has not yielded any tangible results.

The woman, who has been residing in India since 2019, came to India on an X-1 Visa, which

expired subsequently. However, during the penden-

cy of the court proceedings, the top court directed the extension of the visa from time to time.

"We don't want to pass any order which may hurt the relationship between India and Russia but it is also a matter where a child is involved. We can only hope the child is well and healthy as he is with the mother. Hope it is not the case of human trafficking," the bench told Bhati.

Bhati said that she has personally talked to Russian embassy officials but no substantial progress has been made.

"We are road-blocked on information from the Russian side, despite taking various efforts," she said.

The bench noted that notice has also been issued to the Sberbank of Russia, New Delhi, branch to provide information on the holder of the credit card, which was used to book the tickets but the bank has responded saying they cannot share the information due to banking secrecy laws.

### **Hyderabad-bound IndiGo flight diverted** to Mumbai after 'human bomb' threat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Nov 1: The Rajiv Gandhi International (RGIA) Airport here received a threat email Saturday claiming that there was a "human bomb" onboard an IndiGo flight from Jeddah to Hyderabad, following which the aircraft was diverted to Mumbai where it landed safely, police said.

The airport authorities lodged a complaint with police, saying they received the threat email at around 5.30 am which warned them to "prevent landing of IndiGo (flight) in Hy-

The email further stated "... onboard LTTE-ISI operatives have planned a major 1984 Madras Airport Modus operandi style blast", police said.



All stakeholders were alerted and the flight was diverted to Mumbai airport where it safely landed, they said adding "all (security) checks were carried out and no issue was found".

Based on the complaint a case was registered. Further investigation is on, police added.

In a statement, an IndiGo spokesperson said, "A security threat was received for IndiGo flight 6E 68 operating from Jeddah to Hyderabad on November 1 and the aircraft was diverted to Mumbai."

### Kerala CM declares state 'free of extreme poverty'

The Congress-led UDF opposition termed this claim a 'fraud' and boycotted the session in protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 1: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Saturday declared that the state was free of extreme poverty. Vijayan made the announce-

ment in a special session of the House convened on the occasion of Kerala 'Piravi' or formation day and later at a public event held at Central Stadium here in the evening. At the massive public event

attended by Malayalam film superstar Mammootty, he said that eradication of extreme poverty from the state "was a reality and not a fraud".

He was responding to the opposition Congress-led UDF allegation that the government's declaration was a "fraud" and a "public relations exercise" in view of upcoming local body polls.

In the morning, as the special Assembly session commenced, Leader of Opposition in the state assembly VD Satheesan said that the CM's statement via rule 300 was "pure fraud" and in "contempt" of House rules.

"So, we cannot join in that and are completely boycotting the session," Satheesan said. The opposition then walked out of the House shouting slogans that the claim was a "fraud" and that it was "shameful".

Responding to the opposition's allegation, the CM said the UDF was referring to its own habits when they say "fraud". "We only say what we can

implement. We have imple-

mented what we had said. That

does not resurface. For this,

proper inspection needs to be carried out from time to time The government will take steps for this. A blueprint for activities at various levels has been prepared."

### BLOs in Bengal protest during EC training



Kolkata, Nov 1: The Election Commission Saturday began a training programme for over 80,000 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in West Bengal for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, even as a section of participants raised demands for enhanced security arrangements and transparency in carrying out their duties.

The EC would train Booth Level Agents (BLAs), representatives of political parties, Sunday and Monday.

The training programme would be completed by November 3, with the start of the house-to-house enumeration the next day.

"In all, 80,861 BLOs were trained for the SIR across the state today. They were trained on how to review enumeration forms, coordinate with voters, and upload info on the BLO

on acquainting BLOs with the technicalities and log-in systems of the app and handling the enumeration forms," an

Each BLO was being provided with a kit, including identity cards and a cap, the official added.

The EC has issued a 16-point guideline for BLOs as part of the SIR exercise, and introduced a new mobile app to streamline field operations.

From November 4 to Decemher 4. BLOs will visit house holds to carry out voter verification and form-filling work.

However, a section of BLOs objected to the administrative and security arrangements during the sessions, demanding formal recognition of their duty status, proper documentation, and additional security measures.

Teachers deputed as BLOs protested the decision of school authorities to mark them as absent in attendance registers during the training period.

They insist that their participation in the BLO assignment be officially recorded as



Artistes perform during Karnataka foundation day (Rajyotsava Day) celebrations at Vidhana Soudha premises, in Bangalore, Saturday

### Countdown begins for launch of ISRO's comm satellite CMS-03

*The 43.5 metre tall rocket,* dubbed as 'Bahubali' for its ability to carry heavier payloads weighing up to 4,000 kg, is scheduled for a 5.26 pm liftoff

November 2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pradesh), Nov 1: The 24-hour countdown for the launch of over 4,000 kg communication satellite CMS-03 commenced at this spaceport Saturday, IS-

The satellite weighing about 4,410 kg will be the heaviest to be launched from the Indian Transfer Orbit (GTO), the space

The spacecraft will travel onboard a LVM3-M5 rocket, dubbed as 'Bahubali' for its heavylift capability. The launch vehicle has been

fully assembled and integrated with the spacecraft and it has been moved to the second launch pad here for taking up pre-launch operations, the Bangalore-headquartered space agency said Saturday.

Later in a social media post, ISRO said, "Countdown commences!! Final preparations complete and the countdown for LVM3-M5 (mission) has officially begun at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota".

"All systems are GO as we move closer to liftoff," the space agency said in its update.



**Sunday's mission objective is that the** CMS-03, a multi-band communication satellite, will provide services over a wide oceanic region including the Indian landmass

The 43.5 metre tall rocket is scheduled for a 5.26 pm liftoff November 2. LVM3- (Launch Vehicle Mark-3) is the new heavy lift launch vehicle of ISRO and is used for placing 4,000 kg spacecraft in GTO in a cost-effective manner, ISRO said.

This three stage launch vehicle with two solid motor strap-ons (S200), a liquid propellant core stage (L110) and a cryogenic stage (C25) gives ISRO full self-reliance in launching heavier communication satellites that weigh up to 4,000 kg in GTO. LVM3- is also termed as Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) MkIII.

According to ISRO, the LVM3-M5 is the fifth operational flight. The LVM3 vehicle was developed with completely indigenised technologies including the C25 cryogenic stage. It has a track record of all successful launches even from the first development flight LVM-3 Crew module Atmospheric Re-entry Experiment (CARE) launched in December 2014 It is pertinent to mention that for the ambitious Gaganyaan mission, ISRO had planned the Human rated LVM3 rocket as the launch vehicle, which is named as HRLV. Sunday's mission objective is

that the CMS-03, a multi-band communication satellite, will provide services over a wide oceanic region including the Indian landmass, the space agency said.

The LVM3- rocket is capa ble to carry payload to GTO weighing 4,000 kg and for Low Earth Orbit payloads of 8,000 kg with its powerful cryogenic stage.

soil and into a Geosynchronous 

## national



**Operation Sindoor was** successful because we fought with the combined strength of our principles and technology. We made it a point that no innocent civilians in Pakistan suffered. We only targeted terrorists and their

#### **DUDHWA TIGER RESERVE REOPENS**

The Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) in Uttar Pradesh reopened its gates for tourists Saturday following the period of routine annual closure which began June 15. This year, Dudhwa reopened for tourists November 1, marking an earlier start from the usual date of November 15



visiting devotees and encouraging younger generations to visit

initiative reflects the age-old spiritual and cultural bond between Kashi and Tamil Nadu, symbolising the deep Kashi-Tamil connect in the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat (One India, Great India)

CP RADHAKRISHNAN | VICE PRESIDENT

Bihar witnessed 'jungle raj' under the RJD regime. There was complete anarchy in the state. Law and order had collapsed, and along with that. an industry of kidnapping started arowina here

Projects worth around ₹1.78 lakh crore, commit-

JP NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

ted during the investment summit earlier this year. will be launched by December

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA



> 100th rank in Liberal democracy > 151st rank in Press Freedom > All 4 pillars of democracy killed But the audacity of Modi to call India "Mother of

SHORT **TAKES** 

#### Mamata to lead mega march against SIR

Kolkata: CM Mamata Banerjee will lead a mega march in Kolkata Tuesday, protesting the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which will begin in the state on that day. Banerjee, who heads the ruling TMC, will be joined by her nephew Abhishek Banerjee, the party, in the rally. The march, which will start near the BR culminate near Rabindranath Tagore's residence at Jorasanko. Announcing the programme, the TMC in a post Intensive Revision is actually Silent Invisible Rigging. We will leave no stone unturned to ensure that all eligible voters are included and not left behind in this process. For our people, we will give our all!"

