




At receiving end
Actor Shraddha Kapoor gets trolled brutally for 'lying' about the secrets behind her 'flawless' skin
LEISURE | P2



PM-Vidyalaxmi gets nod
Union Cabinet approves PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme to provide monetary support to meritorious students across the country
NATIONAL | P9



Rupee at new low
Rupee depreciates 22 paise to close at an all-time low of 84.31 against US dollar, as the US Dollar Index rallies
BUSINESS | P11



Bidding war on cards
Franchises will certainly go all out to acquire Rishabh Pant, who has been released by DC, in IPL auction
SPORTS | P12

Despite legal woes and controversies, Donald Trump Wednesday became the 47th President of the US capping a remarkable comeback, four years after he was voted out of White House in 2020. Trump also became the second former president to win a second non-consecutive term, with the first being Grover Cleveland (1885 and 1893). It is said that a majority of the swing states like Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina and Wisconsin have voted for Trump whose victory will have major implications for US trade, climate change policies, the war in Ukraine, Americans' taxes and immigration. While Trump has promised to end Russia's war against Ukraine, the claim is viewed with skepticism as some say that the former president has a track record of remaining erratic and inconsistent when it comes to foreign policy. Trump has also promised to launch a mass deportation campaign targeting immigrants in the country. Congratulatory messages started pouring in from world leaders while PM Narendra Modi said he looks forward to renewing their collaboration to further strengthen the India-US Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership

US TURNS RED



As you build on the successes of your previous term, I look forward to renewing our collaboration to further strengthen the India-US Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER, INDIA



Congratulations on your victory, @realDonaldTrump! Wishing you success in your second term as US President. All the best to @Kamala Harris in her future endeavours
RAHUL GANDHI | LEADER OF OPN

Washington, Nov 6: Donald Trump was Wednesday elected the US President for a second term in one of the greatest political comebacks in American history. At 78, Trump is the oldest person elected to the US presidency. The Republican leader, convicted of felony charges and awaiting sentencing in a hush-money case in New York, defeated his Democratic rival Kamala Harris in a bitterly fought election. As of 11am ET (1600 GMT) Trump had won 279 electoral votes to Harris' 223 with several states yet to be counted, Edison Research projected. Trump, the oldest person in US history to be elected president, crossed the halfway 270 vote-mark in electoral college votes with victory in the battleground state of Wisconsin. Addressing his supporters at West Palm Beach in Florida, Trump declared his victory in the presidential election, calling the mandate "unprecedented and powerful". "Many people have told me that God spared my life for a reason," Trump said, referring to the two assassination attempts on his life during the election campaign this year. Amid cheers of his jubilant supporters and his family by his side, Trump declared that this will be the "golden age" of America. "This is a magnificent victory

for the American people. This was a movement like nobody's ever seen before, and frankly, this was, I believe, the greatest political movement of all time. There's never been anything like this in this country, and maybe beyond," Trump said. "And now it's going to reach a new level of importance because we're going to help our country heal. This will truly be the golden age of America"
DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT ELECT, US



5 engineering students arrested for ragging

POST NEWS NETWORK
Keonjhar, Nov 6: Five students of the Government College of Engineering here were arrested Wednesday on charges of ragging a junior student of the college. The victim, identified as Biswajit Behera of Mining Engineering department of the college, had accused the five seniors of physically assaulting him. Biswajit, a resident of Kolimati village under Ghatgaon police limits in the district, is currently undergoing treatment at Keonjhar district headquarters hospital. According to the complaint lodged by Biswajit's father Binay Kumar Behera, senior students Mohit Patra, Saphalya Mallick, Kusum Hansdah, Shekhar Kumar Makar and Rabindranath Das alias Babu of the same department allegedly broke into Room No-112 of Baladevjeev hostel around 2:45am and assaulted Biswajit with iron rods and sticks. The assault reportedly left Biswajit unconscious. College authorities, including the principal, rushed him to the hospital. Acting on the complaint, Town police registered a case

(No 551) under Sections 331(4), 126(2), 115(2), 118/351(3), and 303(2)/3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against the five accused students. Officer-in-charge Shrikant Sahu stated that a case has been registered and investigation is underway. "All the five accused students have been arrested," IIC Srikant Sahu said. Behera alleged that the accused students also snatched away a gold chain from his son and beat him up severely, leaving him unconscious. Later, his friends rushed him to the hospital. He also alleged that the same group of seniors had been harassing Biswajit earlier and that he had lodged complaints with the college authorities in this regard. However, no action was taken against the accused, he added. He expressed concerns over his son's safety and urged the police to take protective measures. According to him, the college's anti-ragging cell is not functioning effectively. College principal Saroj Kumar Sarangi said the police are investigating the matter and the accused students have been suspended from classes for one year.

Can't bulldoze overnight: SC slams UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, Nov 6: The Supreme Court Wednesday pulled up the Uttar Pradesh (UP) government for an 'illegal' demolition in 2019 while issuing directions to all states and Union territories (UT) on the procedure to be followed during road widening and removal of encroachments. A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra also directed the UP government to pay ₹25 lakh compensation to the man whose house was razed in 2019 for a road widening project. "You can't come with bulldozers and demolish the constructions overnight. You don't give the family, time to vacate. What about the household articles inside the house?" the bench asked the counsel representing the UP government.

Further, the apex court directed the UP Chief Secretary to conduct an inquiry into the matter pertaining to a house in Maharajganj district and take suitable action. The bench elaborated on the steps that a state or its instrumentality must undertake before taking action in pursuance to a road-widening project. The SC accordingly asked the states to ascertain the existing width of the road in terms of records or

maps and carry out a survey, which would allow ascertaining the encroachments, if any, on the road. In case an encroachment was found, the top court said, the state must issue a notice to the encroacher to remove it and if the correctness and validity of the notice was objected to, the state would issue a "speaking order" keeping in mind the principles of natural justice. In a scenario of the objection being rejected, a reasonable notice would be furnished to the person against whom the adverse action was proposed, to remove the encroachment, it added. The bench further underlined if the person concerned failed to comply with it, the competent authority would take steps to remove the encroachment unless restrained by an order of the competent authority or the court.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



As hypernationalists, is it alright for us to congratulate someone who defeated a person of Indian origin?

₹10L worth ornaments looted from Tara Tarini
Behampur: Silver ornaments worth ₹10 lakh were looted from Tara Tarini temple, a famous Shakti shrine, in Ganjam district, police said Wednesday. The jewellery looted from the hilltop temple in Purushottampur includes the crowns of the deities, ceremonial umbrella and masks of the deities. Though the miscreants attempted to burgle the main 'hundi' (donation box), they could not succeed, a police officer said. They, however, looted money by breaking open two other hundis. The exact amount of the money looted is yet to be ascertained, the officer said. The miscreants entered the sanctum sanctorum of the temple, located around 780 feet above the sea level, by breaking at least three locks, including that on the main entrance. P5

LMV DL holders can drive transport vehicles: SC
New Delhi: In a significant ruling benefiting commercial drivers, the Supreme Court Wednesday held that individuals holding a Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) driving licence (DL) are eligible to drive transport vehicles with a weight not exceeding 7,500 kg. The judgement from a five-judge Constitution bench, led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, offers clarity on licensing regulations and is expected to prevent insurance companies from rejecting claims based on the type of licence of drivers involved in accidents. The unanimous 126-page verdict, penned by Justice Hrishikesh Roy on behalf of five judges, upheld its 2017 judgement in the Mukund Dewangan case which had held that the LMV licence holders can drive transport vehicles weighing upto 7,500 kg. P9

Black hole in Milky Way grows rapidly

WASHINGTON, Nov 6: At the heart of our Milky Way galaxy lurks a supermassive black hole about four million times the mass of the sun, called 'Sagittarius A*'. In fact, these objects, which increase in mass over time by eating material that wanders too close, reside at the center of most galaxies. But since NASA's James Webb Space Telescope came online in 2022, astronomers have been surprised to find supermassive black holes inhabiting the early universe - earlier than they had thought possible considering the time needed to

gather such great mass. New observations of one such primordial black hole is offering insight into how this may have occurred - through episodes of supercharged growth. Black holes are extremely dense objects with gravity so strong that not even light can escape. With their immense gravitational pull,

they grow in mass by sucking in material such as gas, dust and stars unfortunate enough to stray nearby. "The existence of supermassive black holes in the early universe challenges our current models of black hole formation and growth," said astronomer Hyewon Suh of the International Gemini Observatory in Hawaii and the US. The new Webb observations involve a supermassive black hole called LID-568 that existed when the cosmos was about 11% its current age - about 1.5 billion years after the Big Bang event 13.8 billion years ago that initiated the universe.

Patanjali's gift to the country on the occasion of Chhath - Dant Kanti Red

DANT KANTI RED TOOTH PASTE PAN FLAVOUR

APPEAL
Dant Kanti toothpaste has revolutionized the universe of dental care. Now, try its new avatar Dant Kanti Red Toothpaste too, Make your teeth healthy with this flavoursome and effective toothpaste

FLAVOURFUL and EFFECTIVE too

FREE 25% Extra*

NEW PATANJALI DANT KANTI RED TOOTH PASTE PAN FLAVOUR

Relief from pyorrhea, yellow teeth and foul smell
Complete cleaning of teeth • Strong gums • Fresh breath

Properties of 20 natural herbs like cloves, betel leaves, acacia, alum and neem give complete protection and taste of pan.

Buy it today from Patanjali store or your nearest grocery store.

leisure



CARDI B HITS OUT AT TRUMP'S SUPPORTERS

American rapper Cardi B has gone on an expletive-laden rant after Donald Trump claimed victory in the US polls. The WAP hitmaker was left furious after the Republican painted the states of North Carolina, Georgia, Texas and Florida red.

KATE NASH RECALLS HAVING TO HIDE BEING BISEXUAL

GLOW actress Kate Nash was worried there was 'something wrong' with her as she hid being bisexual. The 37-year-old star has recalled being at primary school and seeing how other kids reacted to a new pupil's sexuality, which meant she tried to hide her own.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Today you will feel like a winner. All your goals will appear to you to be within reach. Any stress that you experience will soon be relieved. Ganesha says you will understand that even if you don't succeed, you have the affection and support of your near and dear ones.

TAURUS
Right from the morning you could be feeling lethargic, bored. Ganesha says that things could get worse on account of indifferent health. Be careful that you don't fall ill. Try not to take on either too many, or too heavy assignments today. As the hours go by, you will gradually feel more and more fresh and energetic.

GEMINI
You will feel all warm and fuzzy owing to the love, care and concern bestowed upon you by your near and dear ones. This is all owing to the good karma you have gathered in the past. You will be busy with finances in the evening, however, do not let money be a factor when it comes to family and relatives, says Ganesha.

CANCER
A restless or irritating mood is indicated. Keep you cool and be calm even in adverse circumstances, suggests Ganesha. If you do so, you will always succeed in life. It is difficult to wriggle out of adversity, if you have hot temper.

LEO
You will be in the mood to dig up old happenings and problems. You need to let go of the past and concentrate on your future. Academic pursuits will increase and love is likely to bloom. You need to bring a measure of understanding into your personal relationships, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Good luck will put you up against some friendly ghosts from some bygone era. The afternoon brings with it some wonderful marriage prospects and you will consider them with an open mind. However, Ganesha warns you to be extra careful when making decisions regarding advanced education.

LIBRA
Ganesha says there may be issues with your competitors playing around with your emotions and questioning your competency today, but you will be able to defeat them. In your professional field when you may have to face difficult times then these people will come forth to help you.

SCORPIO
A no-profit no-loss day in store for you, foresees Ganesha. There are chances that family may suffer from basic requirements at home front. Keep your dinner jacket or evening gown ready as your beloved is all set to invite you for a romantic, candle lit dinner.

SAGITTARIUS
Stress, tension, pressure are miles away from you today. Peace and harmony are likely to join you today. You have a wavering mind today. But, no issues as you have nothing serious to decide. You take up most of the things in good humour, says Ganesha. Keep smiling!

CAPRICORN
Generally, you are not conscious about your outer appearance. But, today is an exceptional day as you pay attention to your clothes, hair, shoes, and overall presentation of yourself. You are not making all the efforts just for the sake of it. You are getting ready for an important meeting, may be personal or professional, predicts Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
The first half of the day will be somewhat unfavourable. At work, the bosses may shout at you and colleagues may not support you enough, feels Ganesha. In the evening, spend some time with your friends and family to unwind from a taxing day at work.

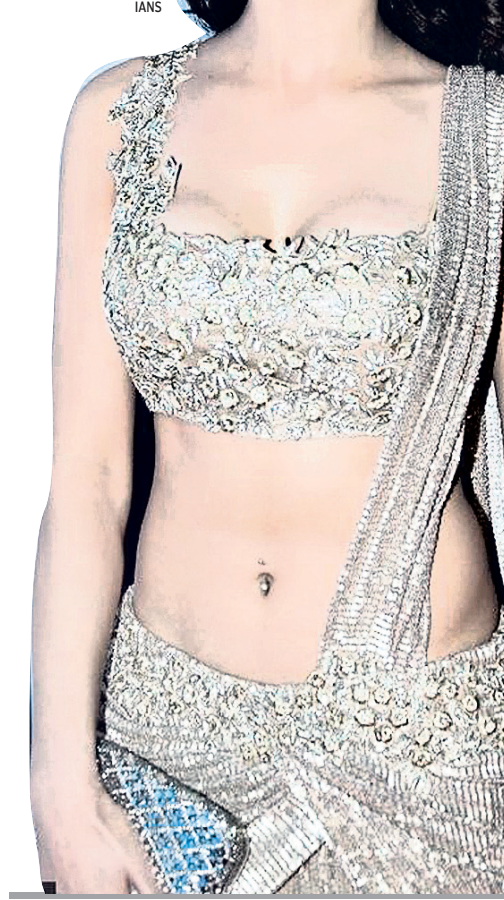
PISCES
You might experience emotional stress this morning and so you will feel low today. But in the afternoon you will feel strong and invigorated. Prevent your emotions from going in the wrong direction. Ganesha says your day will pick up after noon.

Urvashi's linguistic skills

Mumbai: Urvashi Rautela recently left fans in awe by showcasing her French-speaking skills. The actress took to her Instagram handle to share a video where she effortlessly speaks in French, highlighting her linguistic talent. Alongside the clip, she wrote, "My French speaking skills. When you receive so much love from France, it feels only right to embrace their language! Bonjour to a new journey in French merci for the inspiration, my amazing fans! Grateful."

The actress is seen wearing a short custom-made shimmering ensemble outfit. Her makeup game and hairdo looked on point. On the work front, Urvashi, who gained prominence after winning the title of Miss Diva - Miss Universe India 2015, has several exciting projects lined up. She will be seen in *NBK 109* alongside Nandamuri Balakrishna and Bobby Deol, *Indian 2* with Kamal Haasan and Shankar, and *Kasoor* with Aftab Shivdasani and Jassie Gill.

Additionally, Urvashi will be seen in *Welcome 3* with Akshay Kumar and in *Inspector Avinash 2* alongside Randeep Hooda. She is also starring in *Baap*, a remake of the Hollywood blockbuster *The Expendables*, with Sunny Deol and Sanjay Dutt.



Shraddha gets trolled for her 'lies'



Mumbai: In an interview clip that has now gone viral on the internet, the gorgeous Shraddha Kapoor has claimed that she does not have a skin-care routine. The *Street 2* actor shared that she only uses a face wash and a moisturiser.

Well, social media is not buying it and now Shraddha is being massively trolled. Her claim even reminded many of actor and fashionista Sonam Kapoor, who once dropped truth bombs about what all goes into actors looking 'flawless'. Slamming Shraddha, one such Reddit user shared, "That is why I admire Sonam Kapoor, at least she was honest about it. We all know girl that you don't need skin care routine, you need surgery."

Another internet user lauded Sonam and her wise words, writing: "When I hear crap like this, my mind instantly goes to Sonam's amazing post few years ago where she said there's an army of people whose job is only to make her look beautiful, how she uses expensive products and there's a high level of photoshop involved in every pic we see of her. It's such refreshing to hear an actress talk like that, rather than - only moisturiser, only water, only Gangajal etc etc."

When Vidya wanted to be 'junior Madhuri Dixit'

Mumbai: Actress Vidya Balan once expressed her desire to be a 'junior Madhuri Dixit.'

In an old interview, Balan shared how Madhuri's role in *Tezaab* left an unforgettable impression on her as a young girl. She admitted that her dream of becoming like Madhuri might have been shared by countless others captivated by Dixit's iconic on-screen presence.

In a video currently circulating on social media, the *Shakuntala Devi* actress can be heard saying, "I was in the seventh standard when I felt like I should be an actor. I don't

know if it was for the right or wrong reasons, but I was very inspired by Madhuri Dixit's role in *Tezaab*."

She added, "I feel that film is so good that I think in India, so many people would have wanted to be come like Madhuri. Though I could not become her, with God's grace at least I got the chance to fulfill my dream of working in films."

Interestingly, Vidya recently shared the screen with Madhuri in Anees Bazmee's horror-comedy *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*. In the film, Balan reprised her iconic role as the haunting dancer Manjulika, while Dixit played the role of Mandira.

Mandira and Mallika are reincarnations of Manjulika and Anjulika in the film that marked Vidya's much-anticipated return to the beloved franchise after her memorable performance in the original 2007 film.



First Indian actor to own a Rolls Royce is neither Big B nor SRK

This immigrant-turned-star of the 1950s bought the British luxury sedan when few Indians could dare to dream of the car, let alone own it

Mumbai: Rolls-Royce is considered the ultimate symbol of luxury and class when it comes to automobiles. You need more than just money to buy one because in many cases, the company determines if it wants to sell a car to you. Hence, the owners of a Rolls Royce are usually the elites - from former royals to film stars. In India, several top film stars own some model of the Rolls Royce. But an unusual name started this trend, and that too, almost 60 years ago. Today, stars like Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Priyanka Chopra, Vijay, and Chiranjeevi



own Rolls Royces. But they were all a few decades too late to be the first. Nadira reached there first. Nadira, born Florence Ezekiel, was one of the top stars of Bollywood in the 1950s and 60s. She was also one of the first celebrities in the country (and certainly the first actor) to own a Rolls Royce car, which she bought in the 60s. Nadira began her career in films as a child artist at the age of 11 but shot to fame in 1952 with Mehboob Khan's *Aan*. As a young star, she delivered *Shree 420* and *Dil Aur Preet Parayi*. That stage of her career, she was among the highest-paid Indian actresses, even though she often played the second lead. However, by the

end of the 1960s, she became typecast in playing the vamp to more demure-looking female leads. Nadira later moved to supporting roles, appearing in hits like *Pakeezah* and *Julie*. The actor was born in Baghdad, Iraq, to a Baghdadi Jewish family. Her family immigrated to Bombay in the 1930s. Nadira began working early to help the family's finances. She was an earning member by the time she was 11 and ran the house when she was barely 18. Her film career spanned nearly 60 years, with her final film appearances in *Josh* and *Zohra Mahal* in 2000-01. By then, the actor had lived alone in Mumbai, and most of her family had moved to Israel. In 2006, Nadira died at the age of 73 after a prolonged illness.

