



REMINISCING MARITIME GLORY: People float miniature boats as part of Kartik Purnima rituals in Cuttack, Friday (MORE P3)

PIC: RAIKISHORE MOHANTY

CM: PESA in state after taking views of tribals

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday said that his government has organised gram sabhas in 7,667 panchayats to take the opinion of the tribal people before implementation of the Panchayats Extension of Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act. The CM said this while laying the foundation stones for various projects worth ₹1,535 crore for tribal development here. He also launched a portal on the Forest Rights Act as the state celebrated 'Jana Jatiya Gourav Divas' on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of tribal icon Birsa Munda. Accompanied by Union Ministers Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi and Shripad Yesso Naik, Deputy CM KV Singh Deo, Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sa-

rangi, the CM inaugurated the portal and laid the foundation stones for various development projects. He distributed habitat rights titles to seven Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) at a function held at Janata Maidan here. He said tribals constitute 23 per cent of Odisha's population. Majhi, who is also a tribal, said people belonging to 64 tribes and 13 PVTGs live in the state. "We have launched projects aiming development of the 23 per cent of the population," he said. Majhi laid the foundation stones for a range of transformative projects, including the Janajati Heritage and Pride Building, the Janajati Language and Culture Institute. These projects also include upgradation of schools, primary school hostels, and the State Tribal Museum, an official statement said.

The \$1-trillion question

Developing countries need at least \$1 trillion annually by the end of the decade to cope with the biggest existential threat faced by the world - climate change. But reaching a deal could be tough at this year's UN climate summit (COP29), where the mood has been soured by public disagreements among participating nations and pessimism about shifts in global politics. A major factor is Donald Trump's presidential election win which has raised doubts about the United States' future role in climate talks. Trump, a climate change denier, is likely to make all efforts to withdraw the US from any future funding deal. Not just that, he is also likely to promote fossil fuels. Such a scenario may put the world's climate goals, such as limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial level, in jeopardy.

ress on how to raise up to \$1 trillion in climate finance for the world's most vulnerable, as political tensions overshadowed the talks. The success of this year's UN climate summit hinges on whether countries can agree on a new finance target for richer countries, development lenders and the private sector to deliver each year. Developing countries need at least \$1 trillion annually by the end of the decade to cope with climate change, economists told the UN talks. Many countries have said that money is essential to their setting ambitious climate goals ahead of next year's COP30 in Brazil. However, Donald Trump's return to the White House has cast the United States' future role in climate talks into doubt, and tension between developed and developing nations has bubbled to the surface on the main stages and in negotiating rooms. "Parties must remember that the clock is ticking," COP29 Lead Negotiator Yalchin Rafiyev told a news

WORLD'S MOST POLLUTING CITIES

Baku: Cities in Asia and the United States emit the most heat-trapping gas that feeds climate change, with Shanghai the most polluting, according to new data that combines observations and artificial intelligence. Shanghai's 256 million tonnes of greenhouse gases led all cities and exceeded those from the nations of Colombia or Norway. Tokyo's 250 million tonnes would rank in the top 40 of nations if it were a country, while New York City's 160 million tonnes and Houston's 150 million tonnes would be in the top 50 of countrywide emissions. Seoul, South Korea, ranks fifth among cities at 142 million tonnes.

conference. Many Western governments arrived in Baku reluctant to pledge big sums. The likely withdrawal of the US from the climate talks will raise pressure on delegates to find other ways to secure the needed funds. Among them are the world's multilateral development banks such as the World Bank, funded by the richer countries and in the process of being reformed so they can lend more.

5 kids drown during Kartik Purnima

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: The joy of celebrating Kartik Purnima with the traditional 'Boita Bandana' turned into tragedy Friday, as five children drowned in separate incidents across the state. In Balasore, two girls, around five years old, drowned in a pond at Panishapada under Basta police limits. The victims, daughters of Dilip

Kumar Das and Manas Nanda, had gone to collect the miniature boats from the village pond in the absence of their families. Their bodies were later recovered by the authorities, police said. In another incident in Balasore, a three-year-old boy drowned in a pond in Saundia under Khaira police limits, police added. A similar incident took place in Cuttack district, where a three-

year-old boy, identified as the son of Pradipta Bhoi, drowned while trying to collect the boats from a pond in Karamuan village, located in the Salepur block. In Malkangiri district, a 12-year-old girl, Sabitri Hantal, drowned in a pond in Champanagar after she slipped into the deep water while attempting to retrieve coins that had been placed on the miniature boats as part of the festival, police said.

AGENCIES

Baku, Nov 15: Countries at the COP29 summit tried to make prog-

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Make sure no nutjobs come near Trump Tower, son - they could land in the next govt!

WEATHER	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	31.6°	29.2°
Min Temp	20.0°	20.0°
Humidity	71%	71%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
Dry weather very likely to prevail over the districts of Odisha

Mazar inside Doon razed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

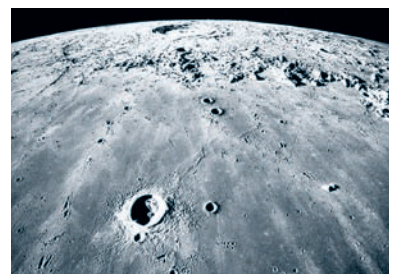
Dehradun, Nov 15: A 'mazar' within the walls of the famous Doon School here was razed following protests by right-wing Hindu outfits. The structure stood inside the residential school which has among its alumni several celebrities and political leaders including Rajiv Gandhi, his son Rahul Gandhi, Naveen Patnaik, Jyotiraditya Scindia and Karan Singh, besides celebrated authors like Amitav Ghosh and Vikram Seth. It is the most famous British-era private boarding school for boys in Dehradun. Purported videos of a group of four to five men demolishing the shrine using pick axes and hammers have gone viral on social media. The incident took place a couple of days ago, Dehradun District Magistrate Savin Bansal told PTI Friday. "We did not issue any orders for its demolition. However, we did send a team including the SDM to the place to verify the facts related to the mazar and ensure that law and order are maintained," Bansal said. He said that he had sought a report on the incident from his team. Hindu outfit leader Swami Darshan Bharti said he had met Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and the author-

ities here recently requesting them to demolish the mazar within the boundaries of the school. "Whoever may have done it, I welcome the demolition. Why should there be a mazar within a school? That too inside the walls of a prestigious school like The Doon School... It shows the extent of land jihad in the state," Bharti, who is the founder of Uttarakhand Raksha Abhiyan, told PTI. According to sources, the mazar was old and had been recently renovated by the school authorities. The CM launched a crackdown against illegal encroachments on government land in 2022. Encroachments on 5,000 acres of government land have so far been removed as part of the drive, officials said. Meanwhile, the Uttarakhand Waqf Board claimed that the part of the school on which the mazar stood used to be their property at one time. "According to our records, 57 acres of land in the said area belonged to us but its current status is not known," a Waqf Board official said on condition of anonymity. The Waqf Board still owns a large portion of land adjacent to the school, he said. When contacted, Uttarakhand Waqf Board Chairman Shadab Shams said he was aware of the demolition of the mazar inside the school.

Far side of moon once had erupting volcanoes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Nov 15: Volcanoes were erupting on the mysterious far side of the moon billions of years ago just like on the side that we can see, new research confirms. Researchers analysed lunar soil brought back by China's Chang'e-6, the first spacecraft to return with a haul of rocks and dirt from the little-explored far side. Two separate teams found fragments of volcanic rock that were about 2.8 billion years old. One piece was even more ancient, dating back to 4.2 billion years. "To obtain a sample from this area is really important because it's an



area that otherwise we have no data for," said Christopher Hamilton, a planetary volcano expert at the University of Arizona who was not involved with the research. Scientists know there were active volcanoes on the near side, the part of the moon seen from Earth, dating

back to a similar time frame. Previous studies, including data from NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, suggested the far side might also have a volcanic past. The first samples from that region facing away from earth confirm an active history. The results were published Friday in the journals Nature and Science. China has launched several spacecraft to the moon. In 2020, the Chang'e-5 spacecraft returned moon rocks from the near side, the first since those collected by NASA's Apollo astronauts and Soviet Union spacecraft in the 1970s. The Chang'e-4 spacecraft became the first to visit the moon's far side in 2019.

DSPL - 201

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ବାଚନ ଅଧିକାରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

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ନୂତନ ଭୋଟର ଭାବେ ନିଜ ନାମ ଭୋଟର ତାଲିକାରେ ଯୋଡ଼ିଲେଣି ?

ଯଦି ଏବେ ଯାଏ ମଧ୍ୟ ଯୋଡ଼ି ନାହାନ୍ତି ତେବେ ଆସନ୍ତା ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ଅଭିଯାନ ଦିବସ ଗୁଡ଼ିକର ତାରିଖ ମନେ ରଖୁଥାଆନ୍ତୁ ।

୧୬ ନଭେମ୍ବର ୨୦୨୪ (ଶନିବାର) ୨୪ ନଭେମ୍ବର ୨୦୨୪ (ରବିବାର)

ସକାଳ ୧୦ ରୁ ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟା ୫ ଯାଏ

ଆପଣଙ୍କ ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ମତଦାନ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରକୁ ଯାଇ ବୁଧ-ସ୍ୱରାୟ ଅଧିକାରୀଙ୍କ ସହଯୋଗରେ ନିଜ ନାମ, ଭୋଟର ତାଲିକାରେ ଯୋଗ / ସଂଶୋଧନ କରିପାରିବେ ।

ଘରେ ବସି ଅନଲାଇନରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଏହି ସବୁ ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟା ଅତି ସହଜରେ କରିପାରିବେ

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କିମ୍ବା

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leisure



NIELSEN'S PLAYLIST IS FILLED WITH CLASSIC INDIAN SONGS

Denish actress Connie Nielsen, who returns to the role of Lucilla in *Gladiator 2*, admitted she is a huge fan of Indian music. In an interview with *IANS*, Nielsen revealed that her playlist is filled with many classic Indian songs and expressed her deep admiration for both Indian cinema and music.

SOPHIE TURNER TO PLAY LARA CROFT

Game of Thrones star Sophie Turner is in talks to star as Lara Croft in the series adaptation of the video game franchise *Tomb Raider* from Emmy-winning Phoebe Waller-Bridge. It was reported last month that Turner was among the actresses who tested for the high-profile role.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today you will land up in a tricky or hazardous situation. You will feel compelled to wade against the tide, which may not be such a productive thing, says Ganesha. Nothing seems to be going your way. Take some time off for yourself to relieve the stress.

TAURUS

A short trip could be in the offing today, says Ganesha. Before proceeding, you may, however, be compelled to make changes in your itinerary. If you are not too happy with the new schedules and decide to stick to your original plans, you are likely to feel disturbed, uneasy at the end of the day.

GEMINI

You will feel out of sorts today. This could result in distances between you and your loved ones. You may fall into the wrong sorts of debates on account of your ill-temper. You need to keep a curb on your emotions to perform better, says Ganesha.

CANCER

You are most likely to appear edgy and hypercritical to others, says Ganesha. Remain your typical poised self. Try not to be harsh to others, if you wish to save your relationships and sustain a reputable image. Avoid clashes with your superiors and colleagues. Take a deep breath the moment you feel you are losing the grip on your emotions, and then this too shall pass!

LEO

Agreed that home is where the heart is. But today, your home is where your troubles will be. The faster you try to run away from them, the quicker they seem to catch up with you, says Ganesha. So, scooting off may not be the best solution.

VIRGO

Open the mind gates and let your imagination flow, says Ganesha. At your creative best, you will pursue innovation and creativity today. Luck will be on your side and even those things that you took a risk on may lean your way. You energy levels will be unusually high and you will feel passionate about all that you undertake.

LIBRA

There is a very strong possibility of major improvements in your public standing and image today. But it all depends so much upon your personal character, and, therefore, you must guard it zealously, even with your own life. Those who seek to malign or dent your reputation will be disappointed, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO

Today promises to be an exceptional day for those involved in business. With sheer brilliance, you will steer deals right to your door step, and will display great finesse in negotiations and bartering.

SAGITTARIUS

As Ganesha foresees, you will be religiously inclined today. Listening to soft, instrumental music will soothe your nerves. You also feel like going back to school days and dig into detective and suspense stories of Nancy Drew or Hardy Boys.

CAPRICORN

If you are planning to fly to foreign shores for further studies, start documentation and other preparations today, says Ganesha. Whether you are a student or not, on this favourable day, all you need to do is to make a priority list, follow it and finish off your work one by one.

AQUARIUS

Cooperative and supportive, your colleagues will help you improve your performance at work. Also, your creativity will win you praises from one and all, foretells Ganesha. The day will have a perfect end as you will spend quality time with your friends and family.

PISCES

You are going to be very emotional today. You will be able to express your love to your wife or other loved ones in a very unique and dramatic way. It is not a good day for putting forth marriage or love proposals, and if you do it could be disappointing. Ganesha says that professionally you will be very successful in all tasks.

Sharvari

living her dream

Mumbai: Actress Sharvari shared that her favourite genre is action and that she is getting to live her dream through *Alpha*. "I love action as a genre and I binge watch action movies with my sister! So, when I was offered *Alpha*, I jumped! In my head I always wanted to do action as an actor. So, I'm getting to live my dream," said the actress, who will be seen starring alongside Alia Bhatt in the film.

She shared that she always believed that action stars have a really fun shooting experience because of all the stunts that they get to do.

"I'm now experiencing this feeling first hand and I have to admit that it's supremely fun but physically so taxing. I'm putting in my 200 percent and I hope people love me in *Alpha*! I want to become an action star in the near future and so, I'm going for it in *Alpha*!"

Alpha is directed by Shiv Rawail of the blockbuster global streaming series *The Railway Men*, which was also produced by YRF. Created by producer Aditya Chopra, the YRF spy universe is the biggest IP of Indian cinema today.



Alizeh preps for something big

Mumbai: Actress Alizeh Agnihotri, niece of superstar Salman Khan, showcased her strength as she did non-stop dumbbell pushups.

According to a source, the *Farrey* actress is prepping up for a big ticket action movie to be directed by a top notch director. However, it refused to share more details about the development.

Alizeh took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a video of herself doing the workout. The actress is seen dressed in an all black athleisure and exercising in the gym. Her entire focus is on the pushup as her trainer can be heard giving counts in the background.

The 24-year-old actress, who is the daughter of Atul Agnihotri and Alvira Khan Agnihotri, made her debut in Bollywood as a lead in 2023 with the thriller-drama film *Farrey*.

Directed by Soumendra Padhi, the movie also starred Ronit Roy, Sahil Mehta, Zeyn Shaw, Prasanna Bisht, Juhi Babbar and Shilpa Shukla. It is an official remake of the 2017 Thai film *Bad Genius*.

"Being part of *Farrey* as my debut project has been such a rewarding and incredible journey as an actor, and I couldn't have asked for a better start," she said. *IANS*



Abhishek's transformative experience

New Delhi: Actor Abhishek Bachchan says Shoojit Sircar's films are like "a breath of fresh air" from what is often made in the Hindi film industry and working with the director on the upcoming movie *I Want To Talk* was a transformative experience. Produced by Rising Sun Films and Kino Works, the slice-of-life drama is set to hit the screens worldwide November 22.

Bachchan was all praise for Sircar, known for films such as *Vicky Donor*, *Piku*, *October*, and *Sardar Udham*. "Shoojit da represents a cinema that is so very different from what we make in the Hindi film industry and that's a breath of fresh air. It's nice once in a while to pause, take a breath and just feel something instead of just being dictated to all the time..."

"The experience of making a film with him is very transformative, not just physically... It's been a learning experience, life changing," the actor told. In the film, Bachchan plays Arjun, who is on the cusp of a life-altering surgery as he navigates a complex relationship with his daughter. Bachchan, 48, gained weight for the role of Arjun. *PTI*

Tara confirms she's single

Mumbai: Tara Sutaria recently took to Instagram to share that she's embracing single life, posting a heartfelt message about finding love someday. The actress was previously in a relationship with Adar Jain.

The actor took to Instagram Stories to share that she's single, posting a hopeful message about finding love someday. She reposted a heartwarming clip of an elderly couple sharing a romantic moment at a restaurant, adding a touch of sweetness to her message.

Sharing the clip, she wrote, "Oh to be in love... To have your fella play with your hair... To do nothing but gaze at the ceiling together... Perhaps one day... Someday". Since it was a Story, the post is not visible right now. However, screenshots of the same have surfaced on social media.

The 28-year-old actress has been making headlines recently regarding her personal life. There have been rumours circulating since the start of the year about her dating actor Arunoday Singh. However, Tara has clarified that Arunoday is just a close friend, and she is currently single. Despite reports suggesting that the two have been in a relationship for the past year and a half, she remains firm in her stance.

