



Ministry of Civil Aviation
Government of India



Soaring Towards a New Horizon Uttarakhand's Path to Progress...

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

To witness the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
between Airports Authority of India and Govt. of Uttarakhand
for the taking over of Naini Saini Airport, Pithoragarh

BENEFITS

- The taking over of Naini Saini airport, Pithoragarh will spruce up the existing airport infrastructure and streamline operational standards
- Boost to trade, travel and pilgrimage tourism sectors while promoting local art and rich cultural heritage of Uttarakhand
- To strengthen key sectors like education, healthcare and hospitality thereby creating new employment opportunities, fostering economic growth for the holistic development of Uttarakhand

SALIENT FEATURES OF PITHORAGARH AIRPORT

- Naini Saini Airport has a total land area of 70 acres (approx.) and the terminal building with a built up area capable to serve 40 passengers during peak hours.
- Apron equipped to accommodate 2 nos. aircraft (code-2B) at a time to enhance regional connectivity
- This development is expected to support the nation's vision of creating accessible and sustainable aviation infrastructure and further benefitting the disaster-response capabilities in this strategic Himalayan zone.

in the august presence of

Lt. Gen Gurmit Singh
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd)
Governor, Uttarakhand

Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu
Union Minister of Civil Aviation

Shri Murlidhar Mohol
Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation
and Cooperation

Shri Ajay Bhatt
Member of Parliament
(Lok Sabha)

Smt. Kalpana Saini
Member of Parliament
(Rajya Sabha)

Shri Mahendra Bhatt
Member of Parliament
(Rajya Sabha)

Shri Naresh Bansal
Member of Parliament
(Rajya Sabha)

Shri Shiv Arora
Member of Legislative Assembly

Sunday, 09th November, 2025 1230 hrs. Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Watch the event live on DD News

IIM-Sambalpur, Sri Sri varsity ink pact to boost research



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Sambalpur signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sri Sri University (SSU) to promote innovation, research, and holistic learning. The partnership aims to establish a long-term academic and research collaboration through joint initiatives such as workshops, research projects, publications, and student exchange programmes.

The collaboration seeks to establish a long-term academic and research partnership between the two institutions through joint initiatives such as workshops, research projects, publications, and dynamic student exchange programmes.

The signing ceremony was graced by Sri Sri University founder Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, in the presence of IIM Sambalpur Director Mahadeo

Prasad Jaiswal, Sri Sri University President Rajita Kulkarni, and senior officials and faculty members from both institutions.

Commenting on the collaboration, Jaiswal said, “We are delighted to partner with Sri Sri University to foster innovation and holistic learning. This collaboration strengthens our shared vision of integrating modern management education with human values and societal impact. The partnership will focus on, Artificial Intelligence, stress management, and spirituality among others. Together, we aim to nurture future leaders who are not only skilled and innovative but also rooted in ethics and compassion.”

Under the agreement, both universities will jointly organise educational workshops, seminars, webinars, and short-term courses focused on emerging fields such as Data Science and related areas. The partnership also envisions a

First Int’l Osteopathy meet at Sri Sri varsity

Cuttack: “There was a time when people barely knew what Osteopathy meant, often confusing it with Orthopaedics or Osteoporosis. Even parents doubted its career prospects. But times have changed—Osteopathy now enjoys global recognition for its remarkable contribution to holistic health,” said Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, humanitarian spiritual leader and Lifetime President of Sri Sri University, while inaugurating the three-day International Osteopathy Convention (IOC) at Sri Sri University, Cuttack Friday. The convention marked a new chapter in Osteopathy education and research in India, bringing together leading osteopaths and healthcare professionals from around the world on a single platform. Around 100 alumni of Sri Sri University who graduated in Osteopathy also participated in the convention. Distinguished speakers from the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Canada, Italy, Spain, and Lithuania are part of the three-day scientific gathering who will deliver intensive sessions on diverse aspects of Osteopathy. The international speakers were welcomed and felicitated by University President Rajita Kulkarni, Vice-Chancellor Tej Partap, Dean of the Faculty of Health & Wellness and sister of Gurudev, Bhanumathi Narasimhan, and Organising Committee Chairperson Tirthankar Ghosh. Director (Operations) Swami Satyachaitanya and Executive Registrar Anil Kumar Sharma were also present on the occasion.

dynamic student exchange programme, enabling faculty members and academic experts from both institutions to share knowledge and deliver lectures across undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

JANJATIYA GAURAV VARSH AT STATE TRIBAL MUSEUM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: The Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh is being celebrated across the country from November 1 to 15 to honour the rich tribal heritage, culture, and invaluable contributions of tribal communities to nation-building.

In line with the nationwide celebration, the Odisha State Tribal Museum, under the aegis of the department of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI), is observing the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda with a series of special programmes and exhibitions.

On this occasion, a dedicated Birsa Munda Pavilion has been set up at the museum. The celebration also features a painting exhibition depicting



ing the life and struggles of Birsa Munda, a photo exhibition showcasing the life and culture of various tribal communities of Odisha, and live demonstrations of traditional textile weaving by members of the Kulis tribe.

Additionally, Juang tribal artists are exhibiting their traditional paintings. As part of the outreach activities, special guided tours of the Odisha State Tribal Museum have been arranged for school and college students.



MELODIC EVENING: Flautist Pradipta Sekhar Mohapatra and his troupe, accompanied by Tabla player Biswaranjan Nanda perform during 67th Akashvani Sangeet Sammelan 2025, presented by Prasara Bharati and Ministry of Culture at the GKCM Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Saturday PHOTO: BHASKAR NAYAK

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT, VIKSIT BHARAT

City AIIMS pushes for medical innovation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar observed its 3rd Annual Research Day (ARD) and 2nd Regional Research Conclave (RRC) 2025 on the theme ‘Medical Innovation: The Need of the Hour for Atmanirbhar Bharat, Viksit Bharat’.

ICMR DG Dr Rajiv Bahl graced the occasion as chief guest. Among others, institute’s Executive Director Dr Ashutosh Biswas, BCKIC, CEO KIIT-TBI Chairman Dr Mrutyunjay Suar, Research Dean Dr Satyaajeet Misra and associate dean Dr Bhagirathi Dwivedi joined the occasion. Alongside AIIMS-Bhubaneswar’s faculty and research staff, representatives from IIT-Bhubaneswar, IIT-Kharagpur, VSSUT Burla, NISER Bhubaneswar, IISER



Berhampur, ILS Bhubaneswar, KIIMS Bhubaneswar, AIG Hospital Hyderabad, and TMCH Varanasi, as well as 14 startup firms, participated in the conclave. The event facilitated meaningful interactions between medical researchers, scientists, technologists, and entrepreneurs, creating pathways to convert startup ideas into viable healthcare products addressing current health challenges.

On the occasion, the institute released its Annual Research Report, showcasing AIIMS Bhubaneswar’s research achievements including over 25 crores in extramural grant generation and

more than 1,500 research publications by faculty members. Notable research contributions from the institute includes studies on therapeutic leads for safe anaesthesia, innovative monitoring for skin grafts, yoga therapy for bowel care, multiple micronutrients for pregnant mothers, autoimmunity as a cause of encephalitis in children, and novel molecular techniques for diagnosing spinal cord tumours. These outcomes are expected to influence both national and global healthcare practices.

In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the region, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar has also established

a compact platform to integrate medical research, life sciences, and technology for innovation-driven healthcare solutions. The initiative aims to convert novel health-tech ideas into tangible products ready for validation and commercialisation. As part of this endeavour, 33 startup ideas and medical technology products and models were showcased in which experts provided guidance for further product validation and market readiness, marking a significant step toward fostering a robust healthcare innovation ecosystem. Applauding the initiative, Bahl remarked that this process, bringing together healthcare, technology, and entrepreneurship will play a key role in ‘Viksit Bharat’ movement, encouraging young innovators to translate ideas into impactful products.

Odia diaspora in Seattle celebrate Boita Bandana



POST NEWS NETWORK

Seattle, Nov 8: On the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima, the Odia diaspora in Seattle, USA, came together to celebrate the traditional Boita Bandana festival with great joy and enthusiasm, remembering Odisha’s glorious maritime past.

Indian expatriates living in Bothell city gathered on the premises of a nearby Jagannath Temple to mark the festival in a vibrant manner. Their celebration symbolised unity, devotion, and preservation of Indian traditions even while staying abroad. Odia families, along with other Indian residents, floated beautifully decorated miniature boats (boitas) and observed the ritual while chanting “Aa Ka Ma Bai.” The event also featured dance, music, and various cultural performances.

The programme was organised under the guidance of Odia expatriates Santosh Dash, Biswa Behera, Alok Mohapatra, Bikash Behera, Biswajit Jena, Prasanajit, Amulya Das, Bibhu, and Prabin and their families.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Bhabjanagar, dated-09.10.2025, 1, Rajani Sahu, W/o.-Gopinath Sahu, At- Ambabali, P.O.-Lunipada Sasan,P.S.-Gangapur, Dist.-Ganjam, PIN-761123 declare that I have changed my name from Rajani Kumari Sahoo to Rajani Sahu. Henceforth, I shall be known as Rajani Sahu for all purposes.

Chit fund: ED seizes ₹84L, car in Berhampur

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 8: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized unaccounted cash totalling ₹84.20 lakh and a luxury car during searches at four premises in Odisha’s Berhampur in connection with a ₹69-crore chit fund scam, an official said Saturday.

The ED, Bhubaneswar conducted search operation Thursday at four premises under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 as part of an ongoing money laundering investigation against the Green India Infra Projects Limited and its related entities.

The ED case is related to an FIR (RC.11/S/2014) registered June 4, 2014 against the Green India Infra Projects Limited and its promoters in connection with multi crore rupees chit fund scam.

It was alleged that various group companies had collected the money from hundreds of gullible investors and ultimately cheated them.



mately cheated them.

The said amounts were collected under the guise of huge returns or to provide flats in ‘Green Paradise Project’. However, the company neither returned the invested amount, nor gave any flats to the investors.

On being asked to refund the money paid to the alleged company by the investors, the MD of the company refused to refund the amount paid by them as advance and threatened them. Thus, the depositors have been cheated by the said company to the tune of ₹69 crore, the ED said.

During investigation, it was found that the accused persons had laundered the proceeds of crime and invested the same in the various immovable properties and other assets, the statement said.

Sharing details of the action taken Thursday, the ED said that during search operations, unaccounted cash of ₹84.20 lakh was found and seized.

“Further, one Mercedes car and some documentary evidence/digital devices were also seized. Various incriminating documents including property papers found during the search were seized,” it said.

Pitabas murder: Kin alleges death threats

Berhampur: The family of slain lawyer and BJP leader Pitabas Panda has alleged receiving death threats and pressure to withdraw the murder case. Panda’s wife, Susmita Panda, made the revelation during a presser at her residence Saturday. She alleged that a few days back, the accused persons’ associates had made threatening phone calls twice to Panda’s son and brother, hurling abuses and warning them to withdraw the case. “They threatened to kill me and my son if we don’t withdraw the case,” Susmita said, adding that the family is living in fear. She said the matter has been reported to senior police officials and a written complaint has been filed at Baidyanathpur police station. Susmita added that after her husband’s death, their family friend Bikram Panda had visited them, promising protection. “But later, police arrested him for his alleged involvement in my husband’s murder, which shocked us deeply,” she said. Expressing concern for her family’s safety, Susmita urged the court not to grant bail to any of the accused. Pitabas’ elder brother, Prakash Panda, and younger brother, Purnachandra Panda, were also present at the press conference. Police have registered a case based on their complaint, said Berhampur SDPO Priyansaranjan Chhotray, adding that security has been provided to the family. Notably, lawyer Pitabas Panda was shot dead October 6.

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	32.3°	27.6°	Fog/mist in the morning & mainly clear sky later
Min Temp	18.9°	18.6°	
Humidity	67%	75%	
Rainfall	NII	NII	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-DayalAgency-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, 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-Cookiemann-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.

The path is long, but self-surrender makes it short; the way is difficult, but perfect trust makes it easy.

THE MOTHER



People Trump

The first amendment of the United States constitution reads as follows:

‘Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances’.

The language seems slightly archaic because it was written in 1789, but is clear enough for us to understand that freedom of speech cannot be curtailed. It can however be restricted, for example when related to threats of violence or pornography.

In 2010, the US Supreme Court eliminated restrictions on the funding of elections, interpreting this as a First Amendment free speech right. Corporations and wealthy individuals were free to influence elections, by creating political action committees that spend money on advertising. This was the outcome of the famous Citizens United case, which fatally damaged US democracy because both their major political parties are now permanently influenced by corporate interests. If the reason you won your seat is your donors, then it is likely that your actions in office will also be influenced by them. This seems to have become inescapable in US politics. However, there is another way of doing politics, and though its formula is simple, its execution is very hard.

