

THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2024



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Demonetisation & GST weapons to kill farmers, labourers: Rahul Gandhi



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Trump puts Elon Musk on phone with Zelensky during congratulatory call

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Anne Hathaway, Zendaya join cast of Christopher Nolan's next directorial



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WINDOWS



New Miss Earth 2024 Jessica Lane of Australia waves during the Grand Coronation night at a hotel in Paranaque, Philippines, on Saturday.

BSY and ex-mantri to face prosecution in Covid-19 'scam'

Bengaluru: Karnataka health minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said Justice Michael D'Cunha commission of inquiry that investigated alleged irregularities in the purchase of equipment and medicines during the Covid-19 has recommended prosecution of then BJP CM B.S. Yediyurappa and former minister B. Sriramulu. It is clear that there was a "loot" in the purchase of medicines, he said. The report proves the Congress' allegation that the "then government made money over the dead bodies, misusing the situation," he added. Full report on Page 4

France eyes Made in India Pinaka systems

New Delhi: France is evaluating Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher systems for its defence forces. India is already supplying Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers to Armenia. If the deal with France matures it will be a big boost to India's endeavour to enhance defence exports. Full report on Page 4

Canada ends spl study visa scheme

Ottawa: Canada has ended the popular fast track study visa programme, Student Direct Stream, a major policy decision that is likely to impact scores of international students, including from India. The move comes amid the ongoing diplomatic tension between India and Canada. Full report on Page 6

COUNTERPOINT



Release this photo... he is the CM face of our alliance!

WEATHER

Max: 32°C
Min: 19°C
RH: 52%
Rain: 10%

Forecast: Sunny

ASTROGUIDE

Krodhi: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Karthika Shukla Navami till 8.56 pm
Star: Dhanishta till 10.56 am
Variyam: 5.44 pm to 7.15 pm
Durmuhurtam: 4.08 pm to 4.53 pm
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.34 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.41 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 2.27 PM
MOONSET TODAY 12.18 AM

PM to visit Brazil for G-20, boost India's push for Global South Modi-Xi Rio talks on cards as India, China rebuild ties

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI
NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

With China announcing the visit of its President Xi Jinping to Brazil for the G-20 summit in Rio de Janeiro on November 18-19, the stage appears set for another meeting between the Chinese President and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in less than a month. The Prime Minister is expected to travel to Rio de Janeiro for the G-20 summit; New Delhi, though, has not yet announced Mr Modi's visit.



Xi Jinping

Kazan after five years following the recent India-China pact on patrolling along the LAC. Typically, schedules of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of summits are not announced till hours before, but the presence of the two leaders at yet another neutral venue provides another opportunity for both nations to rebuild ties.

The Prime Minister and the Chinese president had met last month on the sidelines of the Brics summit in Kazan
THE CHINESE President will then travel to Rio de Janeiro from November 17 to 21 to attend the 19th G-20 summit

During the visit, which will likely be announced by New Delhi next week, the Prime Minister is expected to first visit Nigeria. He will then depart for Rio for the G-20 summit. Thereafter, Mr Modi is expected to visit Guyana on the South American continent, which has a large population of Indian origin. Earlier referred to as

British Guiana, Indians were first taken there as indentured labourers during the 19th century during the time of the British Raj to work in the sugar plantations there. Independent Guyana has maintained robust and close ties with India.

