**VOLUME 15, ISSUE 232 I www.orissapost.com** 

#### RASHMIKA'S INSIGHT

Rashmika Mandanna shares introspective take on the deeper, authentic meaning of feminine energy



Continuing with her splendid debut run, Mahit Sandhu clinches her fourth medal at the **Summer Deaflympics** 



# to be tabled in

New Delhi, Nov 22: A Bill seeking to open up the civil nuclear sector for private players is among the 10 new proposed legislations listed by the government for introduction in the winter session of Parliament beginning December 1.

Besides the crucial The Atomic Energy Bill, 2025, which seeks to govern the use and regulation of atomic energy in India, the Higher Education Commission of India Bill is also on the agenda.

Among other Bills listed are The National Highways (Amendment) Bill, Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and the Securities Markets Code Bill (SMC), 2025, which proposes to consolidate provisions of



Animal lovers hold placards during a protest in solidarity with stray dogs at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, Saturday

# **SIR stress kills**

Kolkata/Bhopal, Nov 22: Amid the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, two Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in Madhya Pradesh died Friday while a woman BLO in West Bengal allegedly died by suicide Saturday, with relatives in all the incidents blaming severe work pressure linked to the electoral exercise. The incidents have triggered fresh concerns about the strain placed on teachers assigned with BLO duties and triggered a political controversy in Bengal.

In Madhva Pradesh. two teachers-cum-BLOs— Ramakant Pandey of Raisen district and Sitaram Gond of Damoh district—died late Friday night. While officials described the deaths as resulting from "illness," the families of both men alleged that overwhelming workload during the voter-list enumeration contributed to their deteriorating health.



Raisen SDO and Electoral Registration Officer Chandrashekhar Shrivastava said Pandey, who was engaged in the voter revision drive in Mandideep, died Friday night and that the post-mortem report was awaited. Shrivastava added that another BLO from the district, Narayan Das Soni, has been missing for six days after leaving home without informing his family.

Pandey's wife, Rekha, told officials that he had been under immense pressure to meet daily targets and was receiving constant reminders over the phone. She claimed he had not slept for four nights and feared suspension if targets remained unmet. Pandey reportedly collapsed shortly after joining an online review meeting Thursday night. He was first rushed to a private hospital in Bhopal and later shifted to AIIMS, where doctors declared him dead.

In Damoh district, BLO Sitaram Gond fell critically ill while filling enumeration forms Thursday evening, District Education Officer SK Nema said. He was referred from Damoh to Jabalpur for advanced care but died Friday night. Friends

claimed Gond, assigned to cover 1,319 voters in two villages, was distressed as he had completed only 13 per cent of the workload.

The deaths follow a recent incident where another BLO, Shyam Sundar Sharma, died in a road accident in Damoh. His family too had alleged that he faced SIR-related work pressure.

In West Bengal, political tensions escalated Saturday after Rinku Tarafdar (52), a nara-teacher working as BLO in Nadia district, was found hanging at her residence. Her family alleged she was unable to cope with the exhaustive SIR duties, including online updates she struggled to complete.

A purported suicide note, shared by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, blamed the Election Commission of India (ECI) for her death.

Banerjee called the situation "truly alarming" and accused the ECI of conducting the SIR exercise in a "chaotic, coercive" manner.

# **Atomic Energy Bill**

# Parl winter session PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

the SEBI Act. 1992.



# PATANJALI

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What sort of reforms are these? Not a word about the 70-hour work week

Belem, Nov 22: World gov-

ernments agreed Saturday to a compromise climate

deal at the COP30 conference

in Brazil that would boost fi-

nance for poor nations cop-

ing with global warming

but omit any mention of the

In securing the accord.

countries attempted to demonstrate global unity in

addressing climate change

impacts even after world's

biggest historic emitter, the

United States, declined to

send an official delegation.

cause at least it is going in

the right direction," the Eu-

ropean Union's climate com-

"We should support it be-

fossil fuels driving it.

### 3 killed, 5 injured in two accidents

Bhadrak/Sambalpur, Nov **22:** At least three persons were killed and five others injured in two road accidents in Bhadrak and Sambalpur districts Saturday, police said.

In Sambalpur, one person was killed and five others were critically injured after an ambulance with a patient and his relatives

on board hit a truck on National Highway-55 near Phuljharan area under the Jujumura police station limits, a senior officer said.

The deceased was identified as ambulance attendant Manabhanjan Sahu, he said.

The accident took place when the ambulance was going to VIMSAR in Burla from Boudh district, the of-

"The ambulance attendant died on the spot, and five others suffered injuries They were taken to a nearby hospital," the officer said. In another incident

in Bhadrak district, two persons died when a two-wheeler hit a bus near Kamaria Chhak on the Bhadrak-Chandbali road under the Pirhat police station limits, another officer said.

COP30: Compromise deal sidesteps fossil fuels to keep world temperatures from breaching 1.5C above industrial levels, a threshold

> impacts of climate change. Developing countries have argued in the meantime that they urgently need funds to adapt to impacts that are already hitting, like rising sea levels and wors ening heat waves, droughts

> that could unleash the worst

floods, and storms. Saturday's agreement also launches a process for cliers are limiting the adoption

rich nations to at least triple the amount of money they provide to help developing Scientists have said exist-

ing world by 2035. ing national commitments to cut emissions have cut

projected warming signifiof clean technology

mate bodies to review how to align international trade with climate action, according to the deal text, amid concerns that rising trade barri-

missioner, Wopke Hoekstra, told reporters before the deal was gaveled through.

The Belem deal launchcountries adapt to a warmes a voluntary initiative to speed up climate action to help nations meet their existing pledges to reduce

emissions, and calls for

# eisure



#### **BURRUSS, TUCKER CONFIRM DIVORCE**

Real Housewives of Atlanta star Kandi Burruss and husband Todd Tucker are divorcing after 11 years, citing a desire for peace. Their prenup, previously a point of contention, will likely influence asset division. Despite their joint business ventures, sources suggest the split is amicable, with a focus on co-parenting their children

#### **MURPHY TO RECEIVE LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Hollywood star Eddie Murphy will be honoured with the Life Achievement Award, the American Film Institute's highest recognition for a career in film, the organisation has announced. The award will be presented at a gala tribute at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles April 18, 2026





vie with each other for your will seem a good idea in the evening.
Your desire for name and fame will meet with success shortly, maybe even today! Ganesha showers his blessings on you.

#### **TAURUS**

You may spend a majority of your time on your health and well-being today. Business lunch may see some pending negotiations reaching a successful outcome. Research work will progress better than expected, says Ganesha.

#### **GEMINI**

A day of conflicting emotions awaits you. Your personal and professional life will both be important. Hence you will experience anxious moments as you try to balance the demands made by both. However, the good news is you will succeed in your attempts and will do justice to all your duties, says Ganesha

#### **CANCER**

You will love to stroll in a world of fantasy. Religious impact will prevail over you. You will charter your fantasy to a mysterious level. You will have communion with God at a temple, mosque or church, you will try to draw lessons from your experience

#### **LEO**

You will exercise your will today and will be in the mood to soar like a free bird today. You will not be in the mood to listen to anyone. Work related travel will be beneficial. Guard against ego clashes in personal relationships, says Ganesha.

#### **VIRGO**

Contemplating on past successes will help you gather the resources for achieving more of it in the near future. New contacts will help you make considerable headway on the road to success. Ganesha says your amiable nature will help you in getting along easily with people.

#### **LIBRA**

Ganesha says that your day today will be extremely busy and as a result you will be agitated today. Your happy nature will have to bear the brunt of the sad circumstances and situations that life will shower on you but you will be able to face the situation with your inner strength. You will have to be careful about your health today and will need to watch your diet.

#### SCORPIO

Long pending task of getting your home renovated may begin today. There are a couple of object de art that have caught your eyes and you wish to decorate your home with those artefacts. You may even plan a small celebration to share your home's new look! A great day indeed.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

Running helter-skelter and muddling of affairs is on the menu. Expect not to find even a moment's peace. But take a break. says Ganesha. And dive right back in the chaos and make the most of it.

#### **CAPRICORN**

Generally, it is difficult for you to maintain a cool head over your shoulders, especially during the stressful times. But, to everyone's surprise, you will display remarkable composure while dealing with challenges today, feels Ganesha Family life will be smooth and it will enable you to fully concentrate on you career and increasing your efficiency level.

#### AQUARIUS

With no major highs or lows, you will have a balanced day today. You will handle everything with great efficiency and Ganesha gives you a pat on your back for that. Continue to work hard for the day as your efforts will get noticed and not only that, you will also under stand the value of your hardships.

#### **PISCES**

Today will not find you in the best of spirits. You need to guard against being sad for the smallest of reasons. Pessimistic thoughts could creep in, owing to some external influences. You need to keep your will-power strong to remain positive. Increasing your awareness will help you see things with more truth and clarity, says Ganesha.



Mumbai: Bollywood actress Wamiqa Gabbi wrapped up her day with a burst of honesty as she shared a slew of pictures "for no reason" and said that she was "exhausted" to frame her

Taking to Instagram, the hazel-eyed actress shared a string of closeup images of herself and said that she wrote a caption for "no reason." Framing her thoughts, she wrote:

"Premiqa is exhausted today.... posting

these pictures for no reason... writing this caption for no reason... realising that I don't need to write any of this while writing this... okay! (sic)" "Maybe I should stop writing and rest... umm....

Maybe after eating something sweet... but I hope I rest... wait... why am I still writing? Okay Bye! Goodnight (sic).' Talking about her work,

Wamiqa was last seen in Bhool Chuk Maaf, a fantasy romantic comedy directed by Karan Shar-The ma. film al-

Raikummar Rao. and Seema Pahwa. She will be a part the highly

discussed

sequel.

SO

stars

Pati Patni Aur Woh2. co-starring Ayushmaan Khurrana and Sara Ali Khan. Helmed by Mudassar Aziz, the project will get a theatrical release next Holi March 4,

Wamiqa also has Bhooth Bangla, Kuku Ki Kundali, Tiki Taka, and Goodachari 2.

2026.

Rashmika on feminine energy Mumbai: Rashmika Mandanna took a moment from her busy schedule to reflect on the true meaning of the much-talkedfeminine energy.

The Pushpa actress pointed out how this feminine energy helps one see through

things, people.

situations - allowing women to feel something is off even before they know why. Taking to her Insta handle, Rashmika shared a heartfelt note that read, "There's something about feminine energy..I don't know how to explain it but when you're really in tune with yourself.. you just knoww. You see through things... through people... through situations (Sparkle emojis) You feel something is off way before it actually happens, your gut tells you, but you ignore it because life makes it

complicated..(sic)." Rashmika added that when women come in support of each other and actually listen to each other's problems, life seems to get a little easier. She further reminded that women are unstoppable when they come together.

"And then there's another thing I've learnt over the years...There is something so magical about women holding other women..women healing women..women listening to each other with just that gentle "I'm here" energy (red heart emoji)," the Animal actress added. IANS

recently attended the Spectacular Saudi event in Mumbai,

where she also shared a glimpse into her travel and style preferences in a quick chat with Vogue.

The actress revealed that she never boards a flight without a few essentials: her phone, moisturiser, a kajal pencil, and her favourite pyjamas; because comfort, she says, is non-negotiable. She also mentioned that she hopes her children accompany her on most of her trips, calling them the highlight of her travels. When it comes to

wardrobe staples, Kareena listed her trusted classics: a kaftan, well-fitted jeans, a crisp white shirt, and a sleek black dress, pieces that perfectly reflect her

Mumbai: Kaeffortless approach to fashion. reena Ka-poor Khan Talking about her Saudi Ara-

bia bucket list, she named AlUla, the Red Sea, and Riyadh as the destinations she is most excited to explore. Her travel playlist, she added, is a blend of Punjabi tracks she enjoys and the iconic rock music favoured by Saif Ali Khan, including bands like Dire Straits and AC/DC.

A proud foodie, Kareena said she is eager to try Saudi biryani, a dish recommended to her during the On the profession-

al front, she was last seen in Singham Again and recently appeared in the OTT release Dinning With The Kapoors. She is currentshooting Meghna Gulzar's Daayraalongside

Prithviraj Suku-

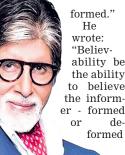
### Big B turns philosophical

Mumbai: Amitabh Bachchan turned philosophical once again, offering a string of thoughts that read like a meditation on time, truth and the marvel of human ex-

The thespian took to his blog, where he spoke of "documentation" as the keeper of moments, the witness to place, time and happenings calling it the "greatest informer" of all.

"Documentation .. the recordist of time place and happening .. now the greatest informer..Do the do the undo will do... (sic)"

The octogenarian went on to reflect on the idea of belief. saying that trust rests in the hands of the one who informs, whether "formed or de

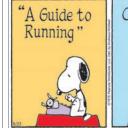


(sic). What followed was a burst of raw admiration for the human body, which he described as "the greatest ability be invention ever. "AAHHHHH .. the human the ability

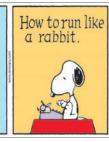
body .. the greatest invention EVER .. they that can see inside and beyond it, be the ones blessed ..AND BE-LIEVED," he wrote. The icon is currently seen

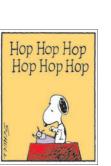
hosting the new season of Kaun Banega Crorepati. It is the official Hindi adaptation of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? franchise.

#### **PEANUTS**

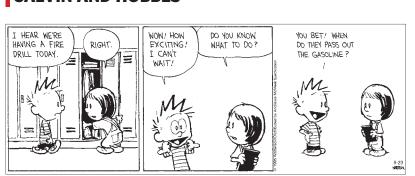








#### CALVIN AND HOBBES

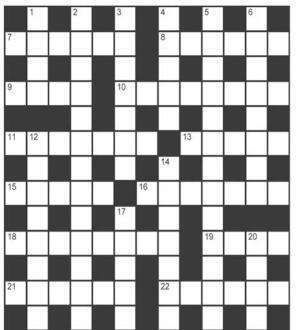


#### BREVITY



### DOST

#### **CROSSWORD**



Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction 16 Horse-drawn

carriages

19 Place holders

18 Complain

(5,3)

Across 7 Academic

award 8 Medicinal syrup

9 Cafeteria carrier

10 Imports and exports

difference (5,3)

11 Metalworks 13 Roughly

15 Destiny

Down

21 Dowse 22 Woodwind player

1 Orbital period

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

5 Echo 6 Asuncion locale

12 Handel work 14 Muggins

3 Motion

4 Competitor

2 Long-bodied

large-eyed

insect (7,6)

17 Decrease

20 In use

SUDOKU

### SUDOKU

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

	9		4					3
2	1				5		6	
2 /		8			1		7	4
	3			2	9	1		
				7		- ×		
		1			6			5
				22				7
	-							
8				4			9	

#### SOLUTIONS

TOREADOR CROSSWORD INT

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

5

M



# state

has filed a complaint at Mathili police station after receiving the report. In the complaint, he urged the police to identify the person responsible for her ordeal and take necessary action. Mathili police have launched an investigation, but no findings have been reported so far, Achari said.

Malkangiri: A Class XI student at the SSD Residential Higher Secondary School at Govindapalli under Khairput block in Malkangiri district has been found pregnant. The school is a government managed

educational institution under the state ST and SC Development Department. According to reports, the student had gone home during the Dussehra holidays and returned to the school after the break. During a routine monthly health checkup, the matron conducted a pregnancy test, which came

positive. She immediately informed senior authorities. District Welfare Officer Srinivas Achari said he

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL GIRL FOUND PREGNANT

#### Five sentenced to life in gambling-linked murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, Nov 22: The Additional District Judge of Bhanjanagar, Sheikh Mohammad Kaves, Saturday sentenced five men to life imprisonment in connection with the 2019 murder of Pabana Sethi.

The five convicts were identified as Basanta Sethi, Dillip Sethi, Abhimanyu Sethi, Sweta Sethi and Santosh Samal — all residents of Jalisahi in Jagannathprasad.

Each convict was also fined ₹10,000, with an additional oneyear jail term to be imposed in case of default.

According to the prosecution, longstanding tension existed between the families of Basanta Sethi and Pabana Sethi. Basanta's frequent illness had led his family to suspect that Pabana's family had used sorcery against him, resulting in earlier disputes.

Meanwhile, an argument broke out while Basanta, Pabana and others were gambling November 11, 2019. Basanta later brought a knife from his home, confronted Pabana again near his house and stabbed him. During the attack, Dillip Sethi and Santosh Samal allegedly held Pabana's hands. When Pabana's parents rushed to the scene. Abhimanvu and Sweta Sethi reportedly blocked their path. The assailants fled soon after. Pabana's family members rushed him to Bhubaneswar for treatment, but he died on the way. His mother, Sebati Sethy, filed a police complaint at Ja-

gannathprasad police station. Basanta had been in custody since the incident, while the others were out on bail. Following the sentencing, all five convicts were sent to Bhanjanagar jail. The judge delivered the verdict after examining the statements of 28 witnesses

# **Prime accused** Sikandar held

Jagatsinghpur/Binjharpur, Nov 22: In a major success, Jagatsinghpur police Saturday arrested the key accused in the illegal stay and settlement of Bangladeshi nationals in the coastal district. The suspect, Sikandar Alam, also known as Siko, had been evading arrest for seven days before being tracked down in Jajpur along with his brother Abdul Motilif Khan, alias Tiki.

Police said the two, residents of Dhanipur village under Jagatsinghpur police limits, are accused of orchestrating an attack on officers during an operation to evict undocumented Bangladeshi nationals. They had been on the run since the incident and were arrested in an area under the Alkund police limits in Jajpur district

After police received information that the suspects were hiding in Alkund area, a five-member team led by Special Squad Inspector Shubhrajeet Das, along with Alkund PS Officer-In-Charge Debashish Satapathy, conducted a late-night raid Friday on a house in the area and arrested the two men.

