



Ridhi's woes

Actor Ridhi Dogra reveals that her background in television has often resulted in lost film opportunities

LEISURE | P2



Harris vows to fight on

US Vice President Kamala Harris vows to keep fighting for the ideals that powered her presidential campaign

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Shares in red

Sensex, Nifty tank due to profit-taking in banking and auto shares as investors turn cautious

BUSINESS | P11



Focus on youngsters

Focus will be on youngsters like Arshdeep Singh and Abhishek Sharma during India's T20I series against South Africa starting Friday

SPORTS | P12

SRK RECEIVES DEATH THREAT

AGENCIES

Mumbai/Raipur, Nov 7: Actor Shah Rukh Khan (SRK) has received a death threat and a demand for ₹50 lakh, Mumbai police said Thursday, adding an extortion case has been filed in this connection.

The Mumbai Police have summoned a lawyer from Raipur as the threat call was made from a phone number registered in his name, a senior police official from the Chhatisgarh capital said. The lawyer told the police that he lost his phone last week and had filed a police complaint. The threat to SRK follows a series of threats issued to fellow actor Salman Khan, allegedly from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang.

NEET aspirant ends life in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7: A Class XII student, who was preparing for medical entrance examination NEET at a private institute in the City, allegedly died by suicide at her hostel room in Patia area here Thursday.

Mahesh Kumar Sahu, the girl's father, alleged that she took the extreme step as she was unable to handle the pressure of studies. The deceased was identified as Kalyani Sahu, 18, a native of Salipur in Cuttack, police said. She preparing for NEET at the institution for the last 18 months now, an official of the Chandrasekharpur police station said. Kalyani's body was found hanging in her hostel room, he said.

The hostel warden informed her father following which the latter contacted the police. "We've registered a case of unnatural death, and sent the body for post-mortem examination," the officer said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Leaders like Trump are true artists...lying is an art

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	32.5°	30.5°
Min Temp	23.5°	22.0°
Humidity	83%	83%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
FORECAST Dry weather very likely		

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	79541.79	↓ 836.34
NIFTY	24199.35	↓ 284.70
DOLLAR	84.29	↓ 0.02
EURO	91.19	↑ 0.73
GOLD	₹77,385	↑ ₹730
SILVER	₹92,399	↑ ₹1,579



HOUSE UPROAR: Ruckus in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly after the Speaker directed eviction of Opposition members, who had stormed the Well of the House, during their protest over the special status resolution, in Srinagar, Thursday. Amidst the commotion, the Speaker adjourned the proceedings for the day

SC orders liquidation of Jet Airways assets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: In a major development in the Jet Airways insolvency saga, the Supreme Court Thursday ordered the grounded airline's liquidation, forfeiture of ₹200 crore infused by successful bidder Jalan Kalrock Consortium (JKC) and permitted the lenders led by SBI to encash ₹150 crore performance bank guarantee (PBG).

Invoking its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, a bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra put the curtains down on the insolvency proceedings of the airline by setting aside the order of the NCLAT. The bench rapped NCLAT for allowing adjustment of PBG in view of payment of the first tranche by JKC. NCLAT had allowed JKC to take over Jet Airways without fully complying with its payment obligations, it observed. "The order of the NCLAT directing the successful resolution applicant to adjust PBG of ₹150 crore against first tranche of payment of ₹350 crore was in flagrant disregard of the order of this court," it said.

MORE P11

Can't change rules of game midway: SC

In a ruling that will put curbs on brazen manipulation in recruitment process by various government bodies across the country, a five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court Thursday held that 'rules of the game' or eligibility criteria for jobs cannot be tinkered with midway unless procedure permits the same. The bench, led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, said if change of criteria is permissible under the extant rules or advertisement, it would have to meet the requirement of Article 14 (right to equality) of the Constitution, and satisfy the test of non-arbitrariness.

New Delhi, Nov 7: In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court Thursday held the 'rules of the game' for appointment in government jobs cannot be changed midway unless the procedure so permits.

Observing candidates in a recruitment process have a legitimate expectation of the selection process being fair



and non-arbitrary, a five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, unanimously ruled that placement in the select list gives no indefeasible right to a candidate for appointment to a government job.

"Eligibility criteria for being placed in the select list, notified at the commencement of the recruitment process, cannot be changed midway through the recruitment process unless the extant rules so permit, or the advertisement, which is not contrary to the extant rules, so permit," it held.

The bench, also comprising Justices Hrishikesh Roy, PS Narasimha, Pankaj Mithal and Manoj Misra, said even if the change in eligibility criteria was permissible under the

existing rules or the advertisement, the change would have to meet the requirement of Article 14 of the Constitution and satisfy the test of non-arbitrariness.

Penning a 44-page verdict for the bench, Justice Misra said extant rules having statutory force were binding on the recruiting body, both in terms of procedure and eligibility. However, where rules were non-existent or silent, administrative instructions may fill in the gaps, he said.

The SC ruled that the 2008 verdict in *K Manjusree v. State of Andhra Pradesh*, which was doubted by a three-judge bench in 2013 while referring it to larger bench for authoritative pronouncement, was a good law and not in conflict with the 1974 verdict in case of *State of Haryana v. Subash Chander Marwaha*.

The bench said the 1974 verdict dealt with the right to be appointed from the select list, while the 2008 verdict dealt with right to be placed in the select list. "The two cases therefore deal with altogether different issues," it said.

Spl courts in state soon: CM

A commission will be formed and all archaic laws will be discarded, says Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday said his government will set up special courts in the state to speed up the justice delivery mechanism and increase the conviction rate.

He alleged that the previous BJD government lacked the willpower to punish criminals, due to which the conviction rates remained low in the state. "The BJP government will set up special courts and increase the conviction rate through speedy justice delivery," Majhi said.

The conviction rate is low in the state in crimes against women and girl children, he pointed out while attending a programme here on sensitisa-



tion of the public on BNSS and BNS. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Odisha has a conviction rate of 9.3 per cent in crimes against women and it is the lowest compared to other states.

"The mindset of a government plays a crucial role in the establishment of the law. The BJD government lacked the willpower to punish the criminals for which the conviction rate is

low in Odisha," the CM said.

Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, who also attended the event, asserted establishment of special courts will play a significant role in providing justice at the doorstep of people.

Harichandan said that the government has already approved establishment of six new 'Gram Nyayalayas' (rural courts) that will serve as mediation and will go a long way in reducing the load on the judicial system. This apart, Harichandan said, a law commission will be formed soon and all the unwanted laws of the state will also be discarded.

The CM and the Law Minister also explained to the audience various aspects of the BNSS and BNS which came into effect July 1.

ED searches Amazon, Flipkart vendors

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 7: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Thursday conducted searches against some of the 'main vendors' operating on platforms of e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart as part of a foreign

direct investment 'violation' investigation, official sources said.

A total of 19 premises of these 'preferred' vendors located in Delhi, Gurugram and Panchkula (Haryana), Hyderabad (Telangana) and Bangalore (Karnataka) were covered as part of the action, the sources said. P8

Turmoil in Germany

AGENCIES

Berlin, Nov 7: After Germany's government coalition collapsed in a dramatic fashion when Chancellor Olaf Scholz fired Finance Minister Christian Lindner of the pro-business Free Democrats, Scholz said he would lead the country with a minority government, despite calls from Opposition leaders Thursday for early elections.

The chancellor said the minority government would be made up of his Social Democrats and the Greens until early next year — even as the leader of the biggest Opposition bloc in Parliament, Friedrich Merz from the centre-right Christian Democrats, called for an immediate no-confidence vote and new elections. Scholz stressed again Thursday, that he does not want to call a vote of confidence before January 15.

"The citizens will soon have the opportunity to decide anew how to proceed," the chancellor said, according to the German news agency dpa. "That is their right. I will therefore put the vote of confidence to the Bundestag at the beginning of next year." A meeting with Merz and Scholz at the chancellery Thursday about a possible date for the next election ended after less than an hour with Merz leaving without commenting on the talks. P10

Oz plans social media ban for children under 16

Platforms like X, TikTok, Instagram & Facebook would be penalised for breaching the age limit, but under-age children and their parents would not

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melbourne, Nov 7: The Australian government announced Thursday what it described as world-leading legislation that would institute an age limit of 16 years for children to start using social media, and hold platforms responsible for ensuring compliance.

"Social media is doing harm to our kids and I'm calling time on it," Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said.

The legislation will be introduced in Parliament during its final two weeks in session this year, which begin November 18. The age limit would take ef-

fect 12 months after the law is passed, Albanese told reporters.

The platforms including X, TikTok, Instagram and Facebook would need to use that year to work out how to exclude Australian children younger than 16.

"I've spoken to thousands of parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. They, like me, are worried about the safety of our kids online," Albanese said.

The proposal comes as governments around the world are wrestling with how to supervise young people's use of technologies like smartphones and social media.

Social media platforms would



be penalised for breaching the age limit, but under-age children and their parents would not.

"The onus will be on social media platforms to demonstrate they are taking reasonable steps to prevent access. The onus won't be on parents or young people," Albanese said.

Antigone Davis, head of safe-

ty at Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, said the company would respect any age limitation the government wants to introduce.

"However, what's missing is a deeper discussion on how we implement protections, otherwise we risk making ourselves feel better, like we have taken action, but teens and parents

will not find themselves in a better place," Davis said in a statement. She added that stronger tools in app stores and operating systems for parents to control what apps their children can use would be a simple and effective solution.

X did not immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday. TikTok declined to comment. The Digital Industry Group Inc., an advocate for the digital industry in Australia, described the age limit as a '20th Century response to 21st Century challenges'.

"Rather than blocking access through bans, we need to take a balanced approach to create age-appropriate spaces, build digital literacy and protect young people from online harm," Digital Industry Group Inc. MD Sunita Bose said in a statement.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You will be very logical and rational today, as creativity is put on the back-burner. The situation at your workplace will be full of challenges, but you will take them head-on. Later, all the stress will be mitigated by the soothing touch of your loved ones, says Ganesha.

TAURUS
It will be an optimistic day with its share of day dreaming, says Ganesha. You will be submissive at work, giving in or blindly following the advice of your peers. Things at work may be tense and cause some trouble today afternoon, but they will be much more to your liking by nightfall as you return to the comfort of your beloved and your home.

GEMINI
Today will prove to be an emotional and engaging day for you, predicts Ganesha. Fortune will favour you, though your emotions may cloud your reasoning and slow down your progress. Your spare time will be spent on devising methods to make the best use of your knowledge.

CANCER
Today, you will use money to fulfil your needs. If there is anything that according to you needs changing, you will throw some money to get it changed. Your loved ones will celebrate your financial gains and spend some more of it in the process.

LEO
Maybe it is the weather, or just one of those days, but today, you are extremely prone to wild mood swings, says Ganesha. You must remember that nothing is permanent, except change. So go with the flow and do not get caught in the undercurrent of the changes that are taking place all around you.

VIRGO
Today you will find yourself overflowing with ideas. You have a soothing touch, the hands of a healer, and so you will be able to help many people, says Ganesha. You will be very considerate, and your mind-reading abilities will work wonders both for you and your loved ones.

LIBRA
Love is in the air, and passion lurks right around the corner. So keep your eyes and ears open, because you may soon find yourself entrapped in a passionate love episode. But the price of new love is always steep, and your beloved may burn a hole in your pocket.

SCORPIO
You shall groom yourself all prim and proper today. The thought of how you look dominates your mind today. You are likely to capture the imagination of people - both at work and at social gathering. Cash will exit left, right and centre from your pockets on account of fun and entertainment.

SAGITTARIUS
Dark and gloomy shall be your temperament for most part of the day today. But the afternoon may just see the skies clearing. The apparent mood change, says Ganesha; will mainly be because of good news from abroad and business profits from your partner.

CAPRICORN
Certain revelations about a relationship will draw your attention; you will find it intriguing and will spend a good amount of time trying to solve the mystery, says Ganesha. Besides, your impressive communication power will help dissolve conflicts that may have risen because of misinterpretation. There is nothing really to worry about, but keeping abreast of the activities of your rivals will help you stay ahead in competition.

AQUARIUS
You have managed to carve a niche for yourself. Today, you may see the tangible benefits of all your past hard work. But business rivals may poke and pinch; even your health may trouble you. However, you will manage to smile and take things in the right spirit, approves Ganesha.

PISCES
You are unlikely to be your calm and lucid self today. You will likely catch yourself worrying unnecessarily and putting in more efforts than required at work. However, some leisure time will come your way in the evening wherein you will regain your usual perspective, says Ganesha.



ANISTON TOOK DRESSES FROM FRIENDS SET: COX

Apart from being one of the most popular TV shows of all time, *Friends* continues to be a fashion phenomenon and series star Courtney Cox says her co-actor Jennifer Aniston kept tons of clothes from the sitcom, even of her character Monica's.

CHEADLE YEARS TO DO A BOLLYWOOD MOVIE

Hollywood actor Don Cheadle, best known for his appearance as *War Machine* in Marvel Cinematic Universe, recently, opened up about his India dream. The actor harbours a desire to come to India, and even enter Bollywood.



SONU TURNS SAMARITAN

Mumbai: Actor Sonu Sood has once again extended his helping hand, this time to support small dhaba businesses in Uttarakhand.

Known for his humanitarian efforts, the Dabang actor has been actively involved in empowering local businesses, and his latest initiative aims to boost the livelihoods of those running small food joints along highways. Thursday, Sonu posted a video featuring a group of local dhaba owners.

In the clip, he is heard saying, "Today, we are in Alwar, and from here, we are going to Vrindavan. These are our brothers standing here from Uttarakhand, and they run a dhaba

where they have employed 70 people. It's always said that the people from Uttarakhand make very good food. They all have left their homes to work here, and they are working very hard. So, all Uttarakhand people keep working hard and keep bringing smiles to the faces."

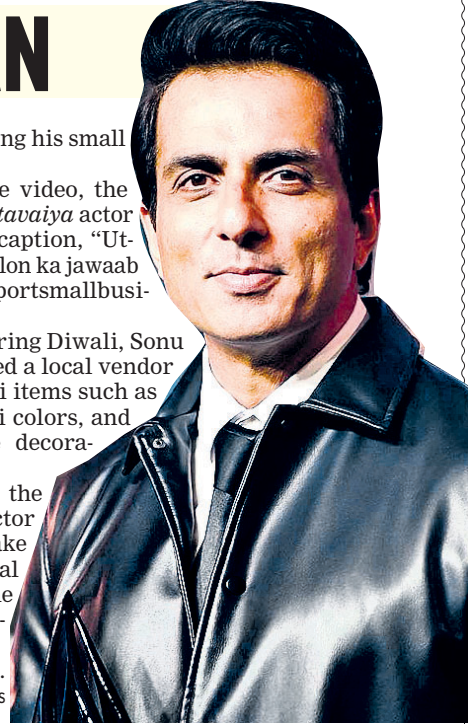
The video ended with Sonu playfully teasing one of the boys after he expressed his joy at the

actor promoting his small dhaba.

Sharing the video, the *Ramaiya Vastavaiya* actor wrote in the caption, "Uttarakhand walon ka jawaab nahin #supportsmallbusiness."

Earlier, during Diwali, Sonu Sood promoted a local vendor selling Diwali items such as diyas, rangoli colors, and other festive decorations.

Work-wise, the 51-year-old actor is all set to make his directorial debut with the upcoming action-packed thriller *Fateh*.



Samantha basks in Citadel glory

Mumbai: Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who is receiving a lot of positive response for her recently released streaming show *Citadel: Honey Bunny*, has reacted to all the love coming her way.

From showcasing insane combat skills and action to being compared to Sridevi in her acting prowess and her visual comedic stylings, Samantha is the talk of the town.

Talking about the love she's been receiving with just a few hours of the series dropping, Samantha said, "I am actually still processing all the love that's been pouring in. What an overwhelming response it's been! As artists, we always hope that our hard work is appreciated and

with *Citadel I* feel like every bruise, every injury, even the concussion was so worth it!"

Citadel: Honey Bunny has been, without a doubt, one of this year's most anticipated series for its legacy, Raj & DK, Varun Dhawan and for Samantha.

Audiences last saw her as a LTTE operative in the OTT outing *Family Man 2* and her Telugu film *Kushi*. Her fans and audiences have been eagerly waiting for their favourite star to set the screen ablaze with her incredible performance.

And as per reviews and audience reactions, she's done just that - owned her place as an artist, performed with immense vigour, versatility and commitment and above all made the audiences wait worthwhile.



Ridhi on being tagged TV actor



MUMBAI: At the trailer launch of the upcoming film *The Sabarmati Report*, actress Ridhi Dogra, who got to share screen space with Shah Rukh Khan in *Jawan* and Salman Khan in *Tiger 3*, addressed a pressing issue of the bias against casting actors with TV backgrounds.

Sharing her experience, Ridhi revealed how despite receiving praise for her acting skills, her background in television has often resulted in lost film opportunities.

"No one will say it on your face because it's trendy to say 'we are inclusive'," she remarked, noting the industry's superficial praise that doesn't translate to real opportunities.

She further added, "The next day, you'll find out that they won't cast you in the film because you have worked in television." Dogra admitted feeling hurt and helpless over the discrimination but chooses to focus on her work instead of dwelling on negativity.

She expressed gratitude for collaborators like Ekta Kapoor and director Atlee, who overlook such biases and prioritize talent.

Mumbai: Manisha Koirala made her acting debut with Subhash Ghai's 1991 film *Saudagar*, she was often referred as Madhuri Dixit's look-alike. In a recent interview, Manisha shared that initially she wasn't happy with the comparison but her perception changed afterwards.

The *Dil Se* actress said, "Honestly, those days, I wasn't flattered. But today, I am, because she is so beautiful. She is so graceful. And not only that, she is a wonderful woman. As a person, I just love her. And it was quite an honour."

Manisha revealed that she was a "rebel" when she first came into movies, and wanted to walk in a different direction that what people suggested her to.

After a decade, when she shared screen space with Madhuri in 2001 crime drama *Lajja*, she was more receptive. "By then, I had also opened my eyes and I was seeing, my goodness, such a humble person. Super talented and so beautiful," Manisha added.

The *Gupt* actress eventually learnt that Madhuri had a crucial part in securing her Bollywood debut. "She is marvellous. I love her. Also, the fact that later on, I got to know that she had recommended my name."

Manisha was seen as Mallika Jaan in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's debut web series *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar* on Netflix India.



