

## JUMBOS IN PERIL

The state Monday woke up to the horrific death of three elephants, including a calf, in the forests of Sambalpur district after they were caught in an electric trap laid by poachers. This came as an addition to the never-ending saga of the gentle giants falling prey to human greed and skewed policies on pretext of urbanisation and development. Brazen exploitation of forests for mining, agriculture and the consequential human settlements have led to rapid loss of habitat for pachyderm population across India. And Odisha is no exception. The fortification of these encroachments has only increased the conflicts as the wild knows no boundaries. Man-made casualties inflicted on the jumbos have witnessed meteoric rise on account of rail hits and electrocution in the state over the years. Significantly, Monday's triple tragedy came close on the heels of Forest and Environment Minister Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia ordering a probe into the death of more than 50 elephants in the state in past six months

### VITAL STATS

- 27 jumbo deaths in 15 forest and wildlife divisions till mid-July of 2024-25
- Electrocution accounts for nearly 30% of the total deaths
- Odisha accounts for more than 15% of jumbo electrocutions out of 16 states between 2019-20 and 2023-24
- State accounts for 34% of poaching cases in the country in last five years



**Sambalpur, Nov 18:** Three elephants – two female and a calf – were electrocuted to death after coming in contact with live wires laid by poachers reportedly to kill wild boars in Sambalpur district, a forest official said Monday. Rairakhol divisional forest officer (DFO) Aurobinda Mohanty said the elephant deaths occurred late Sunday night near a farmland adjoining Burumal forest under Ghosharamal forest section in Naktideul forest range area of Sambalpur district. A special team of forest officials rushed to the spot for

an inquiry. Details about the incident will be revealed once the probe is completed, the DFO said. The carcasses of the elephants have been seized, he added. A team of veterinarians would conduct the post-mortem, he said. Meanwhile, forest personnel detained four persons of Ghosharamal village and started interrogating them. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Wildlife, Susanta Nanda termed the incident "unfortunate" and said, "There was negligence on the part of the patrolling team and field officials of the area." The regional chief conservator of forests (RCCF), Sambalpur, has been asked to conduct a thorough probe and strict action will be taken against those found guilty, Nanda said. Meanwhile, the Forest department has suspended three field workers for dereliction of duty. Wildlife enthusiasts, however, criticised the government for its prolonged investigations without any concrete action. Sangita Iyer, biologist and founder of Voice for Asian Elephants, said, "Investigations into elephant deaths are galore but there is hardly any tangible outcomes. Penalties are not imposed on the discoms nor on the farmers who install illegal fencing. They literally get away with the murders."



**UP IN ARMS:** Farmers stage a protest outside Noida Authority office Monday

### Kernel toll reaches 3

**Berhampur:** The toll in the alleged mango kernel poisoning incident at Mandipanka village in Kandhamal climbed to three Monday, with another victim succumbing during treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack.

## CM for partnership in petrochemicals, infra

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 18:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday met Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong in the island country, and explored collaborations in various sectors, including petrochemicals, infrastructure and logistics, officials said. Majhi, who kicked off his four-day visit to Singapore Sunday, apprised Yong, who is also the Minister of Trade and Commerce, about the rich maritime history of Odisha, she said. He extended an invitation to Singaporean companies through the Deputy Prime Minister's Office to explore opportunities in Odisha, and assured him a smooth



**SINGAPORE VISIT** and supportive investment experience, the officials said. Majhi expressed the need for more partnerships in the field of urban mobility, green shipping corridor and chemicals and petrochemicals complex, the CMO said in a statement. The CM and Industries Minister Sampad Swain also invited Yong to visit the state during 'Make in Odisha Conclave' to be held in January next year.

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Many more leaders are willing to switch sides if we assure them positions in our govts outside Delhi

## Manipur turmoil deepens; protester gunned down

**Imphal/New Delhi, Nov 18:** The ongoing turmoil in Manipur escalated Monday even as a protester was killed in firing during a clash between security forces and a mob that was vandalising properties at Babupara in Jiribam district.

Defying curfew orders, a Meitei group Monday took to the streets and locked several government offices in Imphal's west district to protest the recent killings in Jiribam even as the Centre decided to rush about 5,000 paramilitary troops to tackle the "volatile" situation in restive Manipur after

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's review meeting in New Delhi. Chief Minister N Biren Singh also convened an emergency meeting with ministers and MLAs of the ruling NDA to review the law and order situation, a day after the National People's Party (NPP) withdrew its support from the BJP-led government, further complicating the political landscape. Meanwhile, the Manipur government has constituted a two-member inquiry committee to look into the causes that led to a firing in Jiribam district, killing one protester and injuring another.

Government of Rajasthan

**RISING™ RAJASTHAN**  
9-10-11 DEC 2024 • JAIPUR  
REPLETE • RESPONSIBLE • READY

SH. BHAJAN LAL SHARMA  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Rajasthan

SH. NARENDRA MODI  
Hon'ble Prime Minister

## TRENDS, INNOVATIONS, IDEAS, OPPORTUNITIES...

A key highlight of Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit will be the Thematic Sessions, bringing together visionary thinkers, policymakers, subject experts and practitioners driving change across sectors. Be witness to insightful, thought provoking dialogue on emerging trends & challenges, transformative innovations and new opportunities. Connect with key stakeholders, and discover pathways to growth in the ever-evolving global business landscape. Secure your spot at the Summit today.

SCAN TO REGISTER  
rising.rajasthan.gov.in

9 DEC	<p>HerStory: Advancing Inclusive Societies <b>01</b></p>	<p>Transforming Manufacturing with Industry 4.0 <b>02</b></p>	<p>Regional Water Security: Technology and Governance <b>03</b></p>
	<p>Transition towards a Sustainable Energy Economy <b>04</b></p>	<p>Embracing Diversity: Promoting Inclusive Tourism <b>05</b></p>	<p>Sustainable Mining: Safeguarding the future <b>06</b></p>
10 DEC	<p>Digital Transformation: Shaping the Future of Startups <b>07</b></p>	<p>EduRevolution: Bridging Education and Opportunities <b>08</b></p>	<p>Sustainable Finance: Public and Private Investment <b>09</b></p>
	<p>Agri-Business Innovations: Moving up the Value Chain <b>10</b></p>	<p>FutureCare: Transforming Healthcare Through Innovation <b>11</b></p>	<p>Infrastructure: An important link in the Supply Chain <b>12</b></p>

**9 DEC**  
Inauguration & Opportunity Showcase

**10 DEC**  
Pravasi Rajasthani Conclave

**11 DEC**  
MSME Conclave

**All Days**  
Rajasthan Global Business Expo

Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Rajasthan

Summit Industry Partner

Confederation of Indian Industry

Nodal Offices

Bureau of Investment Promotion Rajasthan

RICO

Rajasthan Foundation

Rajasthan Samwad



# leisure



## PAUL MESCAL TALKS ABOUT 'CHASING THE FEELING'

Hollywood star Paul Mescal has talked about why he is still 'chasing the feeling' he got when he performed in school plays. He said it is because he has never felt 'adrenaline' like it despite his status as a Hollywood star

## NICOLE KIDMAN WAKES UP CRYING AT 3 AM

Hollywood actress Nicole Kidman has confessed she's more open to her emotions now she's in her 50s and regularly finds herself waking up crying in the middle of the night



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
You are creative, and today you will prove to be resourceful and thereby successful! Okay, you are ambitious, says Ganesha, but don't bite off more than you can chew. Be confident of your abilities, work hard and have faith in providence.

**TAURUS**  
You will feel the burden of financial responsibilities on your shoulders today, says Ganesha. Do not let expenses bother you. Money will come to you from unexpected sources later in the day. If you can maintain an impartial judgement, then you will yield wonderful results on the financial front, advises Ganesha.

**GEMINI**  
Today, you would love to spend as much time alone as possible with your sweet-heart, says Ganesha. A casual conversation between the two of you may culminate into a sensuous consummation. In the evening, you will keep people charmed with your wit and wisdom, feels Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
There is a fat chance that you will take pleasure in the company of your close friends and relatives, predicts Ganesha. You may have an awesome time with your mate. There may be a few minor problems here and there, but your family will rally behind you and will help you in solving your problems.

**LEO**  
The travel bug inside you is itching to be let loose, but things are not so simple when it comes to finding new destinations, says Ganesha. With you, holidaying goes hand in hand with delays. So, although you might be excited at the prospect of going to new places, this excitement will be somewhat curtailed thanks to postponements of travel plans.

**VIRGO**  
Motivation will remain high today, says Ganesha. Your talents and skills make you stand out as a superb artist. Words will glow if you let your creativity flow, and should you decide to dance or sing, you'll set the stage on fire today. Cultivate hobbies in performing arts and literature, advises Ganesha.

**LIBRA**  
It sure is tiring to run with the herd. You may feel the desire to get away from the rat race at work today. Maybe it is the monotonous and stressful environment in office that is pushing you to your limits. But you may seek a new direction and lifestyle, one that is less taxing. Sometimes, it becomes imperative to make a few changes.

**SCORPIO**  
You shall follow all things to the dot today. Your approach will be methodical and robotic. It is likely that you shall symbolise the saying, 'Actions speak louder than words'. Your powers of persuasion will help you amass the confidences of many, predicts Ganesha.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
A la a phoenix from the ashes, find yourself reborn as the perfect family person. You are bound to shower love and care on your betrothed. Children, too, will receive your share of love, and they will love it. Enjoy spending quality time with your loved one, says Ganesha.

**CAPRICORN**  
The work load may take away all your vigour, leaving you lethargic and dull, but you will come out of the sluggish phase before it can do any harm to your reputation, says Ganesha. Being observant and attentive while in meetings will help you in the long run, and in more ways than you can imagine.

**AQUARIUS**  
Good news from across the seven seas brings cheer! If you're seeking a visa, you may get one today. Everything looks positive and it reflects in your mood. Share your happiness with your family, says Ganesha, and you will find it multiplies manifold.

**PISCES**  
Conflicts galore will come your way at the workplace today. Keep a calm head over your shoulders and do keep tabs on your tongue. Differences only crop up if there are substantial thought processes involved, and keeping this in mind ought to give you the perspective needed to get ahead, says Ganesha.

# Kiara embraces her roots

**Mumbai:** Actress Kiara Advani has hilariously revealed how one can tell she is a proud Sindhi. Kiara took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a picture of her toothbrush. What catches the eye in the picture is that her toothbrush is in the hues of gold. The actress too can be seen in the bathroom mirror holding the phone to click the picture of her shimmering toothbrush.

"Tell me you're a Sindhi without telling me you're a Sindhi," she wrote as the caption. Kiara is a proud Sindhi and has often shared pictures of her home-cooked meals. Last year, she had given a sneak-peek into her plate of authentic Sindhi food, which Sindhi curry, aloo tuk, and bhindi fry.

Talking about her work life, Kiara is all set to be seen in the Ram Charan-starrer *Game Changer*. Ahead of the teaser launch, the wife of Sidharth Malhotra shared a poster where she could be seen sitting on a chair with water surrounding her. The actress looked every-inch a mermaid as she donned a blue outfit with scalloped details.

*Game Changer*, which is directed by Shankar Shanmugam, will have Ram Charan in the role of an IAS officer who fights against corrupt politicians while advocating for fair elections.



## SECRET BEHIND RANVEER'S ENERGY

**Mumbai:** Ranveer Singh, who has been getting a lot of positive response to his work in the recently released theatrical movie *Singham Again*, has shared the secret behind his pulsating energy.

The actor took to his Instagram Monday, and shared a video in which he said that a certain protein bar is the secret behind his energy. The video shows members of the film fraternity and the audience often wondering about how Ranveer gets the energy which is difficult to contain. It also features clips where the actor's energy is on a different level altogether.

The actor wrote in the caption, "Now you know. Don't just be You, be SuperYou".

Meanwhile, on the work front, Ranveer will be next seen in Aditya Dhar's untitled movie. The actor had earlier announced the film as he shared a black-and-white photo collage also featuring Sanjay Dutt, R Madhavan, Akshay Khanna, Aditya, and Arjun Rampal. All of them wore black outfits in the picture, and had grim expressions on their faces.

For now, Ranveer and his wife Deepika Padukone have been enjoying parental bliss.

## Kashmera gets philosophical

**Mumbai:** Actress Kashmera Shah, wife of comedian Krushna Abhishek, met with a freak accident and thanked god for saving her from something "big that could have happened."

Kashmera took to Instagram, where she shared a picture of tissues covered with blood. "Thank u god for saving me. Such a freak accident."

She added: "Something big was about to happen... but small took place. Hope there won't be any scarring. Live every day one moment at a time."

Kashmera said that she is missing her husband Krushna and their two children. "Can't wait to come back. Really missing my family today @krushna30 #rayaanksharma #krishaangksharma."

Kashmera, who gained stardom with her work in films such as *Jungle*, *Yes Boss*, *Kurukshetra*, and *Hera Pheri*, is known for her participation in shows such as *Bigg Boss 1*, *Nach Baliye 3* and *Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi 4*.



## Kajol's words strike chord with followers

**Mumbai:** Bollywood star Kajol recently took to Instagram to share a thought-provoking message about the importance of time. In her story, she wrote, "Time is money, but money can't give you time back!"

The actress' words struck a chord with fans, emphasizing the irreplaceable nature of time and urging everyone to cherish it.

Kajol's reflective post seemed to resonate deeply, serving as a gentle reminder to prioritize meaningful moments and experiences over material gains.

Known for her grounded perspective, Kajol often shares such insightful thoughts, connecting with her audience on a personal level. Alongside this thoughtful moment, Kajol is currently making waves with her upcoming projects.

Recent OTT release for her much-anticipated film *Do Patti*, offering a glimpse into what promises to be a gripping narrative. The film, which reunites Kajol with Kriti Sanon, has already generated significant buzz for its powerful performances and intriguing storyline.

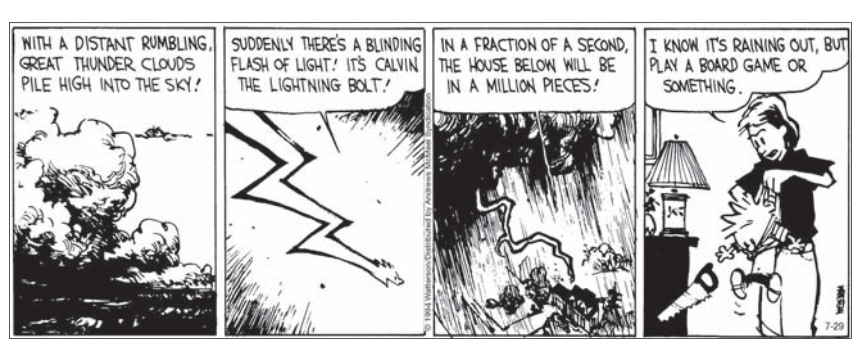
Adding to the excitement, Kajol is also gearing up for the release of the fantasy drama *Deva*. The visually stunning trailer dropped recently, showcasing Kajol in a unique role that has left fans eager for the film's release. Both projects highlight her versatility as an actress and her commitment to taking on diverse and challenging roles.