Investigators said the brothers had been planning to flee to a foreign country via a sea route from Dhamra of neighbouring Bhadrak district. Jagatsinghpur police also detained Alam's son and another relative for questioning. Police seized a passport, photographs, a mobile phone and several documents from Alam during his arrest. Offi-



cers said Alam had previously worked in the merchant navy and had links in Balochistan in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. He also maintained bank accounts in Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore and Kolkata. A medical examination was conducted on the two accused before they were produced in court. Notably, police carried out an eviction drive in Jagatsinghpur November 16 following state government orders to remove Bangladeshis allegedly living in the area illegallv. Authorities demolished the illegal madrasa in Beherampur Basti along with 10 unauthorised structures, in the presence of the magistrate and sub-collector.

During the operation, the accused, who had allegedly sheltered Bangladeshi nationals on government land, stored weapons in their homes and employed them in various illegal activities, led an organised attack on police personnel, officers said. An additional superintendent of police (ASP) and several other officers were injured in the attack, which authorities said was led by two women. Jagatsinghpur police registered a case and launched an investigation

# Work begins for electrification of village following CM's direction

Berhampur, Nov 22: The Ganjam district administration has initiated steps for the electrification of Subarnapur, a hamlet in the coastal district, following the direction of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, an official said.

In his inaugural address of the two-day District Collectors' and SPs' conference in Bhubaneswar, the Chief Minister Monday mentioned the name of Subarnapur, which has lacked electricity and directed the Ganjam Collector to take swift action to electrify the small tribal habitat.

A day after the Chief Minister's direction, officials of the district administration and personnel of Tata Power

Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) visited the hamlet and started installation of around 30 electric poles and a 25-kva transformer to electrify the village, which has 25 households.

The electrification work in the village will be completed in the next seven to 10 days, said Ganjam Collector V Keerthi Vasan. Subarnapur, a hamlet of Chemedihill village, was electrified through solar panels some years ago by the Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (OREDA). After functioning for some years, the system became defunct, said another official.

As the villagers did not inform the authorities about the defunct system, the village has remained in darkness for the last several years, and the students have been forced to study under lanterns and candles, he said. Like Subarnapur, at least seven tribal dominated villages in Dharakote block are reeling under darkness, as they are yet to be electrified, sources said.

These villages and hamlets include Jhirijhira, Guduruguma, Punjiba, Batakhala in Balarampur panchayat, Jayasingi and Khajurijhola in Saba panchayat. Block Development Officer (BDO), Dharakote, Sangram Keshari Jena, said they have already intimated the TPSODL for the electrification of these villages on a priority basis.

The Chief Minister in the Collectors' Conference set 2027 as a deadline for power and water supply in every village

mal died after a fight with another elephant. Officials said a post-mortem has been conducted and further investigation is underway. The matter came to light

2 jumbos perish in a day

Morada/Bhubaneswar, Nov

22: Two wild elephants died in separate incidents under Ma-

yurbhani and Khurda districts.

Forest officials Saturday re

covered the carcass of a tusker

from Betanasia reserve forest

under Rasgovindpur range of

Authorities suspect the ani-

officials said Saturday.

Mayurhhani district

POST NEWS NETWORK

when local villagers spotted the carcass when they had gone inside the Betanasia reserve forest under Sarumula forest beat to collect leaves They immediately alerted the forest personnel.

being Rasgovindpur Range Officer Ghanashyam Singh, Forest er Malatilata Singh and Forest Guard Chittaranjan Jena reached the spot and seized the carcass. Later, DFO Gobind Chandra Biswal, ACF Me herban Ali and RCCF Prakash Chand Gogineni arrived to be gin a detailed inquiry.

Officials estimate the tusker to be around 7-8 years old The exact cause of death will be confirmed after availabili ty of the post-mortem report they said.

Forest officials said the tusker was seen fighting with another elephant in the jungle Friday, leading them to suspect it died from injuries sustained in the clash.

Meanwhile, an elephant undergoing treatment after falling ill in the Chandaka forest area died late Friday, officials said. It was suspected that the 22-year-old elephant died due to an infection in its digestive system, they added.

#### Mastermind in iewellerv shop shooting arrested from Nepal border

Jaipur/Panikoili: Police Saturday arrested the alleged mastermind behind the robbery bid and shooting at Panda Alankara jewellery shop at Panikoili in Jajpur district. The suspect was apprehended near the Nepal border with assistance from Rihar Police Farlier two of the four accused in the case had been arrested. Both were lodged in Choudwar jail as undertrial prisoners, but later escaped. The violent incident had claimed two lives. The shooting took place January 4, when two armed robbers entered Panda Alankara with the intention of looting the shop while a third accomplice waited outside on a motorcycle. During the attempted robbery, shop employee Sunil Ray of Kalasadiha village was shot dead after he tried to resist the attackers. As one of the robbers attempted to flee, Nilamadhab Panda of Soti village under Golaeipur panchayat tried to stop him. He too was fatally shot. Local residents managed to overpower and capture two of the attackers, while the third escaped on the motorcycle

### MAN BEATEN TO DEATH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bantala, Nov 22: A 48-year-old man was beaten to death over the suspicion of infidelity in Nuakheta under Bantala police limits in Angul district Friday evening.

Police have detained two brothers for their involvement in the crime and seized the weapon used in the killing.

According to police, Tikan Sahu of Nuakheta had been in a long-standing relationship with a widow from Saruali, a relationship her two nephews strongly opposed. Although Tikan along with his family had moved to Turanga in Angul nearly five years ago, he continued visiting his native village and maintained the relationship.

Police have detained two brothers for their involvement in the crime

Tikan returned to Nuakheta to collect ration rice Friday. Around 5pm, his younger brother Manas Sahu found him lying on the roadside near Chekabar, bleeding heavily. He was rushed first to Bantala Community Health Centre and later to the district headquarters hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Tikan's wife, Sunita Sahu, lodged a complaint at Bantala police station. Police detained two brothers — Kamfa Bhoi. 23. and Sunil Bhoi, 20, of Sarualifor questioning.



# DHARITRI ONCLAVE 2025 **CLIMATE CHANGE: FINDING SOLUTIONS**



#### STUDENT SPEAKERS





**Anindita Ranasingh** 



**Aditya Mandal** 







Sanjeevan Bhuyan



Pragyan Parimita Jena



Saumya Ranjan Dixit



commonwealth youth

climate change network



ERFORMANCE

LIVE STREAM ON 

24 TH NOVEMBER 10:30 AM ONWARDS BHUBANESWAR

**PARTNERS** 

#### **EXPERT PANEL**



Sunita Narain





Purnima Devi Barman



Dr. Andrew Fleming



Kartik Shanker



**Meet Sijariya** 



Dr. Debabrata Swain FORMER PCCF ODISHA FOUNDER OF SAVE ELEPHANT FOUNDATION TRUST



**Arun Krishnamurthy** 

**ODISHA** 









MGM MINERALS LTD.



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**FES** 

























**OrissaPOST** 

#### AITUC protests new **Labour Codes in City**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: The Khurda District Committee of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) Saturday staged a demonstration here protesting the implementation of the four new Labour Codes. which they termed anti-worker. As part of the agitation, protesters raised slogans and burned copies of the Gazette notification at the demonstration site.

The protest was attended by AITUC state vice president Prasanta Mishra, state secretary Jayanta Das, Namita Sahu, and other leaders. Members from various affiliated organisations also participated in the demonstration.

A large procession was taken out from Bhagabati Bhawan to Rajmahal Square, with protesters raising slogans against the Labour Codes and demanding their immediate withdrawal.

AITUC leaders described the agitation as a spontaneous uprising of the working class against what they termed an attack by the BJP-led Central government. The Labour Codes came into effect November 21, 2025, which trade unions observed as Black Day nationwide.

Saturday's demonstration was part of a nationwide protest called by the United Platform of Central Trade Unions and several independent federations.



I, Soudamini Sarangi, aged about 64 years, W/O-Sudhakar Sarangi, Vill-Alarpur, P/o-Rupadeipur, Ps-Balanga, Dist.-Puri, Odisha do hereby declared that, my actual name is Soudamini Sarangi, which reflected in our old PPO Book and Aadhar card, bearing noxxxxxxxx1337,but due to some clerical error my name mentioned as Sauduarini Sarang, instead of Soudamini Sarangi, in our new PPO Book, bearing no.-601198100831 and our residential mentioned as At-Alanapur, P/o-Rupadeiur instead of our original address. I do hereby declared that, Soudamini Sarangi and Sauduarini Sarang is same person and it's me.

I, Sanjaya Kumar Padhiali, formerly called as Sanjaya Ku Padhiali, S/o.-Dandapani Padhiali, permanent resident of At/P.O.- Konkorada, P.S.-Pattapur, Dist.- Ganjam, Odisha, PIN-761144, currently residing P.O.- Konkorada, P.S.-Pattapur, Dist.- Ganjam, Odisha, PIN-761144 do hereby Solemnly affirm and state that formerly I was known as Sanjaya Ku Padhiali. Now onwards I will be known with my new name as Sanjaya Kumar Padhiali for all purposes. Hence I filed an affidavit before THE NOTARY PUBLIC, BERHAMPUR, GANJAM on 22.11.2022 bearing No. A-795. Sd/- Sanjaya Kumar

Padhiali

# Low pressure forms over Bay



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: A low-pressure area has formed over the Bay of Bengal (BoB), and it is likely to intensify into a depression around November 24. India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Saturday.

"Under the influence of a cyclonic circulation, a low-pressure area has formed near the Malacca Strait over the South to move west-northwestwards and intensify into a depression over southeast BoB and adjoining south Andaman Sea around November 24, 2025," the IMD said in a special bulletin.

The weather office also said that the system (possible depression) is likely to move northwestwards and is very likely intensify further over southwest BoB during subsequent 48 hours.

Though the IMD scientists are uncertain whether the low-pressure system will develop into a cyclonic storm, they said the weather agency will update people well ahead of the formation of any system.

coastal and southern regions of the state, the people have resorted to harvesting paddy crops, which are almost ma-

However, the state Ag-

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said.

ment was yet **Anticipating** to issue any advisorv heavy rains in coastal and southern regions of the state. farmers have resorted to harvesting paddy director of Meteorological

> Manorama Mohanty, said that the low-pressure area is at a very long distance from the Odisha coast and therefore the IMD has forecast dry weather in the state.

Bhubaneswar,



COURTESY VISIT: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi meets Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare JP Nadda in New Delhi, Saturday

#### **DGP VISIT TO KANDHAMAL**

# 'District to be Maoist-free by March'

Phulbani, Nov 22: The state as well as Kandhamal district will be Maoist free by March-2026 in line with the Centre's plan to make the country free of extremists during the same period.

This was stated here by Odisha Director General of Police YB Khurania, who is on a two-day visit to Kandhamal and Boudh districts to review anti-Maoist operations and outline the final steps toward declaring the region free of extremist activity. Khurania held a review

meeting with senior police officials and the district superintendent of police shortly after arriving in Phulbani Friday evening. The discussions continued Saturday morning, focusing on strategies that he said are now close to final.

"The Union Home Ministry has set a target to make the country Maoist-free by March 2026," Khurania said adding "Odisha is working toward the same goal and that a district-level action plan for



Kandhamal has already been prepared."

"All concentrations are now on Kandhmal," said a senior officer associated with the anti-Maoist operations.

"Though there are a handful of Odia-speaking people in the proscribed organisation at present, the majority of the cadres come from neighbouring Chhattisgarh," he said, noting that the number of local Maoists could be a maximum of eight.

To tackle left-wing extremism. the state government has taken steps against Ganja

er-insurgency operations and augmented developmental projects, he added.

Khurania said, "We have achieved a major success in Boudh, Kandhamal, Rayaga da, Malkangiri and Koraput, by destroying ganja cultivation being carried out by the Maoists through their supporters. Ganja smuggling was the main source of funds for their operation. This has been stopped.

He told officers that more Maoists are surrendering and that the state government has several rehabilitation schemes in place for those who lay down arms. He urged Maoists to give up violence and rejoin the social mainstream.

Additional DGP and head of anti-Maoist operations Sanjeeb Panda, IGP Deepak Kumar, DIG (SIW) Akhileswar Singh, Southern Range IGP Niti Shekhar, Rayagada SP Swathi S Kumar, Kandhamal SP Harish Bisi, Baliguda SDPO, and commandants of the BSF and CRPF attended the meeting

### MITS hosts DiLSE-2025



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: The Majhighariani Institute of Technology & Science (MITS), Rayagada, organised the District Level Science Exhibition (DiLSE) 2025, showcasing innovation and scientific talent from across the district. With participation from over 40 schools and colleges and more than 200 students, the event stood out as one of the most impactful district-level science exhibitions

The event was inaugurated at the Basant Auditorium by chief guest Narayan Mitra. Vice President & Head-HR, Aditya Birla International Ltd. The inaugural session featured traditional performances, lighting of the lamp, and addresses by dignitaries including Biswajeet Panda, Vice Chairman, MITS

Group, and CV Gopinath. Di rector, MITS Rayagada. The ceremony was coordinated by Brijlal Mallik. Mitra visited the exhibition stalls and interacted with students showcasing innovative and socially relevant science models. The displays covered themes such as Health & Hygiene, Waste Management, Water Conservation, Green Energy, Emerging Technologies and Sustainable Agriculture.

The valedictory and prize dis tribution ceremony, coordinat ed by Sagyan Swain, recognised outstanding entries with cash awards of ₹5.000, ₹3.000, and ₹2.000 for the first, second, and third positions in both Junior and Senior categories.

Vice Chairman Biswajeet Panda presented the awards. All participating institutions were also given mementos and certificates.

### **H&UD Min visits BSF waste-upcycling facility**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: Housing & Urban Development and Public Enterprises Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra Saturday visited Insectika's state-of-the-art Black Soldier Fly (BSF)-based waste upcycling facility here at the Bharatpur Micro Composting Centre.

During the visit, Minister Mahapatra reviewed the innovative processes through which organic waste is converted into high-value products using BSF larvae. He appreciated the technology's potential to strengthen municipal waste management, reduce landfill load, and generate sustainable by-products such as protein-rich feed and organic soil enhancers.

Mahapatra commended the



partnership between the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation and Insectika for introducing advanced circular-economy solutions in urban sanitation. He said such technology-driven initiatives align with the state's commitment to scientific waste environmental processing,

stewardship, and the creation of green livelihoods.

N Ganesh Babu, Deputy Commissioner, BMC, Arun Kumar Das, Founder & CEO; Chinmayee Acharya, Head of R&D, Insectika Biotech and other officials were present during the visit

# BJD alleges 'manipulation', to move EC

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: Opposition BJD Saturday said it will lodge a complaint with the Election Commission to seek "justice", alleging that large-scale 'state-sponsored manipulation' in the Nuapada bypoll.

The decision to lodge the complaint was taken at a meeting of the party's political affairs committee (PAC), chaired by Leader of the Opposition Naveen Patnaik.

"Though we had earlier lodged a complaint in this regard with the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), there was no result. Therefore, the PAC today decided to approach the EC, opposition Chief Whip Pramila Mallik said.

She claimed that votes for

#### **NUAPADA BYPOLL**

the BJD were "diverted" by means of EVM manipulation using "official machinery and money power' "Such rigging was observed

in at least 63 polling booths. The votes given to the BJD by people were diverted to some other party. There seems to be manipulation in the EVM also,' she alleged

"The BJP won the bypoll by capturing the votes of BJD through EVM tampering, use of money, muscle and official mechanism," she alleged.

Mallik claimed that the party arrived at the conclusion that there were manipulations after reviewing the by-election results. "We will also conduct our own inquiry,

expose the EVM manipulation and make the people aware about the BJP's efforts to kill democracy," she said.

The bypoll, held November 11, witnessed a record voter turnout of 83.45 per cent. BJP's Jay Dholakia won the election by a margin of 83,748 votes, while BJD candidate Snehangini Chhuria was pushed to third place. Congress nominee Gha siram Majhi finished second.

Chhuria said, "The EC first announced 75 per cent turnout at 5 pm November 11, lat er raised it to 77 per cent at 7 pm, then 81 per cent the next morning, and finally revised it to 83.45 per cent. There should be no doubt about manipulations," she said. The BJP rejected the allegations.

#### Man held for killing parents in Cuttack

Cuttack: A man allegedly stabbed his father and stepmother to death over a long-standing property dispute in Cuttack, police said Saturday. The accused, identified as Alok Das, was arrested. The incident took place at the Old Jail colony under Dargha Bazar police station Friday night around 9 pm, the police said. The deceased were identified as Deepak Kumar Das (58), an employee of the Choudwar Jail, and his wife, 45-year-old Litarani Das. According to the police, Alok and his father were engaged in a heated argument over some financial dispute which led to murder of the two. Alok knifed his father and stepmother to death in their home, police said. After the death of his first wife, Deepak had married Litarani and they were staying separated from Alok, the police said. The accused had a longstanding dispute with his father over distribution of money received from sale of ancestral properties, said Cuttack DCP Rishikesh Khilari. "We have arrested the accused and seized the weapon used in the crime," he said.

### Political row over Ratna Bhandar inventory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: A war of words broke out between ruling BJP and Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Saturday over the inventory of jewellery and valuables stored in the refurbished 'Ratna Bhandar' (treasury) of Srinmandir in Puri.

Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Arabinda Padheee Friday announced that the temple authorities have decided to conduct the inventory of the Ratna Bhandar in phases, and the process will be completed by the next 'Akshya Tritiyta' (April 19, 2026).

The BJD alleged that the state's BJP government was resorting to the tactics of 'delay and evasion' in undertaking the inventory of jewellery and valuables stored in the Ratna Bhandar. The ruling BJP immediately rejected the allegation and claimed that the BJD has no moral right to speak on Lord Jagannath's Ratna Bhandar.