To attempt something that carries a high failure rate takes a certain sort of determination and outlook. To succeed in it is truly remarkable. An example of this comes to us from the recent New York election for mayor. There were two different approaches to contesting from the two major candidates. The first approach is the one preferred by both major political parties and their candidates, which is to win by raising more money than the opponent. This money is then deployed chiefly on messaging: advertising on television and mailers to overwhelm the voter with positive impressions about the candidate paying for the ad and negative ones about the opponent.

The more ads one can put out the greater the chance of success. A report from 2018 headlined ‘How money affects elections’ found that more than 90% of the time, the candidate who raised and spent more than their rival won their race for a seat in Congress (their version of the Lok Sabha).

One major candidate in New York, Andrew Cuomo, took this approach and raised more than five times the money his opponent had. He lost. Why?

The second approach, the reason this piece is being written, is to convince voters not through advertising but through personal conversations. This is effective but does not seem to be scalable. It seems especially absurd to attempt in a general election where the voters number in the millions. The scale has to be staggering and the number of people required to do this would surely cost more than advertising. And it would be difficult for these people to open conversations with strangers, because many at home would either not answer the door or ask the person to leave, or not stop on the street when hailed.

Even if they chose to speak then it would not be easy to convince them to vote for the candidate. After all this, the success rate is likely worse than 1 in 10. Meaning that for every person that is convinced into voting for the candidate, another 10 slam the door or say they will support the other side or just walk on.

How would one keep these workers motivated enough to keep attempting this and not just stay at home or in a cafe and pretend that they had been knocking on doors or stopping strangers on the street? These are the reasons this approach is not preferred and why candidates choose to just raise more money.

It can only succeed under certain conditions: First, that the message is compelling to a large number of potential voters. Second, that the workers are highly motivated and not put off by the high rate of failure. The motivation of the workers here is not money but the cause. It is similar to propagation and proselytising. Third, that there is some mechanism that monitors the engagement and sees it through to voting day. Meaning to repeatedly stay in touch with people once contact is made.

This was the approach used by Zohran Mamdani, the Indian-origin socialist who won and will be New York’s mayor. Those who say he is inexperienced and knows little about leadership do not understand that to motivate people to throw themselves into something that has a high rate of failure, and then succeed at it, is the highest expression of leadership. An army of over 1 lakh volunteers trained and led by 700 senior volunteers worked for Zohran. These were mostly young people but also many middle aged and old who gave hours, for many months, doing physical work for their cause.

More than \$40 million was spent by corporates backing Andrew Cuomo to paint Zohran as a terrorist. They lost to the volunteers who were paid nothing.

This win will be studied for a long time because it reduces to bare essence the two approaches to winning elections and shows the limits of billionaire power.

As activists in America say: They have money, we have people.



Aakar Patel

Those who say Zohran Mamdani is inexperienced and knows little about leadership do not understand that to motivate people to throw themselves into something that has a high rate of failure, and then succeed at it, is the highest expression of leadership



Malay Mishra

THE GAME OF LEVERAGING ITS STRATEGIC AUTONOMY FOR HARD BARGAINING WITH WASHINGTON HAS BROUGHT INDIA TO A CROSSROADS

PM Modi’s inexplicable absence from the ASEAN and EAS Summits in Malaysia (Oct 26-29), particularly in view of the rapidly evolving global relations in a multipolar world, has been viewed as a matter of concern among foreign policy analysts as a step-back of India’s personalized and upfront diplomacy. While some commentators have normalized the PM’s absence as his preoccupation with domestic commitments, others have belied such assumptions in view of his several visits to countries in Asia, Europe and South America during the year. With both US and Chinese Presidents making marquee appearances which they did sidelining India’s role in the Global South (and by extension its Act East policy), India was left out of reckoning when its role as an alternative to China’s primacy in the region was much sought.

It’s ironic that while an elaborate Maritime Security Week was organized by the defence forces in Mumbai in the context of GOI’s declaration of 2026 as the Year of India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation, the PM’s absence from the most consequential event was lost sight of. Instead, Modi in his virtual address to the 22nd India-ASEAN Summit reaffirmed support for ASEAN centrality and Indo-Pacific cooperation. Even though India had announced the Quadrilateral summit to take place this year in India, the matter was not raised at all though all the Quad leaders were there.

The US-ASEAN summit saw several ASEAN States get Trump-imposed tariffs reduced while there was promise from the ASEAN side for export of rare earth minerals and elements besides market access to agriculture, technology and pharmaceuticals.



Tired of Trump’s regular boasts of having been instrumental in stopping the India-Pakistan conflict and his continuous sermonizing to India to stop buying oil from Russia, Modi may have decided to avoid meeting the mercurial US President

It may be noted that while Malaysia supplies 13% of the global demand for critical minerals, China possesses 69%. China used its advance in this area in agreeing to a one-year freeze on its ban imposed a month ago on such exports to the US in lieu of Trump softening its tariffs on China to 47%, lower than India and Brazil, while committing to bring down its Fentanyl exports to the US and giving market access to US soybeans.

In the US-China Summit in Busan, South Korea, Trump gloated about a historic win in his tariff war with China while the latter took asobering posture in standing firm in its strategy to hedge America. This was construed as yet another comedown for Trump (after the Alaska fiasco) in which the US was seen as the weaker side in handling the other two global powers on Ukraine and tariffs. In contrast, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the largest free trade agreement of the world signed in Nov 2020, held its first Summit where China’s primacy in the ASEAN bloc

was reaffirmed. India had stepped back from signing the RCEP due to domestic considerations at that time which was perceived as a serious setback to India’s efforts towards regional connectivity and multilateralism. It may be noted that China is ASEAN’s largest trading partner with bilateral tradeworth \$ 771 billion in 2024 while India’s bilateral trade with the group stands at \$ 106.9 billion for the same period (as the 6th largest trading partner).

Tired of Trump’s regular boasts of having been instrumental in stopping the India-Pakistan conflict in May this year and his continuous sermonizing to India to stop buying oil from Russia, Modi may have decided to avoid meeting the mercurial US President. Besides, unsure of positioning itself in the Great Power matrix and with Putin visiting India later this year for a bilateral summit, it may not have gone down well with the PM’s image to be again seen shortchanged by Trump.

As per reports India has reduced imports of Russian oil and in this the recent assertion of Trump would have

amounted to further pressure on India even at the cost of the latter’s national interests and geo-strategic options. The game of leveraging its strategic autonomy for hard bargaining with Washington has brought India to a crossroads. Delhi’s approach of pleasing all sides and shifting partnerships to gain specific leverage and locational advantages may have gone this far and no farther. At the end of the day India’s further alienation in the Global South needs to be critically assessed and its claim for leadership closely viewed notwithstanding the attendant threats that belittle such claims.

India’s civilizational links with South East Asia have been forged in history, culture and trade alliances, and that requires careful nurturing. The centrality of AEAN for India has to be thus evaluated in the crucible of those long-standing linkages and be broadly reflective of India’s global standing. Forging partnerships in the region and beyond is of critical importance with or without the claim of asserting superiority which has to be silently nurtured and worked through with abiding values. As late PM Dr Manmohan Singh in an essay written for the “Rethinking India” series titled India’s tryst with the World presciently states, “We should be conscious of the fact that as partnerships gain in importance, India may have to accept greater constraint on the exercise of its strategic autonomy. I would therefore hope that our focus remains on building up our own capabilities for which accelerated growth is indispensable”.

The author is a retired diplomat and foreign policy analyst. Views expressed are personal.

SPECTRUM ELECTIONS IN INDIA

Education and awareness key

Elections are a continuing phase in Indian politics and are held as a process of legitimization of the political power to be acquired. In this scenario, for safeguarding the core values of a free and fair election, it is important to have a just and unbiased electoral process to ensure greater citizen participation.

However, there are certain challenges and issues that the electoral system has faced over the years. Trust and confidence of the citizens in the electoral system cannot be gained without addressing these issues (Election Commission of India, 2016). A discernible decline in the standards began and the distortion in its working appeared for the first time in the fifth General Elections in 1971 which multiplied several times in subsequent elections.

Analysts have found that the election process in our country is the root cause of political corruption. The issue of election reforms has been taken up by Parliament, the government, the judiciary,

the media and the Election Commission on numerous occasions but very little has been done. It needs to be corrected at the societal level itself through education and awareness.

Meanwhile, this month elections are being held in Bihar, and next year will witness elections in West Bengal, Assam, Kerala and Tamil Nadu along with Pondicherry.

Though elections theoretically may be a part of the democratic process, it is only money power and muscle power that wins elections. This is very much true in the case of Bihar and West Bengal and some other states, mostly in the north.

Bihar Assembly poll, which is now very much in the news, it can safely be said that the backwardness of the state will not improve whosoever comes to power.

The political scenario in the country is largely dominated by upper castes and, as such, there is very little concern for the poor and the ECS, both at the Centre and in the states.

In Bihar, the RJD exhib-

its an isolation from social reality. Yadavs constituting 14 percent of the population, have received 36 percent of the tickets. Even among Yadavs, it is found that landed aristocracy and business families have cornered the tickets. Data from the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) showed that between 2005 and 2020, MLAs/MPs of RJD had average declared assets of Rs 2.14 crores, comparable to the JD(U), the BJP and the Congress, highlighting the elite entrenchment. This happens to be a similar picture of political parties across the country.

Compared with Bihar and West Bengal, the performance of Tamil Nadu and Kerala is much better. In fact, Tamil Nadu is one of the most developed states and along with Kerala, both are way ahead on social infrastructure development.

Another aspect of the election scenario that needs to be highlighted is that though it may be recorded that say 65 to 70 percent of voters may have exercised their franchise,

more than half are either not concerned or are unaware of the policies and pledges of the political party they have voted for. Moreover, very few are aware of the pledges made last time and how much of them have actually been implemented. This is due to lack of education and awareness. Unless awareness levels improve, voters may vote but the whole affair may just be a farce.

Finally, it needs to be emphasized that the intertwining of money and muscle power in politics is a pressing issue that challenges the very essence of democracy. Addressing these challenges requires a collective effort from citizens, political parties, and the government. By not promoting transparency, enforcing accountability, and fostering a culture of ethical politics is unfortunate and goes against the very tenets of democratic principles. There is a need to ensure that the voice of every citizen is heard, untainted by undue influences.

INFA



Dhurjati Mukherjee

ANALYSTS HAVE FOUND THAT THE ELECTION PROCESS IN OUR COUNTRY IS THE ROOT CAUSE OF POLITICAL CORRUPTION

WISDOM CORNER

You must be prepared to face life, but you must never give up.

RK NARAYANAN

It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog.

MARK TWAIN

Those who ‘abjure’ violence can do so only because others are committing violence on their behalf.

GEORGE ORWELL

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

■ **1877:** Indian poet and philosopher Sir Mu ammad Iqb l—who was known for his influential efforts to direct his fellow Muslims toward the establishment of a separate Muslim state, an aspiration that was eventually realized in the country of Pakistan—was born in Sialkot, India (now in Pakistan).

■ **1922:** Albert Einstein was named the winner of the 1921 Nobel Prize for Physics for his explanation of the photoelectric effect; the Nobel committee had delayed awarding the 1921 physics prize until 1922.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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



Back to basics

Sir, Apopros, “Experts warn of rising obesity, heart attacks among youth,” **Orissa POST**, November 7. An alarming health crisis is unfolding as more young people fall prey to heart attacks — once considered a disease of the middle-aged. Rising obesity, driven by sedentary lifestyles, high stress, and the growing dependence on processed and fast foods, lies at the core of this epidemic. The convenience of digital work, long screen hours, and declining physical activity have created a generation that is overfed but undernourished. Medical experts warn that India’s urban youth are ageing biologically faster than ever, with heart health deteriorating in their 20s and 30s. The solution may lie in returning to the principles of the world’s Blue Zones — regions known for exceptional longevity and low rates of lifestyle diseases. These communities thrive on plant-rich diets, natural movement, social bonding, and low stress. Emulating their habits — walking more, eating home-cooked whole foods, and prioritising sleep and relationships — can reverse the ticking time bomb of lifestyle-related heart disease.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Shameful act

Sir, The Miss Universe 2025 pageant in Thailand exposed the harsh realities behind the façade of glamour. Contest organiser Nawat Itsaragrisil publicly humiliated Miss Mexico, calling her a “dumbhead” over a supposed missed promotional shoot. In protest, she, Miss Iraq, and several other contestants walked out, shining a light on the widespread exploitation and coercion endemic in international beauty pageants. The severity of the incident prompted Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum to intervene, demanding accountability and strict protection for participants, underlining that such treatment is unacceptable. Historical reports from other pageants reveal forced undressing, invasive body checks, and harassment behind closed doors, practices that starkly contradict claims of empowerment. Global pageant authorities must establish independent oversight bodies, enforce transparent contracts, and implement robust anti-harassment protocols. Countries like India should demand these safeguards or consider withholding participation, sending a clear signal that contestants’ dignity, safety, and rights cannot be compromised for spectacle or marketing.