#### MP CM launches state's first helicopter service

**Bhopal:** Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav Saturday launched the state's first helicopter service aimed at boosting tourism by connecting major cities and religious sites. According to officials, this is the first of its kind service launched by a state in the country. Flagging off the 'PM Shri Tourism Helicopter Service' at the Raja Bhoj International Airport here, Yadav said the government's aim was to make air travel not just a mode of transport but also a joyful experience.

#### ANTCC protests over 'dilapidated' NH-4

Port Blair: The Andaman and Nicobar Territorial Congress Committee (ANTCC) Saturday staged a protest at Rangat Bazaar over the poor condition of National Highway-4 and demanded urgent repairs. The protest, which was led by ANTCC president Rangalal Halder and campaign committee chairman TSG Bhasker, was attended by hundreds of residents, auto and cab drivers. and shopkeepers from the area.



### **Delhi runs Bihar govt, CM Nitish enjoys no** respect, says Priyanka

Patna/Begusarai, Nov 1: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Saturday launched her assembly poll campaign in Bihar, and claimed that neither the people nor Chief Minister Nitish Kumar were getting respect as the double-engine government was being "run from Delhi".

Vadra, who was scheduled to address two rallies during the day, had to cancel the one at Khagaria as her helicopter could not take off due to bad weather. She, however, travelled by road from Patna for the election meeting in Begusarai.

Before leaving for Begusarai, she briefly interacted with journalists here, criticising the NDA for "failing" to fulfil poll promises during the twodecade-long rule in Bihar, and voicing confidence that the INDIA bloc will form the next government

Upon reaching the venue of the rally, she began her morethan-30-minute-long speech with the remark, "Since I could not take the chopper, I drove to this place and behold the sight of vast tracts of fertile land along the Ganges. So much poverty you people have suffered despite so much of natural wealth all around"

The Wavanad MP claimed. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi says the state will grow under a double engine government. Please do not get fooled. It is just one engine, and that is run from Delhi. The people of Bihar have no platform to voice their demands. Even Nitish Kumar ji, the Chief Minister, enjoys no respect"

She also alleged the PM and Home Minister Amit Shah "spend their entire time in the state blaming Nehru and Indira Gandhi for the problems Bihar

faces today". "And they are trying to



Vadra alleged the PM and **Home Minister Amit Shah** spend their entire time in the state blaming Nehru and Indira Gandhi for the problems Bihar faces today

cheat you with the promise of one crore jobs. Why could they not work for job creation until now?" asked Vadra while addressing the rally.

Underscoring contributions of her ancestors, she claimed that the BJP and its leaders need to remember that most of the factories and institutions like IITs and IIMs were set up when the Congress was in power and Nehru and Indira Gandhi were prime ministers.

The Congress leader, who had joined her brother Rahul Gandhi during the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar, also alleged that with the deletion of 65 lakh names from the voters' list during SIR, the affected people have been "robbed of their rights"

"Ever since coming to power, Modi has been gifting away public wealth to his friends who are big businessmen. To divert public attention, they have tried divisive politics and fake nationalism. Now they are resorting to vote theft," Vadra alleged.

"The right to vote, guaranteed by the Constitution, is precious. Losing it could lead to your deprivation of all rights that you enjoy as a citizen. Vote to protect that right," she appealed to people during the election meeting.

### Indo-Pacific should be free from coercion: Singh

In an address at a conclave of defence ministers of ASEAN member states and the bloc's dialogue partners in Kuala Lumpur, Rajnath said India believes that the Indo-Pacific should remain open, inclusive, and free from any form of 'coercion'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: India's emphasis on rule of law and freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific is not against any country, but to safeguard interests of all stakeholders, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Saturday amid mounting global concerns over China's aggressive military posturing

In an address at a conclave of defence ministers of ASEAN member states and the bloc's dialogue partners in Kuala Lumpur, Singh said India believes that the Indo-Pacific should remain open, inclusive, and free from any form of "coercion". He also pitched for an ap

proach of "collective security"

to ensure sovereignty of every

nation in the region. "India's

emphasis on the rule of law,

particularly the United Nations

Convention on the Law of the

Sea (UNCLOS), and its advoca-

cy for freedom of navigation and overflight in the Indo-Pacific, are not directed against any country but are meant to safeguard the collective interests of all regional stakeholders," he said. His remarks came amid consistent demands by several ASEAN member states as well as democratic nations for adherence to UNCLOS in the face

of Beijing's increasing military

muscle flexing in the contested

South China Sea

Plus (ADMM-Plus) conclave, Singh said India's strategic engagement with ASEAN is not transactional but long-term and principle-driven, and it rests on a shared belief that the region should remain open, inclusive, and free from "coercion". 'The security of the future

In his speech at the ASEAN

Defence Ministers' Meeting

will not depend solely on military capabilities, but on the management of shared resources, the security of digital and physical infrastructure, and a collective response to humanitarian crises," he said

Singh said the ADMM-Plus can be that bridge to connect strategic dialogue to practical outcomes and take the region forward towards peace and shared prosperity.

"India views its role in this framework through the lens of a spirit of partnership and cooperation. Our approach is not transactional, but rather long-term and principle-driv en," he said. "We believe that the Indo-Pacific should remain open, inclusive, and free from any form of coercion," he noted

The ADMM-Plus is a platform comprising 11-nation ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and its eight dialogue partners -- India, China, Aus tralia, Japan, New Zealand, Re public of Korea, Russia and the United States. "Let us all togeth er reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding and strengthen ing the ASEAN-led, inclusive regional security architecture which has served our region so admirably," Singh said.

Fisherman 'spying'

for India arrested,

claims Pak minister

Islamabad, Nov 1: Pakistan's

Information Minister Attaul-

lah Tarar Saturday claimed

that a fisherman from the

country has been arrested

for allegedly spying for India.

ference here, Tarar said Ijaz

Mallah, who fished on the

high seas, was forced to pro-

cure military uniforms, Pa

kistani currency, cigarettes

match boxes, lighters, and

lah was out fishing, he was

"In September, when Mal-

SIM cards.

Addressing a press con-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

### MVA-MNS hold 'Satyacha Morcha'

Uddhav, Raj and Sharad Pawar slam EC over voters list

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 1: The Maha Vikas Aghadi comprising the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) along with Maharashtra Navnirman Sena Saturday held a protest march against alleged irregularities in the voters list, which the Opposition has been claiming were helping the ruling BJP.

The Opposition accused the Election Commission of India of turning a blind eye to alleged voters list irregularities like multiple entries, wrongful deletions and additions etc and asserted local body polls in Maharashtra should go ahead only after these shortcomings are rectified.

'Satyacha Morcha (march for truth) started from Fashion Street in the southern part of the metropolis in the afternoon and culminated at the BMC headquarters a kilometre away, with former chief minister Uddhay Thackeray, NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar,

MNS' Raj Thackeray and Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat, among others, taking part.

Speaking at the rally organ-

ised at the end of the march.

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhay Thackeray said his name was uploaded on the 'Saksham' app from a fake mobile. "I have a doubt that it was done to remove my name from

the voters list," the former chief minister claimed. Reciting a dialogue from Sholay, he used the 'anaconda'

jibe to target the BJP. "Like the dialogue 'pachees

kos door jab bachcha rota hai

to maa kehti hai so jao nahi to Gabbar aa jayega', I want to tell you all to stay awake or else anaconda will come," Thackeray said. He said the opposition wants

elections to be held as it is eager

to defeat the ruling alliance. "You steal my party, my sym-

bol, my father's name and now vou want to steal votes." Thackeray said in a swipe at the BJP-led ruling dispensation. Raj Thackeray alleged

there are "lakhs of dual voters in Mumbai" as per the electoral rolls uploaded till July 1 this year.

arrested by the Indian coast guard," Tarar said. Mallah was told he would be compensated for spying, but on refusal would be imprisoned for two to three years,

the minister claimed "So this common fisherman was eventually released...and was sent to Pakistan on a task to procure certain things ... which included uniforms of

the Pakistan Navy, the Pakistan Army, and of Sindh Rangers," Tarar claimed. The minister said that Pakistan's intelligence bodies began tracking the fisherman

when he tried to procure the items demanded by his han-The fisherman, with all the items, was on his way to In-

dia when the Pakistani agen cies apprehended him at sea Tarar claimed. Tarar alleged that it was

part of a bigger plan of the Indian intelligence agency to launch a propaganda war

against Pakistan. The minister also showed pictures of some items, claim-

ing that it was recovered from the fisherman.