"The BJD during its 24-year rule could not open the Ratna Bhandar, even as many people, including Gajapati Maharaja Dibvasingha Deb. demanded immediate repair of the structure. The BJP, after coming to power, opened the Ratna Bhandar and repaired it within 13 months," said Odisha BJP spokesperson Anil Biswal.

"The people have witnessed how the previous BJD government committed mistakes in the management of the Nabakalebara (new idol installation) festival in 2025. They have no right to speak on the Shree Jagannath temple matter," he said.

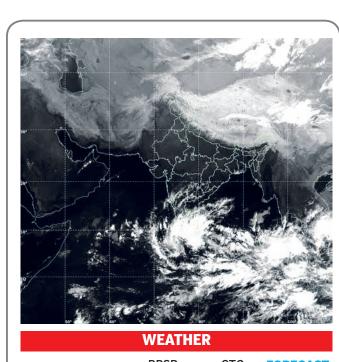
Official sources said that the Ratna Bhandar, which is located inside the temple, was opened July 14, 2024, after a gap of 46 years, and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) took around one year to repair and renovate the structure. July 7, the temple authorities announced that the ASI, the custodian of the temple, had completed repair of the Ratna Bhandar.

The BJD, in a statement said,

"The BJP government is engaging in politics over the Ratna Bhandar inventory. The SJTA chief administrator's statement Friday that the inventory process would be carried out in phases proves the BJP government's lack of sincerity in taking up the exercise and is merely politicising the matter.'

BJD spokesperson Lenin Mo hanty said, "The BJP had carried out extensive misinformation about the Ratna Bhandar and had promised to conduct the inventory once in power. However, after coming to power, the BJP government has been resorting to the tactics of delay and evasion. The chief administrator's latest statement gives no clarity on when the counting process will actually begin.

Mohanty recalled that during the elections, the BJP had raised many questions regarding the arrangements for 'darshan' and the 'Parikrama' project, but now the darshan system in the 12th-century shrine has become completely chaotic.



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	WEATH	ER		
	BBSR	СТС	FORECA	
Max Temp	32.6°	29.6°	Partly	
Min Temp	19.1°	15.6°	cloudy	
Humidity	80%	74%		
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	- West	
			4	



# Climate Change: Finding Solutions



#### Sunita Narain: Advocate for environmental justice

Sunita Narain is a leading Indian environmentalist, currently serving as the Director General of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and the editor of its fortnightly magazine, Down To Earth. With over four decades of experience, she has been at the forefront of advocating for sustainable development, climate justice, and the environmental concerns of the

Global South, Sunita will attend the fifth edition of the Dharitri Youth Conclave as the chief speaker and address the next generation of environmental leaders on the urgent need for action on climate change. Sunita's work focuses on integrating environmental issues with social justice, particularly in marginalised communities. She has contributed extensively to air pollution control, water management, sanitation, and climate change, using research and public advocacy to push for transformative and inclusive policies. Her works in India, especially on rainwater harvesting, river conservation, and air quality improvement, has influenced national policies and led to real-world changes such as the switch from diesel to natural gas in New Delhi's public transport system. Sunita's contributions have earned her numerous accolades, including the Padma Shri, the Stockholm Water Prize, and inclusion in TIME 100 (2016) as one of the world's most influential people. Her advocacy for climate justice has been recognised globally, and she continues to champion the cause of environmental policies

that prioritize both equity and sustainability.

# **Chami Murmu:** Championing green restoration

hami Murmu, an Indian environmental activist, is best known for her extraordinary efforts in planting trees across India. Starting her mission in 1996, Murmu has planted over 2.5 million trees around her village Bagraisai, Rajnagar block, Seraikela Kharsawan district, Jharkhand, India to combat deforestation, particularly caused by illegal logging by the "mafia" and the threats posed by Naxalites.



"mafia" and the threats posed by Naxalites.

Her grassroots movement, which continues to thrive despite adversity, focuses not only on reforesting but also on community mobilisation. Her work is deeply personal; she started planting saplings in her village in the hope of restoring the lost greenery and providing a sustainable future for the community. As a result, she formed the Sahayogi Mahila Bagraisai in 2020, which now has 3,000 members and is dedicated to environmental protection and empowerment of women. Murmu will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award at the fifth edition of Dharitri Youth Conclave November 24. This prestigious award honours her decades of tireless work in environmental conservation and significant contributions to empowering communities, particularly women, in the fight against deforestation.

### **Arun Krishnamurthy:** Devoted to the cause of waterbody conservation

9- year-old Arun Krishnamurthy, a former Google employee, is the man behind restoration of 460 waterbodies including lakes and ponds in 16 states. The founder of Chennai-based Environmentalist Foundation of India (EFI) and a committed activist to the cause of conservation of lakes and other waterbodies across India, Krishnamurthy had also found a mention in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' in the past. EFI plans to expand across all 28 states of India and neighboring countries such as Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. Arun says more than 70 per cent of surface water in the country is polluted, largely because of the poor management



of industrial and domestic waste. Arun was honoured with the Rolex Awards for Enterprise in 2012 for his lake restoration efforts in Chennai and British Council International Climate Champion Excellence Award two years prior to that. Prestigious TIME Magazine also named Arun in 2022 as one of its 'Next Generation Leader', a series elevating young people from across fields and around the globe who are working to build a better world. He will join Dharitri Youth Conclave as a moderator and set to share his ideas of waterbody conservation as a social cause.

# Meet Sijariya: Youth leader shaping global climate action

t a very young age, Meet Sijariya stands at the forefront of youth-led climate action and global advocacy. As a panellist at the Dharitri Youth Conclave, Meet brings a wealth of experience from his extensive work across youth networks, climate movements, and global forums. Currently a sophomore at Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies, Delhi University, Meet has a track record of academic excellence. His academic brilliance is matched by his dedication to tackling some of the world's most pressing challenges, particularly in the realm of climate change. As Vice Chair of Partnerships & Stakeholders at Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network, Meet represents voices of 56 countries and 1.5 billion youth, working to amplify youth participation in fight against climate change. He is also the youngest global fellow for Mercedes-Benz beVisioneers programme and youngest South Asian Shaper in World Economic Forum's Under 30 Network. His participation reflects his commitment to empowering the next generation of climate leaders and driving transformative change on a global scale.



**Debabrata Swain: Unwavering** 

dedication to wildlife conservation

ebabrata Swain is a distinguished environmental leader with

over 35 years of experience in wildlife conservation, forestry,

and environmental governance. A passionate advocate for

elephant and tiger conservation, he has held several key positions

in the Indian Forest Service, including serving as the PCCF and

HoFF, Odisha (2018-2019). He is the founder of the Save Elephant

Foundation Trust, an organisation committed to the protection of

elephants and their habitats. In addition to his role as the Member

of Lokayukta Odisha (2019-2024), Swain has also been recognised

internationally for his expertise, having served as Member Secretary and CEO of the NTCA in New Delhi and as Inspector General, NTCA,

Central Region. Swain will attend the mega event as a panellist and a

Dharitri Climate Grant jury member.



### **NOV 23 & 24, BHUBANESWAR**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: The fifth edition of Dharitri Youth Conclave will be organised here November 23 and 24. It aims to make an impact on the cause of environmental protection by bringing together young climate advocates from across the country.

The first day of the event will see several climate advocacy groups participating and sharing their ideas for environmental protection.

In addition, the inaugural Dharitri Climate Film Festival will screen 15 short films on environmental themes, selected by jury members such as filmmakers Sushant Mishra and Snehasis Das.

Speaking to **Orissa POST**, Das said, "Most of the films submitted this year are about various aspects of the environment, primarily focusing on the theme of climate change. The subject area is vast, covering issues such as tree felling, air pollution, and industrial waste."

On the second day, the youth conclave-held under the theme 'Climate Change: Finding Solutions'-will feature expert panel discussions and networking opportunities with key environmental leaders and organisations. Attendees will have the chance to learn from renowned experts, exchange ideas, and gain practical knowledge on how become active agents of change in their own regions. These engaging sessions are designed not

only to inform but also to inspire participants to implement tangible solutions in the fight against climate change.

Later in the evening, there will be performances on environmental themes by notable musicians.

On the occasion, a Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to an eminent environmental personality, and the Dharitri Climate Grant will be awarded to a local environmental group and an individual working for climate safety.

Additionally, nine student speakers from various higher educational institutions will share their thoughts and raise their voices about climate change and its impact on their lives.

The conclave serves as a platform for youth to share innovative ideas, engage in meaningful discussions, and collaborate on actionable solutions to combat climate change. The event will not only enable participants to inspire one another but also create a foundation for future initiatives that have the potential to shape global environmental policy and action.

As the next generation takes the lead, the Dharitri Youth Conclave 2025 showcases the immense potential of young minds in developing creative and effective solutions to climate change.

The event offers

an invaluable opportunity for youth to connect, share insights, and contribute to crafting real solutions that can bring lasting, positive change.

#### Purnima Devi Barman: Biologist who built an 'army' to save hargila

P urnima Devi Barman is a renowned wildlife biologist from Assam, celebrated for her groundbreaking conservation efforts with the greater adjutant stork (Leptoptilos dubius), locally known as the hargila bird. As the founder of the Hargila Army, a pioneering all-female conservation initiative, Purnima has led a movement that has not only protected a critically endangered species but also empowered women in her community to take an active role in



her community to take an active role in environmental conservation. Purnima's journey as a conservationist began in 2007 when she was alerted about a tree set to be felled, which was home to a family of greater adjutant storks. Upon arriving at the site, Purnima found that the storks' nests had fallen to the ground, and the local belief that these birds were a bad omen posed a significant threat to their survival. Despite facing opposition and anger from her community, Purnima's determination to protect the birds marked the beginning of her lifelong mission to save the species. Through the Hargila Army, Purnima has mobilised an extraordinary network of 20,000 women, who actively work to protect the storks' nests and educate communities about the importance of preserving this unique species. Inspiring story of Purnima, who will join the conclave as the chief guest, will undoubtedly ignite a spark of passion and action at the mega event.

### **Dr Andrew Fleming: Committed to green transition**

r Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner to East and North East India, will grace the Dharitri Youth Conclave 2025 November 24 as the guest of honour. Reaffirming the UK's



commitment to supporting India's green transition, Dr Fleming lauded the efforts of Odisha government in promoting renewable energy, despite being a coalrich state. Drawing parallels between UK cities like Coventry and Bhubaneswar, he expressed confidence that Bhubaneswar could achieve its energy transition goals with stricter action plans and timely corrective measures. Putting the youth at the centre of environmental advocacy, Dr Fleming opines that youths have increasingly become agents of change against climate change. He will share his insights on global cooperation, vouth leadership, and strengthened climate action at the

# Kartik Shanker: Steering sustainable environmental practices

Artik Shanker, ecologist and Founder Trustee of Dakshin Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to conservation, natural resource

management, and sustainable
development, will join Dharitri Youth
Conclave 2025 as a panellist. The mission
of Shanker's organisation is to inform
and catalyse efforts for environmental
conservation. An ecologist by training,
he has expertise in both mountain and
marine ecosystems. He is currently a
professor at the Centre for Ecological
Sciences at the Indian Institute of
Science, Bangalore, where his research
spans a diverse range of taxa, including
frogs, reptiles, birds, plants, and reef fish.
Shanker's contributions to ecological
research and conservation have made

him a prominent figure in the field, and his work continues to shape policy and action around sustainable environmental practices.



### Rahgir: Voice behind the viral anthem

R ahgir, born Sunil Kumar Gurjar May 18, 1993 in Sikar, Rajasthan, is a name you have probably heard, especially if you are an Instagram user. Known for his thought-provoking lyrics and soulful music, Rahgir's song "Aadmi Ch\*\*\*\*a Hai" has taken social media by



storm, becoming a viral hit with over 6 million views on YouTube and more than 1 million streams on Spotify. The track, which critiques the consumerist mindset and unchecked desires, gained massive attention after it became a popular audio on Instagram reels. His music often addresses societal issues through poetic verses, with songs like "Aalsi Dopahar" critiquing casteism and "Tan Kha Gayi Ye Tankha" exploring human greed. Rahgir's refusal to conform to trends or commercial pressures makes his music not only refreshing but also deeply authentic. At the Dharitri Youth Conclave November 24, Rahgir will bring his powerful message and soulful sound to an audience ready for music with meaning.

s emails and docu-





A hero fears nothing, complains of nothing and never gives away.





**DESPITE THE** 

IN KASHMIR,

**SUSPENSION** 

**OF INTERNET** 

**REMAINS THE** 

INCIDENT, AND

**RESULTS IN THE** 

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'RESTORATION'

OF THE INTERNET

# Valley's Voice

lot of things are being alleged by 'sources' regarding a raid on a newspaper called Kashmir Times, and its editor, Anuradha

Some background is in order so readers can place things in perspective. On 2 June 2020, the Modi government announced 'New Media Policy 2020', a policy specific to Kashmir. Note that the pretence behind the government's actions in Kashmir was the ostensible integration of the state and the abolition of laws that distinguished it from the rest of India.

Yet, here was another Kashmir-only policy. Over 50 pages long, it gave the government unbridled powers to determine what was 'fake', 'unethical' or 'anti-national' news. On the basis of this, it could take legal and other punitive action against journalists and media organisations. Media watchdogs abroad noted the use of ambiguous and undefined terms such as 'fake', 'unethical', 'anti-national' and 'anti-social', which opened the doors for misuse because they offered the bureaucrat judging the news no guiding standards or principles.

It was entirely at the discretion of the government. The press in Jammu remained silent on the matter, while the media in Kashmir voiced their strong opposition to the policy. Bhasin was one of those brave voices.

On 10 January 2020, hearing a case related to the restoration of internet in Kashmir. the Supreme Court determined that access to the internet was a fundamental right of Indians. This was the way several papers reported the story even the following day: 'Access to internet is a fundamental right. says Supreme Court' and 'SC recognises internet users' right, also formalises their accountability'

Unfortunately, justice was not actually done and the total blockade of Kashmiris from using the internet continued. The government said: 'The right to access the internet is not a fundamental right and thus the type and breadth of access for exercising the right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) and/or to carry on any trade or business under Article 19(1) (g) of the Constitution of India through the medium of internet can be curtailed.

The justification given for this collective punishment of Kashmiris was that 'post August 2019 constitutional developments. Pakistan handlers, either directly or indirectly, have increased activity on social media intending to and aiming at disturbance of peace in the region, inciting violence and abetting terror activities'. Solicitor general Tushar Mehta argued in court: 'Unfortunately, internet jihad is a successful one. It ADMINISTRATION, is a global phenomenon. The jihadi leaders can engage through the internet to spread

hatred and illegal activities.' The bench SENDING BACK OF asked if internet access could be permitted with some restrictions. 'Increase in internet speed,' the Union submitted, 'will lead PRE-MODERN ERA to swift uploading and posting of provocative videos and other heavy data files.' 'The only solution is that either you have internet or you don't have the

The world noticed.

internet,' Mehta said. It should be noted here that the peak of violence in Kashmir, with

over 4,000 killed in 2001, happened when there was no internet and not even any mobile telephony in Kashmir.

There is no linkage between the levels of violence and access to the internet, according to the data. But this was not the way that the government or the court saw it. Since the 2019 constitutional change, internet access has been disrupted in Jammu and Kashmir by at least 90 government-imposed internet shutdowns—the highest in the world.

It was reported that the shutdown (17 months in all, including seven months when even 2G mobile telephony was suspended) was the longest ever imposed in a democracy, according to Access Now, the international advocacy group that tracks internet suspensions.

Amnesty India documented a total of 67 government-enforced internet shutdowns between 14 January 2020 and 4 August 2020. Despite the 'restoration' of the internet in Kashmir, arbitrary suspension of internet services remains the norm. Any incident, and any whim from the administration, results in the sending back of Kashmiris to a pre-modern era.

To come to the point, the petitioner in the case that was heard on 10 January 2020 was Anuradha Bhasin, editor and publisher of the newspaper Kashmir Times. She had told the court she could not publish the newspaper due to communications restrictions imposed by the Government of India. She petitioned the Supreme Court for the removal of restrictions imposed on the access of internet, mobile and landline phones, and for other appropriate relief (the inability of media to publish without communications is another reason why the court had to judge the matter from the free speech angle). The court did not respond as it should have and the restrictions continued.

Kashmir Times could not publish and was forced to stop its work. The world noticed and called out the reason: 'Vendetta': Kashmir newspaper's office sealed by India officials', is one headline from 20 October 2020.

After the current round of allegations, has come another headline from this week: 'Kashmir Times: A Jammu newspaper that stood up for the Valley'. The report says that 'established in 1954, it is considered to be an influential and credible voice in Kashmir's media landscape.

That is absolutely true and it is shameful that it has been attacked in the way it has and that Bhasin has not found more voices, especially from India's craven media, to speak in support of her and her paper.

#### WISDOM CORNER

If what you have done yesterday still looks big to you, you haven't done much today.

If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress.

BARACK OBAMA

Child slavery is a crime against humanity. Humanity itself is at stake here. A lot of work still remains but I will see the end of child labor in my lifetime.

KAILASH SATYARTHI



# **ACADEMIC PREDATORS**

ments from the estate of the convicted pedophile Jeffrey Epstein continue to surface, the revelations have embarrassed many prominent men and, in some cases, toppled them from their positions. But the disclosures have a wider significance, because they require us to reflect on the frameworks, particularly within academia, that enable the systematic exploitation of young women. What stands out in the email

exchanges between Epstein and renowned economist Larry Summers - a former US Treasury Secretary and president of Harvard University, where he is currently University Professor – is the predatory dynamic in which professional support is implicitly traded for what Summers bluntly calls "romance/sex." For a young academic, such support can change the course

Universities were largely spared the #MeToo reckoning that hit the entertainment and media industries in 2017. But academic women of my generation know that this was not because professors and administrators were models of good behavior; rather, it was a matter of timing and the absence of a single, catalyzing scandal.