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

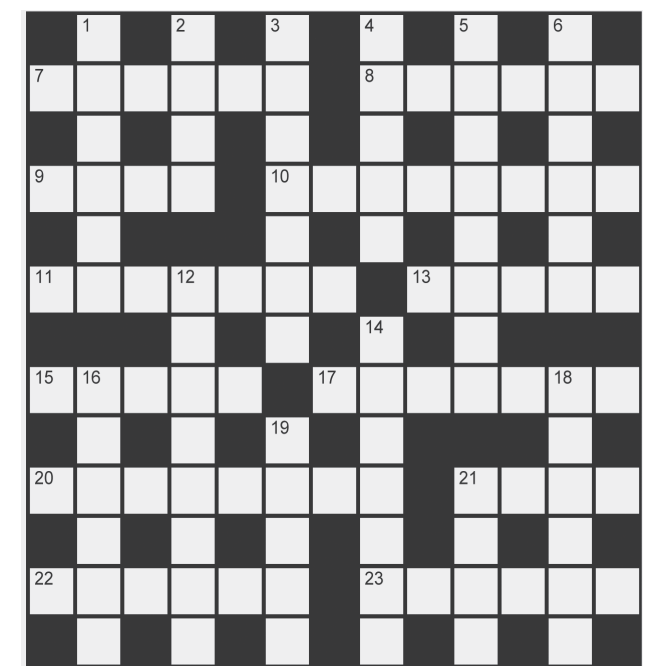


### BREVITY



### FUN POST

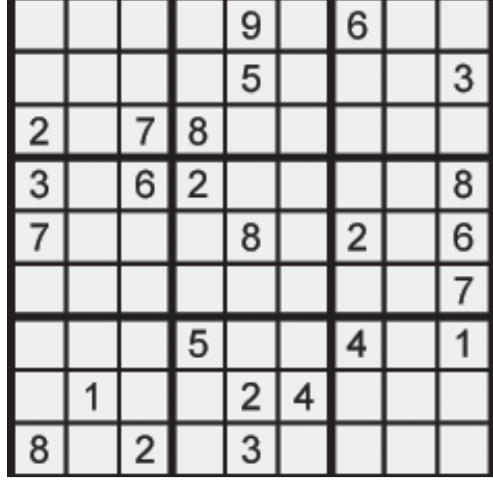
### CROSSWORD



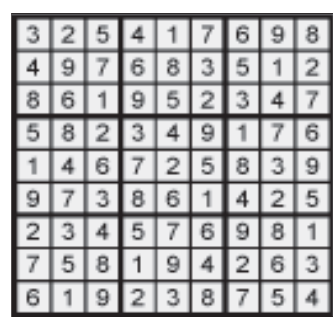
- Across
- 7 Seat of power
  - 8 Reach
  - 9 Queen's residence?
  - 10 Word for word
  - 11 Leftover
  - 13 Angler's gear
  - 15 Involuntary twitch
  - 17 Swiss export
  - 20 Nonsense
  - 21 Window part
  - 22 Seed beetle
  - 23 Outdoors, usually
  - 5 Game plan
  - 6 Subordinate
  - 12 Sharp descent (4,4)
  - 14 Munster locale
  - 16 Sandpiper relative
  - 18 Vacation spot
  - 19 Baleen whale food
  - 21 Paving stone
- Down
- 1 Like some steaks
  - 2 Eagle: bird of
  - 3 Impassioned
  - 4 Fencing move

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Visitors inspect handicrafts at an ORMAS stall at Bali Yatra in Cuttack, Monday



# downtown

## VIG GLARE ON 2 BABUS; DOC HELD OVER GRAFT



**Anti-corruption sleuths unearth stashed crores belonging to Kamakhyanager Sub-Collector Narayan Chandra Nayak and OSPHCW (Berhampur) deputy general manager Subash Chandra Panda during searches, while arresting Dr Ashok Kumar Dash, consultant O&G (clinical)-cum-joint director at Kalahandi DHH in bribery case**

tor Narayan Chandra Nayak on allegations that the top babu was in possession of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Though the searches were still on, the agency claimed to have unearthed assets worth over several crores of rupees in the name of the OAS officer and his family.

A three-storey building at Jharpada in Bhubaneswar, another three-storey building at Kuansa in Bhadrak, two-storey building at Gelpur in Bhadrak, 14 plots in posh areas, bank and insurance deposits worth over ₹34,57,052, over 300 gram of gold, and ₹1,48,680 cash were among the possessions belonging to the OAS officer that have so far been unearthed during the searches, they said.

Official sources said Nayak entered government service through OPSC in 1997. He had worked as an assistant settlement officer in Kalahandi, additional tehsildar in Bhanuipatna and BDO at Khariar, Dasarathpur and Baliana block offices. Later, in 2023 he assumed charge as the Sub-Collector of Kamakhyanager in Dhenkanal.

In the second case, Vigilance sleuths searched multiple locations related to Odisha State Police Housing Welfare Corporation (OSPHWC), Berhampur deputy general manager Subash Chandra Panda over alleged possession of DA.

The anti-corruption wing has so far unearthed assets

worth crores of rupees belonging to Panda.

"A three-storey building at Aiginia in Bhubaneswar, a two-storey building at his native village Barimunda in Bhubaneswar and five high value plots in the Capital City were found in his name. These apart, Panda has given ₹66 lakh as advance to purchase a 4BHK at Kalinganagar in Bhubaneswar. Around 850 gram gold, bank and insurance deposits totaling to ₹1,84,09,526 and ₹3,47,490 in cash were found from his possession," an official statement said, adding that a few vehicles were also found in his name.

Panda entered government service in 1989 as assistant project manager. He was promoted to the rank of deputy project manager in 2007, and was continuing as such at OPHWC Berhampur division.

Moreover, Vigilance sleuths nabbed Dr Ashok Kumar Dash, consultant O&G (clinical)-cum-joint director at Kalahandi DHH while demanding and receiving ₹6,000 as bribe from a man for treatment.

Following the trap, simultaneous searches were launched at multiple places including his government quarters at Bhanuipatna and another quarters at Cuttack. "In this connection, a case (23/2024) under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 has been registered at the Koraput Vigilance police station," a statement said.

## DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2024

### Eco-warrior Heeta Lakhani's fight to combat climate crisis

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 18:** The role of the young generation holds key to climate action and safety as the planet faces an increased and devastating effects of climate change.

Environmentalist and well known eco-warrior Heeta Lakhani, the youngest panelist at the Dharitri Youth Conclave 2024 which is scheduled to be held November 24, is setting an example in that direction.

Founder and Director of the ClimAct Foundation and part of the Women's Climate Collective, Heeta has represented Indian climate activists on a string of global platforms. She

is working towards creating awareness about climate change, saving the eco-system and mentoring young people to do their bit for this cause.

Heeta's endeavours are essentially aimed at safeguarding the future, children to be particular. Her passion towards the cause fuelled when she was a child. Over the years, her works have helped create impact, and influenced many minds to do their bit to save Ma-

Earth. She has achieved many milestones on a global scale in her career towards this goal.

Heeta is a youth activist and climate educator from Mumbai. She has a Master's degree in Environmental Studies and Resource Management from TERI University, New Delhi. She has been active at the local as well as international levels since the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in 2015. She aims to create change-makers who will take knowledge-based action to combat the climate crisis. She is a firm believer in the participation and power of youth in grassroots as well as international processes and policies. She is also an advocate for sus-

tainable food systems.

Heeta wears multiple hats including RFS Youth Ambassador and the current UN Global Focal Point for YOUNGO, the official youth constituency of the UNFCCC.

She set up ClimAct Foundation in 2022 to mentor young change-makers who can combat climate crises with knowledge-based action. The foundation also conducts sessions in private and government schools; and at venues and museums.

She has also co-founded the Youth Negotiators Academy, where youth are trained to be effective negotiators in the UN's intergovernmental processes.



### Mango kernel tragedy toll mounts to three

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Berhampur, Nov 18:** The toll in the alleged mango kernel poisoning incident at Mandipanka village in Kandhamal's Daringbadi block climbed to three Monday, with another victim succumbing during treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack.

The deceased was identified as Jeeta Majhi, 40, a resident of Mandipanka village in Daringbadi block. Two tribal women had died after consuming mango kernel gruel in the district earlier this month.

Jeeta was undergoing treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack for 16 days and died Monday following multi-organ failure, the official said.

An inquiry into the mango kernel deaths is in progress, he added.

### City AIIMS saves jawan's life after heart stops for 90 mins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 18:** A team of experts of AIIMS-Bhubaneswar successfully saved the life of a 24-year-old Army jawan after his heart stopped beating for nearly 90 minutes, using a special resuscitation procedure — ECPR, marking a milestone in Odisha's medical history, doctors said, Monday.

The life-saving intervention, known as Extracorporeal Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (ECPR), helped revive the young man even after his heart stopped beating for nearly 1.5 hours, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Executive Director and CEO Professor (Dr) Ashutosh Biswas told reporters.

The patient, identified as Subhakar Sahu, having no past record of cardiac ailments, came to AIIMS-Bhubaneswar in a critical condition October 1.



Shortly after his arrival, he suffered a cardiac arrest. Despite 40 minutes of conventional CPR, there was no cardiac activity. The team faced a critical decision — whether to declare him dead or attempt a cutting-edge procedure.

Biswas said the medical team eventually decided to proceed with ECPR.

Led by Dr Srikant Behera, Intensivist and Adult ECMO

specialist, the team initiated Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO), following which the patient's heart began to beat again after around 90 minutes, though with an irregular rhythm.

"Over the next 30 hours, the heart function improved significantly, and the patient was successfully weaned off ECMO after 96 hours," Biswas said.

The ECPR, while technically challenging, represents a promising advancement in the treatment of cardiac arrests traditionally deemed fatal, he said, adding, "This success marks a milestone in Odisha's medical history."

Though awareness and usage of ECPR are increasing around the world and significant advancements have taken place, it was the first such case in Odisha, doctors said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 18:** In a major crackdown against top government officials indulging in corruption, the state Vigilance Monday carried out searches at the premises of two Class I officers in connection with disproportionate assets (DA), and apprehended another over bribery.

In the first case, the anti-corruption wing sleuths searched at least 10 premises related to Kamakhyanager Sub-Collec-



**JOINING HANDS:** Speaker Surama Padhy lights the ceremonial lamp during the Cooperative Week celebration at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Monday

### BJP leader Samir Dey passes away

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 18:** Former minister and senior BJP leader Samir Dey died Monday while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Cuttack, family members said. He was 67.

Dey was suffering from a kidney-related illness and was receiving treatment in the ICU of a hospital for the past few days.

Dey was elected to Odisha Legislative Assembly three times, representing the Cuttack constituency in 1995, 2000, and 2004.

An advocate by profession, Dey also served as the minister of Urban Development, Public Grievances & Pension Administration, and Higher Education from 2000 to 2009 during the BJD-BJP alliance government in the state. Governor Raghubar Das expressed sadness over Dey's death and conveyed heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. "He will be remembered for his work for the wellbeing of the people," the Governor said in a message on X.

"I am deeply hurt and saddened to hear the news of the demise of senior politician and former minister Samir Dey. I pray before Lord Jagannath for the heavenly abode of the departed soul and express my deepest condolences to the bereaved family," Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi posted on X.

The CM announced that Dey's

last rites would be conducted with full state honours.

Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo, in his condolence message, said, "For years, we shared the same bench in the Odisha Legislative Assembly, our spirits intertwined in the pursuit of our state's progress. His unwavering dedication and profound wisdom was a beacon of light in my life."

Singh Deo added, "His legacy shall forever remain etched in my heart, a testament to his indomitable spirit and unwavering commitment to our people. Farewell, my friend. Your memory shall live on in the annals of our state's history and in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing you."

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan also expressed his grief, saying, "Odisha has lost a loving and efficient leader. He will forever be remembered for the developmental work he did as a public representative."

BJD president Naveen Patnaik also paid tribute to the late BJP leader, acknowledging his contributions to the welfare of the people and the state's development. "Dey's work for the welfare of people and other developmental initiatives will always be remembered," Patnaik said on X.

Numerous other ministers and leaders from various political parties also mourned the death of the former minister.



### In Kochi schools, emojis & stars assess kids' performance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kochi (Kerala), Nov 18:** Gone are the days when progress cards and grades measured student performance. Instead, emojis and stars will now be used to assess studies of children in their early education stages.

Emojis and stars have already replaced marks or grades for Pre-KG to Class II students in many CBSE schools in Kochi, according to school authorities.

Starting this academic year, many schools in Kochi have introduced a system of awarding emojis and stars to students

from kindergarten to Class II. This new programme focuses on evaluating children based on their activities, moving away from the written exams.

Traditionally, students receive marks or grades for their performance.

"Imagine the added excitement if these were replaced with emojis like clapping hands, a star, or even a trophy. Such visual cues can have a strong impact, making the feedback more memorable and motivating for students," said a teacher with a CBSE school in Kochi. She added that the new eval-



uation system has received positive feedback.

"Early intervention can help develop social skills in students from a young age while also alleviating the pressure of performance and grades, and this is the highlight of the new system," she said.

and well-being. "This is part of the New Education Policy (NEP)," Khan claimed.

The pre-kindergarten and two kindergartens, Class I and Class II, have been included in the foundation stage in the policy, he added.

Hence, a pattern has been stipulated for these classes, he said. According to Khan, going to school wearing a star on his/her uniform will definitely make a student proud. However, he added that CBSE has not been officially directed to implement the system in all schools so far.

TP Ibrahim Khan, president of the CBSE Management Association, also stated, "This will enhance the students' skills." According to him, the new system focuses on developing skills like communication, active learning, and overall health



# Odisha Pavilion steals the show at 43rd IITF



POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi / Bhubaneswar, Nov 18:** While the 43rd India International Trade Fair (IITF) enters its fourth day in New Delhi, the spectacular 'Odisha Mandap' has been widely reckoned as a show stopper considering its intricate artistic style and elegance.

Thousands of visitors from across the country and abroad are appreciating the cultural artefacts and products displayed in various stalls, an official release said.

As the 43rd IITF focuses on the core theme Viksit Bharat @ 2047, Odisha Pavilion attempts an impeccable balance between tradition of excellence

Visitors from across the country and abroad are appreciating the cultural artefacts and products displayed in various stalls

So far, more than 43,000 visitors have seen the pavilion making business amounting to more than ₹14 lakh

and promising future progress. This year 25 special stalls have been opened to flaunt Odia artistry, cultural exuberance and developmental initiatives of the state.

Iconic products of Odisha like tribal art and crafts, products of Mission Shakti SHGs, Kandhamal range of spices, organic products like Kalajira rice, palm candy, Brahmapur pickles, delicacies made of Sri Anna and brown rice flakes.

The OTDC Stall has become a hot favourite for serving Odia culinary delights and sweet savouries including variety of Pitha, Rasagola, Chhena jhili, Chhenapoda and Dahibara.

The architectural grandeur of Odisha pavilion has been pulling crowds since the inaugural ceremony. Creative designs of globally renowned Mukteswar and Ratnagiri Arch alongside Sun Temple Konark at the entrance and exit have added momentum to the influx of visitors. So far, more than 43,000 visitors have seen the pavilion making business amounting to more than ₹14 lakh.

The most eye catching factor is live demonstration by artists related to Pattachitrs, filigree work and Sabai grass craft. Eminent dignitaries and artists visiting the pavilion have lauded the display of Odia identity and the state's march towards Viksit Bharat.

The most eye-catching factor is live demonstration by artists related to Pattachitrs, filigree work and Sabai grass craft. Eminent dignitaries and artists visiting the pavilion have lauded the display of Odia identity and the state's march towards Viksit Bharat.



**RAISING VOICE:** Members of Odisha High School Teachers' Ashayee Sangh stage a demonstration at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Monday, seeking fulfillment of their 3-point charter of demands

# Yi Run - Bhubaneswar marathon organised

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 18:** The second edition of "Yi Run - Bhubaneswar by Nite | Rise Above Addiction & Break the Silence" concluded recently, with an overwhelming response from the community with an overwhelming response from the community.

The marathon was flagged off by Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo in the presence of the distinguished dignitaries.

Organised by Yi Bhubaneswar, the youth wing of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the night marathon brought together over 5,000 participants to promote awareness of mental health and drug abuse. Addressing the gathering,



Deo said, "In 1973, I watched an English film called 'The Games', which was about four Olympic runners—three of whom resorted to drug use to enhance their performance. This shows how addiction can lead even talented individuals astray. The only addiction for any sportsperson should be their commitment to achieving

their goals and aspirations." Rahul Bose, Multi-talented actor, athlete, and director shared his thoughts on discipline and mental strength in both sports and life. He said, "I am proud of the Odisha government for creating opportunities for athletes to showcase their talent. While awareness events like this are important, we must follow up

with concrete actions to tackle the issue."

Sports and Youth Services Minister Suryabanshi Suraj said, "I would like to welcome everyone to this meaningful event. My heartfelt thanks go to the youth of Yi for organising this initiative to raise awareness about drug abuse. The message should reach every district in the state to create a larger impact." Yi Bhubaneswar Chapter chairman Sonal More emphasised the event's impact, saying, "The marathon is not just a run but a movement. It's about breaking the stigma around mental health and encouraging individuals, especially the youth, to rise above addiction. Together, we are fostering a healthier, drug-free Odisha."

## WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	30.7°	29.0°
Min Temp	16.8°	16.0°
Humidity	62	71
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

**FORECAST**  
Dry weather very likely

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	CHANGE
SENSEX	77339.01	↓ 241.30
NIFTY	23453.80	↑ 78.90
DOLLAR	84.4375	↓ 0.07
EURO	89.10	↑ 0.28
GOLD	₹75,095	↑ ₹1149
SILVER	₹90,570	↑ ₹2149

## CLASSIFIED

### AFFIDAVIT

I, Narahari Das, S/o Banamali Das, At/P.O. - Tunga, Dist. - Kendrapara, Pin - 754219, declare by this Affidavit No. 49936 Dated 16.11.2024 that now onwards I shall be known as Narendra Das for all future purposes.

By virtue of an Affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Nimapara dated 05.09.2024, I, Santilata Barik (36 years), W/o - Niranjan Barik, At - Agarakothabada Samil Bhainchigoradi, P.S. - Charichhak, Dist. - Puri, Pin - 752120 declare that I have changed my name Santilata Barik to Sunita Barik. Henceforth, I shall be known as Sunita Barik for all purposes.