Manisha reveals she was a 'rebel'

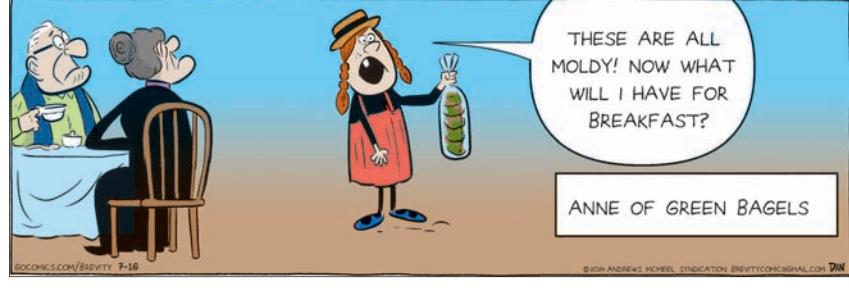
PEANUTS



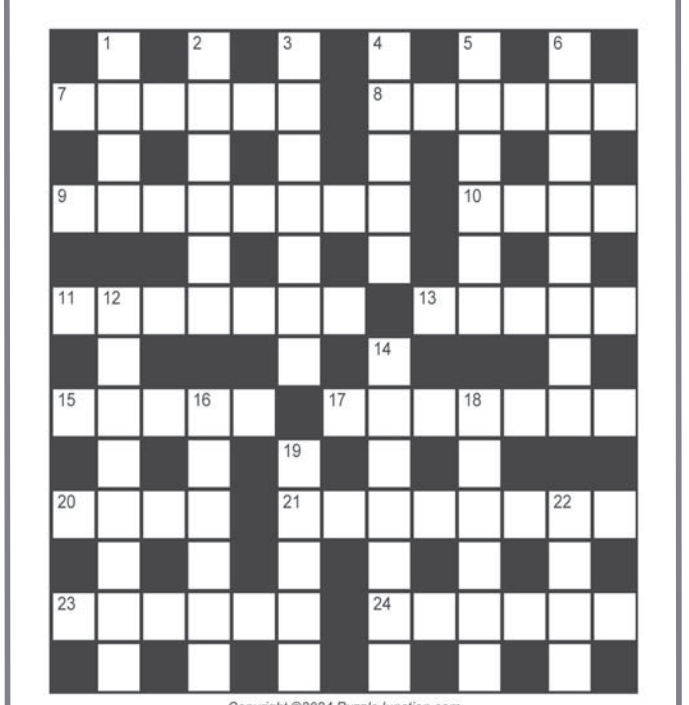
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



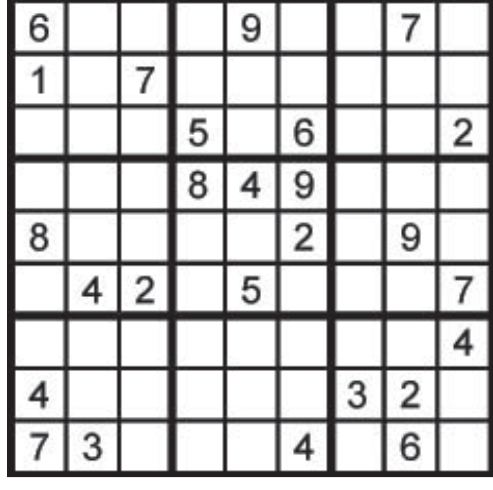
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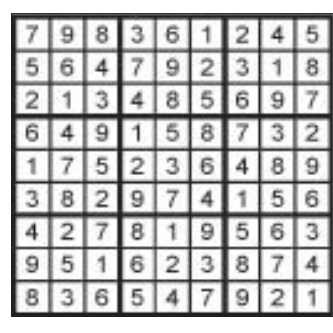
- Across**
- 7 Do a slow burn
 - 8 Clipped slip
 - 9 Prairie wildflower
 - 10 Without, in Quebec
 - 11 Letter
 - 13 Storage area
 - 15 Coral reef
 - 17 Angelic
 - 20 Metallic element
 - 21 Verbal attack
 - 23 Chest of drawers
 - 24 Type of pine
 - 6 Tropical African bird
 - 12 Secret plan
 - 14 Modern sing-along
 - 16 Necklace attachment
 - 18 Not wide
 - 19 Intense hatred
 - 22 Computer memory unit
- Down**
- 1 Agreement
 - 2 Tension
 - 3 Lead astray
 - 4 Bathroom item
 - 5 Beginning

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

Students showcase their dancing skills during children's festival Suravi-2024 in Puri, Thursday



downtown

MANGO KERNEL DEATHS

Naveen slams govt; BJP cites Kashipur

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7: Launching a scathing attack on BJP government in the state over death of two women after eating mango kernel in Kandhamal district recently, BJD president Naveen Patnaik Thursday claimed that the tribal women were forced to eat the gruel due to lack of adequate food at their homes. In a quick response, the saffron party reminded Patnaik of mango kernel deaths in Kashipur and Tikiri blocks of Rayagada district in 2001, and maintained that the women in Kandhamal died of food poisoning.



The BJD supremo alleged that the state government has stopped the provision of rice for poor tribals which led to death of two women

ment had introduced the state's own food security scheme for those who were not covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

"Now, the current government has ruined all those efforts and, as a result, people are forced to eat mango kernel gruel because they're not getting rice," Patnaik said.

Rubbishing the charges, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra said, "As many as 16 people had died by eating mango kernel in Tikiri and Kashipur blocks of Rayagada dis-

trict during the BJD rule. Will Patnaik admit that these people died for not getting rice to eat?"

The minister asserted that the medical reports confirmed that the casualties were due to "food poisoning" and not due to lack of rice.

Patra claimed that eating mango kernel gruel was part of the tribal population's food habit.

OHRC seeks report by Dec 20

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has issued notices to the Secretaries of the Food & Civil Supplies (F&CS) and Health & Family Welfare (H&FW) departments, as well as the Kandhamal District Collector asking them to submit detailed reports by December 20 on the recent deaths of two tribal women in Kandhamal district, reportedly caused by the consumption of mango kernel gruel.

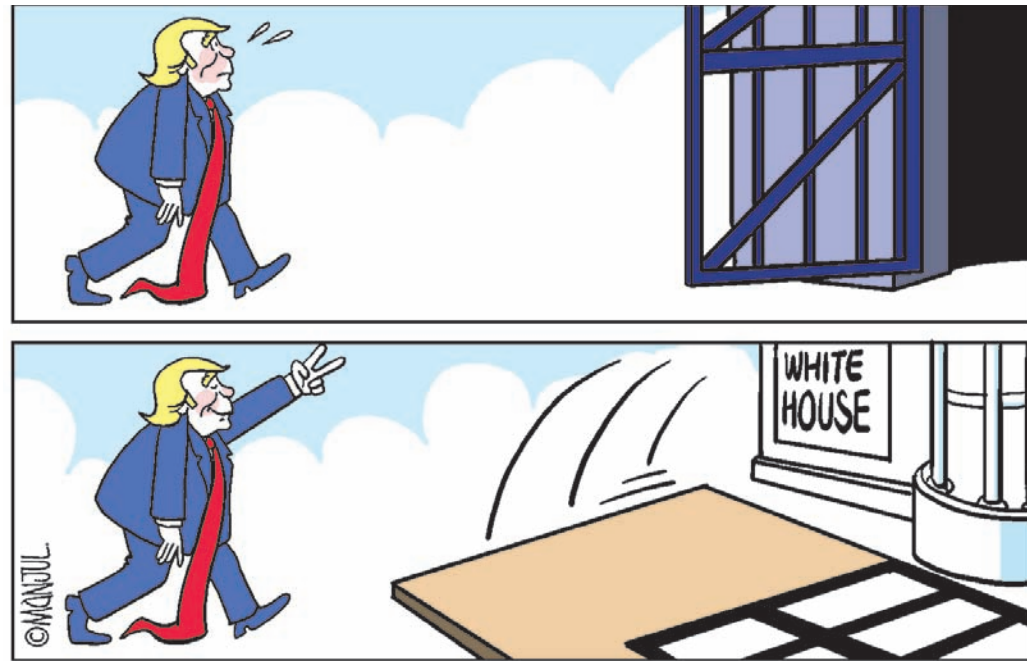
The rights body has raised serious concerns over the deaths and urged the state government to implement immediate measures to prevent such tragic incidents from recurring.

The commission's actions follow petitions filed by

human rights activists addressing the deaths of Runi Majhi (25) and Ramita Majhi (32), both residents of Mandipanka village in Gadapur panchayats in Daringibadi block. According to the petitions, the two women died and six others became ill after consuming mango kernel gruel last week. The petitioners claim that the tribal community resorted to eating mango kernel gruel due to a lack of ration supplies under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

In response to the incident, the state government has directed Revenue Divisional Commissioner (South) Rupa Roshan Sahoo to conduct a thorough investigation and submit a report promptly.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



HC allows Baliyatra on upper & lower grounds



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The HC has issued multiple directions to the police authorities to take necessary steps to avoid traffic congestion in the locality

Cuttack, Nov 7: The Orissa High Court Thursday allowed the Cuttack district administration to hold the upcoming Baliyatra, the maritime festival of Odisha, on both upper and lower grounds of Mahanadi river bank near Gadagadia ghat here.

The week-long mega festival is scheduled to begin on the day of Kartik purnima November 15.

Since several civic issues were required to be taken care of by the organising agencies, the Orissa High Court had earlier suggested the authorities to limit the festival only to the sprawling lower ground and utilise the upper ground for parking of essential vehicles to ease the traffic on the two connecting roads of both the grounds.

The court had last week also asked the authorities to submit affidavits assuring that the civic issues are taken care of properly.

Upon assurances through affidavits and ensuring personal appearances of the District Collector and city Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) in the court, a division bench comprising Justices SK Sahoo and V Narasingh Thursday allowed the authorities to hold

Crorepati Idco junior manager in Vig net

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7: The Vigilance department Thursday arrested a junior manager of the state-run Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (Idco) after detecting disproportionate assets (DA), including a palatial house worth over Rs 3.22 crore, in his possession.

The arrested person, Bijay Kumar Udaysingh, was a junior manager (Civil) in Bhubaneswar Construction Division-II of Idco, the Vigilance department said in a statement.

Apart from the four-storey building in Bhubaneswar, he was found in possession of DA, including a flat, three high-value plots in the City and Khurda, deposits over Rs 55.5 lakh, and Rs 4.5 lakh in cash, which he could not explain satisfactorily, it said.

Besides, one four-wheeler and three two-wheelers along with gold and household articles worth Rs 29 lakh was also found in his possession, the statement said.

The anti-corruption sleuths raided six places, including Udaysingh's house in Bhubaneswar, a flat in Balukhand, his parental house and a crusher unit at Mundamba village in Jankia, the house of a relative in Samantarapur and his chamber in Idco office here Wednesday and unearthed the assets.

In this connection, the Bhubaneswar unit of Vigilance department registered a corruption case.



Flyers protest flight cancellation at BPIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7: Several passengers staged a protest at Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) here Thursday over the cancellation of a flight to Hyderabad twice.

Many of them claimed their work schedule was hampered due to the cancellations.

According to the agitating passengers, their flight to Hyderabad from Bhubaneswar, operated by a private airline, was cancelled Wednesday. They alleged that they were told the flight was rescheduled Thursday but it was cancelled again, thus putting them in utter inconvenience.

They also alleged that the authorities at the airport did not inform them about any specific reason for the cancellations.

BPIA Director Prasanna Pradhan said there was a delay in the flight's arrival from Hyderabad Thursday due to technical issues.

3, including brother duo, held for attacking man

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7: The Airfield police Thursday arrested three miscreants, including a brother duo, for attacking a man with sharp weapons following a petty fight over inordinate parking Wednesday night.

The victim, Prasanjit Samantaray, has suffered serious injuries on his neck and head and is recuperating at a City hospital.

The accused were identified as Julu Samantaray, his brother Banti Samantaray, and their cousin Pintu Samantaray, Airfield IIC Sashikanta Rout said. "All the three are habitual offenders who had been booked for over five times earlier," he said.

Rout said Wednesday night, the trio had parked their car in the middle of the road near Panchagaon area and was drinking inside. They were also playing loud music, troubling the residents of the area. "Meanwhile, Prasanjit was walking back home after watching open theatre (jatra). He asked the trio to move their vehicle as it blocked his way. However, the trio picked up a fight and attacked him with sharp weapons, which they had kept in boot of the car," Rout added.

Upon hearing the screams, locals informed the cops who took an injured Prasanjit to a hospital. Airfield police has booked the trio under relevant Sections of BNS.



ON WAR FOOTING: Workers prepare the stage for Akshaya Mohanty Sanskritika Mancha at Baliyatra Lower Ground ahead of the maritime festival in Cuttack, Thursday

GANGRAPE OF ODIA WOMAN IN DELHI

Delhi cop poses as researcher to identify perpetrators

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 7: A Delhi police officer posing as a social worker, with the help of a native Odia speaker, gained the trust of the traumatised Odisha gangrape survivor- who had previously worked as a researcher- to gather crucial information from her that led to the arrest of the three perpetrators in an intricate investigation that continued for nearly a month.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) Ravi Kumar Singh said the survivor was rescued October 11, a day after the alleged rape, when she gave an initial statement but could not cooperate further with the police investigation or the staff at AIIMS, Delhi due to her illness.

"Later, a police officer posing as a social worker, with the help of a native Odia speaker, gained her trust over time and gathered crucial information from her," Singh said, adding that the first arrest was made October 30 and subsequently, the other two

accused were held.

According to police, they received information regarding a woman lying injured and bleeding near Sarai Kale Khan area October 11.

"The police staff immediately reached the spot, where the victim was found in a state of distress and was rushed to AIIMS Trauma Centre for medical examination and care. Upon arrival at the hospital, the victim disclosed to the attending doctor that she had been sexually assaulted by three people," Singh said.

After her initial statement, the victim could not cooperate further with the investigation or hospital staff due to her illness, Singh said.

Police said she is a dedicated researcher and community leader with over eight years of experience in the social sector.

"While checking her profile, the team got to know that she is a postgraduate in social work from Utkal University of Culture in Bhubaneswar. She has actively contributed to various developmental organisations. She also worked as a research



fellow at Kalinga Network for People Living with HIV/AIDS, community leader at Women Power for Sanitation Awareness, and counsellor at One Stop Centre in Puri," the DCP said. She travelled to Delhi May 9 without informing her family, he said.

A missing person's report was registered by her parents June 9 at Kumbharpada police station in Puri, he said.

Police said after the incident, she was not able to give

any leads about the incident to the police.

"As she was not able to share vital clues, thus during the operation, special permission was taken from the management staff of AIIMS Trauma Centre, and a woman officer, 'Sangeeta' took cover as a social worker while a native Odia woman took cover as a nurse and they were assigned to take care of the victim to try to build trust and gather crucial information from her," the DCP said.

The survivor travelled to Delhi May 9 without informing her family. A missing person's report was registered by her parents June 9 at Kumbharpada police station in Puri

Footage from 700 CCTVs analysed; More than 150 suspected autorickshaws checked; 10 police teams involved in the operation to nab the accused

The accused include Pramod Babu, an autorickshaw driver, Mohammad Shamsul- a beggar and Prabhu Mahto- a witness who also raped the woman

He said Sangeeta won over her trust and was able to get some important details from the victim - the involvement of an unknown autorickshaw driver who allegedly dumped her after the rape and two other persons, one of who had a physical handicap.

The victim was unable to reveal other crucial details regarding the time and place of the incident due to her mental health challenges and trauma from the incident, he said.

With the limited details, a comprehensive site plan was developed and 700 CCTVs were identified that could give more information. More than 150 suspected autorickshaws were also checked to nab the accused, he said, adding that 10 police teams were involved in it.

On October 30, police arrested Prabhu Mahto, and subsequently, Pramod Babu and Mohammad Shamsul were also identified and arrested November 2 and November 4, respectively, the officer said.

During interrogation, Pramod said that October 10, he noticed a woman sitting close to the Old Delhi railway station. He allegedly made a plan with Shamsul, a beggar who had a physical handicap, to sexually assault the girl, assuming that she was mentally unsound and an easy target, the DCP said.

They allegedly forcibly dragged her to a deserted area to commit the crime. The incident was witnessed by Prabhu Mahto, who also allegedly raped her. Mahto, then, dumped the victim near Sarai Kale Khan and fled, the DCP said.

Unnati Coffee initiative launched in Koraput

BHUBANESWAR: In a key effort to support local farmers, the Integrated Social Welfare and Research Centre (ISWAR) partnered to launch Project Unnati Coffee in Koraput district of Odisha. The initiative, inaugurated Thursday by the Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, aims to improve the lives of farmers in Odisha by increasing coffee production and profitability through sustainable practices. ISWAR will implement extensive training programs that emphasize modern agricultural techniques and sustainable practices. This initiative will equip farmers with essential skills to improve their coffee production, ultimately leading to enhanced income opportunities. Deo said, "The state government is deeply committed to supporting the coffee growers and fostering sustainable agriculture. Projects like Unnati Coffee are crucial in enhancing coffee cultivation, particularly in districts like Koraput."

Odisha delegates advancing global tourism ties at WTM

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7: Odisha Tourism's delegation, led by Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida at the World Travel Market (WTM) in London, continued its robust outreach focusing to expand reach in the international tourism market.

Thursday, Parida met Consul General of India at Edinburgh, and prospective tourism investors in Scotland and also discussed ways to promote Odisha Tourism in Scotland and scope of future collaborations with the leading universities in various sectors including sports, health and education. Another delegation of senior officials visited Stonehenge, a UNESCO World Heritage Site to understand details on heritage conservation and curation of tourism amenities and its operational modalities.

Addressing the media and industry leaders at a press

conference hosted by India Tourism Parida said, "Odisha's cultural heritage, scenic beauty, and rich traditions make it a uniquely appealing destination. We look forward to engaging with UK and European tourism stakeholders to welcome more travellers to Odisha."

She also invited the Indian diaspora to visit Odisha when the state will host the 18th Edition of "Pravasi Bharatiya Divas" from January 8 to 10, 2025, providing an opportunity to reconnect with India and celebrate the cultural heritage in Odisha.

The officials engaged in targeted Business-to-Government (B2G) and Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings at the Odisha pavilion, connecting with Destination Management Companies (DMCs) and renowned tour operators aiming to strengthen global tourism ties.

The delegation held meetings with various key investors, stakeholders and entrepreneurs.



ANNIV DAY: Artistes perform during the 75th Foundation Day celebration of Odisha State Bharat Scouts and Guides in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Nirmal Das, S/o Late Narayan Chandra Das, resident of Plot No.- M1 & M2, Madhusudan Nagar, Unit-4, near Parthasarathi Complex, P.O.- Bhubaneswar G.P.O., Dist.- Khorda, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751001 declare by this Affidavit No. 032 dtd. 18.10.2024 that now onwards I shall be known as NIRMAL KUMAR DAS for all future purposes.

I, Monalisa Pradhan, W/o Falguni Das, resident of Plot No.- M1 & M2, Madhusudan Nagar, Unit-4, near Parthasarathi Complex, P.O.- Bhubaneswar G.P.O., Dist.- Khorda, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751001 declare by this Affidavit No. 033 dtd. 18.10.2024 that now onwards I shall be known as MONALISA DAS for all future purposes.



Sambalpuri Ikat saree a piece of heritage: Mishra

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7: Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF) hosted a special conversation on 'Sambalpuri Ikat: The Masterpiece' written by Sarita Mishra at Kala Bhoomi Odisha Crafts Museum here, Thursday.

The unique session moderated by Madhuchhanda Bal delved into the rich heritage, history and intricate craftsmanship of Sambalpuri Ikat, through an in-depth discussion on the book. The event was graced by Jatindra Kumar Nayak, an eminent academic and advisor to KLF and Ashok Kumar Bal, CEO of KLF.



As an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer and a PhD holder in Psychology, Mishra dedicated over three decades to studying and preserving Odisha's handloom traditions, with a special focus on Sambalpuri Ikat.

She said, "Every Sambalpuri Ikat saree carries a story—a piece of heritage woven into each thread, speaking of the dedication and creativity of the artisan."

Her work traced the art form back to 12th century AD, when

Bhulia community of the Meher tribe brought Ikat weaving to Odisha. "It's believed that during the maritime trade era, people from Malaysia, Java, Bali and Sumatra shared Ikat techniques with Odisha's artisans, particularly in Sambalpur, where the Bhulia Mehers refined the craft to what it is today," Mishra explained.