To their credit, universities have since created safer channels for raising concerns, such as mechanisms for whistleblowing and confidential reporting. While these safeguards can be misused or abused, they have fostered a culture of respect for women - and minorities - that simply did not exist before

When I was a student and a young academic economist, comments about a woman's body or appearance - both "appreciation" and outright



In academia, especially in the humanities and social sciences, where definitions of excellence are more subjective than in engineering and the natural sciences, endorsements from a few "great men" can weigh heavily in recruitment and promotion decisions

shaming - were common. These demeaning remarks were often intended to affirm male power. Women were expected, and often advised, to accept them silently, no matter how humiliating.

I remember being openly discriminated against in graduate school by a few senior faculty members. As a foreign female student in a male-dominated environment, I was often asked, "What do women do in your country?" - as though Italy were some backward outpost. It was both frightening and degrading, although my ego was spared the worst, no doubt partly because of my limited grasp of the subtleties of the English language.

I am heartened to see a genuine shift in academia toward a culture of respect that simply did not exist when I was starting my career. Many colleagues treat students with care and seriousness, creating environments where trust and learning can thrive. Is this the "woke" system that, as Summers whined to Epstein, prevents a person from working "at a network or a think tank" if he "hit on a few women 10 years ago"? Whatever one calls it, we should be proud of this progress and vigilant in ensuring that it is not rolled back.

The troubling theme that emerges from the Epstein emails is how powerful men use favors to wield influence over young people (especially women). In highly competitive, winner-takes-all professional fields, being plugged into an influential network is an invaluable advantage, as is a mentor who is willing to spend personal or political capital to further your career.

the humanities and social sciences, where definitions of excellence are more subjective than in engineering and the natural sciences, endorsements from a few "great men" can weigh heavily in recruitment and promotion decisions. This creates fertile ground for predatory behavior.

To be clear, competent candidates may benefit from well-connected mentors, but unqualified candidates rarelv advance through external influence alone. This is a subtle game that powerful men know how to play without overtly breaking the rules. For young scholars, the stakes are enormous: research funds. publications in distinguished journals, invitations to prestigious conferences, and, the ultimate prize, tenure at a top university.

Of course, one could argue that it takes two to tango. But the power imbalance makes this game fundamentally unfair. That imbalance also explains why the incentives to confront sleazy, well-connected men remain minimal.

Among other things, the Epstein emails offer a glimpse into how women (and some men) are vulnerable to unsolicited advances and coercive situations early in their careers. To prevent powerful men like Summers and those born into immense privilege and wealth, like Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, from acting on their sense of entitlement, we must continue to build a culture that repudiates the perverse norms of the old boys' club - nowhere more so than in academia.

> The writer is Professor and Chair in Sovereign Debt and Finance at Sciences Po. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

#### SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Paola Subacchi

**UNIVERSITIES** 

**SPARED THE** 

**RECKONING** 

**AND MEDIA** 

**INDUSTRIES** 

**IN 2017** 

THAT HIT THE

**ENTERTAINMENT** 

**#METOO** 

**WERE LARGELY** 

### The Epstein Files: A network of criminal socialites pleasure, the objectification



BhabaniShankar Nayak

THE CAPITALIST **CLASSES DERIVE** THEIR PLEASURE BY EXPLOITING THE MOST **VULNERABLE PEOPLE ACROSS** THE WORLD

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

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words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

effrey Epstein's scandal is not merely an abnormal aberration of a perverted, prodigious pedophile and his group of rotten socialites who were enjoying the architecture of impunity that shields abuse and exploitation based on access to power, privilege, and wealth. It is not an isolated event but a product of hyper-carnivorous capitalism, which produces and promotes a libidinal market of female bodies as mere objects of pleasure. The rotten system of capitalism enables different forms of heinous crimes like the sexual exploitation of children and the culture of sexual trafficking of women. The Epstein files are unmasking the rotten core of capitalist high society and its perverted networks, where celebrities, leading politicians, diplomats, journalists, kings, so called liberals, democrats, conservatives, bankers, and businessmen pay to realise their perverted sexual desires at the cost of human dignity by exploiting vulnerable children and women.

Jeffrey Epstein's files reveal a strong network of people from the Wealth Management Industry (WMI), which enabled people like him. The WMI has not only been catering to the needs and desires of high-net-worth and ultrahigh-net-worth individuals and their families in matters of money, but also working as pimps for these people to realise their perverted sexual fantasies. The systems, processes, and networks are designed to facilitate a predatory culture empowered by wealth, which transforms convicted sex offenders into successful celebrities.Capitalism and its WMI not only provide money but also, in effect, offer political and legal protection to people like Jeffrey Epstein. Such a criminal system led by the WMI promotes predatory capitalism, and capitalism in turn promotes its inseparable, legalised criminal syndicate, exemplified in the operations of people like Mr Epstein and his associates.

The network of Mr Epstein also reveals the unity of the billionaire class, who use their capital to exploit children and women and shield each other in times of crisis and crime. There is absolute class unity among the capitalist classes. These parasitic classes survive and derive their pleasure

by exploiting the most vulnerable people across the world. Trafficking human beings for cheap labour and sexual pleasure is normal for these capitalist classes, who dominate and domesticate society. people, and culture to ensure the growth of their pyramid of profit.

The so-called upper echelons of capitalist society and their networks reveal the nature of solidarity among the capitalist classes in the pursuit of their pleasure-the "happiness industry"-entirely without regard for morality and basic human decency. However, these forces form alliances with reactionary religious and cultural forces in society to promote mass morality, thereby domesticating people in accordance with the requirements of capitalism. Dominance. fear, shame, surrender, and compliance are the five core features of the capitalist governance system, disguised in the form of religious morality that capitalism promotes.

There is no moral compass to measure the moral decay in capitalist society and its commodification of human life, love, emotion, sexual

of bodies, and labour. Moral decay defines the predatory capitalist network and the decadent culture of capitalism, where different forms of exploitation are normalised in the name of individual choices and a predatory market that enables the ability to buy sexual pleasure without any qualms about the women and children who become victims of their rotten network. This new form of sexual and other forms of slavery is naturalised under a capitalist economic, social, cultural, and legal system that often facilitates the activities of people like Jeffrey Epstein, who lived a criminal life with impunity. What the Epstein files reveal is that the rottenness of capitalist society, its governing elites, and their predatory culture is fundamentally opposed to human values. Capitalism and its culture are not compatible with basic human values. Therefore, the struggle against capitalism and its culture is a struggle for survival of basic human values of life.

The writer teaches at the London Metropolitan University

#### PK's allegations

Sir, Having drawn blank in the Bihar Assembly election, Jan Suraaj Party founder Prashant Kishor has dubbed that the Bihar cabinet is packed with full of corrupt leaders and criminals. The statement reminds Buddha's advice to a woman to bring mustard from any family where no death is witnessed. This advice was tendered when the woman begs for the life of her dead child. There is no political party anywhere in the world free from corrupt leaders and criminals. The law says that a person is 'innocent until he is proved guilty' and it is not 'a person is guilty until his innocence is proved'. Accusations and allegations against political rivals are not the proof of corrupt practice and criminality. Therefore, Kishor's will not only be not taken serious note of by the people, but also such allegations are dismissed by the people as politically motivated. This is time for him to introspect over the debacle of his party and take corrective action to make his party a force to reckon with.

 $\it KV$   $\it See thar a mai a h$ ,  $\it BANGALORE$ 

#### **Anxiety among workers**

Sir, With reference to news article "Government implements 4 labour codes" published in your esteemed newspaper November 22, I wish to highlight the growing concern over the Centre's decision to implement the four new labour codes. While the government claims these reforms will modernise labour regulations and boost investment, worker unions across the country strongly oppose them. They fear reduced social security, longer working hours, and weakened bargaining power. Many provisions remain unclear, creating anxiety among both organised and unorganised workers. It is essential that the government holds wider consultations to ensure that labour reforms protect workers' rights while promoting economic growth. Otherwise, the very workforce that fuels the nation's progress will be left vulnerable to exploitation, widening inequality and eroding trust in policy-making. Transparent dialogue, clear safeguards, and phased implementation are vital to balance industry needs with labour welfare.

Sidhartha Kar Mohapatra, BARIPADA



# TWO STATES





# Maha seeks strict measures to stop nylon manja sale

Mumbai, Nov 22: Maharashtra Legislative Council Deputy Chairperson Neelam Gorhe has called for stronger enforcement to stop the sale of nylon manja, a type of thread linked to several injuries and deaths. "Impose a total ban on nylon

manja and stop its online sale, take strict action," she said in a representation submitted to the Union and state governments. Gorhe has written to Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and the state Environment and Home departments, seeking effective restrictions on the production. sale, storage, transport and particularly online sale of nylon

She stated that although the Maharashtra government has already prohibited nylon manja, weak enforcement has aggravated the problem.

She highlighted incidents of deaths reported in Wardha, Nashik, Bhiwandi and other parts of Maharashtra due to injuries caused by nylon manja.

The sharp and non-biodegradable thread has severely



injured two-wheeler riders, pe destrians and police personnel, apart from causing large-scale deaths of birds and other animals. Gorhe stated.

Gorhe claimed nylon manja is easily available on e-commerce platforms under alternative names such as fishing line, nylon thread, and strong

She claimed it was also being sold on Instagram and WhatsApp groups under misleading labels such as eco-friendly or cotton thread. Gorhe demanded that the Centre issue immediate directions to e-commerce companies to stop deliveries of such materials in Maharashtra

Calling for strict enforcement, she suggested setting up of district-level special task forces to conduct raids in markets, godowns and stock points and seize stock

She said offences should be registered under applicable provisions, including culpable homicide, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and the

Environment Protection Act. Gorhe called for promoting environmentally friendly cotton manja and financial support, training and incentives for khadi and village industries and local manufacturers to pro-

#### RWAs, security staff to receive electric heaters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: In a bid to curb pollution caused by the burning of coal and wood during winter, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Saturday announced that the government will distribute 10,000 electric heaters to Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and security personnel across the city.

Speaking at an event at the Open Amphitheatre, Delhi Haat, Pitampura, where she launched the initiative along with Industries Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, the chief minister said the move is part of the government's broader efforts to reduce local emissions during peak winter months.

"In Delhi's war against pollution, the government has taken another positive step. Coal and wood combustion are among the sources of Delhi's pollution. To reduce that, we have decided to distribute 10,000 electric heaters to RWAs and will request people not to burn wood and cause pollution," Gupta said.

She emphasised that public participation is crucial for the success of the initiative. "Every resident of Delhi has to contribute to this effort. We will connect every RWA with this initiative and felicitate those who perform well," she said.

# Namo Bharat trains now available for private pre-wedding shoots in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has opened its Namo Bharat trains and stations to celebrate personal milestones, offering options for birthday events, pre-wedding shoots and other private occasions, an official statement said Saturday.

Under the new policy, individuals, event organisers and photography or media companies can book static or running Namo Bharat coaches, the state ment said

A mock-up coach at the Duhai Depot is also available for static shoots. Bookings start at ₹5,000 per hour, with 30 minutes each allotted for setting up and removing decorations or equipment, it stated.

The NCRTC said the service offers a distinctive experience, with Namo Bharat's modern, internationally designed coaches providing a visually appealing setting for photographs and small gatherings.

The facilities may be personalised with simple decorations. subject to guidelines, the corporation stated, adding that the celebrations will be permitted only



With stations located at key points such as Anand Vihar, Ghaziabad and Meerut South, the initiative is expected to attract residents across the **Delhi-Meerut corridor, offering them a familiar yet** 

unusual space to mark special moments

between 6 am and 11 pm and will be organised in a way that does not disrupt train operations or inconvenience commuters.

All activities will take place under the supervision of NCRTC staff and security personnel to ensure safety and adherence to operational protocols, the statement said.

With stations located at key points such as Anand Vihar, Ghaziabad and Meerut South, the initiative is expected to attract residents across the Del hi-Meerut corridor, offering them a familiar yet unusual space to mark special moments it said.

The NCRTC stated that it has also formulated a detailed premises hiring policy for film shoots. documentaries, advertisements. and other visual projects at Namo Bharat trains and stations.

These locations can be booked for short-term use at competitive

#### Delhi Secretariat to get upgraded LAN, Wi-Fi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: The Delhi government is working on revamping the local area network (LAN) and Wi-Fi infrastructure at the Secretariat building for an updated digital ecosystem, officials said

The existing LAN at the Delhi Secretariat is over a decade old, which needs an overhaul as it sometimes faces glitches, hampering work. It also requires updates according to the new technology and improvements in internet connectivity, they said.

The LAN refers to interconnected computers and digital devices in a specified geographical location, like a building. The LAN works through inter communication of digital devices like computers with the help of components like routers, switches, firewalls and signal repeaters.

The Information and Technology (IT) department of the government has taken up the project for complete modernisation of the LAN and Wi-Fi infrastructure at the Delhi Secretariat to meet current digital demands, said a department official.

It will provide a robust, high-speed, and secure communication network to support e-governance applications and internal collaboration. The upgraded infrastructure will ensure seamless connectivity for all departments, enabling efficient use of cloudbased tools and digital platforms, he said.



The upgrade will support high-bandwidth activities like video conferencing, improve connectivity, thereby directly enhancing productivity and inter-departmental coordination, he added.

Currently, the Public Works Department (PWD) is carrying out a survey of the LAN and the Wi-Fi infrastructure of the building to suggest required interventions and revamp

work, he added. The Delhi Secretariat is a nine-storey building near ITO that serves as the seat of the city government. Its various floors are occupied by the offices of the chief minister, cabinet ministers, the chief secretary, as well as top officers of different departments.



Fishermen navigate through polluted foam as they cast nets to catch fish in the Yamuna river near Kalindi Kunj, in New Delhi, Saturday

### India Post sets up service desk at CSMT metro station

Mumbai, Nov 22: The newly inaugurated service desk, set up by India Post and Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation, along with art installations at the CSMT station of the Aqua Metro Line, will enhance commuter services and promote postal initiatives, officials said.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Chief Postmaster General of Maharashtra and Goa circle, Amitabh Singh, Mumbai Region postal services director Kaiya Arora, and senior officials of India Post and MMRCL Friday.

India Post has also opened a dedicated service desk that offers philatelic products such as augmented reality postcards, themed coasters, water bottles, and tote bags. It will also provide information on various postal services to commuters, according to an official release.

The newly installed artworks at the station highlight the range of India Post's services and products, combining visual appeal with information about the department's heritage and



modern offerings, it said. A special 'My Stamp' facility

has been set up at the station, allowing visitors to create per sonalised stamps featuring their photographs.

The India Post, in collabora tion with the metro operation body, aims to bring citizen-cen tric services closer to the public by integrating them with high-footfall transit hubs, the release said.

Similar service desks and installations are planned at three more metro stations at BKC, SEEPZ, and Cuffe Parade in the next phase.

### Jackals escape from Delhi zoo; search underway

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: A few jackals escaped from their enclosure at Delhi's National Zoological Park Saturday morning, prompting authorities to launch a search operation in the forested area behind the animal exhibits, according to

sages to the Administration department of Delhi zoo went unanswered, and there was no immediate response on the in-The breach, reported the Sat-

Meanwhile, calls and mes-

urday morning, has once again brought the zoo's preparedness and animal management under

An official privy to the matter said, the jackals slipped out from the rear side of the enclosure, which opens into a dense

forest patch forming the zoo's outer boundary.

There was no threat to visitors, who remained unaware of the situation, he added.

He said the escaped jackals are suspected to have taken advantage of a gap in the fencing at the back of the enclosure. Zoo teams have been deployed across the forested area to locate and secure them.

The jackal enclosure is surrounded by high wire mesh and includes burrows, shaded areas, and a shelter structure. The section where the breach occurred is now being examined to determine how the animals managed to get through, the official added.

Another official said initial assessments suggest the jackals have not moved towards the visitors' pathway and are likely still within the zoo premises.



#### Woman cooks noodles inside train, Central **Railway initiates action**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 22: The Central Railway has launched efforts to trace a woman passenger after her viral video of cooking instant noodles using an electric kettle inside an AC coach of an express train has raised safety concerns, officials said

Saturday. A Central Railway official told PTI that the woman passenger has been identified and efforts are on to trace her. She will face action under section 147(1) of the Railways Act.

The video shows an electric kettle plugged into a mobile charging socket. The woman, speaking in Marathi, says she prepared tea for 10-15 people using the same method.

After the widely circulated video raised serious concerns over passenger safety and potential fire hazards, Central Railway said action was being taken against the channel that posted the clip as well as the person involved.

"Using an electronic kettle inside trains is strictly prohibited. It is unsafe, illegal, and a punishable offence. It can lead to a fire incidence and be disastrous for other passengers

May also cause disruption of electric supply and malfunction of the AC and other electronic ports in the Train," the Central Railway stated on X.

#### A TALE OF COURAGE

### 11-year-old boy fights off leopard in Palghar forest; school bag saves life

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Palghar, Nov 22: An 11-yearold schoolboy displayed exemplary courage as he fought back a menacing leopard with the help of his friend by hurling stones and raising an alarm, which forced the big cat to beat a hasty retreat in Palghar district of Maharashtra, officials said Saturday.

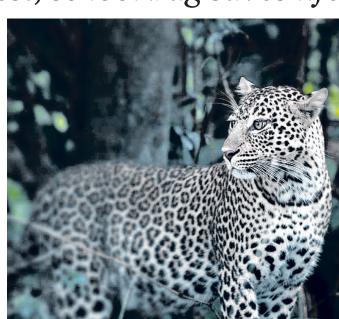
The encounter could have had worse consequences had Mavank Kuvara not been carrying his school bag, which turned out to be a protective shield when the big cat pounced on him Friday evening near the Mala Padvipada area.

"A leopard attacked Kuvara, a class 5 student, when he was returning from school. He and another boy fought back with brave cries and threw stones", officials confirmed.

The commotion and the swift reaction of the children alerted people who ran to the scene, causing the leopard to flee back into the forest.