# CARE Hospitals Bhubaneswar holds seminar on AI in Angul

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 18:** CARE Hospitals, Bhubaneswar hosted a seminar recently at Angul to highlight the groundbreaking role of advanced technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics in transforming orthopaedic care.

The event brought together medical professionals, industry leaders and patients who have benefited from these technologies.

Chief mentor and head of Orthopedics Sandeep Singh emphasised the revolutionary impact of AI and robotics on orthopaedic surgeries. "The precision that AI and robotics bring is unparalleled. From pre-operative planning to complex surgical procedures, these technologies ensure faster recovery, reduced pain, and superior outcomes for our patients," he said.

Institute's associate vice

president Lokanath Dash spoke about the hospital's commitment to technological innovation. "At CARE Hospitals, we are proud to be early adopters of AI and robotic-assisted surgeries, aiming to provide the best possible care for our patients with minimal complications and quicker recovery times," he noted.

The event also featured testimonies from patients who shared their life-changing experiences with AI and robotic-assisted surgeries, underscoring the transformative potential of these technologies in improving mobility and health.

Notably, with a focus on delivering comprehensive and advanced healthcare, CARE Hospitals continues to be the preferred choice for patients in Angul, Talcher and nearby areas, offering services under government health schemes and insurance policies.



# ILS holds training on cultivation of biofortified maize

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar:** The Institute of Life Sciences (BRIC-ILS), Bhubaneswar held an awareness and training programme on the cultivation of biofortified maize and seed distribution in Nabarangpur Monday. The BRIC-ILS, along with ICAR-CIFA, ICAR-CTCRI, and ICAR-CHEI, is implementing the Biotech-Kisan project, sponsored by the department of biotechnology (DBT), government of India. The initiative aims to enhance the economy and nutritional status of people in Nabarangpur and Koraput districts through the cultivation of biofortified paddy, maize, millet, and vegetables, as well as fisheries and animal husbandry. During the kharif



season, BRIC-ILS initiated the cultivation of HQPM5 maize, which is rich in provitamin A and essential amino acids, across 30 acres. Due to high demand from the farmers in both districts, this area will be expanded to 100 acres in the current Rabi season. Nabarangpur MP Balabhadra Majhi was the chief guest at the event. He underscored the need to bring scientific innovations in agriculture at the grassroots level and assured to give all sorts of support for the implementation of the project. Senior Scientist at BRIC-ILS Rajeeb K Swain noted the importance of long-term community engagement and support. He discussed BRIC-ILS's work in Nabarangpur and Koraput since 2019 and announced a new project on genetic and congenital diseases in Nabarangpur.

# OSASICON 2024 held at AIIMS Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 18:** The 39th annual conference of Association of Surgeons of India (ASI) Odisha Chapter - OSASICON 2024 - was organised at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar here from November 15 to 17. Over 500 delegates, including prominent faculty and key leaders in different sub-specialities of surgery attended the conference.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling was the chief guest while AIIMS executive director Ashutosh Biswas attended the event as guest of honour. Puri MP Sambit Patra, a renowned medical professional, was the keynote speaker. ASI president Probal Neogi delivered the special address.

The event was aimed at fostering academic excellence, skill enhancement, and networking among surgeons across the region and beyond.

Interactive sessions were held in the event on robotic surgery,

knitting and suturing techniques, endo trainers, and simulation-based training to enhance clinical skills. Experts deliberated on contemporary challenges and advancements in surgery. The events also witnessed PG paper presentations, case discussions and a quiz competition meant to provide a platform for young surgeons.

Prestigious orations such as the GS Das Mohapatra Oration, Brahmapur Oration, Bhubaneswar Oration, BM Khadenga Oration and Sushruta Oration were delivered by nationally and internationally acclaimed surgeons.

Earlier, Odisha University of Health Sciences (OUHS) vice chancellor Manash Ranjan Sahoo highlighted the importance of the event in advancing surgical knowledge and practice.

Other notable speakers were Shantanu Sahu, JN Mishra, Sreejoy Pattnaik, CR Dash, KK Panigrahi and Sudhanshu Sekhar Sutar.

# Intach urges govt to protect all old trees

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 18:** Intach has urged the state government to frame an Act on the lines of Maharashtra for declaring all old trees as heritage and give them the protected status.

Convener of Intach's Bhubaneswar Chapter Anil Dhir, during a recent visit to Lingaraj Road railway station, found a demarcation line touching the base of a 200-year-old Banyan tree. "The officials at the spot informed that the station boundary wall would be made. There are chances that the entire tree will be cut down, or the roots damaged to a great extent," he opined.

A major portion of the canopy has already been cropped for the construction of the two storied building under the Amrit Bharat Stations Scheme, he said. Pointing out at the irony of the situation, he added that project board on the site says that it is an "eco-friendly green building structure".

Dhir has written to the Railway authorities for stopping all construction which will harm the tree. "During the Ekamra Khestra Beautification plan undertaken during the last regime, more than 150 trees in and around the Lingaraj Temple were chopped down indiscriminately," he claimed.

# Dhenkanal Heritage Walks explores Dhunighar monastery of Ranjagola

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar/Dhenkanal, Nov 18:** Around 45 heritage enthusiasts participated in the 19th edition of Dhenkanal Heritage Walk (DHW) recently. The event was organised to explore the Dhunighar monastery of Ranjagola.

The DHW trail was led by Suresh Prasad Mishra to Dhunighar Monastery. The Mahant of monastery Madhabananda Das, the sarpanch, the chairman of the trust board and other officials welcomed the heritage walkers. Das explained the historical significance of the monastery to the group.

He said, "Though it lacks a well-documented history, the monastery is estimated to be around 300 years old. It was established by one Bankata Bihari, a saintly Brahmin preacher, who is said to have gained supernatural powers through intense spiritual practices after installing a sacred eternal fire (akhanda dhuni). His divine aura attracted the then ruler of Hindol garjat, who, after being blessed with a son, donated significant land to the monastery."

Dhunighar Matha, a remarkable monastery in Ranjagola village, is located in the Hindol sub-division under Balimi police limits. The monastery



is nestled in a serene environment adorned with natural beauty and shrouded with fas-

inating facts and legends. The monastery complex features a 'Dhuni Temple', a

unique 'Mukti Mandap' with 13 differently shaped pillars, a charming well (pavachha kupa), shrines for 'Ashta Shambhu' and Brahma, a Jagannath Temple, the residence of the monastery's Mahant (chief monk), and a meditation hall. The founder, Baba Bankata Bihari, took a 'jeevanta Samadhi' (living burial), and his tomb, enclosed by stone walls, still exists within the monastery.

Additionally, the essential items used by Baba Bankata Bihari, such as his wooden bowl, wooden sandal (kathau), loincloth (kaupin), and other belongings, continue to be revered and worshipped. Annu-

ally, on Raja Sankranti, these sacred items are ceremonially cleaned with pure water and returned to their place in the Dhuni Temple. A notable tradition of the monastery is the absence of any flags atop its temples, symbolising its unique identity as a Vaishnavite monastery.

During the four days of Raja, a grand fair, known as "Amba Panasa Yatra" (Mango and Jackfruit Festival), is organised at the site. Despite its cultural and historical significance, the monastery has yet to receive recognition as a tourist destination, though it meets all the criteria to become one.

**FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS**

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

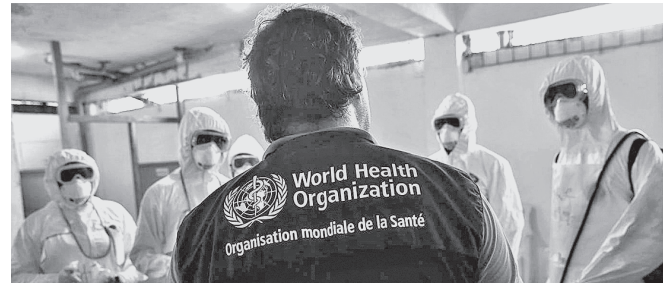






FOCUS PUBLIC HEALTH

# A CRUNCH TIME



**Failing to provide the WHO with the funds it needs to deliver equitable vaccination, treatment, and care would leave an indelible scar on humanity**

At this month's G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, chaired by Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, global leaders are expected to discuss the World Health Organization's call for long-term investment in public health. Through its new Investment Round, the WHO aims to raise at least \$7.1 billion to support essential initiatives over the next four years, reducing the need to rely on emergency funding whenever a crisis erupts.

A recent report by the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board underscores the importance of this Investment Round. The GPMB, an independent body established by the WHO and the World Bank to enhance global readiness for public-health crises, issued a stark warning: a new mpox variant spreading rapidly across Central Africa has the potential to become a pandemic. Meanwhile, H5N1 bird flu continues to jump from infected livestock to humans in the United States, and an outbreak of Marburg – a virus related to Ebola with a fatality rate of up to 88% – has erupted in Rwanda, prompting international efforts to contain its spread.

The risk of new pandemics is driven not only by factors like mass travel, urban population density, and human encroachment on wildlife habitats, but also by widening inequalities within countries and an alarming rise in extreme poverty. Together, these forces do more than strain local health systems; they are reshaping the global health landscape in ways that make the emergence of novel pathogens increasingly likely. In theory, our ability to con-

tain outbreaks has improved, thanks to the significant scientific and technological advances made during the fight against COVID-19. But as the GPMB report warns, without "the readiness plans primed for implementation from day one," there is "every likelihood that the next pandemic will again catch the world napping."

Given the stakes, improving pandemic preparedness is essential. To this end, the GPMB report highlights 15 drivers of pandemic risks, such as unprecedented levels of global travel and a rapid increase in livestock production, both of which accelerate the spread of H5N1. Emerging threats also include widespread misinformation and distrust of public institutions – evident in the controversies over COVID-19 lockdowns, quarantines, and vaccination mandates – that weaken our collective ability to respond to health emergencies and hinder multilateral cooperation.

The report also outlines several steps that policymakers could take to mitigate these

threats and improve pandemic preparedness, including regular risk assessments and bolstering health-system resilience. First, however, significant funding is needed to meet the "basic needs of vulnerable populations," provide access to "medical countermeasures" like vaccines and treatments, and foster cross-sector collaboration.

Beyond pandemic preparedness, the WHO urgently needs funding to provide basic care to more than four billion people who currently lack access, to curb the spread of communicable diseases, and to address a surge in unvaccinated children.

Most critically, more than 360 million people in crisis-stricken countries like Afghanistan, Ukraine, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Yemen require immediate assistance and specialized medical supplies to deal with the devastating effects of conflicts, famines, droughts, and floods. To avert a global health catastrophe, the international community must ensure they receive the resources they des-

perately need. Fifty-four chronic health crises are currently unfolding worldwide, 11 of them classified as severe. Despite this, a recent study by the research group Airfinity reveals that support for health projects in low- and middle-income countries has declined, with these initiatives receiving only about 10% of humanitarian funding and just 5% of the necessary resources. To reduce preventable deaths from treatable diseases, we must empower the WHO to fulfill its mandate as the world's leading emergency health responder.

Recognising the urgency and value of investing in public health, 18 of Africa's and Asia's poorest countries have pledged more than \$345 million to the WHO's Investment Round. If developing economies can rise to the occasion despite their limited resources, it is imperative that developed countries contribute their fair share.

But the WHO's Investment Round is more than just a fundraising campaign; what we raise this year to combat diseases like malaria, measles, diabetes, dysentery, and Ebola will profoundly affect the health and well-being of millions of people around the world. Failing to provide the WHO with the funds it needs to deliver equitable vaccination, treatment, and care would leave an indelible scar on humanity. We can – and must – do better.

*The writer, a former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, is UN Special Envoy for Global Education.*

©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Gordon Brown

**BEYOND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS, THE WHO URGENTLY NEEDS FUNDING TO PROVIDE BASIC CARE TO MORE THAN FOUR BILLION PEOPLE**

SPECTRUM TECHNOLOGY

## The ugly face of Big Tech imperialism

Elon Musk has gotten into a bitter fight with President of Brazil Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and his wife, and has called a judge of the Brazilian Supreme Court an "evil dictator" after 'X' was banned because it refused to follow the orders of the court. The latest turn came just over the weekend as world leaders prepared to meet in Rio de Janeiro for the 2024 summit of the G20.

At a G20 event last weekend, the wife of Lula spoke of the need to regulate social media platforms to control disinformation and later swore at Musk. The owner of 'X' was quick to respond: "They are going to lose the next election," he wrote, in an apparent reference to Lula and his Workers Party. In this, Musk and 'X' found themselves in support of the far-right populist Jair Bolsonaro who lost the 2022 polls and ran a campaign of election denialism, mimicking Trump's attempts to overturn the results of the US polls four years ago.

The direct and open fight that stands in support of a far-right politician and is ranged against the left-of-centre government in a foreign land which is also one of the largest markets for 'X' makes this a case that merits close attention

in India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is attending the G20 summit and will probably get a good and close-up view of what modern-day Big Tech imperialism looks like. If the East India Company used complex mechanisms and took 100 years to seize control and loot a subcontinent, the tech imperialists of today have the power to replay that story with nothing more than code, clicks, and clips that can divide people, break institutions and incite violence. Brazil is a classic case of this imperialism at work, that much worse with Elon Musk as a tech czar sitting in the lap of Donald Trump, flush from victory in the US elections, reckless as ever and now in charge of the mighty industrial-military complex at work in the US.

The events should alert India to the power and reach of Big Tech that can play out in ways that end up challenging sovereign nations and work as instruments of a digital colonialism that will be increasingly difficult to fight. Capturing minds, spreading narratives and feeding insecurity as tech companies have been accused of doing in many instances makes for a swifter, quieter and fuller capture than any other instrument of colonial

control.

Musk is loud, in-your-face and bitter but this only serves to tear the mask that hides the ugly reality of companies that have been called out for all manner of violations. Algos that feed greed, fear and falsehood, put to use by groups with power to increase reach and spread fake news are the reality behind the claim that technology enables citizens to exercise free speech. It certainly does the latter but in doing so also pulls in the former, in the end taking away more than it can give.

Effective 15 Nov., 'X' announced that all content on its platform could be used to train its AI models. In the past, AI models of 'X' have been accused of spreading fake news. Most other Big Tech companies, including Google and Microsoft, have faced increased scrutiny on how their AI models present solutions to unsuspecting users. Amazon has come under scrutiny for its monopolistic behaviour. Jeff Bezos, who founded Amazon and owns the Washington Post newspaper, asked the paper not to endorse any candidate in the US polls this time, triggering protests and cancellations of subscriptions from more than 250,000 readers.

While the Indian government has discussed the influence of Big Tech in the past, the political side of the establishment has also used Big Tech to play its own side in ways that are not clean or transparent. That makes the issue more complicated than it is. For example, allegations that Pegasus software was used to target select Indian politicians and journalists brought to fore the ease with which surveillance is possible in today's tech-enabled systems. But its deeper lesson is that those doing the surveillance, and probably paying for these systems, are themselves being watched, seen and heard by the very systems they might have used against fellow citizens.

What does that mean for Indian policy on Big Tech? How can democracy be guarded and strengthened in an age when creating a riot is as easy as sending out a tweet or silencing a voice is as easy as blocking an account? We'll need more transparency within the nation if we are to ask for more from those outside the system.

*The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.*

©THE BILLION PRESS



Witness and stand back from Nature, that is the first step to the soul's freedom.

SRI AUROBINDO

## Menacing Nexus

In what can be seen as an ominous development for India, a cargo ship from Pakistan recently docked at the Chittagong port in Bangladesh for the first time since the creation of the country in 1971. The Panama-flagged ship with a Chinese name – Yuan Xiang Fa Zhan – arrived from Karachi. According to Chittagong port authorities, the vessel arrived with cargo from Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates, which included essential raw materials for Bangladesh's flourishing garment industry as well as staple food items. This marks the beginning of maritime ties between India's western and eastern neighbours.

The Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka terming this development as "a major step in bilateral trade," indicates a notable change in the historically frosty relationship between the two nations which were once a single country.

The 1971 war led Bangladesh to align more closely with India. This was a consequence of the brutal atrocities committed by the Pakistani army on the people of Bangladesh (then East Pakistan). Ties have been especially strained during the tenure of Sheikh Hasina, who was the longest-serving Prime Minister in Bangladesh's history, as her party, the Awami League had long been pursuing justice for the war's atrocities.

However, things changed dramatically in August this year after a student-led uprising resulted in the ousting of Sheikh Hasina, who fled the country and took refuge in India. The interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus from the very outset has been cosy to Pakistan with the intention of rebuilding ties with that country. While meeting Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during the United Nations General Assembly at New York in September, Yunus had stressed the importance of revitalising bilateral cooperation between the two countries. On top of this, the Islamist outfit, Jamaat-e-Islami, which has always been opposed to the idea of Bangladesh and had in fact allied with the Pakistani army during the war, has a significant presence in the interim government.