Earlier on Friday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying announced that Mr Xi will travel to Lima from November 13 to 17 to attend the 31st Apec economic leaders' meeting. The Chinese President will then travel to Rio de Janeiro from November 17 to 21 to attend the 19th G-20 summit. At their bilateral meeting in Kazan on October 23, both leaders had

Big I-T action in J'khand, Soren aide's home raided

Pressure tactics: CM Not linked to polls, says BJP

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

The income-tax department on Saturday conducted searches at multiple locations in poll-bound Jharkhand, including on the premises of a person linked to chief minister Hemant Soren, as part of a tax evasion probe. A total of nine premises in the state's capital Ranchi and Jamshedpur were raided in an operation that started early on Saturday morning. A security team of the CRPF is assisting the I-T sleuths, the sources said. The locations linked to Sunil Shrivastava, an aide of the Jharkhand CM, were also searched. The action is linked to recent probes launched by the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation over alleged illegal liquor trade and



Security personnel stand guard at the residence of Sunil Shrivastava, an aide of Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren, during a raid by the income-tax department in Ranchi on Saturday.

mining in the state, the sources said. The I-T raid comes barely days ahead of the polling days for the Jharkhand elections. The 81-member Assembly will go to the polls in two phases on November 13 and 20. The counting of votes is scheduled for November 23. Commenting on the tim-

BJP top guns go blazing in tribal state

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's second visit to the poll-bound Jharkhand, a host of BJP star campaigners, including Union home minister Amit Shah and defence minister Rajnath Singh, held a series of rallies and roadshows in the state on Saturday. Mr Singh and BJP president J.P. Nadda also addressed rallies in Jharkhand.

Accusing Hemant Soren-led government of giving a red-carpet welcome to Bangladesh infiltrators, Mr Shah said that such forces would be deported as soon as the BJP forms government in the state. Addressing his first poll rally at Palamu, Mr Shah accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of insulting and making a mockery of the Constitution by showing a "fake" copy of it. More on Page 3

Delhi's air quality remains in 'very poor' category



Commuters move past an anti-smog gun spraying water to curb air pollution near the Parliament House in New Delhi on Saturday. Air quality in the national capital remained "very poor" despite a slight improvement. Report on Page 2

Modi slams Cong's stand on 370, bid to split OBCs

'Cong is distributing blank Constitution copies'

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday slammed the Congress, alleging that its members are distributing a red book labelled "Constitution of India" with blank pages inside. He accused the Opposition party of insulting the Constitution and alleged that the Congress loves Article 370 so much that it wants it to be restored in Jammu and Kashmir.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated during a rally in Nanded district on Saturday, ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections.

A day after kick-starting his Maharashtra Assembly election campaign, Mr Modi held rallies in Akola and Nanded. Addressing the rally in Nanded, the Prime Minister accused the Congress of disrespecting the Constitution and misleading the people. "The Congress has indulged in many scams in the country. But now they have crossed all limits. You must have seen on TV and mobile phones that the Congress members have been distributing a red book, calling it the Constitution. Although 'Constitution of India' is written on the book cover, when people opened the

book, they found that it did not have even a single word of Babasaheb's (B.R. Ambedkar) Constitution. This is a reflection of their hate towards Babasaheb. The entire country is shocked to see this," he said. Mr Modi accused the Congress of trying to undermine the OBC community's unity. He said that for the past 10 years, India has had an OBC Prime Minister who has worked for the collective good of all. However, the Congress cannot tolerate this and is now attempting to divide the OBCs into smaller, fragmented groups, he said. Urging people to stay vigilant against the "Congress' divisive tactics", the PM reiterated, "Hum ek rahenge toh safe rahenge" (We will stay safe if we remain united). Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister addressed a rally in Akola, where he

Woman killed as militants fire at farmers in Manipur

MANOJ ANAND
GUWAHATI, NOV. 9

A woman was killed while working in paddy fields on Saturday in a suspected hill-based militant attack on farmers in Manipur's Bishnupur district. Though BSF personnel deployed in the area launched a retaliatory attack on militants, locals accused the Central forces of being ineffective in preventing such attacks. Informing that heavily armed militants launched an attack from the hills of Churachandpur on Saturday morning, secu-

rity sources said that incident took place at Saiton village of Bishnupur district. Security sources said that such attacks by armed rebels and clashes between the locals have become frequent lately. Meanwhile, tension escalated in Jiribam district after the second incident of killing within the last three days. The murder followed the killing of a 31-year-old woman two days ago at Zairon Hmar village in Jiribam. Six houses were burnt down on Thursday, and the next day, the charred body of a woman was recovered.