She also emphasised the critical role of women in sustaining this craft: "Seventy per cent of Ikat's intricate work is done by women, whose sharp eyes and meticulous touch bring the finest details to life. Their dedication has kept the Sambalpuri Ikat alive across generations."

Significant progress in Khurda Road-Bolangir rail line project

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7: In a significant milestone for the Khurda Road-Bolangir rail line project, the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) has given its go-ahead for commissioning the 16.2-km stretch between Jharmunda and Boudh stations.

It was a critical development in the construction of the railway line that would improve connectivity to the interior parts of Odisha, officials said on Thursday.

The construction work in the 13.7-km Boudh-Champapur section and 13.4-km Champapur-Purunakatak section is also going on in full swing, a statement said.

"To ensure faster completion, construction efforts are being undertaken from both ends simultaneously," it said.

The total length of the Khurda Road-Bolangir rail line will be 301 km, and 199 km of it has already been commissioned. Another 27 km from Boudh to Purunakatak is about to be completed soon, officials said.

The remaining 75 km from Purunakatak to Daspalla,



which passes through challenging terrain, including jungles, is progressing well. This section has multiple tunnels, they said.

The project holds great significance for enhancing transportation and economic development in remote areas, the statement said.

"Despite facing formidable engineering challenges, particularly in tunnel construction through rugged terrain, the project continues to achieve major milestones," it said.

After a successful inspection of the safety aspects of the Jharmunda-Boudh section, the CRS

gave its go-ahead for running of train traffic, the statement issued by the East Coast Railway said.

However, train services will commence in this section after completion of other infrastructural and passenger amenities work. A light engine trial run has already been conducted, it said.

The railway project holds great significance for enhancing transportation and economic development in remote areas, with the Ministry of Railways closely monitoring the project's advancement to ensure timely commissioning.

Empowering Youth to 'Spot Stroke, Save Lives'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7: IFI Foundation, in collaboration with Rama Devi Women's University, hosted a stroke awareness programme for youth titled 'Spot Stroke, Save Lives' here Thursday.

The programme, organised at university's old auditorium, was a part of 10-day long public health outreach campaign and was co-hosted by department of Journalism and Mass Communication and partnered by the departments of Commerce, Philosophy and Gender Studies.

The event witnessed participation of students and faculty members of various other departments of the university.

Chairperson PG Council Chandi Charan Rath appreciated the initiative in making the youth aware about a silent killer like brain stroke.

Campaign chair of IFI stroke awareness initiative and founder editor of OdishaLIVE Media Network Nilambar Rath highlighted the global public health challenge associated with stroke.



Apollo Cancer Centre Bhub hosts walkathon



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7: Apollo Cancer Centre, Bhubaneswar organised a walkathon to mark the National Cancer Awareness Day here Thursday.

The walkathon was aimed to educate the public about the importance of early detection and treatment of cancer. A large number of community people participated in the event, contributing to the success of the initiative.

Led by hospital's chief operating officer Alok Srivastava,

the walkathon started in the morning from hospital campus with the doctors holding banner that read National Cancer Awareness Day with special emphasis on-Empower, Educate and Prevent.

The doctors who participated in the event include Prashant Chandra Das and Sunil Jaiswal from Surgical Oncology department, Sthiti Dash and Samarendra Dash from Radio Oncology department and Ganesh Subudhi and Prashant Parida from Medical Oncology department.

Diploma in semiconductor tech, chip design at IIT-Bhub

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar, in association with MOSart Labs, has launched a professional diploma programme in semiconductor technology and chip design for engineering graduates.

The course aims to upskill engineering pass-outs, making them industry-ready in various specialisations of very-large-scale integration (VLSI) including semiconductor technology, analog design, digital design,

design verification, physical design, layout design, validation, test and measurements, the institute said in a statement Wednesday.

Very-large-scale integration is the process of creating an integrated circuit by combining millions or billions of MOS (metal oxide semiconductor) transistors onto a single chip.

In this regard, a MoU was signed between IIT Bhubaneswar and MOSart Labs, a private organisation providing a platform for professional skill training, here Tuesday.



"IIT Bhubaneswar is committed to advancing high-impact education through strategic partnerships that bridge academic excellence with industry expertise," said Shreepad Karmalkar, Director of IIT Bhubaneswar.

The collaboration with MOSart Labs to launch this pro-

fessional diploma programme in semiconductor technology and chip design reflects this vision, he said.

"Through such initiatives, we aim to empower our students with industry-aligned skills, enabling them to contribute meaningfully with India's growing semiconductor ecosystem and beyond," he said.

The programme boasts a distinguished faculty of semiconductor industry leaders, IIT alumni and faculty from IIT Bhubaneswar, said Vijay Shankar Pasupureddi, pro-

gramme coordinator.

Mostly, the course is for the students, who have completed their engineering in electronics and communication, electrical and computer science, including those who are also engaged in jobs in the sector, he said.

The diploma programme was structured into three comprehensive modules. It begins with the launchpad module, providing students with a thorough understanding of the IC lifecycle and the VLSI industry landscape, along with introductory VLSI classes.

Following this module, the students will undergo an entrance exam to qualify for the next phases. Successful candidates will progress to the foundation module, a semester-long programme featuring five courses that cover the fundamentals in different areas of chip design and technology.

The third one is the specialisation module, which is also a semester-long programme, where students will undertake three courses and a mini project, in their chosen area of specialisation.

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11 get life for 11-year-old murder

At least 13 people were implicated in the much-hyped Shanti Mishra murder case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 7: A court in Ganjam district Thursday sentenced 11 people to life imprisonment for killing a 31-year-old history-sheeter in Gosaninua-gaon area about 11 years ago.

The District and Sessions Court Judge, Rupashree Choudhury, awarded life imprisonment to the accused persons involved in the much-hyped Shanti Mishra murder case which took place January 29, 2013, after examining the recorded statements of 26 witnesses, police chargesheet and relevant documents, Public Prosecutor Trilochan Parida said.

The convicts were identified as Rakesh Panda alias Manga, Hariom Behera alias Tukuna alias alias Gopabandhu, Santosh Kumar Sahu alias Daktar, Mrutyunjaya Sabat, Santosh Panigrahi alias Ichili and alias Bulu, Budu Das, Ganesh Panigrahi alias Tilu, Sheikh Zafir alias Sarif, Babaji Rana, Shankarshan Padhi alias Ami and Shankar Behera.

They were produced in the court under tight security before the judgement was pronounced Thursday.

Public prosecutor Trilochan Parida pleaded the matter on



Another accused Ranjit Panigrahi alias Babu died during hearing of the case while the judge issued a non-bailable warrant against Mouja Mishra who failed to appear in the court during hearing

behalf of the state government. The court slapped a penalty of Rs 10,000 on each of the convicts apart from the punishment, Parida said. In default, they have to undergo an additional year of imprisonment, he added.

Another accused Ranjit Panigrahi alias Babu died during hearing of the case while the

judge issued a non-bailable warrant against Mouja Mishra who failed to appear in the court during hearing of the case.

The motive of the murder was previous enmity, police said. Mishra was involved in at least 22 cases. While at least a dozen people were directly involved in the incident, others

hatched a conspiracy to finish him, police said. At least 13 people were implicated in Mishra's murder case.

According to the case diary, the victim Shanti Prasad Mishra was a noted history-sheeter and was out on bail from jail. The incident occurred when Mishra was returning home on his bike after appearing in Goshaninua-gaon police station, January 29, 2013.

He had reached near the Gundicha temple in Goshaninua-gaon when around a dozen people came on six motorcycles and attacked him. He was trying to flee when they followed and assaulted him with swords.

He jumped into a pond to save himself but the assailants hurled a bomb to terrify the locals. Later, they surrounded Mishra from all sides and hacked him inside the pond and fled. Police reached the spot and rushed him to the MK-CG Medical College and Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

Police registered a case over a complaint lodged by Anil Nayak and arrested the accused persons in phases. The accused were produced in the court and remanded to judicial custody before delivery of the order, Thursday.

PROPERTY DISPUTE GOES AWRY

Man, son arrested for killing mother, sister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sambalpur, Nov 7: A man and his son have been arrested for killing his 90-year-old mother and 62-year-old sister in their house in Sambalpur district, police said Thursday. The burnt bodies of Snehalata Dikshit (90) and her daughter Sairendri Dikshit (62) were found on the first floor of their house in Hatapada area under the jurisdiction of Sambalpur Sadar police station Tuesday night.

"Initially, it was treated as an unnatural death case but upon interrogation of the deceased's family members, it was found to be a murder case. Accordingly, Snehalata Dikshit's son Jagannath and grandson Sanket were arrested," Sambalpur Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Ajay Mishra told reporters.

"It was a pre-planned murder committed over property dispute. During initial investigation, we found that the two women were first strangled to death and then their bodies were set on fire. The exact cause of the deaths, however, will be known after



receiving post-mortem reports," he said.

Earlier, Snehalata Dikshit's younger daughter Indrani Purohit alleged that her brother killed the duo over land and property dispute. The 90-year-old woman and her 62-year-old daughter used to stay on the first floor of the two-storey building. Her son Jagannath lived on the ground floor of the building with his family, another police officer said.

On seeing the blaze on the first floor of the building between 10.30pm and 11pm November 5, locals had intimated the police. Police reached the spot and found the charred bodies, following which an investigation was started, the officer said.

Stepfather gets 20-year jail for raping minor girl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasure, Nov 7: A man was sentenced to 20 years in jail by a court in Balasure district Thursday for raping his 12-year-old stepdaughter.

The Special PCOSO Court of Judge Ranjan Kumar Sutar also imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on him.

The incident happened in April, 2019 when the girl was alone at home. The man entered her room, and raped her there, according to the prosecution.

The investigation was started after the girl narrated the incident to her mother who then lodged a complaint at the Jaleswar police station.

The court convicted the ac-



cusced under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and IPC sections 376 AB (rape of woman under 12 years) and 506 (criminal intimidation).

Relying upon 15 witnesses and 17 exhibits, the court delivered the verdict, Public Prosecutor Pranab Kumar Panda said.

The court also directed the district legal services authority to give a compensation of Rs 4 lakhs to the survivor.

Widow alleges rape by panchayat official

POST NEWS NETWORK

Loisingha, Nov 7: In a shocking incident, a panchayat official under Agalpur block of Bolangir district was alleged to have raped a widow for over a year in exchange of a ration card.

The accused government official coerced the woman into physical relationship on the promise of getting her a ration card. The incident has spread shockwaves after the accused posted a video of their intimate moment on social media platforms which went viral.

Apprised about the development, the survivor hailing from tribal community lodged a complaint at the Agalpur police station, Monday. Police registered a case and conducted a medical examination of the survivor, Tuesday. Police also recorded her statements under Section-164 before the magistrate, Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the accused panchayat official and his associate are absconding as police

launched a manhunt to nab them. Locals have demanded stringent action against the accused persons before the block authorities.

The woman reported to the police that the accused took her to a deserted room in the panchayat office and forced himself on her when she had gone there to bring PDS rice. He also secretly filmed their intimate moments and often used to coerce her for physical relationship by threatening to make the video viral.

The alleged abuse came to light November 2 when the victim confronted the accused at the panchayat office and reportedly hit him with her sandal. The accused hurled casteist slurs and abuses when she confronted him. A video of the incident has also gone viral on social media.

Police have launched an investigation, and a team has been formed to apprehend the accused, Agalpur IIC Basudev Bhoi said.



WATER WORSHIP: A woman offers 'Arghya' (water offerings) to the setting sun on the occasion of Chhath Puja at Ayodhya Sarovar on Mahanadi river ghat in Sambalpur, Thursday

FMU bags 'Prakruti Mitra-2024' award

Balasure: Fakir Mohan University here has recently been conferred with 'Prakruti Mitra' award for the year 2024 by the department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change of the state government in recognition to its consistent efforts to conserve local environment. Earlier, the university had also bagged the 'Green Champion Award-2021-22' by the Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education under the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development. The university has taken various steps to conserve and enhance the quality of the local environment.

Joint raids on ahead of Jharkhand polls; 8 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 7: A combined team of Rourkela Police, state Excise department and their Jharkhand counterparts continued raids for the second day at several locations on both sides of the state border. The raids are being carried out ahead of the Jharkhand elections, which are going to be held November 13 and 20. The raids started November 6 and so far eight persons have been arrested along with seizure of contrabands.

Rourkela Excise Superin-



tendent SK Ashraf Ali said a crack team has been formed and the raids are being carried out at Rourkela 1, Koira and Biramitrapur areas on the directions of the Collector and the SP. The raids are being carried out in the presence of a magistrate.

"We have seized over 35,000 litre pocha and 1,000 litre country liquor. With the registration of 19 cases, eight persons have been arrested in this regard,"

Ali said. He also informed that the raids will continue till the elections are over in the neighbouring state.

Security forces, local police and paramilitary forces are on high alert on both the sides of the border. "We are maintaining a very strict vigil at this moment. Rourkela and other bordering bus stands are being kept under special observation," said SDPO Nirmal Chandra Mohapatra. The officer also informed that night buses and daily buses to Bihar and Jharkhand are regularly being checked.

Belguntha NAC vice-chairperson faces trust vote

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Nov 7: In a recent development, 11 councillors of Belguntha Notified Area Council (NAC) in Ganjam district have moved to bring no-confidence motion against Vice-Chairperson T Babita Kumari.

The councillors came to Chhatrapur Wednesday and met the District Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida. They formally submitted a written request to bring a no-confidence motion against the vice-chairperson.

They also requested the Collector to announce the date and venue for the upcoming meeting where the no-confidence motion will be discussed.

The councilors have requested the Collector to take appropriate action for the fair resolution of the matter.

Process begins to bring another tigress to STR

Odisha wildlife team reaches Maharashtra forest to select and translocate second tigress

PNN & AGENCIES

Baripada, Nov 7: A team of state Forest department Thursday reached Tadoba-Andheri Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra to bring another tigress, an official said.

The Forest team would bring another female Royal Bengal Tiger from Tadoba-Andheri Tiger Reserve (TATR) to Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj district, the official said.

Prakash Chand Gogineni, Field Director of Similipal Tiger Conservation Project and Regional Chief Wildlife Warden, said that a ten-member team led by Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Pradeep Dey reached TATR in Maharashtra, Wednesday.



The team includes several Forest department personnel, veterinarian Dr Abhiilash

Acharya, deputy range officer Deeptiman Panda, and other trained staff.

"The team will capture and

bring the second female tiger to Similipal. They will camp and jointly try to capture a female tiger from the wild," the official said.

Earlier, a tigress named 'Jamuna' was brought to Similipal, October 27 from TATR in Maharashtra and released in a soft enclosure inside the core area of STR. The objective of the tiger relocation is to infuse a fresh gene pool in Similipal while combating inbreeding.

STR houses 27 tigers and 13 among them are pseudo-melanistic due to genetic disorder caused by inbreeding which could, in the long run, adversely impact the population of the normal yellow-coated Royal Bengal Tigers.

Meanwhile, Jamuna is getting acclimatised to the habitat in Similipal and is given a prey regularly to hunt in the enclosure. It will be released into the wild after the animal accepts the local environment.

Earlier, the state's effort for translocation of tigers from Madhya Pradesh failed due to protests by villagers living on the fringes of Satkosia Tiger Reserve, where one male tiger 'Mahavir' and a tigress 'Sundari' from Kanha and Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserves respectively were introduced in 2018.

While Mahavir was found dead, Sundari was sent back to its original habitat in 2021 after it allegedly killed two persons.

BIKER CRUSHED TO DEATH UNDER TRUCK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 7: A man was killed after he was run over by a truck in Sundargarh district Thursday, police said. His wife and daughter who were riding pillion escaped narrowly.

The deceased was identified as Jogeswar Kalo of Mahipani village. The Kalo and his wife were going to drop their three-year-old daughter to school when the truck hit their motorbike near Parijata Park under Sundargarh police station area. The truck ran him over after the trio fell from the two-wheeler, killing him on the spot.

Following the accident, a crowd gathered on the spot leading to tension for a while, however, the crowd dispersed when police intervened.

Roads in Sundargarh town and nearby areas have become highly dangerous for the commuters. Only a couple of days back, six persons died and five were injured when the pickup truck they were travelling on collided against a stationary trailer truck early in the morning. The trailer was parked illegally on the road and the driver of the ill fated pickup van could not spot it due to heavy fog.

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
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DESCRIPTION OF WORK : COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF VRF / VRV TYPE AC UNITS INSTALLED AT ZONAL HEADQUARTER BUILDING OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/ CONSTRUCTION OFFICE NORTH BLOCK (RAIL SADAN) AND COMMUNITY HALL (RAIL VIHAR), BHUBANESWAR FOR 3 YEARS.	
Approx Cost of the work (₹): 31,52,897.28, EMD (₹): 63,100.00	
Completion period : 36 Months	
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 29.11.2024	
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.	
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THE MOTHER

A Bright Future

Solar power has been the star of the clean-energy transition, delivering major benefits for the climate, the cost of living, and energy security. With an average annual growth rate of almost 30 per cent over the last decade, the market for solar power has undergone a rapid transformation. What was once a heavily subsidized renewable-energy technology is now a readily available mainstream solution – whether one needs to power skyscrapers in large cities or deliver electricity to small businesses in rural areas.

Solar has become an increasingly attractive option for electricity producers and consumers alike. In 2023, additions to the world's renewable power capacity grew by 50 per cent, and most of that was solar PV. With supportive policies already in place in more than 130 countries, solar power looks set to continue playing its starring role for the rest of this decade. Compared with the previous five years, solar PV deployment through 2030 is expected to more than double in major economies such as the United States, China, the European Union, India, and Brazil.

Falling costs have been a key driver of this growth, with solar-panel prices declining by almost 50 per cent in 2023. The combination of lower costs, scalable manufacturing, and quick installation means that solar PV is cheaper than new fossil-fuel power plants in most markets. Moreover, the benefits of solar can be amplified when paired with energy storage such as batteries or connected to larger, flexible systems via grids to deliver reliable power supplies.

Still, despite the unprecedented growth of solar power in recent years, the world needs to triple its renewable-energy capacity by 2030. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai (COP28) last year, all countries agreed that meeting this goal is necessary to keep the 1.5° Celsius target for global warming within reach. The task for policymakers is to provide regulatory certainty for the private sector; ramp up investments in solar and other renewables, electricity storage, and grid infrastructure; cut red tape and remove administrative barriers; and improve access to finance, particularly for projects in emerging and developing economies.

Fortunately, even high inflation and tightening supply chains have not prevented the cost of solar PV from falling dramatically. But since this trend is largely due to China's massive investments in solar-panel production, the international solar supply chain has become highly concentrated. As the growth of solar PV continues, manufacturing will need to become more diversified to ensure resilient supply chains. Initiatives such as the US Inflation Reduction Act, India's Production-Linked Incentive, and the EU's Net-Zero Industry Act will be crucial to building and revitalizing homegrown clean-energy industries.

Solar will be essential to meet growing energy demands, not least in emerging and developing economies, where policymakers are seeking to help their citizens realize their economic aspirations while limiting greenhouse-gas emissions. For many countries, renewables like solar can also reduce reliance on energy imports, limit exposure to global supply disruptions, and improve energy security over the long term. But as technologies and consumer behavior evolve, the need for more sophisticated energy infrastructure will grow.

As matters stand, investments to expand grid infrastructure are not keeping pace with the growth of clean-energy technologies, and this is delaying the rollout of new projects, including for solar. New electricity networks often take 5-15 years to plan and complete, whereas new renewables projects take only 1-5 years. Making matters worse, investment in grids – which needs to reach more than \$600 billion per year by 2030 – is not flowing to the regions that need it most. Grid investments in many emerging and developing economies have been well below the levels needed to meet robust growth in electricity demand and to expand access.