In September, Bangladesh relaxed its import restrictions on Pakistani products. Previously, Pakistani goods needed to be transferred to feeder vessels—especially in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, or Singapore—before making their way to Bangladesh.

However, with Pakistani vessels now able to dock directly in Chittagong, the possibility of contraband being transported to Bangladesh and subsequently reaching insurgent groups in India's northeast cannot be dismissed. All this holds special importance now because Manipur and neighbouring states of North East India are passing through a very difficult and violent period. It is pertinent to note here that in 2004, about 1,500 Chinese munitions, valued between \$4.5 and \$7 million and meant for Assam's insurgent group ULFA, arrived in Chittagong via trawlers along the sea route and were reportedly linked to Pakistan's ISI. Fortunately for the Indian security establishment, the consignment was intercepted by the authorities at Chittagong port itself. To this date, it remains South Asia's biggest arms haul.

Some observers are rightly wary that the establishment of direct maritime connections between Pakistan and Bangladesh could potentially lead to unrest in India's North Eastern states, four of which – Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Tripura – share their borders with Bangladesh. Recent developments indicate some sort of restiveness returning to the North Eastern states, especially in Mizoram and Nagaland, while violent ethnic strife has ripped apart Manipur for the past one and a half years. And, with the situation in Myanmar remaining fragile, India's security apparatus needs to exercise extreme caution.

A Pakistan-Bangladesh nexus forming at a time when India has been constantly losing its neighbours to China could turn into a nightmare for this country. But Indian leadership does not seem concerned with these developments. The future may bring about drastic changes in that part of the country.

### WISDOM CORNER

**Achievement of your happiness is the only moral purpose of your life, and that happiness, not pain or mindless self-indulgence, is the proof of your moral integrity, since it is the proof and the result of your loyalty to the achievement of your values**

AYN RAND

**Non-violence leads to the highest ethics, which is the goal of all evolution. Until we stop harming all other living beings, we are still savages**

THOMAS A. EDISON

**What is needed, rather than running away or controlling or suppressing or any other resistance, is understanding fear; that means, watch it, learn about it, come directly into contact with it. We are to learn about fear, not how to escape from it**

JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1703: The man in the iron mask, a political prisoner famous in French history and legend, died in the Bastille.
- 1794: Signing of the Jay Treaty. The treaty, officially known as, Treaty of Amity Commerce and Navigation, between His Britannic Majesty and The United States of America, was signed between representatives of the United States and Britain. It called for the British to surrender northwestern posts to the U.S. and for them to consider the United States as a most favored nation for trade between the two countries.
- 1863: US President Abraham Lincoln delivered the brief but renowned Gettysburg Address at the dedication of the National Cemetery in Pennsylvania during the American Civil War.
- 1969: Pelé's 1000th goal. The Brazilian footballer, often considered to be the greatest athlete of the 20th century, made his 1,000th professional goal against Vasco da Gama at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro.
- 1975: The dramatic film One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest was released in American theatres, and it became the first film since It Happened One Night (1934) to win the Academy Awards for best picture, director (Milos Forman), lead actor (Jack Nicholson), lead actress (Louise Fletcher), and screenplay.
- 1977: Egyptian president Anwar Sadat visits Israel Sadat was the first Arab head of state to visit Israel and address the Israeli parliament, the Knesset. His visit came under severe criticism both in Israel and in the Arab world. Sadat and Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978 for their attempts to bring a resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.
- 1990: The pop duo Milli Vanilli became the first performers to be stripped of a Grammy Award (for best new artist) after it was revealed that the two men had not sung on the album Girl You Know It's True (1989).



Jagdish Rattanani

**WE'LL NEED MORE TRANSPARENCY WITHIN THE NATION IF WE ARE TO ASK FOR MORE FROM THOSE OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM**

## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)



B-15, Rasulgah Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### Restive state

Sir, This refers to the "Manipur in turmoil" (Orissa POST, November 18). Every Indian is shocked and surprised that even after seeing the extreme plight of the people of Manipur, Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains adamant in his decision not to visit the restive state for once or to replace the Chief Minister N Biren Singh for his alleged continued non-performance. This allows lawlessness to continue unabated and the number of loss of human lives has been increasing rapidly in the north-eastern state. The Prime Minister is more interested in attending global summits than to visit Manipur to save the two communities – the Meiteis and the Kukis – who are at loggerheads with each other. I fully agree with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge that the people of Manipur are not expected to forgive Modi for his bad governance..

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

### Unethical politics

Sir, We all know that politics in India is famous for criminalisation and corruption, and a triad of nexus between criminals, corporates and politicians. On the one hand, politicians frame laws which are supposed to be followed by citizens with full respect, but on the other hand, the framers of the law indulge in violation of law and lack ethical values. Several recent incidents have proven that present day politicians in India utterly lack moral values and ethics, and their political attitude is grossly indifferent to the common man's woes. However, this country has seen great political leaders like Lal Bahadur Shastri, who set high standards of ethical values in politics even in adverse circumstances such as Tashkent agreement, food crisis, war with Pakistan, etc. Similarly, leaders like Sardar Patel, Abdul Kalam Azad, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee were examples of political integrity and probity. It is much sad that ethics and moral values in current day Indian politics have plummeted and they can never be resuscitated as long as our ugly politicians continue to be greedy and insolent, and hardly care for the good of the common man.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI





Tourists dance with Rajasthani folk artistes as they visit Hawa Mahal, on the foundation day of the 'Pink City', in Jaipur, Monday

# Three-day Bundi Mahotsav begins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kota, Nov 18:** The three-day tourism festival of Hadoti - Bundi Mahotsav, 2024 - commenced traditionally with the worship of Lord Ganesh at Garh Palace Monday Morning.

District Collector Akshay Godara, along with Bundi Superintendent of Police Rajendra Kumar Meena, member of the former royal family of Bundi, Vansh Vardhan Singh and others kicked off the festival with traditional rituals and flag hoisting.

District Head Chandrawati Kanwar, BJP district president Suresh Agarwal, Bundi Municipal Council Chairman Saroj Agarwal, Additional District Magistrate Sudershan Singh Tomer and Sub-Divisional Magistrate HD Singh were among the dignitaries who attended the festival. Deputy Director of Tourism Vikas Pandya and Assistant Tourist Officer Premshankar Saini were also present at the event along with media representatives, social workers, and numerous citizens.

The festival has witnessed huge participation of people and we expect the same response from the people and tourists for next 3 days of the event, said Collector Akshya Godara addressing the media.

Adequate publicity at other tourist centers including Pushkar for a month resulted in ar-

rival of considerable number of domestic and foreign tourists in Bundi Festival, he further said adding various events like heritage walk, nature walk on Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve track and several others for the tourists during three days of festival.



The festival generated immense enthusiasm across all age groups. The performers enthralled spectators with the Kachhi Ghodi dance amidst melodious tunes. Traditional local instruments reverberated throughout. Numerous domestic and foreign tourists arrived in Bundi to participate in the festivities.

Following the Garh Ganesh worship, a procession departed from Garh Palace, drawing substantial crowds. People gathered along streets and rooftops to witness it and throughout the procession route, business, religious, social organisations, and citizens welcomed the parade with flower showers.

## 'OUR LAND. OUR FUTURE'

# Saudi targets collab with Raj on climate challenges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**We are focused on raising awareness of the impact of land degradation, drought, and desertification. The scale of our challenge is stark: globally, we lose land equivalent to four football fields every second, amounting to 100 million hectares annually**

OSAMA FAQEHA | ADVISOR, UNCCD COP16 PRESIDENCY

**Dubai, Nov 18:** Saudi Arabia's arid climate challenges mirror those faced by regions like Rajasthan, presenting a unique opportunity for collaboration and knowledge sharing, a Saudi minister official said Monday.

Dr Osama Faqeha, Deputy Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture, and Advisor to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP16 Presidency, made the remarks days ahead of the COP16 meeting to be held in Riyadh from December 2 to 13 under the theme - 'Our Land. Our Future'.

"Successful initiatives like the Ghandivan project in Jaipur, which has transformed a barren wasteland into a thriving ecosystem through community-driven efforts, offer valuable insights that can be adapted across different regions," he said, adding

that Saudi Arabia is leveraging water conservation practices and pursuing ambitious rural development programs.

According to the minister, the degradation of land is threatening food security, forcing people to be displaced from their countries and increasing international conflict. "Addressing these challenges cannot be done in isolation and that is why we are gathering the international community in Riyadh to achieve lasting change," he emphasised.



## CLIMATE CHANGE

# Guj, Raj to become wetter

*The southwest monsoon will see a shift from east to west, with the normally-drier western states experiencing higher precipitation, an analysis by the Azim Premji University said*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 18:** The western parts of India will experience a significant increase in precipitation compared to most of the eastern and north-eastern parts of the country in the period up to 2040 due to climate change, according to a new analysis.

The report comes at a time when countries are debating ways, at the UN climate conference in Azerbaijan, to raise trillions of dollars to help developing nations reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

The southwest monsoon will see a shift from east to west, with the normally-drier western states experiencing higher precipitation, the analysis by the Azim Premji



University said.

It said the southwest monsoon will bring more rain to the normally-drier western states. However, the eastern states, such as parts of the northeast, may experience reduced rainfall. This shift will further strain agricultural systems in these regions.

Gujarat and Rajasthan are projected to see significant increases in rainfall - up to 40 per cent in the moderate-emissions scenario and up to 50 per cent in the high-emissions scenario in the 2021-2024 period as compared to the 1960 levels. This could lead to more flooding, soil erosion and decreased agricultural productivity.

The Indian Himalayas, from

up to 15 per cent less rainfall.

During the northeast monsoon, many parts of the country will experience less rain, especially in the Indian Himalayas. However, states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka and parts of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Ladakh will see 20 per cent to 60 per cent more rainfall, with Gujarat receiving the most.

It is expected that more heavy rainfall in higher-altitude areas like Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh and the Western Ghats could cause problems, such as faster snowmelt, landslides and damage to crops and local economies.

Data also showed that the average annual maximum temperatures in India could rise by 1.5 degrees Celsius by mid-century, with faster increases under high-emissions scenarios.

Himalayan districts like Leh could see an increase of up to 1.8 degrees Celsius. Winters in Arunachal Pradesh might warm by 2.2 degrees Celsius, affecting crops that rely on cooler temperatures.

Coastal areas and parts of the eastern Himalayas may experience dangerous wet-bulb temperatures (above 31 degrees Celsius), significantly affecting health and labour productivity, the analysis said.

**Indian Himalayas, from Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh, will face less rainfall during the northeast monsoon. Some places like north Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh could see up to 15% less rainfall**

Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh, will face less rainfall during the northeast monsoon. Some places like north Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh could see

## PAPER LEAK

# RAJASTHAN HC STAYS POSTING OF SUB-INSPECTORS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, Nov 18:** Rajasthan High Court Monday stayed the posting of sub-inspectors selected in the SI Recruitment Exam-2021.

The High Court stayed the passing out parade of trainee SIs and ordered to maintain the status quo in the entire matter.

As per the fresh orders, the SI selected in the SI recruitment 2021 will not be given any postings. A single bench of Justice Sameer Jain announced the order to stay the posting.

While giving the verdict on the petition of Kailash Chand Sharma and others, the High Court observed, There will be no passing out parade of the selected trainee SI of 2021 while the petition is pending.



Advocate Harendra Neel pleaded on behalf of the petitioner.

The petitioners' lawyer Harendra Neel argued in the court that an FIR was registered in Pali regarding the paper leak in the SI Recruitment Exam-2021 on the very first day.

"Soon after, cases were filed on paper leaks in different districts. However, the then state government started SI training, giving appointments in 2023," they added.

The paper leak in the SI recruitment exam was shared in detail in the court. It was argued on behalf of the petitioners that in 2024, SOG registered a case against it while two RPSC members were involved in it. More than 50 trainee SIs have been arrested.

The lawyer of the petitioners argued that after the massive fraud in the SI recruitment, SOG and Police Headquarters recommended its cancellation, but the government formed a committee which failed in deliverance.

It was also mentioned that the paper went to around 150 candidates 30 days before the SI Recruitment Examination-2021 exam. From the Additional Advocate General to different experts, everyone had recommended the cancellation of this recruitment.

# Coldplay's Ahmedabad concert to be a spectacle to behold

**The city has long been celebrated for its impressive landmarks, record-breaking feats and Coldplay's concerts will only add to this list of achievements**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 18:** With an estimated audience turnout of 100,000, popular British band Coldplay is set for its biggest and snazziest gig ever in India at the grand Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad in January.

The organisers of the show, which was added on the band's India leg of "Music Of The Spheres World Tour" due to massive fan demand, believe that it could possibly be the spectacle of the decade and should not only reaffirm Coldplay's global appeal but also mark a moment of pride for Ahmedabad and India.

According to insiders, a lot of planning has already "been invested" into the concert, set to be held January 25, 2025.

Coldplay, led by Chris Martin and popular for songs such as "A Sky Full of Stars", "Viva la

Vida", "Yellow" and "Paradise" world over, will perform its second concert in Ahmedabad at the same venue January 26.

The band, which also consists of guitarist Jonny Buckland, bassist Guy Berryman, drummer and percussionist Will Champion, and manager Phil Harvey, has always been known for its immersive live shows where they blend visual artistry with iconic music.

And it is expected to bring the sizzle quotient several notches up for its date at the concertgoers at the Ahmedabad shows as the band's global and Indian production partners are pulling out all stops to create a dazzling spectacle.

They have planned mesmerising light displays, immersive projections and stage effects that should help convert the usually energetic Narendra Modi stadium into an otherworldly



experience.

BookMyShow Live, the live entertainment experiential arm of ticketing platform BookMyShow, has undertaken the complex logistics of organising this enormous event end-to-end, ensuring a seamless experience, from coordinating essential regulatory approvals to orchestrating a world-class production set-up.

Giant LED screens, synchronised lighting and high-quality sound systems will ensure that fans, no matter

where their seat is, have an intimate and powerful connection to the music.

The atmosphere is expected to get electric as Coldplay performs its classic hits alongside new tracks, enveloping the audience in a symphony of sound and light.

The organisers are expecting a huge rush from locals as well as loyal fans from across the country to attend the mega event in Ahmedabad.

The concert is going to be a celebration of Gujarat's cul-

## ALCOHOL ROW

# Dosanjh reveals why he is a 'fan of Gujarat government'

**Ahmedabad:** Punjabi music sensation Diljit Dosanjh says he will stop singing alcohol-themed songs if all the 'thekas' (liquor shops) in the country are shut down. At his Sunday show in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, the singer-actor responded to the notice sent to him ahead of his Hyderabad concert directing him to avoid songs related to alcohol, drugs and violence. Diljit tweaked the words in his chartbusters "Lemonade" and "5 Taara" - which originally mention "daaru" (alcohol) and "theka" (liquor store) in their lyrics -- after he received a notice from the Telangana government ahead of the Hyderabad concert of his "Dil-Luminati India Tour 2024 Tour" Saturday. Taking a swipe at the notice, the singer at his Sunday's show told the Ahmedabad audience: "There's some good news. I didn't get any notice today. There's more good news: I'll not sing a single song on alcohol today either. Ask me why? Because Gujarat is a dry state." "Let's do something, let's start a movement. If all states declare themselves dry states, I'll stop singing songs on alcohol from the very next day... I will stop singing about alcohol, you shut the 'thekas' in the country... I take a pledge. Is this possible? It's a big source of revenue. Everything was shut in corona (pandemic), except the thekas. You can't fool the youth," he can be seen saying in a video shared on Diljit's official Instagram page.

"Declare a dry day on the same day I have my concerts, I won't sing any song on alcohol. I am not a new artist to whom you will say that 'You can't sing this, you can't sing that' and I will say 'Oh, what will I do?' I will tweak the song and it will be as much fun. If Gujarat is a dry state, I am a fan of the state government. I openly support the Gujarat government," he said. "I want our holy city of Amritsar to also be declared a dry city," he added.



tural openness, modern infrastructure, its ability to make

the impossible possible and its welcoming spirit.





Any leader in the history of India who did the work of strengthening road connectivity in 3.5 lakh villages out of 6.5 lakh in the country under the flagship 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana' is Atal Bihari Vajpayee

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

DAILY DOMESTIC PASSENGER TRAFFIC CROSSES 5 LAKH MARK

Marking a new record, domestic air passenger traffic crossed the 5 lakh-mark for the first time in a single day Sunday, reflecting strong travel demand amid festive and wedding seasons



of the day uote

In the past few years, 67,000 complaints have been filed regarding violence against women. Additionally, 64,000 women are missing. Nearly 62 lakh people have no jobs in the state. These are the harsh realities

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP (SP) SUPREMO

Only a double-engine government, like in Uttar Pradesh, is the solution to issues like infiltration, cow slaughter, and atrocities against women in Jharkhand

YOGI ADITYANATH | CM, UTTAR PRADESH

During this critical time, the BJP is quiet and the central government seems to be in deep slumber, despite the urgent need for action

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

SC orders GRAP-4 across NCR states



The bench directed the setting up of a mechanism where complaints can be made by citizens for violation of restrictions under stage 4 of the GRAP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: With the Air Quality Index entering into the 'severe plus' category chocking the national capital, the Supreme Court Monday directed all Delhi-NCR states to immediately set up teams to strictly enforce anti-pollution GRAP 4 restrictions, making it clear that the curbs will continue till further orders.

Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 484 at 8 am Monday, the worst this season. The AQI in certain areas also breached the 500 mark.

The court asserted that it is the constitutional duty of all states to ensure all citizens live in a pollution-free environment. "We make it clear that till further orders are passed by this court, implementation of stage 4 of GRAP will continue even if AQI level drops below 450," a

bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih directed as it sought compliance reports from Delhi-NCR states and the Centre by Thursday.

It also faulted the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) for "delaying" the implementation of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) and said it followed a "wrong" approach.

"Needless to add, it is a constitutional obligation of the Central government and the states to ensure that citizens live in a pollution-free atmosphere. Therefore, in addition to actions which are proposed under stages 3 and 4, all possible actions shall be taken at the level of these governments, to ensure that the AQI is brought down," the bench said.

Issuing a slew of directions for strict implementation of preventive measures, the bench asked all Delhi-NCR states to immediately take a call on stopping physical classes up to class 12. It directed the setting up of a mechanism where complaints can be made by citizens for violation of restrictions under stage 4 of the GRAP.

"All states, notwithstanding

In-person classes will be suspended for classes 10 and 12, the Delhi government announced Monday as the city choked under 'severe' levels of pollution for the sixth straight day

what is provided in clause 5 of GRAP, may take an immediate call on stopping physical classes of all standards up to class 12," it directed.

The bench said the NCR state governments and the Centre will have to immediately take a call on actions provided under stage 4 of GRAP and place the decision on record before the next date of hearing.

"We direct all governments of the NCR area to strictly implement stage 4 of GRAP. All states will immediately constitute teams for monitoring the implementation of actions which are required to be taken under stage 4," it directed.

At the outset, the bench questioned the Delhi government and CAQM over the delay in invoking pollution preventive measures under GRAP stages.

The counsel for the Delhi government informed the bench that stage 4 of GRAP has been implemented from Monday and heavy vehicles have been banned from entering the national capital.

The bench said that the CAQM waited for improvement in weather conditions instead of implementing different stages of GRAP over alarming rising pollution levels.

Maharashtra Assembly election campaign ends



The election campaign saw prominent leaders like Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and many Union ministers crisscrossing the state to garner votes for their candidates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 18: The election campaign for the Maharashtra Assembly polls ended Monday, with the ruling BJP-led Mahayuti alliance vying to retain power and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) combine hoping for a strong comeback.

Polling will be held in all the 288 Assembly seats November 20 and votes will be counted November 23.

The election campaign saw prominent leaders like Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and many Union ministers crisscrossing the state to garner votes for their candidates. The Mahayuti, comprising the BJP, Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and the Nationalist Congress Party led by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, is banking on

its popular schemes like Majhi Ladki Bahin for women helping it retain power.

The BJP's use of slogans like "Batenge toh katenge" and "Ek hai toh safe hai" prompted the Opposition parties to accuse the Mahayuti of polarising voters along religious lines.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), comprising the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar), slammed Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's use of "Batenge toh katenge" and PM Modi's "Ek hai toh safe hai" slogans.

Not all the BJP allies supported these slogans. Ajit Pawar, distanced himself from them. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis attempted to clarify the meaning of the slogans, leading to confusion within the ruling alliance.

The MVA alliance countered the ruling combine's rhetoric by focusing on issues like caste-based census, social justice, and protecting the Constitution. The Opposition aimed to appeal to voters who felt neglected by the government. Ahead of the elections, the BJP Monday launched a new ad campaign attacking the Opposition MVA and urging people to "Say No to Congress."

FIR against 15 seniors after death of MBBS student due to ragging

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patan (Gujarat), Nov 18: Police have registered an FIR against 15 students of a medical college in Gujarat's Patan district following the death of an 18-year-old student who was allegedly ragged by them, officials said Monday.

The accused, all second-year MBBS students, allegedly made some juniors, including the victim, stand in a hostel room for more than three hours Saturday night and subjected them to "mental and physical torture," as per the First Information Report (FIR).

They have booked for culpable homicide not amounting to murder and other offences, the FIR said.

The accused students have been suspended from their hostel and academic activities until further orders, said officials from the GMERS Medical College and Hospital at Dharpur in Patan.

The victim, Anil Methaniya, a first-year MBBS student, fell unconscious and died allegedly after being made to stand for three hours during ragging by his seniors at a hostel of the college Saturday night, the college dean, Dr Hardik Shah, said Sunday.

The college's anti-ragging committee chaired by Dr Shah took the statements of 26 students - 11 of the first-year and 15 second-year students.

The committee found that 11 first-year students were subjected to ragging by a group of 15 second-year students, a college official said Monday.

ED seizes over 12cr from 'lottery king' Santiago Martin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized more than Rs 12 crore of "unexplained" cash and frozen fixed deposits worth Rs 6.42 crore during multi-state searches against Chennai-based 'lottery king' Santiago Martin and his associates.

Martin was in the news this year when the Election Commission (EC) declared his company as the single biggest donor to political parties with over Rs 1,300 crore in the now-scrapped electoral bonds.

The federal agency last week raided 22 premises spread across Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya and Punjab, including four lottery tickets printing presses in the case against Martin and his companies Future Gaming, Hotel Services Private Limited and some other associates.

The ED issued a statement Monday saying its probe found that "90 per cent of the business of the company is in lottery tickets of Rs 6 face value, against which most of the prizes were below Rs 10,000, which is non-taxable".

SHORT TAKES

BRS key social media activist detained

Hyderabad: BRS key social media activist Konatham Dileep was detained by police here Monday for allegedly posting objectionable messages criticising the ruling Congress government in the state, police sources said. Dileep, the former Telangana digital media director in the previous BRS government, was questioned by the city police in September this year over his social media post on the alleged assault on a tribal woman in Asifabad district.

7 fishermen rescued from Pakistan ship

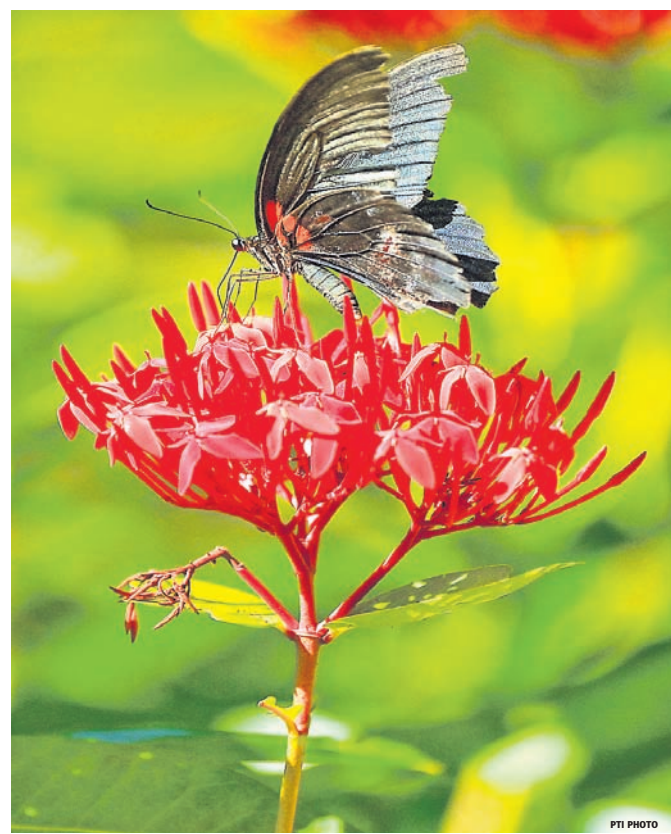
Ahmedabad: The Coast Guard rescued seven Indian fishermen from a Pakistan Maritime Security Agency ship after a mid-sea chase near the maritime boundary line, officials said Monday. The Coast Guard received a distress signal from an Indian fishing boat operating near the No-Fishing Zone (NFZ) Sunday afternoon, prompting it to dispatch a ship on the rescue mission. "The ICG ship intercepted the PMSA ship and persuaded them to release Indian fishermen," it said.

2 held for trafficking women to Muscat

Panaji: Goa police Monday arrested two persons for allegedly running an illegal recruitment agency and trafficking women to Muscat, a senior official said. Superintendent of Police (crime branch) Rahul Gupta said the international trafficking racket was busted after one of the women returned from Muscat. "The woman reached out to the police alleging that she was sent illegally to Muscat with a promise of employment as a house help. She has claimed that she was sexually abused and starved," he told reporters.

2 dead in temple elephant attack

Thoothukudi: An elephant of the famed Tiruchendur Subramania Swamy temple near here attacked its caretaker and another man Monday, resulting in their death, an official said. The circumstances under which the elephant attacked them is yet to be ascertained and one of the dead was a 'Kavadi', (an assistant to the elephant handler) and another was his relative, he said. "Our team of veterinarians are looking into the incident. It was a 26-year old female elephant, it used to be generally peaceful and calm," the Forest department official said adding the elephant was "now behaving normally."



A butterfly visits a flower at Baramura butterfly park, near Agartala, Monday

Climate change to blame for almost 1 in 5 new dengue infections

According to the World Health Organisation, the increasingly warm and humid conditions driven by climate change are facilitating the spread of dengue, with new outbreaks reported in previously unaffected regions, including parts of Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: Climate change could be responsible for nearly one-fifth of the current dengue cases in the global population, with the potential to increase instances of the disease by an additional 40-60 per cent by 2050, according to a new study.

These findings, from researchers at Stanford and Harvard Universities, provide the most definitive evidence to date that climate change is a major factor driving the global surge in mosquito-borne diseases.

The study was presented

at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

"We looked at data on dengue incidence and climate variation across 21 countries in Asia and the Americas and found that there is a clear and direct relationship between rising temperatures and rising infections," said senior author Erin Mordecai, an infectious disease ecologist at Stanford University.

"Our findings indicate that historical climate change has already increased dengue incidence by 18 per cent in the study region, and projections

SNIPPETS

Bridge collapse: SC's 'last opportunity' to Bihar govt

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday granted the last opportunity to the Bihar government to file its response to a PIL that raised concerns about the safety and longevity of bridges in Bihar after several of them collapsed in recent months. A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar also sought the response of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) on the PIL filed by lawyer Brajesh Singh. It considered the fact that the notices were issued to various authorities on the PIL July 29 this year. "The Bihar government is granted six weeks to file the response. This is the last opportunity," the bench said, adding that the petitioner will have to file his rejoinder four weeks after the authorities file their replies. The bench has now listed the plea for hearing February 15, 2025.

SC notice to Centre over vacancies in 11 Debt Recovery Tribunals

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday sought a response from the Ministry of Finance on a PIL highlighting critical vacancies in 11 Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) across India. The DRTs are set up under the Recovery of Dues to Banks and Financial Institutions Act of 1993 to enable banks and financial institutions recover bad debts from borrowers. "Eleven DRTs remain unmanned which is creating issues. In view of the grant of additional charges and also the complications, notice be served including 'dasti', counter affidavits (reply) be filed in five weeks and the rejoinder to be filed within three weeks after the response," said a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar. The PIL, filed by Ghaziabad resident Nischay Chaudhary, was argued by senior advocate K B Sounder Rajan along with lawyer Sudarshan Rajan.

Place Beant assassination convict's mercy plea before Prez: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday directed President Droupadi Murmu's secretary to place before her the mercy petition of death row convict Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted in the 1995 assassination case of then Punjab chief minister Beant Singh, for consideration. A bench of Justices BR Gavai, PK Mishra and KV Viswanathan requested the President to consider the plea within two weeks. "In spite of the matter being specifically kept today none appeared for Union of India. The bench assembled only for this case," the bench said. "On the last date the matter was adjourned to enable the Union to take instructions from the office of the President as to by when will mercy plea be decided. Taking into consideration that the petitioner is on a death row, we direct the secretary to the President of India to place the matter before the President with a request to consider the same within two weeks from today," the bench said.

HEATING UP DANGER



suggest a potential increase of 40 per cent to 60 per cent by mid-century, depending on the climate scenario, with some areas seeing increases of up to 200 per cent," the authors wrote. According to the World Health Organisation, the increasingly warm and humid conditions driven by climate

change are facilitating the spread of dengue, with new outbreaks reported in previously unaffected regions, including parts of Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Countries in the Americas have recorded nearly 12 million cases of dengue in 2024, compared to 4.6 million in 2023, and

At least 257 million people are living in areas where climate change could double the incidence of dengue over the next 25 years

locally acquired infections have been reported in California and Florida, the researchers noted.

The Asian countries studied included Vietnam and Cambodia, among others.

"It's evidence that climate change has already become a significant threat to human health, and for dengue in particular, our data suggests the impact could get much worse," Mordecai said.

The researchers also found that dengue-endemic areas now entering the 20-29°C "sweet spot

for virus transmission"—such as parts of Peru, Mexico, Bolivia, and Brazil—could face the biggest future risks, with infections rising by 150-200 per cent over the next few decades.

However, areas already at the high end of the temperature range, like southern Vietnam, are likely to experience minimal additional climate impacts and may even see a slight decrease in cases, the authors added.

Overall, at least 257 million people are living in areas where climate change could double the incidence of dengue over the next 25 years, according to the analysis.

However, the study is likely to underestimate the actual threat posed by climate change to dengue transmission, as the researchers were unable to make projections for regions that have not consistently tracked infections, such as sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.





A new approach should be adopted so that developing states like Tamil Nadu are not affected by decrease in Central allocation. Steps should be taken to strengthen the federal structure of India

MK STALIN | CM, TAMIL NADU

MODI GIFTS KOLHAPUR'S TRADITIONAL METAL WORK TO NIGERIAN PRESIDENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted Nigerian president Bola Ahmed Tinubu a 'Silofar Panchamrit Kalash', officials said Monday, describing the pot as a stunning example of traditional craftsmanship from Kolhapur in Maharashtra



Kailash Gahlot joins BJP, counters AAP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: Former Delhi minister Kailash Gahlot joined the BJP Monday, a day after resigning from the AAP, and accused his former party of constantly picking fights with the Centre and compromising the values which drew people to its fold.

He joined the BJP at its headquarters in the presence of Union ministers Manohar Lal Khattar and Harsh Malhotra, Delhi unit president Virendra Sachdeva, party vice president Bajajant Jay Panda and national media head Anil Baluni among others.

Addressing the media after joining the party, Gahlot said efforts are being made to build a false narrative that his decision to quit the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was the result of ED and CBI pressure.

The fact is that the AAP compromised its values, he said, claiming that he has never acted under anyone's pressure. He said maintaining good relations with the Centre is essential for Delhi's development, as he accused the AAP government of constantly being in a fight with the central government led by the BJP.

Be it chief minister or ministers, they were picking fights with the Centre over smallest of issues all the time, he alleged, claiming that he maintained good relations with the Central government, including the LG. Gahlot said people like him joined the AAP not out of personal ambitions but for Delhi's development and that he has joined the BJP for the same reason.

He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and agenda.

India dethrones China as top source of int'l students in US

According to the Open Doors Report 2024 released, the number of Indian students studying in the US in the academic year 2023-24 is at an "all-time high" at 3,31,602, a rise of 23 per cent from 2022-23 when the number stood at 2,68,923

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: More than 3.3 lakh Indians are studying in the US, making India the "top sender" of international students to America for the first time in 15 years, as it overtook China for the academic year 2023-24.

According to the Open Doors Report 2024 released Monday, the number of Indian students studying in the US in the academic year 2023-24 is at an "all-time high" at 3,31,602, a rise of 23 per cent from 2022-23 when the number stood at 2,68,923.

The year before in 2022-23, the leading source country for international students in the US was China followed by India.



"India is now the leading country of origin for international students in the United States, accounting for 29 per cent of the total international student population," according to a note shared by the US

Embassy on the latest annual report.

According to official data associated with the latest report, the top five source countries for international students in the US for 2023-24 are -- India,

China (2,77,398), South Korea (43,149), Canada (28,998) and Taiwan (23,157).

"India is the top sender of international students (for the first time since 2008/2009) with over 3,31,602 students studying in the United States. The number of Indian students is at an all-time high," the US Embassy's note read. Normally, the academic year in the US begins in September and runs through May.

In 2023-24, the US welcomed an all-time high of 1.12 million (1,126,690) international students. These students hail from more than 210 countries and places of origin, the note added.