PEANUTS



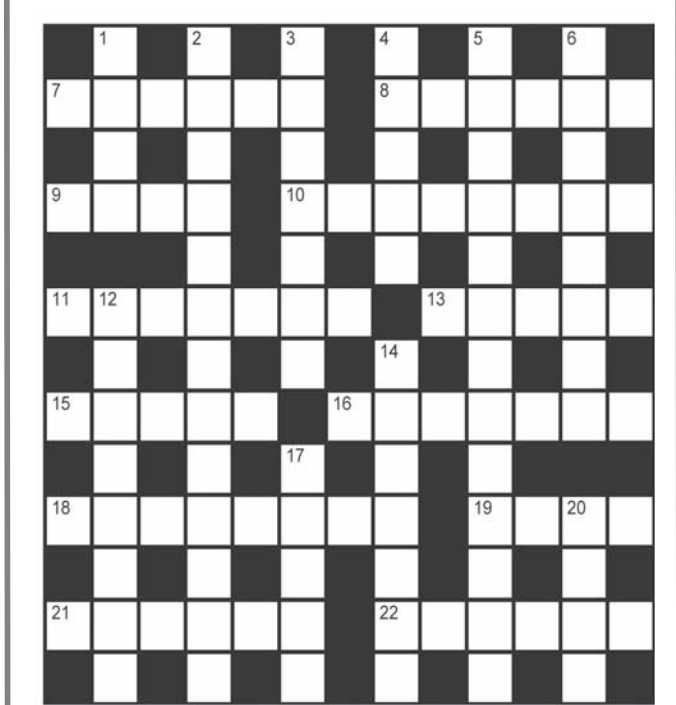
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



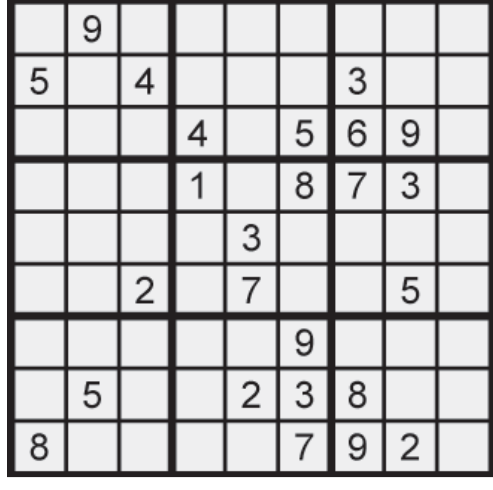
FUN POST CROSSWORD



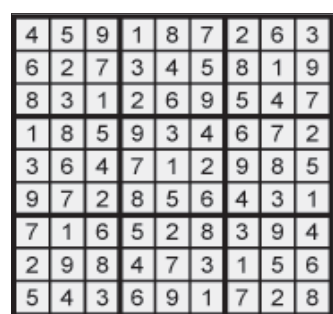
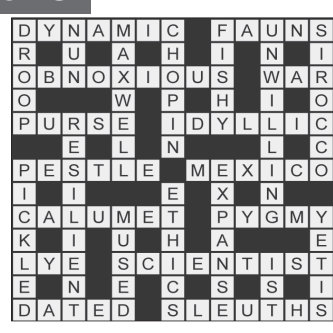
- Across**
- 7 Cleo's love
 - 8 Means of escape
 - 9 Flightless bird
 - 10 Adequate
 - 11 Point of view
 - 13 Bedroom set
 - 15 Church song
 - 16 Fruit drink
 - 18 Brimless
 - 19 Scottish cap
 - 21 One of the Seven Dwarfs
 - 22 Suffering
- Down**
- 1 Pro's foe
 - 2 Status seeker
 - 3 Indication
 - 4 To the lowest degree
 - 5 Pirate booty (8,5)
 - 6 Kept apart
 - 12 Rickety
 - 14 Sheepskin
 - 17 Horse carts
 - 20 Instrument for Orpheus

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

TRADE FAIR PREP

Preparations on in full swing for the upcoming Bali Yatra in Cuttack, Wednesday



RDC begins probe into 'mango kernel deaths'

Cong demands judicial inquiry; BJD wants FS&CW minister's scalp

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: A day after Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi ordered a probe into the death of two women allegedly after eating mango kernel gruel in Kandhamal district, RDC (Southern Division) Roopa Roshan Sahoo Wednesday visited Mandipanka village under Daringbadi block in the district and interacted with the family members of the victims as well as locals there.

Apart from the family members of the deceased and locals, Sahoo interacted with civil society organisations as part of the probe. The Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC) also inspected records of the Public Distribution System at the Large Area Multi Purpose Societies (LAMPS) following accusations by the Opposition that the villagers did not receive foodgrains in October.

The RDC will submit its report to the government in seven days, officials said.

At least two tribal women died, while six others were hospitalised allegedly after consuming mango kernel gruel at Mandipanka village last week.

The Congress, meanwhile, demanded a judicial inquiry, led by a sitting High Court judge, to ensure impartiality and transparency in the investigation.

"The RDC is a party to the case and should be held respon-



Two tribal women died, while six others were hospitalised allegedly after consuming mango kernel gruel at Mandipanka village in Kandhamal last week

sible for this neglect. The district Collector also did not visit the affected village for a week. How can the RDC head an impartial inquiry?" asked senior Congress leader Srikant Jena.

Jena, a former Union minister, sought to know why the people of Mandipanka village were 'deprived' of foodgrains for October.

"Had the foodgrains been released on time in October, the two precious lives could have been saved. Delay in foodgrain distribution violates the National Food Security Act and is a criminal offence," he said.

When asked, civil supplies officer of Kandhamal, Jananendriya Mishra, said, "We have already supplied rice for this quarter, but its distribution to the beneficiaries gets delayed at times due to certain reasons beyond our control. Still, we

have taken steps to strengthen the distribution system more effectively." However, a section of villagers alleged that they do not get rice on time.

Kandhamal Collector Amrit Raturaj said that the administration has been creating awareness among the people of the area to refrain from eating mango kernel gruel.

In a separate press conference, BJD spokesperson Lekhashree Samantsinghar demanded the resignation and arrest of Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare (FS&CW) Minister Krushna Chandra Patra for the tragedy.

"Let the minister answer why the people were deprived of rice for October. What will they eat? They were forced to eat mango kernel gruel for scarcity of foodgrains," the BJD leader said, adding that the incident has tarnished the image of Odisha.

BJP state vice-president Sukesh Oram, in a press conference, accused the BJD of playing politics in the name of tribals. "It is a case of food poisoning and not starvation death. Similar incidents had occurred at Rayagada in 2016 and Nabarangpur in 2018. Why didn't the then BJD ministers resign?" Oram asked.

Civil society organisations asked the CM to personally review programmes undertaken for the poverty alleviation and welfare of Kandhamal district.



Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singhuntia and Additional Chief Secretary Satyabrata Sahu at the 17th state-level Kalinga Herbal Fair at Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

Sunanda Das, former BJD MLA, joins BJP

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: Former BJD MLA Sunanda Das and her husband Debendra Das joined the BJP at the saffron party's state headquarters here Wednesday.

Sunanda, who was the legislator of Bari constituency in Jajpur district from 2019 to 2024, had resigned from the Opposition BJD last week. She was denied a party ticket to contest the elections this time.

The couple joined the saffron party in the presence of BJP state president Manmohan Samal and other senior leaders.

While resigning from the regional party last week, Sunanda had alleged that government officials had distributed BJD tickets during the simultaneous elections in Odisha earlier this year.

"We (ticket aspirants) were asked to meet officials for tickets. I met two IPS officers and was assured of a party ticket. However, they denied me a ticket at the last moment," she had told a local TV channel.

Sunanda had also alleged that she was neglected in the BJD and was never invited to any of the functions at the party office, Sankha Bhawan, in the Capital city here.

Fire at private TV channel studio

BHUBANESWAR: A fire broke out at the studio of a private television channel on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar Wednesday morning, police said. There were no casualties or injuries, although the fire caused significant property damage, police said. Local residents noticed the blaze at the channel's office at Sarua in Khurda district and informed the Fire Services department, which deployed four fire tenders to extinguish the flames. The fire is suspected to have been caused by a short circuit, police added. A senior official of the channel said shooting was underway until 1:45 am at the studio. Around 5:15 am, locals saw smoke emanating from it, he added.

2 KILLED AS CAR HITS TREE IN GOP

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: Two persons were killed and another seriously injured after the car in which they were travelling crashed into a roadside tree near Gop in Puri district late Tuesday night, police said.

Konark police Wednesday said the car rammed into a mango tree after the driver fell



asleep or lost control over the vehicle. The car was on way to

Bhubaneswar from Konark.

The deceased were from Bhubaneswar and Niali areas, police said. The injured driver was initially admitted to Gop hospital and later shifted to a hospital in Bhubaneswar, police added.

"We have sent the bodies for post-mortem. A case has been registered and investigation is on," police said.

More elephants for Similipal on cards

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: In a bid to reduce overcrowding of elephants in state's forests, wildlife authorities have planned to relocate some of the animals to Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) area, official sources said.

According to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) (Wildlife) Susanta Nanda, Odisha's forests are overcrowded with elephants. And it is a major reason for rising human-animal conflicts as well as wild jumbo deaths in the state.

Quoting a study by the Bangalore-based Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Nanda said a maximum of 1,700 elephants can reside in different forests of Odisha sustainably. However, Odisha forests have nearly 2,100 elephants—400 more than the capacity.

These 400 elephants have been facing a scarcity of food and habitation. In order to meet these needs, they move to nearby human habitations, resulting in frequent human-elephant conflicts, he said. He added that the calves and young elephants have become vulnerable to various diseases due to lack of proper food and water. Out of the total elephant deaths in Odisha, almost 60 per cent were calves and young elephants, who died from diseases.

"Wildlife authorities are planning to relocate some elephants to Similipal Tiger Reserve area as it would help de-

congest some forests," he added.

The elephants are primarily located in forests spread across western and central Odisha.

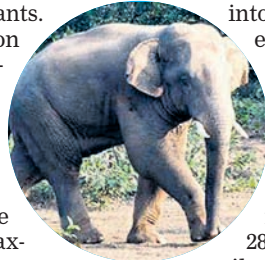
When asked about their absence in the southern jungles, Nanda explained, "The forests in south Odisha are not suitable for elephants. That's why they are not moving there."

Nanda's remarks came two days after the Forest minister ordered a probe into the unnatural deaths of wild elephants over the last seven months.

According to the latest elephant census conducted this year, a total of 2,098 elephants—313 adult tuskers, 13 adult makhna, 748 adult females, 148 sub-adult males, 282 sub-adult females, 209 juveniles and 385 calves—were found in 48 forest divisions across 28 districts of Odisha. There were no elephants in 13 divisions.

Official data revealed that 634 elephants died in Odisha between 2017-18 and 2024-25 (till November 4) due to various causes, including 22 poaching incidents, one poisoning, 91 deliberate electrocutions, 32 accidental electrocutions, 28 train accidents, five road accidents, and 103 other accidental reasons.

"Between April and November of the current year, 60 elephant deaths were reported, with 18 killed by deliberate electrocution, three in accidental electrocution, three in train accidents, 13 from diseases, four in retaliatory killings, and 19 dying naturally," data stated.



Man shares morphed photos of woman online, held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, Nov 6: A 30-year-old man was arrested in Jajpur district for allegedly creating multiple fake social media accounts of a woman and uploading her morphed obscene pictures and posting derogatory remarks about her, police said Wednesday.

The accused was identified as Santosh Kumar Sahoo, a resident of Narasinghpur village, they said. Sahoo allegedly created the fake profiles to take revenge against a 25-year-old woman from Dharmasala area in the district after she severed her relationship with him.

Sahoo was arrested after the woman filed a complaint with Dharmasala police Monday in connection with

the incident.

In her complaint, she alleged that someone created multiple fake accounts in her name on social media platforms and uploaded her morphed pictures and posted obscene and vulgar messages about her on them. Based on the complaint, police registered a case under multiple Sections of BNS and IT Act and started an investigation into it.

During the investigation, police obtained details and IP address used to operate the fake accounts. On the basis of the information, the location of the mobile phone used to operate the accounts was traced to Sahoo, who was later apprehended, a police officer said.

During interrogation, Sahoo

revealed that he met the woman through a social media platform around two years ago and they spoke over the phone. Later their friendship turned into a love relationship and they used to connect over social media. However, the woman severed her relationship with him last month and even did not receive his phone calls. It prompted him to take revenge, the officer said.

"To avenge the breakup, he downloaded the woman's pictures from her social media account profiles, created fake accounts in her name and uploaded the morphed images with obscene and vulgar messages against her on them," said Dharmasala IIC TK Nayak said.

Government of Rajasthan

**RISEING RAJASTHAN
PRAVASI RAJASTHANI
CONCLAVE**
10 DEC 2024 • JAIPUR

SH. BHAJANLAL SHARMA
Hon'ble Chief Minister

SH. NARENDRA MODI
Hon'ble Prime Minister

PRAVASI RAJASTHANI CONCLAVE

CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF BEING A RAJASTHANI

Feel the pride of being a Rajasthani and celebrate the legacy that unites us all.

Join us at the Pravasi Rajasthani Conclave and experience a host of activities — insightful sessions, a vibrant showcase of Rajasthan, an opportunity to network with beloved Rajasthanis.

9 DEC Inauguration & Opportunity Showcase

10 DEC Pravasi Rajasthani Conclave

11 DEC MSME Conclave

- Thematic Sessions & Country Sessions
- Rajasthan Global Business Expo

REGISTER TODAY

rising.rajasthan.gov.in

For details, contact:

ASHISH PATHAK, CII
0141-2221442/88, +91 9462817612
ashish.pathak@cii.in

Summit Industry Partner

Confederation of Indian Industry

Nodal Offices

Rajasthan Foundation

Bureau of Investment Promotion Rajasthan

Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Rajasthan

Backyard poultry farming to extend across state: Dy CM

Deputy Chief Minister Deo pledges state government's full support to initiatives that uplift women in farming, particularly those led by development agencies

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: The state government, in collaboration with a private organisation, is all set to extend the reach of innovative backyard poultry farming across the state to make rural women self-reliant, a Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo said here Wednesday.



Summit', organised by Passing Gifts, a subsidiary of Heifer International. The summit showcased the progress of women in small-scale agriculture and allied sectors, lauding their efforts as essential for economic growth.

In its website, Heifer International describes itself as a development organisation on a mission to end hunger and poverty, in a sustainable way, by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities.

The deputy chief minister also commended the increasing participation of women in agriculture, viewing it as a promising trend for the state's development.

He pledged the state government's full support to initiatives that uplift women in farming, particularly those led by development agencies.

"The state government is committed to supporting organisations like Passing Gifts

that drive the socio-economic empowerment of women farmers," Deo said.

Programme Director at Passing Gifts Akshaya Biswal introduced the 'New Backyard Poultry Model,' which aims to raise rural incomes and build resilience through community-driven poultry farming.

The new model aligns with government initiatives, such as the 'Lakshmi Didis' programme, creating a coordinated approach to enhance both farmers' income and food security. Following its success in Odisha, the Backyard Poultry Model is set to expand to Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, supported by Transform Rural India.

The summit featured a panel discussion where corporate sector leaders and government officials explored ways to scale the impact of backyard poultry farming.

Indo-Kazakh JVC to boost employment

Bhubaneswar: Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), a Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU), under the department of Atomic Energy (DAE), and Ust-Kamenogorsk Titanium and Magnesium Plant JSC, (UKTMP JSC) Kazakhstan have signed an agreement to establish Indo-Kazakh joint venture company (JVC) - 'IREUK Titanium Limited' in Odisha for production of Titanium slag. The agreement was signed by IREL chairman and managing director Dependra Singh, and UKTMP JSC president Assem Mamutova, in presence of Atomic Energy Commission secretary DAE and chairman AK Mohanty and Republic of Kazakhstan Industry and Construction Vice Minister Iran Sharkhan, Akim of East Kazakhstan Yermek Kosherbayev and Ambassador to India Nurlan Zhalgasbayev. Speaking on the occasion, Mohanty lauded the efforts of IREL (India) limited and mentioned that the new joint venture IREUK Titanium Limited, that is being established in the platinum jubilee year of DAE, will pave the way for Atmanirbhar Bharat in the field of Titanium slag production in the country.

Govt puts brakes on Mo Bus speed



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: The speed of Mo Buses will not exceed 40 kmph within the City and 50 kmph while operating on the outskirts, Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra said Wednesday.

He said department officials

have been ordered to equip these buses with speed governors- a speed limiting device- to keep a check on the ones flouting the desired speed limits.

The statement by Minister Mahapatra assumes significance following some accidents involving City buses. Recently, two persons were injured,

one severely, after a speeding Mo Bus hit them near Chandrasekharpur petrol pump here. One of the injured, a woman, lost her hand.

Mahapatra instructed department officials to enforce the speed rule. "A team will check the speed and driving style of Mo Bus drivers. Licenses will also be checked. Without a licence, a driver cannot drive a Mo Bus," he said.

He said the team will also check whether any driver is speeding the bus under the influence of alcohol. "Random checks will be conducted on drivers. I will review the implementation soon," he added.

The buses are currently operating in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Khurda, Pipili, Puri, Konark, Rourkela, Sambalpur, and Berhampur.'



ARTISTIC CREATION: Girls look at an artwork on the concluding day of a state-level workshop organised by Bibhuti Kanungo College of Art & Crafts and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute in celebration of Bhagwan Birsa Munda on his 150th birth anniversary at Kalinga Art Gallery in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

Int'l Mahodadhi Divas in Puri from December 10

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/ Puri, Nov 6: The Bell Org, in collaboration with different organisations will host an international beach event 'Mahodadhi Divas 2024' in Puri beach from December 10 to 12, celebrating the ocean life, sports tourism, and marine conservation.

Mahodadhi Divas 2024 will be organised in collaboration with the Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association, Rashtriya Life Saving Society, Puri Beach Lifeguard Mahasangha, International Surf Life Saving Association USA, and Sri Lanka Life Saving, informed the organisers at a press meet here Wednesday.

The landmark event will bring together over 600 national athletes and 35 international delegates from 10 countries, making it a pioneering step for India's coastal tourism and environmental awareness initiatives.

The current year will mark fourth consecutive year of celebration at Puri, with a special three-day programme focused on lifesaving sports, cultural performances, and a marine conservation exhibition.

"Events like these present invaluable opportunities for



the Odisha coastal fisherman community to gain visibility and showcase their lifesaving skills. Through their participation, they could find pathways to represent the country at international platforms in commonwealth championships and world games," said the organisers.