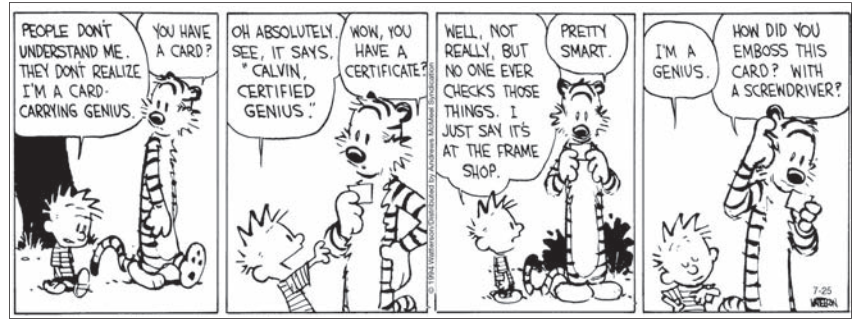
In 2020, after dating for a couple of years, Tara made her relationship with Aadar official. Their breakup in 2023 also made headlines. *AGENCIES*



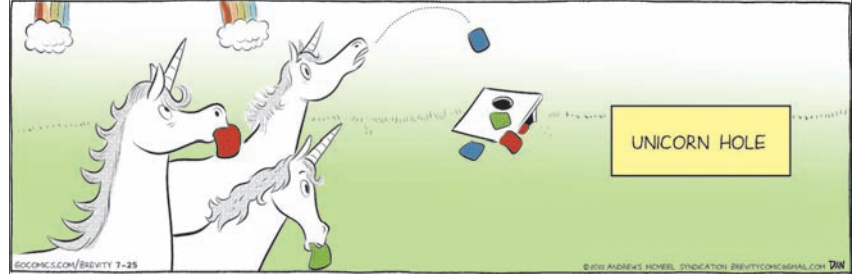
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

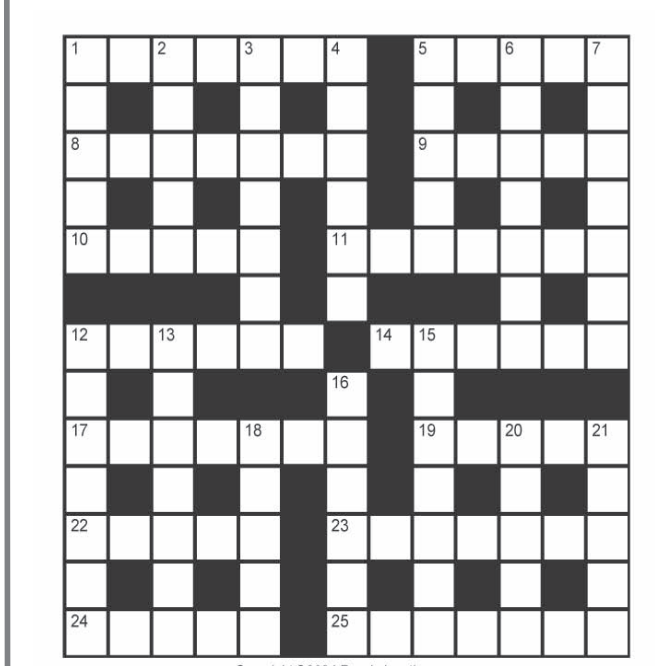


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 One lacking courage
 - 5 Pied ___ of Hamelin
 - 8 Numbers pool
 - 9 Minimal
 - 10 Ridgeline
 - 11 Headache reliever
 - 12 Gentle breeze
 - 14 Mourn
 - 17 Patrick Macnee played one
 - 19 Come to pass
 - 22 Desert sight
 - 23 Assembles
 - 24 Bubbly drinks
 - 25 Uneasy
 - 5 Small vascular growth
 - 6 Grassland
 - 7 Entourage
 - 12 Enthusiastic
 - 13 Delighted
 - 15 Nature's alarm clock
 - 16 Wyvern, e.g.
 - 18 Short pants
 - 20 Doctrine
 - 21 Get-out-of-the-doghouse gift, at times
- Down**
- 1 Kind of toast
 - 2 Petrol unit
 - 3 Backdrop for a play
 - 4 Gambler's wish for 8

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

F	I	N	A	N	C	E	L	O	C	A	L	
E	U	E	D	I	O	E						
M	A	N	N	E	Q	I	N	L	O	B		
U		D	C	E	U	A						
R	E	P	E	L	A	B	D	O	M	E	N	
R	E	T				B	O					
B	L	O	O	D	R	E	L	A	T	I	O	N
U	C				D	U	N					
T	E	L	L	I	N	G		G	R	E	E	K
T	A	R		U				I				
O	B	I		O	V	E	R	S	L	E	P	T
N	M	N	S	T	O	T						
S	A	S	S		S	P	A	S	S	K		

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

BIZ SUMMIT 2025

CM to embark on 4-day S'pore tour tomorrow to woo investors

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi is all set to embark on a four-day visit to Singapore on Sunday to attract investment to the state, officials said.

Majhi, after becoming the Chief Minister in June, is visiting a foreign country for the first time. The visit is a strategic initiative to attract global investments to the state ahead of the 'Utkarsh Odisha - Make in Odisha Conclave' in January next year.

"This is our first international outreach to present the state on a global platform. We are keen to showcase our state's vast opportunities in various sectors and our readiness to welcome foreign investments," Majhi said in a statement.

The Chief Minister said that the state's fully operational ports, combined with a strategic focus on the chemical and petrochemical industries, present immense growth potential and would be highlighted during the visit.

"Through this visit, we aim to forge meaningful partnerships with industry leaders and government delegates besides engaging with our vibrant Odia diaspora. I am confident that this visit will attract significant investments and position Odisha as a preferred investment destination," Majhi said.

During the visit, the Chief Minister and his delegation, comprising Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain, will engage in a series of high-level meetings and discussions aimed at promoting Odisha's



Through this visit, we aim to forge meaningful partnerships with industry leaders and government delegates besides engaging with our vibrant Odia diaspora. I am confident that this visit will attract significant investments and position Odisha as a preferred investment destination

MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI | CHIEF MINISTER



We are particularly interested in their innovations in technology, manufacturing, and skill development. By inviting them to 'Utkarsh Odisha - Make in Odisha Conclave 2025', we are opening doors for collaborative growth and shared prosperity

SAMPAD CHANDRA SWAIN | INDUSTRIES MINISTER

investment potential, a senior official said.

The delegation will visit Singapore's renowned industrial and infrastructure facilities, including the Jurong Petrochemicals Region, the Tuas Port and Singapore-based ITE Education Services (ITEES).

It will also interact with top officials, including Singapore's deputy prime minister, minister of trade and industry, and the minister for foreign affairs, to exchange insights on investment and trade opportunities, the official said.

In addition, a roadshow and interactive sessions will be organised to showcase business opportunities in Odisha.

The delegation will also connect with industry associations and the Odia diaspora in Singapore to strengthen economic

and cultural ties, inviting them to participate in the upcoming 'Utkarsh Odisha - Make in Odisha Conclave 2025'.

Swain said the visit is not just about attracting investments but also about acquiring knowledge from Singapore's advanced industrial practices.

"We are particularly interested in their innovations in technology, manufacturing, and skill development. By inviting them to 'Utkarsh Odisha - Make in Odisha Conclave 2025', we are opening doors for collaborative growth and shared prosperity," Swain said.

"Our goal is to ensure Odisha's continued progress on a global scale while creating opportunities for skill development and employment in our state," he added.

'ENTER SRIMANDIR FROM ALL 4 GATES'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, Nov 15: Authorities of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) in Puri will allow devotees to enter the 12th-century shrine through all its four gates from Saturday, officials said.

In view of the rush of devotees during the Kartik month, the SJTA allowed their entry only through the Singhadwar (Lion's Gate). During the Kartik month, the entry of devotees through three other gates of the temple was restricted for crowd management, the officials said.

"With the end of Kartik month Friday, the restrictions were withdrawn. Now, devotees can enter the temple through all four gates from Saturday as the footfall is likely to decrease after the completion of the Kartik month," an official said.

The SJTA introduced the crowd control measure for the Kartik rituals October 18.

From Saturday, the devotees can enter the temple through all the gates, but cannot return through the Lion's Gate, another official said.

Lady, paramour held for branding children



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: A woman and her paramour were apprehended in the City Friday on charges of branding two children of the former with hot kitchen pincer as the kids opposed their extra-marital relationship, said sources at Matri Vihar police station.

Maitri Vihar IIC Mrutyunjay Swain said the accused, identified as Raju Nayak, 35, and Sumitra Mohapatra, 30, are neighbours in Mahavirnagar slum of Salia Sahi area. They developed intimacy a year ago when Sumitra's husband moved to Angul for work. However, this

sparked off resentment and anger among Sumitra's son and daughter, who opposed their mother's relationship with Raju.

The IIC said things took an ugly turn November 12 when Sumitra's children opposed Raju's entry to their residence. This infuriated the duo, who later hatched a plan to teach a lesson to the children. Going by the plan, Raju brought a hot kitchen pincer, and branded the kids, leaving them with serious burn injuries. He then bundled the kids into a room and bolted it from outside when they screamed for help.

"The truth came to light when the children's father reached home, November 14 and asked about the injuries. Sumitra's husband rushed to the police station and lodged an FIR against the duo," Swain added.

Police have booked Raju and Sumitra under relevant Sections of BNS before producing them in a court Friday.

RICH TRIBUTES

Members of Vinoba Bhave Smruti Parishad pay tributes to the great philosopher on his death anniversary in Puri, Friday



BALI YATRA KICKS OFF

PNN & AGENCIES

Cuttack, Nov 15: The historic Bali Yatra, one of the largest open trade fairs in Asia, got off to a colourful start here Friday evening.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated the fair at the upper and lower Bali Yatra grounds.

For the first time, ambassadors, high commissioners and diplomats from 14 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and Pacific countries joined the trade fair.

The foreign diplomats were taken on a boat ride to the Bali Yatra grounds in four traditionally-decorated boats named after Cuttack's major rivers - Mahanadi, Kathajodi, Birupa, and Devi. The diplomats were given a traditional welcome.

The event will also see participation of cultural troupes from six countries - Thailand, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Slovakia, Indonesia and Bhutan.

A senior district official explained that the aim of the boat ride to the fair venue was to give them experience



of ancient Odisha. "The boat journey symbolises Odisha's historic trade links with Southeast Asia," the official said.

In the days of yore, traders of Odisha, called 'Sadhabas' used to go on sea voyages to places like erstwhile Bali, Java and Sumatra in the vessels called Boita for business. The

traders in ancient days set out for the long journey from Kartik Purnima. To commemorate that glorious event, Odisha observes this Bali Yatra fair in Cuttack.

Spread over more than 20 acres of land, two fairgrounds housed more than 2,500 makeshift stalls, officials said, adding that the fair will continue

till November 22.

The district administration and the police have made elaborate arrangements for the event, which is expected to witness footfall of more than 50 lakh people.

Special arrangements have been made for senior citizens, women and children at the fairgrounds, he said.

Month-long Kartik Brata concludes

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, Nov 15: The month-long Kartik Brata concluded on Purnima (the full moon day), Friday.

Special rituals were performed at government-run Habishyali centres to mark the conclusion of the Brata.

From midnight, Habishyalis rushed to the Mahodadhi (a 5 km stretch of beach from Swargadwar to Chakratirtha) to take a holy dip and sail miniature boats in the sea. Other sacred water bodies were also used to commemorate the glorious maritime trade of ancient Kalinga.

Devotees offered special pujas to the sacred Tulsi (basil) plant and took holy dips in Mahodadhi. After offering prayers to the rising Sun, they visited Srmandir to witness the Rajarajeswar Basha of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra.

A heavy rush of devotees was seen at the Lion's Gate of the 12th century shrine, with long queues forming within barricades. The administration effectively managed the crowd, ensuring a smooth darshan of the deities.

New flights from BPIA, Jharsuguda

Bhubaneswar: Some airlines have agreed to introduce new flights from airports in Bhubaneswar and Jharsuguda, the CMO said Friday. "The communication system is being strengthened. The path of progress is widening. Direct flights will start from Bhubaneswar Biju Patnaik International Airport to Indore, Dehradun, Kochi, Jaipur, Lucknow and Jharsuguda Vir Surendra Sai Airport to Hyderabad, Raipur, Lucknow, Mumbai. It will give a new direction to the economic development of the state," the CMO said in a post on X.



Starting at midnight, priests performed the daily rituals of the deities, including Mangal Arati, Abakash, Surya Puja and Rosa Homa, and offered Gopal Bhog.

As per the rescheduled timings set by the temple administration, three special sets of servitors dressed the deities in gold ornaments studded with precious gems.

After the darshan of the deities, many Habishyalis began their return journey by buses and trains, while others chose to stay until the rush subsided.

The state government hosted about 3,500 devotees from across Odisha, providing ac-



Bhubaneswar

commodation, food, and other facilities at its expense.

They were housed in four different accommodations, including Brundabati Niwas, a seven-story building with a

capacity to house over 1,000 devotees. These centres were well-furnished with basic amenities to meet the needs of the devotees for performing their religious rites. Devotees were provided with breakfast and Mahaprasad daily. Transportation to and from the temple, assistance from appointed servitors, evening religious discourses by scholars, and healthcare were also arranged for their convenience.

To ensure safety and order, about 37 platoons of police personnel were deployed to regulate vehicular traffic and maintain law and order. Hundreds of lifeguards were stationed at the sea beach and sacred water bodies to prevent drowning incidents.

District Collector Siddharth Sankar Swain, Superintendent of Police Vinit Agrawal and Shree Jagannath Temple Administration Chief Administrator Arabinda Kumar Padhee personally oversaw the arrangements for the Habishyalis.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and his deputy Pravatī Parida also visited the Habishyali centres during the festival.

Silver-coating of Ratna Singhasan likely by Dec 25

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Nov 15: If everything goes well, silver-coating on the Ratna Singhasan, Patitapaban Temple and the Singhadwar (Lion's Gate) canopy door lock will be completed by December 25, as the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has decided to use more than 300 kg of silver donated by devotees for the purpose.

This was revealed during a crucial meeting held at the SJTA office under the chairmanship of chief administrator Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Thursday.

Earlier, during the Srmandir Managing Committee meeting, detailed discussions about the silver-coating project were held. In the initial phase, the aim is to complete the silver-coating of the Patitapaban Temple and its canopy lock by December 25. Further, the Ratna Singhasan and related items will be silver-coated by March next year.

Previously, various doors within and outside the Srmandir, including Kalahat Gate and Beherana Gate, were silver-coated. Later, seven other gates - Bhandara Ghara Gate, Satapahacha Gate, Lakshmi



Mandir Gate, Vimala Mandir Gate, Dakshina Ghara Gate, Nrusingha Mandir Gate and Surya Mandir Gate - were also coated with silver.

The earlier managing committee meeting had decided to silver-coat the Jamashila area within the Singhadwar canopy, and this decision was further elaborated during the Thursday's meeting.

The meeting also deliberated on silver-coating the throne where the Dashavata idols are seated, the Ratnapalanka, and all other movable idols. The Patitapaban Temple and the Ratna Singhasan will be entirely covered with silver. The designs were showcased Thursday, but as the measurements are yet to be finalised, they will be presented again.

Silver coating for the Jamashila area and its adjoining structures will be carried out, and some design modifications have been implemented. The thickness of the silver coating

will be approximately 1 mm.

All works will be executed using the silver donated by the Lord's devotees. It is estimated that around 350 kg of silver will be utilised. A target has been set to complete the silver-coating work on the Patitapaban Temple and the structures above Jamashila by December 25 so as to ensure that devotees witness the new adornments by the New Year.

The Ratna Singhasan, made of Burma teakwood, has already been crafted. The weight of each palanka (plank) ranges between 50 to 56 kg. Considering all aspects, the silver-coating will be designed in a manner that ensures no issues for the servitors. Final discussions regarding the Ratna Singhasan have been held, and the aim is to complete the silver-coating work by March.

Silver coating will also be applied to the seven Prabhas (decorative halos) of the idols. The Maharana Sevaks (craftsmen) will prepare the halos, which will then be coated with silver.

The work is expected to be completed before Akshaya Tritiya next year, according to Madhab Pujapanda, a former member of the managing committee.



CULTURAL FEST: Artistes perform during the concluding day of Odissi Raaga Mahotsav by Gopal Panda Odissi Academy at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Friday

OP PHOTO

KLF launches readers' club in City

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: The Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF) recently launched the KLF Readers' Club at Forest Park here, with an event graced by an inspiring panel of dignitaries from the fields of literature, culture, and social leadership. The new initiative aims to nurture a dynamic reading culture and create a platform for book lovers to connect, share, and grow together in their literary journey.