Security officials examine the site of a bomb explosion at railway station in Quetta on Saturday.

14 soldiers among 27 killed in Pak rail stn blast

Islamabad/Karachi, Nov. 9: At least 27 people, including 14 security forces, were killed and 62 others injured on Saturday in a suicide bombing at a railway station in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, officials said. The explosion ripped through the railway station of the provincial capital Quetta as passengers gathered on the platform before the departure of the Jaffar Express, scheduled to depart for Peshawar at 9:00 am.

There were around 100 people on the platform when the blast occurred. "So far, we have received 27 bodies and at least 62 people are injured, with some in critical condition," said Dr Wasim Baig of the Quetta Trauma Centre. Dr Arbab Kamran Kasi, managing director of the trauma centre, warned that the death toll may increase since several wounded individuals, aged 20 to 50, remain in critical condition.

THE BALUCH Liberation Army has claimed responsibility for the attack. The BLA alleges that the federal government exploits Balochistan's resources while neglecting the province's development. Quetta division commissioner Hamza Shafqaat said it was a suicide attack targeting security forces and civilians. "There are around 14 members of the law enforcement agencies

among the dead and dozens more among the wounded," he said. "The bomber had entered the station with luggage, Mr Shafqaat said, adding that was difficult to stop a person coming with an intention to carry out a suicide attack. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), an ethnic Baloch separatist group designated as a terrorist organisation, has claimed responsibility for the attack. The BLA alleges that the federal govern-

ment exploits Balochistan's resources while neglecting the province's development. "All bus stations, public spots have been put on high alert and gatherings discouraged," Mr Shafqaat said. An emergency was declared at the hospital where additional medical staff was summoned. The blast, which also damaged the platform's roof, was heard far and wide in various areas of the city. —PTI

BJP plans to field ex-mantris, MPs, turncoats in Delhi

Harsh Vardhan, Lekhi, Verma in fray

SHASHI BHUSHAN and BHASKAR HARI SHARMA
NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

Aiming to extricate itself from 26 years of political exile in Delhi, the BJP plans to field all its "best bets", including former MPs, ministers, senior office bearers and even the state unit president, to dethrone the AAP in the Assembly elections due early next year. According to party insiders, the BJP is leaving no stone unturned in its bid to return to power in the national capital. "After several rounds of discussion at different levels of party leadership, a consensus has emerged that the party should field all our heavyweight leaders against the ruling AAP in each Assembly constituency," sources said. As per discussion, according to sources, former Union ministers Harsh Vardhan and Meenakshi Lekhi, former Lok Sabha members Pravesh Verma and Ramesh Bidhuri and state unit president

TURNCOATS, INCLUDING former ministers like Arvinder Singh Lovely, Rajkumar Chauhan, Raj Kumar Anand, in consideration Virendra Sachdeva are among the frontrunners for the party tickets. When asked who will oversee the BJP's election management if the state unit president and office bearers will be fielded, the party sources asserted that the poll management will be overseen by the election management committee headed by a senior leader who will not contest. Turncoats, including former ministers like Arvinder Singh Lovely, Rajkumar Chauhan, who joined the party from the Congress, and Raj Kumar Anand, who switched his allegiance to the BJP from the AAP, will be considered. Former lawmakers Neeraj Basoya, Naseeb Singh and Kartar Singh Tanwar are also in the ticket fray. More on Page 2

SHORT TAKES

Govt intensifies raids at fish, meat markets

New Delhi: The Delhi government's food safety department has intensified its raids at fish and meat markets in the city to ensure implementation of norms and hygiene standards, officials said on Saturday. A special drive was launched earlier this week to collect samples of fish, chicken and other meat products and inspect the shops, they said. The food safety teams raided the Mongolpuri fish and chicken market, Zaid market in Motibagh, Shahdara market, the Yamuna fish and chicken market at Shakarpur, as well as Chanakyapuri, Mahipalpur and Mehrauli markets in south Delhi. The teams collected 11 samples and issued notices to the shops for running their businesses without a valid Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) license, they said.