He also played Mallah's confessional video in which he claimed that he had been caught by Indian agencies while he was fishing in the sea

### MHA denies role in blocking Nepali citizen's Berlin travel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: The Indian immigration authorities had no role in stopping a Nepali citizen at Delhi's IGI airport from travelling to Berlin, Germany, and it was the airline concerned which did not allow the passenger to board the aircraft considering her visa validity. the Ministry of Home Affairs said Saturday. In a statement, the Minis-

try of Home Affairs (MHA) said it has been reported that Shambhavi Adhikari, a Nenali citizen heading to Berlin, was stopped at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport and sent back to Kathmandu. "The incident has been



pali citizens. It is to clarify that the Indian immigration authorities have no role to play in this entire episode," the statement said.

The passenger arrived from Kathmandu on an Air India flight and was transiting through Delhi.

She was stopped while boarding the connecting Qatar Airways flight and it was the

airline which decided not to let her undertake her onward travel to Germany considering her visa validity and flew her back to Kathmandu, the statement said.

Such matters are usually

the destination country's rules/ requirements The traveller then rescheduled her travel dates and later

undertaken in accordance with

travelled (to Berlin) taking another route from Kathmandu. The MHA said that interna-

tional transit passengers are not required to approach Indian immigration authorities for their onward journey, as it is a matter between the airlines and the passenger with absolutely no role of the Indian immigration authorities.

"India values its strong relationship with Nepal and reassures that no Indian authority has any bias or discrimination against citizens of Nepal," the MHA statement said.

### SC quashes POCSO case after accused marries victim

*Justice Datta, who penned the verdict on behalf of the* bench, said the court needs to balance the competing interests of justice, deterrence, and rehabilitation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: In a rare case, the Supreme Court has exercised its plenary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to quash POCSO proceedings against a man for entering into sexual relationship with a girl, then a minor, and later marrying her, saying "the crime was not the result of lust but love".

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and AG Masih noted that the wife (victim) has stated that she was married to the man (convict), and they have a one-year-old boy and are now

leading a happy life with the

father of the girl also wishing

that the criminal proceedings against her daughter's husband be brought to an end. The bench said, "We are con-

scious of the fact that a crime is not merely a wrong against an individual but against society as a whole. When an offence is committed, it wounds the collective conscience of the society and therefore the society, acting through its elected lawmakers, determines what would be the punishment for such an offence and how an offender should be dealt with, to deter its recurrence."

It said that criminal law is a manifestation of the sovereign will of society but the admin-



istration of such law is not divorced from practical realities.

"Rendering justice demands a nuanced approach. This court tailors its decisions to the specifics of each case: with firmness and severity wherever necessary and it is merciful when warranted. It is also in the best interest of society to bring a dispute to an end, wher-

ever possible," the bench said

in its October 28 order. Justice Datta, who penned

the verdict on behalf of the bench, said the court needs to balance the competing interests of justice, deterrence, and rehabilitation.

The bench said the founding fathers of the Constitution conferred this court with the extraordinary power to do "complete justice" in proper

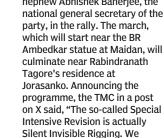
cases and this constitutional power stands apart from all other powers and is intended to avoid situations of injustice being caused by the rigid application of law.

"Per the law made by the legislature, the appellant having been found guilty of a heinous offence, the proceedings in the present case on the basis of a compromise between the appellant and his wife cannot be quashed. But ignoring the cry of the appellant's wife for compassion and empathy will not, in our opinion, serve the ends of justice," it said.

The bench said even the most serious offenders of law do receive justice moderated by compassion from the courts, albeit in appropriate cases, and given the peculiar facts and circumstances here, a balanced approach combining practicality and empathy is necessary. "The appellant and the vic-

tim are not only legally married, they are also in their family way. While considering the offence committed by the appel lant punishable under the POC SO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act, we have discerned that the crime was not the result of lust but love. The victim of crime herself has expressed her desire to live a peaceful and stable family life with the appellant, upon whom she is dependent, without the appellant carrying the indelible mark on his forehead of being an offender," it said. Warning the convict of the

consequences, the top court imposed a condition on the man for the relief and said he will not desert his wife and child and also maintain them for the rest of their life with dignity.



## international



Christianity is facing an existential threat in Nigeria. Radical Islamists are responsible for this mass slaughter. I am hereby making Nigeria a COUNTRY OF **PARTICULAR CONCERN** 

DONALD TRUMP

#### ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION

China Saturday dispatched its 42nd Antarctic expedition team with a mission to conduct drilling experiments in the coldest continent to explore its evolution process and natural resources. China has been sending expeditions periodically to Antarctica, where it has five research stations to explore the resourcerich continent, but this will be the first time its team will focus on drilling the continent's bed





children bearing the brunt of the largest humanitarian crisis in the

YVETTE COOPER | FOREIGN SECRETARY, BRITAIN

China's sweeping territorial and maritime claims in the South China Sea fly in the face of their



do not seek conflict. But we must ensure that China is not seeking to dominate you or anybody else PETE HEGSETH | DEFENCE SECRETARY, US

I did apologise to the president (Donald Trump). told Ford I did not want to go forward



MARK CARNEY | PM. CANADA

### SHORT TAKES

### Drone sighting shuts air travel at Berlin airport

Berlin: A late evening drone sighting at Berlin's airport suspended flights for nearly two hours, according to the news agency dpa, before air travel returned to normal in the German capital Saturday morning. Flights were suspended between 8:08 pm and 9:58 pm local time at Berlin Brandenburg Airport, the news report cited the airport. Local police told the Tagesspiegel newspaper that a witness reported seeing a drone. Police confirmed the sighting but did not find the drone. Europe is on high alert after drone intrusions into NATO's airspace reached an unprecedented scale in September. Some European officials described the incidents as Moscow testing NATO's response, which raised questions about how prepared the alliance is against Russia. Last month, Munich Airport was closed twice in less than 24 hours because of drone

#### US govt shutdown prompts flight delays

Washington: Continued staffing shortages in air traffic control facilities around the country were again causing delays at airports Friday as the government shutdown neared the one-month mark **US Transportation Secretary** Sean Duffy has been warning that travelers would start to see more flights delayed or cancelled as the nation's controllers continue to work without pay during the shutdown, which began October 1. The Federal Aviation Administration reported staffing-related delays Friday at a number of airports. including in Boston, New York City, Nashville, Houston, Dallas and Newark, New Jersey. The airports in Boston, Nashville and New York City were experiencing delays averaging two hours or longer

### 40K Afghan refugees

**leave Balochistan** Karachi: More than two vears after Pakistan started a crackdown against Afghan nationals, nearly 40,000 of them have left Balochistan capital Ouetta, a top provincial official has said. Since October 2023, when Pakistan asked all the foreign nationals, including Afghan illegal immigrants. to leave voluntarily or face deportation, the deadline has been extended multiple times. Pakistan hosts over 1.7 million registered Afghan refugees. with many more living without documentation. The government recently launched vet another repatriation drive, citing security and economic concerns, prompting thousands of Afghans to return to their home country.

**APEC SUMMIT WRAPS UP** 

### **Asia-Pacific leaders call** for shared trade benefits



Gyeongju, Nov 1: Facing deepening fractures in the global trade order, Asia-Pacific leaders adopted a joint declaration that emphasised the need for resilience and shared benefits in trade at the end of the annual APEC summit Saturday.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting, hosted by South Korea this year, unfolded under the shadow of rising geopolitical tensions and aggressive economic strategies ranging from US tariffs to China's export controls - that have pressured global trade.

Ahead of the gathering, US President Donald Trump announced trade deals with a number of countries, including China and South Korea. But he left before the summit kicked off.

"It is a result of member countries acknowledging, at least to some degree, that it will be difficult to restore a free trade order based on multilateralism and the World Trade Organization," said Heo Yoon, a professor of international trade at Sogang University in Seoul.