This shortfall represents an opportunity that must not be squandered. Solar PV has enormous potential to provide electricity to the many millions of people who currently lack it, most of whom are in Africa. But access to finance is crucial. Many emerging and developing economies (with the exception of China) are missing out on the current wave of clean-energy investments because of the high costs of capital for new projects. The risk premium that investors demand to enter less-established markets is directly undermining solar power's competitiveness.

Removing this obstacle requires action from governments, multilateral development banks, and others to bring down the cost of capital in these markets. The situation is urgent. To limit global warming to 1.5°C, we must more than triple annual clean-energy investment in emerging and developing economies within the next decade.

Solar's growth shows what is possible. If policymakers can overcome the remaining technological, regulatory, and financial barriers, the COP28 goal of tripling renewable-energy capacity by 2030 will be well within reach – with solar leading the way. But if these barriers remain unaddressed, the energy transition will leave many countries behind, and it will fall far short of what the world needs.

Fatih Birol is Executive Director of the International Energy Agency. Ajay Mathur is Director General of the International Solar Alliance.



Fatih Birol & Ajay Mathur

WITH AN AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF ALMOST 30 PER CENT OVER THE LAST DECADE, THE MARKET FOR SOLAR POWER HAS UNDERGONE A RAPID TRANSFORMATION

LAND OF IMMIGRANTS

FOCUS THE US

As everyone knows, the scene in front of any unreserved Indian rail compartment resembles a battlefield, with people huddled and fighting with one another to get into the train that usually accommodates double or more of its actual capacity. All those who finally manage to get in show unusual comradery; they protect their collective interest by tightly closing the door to stop the entry of new passengers at the next station to protect their hard-earned space in the coach. That remains their biggest priority throughout their journey. This is exactly what US President elect Donald J Trump seeks to do.



He has assured the electorate of the largest domestic deportation operation in American history. He wants to send back eleven million persons supposedly staying illegally in America; 75% of them came before 2010 and some even before 1980. To pursue his goals of "strong border" and "zero tolerance," he wants to use the police and military and invoke the Alien Enemies Act of 1798. During his earlier presidential stint, Trump unsuccessfully tried to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals programme, which protects undocumented immigrants who arrived in the US as children; the Supreme Court halted his move. Also, he proposed limiting legal immigration, too, particularly by restricting family-based immigration and promoting merit-based immigration.

But how could Trump and the supporters of his anti-immigration policy forget the basic character of the United States of being a nation of immigrants which the Statue of Liberty standing tall at Liberty Island, New York harbor amply testifies? The inscription, the poem The New Colossus of Emma Lazarus penned in 1883, on the plaque affixed to the base of this statue says among other things, which



How could Trump and the supporters of his anti-immigration policy forget the basic character of the United States of being a nation of immigrants which the Statue of Liberty standing tall at Liberty Island, New York harbor amply testifies?

is self-explanatory: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

It is an undeniable fact that America has been formed of the immigrant population. The Aboriginal population's share in a total population of 331.46 million (2020 census) is less than 2%. Here is the racial composition for clearer assessment: The racial composition of US population (2020 Census) is as follows: White alone non-Hispanic population is 57.8%; Hispanic or Latino 18.7%; Black or African American 12.1%; Remaining racial and ethnic groups is 11.4%.

Neither Trump nor Kamala Harris is exception to the racial family background. Kamala's mother is an Indian (Madras province) born Shyamala Gopalan and her father Donald J Harris is a Jamaican American. While Donald Trump's mother is Scottish-American, his grandfather Fredrich Trump immigrated to New York in 1885 when he was 16 from Kallstadtin Palatine of Rhineland-Palatinate, one of

Germany's 16 Federal States which was under the Kingdom of Bavaria. Fredrich Trump's immigration was considered illegal as per the Kingdom of Bavaria's law at that time because he did not serve two years of mandatory military service.

This background should have made Trump empathetic to the immigrants. Not that the outright illegality and crime he condoned nor border security is unimportant; it is the legitimate and primary duty of the president to take care of these things. But he should look at the root causes for the mass immigration efforts, the push factors like violence, abject poverty and unemployment in the countries people seek to emigrate from.

There should be no alternative to dealing with human beings longing to immigrate into the land of immigrants with utmost humanity and kindness instead of the repulsive action of building walls on the borders, holding illegal immigrants in private detention centers and separating mothers and children in the name of protecting the borders.

The modern and civilized society, more so of America, a country that is known to be the world's largest economy

enjoying 26% of global nominal GDP, should move further in altruism and hospitality from Emma Lazarus' time's values. Better to travel still backwards in time to Mahopaniashad period, could be 2,500 years ago, which says it is narrow-mindedness to say this is mine and that is yours and on the contrary people with broad vision assert that the world is one family: aya nija paro veti ga an laghucetas m ud racarit n tu vasudhaiva ku umbakam Instead of focusing on immigration issue so much, the persons in the presidential race should have taken up the real challenges the Americans are facing now. For instance, gun violence is a major threat to the citizens in the US; there have been 385 mass shootings (in which four or more were killed per incident) so far this year in the US, reports the BBC. For the last four years, 600 such incidents every year took place which means almost two a day! Gun-related injuries killed 48,830 in 2021. Other issues include police reforms, healthcare (some Americans come to India for medical treatment which shows the poor state of the health sector there), and education (student indebtedness is distressing – some 42.8 million people owe about \$ 1.75 trillion as of 2023 in student loans). Similarly, poverty and homelessness are not the issues that can be ignored (there are 6,53,104 homeless in the US by January 2023, and about 3.7 crore people in the country live in poverty).

Unfortunately, these issues did not get enough focus in the poll assurances as usual. Or, is it a deliberate ploy to divert people's attention from the real issues that bother them, by over-focusing on the immigration issue, a political gimmickry?

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

SPECTRUM CLIMATE CHANGE

Perilous times on planet earth



Dhurjati Mukherjee

CLIMATE CHANGE HAS ALREADY DISPLACED MILLIONS AND MAY FURTHER DISPLACE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OR BILLIONS MORE, LEADING TO GREATER GEOPOLITICAL INSTABILITY

As the Conference of the Parties (COP) meet on biodiversity is about to begin, three appalling studies have come to light. The first is the 2024 State of the Climate Report by a 14-member international team of experts which has flagged record-breaking temperatures and sea levels, Antarctica and Greenland ice and average glacier thickness at all-time lows and rising climate-linked disasters. The critical issue of global warming remains a key issue despite laid-out plans by countries to act.

That climate change poses an existential risk has been accepted by experts globally with potential to cause enormous socio-economic collapse in many countries, if left unchecked. India must seriously consider the impact and take stringent mitigatory action.

Another significant finding is of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) which indicated the need for 42% cut of annual global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 2019 levels to keep the world within a safe warming limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius. This appears quite ambitious and far

from reality. The current pledges will lead to around 3 degrees Celsius by 2100, UNEP stated though this may be achieved earlier. Significantly, UNEP has always urged G20 members, responsible for 82% of global emissions, to substantially increase their mitigation efforts to save the world from catastrophic effects of climate change.

The third most threatening report has been of the Asian Development Bank Asia-Pacific report which observed that high emissions may scorch 25% on India's GDP by 2100 with 4.7 degrees Celsius if it would fail to reach net-zero target by 2070.

It's well-known that climate change has already displaced millions of people and may further displace hundreds of millions or billions more, leading to greater geopolitical instability. By end of the century, roughly one-third of people worldwide could be facing increased risk of illness and premature death, famine and a host of other adverse outcomes. It needs to be pointed out here that displacement affects mainly the countries of the Third World and if numbers are considered, India

would be at the top of the table.

It is indeed distressing that despite six IPCC reports, 28 UN climate change meetings, hundreds of other research reports and tens of thousands of scientific papers, "the world has made only minor headway on climate change, in part because of stiff resistance from those benefiting financially from the current fossil fuel-based system," the report said.

The vulnerability of India, high due to poverty, challenges to governance, limited access to basic services and resources, and high levels of climate-sensitive livelihoods, has been aptly pointed out. In fact, studies projected a persistent increase in conditions in coming years in India sans stringent mitigatory actions and that living standards measured per capita GDP could be lowered by 6.4% or even less by 2100 or even earlier.

Meanwhile, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) found that carbon dioxide emissions hit a record high of 37.4 billion tonnes in 2023, leading to melting of polar ice while creating dark surfaces on land and water which absorb sunlight

and further increase heating.

The World Wildlife Fund has estimated that the oldest, thickest ice in the Arctic has reduced by 95% with more heat absorbed and added to the system. With polar ice melting, the seas will rise and, in fact, are rising. Over the last century, the global average sea level has risen by up to 8 inches. Scripps Institution experts opine that by 2100, the seas could rise by 23ft, submerging coastal cities and small island nations.

It is indeed surprising that governments are besieged by indifference, capitulation to economic and commercial interests and rise of rightist forces having to resort to populist measures that go against the planet, just to stay in power.

As environmentalists brainstorm over fossil fuel emissions, carbon tax, carbon credit and Global North dumping its liability on Global South, undeniably the future is expected to be much more precarious. Efforts by nations have been found to be inadequate even to limit global warming within 2 degrees Celsius and thus new strategies and guidelines need to be formulated.

Balancing act

Sir, The deepening military ties between North Korea and Russia has placed China in a complex geopolitical position. While Beijing has traditionally aligned with Moscow and Pyongyang, the recent developments challenge China's influence and could destabilise the region. A primary concern for China is the potential loss of control over North Korea. As Russia gains influence, China risks losing its leverage over Pyongyang. This could lead to North Korea acting more independently, potentially jeopardising regional stability. Additionally, a more assertive North Korea, backed by Russia, could provoke stronger responses from the US and its allies, escalating tensions in the region. China is also wary of the potential for the Ukraine conflict to escalate into a broader intercontinental engagement. A direct Russian-North Korean military alliance could draw in more countries and further destabilise the global security order. This would undermine China's strategic interests and challenge its position as a regional power. To navigate this complex situation, China is adopting a cautious approach. While publicly distancing itself from the alliance, Beijing is likely to provide discreet support to both Russia and North Korea. This balancing act allows China to maintain its influence while avoiding direct confrontation and potential backlash from the international community. However, China's ability to influence the trajectory of the North Korea-Russia relationship is limited.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Stronger & bigger

Sir, Donald Trump scripted history by becoming the first President in 120 years to return to power after being ousted after his first term. With at least 51 Senate seats secured, Republicans will retake control of the chamber for the first time in four years. The American electorate has, decisively, chosen to trust their destiny in the hands of Trump. From being written off after January 6, 2020, Trump now owns, not just the Republican Party, but the United States of America. He has won one of the broadest racial-social coalitions for the Republicans; the shift in Hispanic votes, for example, is quite remarkable. Prima facie, Trump had so many disadvantages: the baggage of January 6, indictments and age. Trump returned to power stronger and bigger in a landslide win.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

WISDOM CORNER

It is not necessary that you leave the house. Remain at your table and listen. Do not even listen, only wait. Do not even wait, be wholly still and alone. The world will present itself to you for its unmasking, it can do no other, in ecstasy it will writhe at your feet.
FRANZ KAFKA

Power is given only to those who dare to lower themselves and pick it up. Only one thing matters, one thing; to be able to dare!
FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

The only thing that could spoil a day was people. People were always the limiters of happiness except for the very few that were as good as spring itself
ERNEST HEMINGWAY

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1837: One of the first institutions of higher education for women in the United States, Mount Holyoke Female Seminary (now Mount Holyoke College) opened in Massachusetts.
- 1895: First person to observe X-rays. German physicist Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen accidentally discovered X-rays, also sometimes called Röntgen rays while working on cathode rays. X-rays are a type of electromagnetic radiation that are often used today in medicine. Röntgen was awarded the first Nobel Prize in Physics in 1901 for his discovery.

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



WAQF PROPERTIES ROW

JPC Chairman receives over 500 petitions from farmers

Pal visited Hubballi, Vijayapura and Belagavi, during which he met farmers and members of various organisations who complained that their lands were being claimed by the State Waqf Board

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hubballi/Vijayapura (Karnataka), Nov 7: Over 500 petitions were received by Chairman of the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, Jagdambika Pal, Thursday from farmers in Karnataka's northern districts, who alleged that their lands were marked as Waqf properties, according to Bengaluru South BJP MP Tejasvi Surya's office.

Pal, along with Surya, also a JCP member, visited Hubballi, Vijayapura and Belagavi, during which he met farmers and members of various organisations who complained that their lands were being claimed by the State Waqf Board.

"Jagdambika Pal along with Surya received over 500 petitions from farmers from Vijayapura, Bidar, Kalaburagi, Hubballi, Bagalkote and Belgavi on their agricultural land being claimed by the Waqf Board as Waqf property," Surya's office said in a statement.

Noting that he had come to the state on a "fact finding" mission and to meet those aggrieved, Pal said, farmers and various organisations have handed over to him documents and memorandums. He said he assured them that their issues will be discussed in the JPC and incorporated in the report.



"Maybe the state government has given directions to the Revenue department officials not to evict the farmers, but will the issue be resolved? There has been tampering of records, mutations, Waqf has ensured changes in the documents. What is the state government doing on this and who is responsible for this?" he asked.

Reacting to Pal's visit, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar it was a tour of a "drama company" and was "politically motivated", with an eye on the upcoming Assembly by-polls in the state and election in neighbouring Maharashtra.

Charging the JPC Chairman with indulging in political propaganda, Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress President, said it is not a joint Parliamentary committee that is visiting, as "only BJP members have come and are doing politics."

Home Minister G Parameshwara too said, "It doesn't look like JPC as a committee is visiting, as the Chairman is visiting alone disregarding rules. It seems to be a politically motivated visit." Members of the committee too have raised objections stating that any visit

Waqf Board claims 17 monuments in Bidar Fort

The Karnataka Board of Waqfs has identified 17 monuments inside the historic Bidar Fort in Karnataka as its property, sources in the district administration said Wednesday. These properties are among the major landmarks of the fort located in the district headquarters town of Bidar. The Archaeological Survey of India, the custodian of the fort, is unaware of the development; the sources said, adding that out of 60 properties in the Bidar Fort premises, the Waqf Board found that 17 properties belong to it. These include renowned 16-'Khamba' (sixteen pillar) mosque, 14 tombs of various Bahmani rulers and their family members including Ahmed Shah-IV, Ahmed Shah's wife, Allauddin, Hassan Khan, Mohammed Shah-III, Nizam, Sultan Ahmed Shah Wali and Sultan Mahmud Shah. A top Waqf Board official told PTI, on condition of anonymity, that notices have not been served to the ASI. "How can the Board issue a notice to the ASI, which has been the custodian and protector of the historical monuments for several decades." He alleged that a lot of mischief and misinformation is happening in the name of Waqf Board that is bringing a bad name to the Muslim community. "Ever since the controversy started, we decided to withdraw all the notices, because it's unjust and illegal to evict people sitting on a land for a very long time," the official added.

has to be decided in the panel and "unilaterally one cannot make visits," he said.

Sukhu discusses power issues with Khattar

SJVN asked to give final response on 3 projects by Jan 15

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Nov 7: Union Power and Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Thursday directed Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVNL) officials to provide a final response about three power projects by January 15, 2025, a statement issued here said.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and Khattar held a meeting here at Shimla to discuss various issues of power and housing related to Himachal Pradesh.

In the meeting, the Chief Minister raised the matter of royalty aligned with the state government's energy policy which mandates 12 per cent royalty for the first 12 years, 18 per cent for the subsequent 18 years and 30 per cent for the next 10 years in the power projects. He said that private companies already complied with this policy and emphasized that central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) like SJVNL should



also follow it as well.

The Chief Minister asserted that if SJVNL would not agree on the royalty percentage sought by the Government, the Himachal Pradesh government would acquire the 210 MW Luhri Phase-1, the 382 MW Sunni Project and the 66 MW Dhaulasidh hydropower projects. He also pointed out that SJVNL commenced construction on these projects without signing an implementation agreement. He said that the people of Himachal Pradesh should receive their rightful share of water resources. In response, the Union Min-

ister directed SJVNL officials to provide a final response by January 15, 2025, the statement added. He assured that the State Government is willing to reimburse SJVNL for the expenses incurred so far on these projects. Sukhu also sought the Union government's assistance in securing the return of the 110 MW Shanan Project in Himachal's Mandi district from Punjab. He stated that Punjab's lease period for the project has ended and urged the Union government to intervene to ensure the project's transfer to the state, along with all its assets.

The Union Power Minister directed officials to expedite the implementation of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in Himachal Pradesh, emphasising that it is crucial for the State to ensure smart metering and reduce power losses

The Chief Minister also urged the Union Government to direct the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) to release 13,066 million units of outstanding power arrears owed to Himachal Pradesh for the period from November 1996 to October 2011. He said that despite a Supreme Court ruling in favour of the State, Himachal Pradesh is yet to receive its rightful share from the concerned States. The Union Minister assured that he would convene a joint meeting of the stakeholder States to work toward a consensus on this issue.



A devotee performs Chhath Puja rituals at Ulsoor Lake, in Bangalore, Karnataka, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

Villagers demolish portions of their houses to widen road in Himachal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hamirpur (HP), Nov 7: Villagers in Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur district have come up with a novel way to widen the road to a crematorium by demolishing cattle sheds, boundary walls and even portions of their concrete houses.

They also contributed funds for the construction of the road the up-pradhan of the village said.

The villagers of ward number four (Chathyal Bas) of the Baragaon Panchayat in the Bihari development block mutually agreed to increase the width of the three to four feet wide path in the middle of the village. The ward is located along the Bihari-Ghori Dhari road. The decades-old path to Mukti Dham (crematorium) was not broad enough for vehicles due to which the elderly and disabled people had to face difficulties in reaching the crematorium.

Some villagers removed their boundary walls, while some moved their gate back, up-pradhan of the Baragram panchayat Bal Ram Singh Dhatwalia said Thursday. All the villagers held a meeting recently and decided that if someone's land, house, cattle-shed or boundary wall becomes an obstacle in the construction of the road, then the owner will cooperate in every possible way to remove the obstacle, he added.

It was also decided in the meeting that even if the house has to be demolished, no one will refuse. Not only this, it was also decided that everyone will together bear the cost of road construction.

175 km new Bangalore metro lines to be added by 2026: Shivakumar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 7: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced Wednesday that 175 km of new metro lines would be operational in Bangalore by 2026.

Addressing a press conference after inspecting the newly extended line from Nagasandra to Madavara on Tumkur Road, he said, "Thirty kilometers of new metro lines will be added by 2025, and 175 km of new metro lines will be operational by 2026."

Shivakumar also conducted a test run on the Nagasandra to Madavara stretch, travelling from Yeshwanthpur Metro Station. He was accompanied by Bangalore South MP and BJP leader Tejasvi Surya and other MLAs. "We have completed the first and second phases of the metro, and the Centre has approved the third phase. We have already paid Rs 1,130 crore for new trains," he said.

Shivakumar mentioned that the government is in talks with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to build an underpass at Madavara metro station. "Plans are underway to construct a pedestrian skywalk at Manjunathanagar metro station. We have also entered into an agreement with Indian Railways to jointly develop a pedestrian passage at Yeshwanthpur railway station," he added.