17-year-old boy killed in outer Delhi

New Delhi: A 17-year-old boy was allegedly stabbed to death by unidentified assailants in outer north Delhi's Bhalswa Dairy area, the police said. According to a police officer, Afrid was found lying in a pool of blood by a passerby in the Bhalswa Dairy area on Friday evening. On being alerted, a police rushed the boy to a hospital where doctors declared him dead. The victim had multiple stab wounds. It is suspected to be a case of personal enmity but the police are probing all aspects, the officer said. CCTV footage has been scanned in a bid to identify the assailants. An FIR has been registered and further investigation is on, the police said.

73rd police athletic c'ship to start Mon.

New Delhi: The Delhi police will organise the 73rd All India police athletic cluster championship from Monday. It is an annual event that brings together police personnel from across India to compete in various athletic events and will be inaugurated at the JLN Stadium. Delhi L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena will be the chief guest. It will witness participation of 1,233 police personnel including 364 female personnel, in which, 39 teams from 25 states, four Union Territories and 10 CAPFs will compete. The purpose of the above championship is to promote physical fitness, athleticism, and camaraderie among police forces across India. The 73rd edition of the championship is being organised by the Delhi police, under the aegis of the All India Police Sports Control Board. The events will be conducted at the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, Lodhi Road, Delhi and cycling events will be conducted at the route near NIDM, Sector 29, Rohini, Delhi.

AAP, BJP ATTACK EACH OTHER OVER DELHI CRIME RATE

New Delhi: The AAP leader and Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Saturday attacked the BJP over twin firing incidents in Delhi, saying the city has given the party seven MPs but it thinks it is not responsible at all for the law and order in the city. Hitting back, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said, "It's unfortunate that ministers who have failed Delhi on every front are trying to portray that Delhi's law and order situation has collapsed." Addressing a press conference, Mr Bharadwaj said the BJP thinks it has no responsibility as far as Delhi's law and order is concerned. "That is why we do not see any statement by any of their leaders or the L-G (Lieutenant governor) on such incidents." The BJP leader said that incidents of firing need to be checked but Delhiites appreciate the almost 100% crime detection rate of the Delhi police which arrested the men involved in last night's murder within a few hours. Mr Kapoor said, incidents reported during the last few months are actually incidents of crime not for extortion but of personal enmity.

Ex-MPs, ministers, senior office-bearers, state unit heads to contest election

BJP to field top guns to win Delhi

SHASHI BHUSHAN and BHASKAR HARI SHARMA NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

Aiming to extricate itself from 26 years of political exile in Delhi, the BJP is on an all-out warpath and plans to field all the top guns, including former parliamentarians and ministers, and senior office bearers including state unit president, to take on the Aam Aadmi Party in the ensuing Assembly elections early next year.

A well-placed source in the saffron party said that in the upcoming Delhi Assembly election, the BJP will leave no stone unturned to defeat the opponent and return to power after two and a half decades.

"After several rounds of discussion among different levels of party leadership, a consensus has emerged that we should field all our heavyweight leaders against the ruling AAP at each Assembly constituency," sources said.



Union minister of state Harsh Malhotra, BJP MPs Manoj Tiwari and Bansuri Swaraj, Special Olympics Bharat president Mallika Nadda and others flag off "Run For Inclusion" in New Delhi on Saturday.

Elaborating on the discussed plan, insiders told this newspaper that former Lok Sabha members, former Union ministers, Congress and AAP heavyweights who joined the saffron camp, Delhi BJP president, and other state unit office bearers will be given priority during ticket distribution.