"We cannot deny anymore that there is a paradigm shift in the global trade order

With Trump's swift exit before the summit, China sought to position itself as a steady advocate of free and open trade, a

role the US had dominated for decades. China will host APEC in Shenzhen in 2026, President

Xi Jinping announced. In closing remarks, Xi proposed the establishment of a World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization, while the gathering adopted other declarations on demographic change and AI. But there was no mention of AI regulations.

However, Heo and analysts say the joint declaration suggests that member nations were wary of giving an impression that the US was undermining free trade while picturing China as a guardian of multilateralism.

"Few countries believe there can be a new trade order that excludes the US," he said.

China's Xi wrapped up his three-day visit to South Korea Saturday with a state dinner and summit hosted by President Lee Jae Myung, the newly elected US ally who has pledged to balance Seoul's ties with Beijing.

The stakes were high for Lee, who assumed office in June after the ouster of his hawkish predecessor over a failed attempt to impose martial law. Lee faces the dual challenge of protecting South Korea's export-driven economy and easing tensions with North Korea amid rising China-US competition.

Lee said it was difficult to say that relations between South

COOPERATION, NORTH KOREA ■ XI PROPOSES CREATION OF WORLD ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION

Korea and China had ever been completely normalised and he hoped for a substantial improvement.

**DECLARATIONS ON TRADE,** 

■ SOUTH KOREA'S LEE AIMS TO BALANCE TIES WITH CHINA

■ CHINA'S XI AND LEE DISCUSS

'We must go beyond simple restoration to find a path of cooperation that is beneficial to each other," Lee told a press conference ahead of his planned meeting with Xi.

Earlier this week, Lee also hosted Trump for a rushed state visit, showering him with gifts and praise before announcing a surprise trade deal aimed at lowering US tariffs in return for billions of dollars in South Korean investment in the US.

Lee held similar events for Xi Saturday, including a summit meeting and state dinner. This was Xi's first visit to South Korea in 11 vears

### **NORTH KOREA ON AGENDA**

Lee asked Xi for China's help in engaging North Korea, according to Seoul's presidential office. Chinese state media did not mention North Korea in their reports on the meeting. After the South said Lee

would raise denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula with Xi. North Korea, a military and economic ally of China, issued a statement Saturday dismissing any efforts to remove its nucle ar arsenal as an unrealisable "pipe dream".

Trump had offered to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during his visit to South Korea, but Pyongyang did not make a public response.

### **TRUCE IN TROUBLE**

negligence, in Novi Sad, Serbia Saturday

### Israel says bodies sent by Hamas not hostages

Jerusalem: The remains of three people handed over by Hamas to the Red Cross this week do not belong to any of the hostages, Israel said Saturday, the latest setback that could undermine a US-brokered ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war. The handover followed Israel's return Friday of the bodies of 30 Palestinians to Gaza. That completed an exchange after militants earlier this week turned over remains of two hostages, a sign that the tense Israel-Hamas ceasefire agreement was edging forward. The unidentified remains of the three people were returned on late Friday to Israel, where they were being examined overnight. At the time, a military official warned that Israeli intelligence suggested they did not belong to any of the hostages taken by Palestinian militants during the October 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel that sparked the war. The Israeli official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to talk to the media. Hamas' armed wing said in a subsequent statement that it had offered to hand over samples Friday of unidentified bodies, but that Israel had refused to receive them and asked for the remains fo

### Tanzanian prez Hassan wins disputed election



REUTERS

Tanzania's

this week.

Kampala, Nov 1:

toral commission

declared on Satur-

day that President

Samia Suluhu Has-

san had won, with

nearly 98% of the votes,

an election that set off vio-

lent protests across the country

took power in 2021 after the death

in office of her predecessor, a

five-year term to govern the East

African country of 68 million

people. Protests erupted during

Wednesday's vote for president

and parliament, with some dem-

onstrators tearing down banners

of Hassan and setting fire to gov-

ernment buildings and police firing tear gas and gunshots,

Demonstrators are angry

about the electoral commis-

sion's exclusion of Hassan's two

biggest challengers from the

race and what they described

Tanzania's main opposition

party said Friday that hundreds

as widespread repression.

according to witnesses

The result hands Hassan, who

People release white doves as they mark the first anniversary of the fatal November 2024 Novi Sad railway

station canopy collapse, which killed 16 people, triggering nationwide accusations of widespread corruption and

ELECTION COMMISSION

DECLARES HASSAN WINNER

PROTESTS ERUPTED OVER EXCLUSION OF HASSAN'S **CHALLENGERS** 

UN CALLS FOR PROBE INTO USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE

were killed in three cities.

The government dismissed the opposition's

death toll as "hugely It's time to exaggerated" and has rejected critiand not destroy what cism of its human we've built over more rights record. than six decades

The electoral commission said that Hassan received more than 31.9 million votes, or 97.66% of the to tal, with turnout nearing 87% of the country's 37.6 million regis-

tered voters.

Turnout appeared low on election day, according to witnesses, with some polling stations disrupted by the protests.

The Tanzanian authorities have imposed a nationwide cur few for the past three nights and restricted access to the internet

Foreign Affairs Minister Mahmoud Thabit Kombo Friday denied allegations that security services had used exces sive force, saying there had only been a "very few small pockets of incidents" caused by criminal

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in a statement issued Friday by his spokesperson, called "for a thorough and impartial investigation into all allegations of excessive use of force" and deplored the loss of life.

### 'THE GATEWAY TO DONETSK'

### Russia pushes forward in Pokrovsk

Moscow, Nov 1: Russian forces defeated a team of Ukrainian special forces which were rushed to the embattled eastern city of Pokrovsk in an attempt to prevent Russian forces from advancing further into the city, the Russian defence ministry said. Russia wants to take the

whole of the Donbas region, which comprises Luhansk and Donetsk provinces. Ukraine still controls about 10% of Donbas - an area of about 5.000

square km in western Donetsk. Capturing Pokrovsk, dubbed "the gateway to Donetsk" by Russian media, and Kostiantvnivka to its northeast which Russian forces are also trying

to envelop, would give Moscow a platform to drive north towards the two biggest remaining Ukrainian-controlled cities in Donetsk - Kramatorsk

and Sloviansk Ukraine said that it had deployed special forces in Pokrovsk earlier in the week, landing a Black Hawk helicopter. Russia's defence ministry

said it had killed the group of Ukrainian military intelligence

special forces. Ukraine's only mine producing coking coal - used in its once vast steel industry - is around six miles (10 km) west of Pokrovsk. Ukrainian steelmaker Metinvest said in January it had suspended mining operations there.

### of people had been killed in the protests, while the UN human rights office said credible reports indicated at least 10 people

## World's largest museum flaunts Egypt's ancient civilisation

Two decades in the making and located near the Giza Pyramids on the edge of Cairo, the museum showcases over 50,000 artefacts detailing life in ancient Egypt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cairo, Nov 1: Egypt is inaugurating the long-delayed Grand Egyptian Museum Saturday. the world's largest museum dedicated to its ancient civilisation — a megaproject also aimed at boosting the country's tourism industry and troubled economy

World leaders, including monarchs, heads of state and governments, were to attend the grand opening ceremony in the Egyptian capital, according to a statement from the presidency, which touted the museum as "an exceptional event in the history of human culture and civilisation.

Abdel-Fattah President el-Sissi wrote on social media that the museum will bring "together the genius of ancient

Egyptians and the creativity of modern Egyptians, enhancing the world culture and art with a new landmark that will attract all those who cherish civilisation and knowledge. A symphony of humanity'

The museum is one of several megaprojects championed by el-Sissi since he took office in 2014, embarking on massive investments in infrastructure with the aim of reviving an economy weakened by decades of stagnation and battered by

the unrest that followed the

2011 Arab Spring uprising. Preparations for the grand reveal have been shrouded in secrecy. A stage was built in the museum courtyard where an orchestra and musicians would later perform what the Egyptian media described as a "global symphony of humanity."

Security around Cairo was tightened ahead of the opening ceremony, with the government announcing Saturday would be a public holiday. The museum, which has been open for limited visits over the past few years, was closed for the final two-week preparations.

The government has revamped the area around the



museum and the nearby Giza Plateau that holds the pyramids and the Sphinx. Roads were payed, and a metro station is being constructed outside the museum gates to improve access. An airport, Sphinx International Airport, has also opened west of Cairo, 40 minutes from the museum.

The \$1 billion facility had faced multiple delays, with construction beginning in 2005 but interrupted due to political instability.