The initiative thus serves as a unique opportunity for community development, enhancing the skills of local fishermen, while raising awareness about lifesaving sports, said Puri Beach Lifeguard Mahasangha and Puri Beach Sports Club secretary Pokal Hari.

Among the highlights, the

first Indo-Sri Lanka Lifesaving Sports Championship will be held at the event, emphasising the importance of lifesaving skills and water safety. Alongside, the Mahodadhi national championship will feature a wide range of beach and ocean sports, offering an exhilarating experience for participants and spectators.

These championships not only aim to promote lifesaving sports but also to foster the development of sports tourism on eastern coasts, said Puri Beach Lifeguard Mahasangha and Puri Beach Sports Club secretary Pokal Hari.

Speaker Padhy attends Parl meet at Sydney

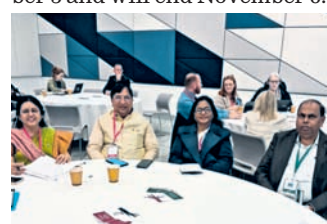
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy attended the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Sydney Wednesday. She participated in a workshop on the topic 'The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Parliamentary Processes and Practices: Opportunities and Challenges'.

Speaking on the occasion, Padhy said "We have to be more careful about AI and how it can be beneficial and utilised in best possible way."

Attending another workshop on 'How legislatures can best support and promote LGBTQ+ participation', Padhy said that political actors across the commonwealth have the moral responsibility to listen to the voices of LGBTQ+ citizens and support their meaningful participation in the democratic process.

Odisha Legislative Assembly secretary Dasharathi Satapathy also joined the conference, which was inaugurated November 3 and will end November 8.



Shanti Chikitsa Hosp inaugurated at CDA



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 6: Shanti Chikitsa Hospital, a unit of Shanti Memorial Hospital, was inaugurated in CDA area of Cuttack Wednesday.

The multi-speciality hospital was inaugurated by Ashok Patnaik and Sanjukta Pattanayak—the elder brother and sister of Sreejoy Patnaik, the founder and CEO of Shanti Memorial Hospital.

On the occasion, the siblings cherished the success of their younger brother in successfully running the hospital in Silver city.

Patnaik said, "There have been requests to start a new healthcare facility in CDA on the lines of Shanti Memorial Hospital. I am glad that we have finally been able to come up with one to address the need

of people of this area as well as those living in nearby places."

"The objective of new facility is to offer more choices and convenience to the people not just in CDA but also in peripheral towns including Dhenkanal, Angul and Athagarh so that patients do not have to go further into cities looking for a proper hospital at the time of need," he said.

The new hospital provides all services across departments, has state-of-the-art equipment and a dedicated team of doctors and professional paramedic staff to ensure absolute healthcare to its patients. The hospital currently has 49 beds including nine in ICU.

Doctors and staff members of Shanti Memorial Hospital also attended the inaugural function.

Dy CM Deo & NIFT director to attend, award degrees

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Bhubaneswar, under Ministry of Textiles will organise its annual convocation ceremony at IMMT-CSIR auditorium November 9.

Addressing a press meet Wednesday, NIFT Bhubaneswar director Rajesh Kumar Jha said, "A total of 196 stu-

dents will receive their degrees, including 168 undergraduate and 28 postgraduate students, who will join the growing family of NIFT alumni."

On the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, along with NIFT director general Tanu Kashyap will present the degrees to the graduating students. Several well-known dignitaries from various sectors will also be

NIFT BHUBANESWAR CONVOCATION NOV 9



present to bless the graduates on the special day, he informed.

NIFT is one of India's premier institution for fashion

education, offering an array of undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes in various design disciplines in-

cluding, Fashion Design, Textile design, Fashion Communication, Fashion and Lifestyle Accessories.

NIFT Bhubaneswar director also informed about Innovative Outreach Programme 2025, which aims to engage students across the state and provide them with insights into the world of fashion and design. The outreach initiative is a response to the growing need

for industry-ready professionals in the fashion sector, and it aims to break barriers and introduce design studies to a wider audience, particularly in underserved areas, Jha said. As part of the initiative, NIFT Bhubaneswar recently conducted an activity-based event November 5. Over 40 students from local schools participated in an immersive experience at the institute.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Gaishnava Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree Fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Silver ornaments worth ₹10 lakh looted from Tara Tarini temple

Rengali stamp paper fraud: Tehsildar submits report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Nov 6: Silver ornaments worth ₹10 lakh were looted from Tara Tarini temple, a famous Shakti shrine, in Ganjam district, police said Wednesday.

The jewellery looted from the hilltop temple in Purushottampur includes the crowns of the deities, ceremonial umbrella and masks of the deities.

Though the miscreants attempted to loot the main 'hundri' (donation box), they could not succeed, a police officer said. They, however, looted money by breaking open two other hundis. The exact amount of the money looted is yet to be ascertained, the officer said.

The miscreants entered the sanctum sanctorum of the temple, located around 780 feet above the sea level, by breaking at least three locks, including



that on the main entrance. A watchman, deployed by the temple management committee, was allegedly sleeping when the incident took place.

The incident came to light early Wednesday when two priests first noticed that some ornaments were missing. They informed some senior servitors and the police, said Babuji Ra-

na, one of the servitors. He said the Tara Tarini Sevayat Sangh has lodged an FIR with Purushottampur police station over the incident.

Ganjam Superintendent of Police Suwendu Kumar Patra visited the spot. "We have pressed into service a scientific team and dog squad for investigation. A manhunt has been launched to nab the accused,"

he said. The over 500-year-old temple was renovated in 2022 at a cost of around ₹117 crore. However, no CCTV camera was installed on the premises.

A member of the police investigation team admitted they would face difficulty in identifying the miscreants due to the lack of CCTV surveillance.

In 1994, unidentified persons had looted from the temple idols of the deities made of 'ashtadhatu' (eight metals).

A fact-finding team of the BJD led by former Berhampur MP Chandra Sekhar Sahu visited the temple under direction of party president Naveen Patnaik. Other members of the team included former MLAs Ramesh Chandra Chyauapanaik, Bikram Panda and Suryamani Baidya.

"We will submit a report to the party president soon," Sahu said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 6: Two years after allegations surfaced, Sambalpur district officials have taken a crucial step in addressing an alleged stamp paper fraud case in Rengali Tehsil office.

The matter came to the fore after tehsildar Takhyaraj Bhattar submitted a report to the Sambalpur Sub-Collector, detailing accusations of unauthorised stamp paper sales, Monday. Sources said the allegations first surfaced two years back. However, questions have been raised as to who pressurised the tehsildars to make such delay in conducting the probe and submitting the report until now.

The report mentions that stamp papers were sold without the buyers' signatures, raising questions about procedural integrity, sources said.

The alleged fraud was first reported in 2022 by Bimal Bihari Pattnaik, a Right to Information Act (RTI) activist who informed the Sub-Collector about irregularities in the sale of stamp papers. Originally worth ₹10, the stamp papers were being sold at a price of ₹1,300 each in Rengali tehsil without required signatures, he alleged.

Despite repeated reminders, no action was initially taken. Pattnaik submitted a fresh complaint June 18 this year, alleging that a vendor, Laxminarayana Sahu, had sold a stamp paper July 9, 2015, under serial number 2107, dated-09.07.2015, with the name 'Akshaya Barik' falsely recorded as the buyer. However, another stamp paper with the same serial number was also sold.

The report further highlights that two different stamp papers may have been issued

under the same serial number, raising suspicion of forgery. In one case, Akshaya Barik's name and signature were present as the buyer, while another sold stamp paper listed no identifiable buyer details. This discrepancy has caused concern about how stamps were issued without verifying the buyer's identity.

The tehsildar finalised the report October 18, yet did not submit it until November 4, leading to further suspicion and speculation. Sources reveal that a big volume of stamp paper sales may have led to such lapses, with the stamp paper vendor attributing the omission to "clerical oversights" due to heavy workload during the investigation.

With the report now in the Sub-Collector's office, all eyes are on the next steps it will take for accountability and resolution.

Nonagenarian woman, daughter killed in blaze



Snehalata Dikshit Sairendri Dikshit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sambalpur, Nov 6: A 90-year-old woman and her daughter were killed allegedly after a fire broke out in their house in Sambalpur district, a police officer said Wednesday.

The incident happened in Hatapada area under the limits of Sambalpur Sadar police station of the district Tuesday night when they were sleeping, the police officer said.

The deceased were identified as Snehalata Dikshit (90) and Sairendri Dikshit (62). The old woman and her 62-year-old daughter used to stay on the first floor of a two-storey building. Her son lives on the ground floor of the building with his family, the officer said.

On seeing the blaze on

the first floor of the building between 10.30pm and 11pm Tuesday, locals intimated the police.

A police team reached the spot and found that Sairendri Dikshit was engulfed in flames. The police doused the fire but she was dead by that time, Sub-divisional Police Officer (SD-PO) of Sambalpur Sadar, Tophan Bag, said.

The team also found the elderly woman's burnt body in another room, he said. Bag said the bodies have been recovered and sent to a hospital for post-mortem examination. The forensic team also reached the spot to collect evidence. The police team had found that the main door was locked from inside, while a small gate was open, the SDPO said.

Meanwhile, Snehalata Dikshit's younger daughter Indrani Purohit alleged that her brother Jagannath Dikshit killed the duo over a land and property dispute. Police registered a murder case over Indrani's complaint and detained Jagannath and his son for probe.

Youth dies in jumbo attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Champua, Nov 6: In yet another human casualty due to man-elephant conflict, a youth was killed in elephant attack at Katulikana village of Karanjia panchayat under Champua forest range in Keonjhar district Wednesday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Tankadhar Naik, 32.

According to the Forest department, a herd of elephants strayed out of Katulikana forest around 4pm Wednesday. An elephant of the herd suddenly attacked Tankadhar, who was working in his paddy field located near the forest. The elephant caught hold of him in his trunk and dashed him on the ground. On being in-

formed, locals along with Forest department staff reached the spot, rescued Tankadhar and rushed him to Champua hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

It is pertinent to mention that a herd of wild elephants has created a reign of terror in the region for the last few days. Notably, another youth was critically injured on the previous day after he was attacked by an elephant in the same locality. Tension was palpable in the locality after the death as frustrated villagers raised questions on the efficiency of the Forest department in handling the elephant menace. Champua ranger Akshaya Chahatria said compensation will be provided as per the government norms.

Man awarded life for murder



POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 6: The Additional District and Sessions Court in Ganjam Wednesday sentenced a man to life imprisonment after convicting him for murder of Santosh Sethi, a resident of Balaram Nagar at Bhismagiri village under Digapahandi police limits in 2021.

The Additional District Judge (ADJ)-1, Indu Sharma, also slapped a fine of ₹10,000 on the convict iden-

tified as Ram Naik, 35, of the same village. Failure to pay the fine will attract additional one year rigorous imprisonment (RI), the judge ordered.

According to the case diary, Santosh Sethi, despite being married, was having an affair with Ram Naik's sister. Many a time, Ram had threatened Santosh to stay away from his sister but to no avail. Ram hatched a plan to eliminate Santosh and hacked him to death with a dagger.

The judge pronounced the verdict after examining the statements of 18 witnesses and going through the police chargesheet, informed Additional Public Prosecutor (APP) Soubhagya Kumar Mishra.

PM Internship

LEARN FROM THE BEST

IN TOP COMPANIES OF THE COUNTRY, MORE THAN

1.25 Lakh

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ More than 2.5 lakh internship applications have been received
- ◆ Supply Chain Management, Process Associate, Manufacturing Associate, Plant Operations and many more opportunities in various other sectors
- ◆ Gain real world experience, learn and build network
- ◆ Youth can apply for up to 5 internship opportunities

₹5000

monthly allowance

₹6000

one-time grant

Don't miss this chance
Apply before last date of November 10

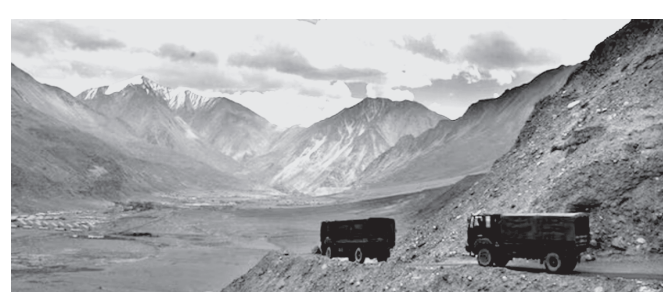
For more information
Contact: 1800 11 6090 (Toll Free)
Or log on to: pminternship.mca.gov.in

SCAN

CBC 07101/13/0010/2425

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

OVER THE TOP



Balancing between both power-alignments under the plea of 'strategic autonomy,' New Delhi has much to be confused about its own role in any conflict-resolution effort

While Indian and Chinese soldiers were sharing sweets on Diwali day on the border points of Demchok and Depsang in Eastern Ladakh as part of the disengagement process, the US Treasury Dept imposed sanctions on 19 Indian entities and two individuals out of 400 plus in 17 countries across the world (including India and China) for supplying dual-use technologies and trading with Russia in its war with Ukraine under the category of "Third Country Sanctions Evaders." This move coincided with a telephone conversation between the NSAs of US and India. A White House readout said that the two discussed "regional security developments, underscoring the need for further efforts to ensure stability in the Indo-Pacific region and globally." They also had other issues to discuss being partners in the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies launched in 2023. The MEA responded saying that while there was a robust regulatory framework in India, the transactions were in conformity with Indian laws.

India did not favour any kind of connectivity project which violated Indian borders and sovereignty (referring to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor running through parts of Aksai Chin and PoK). The BRICS Summit saw an outreach meeting with over 30 countries, all desirous of joining the 10-member grouping, which was meant to expand the grouping's clout while signaling the continued importance of Russia and China in global affairs. India stood out as the only member being part of the US-led Quad group though it was evident that BRICS was projecting itself as an anti-American world order with its financial, banking, currency and trade formulations. Events were to follow in rapid speed as relations between India and Canada nosedived sharply with the Canadian government directly naming India's Home Minister to be behind the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada. The Indian government predictably rubbished the charges as "absurd" and "baseless." The event followed the expulsion of 6 top-ranking Indian diplomats from the Ottawa Mission on the ground that they refused to be interrogated by the Royal Canada Mounted Police. The US government subsequently issued a statement

saying that it was looking at the Canadian government's allegations seriously. While Ottawa clearly violated the Vienna Convention in forcing Indian diplomats to be interrogated on foreign soil, it is also pertinent to question whether there was really an Indian hand behind Nijjar's killing, that which could point at New Delhi's muscular policy approach in raking up the Khalistan issue, which is long dead in India.

As a background, Canadian and Indian NSAs had met face-to-face in Singapore (Oct 12) where the Canadian side had apparently presented evidence of India's involvement in the Nijjar killing while the Indian side had denied the allegations asking for more actionable evidence. Around the same time an Indian Commission of Inquiry formed at the US government's insistence in connection with the alleged killing attempt on yet another Khalistani activist Pannun on US soil, visited New York (where an Indian national has been indicted on murder-for-hire-charges along with another Indian, a former RAW employee, involved in the plan with links to a notorious Indian gangster holed up in a high-security prison in Ahmedabad), to hold talks with their counterparts, with no concrete results. Clearly, all these de-

velopments do not bode well for India's global standing, particularly in the context of the recently held meetings of BRICS and SCO groupings in which China is likely to push India into a corner where the latter could find itself isolated.

How then would India merit being an impartial party to resolve the ongoing Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Gaza-Hezbollah conflicts, when it is seemingly engaged in shipping arms and munitions (besides manpower) to both Russia and Israel, the two aggressor parties in the never-ending wars? With the victory of Donald Trump in the US Presidential elections, America is likely to adopt an isolationist approach in its foreign policy at a time when the spectre of a nuclear war is looming large in both the theatres of conflict and the world is on edge. Of forbidding concern is the growing Russia-China-Iran-North Korea axis which has gained ground leading to some 10,000 North Korean forces fighting for Russia and both countries benefitting from export of munitions and technologies, much to China's unease, while is Iran threatening a devastating counter-attack on Israel to its Oct 26 attack. In this rapidly developing scenario (Russia sending Iranian satellites into space and North Korea firing a barrage of missiles into the Pacific) India's success as an interlocutor has considerably diminished.

While the UN lies moribund and with each resolution on Ukraine or Palestine vetoed by a concerned Permanent 5 member (in UNSC), a doomsday scenario could well be on the horizon. Balancing between both power-alignments under the plea of 'strategic autonomy,' New Delhi has much to be confused about its own role in any conflict-resolution effort.

The writer is a retired diplomat and foreign policy analyst.



Malay Mishra IN THIS RAPIDLY DEVELOPING SCENARIO, INDIA'S SUCCESS AS AN INTERLOCUTOR HAS CONSIDERABLY DIMINISHED



Kanika Mahajan PROJECTIONS SUGGEST THAT INCREASING THE FEMALE WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION RATE BY JUST TEN PERCENTAGE POINTS COULD INCREASE INDIA'S GDP BY 16 PER CENT

The only work that spiritually purifies us is that which is done without personal motives. SRI AUROBINDO

Close The Gap

While female workforce participation consistently lags behind men's globally, there are deep regional disparities, with the largest gender employment gaps found in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and South Asia.

India is a striking example of this dynamic. Among women aged 25-60 in rural areas, the labour-market participation rate dropped sharply from 54 per cent in 1980 to 31 per cent in 2017 (National Sample Survey (1980) and Periodic Labor Force Survey (2017)). In urban areas, the decline has been less dramatic, from 26 per cent to 24 per cent. Meanwhile, male employment rates remained relatively stable, further widening the gender gap in the world's most populous country.

Given the well-documented economic benefits of higher female employment, Indian policymakers are eager to reverse this trend. Projections suggest that increasing the female workforce participation rate by just ten percentage points could increase India's GDP by 16 per cent. In fact, improving female employment rates worldwide could add \$12 trillion to global GDP.

To encourage women to enter the labour market, policymakers must first understand the root causes of India's low female workforce participation rate. Early research points to a range of supply-side barriers, such as the U-shaped relationship between income and education, the unequal division of domestic labor (particularly childcare and eldercare), and social norms that discourage women from working outside the home. The problem is also exacerbated by the preference for non-working women in the marriage market, limited mobility, inadequate skills training, and safety concerns at work and in public spaces.

Many of these barriers are rooted in household dynamics, but governments can still play a pivotal role in addressing them. One way is to support export-oriented industries. While supply-side constraints affect economies across MENA and South Asia, countries like Bangladesh have experienced a rise in female employment thanks to growing demand from export-driven sectors. This mirrors the experience of Southeast Asian countries, where export-oriented manufacturing has led to a surge in women entering the labour market.

History also offers valuable insights. In the United States, the female employment rate rose dramatically in the space of 100 years, from less than 5 per cent in 1890 to more than 60 per cent in 1990. The critical turning point came during World War II, when labour shortages led to higher wages, greater acceptance of women in traditionally male-dominated jobs, and the emergence of alternative care options.