Kuvara suffered a claw injury to his hand and is currently undergoing treatment at Vikramgad Rural Hospital. A medical officer said the boy has received stitches for the injury.

Resident Forest Officer, Kanchad, Swapnil Mohite told PTI Saturday that forest officials immediately rushed to the spot



The boy suffered a claw injury to his hand and is currently undergoing treatment at

**Vikramgad Rural Hospital. A medical** officer said he has received stitches for the injury

and later to the hospital where the boy was taken.

The Forest department is taking the incident seriously and is implementing several

preventive measures, he added The Forest department has requested schools in leop ard-prone areas to shut down

by 4pm. Mohite said an AI-enabled

camera is being installed to track the movement of the big cat, while villages are being alerted through traditional 'Da vandi' (public announcements).

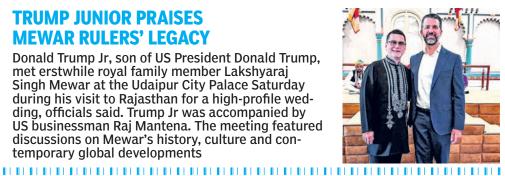
# national



replacement for books. Books are not just a source of knowledge, but a deep process of thinking, understanding, and learning. Give books, not bouquets, at any

#### **TRUMP JUNIOR PRAISES MEWAR RULERS' LEGACY**

Donald Trump Jr, son of US President Donald Trump, met erstwhile royal family member Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar at the Udaipur City Palace Saturday during his visit to Rajasthan for a high-profile wedding, officials said. Trump Jr was accompanied by US businessman Raj Mantena. The meeting featured discussions on Mewar's history, culture and contemporary global developments





ened by healthy discussion, and ruling party and the opposition should have the objective of public welfare and the development of the state in mind

SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR I HARKHAND GOVERNOR

Guwahati creates history! Proud to see **ACA Stadium** become India's 30th Test venue, bringing the pinnacle of cricket



people have come in, now we must know who they are, how long they have stayed, and whether their ILPs are valid or expired. Even those with ILPs who are overstaying will now be visible in the system

PEMA KHANDU | CHIEF MINISTER,

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### SIA arrests man in white collar case

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police's State **Investigation Agency** arrested a man here Saturday in connection with a 'white collar' terror module case, officials said. The arrested person has been identified as Tufail Niyaz Bhat, a resident of the Batamaloo area of the city here. He was arrested as part of the ongoing investigation into the 'white collar' terror module case, the officials added. The entire module was busted after the Srinagar Police began an investigation into the pasting of posters that threatened police and security forces on walls in Bunpora, Nowgam, in mid-

#### Police constable held in ₹7cr Bangalore heist

Bangalore: Three people, including a police constable, have been arrested in connection with the ₹7.11 crore robbery in the city following a manhunt involving over 200 personnel, City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said here Saturday. Also, three more accused were 'detained' in Hyderabad and a bag with ₹53 lakh cash was seized from them, the **Deputy Commissioner of** Police of Bengaluru South division Lokesh B Jagalasar said. Briefing reporters on the sensational heist where a gang posing as RBI officials decamped with the money, Singh said ₹5.76 crore has been recovered so far and efforts are on to trace the remaining amount.

### **Trans-border drug**

module busted Chandigarh: In a major recovery of narcotics. Puniab Police's Anti-Narcotics Task Force Saturday recovered 50 kg of heroin after busting a trans-border drug trafficking module, officials said. Sandeep Singh alias Seepa, a notorious drug smuggler and a resident of village Shanna Sher Singh Wala in Kapurthala district, was arrested in connection with the recovery of the heroin, police said. **Director General of Police** (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said that apart from recovering a big haul of heroin, the police also impounded his white car in which he was travelling. Preliminary investigation revealed that this trans-border shipment of 50 kg of heroin was sent by Pakistan-based

and ISI-supported smugglers.

# Cong questions effectiveness of 'repackaged' 4 labour codes



A day after the Centre notified the four Labour Codes, pending since 2020, with several

worker-friendly measures, the principal opposition party questioned their effectiveness in giving justice to workers and said it should learn from the Congress governments in Karnataka and Rajasthan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: The Congress Saturday said the Modi government must ensure a national minimum wage of ₹400 a day, ₹25 lakh universal health coverage and an employment guarantee act for Indian workers in urban areas to make "Shramik Nyay" a reality under the much-touted new labour

A day after the Centre notified the four Labour Codes, pending since 2020, with several worker-friendly measures, the principal opposition party questioned their effectiveness in giving justice to workers and said it should learn from the Congress governments in Karnataka and Rajasthan.

Congress general secretary. communications, Jairam Ramesh said the 29 existing labour-related laws have been re-packaged into the four Codes and are being marketed as some revolutionary reform

when even the Rules are yet to

"But will these codes make these 5 essential demands of India's workers for Shramik Nyay a reality? National minimum wage at ₹400 per day, including for MGNREGA. Right to Health law that will provide universal health coverage of ₹25 lakhs. Employment Guarantee Act for urban areas. Comprehensive social security for all unorganised workers, including life insurance and accident insurance and a commitment to stop contractualisation of employment in core Government functions," Ramesh said in a

'The Modi Government must learn from the examples of the Congress Government in Karnataka and the former Government in Rajasthan, which have pioneered labour reform for the 21st century with their groundbreaking gig worker laws that preceded the new codes," the Congress leader also said.

The four Labour Codes include worker-friendly measures like a timely minimum wage for all and universal social security, including gig and platform

must learn from the examples of the Congress Government in Karnataka and the former Government in Raiasthan, which have pioneered labour reform for the 21st century with their groundbreaking gig worker laws that preceded the new

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY, COMMUNICATIONS

workers, while allowing longer work hours, broader fixedterm employment and employer-friendly retrenchment rules.

While the four Labour Codes -- the Code of Wages (2019, Industrial Relations Code (2020) Code on Social Security (2020) and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (2020), which were passed by Parliament five years back -were notified Friday to replace 29 fragmented laws with a unified and modern framework, rules that will bring them into force with immediate effect will be issued shortly.

Key reforms include mandatory appointment letters to workers to ensure formalisation and job security; universal social security coverage, including to gig, platform, contract, and migrant workers, with PF. ESIC, and insurance benefits; statutory minimum wages and timely payment across all sectors; expanded rights and safety for women, including night-shift work and mandatory grievance committees; and free annual health check-ups for workers aged 40 and above.

The Codes, however, had earlier come under criticism from trade unions over unclear provisions on retrenchment and possible discretionary behaviour during the implementation by the central or state govern-

# Stalin writes to Modi



**The Chief Minister** says rejection of **Metro Rail projects** by Centre has caused resentment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 22: Chief Minister MK Stalin Saturday conveyed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi his disappointment over the Centre's rejection of proposals for Metro Rail projects in Coimbatore and Madurai and said it has caused resent ment among public and sought reconsideration of the decision.

High-capacity public transport alternatives are an imperative in large growth engine cit ies, Stalin said and underscored that Tamil Nadu was the most urbanised state in the country with a high per-capita private vehicle ownership.

Writing to Modi, the chief minister said, under such circumstances, the state government prepared the DPRs for Coimbatore and Madurai Metro Rails and forwarded it to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) for approval. However, the proposals were rejected by MoHUA, he said and conveyed his government's disappointment and an guish in this regard.

"It has created deep resentment amongst the people of the two cities that their deserving needs have been rejected, as compared to similar projects Stalin said.

He recalled that he had personally impressed upon him on these projects when he met him 24.5.2025 and 26.7.2025 and also, he had submitted a memorandum on priority requests.

Under such circumstances, the CM urged the PM to instruct MoHUA to reconsider the decision to reject the proposals. The CM said, "I urge you to instruct MoHUA to review the decision of returning the proposals... If necessary, I am ready to meet you at New Delhi with my team to explain the issues in detail. Since these two projects involve the aspirations of the industrial and cultural hubs of Tamil Nadu, I look forward to your personal intervention in this issue."

On the "purported reasons" quoted by the MoHUA for rejection, he said these were not appropriate. The criterion of 2 million population, as in the Metro Rail Policy 2017, has been quoted as one of the main reasons for rejection. "I wish to highlight that the

population of Coimbatore LPA (Local Planning Authority) area had exceeded 2 million way back in 2011 itself and in the case of Madurai too, the expected population is likely to exceed it now.' It is pertinent to point out at

this juncture that if this 2 million criteria had been applied uniformly, many Metros in Tier-II cities like Agra, Indore and Patna may not have materialised.

#### **Train services hit after** fire breaks out in Dharavi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 22: Several shanties were gutted in a major fire that broke out in Dharavi slum area of Mumbai close to the Harbour line local train tracks Saturday, leading to suspension of train services for three hours on the affected stretch, officials said.

Nobody was injured in the blaze, but several blasts, apparently of cooking gas cyl inders, could be heard when the fire was raging, emanating thick black smoke that could be seen from afar.

The fire in the huts located inside the Navrang Compound on the 60-foot road broke out at 12.30 pm.

"The fire started from a single storey shanty, which later spread to similar adjacent structures. After being informed, eight fire engines and 10 jetties, many other fire brigade vehicles and some se nior officials reached the spot for a firefighting operation,' a civic official said.

"There is no report of any injuries to anyone," he added

Several shanties were gut ted in the fire, which was doused at 3.40 pm after more than three hours of efforts, he

As the fire broke out close to the railway tracks, local train services between Band ra and Mahim on the Harbour line were suspended, railway officials said.

#### Shah distributes books at Ahmedabad International Book Fair



Ahmedabad, Nov 22: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah distributed books to children and visited various stalls at the Ahmedabad International Book Fair, held in Ahmedahad Saturday.

In a post on 'X', Shri Amit Shah said that books are not only a source of knowledge but also an important medium for personality development. He said, today, I distributed books to children and visited various stalls at the Ahmedabad International Book Fair organized by AMC and National Book Trust

Shah said that this fair, featuring literary programs, folk song and poetry recitations and a start-up forum, will play a vital role in enriching children and youth intellectually by promoting reading and skill development.

#### Court allows accused's plea to meet lawyer at NIA headquarters

New Delhi, Nov 22: A Delhi court Saturday allowed the plea of Jasir Bilal Wani, an accused in the Red Fort blast case, to meet his lawyer at the National Investigation Agency (NIA) headquarters, court sources said. DELHI

The plea was allowed by Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna of the Patiala House Court, they

The Delhi High Court refused to pass an order to allow the accused's plea Friday, saying he failed to show any order passed by the trial court rejecting his prayer. The high court, in the alter-

native, granted Wani's counsel

the liberty to approach the trial court concerned Saturday for adjudication of his plea in accordance with law.

A resident of Qazigund in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag, Wani was arrested in Srinagar by the NIA Novem-

the November 10 blast.

The next day, Judge Chand-

According to the NIA, Wani

ber 17 for allegedly providing technical support for carrying out terror attacks by modifying drones and attempting to make rockets ahead of

na sent him to 10-day NIA cus-

was an "active co-conspirator" in the blast and worked closely with "suicide bomber" Dr Umar-un-Nabi to plan the "terror carnage".



A Bangladeshi national rests with a child as they wait to return to their homeland after allegedly illegally entering the Indian territory, following the implementation of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, at Hakimpur checkpost, in North 24 Parganas district, West Bengal, Saturday

#### TEJAS CRASH: 'PATRIOT, OUTSTANDING ATHLETE'

# IAF pilot's village in Himachal mourns a life lost too soon

The single-engine light weight aircraft crashed around 3.40 pm IST after Namansh had flown across the site during the demonstration flight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nov 22: For the people of Patiyalkar, a sleepy village in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district, the news of the death of local hero Namansh Syal - the IAF Wing Commander killed after a Tejas fighter jet crashed

Dharamsala/Hamirpur,

during an aerial display at the Dubai Air Show Saturday - is For most of them, Namansh, who was in his mid-30s, re-

mains an outstanding athlete

distinguished by his dedication

to the country, "who even set an example in death by diverting the aircraft to save thousands present at the mega air show".

Since early Saturday, heart-wrenching scenes have been witnessed at the Syal household in the Nagrota Bagwan area, with villagers trying to console the wailing family members mourning a life lost too soon. Jogindernath Sval.

Namansh's uncle, told PTI Videos that the mortal remains of the wing commander reached the Sulur Air Force station near Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu around 9 am Saturday. from where they will be flown to the Gaggal airport in Kangra

"We have made all arrangements for the cremation," he

Jogindernath came to know about the crash Friday after-

noon after Namansh's father, who was not at home at the time, called him and asked if he had any information about the incident.

"My wife rushed to their tenant, who works in Qatar and had come to the village on a holiday. After scanning the latest news on the inter-

net, he confirmed that it was

Namansh who was flying the jet that crashed. I immediately contacted my brother to give him the tragic news. Initially, he did not believe what I said and came to terms with reality only after I told him that it was confirmed information," he told PTI Videos Namansh is survived by his

father, mother, wife, who is

also serving in the Air Force, and their six-year-old daughter. Namansh and his wife met during their first posting in Pathankot, and later got mar-"As soon as I came to know

about the crash, I contacted Namansh's family members. Initially, we thought he was injured. Sadly, we were wrong... A promising career came to an abrupt end," Nagrota Bagwan SDM Manish Kumar Sharma

Namansh's alma mater, the Sainik School at Sujanpur Tira in neighbouring Hamirpur district, is also struggling to come to terms with the tragic passing

of one of its illustrious alumni A special prayer meeting was held at the school during which principal Rachna Joshi and oth-

er teachers fondly remembered their former student Saturday. Many alumni of the school also shared photos and messages remembering their former schoolmate. Pankaj Chadha, former president of the Sainik School Sujanpur Old Boys Asso ciation, said Namansh brought glory to the country, and his martyrdom will always be re membered.

As the crash in Dubai cast a tragic shadow on an otherwise mega spectacle on the last day of the event, video footage showed the jet abruptly drop ping height after what looked like a low-altitude manoeuvre and then nosedived into the ground in a matter of seconds before being engulfed in a ball of fire.

The single-engine light weight aircraft crashed around 3.40 pm IST after Namansh had flown across the site during the demonstration flight. The aeri al display of Tejas was sched uled to last eight minutes.

# national



The British wanted **India to remain** weak and divided. We got freedom from that mindset as well. Our nation was divided into 562 princely states. We stayed under foreign rule because we were separated

#### **AGNIKUL RAISES ₹150CR** FOR REUSABLES ROCKETS

Space startup Agnikul Cosmos Saturday said it has raised Rs 150 crore in a fresh funding round at over halfa-billion dollar valuation, which would be used to build resusable launch vehicles. IIT-Chennai incubated Agnikul demonstrated a sub-orbital rocket launch last year and is planning to place small satellites into the low earth orbit using its 3D printed Agnibaan rocket next year





ernment and the Election Commission are preparing to delete over 50,000 voters in each Assembly constituency won by the SP or the

INDIA bloc, using SIR as a pretext. This is happening in Uttar Pradesh and in West Bengal. We are alert AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

I will ensure there is no shortage of funds if you elect all 18 NCP candidates. If you elect all 18 candidates I am committed to give whatever I have promised. But if you reject, I will also reject. You have votes,

have funds

AJIT PAWAR DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER, MAHARASHTRA

Not everyone receives an opportunity like this. Make the most of it, learn deeply, and bring that knowledge







Pakistani 2 bit accounts mocking Imagine living in a terrorist nation literally surviving

Made in China toy weapons to showcase should be the last ones to talk about indigenous defence fighter jets, as the only thing they are capable of making are terror& suicide bomber squads.

@priyankac19

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### Jagmohan temple access banned

Mathura (UP): The chairman of a Supreme Court-appointed highpowered committee for the management of the Banke Bihari temple has prohibited climbing stairs or offering darshan at the Jagmohan hall of the shrine after noncompliance by the priests, officials said. Jagmohan refers to the space between the sanctum sanctorum of the temple and the area where common devotees get a glimpse of Banke Bihari. According to local customs and traditions, devotees are not allowed to enter the area, where only the priests on duty can facilitate worship offered by them. From Saturday. entry of any visitor to the upper left and right sides of the Jagmohan area will be prohibited, an official statement said.

#### 4 militants among **5 held in Manipur**

Imphal: Security forces arrested four militants belonging to various proscribed outfits in Manipur for their alleged involvement in extortion activities, police said Saturday. A person was also apprehended from his residence at Itham Awang in Thoubal district after weapons were recovered from his possession Friday, a senior officer said. Three active cadres of the banned People's Liberation Army were arrested from Keishampat Thouda Bhabok Leikai area in Imphal West district Thursday. he said, adding that they were allegedly involved in extortion activities. One pistol and ammunition. along with documents related to the outfit, were recovered from their

possession, the officer said.

# Winter session to take up key Bills 37 Maoists surrender to police in Telangana

Bill to allow prez make legislations for **Chandigarh directly** to be brought in **Parliament session** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: The Centre has proposed to include the Union territory of Chandigarh under the ambit of Article 240 of the Constitution, which empowers the president to make regulations for the UT and legislate directly.

This could pave the way for the appointment of an independent administrator in Chandigarh, like when it had an independent chief secretary in the past, a move that evoked sharp reactions from Congress, Akali Dal and AAP.

Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill 2025 will be introduced in the upcoming Winter session of Parliament. beginning December 1, 2025, according to a bulletin of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

The Bill seeks to include the Union territory of Chandigarh in Article 240, in alignment with other UTs without legislatures such as Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, and Puducherry (when its Legislative Assembly is dissolved or suspended).

According to the bulletin, the government has also proposed a provisional list of 10 Bills it seeks to bring during the upcoming session

Article 240 of the Constitution grants power to the president to make regulations for the peace, progress and effective



garh, he stressed.

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)

president Sukhbir Singh Badal

said the Bill would be a "betray-

governance of the Union territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands; Lakshadweep; Dadra & Nagar Haveli; and Daman & Diu and Puducherry.