Ramses the Great, King Tut The museum, known as GEM,

boasts a towering, triangular

glass facade imitating the nearby pyramids, with 24,000 square meters (258,000 square feet) of permanent exhibition space.

It opens to a granite colos sus of Ramses the Great, one of ancient Egypt's most powerful pharaohs who reigned for around 60 years, from 1279 BC to 1213 BC, and is credited with expanding ancient Egypt's reach as far as modern Syria to the east and modern Sudan to the south. The statue greets visitors once they step inside the museum's angular atrium.

From the atrium, a grand six-story staircase lined with

ancient statues leads up to the main galleries and a view of the pyramids. A bridge links the museum to the pyramids, allowing tourists to move between them either on foot or via electric vehicles, according to museum officials The museum's 12 main gal-

leries, which opened last year, exhibit antiquities spanning from prehistoric times to the Roman era, organised by era and by themes.

Two halls are dedicated to the 5.000 artefacts from the collection of King Tutankhamun — a boy pharaoh who ruled from 1361 BC to 1352 BC — that will be displayed in its entirety for the first time since British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered King Tut's tomb in 1922 in the southern city of Luxor.

Zahi Hawass, Egypt's most renowned archaeologist and former minister of antiquities, said the Tutankhamun collection is the museum's masterpiece.

"Why is this museum so important, and everyone is waiting for the opening?" he told The Associated Press. "Because

of Tutankhamun.' The collection includes the boy pharaoh's three funeral beds and six chariots, his gold en throne, his gold-covered sarcophagus and his burial mask, made of gold, quartzite, lapis lazuli and colored glass.

#### Boosting tourism, economy The government hopes the

museum will draw more tour ists who will stay for a while and provide the foreign curren cy needed to shore up Egypt's battered economy. The state run Al-Ahram daily said the museum is expected to attract 5 million visitors annually.

The tourism sector has suf fered during years of political turmoil and violence following the 2011 Arab Spring uprising

A record number of about 15.7 million tourists visited Egypt in 2024, contributing about 8 per cent of the coun try's GDP, according to official figures. Tourism and Antiqui ties Minister Sherif Fathy has said that overall, Egypt expects about 18 million tourists this year, with authorities hoping for 30 million visitors annual ly by 2032.

The museum will open to the public starting November 4 the anniversary of Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb authorities said.

## business



Commended the progress of states for their exceptional renewable capacity share, reviewed the progress of flagship schemes and discussed actionable steps to harness the region's immense potential in solar, small hydro, green hydrogen and biomass PRALHAD JOSHI | UNION MINISTER OF CONSUMER

### **SMALL BIZ TO GET EARLY GST REGISTRATION**

Small and low-risk businesses will get GST registration within 3 working days as the Goods and Service Tax (GST) department rolls out a simplified GST registration scheme for small and medium businesses from, Nov 1. Small and low-risk businesses applicants who selfassess that their output tax liability will not exceed Rs 2.5 lakh per month (inclusive of CGST, SGST/UTGST and IGST) will be able to opt for the scheme. Over 1.54 crore businesses are currently registered under GST



By sharing best practic policies, building developing skills we can harness Africa's critical minerals not just for economic gains, but for building a sustainable and inclusive future

SEVALA NAIK MUDE | ADDITIONAL SECRETARY,

The upcoming **EPFO 3.0** platform will further improve efficiency and accessibility, while new initiatives such as

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

simplified withdrawal categories and the Viswas Scheme have eased compliance for employers RAMESH KRISHNAMURTHI I CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND COMMISSIONER

There is a need to scale domestic capital, nurture homegrown funds, and encourage startups to contribute to 'Aatmanirbhar



PIYUSH GOYAL COMMERCE & INDUSTRY MINISTER

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### Mahindra Lifespace posts profit

New Delhi: Realty firm Mahindra Lifespace Developers Ltd has reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 47.91 crore for the second quarter of this fiscal year. The company had posted a net loss of Rs 14.01 crore in the year-ago period. Total income rose to Rs 33.06 crore during July-September period of 2025-26 fiscal from Rs 15.96 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding year, according to a regulatory filing, Friday.

#### ₹2,000 notes worth ₹5,817cr in mkt

Mumbai: The high-value Rs 2,000 notes worth Rs 5,817 crore are still in circulation, according to the Reserve Bank data released, Saturday. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had announced the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes from circulation on May 19, 2023. Rs 2,000 banknotes continue to be legal tender. In a statement, the central bank said the total value of Rs 2,000 banknotes in circulation, which was Rs 3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, when the withdrawal of the currency was announced, has declined to Rs 5,817 crore at the close of business on October 31, 2025.

Gold, silver roundup New Delhi: Gold prices extended their decline for the second consecutive week as improved global risk appetite, a strong dollar, and the US Federal Reserve's cautious tone of further rate cuts have dampened the demand for safehaven asset. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for December delivery plunged Rs 2,219, or 1.8 per cent, over the past week. During the past week, the yellow metal hit an intra-day low of Rs 1,17,628 per 10 grams, October 28. Silver, which outshone gold during the recent rally, saw a significant swings during the week. The white metal saw volatile movements before staging a mild recovery towards the end of the week. On the MCX, silver futures for December delivery ended nearly a twoweek losing streak by rising Rs 817, or 0.55 per cent. Silver futures experienced a larger crash, falling from near Rs 1,55,000 per kilogram to test Rs 1,45,000 per kg, before regaining some ground. In the overseas markets, Comex silver futures remained largely

flat in the past week, when it

ended at \$48.16 per ounce.

## **GST registers 4.6% growth**

New Delhi. Nov 1: Festive buying spree unleashed by lower tax rates pushed gross GST collection to about Rs 1.96 lakh crore in October, registering a 4.6 per cent year-on-year growth, the slowest rate so far this fiscal.

The slowest pace of revenue growth in October comes after Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates on 375 items, from kitchen staples to electronics and automobiles, were slashed with effect from September 22, the first day of Navratri.

According to the government data released, Saturday, gross GST mop-up in October was about Rs 1.96 lakh crore. a 4.6 per cent higher over Rs 1.87 lakh crore collections in October 2024.

The gross domestic revenue. an indication of local sales. grew 2 per cent to Rs 1.45 lakh crore, while tax from imports surged about 13 per cent to Rs 50.884 crore in October.

The rate of growth in gross GST collections in year-on-year terms in October at 4.6 per cent is, however, lower than about 9 per cent average growth in GST mop-up so far this fiscal.

In August and September this year, GST collection grew at 6.5 per cent to Rs 1.86 lakh crore and at 9.1 per cent to Rs 1.89 lakh crore, respectively. The October GST collection

number reflects the impact of festive season sales and the pent up demand. Consumers had held back their purchase decision, awaiting GST rate cut after Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech had announced that GST rates will be cut ahead of Diwali. The rate cut was, however, implemented with the onset of Navratri.

As per the data, GST refunds jumped 39.6 per cent year-on-year in October to Rs 26.934 crore.



Net GST revenue, after adjusting refunds, stood at Rs 1.69 lakh crore in October 2025, recording 0.2 per cent YoY growth.

Price Waterhouse & Co LLP Partner Pratik Jain said despite massive rate cuts effective from September 22, a slight increase in domestic GST collection shows that demand is steadily

"Consistent increase in GST refunds (domestic as well as exports) shows confidence of tax administration that GST collections would show positive trend in future as well," Jain said.

EY India Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said GST collections reflected a muted momentum in tax collection primarily due to rate rationalisation effect and the deferred consumer spending ahead of the festive season.

This anticipated lag is likely to be compensated by more robust numbers in the next month, driven by seasonal buoyancy.

Deloitte India, Partner & Indirect Tax Leader, Mahesh Jaising said the GST collection numbers underscores the resilience of economy amid festive momentum and enhanced compliance.

This fiscal strength arms the government with the bold resolve to drive GST 2.0 re-

streamlining rates, curbing evasion and simplifying compliance -- propelling India toward a truly seamless. tech-driven tax ecosystem.

Tax Connect Advisory Services Partner Vivek Jalan said the growth in collections by 4.6 per cent re-affirm that the boost in consumption has, to an extent, balanced the degrowth in revenue due to the tax rate cuts.

According to Jalan, the sustained buoyancy in receipts despite significant rate-rationalisation underscores that the reforms are stimulating consumption rather than constraining it. Also, refund disbursements surged nearly 40 per cent YoY, which is a clear indication of improved compliance discipline and smoother credit flows for business.