In India, much of the policy debate has focused on the demand-side barriers that women face in the job market. Labour demand has not been favourable to Indian women, as mechanisation in the agriculture sector reinforces gender disparities while the lack of decent jobs and the dominance of small firms - many of which fail to provide essential amenities like maternity leave and child care - limit women's work opportunities.

The impact of such barriers is compounded by insufficient support for female entrepreneurship and widespread employer discrimination against married women and mothers. Moreover, well-intentioned regulations like the Maternity Benefit Act and the POSH Act, intended to increase the number of women in the workforce, also raise the cost of hiring them, inadvertently creating additional obstacles.

Recognising that low female employment impedes economic growth, the Indian government has allocated an unprecedented 6.5 per cent of its latest annual budget to programmes promoting gender equality in housing, pensions, education, and health care. The budget also boosts funding for initiatives aimed at improving women's safety, mobility, and caregiving options, such as establishing targeted skills-training programmes, hostels, and child-care facilities for working women, and expanding market access for enterprises run by women-led, community-based self-help groups.

But the real test will be the quality and reliability of these services. If child-care facilities provide standard care, or hostels fail to ensure women's safety, participation will remain low. Moreover, skills programmes in India have had little success outside major cities. A recent study in Uttar Pradesh found that just 11 per cent of graduates of industrial training institutes were able to secure employment. International studies also suggest that insufficient job opportunities may limit the impact of skill-building initiatives. Creating quality jobs offering higher wages is crucial for supply-side measures to be effective.

When men struggle to find jobs, integrating women into the workforce becomes even more challenging. Notably, nearly 12 per cent of Indian men aged 20-35 in urban areas who completed schooling were unemployed in 2022. For this reason, the government's latest budget includes several initiatives to boost employment. One such programme aims to encourage internships, with the government providing firms a monthly allowance of Rs 5,000 (\$60) and offering labour-market entrants a one-time wage-assistance subsidy of up to Rs 15,000. Employers will also be eligible for up to Rs 3,000 per month for two years following every new hire, offsetting their social-security contributions. Other measures to expand small firms' access to credit markets include doubling the limit for small loans by public-sector banks to micro enterprises from Rs 1 million to Rs 2 million.

But the effectiveness of some of these measures remains uncertain, given that top firms are likely to hire the most skilled candidates even without government intervention. Employers will increase hiring only when the benefits outweigh the costs. As long as burdensome regulations, inflexible labour laws, infrastructure bottlenecks, and unfavourable industrial and trade policies persist, job creation will continue to stagnate. By fostering a business-friendly economy - one that simplifies firm entry and exit and removes barriers to growth - India could both empower women and unlock its economic potential. It's a lesson many countries cannot learn soon enough.

The writer is Associate Professor of Economics at Ashoka University.

WISDOM CORNER

All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident. ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

Most people do not really want freedom, because freedom involves responsibility, and most people are frightened of responsibility. SIGMUND FREUD

Never give up. Today is hard, tomorrow will be worse, but the day after tomorrow will be sunshine. JACK MA

SPECTRUM DEVELOPMENT

Poverty challenge to shared prosperity

Poverty is one of the most tenacious problems that the world faces today. The poorest in the world are often undernourished, without access to essential services such as health, education, electricity and safe drinking water. India has not estimated poverty since 2011. A common method used to estimate poverty in India is based on the income or consumption levels and if the income or consumption falls below a given minimum level, then the household is said to be Below the Poverty Line (BPL). But Niti Aayog comes with own estimation of poverty based on the National Family Health Service (NFHS) report and tries to portray that poverty rate is declining. Earlier it had pointed out that the Headcount Ratio has declined from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23. Based on the above findings, the government claims that 25 crore people have been extricated from the poverty line in the first nine years of the NDA government. However, the recent poverty data published by the World Bank and United Nations Development Programme tells a different story altogether showing extreme poverty in India. The Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet Report 2024: Pathways Out of the Polycrisis offers the first post-pandemic assessment of global progress on ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity on a livable planet. It highlights that progress has slowed, with 2020-2030 set to be a lost decade.

The World Bank defines poverty as a "pronounced deprivation in well-being." It defines extreme poverty as living on less than \$2.15 per day in 2017 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms. This line is based on the median national poverty line of 28 low-income countries. The World Bank uses PPP exchange rates to account for differences in the cost of goods and services between countries with 1 dollar being equivalent to Rs 84 in exchange rate now. The World Bank also tracks poverty at \$3.65 a day, the typical line for lower-middle-income countries, and \$6.85 a day, typical for upper-middle-income countries. The Bank has now found that nearly 70 crore people worldwide (8.5% of global population) live in extreme poverty with less than \$2.15 per person per day.

Progress has plateaued amid low growth, setbacks due to COVID-19, and increased fragility. Poverty rates in low-income countries are higher than before the pandemic.

India's poverty rate was at 11.9% or 16.75 crore in 2021 higher than the 2018 level of 11.09%, though easing from 14.72% in 2020. Now the World Bank says that almost 12.9 crore Indians are living in extreme poverty in 2024, on less than \$2.15 a day, down from 43.1 crore in 1990. However, with a higher poverty standard of \$6.85 per day almost one-half of the world is living in poverty while more Indians are living below the poverty line in 2024 than in 1990, primarily driven by 'population growth'. Worldwide, people's incomes today would need to increase fivefold on average to reach a minimum prosperity threshold of \$25 per person per day.

The latest update of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was released on October 17 by the UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) based at the University of Oxford. The year's report features original statistical research on multi-

dimensional poverty for 112 countries and 630 crore people, as well as fine-grained analysis of the relationship between conflict and poverty. It said that 110 crore people live in acute poverty worldwide. India has 23.4 crore people living in poverty, placing the country among five globally with the largest number of people living in poverty. One of the sustainable development goals of the UN is eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty by 2030. This looks impossible today.

In this context, the poverty line should not be a starvation or deprivation line. It should not reflect only just a lack of material resources but should encompass inadequate access to education, healthcare, sanitation, and opportunities for economic advancement. It must ensure an adequate standard of living and other civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. For this, price control, employment creation, free health and education should be top agenda of our government.

The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist.

Letters TO THE EDITOR

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

Stunning comeback

Sir, Former US President Donald Trump registered a stunning victory defeating Vice President Kamala Harris, delivering him a second term in the White House after a historic election cycle filled with unprecedented twists and turns and two attempts on his life. While Trump will be the first president to serve two non-consecutive terms since Grover Cleveland in 1892 - and only the second in history, he is also a first felon to occupy the coveted post. Determined to reclaim the presidency, Trump launched his 2024 campaign shortly after the 2022 midterms, re-energising his slogan to "Make America Great Once Again." The 2024 election hinged on seven crucial battleground states: Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Michigan, Wisconsin and Nevada. These swing states, known for their balanced support for Democrats and Republicans, became the focal point of both campaigns, with both candidates vied for the 270 electoral votes required to win the presidency. However, Trump's victory may lead to aggressive tariffs and protectionist measures triggering a trade war that could potentially harm global markets with severe consequences for India and China. But, a gridlocked US Congress might limit any drastic policy shifts offering some stability. The highlight of the election has been "Trumpism," that could shape the policies.. N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Welcome judgement

Sir, This refers to "Owners' pride" (Orissa Post, November 6). I wholeheartedly welcome the recent judgement of the Supreme Court, which tends to curb on the arbitrary usurpation of privately-owned property belonging to poor and weaker sections of the society. Privately-owned property must have an inherent protection from all sorts of usurpation for the purchase of any property is normally done after a thorough search which covers the chance of acquisition of property by the respective government. The government can acquire any property for the larger interests of the public when there are no options left to the government. Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Rajasthan holds investors' roadshow in Saudi Arabia



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Riyadh, Nov 6: Ahead of the 'Rising Rajasthan' Global Investment Summit 2024, a delegation led by KK Vishnoi, Minister of State for Industries and Commerce, had meetings with several leading companies in Saudi Arabia Tuesday.

The delegation impressed upon the investors and business leaders to visit Rajasthan and explore new business opportunities in the state during these meetings.

The investors and companies were also apprised about the business-friendly policy decisions being taken by the government under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and were invited to participate in the upcoming 'Rising Rajasthan' Global Investment Summit 2024, scheduled to be held in Jaipur on 9th-10th-11th December.

The meeting with Al-Jomaih Group of Companies featured discussions on the diverse services offered by Al-Jomaih Holding Co, spanning sectors such

as investment, automotive and equipment, financial services, energy, real estate, and consumer goods and the conversation focused on how these sectors could contribute to Rajasthan's economic growth.

During the meeting with SABIC, its officials showed interest in exploring investment opportunities in Rajasthan across key sectors such as fertilisers, petrochemicals and renewable energy, with a particular emphasis on potash exploration for its fertilisers business.

Similarly, officials of ACWA Power showed interest in exploring the power sector of Rajasthan, while officials of Lulu Saudi HyperMarket appeared inclined to explore the retail sector.

Speaking after these meetings, Vishnoi said, "We wish to leverage key strengths of Saudi Arabia, and their companies were invited to explore Rajasthan, which is a land of immense opportunities for doing business. We have so many things to offer and are committed to bringing investments in the state."

Rajasthan Secretary of Finance (Expenditure) delivered an insightful presentation on Rajasthan and showcased the potential and opportunities available in various sectors of Rajasthan to the investor community during the investor meet at Riyadh.

A third of Ranthambore's 75 tigers missing: Officials



The Wildlife department has formed a three-member committee to investigate the disappearances, as per the order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Nov 6: Rajasthan's Chief Wildlife Warden Pavan Kumar Upadhyay has said that 25 of the 75 tigers in Ranthambore National Park (RNP) are reported to have gone missing over the last year, directing officials to probe the matter.

Kumar also told officials in an order Monday that 11 of the missing tigers have been reported

missing for over a year.

This is the first time such a high number of tigers has been officially reported missing in a year. Earlier, 13 tigers were reported missing from Ranthambore between January 2019 and January 2022.

The Wildlife department has formed a three-member committee to investigate the disappearances, as per the order. The team will review monitoring records and recommend action if any lapses by park officials are found.

The focus is on finding 14 tigers that have not been seen since between May 17 and September 30 of this year. The order stated that reports of missing tigers have surfaced repeatedly from Ranthambore's monitoring assessments.

"Despite several notices sent to the park's field director, no significant improvements have been noted. As of a report dated October 14, 2024, 11 tigers have been unaccounted for over a year, with limited recent evidence of another 14. Given the circumstances, an inquiry committee has been set up to investigate the missing tigers in Ranthambore," the order said.

Chief Wildlife Warden Pavan Kumar Upadhyay said, "The committee will submit its report within two months. We have identified some monitoring gaps that we want to address. Recently, I started collecting weekly monitoring reports, which showed that these tigers were not recorded on trap camera. This matter is being taken very seriously."

Efforts to ease pressure on the park include relocating villages from the buffer zone, but progress has been slow, with the last relocation taking place in 2016.

Park officials have said that Ranthambore faces challenges due to tigers' overcrowding, which leads to fights over territory. With 75 tigers -- that includes young tigers and cubs -- the park's 900 square kilometres is struggling to support them.

Northeast Festival to begin from Nov 15



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 6: The 12th edition of the Northeast Festival will begin here at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium November 15 with the participation of over 200 communities of northeast India and performances by popular artistes including Zubeen Garg, Bipul Chettri, and Riar Saab.

Organised by Socio-Cultural Trust Trend MMS, with the support of the Ministry of DoNER, the event will present a diverse mix of events and experiences capturing the region's cultural, artistic, and entrepreneurial energy.

The three-day festival will feature stalls spotlighting artisanal products from Northeastern communities.

"From agricultural produce to traditional handlooms and crafts, this exhibition highlights the region's resourcefulness, allowing attendees to engage directly with local artisans," the organisers said at a press meet Wednesday.

With special focus on Nagaland and Hornbill festival, held from December 1-10, the gala will highlight cultural tourism of the entire region from the allure of Dzukou Valley to the charm of Cherapunjee and the

historical significance of places like Neer Magal and Charideo Maidam.

"The North East Festival has grown far beyond its original concept. What began as a cultural showcase has evolved into a platform for unity, mutual appreciation, and shared experiences and a tourism festival. It has become Delhi's major tourism festival. This festival is about more than a visual spectacle; it's a celebration of heritage, talent, and the innovative spirit that defines the Northeast," Shyamkanu Mahanta, organiser-in-chief of North East Festival, said.

This year's NEF Music Stage will feature top bands and artists from the Northeast and Delhi.

The musical lineup at the festival includes folk rock ensemble from Arunachal Pradesh Dohom Doji Collective, FENGA from Mizoram, Jack of Spade's from Manipur, Reyamee from Manipur, Aryan Katoch and British singer Arjun.

Folk artists from across the Northeast will also perform traditional dances.

With around 60 food stalls, the event will offer specialties like Assam tea and Nagaland coffee, alongside a variety of other regional delicacies.

Tripura Rifles security for poll-bound J'khand

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agartala, Nov 6: The Tripura State Rifles (TSR), the state's elite counter-insurgency force, as part of the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), would move for Ranchi Thursday to provide security during Jharkhand Assembly elections, an official said Wednesday.

Voting for the 81-member Jharkhand Assembly will be

held in two phases November 13 (43 seats) and 20 (38 seats), while the counting of votes is slated for November 23.

A senior Tripura police official said that on the request of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), six TSR companies comprising 480 to 500 personnel would go to poll-bound Jharkhand to provide security before and during balloting November 13 and 20. The TSR



troops along with the Central Reserve Police Force jawans would go to Ranchi by a special train, which would depart Jirania railway station in west Tripura Thursday and reach Hatia near Ranchi Saturday, the official said.

He said that TSR Commandant Alok Bhattacharjee and six Assistant Commandants would also go with the TSR personnel to lead the forces in Jharkhand.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, DEOGARH
E-mail Id - eerw_deogarh@yahoo.co.in

E-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. SERWDGH-Online-03/2024-25

- No. of building works : (26 Nos)
- Estimated cost : Rs. 1.69 Lakhs to Rs. 32.74 Lakhs
- Mode of submission of tender : Tender shall be submitted online in www.tendersodisha.gov.in
- Availability of tender for online bidding : 11.11.2024, 10.00 A.M. to 22.11.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.
- Date and time of opening of tender : 25.11.2024, 11.00 A.M.
- Other details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
- Corrigendum / Addendum if any shall only be published in the above website.

Sd/- Additional Chief Engineer
OIPR-25087/11/0003/2425 S.E. (I/C) R.W. Division, Deogarh

Aditya Birla Finance Ltd.

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL
FINANCE

Regd Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat - 362 266 | T: +91 22 43567100 | (Toll free) 1800 270 7000 | CIN: U65990GJ9991PLC064603 | <https://finance.adityabirlacapital.com>

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that w.e.f 31st January, 2025, Aditya Birla Finance Limited, Sundargarh Branch shall permanently close the following premises.

Closing Premises Address:
2nd Floor, Amba Tower,
Hospital Road,
Sundargarh,
Orissa - 770001

Place : Sundargarh
DOP : 7th November, 2024

For Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. Sd/-
Authorized Signatory

UTKAL GRAMEEN BANK
(Sponsored by State Bank of India)
Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, At/PO: Dhanupali, Dist.: Sambalpur
Mob.: 9861133922, 7325905368, E-mail id: sarb@ukgb.in

E-Auction / Sale Notice

SALE OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE ASSETS CHARGED TO THE BANK UNDER SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

The undersigned as Authorised Officer of Utkal Grameen Bank has taken over Possession of the following property/ies u/s 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act. Public at large is informed that e-auction (under SARFAESI Act, 2002) of the charged property/ies in the below mentioned cases for realisation of Bank's dues will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and on the terms & conditions specified hereunder.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Property Details & Name of the Owner of the property / Type of Possession	Outstanding dues for recovery of which property/ies is/are being sold & Demand Notice date	Reserve Price / EMD / BID Increment Amount
1.	Borrower: M/s. Mohini Mohan Behera Stone Crusher, Prop.: Sri Babula Kumar Behera, S/o- Mohini Mohan Behera / Guarantors: 1) Sri Mohini Mohan Behera, S/o- Late Ananda Behera. Both are At/PO: Ballam, Dist.: Deogarh, PIN-768108, 2) Sri Surath Mohan Pradhan, At: Utuniamunda, PO: Dantaribahal, Dist.: Deogarh, PIN-768108.	Property situated at Mouza: Rambhei, PS/ Tahasil: Deogarh, PS No. 78, Dist.: Deogarh, Khata No.: 256/198, Plot No.: 3739/3898, Area: Ac.0.58dec., Plot No.: 3739/3899, Area: Ac.0.58dec., Total Area: Ac.1.16dec., standing in the name of Sri Mohini Mohan Behera / Physical.	₹ 32,85,192/- (TL) & ₹ 1,35,958/- (CC) as on 06.11.2024 with further interest & costs 11.09.2017	₹ 12,75,000/- / ₹ 1,30,000/- ₹ 20,000/-

DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF REQUEST LETTER OF PARTICIPATION/KYC DOCUMENTS/ PROOF OF EMD ETC.: ON OR BEFORE: 09.12.2024 upto 05.00 P.M.