RS Narula, PATIALA

KHANDU PLANT DISCOVERY

Arunachal discovers rare plant species

Experts believe that these findings not only expand India's floristic records but also emphasise the importance of continued scientific exploration and conservation efforts in the Eastern Himalayas.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, Nov 8: Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Saturday said scientists at Botanical Survey of India's regional centre here discovered two rare Hoya species of plants, marking a significant milestone in the documentation of the state's floral diversity.

The chief minister informed that Hoya chinghungensis has been reported for the first time in India, while Hoya acuminata has been recorded for the first



time in Arunachal Pradesh.

Sharing the information on X (social media platform), Khandu said, "Heartiest congratulations to the entire team of Botanical Survey of India, Arunachal Pradesh Regional Centre, Itanagar for their remarkable scientific

contribution."

The discoveries were made during extensive floristic explorations conducted in the districts of East Kameng, Pakke Kessang, and Longding, he said.

Khandu lauded the scientists for their dedication, stat-

ing that the discovery once again highlights the "rich and unique biodiversity of Arunachal Pradesh".

"Proud moment for our scientists and researchers. Many more such discoveries await in our forests!" he said.

The discovery by BSI (British Standards Institute) researchers underscores Arunachal Pradesh's position as a global biodiversity hotspot, with many of its forested regions remaining biologically unexplored.

The Hoya genus, commonly known as wax plants, is prized for its beautiful star-shaped flowers and ecological significance in forest ecosystems.

Experts believe that these findings not only expand India's floristic records but also emphasise the importance of continued scientific exploration and conservation efforts in the Eastern Himalayas.

Kerala woman booked for filming reel in Shrine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thrissur, Nov 8: Jasna Salim, an artist known for her Lord Krishna paintings, has been booked again for allegedly violating the ban on filming videos on Guruvayoor Sree Krishna temple premises, police said, Saturday.

Guruvayoor Temple police, Friday registered a case against Salim, and another person who handles an Instagram page (social media platform) on charges of allegedly filming a social media reel at the "nadapandal" of the shrine recently.

The case was registered based on a complaint of the temple administrative officer, police said.

She was booked under various sections of the BNS (Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita), and an investigation is on in this



regard, police said.

An ardent devotee of Lord Krishna, Jasna Salim created many paintings of little Krishna and gifted a painting to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Thrissur recently.

Police said she had violated a recent High Court ruling

that deemed filming such videos within shrine premises and sharing them on social media platforms is unacceptable.

Jasna had courted controversy earlier as well, when she cut a cake near the Guruvayoor temple premises and attempted to film a video of it.

Assam to begin eviction drive to clear land encroachment



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Goalpara, Nov 8: A two-day eviction drive will be undertaken from Sunday to clear encroachments from over 375 acres of forest land in Assam's Goalpara district, a senior official said.

He said notices have been served to 580 households, asking them to clear out of the encroached lands in Dahikata reserve forest, with about 70 per cent of them already leav-

ing the area, he said.

"The eviction drive will be undertaken to clear encroachments from 1,140 bighas (376 acres) of forest land. It will be carried out over two days from tomorrow," Goalpara District Commissioner (DC) Prodip Timung said, Saturday.

"We have divided the area into five blocks... and only in one block, some people are still there. In the other blocks, most have left," Timung said.

"We have allowed the people to dismantle and move out with their things by today, and most have gone," he added.

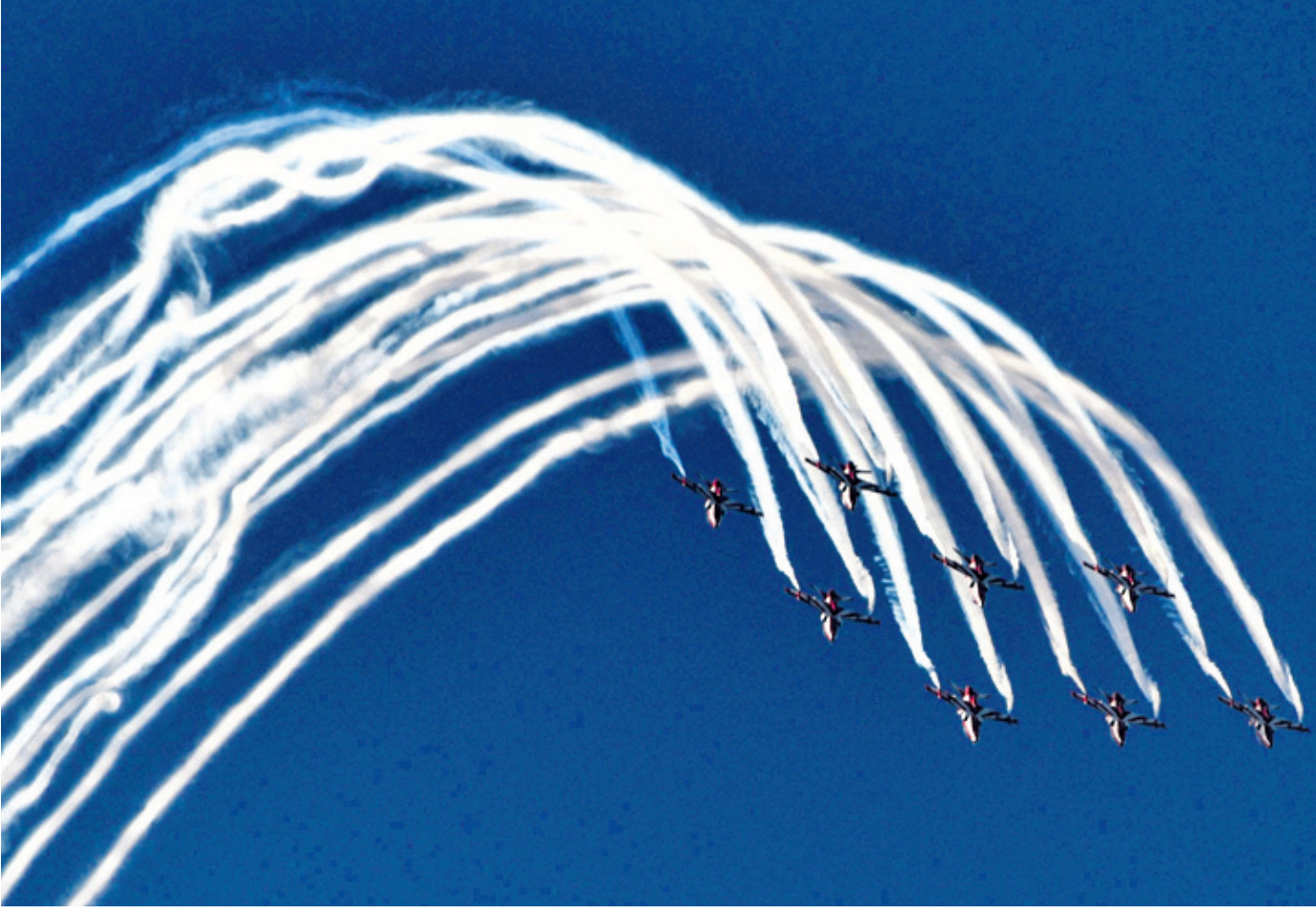
The DC said the eviction drive is being undertaken as per Gauhati High Court's directives, with three petitions regarding the operation being earlier heard by the court.

"We are hopeful of a peaceful drive. There is sufficient security deployment and there has been no resistance so far," Timung added.

The Himanta Biswa Sarma-led government has been carrying out eviction drives to clear encroached lands.

He had earlier asserted that eviction drives will continue till all encroached lands were cleared, claiming that huge tracts are under the possession of "illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and doubtful citizens."

Sarma had said that 29 lakh bighas (more than 9.5 lakh acres) of land is still under encroachment in the state and 1.29 lakh bighas (over 42,500 acres) have been cleared in the last four years.



Indian Air Force's (IAF) Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team performs manoeuvres during rehearsals for the upcoming air show as part of the 93rd Air Force Day celebrations, in Guwahati, Assam, Saturday

Doctor slams poor medical condition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 8: A senior government doctor, Saturday strongly criticised the circumstances surrounding the recent death of a cardiac patient, who allegedly did not receive proper treatment at the state-run Government Medical College Hospital here.

Dr Haris Chirakkal, head of the Urology Department at the hospital, described the death of the patient, Venu, a native of Kollam, as "unfortunate" and "painful."

Chirakkal, who recently drew attention to the shortage of surgical equipment and delays in procedures at the medical college, said Venu was made to lie on the floor of the hospital.

"How can a patient be made to lie on the floor? How can treatment be given that way? To make patients lie on the floor is uncivilised," he said while speaking at a programme here.

The doctor said that more patients are now being made to lie on the floor at the government medical college than when he joined the institution as a student in 1986.

He said it was painful to learn that the patient had to travel a long distance to seek treatment at the hospital.

Setting up medical colleges across the state would be of no use if such situations continued, he said, adding that tertiary care centres of super-speciality standards were the need of the hour.

GLACIER EXPEDITION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, Nov 8: The fourth Khangri glacier expedition, a major scientific mission to study the response of Himalayan glaciers to climate change, commenced, Saturday in the Mago Chu basin under the towering Gorichen Mountain in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district, an official said.

The week-long expedition, to be continued till November 15, is jointly organised by the Centre for Earth Sciences & Himalayan Studies (CESHS) and the National Centre for Polar & Ocean Research (NCPOR), he said.

Led by scientist Dr Parmanand Sharma, one of India's leading glaciologists, the expedition brings together a multidisciplinary team of scientists and engineers from CESHS,



NCPOR, Nagaland University, and North East Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST), CESHS director Tana Tage said. Despite the vast glaciated expanse of the Arunachal Himalayas, scientists point out that very few glaciers in the region have been studied in detail, making it one of the least explored 'white spots' of the Indian cryosphere.

While the state is home to 161 glaciers covering nearly 223 square kilometres across four

major basins - Manas, Subansiri, Kameng, and Dibang- none has undergone long-term field-based monitoring to assess their mass balance or glacial dynamics, the official said.

The expedition's primary objective is to conduct systematic studies on glacier mass balance and movement to understand their differential responses to the changing climate, he said.

Researchers will also examine the evolution of glacial lakes in the region and

Arunachal to organise butterfly festival soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, Nov 8: The Namdapha Butterfly Festival in Arunachal Pradesh, Changlang district will be held from November 26 to 28, an official said.

Namdapha National Park & Tiger Reserve (NNP&TR) Field Director AK Deka said the event, which celebrates the rich biodiversity of the region, will take place at Khachang village in Miao. The three-day festival aims to bring together nature enthusiasts, researchers, and local communities, he said.



The festival is being organised by the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department in collaboration with several community groups, including the Khachang-Matungkhim Youth Forum, he added.

The Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve is known as one of the world's most biodiverse hotspots, and is home to over 500 species of butterflies, making the festival a crucial platform for eco-tourism and conservation awareness. It is home to the world's most spectacular butterflies, including Kaiser-i-Hind, the Blue Mormon, Peacock Pansy, and the rarely seen Zig-zag Flat and Yellow Veined Lancer, the official said.

BLACK MAGIC THREAT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kottayam, Nov 8: A young woman was allegedly forced to smoke beedi and drink alcohol while being subjected to hours-long physical and mental torture in the name of black magic in Kottayam district of Kerala, police said, Saturday.

Her partner, and his family brought a sorcerer to their home last week, allegedly for what they called "to evict a ghost from the woman's body" and subjected her to hours-long ordeals, police said.

As the mental condition of the woman deteriorated,

her father lodged a complaint, following which the police registered a case and launched an investigation.

Police said the sorcerer Shivasdas (54), the woman's partner Akhil Das (26) and his father Das (54) were arrested in this regard, Friday.

As per the complaint, the partner's mother had brought the sorcerer and made arrangements for the black magic, alleging that the woman's body was possessed by the evil spirits of her deceased relatives.

"The process started by 11 am on the day and lasted till night. I fell unconscious at the end," the woman told



the media, Saturday.

She alleged that, amidst the ritual, she was given alcohol, forced to smoke beedi, made to consume "sacred ash", and subjected to other forms of physical torture, including burn injuries.