Grant Thornton Bharat, Partner and Tax Controversary Management Leader, Manoj Mishra said early retail indicators show broad-based demand across autos, FMCG, apparel and electronics, reflecting renewed consumer confidence.

"With India's vast household consumption base and an industrial revival now increasingly complementing services-led growth, the October GST data affirm that India's growth story is both broadening and deepening," Mishra said.

### ATF price hiked by 1%, commercial LPG rates cut

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices were hiked by about 1 per cent while commercial LPG rates cut marginally by Rs 5 per cylinder on Saturday in the monthly revision in fuel prices in line with global benchmarks.

Jet fuel (ATF) price was increased by Rs 777 per kilolitre, or 0.8 per cent, to Rs 94,543.02 per kl in the national capital home to one of the busiest airports in the country, according to state-owned fuel retailers.

This is the second straight monthly increase in ATF rates. Prices were raised by Rs 3,052.5 per kl or 3.3 per cent, October 1. Prior to that, rates were cut by 1.4 per cent (Rs 1,308.41 per kl), September 1.

The price hike will increase the burden on commercial airlines, for which fuel makes up almost 40 per cent of the oper ating cost. No immediate comments could be obtained from the airlines on the impact of the price change.

The ATF price in Mumbai was hiked to Rs 88,44.87 per kl from Rs 87,714.39 per kl, while those in Chennai and Kolkata were increased to Rs 98,089.68 and Rs 97,549.18 per kl, respectively. Rates differ from city to city, depending on the incidence of local taxes such as VAT. Alongside, oil firms reduced

the price of commercial LPG used in hotels and restaurants by Rs 5 per 19-kg cylinder. Commercial LPG now costs Rs 1,590.50 in the national capital. The reduction follows a Rs

15.50 per cylinder increase last month. Prior to that, rates were reduced on six occasions. In the six reductions, prices were cut by Rs 223 per bottle since April

Oil prices have remained largely range-bound since the last revision. Prices of ATF and LPG differ from state to state. depending on the incidence of local taxes, including VAT.

### **UIDAI** makes 'Aadhaar paperless'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: In a significant move to provide digital convenience to Aadhaar cardholders, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has announced major reforms to make Aadhaar updates faster, simpler, and entirely online, effective from Saturday.

The new changes will allow cardholders to update key details such as their name, address, date of birth, or mobile number directly through the UIDAI portal, eliminating the need to visit enrolment centres.

The information that an individual submits will be digitally verified using linked government documents like PAN cards, passports, driving licences, or ration cards, ensuring both speed and accuracy. Additionally, the govern-

ment has mandated that Aadhaar-PAN linking be completed by December 31, 2025, and that PAN cards that are not linked will be deactivated, January 1, 2026. As part of the procedure, new

PAN applicants will also need to finish an Aadhaar-based verification

Furthermore, UIDAI has streamlined the digital Know Your Customer (KYC) process for banks and other financial institutions, enabling users to confirm their identity via video KYC, Aadhaar OTP-based authentication, or optional in-person verification.

The authority has introduced a revised service fee structure that will also come into effect on November 1. Under the nev fee structure, the Aadhaar reprints will be done at Rs 40. For a biometric update, the

cardholders need to pay Rs 125 and for updating demographic information, the fee would be Rs 75. Home enrolment service for the first applicant will be charged at Rs 700, and Rs 350 for each additional person at the same address.

The digital-first reforms are intended to improve the security and usability of Aadhaar ser vices so that citizens can easily manage their identity records from home.

Earlier, a cardholder had to visit an Aadhaar Seva Kendra for any correction or update. The new reforms bring the entire process online through the UIDAI portal.

### Carmakers post record sales in October

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: Top carmakers led by Maruti Suzuki, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and Kia India, Saturday reported record sales in the domestic market riding on festive demand boosted by Gooda and Service Tax (GST) rate cut.

Other manufacturers such as Skoda Auto India and Tovota Kirloskar Motor also posted impressive growth in sales in October.

"In October, we did a retail of 2.42.096 units, which is a growth of almost 20 per cent over the last year," Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Partho Banerjee, told reporters in a virtual interaction. Baneriee said before the GST reforms there were challenges in the new set of first-time car buyers entering the market but after GST 2.0 many customers have started coming to showrooms.

In terms of wholesales, Maruti Suzuki India said its total domestic sales, including com-

mercial vehicles, stood at an all-time high of 1,80,675 units as against 1,63,130 units in the same month last year, up 10.75 per cent. Domestic passenger vehicle sales were at 1.76.318 units as against 1,59,591 units in October 2024, up 10.48 per cent, it added. Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd also reported record SUV sales in the domestic passenger vehicle market growing by 31 per cent to 71,624 units in October as compared to 54,504 units in the same month last year.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd also reported its best ever wholesales at 61,295 units in October as compared to 48,423 units in the same month last

year, a growth of 26.6 per cent. On the other hand, Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) reported a 3.2 per cent decline in domestic sales at 53,792 units in October as compared to 55,568 units in the same month last year. Yet, the company witnessed robust market demand, leading to second highest monthly sales of its SUVs Creta and Venue with combined sales of 30,119 units.

### **BIZ BUZZ**

### CMPDI celebrates 51st Coal India Foundation Day

Ranchi: Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI) celebrated the 51st Foundation Day of Coal India Limited (CIL) with enthusiasm at its headquarters in Ranchi. The event began with the hoisting of the CIL flag by Shankar Nagachari, Director (Technical/CRD), followed by the singing of the CIL corporate anthem.Directors Ajay Kumar, Rajeev Kumar Sinha, Nripendra Nath, Regional Director Kanchan Sinha, and other senior officials, employees, and their families were present on the occasion.



Addressing the gathering, Nagachari said, "The objective behi coal production but also to provide sustainable sources of energy for the community and the nation. The coal industry contributes far beyond energy; it fuels employment, development, and sustainability." Award ceremony also held, where Manoj Kumar, Regional Director, RI-5, Bilaspur, recognised as the Best Regional Director of CMPDI; Vinod Kumar Pandey, General Manager (Environment), Headquarters, Ranchi, received the Best Department Head Award; and Randeep Singh, General Manager (Excavation/Open Cast), CMPDI Headquarters, won the Individual Excellence Award. The prestigious N Kumar Innovation Award was conferred upon Kunal Das, General Manager (Mining/Blasting), Headquarters, Ranchi. On this occasion, CMPDI also honoured the children/wards of its employees who excelled academically by securing over 90 per cent marks in their Class 10 or 12 Board Examinations during the academic year 2024-25.

### Nripendra Nath takes charge as Director (Technical) at CMPDI

Ranchi: Nripendra Nath has assumed charge as Director (Technical) of the Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI), October 31, 2025 here Friday. An alumnus of IIT (ISM), Dhanbad, Nath graduated in 1988 and began his career in Central Coalfields Limited's (CCL) NK Area. He made notable contributions to the World Bank-assisted KDH Project for nearly two decades. Over the years, he has held several key positions, including



Project Officer at various mines under Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL). As General Manager of CCL's Magadh-Sanghmitra Area, he was instrumental in achieving the milestone of joining the prestigious 20 Million Tonne Production Club. A SIMTARScertified trainer trained in Australia, Nath has been actively involved in safety training and the formulation of mine safety management plans across Coal India subsidiaries. He also represented India as part of the AGTM delegation to several European countries in 2024. With his extensive experience and international exposure, Nath is expected to play a crucial role in advancing CMPDI's technical capabilities, safety standards, and operational excellence in alignment with Coal India's growth vision.

### Javed Akhtar to receive SOA Sahitya Samman 2025

Bhubaneswar: Renowned poet, lyricist, scriptwriter and social thinker Padma Bhushan Javed Akhtar will be honoured with the SOA Sahitya Samman 2025 for his remarkable and lifelong contribution to Indian cinema and literature. The award will be presented during the inaugural session of the two-day, third SOA Literary Festival to be held in the Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University campus, November 29. It carries a cash prize of Rs 7 lakh along with a citation, a silver idol of Goddess



### India urges WTO to promote secure digital infra for e-commerce

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: India has suggested that WTO countries should discuss ways to promote secure and interoperable digital public infrastructure for e-commerce to prevent monopolistic market segmentation by big tech companies and encourage participation of MSMEs in the sector.