DATE & TIME OF INSPECTION OF THE PROPERTIES: 09.12.2024 from 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 10.12.2024 from 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM (with unlimited extensions of time up to 5 minutes each)

The terms and conditions of the E-Auction are as under :

- E-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and will be conducted "On Line". The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited, Ahmedabad at the web portal (<https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>). E-Auction Tender Document containing online e-auction Bid Form, Declaration, General Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available in websites.
- To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property/ies. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/rights/dues/affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues.
- The intending purchasers / bidders are required to deposit EMD amount either through NEFT/ RTGS / Cash Deposit (at any UGB Branches) in the Account No.: 84034557626, Name of the A/C: Utkal Grameen Bank, Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, Sambalpur, IFSC Code No.: SBIN0RRUKGB or by way of demand draft drawn in favour Utkal Grameen Bank, A/C- Utkal Grameen Bank, Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, Sambalpur, payable at Sambalpur, drawn on any Nationalized or Scheduled Bank.
- Bidders shall hold a valid email ID (e-mail ID is absolutely necessary for the intending bidder as all the relevant information and allotment of ID & password by M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited, Ahmedabad may be conveyed through e-mail), Contact: Mr. Ram Prasad Sharma- 8000023297, Email id: orissa@auctiontiger.net & support@auctiontiger.net
- The intending bidder should submit the evidence for EMD deposit like UTR number along with Request Letter for participation in the E-auction, counterfoiled incase deposited across counter of any branch of ours, self-attested copies of (i) Proof of Identification (KYC) viz. Voter ID Card/ Driving License/ Passport etc., (ii) Current Address-Proof for communication, (iii) PAN card of the bidder, (iv) valid e-mail ID, (v) contact number (Mobile/Landline) of the bidder etc. to the Authorised Officer of Utkal Grameen Bank, Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, At/PO: Dhanupali, Sambalpur & Address by 09.12.2024 upto 5.00 P.M. Scanned copies of the original of these documents can also be submitted to e-mail id of Authorized officer.
- Names of the Eligible Bidders will be identified by the Utkal Grameen Bank, Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, At/PO: Dhanupali, Sambalpur to participate in online e-auction on the portal (<https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>), M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited, Ahmedabad will provide User ID & Password after due verification of PAN of the Eligible Bidders.
- It shall be the responsibility of the interested bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the property before submission of the bid.
- The e-Auction/bidding of above properties will be conducted exactly on the scheduled Date & Time as mentioned against the property by way of inter-se bidding amongst the bidders. The bidder shall improve their offer in multiple of the amount mentioned under the columns "Bid Increment Amount" against the property. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the e-Auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes. The bidder who submits the highest bid amount (not below the Reserve Price) on closure of e-Auction process shall be declared as Successful Bidder and a communication to that effect will be issued through electronic mode which shall be subject to approval by the Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditor.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of the successful bidder shall be retained towards part sale consideration and the EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded. The Earnest Money Deposit shall not bear any interest. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the sale price immediately within 48 hour on acceptance of bid price by the Authorised Officer and the balance of the sale price on or before 15th day of the sale or within such extended period as agreed upon in writing and solely at the discretion of the Authorised Officer. Default in deposit of amount by the successful bidder would entail forfeiture of the whole money, already deposited and property shall be put to re-auction and the defaulting bidder shall have no claim/ right in respect of property/ amount.
- The prospective qualified bidders may avail online training on e-Auction from M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited, Ahmedabad prior to the date of e-Auction. Neither the Authorised Officer / Bank nor M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited, Ahmedabad will be held responsible for any Internet Network problem/Power failure/ any other technical lapses/failure etc. In order to ward-off such contingent situation the interested bidders are requested to ensure that they are technically well equipped with adequate power back-up etc. for successfully participating in the e-Auction event.
- The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties / additional stamp duty / transfer charges, fee etc. and also all the statutory/non-statutory dues, taxes, rates, assessment charges, fees etc. owing to anybody.
- The Authorised Officer/Bank is not bound to accept the highest offer and has the absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adjourn/postpone/ cancel the e-Auction or withdraw any property or portion thereof from the auction proceedings at any stage without assigning any reason therefor.
- The Sale Certificate will be issued in the name of the purchaser(s) / applicant(s) only and will not be issued in any other name(s).
- The sale shall be subject to rules / conditions prescribed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: 06.11.2024, Place : Sambalpur Sd/- Authorised Officer, Utkal Grameen Bank, Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, Sambalpur

BSI scientists discover new orchid species in Arunachal Pradesh

Itanagar: A team of scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) here recently discovered a new species of orchid in Arunachal Pradesh's Lohit district. *Gastrodia lohitisensis*, the leafless orchid, was found by Krishna Chowlu and the BSI team here, sources said. The rare orchid flourishes without sunlight, relying on fungi in leaf litter for nutrients, they said. Found only in bamboo canopies near Tezu, the headquarters of Lohit district, *Gastrodia lohitisensis* has unique features like linear calli and ridged lower lips, distinguishing it from similar species in Southeast Asia. Named after its home district, the orchid highlights India's incredible biodiversity, the sources added.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu has expressed delight over the new discovery. "A new mycotrophic species of the genus *Gastrodia* (Orchidaceae), *Gastrodia lohitisensis*, has been discovered in the pristine landscapes of Arunachal Pradesh! This remarkable species, distinguished by its unique white flowers and parallelly arranged oblong-linear calli along the labellum, has been classified as "Endangered" according to IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List criteria," Khandu posted on X.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS

The following tenders have been uploaded on website: www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Notice No. PCMM/EP/2024-25/123, DL04.11.2024

- Tender No. 06245159 : Short Description of Item : Manufacture and Supply of M S Bolts and Nuts, Quantity : As per TS
- Tender No. 06245206 : Short Description of Item : Manufacturing and Supply of Galvanized Plate Screw, Quantity : As per TS
- Tender No. 03241030 : Short Description of Item : Knuckle Pivot Pin with Washer, Quantity : 21928 Nos.
- Tender No. 06245010 : Short Description of Item : Full set of Fittings 60kg in 12 thick web switch, Quantity : As per TS
- Tender No. 03241066 : Short Description of Item : Kit for Casubn 22NLB Bogie, Quantity : 2378 Set
- Tender No. 06245300 : Short Description of Item : Wider Prestressed Concrete Sleepers, Quantity : As per TS
- Tender No. 09241018 : Short Description of Item : Wood based Impregnated Compressed laminates, Quantity : 1969 Nos.
- Tender No. 03243906 : Short Description of Item : Flex Ball Cable Complete Set, Quantity : 135 Set
- Tender No. 03241998 : Short Description of Item : Lock Lift Lever Assembly, Quantity : 5681 Nos.

Tender Opening Date : 18.11.2024 (For Sl. No. 01, 02, 04 & 06), 19.11.2024 (For Sl. No. 05), 29.11.2024 (For Sl. No. 07 & 09), 02.12.2024 (For Sl. No. 03 & 08)

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit Website : www.ireps.gov.in and www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Bhubaneswar
PR-705/P/24-25

Bank of India
Zonal Office : Star House,
1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015

POSSESSION NOTICE
[Rule-8 (1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

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

JAGATSINGHPUR BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession (Symbolic) Notice	Description of Immovable Property/ies
Housing Loan A/c. No. 512175110000025- Borrowers: 1) Mr. Shrikant Patra, S/o- Late Bipin Bihari Patra, At: Deuligrameshwar, PO/Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, PIN-754103 & 2) Mr. Sridhar Kumar Patra, S/o- Late Bipin Bihari Patra, At/PO: Deriki, Via: Naugaon, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, PIN-754113 / Guarantors: 1) Mrs. Binati Patra, W/o- Mr. Shrikant Patra, At: Deuligrameshwar, PO/Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, PIN-754103, & 2) Mrs. Sandhyarani Patra, W/o- Mr. Sridhar Kumar Patra, At/PO: Deriki, Via: Naugaon, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, PIN-754113.	₹ 25,14,071.09 + interest & other charges thereon	13.08.2024 / 05.11.2024	All that piece & parcel of the Land and Building erected thereon situated under Pattadar Khata No.: 525/737, Plot No.: 740, Area: Ac.0.05dec. and Plot No.: 739/2120, Area: Ac.0.01dec. (Total Area: Ac.0.06dec.), Kissanam: Gharabari (Homestead), situated under Mouza: Deuligrameshwar, PS: Jagatsinghpur (Thana No. 241), DSRO/Tehsil: Jagatsinghpur (Tehsil No. 241), Dist.: Jagatsinghpur (Odisha), standing in the name of Mr. Shrikant Patra, S/o- Late Bipin Bihari Patra and Mr. Sridhar Kumar Patra, S/o- Late Bipin Bihari Patra. All that part and parcel of the property within the jurisdiction of SRO: Jagatsinghpur, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur. Boundary of the Property: North: Mr. Ajay Kumar Moharana, South: Mr. Pratap Keshari Mohanty, East: Road and West: Mr. Baikuntha Mohapatra.
Business Loan (WCFBL-CC A/c. No. 512130110000083 and GECL Term Loan A/c. No. 512173210000177)- Borrower: M/s. Maa Agency.	₹ 35,36,757.50 + interest & other charges thereon		

Date: 06.11.2024, Place: Bhubaneswar

Authorized Officer, Bank of India



Despite being in politics for over 40 years and bringing many industries to Bara-mati, Sharad Pawar never truly considered the broader interests of Maharashtra

RAJ THACKERAY | MNS CHIEF

INDIA SLAMS PAKISTAN

Slamming Pakistan for "peddling lies and falsehood" and using the UN forum for its "divisive, political agenda" after it raised the Kashmir issue at the UN, India has said that no amount of disinformation and misinformation will change facts on the ground



of the day uote

Around 250-300 Congress workers will engage directly with the public, listen to their grievances, and bring these issues to the forefront. We will also consider their suggestions

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

Abhishek Banerjee has already proven his leadership abilities at a young age

KUNAL GHOSH | TMC LEADER

I am taking inspiration from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and appealing to you to not get divided (batiye mat) because whenever we were divided, we perished

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

Parties hail resolution passed by J&K Assembly

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly passed the resolution Wednesday, asking the Centre to hold talks with elected representatives from the region for the restoration of the erstwhile state's special status

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 6: Political parties in Jammu and Kashmir have welcomed a resolution passed in the Assembly Wednesday, seeking a dialogue between the Centre and elected representatives from the region for the restoration of the erstwhile state's special status.

Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra hailed the resolution, saying it reflects the urges and aspirations of the people of the Union Territory.

"The Congress welcomes the resolution passed by the Assembly seeking the restoration of the constitutional and democratic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, including fully-empowered statehood along with all constitutional guarantees," he said in a statement.

Karra said after the Supreme Court's last year verdict on Article 370, "this is the first democratic expression of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, reflecting their aspirations".

"There should be no reason for the Centre to deny the rights and protection to the people of Jammu and Kashmir that are already in vogue in many other parts of the country. The Indian National Congress (INC) is committed to fighting for statehood



The BJP-led Centre abrogated the provisions of Article 370, which had conferred special rights on Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the erstwhile state into Union territories

to Jammu and Kashmir and safeguarding the rights of its people to land, jobs, natural resources and its unique cultural identity," he said.

Karra said the BJP's Opposition to the resolution makes it "evident" that the saffron party's "petty political interests" are not only at "loggerheads with the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, but also their sole priority, no matter at what cost".

"It (BJP) is not only disrespecting the overwhelming sentiment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, but are actively hindering the process of restoration of constitutional and

democratic rights, guarantees like that of cultural identity, land, jobs, natural resources. They cannot claim to represent our people while acting against their rights," he added.

The resolution provides a much-needed opportunity for a meaningful engagement between New Delhi and the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the backdrop of the "mistrust created by the acts of the BJP government" over the last several years, the Congress leader said.

Senior Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader M Y Tarigami hailed the resolution as "historic" and congratulated the members of the House.

CLOCK SYMBOL ISSUE

Don't waste energy in court: SC to Pawars



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 6: While asking for a disclaimer over the contentious clock election symbol, the Supreme Court Wednesday asked the warring Pawar factions - each led by Sharad and Ajit - of the NCP to woo voters and not waste their energy in court.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant, Dipankar Datta and Ujjal Bhuyan was hearing the pleas of Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar factions over the purported use and misuse of the "clock" symbol when it suggested both the groups to focus on voters instead.

The court also directed the Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar-led NCP faction to publish a disclaimer in newspapers, including Marathi ones, that the issue of allocation of "clock" symbol was pending in court.

The disclaimer was directed to be published in the dailies within 36 hours of the court order. While doing so, the top court remarked, "Don't waste your energy in courts. You

both should go and be with the voters to woo them."

It asked senior advocate Balbir Singh, appearing for the Ajit Pawar faction, to make a prominent disclaimer in the newspapers including Marathi ones within 36 hours. Singh claimed the candidates had filed their nominations and the stage of withdrawal of names was over but the Sharad Pawar faction was attempting to disrupt the entire election process.

On the contrary, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing the Sharad Pawar faction, contended that the "clock" symbol had been associated with the veteran leader for the last 30 years and the opposing side was trying to misuse it.

Singhvi submitted that the March 19 order of the top court mandated the Ajit Pawar-led group to issue the disclaimer in every poster, pamphlet, banner and audio-video advertisement but it was not complied with. The senior counsel, therefore, sought a direction to the opposite side to seek a new symbol.

Kharge dissolves PCC in Himachal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Shimla, Nov 6: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Wednesday dissolved the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) unit in Himachal Pradesh along with the district and block units with immediate effect.

The move is seen as part of the Congress' plan to restructure the Himachal unit of the party. There has been no change in the PCC ever since the Congress formed its government in the hill state.

"The entire state unit of PCC, and district and block Congress committees have been dissolved with immediate effect. State Congress chief Pratibha Singh will remain unchanged," Naresh Chauhan, media advisor to the Chief Minister, told PTI. Pratibha Singh, who took over as the state Congress chief in April 2022, has already become a member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the highest decision-making body of the party. She is wife of former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh.

ED conducts searches in 'fraud' case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Nov 6: The Enforcement Directorate raided multiple premises here Wednesday as part of a money laundering investigation linked to an alleged ₹40 crore bank loan fraud case against an automobile company, official sources said.

The action came after the federal probe agency registered a criminal case under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against a city-based company named Excel Vehicle Pvt. Ltd. its promoters Manju Garg, her son Rishabh Garg and some unknown public servants and private persons.

The ED case stems from a June 2020 CBI FIR filed by its anti-corruption division in Bhopal. A residential property in the city's popular Arera Colony belonging to an auditor and four linked premises were raided. Some seizures and recoveries have also been made, the sources said. The CBI filed the case against the accused after the Bank of India made a written complaint to it in November 2019 claiming a loan "fraud" of ₹44.02 crore was perpetrated by the company and its promoters.

The account was categorised as a non performing asset (NPA) in August 2019, as per the bank complaint.

SHORT TAKES

CJI DY Chandrachud calls on PreZ Murmu

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, along with his wife, called on President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here Wednesday. Justice Chandrachud, who took over as the CJI November 8, 2022, demits office November 11. "Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India, along with his wife Kalpana Das, called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan," the President office said in a post on X.

IAF's emergency landing in Merta

Jaipur: An Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter made an emergency landing in Merta area of Nagaur Wednesday due to a technical fault, police said. The chopper landed in farm fields in Jasnagar. No loss of life was reported, they said. Two IAF choppers were going from Jodhpur to Jaipur when one of the pilots witnessed some problems due to which it had to be landed.

CPI(M) lodges complaint with EC

Ranchi: The Communist Party of India (Marxist) Wednesday lodged a complaint with the Election Commission against INDIA bloc partners in Jharkhand for allegedly using the party's symbol for campaigning. In its complaint, the party said the CPI(M) is not a part of the INDIA bloc in the eastern state and it is independently contesting nine seats in the election to the 81-member Assembly.

Over 1 kg gold seized by BSF

Kolkata: The Border Security Force (BSF) has arrested a smuggler and seized 10 gold biscuits weighing 1.168 kg from Bongaon in the North 24-Parganas district of West Bengal. N K Pandey, DIG and spokesperson, South Bengal Frontier, BSF said that the seizure is worth ₹86.76 lakh while the gold being smuggled Monday was valued at ₹37.51 lakh.

Dalit teen assaulted

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Police has been put on high alert in the southern region of the state following the assault on a 17-year-old Dalit teenager in Melapattam village in Tirunelveli district. SP N Silambarasan said that a special team has been formed to arrest the accused, adding that they have also reviewed the CCTV footage, which showed around six individuals leaving the village on two-wheelers following the attack.

Cong congratulates Trump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 6: The Congress Wednesday congratulated Donald Trump on his presidential polls victory, with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge saying "we look forward to working closely with the United States for global peace and prosperity".

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi also congratulated Trump and wished success to him in his second term. Former President Trump is projected to win the US presidency for a second term in one of the greatest political comebacks in American history, cruising past his Democratic rival Kamala Harris.

In a post on X, Kharge said, "On the behalf of the Indian National Congress, we extend our congratulations and best wishes to President @realDonaldTrump for his election victory." India and the United States share a robust comprehensive global strategic partnership, underpinned by long-standing shared democratic values, aligned interests, and extensive

people-to-people connections, the Congress president said. "We look forward to working closely with the United States for global peace and prosperity," Kharge said.

With results continuing to come in from various states giving a clear indication of a Trump victory, the 78-year-old Republican leader addressed his supporters at West Palm Beach in Florida, declaring victory and promising a "golden age of America". According to races called by the Associated Press up to 2 pm (IST), 267 electoral votes had gone to Republican candidate Trump and 224 to Democratic Party's Harris. Trump was just three votes short of a victory.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to US President-elect Donald Trump to congratulate him on his "spectacular" victory. Trump also said that he considered Modi and India as a true friend, noting that the Indian leader was one of the first world leaders he spoke to after his victory, the sources added.



Congress General Secretary and UDF candidate Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during an election roadshow at Kalikavu, ahead of the Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll, in Malappuram district, Kerala

MUDA CASE Lokayukta questions Siddaramaiah for 2 hrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mysuru, Nov 6: The Lokayukta police Wednesday questioned Chief Minister Siddaramaiah here for two hours in connection with the alleged illegal land allotments by the MUDA to his wife B M Parvathi. After questioning, the Congress leader said he has answered all questions and told the "truth".

As the chief minister appeared before the Lokayukta police, the Opposition BJP in the state held a protest and reiterated its demand for the resignation of Siddaramaiah. Senior BJP leaders also termed the Lokayukta police interro-

gation as "stage managed" and "match fixing". Siddaramaiah, who appeared before the Lokayukta police in response to the summons issued to him, was interrogated by a team led by Lokayukta Superintendent of Police (SP) T J Udes, official sources said. "The questioning lasted for about two hours," a Lokayukta official said.

Speaking to reporters after his questioning, Siddaramaiah said he had answered all questions posed to him, and he had told them the "truth". "Until it is decided by the court (about any wrongdoing) there is no black spot on my image. What is against me are just allegations.



False allegations are made against me. I will respond to such allegations in the court and to the police during the probe," he said in response to a question.

Asserting that Siddaramaiah has done "no wrong", Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivaku-

mar said the chief minister appeared before the Lokayukta police, respecting the law.

Siddaramaiah arrived at the Lokayukta office here in a private car accompanied by senior advocate and the CM's legal advisor A S Ponnanna, also a Congress MLA. After questioning, he left for Channapattana to take part in the Congress campaign for Assembly by-polls there.

The Chief Minister, who has been named as accused number 1 in the FIR lodged by the Lokayukta police, is facing allegations of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife Parvathi B M by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

CBSE CRACKS DOWN ON 'DUMMY' SCHOOLS

The move comes following a surprise inspection at the schools in Rajasthan and Delhi in September during which several lapses were found

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 6: In a crackdown on 'dummy' admissions, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Wednesday withdrew affiliation of 21 schools and downgraded six schools from senior secondary to secondary level, officials said.

The practice of dummy or non-attending admissions contradicts the core mission

of school education, compromising students' foundational growth. To address this issue, we are taking a decisive action to combat the proliferation of dummy schools and send a clear message to all affiliated institutions to resist the lure of accepting dummy or non-attending admissions," CBSE Secretary Himanshu Gupta said.

He said the vital observations of the surprise inspection committees regarding the irregularities observed during the inspections were communicated as a report to the respective schools.

Gupta said the prime objective of the inspections was to ascertain that the schools were operating in compliance with the norms of regular attendance of students in schools according to the affiliation and examination bylaws of the Board. The CBSE emphasised that dummy or non-attending



schools undermine educational integrity and issued show cause notices, allowing schools 30 days to respond, he said.