He noted that a project report

We have completed the first and second phases of the metro, and the Centre has approved the third phase. We have already paid ₹1,130 crore for new trains

DK SHIVAKUMAR | DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER, KARNATAKA

has been prepared to develop an underpass at Chikkabidarakallu in collaboration with NHAI. "We are also discussing with NHAI to build an underpass at Madavara metro station. Commuters travelling to Bangalore from Tumakuru can park their vehicles at BE-IC ground and take the metro to the city, thereby avoiding traffic." The 3.14-km extension of Bangalore's Namma Metro Green Line from Nagasandra to Madavara will open for commercial operations November 7.

"The 3-km extension from Nagasandra to Madavara will be opened for public use on an experimental basis tomorrow. We will invite MPs and other representatives for an official inauguration at a later date," he said. "The Green Line currently spans 33.46 km, and the Purple Line 40.5 km. I would like to thank the Centre and all stakeholders who contributed to this project. Bangalore has the highest metro ridership in the country, demonstrating that the metro service is benefiting the city's residents," he added.

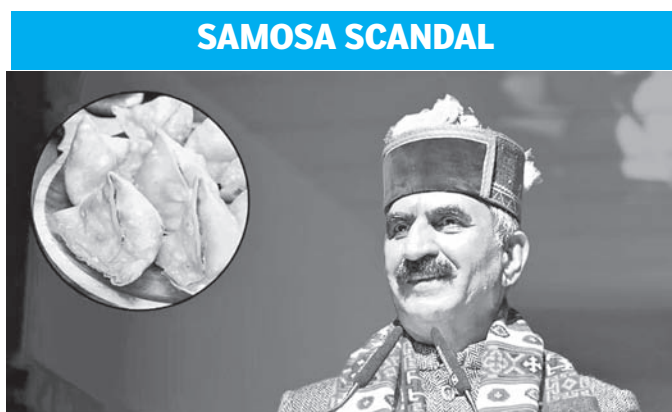
CID probe into snacks for Sukhu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Nov 7: Samosas and cakes meant for Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu were served to his security staff instead, the goof-up snowballing into controversy and necessitating a CID probe that termed it an "anti-government" act.

Those responsible acted according to their own agenda, a highly placed official in the CID said in his note on the October 21 incident when the chief minister was visiting the CID headquarters.

The brouhaha started when three boxes of the refreshments were brought from Hotel Radisson Blue in Lakkar Bazaar to be served to the chief minister who had gone to the CID headquarters to attend a function. How-



ever, the eatables were served to the CM security staff, according to the enquiry report conducted by a deputy SP rank officer.

The report stated that an officer of IG rank had asked a sub-inspector (SI) of police to get some eatables from the

hotel for the CM's visit. The SI in turn directed an assistant SI (ASI) and a head constable to bring the refreshments.

The ASI and the head constable fetched the refreshments from the hotel in three sealed boxes and informed the SI.

Thaikkudam Bridge: Music transcends language barriers

The musicians also attributed a conducive ecosystem in places like Tamil Nadu and Kerala for enabling musicians like them not only to push boundaries in regional languages, but also find an audience for their experimental music

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 7: Easily one of India's most popular bands, the multilingual and multi-genre Thaikkudam Bridge will be performing live next in Bangalore November 24 at the two-day music festival Bandland.

Although Bangalore has been a consistent platform for the band, the question is, could the increasing linguistic chest thumping in Karnataka put a crick in Thaikkudam Bridge's setlist for the upcoming festival?

Guitarist Ashok Betty Nelson agreed that there have been a couple of instances where people got offended when they did not sing in certain languages or sing less of certain languages.

He recalled the gig that they

did during the G20 summit in Bangalore in July 2023, when some young people in the audience insisted that they play Kannada songs.

"We were briefed by the organisers to keep the concert linguistically as diverse as possible. So we were singing in Malayalam, Hindi, Tamil, Marathi and, of course, Kannada. But two Kannada songs were not good enough for some in the audience who were creating a ruckus," said Nelson to PTI.

Fortunately for them, he said they didn't realise that the audience was asking them to sing in Kannada until the concert was over, so it did not affect their performance. "We just thought they were cheering us on in Kannada as we are used to boisterous crowds in our con-



Thaikkudam Bridge, a renowned Indian band, navigates linguistic challenges while performing in Bangalore's Bandland festival

Despite past language issues during gigs, it remains a hit among fans

The band credits Tamil Nadu and Kerala's cultural encouragement for their musical evolution and plans to catch rock legend Extreme in concert

certs," laughed Nelson. But he hastened to add that this mostly happens in corporate gigs. In ticketed events, he added, language is not an issue as those who buy tickets to watch them perform are usually fans.

Singer and bassist of the band, Vian Fernandes said as

is the case universally, music transcends language barriers among their fans too.

"Even I don't understand most of the songs because I'm not a Malayali, but I still resonate with the music and I think it's the same that happens to all the fans, even new listeners. Over all these years we have

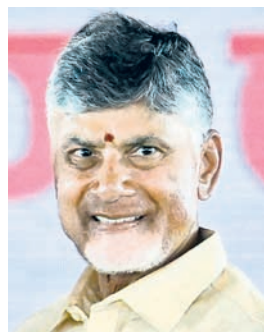
evolved so much and that whole language barrier thing is not there anymore. Usually, people are there to enjoy and absorb everything we are offering as a band," said Fernandes.

Nelson and Fernandes were talking over zoom, to promote their upcoming live gig in Bangalore.

The musicians said personally, they are looking forward to catching live rock legend Extreme's first ever concert in India. Extreme too will be performing in Bandland November 24.

"We wanted to watch Avenged Sevenfold too, but unfortunately, we were told that they will be playing November 23, so we will be missing their performance," said Fernandes.

The musicians also attributed a conducive ecosystem in places like Tamil Nadu and Kerala for enabling musicians like them not only to push boundaries in regional languages, but also find an audience for their experimental music.

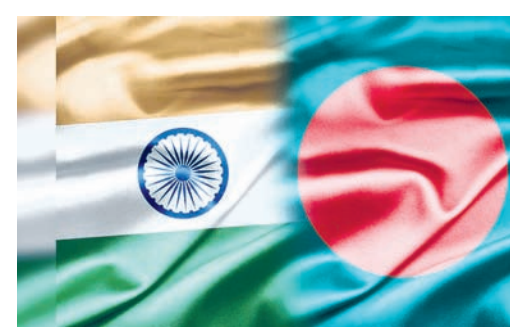


The language on social media is reckless. They are making objectionable comments about women. Should we not take action? Should I ignore it? They have become criminals

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | AP CM

ENSURE SAFETY OF HINDUS; INDIA URGES BANGLADESH

Amid reports of tension in Bangladesh's Chittagong following provocative social media posts, India Thursday urged Dhaka to take action against "extremist" elements and ensure the safety of the country's Hindu community



of the day uote

These are the people who harbour misunderstandings and doesn't know about the bravery of Birsa Munda, contributions of Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Rani Lakshmbai's sacrifice

SMRITI IRANI | SENIOR BJP LEADER

In Samaguri Assembly seat, we are not just fighting Congress, we are up against an entrenched and corrupt family-led club. We are grateful to the people who have decided to join us in this fight

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

Whose responsibility is law and order? Isn't it directly under the Chief Minister? Whom should you (Kalyan) question when law and order fails? Not Chandrababu Naidu? He (Kalyan) doesn't have the boldness to question Chandrababu Naidu

Y S JAGAN MOHAN REDDY | SRCP CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

Siddique murder: 2 more arrested

Mumbai: Two more persons were arrested Thursday in the case related to the murder of NCP leader Baba Siddique, a police official said. So far, 18 persons have been arrested in the case. Aditya Gulankar (22) and Rafique Niyaz Shaikh (22) both residents of Karvenagar area of Pune city were taken in custody as they were in contact with Pravin Lonkar, one of the alleged conspirators, and another accused Rupesh Mohol, the official said.

Four killed in road accident

Latur: A 55-year-old woman, her two daughters and a granddaughter were killed after their car collided with a tempo in Maharashtra's Latur district Thursday, an official said. The accident, which took place around 3.15 pm on the Nanded-Bidar highway in Udgir tehsil, also left three others injured, he said. The victims have been identified as Mangalbai Govindrao Jadhav, Pratibha Sanjay Bhande (30), Pranita Pandurang Biradar (25), and her granddaughter and Ananya Ranjit Bhande (14).

Two burnt alive in truck collision

Fatehpur (UP): A truck driver and his helper were burnt alive when two trucks collided and caught fire in the Hussainganj area of Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur district, police said Thursday. The incident occurred around midnight Wednesday on the Fatehpur-Lucknow road.

Vehicle falls in gorge; 4 killed

Reasi/Jammu: Four people, including a minor, died and two others were injured when a vehicle skidded off the road and rolled down into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district Thursday, officials said. An SUV skidded off the road, rolled down a hill, and plunged into a deep gorge.

Zika virus case detected in Guj

Ahmedabad: A 70-year-old man from Gandhinagar city contracted Zika virus infection following which he was treated in a hospital and discharged, officials said Thursday. Zika virus is transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes. The symptoms include rash, fever, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain.

'Compromise can't lead to sex harassment case cancellation'

The observation came while setting aside an order of the Rajasthan High Court which had quashed the FIR against a teacher who was accused of sexually molesting a 16-year-old girl at school in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: The Supreme Court Thursday said a sexual harassment case cannot be closed after a compromise is reached between the rival parties as such offences have serious impact on the society.

The observation came while setting aside an order of the Rajasthan High Court which

had quashed the FIR against a teacher who was accused of sexually molesting a 16-year-old girl at school in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district. A bench of justices C T Ravikumar and Sanjay Kumar said the high court has misread and misapplied the law laid down to quash the subject FIR and all further proceedings.

"The commission of such offences against the children should be viewed as heinous and serious. Needless to say, that commission of such offences cannot be taken lightly as offences of private nature and in fact, such offences are bound to be taken as offences against the society..."

"We are at a loss to understand how the High Court arrived at the conclusion that in the case on hand a dispute



to be resolved exists between the parties and further that to maintain harmony the FIR and all further proceedings thereto should be quashed even without advert to the allegations raised against the 3rd respondent in the subject FIR," the bench said.

The apex court also rejected the submission of the teacher

and the father of the victim who challenged the locus standi of the PIL petitioner in the case

"When by quashing the FIR by invoking the power under Section 482, CrPC, the accused was relieved of the liability to face the trial coupled with the aforesaid circumstances and the position of law qua locus standi of third party to maintain a petition under Article 136 of the Constitution of India, as revealed from the decisions referred above, we have no hesitation to hold that the challenge based on the appellants' locus standi got no merit at all," the bench said.

The top court said when an incident of this nature and gravity allegedly occurred in a higher secondary school, that too from a teacher, it cannot be simply described as an

offence purely private and has no serious impact on society. "We have no hesitation to hold that in cases of this nature, the fact that in view of compromise entered into between the parties, the chance of a conviction is remote and bleak also cannot be a ground to abruptly terminate the investigation, by quashing FIR and all further proceedings pursuant thereto, by invoking the power under Section 482, CrPC," the bench said.

The bench said the act committed by the accused would constitute an offence of 'sexual assault' under Section 7 of the POCSO Act, which is punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than three years and may extend to five years and also fine.

No friendly fight in MVA, Congress suspends all rebels

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 7: Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala Thursday said all the party rebels contesting against the official candidates of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) have been suspended for six years.

Addressing a press conference, Chennithala said the district units have been asked to prepare a list of rebels still in the fray for the November 20 Maharashtra assembly polls and serve notices to them.

"There will be no friendly fights. All the rebels contesting against the MVA's official candidates have been suspended," the All India Congress Committee in-charge of Maharashtra said. The opposition MVA comprises the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) of Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP). Kharde will be in Maharashtra for five days from November 13. Rahul Gandhi will campaign November 12, 14 and 16 and Priyanka Gandhi will also be in the state November 13, 16 and 17.

WAQF BILL

Oppn MPs to boycott five-state tour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: Opposition members have decided to boycott the five-day tour of the Joint Committee on Waqf Amendment Bill starting Saturday to hear views of diverse stakeholders on the matter.

All the opposition members of the JPC have decided to boycott the tour and its meetings as the chairman is working in an arbitrary and high-handed manner, Trinamool Congress (TMC) member Kalyan Banerjee told reporters at a press conference jointly addressed with party MP Nadimul Haque at the Press Club in Kolkata.

Opposition members accused Committee chairman Jagdambika Pal of taking unilateral actions and visiting Karnataka to look into some "local matter".

ED searches vendors of Amazon, Flipkart

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: The Enforcement Directorate Thursday conducted searches against some of the "main vendors" operating on platforms of e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart as part of a foreign direct investment "violation" investigation, official sources said.

A total of 19 premises of these "preferred" vendors located in Delhi, Gurugram and Panchkula (Haryana), Hyderabad (Telangana) and Bangalore (Karnataka) were covered as part of the action, the sources said.

It is learnt that the ED inspected documents and took copies of some from the premises of about six such vendors who were not named. The sources said a probe has been initiated by the federal agency under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) after it received several complaints against the two large e-commerce companies where it is alleged that they were "violating India's FDI (foreign direct investment) rules by directly or indirectly influencing the sale price of goods or services and not providing level playing field for all the vendors".

There was no immediate response from the two e-commerce companies. The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) welcomed the ED action.

"The CAIT, along with several other trade bodies, has been raising these issues for the past few years. I welcome the Enforcement Directorate's actions as a step in the right direction," CAIT secretary general and BJP MP from Delhi Praveen Khandelwal said in a statement. He claimed that the Competition Commission of India (CCI) had also issued "penalty notices" to Amazon and Flipkart, and their "preferred" sellers, for "engaging" in



A total of 19 premises of these "preferred" vendors located in Delhi, Gurugram and Panchkula (Haryana), Hyderabad (Telangana) and Bangalore (Karnataka) were covered as part of the action

anti-competitive practices that have adversely affected small traders and 'kirana' (grocery) stores. As per existing rules, 100 per cent FDI is allowed through automatic route in the marketplace model of e-commerce. But overseas investment is not permitted in an inventory-based model.

In the market place model, e-commerce entities can only provide a platform for third-party sellers and they cannot own the inventory. They also cannot directly or indirectly influence the price of the goods.

It has been reported in the past that the CCI, which works to ensure fair business practices across sectors in the marketplace, is already looking into alleged anti-competitive ways of e-commerce companies.

The CAIT and mainline mo-

bile retailers' association AIMRA had also petitioned the CCI sometime back seeking immediate suspension of operations of Flipkart and Amazon as they alleged that the companies engaged in predatory pricing and were burning cash to offer heavy discounts on products.

These practices, in turn, are creating a grey market of mobile phones, causing losses to the exchequer "as players in the grey market evade taxes", they had said.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal had recently flagged the same concerns as he had questioned Amazon's announcement of \$1 billion investment in India, saying the US retailer was not doing any great service to the Indian economy but filling up for the losses it had suffered in the country.

He had said in August that their huge losses in India "smells of predatory pricing", which is not good for the country as it impacts crores of small retailers.

Goyal said e-commerce companies were eating into the small retailers' high-value, high-margin products that are the only items through which the mom-and-pop stores survive. The minister had said that with the fast-growing online retailing in the country, "are we going to cause huge social disruption with this massive growth of e-commerce".

SC refuses to transfer RG Kar case outside WB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: The Supreme Court Thursday refused to transfer the rape and murder trial pertaining to a doctor in Kolkata outside West Bengal.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said the trial court judge had sufficient powers to order another investigation upon feeling it necessary after examining the evidence.

The top court also examined the sixth status report filed by the CBI in relation to the case of rape and murder at Kolkata's R G Kar Medical College and Hospital, but refrained from making observations saying the probe was underway.

The apex court noted that a Kolkata court had framed charges against prime accused, Sanjay Roy, November 4 and a day-to-day trial in the case would start November 11 onwards.

During the hearing, the national task force (NTF), formed to create a protocol over the safety of health professionals, submitted its report in the apex



court. The top court directed the NTF's report to be shared with all states and union territories and posted the hearing after four weeks.

The top court October 15 questioned the West Bengal government over the hiring of civic volunteers in the state and sought data on their recruitment and appointment process.

The apex court September 30 expressed dissatisfaction over the state's "tardy" progress in installing CCTV and building toilets apart from separate resting rooms in government medical colleges, and ordered its completion by October 15. The top court September 17 expressed anguish over the findings in a CBI status report in the case, refusing to divulge details and observing any disclosure could jeopardise the ongoing investigation.



Women participate in a walkathon on the occasion of National Cancer Awareness Day in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh

SC REVAMPS VACATION STRUCTURE AMID CRITICISM

The change assumes significance in the wake of the recent criticism from various quarters that the top court enjoys long breaks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: The Supreme Court has rechristened its traditional summer vacations as "partial court working days".

The change assumes significance in the wake of the recent criticism from various quarters that the top court enjoys long breaks. The development was a part of an amendment in Su-

preme Court Rules, 2013, which have now become Supreme Court (Second Amendment) Rules, 2024, notified November 5.

"The length of the partial court working days and the number of holidays for the court and the offices of the court shall be such as may be fixed by the Chief Justice and notified in the official gazette so as not to exceed ninety-five days excluding Sundays," read the notification.

It further stated that the Chief Justice may appoint one or more judges to hear during partial court working days or holidays, all admissions, after notice, regular matters of urgent nature or such other matters "as the Chief Justice may direct".

The existing system had



the Supreme Court taking the summer and winter breaks each year. The apex court, however, was not fully closed during these periods. During

summers, "vacation benches" were set up by the Chief Justice to hear important and urgent matters.

Notably, the term "vacation

judge" has now been replaced with "judge" in the newly-amended rules. According to the recently-published 2025 Supreme Court calendar, partial court working days would start from May 26, 2025 and end July 14, 2025.

Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud had asserted that judges remained dedicated to their work even during vacations.

"Judges are not gallivanting or goofing off during vacations. They are deeply committed to their work, even on weekends, often attending functions, visiting high courts, or engaging in legal-aid work," he had remarked at an event.

In May, a top court bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta said people criticising the apex court over long vaca-

tions did not understand that judges didn't have holidays even on weekends.

The apex court's view was prompted by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta sharing a similar sentiment. "All those who criticise that Supreme Court and high courts are on long vacations, they don't know how judges work," Mehta said when the court was hearing a lawsuit filed by the West Bengal government accusing the CBI of going ahead with its probe without securing the prerequisite state nod.

The long summer breaks in the apex court were a part of the colonial era. During the British rule, judges who were unable to handle the summer heat would sail back to England or mountains, only to return during the monsoon.

national



The farmers' incomes haven't doubled and they are struggling to access DAP and other fertilizers. Young people are not getting jobs or employment opportunities

DIMPLE YADAV | SP MP

PAPPU YADAV RECEIVES DEATH THREAT

Bihar Independent MP Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav allegedly received a death threat from a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, claimed a complaint lodged with the Delhi Police Thursday



of the day quote

Instead of fostering harmony, they have resorted to spreading division, anger, and fear. They seek to divide us on the basis of caste and religion, but I trust the people of Wayanad and surely, they cannot divide them

MALIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

There are three parties in each alliance. Let's keep the question of which alliance wins aside. What is important is how many seats each party wins

DILIP WALSE PATIL | NCP LEADER

BJP's graph in the entire country is declining and the INDIA grouping will win the upcoming elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand. I have been to Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) and there is a one-sided wave prevailing in that state

SACHIN PILOT | SENIOR CONG LEADER

POST OF THE DAY

- [1] INR all time low, no problem
[2] Taxes all time high, no problem
[3] Corporate Haircuts running in 1000s of crores, no problem
[4] PF money getting stuck, no problem
[5] Fils not investing in India, no problem
[6] Low number of jobs, no problem

But, if you speak negative: you are the problem. And, are being pessimistic.