The country has also proposed to discuss the existing gaps in terms of digital infrastructure and access to technologies that hinder participation of developing and least developed countries in global e-commerce, and how

the WTO (World Trade Or-

ganisation) or the Council for

TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects

of Intellectual Property Rights) can play a role in addressing the same. According to a communica-

tion from India, posted on the WTO platform, India has stated that international collaboration on DPI (digital public infrastructure) systems would address the issue of digital access and divide in the context of e-commerce and IP (intellectual property) and its development dimension. ...we propose the following

discussion points and proposals we invite other members to... discuss how WTO Members can promote secure and interoperable digital public infrastructure and adopt the DPI approach in the context of e-commerce to prevent monopolistic market

segmentation by big tech companies and to promote competition and participation of MSMEs in e-commerce," it said. India has said the council for

TRIPS can discuss a possible online platform for technolo-

gy exchange to support global efforts to address the digital divide in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. "International collaboration

on DPI systems would address the issue of digital access and divide in the context of e-commerce and IP and its development dimension," the communication said.

It has been stated that DPI is pivotal in facilitating the growth of e-commerce by providing scalable, inclusive, and interoperable platforms that underpin seamless transactions. It can be instrumental in increasing the participation of developing and least developed countries in global e-commerce.

India has been driving its digital transformation through its DPI approach, which includes Unique Digital ID 'AADHAAR, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), and the launch of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

For several years, it said,

the e-commerce agenda has re ceived limited attention, with slow progress on TRIPS-related digital trade issues.

Therefore, efforts to reinvigorate discussions on the relationship between DPI, the TRIPS Agreement, and the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce (WPEC) are both relevant and timely.

"Availability of a robust digital infrastructure would facilitate increasing participation of developing and least developed countries in global e-commerce," India has said adding the DPI approach has been instrumental in driving the digital transformation in India and other countries, such as Singapore, UAE, Brazil, and Estonia.

## Women in Blue eye historic glory

The 13th edition of the World Cup is guaranteed to crown a new champion – between third-time finalists India and first-time finalists South Africa — both riding on the back of remarkable campaigns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, Nov 1: Indian women's cricket stands on the brink of a watershed moment. reminiscent of the men's historic 1983 triumph, with the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side determined to end its ICC trophy drought when it faces a formidable South Africa in the Women's World Cup final here Sunday.

A title triumph could trigger an unprecedented surge of interest in women's cricket in India, inspiring a new generation of voung girls to take up the sport – perhaps even more than the advent of the Women's Premier League did three seasons ago.

But the hosts will need to quickly move past their emotionally draining semifinal win here three nights ago - one that might have already earned them the "favourites" tag.

Jemimah Rodrigues' unforgettable 127 not out and Harmanpreet's gritty 89, coupled with an uncharacteristically erratic outing from seven-time champions Australia, carried India into vet another summit clash — a stage where heartbreak has struck far too often.

India's nine-run loss to England in the 2017 ODI World Cup final still lingers painfully for those who were part of that campaign, including Harmanpreet. It was followed by a narrow five-run defeat to Australia in the 2023 T20 World Cup semi**ONE LAST FIGHT** 



Their new anchor at No 3, Jemi-

mah Rodrigues, has emerged as

a force to reckon with, but her

heroics have now raised expec-

tations that mirror those faced

It was a game in which India

by India's male stars.

final and another gut-wrenching loss to the same opponents in the 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medal match.

For India, the battle is no longer about proving skill or form. but about crossing the elusive final hurdle that has so often tripped them — including in this very tournament.

After a stuttering start that saw them lose three matches on the trot, India revived their home campaign with compelling wins over former champions New Zealand and Australia, rediscovering their spark when it mattered most.

Semifinals can often drain teams emotionally, and India will have to regroup quickly after that high-voltage chase.

is a special day for us, we have done a lot of hard work, and it's only about getting everything (done) tomorrow for the team HARMANPREET KAUR | CAPTAIN, INDIA other run-fest could be on the cards, testing India's fielding and bowling discipline. South Africa, meanwhile,

forward to how it feels

will not mind the "underdog" tag. They've shown remarkable resilience through the tournament — from being bowled out for 69 against England in Guwa hati to later thrashing the same opponent at the same venue, and recovering from a 97 allout against Australia in Indore.

For a nation that has weath ered its share of cricketing turbulence, this South African side has scripted an inspiring turnaround — reaching a fifth successive ICC final across genders and age groups.

Having lost to New Zealand in last year's T20 World Cup final, their hunger to go one step further is immense.

Ultimately, the contest will come down to which team handles the pressure better. For Harmanpreet Kaur, it could be the final opportunity to etch her name in history as the first Indian woman to lift an ODI World Cup as captain.

batters to breathe easy

No Hazlewood around,

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hobart, Nov 1: The Indian batters will breathe a little easier in the absence of Josh Hazlewood as they look to put up an improved performance, but the baffling omission of left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh continues to raise eyebrows ahead of the third T20 International against Australia Sunday.

Hazlewood's pinpoint accuracy when it comes to hitting the right length, coupled with disconcerting bounce that he always generates around the corridor of uncertainty did become a bit of a nightmare for the Indian batters.

With the Ashes Test starting at the end of this month, Hazlewood has been given a break to rejuvenate before the gruelling five-Test series. He won't be part of the remainder of the series.

"It would obviously be a relief. I have never faced such bowling," star opener Abhishek Sharma had said after the Melbourne game as he seemed to be in awe of the Aussie speedster

And his absence would also mean that Indian batters, who have serious technical flaws in dealing with bounce and seam movement, will feel a bit more assured while facing the likes of Xavier Bartlett, Nathan Ellis or Sean Abbott.

Both skipper Suryakumar Yadav and skipper-in-waiting Shubman Gill have had prob lems negotiating deliveries with extra bounce and good degree of seam movement. Surva and Gill would like to revisit their opening game's playbook when they looked in ominous touch at Canberra.

The Bellerive Oval at the Hobart is one ground where the side boundaries are smaller in size and hence the length would be paramount consider ing anything short would be fly ing over cover, point, square leg or mid-wicket on either side of the fence.

Bellerive Oval is the ground where the phenomenon of Virat Kohli as a champion ODI batter took shape back in 2012 when he played a masterful knock of 133 not out in 86 balls against Sri Lanka in a chase of 321 Bellerive Oval track has tradi tionally been a belter for white ball games. This is also the BBI home ground for pacer Ellis, who happens to captain local franchise Hobart Hurricanes.

The Indian team manage ment's obsession with batting depth has been a topic of dis cussion on this tour and some of the batting failures like a paltry total of 125 at the MCG does question the merit of such



### SHORT **TAKES**

### **Shreyas discharged**

New Delhi: India ODI vice-captain Shreyas Iyer has been discharged from a Sydney hospital after undergoing a minor procedure following a spleen and rib cage injury while successfully attempting a catch in the third ODI against Australia, "He (Iver) is now stable and recovering well. The BCCI Medical Team, along with specialists in Sydney and India. are pleased with his recovery, and he has been discharged from the hospital today," BCCI said in a statement Saturday. The 30-yearold had sustained a lower left rib cage injury while attempting a difficult running catch to dismiss Alex Carey off Harshit Rana's bowling in the third ODI. Iver is expected to return to India when he is fit to fly but will be out of action for at least next two months.

### **Babar's T20Is milestone**

Karachi: Former captain and Pakistan batting stalwart Babar Azam became the highest rungetter in T20 Internationals to leave behind Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. Babar achieved the feat while scoring 11 from 18 balls in the second T20Is against South Africa in Lahore Friday night. But a close look at the statistics of the top five T20 run getters also gives a clear picture of why Babar was sidelined from the Pakistan T20 side since December 2024 before he was surprisingly recalled for the South Africa series. The statistics shows that Babar has now scored 4234 runs in 123 matches at an average of 39.57 but the telling stats are his strike and number of sixes hit compared to the others in the list. Babar has the lowest strike rate 128.77 and least number of sixes (73) hit in the list that has Rohit, Kohli, Jos Butler and Paul Sterling.

### **Kiwis clean sweep Eng**

Wellington: England will head to the five-test Ashes series in Australia low on form and confidence after being bowled out for 222 in a twowicket loss to New Zealand in the third one-day international Saturday and a 3-0 series defeat. New Zealand was desperate at the end, with two wickets remaining and 28 runs still needed to win. But Zak Foulkes with 14 not out and Blair Tickner, with an unbeaten 18, saw New Zealand home with 32 balls to spare and a total of 226-8. New Zealand won the first match by four wickets and the second by five wickets.