US envoy Eric Garcetti, in an exclusive interview to PTI on the sidelines of an event at the American Center here spoke of

the education cooperation between the two countries.

This year's report also shows a 300 per cent increase in American students choosing India as a study-abroad destination. The number of Americans studying in India rose from 300 to 1,300 in 2022-2023.

India also "remained the largest sender" of international graduate (masters and PhD level) students in the US for the second year. The number of Indian graduate students increased by 19 per cent to reach 1,96,567, according to the report.

The number of undergraduate students from India also increased by 13 per cent to 36,053 while the number of non-degree students experienced a 28 per cent decline to 1,426 students, it said.

VOLATILE SITUATION

Cong asks PM to visit Manipur, demands Shah's resignation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: Amid spike in violence in Manipur, the Congress Monday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit the troubled state before the Parliament session this month and demanded Home Minister Amit Shah's resignation for the "double engine government's complete failure" there.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said Modi must first meet an all-party delegation from Manipur and then also call an all-party meeting at the national level ahead of the Parliament session starting November 25.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here along with Manipur Congress chief K Meghachandra Singh and AICC in-charge of state Girish Chodankar, Ramesh demanded that Shah and Chief Minister N Biren Singh must resign.

"From May 3, 2023, Manipur is burning and Prime Minister Modi visits various countries of the world, gives sermons, but could not find time to visit Manipur. So, our first demand



Shah reviews Manipur security situation

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Monday reviewed the prevailing security situation and deployment of troops in Manipur for the second consecutive day and directed top officials to focus on restoring peace and order there as early as possible, sources said. The Union Home Ministry is also rushing in about 5,000 paramilitary troops to assist the state government in handling the current "volatile" situation. The home minister reviewed the security situation in Manipur with top officials of the Central and state governments, the sources said. This was the second consecutive day that Shah reviewed the situation in Manipur.

is that PM should take time out before the Parliament session to visit Manipur and meet political parties, politicians, civil society groups, and people in relief camps there," Ramesh said. He said the Congress also demands that the prime minister

should meet an all-party delegation from Manipur and then also call an all-party meeting be called at the national level.

"From July 31, 2024, there is no full-time governor. Before that an ST person was governor but she was removed within 18 months. We demand that immediately a full-time governor be appointed," Ramesh said.

The Congress also alleged that the prime minister has "outsourced" Manipur to the home minister.

"There is a strange 'jugalbandi' between the home minister and the failed CM. Why the home minister has not taken cognizance of the CM's failures and why has he been attempting to save him?" Ramesh said.

Centre to send 50 more CAPF companies this week

The Centre has decided to send an additional 50 CAPF companies comprising more than 5,000 personnel to Manipur in view of the "challenging" security and law and order situation in the northeastern state, official sources said Monday. This comes after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) rushed 20 additional CAPF companies, 15 from the CRPF and five from the BSF, to the state following an order issued November 12 after violence broke out in Jiribam district and spread to other places. An additional 50 companies have been ordered to be rushed to Manipur by this week. While 35 units will be drawn from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the rest will be from the Border Security Force (BSF), the sources told PTI.

Jhansi fire: Death toll rises to 12

Jhansi (UP): Another child among the 39 rescued from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) fire at Jhansi's Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College succumbed Monday, raising the death toll to 12, officials said. Now 37 more newborns, who were rescued after the fire Friday night, are undergoing treatment, a senior officer of the medical college said. "Of the 39 children rescued from the NICU fire Friday night, one more has died. The child was admitted in a critical condition," Dr. Narendra Singh Sengar told PTI.

Three killed in road mishap

Jaipur: Three people were killed in a head-on collision between two motorcycles in Rajasthan's Bikaner district, police said Monday. According to Nokha Station House Officer Ramkesh Meena, the accident occurred Sunday night near Kakkoo village. Two brothers both NEET aspirants, were returning home from Nokha when their motorcycle collided with another motorcycle coming from the opposite direction, driven by Magharam Kumar (45), the SHO said.

Punjab farmers to march towards Delhi December 6

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Nov 18: Slamming the Centre for not holding talks with them over their demands, which include a legal guarantee of MSP for crops, the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha Monday announced that farmers will march towards Delhi December 6.

Farmer leaders who took the decision here at a meeting said they were left with no option but to resume their march as the government has not reached out to them.

The protesting farmers have been camping at Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13, when their 'Delhi Chalo' march, spearheaded by the SKM (Non-Political) and the KMM, was stopped by security forces. Addressing the media here, KMM leader Sarwan Singh



Pandher said after a long wait, they have decided to head towards Delhi. "We will move towards Delhi December 6," he said.

"We have been left with no option. We waited peacefully for the government (to reach out) for nine months. But now we will head towards Delhi," he added. The farmers will move towards the national capital in batches from the Shambhu border on the Ambala-New Delhi national highway.

SKM leader Guramneet Singh Mangat said farmers will march towards Delhi by foot December 6, but added that the road is heavily barricaded by security forces.



Folk artists perform during Kanakadasa Jayanthi celebrations, in Bangalore, Monday

No need for Central law to tackle crimes against health workers: NTF

The recommendations say most of the state laws cover minor offences and prescribe punishment for them and the major offences or heinous crimes are adequately covered under the BNS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: A separate Central law to deal with offences against health care professionals is not required as the state laws have adequate provisions to address day-to-day minor offences and serious ones can be addressed by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, the National Task Force (NTF) has recommended.

The NTF was constituted by the Supreme Court August 20 to formulate a protocol for ensuring safety and security of medical professionals in wake of the rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

In a slew of recommendations made in its report, the NTF said 24 states have already enacted laws to address vio-

lence against health care professionals, whereby the terms "health care institutions" and "medical professionals" have also been defined.

It said two more states have already introduced their Bills in this regard.

The recommendations said most of the state laws cover minor offences and prescribe punishment for them and the major offences or heinous crimes are adequately covered under the BNS.

The task force has recommended that in states where no specific legislation exists to protect medical professionals, the provisions of the BNS 2023 should be used immediately to address acts of violence against them. The Centre has placed the NTF's report in an affidavit filed in the apex court. In its detailed report, the



The NTF was constituted by the Supreme Court August 20 to formulate a protocol for ensuring safety and security of medical professionals in wake of the rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata

The task force has recommended that in states where no specific legislation exists to protect medical professionals, the provisions of the BNS 2023 should be used immediately to address acts of violence against them

NTF said for the timeline of implementation, its recommendations have been divided into

short-term, medium-term and long-term measures. It has stressed on ensuring

due security in health care establishments, including constitution of security committee there, deployment of trained security personnel and coordination with local police.

The NTF has recommended that depending on the size and nature of the health care establishments (HCE), adequate number of CCTVs are required to be installed for surveillance. "Distress call system is to be installed in HCE in critical, vulnerable/violence prone areas and other areas as per requirement which should be accessible to medical professionals," it said.

The NTF has also made recommendations about infrastructural development and strengthening of infrastructure, which included well-kept boundary wall with fencing and secured windows.

"NTF recommends that medical institutions should endeavour to adhere to guidelines laid down/instructions issued by the National Medical Commission (NMC) from time-to-time in respect of duty hours regulation and working conditions for resident doctors," it said.

In its recommendations for strengthening legal framework and capacity building, the task force has said timely intervention (lodging complaint/FIR, including Zero FIR), proper investigation and prompt legal action is necessary to deter potential offenders and create a sense of security amongst all medical professionals.

It said public at large and medical professionals in particular may be made aware about legal provisions related to safety and security of medical professionals.



# international



I don't support (imposing) tariffs on India. I think that would be really bad. It would lead to a trade war. And I don't think it's good for either country (US or India)

## BRAZEN HEIST AT WINDSOR CASTLE

Two masked men break into Britain's royal Windsor Castle estate last month and steals two vehicles from a barn, the Sun newspaper reported Monday



### of the day quote

Many people tried to stop the war in Gaza. This has not happened yet. And I don't see a hope for this to happen. That's why we have to put pressure on the Israeli government, and also, obviously on the Hamas side

Iran and China have long-standing, close and cordial cultural and historical relations and they have had many positive effects on each other

The Stillfont mine is a crime scene where the offence of illegal mining is being committed. It is standard police practice everywhere to secure a crime scene and to block off escape routes that enable criminals to evade arrest

## LONG-RANGE MISSILES

# US frees Ukraine's hands

President Joe Biden's administration has lifted the weapon ban on Ukraine, allowing its ally to use US-provided weapons to strike deep into Russia



Washington, Nov 18: President Joe Biden's administration has allowed Ukraine to use US-made weapons to strike deep into Russia, two US officials and a source familiar with the decision said Sunday, in a significant reversal of Washington's policy in the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

Ukraine plans to conduct its first long-range attacks in the coming days, the sources said, without revealing details due to operational security concerns. The move comes two months before President-elect Donald Trump takes office January 20 and follows months of pleas by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to allow Ukraine's military to use US weapons to hit Russian military targets far from its border. The change comes largely in response to Russia's deployment of North Korean ground troops to supplement its own forces, a development that has caused alarm in Washington and Kyiv, a US official and a source familiar with the decision said. Zelenskyy said in his evening address that the missiles would

- Decision comes after months of resistance from Washington
- Shift may aid Ukraine's negotiating position
- It is unclear if Trump will reverse Biden's decision once in office
- Russia warns of escalation if limits on US weapons use are loosened

If such a decision was indeed formulated and brought to the Kyiv regime, then this is a qualitatively new round of tension and a qualitatively new situation from the point of view of US involvement in this conflict

DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN, RUSSIA

request for comment. But one of Trump's closest foreign policy advisers, Richard Grenell, criticised the decision.

"Escalating the wars before he leaves office," Grenell said, in an X post responding to the news. Some congressional Republicans had urged Biden to loosen the rules on how Ukraine can use US-provided weapons. Kremlin's response to Biden's decision

The Kremlin said Monday that any US decision to allow Ukraine to fire American missiles deep into Russia would mean it was directly involved in the conflict, which it accused President Joe Biden's administration of escalating.

When asked about reports by the New York Times and Reuters that Biden's administration had made the decision on long-range strikes, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov noted that the reports were not based on any official statement.

"If such a decision was indeed formulated and brought to the Kyiv regime, then this is a qualitatively new round of tension and a qualitatively new situation from the point of view of US involvement in this conflict," Peskov said. Putin said September 12 that Western approval for such a step would mean "the direct involvement of NATO countries, the United States and European countries in the war in Ukraine". "It is obvious that the outgoing administration in Washington intends to take steps to continue adding fuel to the fire and continue to provoke tension around this conflict," Peskov said.

# G20 summit begins with wars, Trump's return

REUTERS

Rio De Janeiro, Nov 18: Leaders of the Group of 20 major economies began arriving Monday at Rio de Janeiro's Modern Art Museum for their annual summit, bracing for a shift in the global order with the return to power of US President-elect Donald Trump.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva received the heads of government on a red carpet at the museum where they will meet through midday Tuesday.

Their discussions of trade, climate change and international security will run up against the sharp US policy changes that Trump vows upon taking office in January, from tariffs to the promise of a negotiated solution to the war in Ukraine.

While US President Joe Biden arrives as a lame duck with just two months remaining in the White House, China's President Xi Jinping will be a central player at a G20 summit driven with geopolitical tensions amid the wars in Gaza and Ukraine. Any commitments Biden makes may be overturned by the next White House administration, according to Danielle Ayres, an international relations professor at the Federal University of Santa Catarina.

Trade talks around the G20 will be stoked by concerns of an escalation in the US-China trade war, as Trump plans to slap tariffs on imports from China and other nations.

Trump's tax-cutting verve will add to headwinds for Brazil's efforts to discuss taxation of the super-rich, an issue dear to Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva who put it on



Biden pledges \$4 billion US contribution to the World Bank's International Development Association fund for the world's poorest countries

the G20 agenda.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday briefly interacted with US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the G20 summit in their first exchanges following the American presidential election.

"With @POTUS Joe Biden at the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Always a delight to meet him," Modi posted on 'X' with a photo of the interaction.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer met with Xi, the first meeting between British and Chinese leaders since 2018. Starmer's office says the UK leader is seeking to repair relations with Beijing after years of acrimony over human rights, Hong Kong.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is the summit's most notable absentee. The International Criminal Court has issued a warrant that obliges member states to arrest him. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov attended the meeting.

## SHORT TAKES

### Russia vetoes UNSC action on Sudan war

United Nations: Russia Monday vetoed a United Nations Security Council draft resolution that called on Sudan's warring parties to cease hostilities immediately and ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid. All other countries of the 15-member council, including China, voted in favor of the measure drafted by Britain and Sierra Leone. War erupted in April 2023 from a power struggle between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces ahead of a planned transition to civilian rule, and triggered the world's largest displacement crisis.

### Popular Australian radio host arrested

Sydney: Famed Australian broadcaster and former Wallabies coach Alan Jones was charged Monday with a string of alleged historical sex crimes, police said, after an investigation into the conservative radio shock jock. The 83-year-old is a household name across Australia and for years held immense sway through his top-rating radio talk show. In a colourful career he has also coached the national men's rugby team, been a speechwriter for an Australian Prime Minister and taught at one of the country's most prestigious schools. He has been charged with 24 offences against eight alleged victims spanning between 2001 and 2019, New South Wales Police said.

## SNIPPETS

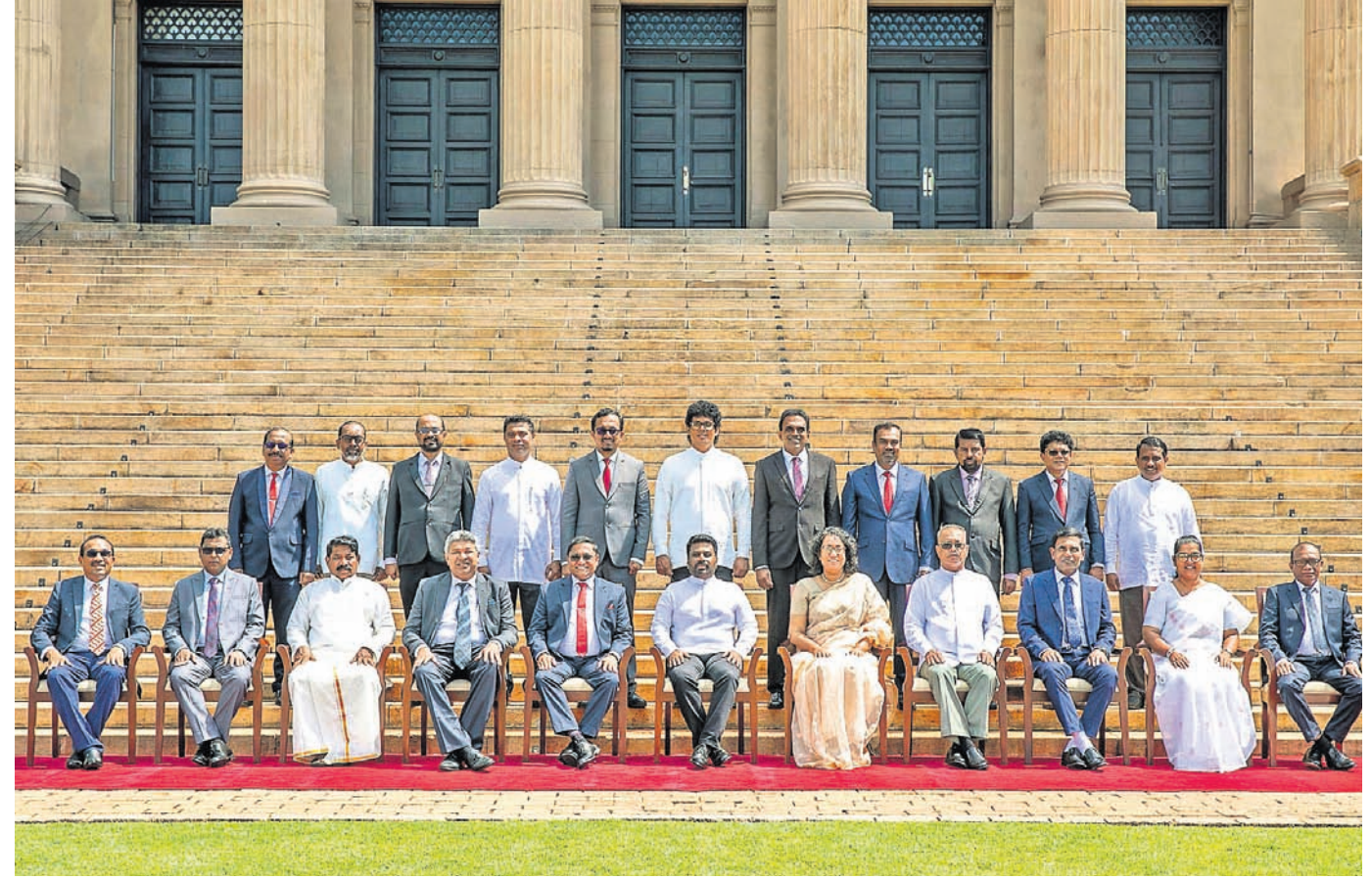
### India calls on rich nations over tech transfer barriers

Baku: India Monday called on developed countries to remove barriers to technology transfer, increase public climate finance, and avoid unfair trade measures disguised as climate action. The appeal came during a high-level ministerial roundtable on pre-2030 ambition at the UN climate talks in Baku. India's environment secretary Leena Nandan also urged rich nations to take the lead in cutting emissions and achieving net-zero by 2030. "This is essential to build a stronger, sustainable future," she said. The official said that innovative technologies are critical for a low-carbon future but said they must be made accessible to developing countries. Developing countries need solutions like clean energy and carbon removal, but barriers like intellectual property rights make it hard for them to access these technologies, Nandan said. "COP29 should come up with practical solutions to make technology affordable, adaptable, and relevant for developing countries," she added.