However, it said that when a body is created under Article 239A to function as a legislature for a Union territory (as is the case in Puducherry), the president shall not make any regulation with effect from the day of the first meeting of the legislature.

It also states that any regulation so made may repeal or amend any Act made by Parliament or any other law, which is for the time being applicable to the Union territory, and, when promulgated by the president, shall have the same force and effect as an Act of Parliament which applies to that territory.

Reacting to the development. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said it is a grave injustice that the BJP government is "conspiring to snatch" Punjab's capital. Chandigarh was, is and will always remain an integral part of the state, Mann said in a statement.

Nobody can deny that being the parent state, Punjab has the al" of the commitments given by the Centre to restore Chandigarh to Punjab. In a statement here, Badal

said the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill sought to take the union territory permanently out of Punjab's administra tive and political control.

Describing the proposed legislation as an "assault on the rights of Punjab", Badal said it was also against federalism. "It seeks to end Punjab's claim to Chandigarh as its capital city.'

Seeking an intervention in the matter, AAP MP Vikramjit Singh Sahney said all lawmakers should call on Union Home Minister Amit Shah, asserting that Punjab's claims on Chandigarh have "historical significance".

#### Parliament plans 10 Bills including nuclear

bill seeking to open up the civil nuclear sector for private players is Aamong the 10 new proposed legislations listed by the government for introduction in the winter session of Parliament, beginning December 1. Besides the crucial 'The Atomic Energy Bill, 2025', which seeks to govern the use and regulation of atomic energy in India, the Higher Education Commission of India Bill is also on the agenda. According to a Lok Sabha bulletin, the proposed law seeks to set up a Higher Education Commission of India to facilitate universities and other higher educational institutes to become independent and self-governing institutions and to promote excellence through a robust and transparent system of accreditation and autonomy. It has long been on the government's agenda. The National Highways (Amendment) Bill, also listed for introduction, seeks to ensure faster and transparent land acquisition for national highways. Another proposed legislation is the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which aims at tweaking the Companies Act, 2013 and LLP Act, 2008, to facilitate ease of doing business. Also on the government's agenda is the Securities Markets Code Bill (SMC), 2025, which proposes to consolidate provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, Depositories Act, 1996, and Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, into a rationalised single Securities Markets Code. The government also plans changes to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act. Law Ministry officials said a proposed amendment to section 34 of the law and a Supreme Court observation on company directors have made the government refer the issue to a committee. The proposed amendment stems from that. Two bills from the previous session are also listed for consideration and passing. The first supplementary Budget for the year is also on the agenda, according to the bulletin.

# to police in Telangana

The surrendered Maoists handed over one AK-47 rifle, two SLR rifles, four 303 rifles, one G3 rifle, and 346 rounds of live ammunition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Nov 22: As many as 37 Maoists, three of whom were state committee leaders, surrendered to Telangana DGP B Shivadhar Reddy Saturday.

The surrendered cadres comprise three state committee members, three divisional committee members, nine area committee members, and 22 other CPI (Maoist) members, Reddy told reporters.

The three state committee members are Koyyada Sambaiah (49), alias Azad, Appasi Narayana, alias Ramesh (70). and Muchaki Somada, While Sambaiah and Narayana belong to the Telangana committee, Somada was part of the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee of the Maoists.

The surrendered Maoists handed over one AK-47 rifle, two SLR rifles, four 303 rifles, one G3 rifle, and 346 rounds of live ammunition.

Reddy said the Maoists responded to an appeal by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to join the mainstream. He added that sustained anti-Maoist operations, ideological differences, and internal rifts within the organisation influenced their decision to surrender. The surrendered Maoists car-

ry a total cash reward of about Rs 1.40 crore, with Sambaiah and Naravana having bounties of Rs 20 lakh each. The DGP urged all CPI (Mao-

ist) cadres to come forward and join the mainstream. Of the nine Central Commit-



tee members of the proscribed organisation, five belong to Telangana: Ganapati, Malla Raji Reddy, Tippiri Tirupati alias Devji, Hanumanthu, and Narahari.

When asked whether Devji is leading the outfit, the DGP said there is no confirmed information and it remains speculative On efforts to secure the sur

render of Devji and Ganapati the DGP said, "Please pass on to us if they come in contact with you. Definitely, we are trying for them. We welcome them it they want to come out through their acquaintances. Regarding Sambaiah and

Narayana, who have been in police custody since last week, he clarified that the surrender was voluntary and not an arrest re quiring court production within 24 hours. The DGP dismissed reports that top Maoist commander Madvi Hidma, killed in Andhra Pradesh earlier this week, was taken to Telangana because police refused his surrender, calling them false.

Sambaiah alias Azad said the present state committee leaders, Damodar and Venkanna, should also join the mainstream in the changed circumstances following the government's appeal.

A resident looks through a window amid the ongoing demolition drive at Dal Mandi, in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh,

# 3 new Bihar ministers take charge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Nov 22: A day after the allocation of portfolios by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, several ministers, including state BJP chief Dilip Jaiswal and JD(U)'s Ashok Chowdharv. took charge of their respective departments.

Rashtrya Lok Morcha's Deepak Prakash, who is neither an MLA nor a member of the legislative council (MLC), also assumed charge of the Panchayati Raj department.

Jaiswal commenced work as the minister of the industries department, and Chowdhary as the Rural Works department minister. Both Jaiswal and Chowdhary are members of the legislative council in the state.

'The industries department will come out with a comprehensive roadmap for investments in the next ten days. The focus of the NDA government is to make Bihar a fully developed state in the next five years. For the youth, our focus is to create maximum job opportunities within the state," Jaiswal said

address suicidality systemi-

after assuming charge.

The industries department will work towards checking

migration in the state, he said. Through various schemes, including the Rural Roads Strengthening and Management Programme and the Mukhvamantri Gramin Sampark, the state government will try to ensure that 'pucca' roads reach every hamlet, Chowdhary said.

"Our priority is to ensure that all ongoing projects are completed on time. The government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, launched projects worth Rs 21,406.36 crore of the Rural Works Department in July this year, paving the way for the construction of 11,346 roads and 730 small bridges in the state," he said. All projects will be completed within the stipulated

period of time. Chowdhary said. of the Panchyati Raj department, said, "The state government, as part of its vision of decentralisation, is committed to endow the panchayats with such powers and authority."

Name of work: EXTENDED TRIAL FOR MEASUREMENT/ DETERMINATION OF STRES FREE TEMPERATURE FOR LWR/CWR TRACK BASED ON THE MECHANICAL METHOD OVER

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 15,13,8,894.53 EMD: ₹ 2,25,700/-, Completion period of the

08.12.2025.

person shall be accepted against such

tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manua rejected summarily without any consideration. omplete information including e-tend documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.ireps.gov.in. The prospective enderers are advised to revisit the website 1 Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tende to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered Deputy Chief Engineer/Track

Prakash, after taking charge

### EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/25-26/ E-Tender/87, Dt.: 18.11.2025

EXECUTION OF CTR(S) FOR A LENGTH OF 1.60 KMS AND TRR (S) FOR 3.675 KMS IN DIFFERENT YARDS UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (II CUTTACK SECTION OF KHURDA ROAL

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 96.27 Lakhs EMD: ₹1,92,600/-. (2) Tender No. eTender-CentKUR-288-2025

Description: SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TRACK MOUNTED AUTOMATIC (ELECTRONIC TYPE) GAUGE FACE UBRICATOR (CARRY DOWN EFFECT OF UPTO 1 KM) ON 82 NO. CURVE LOCATIONS UNDER SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (CENTRAL) AND SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (HQ) SECTION OF KHURDA

prox cost of the work: ₹ 1277.44 Lakhs (3) Tender No. eTender-NorthKUR-290-

2025, Dt.: 11.11.2025 SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION DE TRACK MOUNTED AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC TYPE) GAUGE FACE LUBRICATOR (CARRY DOWN EFFECT OF LUBRICATOR (CARRY DOWN EFFECT OF UP TO 2 KM) ON 16 NO. CURVE LOCATIONS ON SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (NORTH) AND SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (EAST) SECTION OF KHURDA POAD DIVISION

pprox cost of the work: ₹ 256.04 Lakhs MD: ₹2,78,000/-.

Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 03.12.2025 (for all tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or person shall be accepted against sucle-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's etter head and received in time. All such manual

offers shall be considered invalid and shall be ejected summarily without any consideration. emplete information including e-tender locuments of the above e-tender is available i bsite www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes.

corrigenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), PR-820/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

# STUDENT SUICIDES SPARK OUTRAGE

Experts highlight a growing trend of suicidality among schoolchildren, pointing out that India accounts for 'one-third of the global suicide burden, and suicide is now the leading cause of death among youth aged 15-29'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: As outrage over student suicides intensifies, experts are calling for reforms to create "mentally healthy schools" while angry parents' associations are demanding "government takeover" of institutions linked to such cases. In all, the focus is on systematic changes to prevent further loss of young lives. A class 10 student of the St

Columba's School of New Delhi, who once dreamt of becoming



harassment by his teachers. While the tragic incident has

sparked nationwide debate, with some blaming schools and others siding with parents, mental health expert Neha Kirpal cautions that such polarisation is misplaced.

She emphasises that "suicid-



**Experts call** for change, accountability, policy reforms

ality is everyone's responsibility" -- encompassing teachers, parents, caregivers, staff, and the wider community -- and no

one can absolve themselves of it. "PTAs and school associations need to collaborate to

cally and preventively. Suicidal thoughts rarely emerge and act out suddenly; they progress through multiple phases, often overlooked due to myths or assumptions. The public narrative of sudden shock often absolves society of responsibility, even though warning signs usually exist. It is crucial to recognise these signs early and respond in a safe, supportive manner for the child," Kirpal, co-founder of Amaha Health and India Mental Health Alliance, told PTL There has been a spate of

such tragic incidents in recent weeks. Apart from the Delhi case, a 17-year-old class 11 student in Madhva Pradesh's Rewa died by suicide after alleging that a male teacher had physically assaulted her.

Earlier this month, a nineyear-old girl in Jaipur jumped from the fourth floor of her pri-

4 student had allegedly faced re-

lentless bullying, in her school for several months, including verbal abuse from classmates. Experts highlight a grow-

ing trend of suicidality among schoolchildren, pointing out that India accounts for "onethird of the global suicide burden, and suicide is now the leading cause of death among youth aged 15-29" But Kirpal, who is also the

co-author of book, "Homecoming: Mental Health Journeys of Resilience, Healing and Wholeness", urged all stakeholders. including the media, to go beyond reporting the graphic details of individual incidents. She stressed that the priori-

ty must be to address "systemic gaps in preparedness, mental health support, and institutional response" One of her key suggestions: a legislation mandating "men-

tally healthy schools" -- evaluated on standardised criteria vate school building. The class for staffing, training, resourcing, and policy.

# international



responsibly means using it in ways that help you grow. Don't ask it to do your homework for you POPE LEO

Nigerian gunmen abduct 300 kids

#### **UK BLOCKS ANCIENT HINDU ART**

The UK government has placed an export bar this week on a series of 200-year-old bold and colourful paintings that are said to depict one of the most important narratives in Hinduism. A buyer is being sought to keep the set of 56 paintings, valued at around 280,000 pounds, representing the origins and triumphs of Devi, or the Divine Mother

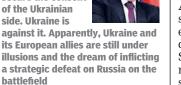


attempt an armed intervention



FU CONG I UN AMBASSADOR, CHINA

The US administration has so far been unable to secure the consent of the Ukrainian side. Ukraine is



VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

The position on race rela tions, I feel, if you're an ethnic minority in Britain you can say with



SHABANA MAHMOOD | SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT, UK

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Banerji resigns as **BBC** board member

London: Shumeet Banerji, an Indian-origin tech industry investor, has resigned from his role as a non-executive board member of the BBC over "governance issues" at the top rung of the UK's public broadcaster. Banerji's resignation Friday comes amid ongoing upheaval within the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) over the edit of US President Donald Trump's 2021 speech for a documentary, leading to the resignation of its top officials and an apology from chairman Samir Shah. In his resignation letter referenced by 'BBC News', Banerji said he was "not consulted" about the events leading up to the departures of director-general Tim Davie and news chief Deborah Turness.

#### Trump blow for Somali migrants

Washington: President Donald Trump has said that he's "immediately" terminating temporary legal protections for Somali migrants living in Minnesota, further targeting a programme seeking to limit deportations that his administration has already repeatedly sought to weaken. Minnesota has the nation's largest Somali community. Many fled the long civil war in their east African country and were drawn to the state's welcoming social programs. But how many migrants would be affected by Trump's announcement Friday night that he wants to end temporary protective status could be very small. A report produced for Congress in August put the number of Somalis covered by the programme at just 705 nationwide.

#### Rare bird flu strain kills Washington man

Washington: A Washington state man is believed to be the first person to die from a rare strain of bird flu, but state health officials have said the risk to the public is low. The man, an older adult with underlying health conditions, was being treated for a bird flu called H5N5 after becoming seemingly the first known human infected by the strain, according to a statement from the Washington State Department of Health Friday. The man from Grays Harbor County, about 125 km southwest of Seattle, had a backyard flock of domestic poultry that had been exposed to wild birds, health officials said. "The risk to the public remains low," the statement from state health officials said. "No other people involved have tested positive for avian

# **REIGN OF**

School kidnappings have come to define insecurity

in Africa's most populous nation, and armed gangs often see schools as "strategic" targets to draw more attention

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abuja, Nov 22: A total of 303 schoolchildren and 12 teachers were abducted by gunmen during an attack on St Mary's School, a Catholic institution in north-central Nigeria's Niger state, the Christian Association of Nigeria said Saturday, updating an earlier tally of 215 schoolchildren.

The tally was changed "after a verification exercise and a final census was carried out. according to a statement issued

Pak's Asif mourns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

only.

Indian pilot's death

Islamabad, Nov 22: Pakistan

Defence Minister Asif has of-

fered condolences to the Indian

Air Force and the family of the

pilot who died in a crash during

the Dubai Air Show, saying ri-

valry with the neighbouring

country belongs "to the skies

"Pakistan Strategic Forum on

the behalf of the whole nation

offers sincere deep condolences

to the Indian Air Force & to the

family of the pilot of the Indian

Air Force HAL LCA Tejas that

crashed today at the Dubai Air

Show 2025," Asif said in an over-

an agency of defence analysts

from Pakistan and allied na-

tions' committees to provide

tactical and military insights,

according to the forum's descrip-

message noted that "Unfortu-

nately the IAF pilot wasn't able

to eject & hasn't survived the

crash." The minister further

clarified that rivalry with India's

skies ONLY, & as per the teach-

ings of Quran & Sunnah we do

not celebrate any unfortunate

incident," he said, and ended

the post with, "Over to the skies

& beyond, RIP BRAVE HEART."

Asif's message comes amid the

strained ties after the conflict

in May this year. The Pakistan

Strategic Forum too in its X post

offered condolences. "Our rivalry

belongs only to the skies not at

air shows where we stand togeth-

er on common ground, united by

passion for flight and respect for

those who dare to push the lim-

its." it added. "Our prayers are

with his family and his squadron

in this difficult hour."

"Our rivalry belongs to the

air force was limited to skies

The minister sharing Forum's

Pakistan Strategic Forum is

night message on X.

tion on its X account.

by the Most. Rev. Bulus Dauwa Yohanna, chairman of the Niger state chapter of CAN, visited the school Friday. He said 88 other students

'were also captured after they tried to escape" during the attack. The students were both male and female and ranged in age from 10 to 18. The school kidnapping in Niger state's remote Papiri community happened four days after 25

schoolchildren were seized in similar circumstances in neighbouring Kebbi state's Maga town, which is 170 kilometres (106 miles) away. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the abductions, and authorities have said tactical squads have been deployed alongside local hunters to rescue the children.

Yohanna described as false a claim from the state government that the school had reearlier directive for schools in that part of Niger state to close temporarily due to security

"We did not receive any circular. It must he an afterthought and a way to shift blame," he said, calling on families to remain calm and prayer-

UNICEF said kidnappings last year that only 37 per cent of schools across 10 of the conflict-hit states have early warning systems to detect threats.

Niger state has now shut down all schools as a measure to forestall other kidnappings. The decision was in a bid to protect lives and property, Niger Gov Umar Bago told reporters Saturday after meeting with security officials in

state has

"It is the decision of stakeholders today to close all schools in Niger state. All schools are closed till further notice. So we have de-**Niger** 

clared Christmas holiday for all schools in Niger state, now shut down Bago said. The kidnap all schools as

pings are hapa measure to pening amid US President Donald forestall other Trump's claims of targeted killings against Christians in the West African coun-

try. Attacks in Nigeria affect both Christians and Muslims. The school attack earlier this week in Kebbi state was in a Muslim-majority town.

The attack also took place as Nigerian National Security Adviser Nuhu Ribadu was visiting the US, where he met Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth Friday.

#### **Trump okay with Mamdani calling** him a 'fascist'



Wasghington, Nov 22: United States President Donald Trump Friday met newly elected New York City mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani, a man who he has publicly lashed out Among other things, Trump

has in the past called Mamdani a "communist lunatic" and a "total nut job." The NYC may or had also proudly proclaimed that he was Trump's "worst nightmare." However, the customary

meeting between the two seemed warm and cordial, with Trump also indulging in prais ing the Democrat for his aims and manner of conduct. "I think he is going to sur

prise some conservative people actually," Trump told report ers at the Oval Office after the meeting with Mamdani. The US President also said he would be "helping" the mayor in making New York "strong and safe." For his part, Mamdani said

he "appreciate" the US Presi dent for the meeting not being focused on disagreements but on the "shared purpose" of 'serving New Yorkers.

Mr. Trump and Mr. Mamdani said they focused their private discussion on the cost of living and affordability, issues at the heart of Mr. Mamdani's mayoral victory.