"The replies submitted by

the schools were examined in detail by the Board. Based on the inspection findings and supported by videographic evidence, affiliation of 21 schools was withdrawn and six schools were downgraded from senior secondary to secondary level," he added. Of the 21 schools whose affiliation has been withdrawn, 16 are in Delhi while five of them are in Rajasthan's coaching hubs -- Kota and Sikar. Scores of students

preparing for engineering and medical entrance examinations prefer to take admission in dummy schools so that they can focus solely on their preparations for the competitive exams. They do not attend classes and straightaway appear in the board exams.

Aspirants also choose dummy schools, keeping in mind the quota in medical and engineering institutes available for students from certain states.



Choose your India: Play-Fair or Monopoly? Jobs or Oligarchies? Competence or Connections? Innovation or Intimidation? Wealth for many or the few?
RAHUL GANDHI | LOP IN LS

FIRS LODGED AGAINST MITHUN

Two FIRs have been lodged against actor-turned-politician Mithun Chakraborty for allegedly making provocative statements during a BJP event in Salt Lake area near Kolkata last month, police said Wednesday



Siddique murder case: Another person arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 6: A 23-year-old man was Wednesday arrested from Pune in the murder case of NCP leader Baba Siddique, police said.

Gaurav Vilas Apune, a resident of Karvenagar locality of Pune city, is the 16th person to be arrested in the case. A court here sent him in police remand till November 9.

A team of the Mumbai crime branch took him in custody as the questioning of some of the arrested accused showed that he was involved in the conspiracy to attack Siddique, a former Maharashtra minister, a police official said.

Apune had been trained in the use of firearms by some of absconding accused. He had been promised a substantial amount of money for his role in the conspiracy, the official said.

Baba Siddique (66) was shot dead by three gunmen near his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office in Mumbai's Bandra area October 12.

Jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi's brother Anmol Bishnoi was allegedly behind the murder, police have said.

UP: 11 killed as truck hits auto

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hardoi (UP), Nov 6: Eleven people, including six women and three children, were killed while four others were injured Wednesday after a truck hit an auto-rickshaw in the Bilgram area here, police said.

A senior police officer said the accident took place when the truck crashed into the auto in a bid to avoid hitting a motorcycle.

At around 12.30 pm, the local police were informed about the accident on the Bilgram-Madha-ganj road near Roshanpur village.

"Ten persons -- six women, three children and a man -- died in the mishap while four others were left injured. I have spoken to the doctors. The injured persons have been referred to the district hospital," Superintendent of Police Neeraj Jadaun told reporters after the mishap.

Later, one more woman succumbed to her injuries, taking the toll to 11. According to police, the deceased have been identified as Madhuri (25), Sunita (28), Neelam (30), Anshi (8), Satyam Kushwaha (18), Radha (21), Nirmala (40), Vimesh (20), Pranshu (1), Roshni (36), and Vanshika 2.

A police officer had earlier mentioned one of the deceased as Gaukaran (1) but later this name was not mentioned in the press release, while the age of Anshi (initially stated as Aashi) was corrected from 16 to 8.

LMV licence holders can drive heavy vehicles: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 6: In a significant ruling benefiting commercial drivers, the Supreme Court Wednesday held that individuals holding a Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) driving licence are eligible to drive transport vehicles with a weight not exceeding 7,500 kg.

The judgment from a five-judge Constitution bench, led by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, offers clarity on licensing regulations and is expected to prevent insurance companies from rejecting claims based on the type of licence of drivers involved in accidents.

The unanimous 126-page verdict, penned by Justice Hrishikesh Roy on behalf of five judges, upheld its 2017 judgment in the Mukund Dewangan case which had held that the LMV licence holders can drive transport vehicles weighing upto 7,500 kg. It, however, also addressed nuances under the Motor Vehicle (MV) Act and the rules.

"A driver holding a licence for LMV class, under section 10(2)(d) for vehicles with a gross vehicle weight under 7,500 kg, is permitted to operate a 'Transport Vehicle' without needing additional authorisation under Section 10(2)(e) of the MV Act specifically for the 'Transport Vehicle' class. "For licensing purposes, LMVs and Transport Vehicles are not entirely separate classes. An overlap exists between the two.

"The special eligibility requirements will however continue to apply for, inter alia, e-carts, e-rickshaws and vehicles carrying hazardous goods," the bench held. Besides the CJI and Justice Roy, the bench also comprised Justices P S Narasimha, Pankaj Mishra and Manoj Misra.

While acknowledging concerns about road safety raised by insurance companies, the verdict said there was no empirical evidence linking LMV-licensed drivers with increased road accidents and moreover,



"The special eligibility requirements will however continue to apply for, inter alia, e-carts, e-rickshaws and vehicles carrying hazardous goods," the bench held

the issue pertained to the livelihood of commercial drivers. "Road safety is a serious public health issue globally. It is crucial to mention that in India, over 1.7 lakh persons were killed in road accidents in 2023," it said, adding that the causes of such accidents are diverse and assumptions that they stem from drivers operating light transport vehicles with an LMV licence are unsubstantiated.

"Factors contributing to road accidents include careless driving, speeding, poor road design and failure to adhere to traffic laws. Other significant contributors are mobile phone usage, fatigue and non-compliance with seat belt or helmet regulations," it said. It said driving a motor vehicle is a complex task requiring both practical skills and theoretical knowledge and safe driving involves not only technical vehicle control but also proficiency in various road conditions, including managing speed.

"We are able to reach such a conclusion as none of the parties in this case has produced any empirical data to demonstrate that the LMV driving licence holder, driving a 'Transport Vehicle', is a significant cause for road accidents in India," the verdict said.

Union Cabinet approves PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme

As per the scheme, anybody who gets admission in Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs) will be eligible to get collateral-free, guarantor-free loan from banks and financial institutions to cover the full amount of tuition fees and other expenses related to the course



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 6: The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved the PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme to provide monetary support to meritorious students so that financial constraints do not prevent them from pursuing quality higher education, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

As per the scheme, anybody who gets admission in Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs) will be eligible to get collateral-free, guarantor-free loan from banks and financial institutions to cover the full amount of tuition fees and other expenses related to the course. An outlay of ₹3,600 crore has been approved for the scheme under which education loans will be facilitated to students securing admissions in top 860 QHEIs of the country based on the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). This will cover more than 22 lakh students every year.

"The Cabinet has approved PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme to provide financial support to meritorious students so that financial constraints do not prevent any youth of India from pursuing quality higher education," Vaishnaw said at a press conference here.

The scheme will be applicable to the top QHEIs as determined by the NIRF rankings - including all HEIs, government and private, that are ranked within the top 100 in NIRF in overall, category-specific and domain-specific rankings, state government HEIs ranked in 101-200 in the NIRF and all central government-run institutions. "This list will be updated every year using the latest NIRF ranking, and to begin with 860 qualifying QHEIs, covering more than 22 lakh students to be able to potentially avail benefits of PM-Vidyalaxmi, if they so desire," an official statement said.

For loan amount up to ₹7.5 lakhs, the student will also be eligible for a credit guarantee of 75 pc of outstanding default. "This will give support to banks in making education loans available to students under the scheme. In addition, students having an annual family income of up to ₹8 lakhs, and not eligible for benefits under any other government scholarship or interest subvention schemes, 3 percent interest subvention for loan up to ₹10 lakhs will also be provided during moratorium period.

"The interest subvention support will be given to one lakh students every year. Preference will be given to students who are from government institutions and have opted for

technical and professional courses. An outlay of ₹3,600 crore has been made during 2024-25 to 2030-31, and 7 lakh fresh students are expected to get the benefit of this interest subvention during the period," the statement said.

The Department of Higher Education will have a unified portal, 'PM-Vidyalaxmi', on which students will be able to apply for the education loan as well as interest subvention, through a simplified application process to be used by all banks. Payment of interest subvention will be made through e-voucher and Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) wallets.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the scheme will empower millions of students from the poor and middle class.

"Universalising access to 21st century higher education for India's talented youth is PM Modi's guarantee. PM's approval to #PMVidyalaxmi with an outlay of ₹3,600 crore will remove obstacles to higher education and enable our yuva shakti to pursue their dreams.

"Collateral-free and guarantor-free education loans under PM Vidyalaxmi will maximise access to higher education for meritorious students and ensure that financial constraints do not prevent students from pursuing education," he said in a post on X.

NEET-UG '24: Top court won't review August 2 verdict

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 6: The Supreme Court has dismissed a petition seeking review of the August 2 verdict wherein it had refused to allow a fresh NEET-UG 2024 examination.

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra dismissed the review plea filed by one Kajal Kumari observing there was no error in its verdict. "There is no error apparent on the face of the record. No case for review

under Order XLVII Rule 1 of the Supreme Court Rules 2013 has been established.

The review petition is, therefore, dismissed," held the bench in its October 22 order, made available recently. The top court also rejected the request for an open court hearing on the matter.

The top court August 2 said it couldn't order holding of the NEET-UG 24 afresh as no sufficient material on its record indicated a systemic leak or malpractice, compromising the integrity of the examination.



A pontoon bridge being made ahead of the 'Maha Kumbh Mela', at the Sangam, the confluence of three rivers the Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

Experts warn of potential skin cancer risk

Constant pressure and friction on one's skin from the waist cord can cause chronic inflammation, leading to ulcers and sometimes, progressing to skin cancer, said the doctors, including those from Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Uttar Pradesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 6: In a study, doctors have documented treating two women of "petticoat cancer" -- a condition possibly triggered by tying the waist cord of a saree's underskirt or petticoat tightly.

Constant pressure and friction on one's skin from the waist cord can cause chronic inflammation, leading to ulcers and sometimes, progressing to skin cancer, said the doctors, including those from



Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Uttar Pradesh.

The study, published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Case Reports, brought to light "potential health risks associated with traditional clothing practices", one of the affected women said. Doctors said that while the phenomenon has previously been described as 'saree cancer', it is the tightness of the waist cord that's to blame.

One of the women, a 70-year-old, sought medical attention for a painful skin ulcer on her right flank (present between ribs and

hip bone) that she had had for 18 months and which would not heal, the authors described.

The surrounding skin had lost its pigmentation, they said and added that she wore her petticoat underneath her saree, tightly tied around her waist. The second woman, in her late 60s, was reported to have had an ulcer on her right flank that had not healed for two years.

"A woman in her late 60s presented with a two-year history of an ulcerating lesion on her right flank. She wore a lugda daily for 40 years. A lugda is tied

very tightly around the waist without a petticoat," the authors wrote. Biopsies revealed that both the women had a Marjolin ulcer, also known as squamous cell carcinoma (ulcerating skin cancer). In the second woman, the cancer had spread to one of the lymph nodes in her groin at the time of diagnosis, the authors said. They explained that while a Marjolin ulcer is rare, it can be aggressive. It develops in chronic burn wounds, non-healing wounds, leg ulcers, tuberculous skin nodules, and in vaccination and snake bite scars, they said.

They advised wearing a loose petticoat beneath the saree to ease pressure on the skin, and loose clothing if skin problems develop to allow the area to heal. The 70 year-old diagnosed with skin cancer, said, "I have been wearing a Nauvari saree, tightly wrapped around my waist, for most of my adult life. Six years ago, I noticed a small area of depigmentation on my right flank, which I initially dismissed as a minor skin issue."

of the day quote

We cannot compromise on our policies in the name of peace. Under the guise of inclusiveness, we cannot accommodate every outsider
N BIREN SINGH | MANIPUR CM

For the last six months, I have been noticing that one particular circle is trying to create an unnecessary controversy regarding the flyover and trees of Dighalipukhuri
HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

As Chief Minister, he (Siddaramaiah) has respected and abided by the law. Despite our pre-planned campaign for the assembly bypolls, the CM skipped the campaign and appeared before the Lokayukta, as he was served notice
D K SHIVAKUMAR | K'TAKA BY CM

POST OF THE DAY

Breaking!
 Your Home Loan : 50 Lakh
 Had to Pay : 90 Lakh
 Anil Ambani's Loan : 49000 Cr
 Had to Pay : 455 Cr
 Modi mocks Congress for aiding the Poor & Middle class, while he cuts sweetheart deals for Ambani at just 0.92% - It's biggest loot than Money Heist
 @DrJain21

SHORT TAKES

Structure collapse: Ex-gratia announced

Ahmedabad: The families of three workers who died after a temporary structure fell at a construction site on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train corridor in Gujarat's Anand have been paid an ex gratia of ₹20 lakh each, officials said Wednesday. Three workers died and one sustained injuries after a temporary structure of steel and concrete blocks being used for well foundation work on Mahi river near Vasad fell down Tuesday evening.

1 killed, 4 injured in road accident

New Delhi: A 53-year-old man died and four others were injured after the driver of an SUV lost control of the vehicle, which hit two motorcycles, a car and a handcart in Aman Vihar area of Delhi's Rohini, police said Wednesday. The deceased has been identified as Rajender Yadav, who succumbed during treatment, they said. According to police, a PCR call was received regarding a Hyundai Creta car hitting two motorcycles, another car and a handcart in Aman Vihar area Tuesday night, injuring five people.

Four of family commit suicide

Patna: In a disturbing incident in Bihar's Purnea district, a woman and her three children allegedly committed suicide in their home in Kilpada village, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Rauta police station, an official said Wednesday. Gyan Ranjan, the Station House Officer (SHO) of Rauta police station, confirmed the case and shared initial details of the incident.

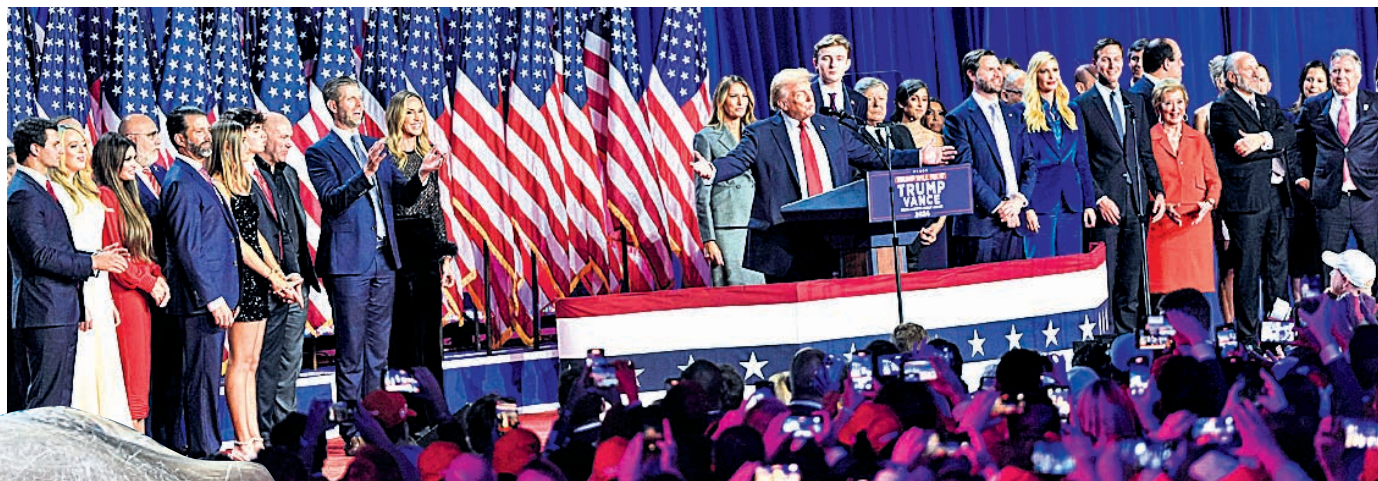
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.A-518
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
 Office of the Superintending Engineer
 Upper Kolab Head Works Division,
 At/Po - Kolabnagar, Dist : Koraput
e-Procurement notice - SE-UKHWD-07/2024-25
Dated. 01.11.2024 (ONLINE)

1 No. of Work	: 01 (One) no.
2 Type of Work	: Deployment of Security Personnel
3 Approximate value of Work	: Rs. 41.70 Lakh
4 Class of Contractor	: Registered & licensed security agencies
5 Period of completion	: 01 (One) Calendar year
6 Date & time of availability of bid documents online	: 07.11.2024 at 11.00 Hours to 20.11.2024 at 17.00 Hours
7 Date & Place of opening of Bid online at office of the Superintending Engineer, UKHWD, Kolab Nagar	: 21.11.2024 (11.00 Hours)
8 Name of the officer inviting Bids	: Superintending Engineer, UKHWD, Kolab Nagar

Further details can be seen in the Govt. of Odisha e-Procurement Web-Site <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>
 Sd./- Superintending Engineer
 Upper Kolab Head Works Division,
 Kolabnagar
 OIPR-32015/11/0015/2425

Trump returns as POTUS in divided US

Donald Trump went from being a businessman, real estate tycoon and a reality TV star to becoming the country's first former US President to be declared a convicted felon. And after surviving two assassination bids during his 2024 campaign, the 78-year old remains unstoppable with American voters giving him a second term. In the process, he shattered the dream of the Democratic Party, as well as that of millions of Kamala Harris supporters, to finally have the first woman President in the White House. He is now the oldest person in US history to be elected president. From the time he left office after his loss in the 2020 presidential election to his nomination as the Republican candidate in the 2024 race, Trump continued to dominate the American news cycle and the country's psyche



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Nov 6: Donald Trump scored a decisive victory in a deeply divided nation. And in so doing, the Republican president-elect exposed a fundamental weakness within the Democratic base and beat back concerns about his moral failings, becoming the first US President with a felony conviction.

The Republican former President won over frustrated voters with bold promises that his fiery brand of America-first economic populism and conservative culture would make their lives better. He will be tested immediately,

however, and there are reasons to believe his plans for mass deportations and huge tariffs may hurt the very people who enabled his victory.

Still, he is set to enter the White House January 20, 2025, from an undisputed position of strength. With votes still being counted, he could become the first Republican in two decades to win the popular vote.

The results left Democrats facing an urgent and immediate reckoning, with no obvious leader to unite the anti-Trump coalition and no clear plan to rebuild as an emboldened Trump prepares to re-take Washington.

Trump undermines Dems' coalition

Black voters, men and women, have been the bedrock of the Democratic Party, and in recent years, Latinos and young voters have joined them.

All three groups still preferred Democrat Kamala Harris. But preliminary data from AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 1,15,000 voters nationwide, suggested that Trump made significant gains.

Voters under age 30 repre-

sent a fraction of the total electorate, but about half of them supported Harris. That's compared to the roughly 6 in 10 who backed Biden in 2020. Slightly more than 4 in 10 young voters went for Trump, up from about one-third in 2020.

At the same time, Black and Latino voters appeared slightly less likely to

support Harris

than they were to back Biden four years ago, according to AP VoteCast.

About 8 in 10 Black voters backed Harris, down from the roughly 9 in 10 who backed Biden. More than half of Hispanic voters supported Harris, but that was down slightly from the roughly 6 in 10 who backed Biden in 2020. Trump's support among those groups appeared to rise slightly compared to 2020. Collectively, those small gains yielded an outside outcome.