### Philippines, United States sign new defence deal

Manila: The Philippines and the United States signed a military intelligence-sharing deal Monday, deepening defence ties between the two nations facing common security challenges in the region. US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin signed the agreement with his Philippine counterpart, Gilberto Teodoro, at Manila's military headquarters where they also broke ground for a coordination center that will facilitate collaboration between their armed forces. Called the General Security of Military Information Agreement or GSOMIA, the pact allows both countries to share classified military information securely. China's foreign ministry said Monday any kind of military agreement or security cooperation "must not be directed against or harm the interests of a third party, and they must not undermine regional peace or exacerbate tensions in the region."



In this photo provided by the Sri Lankan President's Office Monday Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, centre, poses with his newly sworn in cabinet ministers outside the President's office in Colombo, Sri Lanka

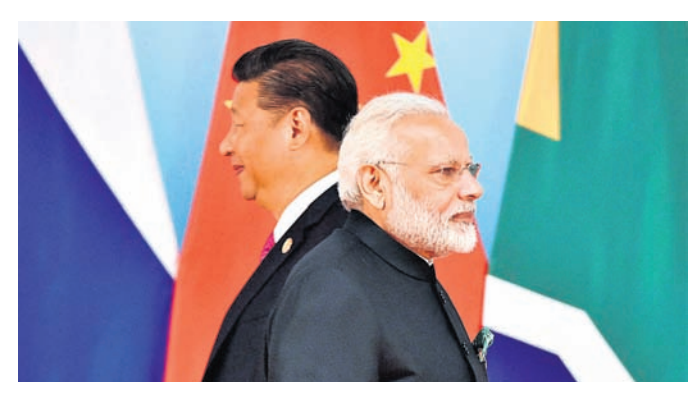
# THE ACHILLES' HEEL OF INDIA'S CHINA POLICY

## Typhoon Man-yi leaves 7 dead in Philippines

China and India have reached an agreement to patrol a segment of their long-disputed border, effectively ending a four-year standoff in the high Himalayas that had significantly strained relations between the two nations. This development also paved the way for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping to meet in Russia for their first discussions in five years. The tensions had escalated following a violent clash in the Galwan Valley in 2020, which resulted in numerous soldier fatalities and a severe downturn in bilateral relations. The Indian public reacted strongly to what they perceived as Chinese aggression, prompting Modi's government to cancel direct flights between the two countries and impose a ban on the social media app Tik Tok, among other punitive measures against China. Now, many analysts are optimistic

about the potential for a reset and a restoration of normal relations.

However, China and India find themselves in a situation where there is no favorable "normal" status quo to revert to. The bilateral relationship is fraught with challenges, and China's ambitions continue to limit India's capacity to operate effectively on both regional and global stages. Numerous potential flashpoints persist along the border, which could be reignited at any moment by Xi's assertive regime. While Modi has made greater efforts than his predecessors to take a firm stance against Chinese expansionism, India's economy remains significantly reliant on China. Although India's exports to China have seen a slight decline over the past five years, imports from China have surged. India depends on China for advanced technology, including personal computers,



laptops, and components essential for telecommunications equipment and mobile phones.

Indian leaders, similar to those in many other nations, have historically treated national security and economic growth as separate issues. However, these two aspects are deeply interconnected. In 2014, Modi introduced the ambitious 'Make in India' initiative aimed at enhancing Indian

manufacturing by allowing foreign investment in sectors like railway infrastructure and defence. This opened the door for Chinese telecommunications firms and mobile equipment manufacturers to capitalize on the opportunity by investing in India. Despite this, Indian policymakers remained cautious. In 2019, India opted out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership—a trade

agreement involving China and 14 other Asian countries—due to concerns that reduced tariffs could negatively affect domestic producers and exacerbate the growing trade deficit with China. Nevertheless, during the same year, the informal summit between Modi and Xi included discussions on improving trade and collaboration in the manufacturing sector. The COVID-19 pandemic that began in China sent shockwaves through global economies. However, through strict 'zero COVID' lockdown measures, Beijing managed to control the virus' domestic spread, at least initially. This early success stood in stark contrast to the turmoil and high mortality rates seen in other countries, suggesting that China was emerging as a significant global power. As stock markets plummeted, many in India and beyond expressed concerns that strong

Chinese capital would seize distressed companies. These anxieties intensified when, in April 2020, China's central bank increased its investment in HDFC, a prominent Indian bank, prompting the Indian government to take action to safeguard businesses struggling from the pandemic's impact. In response, the Indian government introduced new regulations in 2020 to alter the flow of foreign direct investments into the country, with the implicit goal of curbing Chinese investment.

The military clash in Galwan in June 2020 prompted segments of Indian civil society to advocate for a boycott of Chinese products. In response, the government acted on these calls by instructing both state and private telecommunications companies to cease transactions with Chinese firms and by banning Chinese telecommunications companies from operating in India.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

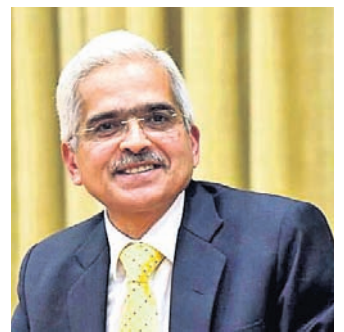
Manila, Nov 18: Typhoon Man-yi left at least seven people dead in a landslide, destroyed scores of houses and displaced large numbers of villagers before blowing away from the northern Philippines, worsening the crisis wreaked by multiple back-to-back storms, officials said Monday.

Man-yi was one of the strongest of the six major storms to hit the northern Philippines in less than a month and had sustained winds of up to 195 km per hour when it slammed into the eastern island province of Catanduanes Saturday night.

More than a million people were affected by the typhoon and two previous storms, including nearly 700,000 who fled their homes and moved to emergency shelters or relatives' homes, according to the Official of Civil Defence.



# Business



**Bank boards need to continuously assess external factors like regulatory changes, shifting market winds, overall macroeconomic changes and advances in technology**  
SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

**BOOST TO INDIA-RUSSIA MARITIME TIES**  
The Chennai-Vladivostok maritime corridor, which is likely to boost maritime ties between India and Russia, is operational now, and container ships carrying crude oil, metal and textile have started coming to Indian ports, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said Monday. The Chennai-Vladivostok sea route will cover a distance of about 5,600 nautical miles



**of the day quote**

**We are hopeful and we believe that we will exceed the budget target for tax collection. Collections from corporate and non-corporate taxes have risen**  
RAVI AGARWAL | CHAIRMAN, CBDT

**Port delays and red tape are choking India's steel user industries. Over 10,000 steel user units face financial strain due to delays at ports and unclear regulatory requirements. Essential imports for manufacturing industries face excessive scrutiny**  
AJAY SRIVASTAVA | FOUNDER, GTRI

**With changing climatic conditions leading to increased pest challenges, it's more important than ever to empower Indian farmers with innovative, sustainable technologies**  
BALRAM SINGH YADAV | MD, GAVL

**SHORT TAKES**

**Gold, silver rebound**

**New Delhi:** Gold and silver prices rebounded Monday in the national capital mainly on the back of ongoing wedding season buying by jewellers and retailers as well as strong global trend, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Snapping a four-day losing streak, gold of 99.9 per cent purity rose by ₹400 to ₹77,450 per 10 grams in the local markets. The precious metal had closed at ₹77,050 per 10 grams Thursday. Silver also climbed ₹1,810 to reclaim the ₹92,000 per kg-mark against the previous close of ₹90,190 per kg Thursday. Price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity jumped ₹400 to ₹77,050 per 10 grams. The yellow metal had settled at ₹76,650 per 10 grams.

**Rupee bounces back**

**Mumbai:** The rupee recovered from its all-time low level and settled with a gain of 4 paise at 84.42 against the US dollar Monday, aided by a reduction in foreign funds' selling activity and a retreating American currency. Forex traders said, the recovery in the local unit was capped by the unabated withdrawal of foreign funds amid lacklustre sentiment in the domestic equity markets as well as an upward movement in crude oil prices. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.42 and touched the intra-day high of 84.37 against the greenback during the session. It finally settled at 84.42 against the dollar, up 4 paise from its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee fell 7 paise to settle at its all-time low of 84.46 against the US dollar.

## Equities continue to bleed

Sensex, Nifty fall for 7th day on selling in IT, oil shares

**Mumbai, Nov 18:** India's benchmark Sensex slipped into correction territory Monday, on persistent concerns over foreign outflows and lacklustre corporate earnings, while information technology and energy stocks led the losses.

On the day, the Sensex fell 0.31% to 77,339.01 points, closing 10.05% below its record high level hit September 27. The Nifty fell 0.34%, declining for the seventh straight session, its longest falling streak in more than 20 months.

The relative strength index of Nifty fell below 30, indicating the benchmark may be 'oversold'. "Despite oversold conditions, caution prevails among investors in this correction phase, the steepest in four years post-(COVID-19) pandemic, which has seen price decline of over 10% from record highs without any significant interim bounce," said Sameet Chavan, head of research at Angel One. Indian shares have been hurt by tepid corporate earnings as well as about \$15 billion of foreign outflows in the 34 sessions since record highs September 27. On Monday, IT companies



**Despite oversold conditions, caution prevails among investors in this correction phase, the steepest in four years post-(COVID-19) pandemic, which has seen price decline of over 10% from record highs without any significant interim bounce**  
SAMEET CHAVAN | HEAD OF RESEARCH, ANGEL ONE

which earn a significant share of their revenue from the US, lost 2.32% after the Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell indicated slower rate cuts amid ongoing economic growth and above-target inflation. Higher US rates make emerging markets, such as India, less attractive to foreign investors.

Indian IT stocks had gained about 5% in the last two weeks on expectations of beneficial policies from US President-elect Donald Trump's administration. Gas distributors Indraprastha Gas and Mahanagar Gas lost about 20% and 14%, respectively, after the government lowered the allocation of

**MARKET CRASH**

● Sensex fell 0.31% to 77,339.01 points, closing 10.05% below its record high level hit Sept 27  
● Nifty down 0.34%, declining for 7th straight session, longest falling streak in over 20 months

**The 30-share BSE Sensex followed the 50-stock Nifty and the small- and mid-cap indexes which had slipped into correction November 13**

gas under regulated prices. The metal index gained 1.9% as global aluminium prices rose after China said it would cancel export tax rebates. Two-wheeler major Hero MotoCorp rose 2.8% after it beat quarterly profit expectations due to higher sales of mid-range motorcycles. The BSE benchmark Sensex dropped 110.64 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 77,580.31 Thursday. The Nifty declined by 26.35 points or 0.11 per cent to 23,532.70.

## Cost of borrowing stressful, says FM

**It can be noted that most of the commercial banks are tied directly or indirectly to the RBI's calls on interest rates, with the majority of loans using the repo rate as an external benchmark to which loan prices are pegged**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 18:** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Monday said people are finding current interest rates "very stressful" and urged banks to make them affordable.

Speaking at an event organised by SBI, the finance minister said that at present, India requires industry to ramp up and invest in new facilities, and added that lowering lending rates can help achieve the "Viksit Bharat" aspiration. "What is important is when you look at India's growth requirements, and you can have so many different voices coming out and saying the cost of borrowing is really very stressful, and a time when we want industries to ramp up and move (to) building capacities, bank interest rates will have to be far more affordable," Sitharaman said.

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal last week urged the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to cut interest rates to boost economic growth. He also suggested looking through food prices while deciding on monetary policy.

The consumer price inflation overshoot the RBI's comfort level of 6 per cent, with the 6.2 per cent reading for October dashed hopes of a rate cut soon.

Sitharaman said a set of three or four perishable commodities is driving the headline inflation, currently, and the

rest of it, the core items, are at manageable levels of three or four per cent.

The finance minister also made it clear that she does not want to get into the debate of whether food prices should be considered while constructing the inflation indices or to take calls on rates by the RBI's monetary policy committee.

Inflation is a complex issue which affects the common man, she said, adding that the government has been working on the supply side measures, including edible oils and pulses.

However, she was quick to add that India "cyclically" suffers from supply issues and the government efforts are mainly focused on improving the storage facilities to lessen the volatilities. Meanwhile, amid widespread concerns about a slow-down in growth, Sitharaman assured that the government is fully aware of the domestic and global challenges and added that there is no need to have "undue concerns".

She said that a slew of high-frequency indicators are pointing to strong activity on the ground.

Acknowledging that there are voices wondering if the government's fiscal consolidation is hurting economic activity, the finance minister denied any such thing, saying that growth is a priority for the government.

She also pitched for a rating upgrade, saying it is time for independent rating agencies to take a call on it.

**UNFAIR BIZ WAYS**

**CCI slaps ₹213cr penalty on Meta**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 18:** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) Monday imposed a penalty of ₹213.14 crore on social media major Meta for unfair business ways with respect to WhatsApp privacy policy update done in 2021.

Besides, the competition watchdog has directed Meta to "cease and desist" from anti-competitive practices.

Meta and WhatsApp have also been asked to implement certain behavioural remedies within a defined timeline to address the anti-competition issues, according to a CCI order.

The regulator has called for implementing various remedial measures, including barring WhatsApp from sharing data collected on its platform with other Meta companies or Meta company products for advertising purposes for five years.

Among other directions, CCI has said that sharing of user data collected on WhatsApp with other Meta companies or Meta company products for purposes other than for providing WhatsApp services shall not be made a condition for users to access WhatsApp Service in India.

The Competition Commission of India (Commission) Monday imposed a penalty of ₹213.14 crore on Meta for abusing its dominant position.

Passing the order against abuse of dominance, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) said this (penalty) relates to how WhatsApp's 2021 Privacy Policy was implemented and how user data was collected and shared with other Meta companies.

## Honda BigWing unveils Odisha's first Transalp 750

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 18:** Honda BigWing Bhubaneswar North, powered by Gugnani Motors, celebrated its one-year anniversary with the launch of the highly anticipated Honda Transalp 750, marking a milestone for adventure motorcycles in Odisha.

The event, held at Patia Square, was graced by Snehasis Panigrahi, Area In-Charge, East Zone, Honda BigWing, and Yashneet Gugnani, Managing Partner of Gugnani Honda, along with Odia actor, Subhasish Nath Sharma and hundreds of excited customers.

The Honda Transalp 750 features a 755cc parallel-twin en-



gine delivering 92 horsepower and 75 Nm of torque. Designed for adventure enthusiasts, it boasts a 5-inch TFT display, multiple riding modes, and traction control, making it perfect for both off-road and urban riding.

The event also celebrated the one-year anniversary of the Honda CB350 series, which has become a favorite among riders for its retro-modern design, 348cc engine, and advanced features like dual-channel ABS and bluetooth connectivity.

**FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND INITIATIVE GLOBALLY**

## RBI plans 2025 launch of cloud services

*Reserve Bank of India's planned cloud platform will use local IT firms, pitting it against the likes of Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud and IBM Cloud, countering their dominance*

REUTERS

**Mumbai, Nov 18:** India's central bank will launch a pilot programme in 2025 offering local cloud data storage to financial firms at affordable prices, according to two sources aware of the matter, who declined to be identified as conversations are confidential.

The burgeoning cloud services market in Asia's third largest economy was estimated at \$8.3 billion in 2023 and is expected to grow to \$24.2 billion by 2028, according to a report by International Data Corporation, but it is largely dominated by foreign firms.

"We want to start implementing on a smaller scale in the

next few months," said one of the two sources, a senior executive working on the project.

The pilot will be expanded in phases over the next few years, the source said, adding the cloud service will be built keeping in mind the needs of smaller banking and financial services firms who find existing offerings unaffordable.

In December last year, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das announced plans to set up a public cloud for the financial services industry.

Initial work on the cloud is being driven by the research wing of the central bank called the Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services. It will then be developed fur-

ther in partnership with one or more private sector technology firms, according to the sources.

Consultancy firm EY has been appointed as an advisor to the project.