The sorcerer, the prime accused in the case, who had gone into hiding after switching off his phone following the incident, was arrested from the Muthoor area in Thiruvalla, police said.

The partner's mother, a co-accused in the case, is currently absconding, they added. The arrested were remanded by a court later, police added.

Farmers are not getting fair prices for their produce. The government announced procurement at MSP (minimum support price), but the purchasing centres started (operating) very late

UDDHAV THACKERAY | SHIV SENA (UBT) CHIEF

Just in the last few days, a Goan opposing hill cutting gets murdered; citizens are shot at over illegal sand extraction; a youth is beaten inside a police station; people are killed in Saligao in a pool of blood

ARVIND KEIRIWAL | AAP LEADER

We will disclose how and where the previous BJP government auctioned the estates of Himachal Pradesh and reveal to the people how the interests of the state were compromised in the name of the double-engine government

SUKHINDER SINGH SUKHU | CHIEF MINISTER, HIMACHAL PRADESH

SHORT TAKES

ED attaches ₹21-cr assets of Cong MLA

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate Saturday said it has attached assets worth Rs 21 crore of Karnataka Congress MLA Satish Krishna Sail as part of a money laundering investigation against him linked to a case of alleged illegal export of iron ore. A provisional order was issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) November 6 and the attached properties belong to Sail, who holds these assets through his Goa-based company named Shree Mallikarjun shipping Pvt Ltd. (SMSPL), the ED said in a statement. The 59-year-old legislator from the Karwar assembly seat in Uttara Kannada was arrested by the federal probe agency in September.

48 stranded workers return from Tunisia

Ranchi: Forty-eight migrant workers from Jharkhand, allegedly stranded in Tunisia, have safely returned to their home districts, officials said Saturday. Team leader at the Migrant Control Cell (Jharkhand Labour department) Shikha Lakra told PTI Saturday that all the migrant workers reached their homes Friday. “They returned in different batches based on their flights from Tunisia to Mumbai and returned to their home districts of Hazaribagh, Giridih and Bokaro by train. The last batch reached Bokaro Friday. All the workers had their three months’ salary cleared by the employing company,” said Lakra.

Court rejects bail plea of Raza, five others

Bareilly (UP): A court in Bareilly has rejected the bail applications of Ittehad-e-Millat Council chief and five others arrested for attacking police personnel during the September 26 violence over the “I Love Mohammad” posters controversy. Additional District Government Counsel (ADGC) Mahesh Pathak told PTI on Saturday that IMC chief Maulana Tauqueer Raza had called on members of the Muslim community to gather at the Islami Maidan on the day of the violence despite prohibitory orders imposed in the city. When police intervened, the mob resorted to stone-pelting, he said. The rioters also stole the rifle of the gunner of the Superintendent of Police (city) and a wireless set from a police jeep, the ADGC added.



On this day, exactly nine years ago, the biggest fraud on Indians. Demonetisation. PM Narendra Modi outside Parliament versus us, inside Parliament

DEREK O'BRIEN | TRINAMOL CONGRESS LEADER



DELHI ENTERS ‘RED ZONE’

Delhiites are facing increasingly toxic air quality each day, with pollution levels crossing the 400 mark in several parts of the city Saturday, making the national capital one of the most polluted cities in the country

Cong fighting ‘Modi empire’ like Gandhi fought British: Priyanka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Katihar/Bhagalpur/Purnea, Nov 8: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Saturday claimed that her party was now fighting the same battle against the “Modi empire” that Mahatma Gandhi once fought against the British imperialists.

Addressing back-to-back rallies in Bihar’s Katihar, Bhagalpur, and Purnea districts, Vadra claimed PM Narendra Modi was not maintaining the dignity of his post by using words such as ‘katta’ (country-made pistol) and ‘donali’ (double-barrel gun) during the election campaign in the state.

“The battle that the INDIA bloc and Congress are fighting today is the same battle that Mahatma Gandhi once fought against the British imperialists. Even today, we are fighting for your rights and the truth. Even today, we are fighting against an empire, which is the Modi empire,” she claimed.

“Today, PM Modi runs the government in the same way. He suppresses people and divides them. The rights for

Vadra alleged that on the one hand, the PM was hailing ‘Vande Mataram’, which stood for non-violence, on the other, he was using words like ‘katta’ and ‘donali’ at public rallies

which Mahatma Gandhi fought are in danger today. The most important among those rights is the right to vote,” she added.

Vadra alleged that on the one hand, the PM was hailing ‘Vande Mataram’, which stood for non-violence, on the other, he was using words like ‘katta’ and ‘donali’ at public rallies.

“Though they commemorated the 150th anniversary of the national song, at one point in time in history, the BJP and RSS were reluctant to sing Vande Mataram, which was a song of the Independence movement and signifies the nation’s unity,” she claimed.



The Wayanad MP claimed that the “BJP’s nationalism is fake” as they only talk about it when elections approach.

“Their Agnipath scheme has demotivated the youth of Bihar who once prepared for being recruited in the army with a lot of rigour and nationalistic fervour,” she claimed.

Vadra also criticised the NDA government, alleging that it has failed to provide em-

ployment to the youth and was handing over all public sector undertakings to Modi’s “two corporate friends”.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Saturday rubbished Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah’s predictions of the NDA’s victory in the Bihar assembly polls, pointing out that their “400 plus” claim in the Lok Sabha elections was way off the mark.

He spoke to PTI Video in Gaya, where he insisted that “all was not well” in the BJP-led coalition, as there were doubts that Nitish Kumar, the JD(U) president and longest-serving chief minister, would be backed for another term in office.

“The Prime Minister can say anything. Ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, they kept saying 400 paar,” said Kharge, pointing to the performance of the BJP in last year’s general elections, when it fell short of a majority and became dependent on allies like JD(U) and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu’s TDP for survival in power.

LAND DEAL ROW

Parth firm to pay ₹42crore; nobody will be spared: CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Nov 8: After Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar announced that the sale deed executed by his son Parth’s firm for a prime land in Pune has been scrapped, officials said the company will have to cough up double the stamp duty, which comes to Rs 42 crore, to get the transaction cancelled.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis Saturday said action in the Pune land deal case is being taken as per law and there is no question of saving anybody.

FIRs have been filed against signatories and vendors and those found guilty in the probe will be booked, Fadnavis said, when asked about the First Information Report (FIR) not naming Parth.

“Those who don’t even understand what an FIR is, are the ones making baseless allegations. When an FIR is registered, it is filed against the express parties involved. In this case, the FIR has been filed against the company and its authorised signatories,” he said.

NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar said he supported a probe into the controversial land deal linked to the company of his grandnephew Parth.

Maharashtra Congress president Harshwardhan Sapkal demanded that the state government release a ‘white paper’ on land transactions in Pune and Mumbai and hold a full-day discussion on the issue during the upcoming winter session of state legislature.

An official said the Depart-



ment of Registration and Stamps has informed Digvijay Amarsinh Patil, the cousin of Parth Pawar and a partner in Amadea Enterprises LLP that the firm must pay the earlier 7 per cent stamp duty (5 per cent under the Maharashtra Stamp Act, 1 per cent Local Body Tax and 1 per cent Metro Cess), as it had sought an exemption by claiming a data centre was proposed on the land. The company must also pay an additional 7 per cent stamp duty to execute the cancellation deed, the official said.

The firm had claimed a stamp duty exemption at the time of the sale deed by stating that a data centre would be set up on the land, he said. However, the cancellation deed shows that the plan has been dropped.

The sale deed of the 40-acre government land in the upscale Mundhwa area to Amadea Enterprises came under the scanner for want of required clearances Thursday. Opposition leaders alleged that its market value was Rs 1,800 crore.

Based on a complaint filed by the Inspector General of Registrar’s office, the Pimpri Chinchwad police registered an FIR against Digvijay Patil Shital Tejwani (who represented the 272 ‘owners’ of the land through the power of attorney), and sub-registrar RB Taru for alleged misappropriation and cheating.

Flight operations at Delhi airport are normal: DIAL

NEW DELHI: Airline operations at the Delhi airport, the country’s busiest airport, are normal now, airport operator DIAL said Saturday, a day after a glitch with the air traffic control system delayed more than 800 flights. The technical problem with the Automatic Message Switching System (AMSS), which supports the air traffic control’s flight planning process, continued for over 15 hours from around 5:45 am Friday.

1 killed, shanties destroyed in Rithala fire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: A man died and another sustained burn injuries after a massive fire broke out spreading to around 500 shanties near Rithala metro station in Delhi’s Rohini, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the fire that erupted late Friday evening was brought fully under control by deploying adequate teams and those affected in the incident were being provided relief.

In a post on X, she said the injured were rushed to the hospital and relief and rehabilitation work was swiftly underway. The affected were provided food and water and temporary shelters were set up to shift them.

Police said several LPG cylinders were said to have exploded late Friday evening, intensifying the blaze and triggering panic among residents.

Thick plumes of smoke were



seen rising from the area even as locals scrambled to save their belongings and move to safer places. Preliminary information suggests that 400 to 500 huts have been gutted, fire officials said.

The DFS said it received a call regarding the blaze at 10.56 pm, following which multiple fire tenders and firefighting robots were rushed to the spot.

Police cordoned off the area and additional fire tenders were kept on standby to prevent the fire from spreading further.

The fire was brought under control by early morning, a DFS official said. Munna died in the fire while Rajesh was injured in the incident.

CM Gupta said the Delhi government is providing all possible help to the affected families.

“Arrangements for food and drinking water have been made for the affected people. Temporary shelter sites are being established, while the permanent relief centre at Rithala community centre is operational,” the chief minister posted.

A COLONIAL DILEMMA ABOUT STRAYS

Delhi’s 80-year-struggle to deal in ‘humane’ ways

Supreme Court directed forthwith relocation of stray dogs from institutional areas to designated shelters after due sterilisation and vaccination

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: The dilemma on humane ways to deal with stray animals in Delhi is not a recent one, with the city’s British administrators having to deal with the same issue. Even then, they debated ways to deal with the problem, with some officials suggesting “most painless” ways to kill the animals.

Fast forward eight decades, and the country’s top court is grappling with the same issue. It took note of the “alarming rise” in dog bite incidents within institutional areas and directed the forthwith relocation of stray canines to designated shelters after due sterilisation and vaccination Friday.

Records from 1946-47 preserved in the Delhi Archives reveal that even then, officials discussed “humane” ways to control the stray dog population.

In a letter dated April 11, 1946, the chief commissioner of Delhi wrote to the deputy commissioner expressing his objection to the use of strychnine poison for killing stray dogs, calling it “inhumane”.

He described poisoning as the “most objectionable” and “by no manner or means of a painless death”, noting that the animals suffered for nearly 20 minutes before dying. He requested the authorities to adopt “some painless method”, suggesting the use of chloroform or electrocution instead.

After the letter, the deputy

- Records from 1946-47 preserved in the Delhi Archives reveal that even then, officials discussed ‘humane’ ways to control the stray dog population
- In a letter dated April 11, 1946, the chief commissioner of Delhi wrote to the deputy commissioner expressing his objection to the use of strychnine poison for killing stray dogs, calling it ‘inhumane’

commissioner inspected the Civil Veterinary Hospital April 29, 1946, and recommended electrocution as the “ideal method” since it led to instantaneous death, the record in possession of PTI showed.

According to the record, the hospital at the time was using hydrocyanic acid, which killed



the animal within minutes with “practically negligible suffering”.

The chief commissioner also raised similar concerns about the killing of pigs, noting that they were stabbed in the heart or neck veins and “squealed loudly in pain”, urging that “something more humane

should be possible”.

In May 1946, health officials from Delhi who visited Bombay and Madras to study the methods used there also reported that electrocution was the most “effective and humane” option, the record further showed.

“By March 1947, the office of the chief health officer of Del-

hi Province reported that 648 stray dogs had been destroyed in rural areas of the city, including 105 in Khera Khurd village,” it read.

This debate between what is a “compassionate” way to deal with the problem and what would be regarded as “cruel” exacerbates Delhi’s administrators to this day.

While the apex court’s approach to sterilisation and relocation may seem a “humane” approach in dealing with the problem, animal rights activists have strongly opposed it, calling the move “cruel” and “detached from reality”.