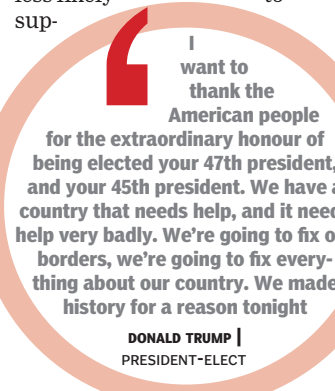
Focus on immigration, economy

For all of the showmanship, profanity and name-calling, Trump ultimately won over voters with grand promises to improve the economy, block the flow of immigrants on the Southern border and his siren call to "Make America Great Again (MAGA)."

He also appealed to religious voters in both parties by seizing on the Democrats' support for the trans-gender community. Overall, about half of Trump voters said inflation was the biggest issue factoring into their election decisions. About as many said that of the situation at the US-Mexico border.

He papered over the fact that the economy by many conventional metrics is robust — inflation is largely in check and wages are up — while border crossings have dropped dramatically. He talked right past the facts and through relentless repetition convinced voters.

He also sold them on the promise of the largest mass deportation effort in US history, although he has not explained how such an operation would work. And he is threatening to impose massive tariffs on key products from China and other American adversaries, which economists warn could dramatically boost prices for average Americans.



DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT-ELECT

World leaders hail Trump's comeback

Congratulations President-elect Trump on your historic election victory. I look forward to working with you in the years ahead
Keir Starmer | PM, UK

Congratulations on history's greatest comeback! Your historic return to the White House offers a new beginning for America and a powerful recommitment to the great alliance between Israel and America
Benjamin Netanyahu | PM, Israel

Our policy towards US has been consistent, and we will continue to view and handle China-US relations in accordance with the principles of mutual respect
Mao Ning | Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, China

Ready to work together as we were able to do during four years. With your convictions and mine. In respect and ambition. For more peace and prosperity
Emmanuel Macron | President, France

We look forward to an era of a strong United States of America under President Trump's decisive leadership. We rely on continued strong bipartisan support for Ukraine in the United States
Volodymyr Zelenskyy | President, Ukraine

It is a strategic bond, which I am sure we will now strengthen even further
Giorgia Meloni | PM, Italy

America's no woman Prez streak continues



AGENCIES

Washington: For the second time in eight years, a woman has won the Democratic nomination for US president, only to come up short in a campaign where gender was a central issue. Like Hillary Clinton in 2016, Kamala Harris had a shot at becoming the first woman to occupy the Oval Office but stumbled at the final hurdle.

While the charisma of their opponent, Donald Trump, in both cases, clearly played a role in these historic defeats, many observers also saw misogyny as a factor. In their dueling campaigns, Harris and Trump laid out starkly different visions for women's status and rights.

Trump, who has faced multiple accusations of sexual assault he denies, sought to broadcast a hypermasculine

image, appearing alongside mixed martial artists and offering praise for autocratic world leaders. He and his campaign surrogates also made multiple comments that were criticized as insulting or contemptuous of women. He called Harris "crazy" and "mentally disabled", and claimed she would be "like a play toy" for other world leaders if elected.

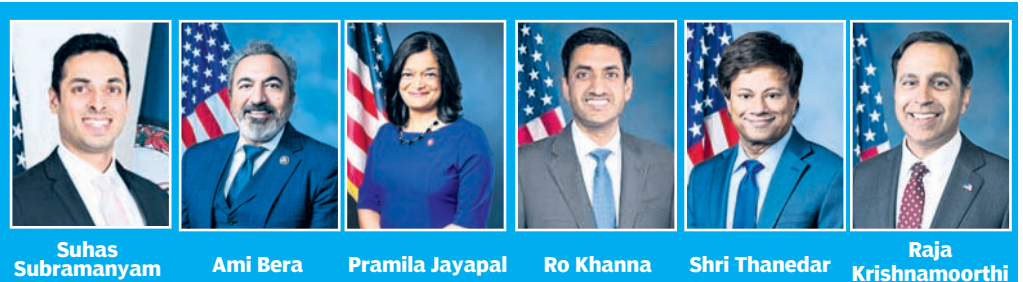
Harris by contrast relied heavily on female celebrities such as Beyonce, Jennifer Lopez, Lady Gaga and Oprah Winfrey, betting that they would help her reach even conservative women voters. Harris did not campaign openly on the fact that she would have been the first female President of the United States. But she made the defense of women's rights, and abortion in particular, one of the cornerstones of her campaign.

Harris skips election night speech

Kamala Harris's campaign announced that she would not address supporters on election night, even as Donald Trump edged closer to securing a second term. Campaign co-chair Cedric Richmond informed a watch party gathering at Howard University, stating, "You won't hear from the vice president tonight but you will hear from her tomorrow." The election watch party at Howard University, attended by students backing Harris, reflected mixed emotions as early projections placed Trump in the lead. By Tuesday night, CNN showed Trump with 230 electoral votes, ahead of Harris, who held 182. With the required threshold at 270 electoral votes to clinch the presidency, the projections prompted some attendees to depart early, disappointed by the numbers. The watch event, hosted by university students in Washington, DC, was part of widespread gatherings across the country as voters tuned in to see if Harris, the Democratic vice president, could make history as the first female US President.

Six Indian Americans win elections of US House of Representatives

Washington: Six Indian Americans have won the elections to the House of Representatives, increasing their number from five in the current Congress. Indian-American lawyer Suhas Subramanyam created history by becoming the first from the community to be elected from Virginia and the entire East Coast. Subramanyam defeated Mike Clancy of the Republican Party. He is currently a Virginia State Senator. There is a possibility that the number of Indian Americans in the House of Representatives increased to seven as Dr Amish Shah was leading by a slender margin against his Republican incumbent in the first Congressional District of Arizona. Subramanyam, who previously served as a White House Advisor to President Barack Obama, is a Hindu by faith and is popular among Indian Americans nationwide. He joins the 'Samosa Caucus' in the Congress that currently comprises five Indian Americans - Ami Bera, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ro Khanna, Pramila Jayapal and Shri Thanedar. All the five existing Indian American members were re-elected to the House of Representatives. Shri Thanedar was re-elected for the second consecutive term from the 13th Congressional District of Michigan. He won it for the first time in 2023. Raja Krishnamoorthi won the seventh Congressional District of Illinois for the fifth consecutive term. So did Ro Khanna who represents the seventeenth Congressional District of California and Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, who represents the seventh Congressional District of Washington State. A physician by profession, Dr Ami Bera is the senior-most Indian American Congressman representing the sixth Congressional District of California since 2013. He was re-elected for the seventh consecutive term.



Trump's erratic foreign policy to meet 'a world on fire'

The leader's 2017-2021 presidency was often defined on the world stage by his "America First" protectionist trade policy and isolationist rhetoric, including threats to withdraw from NATO

REUTERS

Washington: While campaigning to regain the US presidency, Donald Trump said that he would be able to end Russia's war in Ukraine in 24 hours, warned that Israel would be "eradicated" if he lost the election and vowed sweeping new tariffs on Chinese imports.

Now that Trump has claimed victory, many at home and abroad are asking an urgent question: will he make good on his long list of foreign policy threats, promises and pronouncements?

The Republican has offered few foreign policy specifics, but supporters say the force of his personality and his "peace through strength" approach will help bend foreign leaders to his will and calm what Republicans describe as a "world on fire".



They blame the global crises on weakness shown by President Joe Biden, though his fellow Democrats reject that accusation.

ENDING THE UKRAINE WAR
How Trump responds to Russia's war in Ukraine could set the tone for his agenda and signal how he will deal with NATO and key US allies, after Biden worked to rebuild key relationships that frayed under his predecessor.

Trump insisted last year that Russian President Vladimir Putin never would have invaded Ukraine in 2022 if he had been

in the White House, adding that "even now I could solve that in 24 hours". But he has not said how he would do so.

He has been critical of Biden's support for Ukraine and said that under his presidency the US would fundamentally rethink NATO's purpose. He told Reuters last year that Ukraine may have to cede territory to reach a peace agreement, something the Ukrainians reject and Biden has never suggested.

Trump, who has railed for years against NATO members that failed to meet

agreed military spending targets, warned during the campaign that he would not only refuse to defend nations "delinquent" on funding but would encourage Russia "to do whatever the hell they want" to them.

A FREER HAND FOR ISRAEL?

Trump will also confront a volatile Middle East that threatens to descend into a broader regional conflict. Israel is fight-

ing wars in Gaza and Lebanon while facing off against arch-foe Iran, even as Yemen's Houthis fire on commercial shipping in the Red Sea.

He has expressed support for Israel's fight to destroy Hamas in the Palestinian enclave but has said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a Trump ally widely believed to have favored his return to power, must finish the job quickly.

'America First' agenda may hurt India trade

New Delhi: With Donald Trump all set to become US president, Indian exporters may face high customs duties for goods like automobiles, textiles and pharmaceuticals if the new US administration decides to pursue the 'America First' agenda, opined trade experts. Experts also said that Trump could also tighten H-1B visa rules, impacting costs and growth for Indian IT firms. Over 80 per cent of India's IT export earnings come from the US, making it vulnerable to changes in visa policies. The US is India's largest trading partner, accounting for over \$190 billion of annual trade. Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Founder Ajay Srivastava said that Trump may extend tariffs beyond China to include India and other countries. Trump had earlier called India a "large tariff abuser" and in October 2020 labelled India as the "tariff king". These remarks suggest that Trump's second term could bring tougher trade negotiations, he said. "His America First agenda would likely push for protective measures, such as reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods, potentially adding barriers for key Indian exports like automobiles, wines, textiles, and pharmaceuticals. These increases could make Indian products less competitive in the US, impacting revenue in these sectors," Srivastava said. However, a tougher US stance on China could create new opportunities for Indian exporters, he added. The bilateral trade in goods between the two countries stood at \$120 billion in 2023-24 as against \$129.4 billion in 2022-23.



Business



(Economic) data which is coming in is mixed. But the positives outweigh the negatives and, by and large, underlying activities remain strong
SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

US POLLS PUSH BITCOIN TO NEW HIGH

The price of bitcoin hit a new high Wednesday as investors bet that former President Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election will be a boon for cryptocurrencies. Bitcoin jumped nearly 8% in early trading, climbing above \$75,000 and smashing its previous record set in March. Other cryptocurrencies also soared, including ether, the world's second most popular cryptocurrency after bitcoin, which rallied 8%



of the day quote

I think India and the US have always focused on strategic areas of cooperation, when it comes to tech. I think there's no doubt that the cooperation has been extremely strong over the last years



SINDHU GANGADHARAN | NEW CHAIRPERSON, NASSCOM

For Skoda, India is really (an) important (market). Europe is the key market but the strategic focus for Skoda is to build a broader international foundation, which is based on the principle of having two strong pillars. And India, clearly, is our second pillar that we want to build outside Europe



KLAUS ZELLMER | CEO, SKODA AUTO

As the wedding season in India approaches, the spotlight turns to honeymoon travel - where couples look to craft a truly special, once-in-a-lifetime experience. For the first time, we are sharing unique insights into the distinct booking patterns that set honeymoon travel apart from leisure trips



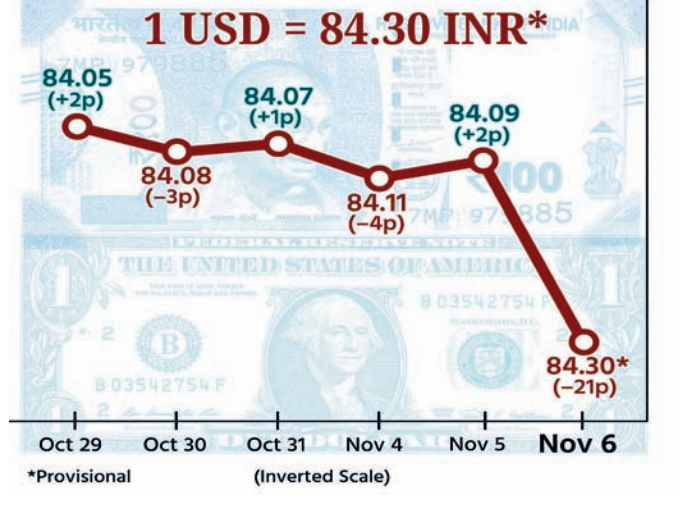
RAJESH MAGOW | CO-FOUNDER AND GROUP CEO, MAKEMYTRIP

DRAGGED DOWN BY DOLLAR

₹ FALLS TO NEW NADIR OF 84.31

During Wednesday's session, the Indian rupee oscillated between a high of 84.15 and a low of 84.31

RUPEE ₹ VS DOLLAR \$



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 6: The rupee depreciated 22 paise to close at an all-time low of 84.31 against the US dollar Wednesday, as the US Dollar index rallied with Donald Trump set to become the US President elections.

On Tuesday, the rupee settled 2 paise higher at 84.09 against the US dollar.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on strength in the US Dollar and FII outflows. However, a rise in risk appetite in global markets and a decline in commodity prices may support the rupee at lower levels. Any intervention by the RBI may also support the rupee at lower levels. Investors may remain cautious ahead of the FOMC meeting out the week.

USD/INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 84.10 to 84.40," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 1.34 per cent higher at 104.80. The index rose after Trump was poised to become the next US President.

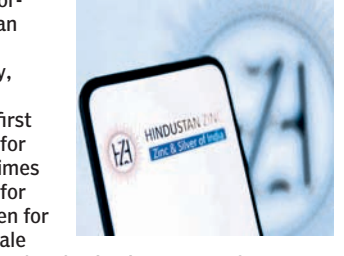
A strong greenback against major rivals overseas and unabated foreign fund outflows dented market sentiment, forex traders said.

Market participants also expect the US Fed to announce a rate cut in a meeting scheduled later this week, with further easing by up to 100 basis points projected for 2025.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.23 against the US dollar. During the session, the local currency oscillated between a high of 84.15 and a low of 84.31. It finally settled at 84.31, a loss of 22 paise against its previous close.

HZL OFS over-subscribed, attracts ₹3,400 crore

New Delhi: The government's offer-for-sale for more than 4.75 crore Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) shares to institutional investors over-subscribed Wednesday, with institutional buyers putting bids worth close to Rs 3,400 crore. On the first day of the two-day OFS, bids came in for over 6.69 crore shares, which is 1.41 times the total of 4.75 crore shares on offer for institutional buyers. The issue will open for retail investors Thursday. "Offer for Sale in Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) received enthusiastic response from non-retail investors today. Government has decided to exercise the green shoe option," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on X.



Strong demand revives services PMI in Oct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 6: India's services PMI recovered from its ten-month low in September to reach 58.5 in October supported by strong expansions in output and new business, which in turn boosted job creation, a monthly survey said Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted HS-BC India Services Business Activity Index increased from 57.7 in September to 58.5 in October, as robust sales pipelines and strong demand conditions supported the upturn in business activity.

In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

The latest data also highlighted a recovery in growth of new export sales across India's service economy, which survey respondents attributed to strengthening demand from clients in Africa, Asia, the Americas, the Middle East and the UK.

In response to positive sales developments, and optimism regarding near-term prospects, firms recruited extra workers to the greatest degree in just



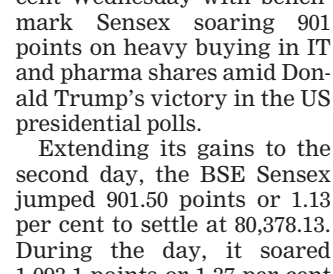
over two years. Moreover, capacity pressures also boosted job creation. Around 13 per cent of panellists reported job creation, compared to 9 per cent in September.

Input price inflation accelerated to a three-month high in October, with services companies mainly reporting higher food and wage costs. Companies shared part of their additional cost burdens with clients by

continuing to lift selling prices. Exactly one-quarter of the survey panel forecast higher output volumes over the coming year, linked to healthy demand trends, marketing efforts and new client enquiries. At the same time, 74 per cent of firms foresee no change in business activity from present levels.

Meanwhile, the HSBC India Composite Output Index rose from September's 10-month low of 58.3 to 59.1 as new busi-

BSE SENSEX NOVEMBER 06, 2024



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 6: Stock markets rallied more than 1 per cent Wednesday with benchmark Sensex soaring 901 points on heavy buying in IT and pharma shares amid Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential polls.

Extending its gains to the second day, the BSE Sensex jumped 901.50 points or 1.13 per cent to settle at 80,378.13. During the day, it soared 1,093.1 points or 1.37 per cent to 80,569.73.

The NSE Nifty soared 270.75 points or 1.12 per cent to close at 24,484.05.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys jumped over 4 per cent each. HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Adani Ports, Larsen & Toubro, Maruti and Reliance Industries were also among big gainers.

Titan, IndusInd Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Axis Bank and

Investors' kitty swells

Stock investors have become richer by Rs 10.47 lakh crore in two straight days of gains in markets as benchmark Sensex jumped 2 per cent. At close on Wednesday, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies surged by Rs 10,47,565.48 crore to Rs 4,52,58,633.53 crore (\$5.37 trillion) in two days of gains.

Global markets experienced a relief rally following the US election results, reducing political uncertainty with Trump securing a strong mandate. This has led to strong risk-on sentiments, driven by expectations of tax cuts and increased government spending

the major gainers. A total of 3,000 stocks advanced while 968 declined and 95 remained unchanged on the BSE.

In Asian markets, Tokyo settled higher while Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower. European markets were quoting in the green. Wall Street ended sharply higher Tuesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 2 per cent to \$74.02 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,569.41 crore Tuesday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought Rs 3,030.96 crore worth of shares, according to exchange data.

Bouncing back from Monday's sharp fall, the BSE benchmark jumped 694.39 points or 0.88 per cent to settle at 79,476.63 Tuesday. The Nifty climbed 217.95 points or 0.91 per cent to 24,213.30.

HDFC Bank were the laggards. The domestic buying was broad-based, with IT leading the charge in anticipation of a rebound in IT spending in the US.

The BSE midcap gauge jumped 2.28 per cent and small-cap index zoomed 1.96 per cent. All sectoral indices ended higher. The BSE IT soared 4.04 per cent, while teck (3.37 per cent), realty (2.68 per cent), industrials (2.66 per cent), services (2.53 per cent) and utilities (2.44 per cent) were among

ness inflows also expanded at quicker rates in both the manufacturing and service sectors, boosting growth of sales and employment at the composite level.

Goods producers recorded stronger rates of increase in new business and output than service providers in October, but the latter led when it came to job creation.

On the price front, rates of input cost inflation were equal in the manufacturing industry and the service economy.

Global markets experienced a relief rally following the US election results, reducing political uncertainty with Trump securing a strong mandate. This has led to strong risk-on sentiments, driven by expectations of tax cuts and increased government spending

the major gainers. A total of 3,000 stocks advanced while 968 declined and 95 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 2 per cent to \$74.02 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,569.41 crore Tuesday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought Rs 3,030.96 crore worth of shares, according to exchange data.