A senior saffron party functionary said it has been decided that the BJP will

utilise all its manpower at the fullest as per its strength and requirement to defeat the ruling dispensation in the national capital. The move is in the offing in the backdrop of the BJP losing six consecutive Assembly elections since 1998 and having faced a rout at the hands of the AAP notwithstanding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's charisma making its mark across the coun-

Special 2-day camp begins to enrol new Delhi voters

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

In another chance for eligible people to enrol as voters ahead of the upcoming Delhi Assembly polls due in February, a special two-day camp began on Saturday.

All eligible people can get their names registered in the electoral roll at spe-

cial camps, said a notice issued by chief electoral officer (CEO), Delhi.

The camps have been set up at all the polling stations across the city where people can go for registration from 10 am to 5 pm, officials said. The camps have been held as part of the ongoing special summary revision of electoral rolls.

It has been learnt that as per discussion, former Union ministers Dr Harsh Vardhan and Meenakshi Lekhi, former Lok Sabha members Praveesh Verma and Ramesh Bidhuri, and state unit president Virendra Sachdeva along with his office bearers are frontrunners for the ticket.

"Senior leaders or former Delhi BJP office bearers may also be fielded by the party depending upon their winnability," a party insider said. Apart from the BJP's original cadre, the turncoats including former ministers like Arvinder Singh Lovely; Rajkumar Chauhan, who joined the party from the Congress; and Raj Kumar Anand, who switched his allegiance to the BJP from AAP, will also be considered.

Cylinder blast leaves woman dead, 1 injured in Sultanpuri

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

A 24-year-old woman died and another was injured in an LPG cylinder explosion that resulted in a portion of a house collapsing in outer Delhi's Sultanpuri area, officials said on Saturday.

A call regarding a fire at a house in Krishan Vihar was received at 3.39 pm, after which two fire tenders were dispatched, an official of Delhi fire service (DFS) said. On reaching the spot, it was found that it was an LPG cylinder blast, which had caused a portion of the two-storey house to collapse.

The rescue operation went on for around three hours, the official said.

Two women, identified as Rajini (24) and Renu (20), were trapped under the debris. They were taken out and rushed to Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital. A police officer said Rajini was declared dead while Renu was undergoing treatment at the hospital. Renu received 18 per cent burns on her body. A probe is underway, the official said.

4 teens held for killing minor for harassing friend's sister

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

Four teenagers allegedly killed a 15-year-old boy for harassing a girl in north-west Delhi's Subhash Place area, the police said on Saturday.

All of the accused, three of whom are minors, have been apprehended. According to the accused, two boys — Jitender and Nitish — were harassing a friend's sister "every day," so they decided to teach them a lesson.

On Friday, a fight broke out between them, in which one of them received a serious head injury, the police said.

Mahender (18) and three others beat Jitender and Nitish and fled from the spot. Nitish was admitted to Bhagwan Mahavir Hospital by his mother

Delhi air slightly better, still very poor

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

Delhi's air quality remained "very poor" despite a slight improvement on Saturday evening, CPCB data showed.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data showed that the national capital's air quality index (AQI) improved to 351 at 6.00 pm from 358 at 9.00 am.

According to the Sameer app that provides hourly updates of the national AQI published by the CPCB, the AQI at Bawana and New Moti Bagh stations were in the 'severe' category with readings of 405 and 408, respectively.



Sanitation workers amid smog in Gurgaon on Saturday.

The Centre's Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has raised concerns over the slow resolu-

tion pace and the growing backlog of air pollution-related complaints in the city. Among various steps, the CAQM has directed intensified efforts to remove highly polluting end-of-life (EoL) vehicles (petrol vehicles older than 15 years and diesel vehicles older than 10 years) that are still in use in Delhi.

The panel has called for a more proactive approach to addressing complaints, saying that delays in resolving issues hinder the effective implementation of air quality management measures.