The question of how to balance public safety with compassion for animals remains relevant even today.

of the day

quote

The Jain lifestyle of vegetarianism, compassion towards animals and sustainable living is recognised worldwide as a model of environmental responsibility



CP RADHAKRISHNAN | VICE PRESIDENT

If Rahul Gandhi is really concerned about Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or minority communities, he should have given the post of leader of opposition in Lok Sabha to someone from these communities,



RAINATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

Since 2014, the Centre has invested Rs 21,000 crore in the education sector in the North-east. Over 850 new schools have been opened. The first AIIMS in the region has become operational, and over 200 new skill development institutes have been operationalised



NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | UNION FINANCE MINISTER

X

POST OF THE DAY

If someone started their SIP in peak of 2021 market, here would be the returns-



1) Nifty 50 TRI= 9.6% annualized

2) Nifty Midcap 150= 13-15% annualized

3) Smallcap 250= 11% annualized

Adjust for INR fall against the dollar (which you have to in case you are comparing global returns)-

1) Nifty 50 TRI= 3.5% annualized

2) Nifty Midcap 150= 8.3% annualized

3) Smallcap 250= 6.1% annualized

Now here is something even more interesting-

1) Over the 10-year timeframe, about 82% of active small/mid mutual funds in India are unable to beat the benchmark

2) And 66% of Large caps funds are unable to beat Nifty 50

So active Mutual funds performed ever worse.

And, please note the 2020-2024 phase was one of the best phases for retail adoption of stock markets.

If you would have put money in Gold, Land or even a decent real estate, you would have outperformed as a SIP guy.

What's the lesson? India is a trading market. If you don't know when to exit, don't enter.

I am just sharing facts, do what you like.

@Akshat_World

SHORT TAKES

PM Modi to visit Bhutan next week

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Bhutan Tuesday on a two-day visit to further strengthen bilateral ties and inaugurate a mega hydroelectric project jointly developed by the two countries. Modi will meet Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and hold wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay during the November 11-12 visit. The prime minister will also attend celebrations to mark the 70th birth anniversary of Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the former king of Bhutan.

Loco pilot hurt as eagle shatters windscreen

Srinaga: An eagle crashed into the windscreen of a train in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir and landed inside the cabin of the locomotive pilot who received minor injuries, officials said. The incident occurred in the Baramulla-Banihal train between Bijbehara and Anantnag railway stations, they said.

The BJP wants to capture anything related to Punjab. Whether it's our fight for PU, BBMB, or other issues, Punjab will never relinquish its rights



BHAGWANT MANN | CHIEF MINISTER, PUNJAB

ONLINE FILLING UP OF SIR FORMS STARTS IN BENGAL

The online filling up of the enumeration forms (EFs) for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) has been enabled on the website of the Election Commission of India voters' service portal, a senior official at the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) said Saturday. The service has been enabled Friday night and is available for the voters to fill up the EFs, he said



Choosing life partner part of personal liberty: Delhi HC

Where two consenting adults decide to marry or cohabit, neither family nor community can lawfully obstruct that choice or subject them to pressure, social sanctions, or threats, says the HC

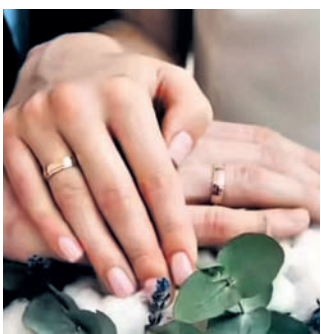
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: Freedom to choose a life partner is an intrinsic part of personal liberty and privacy under the Constitution and family or community cannot obstruct the choice of two consenting adults who decide to marry.

The high court, while referring to a Supreme Court judgment, said the top court has recognised that caste continues to exert a strong social

influence in India, and that inter-caste marriages perform a valuable constitutional and societal function by promoting integration and reducing caste divisions.

“Such unions, the Supreme Court has observed, are in the national interest and must receive firm protection from any familial or communal interference,” Justice Sanjeev Narula said in an order passed November 4. It further said the freedom to choose a life partner



is an intrinsic part of personal liberty and privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution.

“Where two consenting adults decide to marry or cohabit, neither family nor community can lawfully obstruct that choice or subject them to

pressure, social sanctions, or threats,” the high court said.

The court's observations came while granting police protection to an inter caste couple, who were in a relationship for the past 11 and intended to get married now. However, the mother, sister, brother-in-law and other relatives of the partners opposed their relationship and were issuing threats, prompting them to approach the court for protection. The couple sought directions to Delhi Police to secure their safety and to prevent interference with their decision to marry.

It added that based on its outcome, the officer must take preventive steps permissible

in law, including but not limited to appropriate diary entries, beat patrolling near the couple's current residence and other measures necessary to deter harassment or intimidation. “If the petitioners report any threat or attempt at interference by respondent nos. 2 to 6 or any other person, the police shall register a DD entry, extend immediate protection, and proceed in accordance with law,” the court said.

It further said that these directions are preventive and protective in character and no opinion is expressed on the veracity of the allegations levelled against the respondent family members.

Rahul slams BJP over MP mid-day meal controversy



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Saturday shared a video on X of school children in Madhya Pradesh having their mid-day meals on a newspaper and said the chief minister and the prime minister should be ashamed for nurturing the future of the country in such a pitiable state.

In a post along with the video, the leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha alleged that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) “development” is just an illusion and the party's real secret of coming to power is “vyavastha” (the system).

“I am heading to Madhya Pradesh today. And ever since I saw this news that children there are being served mid-day meals on newspapers, my heart is broken. These are the same innocent children on whose dreams the future of the country rests and they are not even getting a plate of dignity,” Gandhi said in his post in Hindi.

“More than 20 years of BJP government and they have even stolen the plates of children – their ‘development’ is just an illusion, the real secret to coming to power is ‘vyavastha’,” he alleged.

“Such a chief minister and prime minister should feel ashamed for nurturing the future of the country's children in this pitiable state,” the Congress leader added.

Local reports suggest that negligence in meal distribution is a recurring problem, with students often being served substandard food or made to eat with students often being served substandard food or made to eat without proper utensils. The BJP government, which had pledged in its 2023 assembly election manifesto to improve the quality of mid-day meals across the state, has yet to issue an official statement on the controversy.

2 terrorists killed in J&K's Kupwara

After suspicious movement was noticed by 21 Grenadiers near the forward defended line (FDL) Pimple on the LoC, the soldiers opened fire after which a brief exchange of small arms took place

AGENCIES

Srinagar, Nov 8: Two terrorists were killed when alert troops of the Indian Army foiled an infiltration bid on the Line of Control (LoC) in Keran sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, Defence sources said Saturday.

“Two terrorists have been neutralised in Operation Pimple in Keran sector where an infiltration bid was foiled late last evening,” Defence sources said.

Sources said that soldiers of 21 Grenadiers noticed suspicious movement near the forward defended location (FDL) Pimple in Keran sector of the LoC late Friday evening.

“After suspicious movement was noticed by 21 Grenadiers near the forward defended line (FDL) Pimple on the LoC, the soldiers opened fire after which a brief exchange of small arms took place. Two terrorists have been neutralised in this ongoing operation so far,” they said.

“A massive search operation



J&K Police raids multiple locations

The Jammu and Kashmir Police Saturday raided several places across the Valley as part of its crackdown on Union Territory natives allegedly involved in aiding terror operatives from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, officials said. The raids were carried out in Anantnag, Sopore, Pulwama, Shopian, Bandipora, Budgam, Awantipora, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Handwara areas, they said. In Anantnag district, police searched the residences of the banned terror outfit Hizb-ul-Mujahideen's self-styled operational commander Ghulam Nabi alias Aamir Khan and financial head Zaffer Bhat in the Liver area of Pahalgam.Khan and Bhat, who fled their homes in the 1990s and crossed over to Pakistan, have been involved in terror activities directed against India. The duo has been operating from across the border since then, officials said. In Handwara, searches were carried out in the houses and premises of the relatives and associates of terror operatives currently operating from across the border and individuals linked with banned organisations, they said.

is now underway in the area to ensure that no terrorist has managed to cross the LoC”, sources said.

The Army deployed on the LoC is on 24x7 alert as Intelligence reports indicate that terror handlers sitting at the launching pads along the LoC

on the Pakistani side would make attempts to push terrorists into the Indian side of the LoC before heavy snowfall closes the mountain passes leading into the Valley.

J&K has a 740-km-long LoC situated in Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipora districts of

Modi flags off 4 new Vande Bharat trains from Banaras station

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi/Lucknow/Bareilly (UP), Nov 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday flagged off four new Vande Bharat Express trains here from the Banaras railway station.

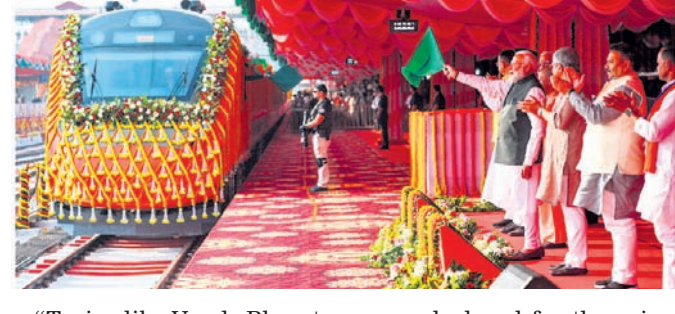
The new Vande Bharat Express trains will operate on the Banaras-Khajuraho, Lucknow-Saharanpur, Firozpur-Delhi and Ernakulam-Bengaluru routes.

The semi-high-speed trains will significantly reduce travel time between major stations, enhance regional mobility, promote tourism and support

economic activity across the country, according to an official statement.

The Banaras-Khajuraho Vande Bharat will connect prominent cultural and religious destinations, including Varanasi, Prayagraj and Chitrakoot, officials said.

Addressing a gathering after the launch of the four trains, the prime minister said, “With so many Vande Bharat trains running and flights arriving from countries across the world, all these developments are now linked to growth. Today, India is also moving rapidly on this path.”



“Trains like Vande Bharat, Nammo Bharat and Amrit Bharat are laying the foundation of a new generation of Indian Railways,” he said.

Heavy security personnel

children who gathered at the railway station and inside the Varanasi-Khajuraho Vande Bharat Express.

The children shared poems they had written with Modi. Later, in his speech, the PM lavished praise on the kids present at the event, saying that as the MP from Varanasi, he ‘felt so proud that my Kashi has such talented children’.

Modi pitched the idea of a kids ‘kavi sammelan’ (poets’ meet) while interacting with a group of children here during the flagging off ceremony of Vande Bharat trains Saturday.

India joins Brazil-led forest fund as observer, urges stronger ambition

India said COP30 is an opportunity to reflect on the global response to the challenge of global warming and to celebrate the legacy of the Rio Summit, where the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities were adopted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: India has said global climate ambition remains inadequate even a decade after the Paris Agreement, as it joined Brazil's new global fund for tropical forests as an observer and called for developed nations to accelerate emission cuts and deliver promised climate finance.

Delivering India's statement at the Leaders' Summit of COP30 in Brazil's Belem Friday, Indian Ambassador to Brazil Dinesh Bhatia reaffirmed the country's commitment to multilateralism and the Paris Agreement, which marks its 10th anniversary this year.

“India welcomes and supports Brazil's initiative in es-



tablishing the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF), representing a significant step towards collective and sustained global action for the preserva-

tion of tropical forests. India is pleased to join the Facility as an observer,” Bhatia said.

Launched Thursday, TFFF is a Brazil-led global fund to

reward tropical countries for protecting and expanding forests. It aims to mobilise around \$125 billion through public and private investment, using returns to pay nations that conserve forests.

India said COP30 is an opportunity to reflect on the global response to the challenge of global warming and to celebrate the legacy of the Rio Summit, where the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities were adopted.

Ten years after the Paris Agreement, the country said global ambition remains “inadequate” and that “many nations’ NDCs (nationally determined contributions) fall short”.

“While developing countries continue to take decisive climate action, developed countries that have disproportionately appropriated the global carbon budget must accelerate emission reductions and deliver the promised, adequate and predictable support,” the ambassador said.

India urged developed nations to reach net zero much sooner than they have declared and invest substantially in reaching net negative emissions.

While acknowledging the importance of mitigation, India stressed that it is equally important to focus attention on adaptation to address climate risks and vulnerabilities at the local level, more so in

developing countries.

Bhatia said access to affordable finance, technology and capacity building is vital for developing countries to implement ambitious NDCs.

“Equitable, predictable and concessional climate finance remains the cornerstone for achieving global climate goals,” he said.