The project will initially be funded by the central bank's asset development fund of ₹229.74 billion, the second source said, adding that at a later stage the central bank will invite financial firms to hold equity.

**DATA LOCALISATION IMPERATIVE**

Setting up a cloud service built in partnership with local IT firms is a further step in the central bank's push for

localisation of payments and financial data.

The RBI has invited only companies incorporated in India with prior experience of building cloud-related solutions to bid for the project, as per a procurement document published on IFTAS website in October.

Companies can apply by themselves or as part of a consortium and would be required to set up data centre facilities in Mumbai and Hyderabad.

"We have a humongous amount of interest (from private players who want to partner). A significant number of IT companies as well as Indian cloud services companies have expressed their interest," the source added.

**SKY-HIGH**  
**Air passenger traffic hits single-day record**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 18:** Marking a new record, domestic air passenger traffic crossed the 5 lakh-mark for the first time in a single day Sunday, reflecting strong travel demand amid festive and wedding season.

In a post on X Monday evening, the civil aviation ministry said that November 17, Indian skies witnessed a historic milestone with 5,05,412 domestic passengers departing on a single day, crossing the 5 lakh-mark for the first time.

Airlines carried 5,05,412 passengers Sunday (November 17) and the number of flight departures was at 3,173, according to the latest data from the ministry.

Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoan Naidu said the number shows that air travel is now more accessible to the people and that the achievement was made possible due to schemes like UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik).

UDAN, the regional air connectivity scheme, was launched in October 2016.

In a post on X, IndiGo said it was a defining moment for Indian aviation as 5 lakh customers take to the skies daily, within India.

"At IndiGo, this is not just a number, it's 3.1 lakh smiles that take off with us, every day," the airline said.

Gaurav Patwari, Vice President - Air Category - at travel portal Cleartrip, said domestic travel has witnessed strong demand during the festive season.

"The high pax movement is largely backed by robust festive demand and the start of the wedding season. We expect strong demand to continue in the winter season," he added.

**GDP GROWTH RATE**

## India set to wear G20 crown

THE COUNTRY IS RATED FASTEST GROWING G20 ECONOMY WITH GDP GROWTH PROJECTED AT 7% FOR 2024

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 18:** India is projected to be the fastest growing economy among the G20 countries with a 7 per cent GDP growth rate for 2024, followed by Indonesia in the second spot with 5 per cent while China is ranked third with an economic growth rate of 4.8 per cent.

"India takes the lead in the G20 with an impressive 7 per cent GDP growth rate projected for 2024! This achievement highlights India's robust economy, showcasing its resilience

and fast-paced growth amidst global challenges," a MyGov post on X said after the rankings were released at the ongoing G20 summit in Brazil.

Russia has been ranked fourth on the list with a projected GDP growth rate of 3.6 per cent, followed by summit host, Brazil (3 per cent) in the 5th spot. The African region comes next with 3 per cent while the US is placed at the 7th spot with its projected GDP growth at 2.8 per cent.

Among the western powers, Canada is expected to grow at

1.3 per cent, followed by Australia at 1.2 per cent. France, the EU, and the UK have been clubbed in the 1.1 per cent slow growth category while Italy is expected to grow at an even slower pace of 0.7 per cent, followed by Japan at 0.3 per cent.

Germany is seen as the worst performer among the advanced countries with a projected growth rate of zero. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived to a warm welcome in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for the G20 2024 which is being held November





# Eves eye encore against Japan



The Indian players celebrate after a goal against Japan in their group encounter

PTI PHOTO

**Crucial semifinal match for hosts as they try to retain the Asian Champions Trophy title**

AGENCIES

**Rajgir, Nov 18:** A confident and unbeaten India will back their strategy of attack and defence at appropriate times when they take on Japan in the semifinal of the women's Asian Champions Trophy (CT) hockey tournament here Tuesday. In their last league encounter, the hosts had beaten Japan 3-0. However, the knockout stage of

any tournament is always a different ball game. World No. 9 India have registered five wins from as many games, including a 3-0 victory over Olympic silver medalist China.

India's chief coach Harendra Singh emphasised on the need to continue in the same vein in the tournament. "We know what are their (Japan) strengths and weaknesses. This tournament is all about working on our strengths and developing a formidable style of play for Indian women's hockey team. It's a mixture of attacking and defensive," Harendra said here Monday.

"So far the girls have executed really well. I am satisfied with their decision making but semifinal will be a different ball

## Passage to semis

Versus Malaysia	4-0
Versus South Korea	3-2
Versus Thailand	13-0
Versus China	3-0
Versus Japan	3-0

game," the coach added.

The Indians must guard against complacency, as a single mistake could shatter their dreams of retaining the crown. India may have defeated Japan hands down in the league stage, but Harendra is in no mood to take their opponents lightly in the knockout match.

"Of course we are expecting a tough fight from Japan be-

**Give and go or one-two hockey is our favourite system. We try to connect with each other with face to face talks and it is helping**

SALIMA TETE | CAPTAIN

cause the training game and pool matches are different. It's a semifinal and every team prepare according to their plans," Harendra stated.

"We are going to face resistance from Japan for sure. They are a good side but we have to do our homework. We need to focus on how we want to play rather than concentrating on the opponent," the coach added.

India have got a fine striker and a fierce drag-flicker in young Deepika. Her exploits in the tournament can be gauged from the fact that she is leading the goal-scorers' chart with 10 strikes.

The chief coach is pleased with progress of the players but has demanded more focus when they approach the opposition goal. "Indian women's hockey is already on the right path, only thing is to give some time to these girls to perform. We are in the right process, and these girls have the capability to deliver results," Harendra said.

"I just tell the girls that you are in Buddha's land (Rajgir), so just be Buddha once inside the circle and don't try to be flying horses. I am happy with the way we are getting enough shooting opportunities. We are scoring, but we can score more goals. The girls have scored a few amazing goals but still there is room for improvement," Harendra added.

# Coaches happy with preparations



Jasprit Bumrah and Rishabh Pant have a fun moment during India's training session in Perth

PHOTO BCCI X

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Perth, Nov 18:** The centre-wicket match simulation at WACA ground has served its purpose as the Indian team got what it wanted ahead of the opening Test against Australia, said Abhishek Nayar and Morne Morkel, the two lieutenants of head coach Gautam Gambhir, here Monday.

The focus was on getting acclimatised to the conditions after the visitors had decided to scrap the intra-squad game with India 'A' team at the expense of match simulation.

"Just before we came to Australia, Gauti bhai (Gautam Gambhir), Rohit (Sharma), we discussed what we wanted out of these three days, and the idea was to try and make sure that one, for the younger guys and also the experienced players, to give them a lot of time in the centre to adapt, to understand conditions," Nayar said in a BCCI video.

"We are coming and playing Test cricket (here) after, you know, four years. So initially, we got the guys to come in and had it like a game where you got out, if you got out, you

## Lyon all praise for Ashwin's skills

**Perth:** Veteran Australian spinner Nathan Lyon believes that rival players often serve as the 'best coaches', acknowledging that his Indian counterpart Ravichandran Ashwin has 'taught' him a great deal through their face-offs since 2011-12. Lyon and Ashwin will face each other for the eighth time in the longest format during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy five-Test series beginning here November 22. "Ash (Ashwin) is an incredible bowler. I've gone head-to-head with him for basically my whole career, so I've learned a lot from Ash," Lyon told Fox Cricket. "He's an incredibly smart bowler, and he's able to learn and adapt very quickly, and I think the best bowlers in the world are able to do that. He used his skills to benefit himself and his team. So, you've got to give credit where credit's due," Lyon added.

got out. But then, we tried to give them another chance, and we felt that second time around, the guys adapted better, they understood the conditions better, and were a lot more comfortable. We got what we wanted out of it," Nayar added.

The five-match series between the two heavyweights of world cricket begins at the Optus Stadium here from November 22.

"Day two was quite similar, where we then also were using the facilities outside, getting the nets in, the quantity and the quality down in the centre," Nayar stated.

"Day two was about our bowlers coming in and bowling spells, getting up the workloads, bowling 15 overs each, Bumrah's bowled 18 overs, a couple of others bowled 18. So, it's just more about getting guys into the game sense," the assistant coach added.

Analysing the bowlers' performance during training, bowling coach Morne Morkel expressed his satisfaction with all the bowlers.

"Very happy with how the bowlers went. They summed up conditions very well. Yeah, I think we're on track for the 22nd. So, another three training sessions left," Morkel said.

## SHORT TAKES

### Neymar planning return to Santos

**Rio de Janeiro:** Brazilian forward Neymar could return to his original club Santos next year following an injury-hit spell with Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal, according to media reports here Monday. The reports said that Santos president Marcelo Teixeira will meet with Neymar's father and manager, Neymar (Sr), next week to discuss conditions of a possible move. Neymar's Al-Hilal contract is due to expire next July but the 32-year-old could terminate his contract earlier, paving the way for a possible return to Santos in January, reports stated. Neymar has made just seven appearances across all competitions for Al-Hilal since joining the club from Paris Saint-Germain in August 2023.

### Footballer banned for racist comments

**London:** Uruguay midfielder Rodrigo Bentancur has been banned for seven matches for making an offensive comment about South Koreans in relation to a remark about Tottenham teammate Son Heung-min, the English FA said Monday. It said in a statement that an independent commission also imposed a £100,000 (\$126,000) fine on the player. Appearing on a Uruguayan television show in June, Bentancur was asked for a Tottenham player's jersey and replied, "Sonny's?" He added it could be Son's cousin, too, because 'more or less they are all the same'. Bentancur later apologised to Son on Instagram and said it was a 'very bad joke' and he would 'never disrespect you or hurt you'.

### Britain overcome defending champs

**Malaga (Spain):** Britain kept alive their hopes of winning the Billie Jean King Cup for the first time by defeating defending champions Canada in the quarterfinals here Sunday. Katie Boulter clinched the 2-0 victory with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Leylah Fernandez after Emma Raducanu defeated Rebecca Marino 6-0, 7-5 in the first singles match of the tie. "I think we have got a great team. We've always got a great chance," Boulter said. "I think every single day anything can happen. We're just going to keep believing, keep trusting and just keep enjoying the moments. It's worked so well for us so far," she added.

# Nadal ready for final hurrah

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Fuengirola (Spain), Nov 18:** Neither Rafael Nadal nor Spanish captain David Ferrer would say Monday whether the 22-time Grand Slam champion will play at the Davis Cup final, his last event before retirement. Spain is scheduled to face the Netherlands in the quarterfinals Tuesday on an indoor hard court at the Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martin Carpena in Malaga.

At a team news conference held at a hotel here, about 12 miles (20kms) south of the competition venue, Nadal was asked how he has been feeling in practice in recent days and whether he is ready to play.

"That's a question for the captain," Nadal responded, drawing a laugh from Ferrer, sitting to the star player's left. "I am here not to retire, but to help Spain win," he added.

Moments later, Ferrer was asked about Nadal's participation. "I don't know yet," Ferrer said. "At the moment, I have not decided the players that are going to play tomorrow."

Nadal is 29-1 in his Davis Cup singles career, 8-4 in doubles. There will be two matches in singles and one in doubles in the best-of-three match-up between Spain and the Neth-



Rafa Nadal during the press conference Monday

erlands. Nadal could appear just in singles, just in doubles – perhaps alongside Carlos Alcaraz, his partner at the Paris Olympics this year – in both or not at all.

It's all however, up to Ferrer. Monday represented the first chance for the 38-year-old Nadal to answer questions from reporters and explain at length his decision, announced last month, to walk away from tennis after the Davis Cup.

"I'm not here to retire. I'm here to help the team win. It's my last week in a team competition and the most important thing is to help the team. The emotions will come later," said Nadal, wearing the squad's red polo shirt with a tiny red-and-yellow Spanish flag on the left sleeve.

"I'm enjoying the week. I'm not putting too much attention to the retirement. It will be a big change in my life after this week," Nadal added.

# Bowlers script narrow 12-run win for Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 18:** The Odisha under-23 cricketers scripted a thrilling 12-run victory over Tripura in match of the Col CK Nayudu Trophy tournament which ended Monday in Sundargarh. Needing 150 to win the game outright, the Tripura batters lost their plots and were bowled out for 137 runs in their second innings.

Vimal Kumar (4/36) and Ashutosh Chhuria (4/44) were the star performers with the ball for the hosts as they notched up their first win of the season. Chhuria had bagged a fiver in the first innings also and had a match haul of nine wickets.

Resuming at the overnight score of 101 for six, the Tripura batters failed to put up a fight as both Ashutosh and Vimal ran through the lower-order and the tail. Except for Indra-



Ashutosh Chhuria

jit Das (40) and Saptajit Das (30), none of the other Tripura batters could offer resistance against Ashutosh and Vimal. In a low-scoring game, it was the duty of the Odisha bowlers to perform competently. They did that to perfection in the match.

**Brief scores:** Odisha 157 and 123 (Abhijit Debbarma 6/38) beat Tripura 131 and 137 (Indrajit Das 40, Vimal Kumar 4/36, Ashutoish Chhuria 4/44) by 12 runs.

# PCB waiting for ICC's reply

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lahore, Nov 18:** Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief Mohsin Naqvi said Monday he is yet to get a response from the ICC over BCCI's refusal to play the Champions Trophy in Pakistan.

Earlier this month, the BCCI told the ICC that it won't send the national team to Pakistan and wants its games to be held in a third country.

"If India has any concerns about sending their team to Pakistan they must talk to us and we will remove those. I don't think there is any reason for India not to come to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy," Naqvi told reporters here.

"We are directly interacting with the ICC and we are still waiting for a response from them so we can take things forward," added Naqvi. "However we don't want to shift any game out of the country," he added.

# SINNER CAN'T DO ANY WRONG

## 1st Italian to win title at ATP Finals

AGENCIES

**Turin (Italy), Nov 18:** Jannik Sinner said he still has areas where he can improve next year after winning the ATP Finals for the first time Sunday to cap a near-perfect season for the World No. 1. The 23-year-old Sinner beat Taylor Fritz 6-4, 6-4 at the season-ending event here, his eighth title of a remarkable season which began with a first Grand Slam triumph at the Australian Open. He followed that up with a second major victory at the US Open in September after becoming embroiled in a doping controversy having twice tested positive for traces of the steroid clostebol six months prior.

While Sinner awaits the outcome of that case he is looking ahead to 2025 with no specific goals in mind but a view to further honing his game – an ominous warning to his rivals from a player who has won 26 of his last 27 matches.

"Whatever we can catch, we take, and the rest we learn. I think that was the mentality



we approached this whole year, trying to raise my level in specific moments, which I've done throughout this year," said Sinner. "I'm very happy about that because it's a very nice way to finish off an incredible season, a lot of wins, a lot of titles," the Italian added.

Sinner is the first Italian to win the ATP Finals in its 55-year history, doing so days after becoming the first from his nation to top the ATP's end-of-year rankings. His tour-leading 70th win of the season made him the first player since Ivan Lendl in 1986 to win the tournament without dropping a set.

"I actually believe there is still gap of improvement," said Sinner. "There are still certain shots and points, I can play better," he added.

# Win-less year for Blue Tigers

## India held to a 1-1 draw by Malaysia in football 'friendly'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hyderabad, Nov 18:** The Indian men's football team will end the year without a win as they were held to a 1-1 draw by visiting Malaysia in an international friendly here Monday, extending head coach Manolo Marquez's wait for his first victory with the Blue Tigers.

A howler from seasoned goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu saw Paulo Josue put Malaysia ahead against the run of play in the 19th minute but Rahul Beke cancelled out the lead with his 39th minute header from a corner kick at the Balayogi Stadium here.

Going into the game, there was nothing to separate the two sides in head-to-head results with India and Malaysia having won 12 matches each and eight ending in draws. However, it was the 125th



The Indian footballers celebrate after scoring the equaliser against Malaysia, Monday

PHOTO AIFF X

ranked India who kept the bulk of possession in the early part of the game, seeking to crack the Malaysian defence even as the visitors looked to settle down.

Bolstered by the return of senior player and central defender Sandesh Jhingan after almost 10 months, the Indians looked to build from the back through short passes and put pressure on the Malaysian defence. However, for all their domi-

nance, the home side conceded the match's first goal thanks to a blunder by Gurpreet who came off the line and left his post unguarded for Josue to tap the ball into an empty net after a clearance from the Malaysian defence.

The Indians did not lose heart and were on the lookout for the equaliser, which they found when Beke headed in a corner kick taken by Brandon Fernandes. The goal came after winger Lallianzuala Chhangte won a corner on the right flank following a long ball by defender Anwar Ali.

Like in the beginning of the first half, India took control of the proceedings as play resumed after the break, with Chhangte delivering a fine cross into the box with plenty of India players hovering but the 133rd ranked Malaysians were up to the task as they thwarted the danger.