### AGELESS BOPANNA HANGS RACQU

"How do you bid farewell to

something that gave your life

its meaning? After 20 unforget

table years on tour, however,

it's time. Starting my journey

from a small town of Coorg in

India, chopping blocks of wood

to strengthen my serve, jogging

through coffee estates to

build stamina and

chasing dreams on

cracked courts to

standing under

nas in world tennis.

/orld Cup, the reward won't be anything less compared to men's global triumph. But it isn't nice to make an announcement efore they win the Cup," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity. It must be noted that when the Indian women's

eam lost the 2017 World Cup final to England by 9 runs at the Lord's, the BCCI had rewarded each playing member wih Rs 50 akh each. Erstwhile head coach Tushar Arothe and other support staff also were rewarded handsomely. Eight years down th ine, if Indian women happen to win, the prize money for each cricketer could be 10 times more if not less.

expected their best batter Smri-

ti Mandhana (385 runs) to fire

but found a hero in a diminu-

On a flat DY Patil Stadium

surface — known for its high

scores and evening dew - an-

Cash windfall awaits Harmanpreet & Co

tive Jemimah.

A two-time Grand Slam champion and former World No 1 in doubles, Rohan Bopanna retires not just as one of India's greatest tennis icons, but as a player who redefined longevity in the modern game

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: Indian tennis veteran Rohan Bopanna, one among the only four Indians to win Grand Slam titles, Saturday announced his retirement from professional tennis, bringing an end to a career spanning more than two decades on the challenging ATP Tour.

The 45-year-old Bopanna's final appearance on the Tour came at the Paris Masters, where he partnered Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik, losing in the opening round earlier

this week. In an emotional statement titled "A Goodbye... But Not

Bopanna said he was "officially hanging racquet,' reflecting on a journey that took him from his hometown of biggest

bid farewell to gave your life its

meaning? After years on tour, however, it's

the biggest arenas in the world-it all feels surreal, Bopanna wrote.

Bopanna had ended his India career after the Paris Olympics last year. He had announced his retirement from Davis Cup in 2023, playing his last tie

### A CAREER ETCHED IN HISTORY

- Rohan Bopanna won the French Open 2017 mixed doubles title with Gabriela along with Leander Paes, Sania Mirza and Mahesh Bhupathi
- He won the men's doubles titles at the 2024 Australian Open with Matthew Ebden. At 43, he became the oldest man to win a Grand Slam men's doubles
- He became the world No 1 in men's doubles in January 2024, making history as the oldest player ever to debut at the top of the ranking
- At the 2023 US Open, Bopanna, partnering Matthew Ebden, became the
- He has won a total of 25 ATP titles including 6 ATP Masters 1000 titles, 5
- ATP 500 titles, and 14 ATP 250 titles He became the oldest ATP Masters 1000 champion at age 43 after winning
- the 2023 Indian Wells title with Matthew Ebden

Bopanna repeated the feat by becoming the oldest player to win a Masters 1000 title once again, capturing the Miami Open crown at the age of 44

The doubles specialist, who played for 22 years, described tennis as more than a sport, calling it a source of "purpose, strength and belief" through

against Morocco in Lucknow.

"Every time I stepped onto a court, it taught me perseverance, resilience to rise, to fight again when everything inside me said I couldn't-and most of all, reminded me why I started

and who I am," he said. Bopanna also paid tribute to his family, crediting them for their support throughout his

career. He thanked his parents partner off court.

#### challenging moments. for their sacrifices, his sister Rashmi for her constant encouragement, and his wife Supriya for being his "greatest

## Messi tour goes Pan-India

### **HYDERABAD ADDED AFTER KERALA CANCELLATION**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 1: Lionel Messi's much-anticipated 'GOAT Tour to India 2025' just got bigger with Hyderabad added as the new southern leg stop to ensure fans in the region are not "deprived" of seeing their idol following the cancellation of Argentina's proposed friendly in Kerala

The decision to add Hyderabad comes in the wake of the cancellation of Argentina's proposed friendly in Kochi, which had been originally announced by Kerala Sports Minister V Abdurahiman for November 17.

The revised plan now ensures Messi's 'GOAT Tour' will span all four corners of India -- east (Kolkata), south (Hyderabad). west (Mumbai) and north (New Delhi) -- turning it into one of the biggest sporting spectacles

ever hosted in the country. "Now we are covering south also. This will be a tribute to millions of football fans in



### REVISED ITINERARY

DEC 12-13 (KOLKATA): Arrival in e midnight or early hours; Meet nd greet at Hotel (9.30-10.40am); GOAT Cup at Salt Lake Stadium (11.30am-1.10pm); Statue unveiling t Sreebhumi, Lake Lake Town

**DEC 14 (MUMBAI):** Meet and greet at Hotel (12 noon); Padel GOAT

DEC 13 (HYDERABAD): Meet and greet (5pm); GOAT Cup (7–8.45pm) at either Rajiv Gandhi or Gachibowli

Cup inauguration; GOAT Cup at Wankhede Stadium (5.30pm). DEC 15 (NEW DELHI): Meeting with

Prime Minister Narendra Modi; GOAT Cup at Arun Jaitley Stadium (2.15pm)

South India," Satadru Dutta, the sole organiser of the 'GOAT Tour to India 2025', told PTI.

"With this, every part of India is covered. West is covered through Mumbai, east through Kolkata, north through Delhi. There is a huge Messi fan base in Chennai, Kerala and Hyderabad." Dutta said.

The Argentine superstar, who last visited India in 2011 for a friendly against Venezuela, will be joined by his long-time teammates and friends Luis Suarez and Rodrigo De Paul, who have already confirmed their participation in the tour.

The Kerala match was later postponed to the next FIFA window due to delays in obtaining necessary clearances, leading to public disappointment and political controversy. The Kochi cancellation has left fans in Kerala disheartened, but Dutta said he was determined not to let the southern region miss out on Messi's visit.

### in check on Day 1 at Barabati

Odisha bowlers keep Andhra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 1: Odisha delivered a disciplined bowling performance to restrict Andhra to 222 for 3 on the opening day of their Ranji Trophy 2025–26 encounter at Barabati Stadium, Cuttack.

After Andhra chose to bat first. Odisha's bowlers maintained consistent pressure throughout the day. Sambit S Baral led from the front with an impressive spell of 16 overs, 5 maidens, 32 runs, and 2 wickets, displaying remarkable control

and accuracy. Badal Biswal complemented him well, claiming 1 wicket for 52 runs in 18 overs at an economy of 2.89.

Andhra's KS Bharat (93) and Abhishek Reddy (76) were the main contributors, holding the innings together with a patient partnership. Despite their efforts. Odisha ensured the run flow remained in check with tight bowling and sharp fielding. With the second new ball due early on Day 2, Odisha will look to strike early and tilt the contest in their favor.



### **Grandmasters**

### held to draws

**WORLD CHESS CUP** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panjim, Nov 1: Grandmasters Raunak Sadhwani and SL Narayanan, India's two best hopes, were held to draws by Daniel Barrish of South Africa and Steven Salas Rojas of Peru in the first game of the opening round of World Chess

Cup here Saturday While most of the games in the 156 players contest selected for the first round went according to rankings, there were a few surprises that is typical of the knockout format of the

world cup. Four players, in fact, did not turn up to play and their opponents got walk overs. However those who ended up getting a free point were all higher ranked players and this would give them a free passage in to the next round of this \$2 million prize money tournament that in addition has three places reserved for the next candidates tournament

The Indian elite, comprising World Champion D Gukesh Arjun Erigaisi, R Praggnanand haa, P Harikrishna, Vidit Gujrathi and Nihal Sarin, have all received direct entry into the second round, which will feature 128 players. Each round will follow a knockout format, with two classical games, and in case of a tie, games of shorter duration will decide the winner

In another upset of the day India's Leon Luke Mendonca was also held to a draw, while Diptayan Ghosh also just proved equal to his opponent. Surya Shekhar Ganguly, who has been in the World cup be fore, played a fine game to beat Ahmadzada Ahmad of Azerbaijan, while Ritvik Raja did well to hold 2024 World junior champion Nogerbek Kazybek of Kazakhstan to a draw.

With this being only the first game of the opening round, the action will resume Sunday. Those in the lead will look to seal their passage to the next round, while those who drew will aim to take the upper hand. For players starting with a loss, the road ahead appears difficult, as the day did not witness any major upsets.

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