In a meeting held on Friday with the Delhi chief secretary and senior state government officials, the commission stressed that each case of violation must be treated with urgency.

1 dead in two firing incidents in N-E Delhi within 10 minutes

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

A man was killed and another injured in two incidents of firing carried out by three people in separate areas of northeast Delhi within a span of 10 minutes.

The accused first fired at a person in Welcome's Kabir Nagar around 1 am, looted his scooter and rode it to a location in neighbouring Jyoti Nagar and fired at a house, according to a senior police officer.

While Nadeem (alias Bobby) and Shahnawaz

received bullet injuries in the first incident, nobody was harmed in the second. The police said the two injured were taken to a hospital where Nadeem was declared dead, while Shahnawaz is recuperating, the police said.

DCP Rakesh Paweriya said the three suspects have been apprehended and are being interrogated. The police said they first received information about firing in Kabir Nagar and when a team was sent, it found three empty cartridges and a motorcycle lying on the roadside.

Govt nod to reinstate 10,000 CDVs

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

Days after Delhi lieutenant-governor V.K. Saxena issued directions for the deployment of civil defence volunteers (CDVs), the Delhi government on Saturday okayed the proposal for their reinstatement within a week to join the fight against pollution in the city.

Delhi chief minister Atishi said that about 10,000 CDVs, who were removed as bus marshals last year, will return to work for four months from next week and enforce various anti-pollution measures.

Highlighting that the Delhi government has approved a proposal to this effect, Ms Atishi said the call-out notices will be issued to the CDVs from Monday and then they can start registration at respective district magistrate offices on Tuesday and Wednesday.



Delhi CM Atishi at a press conference in New Delhi on Saturday.

"Within two-three days of the registration, the CDVs will be deployed on duties like management of pollution hotspots, preventing dust pollution, and garbage burning," said the chief minister while addressing a press briefing.

The chief minister also said that the Delhi government will soon send a pro-

posal to regularise the CDVs.

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva claimed, "Under pressure from the BJP, Atishi has been forced to order the reinstatement starting from November 11. Despite the L-G's order to reinstate the CDVs from November 1, the CM kept them unemployed until

now because AAP does not wish to employ them."

He added that the AAP government may assign duties to CDVs from November 11 but the government should pay their wages from November 1 as per the L-G's order. Meanwhile, the chief minister alleged that these CDVs were deployed as bus marshals in 2018 by the then Kejriwal government to ensure women's safety but the BJP, under a conspiracy, got them removed in October 2023.

Delhi schools to get cybercrime edu through police brochures

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

The Delhi directorate of education has directed the heads of all government and private schools to make children aware of cybercrime through banners and posters.

According to a circular issued on Friday, the content is supposed to be supplied by the Delhi police, which has developed a series of brochures, focusing on cybersafety, cyber-

fraud, cyberbullying, online pornography, drug abuse, bullying, human trafficking, and online predators.

"This initiative aims to educate students on preventing cybercrimes and ensuring their safety in the digital world," the Delhi directorate of education said.

Schools have also been instructed to collaborate with local police and cybersecurity experts to organise educational sessions.

Cong yatra covers 5 Assembly segments on Day 2

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

Giving a strong message of communal harmony on the second day of the "Nyay Yatra", the Congress leaders, under the leadership of its state unit chief Devender Yadav, started the yatra from Jama Masjid and also offered prayers at the Jain temple, the Gauri Shankar Mandir, Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib and Central

Baptist Church in the Delhi 6 area of the walled city.

The Nyay Yatra passed through five Assembly segments covering Chandni Chowk, Sadar, Karol Bagh, Rajinder Nagar and Patel Nagar.

The Delhi Congress chief slammed the AAP ruled Delhi government. He said that over the past 10 years, the AAP and its leaders have lied to the people to mislead them without fulfilling any of

the lofty promises Arvind Kejriwal had made before he got drunk on power, to be eventually caught out in the corrupt liquor policy, which had ruined the lives of lakhs of unemployed youth.