The event featured insightful discussions on how reading can impact personal growth, foster empathy, and contribute to society. Several dignitaries shared their personal experiences with literature, underscoring the transformative power of books and the necessity of cultivating a love for reading in fast-paced digital age. Delivering the welcome address, KLF founder Rashmi Ranjan Parida shared about the objectives of the club and said, "Our goal is to make reading accessible and enjoyable for people of all ages and backgrounds."

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Kamini Biswal, W/o Krishna Chandra Biswal resident of Gurusajana, P.O. - Gengutia, Dist. - Dhenkanal, Pin - 759013, Odisha declare by this Affidavit No. 70, Dated 14.11.2024 that now onwards, I shall be known as KAMINI BEHERA for all future purpose.

I, Manobina Padhy, Wife of- Sudhansu Kumar Padhy, resident of At/ Post-Pandarakhali, P.S.- Purushottam Pur, Dist.- Ganjam, Pin- 761043, Odisha, declare by this affidavit No.- 490, dtd- 02.06.2018 that now onwards I shall be known as Manobina Sabat for all future purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar dtd. 06.11.2024 I, Swati Pattnaik, Address- Plot No.- 405/845, New Colony, Pokhariput, Bhubaneswar, Odisha- 751020 declare that I have changed my Name from Swatishree Mohapatra to Swati Pattnaik. Henceforth I shall be known as Swati Pattnaik for all purposes.

Swati Pattnaik.

Centre aims to develop Odisha as a major RE hub: Pralhad Joshi



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: The Centre aims to develop Odisha as a major hub for renewable energy (RE) and explore the scope of green hydrogen production in the state, said Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi, while addressing the valedictory session of the two-day 'Chintan Shivir' event, organised by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) here Friday.

Joshi noted Odisha's immense renewable energy potential, with 140 GW of solar capacity and significant opportunities in green hydrogen, owing to its long coastline and port infrastructure.

Speaking at the event, Joshi also announced that a dedicated task force with all stakeholders will be set up by MNRE, in collaboration with the Ministry of Power to achieve the goal of 500 GW by 2030.

The Union Minister emphasised the need to install 288 GW of renewable energy capacity over the next six years, requiring a substantial investment

of ₹42 lakh crore, including transmission infrastructure. This requires all stakeholders to work together to solve the various challenges in the RE sector, he said.

The event brought together 117 industry leaders and 67 representatives from states and PSUs, with participation from 12 major renewable energy-producing states. Joshi reiterated India's commitment to the 'Panchamrit' goals announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, emphasising the 2030 target of 500 GW of renewable energy capacity.

"MNRE will organise hackathons for startups in the RE sector, with assured off-take to promote industrialisation of renewable energy technologies and solutions," he said. "A new joint Centre of Excellence for research and development will also be established in collaboration with the Ministry of Power to foster innovation and technological advancements in the renewable energy sector," he added.

The Minister called for the early finalisation of Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) and strict enforcement of Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs) to ensure the success of renewable energy projects. Potential for floating solar panels in the state will also be explored, Joshi said. He also highlighted that a 6,000 MW manufacturing capacity for production of solar modules, solar cells and ingot-wafer at Dhenkanal district with an expected investment of ₹9,000 crore is being set up by an agency. Another agency is setting up 1,000 MW manufacturing capacity for production of solar modules and cells at Infovalley-II in Khurda with expected investment of around ₹730 crore.

Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo stated that the state government stands with the Union in meeting the 'Panchamrit' targets set by Prime Minister. Department's principal secretary Vishal Kumar Dev also addressed the event. Additional secretary Sudeep Jain extended vote of thanks to all stakeholders who attended the session.

INS Chilka holds CIPs ahead of Sea Vigil-24

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: In order to prepare for the upcoming coastal defence exercise Sea Vigil-24, and to enhance coastal security awareness within the fishermen community across six coastal districts, a series of community interaction programmes (CIPs) were organised recently by the naval officer-in-charge (Odisha) personnel.

As part of the CIPs, Coastal Defence and Security Readiness Evaluation (CDSRE) involved collaborative efforts by teams from the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Marine Police, Customs, and other state agencies engaged in coastal security.



The exercises emphasised assessing the infrastructure and material readiness of essential coastal assets, including Marine Police outposts, ports, lighthouses, fishing harbours, and fish landing centres. "By ensuring the readiness of these assets and raising awareness within the fishing community, Sea Vigil-24 reinforces India's commitment to secure and resilient coastal defence," an officer said.

UDBHAV CONCLUDES

Young Ekalavyas will write the future of great Bharat: Gond



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: The young Ekalavyas will write the future of great Bharat, said School and Mass education Minister Nityananda Gond at the valedictory evening of the 5th Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) National Cultural, Literary and Kala Utsav 2024 'Udbhav' here Friday.

More than 1,400 students from 22 states and Union Territories participated in the event

Speaking at the event, Gond said, "These young Ekalavyas will write the future of great Bharat. I am happy to see their preparation and performances."

The minister called upon them to protect their own glory and uphold the dignity of their homeland. Gond also discussed the contribution of Atal Bihari Vajpayee towards the establishment of EMRS.

Department's principal secretary Bishnupad Sethi delivered the welcome address and greeted the co-organisers. Sethi expressed gratitude towards National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) for their cooperation.

More than 1,400 students from 22 states and Union Territories participated in the event. Different competitions and workshops were organised in both senior and junior categories. Odisha won the highest number of awards in the competitions. Students from other states also narrated their unique experiences at the event.

'Mediosa 2024' by BGU concludes



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: Birla School of Communication, Birla Global University (BGU), recently hosted a three-day media fest 'Mediosa 2024' attracting media enthusiasts and professionals. The event was inaugurated by ex-MP Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, along with renowned journalist and documentary filmmaker Deepika Narayan Bharadwaj. Shiv Shankar Das, Associate Dean, Birla School of Communication, welcomed the guests, while Registrar BK Das congratulated the students for organising the event. Mediosa 2024, with the theme 'Media Morphosis', featured a range of activities, including panel

discussions, competitions and talent shows.

Day-2 began with a discussion on personal branding, featuring influencers Aniket Rajak and Priyanka Jena. Highlights included a Bollywood-themed treasure hunt, Filmy Heist, and a session with Ashok Kumar Panda, Editor of MBC Television.

The final day saw discussions with Ollywood stalwarts like Sukant Rath and Sanjoy Patnaik. Aparajita Acharya from Icon & Consulting spoke about the intersection of corporate life and media. The festival concluded with a valedictory session, where actor Sibani Sangita distributed prizes and felicitated the organising committee.

KISS Foundation extends support to family of mango kernel tragedy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: In a compassionate gesture, the KISS Foundation has come forward to support two young children from Mandipanka village under Daringbadi block of Kandhamal district, following the untimely demise of their mother Rumita Pattamajhi after consuming mango kernel.

Learning of their plight through media reports, KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta extended a helping hand to her two children, a two-and-a-half-year-old son and a six-month-old daughter who have been left deprived of motherly care.

Samanta promptly arranged an immediate cash assistance of ₹3,000 for her husband Anil through his representative.

This aid will continue to be provided to the family until the children reach the age of five, with the funds being delivered to them via a bank account. After the age of five, the KISS Foundation will arrange for their free education at KISS.

Tripura, Arunachal ministers visit Odisha Mandap at IITF



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: Industries and Commerce Minister Santana Chakma from Tripura and Nyato Dukam from Arunachal Pradesh visited the Odisha Mandap at the India International Trade Fair (IITF) in New Delhi Friday.

During the visit, Chakma said that Odisha has lot of potential in tourism sector and government is doing great work in promoting that at IITF. Dukam also appreciated the initiative and said, "I am really impressed by Odisha's handicraft and handloom work. It is one of the most productive states and is doing great work in all the sectors."

Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister inaugurated the Odisha Pavillion at the 43rd India International Trade Fair 2024, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, in the presence of I and PR principal secretary Sanjay Kumar Singh, director Saroj Kumar Samal and principal resident commissioner Vishal Gagan. The Odisha Pavillion highlights the state's unique heritage, displaying exquisite sculptures, intricate craftsmanship, and contemporary farm products alongside India's technological ambitions, aligning with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. The fair aims to promote trade, business, and investment opportunities, as well as foster cultural exchange.

Cleanliness drive at Bindu Sagar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: On the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima, Youth for Seva, voluntary organisation, organised 'Clean Bindu Sagar Campaign' near Lingraj Temple here Friday. The initiative was aimed at raising awareness about preserving Bindu Sagar, which gets polluted during Boita Bandana Utsav every year.

As part of the event, 68 volunteers from the organisation gathered at 8am to clean the pond. Their efforts focused on removing waste and debris, ensuring that the sacred water-body remained pollution free.

Gyanaranjan Das of the organisation emphasised the importance of the initiative and said, "The environment is integral to our cultural heritage. By maintaining the cleanliness of Bindu Sagar, we not only preserve its sanctity but also send a strong message of environmental responsibility to society, especially on such a significant day."

Extreme weather could raise groundwater contamination risk: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: Extreme weather events, including droughts and heavy rains driven by climate change, could increase the risk of nitrates from fertilisers in soil percolating down, thereby contaminating groundwater rapidly, according to a recent study.

Previous studies have shown that about 40 per cent of nitrogen fertilisers used for vegetables is not absorbed by the plants, but remains in the soil. During droughts, crops do not use nitrogen efficiently, leading to excess nitrogen in the soil, researchers explained.

This study, published in the journal Water Resources Research, found that sudden bursts of water from heavy



rains following a drought caused nitrates -- a component of nitrogen fertiliser -- to seep 33 feet, or 10 metres, in as little as 10 days.

"The conventional wisdom was that it could take several

weeks to years for nitrates to move from the crop root zones to reach groundwater," corresponding author Isaya Kisekka, a professor at the University of California - Davis, US, said.

"We found these extreme

events, such as California's atmospheric rivers, are going to move nitrate more quickly," Kisekka said.

Groundwater contamination caused by nitrates due to intensive agriculture and the excess use of fertilisers is a significant issue across several European Union countries, India, the North China Plain, and New Zealand, often exceeding the maximum contaminant level, the authors said.

An atmospheric river is a long, narrow corridor in the atmosphere -- resembling a river in the sky -- that carries moisture away from the tropics to higher latitudes. Upon landfall, an atmospheric river can cause extreme rainfall, potentially resulting in floods.

In India, atmospheric rivers

are predominantly known to occur in the monsoon season during summer months (June to September).

An April 2023 study, published in the journal Communications Earth and Environment, found that a total of 574 atmospheric rivers occurred in the monsoon seasons from 1951-2020, with the weather event becoming more common over time. Further, in the past two decades, nearly 80 per cent of the most severe atmospheric rivers caused floods, it found.

In this study, the researchers measured how much nitrate was seeping down through the soil in a tomato and cucumber crop near Esparto in the US state of California.

The study was conducted

from 2021 until 2023 when California was experiencing periods of drought followed by atmospheric rivers, the team said. They measured nitrate during both the growing seasons and the rainy seasons.

"These extreme events that come with climate change are going to make the risk of these chemicals ending up in our drinking water much more severe," Kisekka said.

The authors said that using conservation practices that limit leftover nitrates in the crop's root zone after harvest could help farmers reduce groundwater contamination.

Affordable tools for monitoring nitrates in soil real-time can help farmers manage the use of fertilisers efficiently, Kisekka said.

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JANJATIYA GAURAV DIVAS

Leaders pay tributes to tribal icon Birsa Munda

Min orders action against negligent Forest personnel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna/New Delhi, Nov 15: President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leaders across political parties Friday paid tributes to tribal icon Birsa Munda on his birth anniversary, which is celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.

"Bhagwan Birsa Munda ji sacrificed everything to protect the honour and glory of the motherland. My deepest respects to him on the auspicious occasion of his birth anniversary," Modi posted on X.



Jamui, Modi charged previous Congress governments in the country with having tried to undermine the contributions of tribal leaders to the freedom movement so that only one party and one family got away with the credit.

and his government took the decision to celebrate Munda's birth anniversary as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' (the day of glory for tribals) because the community never got its due.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla offered floral tributes at the statue of Birsa Munda at the Prerna Sthal in Parliament complex.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 15: State Forest and Environment Minister Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia Friday directed Keonjhar Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Dhanaraj HD to take departmental action against negligent forest staff over illegal tree felling in Krushnapur protected forest of Champua range.

that strict action would be taken against responsible Forest personnel. It is worth noting that permission had been granted by the DFO for cutting 2,505 eucalyptus trees in the Krushnapur protected forest under the supervision of the VSS.

2nd tigress 'Zeenat' released into Similipal soft enclosure

PNN & AGENCIES

Baripada, Nov 15: Another tigress brought from Maharashtra was released in a 'soft enclosure' in the core area of the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj district Friday, officials said.



Forest department, comprising a veterinarian, a range officer, and an Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF), went to Maharashtra to bring the tigress.

trekking paths to warn tourists. Officials monitoring Jamuna's movements via radio collar revealed that she has been roaming extensively in search of suitable prey rather than settling in one place.

Tiger pugmarks found in Chandragiri forest

MOHANA: The Forest department discovered tiger pugmarks near a farm in the Chandragiri forest area in Gajapati district Friday morning.

Servitors among 6 held for theft at Tara Tarini temple

BERHAMPUR: Four servitors were among the six persons arrested in connection with the theft of ornaments and cash from the revered Tara Tarini temple in Ganjam district, police said Friday.

GANGRAPE OF MENTALLY CHALLENGED WOMAN

NHRC directs Dhenkanal DM, SP to act

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Nov 15: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the District Magistrate (DM) of Dhenkanal to ensure that the best possible care and medical facilities are provided to a poor, pregnant and unwell woman who is a victim of repeated gangrape.



and homeless woman by several individuals in an abandoned Anganwadi centre in Bhapur Outpost limits under the jurisdiction of Dhenkanal Sadar police station.

advantage of their vulnerability, the accused repeatedly assaulted her, resulting in her pregnancy. The One Stop Centre (Sakhi Kendra) in Dhenkanal took custody of the survivor September 6.

One minor, aged 16, was also involved in the crime and was produced before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), September 13.

Quack arrested in Berhampur

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Berhampur, Nov 15: Police have arrested a 31-year-old man on the charges of cheating people by impersonating an Ayurvedic doctor in Berhampur area of Ganjam district for the past few years.

city in 2019 and has since been residing in a rented house at Rampa Sahi under the Berhampur police station area.

The police have reportedly seized various surgery instruments, Ayurvedic medicines, and other items during a raid at the clinic of the accused Utpal.

EAST COAST RAILWAY File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/24-25/E-Tender/79, Dt. 12.11.2024

Regional Office: Balasore GOLD AUCTION NOTICE This is to inform the public that in spite of repeated reminders the following gold loan borrowers have not repaid their loan.

FOCUS INDO-NIGERIAN TIES

A NEW FLOWER TO BLOOM



With Nigeria poised to produce petroleum goods essentially due to the entry of Dangote refineries, the nature of its international relations with India and in fact with the rest of the world would alter beyond recognition

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Nigeria (Nov.16, 17) is the first such visit by an Indian PM in 17 years. The visit, at the invitation of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Bola Ahmed Tinubu, will explore ways to build the Indo-Nigerian bilateral relationship, and will see the Prime Minister address a gathering of the Indian community in Nigeria.

The relationship between India and Nigeria needs to be viewed beyond the prism of the historical experience of educational scholarships, crude oil and military training, if the 21st century should truly belong to the global South. A new chapter was opened when the G-20 in 2023 held in New Delhi welcomed African representation with a permanent place at the high table. India and Nigeria have much to offer each other in socio-economic areas of human activity. From the Nigerian point of view, it is clear that with Nigeria poised to produce petroleum goods essentially due to the entry of Dangote refineries, the nature of its international relations with India and in fact with the rest of the world would alter beyond recognition.

economic diversification and enhancing Nigeria's production capabilities. Yet the current administration offers hope that reforms can be undertaken with commitment notwithstanding protests as evidenced by its elimination of fuel subsidies. The financial sector dominated by the banks is in better shape than ever before. It can adopt new technologies and help improve the payment infrastructure with definitive measures to address cyber frauds and attacks.

India from all accounts has built an enviable economic record in the last 10 years and is aiming to become the third largest economy in the world before 2030. It expects to grow at 7-8 per cent a year with inflation at around 4 per cent in the medium term. Its present foreign exchange reserves are close to US\$ 700 billion. New technologies are much developed and owned and would occupy the entire economic space within the medium-to-long-term period. But it has a shortage of critical raw materials and energy supplies.