@Akshat_World

SHORT TAKES

Two VDGs shot dead by terrorists in J&K

Jammu: Two Village Defence Guards were shot dead by terrorists in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district Thursday, officials said.

3 juveniles held for stabbing teenager

New Delhi: Delhi Police has apprehended three juveniles for allegedly stabbing a 16-year-old boy to death in the Mustafabad area in north-east Delhi, days after a verbal spat on the night of Diwali October 31, police said Thursday.

Triple talaq over phone

Kaushambi: A woman alleged that her husband gave her 'triple talaq' over phone for not fulfilling his dowry demands in the Kokhraj area of this Uttar Pradesh district, police said Thursday.

RUCKUS IN J&K ASSEMBLY OVER ART 370

Amid high drama, the day also witnessed a group of MLAs, including those from the PDP and Peoples' Conference, submitting a fresh resolution demanding immediate restoration of Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution in their original form

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 7: The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly was adjourned for the day Thursday following a brawl between the BJP MLAs and marshals, as the Opposition members protested against a resolution for the restoration of the erstwhile state's special status for the second consecutive day.

While the Opposition BJP said the resolution is "illegal" and demanded its withdrawal, the speaker said he does not have such powers as anything passed by the House can only be undone by the House itself.

Amid high drama, the day also witnessed a group of MLAs, including those from the PDP and Peoples' Conference, submitting a fresh resolution demanding immediate restoration of Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution in their original form.

As soon as the Assembly met in the morning, pandemonium broke out as the BJP members protested against the resolution that was passed Wednesday.

While Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma (BJP) was speaking on the resolution, Awami Ittehad Party leader Sheikh Khursheed jumped into the well with a banner that read Ar-



icles 370 and 35A be restored. This irked the BJP members, who also jumped into the well, snatched the banner from the Langate MLA and tore it into pieces.

There was a minor scuffle between the BJP MLAs and Khursheed. Finding the latter outnumbered, Peoples' Conference MLA Sajad Lone came to the rescue of the legislator from his neighbouring constituency.

After the House resumed its proceedings, the BJP continued its protest, even as the speaker requested the Opposition members to take their seats.

As the protest continued, the

speaker said, "I am very closely watching the activities of some members. Do not force me to do what I do not want to do."

Sharma, however, said "I want the National Conference's drama of special status to end", which infuriated the ruling party members. The BJP MLAs raised slogans, such as "Balidan huye jahan Mookerjee, woh Kashmir hamara hai", while the NC members shouted "Jis Kashmir ko khoon se seencha, woh Kashmir hamara hai".

It said the Assembly calls upon the Centre to initiate talks with elected representatives from the region for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and constitutional guarantees, and to work out constitutional mechanisms for

should be recorded or reported.

He then directed marshalling out of the BJP members, who stormed the well, leading to a scuffle between them and the marshals. "They deserve it, throw them out," the speaker said. While they were being evicted, the BJP MLAs came to blows with the marshals.

Minister Satish Sharma stood up and said the BJP "is playing divide and rule". He said "Bharat Mata" belongs to all. The House witnessed an uproar Wednesday too as the BJP MLAs protested vociferously after the passage of the resolution. Eventually, the speaker adjourned the House for the day.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary moved the resolution that said: "This Legislative Assembly reaffirms the importance of the special status and constitutional guarantees, which safeguarded the identity, culture and rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and expresses concern over their unilateral removal."

It said the Assembly calls upon the Centre to initiate talks with elected representatives from the region for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and constitutional guarantees, and to work out constitutional mechanisms for

the same.

Meanwhile, a group of MLAs, including from the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and Peoples' Conference, submitted a fresh resolution in the Assembly demanding immediate restoration of Articles 370 and 35A in their original form.

The resolution was submitted by PDP MLAs Waheed Para and Fayaz Mir, People's Conference MLA Sajad Lone, Awami Ittehad Party's Sheikh Khursheed (brother of MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer Rashid) and independent MLA Shabir Kullay. Talking to reporters, Para said the NC and the BJP are "playing a fixed match". Lone said their resolution has been named as people's resolution, which clearly and unconditionally condemns what was done August 5, 2019. However, the BJP said Article 370 is history and it cannot be restored.

BJP MLA R S Pathania said it is "unfortunate" that the ruling NC has "compromised the integrity" of the Assembly and made a "joke" of parliamentary democracy by bringing a resolution that questions a decision taken by Parliament. The opposition party has demanded that the resolution passed Wednesday be withdrawn.

Talking to PTI, the speaker said the BJP's demand is unreasonable as only the House has the power to reverse any business passed by it.

I-T dept conduct surprise search on Truecaller's offices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: The Income-Tax Department Thursday carried out a surprise operation at offices of Swedish caller ID platform Truecaller on charges of tax evasion, official sources said.

The Stockholm-headquartered company said it was cooperating with the investigators. Tax officials said the surprise operation was aimed to gather detailed information and check documents in connection with certain charges of tax evasion including those pertaining to transfer pricing (TP) issues.

They had earlier said it was search action. As part of a survey, the taxman only visits the business premises of an entity under probe whereas as part of a search operation, business as well as residential and linked premises are covered.

According to the company's website, Truecaller has offices in Bengaluru, Mumbai and Gurugram in India.

The company said in a public statement that "On Thursday 7 November 2024, Truecaller's India offices were visited by Indian Tax officials."

"Truecaller are currently assisting the authorities to the full extent at our offices. This came without prior notice and Truecaller are currently awaiting official confirmation and communication from the tax departments," it said.

This is not an uncommon practice and Truecaller will cooperate fully with the relevant authorities, the company said.

Uddhav releases Sena (UBT) manifesto

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 7: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray unveiled his party's manifesto for the Maharashtra assembly polls Thursday, promising scrapping of controversial Dharavi redevelopment project, extending free education scheme for male students, and stabilising essential prices. The manifesto, released at Thackeray's residence 'Matoshree' here, also promises that every district in Maharashtra will host a temple dedicated to Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Releasing the manifesto, he emphasised that while many of the promises align with the broader assurances of the Opposition alliance, Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), certain points warranted special focus.

Thackeray, whose party is part of the MVA alongside the Congress and Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP), noted that the Opposition coalition's own manifesto will follow in anticipation of the November 20 elections. On the Dharavi redevelopment project, the former Chief Minister said it will be scrapped as the project will have ramifications for Mumbai. He also promised to implement the Old Pension Scheme, and remove the 50 per cent cap on reservations.

Cong slams Fadnavis on 'red copy' remarks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: The Congress Thursday hit out at BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis for his remarks on Rahul Gandhi showing a 'red-cover' copy of the Constitution, alleging the Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister is insulting the Constitution-maker and son of the state B R Ambedkar which the people will not tolerate.

The Congress also said that Fadnavis is "taking objection" to the very same Constitution the RSS attacked in 1949 for not being inspired by Manusmriti.

The Congress' remark came a day after Fadnavis asked what message Rahul Gandhi wanted to give by showing a red copy of the Constitution of India. Fadnavis also accused the Congress leader of building a coalition of anarchists. In politics, the red colour is often associated with

The Congress said that Fadnavis is "taking objection" to the very same Constitution the RSS attacked in 1949 for not being inspired by Manusmriti. The Congress' remark came a day after Fadnavis asked what message Rahul Gandhi wanted to give by showing a red copy of the Constitution of India. Fadnavis also accused the Congress leader of building a coalition of anarchists

the Marxist or communist ideology. Targeting Fadnavis, Rahul Gandhi said in a post on X in Hindi that according to the former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, showing Babasaheb's Constitution and raising voice for caste census is a "Naxalite idea". "This thinking of the BJP is an insult to the Constitution-maker, Maharashtra's son Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar," he said in a statement.



Camel herders with their camels at the 'Pushkar Camel Fair' in Pushkar, Rajasthan

PTI PHOTO

Canada banned Oz outlet after EAM's presser

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: India Thursday said Canada blocked an Australian media outlet hours after it broadcast the press conference of External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar and his Australian counterpart Penny Wong.

External Affairs Ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said the Canadian action of blocking the social media handles and certain pages of Australia Today smacked of hypocrisy towards freedom of speech.

"We understand that the social media handles, pages of this particular outlet, which are important diaspora outlets, have been blocked and are not



available for viewers in Canada. This happened just an hour or few hours after this particular handle carried the press conference of EAM Dr S Jaishankar with Penny Wong," Jaiswal said in response to a question at the weekly media briefing. "We were surprised. It looks strange to us. But nonetheless, what I say is that these are ac-

Centre alerts NE govts on B'desh terror outfits' possible activities

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati/Agartala, Nov 7: The Central government and various central intelligence agencies have alerted the northeastern states about the activities of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and its associate outfits, officials said Thursday.

A top police official said that after getting the Centre's directives, all the central and state intelligence agencies further stepped up its vigilance all across the mixed populated, bordering and vulnerable areas. "Among the seven northeastern states, Bangladesh-based terror outfits always have a target in Assam and Tripura to expand their base due to geopolitical and demographic reasons. However, these groups



never succeeded in their plans as the alert Indian agencies thwarted their plans at the initial stage," the official told IANS, refusing to be quoted.

Assam Police during the last year have arrested many suspected cadres for allegedly having links with Bangladesh terror module Ansarul Bangla Team (ABT) and Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent

(AQIS). These cadres were arrested from different districts and bordering areas of Assam.

According to the official, cases have been registered against the detainees under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the Passport Act, 1920, and the Foreigners Act, 1946. The official said that the Bangladesh-based terror

In the last three and a half months, over 450 Bangladeshi nationals and over 60 Rohingyas were arrested by the Government Railway Police, BSF and Tripura Police from the Agartala railway station and various other places in Tripura after they illegally entered India

Assam police have also detected around 150 infiltrators during the past three months and pushed them to Bangladesh

Both the Bangladeshi nationals and the Rohingyas told the Indian security officials that they illegally entered India in search of jobs and shelter

outfits' possible activities in the northeastern states would be discussed in the annual meeting of the Director General of Police-Inspector General of Police in New Delhi later this month. Meanwhile, Cen-

Govt to bring national counter-terrorism policy

New Delhi: The Modi government is committed to building a terror-free India with its policy of zero tolerance, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Wednesday. Shah also said that a two-day anti-terror conference, beginning here Thursday, will further enhance coordination among agencies to strengthen Bharat's security bastion. "The Modi government is committed to building a terror-free India with its policy of zero tolerance," he wrote on X.

tral intelligence agencies have also alerted their state-level counterparts in West Bengal on JMB activities.

Reports said that central intelligence agencies have also alerted about future plans and initiatives by JMB to reorganise their existing terror modules in seven districts which especially include those which are having borders with neighbouring Bangladesh.

These seven districts include Malda, Murshidabad, North Dinajpur, Birbhum, Nadia, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas.

After the Bangladesh unrest began in June-July, the Border Security Force (BSF) enhanced surveillance along the 4,096 km border with the neighbouring country to prevent trans-border crime and infiltration, the BSF officials said.

international



Now, when the situation in the theatre of military operations is not in favour of the Kyiv regime, the West is faced with a choice, to continue financing it and destroying the Ukrainian population or to recognise the current realities and start negotiating

RARE SNOWCAP ON MOUNT FUJI

Japan's revered Mount Fuji finally regained an iconic snowcap Thursday, setting a record for the slowest snowfall in 130 years



of the day quote

We want to make this the decade in which we transform the world for good, one solution at a time, from the ground up



WILLIAM ARTHUR PHILIP LOUIS | PRINCE OF WALES

All possible steps are being taken to secure a peaceful environment for Chinese nationals working in Pakistan



MOHSIN NAQVI | INTERIOR MINISTER, PAKISTAN

Climate change is already devastating communities across the world, particularly the most poor and vulnerable. Raging storms are flattening homes, wildfires are wiping out forests, and land degradation and drought are degrading landscapes



INGER ANDERSEN | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

SHORT TAKES

Germany nabs American citizen

Berlin: Germany has arrested a US citizen suspected of offering intelligence on the US military to China that he had acquired while working for troops stationed in Germany, the federal prosecutor's office said in a statement Thursday. The man, identified only as Martin D under German privacy law, is accused of having declared himself ready to work as an agent for a foreign intelligence agency, the statement said. The accused had worked for US armed forces in Germany until recently, according to prosecutors. In 2024, he is said to have contacted Chinese state positions and offered to share with them sensitive information to pass on to Chinese intelligence. He had gathered the information through his work for the military, prosecutors said.

Thailand's PM meets Myanmar junta chief

Laos: Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra met Myanmar's junta chief on the sidelines of a regional summit in China Thursday, in a rare overseas trip by a general grappling with a civil war at home. "We had a private conversation and there was nothing unexpected," Paetongtarn said of her meeting with Min Aung Hlaing during an interview with Thai reporters. "I offered our goodwill to cultivate peace." The two countries share a 2,000 km border and fighting in Myanmar has sometimes spilled into Thailand and disrupted border trade.

Police in Mexico find 11 bodies

Mexico City: Police in a southern Mexico region rife with drug cartel violence have found 11 bodies, including two of minors, dumped by a highway, prosecutors in the state of Guerrero said Thursday. The bodies were found late Wednesday after police received a tip about an abandoned pickup truck on the main thoroughfare of the city of Chilpancingo, the state capital. The city of 3,00,000 has been the scene of gruesome drug gang violence as two rival cartels fight for control of the area. Prosecutors did not specify the ages of the two dead minors but said that two of the 11 bodies were female. The highway where they were found is also the main route between Mexico City and the resort of Acapulco. In early October, the city's mayor was killed and beheaded just a week after he took office.

'Bring down the temperature'

President Joe Biden vows a 'peaceful and orderly transition' after Donald Trump's election win

REUTERS



Washington, Nov 7: US President Joe Biden urged Americans to "bring down the temperature" Thursday following Republican Donald Trump's election victory and sought to console fellow Democrats who were alarmed by the former President's stunning comeback. "Setbacks are unavoidable. Giving up is unforgivable," Biden said at the White House Rose Garden as he addressed staff who were disappointed in Vice President Kamala Harris' defeat. "A defeat does not mean we are defeated."

Biden said Tuesday's election had proven the integrity of the US electoral system and said he would preside over an orderly transfer of power, an implicit rebuke of Trump, who sought to overturn his 2020 defeat to Biden and raised baseless claims of fraud this year as well.

"We lost this battle. The America of your dreams is calling for you to get back up," he said.

Some Democrats have blamed Biden, 81, for Harris' defeat, saying he should not have sought reelection. Biden only dropped his reelection bid in July after a disastrous TV debate with Trump raised alarm bells about his mental fitness.

Trump's campaign said Biden had invited him to meet at the White House at an unspecified time. In the weeks ahead, Trump will select personnel to serve under his leadership.

Some Democrats worried their loss in Tuesday's presidential election showed that their values, left-leaning, so-

- Biden calls for calm and promises orderly transfer of power
- Democrats blame Biden for Harris' defeat, criticize party leadership
- Trump's victory driven by economic discontent

cially liberal, were now firmly a minority among Americans in a divisive campaign. Others were frustrated with the party's leadership, who they said had lost touch with much of the electorate who wanted help with the rising cost of living.

Trump's victory, surprisingly decisive after opinion polls that had shown a neck-and-neck contest, underscored how disenchanted Americans had become with the economy, in particular inflation, along with border security and the direction of the country and its culture.

Hispanics, traditionally Democratic voters, and lower-income households hit hardest by inflation helped fuel Trump's victory.

The former President will face far fewer limits on his power in his second White House term, as the head of a Republican Party that he has remade

Indian-American may become CIA chief

Washington: Kashyap Pramod Patel, popularly known as Kash Patel, a key figure in President-elect Donald Trump's administration, may get the role of deputy director of the CIA. Kashyap 'Kash' Patel is often described as someone who would "do anything for Donald Trump". 'Kash' Patel is a former Republican staffer who served in various high-ranking staff roles in the defence and intelligence communities during Trump's first term. He has frequently appeared on the campaign trail to rally support for Republican nominee Donald Trump, who is now the 47th President of the United States. Some Trump allies would like to see Kash Patel, considered the ultimate Trump loyalist, appointed CIA director, reported news agency Reuters. Kash Patel, 44, ascended quickly through ranks after joining the Trump administration in 2019. He has served as the former Chief of Staff to Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller. Prior to that, he was the Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Counterterrorism at the National Security Council. He executed several of then-President Donald Trump's top priorities, including eliminating ISIS and al-Qaeda leadership like al-Baghdadi and Qasem al-Rimi, and the repatriation of many American hostages.



in his image over the last eight years.

Republicans wrested the US Senate from Democrats in Tuesday's vote, ensuring Trump's party will control at least one chamber of Congress next year. Republicans also held an edge in the battle for the House of Representatives, though 38 of the 435 races still had no winner.

Trump prevailed in five of the seven battleground states to give him at least 295 Electoral College votes, more than the 270 needed to win the presidency. He was leading in the remain-

ing two, Arizona and Nevada, where votes were still being tallied.

Harris vows to fight on US Vice President Kamala Harris vowed to keep fighting for the ideals that powered her presidential campaign Wednesday in a concession speech that acknowledged President-elect Donald Trump's win while warning of potential dark times to come.

"While I concede this election, I do not concede the fight that fueled this campaign," she told supporters, many of them in tears, at her alma mater Howard University, a historically Black college in Washington.

Harris, her voice at times

Political turmoil shakes Germany

Germany's ruling coalition collapses as Chancellor Olaf Scholz fires his finance minister

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, Nov 7: After Germany's government coalition collapsed in a dramatic fashion when Chancellor Olaf Scholz fired Finance Minister Christian Lindner of the pro-business Free Democrats, Scholz said he would lead the country with a minority government, despite calls from Opposition leaders Thursday for early elections.

The chancellor said the minority government would be made up of his Social Democrats and the Greens until early next year, even as the leader of the biggest Opposition bloc in Parliament, Friedrich Merz from the centre-right Christian Democrats, called for an immediate no-confidence vote and new elections.

Scholz stressed again Thursday, that he does not want to call a vote of confidence before January 15.

"The citizens will soon have the opportunity to decide anew how to proceed," the chancellor said, according to the German news agency dpa. "That is their right. I will therefore put the vote of confidence to the Bundestag at the beginning of next year."

A meeting with Merz and Scholz at the chancellery around noontime Thursday about a possible date for the next election ended after less than an hour with Merz leav-



ing without commenting on the talks.

Later Thursday, President Frank-Walter Steinmeier gave fired Finance Minister Lindner and two other Free Democrats officials who had resigned, Research Minister Bettina Stark-Watzinger and Justice Minister Marco Buschmann, their certificates of dismissal.

Steinmeier also appointed Jorg Kukies, an economic adviser to Scholz, as finance minister. Agriculture Minister Cem Ozdemir from the Greens agreed to take on the research ministry. Scholz had announced late

Wednesday that he would seek a vote of confidence January 15 that he said might lead to an early election, perhaps as soon as March. The vote had otherwise been due next September.

After firing his finance minister, the chancellor had accused Lindner of breaching his trust and publicly calling for a fundamentally different economic policy, including what Scholz said would be tax cuts worth billions for a few top earners while at the same time cutting pensions for all retirees. "That is not decent," Scholz said.