Bouncing back from Monday's sharp fall, the BSE benchmark jumped 694.39 points or 0.88 per cent to settle at 79,476.63 Tuesday. The Nifty climbed 217.95 points or 0.91 per cent to 24,213.30.

HDFC Bank were the laggards. The domestic buying was broad-based, with IT leading the charge in anticipation of a rebound in IT spending in the US.

The BSE midcap gauge jumped 2.28 per cent and small-cap index zoomed 1.96 per cent. All sectoral indices ended higher. The BSE IT soared 4.04 per cent, while teck (3.37 per cent), realty (2.68 per cent), industrials (2.66 per cent), services (2.53 per cent) and utilities (2.44 per cent) were among

ness inflows also expanded at quicker rates in both the manufacturing and service sectors, boosting growth of sales and employment at the composite level.

Goods producers recorded stronger rates of increase in new business and output than service providers in October, but the latter led when it came to job creation.

On the price front, rates of input cost inflation were equal in the manufacturing industry and the service economy.

Composite PMI indices are weighted averages of comparable manufacturing and services PMI indices. Weights reflect the relative size of the manufacturing and service sectors according to official GDP data.

SBI economists see Q2 growth lagging

SECOND QUARTER GROWTH SLOWING DOWN TO 6.5%; FY25 GROWTH WILL BE CLOSER TO 7%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 6: Economists at the country's largest lender SBI Wednesday said they see Q2 real GDP growth slowing down further to 6.5 per cent in the September quarter of this fiscal year.

Amid concerns over the country's economic growth rate and if it is slowing down, the analysts said they expect FY25 growth to come "closer" to 7 per cent.

It can be noted that the April-June period saw the real GDP expanding by 6.7 per cent, the lowest in 15 quarters. This led to a slew of analysts revising their expectations on growth to below 7 per cent for the fiscal and some also wonder if India is in a cyclical growth slowdown.

"There is some incipient pressure evident on the domestic economy. Basis our analysis of 50 meaningful leading indicators (both consumption as also



The April-June period saw the real GDP expanding by 6.7%, the lowest in 15 quarters

demand centric), a dip looks plausible across select cohorts of agri, industry and services in Q2," the SBI economists said.

It said aggregate demand continued to grow albeit with a slower momentum than in the preceding quarters and painting a somewhat mixed picture.

Stating that it tracks 50 indicators to gauge economic activity, the note said the proportion of indicators showing acceleration declined to 69 per cent in Q2FY25, as against 80 per cent in Q2FY24, and 78 per cent in Q1FY25.

It, however, was quick to

said, adding that rural agri wage growth also accelerated in August this year.

Addressing concerns on urban demand, it explained that the same can be indicative of shifting contours of urban demographics and marked preferences to quick commerce, which is not being mapped properly.

The regulatory tightening on unsecured lending and road-blocks hindering roll over/refinancing of debt through unsecured credit is punctuating the unwarranted exuberance built up post pandemic, more in urban ecosystem, it added.

The SBI economists pitched for avoidance of policy mistakes of the past like farm loan waivers which end up distorting credit culture or having minimum support prices-driven agricultural growth which is "fiscally extravagant and results in extreme ground water depletion".

CCEA approves infusion of ₹10,700cr equity in FCI for working capital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 6: The government Wednesday approved infusion of Rs 10,700 crore as equity in state-owned FCI for working capital requirement this fiscal.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is the government's nodal agency for procurement and distribution of foodgrains.

"The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved infusion of equity of Rs 10,700 crore for working capital in financial year 2024-25 in Food Corporation of India (FCI)," an official statement said.

The decision is aimed at bolstering the agricultural sector and ensuring the welfare of farmers nationwide. "This strategic move shows the government's steadfast commitment to supporting farmers and fortifying India's agrarian economy," it added.

Lauding the decision, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the equity infusion will enhance FCI's capacity to manage food procurement and distribution efficiently. It will also ensure better support for farmers and contribute to national food security, he added.

The FCI started its journey in 1964 with authorised capital of Rs 100 crore and equity of Rs 4 crore. The operations of FCI increased manifolds resulting in increase of authorised capital from Rs 11,000 crore to Rs 21,000 crore in February 2023.

FESTIVE DEMAND

Retail car sales jump 32%, inventory levels still high

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 6: Indian dealers' car sales increased 32.4% in October, helped by festive demand, especially for sports utility vehicles (SUV), as well as new model launches and of-

inventory levels remained high, a dealers' association said Wednesday.

Sales by dealers to customers rose to 4,83,159 units in the month from 3,64,991 units last year, according to data from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA).

This year, the festival season -- an auspicious time during which Indians typically make big-ticket purchases -- started in early October, compared with mid-October last year, lifting sales in the month.

And while that helped retail sales clock double-digit growth, wholesales, or carmakers' sales

to dealers were flat or inched lower last month, with SUVs sales the lone bright spot.

Still, the strong retail sales ensured that a car stayed in a showroom five fewer days, on average, in October before being sold, reducing the so-called inventory days to 75-

80, versus the recommended level of about a month, FADA said.

As a result, discounts may continue until the end of this year, the dealers' body said.

While the unsold vehicles have mostly comprised small cars, the proportion of SUVs has been inching up, FADA said.

Carmakers and dealers have said that extreme heat and then heavy rains have curtailed showroom visits from April to September, with many customers having delayed purchases until the festive period in the hope of bagging higher discounts.



23 INDIAN CRICKETERS HAVE BASE PRICES OF ₹2 CRORE EACH

Pant, Rahul, Iyer up for grabs



A bidding war could erupt between franchises for Rishabh Pant and KL Rahul during the IPL auction

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 6: England Test skipper Ben Stokes is missing from the list of 1,574 players while his former teammate James Anderson and India-born USA medium pacer Saurabh Netravalkar have all registered for the IPL mega auction to be held in Jeddah November 24 and 25.

The list, which will be short-ened after the franchises provide their inputs, has all the marquee Indian players who

were released from their teams including Rishabh Pant (DC), Shreyas Iyer (KKR), KL Rahul (LSG), R Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal (both RR). Each of these five cricketers have listed themselves at a base price of Rs 2 crore.

India quick Mohammed Shami, who has been sidelined from action due to various injuries since last November, was also released by his former team Gujarat Titans and has listed himself at ₹2 crore and so has left-arm pacer Ar-

- Each team can have a maximum of 25 players
- 46 cricketers have been retained by the 10 franchises
- At 42, England pacer James Anderson oldest to go under hammer

shdeep Singh.

Among the other Indian players in the list with the maximum base price of Rs 2 crore are Khaleel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, Venkatesh

Iyer, Avesh Khan, Deepak Chahar, Ishan Kishan and Bhuvneshwar Kumar. This list also includes Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Siraj, Devdutt Padikkal, Krunal Pandya, Harshal Patel, Prasidh Krishna, T Natarajan, Washington Sundar and Umesh Yadav.

India batters Sarfaraz Khan and Prithvi Shaw, who were unsold in the last IPL auction, have registered themselves at the base price of ₹75 lakh each.

Stokes, who had decided to

give the last season of the IPL a miss in order to manage his workload and focus on his fitness, has opted out for the 2025 edition as well.

The 42-year-Anderson, who retired from Test cricket earlier this year, has registered for the IPL for the first time. The veteran pacer last played a T20 game 10 years ago in 2014. He has never competed in a global franchise T20 league. He has a base price of ₹1.25 crore.

Ace Australian off-spinner Nathan Lyon, who has gone unsold in previous auctions, has also entered the fray with a base price of ₹2 crore. His teammate, pacer Mitchell Starc, who was the most expensive buy in the IPL's last auction at a price of ₹24.50 crore, is back in the pool for this year's auction with a base price of Rs 2 crore.

First Italian in IPL auction

Medium pacer Thomas Draca has become the first player from Italy to register for the IPL. The 24-year has played four T20 Internationals since making his debut for Italy in June this year.

Draca impressed with his recent performance at the Global T20 Canada in August. Draca was the joint second-highest wicket-taker of the tournament with 11 wickets to his credit and he boasted of an economy rate of 6.88. He has registered himself at the base prices of ₹30 lakh in the all-rounders' category.

With up to six players permitted to be retained ahead of the mega auction, IPL teams can build a squad of 25 players each and there will be 204 slots available after 46 players were retained by 10 teams put together.

Kumble wants new faces for SA series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Mumbai, Nov 6: The uncapped trio of Yash Dayal, Vyshak Vijaykumar and Rameedep Singh should be awarded for their hard work in domestic cricket during India's tour of South Africa, former captain Anil Kumble has said.

A new-look India will take South Africa in a five-match T20I series starting Friday at Durban under the leadership duo of Suryakumar Yadav and coach VVS Laxman.

"I hope all these three get an opportunity to play for the Indian team because all of them have really done well at the domestic level," Kumble was quoted as saying by *Jio Cinema*.

Kumble lauded Dayal for staging a strong comeback after being hit for five consecutive sixes an IPL match during the 2023 edition.

"Yash Dayal, after those five sixes by Rinku Singh, has certainly come back strong. That shows a lot about his character - what he can bring to the table," Kumble pointed out. "He's a fantastic left-arm seamer and moves the ball both ways. He's developed his game around bowling in the death overs as well; he did really well for RCB last season," the former Indian head coach added.

Kumble said it was surprising to see Vijaykumar not being retained by Royal Challengers Bengaluru and backed the Karnataka bowler to do well.

"Vyshak is really good. (Once) again, (he is) a domestic player who's done a lot of good work for Karnataka. Unfortunately, he didn't get enough opportunities for RCB, and I was a bit surprised that they didn't

retain him," Kumble stated. "I hope he gets an opportunity in South Africa. He has all the variations of bowling in the death overs," Kumble added.

Kumble said Rameedep, if picked, should also be tried as a bowler. "He has really come up with strides, especially after his move to KKR. Batting in that middle period where he's been that striker, who can really destroy even when he gets three or four balls," Kumble pointed out.

"That has been the best part about Rameedep. He's a gun fielder and he bowls a bit too. I hope he gets to do the bowling part as well because people tend to ignore the all-rounders, especially with the impact player rule in the IPL," Kumble informed.

The legendary spinner said Indian selectors will be expecting consistency from Sanju Samson after his maiden T20I century in the last series against Bangladesh. "That hundred certainly would have given him (Samson) a lot of confidence. We know his ability, he is a class act. The consistency is something that is a little missing, and that's something I'm sure the Indian selectors would be looking for," Kumble asserted.

The selectors expect consistency from Sanju Samson and he has the ability to play in all conditions. He brings value to the team

ANIL KUMBLE

SHORT TAKES

Footballer killed by lightning during game

Lima (Peru): A Peruvian amateur soccer player was killed and seven others were injured by a lightning strike during their match in a remote Andean city. Local authorities in Chilca said José De la Cruz, 39, died after he was hit by lightning during a match between his team Familia Chocca and Juventud Bellavista. Those injured in the incident were hospitalised in the city of Huancayo, the capital of the Junín region.

Ronaldo regains form with goal

Riyadh: Cristiano Ronaldo scored a goal as Al-Nassr defeated defending champions Al-Ain of the United Arab Emirates 5-1 in the AFC Champions League Elite to put Saudi Arabian teams in the top three places in the 12-team standings. Al-Nassr have 10 points from four games, two behind local rivals Al-Hilal and Al-Ahli who both have a perfect record with four wins. The other goals for Al-Nassr were scored by Anderson Talisca (2), Fabio Cardoso (own goal) and Wesley.

Gritty performance

Iksan City (Korea): Indian shuttler Kiran George produced a gritty performance to eke out a three-game win and advanced to the second round of the Korea Masters badminton tournament here Wednesday. The 24-year-old Indian overcame a sluggish start to defeat Vietnam's Kuan Lin Kuo 15-21, 21-12, 21-15 in a 57-minute opening round clash of the BWF Super 300 tournament. World No. 44 George will take on third seed Chi Yu Jen of Chinese Taipei in the second round.

Rishabh in top 10

Dubai: India wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant broke into the top 10 of ICC Test batter rankings announced Wednesday here. This is the first time since his return that Pant has moved into the top 10 batters' list. It happened, as Pant hit two half centuries in the third Test against New Zealand in a losing cause. The other Indian batter in top Test batter's chart is young left-handed opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who dropped a rung to fourth.

Inter-Varsity volleyball tourney starts in KIIT



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: The East Zone Inter-University Volleyball (Women) Championships 2024-25 started Wednesday at the Biju Patnaik Multipurpose Indoor Stadium in KIIT campus with Banaras Hindu University scripting a facile 25-10, 25-5, 25-15 victory over Vinoba Bhave University.

Earlier the tournament was inaugurated by Professor Achyuta Samanta, the Founder of KIIT and KISS. Also present on the occasion were Professor Saranjit Singh, Vice-Chancellor KIIT DU and Professor Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty, Registrar KIIT. A total of 600-plus players from 39 universities are participating in the competition. Among the Odisha Uni-

versities taking part in the meet are Utkal University, Ravenshaw University, Rama Devi Women's University, MSCB University, KIIT and KISS University. The top four teams from this competition, will qualify for the All India Inter-University Inter-Zone Volleyball Championships to be played at Rewa in Madhya Pradesh.

Adamas University, Kolkata; KIIT University; Pt Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur and University of Burdwan, have been given byes directly to the quarterfinals as they are the top four teams from last year's competition.

In the second match played on the day, Hemchand Yadav Vishwavidyalaya beat Mahara-ja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University 3-0 (25-3, 25-8 & 25-5).

Odisha thrash Rajasthan 11-1

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: Hockey Association of Odisha began their campaign in the senior National Men's Hockey Championships in style thrashing Rajasthan 11-1 in a Group E match played Wednesday at Chennai. Odisha dominated proceedings right from the word go and opened their account in just the second minute of the match. Rajasthan rarely had a look at the opposition goal, so dominant were the Odisha players throughout the game.

Amandeep Lakra (second, 46th, 49th) and Sudeep Chirmako (17th, 48th, 58th) got hat-tricks in the game. The other goals were scored by Ajay Kumar Ekka (15th, 26th), Matiyas Dang (ninth), Kerobin Lakra (29th) and Rajat Akash Tirkey (50th). Rajasthan's consolation goal came in the 57th minute when skipper Vijendra Singh sounded the board.

The Odisha players were much more skilful than their Rajasthan counterparts and controlled the pace of the match for long stretches. Had Odisha converted all the penalty corners they got, they could have easily won the match by a much bigger margin. Odisha led 5-0 at the interval and the writing was clear on the wall for the Rajasthan team.

Iyer, Lad put Mumbai in command

PNN & AGENCIES

Mumbai, Nov 6: Shreyas Iyer (152 batting, 164b, 18x4, 4x6) returned to Ranji Trophy with another cracking century to power Mumbai to a dominating 385/3 against Odisha in their Elite Group A clash's first day, here Wednesday. This incidentally was Iyer's second successive ton in domestic cricket this season. In an earlier match he had scored 142.

Iyer found strong support from Siddhesh Lad (116 batting, 234b, 14x4) as the two middle-order batters tore into the Odisha bowling, putting on 231 runs for the unbroken fourth wicket stand.

Iyer and Lad came together when Mumbai were rocked twice in quick succession by Biplab Samantaray (2/36), who denied Angkrish Raghuvanshi (92, 124b, 13x4, 3x6) his maiden ton and trapped skipper Ajinkya Rahane leg-before for a golden duck.

The only other wicket to fall on the day was that of Ayush Mhatre (18), who fell leg before



Shreyas Iyer completely dominated the Odisha bowlers

to Suryakant Pradhan (1/36). It is still not clear as to why Odisha skipper Govind Poddar did not give Samantaray an extended spell as the latter was troubling the Mumbai batters.

Both Iyer and Lad played shots all round the wicket. Iyer was particularly harsh on pacer Sunil Roul (0/69) and left-arm spinner Harshit Rathod (0/94). Three of Iyer's sixes came off

the bowling of Rathod. Odisha's decision to send Mumbai in after winning the toss has definitely backfired as Iyer and Lad have laid the foundation of huge total. It is quite clear that Mumbai wouldn't want to bat for the second time in the game. They would certainly eye an innings victory after dismissing Odisha twice in the remaining three days.

Top teams win easily



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 6: The 30th Inter-District & Odisha State Table Tennis Championships 2024 started Wednesday here at the Biju Patnaik Multipurpose Hall. The tournament will end November 10, the organisers said in a release. This year 19 districts and four institutions from across the state are competing in the event. A total of 400 players - 250 boys and 150 girls - are participating in the meet.

The tournament was inaugurated by Siddhartha Das, IAS, Director of Sports, Department of Sports & Youth Services. Also present on the occasion were Abhijeet Pal, secretary of the

Odisha Olympic Association and Rabindra Kumar Parida, secretary, OSTTA.

The men's teams have been divided into four groups. On the inaugural day top-seeded AG-Odisha defeated Keonjhar 3-0. In other matches, Puri -B defeated KIIT -B 3-0; Cuttack-A defeated Puri -A 3-0, and KIIT-A 3-0; Puri -A defeated Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) 3-0; Khurda-A defeated Angul -A 3-0 and Balasore -A by an identical margin. In another match East Coast Railway defeated Balasore 3-0. In Group -D, Cuttack-B defeated Berhampur -A 3-0 and Bargarh 3-0. In their second match of the day, Bargarh again went down to Bhubaneswar 0-3.

Sabalenka is new tennis queen

Belarussian player will end the season as the No. 1 player in women's rankings

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Riyadh, Nov 6: Aryna Sabalenka clinched the year-end No. 1 spot in the women's rankings for the first time after Iga Swiatek lost 3-6, 4-6 to Coco Gauff in a group match at the WTA Finals here Tuesday night.

Sabalenka, a 26-year-old from Belarus, was assured of finishing 2024 atop the rankings without swinging her racket Tuesday thanks to Gauff. A year ago, Sabalenka briefly overtook Swiatek in the rankings

in September to get to No. 1 for the first time, but relinquished the top spot when Swiatek won the WTA Finals.

Sabalenka is 56-12 this season with four titles, including Grand Slam trophies that she earned at the Australian Open and US Open to raise her major championship total to three. Her first came at the 2023 Australian Open.

Sabalenka has long been equipped with a powerful - if once-erratic - serve and intimidating groundstrokes; her

forehand speeds at the US Open this year were higher than every other woman and man in the tournament. But lately she increasingly has added elements of touch and variety to her game.

"It's really good to have these options in your pocket. Like sometimes, you don't feel your best on the baseline, and you can just go for a slice or a drop shot or come to the net. I mean, I've been always working on this variation on the court," Sabalenka had said a few days back.

Meanwhile it was Gauff's second victory over Swiatek in 13 matches and it meant that she had sealed her spot in the semifinals of the WTA Finals. It was Gauff's first victory over Swiatek since the 2023 Cincinnati Open.