NDCs are national climate plans under the Paris Agreement that set targets to cut emissions and adapt to climate change, guiding global efforts to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Countries are required to submit their third round of NDCs, referred to as “NDCs 3.0”, for the 2031-2035 period this year.

international

of the day quote

Peace in the Taiwan Strait is essential to global stability and economic continuity, and international opposition against unilateral changes to the status quo by force cannot be overstated

BI-KHIM HSIAO | VICE PRESIDENT, TAIWAN

The hurricanes and the heavy rain devastated my country. Developing countries, and especially the small island states, are the least responsible for climate change

SMITH AUGUSTIN | DIPLOMAT, HAITI

It is unfortunate for us that the interim government, which we fully supported, is now creating a situation that could disrupt the national election

MIRZA FAHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR | SECRETARY GENERAL, BNP

SHORT TAKES

H-1B visa under scanner

New York: The Trump administration has launched about 175 investigations into H-1B visa abuse, including lapses such as low wages, non-existent work sites and the practice of "benching" employees. According to the US Department of Labour, the probes were part of a broader effort for the protection of American jobs. "As part of our mission to protect American Jobs, we've launched 175 investigations into H-1B abuse," the Labour Department said in a post on X Friday. Indian professionals, including technology workers and physicians, are among the largest cohort of H1B visa holders.

No relief for Bolsonaro

Sao Paulo: The majority of justices on Brazil's Supreme Court panel reviewing former President Jair Bolsonaro's appeal rejected his request Friday. Justice Alexandre de Moraes, the case's rapporteur, rejected all defense arguments, calling them "unfeasible," and said there were no omissions in the sentencing. Justices Flávio Dino and Cristiano Zanin concurred with De Moraes. The vote of Justice Cármen Lúcia is still pending, but she is expected to align with the other panel members. The panel has until November 14 to submit their votes, and the decision won't be finalized until then.

Hungary gets exemption

Washington: Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán says his country has received an exemption from US sanctions on Russian energy after a meeting in the White House with President Donald Trump. The allowance will keep Russian oil and gas flowing to Hungary in a sign of the close affinity between the two leaders. President Donald Trump said Friday he's considering granting Hungary an exemption from US sanctions on Russian energy as he sat down with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán at the White House.

Blasts hurt 54 in mosque

Jakarta: Indonesian authorities said Friday they have identified a 17-year-old boy as the suspect in an attack that shook a mosque at a high school in the capital, Jakarta, injuring at least 54 people, mostly students. Witnesses told local television stations that they heard at least two loud blasts around midday, just as the sermon had started at Friday prayers, from inside and outside the mosque at SMA 72, a state high school within a navy compound in Jakarta's northern Kelapa Gading neighbourhood.

UK spies handed over India-linked intel to Canada

Nijjar, a Canadian Sikh designated a terrorist by India in 2020 for Khalistani extremism, was allegedly among the names on the intelligence passed on to the Canadian authorities under the 'Five Eyes' intelligence sharing pact

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 8: It was with the help of British spy call intercepts that the Canadian authorities drew alleged links between India and the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023, a new documentary re-

NIJJAR KILLING



leased this week has claimed. 'Inside the Deaths that Rocked India's Relations with the West' by 'Bloomberg Originals' reports that a British intelligence agency – believed to be the UK's Government

Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), often referred to as the country's listening post – intercepted calls that appeared to be discussing three targets.

Nijjar, a Canadian Sikh designated a terrorist by India in 2020 for Khalistani extremism, was allegedly among the names on the intelligence passed on to the Canadian authorities under the 'Five Eyes' intelligence sharing agreement between the UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

In late July 2023, there was a "breakthrough" in the Nijjar murder investigation case when the UK obtained "relevant information", the video documentary claims.

The British intelligence would only be shared under strict conditions: hand-delivered to Ottawa and kept off electronic systems and only a handful of Canadian officials, pre-approved by London, could see it, it is claimed.

"The file was a summary of conversations intercepted by a British intelligence agency between individuals who analysts believe were working on behalf of the Indian government," the documentary claims.

"They had discussed three potential targets: Nijjar, (Avtar Singh) Khanda and (Gurpatwant Singh) Pannun. Later, there was an exchange about how Nijjar had been successfully eliminated," it alleges.

Khanda, a British Sikh pro-Khalistani activist, died

in June 2023 at a hospital in the city of Birmingham in the West Midlands region of England. He was terminally ill with blood cancer and despite allegations from some groups in the UK, the British authorities ruled there were "no suspicious circumstances" surrounding the death.

In the wake of the documentary, Sikh Federation UK said it has written to security minister Dan Jarvis to demand why the British government has intelligence from July 2023 that it has not shared or referred to "when specifically asked by MPs representing the Sikh community."

India has strongly rejected Canadian allegations as "absurd and motivated" and a "deliberate strategy of smearing India for political gains."

BORDER TENSIONS

Pak-Afghan talks collapse again

Negotiations between Afghanistan and Pakistan ended without agreement, underscoring deep mistrust between the neighbours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Nov 8: Peace talks between Pakistan and Afghan Taliban ended without any agreement to tackle the thorny issues of cross-border terrorism as the deadlock persisted, according to top officials.

The third round of talks began Thursday and continued for two days but it failed to get a written commitment from Kabul to take action against Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants accused of launching an attack against Pakistan by using Afghan soil.

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif told a private TV channel Friday night that the negotiations were suspended, with "no programme for the fourth round of talks". "There is a complete deadlock. The negotiations have entered an indefinite phase," he said, reported Geo TV.

The minister thanked Turkey and Qatar for their "sincere efforts" to mediate tensions between the two neighbouring countries.



CRACKDOWN ON AFGHANIS

- 7,764 Afghan nationals arrested during the week ending Nov 1
- Arrests, detentions surged by 146% in the week
- Crackdown was concentrated in Balochistan, which accounted for 86% of the arrests

"They support our stance. Even the Afghan delegation agreed with us; however, they were not ready to sign a written agreement," he said, adding that Pakistan would accept only a formal, written accord.

"They wanted verbal assurances to be accepted, which is not possible in international negotiations," he noted.

The minister reiterated that Pakistan's position remained

firm and clear. "Our only demand is that Afghanistan must ensure its soil is not used for attacks on Pakistan," he said.

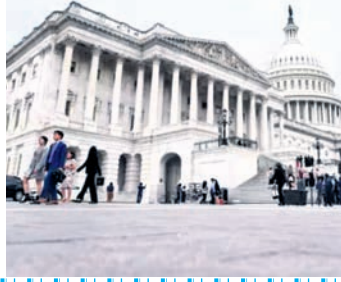
Separately, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said on X Saturday morning that the onus lies on Afghan Taliban to fulfil its long-standing international, regional, and bilateral pledges, regarding control of terrorism, in which so far they have failed.

"Pakistan does not harbour any ill-will against the Afghan people. However, it shall never support the Afghan Taliban regime's any measures that are detrimental to the interests of the Afghan people as well as the neighbouring countries," Tarar said.

The talks began October 29 in Doha with both Qatar and Turkiye mediating between the two sides following armed clashes between October 11 and 15, which caused human losses on both sides. The first round ended without any tangible progress, but the two sides agreed to another round October 25 in Istanbul, which also remained fruitless. The third and latest round also met the same fate.

If there is any attack from Afghan soil, we will respond accordingly

KHAWAJA ASIF | DEFENCE MINISTER, PAKISTAN



RISING UNREST

Al Qaeda, ISIS-linked groups kidnap Indians

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Mali, Nov 8: Gunmen have kidnapped five Indian nationals in Mali, their company and a security source said Friday, as the west African country reels from mounting unrest and jihadist violence.

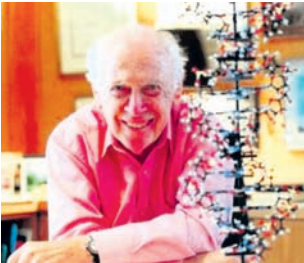
The workers were kidnapped Thursday by gunmen near Koubri, in western Mali, the security source told AFP on condition of anonymity, saying they were employed by a company that is working on electrification projects. "We confirm the kidnapping of five Indian nationals," a company representative told AFP. "The other Indians working for the company have been evacuated to Bamako," the capital, he added.

Mali, currently ruled by a military junta, has been struggling to contain surging unrest blamed on criminal groups and jihadists linked to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group.

Kidnappings targeting foreigners are common in the country, which has been plagued by coups and conflicts since 2012.

James Watson, DNA pioneer, passes away

Washington: James D Watson, whose co-discovery of the twisted-ladder structure of DNA in 1953 helped light the long fuse on a revolution in medicine, crime-fighting, genealogy and ethics, has died, according to his former research lab. He was 97. The breakthrough – made when the brash, Chicago-born Watson was just 24 – turned him into a hallowed figure in the world of science for decades. But near the end of his life, he faced condemnation and professional censure for offensive remarks, including saying Black people are less intelligent than white people. Watson shared a 1962 Nobel Prize with Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins for discovering that deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA, is a double helix, consisting of two strands that coil around each other to create what resembles a long, gently twisting ladder. That realization was a breakthrough. It instantly suggested how hereditary information is stored and how cells duplicate their DNA when they divide. The duplication begins with the two strands of DNA pulling apart like a zipper.



GAZA CARNAGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Khan Younis (Gaza Strip), Nov 8: Gaza health officials say that over 69,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Israel-Hamas war so far.

Gaza's Health Ministry said Saturday that the death toll has climbed to 69,169, with another 170,685 wounded since Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack into Israel.

The latest jump in deaths is attributed to more bodies being recovered under the rubble since the ceasefire was announced in the devastated strip, and also because of the identification of previously unidentified bodies.

The announcement comes



after Israel Saturday returned the bodies of 15 Palestinians to Gaza, a day after militants re-

turned the remains of a hostage to Israel under the terms of the tenuous ceasefire agreement in

Women breaking taboos in the line of fire in Pakistan

Syeda Masooma Zaidi is a rare sight in a country where women firefighters were mostly unheard-of until 2024

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, Nov 8: Thick black smoke clawed at the sky last week over the industrial zone in Pakistan's largest city as firefighter Syeda Masooma Zaidi raced toward the raging blaze in Karachi.

The storage facility was packed with truck and car tires, and the flames leapt hungrily, black plumes twisting skyward. Heat shimmered off the asphalt,



turning the air heavy and acrid, stinging her eyes and lungs.

Zaidi did not hesitate amid the deafening roar, hose in hand, her helmet strapped tight.

The 23-year-old and the rest of her firefighting team — all men — aimed the jets of water at

the molten rubber, which hissed and steamed under the torrent. The team worked methodically, every movement precise, every second critical.

Hours later, the blaze was under control. Nearby factories were spared, no lives were lost — though the damage ran into tens of thousands of dollars (millions of Pakistani rupees).

When the firefighters emerged from the smoke, their faces streaked with soot, dozens of onlookers cheered behind safety lines.

Zaidi's career — like those of other women in Pakistan's emergency services — underscores the gradual inroads being made in the staunchly patriarchal and traditional

When we arrive, people say, 'She's a girl' — how can she rescue anyone? Every time we save a life, we prove that women can also do this job

SYEDA MASOOMA ZAIDI

Islamic nation.

Inspiring others

Some were inspired when Shazia Perveen became Pakistan's very first woman firefighter in 2010 in eastern Punjab province, where she is now a trainer. In Sindh province, where Karachi is the capital, women started joining firefighting services in 2024 after getting their training in Punjab.

And though they still make up less than 1 per cent of Pakistan's firefighters, authorities say more women are likely to join firefighting units in the coming years in the country of 255 million.

Most Pakistani women who go into professional fields

choose careers as doctors, engineers or teachers, Zaidi said. She wanted to show that "we can do this too."

Zaidi's fellow firefighter Areeba Taj, also 23, recalled missions in Karachi where she and her female colleagues helped save lives amid chaos and smoke.

Dr Abid Jalaluddin Shaikh, chief of the Sindh Emergency Service, said Zaidi is one of 50 women firefighters in the province. Another 180 are in training as rescue divers, ambulance medics and emergency responders.

"The focus is no longer on breaking taboos," he said. "Now we see real results."

of the day

Quote

The market currently appears to be in a pause-and-assess phase, with participants waiting for clearer cues from the US dollar and Treasury yields before committing to larger positions

CHIRAG DOSHI | CIO, LGT WEALTH INDIA

India, Aus re-affirmed their commitment to work constructively towards the early conclusion of balanced and mutually beneficial CECA (comprehensive economic cooperation agreement)

PIYUSH GOVAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

India's oil refining story is a story of growth, innovation and self-sufficiency. From meeting domestic demand to fuelling global markets, the journey has been remarkable

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

SHORT TAKES

Signature Global posts loss

New Delhi: Realty firm Signature Global has reported a consolidated net loss of ₹46.86 crore for the July-September period of FY26 on lower income. In the year-ago period, it clocked a net profit of ₹4.15 crore. Total income fell to ₹372.51 crore in the second quarter of this fiscal from ₹777.42 crore a year ago, according to a regulatory filing, Friday. For the first six months of this fiscal, the company posted a net loss of ₹12.42 crore as against a net profit of ₹10.94 crore in the year-ago period.Total income rose to ₹1,270.86 crore in April-September 2025 from ₹1,205.40 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding year.