Against this background, how could one take forward the relations between New Delhi and Abuja? It is widely acknowledged that both the countries will have to focus on a wide array of reforms and eco-

nomics governance. They have to also invest in eliminating economic exclusion, improve employment prospects and reduce economic inequities.

Cooperation between the two countries needs to be based on a few issues when the heads of Governments of India and Nigeria meet on November 16-17 at Abuja. First in the list is energy supplies in the medium term. This will mean that till Nigeria becomes self-sufficient in the production of petroleum products, it would have to depend on importing petroleum products from India while India could import crude oil to meet its growing oil demand. Electrification with solar and wind energy would also be needed to be included in this category.

Secondly, both the countries need to explore the availability of critical minerals for developing new technological world dominated as it is by chips and semi-conductors. Here information about geological finds in Nigeria is not easily available and this is where the country can depend on India's cooperation. Thirdly, some of the important industries such as steel and public transport infrastructure including buses, metros and intercity railways are dormant in Nigeria and here labour reforms and strict professional commitment to root out leakages and plunder need to be strengthened. Nigeria can depend on India in this area, giving effect to some guarantee clauses in the cooperation agreement. Fourthly, issues relating to defence, military ware and training would also have to figure in the talks. Finally, the cultural and educational exchanges would have to be furthered to improve meaningful cooperation based on mutual trust.

Parvathi Vasudevan was Reader and Associate Professor in African Affairs, University of Mumbai, and A Vasudevan was Executive Director of the RBI and Special Adviser to the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria.



Parvathi Vasudevan and A Vasudevan

INDIA AND NIGERIA HAVE TO ALSO INVEST IN ELIMINATING ECONOMIC EXCLUSION, IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS AND REDUCE ECONOMIC INEQUITIES

Global Power Shift

India's signing of the Host Country Agreement (HCA) with the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) marks a significant win for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). This move brings the GBA's Secretariat to India, marking an exciting milestone for the renewable energy sector. Officials from MEA and the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas sealed the deal, giving the GBA a base with legal standing and immunity under Indian law.

MEA is visibly thrilled to add another global institution to India's portfolio - it's more jobs for the boys and more toys to play with. There's a buzz that the UN sees these new headquarters in the South as signs of a global power shift, and MEA is already celebrating this as a win for India on the world stage implying that India is now a destination for serious international players.

For the GBA, it's about advancing biofuel use worldwide by solving challenges around feedstock and supply chains, attracting investments, and creating common standards. Since its start during India's G20 presidency in 2023, the Alliance has grown to 27 countries and 12 international organizations—a pretty solid show of global interest in biofuel solutions.

Bringing the GBA Secretariat to India isn't just a diplomatic flex; it's opening up real opportunities on the ground. Indian biofuel experts are likely to find new job openings, and the private sector gets a platform to showcase its tech and innovations. It all sweetly ties back to the "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" vision—empowering local capabilities while contributing to global sustainability.

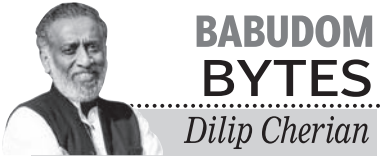
Babus can now give taxpayers a break

The Income Tax Department has taken a step to ease the burden on taxpayers by allowing its officials to waive or reduce interest on unpaid taxes under certain conditions. According to Section 220(2A) of the Income Tax Act, if taxpayers delay paying the amount specified in a demand notice, they incur a 1% monthly interest. Now, however, officials can provide relief based on specific guidelines.

A recent circular from the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) outlines how much interest can be waived or reduced. Senior tax officers such as Principal Chief Commissioners (PRCCIT) or Chief Commissioners (CCIT) now have authority over substantial amounts. A PRCCIT can decide on interest waivers exceeding ₹1.5 crore, while a CCIT can manage waivers for amounts between ₹50 lakh and ₹1.5 crore. For amounts below ₹50 lakh, the decision falls to a Principal Commissioner or Commissioner.

Great exemptions and more flexibility for officers could, of course, cut either way. Perhaps because the notions of tax compliance and the severity of tax crackdowns have allowed Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to make these changes by empowering the new cadre of officers that this government has placed more reliance on. For taxpayers, this change could be a welcome sign of responsiveness, but only if officials apply it transparently.

Tax experts are optimistic and hopeful that these provisions should speed up the relief process for taxpayers. The move is likely to promote transparency and efficiency, but ultimately, this reform represents a chance to support taxpayers in a meaningful way.



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

From controversy to chips

In a curious twist of priorities, the same week the Uttar Pradesh government introduced a controversial diktat restricting women's freedom to visit male hair stylists and tailors, local bureaucrats have pushed forward an initiative aimed at securing a place for the state in the high-tech future.

Announcing semiconductor manufacturing projects worth ₹30,700 crore, they are trying to carve a space for Uttar Pradesh in the global tech race. Noida is set to become a key semiconductor manufacturing hub with the approval of two major projects by the Uttar Pradesh state cabinet. The first, a ₹27,000-crore facility by Tarq Semiconductors (Hiranandani Group), will focus on producing microchips vital for devices like smartphones and cars. The second, a ₹3,700-crore plant by Vama Sundari Investments (HCL Group), will produce driver ICs and display driver circuits. Both facilities will be located near the Noida International Airport, further supporting the region's growing tech ecosystem. The projects align with India's push to strengthen its semiconductor manufacturing capabilities, supported by central government incentives. The state's initiative also includes a partnership with the US to produce chips for national security.

While social conservatism seems to be gaining traction, the government's ambitious push in the semiconductor sector signals an attempt to balance tradition with modernity, even if the latter feels at odds with the former.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- Tolerance is the homage which the finite mind pays to the inexhaustibility of the infinite.** DR SARVEPALLI RADHAKRISHNAN
- Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is keep us out of war.** MARIA MONTESSORI
- Every great advance in science has issued from a new audacity of imagination.** JOHN DEWEY

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1632:** Swedish King Gustav II Adolf died during the Battle of Lützen, though his forces were victorious; his cause was skillfully directed by his chief adviser, Axel Oxenstierna.
- 1855:** British explorer David Livingstone was the first European to see Victoria Falls (Mosi-oa-Tunya).
- 1960:** Actor Clark Gable, who epitomized the American ideal of masculinity for three decades and was known as the "King of Hollywood," died of a heart attack, days after finishing work on The Misfits (1961).
- 1988:** Benazir Bhutto, elected prime minister of Pakistan, became the first woman in modern history to lead a Muslim country, serving as prime minister from 1988 to 1990 and again from 1993 to 1996.

SPECTRUM JUSTICE

Bulldozing rule of law



Satya Narayan Misra

THE RECENT JUDGMENT ON CULTURE OF BULLDOZING HAS COME AS A WHIFF OF FRESH AIR IN THE POLITICALLY ORCHESTRATED DIVISIVE TIMES THAT WE LIVE IN INDIA

Sanjay Gandhi, during the 1976 demolition drive at Turkman Gate to beautify Delhi, was called India's first bulldozer Baba. Yogi Adityanath is repeating history most perversely by using the bulldozer in his election campaign in March 2022 to earn the tag 'Bulldozer Baba'. The bulldozer has emerged as a symbol of the state's eagerness to inflict punishment. The Hindutva proponents are cheering these, demonstrating a pattern in which a spell of communal tension is followed by the deployment of bulldozers. Justice Gai and Justice Vishwanathan of the Supreme Court of India have exercised their decree for enforcement of orders under Article 142 to put this culture of bulldozing with impunity by laying enforceable guidelines and directions to prevent the demolition of homes and buildings without following due process.

The court emphasised the basic presumption of criminal law of innocence unless proved otherwise, for which a fair trial is essential for upholding the rule of law and protection of individual liberty.

Gai writes: "The chilling sight of a bulldozer demolishing a building when authorities have failed to follow the basic principles of natural justice and have acted without adhering to the principles of due process shows that might is right." The bench then reminds the state how in the Chameli Singh vs. State of UP Case the Supreme Court had identified 'right to food, water, a decent environment, medical care, education, and shelter as basic rights under Article 21.' These are second-generation rights that will enable citizens to live a life of dignity beyond animal-like existence to life.

Instead of making homilies on the rule of law and the rights of the accused, Justice Gai has given specific directions under Article 142. The order calls for 15 days' notice, served on the owner by registered post, containing details of the violation as well as the grounds for the action to be taken. A personal hearing, a reasoned order, and an inspection report signed by the witnesses have also been made mandatory.

What is additionally significant is that the court has decided to be officially accountable for any violation, effectively preventing attempts to backdate notices. The order exempts the necessary demolition of encroachments such as those on water bodies, railway lines, and public spaces from this process. It is now up to local body authorities to both adhere to the guidelines and ensure compliance, with little scope for politically motivated and communally targeted demolitions.

We are witnessing a disturbing global trend where even robust democracies are buckling under authoritarian pressure. Hungary, once a beacon of democratic success in the post-communist world, has evolved into the European Union's sole absolutism. Countries such as Turkey, Israel, or South Asian democracies have seen authoritarian tendencies rise over the years; 37 out of 104 democracies worldwide have experienced significant relapse since 2016.

India, under Indira Gandhi during the Emergency years

in 1976 and under Modi during the last two years, has seen a significant spurt in such authoritarian tendencies like openly flouting the rule of law by using bulldozers to settle scores with Muslims and widening the communal divide further. It would be interesting to note South Africa, which was the bastion of apartheid and colour discrimination, crafted a progressive Constitution in 1996 where the right to a home is a fundamental right, mandating the state to take reasonable measures to achieve this realisation and that no legislation 'may permit arbitrary eviction'. The right to shelter has still not been included formally as a fundamental right in our Constitution. This judgment, therefore, comes as a whiff of fresh air in the politically orchestrated divisive times that we live in India. The ruling underscores that punitive demolitions without due process have no place in a lawful society and that any breach will lead to stringent accountability of those in authority.

The writer teaches Constitutional Law.

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



In brooming path

Sir, Given the extremely high risk of AQI in the state, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi has ordered all educational institutions, especially primary schools, to switch to online classes. The Delhi civic authorities started implementing methods like sprinkling water with dust suppressants on roads, as well as mechanized sweeping that would help settle dust also came into effect. There is a ban on non-essential constructions in the world's most polluted capital. The air quality has worsened to the level that the image of Taj Mahal appears to be a kind of ghost at the moment. The man made calamity by worsening air conditions and the cleaning up of image by the Delhi government's AAP has become like a war for them which is symbolic to the party's election symbol the 'Broom' to rebuild their unclean image nearing the elections along with other major issues. The CM has got a tough job on hand from the time as if the former CM Kejriwal has inducted Atishi as CM by brooming her to broom the city of Delhi.

AP Thiruvadi, CHENNAI

Effects of climate change

Sir, Despite the government's efforts, retail inflation has reached its highest level in fourteen months. In such a case, the prospects of lowering interest rates in December this year have been dashed as retail inflation has risen above the RBI's acceptable range. Actually, the increase in retail inflation is related to the growth in the costs of vegetables, fruits, fatty foods, and oils. This illustrates the deep structural issues that exist in India's food supply system. It also emphasizes the necessity for rapid government intervention to bring situation under control. Certainly, the October food inflation rate of 10.87 percent, which is the highest this year, should concern policymakers. On the other side, growing inflation demonstrates how volatile food prices can undermine the country's overall economic stability. Without a doubt, every year during the rainy season, excessive rainfall, floods, and other natural disasters in vegetable-producing states impede output and supply. At the same time, the damage to vegetables and fruits caused by irregular and excessive rainfall has demonstrated that the lethal effects of climate change have arrived at our doorstep.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

CHHATTISGARH INDUSTRIAL POLICY UNVEILED

Startup sops for Agniveers, Naxals

Retired Agniveers and surrendered Naxalites roped in to drive economic growth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Raipur, Nov 15: Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai Thursday launched the state's industrial policy for 2024-2030, which gives additional incentives to women, third gender persons, retired Agniveers and surrendered Naxalites to create startups.

Under the new policy, the state government will provide training allowance of Rs 15,000 for each new employee hired by industries that employ more than 1,000 local workers, provided that the employee remains in the job for at least 12 months.

The Chhattisgarh Industrial Development Policy 2024-30 is aimed at driving economic growth, generating employment, and fostering sustainable industrial development, Sai said at the launch programme here in the evening.

"The new policy, which will come into effect from Thursday, focuses on employment generation, skill development, export promotion, investment attraction, and environmental protection," he said.

"Till now, industrial policies have been drafted keeping in mind economic, social conditions and basic facilities. This is the first time we have set the goal of building a developed Chhattisgarh keeping in mind the Amrit Kaal of the country's independence and vision of building a developed India as per Vision-2047," he said.

One of the key features



We are probably the first state to have made provision for special grants and exemptions to young Agniveers and Naxal-affected families for setting up their own employment businesses

VISHNU DEO SAI | CM, CHHATTISGARH

of the policy is the focus on youth employment, with industries encouraged to hire local youth to help them directly benefit from the state's industrial growth, he said.

The government will provide training allowance of Rs 15,000 for each new employee hired by industries that employ more than 1,000 local workers, provided the employee remains employed for at least 12 months, he said.

"Additionally, the policy covers 75 per cent of Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) contribution for the first five years of employment, which is aimed at easing the financial burden on employers while encouraging the long-term retention of local

talent," Sai said.

"The policy encourages investment in tourism and health in the state. This will develop tourism as an industry in our state. An industrial area will be set up on 118 acres of land near Jagdalpur (the headquarter of Bastar district). Land will be allotted to industries there within the next 12 months," the CM said.

Rules have been relaxed to encourage the setting up of private industrial areas and the earlier criteria of "minimum 20 acres of land" has been brought down to "15 acres of land", he said.

"We are committed to providing self-employment to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe youth. For this, we are giving

land in industrial areas to entrepreneurs of these categories at the rate of only Rs 1 per acre," he said.

Highlighting the features of the new policy, a government official said there is provision of additional incentives to women entrepreneurs, members of the third gender, retired Agniveer soldiers, retired ex-servicemen (including those belonging to paramilitary personnel), entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and surrendered Naxalites to create start ups.

"The policy offers 40 per cent subsidy on the salary for industries hiring people with disabilities. This subsidy, which will be available for up to five years, has a maximum limit of Rs 5 lakh per employee annually. The policy introduces special benefits for women and youth interested in starting their own businesses. A corpus fund of Rs 50 crore has been set up to assist startups," he added.

Additionally, under the 'Udyam Kranti Yojana', the government will offer subsidized loans to help young people become self-reliant by starting their own businesses, the official said.

The policy targets high-potential sectors like pharmaceuticals, textiles, agriculture and food processing, non-wood forest products, green hydrogen, electronics, AI, robotics as well as solar energy, offering special incentives to attract investment.

TRANSGENDERS TO AID TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

The move to hire transgenders as volunteers comes amid the increasing traffic congestion in Greater Hyderabad due to the ever-growing number of vehicles

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Nov 15: Transgenders will be recruited as volunteers for traffic management and 'drunk and drive' checks in Hyderabad.

They will be deployed to manage traffic in bustling areas of Greater Hyderabad in the first phase.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has asked officials to appoint transgenders as traffic volunteers to address the growing traffic problems in the state.

He suggested that their services be utilised like Home Guards. They will be deployed at traffic intersections and prevent signal jumping and other violations of traffic rules.

The Chief Minister also suggested that the services of transgenders be utilised for drunk and drive checking. As the areas falling under all three commissionerates of Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Rachakonda are witnessing a surge in drunken driving cases, he said that transgenders may be deployed at checking points. He asked officials to finalise



GENDER INCLUSIVITY

INITIATIVE AIMS TO INTEGRATE OVER 3K TRANSGENDERS RESIDING IN THE STATE, WITH APPROXIMATELY 1K IN THE CITY, INTO EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ROLES

OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO FINALISE A SPECIAL DRESS CODE FOR TRANSGENDERS AND ALSO SALARY ALONG THE LINES OF HOME GUARDS

CM DIRECTED THE OFFICIALS TO IMPLEMENT THE DECISION ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS AT THE EARLIEST

a special dress code for transgenders and also fix the salary at par with the salary of Home Guards.

He wanted officials to imple-

ment the decision on an experimental basis at the earliest.

A decision to rope in transgenders as traffic volunteers in Hyderabad was made in September. The officials were asked to collect details of transgenders interested to serve as volunteers for traffic management.

The Chief Minister suggested that they be provided the required training for traffic management for a week to 10 days.

Officials say the appointment of transgenders as traffic volunteers will not only provide a source of income but will also give them respect in society.

In July, Cyberabad Police with the support of IT companies launched an initiative 'Traffic Marshals' to facilitate the smooth traffic flow in Cyberabad, especially in the IT corridor.