Scholz had announced Wednesday that he would seek a vote of confidence January 15 that he said might lead to an early election

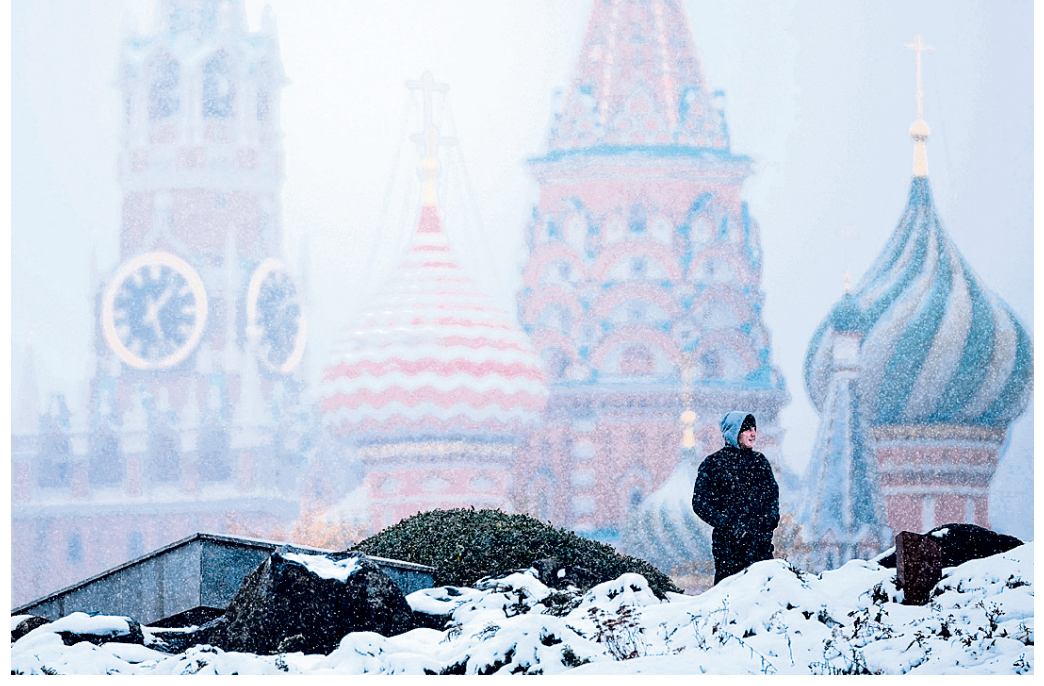
SNIPPETS

US reinstates plea deal for 9/11 Mastermind

Washington: A US military judge has reinstated plea agreements for 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and two other defendants, an official said Thursday, three months after the deals were scrapped by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. The agreements, which are understood to take the death penalty off the table, had triggered anger among some relatives of victims of the 2001 attacks, and Austin said that both they and the American public deserved to see the defendants stand trial. "I can confirm that the military judge has ruled that the pretrial agreements for the three accused are valid and enforceable," the US official told AFP on condition of anonymity. The plea deals with Mohammed and two alleged accomplices were announced in late July in a step that appeared to have moved their long-running cases toward resolution after years of being bogged down in pre-trial maneuverings while the defendants remained held at the Guantanamo Bay military base in Cuba.

India cancels consular camp in Canada

Toronto: The Consulate General of India in Toronto Thursday said it is cancelling some of its scheduled consular camps after the Canadian security authorities conveyed their inability to provide minimum security protection to its organisers. The announcement comes days after an incident of violent disruption by protestors carrying Khalistani flags at a consular event co-organised by the Hindu Sabha temple in Brampton and the Indian Consulate. "In view of the security agencies conveying their inability to provide minimum security protection to the community camp organisers, the Consulate has decided to cancel some of the scheduled consular camps," the Consulate General of India said in a post on X. On November 3, the protest occurred at the Hindu Sabha temple in Brampton and unverified videos circulating on social media appeared to show demonstrators holding banners in support of Khalistan.



A man walks at Zaryadye park with the Spasskaya tower of the Kremlin and St Basil's Cathedral in the background during a snowfall in Moscow, Russia

2024 will likely be hottest yr on record: European climate agency

European climate agency Copernicus said the globe this year reached more than 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming compared to the pre-industrial average

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chicago, Nov 7: For the second year in a row, Earth will almost certainly be the hottest it's ever been. And for the first time, the globe this year reached more than 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming compared to the pre-industrial average, the European climate agency Copernicus said Thursday. "It's this relentless nature of

the warming that I think is worrying," said Carlo Buontempo, director of Copernicus.

Buontempo said the data clearly shows the planet would not see such a long sequence of record-breaking temperatures without the constant increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere driving global warming.

He cited other factors that contribute to exceptionally warm years like last year and this one. They include El Nino, the temporary warming of parts of the Pacific that changes weather worldwide, as well as volcanic eruptions that spew water vapor into the air and variations in energy from the sun. But he and other scientists say the long-term increase in temperatures beyond fluctuations like El Nino is a bad sign. "A very strong El Nino event is a sneak peek into what the new normal will be about a



decade from now," said Zeke Hausfather, a research scientist with the nonprofit Berkeley Earth.

News of a likely second year of record heat comes days before the next UN climate conference, called COP29, is set to begin in Azerbaijan. Talks are expected to focus on how to generate trillions of dollars

to help the world transition to clean energies like wind and solar, and thus avoid continued warming.

Buontempo pointed out that going over the 1.5 degree Celsius threshold of warming for a single year is different than the goal adopted in the 2015 Paris Agreement. That goal was meant to try to cap warming at

1.5 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times on average, over 20 or 30 years.

A United Nations report this year said that since the mid-1800s on average, the world has already heated up 1.3 degrees Celsius, up from previous estimates of 1.1 degrees or 1.2 degrees. That's of concern because the UN says the greenhouse gas emission reduction goals of the world's nations still aren't nearly ambitious enough to keep the 1.5 degree Celsius target on track.

The target was chosen to try to stave off the worst effects of climate change on humanity, including extreme weather. "The heat waves, storm damage, and droughts that we are experiencing now are just the tip of the iceberg," said Natalie Mahowald, chair of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at Cornell University.

Going over that number in

2024 doesn't mean the overall trend line of global warming has, but "in the absence of concerted action, it soon will," said University of Pennsylvania climate scientist Michael Mann.

Stanford University climate scientist Rob Jackson put it in starker terms. "I think we have missed the 1.5 degree window," said Jackson, who chairs the Global Carbon Project, a group of scientists who track countries' carbon dioxide emissions. "There's too much warming."

Indiana state climatologist Beth Hall said she isn't surprised by the latest report from Copernicus, but emphasized that people should remember climate is a global issue beyond their local experiences with changing weather. "We tend to be siloed in our own individual world," she said. Reports like this one "are taking into account lots and lots of locations that aren't in our backyard."



BVR SUBRAHMANYAM | CEO, NITI AAYOG
India should be a part of RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) and CPTPP (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership) and become a member

IPHONE 15 BEST-SELLING SMARTPHONE

Apple iPhone 15 has become the best-selling smartphone globally in the third quarter (Q3) this year, followed closely by iPhone 15 Pro Max and iPhone 15 Pro. Samsung maintained the biggest presence in the global top-10 best-selling smartphones list with five spots, followed by Apple with four and Xiaomi with one



of the day note

The Indian retail sector is evolving rapidly, and main streets continue to record high leasing due to limited mall supply



I am confident that our total exports will cross \$800 billion this fiscal. The production-linked incentive scheme is already a success story at the manufacturing front



Backpacker hostels have become the go to choice for GenZ and millennials travellers in the post-Covid era. The fresh capital will not only accelerate our expansion but also help us acquire customers from the newer territories



END OF AN ERA

Sun sets on Jet Airways

A 25-year journey of triumphs and challenges comes to an end. Jet Airways was also one of the dominant private airlines in the Indian aviation firmament till its descent began with mounting financial woes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: More than five years ago on an April evening, cash-starved Jet Airways announced temporary grounding of operations after flying as a full service airline for 25 years. Since then, more than 20,000 jobs and money worth thousands of crores owed to lenders, vendors and passengers evaporated while awaiting an insolvency resolution. And today, the Supreme Court ordered the airline's liquidation, marking the formal completion of a turbulent journey into the sunset and shattering lean revival hopes. On April 17, 2019, the airline's last flight S2-3502 took off from Amristar around 10:30 pm and touched down at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport at 12:22 am April 18. Jet Airways' low-cost arm JetLite operated the flight with a Boeing 737-800 aircraft, which was later taken on lease by no-frills airline SpiceJet. At the peak of its operations, Jet Airways had little over 120

planes. When the operations came to a halt due to mounting debt woes and unpaid salaries, the airline had around 16 own planes. Founded by Naresh Goyal, who began as a general sales agent to a host of international airlines from travel agency Jetair, the carrier had served tens of millions of passengers for over two-and-half decades. The airline began its journey as an air taxi operator with service from Mumbai to Ahmedabad and it had about 1,300 pilots and a total of about 20,000 employees at its peak. At the time of announcing temporary grounding of operations in 2019, Jet Airways had more than 20,000 staff, owed over ₹8,500 crore to banks apart

CLIPPED WINGS

Following GoFirst's liquidation in August, Jet Airways is the second major airline in India to be liquidated under the IBC, a clear indication of the regulatory challenges within the aviation industry. The liquidation order from the apex court meant that the shareholders of Jet Airways, including about 1.43 lakh retail investors, are staring at a bleak future. The liquidation order from the apex court meant that the shareholders of Jet Airways, including about 1.43 lakh retail investors, are staring at a bleak future. The liquidation order from the apex court meant that the shareholders of Jet Airways, including about 1.43 lakh retail investors, are staring at a bleak future.



served. Apart from liquidation, the apex court has directed forfeiture of ₹200 crore infused by successful bidder JKC and permitted the lenders led by SBI to encash ₹150 crore performance bank guarantee. The court allowed the plea of SBI and other creditors against the NCLAT decision that upheld the resolution plan of Jet Airways in favour of JKC. In a statement April 17, 2019, Jet Airways had said since "no emergency funding from the lenders or any other source is forthcoming, we will not be able to pay for fuel or other critical services to keep the operations going." "Consequently, with immediate effect, we are compelled to cancel all our international and domestic flights temporarily. The last flight will operate today," it had said. After these years of the airline's collapse, what remain are disrupted livelihoods, unpaid dues and a few planes with Jet Airways livery gathering dust.

Tata Power acquires Paradeep Transmission

New Delhi, Nov 7: Tata Power on Thursday said it has acquired 100 per cent stake in Paradeep Transmission Ltd, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) for ₹18.64 crore. The acquisition process was completed November 6, 2024, the company said in a regulatory filing. According to the filing, Tata Power has signed the Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) and has acquired 100 per cent equity stake in Paradeep Transmission Ltd. Paradeep Transmission was set up as an SPV on a Build-Own-Operate-Transfer basis, to provide transmission service with turnover of ₹256.183 crore. The acquisition involves purchase of equity against cash consideration and one-time settlement of outstanding debt. The cost of acquisition was ₹18.64 crore, it stated. The company is an SPV formed on November 30, 2023, specifically to establish transmission system for Eastern Region Expansion Scheme-XXX-IV (Paradeep Transmission) which comprises Angul to Paradeep 190 km of 765 KV D/C line, Paradeep 765/400 KV GIS substation, Bay Ext. at Angul (765 KV AIS) and at OPTCLParadeep (400 KV GIS).

RESULTS CORNER

ArcelorMittal dips
New Delhi: ArcelorMittal, which also has a presence in India, Thursday posted a 69 per cent fall in net income to \$287 million during the third quarter, mainly on account of a decline in steel shipments. In July-September 2023, it clocked \$929 million "net income attributable to equity holders of the parent", the company said. The company recorded a net income of \$504 million in the second quarter of 2024, the statement said.

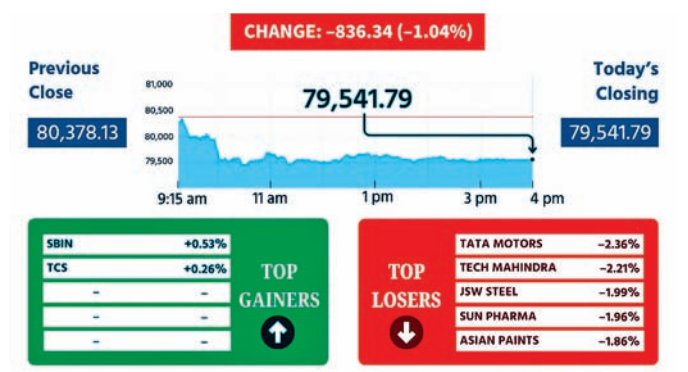
IMFA profit grows
New Delhi: Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys (IMFA) Thursday reported a 40 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹125.21 crore in the September quarter, aided by reduced expenses. It had posted ₹89.34 crore net profit a year ago, the company said in an exchange filing. The company's total income rose to ₹711.02 crore from ₹704.25 in the July-September period in the preceding 2023-24 financial year. IMFA trimmed its expenses to ₹540.71 crore from 581.10 crore in the year-ago quarter.

APBL logs growth
Mumbai: Airtel Payments Bank Ltd (APBL) announced its consolidated results for the second quarter ended September 2024, continuing its strong growth trajectory. The bank's quarterly revenue grew to ₹674 crore, up by 58% YoY and 10% up over the last quarter. The bank's net profit stood at ₹11.2 crore, up by 45% YoY. The EBITDA witnessed an increase of 87% YoY to ₹76.1 crore in Q2 FY25. In a milestone, Airtel Payments Bank's monthly transacting user (MTU) count grew to 102 million, up by 76% YoY.

Sonalika sales get festive push
New Delhi: Ensuring maximum delight for farmers all throughout during the recently concluded biggest festive season, India's leading tractor export brand Sonalika Tractors has reached a new pinnacle of its highest ever monthly overall sales record of 20,056 tractors in Oct 2024. The biggest monthly performance in the history of Sonalika Tractors is line with its mission to make it simpler for farmers to own a customised tractor and embrace sustainable farm prosperity.

PROFIT-TAKING

Benchmarks drain Trump-fuelled gains



Indices tank over 1% after 2-day rally; banks, auto shares fall ahead of US Fed policy outcome

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 7: Snapping its two-day winning run, benchmark Sensex tanked 836 points due to profit-taking in banking and auto shares as investors turned cautious ahead of the US Federal Reserve policy decision and unabated foreign fund outflows. As the optimism over Donald Trump's win in the US presidential polls waned, the BSE Sensex dropped by 836.34 points, or 1.04 per cent, to settle at 79,541.79. During the day, it slumped 958.79 points or 1.19 per cent to 79,419.34.

The NSE Nifty declined 284.70 points or 1.16 per cent to finish at 24,199.35. From the 30-share Sensex pack, Tata Motors, Tech Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, JSW Steel, Sun Pharma, Asian Paints, IndusInd Bank and ICI-CI Bank were the major losers. State Bank of India emerged as the only gainer from the pack. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets Thursday, as they offloaded shares worth ₹4,888.77 crore, according to exchange data. A total of 2,134 stocks declined while 1,821 advanced and 98 remained unchanged on the BSE. The BSE benchmark jumped 901.50 points or 1.13 per cent to settle at 80,378.13 Wednesday. The Nifty soared 270.75 points or 1.12 per cent to 24,484.05.

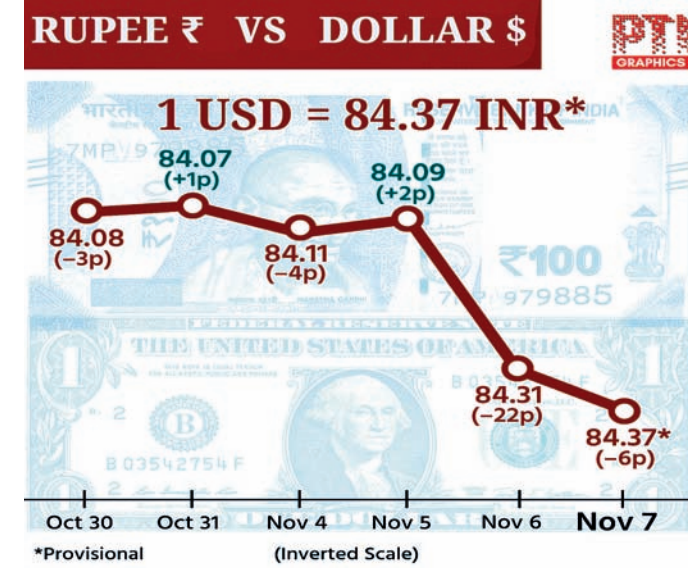
BULLISH DOLLAR

₹ continues free fall

Rupee falls 1 paise to fresh all-time low of 84.32 against US dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 7: The rupee slipped 1 paise to close at a fresh lifetime low of 84.32 against the US dollar Thursday, as weak domestic equities and sustained foreign fund outflows dented market sentiment. Forex traders said investors were also cautious ahead of the US Fed meeting outcome. Moreover, overnight gains in crude oil prices also weighed on the local unit. However, a correction in the dollar index against major currencies helped the rupee and restrained the slide, they added. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.26 against the US dollar. During the session, the local currency touched a high of 84.26 and a low of 84.37. It finally settled at 84.32, a loss of just 1 paise



Investors are dumping Asian currencies, and the dollar is rallying against its major peers on bets that Trump's expected policies of lower corporate tax and deregulation would boost US growth. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.22 per cent lower at 104.86.

BIZ BUZZ

Airbag concerns: Volkswagen to recall over 1L US vehicles

Washington: Volkswagen will recall 114,478 vehicles in the United States on concerns over the driver-side airbag, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said Thursday. The recall consists of some Beetle and Passat vehicles from model years 2006-2019. "The driver's side frontal airbag inflator may explode due to propellant degradation occurring after long-term exposure to high absolute humidity, high temperatures and high temperature cycling," the US auto safety regulator said. Volkswagen said it was not aware of any accidents, injuries or fatalities related to the issue and that it would notify owners of the impacted vehicles by December 27. Dealers will replace the driver's side front airbag module for free to remedy the issue.



Sales falter: Nissan slashes 9,000 jobs

Tokyo: Nissan reported Thursday a loss for the latest fiscal quarter as its vehicle sales sank while costs and inventory ballooned, prompting the Japanese automaker to slash 9,000 jobs. Chief Executive Makoto Uchida said he was taking a 50 per cent pay cut to take responsibility for the dismal results, while promising that a turnaround was coming. Nissan Motor Corp announced a global workforce reduction of 9,000 people, or about 6 per cent of its more than 1,33,000 employees, as well as a plan to slash global production capacity by 20 per cent. For the latest quarter through September, Nissan racked up a 9.3 billion Yen (\$60 million) loss, a reversal from the 190.7 billion Yen profit recorded the same quarter a year ago. Quarterly sales fell to 2.9 trillion Yen (\$19 billion) from 3.1 trillion Yen. Nissan, based in the port city of Yokohama, reported fiscal first half sales revenue of 5.98 trillion Yen (\$39 billion), edging down 1 per cent from the more than 6 trillion Yen the same period last year.