JSW Cement profit up

New Delhi: JSW Cement Ltd has reported a profit of ₹75.36 crore for September quarter FY26, led by double-digit gain in sales volume. The company had incurred a loss of ₹75.82 crore in the July-September period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from JSW Cement, part of the \$23 billion JSW group, Friday. Revenue from operations was at ₹1,436.43 crore in September quarter FY26 as against ₹1,223.71 crore a year ago. Total expenses were at ₹1,348.72 crore in the quarter. Total volume sales were at 3.11 Million Tonnes (MT) in Q2/FY26 as against 2.71 MT in the corresponding second quarter of FY25. Total income, which includes other income of the company, was at ₹1,460.06 crore in the September quarter. In the first half (H1) of FY26, total consolidated income of JSW Cement was at ₹3,041.93 crore. Total net debt was at ₹3,231 crore as on September 30, 2025.

SBC Exports profit doubles

New Delhi: SBC Exports Ltd, Saturday said its consolidated profit after tax surged twofold to ₹11.36 crore in September quarter FY26 on the back of new order wins. It had reported a profit after tax (PAT) of ₹5.36 crore in the year-ago period, a company statement said. Revenue jumped by 28.49 per cent to ₹84.70 crore in the second quarter compared to ₹65.98 crore in the year-ago period. In the April-September period, PAT jumped 38.76 per cent year-on-year to ₹14.82 crore. Revenue rose by 19.32 per cent to ₹157.15 crore during the six-month period, the statement said.



The government is fully committed to catalysing private sector R&D through bold reforms, ₹1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund, for instance, has been designed to mitigate commercial risks and support long-gestation, high-impact technologies, and a first-of-its-kind initiative

ASHAY KARANDIKAR | DST SECRETARY

APPLE SPOTLIGHTS THIRD-PARTY APPS REDESIGNED WITH LIQUID GLASS TECH

US tech giant Apple has launched a new section on its Developer website featuring third-party apps redesigned with its Liquid Glass design language, launched with iOS 26 in September. This move from Apple highlights the adoption of the translucent aesthetic and adaptive layouts across the ecosystem. The new gallery highlights how “teams of all sizes are taking advantage of the new design and Liquid Glass to create natural, responsive experiences across Apple platforms,” the company said



Centre notifies new deep-sea fishing rules



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: In a significant move to unlock the potential of India's vast marine resources, the Centre has notified new rules for deep-sea fishing in the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), with a focus on empowering fishermen, cooperatives and small-scale fishers, while banning foreign vessels from operating in Indian waters.

The rules, notified, November 4, fulfil the Budget 2025-26 announcements and are expected to open new avenues for India's marine fisheries sector, particularly in tapping high-value tuna resources that have remained largely underutilised despite neighbouring countries harvesting them in the Indian Ocean region, the fishery ministry said in a statement.

The new framework prioritises Fishermen Cooperative Societies and Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs) for undertaking deep-sea fishing operations using technologically advanced vessels.

A key innovation is the introduction of the mother-and-child vessel concept, which allows mid-sea transhipment under Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulations, particularly beneficial for the Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, which ac-

count for 49 per cent of India's EEZ area.

To protect the marine ecosystem, the rules ban harmful fishing practices such as LED light fishing, pair trawling and bull trawling.

Minimum legal sizes for fish species will be prescribed, and Fisheries Management Plans will be developed in consultation with stakeholders, including state governments.

Under the new rules, mechanised and large-sized motorised vessels will require an Access Pass, which can be obtained free of cost through the online ReALCRaft portal.

Traditional and small-scale fishers operating motorised or non-motorised crafts are exempted. The digital system is designed to be time-bound, allowing boat owners to apply with minimal documentation and track applications in real time without visiting any office.

Currently, around 2.38 lakh fishing vessels across 13 coastal states and Union Territories are registered on the portal. While about 1.72 lakh smaller vessels are exempt, some 64,187 mechanised fishing vessels will be required to obtain Access Passes for EEZ operations.

Crucially, foreign fishing vessels are not allowed to get access pass under any arrangements, to safeguard the interests of

small-scale fishers.

The ReALCRaft portal is being integrated with the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and the Export Inspection Council (EIC) for issuing Fish Catch and Health Certificates, key requirements for exporting seafood to premium international markets. This integrated digital system ensures end-to-end traceability, sanitary compliance and eco-labelling, enhancing the global competitiveness of Indian marine products.

The rules also bring regulatory reforms recognising fish resources from the Indian EEZ beyond the contiguous zone as 'Indian origin' under revenue and customs norms, so that they are not treated as 'imports' while landing at Indian ports.

The government will provide comprehensive support through training programmes, international exposure visits and capacity-building initiatives across the value chain, including processing, value addition, marketing, branding and exports. Access to credit will be facilitated under flagship schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF).

To ensure safety and security, the rules mandate the use of transponders for deep-sea fishing vessels and QR-coded Aadhaar Card/Fishers ID Card for identification.

The ReALCRaft application has been integrated with the Nabhmitra Application used by fishermen for safe navigation, which will also help marine enforcement agencies, including the Indian Coast Guard and Navy, strengthen coastal security.

India's 11,099 km coastline and EEZ of over 23 lakh square kilometres provide livelihood to more than 50 lakh people in the fishing community.

SEBI warns investors about unregulated digital gold



SEBI informed that such digital gold products are different from SEBI regulated gold products as they are neither notified as securities nor regulated as commodity derivatives

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 8:The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued a warning to investors regarding “digital gold” or e-gold products available online, stating that all such offerings operate outside the securities regulatory framework and hold significant risks for investors.

This situation may expose buyers to considerable counterparty and operational risks, as these products are neither classified as securities nor regulated as commodity derivatives.

“It has come to the notice of SEBI that some digital/online platforms are offering investors to invest in ‘Digital Gold/E-Gold Products’. Digital Gold is being marketed as an alternative for investment in physical gold,” the market regulator said in a statement.

SEBI informed that such digital gold products are different from SEBI regulated gold prod-

ucts as they are neither notified as securities nor regulated as commodity derivatives.

They operate entirely outside the purview of SEBI. Such digital gold products may entail significant risks for investors and may expose investors to counterparty and operational risks, the statement said.

SEBI clarified that none of the investor protection mechanisms under securities market purview shall be available for investments in such digital gold or E-Gold products.

Various online platforms and jewellers are promoting digital gold with minimal investment options, starting at ₹10 or ₹100. They are also highlighting features like anytime buy/sell and the ability to redeem for physical jewellery.

SEBI emphasised that investment in gold can be made through regulated channels, including exchange-traded commodity derivatives, gold exchange-traded funds from mutual funds, and electronic gold receipts that can be traded on stock exchanges. These investments are facilitated by SEBI-registered intermediaries and are subject to the regulator's framework.

India's gold exchange-traded funds saw \$850 million in net inflows in October, taking the total to a record \$3.05 billion, the highest-ever for a single year, according to the World Gold Council data.

Vedanta observes national cancer awareness day



Jharsuguda: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, observed National Cancer Awareness Day by organised an awareness session at Women's College, Jharsuguda. The initiative aimed to educate young women on cancer prevention, early detection, and healthy lifestyle choices, reinforcing Vedanta's commitment to community health and wellbeing. Medical experts engaged with students on key topics such as early symptoms, the importance of regular screening, and risk factors including tobacco use, poor diet, and stress. The interactive session encouraged students to share personal experiences and ask questions, helping dispel myths and stigma surrounding cancer. Speaking on the occasion, C Chandru, CEO, Vedanta Jharsuguda, said, “At Vedanta, we believe that community development begins with well-informed and empowered individuals. Increased health awareness can make a tangible difference in the lives of entire families. Through such initiatives, we aim to nurture healthy and resilient communities that make informed health choices.” Participant Ansu Kumari Rai, a student of Women's College, shared, “This session helped us overcome fear and understand cancer better, replacing uncertainty with knowledge and confidence.” Vedanta Jharsuguda regularly undertakes initiatives in healthcare, education, women's empowerment, and livelihood development. Its partnerships with government and community organizations continue to create tangible health outcomes in rural Odisha.

TPCODL promotes solar energy awareness

Cuttack: TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has set up a Solar Energy Awareness and Engagement Camp at the historic Baliyatra Fair in Cuttack. The initiative aims to educate consumers about the benefits of renewable energy and encourage adoption of rooftop solar systems under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana – Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) model. Commenting on the initiative, Arvind Singh, CEO, TPCODL, said, “Baliyatra is a great platform to engage with the public and promote clean, affordable energy. Through this initiative, we aim to empower consumers to embrace rooftop solar under the PM Surya Ghar – ULA scheme, becoming proud contributors to a greener, energy-secure Odisha.”



Families sue OpenAI over alleged suicides, psychological harm

The report said that while four of the lawsuits address ChatGPT's alleged role in family members' suicides, three claims that ChatGPT reinforced harmful delusions that in some cases resulted in inpatient psychiatric care

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 8: ChatGPT maker OpenAI is facing more lawsuits from families who claim that the AI Company's GPT-4o model was released prematurely, which allegedly contributed to suicides and psychological harm, according to reports.

US-based OpenAI released the GPT-4o model in May 2024, when it became the default model for all users.

In August, OpenAI launched GPT-5 as the successor to GPT-4o, but “these lawsuits partic-

ularly concern the 4o model, which had known issues with being overly sycophantic or excessively agreeable, even when users expressed harmful intentions,” according to a report in TechCrunch.

The report said that while four of the lawsuits address ChatGPT's alleged role in family members' suicides, three claim that ChatGPT reinforced harmful delusions that in some cases resulted in inpatient psychiatric care.

According to the report, the lawsuits also claim that OpenAI rushed safety test-



ing to beat Google's Gemini to market.

OpenAI was yet to comment on the report.

Recent legal filings allege that ChatGPT can encourage suicidal people to act on their plans and inspire dangerous delusions.

“OpenAI recently released data stating that over one million people talk to ChatGPT about suicide weekly,” the report mentioned.

In a recent blog post, OpenAI said that it worked with more than 170 mental health experts to help ChatGPT more reliably recognise signs of distress, respond with care, and guide people toward real-world support—reducing responses

that fall short of our desired behaviour by 65-80 per cent.

“We believe ChatGPT can provide a supportive space for people to process what they're feeling, and guide them to reach out to friends, family, or a mental health professional when appropriate,” it noted.

“Going forward, in addition to our longstanding baseline safety metrics for suicide and self-harm, we are adding emotional reliance and non-suicidal mental health emergencies to our standard set of baseline safety testing for future model releases,” OpenAI added.

Moody's rating changes OLA outlook

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 8: Moody's Ratings has downgraded ANI Technologies Pvt Ltd, the parent company of ride-hailing firm Ola, from 'B3' to 'Caa1' and changed the outlook to negative.

The downgrade is attributed to weakening financial performance, reduced liquidity, and an increased risk of violating loan covenants. The global credit rating agency reported a decline in operating cash flows and an increase in refinancing risks due to slower revenue growth and ongoing losses.

"Moody's Ratings (Moody's) has downgraded ANI Technologies Pvt Ltd's (Ola) corporate family rating (CFR) and the rating on the guaranteed senior secured term loan borrowed by OLA Netherlands BV, to Caa1 from B3. The loan is guaranteed by Ola," the release said.

Moody's reported that ongoing operational challenges led to a higher-than-expected cash burn in the six months ending September 30, 2025, decreasing cash reserves from \$90 million in March 2025 and limiting headroom under the term-loan covenant. “A covenant breach constitutes an event of default and accelerates repayment of Ola's \$65 million loan due December 2026. Ola must maintain cash equal to 40 per cent of the outstanding loan, at least \$26 million, to comply with the covenant,” the release added.

Intense competition in India's ride-hailing sector will result in continued cash burn over the next 12 months. As such, the company will have to rely on external funding sources to refinance its upcoming loan maturity, the ratings agency said.

The ratings firm has deemed Ola's liquidity weak, indicating that available cash may fall substantially short of covering upcoming debt maturities and capital spending needs through December 2026. Moody's said that Ola is considering options such as a potential initial public offering and selling its 3.64 percent at approximately \$90 million.

Govt plans AI-based eKYC in DigiLocker

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 8: The Ministry of Electronics and IT, Saturday announced plans for AI-based eKYC and global credential verification in the DigiLocker platform.

The platform has evolved from a secure document storage service into a trust layer that connects citizens with ministries and departments, according to an official statement.

National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics and IT organised the National Conference on DigiLocker to discuss and showcase how DigiLocker evolves into a cornerstone of trust, convenience, and efficiency across government, education, and industry sectors.

The conference underscored the transformative role of DigiLocker in facilitating paperless governance, inclusive education, and secure digital services.