Telangana Congress govt kicks off first anniv celebrations

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Nov 15: The Congress government in Telangana kicked off its first anniversary celebrations 'Praja Vijayotsavalu' Thursday with a huge gathering of over 14,000 children addressed by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

The programme was organised at LB Stadium on Children's Day, which marks the birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

The government completes one year in office December 7. The celebrations will conclude December 9, the birthday of senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi. It was also on this day in 2009 that the then Congress-led UPA government announced the initiation of the process of formation of Telangana state.

The Chief Minister said it was a delightful moment that the government launched the celebrations on Children's Day.

He highlighted the measures taken by his government to bring a transformation in the education sector.

The Chief Minister said the government allocated more than 7 per cent of the budget outlay to the education sector. The government also proved its commitment to giving top priority to education by conducting DSC exams and recruiting teachers. It also promoted 20,000 teachers and completed the transfers of 35,000 teachers.

Revanth Reddy mentioned that the government also announced free power supply to government schools in the state and allocated Rs 150 crore every year for attendants, sweepers and sanitation in schools.

Alleging that the previous government of BRS had left the universities in the lurch, the Chief Minister said soon after coming to power the Congress government appointed vice-chancellors. He announced that the posts of teaching and non-teaching staff in the universities would be filled soon.



No song on drugs or violence: Telangana notice to Diljit



In addition to the restrictions on song content, the notice also mandates that children not be allowed on stage during the concert

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Nov 15: The Telangana government has served a notice to Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh, directing him not to sing any song promoting alcohol, drugs, and violence during 'Dil-Luminati' concert, scheduled here Friday.

Diljit has also been directed

to not bring children on stage during his concert, which is set to be held at GMR Arena, Airport Approach Road.

District welfare officer of the Department of Welfare of Women and Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens, Rangareddy district, served the notice November 7.

The notice was issued after a complaint by a Chandigarh-based Professor, Pandit-raj Dharenavar, against Dosanjh to prevent him from singing such songs at the live show.

The complainant submitted video evidence of Diljit singing songs promoting alcohol, drugs, and violence during the live show at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium October 26 and 27.

"We are issuing this notice in advance to deter promoting alcohol/drugs/violence through songs in your live show," the notice said.

The manager and organisers of the event have also been directed to ensure that peak sound pressure level does not exceed the permissible limit.



Barat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) Working President KT Rama Rao being welcomed at Patancheru while on his way to visit the farmers of Kodangal constituency and Lagacharla village, who were illegally detained by the Congress government in Sangareddy Jail, in Sangareddy district of Telangana

NAXAL MENACE

After 21 years, tribals plan to return to native place

Nearly 100 members of these families had left their homes in Gaarpa village located in Abujhmad after Naxalites started targeting them in 2003

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Raipur, Nov 15: More than two decades after deserting their village due to Maoists, around 25 tribal families are planning to return to their native place in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district.

Nearly 100 members of these families had left their homes in Gaarpa village located in Abujhmad after Naxalite started targeting them in 2003.

They were then settled on the outskirts of Narayanpur town on a tract of government land, where they took up agriculture for livelihood.

Now, 21 years after their desertion, these families recently visited their native place and have been planning to resettle there after police set up a camp there to facilitate development

works and ensure security for local population.

Abujhmad, bordering Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district, was considered a Maoist fortress until recently. On October 4, security forces scripted their most successful anti-insurgency operation in Chhattisgarh by gunning down 31 Naxalites during an encounter in the area. "Leaving the ancestral land was never easy. We had no option but to flee for the sake of our lives," 60-year-old Sukkuram Nureti told PTTI.

Nureti's family was among the 25 families that left Gaarpa, about 50 km from the district headquarters, in April 2003. Nureti hails from the Abujhmaria community, a particularly vulnerable tribal group.

"Of the 80 families in the village, around 25 were followers of 'Gayatri Pariwar' and Naxalites objected to it. They threatened us with dire consequences if we did not quit following 'Gayatri Pariwar'. So we decided to leave the village," he said.

Nureti said they always wanted to return.

"Now it seems our dream will come true as a police camp has been set up and things have



started improving there," said Nureti, who has served as a member of Janpad panchayat in the past.

Nureti and others who had left the village visited Gaarpa last week and opened a Lord Shiv temple that had remained shut since 2003. "We are planning to resettle in the village as we have our farmland and homes there," he said.

Making significant inroads into Abujhmad, the Chhattisgarh police have set up security camps in Gaarpa, Kasturmeta,

Narayanpur Superintendent of Police Prabhat Kumar said. Under Niyad Nellanar, the state government has been undertaking development works in interior villages within a 5-km radius of security camps.

Tribals evicted by Naxals in villages around the newly set up camps have started returning to their homes, the SP said.

"Villagers who were earlier pressured by Naxals to oppose development projects are now demanding roads, mobile towers, health and schools. Positive results will be seen in the coming days due to the efforts of police and administration," he said.

With a combined security and development push, nearly half of Abujhmad now has road accessibility. There is a target of providing road connectivity through Mad to Chhotethia

(Narayanpur) and Maharashtra, he said.

After the establishment of six security camps, Principal Secretary of Chhattisgarh's Panchayat and Rural Development Department Niharika Barika recently visited five villages of Abujhmad, marking the first such trip by a top bureaucrat to the region.

She travelled over 60 km on a motorcycle and reviewed more than 30 development projects, an official here said.

Barika visited three Anganwadis, two schools, one health sub-centre and met grassroots development workers and flagged off bus service between Gaarpa and Narayanpur, he said.

The rebels' activities in Abujhmad have declined in recent years due to the increased presence of security forces and development works being carried out in the region, officials said.

Spread over about 4,000 sq km, Abujhmad had been a den of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist) as its dense forest served as a hideout for its leaders



More importantly, 90 per cent of these jobs are for women, a key pillar of the Dravidian Model MK STALIN | CM, TAMIL NADU

SPURIOUS LIQUOR CLAIMS ONE LIFE

One person died and two others were hospitalised after allegedly consuming spurious liquor in Bihar's Siwan district, police said Friday



PM Modi's aircraft faces technical snag

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Nov 15: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was stranded in Jharkhand's Deogarh airport for nearly two hours Friday after his special IAF aircraft developed a snag, flew back to Delhi in another plane, officials said.



The PM visited Jamui to attend a function marking the 150th birth anniversary of tribal leader Birsa Munda, celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.

PM Modi left for Delhi from Deogarh in another special aircraft after his IAF plane developed a technical snag. The aircraft could not be rectified on time. PM had to wait for more than two hours," Deogarh Deputy Commissioner Vishal Sagar told PTI.

While Modi waited for the issue to be resolved, the region's airspace was declared a "no-flying zone". Meanwhile, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was also caught in a similar situation in Godda, Jharkhand.

CM Omar Abdullah meets Sitharaman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: In a bid to enhance the economic growth of Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday to discuss the Union territory's financial progress with a focus on increasing local revenue generation to decrease reliance on the Centre.

The discussion took place as Abdullah continued his outreach in the national capital, focusing on strategic investments in infrastructure and connectivity to position J&K as an attractive investment destination.

This meeting is particularly significant as it precedes the ruling National Conference-led government's inaugural budget presentation after six years of central rule.

Officials described the meeting as "very positive", detailing Abdullah's emphasis on the region's financial health and the need for innovative measures to bolster revenue.

The Chief Minister underscored the importance of attracting investments that would generate employment, particularly in sectors such as tourism, agriculture, and horticulture, the officials said.

Non-consensual sex with minor wife is rape: HC

"Sexual intercourse with a girl below 18 years of age is rape regardless of whether she is married or not. The non-consensual intercourse with a wife, who is below 18 years of age, is rape," the bench held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 15: Non-consensual intercourse with a wife who is below 18 years of age constitutes the offence of rape, the Bombay High Court said while upholding the conviction of a man sentenced to 10 years for the crime.

The Nagpur bench of Justice G A Sanap, in an order passed on November 12, dismissed the 24-year-old man's appeal challenging the 2021 judgment of a sessions court holding him guilty under the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and the Indian Penal Code for sexually assaulting his underage wife.

The man, who was sentenced to 10 years in jail by the sessions court, claimed since the victim was his wife, their sexual relationship cannot be termed as rape.

The high court, however, said the defence of consensual sex with the wife cannot be taken when the age of the wife is below 18 years.

"Sexual intercourse with a girl below 18 years of age is rape regardless of whether she is married or not. The non-consensual intercourse with a wife, who is below 18 years of age, is rape," the bench held.

The woman, in her complaint lodged in 2019, said she was in a relationship with the



man and that, despite her refusal, he raped and impregnated her. The duo then lived together and got married. However, the man insisted on an abortion.

She alleged that the man made a farce of the marriage and repeatedly raped and physically assaulted her.

The court noted that the woman gave birth to a ba-

by boy, and as per the DNA analysis, the accused and her were the biological parents. The man, in his appeal, claimed innocence and said the complainant was his wife and hence, their physical relation cannot be termed as rape and that it was consensual.

He also claimed that the woman was not a minor at the time of the alleged incident.

The court, however, refused to accept this contention. It noted that as per documentary evidence, the complainant was born in 2002 and was a minor in 2019 when the alleged incident occurred.

DELHI SHIFTS TO GRAP-III

The Commission for Air Quality Management CAQM has imposed GRAP 3 measures as the national capital recorded the worst pollution levels in the country, with the air quality remaining in the "severe" category for two consecutive days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



New Delhi, Nov 15: The Delhi government has banned private BS III petrol and BS IV diesel vehicles, prohibited the entry of interstate non-electric-CNG buses, certain categories of construction activities, and staggered government office timings, as the city choked under 'severe'-category air pollution Friday morning.

The restrictions were imposed under stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan, or GRAP, announced by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Thursday.

The air quality index in Delhi was 411 (severe) at 9 am Friday, according to official data. However, with wind speed picking up, the average 24-hour AQI at 4 pm came down to 396, still in the 'very poor' category.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said the situation will improve further with higher wind speed Saturday.

Chief Minister Atishi announced staggered timings for government offices in the city to ease traffic congestion given the pollution levels.

Under the schedule announced by her in a post on X, central government offices will operate from 9 am to 5.30 pm, Delhi government offices from 10 am to 6.30 pm, and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) offices from 8.30 am to 5 pm. Delhi LG V K Sax-

ena issued a note approving the staggered government office timings till February 2025, expressing dissatisfaction that a measure that should have been in place as a pre-emptive step was implemented with a delay of several days.

He said it was expected that the Delhi government would ensure strict enforcement of other measures discussed in a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on pollution control October 24.

Rai in a press conference, announced various steps taken by the government to deal with the crisis. Delhi's air quality has been in the 'severe' category for the last two days.

The government will run 106 shuttle buses and the Metro trains will make 60 extra trips daily to promote public transport. There will be a blanket ban on private construction and demolition activities while necessary government construction works will continue, he said.

Government officials living across the city will be transported in 40 dedicated shuttle buses to discourage the use of private vehicles by them, he said. Private BS III petrol and BS IV diesel vehicles were banned from roads with violations inviting a penalty of Rs 20,000. Diesel and petrol inter-state buses from the NCR cities to Delhi are also banned.

The transport department has deployed 84 teams, with an additional 280 personnel

for catching violators, Rai said. City schools for Classes up to 5 will shift to online mode after the weekend. Principals and teachers of several private schools said they were using apps and smart boards to deal with the situation.

Mahesh Palawat of Skymet Weather Services told PTI that the air quality improved Friday due to wind speeds of 8 to 12 kmph.

While the AQI will remain in the 'very poor' category Saturday, it will improve comparatively.

Out of Delhi's 39 monitoring stations, 18 reported air quality in the 'severe' category, down from 27 in the morning, according to Sameer app, which provides hourly updates of the national AQI published by the Central Pollution Control Board. These stations include Alipur, Anand Vihar, Ashok Vihar, Aya Nagar, Bawana, DTU, Dwarka Sector 8, IGI Airport, Jahangirpuri, Mundka, Narela, Nehru Nagar, Patparganj and Punjabi Bagh.

According to the Centre's Decision Support System for Air Quality Management, stubble burning was the highest contributor to Delhi's pollution on Thursday, accounting for approximately 33.3 per cent of the total. Vehicular emissions contributed an estimated 11.9 per cent to Delhi's pollution Friday.

The prominent pollutant, according to the CPCB, was PM2.5, which are fine particles with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less, about the width of a human hair.

WAYANAD LANDSLIDES CPI(M), Congress slam govt for lack of assistance

The political row erupted following the Centre's letter to Kerala stating that under the existing guidelines of SDRF and NDRF, there is no provision to declare any calamity a 'national disaster'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 15: The issue of lack of central assistance for the Wayanad landslide victims has kicked up a political storm, with the ruling CPI(M) and the Opposition Congress accusing the union government of "discrimination", while the BJP backed the Centre's decision not to declare the landslides as a national disaster and provide much-needed relief.

The political row erupted following the Centre's letter to Kerala stating that under the existing guidelines of SDRF and NDRF, there is no provision to declare any calamity a 'national disaster'.

Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopal criticised the Centre's decision by calling it "a clear case of severe discrimination and injustice towards the state".

He also claimed that the central government was neglecting the state's request for aid for the rehabilitation of the Wayanad disaster victims.

"The Centre's stance of neglect towards providing any aid for the Wayanad disaster victims is a blatant injustice to the people of Kerala," Balagopal contended. State Revenue Minister K Rajan also spoke along similar lines.

He lashed out at the Centre for withholding relief funds for the Wayanad landslide survivors and said that Kerala was asserting its right and not seeking charity. Rajan said that the state government has requested the Centre to declare the landslide that hit the Chooralmala and Mundakai regions in Wayanad a national disaster, but they have not taken any action on it and were "intentionally neglecting the state".

He charged the union government with "deliberately delaying" disaster relief to Kerala, describing it as a challenge to the state. Rajan also dismissed the union government's claim that funds were available in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), by terming it as "misleading". He said that the state would not accept the Centre's stance and would continue to fight for Kerala's rightful claims. Leader of Opposition in the state assembly V D Sathesan too attacked the Centre on the issue by terming its response as "shocking".

However, he said that neither the Congress nor the UDF would launch a joint agitation with the LDF and CPI(M) against the Centre on any issue as the Left front might enter in to an arrangement with the BJP at any moment.

of the day quote

Many states have their own entrance and different examinations and there should be a collective effort to go into the expectations and aspirations of youth when they appear for any kind of exams

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN | UNION EDUCATION MINISTER

The government has requested the Centre to declare the landslide that hit the Chooralmala and Mundakai regions in Wayanad a national disaster. However, they have not taken any action on listing the disaster in the category as per the NDRF norms and intentionally neglecting the state

K RAJAN | REVENUE MINISTER, KERALA

Some are spreading false information that the government benefits would be stopped if the details are furnished as part of the survey but the exercise would only increase the benefits to eligible beneficiaries

A REVANTH REDDY | CM, TELANGANA

SHORT TAKES

J&K: Thar rams into truck; 2 teens killed

Srinagar: Two teenage boys died and as many were injured when their car ramed into a stationary truck before hitting a road divider, sparking calls from various quarters, including political parties, for strict action on underage driving in Kashmir. The accident occurred Thursday at Tengpora on the Srinagar-Baramulla highway when the teenagers were driving an SUV. CCTV footage of the incident has been widely circulated on social media. Hamaad and Aseem Sofi, both aged 17, died in the accident, leaving their families devastated. Of the two other persons injured, one of them is in a critical state.

Notorious Phensedyl smuggler arrested

New Delhi: A "hardcore" international drug trafficker was arrested from West Bengal by the Narcotics Control Bureau, an official statement said Friday. Gautam Mondal was held November 13 from Kolkata, the federal anti-narcotics agency said in the statement. "He had also clutched his claws upon the illicit trafficking of CBCS (Codeine-based cough syrups) routed through West Bengal and destined for Bangladesh," the NCB said.

Demonstrations in Manipur's hill areas

Churachandpur: Hundreds of people hit the streets in Manipur's Churachandpur district Friday, demanding justice for those killed in a gunfight with the security forces in Jiribam. The rally, organised by the Kuki Women Organisation for Human Rights, began at the Koite Playground around 11 am.

Fire in basement of metro station

Mumbai: A fire broke out in the basement of the Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) underground metro station in Mumbai Friday afternoon, leading to suspension of rail services there for more than two hours as a precautionary measure, officials said. Nobody was injured in the blaze.

Plastic waste could double by 2050: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: Plastic waste around the world could double by 2050, but policies - such as using recycled plastic, and investing in waste management - could cut plastic waste by more than 90 per cent and slash related emissions by a third, a new study has found.