Mr. Trump talked at length about bringing down the price of groceries and housing. By emphasizing pocketbook issues, the two men largely dodged topics of disagreement such as immigration policy and the war in Gaza. But their economic focus also represented smart politics for Trump as polls show affordability remains the number one concern for voters nationwide.

Both Trump and Mamdani were grilled by reporters regarding remarks made about each other, including the latter's comment calling the US

President a "fascist." When asked whether Mamdani was "affirming" his think ing that Trump is a "fascist" Trump quipped in between, saying the NYC mayor could just agree to the question.

"That's okay, you can say it," Trump said, following which Mamdani replied in the affirmative. "It's easier than explaining it. I don't mind," the US President said while patting Mamdani's arm affably.

# **G20 adopts Declaration ignoring US**

Generally, the adoption of the Declaration happens at the end of the Leaders' **Summit. This time it happened at the start of the meet** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Johannesburg, Nov 22: The heads of state attending the G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg Saturday adopted a Declaration by consensus despite US attempts to stop it. "It is a great moment for us

because we believe that this will revolutionise the (African) continent," South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ronald Lamola said on host broadcaster SABC, calling the Declaration as "an affirmation of multilateralism.

Generally, the adoption of the Declaration happens at the end of the Leaders' Summit. This time it happened at the start of the meet

"The Declaration has been negotiated and agreed upon by the Sherpas that needed to agree on (it). The various leaders who are here have been briefed by their Sherpas on what is in the Declaration, so there was nothing that stops us from putting the Declaration forward for adoption by the leaders who are in the first segment of this (two-day) meeting," Lamola said about the unusual step of adopting the Declaration early in the start of the meeting.

"We are thrilled that they agreed to do it. It contains a number of revolutionary aspects for the African continent and the world," he said.

Asked about the US' stance on not participating and trying to stop the declaration in its absence, Lamola expanded on



#### Modi proposes four initiatives Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday called for a profound rethink of the

Pglobal development parameters and proposed setting up of a G20 initiative to counter the drug-terror nexus and a global healthcare response team. Addressing the opening session of the G20 Leaders' Meeting here, Modi said the G20 has long shaped global finance and growth, but prevailing models have deprived large populations of resources and driven the over-exploitation of nature – challenges felt acutely in Africa. Modi also presented the principle of Integral Humanism -part of India's civilisational values -- which he said showed a way forward in strik ing a balance between development and nature. The prime minister outlined four path-breaking new initiatives – the Global Traditional Knowledge Repository, the G20-Africa Skills Multiplier Initiative, the G20 Global Healthcare Response Team, and the G20 Initiative on Countering the Drug-Terror Nexus. Acknowledging that the G20 Leaders Summit was being held in Africa for the first time, Modi said the focus on striking a balance between development and environment was more ap propriate, given that the continent has been a victim of overexploitation of natura resources. "Now is the right moment for us to revisit our development parameters and focus on growth that is inclusive and sustainable. India's civilisational values, especially the principle of Integral Humanism offers a way forward," Modi told the session on 'Inclusive and sustainable economic growth leaving no one behind.'

his earlier remarks that the G20 would continue with or without

The G20 cannot be paralysed on the basis of the absence of someone who was invited. The multilateral platform must function. It has served good since the second World War, so that is the message that South Africa was sending across in all the engagements to say we have

to move with the Declaration. "We have to ensure that the Declaration becomes a success and the whole world is here. They have agreed that that is the way to go. It is now a platform for cooperation where all the leaders of the world are saying this is where the world must go. Cooperation is the only way. This is an affirmation of multilateralism," Lamola said.

"With regard to our bilateral relations with the US, the Department of Trade and Industry is continuing with their engagements and we look forward to finding a positive resolution. But the reality is that the South African government has acted responsibly with regard to the US," he said.

It is about all the 21 members

of the G20. We are all equal

members of the G20. What it

means is that we need to take a

have decided this is where the

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND

COOPERATION, SOUTH AFRICA

going to happen

decision. Those of us who are here

world must go and that is what is

Lamola added that South Africa would not act "recklessly from the beginning or at any stage" because it knows that the US is the world's largest economy and South Africa's second largest trading partner.

"So, there is no way you can deal with the economy without the US," he said. "But there must be a point where we are able to stand firm even when we are being diplomatically

# Escape plot lands Brazil's ex-president in custody

For more than 100 days, Bolsonaro has been under house arrest for violating precautionary measures in a separate case over allegedly

courting US interference to halt the criminal case against him

REUTERS

Brasilia, Nov 22: Former Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro was taken into federal police custody Saturday before a planned supporters' vigil near his home, ending months of house arrest as he appeals a Supreme Court conviction for plotting a coup.

Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes ordered the detention in a court decision, seen by Reuters, citing the risk of encamped supporters hampering police monitoring of Bolsonaro's house arrest. He also noted evidence of tampering with the ex-president's

ankle monitor the night before. Bolsonaro's lawyers confirmed the detention, citing the planned vigil as the main reason for Moraes' decision and noting they plan to file an "appropriate appeal". A federal police representative said Bolsonaro underwent custody intake examinations in Brasilia early Saturday

#### **JUDGE CITES ESCAPE RISK**

"The tumult caused by an illegal gathering of the convict's supporters has a strong chance of putting at risk the house arrest and other precautionary measures, allowing for his eventual escape," wrote Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes in his decision ordering the detention Saturday. The judge cited evidence

that Bolsonaro had previously considered seeking asylum in the Argentine embassy in Brasilia. One of his sons and other close allies have fled



Brazil to avoid the reach of the country's courts, Moraes noted in his decision.

In a statement, Bolsonaro's lawyers said his detention caused "deep perplexity", noting that what would be a "prayer vigil" was guaranteed by the Brazilian Constitution under the right to religious

"Despite claiming the 'existence of very serious evidence of a possible escape,' the fact is that the former president was

arrested at his home, with an electronic ankle monitor and under police surveillance,' they added.

Moraes' decision will be submitted to a Supreme Court panel for confirmation, Mon-

The right-wing former leader was sentenced in September to 27 years and three months in prison for plotting a coup after losing the 2022 presidential

election to leftist Luiz Inacio

Lula da Silva.

■ Brazil's ex-president Bolsonaro detained by police ahead of vigil

■ Judge cites risk that vigil hampers monitoring of house

■ Bolsonaro appealing against prison sentence for plotting

Arrest order cites tampering with ex-president's ankle

Bolsonaro was identified

as the leader and main beneficiary of a scheme to prevent Lula from taking office in 2023. However, the courts have not yet issued a final arrest order in that case, as Bolsonaro has not exhausted the appeals process.

US President Donald Trump, who was friendly with Bolsonaro when they were both in office, has called the case a "witch hunt". He imposed sanctions on Moraes, the justice overseeing it, and a 50% tariff on US imports of several Brazilian goods, which he began to roll back this month.

#### **'COME FIGHT WITH US', SAYS BOLSONARO'S SON**

While under house arrest. Bolsonaro was barred from us ing social media, but received visits from political allies.

His son, Senator Flavio Bolsonaro, put out a call on social media for supporters to gather outside his father's condomini um in Brasilia on Saturday evening. "I invite you to come fight with us," the senator said in a video posted online. "With your strength, the strength of the people, we'll fight back and rescue Brazil.'

If his appeals are unsuccessful, Bolsonaro's defense is expected to seek permission for him to serve his nearly three-de cade sentence under house arrest, citing several health is sues. The former president, who was stabbed in the abdomen during a 2018 campaign event has a history of hospitalizations and surgeries related to the at tack. Bolsonaro had previously been banned from running for office until 2030 after Brazil's electoral court found him guilty of abusing his office during his 2022 re-election campaign.

# business

There is no discernible trend in FII activity even though FIIs reduced sustained big selling and even turned buyers on a few days in November

VK VIJAYAKUMAR | CHIEF INVESTMENT

#### **INDIGO PARENT TO ENTER SENSEX**

InterGlobe Aviation, the operator of the country's largest airline IndiGo, will find a place in BSE's 30-share benchmark index Sensex from December 22, the BSE Index Services said Saturday. At the same time. Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd will be dropped from the index, it added



on strength ening operational controls, modernising digital security systems and building a moevery rupee is accounted for

CHANDRA SEKHAR PEMMASANI | MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

The audit will assess whether MSMEs receive efficient transparent, and from public institutions. It will evaluate the progress

made in simplifying regulations, digitising processes, and decriminalising minor offences that affect businesses PRAVIR PANDEY | ADDITIONAL DEPUTY,

CAG (RAILWAYS)



it even easier for travellers to plan ahead and enjoy meals

DEEPAK MALOO | VP (FOOD STRATEGY), SWIGGY

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### FSSAI cracks down on **ORS-branded drinks**

New Delhi: Food regulator FSSAI has asked states to remove fruit-based beverages, ready-to-serve drinks and electrolyte drinks being sold deceptively under the product or brand name ORS from retail markets, according to sources. Last month, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) had directed all food business operators to immediately stop using the word 'ORS' (Oral Rehydration Solution) in their labelling and advertisements, calling such practices misleading to consumers. In a letter dated November 19, FSSAI has written to all food commissioners in states and Union Territories for "immediate removal of misleading and deceptively" named fruit-based drinks, electrolyte drinks and energy drinks being sold in the brand/product name containing terms 'ORS' from retail outlets and e-commerce platforms. The regulator pointed out that these deceptive products are still being sold in the retail market, which violates its October order. In its

#### Air India, Air Canada reioin codeshare pact

October 14 order, the food

regulator had clarified that

the use of the term 'ORS' in

trademarked names or in the

naming of any food products

even when accompanied

constitutes a violation of the

Food Safety and Standards

by a prefix or suffix -

Act, 2006.

New Delhi: Air India Saturday announced the reinstatement of its codeshare partnership with Air Canada, which was suspended more than five years ago during the coronavirus pandemic. The codeshare agreement will enable Air India to offer passengers access to six points across Canada beyond its gateways at Vancouver and London (Heathrow). A codeshare partnership allows passengers to travel on a single ticket on different flights. Air India will place its 'AI' designator code on Air Canada-operated flights on these routes -- from Vancouver to: Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Montréal and Halifax; and from London Heathrow to Vancouver and Calgary. For now, it is

# Railways sets new cargo feat

**Railways crosses** 1 billion tonne freight loading by November 19 in FY 25-26

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: Railways' freight performance continues to strengthen India's economic backbone, with cumulative loading this year surpassing the 1 billion-tonne mark, reaching 1,020 million tonnes as of November 19, the Railway Ministry said Saturday. "This milestone reflects

broad-based support from key sectors: coal remains the largest contributor at 505 MT, followed by iron ore (115 MT), cement (92 MT), container traffic (59 MT), pig iron & finished steel (47 MT), fertilisers (42 MT), mineral oil (32 MT), foodgrains (30 MT), raw materials for steel plants (approx. 20 MT), and balance-other-goods (74 MT)," a press note from the ministry stated.

"Daily loading continues to hold strong at around 4.4 MT, higher than 4.2 MT last year,

demonstrating improved operational efficiency and sustained demand," it added.

Drawing a comparison, it emphasised that freight loading between April to October further underscores this positive trajectory, touching 935.1 MT in 2025, compared to 906.9 MT during the same period last year, marking a healthy yearon-year growth.

'This sustained momentum, combined with improved daily loading rates, demonstrates

Railways' capacity to support India's industrial expansion and infrastructure development," the note said.

"Recognising the critical role of cement in India's infrastructure growth, Railways has taken significant steps to optimise this segment's logistics capabilities," it added.

Highlighting the recent rollout of comprehensive reforms, including the Policy for Bulk Cement Terminals and rationalised rates for bulk cement movement in containers the ministry said that these developments made a strategic initiative to modernise cement transportation.

"These measures aim to increase bulk handling capacity, reduce transit time, and lower logistics costs, directly benefiting both industry players and end consumers while driving greater efficiency across the supply chain. Such targeted interventions catalyse sectoral transformation," the ministry said.

According to the ministry shifting bulk goods movement to rail yields multiple benefits that extend beyond mere commercial metrics.

"It reduces carbon footprints, decongests highways, and provides industries, including MS-MEs, access to greener logistics solutions," the note said.

"These developments rein force India's commitment to sustainable growth, aligning freight operations with the nation's journey towards Net Zero Carbon Emission targets and positioning Railways as a catalyst for both economic and environmental progress,'

#### **PAYMENT DEFAULT**

### US court orders Byju to pay over \$lbn to BYJU's Alpha, GLAS Trust

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: A US court has ordered Byju Raveendran to pay back default amount of \$1.16 billion to BYJU's Alpha and USbased lender GLAS Trust Company LLC.

According to a judgement dated November 20, 2025, the Delaware Bankruptcy Court found that Rayeendran failed to comply with its discovery order and continued to be evasive on several occasions.

The judgement was given based on the petition filed by BYJU's Alpha and GLAS Trust Company LLC.

"The court will enter default judgment against Defendant Raveendran...in the amount of \$533,000,000, and on Counts II, V and VI in the amount of USD 540,647,109.29," the judgement said. BYJU's Alpha was incorpo-

rated when Raveendran was running the management of edtech firm Think and Learn Limited (TLPL), which operated under Byju's

The judgment directed Raveendran to provide a full and accurate accounting of the Alpha Funds and any proceeds thereof, such as the Camshaft LP Interest, including each and every subsequent transfer and any proceeds thereof.

Raveendran in a disclosure to counter allegation of siphoning of TLB funds though overseas entities OCI and Camshaft had said that it routinely engaged with the UK-based OCI for its international expansion and business purposes, including marketing expenses, purchase of equipment.

BYJU'S Alpha had bought a small interest in Camshaft which provided credit to OCI for carrying out routine business as discussion with other investors and lenders was taking time to pursue Byju's expansion plan.

When contacted, Raveendran's legal advisor said that the court judgement and related or-



ders will be appealed promptly by Byju Raveendran.

Lazareff Le Bars Eurl, Senior Litigation Advisor, J Michael McNutt said that Raveendran will present evidence of such misrepresentation in the previously announced claim of not less than \$2.5 billion which will be submitted shortly before the US Courts. The judgement follows a dispute between Byju's and US based lenders on Term Loan B fund.

TLPL had secured around \$1.16 billion Term Loan B from the lenders. They had later alleged that BYJU's Alpha has violated terms of the loan and \$533 million out of the total debt has been moved out of the US illegitimately. The Glas Trust moved to Delaware court and received a favourable order to take control of BYJU's Alpha.

Both BYJU's Alpha and Glas Trust moved the Delaware Bankruptcy Court for the discovery of \$533 million and re lated transactions.

According to the latest judge ment dated November 20, the court found that Raveendran had knowledge of the discovery order but had simply refused to comply. The court had also issued contempt orders in the matter but noted that Raveen dran continues to refuse to respond to the discovery requests or pay the sanctions he owes.

es of this case indicate that Raveendran's continuing failure to adequately respond to the pending discovery requests is a personal decision by Raveendran, himself, the judgment noted.

The facts and circumstanc

#### **RECORD SALES**

#### 1 in 5 iPhones made globally in FY25 came out of India

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 22: As Apple India posted a record high domestic sales of \$9 billion in FY25, one in every five iPhones made globally in FY25 was manufacturedassembled in India, the company filings showed. The company's manufactur-

ing in India contributed 12 per cent of Apple's global production value. Apple's sales in India ac-

counted for just over 2 per cent of Apple's \$416.1 billion global revenue, but India's role in iPhone production expanded sharply, analysts said.

The iPhone maker began local assembly of high-end Pro and Pro Max models of iPhones in India for the first time.

The company filings showed that the Americas brought in \$178.4 billion in FY25 - nearly 43 percent of Apple's global revenue - and a growing share of those iPhones were shipped from India. Europe followed with 26.7

per cent share and Greater China contributed accounted for 15.4 per cent share.

The company's India revenue has climbed nearly eightfold over the past decade, driven mainly by iPhones, MacBooks, iPads, AirPods and accessories, with services remaining a small single-digit share of total sales.

Apple's India-based production had a freight-on-board value of \$22 billion in FY25, out of which \$7.5 billion worth of vale being exported.

Local manufacturing largely supports the company's sales force in India by avoiding the 16 per cent customs duty applied on fully imported phones.

#### Central Bank holds MSME Credit Outreach Programme **Bhubaneswar:** MSMEs

are the backbone of India's economy, contributing significantly to employment, innovation & income generation. To ensure their sustained growth & competitiveness, the Government of India, along with financial institutions, has introduced a wide range of dedicated schemes. In line with this vision, the Central Bank of India has launched



providing timely credit, financial support, and sector-specific solutions that enable MSMEs to expand & thrive. Simultaneously, its Bhubaneswar Region also organised a mega MSME Credit Outreach Programme in Berhampur. The programme was held in the august presence of Dasarathi Saraboo, GM DIC, V Santosh Kumar, Secretary Chamber of Commerce, Berhampur, BS Harilal GM Central Office, Pankaj Kumar, Regional Head, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and Suresh Chandra, Dy Regional Head, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar along with other senior bank officials, MSMEs entrepreneurs, office bearers from Rice Mill Association Ganjam, Cashew Processors Association and other prospective customers. On this occasion sanction letters were distributed to different loan beneficiaries aggregating to an amount of Rs 40 crore. The event was coordinated by Priyambada Nayak, Chief Manager & vote of thanks was delivered by Mukund Kumar Karn, Chief Manager. Further, Central Bank of India reaffirms their commitment for empowering MSMEs and supporting them as key drivers of India's economic transformation.

# Govt to table Bill to hike FDI in insurance sector to 100%

So far, the insurance sector has attracted ₹82,000cr through foreign direct investment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: The government proposes to introduce a bill to raise foreign direct investment in the insurance sector to 100 per cent in the upcoming Winter session of Parliament.

The Winter session of Parliament is slated to begin December 1 and continue till December 19. The session will have 15 working days.