“DigiLocker serves as the

trust layer connecting citizens, ministries, and departments- enabling secure, interoperable, and accountable digital governance. Our vision is a future where every digital interaction is trusted, every citizen empowered, and every institution accountable” said S Krishnan, Secretary of MeitY, who chaired the conference.

Krishnan said that the platform advances India's digital journey from connectivity to capability, service delivery to self-reliance and now from digitalisation towards trust.

Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and IT, outlined the future of DigiLocker with AI-based eKYC and global credential verification, positioning it as a global model for paperless governance.

Presentations were made on integration of DigiLocker with Pension and Treasury systems in Maharashtra and with over 500 services through Sewa Setu Portal in Assam, the statement noted.

Abhishek, Gill thunder before skies open up

INDIA CLINCH 2-1 SERIES WIN AFTER RAIN FORCES WASHOUT IN BRISBANE IN 5TH T20I



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Brisbane, Nov 8: India raced to 52 for no loss in 4.5 overs before rain forced their fifth and final T20I against Australia to be washed out at The Gabba in Brisbane on Saturday. With persistent rain and lightning forcing the game's abandonment, India clinched the five-match series 2-1. The result marks India's fifth consecutive T20I series win over Australia, and also shows their dominance over their opponents in the shortest format. Openers Abhishek Sharma (23 not out) and Shubman Gill (29 not out) gave India a brisk start before the skies opened up and eventually didn't give any room for a restart – the second such instance of a no result in the series. Before rain halted the proceedings, left-handed opener Abhishek Sharma survived early chances to be unbeaten on 23 while Shubman Gill hit glorious boundaries to be 29 not out. After India were inserted into batting first, Abhishek was dropped twice in the powerplay - first by Glenn Maxwell at long-off Ben Dwarshuis, and then by Dwarshuis himself on the boundary after he miscued a pull against Nathan Ellis. Despite the nervy start, Abhishek capitalised on the reprieves to hit two glorious boundaries and reached the 1000-run milestone in T20Is in just his 28th innings since making his debut in July 2024. While Abhishek rode his luck, Gill looked assured at the other end by hitting six boundaries to

1000 T20I runs: Abhishek smashes multiple feats

History was made as Abhishek Sharma reached the 1,000-run milestone in T20 internationals, claiming both the world record for the fastest in terms of balls faced for a single country and becoming the fastest Indian to reach the mark in terms of matches. Abhishek achieved the record in the 5th T20I against Australia, reaching the 4-digit score in 528 balls at the Gabba in Brisbane Saturday. The left-handed batter shattered the previous global record, which belonged to Australia's Tim David. In comparison, India's T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav previously held second place, having taken 573 balls, with New Zealand's Finn Allen sitting third (611 balls). When it comes to overall balls faced in T20Is, David now stands 6th in the list, having faced 614 balls to reach 1000 runs in T20Is, but this record consists of matches played for both Singapore and Australia. Furthermore, Abhishek narrowly missed out on breaking a record held by Virat Kohli, who reached the 1,000-run mark in 27 innings from 29 matches. Abhishek, on the other hand, reached the landmark in 28 innings. Abhishek, hence, is also the fastest Indian to reach the 1000-run milestone in T20Is in terms of matches played.



give India early momentum, before rain forced them to go off the field. With a severe weather alert displayed on the scoreboard in the stadium, spectators in the front rows had to be evacuated to the stands with shelters. With heavy rain lashing the stadium, as per the weather radar, it eventually had a say in deciding the match. In the three

games that happened in the series, Australia won in Melbourne, before India stormed back to win games in Hobart and Gold Coast.

BRIEF SCORES
India 52 for no loss in 4.5 overs (Shubman Gill 29 not out, Abhishek Sharma 23 not out) against Australia

Ravinder hits bullseye, Elavenil bags bronze

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cairo, Nov 8: Two-time Olympian Elavenil Valarivan came up with a heart-stopping performance before signing off with a bronze medal in women's 10m air rifle event while veteran army marksman Ravinder Singh brought India more glory by clinching gold in men's 50m free pistol at the ISSF World Championships, here Saturday. On a day when the 26-year-old Elavenil looked good to take the top podium spot after grabbing the lead in the final, a heartbreak moment happened when she scored a 10.0 on the 19th shot to slip to third from where she lost momentum and could manage a poor 9.9 on the 22nd shot to finish in third place with a score of 232.0. South Korea's Ban Hyojin won with a score of 255.0, while China's Wang Zifei, who trailed Valarivan till the 19th shot, took the silver with a score of 254.0 in the highly-competitive Olympic event.

The Indian women's team of Elavenil, Meghana Sajjanar and Shreya Agrawal won the bronze with an aggregate of 1893.3, while China (1901.7) and South Korea (1899.9) took the gold and silver respectively. In the qualification round, whose scores are considered for team medals, Valarivan shot 633.4, while Meghana and Shreya scored 631.2 and 628.7



We were blessed with a child after more than seven years of marriage. She has brought me luck
RAVINDER SINGH



VETERAN ARMY MARKSMAN RAVINDER SINGH HUNTS GOLD AT 50M FREE PISTOL
TWO-TIME OLYMPIAN ELAVENIL VALARIVAN NAILS BRONZE AT 10M AIR RIFLE

respectively. Valarivan's 633.4 helped her make it to the eight-player individual final in fifth place, while Meghana finished 17th and Shreya 33rd. Ravinder Singh, the 29-year-old Naik Subedar in the Indian Army, achieved the biggest success in his shooting career by winning gold in 50m pistol, a non-Olympic discipline. Ravinder, who hails from Bishnah town in Jammu & Kashmir, had won an individual bronze in the 2023 edition of the Worlds in Baku. Ravinder, who has been in and out of the India squad since 2019, shot a superb 569 to take the top spot ahead of Kim Cheongyong of South Korea,

RANJI TROPHY

Odisha bowlers keep Vidarbha in check

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nagpur, Nov 8: Odisha began their Ranji Trophy campaign with discipline and determination after winning the toss and electing to field against Vidarbha at the Jamtha Stadium in Nagpur. Their bowlers stuck to the basics, maintaining tight lines throughout the day to restrict the hosts to 234 for 5 after 90 overs. Rajesh Mohanty led the attack with precision, bowling long spells that tested the Vidarbha top order. His figures of 2 for 34 in 20 overs, including five maidens, reflected his control and consistency. Tapas Kumar Das complemented him perfectly from the other end, returning equally impressive figures of 2 for 29 in 17 overs with six maidens. Together, they ensured Vidarbha never



ran away with the game. Despite Dhruv Shorey's unbeaten 128 anchoring the Vidarbha innings, Odisha's bowlers deserve credit for keeping the scoring rate in check, with neither batter finding runs easily. The fielding unit backed the

bowlers well, maintaining pressure throughout a testing day on a flat surface. As the teams head into Day 2, Odisha will aim to wrap up the Vidarbha innings early and give their batters a platform to take control of the match.

SHORT TAKES

ISL crisis: Mohun Bagan hit

Kolkata: Reigning Indian Super League champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant Saturday suspended all their football activities indefinitely a day after the AIFF failed to receive a single bid for ISL's commercial rights, and said they will review contracts of players and support staff next month. Late Friday, the AIFF announced that it had not received any bid for the commercial rights of the already delayed ISL, leaving the future of the country's domestic football into disarray. "Our players were to assemble on Monday for the camp from next day. But now our camp has been suspended indefinitely till there is clarity on the Indian Super League," a Mohun Bagan official told PTI. "Now that the season is delayed with uncertainty on ISL, we will review all contracts next month. But we have not stopped anybody's salary, everyone is paid," the official added. The AIFF had floated the Request for Proposals on October 16 for a 15-year contract to monetise the league's commercial rights. The submission deadline was November 7, with bids scheduled to be opened November 11.

Raahul India's 91st GM

New Delhi: Indian chess player Raahul VS has become the country's 91st Grandmaster after winning the sixth ASEAN Individual Championship with a round to spare. The 21-year-old, who is also an Asian junior champion, had attained the title of International Master in 2021, when he secured his fourth and fifth IM norms before crossing the 2400 mark in live ratings. "Heartiest congratulations to Raahul V S for clinching the ASEAN Individual Championship with a round to spare and, in the process, becoming the 91st Grandmaster of the nation! Wishing you many more milestones ahead and continued success in making Bharat proud," All India Chess Federation (AICF) President Nitin Narang posted on X.

WORLD CHESS CUP

World champion Gukesh bows out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji (Goa) Nov 8: World champion D Gukesh bowed out of the Chess World Cup, losing the third-round match to Frederik Svane of Germany, while Arjun Erigaisi and R Praggnanandhaa made it to the last-32 stage, here Saturday. Gukesh lost the second game of the third round under normal time control against a seasoned opponent known to be a fierce competitor. It was an Italian opening wherein Gukesh went wrong in judging the position when it was just about equal. With the world champion landing into a worse knight-and-pawns endgame, it meant that only the black had a chance and Svane made history by showcasing



his immaculate skills in the endgame. Erigaisi and Praggnanandhaa had little trouble securing the last-32 berths, defeating Shamsiddin Vokhidov of Uzbekistan and Robert Hovhannysyan of Armenia respectively. A draw was enough for Erigaisi to take him to the next round while Praggnanandhaa played a fine game to win after he had drawn the opener Friday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Riyadh, Nov 8: No 1 ranked Aryna Sabalenka reached the title match at the WTA Finals for the first time in three years after overcoming Amanda Anisimova 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in the semifinals. Sabalenka will play first-time finalist Elena Rybakina Saturday. No 6 Rybakina beat No 5 Jessica Pegula 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 on the back of 15 aces. Sabalenka was pushed to the brink by No 4 Anisimova, who matched Sabalenka's power and aggression for more than two hours in a rematch of the US Open final. The first set lasted an hour. Anisimova missed five break chances and racked up 24 unforced errors. But she halved that in the second set and broke



Sabalenka three times to force a deciding set. Sabalenka made the decisive break for 4-3. "Honestly, I wouldn't care if I would've lost this match because I think we played an incredible match and both of us deserve this place in the finals," Sabalenka said. "That was an



■ No 1 Sabalenka breaks three year long streak
■ No 6 Rybakina becomes first-time finalist

incredible fight and I'm super happy to get the win." Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion from Ka-

zakhstan, has won all four of her matches this week, and clinched the win over Pegula on her first match point. "It was not easy to come back but I'm glad I managed to find my way in the second set and win it in this three-sets battle," Rybakina said. "The serve, when I needed it, helped me.

Ice broken with PCB, options being worked out: BCCI

The trophy wasn't presented to Men in Blue by Naqvi after the winning team refused to accept it from him due to his anti-India position

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: The cricket boards of India and Pakistan have managed to "break the ice" on the Asia Cup trophy dispute and will work towards finding a plausible solution in the coming days, BCCI secretary

Devajit Saikia told PTI after meeting PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi on the sidelines of an ICC gathering in Dubai. The Asia Cup Trophy wasn't presented to India by Naqvi, who also happens to be the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chairperson, after the winning team refused to accept it from him due to his anti-India position. Suryakumar Yadav's men defeated Pakistan in the final of the T20 event held in Dubai on September 28. "I was a part of both the informal and formal meeting of the ICC. PCB chairperson Mohsin Naqvi was also present. During the course of a formal meeting,



it was not on agenda but ICC facilitated a meeting between myself and the PCB chief sep-

arately in the presence of a senior ICC office-bearer and another senior official," Saikia

told PTI Saturday. The trophy has been lying at the ACC headquarters in Dubai with the staff there instructed by Naqvi to not move it without his permission. Naqvi, who is also the interior minister of Pakistan, has insisted that the Indians will have to accept the top prize from him. "Both sides will work out something to solve the issue at the earliest. The ice has been broken now, so various options will be worked out. "There will be options from the other side as well and we will also give options on how to settle this issue and come to an amicable solution," Saikia said.

BRAZILIAN GRAND PRIX

Norris leads McLaren

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sao Paulo, Nov 8: Lando Norris won Saturday's sprint race at the Formula 1 Brazilian Grand Prix and widened his lead in the drivers' championship race to nine points after his teammate and main rival Oscar Piastri failed to finish the 24 laps at the historic and partially wet Interlagos track. Norris, who started in pole position, added eight points and now has 365 in the standings. Piastri, who spun on turn 3 and crashed onto the wall as did Alpine's Franco Colapinto, remains with 356 ahead of Sunday's race.



The McLaren driver finished ahead of Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli and George Russell in a sprint race that was also marked by crashes, including a hard hit of home-crowd favorite Gabriel Bortoleto onto the wall in the final lap. Red Bull's Max Verstappen ended in 4th position.