The study, published in the journal Science, comes ahead of the signing of the United Nations (UN) Plastics Treaty - the world's first legally binding treaty on plastic pollution.

Delegates from over 190 countries are scheduled to meet in Busan, Korea, from November 25-December 1 for the final set of negotiations, with the previous one having been held in April this year in

Ottawa, Canada.

The study's findings could provide a crucial blueprint for tackling the plastic crisis, researchers, including those from the University of California Santa Barbara, US, said. The authors found that four policies are enough to reduce mismanaged plastic waste, thereby causing plastic pollution - mandate new products to be made with 40 per cent post-consumer recycled plastic, cap new levels of plastic production at 2020 levels, invest significantly in plastic waste management and impose a fee on plastic packaging.

Plastic waste management includes landfills and waste collection services, the team said. The authors also found that if current trends continue, greenhouse gas emissions



related to plastics would jump 37 per cent from 2020 levels to 3.35 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2050.

"We employ machine learning to predict that, without intervention, annual mismanaged

plastic waste will nearly double to 121 (metric tonnes) by 2050. Annual greenhouse gas emissions from the plastic system are projected to grow by 37 per cent to 3.35 (gigatonnes of carbon dioxide) equivalent over the same

The study, published in the journal Science, comes ahead of the signing of the United Nations Plastics Treaty -- the world's first legally binding treaty on plastic pollution

period," the authors wrote.

"The United Nations plastic pollution treaty presents a unique opportunity to reshape these outcomes," they wrote.

Plastic production has surged in recent decades. The resulting plastic waste breaks down into micro- and nano-plastics, which have been

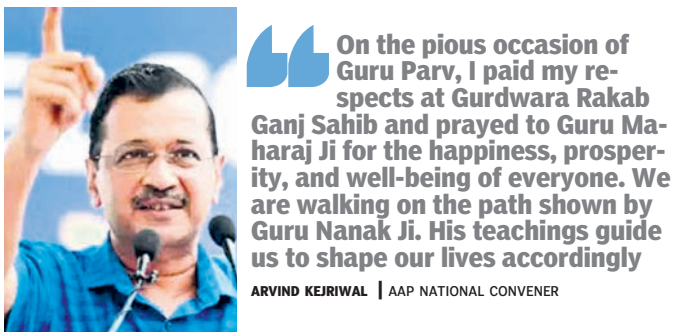
documented to damage ecosystems and heighten health risks, including those related to cancer, heart and reproduction.

Further, the life cycle of plastic - from the stages of extracting raw materials to disposal or recovery - is known to intensify climate change through emissions from oil, gas and coal, which are involved in all stages.

The disproportionate burden of plastic waste on the Global South and the frequency with which plastic facilities are located near marginalised communities have sparked pressing concerns related to environmental justice.

A UN resolution was passed in March 2022, which mandated the creation of a legally binding treaty to curb plastic pollution and address related issues.

national



On the pious occasion of Guru Parv, I paid my respects at Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib and prayed to Guru Maharaj Ji for the happiness, prosperity, and well-being of everyone. We are walking on the path shown by Guru Nanak Ji. His teachings guide us to shape our lives accordingly

SC SEEKS REASONS FOR DENYING MATERNITY LEAVE

The Supreme Court has asked the Centre to explain the rationale behind a provision which entitles only those women, who adopt a child below the age of three months, to seek maternity leave benefits



of the day quote

When they (BJP) did not succeed, they sent Hemant Soren to jail. We did not bow but decided to fight against injustice. Now, time has come when people would give BJP a befitting reply

Gandhi does not know that the Constitution does not allow reservations on religious lines. He does not understand the ABC of the Constitution. He sells materials of hatred in his 'mohabbat ki dukan' (shop of love)

Andhra Pradesh has incurred a debt of ₹9.74 lakh crore during the YSRCP rule

700 kg drugs seize off Gujarat coast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: A joint operation by anti-narcotics agencies led to the seizure of about 700 kg of drugs and the arrest of eight Iranian nationals from Indian territorial waters off the Gujarat coast around Porbandar Friday.



The street value of the seized Methamphetamine, a synthetic recreational variety of narcotics, could be anywhere between ₹2,500-3,500 crore in the international market, according to Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) officials. An operation codenamed 'Sagar Manthan- 4' was launched based on intelligence inputs to intercept an un-registered vessel, without an AIS (automatic identification system) or an electronic boat or ship-tracking indicator, that will be entering the Indian waters with drugs, the NCB said in a statement. The suspect vessel was identified and 'interdicted' by the Navy by mobilising its maritime patrol assets (ships) and the seizure of the drugs and apprehensions took place Friday, it said. "A huge consignment of about 700 kg of Methamphetamine was interdicted in Indian Territorial waters. During this operation, eight foreign nationals were arrested who claim to be Iranians," the NCB said. The eight men do not have any identity documents, it said. The operation was carried out jointly by the NCB, Navy and Gujarat Police Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS). The Indian Navy in a "coordinated operation" with the NCB and Gujarat Police intercepted a suspicious boat leading to the seizure of the drugs, a Navy spokesperson said in New Delhi. "This is the second major successful coordinated anti-narcotics operations at sea by the Navy this year," he said. The navy said it is committed to ensuring a safe and secure maritime environment while preventing illegal use of the seas. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the operation stands out as a stellar example of the government's commitment to the vision and the seamless coordination among our agencies in achieving the same. "Pursuing PM Shri @narendramodi Ji's vision for a drug-free Bharat, our agencies today busted an international drug trafficking cartel and seized over approx. 700 kg of contraband meth in Gujarat," Shah wrote on 'X'. As much as 3,500 kgs of drugs being trafficked through the maritime route has been seized by these agencies this year with the arrest of 11 Iranians and 14 Pakistani nationals in three cases. All these foreigners are currently lodged in jail awaiting court trial, as per the NCB. "These significant operational achievements in the Indian territorial waters are a testament to our resolve to eradicate the scourge of drugs from India to realise our vision of a 'Nasha Mukta Bharat' (drugs-free India) by 2047," it said. The NCB said the Union government has recently created 111 posts, including 5 superintendent of police-level posts, in the agency in addition to 425 posts created over the last 2 years.

PM serving interests of billionaires at expense of poor, alleges Rahul



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mahagama/Bermo (Jharkhand), Nov 15: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Friday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of serving the interests of billionaires at the expense of the country's poor. Rahul, who addressed two election rallies in Jharkhand during the day, also charged Modi with seeking to destroy the Constitution which is the "soul of the country".

ly at Bermo in Bokaro district, Gandhi accused Prime Minister Modi of seeking to destroy the Constitution which is the "soul of the country". "The Constitution is the soul of the country. Prime Minister Modi says it is blank inside. Look at this, it has contents. He says Rahul shows a red book; its content is important and not the colour," he said, displaying a copy of the constitution. The BJP has been accusing the Congress leader of displaying a "fake" copy of the constitution with blank pages at an event in Maharashtra recently.

The former Congress president accused the PM of giving lessons to people during the day, while enjoying the weddings of industrialists at night. Gandhi claimed that the Uddhav Thackeray-led government in Maharashtra was toppled to grab land. He alleged that Modi was trying to hand over land worth ₹1 lakh crore in Mumbai's Dharavi to an industrialist. The Prime Minister worked for the welfare of billionaires in the country and privatised institutions, colleges, industries, hospitals and ports, Gandhi claimed. The Congress leader claimed that while the Opposition INDIA bloc was fighting to protect the Constitution, the BJP was trying to dump it in the trash bin. "PM Modi says Rahul is flashing a red book. Its content is important, not the colour. Had you read it, you would not have been spreading hatred and dividing society," Rahul Gandhi said in a rally in Godda district. "It is a fight of ideology between the INDIA bloc and BJP-RSS. We are protecting the Constitution and BJP-RSS is trying to dump it in the trash bin. They are spreading violence and trying to divide society on the basis of caste, creed and religion," he alleged. Addressing another rally

POST OF THE DAY

Mahajhothi and Devendra Fadnavis exposed in less than a minute: 2013: Will give soyabean farmers 6000/MSP 2019: Will give soyabean farmers 6000/MSP 2024: Will give soyabean farmers 6000/MSP Do watch. Know the liars and their lies. @priyankac19

Bihar officials love liquor ban: Patna HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Nov 15: The Patna High Court has lambasted Bihar government officials over the total liquor ban in the state, observing that they love the legislation since it means "big money" for them. The court also said that the police are working in tandem with liquor smugglers and the poor are bearing the brunt of the law. The Bihar government enacted a law in April 2016 prohibiting the manufacture, trade, storage, transportation, sale, and consumption of liquor in the state.

However, despite stringent provisions of the Act, transport of liquor and hooch deaths have been reported a number of times since then. "Not only the police officials, excise officials, but also officers of the State Tax department and the transport department love liquor ban, for them it means big money. The prohibition has, in fact, given rise to unauthorised trade of liquor and other contraband items," Justice Purnendu Singh said in an order. "The draconian provisions have become handy for the police, who are in tandem with the smugglers," the Patna High Court judge said while quashing a demotion order issued against a police inspector on the ground that he was negligent in implementing the prohibition law.



Forest officials examine a 16-foot-long dead dolphin that washed ashore, at the Marina Beach in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

SHORT TAKES

No MNS or Sena (UBT) rally at Shivaji Park

Mumbai: Neither the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena nor the Shiv Sena (UBT) headed by his estranged cousin Uddhav Thackeray would hold a rally at Shivaji Park here November 17. Both the parties had applied for permissions to hold rallies at the famous ground on the same day ahead of the November 20 Maharashtra Assembly elections.

NIA chargesheets 6

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency Friday chargesheeted six key people allegedly involved in the radicalisation of youths in Tamil Nadu for terrorist organisation Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HuT) to establish the Islamic Caliphate in India, according to an official statement. The key conspirators are Dr Hameed Hussain, Ahmad Mansoor, Abdur Rahman, Mohamed Maurice, Khader Nawaz Sherif and Ahmed Ali, NIA said in a statement.

Dalit killed in clash

Noida/Lucknow: A Dalit man died of wounds sustained in stone pelting between two groups in Greater Noida's Bhikhampur village Friday, police said. According to Additional Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Shihvari Meena, the clash had broken out over the passage of a tractor through the village in the Rabupura Police Station jurisdiction. Three of the accused, Nitin, Nikhil, and Ashu Tyagi, were arrested following an encounter with police which shot and wounded one of them, Meena said. The argument "escalated into stone-pelting, during which one person was injured and later declared dead by doctors at the hospital," the ACP said. Other injured are undergoing treatment at a hospital, while police are hunting for the absconding culprits, he said in a statement.

Situation in Tonk stable
JAIPUR: The situation in Rajasthan's violence-hit Tonk district was stable Friday, a day after the arrest of Independent candidate for the Deoli-Uniara Assembly bypoll Naresh Meena who was sent to judicial custody for a fortnight. Meena, a Congress rebel who slapped a sub-divisional magistrate on election duty outside a polling booth November 13, was arrested Thursday following high drama and escalating violence in which a mob assaulted a PTI reporter and video cameraperson and burnt their camera. The Congress' Tonk MLA and senior leader Sachin Pilot blamed the BJP government in Rajasthan for the violence and alleged the "state machinery was deployed to attack people". Police produced Meena before a court in Niwai of Tonk district virtually, citing law-and-order issues.

Chirag gets back bungalow
PATNA: Union minister Chirag Paswan Friday took possession of the government bungalow in Patna which had served as the office of his late father Ram Vilas Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party till it split up into 1, Wheeler Road, situated a few hundred meters from vantage points like Raj Bhavan, the residence of the Chief Minister and the airport, marks the rise in his stock since his Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) won all the five seats it contested in the recent Lok Sabha polls. "It is a great coincidence that we have been allotted, for my party, the very premises where I started my political journey," recounted the Union minister who had made his debut in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

8 killed in two road accidents
AHMEDABAD: Eight persons, including two children, were killed in two separate road accidents in Gujarat's Bharuch and Arvalli districts Friday, officials said. Three men died on the spot when their speeding car hit a roadside tree on a state highway near Shera village under Hansot taluka of Bharuch district in the morning, said an official of the Hansot police. The vehicle suddenly veered off the road due to unknown reasons and crashed into the tree. In the second accident, five persons, including two children, died on the spot after the car in which they were travelling crashed into a pillar of an under-construction bridge on the Himmatnagar-Shamlaji highway in Modasa taluka of Arvalli district, said another official.

ED seizes ₹8.8 crore from office of 'lottery king' Santiago Martin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 15: The Enforcement Directorate Friday seized ₹8.8 crore in cash during searches in a money laundering case against Chennai-based 'lottery king' Santiago Martin, officials said. Martin was the single biggest donor to political parties with over ₹1,300 crore in the now-scraped electoral bonds. The searches that were launched Thursday continued for the second day in multiple states. About ₹8.8 crore in cash has been seized from the corporate office of Martin Friday. The cash is the mostly in the denomination of ₹500, the official said. The fresh ED searches came about after the Madras High Court recently allowed the federal agency to proceed against Martin as the Tamil Nadu Police had decided to close the predicate or primary FIR against him and a few others and a lower court accepted this police plea. At least 20 premises linked to Martin and associates in Chennai and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, Faridabad in Haryana, Ludhiana in Punjab and Kolkata in West Bengal were being searched as part of a "comprehensive" action against his business empire. A clutch of police FIRs have been taken into cognisance by the ED to initiate the latest action against Martin and his business network for lottery "fraud" and "illegal" sale of lottery. The agency had searched him earlier too. The federal agency last year attached assets worth about ₹457 crore in a case against Martin linked to an alleged loss of over ₹900 crore to the Sikkim government by fraudulent sale of the state lottery in Kerala.

COP29: INDIA DEMANDS CLIMATE JUSTICE

Developed countries, particularly the European Union, argued that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is not the right platform to discuss this issue, as it is already being addressed by the World Trade Organization

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: Developing countries strongly opposed unilateral trade measures disguised as climate actions at the COP29 climate talks Friday, calling them "discriminatory" and harmful to global cooperation. They argued these measures violate the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR). China, on behalf of the BASIC group of countries, submitted a proposal to the UN climate body last month requesting that this year's climate talks address the issue of unilateral trade measures such as the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). Although the proposal did not make it to the formal agenda even after a prolonged debate on the first day of the summit, COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev announced consultations on the issue, with outcomes to be shared at the conference's conclusion. Making an intervention in the presidential consultations Friday, India said this is a matter of global concern that needs urgent consideration to ensure the development pathways of developing countries are not constricted. Other groups of developing countries, including the G77, the largest bloc representing over 130 nations at the UN climate talks, and Like-Minded Developing Countries also registered their strong Opposition on the issue. India said restrictive unilateral measures force developing and low-income nations to bear the costs of transitioning to low-carbon economies, undermining climate finance commitments from developed nations, which have historically benefited from industrialisation and contributed the most to greenhouse gas emissions. India further said unilateral trade measures discriminate against countries seeking to industrialise through ex-

port-led growth by raising the cost of goods. If the goal is to reduce global carbon emissions, climate policies must focus on offering concessional finance and build-



ing the capacity of countries to address both mitigation and adaptation, it said. Bolivia, on behalf of the LM-DCs, said this is a matter of critical importance for global equity, fairness, sustainability and international cooperation. Experts argue that trade policies tied to climate action must be discussed in inclusive forums like the UNFCCC, rather than being left to trade bodies like the WTO. Trishant Dev, programme officer for climate change at Delhi-based think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), said if climate-related issues are beginning to inform trade policies, it is crucial to create space for multilateral discussions on these measures. One of the unilateral trade measures that developing countries have been strongly resisting is CBAM -- the EU's proposed tax on energy-intensive products, such as iron, steel, cement, fertilisers, and

aluminium, imported from countries like India and China. The tax is based on carbon emissions generated during the production of these goods. Both the United Kingdom and the United States are at different stages of imposing their versions of this mechanism in due course. The EU has earlier argued that this mechanism creates a level playing field for domestically manufactured goods, which must adhere to stricter environmental standards, and help curb emissions from imports. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last month termed CBAM "unilateral and arbitrary" and said such measures could potentially harm India's industries and disrupt the balance in international trade. According to CSE, CBAM will impose an additional 25 per cent tax on carbon-intensive goods exported from India to the EU. This tax burden would represent 0.05 per cent of India's GDP.

international



I think that President (elect) Trump will pick up where he left off with India. He clearly has good feelings, goodwill toward India, and I really see this as an opportunity to just continue building the relationship and really solidifying that partnership

JAPANESE PRINCESS DIES AT 101

The oldest member of the Japanese imperial family and great-aunt of Emperor Naruhito, Princess Yuriko passed away at the age of 101 in a Tokyo hospital Friday, the Imperial Household Agency says



of the day note

The real concern is if they (Russia) were to target the energy sector again (in Ukraine), this could be a tipping point for further mass movements, both inside the country and outside the country



We urge the US side to stop spreading irresponsible remarks, stop expanding its arsenal and making war preparations in space, and contribute its due share to maintaining lasting peace and security of space



Energy prices need to be lowered by all means. This means that sanctions (against Russia) need to be reconsidered because under the current sanctions policy, energy prices will not go lower



Lanka leans towards Left

Voters have handed Anura Kumara Disanayake a significant win in a snap general election, giving its new leftist President greater legislative power to pursue policies to alleviate poverty

REUTERS

Colombo, Nov 15: Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake's leftist coalition won a thumping victory in a snap general election, gaining power to push through his plans to fight poverty and graft in the island nation recovering from a financial meltdown.