According to a Lok Sabha bulletin, the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill 2025, which seeks to deepen penetration, accelerate growth and devel-



opment of the insurance sector and enhance ease of doing business, is part of the 10 legislations listed for the upcoming session of the Parliament.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in this year's Budget speech, proposed to raise

the foreign investment limit to 100 per cent from the existing 74 per cent in the insurance sector as part of new-generation financial sector reforms.

The finance ministry has proposed amending various provisions of the Insurance Act,

1938, including raising FDI in the insurance sector to 100 per cent, reducing paid-up capital. and introducing a composite licence. As part of a comprehensive legislative exercise, the Life Insurance Corporation Act 1956 and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act 1999 will be amended, alongside the Insurance Act 1938.

The amendments to the LIC Act propose empowering its board to take operational decisions, such as branch expansion and recruitment.

The proposed amendment primarily focuses on promoting policyholders' interests, enhancing their financial security, and facilitating the entry of additional players into the insurance market, thereby driving economic growth and employment generation.

Such changes will help en-

hance the efficiency of the insurance industry, enabling ease of doing business and enhancing insurance penetration to achieve the goal of 'Insur-

ance for All by 2047'. The Insurance Act of 1938 serves as the principal Act to provide the legislative framework for insurance in India. It provides the framework for the functioning of insurance businesses and regulates the relationships among insurers, their policyholders, shareholders, and the regulator, Irdai.

The finance ministry would also introduce the Securities Markets Code Bill (SMC), 2025. The Bill seeks to consolidate the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act 1992, the Depositories Act 1996 and the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act 1956 into a rationalised single Securities Markets Code.

# LOST FROM MEMORY Air India finally sells forgotten Boeing 737-200 plane

The cargo aircraft, grounded since 2012, later decommissioned and meant for the use of India Post, was all these years at a remote parking bay at the Kolkata airport till the Tata Group-owned Air India was asked to remove the plane

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 22: Lost from memory, omitted from many documents and over three years after the privatisation of Air India, a more than four-decade-old Boeing 737-200 aircraft of the airline was finally sold last week.

The cargo aircraft, grounded since 2012, later decommissioned and meant for the use of India Post, was all these years at a remote parking bay at the

Group-owned Air India was asked to remove the plane.

On Friday, Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson told employees that the airline did not even know it owned such an aircraft until recently.

Last week, the airline completed the sale and transfer of a B737-200 aircraft (VT-EHH), which had been grounded since 2012. "Though disposal of an old aircraft is not unusual, this one is - for it's an aircraft that we didn't even know we owned until recently!" he said in a mes-



sage to the staff. Many years before privatisa-

tion. Wilson said this aircraft had been decommissioned in

order to operate for India Post and was omitted from many documents.

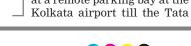
"Over time, it was lost from memory and only came to light when our friends at Kolkata Airport informed us of its presence in a (very) remote parking bay and asked us to remove it! After verifying that it was indeed ours, we've now done so - and in so doing removed another old cobweb from our closet!" he added.

Information available on the aircraft tracking website planespotters.net showed that VT-EHH is more than 43.2 years old and was delivered to Indian Airlines in September 1982. The plane was leased by Alliance Air in February 1998 and returned to Indian Airlines as a freighter in July 2007. Then, in August 2007, the

aircraft came to Air India. Under government own-

ership, Indian Airlines was merged with Air India in 2007, and Air India was acquired by the Tata Group in January 2022.







#### TWO-DAY ASHES BLITZ

# Head, Starc orchestrate England's annihilation

Stokes & Co gets a taste of their own 'Bazball' medicine in the third session

Perth. Nov 22: Makeshift opener Travis Head scored a brilliant 83-ball 123 to lift Australia to an astonishing eight-wicket victory inside two days against England Saturday, powering his side to 205-2 late in the final session of the Ashes opener at Perth Stadium.

The manic style of cricket, which produced the shortest Ashes test by overs-bowled to deliver a result since 1888, kept the crowd enthralled as both sides gained and relinquished the ascendancy throughout.

England had set Australia a target of 205 after being bowled out for 164 by tea on day two, losing nine second-session wickets in the wake of a Scott Boland seam masterclass of four for 33. The tourists had made 172 in their first innings

Head, taking the place of opener Usman Khawaja, who gingerly left the field in England's 27th over with back trouble, got Australia's run chase off to a rollicking start, giving England a taste of their own 'Bazball' medicine in the third session.

The near 50,000-strong crowd came to life when Head slashed Brydon Carse (2-44) for six over third man to bring up 50 for his side, and later roared their approval when he peeled four boundaries off Ben Stokes' sec-

Marnus Labuschagne added an impressive 49-ball 51 after debutant Jake Weatherald (23) had fallen to Carse, but the moment belonged to Head, who brought up Australia's equal-third fastest century with a risky upper-cut and a scurried single.

The fourth innings raced to a conclusion with Head clubbing four sixes and 16 boundaries before launching Carse to Ollie Pope at deep midwicket, hugging Labuschagne and soaking in the applause as he walked off. Stand-in skipper Steve

Smith, unbeaten on two, hit the winning run with a single punched to the off-side.

"Today was just incredible, wasn't it?" said Smith.

"That innings from Travis Head was out of this world. He just played some outrageous shots, and even when he shanked it, he seemed to hit the gaps. "It's one of those days when you're on, you're on, and he made the most of it and got us home," he added.



- Australia destroy England by eight wickets
- Head scores century. Starc claims 10 wickets
- Thrilling Ashes opener all over within two days

#### **FAST BOWLING MASTERCLASS**

England had quickly bowled Australia out for 132 to start the day, breaking the last-wicket partnership between Nathan Lyon and Brendan Doggett which added only nine to the side's overnight score.

In a relatively sedate passage of play in the lead-up to lunch, the visitors added 59 for the loss of Zak Crawley, who suffered his second first-over duck of the match at the hands of spearhead Mitchell Starc, leading the attack in the absence of stalwarts Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood. Boland, who stood up with

4-33 after going wicketless in the first innings, then ran rampant, breaking through in the second session when opener Ben Duckett was caught for 28. The 36-year-old claimed

two more in his next over, with Pope left punching his bat in frustration after being caught behind on 33 and Harry Brook trudging off for a three-ball duck having nicked to first slip.

One of the loudest roars of the day came when Joe Root, on eight, chopped-on Starc (3-55) from well outside off-stump.

Not even the boisterous support of the "Barmy Army" could lift the tourists, as Starc celebrated his first match-haul of 10 wickets in an Ashes test with a bouncy delivery that Ben Stokes, on two, popped to second slip.

pics in Tokyo. Mahit totalled 456.0 after 45 shots to bag her second gold of the Games. South Korea's Dain Jeong took silver with 453.5, while Hungary's Mira Zsuzsanna Biatovszki claimed bronze with 438.6.

Mahit also broke both the Deaf Qualification World Record and the Deaflympics world record on her way to the final.

She topped qualification

Debutant Mahit continues to bring glory



with 585-31x -- scoring 194 in kneeling, 198 in prone and 193 in standing -- breaking her own previous mark of 576 set at last year's World Deaf Shooting Championships in Hannover.

India's Natasha Joshi also made the final, qualifying seventh with 566-12x. She finished fifth with 417.1.

In the final, Mahit led the field through the kneeling, prone and the first 10 standing shots. A 9.4 on her 41st shot briefly handed the advantage to Jeong, who hit a 10.1, but the Indian staged a composed comeback, producing four successive 10s to seal

the title. Indian shooters have so far won 14 medals at the Deafly mpics including five gold, six

Abhinav Deshwal and Chetan Hanmant Sapkal are in the fray in the 25m pistol event

silver and three bronze.

# Kuldeep keeps India in fight

SPORTS

**Bowlers give India upper-hand as South Africa slip to 247/6 on Day 1 in 2nd Test** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Nov 22: Temba Bavuma paid price for his momentary indiscretion while Tristan Stubbs fell prey to Kuldeep Yadav's guile as bowlers put India on top in the second Test, reducing South Africa to 247 for six on an attritional opening day's cricket, here.

**Mahit Sandhu clinches** 

**50m Rifle 3 Positions** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

gold, her fourth medal

New Delhi, Nov 22: Continu-

ing with her splendid debut

run, India's Mahit Sandhu

clinched the women's 50m Rifle

3 Positions gold for her fourth

medal at the Summer Deaflym-

It was a track with a difference where survival, unlike Kolkata, wasn't difficult but at the same time, it wasn't a belter either where a team could just race away with a flurry of boundaries.

The Indian bowlers -- especially Kuldeep (3/48) and Jasprit Bumrah (1/38) -- displayed immaculate control and masterv on a track that was reasonably good for batting with no signs of variable bounce whatsoever. Ravindra Jadeja (1/30) didn't

get much help off the surface but dismissing Bavuma (41 off 92 balls) was one of the turning points of day one. It was an over-pitched de-

livery and Bavuma wanted to play the lofted drive over midoff. The ball stopped on him and hit slightly higher part of the bat and never got the elevation required. Yashasvi Jaiswal pouched it smartly. This was after his 84-run

stand with Tristan Stubbs (49 off 112 balls) and South Africa were looking good to carry on with the momentum.

Following Bavuma's dismissal. Tristan Stubbs, playing his first innings of note in the series, also lost concentration.

It was a delivery from Kuldeep that was angled across Stubbs who wanted to play a non-existent steer as a practice catch went to KL Rahul at the first slip.

Stubbs did look good after some initial jitters as he used his big 6 feet 4 inch frame to come down the track, defend the deliveries based on length and attack when need be. Both



his sixes off Kuldeep -- one over long-on and other over long-off -- were a result of picture-perfect footwork.

The two quick wickets resulted in a third as Wiaan Mulder (13) also repeated the mistake made by Bavuma. The bowler this time, though, was Kuldeep, who had tossed one up outside the off-stump, enticing him to go for an inside out drive over extra cover.

Once again there was no elevation and Jaiswal made no mistake as South Africa from a comfortable 166 for 2 slumped

At the fag end of the day, Mohammed Siraj produced a beauty where the ball deviated late to get Tony de Zorzi (28 off 59 balls) nick one to a diving Rishabh Pant behind the stumps. His was another case of a

batter getting set and not converting the start. After an under-prepared track that messed up things for India in the opening game in Kolkata, the Barsapara Stadi-

um track remained firm while

offering some lateral movement

due to the underlying moisture in the first hour and half. But all the Proteas batters were guilty of throwing away the initial hardwork. They survived those anxious moments. got their eye in but could not turn their knocks into substan-

The opening day had a retro like feel from 1980s and 90s as

tial ones.

#### Lakshya overpowers Chou

**AUSTRALIAN OPEN** 

### to storm into men's finals

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Sydney, Nov 22: India's ace shuttler Lakshya Sen overpowered Chinese-Taipei's Chou Tien Chen in the thrilling semifinal to reach the summit clash of the Australian Open Super 500 at Sydney Olympic Park Saturday.

In a remarkable fightback Sen came from a game down to defeat second seed Chen 17-21, 24-22, 21-16 in one one-hour and 26-minute encounter. Sen, who is still chasing his

first title of the season, started the match under pressure as Chen took an early lead of 4-0 and entered the break with a score of 11-6. The Indian tried to reduce the deficit but Chen clinched the game 21-17.

The second game saw a fierce battle between the two players to take advantage from the be ginning. The lead was briefly swapped by them before Sen showed his prowess in the tense situation to take two consecutive points at 22-22 to seal the In the final game, Sen quickly

seized control, heading into the mid-game break with an 11-6 advantage. He stretched the lead to 14-7, and a service fault from Chen widened the gap to 17–9. A sharp cross-court smash then handed Sen eight match points. Though Chen managed to save four of them, he eventually sent a shot into the net, allowing Sen to complete a strong comeback win.

Sen is the lone Indian alive in the tournament after he powered past a determined Ayush Shetty in straight games to reach the semifinal Friday.



#### **JEANSGATE**

# FIDE relaxes dress code

International Chess Federation allows classic non-distressed jeans for both men and women, a year after the 'jeansgate' storm involving Magnus Carlsen at the same event

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: The International Chess Federation (FIDE) has announced a significantly relaxed dress code for next month's World Rapid and Blitz Championships in Doha, "allowing classic non-distressed jeans for both men and women", a year after the 'jeansgate' storm involving Magnus Carlsen at the same event.

The updated regulations from the world chess governing body now "allow" dark business-casual trousers "including classic, non-distressed jeans in blue, black or grey for both men and women" for the Doha event

from December 25 to 30. Suits, unicoloured shirts, dress shoes, loafers and unicoloured sneakers are also allowed for men, while women may wear skirt or pant suits. dresses, dark trousers including jeans, blouses and similar footwear, stated the FIDE dress

code requirements. Clothing must be neat and free of rips, tears, offensive slogans or prohibited logos.



T-shirts, shorts, baseball caps and beachwear remain banned

Any request to wear national or traditional dress requires approval from the Global Strategy Commission.

101-year-old world The governing body of chess had already broken from tradition earlier this year when, in September, it had eased its long-standing dress code in response to last year's contro-

It allowed players to wear "appropriate jeans" at the Grand Swiss and Women's Grand Swiss tournaments in a relaxation that has now effectively been extended across the

FIDE also detailed sanctions for violations of the upcoming Doha meet. It said infringements such as untidy appearance or wrinkled clothing will attract penalties during the

FIDE's announcement comes a day after world No 1 Carlsen revived memories of last year's

high-profile spat at the same venue.

Carlsen had kicked up a storm last year when he turned up for a Rapid round in jeans that did not meet the 2024 dress code. He was fined \$200, warned by the arbiter, but refused to change immediately and was eventually excluded from the day's pairings.

He withdrew from the remainder of the Rapid tournament and publicly criticised FIDE's handling of the event. He eventually returned for the Blitz section where he shared the title with Ian Nepomniachtchi and later auctioned his jeans for about Rs 31.5 lakh, donating the proceeds to charity.

World champion D Gukesh will lead a 41-member Indian contingent - 28 men and 13 women -- at the year-ending championship.

Other top Indian names include Arjun Erigaisi, R Praggnanandhaa, Nihal Sarin, Koneru Humpy and Divva Deshmukh.

#### India thrash Australia to reach Women's T20 **WC for the Blind final**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Colombo, Nov 22: India delivered a powerhouse performance at the iconic P. Sara Oval on Saturday, storming into the finals of the 1st Women's T20 World Cup Cricket for the Blind with a dominant nine-wicket win over Australia.

The innings was anchored by Player of the Match Basanti Hansda, whose composure and class defined India's chase. With a damp outfield after overnight showers, India's decision to field first proved decisive. The bowling and fielding unit held Australia under tight control — highlighted by skipper Deepika's brilliant run-out that shifted the momentum India's way. Australia's B2 batter Julie Neumann battled for 25 (28), while B3 players Chanakan Buakhao 34 (33) and Courtney Lewis 14 (14) kept the scoreboard moving, aided by 20

Chasing with confidence and clarity, India turned the semi-final into a show of dominance.

B3 spark Ganga Kadam set the rhythm with a fluent 41 (31). B2 star Basanti Hansda, who earned Player of the Match honours, anchored the innings with a superb 45 (39).

B1 striker Karuna finished the job in style with an explosive 16 off just 5 balls. India sailed to 112, sealing a resounding nine-wicket win and booking their spot in Sunday's grand finale.

#### **LAS VEGAS GRAND PRIX**

being lethal while deliveries

bowled by Washington Sundar

and Kuldeep did jump and turn.

after the end of the opening day

was all their top-order batters

played in excess of 80 deliveries

but didn't convert which could

hurt them in context of the final

**South Africa** 247/6 in 81.5

overs (Tristan Stubbs 49,

Bumrah 1/38, Kuldeep

Yadav 3/48, Ravindra

Sirai 1/59) vs India

Jadeja 1/30, Mohammed

Temba Bayuma 41: Jasprit

outcome of the game.

**BRIEF SCORES:** 

What South Africa would rue

# McLaren's Norris grabs pole

THE POLE WAS HIS 7TH OF THE SEASON, EQUALLING **VERSTAPPEN'S TALLY, AND THE 16TH OF HIS CAREER, WITH THE LAST SEVEN RACES ALL WON** FROM THAT POSITION

Las Vegas, Nov 22: Formula One championship leader Lando Norris swept to a stunning pole position for the Las Vegas Grand Prix in a wet and slippery qualifying Friday with McLaren teammate and closest title rival Oscar Piastri only fifth.

Red Bull's reigning world champion Max Verstappen, third in the standings after 21 of 24 races and 49 points off the lead, joined the Briton on the front row but was 0.323 slower.

Norris, who can take another huge stride towards the title in Saturday night's race, leads Australian Piastri by 24 points and will be chasing a third win in a row at a street circuit where McLaren had expected to struggle.

"Boy, that was stressful. Stressful as hell," said Norris after a cold night session that started in steady rain with the Aston Martins on full wets and the rest on intermediates.

"It's so slippery out there. As soon as you hit the kerb a bit



- Verstappen joins Norris on
- Norris takes seventh pole of
- Hamilton to start last for Ferrari
- Last year's winner Russell qualified fourth

wrong, like I did, you snap one way, lose the car the other way. Close to hitting the wall.

"No one has driven around here in the rain before, so it was difficult to know what to

#### Debut season: Hamilton's Ferrari 'nightmare'

ewis Hamilton admitted Lthings "can't get much worse than that" after qualifying slowest on pure pace for the first time in his Formula 1 career at the Las Vegas Grand Prix Saturday. After calling his debut season with Ferrari a "nightmare" in the wake of the team's double DNF at the Sao Paulo Grand Prix, Hamilton's fortunes dipped even further in Las Vegas. "I just don't really have words for it. It's obviously not good enough, and I didn't have any -- I couldn't get any temperature into the tyres. I



just had a lot of understeer, and then I think one of my front brakes was glazed, so I was really struggling to stop in the corners," said Hamilton following his Q1 exit. Hamilton's result signalled an unwelcome milestone for the seven-time World Champion and marked the first time a Ferrari has qualified slowest since the 2009 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

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