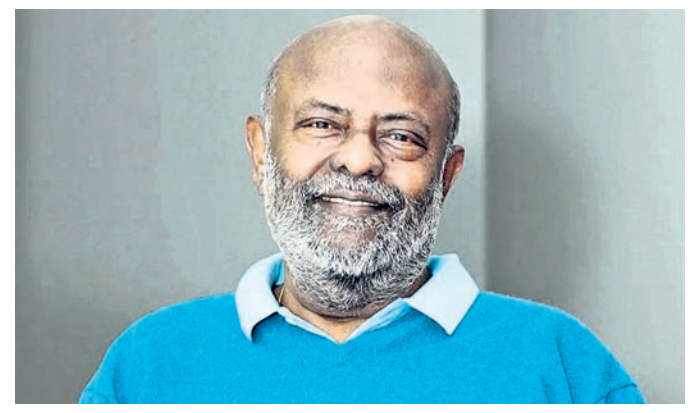
HCL's Nadar pips richest Indians in generosity, again

Interestingly, the average donation by the 203 donors on the list has decreased sharply to ₹43cr from the ₹71cr by the 119 donors in the 2023 list

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 7: HCL Technologies' Shiv Nadar has trumped richest Indians in generosity yet again by being

the biggest individual donor for philanthropic causes in FY24. Nadar's share in philanthropy increased 5 per cent to ₹2,153 crore in FY24, much higher than the richest Indian Gautam Adani's ₹330 crore and second richest Indian Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries' ₹407 crore, as per the Edelgive-Hurun India Philanthropy List. Ambani has moved up one place to be second on the giving list, while Adani has maintained his fifth place. The Bajaj family with interests in auto and finance has moved up three places with a 33 per cent growth in giving



at ₹352 crore, while Kumar-mangalam Birla and family stands fourth on the list with ₹334 crore in total donations, which were up 17 per cent over the year-ago period. In all, there were 203 individuals who donated more than ₹5 crore. As per Hurun's rich list, there were 1,539 individu-

als having a net worth of over ₹1,000 crore each and their cumulative wealth shot up 46 per cent in the year. Nadar stood third on the rich list with a fortune of ₹3.14 lakh crore, as against Adani's ₹11.6 lakh crore and Ambani's ₹10.14 lakh crore. Asked if the private sector's reluctance to invest in business expansion has had a positive rub-off on the social sector, Edelgive's Chief Executive Naghma Mulla replied in the negative. Hurun India's Founder and Chief Researcher Anas Rahman Junaid pointed to a set of nine companies led by promoters on the list, who have do-

nated more than the 2 per cent mandated as corporate social responsibility (CSR) spends. Junaid explained that a promoter's holding in a company is used to compute the overall giving in addition to individual contributions. This list of nine includes Reliance Industries, which donated ₹900 crore as against the mandated ₹840 crore and also Yardi Software India which donated ₹25 crore as against the mandated ₹70 lakh. Education topped the causes receiving philanthropists' money accounting for ₹3,680 crore in donations and was followed by healthcare at a distant ₹626 crore and rural transformation at ₹331 crore.

Time to prove their mettle

YOUNG AND EXPERIENCED PLAYERS HAVE A CHANCE TO IMPRESS SELECTORS IN THE 4-GAME T20I SERIES AGAINST PROTEAS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Durban, Nov 7: As India firmly embrace a transition phase, a clutch of second line stars such as Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma will be hoping for a breakthrough series in the four T20Is against South Africa, starting with the first contest here Friday. It is imperative for them to shed the tag of sidekicks and establish themselves as the first-choice players in this format.

The recent home T20I series against Bangladesh was a precursor. Samson received a chance to open consistently against the neighbours, and he made most of it slamming a 47-ball 111. With Rohit Sharma retiring from T20Is, Samson would certainly want to seal his spot at the top of the order. However, for that he needs to be consistent in the series against the Proteas.

This is an important series for Abhishek as well. The dashing left-hander showed his impressive skills while hammering a 47-ball hundred against Zimbabwe at Harare in July, but his other six international innings have produced - 0, 10, 14, 16, 15 and 4. Abhishek will be keen to be more consistent to safeguard his place, and he will also be looking to be more penetrative with his left-arm spin.

Tilak Varma is a similar case. The left-hander has somewhat fallen off the radar

after making a solid beginning to his T20I career against the West Indies in August 2023. Since then, his 12 outings in the shortest format have produced just one half century and he has not featured in the blue jersey after appearing against Afghanistan earlier this January. So, the Hyderabad will be keen to impress the selectors with some meaningful efforts against the Africans.

This series also offers an excellent opportunity for wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh

Sharma, who has slipped a few rungs below in the pecking order, and spinner Varun Chakravarthy, who impressed against Bangladesh taking five wickets, to keep themselves

a float over the competition.

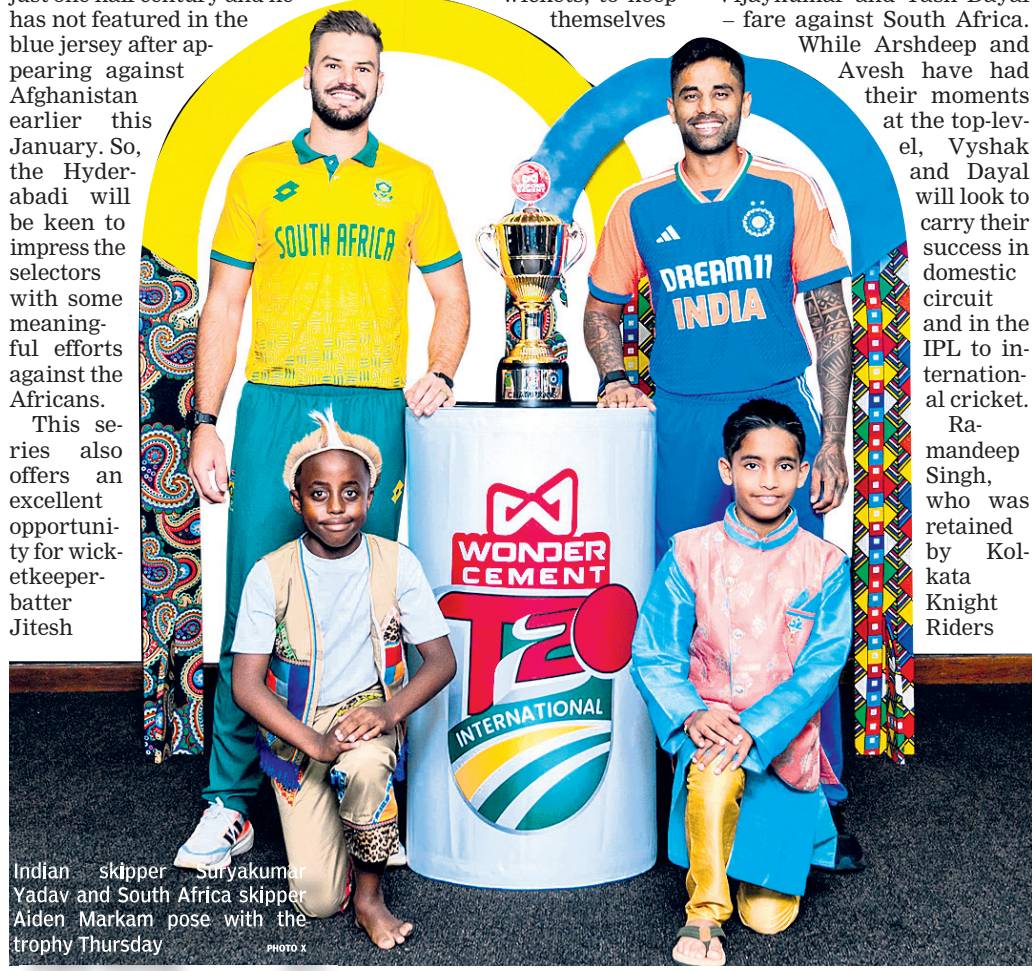
The selectors will also closely monitor how a new-look pace bowling unit - Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan, Vyshak Vijaykumar and Yash Dayal - fare against South Africa.

While Arshdeep and Avesh have had their moments at the top-level, Vyshak and Dayal will look to carry their success in domestic circuit and in the IPL to international cricket.

Ramandeep Singh, who was retained by Kolkata Knight Riders

(KKR) after a productive IPL 2024, will be eager to replicate his success here. Ramandeep brings to the table exciting multiple skillsets - a daring batter down the order, useful medium pacer and a gun outfield fielder.

On a personal level, four players - Arshdeep, Avesh, Jitesh and Vyshak - will want impact outings here after not getting retained by their respective franchises ahead of the IPL mega auction November 24 and 25. All other 11 players in the side have managed to get retention from their IPL teams.



Indian skipper Suryakumar Yadav and South Africa skipper Aiden Markram pose with the trophy Thursday

Jurel impresses as India A flounder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, Nov 7: Dhruv Jurel (80, 186b, 6x4, 2x6) showcased his sound technique and cool temperament while wickets fell like ninepins at the other end in another shoddy batting display by India A on the opening day of the second unofficial Test against Australia A at the iconic MCG here Thursday.

Jurel, who came to bat in the third over scored nearly half of India A's paltry first innings total of 161 with only Devdutt Padikkal (26), the other batter to cross the 20-run mark.

The selectors were keenly watching the performance of KL Rahul, but he was dismissed by pacer Scott Boland for only four. Michael Neser (4/27), one of the finest and unluckiest among contemporary Australian pacers, dealt a telling blow in the opening over from which India A couldn't recover. He dismissed Abhinav Easwaran (0) and Sai Sudarshan (0) with successive deliveries to reduce the visitors to 0 for 2. At stumps, Australia A were 53 for 2 in reply with Mukesh Kumar (1/13) again looking best among Indian bowlers.

What stood out during the day was Jurel's composure and ability to play late, using soft hands. When there was extra bounce, he would quickly loosen his bottom hand grip to ensure that the ball didn't go to slip or gully region. He judged the length perfectly and the flicked six off Boland was a



Dhruv Jurel impressed with his batting skills

treasure to watch. While Rishabh Pant is the first-choice wicket-keeper batter, Jurel's ability to leave deliveries on length should put him in a better position than Sarfaraz Khan in the middle-order batter role.

It was also the day when one got an indication that the Indian senior team might bank on Rahul's experience of opening the innings if Rohit Sharma skips a match. However, Boland got him with a perfectly pitched up delivery that straightened to take his outside edge. But Rahul would be any day better than Easwaran who is increasingly looking out of sorts at this level.

BRIEF SCORES: India A 161 (Dhruv Jurel 80, Michael Neser 4/27) versus Australia A 53 for 2 (Mukesh Kumar 1/13). Match to continue.

SHORT TAKES

Harmanpreet in top-50 WBBL list

MELBOURNE: Captain Harmanpreet Kaur is the lone entry from India in the 50-player shortlist for the 'Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) Team of the Decade', which was released Thursday. The shortlist comprises cricketers who have played a minimum of 60 WBBL matches prior to this season. The list will be pruned to 12 by a selection panel of experts after taking into account public voting. It will take place on the Big Bash app November 11 to 24. The selection panel is chaired by Cricket Australia director Clea Smith, and also includes Mel Jones, Lisa Sthalekar, Matthew Mott, Quentin Hull, Laura Jolly and Alistair Dobson.

Sindhu's academy in Visakhapatnam

VISAKHAPATNAM: Two-time Olympic medallist shuttler PV Sindhu's dream project, the PV Sindhu Centre for Badminton and Sports Excellence, will be set up in the port city here. The facility will be dedicated to nurturing and empowering athletes across multiple sports and disciplines. Sindhu and her Team PVS thanked Thursday Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for continued support. "I'm truly grateful to be building this centre for the incredible people of Vizag. This centre will be a space where athletes of all levels and from any discipline can find a home and a mentor," Sindhu said in a statement.

India to play CT matches at UAE

KARACHI: India will play their Champions Trophy (CT) matches at UAE next year, sources in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) informed here Thursday. This means that the PCB has accepted the 'Hybrid Mode' which the ICC suggested after it became clear that the Indian government would not allow the cricket team to travel to Pakistan to take part in the tournament. A reliable source informed that India would in all probability play their matches either in Sharjah or Dubai. Sources also said that the PCB has discussed the tentative schedule of the tournament which is starting February 19, next year.

Learned a lot from Shreyas double ton sinks Odisha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Durban, Nov 7: Suryakumar Yadav, popularly referred to as 'SKY' is a big fan of Rohit Sharma's leadership philosophy which inspires him to keep his flock together by understanding his players' psyche and find balance when the chips are down.

Surya took over as India's shortest format skipper after the victorious T20 World Cup campaign. He admitted that he followed 'Rohit's captaincy route' of spending a lot of time with his team members off the field, which then reflects in their on-field performance. Obviously he has 'customized' it as per his leadership needs.

"Winning and losing is part and parcel of sports. Everyone has worked hard. Sometimes you do well and sometimes you don't," Surya said on the eve of first T20I against South Africa when asked about India's 0-3 defeat against New Zealand.

"I have learnt from him (Rohit) that in life, balance is important, after doing well, even if you lose, your character should not change. This is one quality sportsman should have," SKY added.

For Surya, Rohit is not a captain but a leader. "A leader is one who decides how his team play a particular format," said the world's premier T20 batter.

Surya and Rohit have played together for Mumbai and IPL franchise Mumbai Indians for close to a decade and the latter's captaincy style has grown on the former.

"When I am on the ground, I keep noticing him (Rohit). How his body language is and how he keeps calm and how he treats his bowlers, how he speaks to everyone on and off the field. I know how he treats his players, what he wants from them," Surya informed.

"That route I have also taken as he has been successful. Obviously, I have put my own masala in it (his own ideas). It's been going smooth," Surya added with a smile.

For on-field chemistry, the off-field relationship and bonhomie within the team becomes very important.

"From a leader, you expect how much time one spends with his guys to build that comfort level. I also try that with my boys. Even when I am not playing, I try to hang out with players," the skipper pointed out.

Mumbai, Nov 7: Odisha were 75 for the loss of one wicket at stumps on the second day of their Elite Group A Ranji Trophy encounter against defending champions Mumbai at the Sharad Pawar Cricket Academy ground here Thursday. Earlier Mumbai, riding on Shreyas Iyer's (233, 228b, 24b, 9x6) double hundred, declared their innings at 602 for the loss of four wickets. It was incidentally Iyer's highest first class score.

At stumps, Odisha's Anurag Sarangi (30 batting) and Sandeep Pattnaik (44 batting) showed a lot of promise to give a fitting reply to the huge total posted for Mumbai.

Iyer and Siddhesh Lad (169 n o, 337b, 17x4) put on a mammoth partnership of 354 runs for the fourth wicket that completely took away the game from Odisha. All that Odisha can strive now is to draw the game and hope for a few points. The only Odisha wicket to fall on the day was that of Swastik Samal (0), who was cleaned up by Shardul Thakur. However, after his dismissal, Anurag and Sandeep handled the situation quite competently.

Resuming at their overnight score of 385 for the loss of three wickets, Iyer continued his assault on the Odisha bowlers while Lad was content to hold one end up. Iyer was in an at-

tacking mood and did not spare any Odisha bowler as he had a strike rate of more than 100 in a four-day game.

This knock will certainly do a world of good for Iyer ahead of the IPL auctions. The KKR skipper, who led his team to the title

in 2023, has been released by his franchise. This knock can certainly ensure a bidding war among the franchises during the IPL auction November 24 and 25.

After Iyer's dismissal (the only wicket for Harshit Rathod), Suryansh Shedge (79, 36b, 7x4, 6x6) played a blistering knock to take Mumbai past the 600-run mark. He was particularly severe on Odisha skipper Govind Poddar who went for 81 runs in his 18 overs.

BRIEF SCORES: Mumbai 602 for 4 decl (Shreyas Iyer 233, Siddhesh Lad 169 n o, Suryansh Shedge 79 n o) versus Odisha 75 for 1 (Sandeep Pattnaik 44 batting). Match to continue.



Shreyas Iyer acknowledges the applause as he returns to the pavilion after his brilliant double century, Thursday

7 wins on trot for Barcelona

AGENCIES

Paris, Nov 7: Barcelona and Inter Milan won again in the Champions League in their games played Wednesday evening. Barcelona defeated Red Star Belgrade 5-2 while Inter Milan scraped past Arsenal 1-0.

Aston Villa started the week atop the 36-team table but their winning run ended Wednesday after a bizarre penalty was awarded when defender Tyrone Mings picked up the ball in the penalty box at Club Brugge, resulting in a 0-1 loss which sent the English club plummeting to eighth place.

The win for Barcelona was their seventh on the trot. Robert Lewandowski scored twice in the game and has so far scored 21 goals this season. The other goals were scored by Inigo Martinez, Raphinha and Fermin Lopez.

"Obviously we are doing things very well, and many of them are being seen and reflected in our play, but there are cer-



Barcelona players celebrate after scoring a goal Wednesday

tain things that I can tell you, as a defender, we're suffering," said Barcelona centre-back Martinez after the match.

Meanwhile Bayern Munich won 1-0 at home to Benfica in a game that was delayed 15 minutes by crowd congestion and then was played in a muted atmosphere because of a medical incident for a fan.

Inter Milan stifled Arsenal in a 1-0 win at San Siro sealed by Hakan Calhanoglu's penalty in first half stoppage time. Arsenal had their chances but could not

convert. Inter are unbeaten on 10 points and in fifth place in the points table while Arsenal slipped to seventh.

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta was angry at the decision to give Inter's penalty, for Mikel Merino handling Mehdi Taremi's flick, as he believed his defender couldn't get his arm out of the way. He also couldn't believe that his team weren't given a spot-kick early in the first half when Sommer clattered into Merino while trying to clear the ball.

KIIT Chess Festival starts December 2

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7: The 15th KIIT International Chess Festival will be played at the Viswanathan Anand Chess Hall inside the KIIT campus here, December 2 to December 9, the organisers said in a release Thursday. Approximately 1,200 players from 20 countries including Grandmasters (GM) women Grandmasters (WGM) and International Masters (IM) will take part in the tournament. The total prize money for the event has been fixed at ₹60 lakh, the release said.

To provide opportunities to players from all sections, the tournament will be played in three categories - 'A', 'B' and 'C'. The release informed that the prize money has been doubled this year. The winner in the 'A' category will get ₹3 lakh while the runner-up will get ₹2 lakh. A total of 433 prizes will be up for grabs for players of all the categories.

Cuttack-A, AG-Odisha emerge team champions

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 7: Cuttack-A and AG-Odisha emerged champions in the youth and men's category of the 30th Inter-District and Odisha State Table Tennis Championships at the Biju Pattnaik Multi-purpose hall here Thursday. In the youth category final Cuttack-A defeated their counterparts from Cuttack-B 3-0 while in the men's summit clash round AG-Odisha blanked Khurda by an identical margin.

Except for a couple of matches, all the ties in the two finals were one-sided affairs. Jigyanshu Sahu started proceedings for Cuttack-A in style defeating Faraz Razza of Cuttack-B in straight games (3-0). Even though Ayaan Mustaque of Cuttack-B took a game from Md Jisaan of Cuttack-A, he lost the match 1-3. Jigyanshu and Jisaan then teamed up together in doubles and defeated



Members of the victorious Cuttack-A team

Faraz and Ayaan 3-0 to clinch the title for Cuttack-A.

Top-seeded AG-Odisha started firm favourites in the final and they did not disappoint. Tushar Chauhan defeated Saswat Samal of Khurda 3-1 to give AG-Odisha a 1-0 lead. Then Mainak Das trounced Abhinav Tripathy of Khurda in three straight games to make it 2-0 for AG Odisha. In the third singles Samrat Chakrabarty defeated Tuhin Banik of Khurda 3-0 to clinch the title for AG-Odisha.

Later in the day the qualification round matches for individual events started.