The left-leaning President's alliance made history in the Jaffna electoral district as it trounced traditional Tamil nationalist parties in the cultural capital of the community

While the strong showing will strengthen political stability in the South Asian country, some uncertainty on policy direction remains due to Disanayake's promises to try and tweak terms of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) rescue programme that bailed the country out of its economic crisis, they said.

three seats in Parliament, prompting him to dissolve it and seek a fresh mandate in Thursday's snap election. Sri Lanka typically backs the President's party in general elections, especially if voting is held soon after a presidential vote.

Marxist-leaning Disanayake's coalition bags 159 seats. Opposition leader Premadasa's party wins 40 seats. NPP entered election with just 3 seats in 225-strong Parl. New President wants to cut taxes, fight poverty

of the biggest in the country's history. NPP secured almost 62% or almost 7 million votes, up from the 42% Disanayake won in September, indicating that he had drawn more widespread support including from minorities.

The Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna party of the Rajapaksa family, whose cohort of brothers gave Sri Lanka two Presidents during a dozen years in power and had 145 seats in the outgoing legislature, was virtually wiped out, winning just three seats.

Iran backs Lebanon in ceasefire talks



REUTERS

Beirut, Nov 15: Iran will back any decision taken by Lebanon in talks to secure a ceasefire with Israel, a senior Iranian official said Friday, signalling Tehran wants to see an end to a conflict that has dealt heavy blows to its Lebanese ally Hezbollah.

Alli Larijani, an advisor to Iran's supreme leader, spoke during a visit to Beirut as Israel kept up its intensified bombardment of Hezbollah-controlled areas of the Lebanese capital.

Nabih Berri, who is endorsed by Hezbollah to negotiate, two senior Lebanese political sources told Reuters. The draft was Washington's first written proposal to halt fighting between its ally Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah in at least several weeks, the sources said.

SHORT TAKES

Pak for ex-military security to Chinese

Karachi: Pakistan Friday advised private security agencies, sponsors and project heads to hire former military personnel for the security and safety of Chinese nationals working on various sites in the southern Sindh province.

Malaysia protests new Philippine law

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia has protested new maritime laws in the Philippines that it says encroach on its territory, a government official said Friday.

Scholz faces calls to quit re-election bid

REUTERS

Berlin, Nov 15: Olaf Scholz, Germany's least popular chancellor on record, is facing growing calls within his Social Democrats (SPD) to step aside and let his Defence Minister Boris Pistorius instead lead the centre-left party into next year's federal election.



called for a rethink in what would be an unprecedented move, akin to that of the US Democrats in July in persuading President Joe Biden to drop his re-election bid.

SNIPPETS

Maori protesters march towards New Zealand's capital

Wellington: Thousands of people joined a march towards New Zealand's national capital Friday after a contentious bill that would reinterpret the country's 184-year-old founding document passed its first hurdle in Parliament.



NK leader Kim orders mass production of suicide drones



Seoul: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un guided a test of suicide drones and ordered a mass production of the aerial weapon, saying the introduction of such drones around the world requires an urgent update of military theory, state media said Friday.

Former Pentagon official on UFOs: 'We are not alone'

Ex-government and military officials testify in latest congressional hearing on the mysterious phenomena, which have long fascinated the public

UFOs are real and Americans deserve to know the truth, former government and military officials told a congressional panel Wednesday.



"unidentified anomalous phenomena," or UAP, in more than 50 years. Since then, lawmakers and the public have heard from military and intelligence officials who have testified that they have seen UAP and that they could pose risks to national security.

closing some information about UAP, and several branches are investigating the phenomena. Gallaudet said he first had confirmation that UAPs were real in 2015 while working for the Navy.

We should not turn a blind eye, but boldly face this new reality and learn from it. Republican Representative Nancy Mace of South Carolina, the chairwoman of one of the subcommittees, said in her opening remarks that some people didn't want Wednesday's hearing to happen because they feared what might be disclosed.

"Let me be clear: UAP are real," said Elizondo, who added that much of his government work is still classified. "Advanced technologies not made by our government, or any other government, are monitoring sensitive military installations around the globe."

Indian Oxford Union member Aadarsh Mishra intervened during the debate saying, "JKLF is a terrorist organisation." According to a video shared on X by community organisation Insight UK, which was among the groups supporting the protest led by Indian students at the university, Mishra can be heard saying: "I do not trust this house and I have launched a 'no confidence motion' against the president (of the Oxford Union)" and termed him as "nothing but a stooge of ISI and Pakistan."

Business



India is among the largest markets by volume and growing at a rapid pace
PRABHJEET SINGH | PRESIDENT, UBER INDIA

BENZ TO HIKE PRICES FROM NEW YEAR

German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz Friday said it will hike prices of its vehicles in India by up to 3 per cent on its entire model range in the portfolio from January 1, 2025, citing a rise in input costs, inflationary pressures and higher operational expenses



of the day quote

During a correction phase in the market, like the present one, there will always be counter moves to facilitate a bounce back



VK VIJAYAKUMAR | CHIEF INVESTMENT STRATEGIST, GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

A bill to amend the existing law governing exploration and production of oil and gas will provide policy stability to investors as also promote ease of doing business



HARDEEP SINGH PURI | OIL MINISTER

Our constant endeavour to be sustainable and affordable is a great attraction for international buyers which is reflected in recent months' exports growth



SUDHIR SEKHRI | CHAIRMAN, AEP

Bears in full control

FII exodus, weak Q2 earnings, elevated valuations drag benchmarks



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty after smashing many record peaks this year, slipped into a correction mode, with the NSE key gauge falling over 10 per cent from its record high hit in September amid concerns of foreign investors fleeing the domestic market, weak Q2 earnings and stretched valuations. The BSE benchmark Sensex hit its record peak of 85,978.25 September 27 this year, and the NSE Nifty also reached a lifetime high of 26,277.35 the same day.

However, markets came under bear attack from October onwards. The BSE benchmark gauge is down a massive 8,397.94 points or 9.76 per cent from its all-time high, and the Nifty has also lost 2,744.65 points or 10.44 per cent from the record.

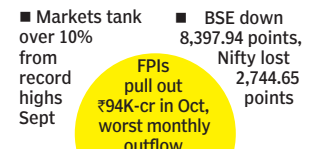
"Elevated valuations had already raised concerns, but a stimulus package in China prompted a significant shift in Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) flows from India to China. This exodus was further fuelled

by weak Q2 earnings, while a rise in US bond yields and the dollar index added pressure, extending the FII sell-off. Consequently, the Indian market has seen record FII outflows over the past one and a half months," Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investment Ltd, said.

Foreign investors pulled out a massive Rs 94,000 crore (around USD 11.2 billion) from the Indian stock market in October, making it the worst-ever month in terms of outflows, triggered by the elevated valuation of domestic equities and attractive valuations of Chinese stocks. The outflow came after a nine-month high investment of Rs 57,724 crore in September this year.

The biggest disappointments this quarter came from FMCG stocks, where expectations of strong earnings driven by rural recovery and a favourable monsoon were unmet, Meena said. "Instead, the sector faced one of its worst quarters, especially in terms of urban consumption. Another significant set-

Equities BLEED



back was seen in microfinance companies, which reported sharp declines in profitability and asset quality, reflecting heightened challenges in this segment," he added.

In October alone, the BSE benchmark slumped 4,910.72 points or 5.82 per cent, and the Nifty tumbled 1,605.5 points or 6.22 per cent.

Benchmark indices are trading lower so far this month also. Sensex made monthly gains in seven months this year. On a monthly basis, it gave negative returns in January and May.

Despite the recent correction, the Sensex is up 5,340.05 points or 7.39 per cent so far this year. "Several factors have contributed to this correction, with sustained outflows from FIIs playing a central role. Other contributing factors include weak second-quarter earnings leading to a valuation correction, a significant depreciation of the Indian rupee against the US dollar, a disappointing inflation reading for India, China's economic stimulus, and a rise in US 10-year bond yields - all of which have collectively pressured Indian equities," Vishnu Kant Upadhyay, AVP of Research and Advisory at Master Capital Services Ltd, told PTI.

Forex kitty declining for multiple weeks

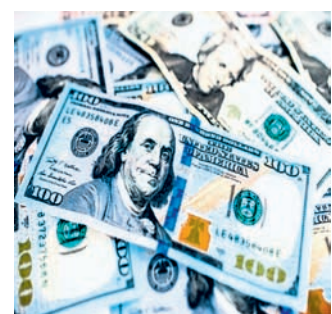
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 15: India's forex reserves dropped by \$6.477 billion to \$675.653 billion for the week ended November 8, the RBI said Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the forex reserves had dropped by \$2.675 billion to \$682.13 billion. The kitty, which had hit an all-time high of \$704.885 billion in end-September, has been declining for multiple weeks.

For the week ended November 8, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by \$4.467 billion to \$585.383 billion, the data released Friday showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.



Gold reserves decreased by \$1.936 billion to \$67.814 billion during the week, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by \$60 million to \$18.159 billion, the apex bank said.

India's reserve position with the IMF was also down by \$14 million to \$4.298 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

Auto sales ride on festive boost



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: Automobile retail sales in India rose 12 per cent year-on-year to 42,88,248 units in the 42-day-long festive period this year, dealer's body FADA said Friday.

The overall automotive registrations in the festive period of the last year stood at 38,37,040 units.

"We witnessed a remarkable surge in numbers since the beginning of Navratri, nearly hitting our forecasted target with 42.88 lakh vehicles registered during this period's growth of 11.76 per cent over the last year's 38.37 lakh units," FADA president CS Vigneshwar said. Passenger vehicle retail increased by 7 per cent to 6,03,009 units in the festive period this year against 5,63,059 units in the same period last year.

Passenger vehicles bounced back after a lull, spurred by pent-up demand and unprecedented discounts available in the market, Vigneshwar said. "While we celebrate these achievements, we acknowledge that we could have fully met or even exceeded our targets of 45 lakh units if not for the unseasonal heavy rains in South In-

Looking ahead, the auto industry is yet to fully benefit from a government push in infrastructure spending, which we expect will bolster commercial vehicle sales

CS VIGNESHWAR | PRESIDENT, FADA

dia, especially in Bangalore and Tamil Nadu, and the Cyclone Dana that affected Odisha."

Passenger vehicle stock levels will reduce further. However, FADA advises caution as the complete picture of inventory will emerge by month-end, Vigneshwar said.

Two-wheeler registrations increased 14 per cent year-on-year to 33,11,325 units in the 42-day period this year compared to 29,10,141 units last year.

Two-wheeler sales were largely driven by strong rural demand, Vigneshwar noted.

The festive period ranged this year from Navratri to 15 days post Dhanteras due to the time lag for vehicle registration, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said.

During the period, commercial vehicle retails rose 1 per cent year-on-year to 1,28,738 units.

India to clock 7.2% growth: Moody's



RBI to hold interest rates steady this year, says the ratings agency

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: Moody's Ratings Friday forecast a 7.2 per cent GDP growth for India in 2024, saying the Indian economy is in a sweet spot, but inflation risks may prompt the RBI to retain a relatively tight monetary policy this year.

Moody's said that despite the near-term uptick, retail inflation should moderate toward the Reserve Bank's target in the coming months as food prices ease amid higher sowing and adequate food grain buffer stocks. The agency said sporadic food price pressures continue to inject volatility in the disinflation trajectory.

"Potential risks to inflation from heightened geopolitical tensions and extreme weather events underscore the RBI's cautious approach to policy easing. Although the central bank shifted

The retail inflation scaled to a 14-month high of 6.21, breaching the RBI's upper tolerance limit, on a sharp jump in vegetable prices in Oct

it is unlikely that the RBI would cut benchmark interest rates.

In its Global Macro Outlook 2025-26, the US-based rating agency said household consumption is poised to grow, fuelled by increased spending during the ongoing festive season and a sustained pickup in rural demand.

Additionally, rising capacity utilization, upbeat business sentiment and the government's continued thrust on infrastructure spending should support private investment.

India's real GDP expanded 6.7 per cent year-over-year in the second quarter of 2024, driven by a revival in household consumption, robust investment and strong manufacturing activity. There are indications of a steady economic momentum in the July-September quarter as well. "... from a macroeconomic perspective, the Indian economy is in a sweet spot, with the mix of solid growth and moderating inflation. We forecast 7.2 per cent growth for calendar year 2024, followed by 6.6 per cent in 2025 and 6.5 per cent in 2026," Moody's said.

Sound economic fundamentals, including healthy corporate and bank balance sheets, a stronger external position, and ample foreign exchange reserves also bode well for the growth outlook, it added.

Most G-20 economies will experience steady growth and continue to benefit from policy easing and supportive commodity prices. However, post-election changes in US domestic and international policies could potentially accelerate global economic fragmentation, complicating ongoing stabilization

MADHAVI BOKIL | SENIOR VP, MOODY'S RATINGS

FACE-OFF FOR SATELLITE SPECTRUM

RIL asks govt to review reach of Starlink, Kuiper

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 15: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance has asked India's telecom regulator to review the potential reach of Elon Musk's Starlink and Amazon's Kuiper before awarding satellite spectrum amid concerns local players could suffer, a letter showed Friday.

Reliance's letter, which is not public, is Ambani's last-ditch effort in an ongoing face-off with Musk over how India should grant spectrum for satellite services. While Reliance has called for an auction, India has sided with Musk who - in line with global trends - wanted an administrative allocation.

In the letter, reviewed by Reuters, Reliance said it carried about 15 billion gigabyte of data every month in India after spending about \$23 billion on spectrum auctions over the years, but Starlink would tar-



get the same customers with a potential capacity of nearly 18 billion gigabyte of data via its satellites with a likely much lower outlay.

Experts say auctions tend to mean higher initial investments which could have deterred foreign players in favour of Reliance.

"The authority should critically examine the capacities created by these mega ... constellations such as Starlink and Kuiper," the letter dated Nov 15 said.

A senior government source at the telecom regulator said all feedback being received would be reviewed before making fi-

- Reliance asked India to allocate spectrum via auction
- India decided to allocate spectrum, as wanted by Musk
- Reliance warns that could give others unfair advantage
- Musk India entry could spark price war with Reliance

nal recommendations, tentatively before the year end.

Starlink, Amazon and Reliance did not respond.

Starlink is seeking security clearance for a licence to offer satellite broadband services in India and will get a permit if it satisfies all conditions, the telecom minister said this week.

Ambani once gave data for free on his mobile plans, and Musk has adopted similarly aggressive tactics. In Kenya, Musk priced Starlink at \$10 per month, versus \$120 in the United States, unsettling local telecom players.

AIPNBOA holds 5th annual sports meet

Sambalpur: All India Punjab National Bank Officers' Association (AIPNBOA), Odisha Zone is organising its 5th Annual Zonal Sports Meet at Railway Ground, Sambalpur spread over three days from November 15 to 17. Officers from all the five circles of bank in Odisha, i.e. Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Balasore and Berhampur are taking part in this three days annual sports extravaganza. This colourful function was inaugurated by Ajit Meher Circle Head, Sambalpur, Alok Ranjan Senapati Circle Head Berhampur, Biswajit Biswal, Circle Head Baleswar, Bailochan Sahoo, AGS & Circle Secretary, Bhubaneswar, Deepak Pradhan, Circle Secretary, Cuttack, Akash Das, Circle Secretary, Balasore, P Santosh Patra, Circle Secretary, Berhampur, Sunil kerketta, Circle Secretary, Sambalpur and a number of senior officers of the zone were present in the inauguration ceremony.



Royalty payment by listed firms surges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 14: Royalty payments made by listed companies to their related parties (RPs) more than doubled in magnitude over the last decade with 233 firms shelling out ₹10,779 crore in FY23 from ₹4,955 crore in FY14, a study conducted by Sebi revealed Thursday.

The study found that in one out of four instances, listed companies paid royalty to RPs exceeding 20 per cent of their net profits.

Further, one out of two times, listed firms that paid royalty, did not pay dividend or paid more royalty to RPs than dividend paid to non-RP shareholders.

The study is based on annual, company-level information, in respect of 233 listed companies across sectors in the country. These companies have made royalty payments, amounting to less than 5 per cent of turn-



over to their RPs, during the 10-year period from FY 2013-14 to FY 2022-23.

Royalty payment generally refers to consideration paid by a company towards technology transfer agreements or collaborations entered into with another company, or towards the use of trademarks/ brand names of the other company.

In the Indian context, listed companies make royalty payments to their holding companies or fellow subsidiaries

towards the purposes of brand usage, transfer of technology know-how etc.

During the period (2013-14 to 2022-23), there were 1,538 instances of royalty payments within 5 per cent of turnover of the company - not requiring majority of minority shareholder approval - by 233 listed companies.

Of these, 1,353 instances of royalty payments were by listed companies that made net profits and 185 instances of royalty pay-

ments were by companies that made net losses.

During FY14-23, there were 185 instances of royalty payments by 63 companies that made net losses. Such companies made royalty payment of ₹1,355 crore to their RPs.

Moreover, 10 companies incurred net losses at least for five years while paying royalty amounting to ₹228 crore to their RPs.

In its study, Sebi has also flagged concerns over the lack of disclosures as well as non-uniform disclosure across the companies to royalty payments made to related parties.

"Appropriate disclosures with respect to the rationale and rate of royalty payments are not being provided by listed companies in their annual reports. Besides, classification of royalty payment made towards the purposes of brand usage, technology know-how etc is not being disclosed," Sebi said.

CHAMPIONS TROPHY ROW

Big ICC rap for Pak



ICC halts PCB's plan to conduct Champions Trophy tour in PoK territory after BCCI's strong objection

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: The BCCI Friday strongly objected to Pakistan Cricket Board's purported move to take the Champions Trophy for a tour of the disputed 'Pakistan Occupied Kashmir' (PoK), prompting the global body ICC to put the promotional event on hold.

The tournament, last played in 2017, is already in limbo after the BCCI officially intimidated ICC about Indian cricket team's inability to travel to Pakistan.

The PCB in return, as of now, has rejected the proposed 'Hybrid Model' with India playing its matches in Dubai. The schedule has also been put on hold and the new controversy could only make things ugly.

It is learnt that BCCI secretary Jay Shah Friday spoke to the top brass of the ICC and condemned this move by Pakistan and has urged the global body to take strong note.

"The BCCI secretary, after it came to his notice, called up the ICC and was extremely critical of PCB's move to conduct a Trophy tour of multiple cities which fall under Pakistan Occupied Kashmir," a senior BCCI official privy to the development told PTI on conditions

This decision came amid the ongoing controversy surrounding India's participation in the Champions Trophy after ICC informed the PCB that India will not be travelling to Pakistan for the matches

of anonymity. "He has urged the ICC to take strong action. As far as Islamabad is concerned, there is no issue but there can't be any Trophy tour to PoK." The Trophy Tour is part of the global body's promotional

campaign, involving visits to multiple cities as per discussions between the international body and the host country.

However, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), without prior consultation with all stakeholders, announced on its official social media that the Trophy would be taken to Skardu, Murree, and Hunza - areas that fall under the disputed territory. "Get ready, Pakistan! The ICC Champions Trophy 2025 trophy tour kicks off in Islamabad on 16 November, also visiting scenic travel destinations like Skardu, Murree, Hunza and Muzaffarabad. Catch a glimpse of the trophy which Sarfaraz Ahmed lifted in 2017 at The Oval, from 16-24 November," PCB tweeted.

When an ICC Board Member was contacted, he told PTI: "The discussions on Trophy tour is still on. I am not aware if PCB had kept everyone in loop about the four cities mentioned but if not then it was certainly not the right thing to do. I don't think ICC will allow PCB to take the trophy to any disputed region."

But a PCB source said that the trophy tour was planned in consultation and with the approval of the ICC and it was not a unilateral decision of the Pakistan Board. "If they (BCCI) had issues, they should have notified the PCB immediately before announcing the Trophy tour. Anyway the PCB as hosts and commercial partners of the ICC is cooperating as always with them," the PCB official said. "The PCB are in discussion with the ICC to ensure the trophy tour is a success and promoted properly in Pakistan," the source added.

Odisha win season's 1st Ranji tie



Odisha cricketers and support staff pose for a picture after their win over Maharashtra, Friday. PIC: RAIKISHORE MOHANTY

Spinner Sumit Sharma's fifer and Govind Poddar's all-round show ensure victory against Maharashtra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 15: Skipper Govind Poddar's (3 wickets and 48 runs) all-round show and left-arm spinner Sumit Sharma's (5/46) brilliant bowling helped Odisha clinch their first outright victory in the ongoing Ranji Trophy season. The hosts riding on some useful knocks by Poddar and Sandeep Pattnaik (36) defeated Maharashtra by three wickets at the Barabati Stadium here Friday.

On a pitch that offered spin and bounce, the hosts utilised the conditions to their full advantage. While the bowlers bowled the perfect length to extract maximum advantage from the pitch, the batters put their heads down and batted with grit and determination to ensure victory for the home side. Maharashtra had come into the game as firm favourites as they had more points than Odisha in the Elite Group A table, but Odisha outsmarted them completely. Even though Odisha's chances of qualifying for the knockout stages of the Ranji Trophy

appears very bleak, this win will certainly do their cricketers a world of good.

Maharashtra resuming at their overnight score of 78 for three could not tackle in a proper manner the guile of Sharma and Poddar. Both bowled an impeccable length and allowed the pitch to do all the talking. In the process Maharashtra lost their last seven wickets for just 88 runs and were bowled out for 166. Except for Ramakrishna Ghosh (89) and Harshal Kate (34), no other batter showed the inclination to take the battle to the Odisha bowlers.

It is still unclear as to why Ghosh who had top-scored for Maharashtra in the first innings with 80 was sent to bat at No. 8 in the second innings. When he came in to bat, the game had already slipped out of Maharashtra's grasp. He tried his best, but it was not enough for the visitors.

Chasing a victory target of 129, Odisha stuttered a bit losing first innings centurion Swastik Sasmal early. However, both Sandeep and Poddar batted with skill to see that victory did not elude the hosts. Poddar, who has not been among runs since his century against J&K batted brilliantly. He defended dourly and when the loose delivery came he promptly punished it. He was dismissed with the score at 125 after hitting three boundaries and the same number of sixes, but by then he had ensured Odisha's win.

10-WICKET HAUL
Haryana's Kamboj scripts Ranji history

Lahli: Haryana pacer Anshul Kamboj entered the record books Friday as he became only the third bowler in the history of Ranji Trophy to claim all 10 wickets in an innings. Kamboj, 23, achieved the feat in the home team's Group C game against Kerala at the Chaudhary Bansi Lal Cricket Stadium on the outskirts of Rohtak. Kamboj ended with incredible figures of 10/49 in 30.1 overs. Premangshu Chatterjee of Bengal (10/20 vs Assam, 1956) and Pradeep Sundaram (10/78, Rajasthan v Vidarbha, 1985) of Rajasthan are the other two bowlers to have taken 10 wickets in an innings in the country's premier domestic tournament. Overall, Kamboj is the sixth Indian bowler to grab a 10-wicket haul in First-Class cricket. The legendary Anil Kumble, Subhash Gupte and Debashish Mohanty are the others on the list.



Brief scores: Maharashtra 162 and 166 (Sumit Sharma 5/46, Govind Poddar 3/42) lost to Odisha 200 and 130 for 7 (Govind Poddar 48, Prashant Solanki 3/12) by 3 wickets.

SHORT TAKES

Carlsen wins title

Kolkata: World No 1 Magnus Carlsen of Norway delivered a flawless performance on the final day to clinch the title in the Open section, while India's R Praggnanandhaa finished runner-up at the Tata Steel Chess India Rapid Tournament here Friday. In the women's section, Russia's Aleksandra Goryachkina maintained her consistent form to emerge triumphant with 7.5 points at the Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium here.

Tiafoe fined \$120,000

Turin: US Open semifinalist Frances Tiafoe was fined a total of \$120,000 - but will not be suspended - for cursing repeatedly at a chair umpire after losing a match at the Shanghai Masters last month. The ATP said Thursday during its season-ending tournament in Italy that its fines committee handed Tiafoe a penalty of \$60,000 for aggravated behaviour on top of the maximum on-site fine of \$60,000 he got for verbal abuse. The 18th-ranked Tiafoe, a 26-year-old from Maryland, could have faced a suspension but will not be barred from competing, the tour said.

Eng clinch T20 series

Gros Islet (St Lucia): Fast bowler Saqib Mahmood again knocked the top off the West Indies innings to set up England's three-wicket win in the third Twenty20 international which clinched a series victory with two matches remaining. Set 146, England reached its target with seven wickets down and four balls to spare. The chase was led by Sam Curran who made 41 in partnerships of 38 with Will Jacks (32) and 39 with Liam Livingstone.

Football fans clash

Paris: French police officers made two arrests after a brief fan-fight at a Nations League soccer game between France and Israel, Paris police chief Laurent Nunez said Friday. Stewards "immediately contained" the scuffle inside the Stade de France national stadium Thursday night, Nunez said. "There was the start of a fight. We were extremely reactive, so the incident was very quickly contained," the police chief said, speaking to broadcaster France 2. Officers took one person into custody immediately and arrested the other after the match, with the help of video evidence, Nunez said.

FAREWELL BELLS

Gunneswaran hangs racquet

Chennai: Asian Games bronze medal winner Prajnesh Gunneswaran Friday announced his retirement from professional tennis. The 35-year-old Indian, who won singles bronze in the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games, wrote on his Instagram account: "Hanging up my racquet. Thank you." Gunneswaran, who rose to world No 75 in the ATP rankings in 2019, expressed his deep gratitude for being able to compete at the top level for several years. "As I write this, my heart swells with gratitude, pride, and a touch of nostalgia. Today, I step off the competitive tennis court for the last time. For over three decades, this game has been my sanctuary, my greatest teacher, and my most faithful companion. From the first swing of my racquet to representing India on the grandest stages, the journey has been nothing short of extraordinary," he wrote. Gunneswaran also competed in all four Grand Slams, bowing out in the opening round in all instances. The Australian Open was the only Slam in which he competed on multiple occasions -- 2019 and 2020.



NZ pacer Southee set to retire

Wellington: Veteran New Zealand fast bowler Tim Southee has announced he will retire from international cricket when the Black Caps' home Test series against England finishes in December. The 35-year-old Southee, who is second on the New Zealand Test wicket-taking list behind Richard Hadlee with 385, says the third Test on his home ground in Hamilton will be his last. Southee relinquished the Test captaincy to Tom Latham ahead of New Zealand's recent 3-0 sweep of India. He is one of six New Zealanders to have played more than 100 Tests. Southee also has played 161 one-day internationals and 126 Twenty20 internationals. "Representing New Zealand was all I ever dreamed of growing up," he said. "To play for the Black Caps for 18 years has been the greatest honor and privilege, but the time feels right to now step away from the game that has given so much to me." He is the only player to have taken 300 wickets in tests, 200 in one-day internationals and 100 in T20 internationals.



Samson, Tilak annihilate Proteas

The mammoth 283 target is by far India's highest T20I total overseas and highest by any country on South African soil

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Johannesburg, Nov 15: Sanju Samson's precision met its match in Tilak Varma's muscular elegance as India toyed with South African bowling attack to post an imposing 283 for 1 in the fourth and final T20 International here Friday.

Among the plethora of records that tumbled, the most special one will be two Indian batters scoring centuries in same T20I innings. Samson and Varma also posted the highest partnership for India in T20 Internationals -- 210 off just 93 balls for the second wicket. Samson (109 not out off 56 balls), who smashed a superb century in the first game, once again pummeled the Proteas in company of Varma (120 not out off 47 balls) who has really come into his own with new found confidence and vigour at number three. Samson now has three T20I tons in the last five knocks which also included two ducks



while Varma has scored back-to-back T20I tons.

Samson completed his ton in 51 balls while Varma's (41 balls) took 10 balls less.

Abhishek Sharma (36 off 18 balls) should also get his share of credit for upping the ante in the Powerplay with four huge sixes. On a good batting track with true bounce on offer, Indian batters hit a record 23 sixes as it was possible to hit through the line by just clearing one's front leg. Samson's nine maximums was one less than Varma's 10. It only helped India that the opposition's best fast bowler Gerald Coetzee seemed to be

carrying a niggles. The two medium pacers Andile Simelane (0/47 in 3 overs) and Lutho Sipamla (1/58 in 4 overs) seemed like lambs for slaughter. The Indians hit 10 sixes from Simelane and Sipamla.

By the time Coetzee was brought by skipper Aiden Markram for his second spell, the damage was done. Such was the nervousness of South African bowlers that they bowled 17 wides in trying to check the momentum. They didn't vary the pace and pitched it on length as Samson and Varma were severe, either hitting them inside out over extra cover or at times straight down the ground.

Senior Men's National Hockey C'ship: Odisha to face Haryana in final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 15: Haryana will face Odisha in the summit clash of the 14th Hockey India Senior Men's National Championship after they beat their respective opponents in the semifinals here Friday.

While Odisha defeated Manipur 4-2 in the first semifinal, Haryana edged out Uttar Pradesh 3-2 in the second last-four match on day 12 of the competition.

The two losing teams, Uttar Pradesh and Manipur, will compete for third place Saturday. The final between Haryana and Odisha will also be held Saturday, after the third-place play-off.

In the first semi-final, Nilakanta Sharma (7th) gave Manipur the lead before Nilam Sanjeev Xess (13th) cut the deficit for Odisha.

Shilanand Lakra (20th) gave Odisha the lead in the second quarter before Ganendrajit Ningombam (25th) also found the back of the net to tie the scoreline.

After a goal-less third quarter, Prasad Kujur (52nd) and Sudeep Chirmako (52nd) scored in quick succession to complete the victory for Odisha.

GOVT HONOURS SPORTSPERSONS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: The Sports and Youth Service department, felicitated 129 athletes with cash awards of Rs 17,83,500 in a function held here Thursday evening. The awards were presented acknowledging the outstanding achievements at the national and international level. The awards were presented to sportspersons belonging to the disciplines of Kho Kho, Wushu, Karate, Pencak Silat, Para Athletics, Baseball, Taekwondo, Deaf Cricket, Ju-Jitsu, Wheelchair Fencing, Para Swimming, Weightlifting, Swimming, Para Badminton and Chess.



Director of the Sports and Youth Service department, Siddhartha Das graced the ceremony as chief guest. Also present on the occasion were OAS, Sonali Chand and other officials of the department.

Sportspersons belonging to Kho Kho received Rs 3,75,000, Wushu - Rs 1,96,000, Karate - Rs 3,58,500, Pencak Silat Rs 2,60,000, Para athletics - Rs 1,17,000, Baseball - Rs 24,500, Taekwondo - Rs 98,000, Deaf Cricket - Rs 62,500, Ju-Jitsu - Rs

53,000, Wheelchair Fencing - Rs 70,000, Para Swimming - Rs 53,000, Weightlifting - Rs 44,000, Swimming - Rs 37,000, Para Badminton - Rs 30,000 and Chess Rs 5,000.

Speaking on the occasion, Das praised the sportspersons of different disciplines for their performances. "It gives me immense pleasure to present

these rewards. Our athletes have made Odisha proud, and I hope they continue to bring honour to both the state and the country. I wish them success in their future endeavours. Odisha is committed to recognising athletes for their exceptional achievements and enhancing the sports ecosystem to support their dedication," he stated.

Snooker title for Ashutosh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: Ashutosh Padhy defeated his one-time 'guru' Subrat Das to win the title in the 30th All Odisha Billiards and Snooker Ranking Championships-2024 at the 6 Pockets Club here Friday. This was Ashutosh's third state snooker title and he won it defeating Subrat by six frames to three (11-57, 67-28, 66-23, 93-0, 63-2, 61-70, 72-18, 46-54, 60-30).

Even though Subrat started well winning the first frame, Ashutosh came back strongly to win the next four. In the fourth frame Ashutosh achieved a break of 93, the second highest of the tournament. Earlier in the quarterfinals, Ashutosh had achieved the highest break of the event, 95. Subrat revived hopes of a comeback by winning the sixth frame, but by



then Ashutosh was in full flow. Despite his best efforts Subrat could not close the gap even though he won the eighth frame.

Among those present at the prize distribution ceremony were Sameer Ali, secretary Billiards and Snooker Association of Odisha and tournament director Govind Sharma.