The locals complained about getting dirty water, garbage piled up everywhere, water logging and mishaps during monsoon, air pollution and traffic congestion and other such problems.



DPCC president Devender Yadav with party workers during the party's "Delhi Nyay Yatra".

Man kills mother for 'not allowing' to shift to Canada

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

In a case of matricide, a 50-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her son allegedly after she did not allow him to shift to Canada for work. The incident took place in Molarband village in southeast Delhi's Badarpur area.

After killing his mother on the evening of November 6, the accused, Krishna Kant (31), called his father Surjeet Singh (52) and asked him to come home.

When Mr Singh reached home, Krishna Kant said "sorry" to him and asked him to go upstairs and see for himself what he had done, DCP (southeast) Ravi Kumar Singh said.

Upon reaching the first floor of the house, Mr Singh found his wife Geeta lying in a pool of blood with multiple stab injuries on her body, he said, adding that during this the accused managed to flee.

Mr Singh immediately took Geeta to Apollo Hospital, where she was declared dead, the police said.

The DCP said Mr Singh has two sons. While his younger son, Sahil Bholi (27), works in a bank, Krishan Kant is jobless and a drug addict.

"Both sons are unmarried and at the time of the incident only Geeta and the accused were present at home," the officer said.

Krishan Kant was later arrested from the same area and a case of murder has been registered against him, the officer added.

During interrogation, he revealed that he wanted to migrate to Canada but his family wanted

2 brothers die after car rams into dumper

Gurgaon, Nov. 9: Two brothers died and two others got injured after their car ramed into a garbage dumper on Faridabad-Gurgaon road, near the toll plaza, here on Saturday, the police said. The accident took place at around 2.30 am when the car crashed into the stationary dumper; they said.

Rahul (30) and his brother Kuldeep (27), residents of Faridabad's SGM Nagar, were declared dead at a hospital. The injured — Rajat (23) and Satender (28) — are undergoing treatment at a hospital in Faridabad, the police said.

Soon after the accident, the driver of the dumper managed to flee from the spot with his vehicle, they said, adding that the injured are stable now.

On Rajat's complaint, an FIR has been registered against the dumper driver at the DLF Phase 1 police station, they added.

The bodies were handed over to the police after post-mortems today. Efforts are on to nab the accused, a senior police officer said.

— PTI

him to marry first.

On the day of the murder, the argument between the mother and son flared up and Krishan Kant ended up stabbing Geeta with a knife he bought some time back, the police said.

Mr Singh deals in properties and has an office located at Tanki Road in Jaitpur, the officer said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites bids through E-Auction through IREPS (<https://ireps.gov.in>) for the allotment of under mention contracts at following Railway stations/locations:

E-Catalogue No.	Date & Time of bidding	Railway Stations/Locations/Lots
Parking-25-2024	25.11.2024 at 11:00 hrs.	New Delhi Ajmeri Gate Side (PCCV), Meerut Cantt. (Kankankhera), Naya Ghaziabad, Delhi (PF-16) (B-T-T), Shakurbasti, New Delhi (AGS Side) (TW Parking), Karnal (641.62 Sq. Mtrs.), Kurukshetra 1st Entry, Kurukshetra 2nd Entry, Ghaziabad (Bhoor Side) (1150.67 sq.mtrs.), Tugalakabad (C-S), Delhi 2nd Entry KGS Side (TW Parking), Sahibabad, Budhlada, Bareta, Muradnagar, Sampla (Main Entry), Khatauli, Tohana, Badali 2nd Entry, Kurukshetra (Site-1), Kurukshetra (Site-2), Baraut, Tugalakabad (Car), = Total 24 Sites.

Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen <https://ireps.gov.in/>

All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:-

- Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module-Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module
- Payment of One Time Registration Fee
- Current Account in State Bank of India
- Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account
- Lien Marking of Funds
- Updation of Turnover Details

Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors/Contractors (E-Tender / E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.

Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query: **Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055**
E-Mail: pkg.delhidivision@gmail.com
Tel.: 011-23743084

No. 23AC/393/E-Auction/2022 Dated: 08.11.2024 3483/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SHORT TAKES

Will always stay with NDA: Nitish

Tarari (Bihar): Maintaining that he "made a mistake twice" in the past by joining hands with RJD, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday said that now he would stay permanently with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Addressing a public meeting in favour of NDA nominee, Vishal Prashant of BJP for the Tarari Assembly byelection, Kumar said, "I have said it earlier also...I am once again saying that we (BJP-JDU) were together earlier. I made a mistake twice in the past by joining hands with the RJD.... I went 'idhar udhar' twice in the past...But now, I have again come to the NDA. I will remain permanently with the NDA". He said, "We have been working for the development of Bihar since 2005. Several infrastructural and development works have been done in Bihar after 2005....And it will continue further under the NDA rule". — PTI

Clothes alone don't make one Yogi: SP

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday said a person "is not a yogi by what he wears but what he speaks". The dig, apparently aimed at Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath, was made on the birthday of 'Khajanchi,' a boy born to a woman standing in a queue to exchange banknotes after demonetisation. The boy was named so by Mr Yadav. "Countdown has started for those who do encounters. Their days in the seat of power are numbered," Mr Yadav said at the programme. Mr Yadav, without naming anyone, said people with cunning tend to become bitter in speech. On the upcoming polls, the SP chief said his party will have a strategy to counter every move of the BJP, which has "no credibility left." — PTI

3 die after 2 groups clash in Punjab

Hoshiarpur: Three men died and two others were injured in a clash between two groups at Moranwali village here on Saturday, said the police. Hoshiarpur SSP Surendra Lamba said the deceased were identified as Manpreet Singh alias Mani, Sukhpiar Singh alias Sukha and Saranpreet Singh. The police teams reached the spot around 2 pm after receiving information about the clash between two groups and transported the injured to Civil Hospital, Garshankar, where doctors declared the three men dead, the police said. The three men had injuries inflicted by sharp-edged weapons, they said. The injured — Moranwali residents Gurpreet Singh and Deepakpreet Singh — are undergoing treatment at the hospital, they said. — PTI

BRING NETAJI'S REMAINS: BOSE'S KIN URGES MODI

Kolkata, Nov. 9: Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's grandnephew Chandra Kumar Bose on Saturday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take immediate steps for bringing the 'remains' of the great freedom fighter from the Renkoji temple in Japan to India before his birth anniversary on January 23 next year. He said that it was a "great dishonour" to Netaji that his 'remains' are still lying at the Renkoji temple in Japan. Chandra Kumar Bose, who had made similar demands to Mr Modi on past occasions the last being on August 17, also called for a memorial in Netaji's honour in the national capital. "Netaji's remains are still lying at Renkoji Temple in Japan. Netaji wanted to return to Independent India, but he could not as he sacrificed his life on August 18, 1945 fighting for India's freedom," he said in the letter sent to the PM. "It is a height of dishonour that his remains should lie in a foreign land. It is of utmost importance that Netaji's remains must be brought back to India within January 23 and a Memorial built in his honour in Delhi on Kartavya Path," he said in the letter, a copy of which was made available to the media. — PTI

Indian tax structure designed to loot poor: Rahul in J'khand

Demonetisation, GST weapons to kill farmers, labourers, poor: Cong leader

AGE CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI/RANCHI, NOV. 9

Putting up a united front, Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren on Saturday received Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi at Ranchi airport. Playing the OBC card, former Congress president Mr Gandhi claimed that even though the STs, SCs, OBCs constitute 90 per cent of India's population but "they are not visible" in government institutions.

Addressing an election rally in Dhanbad, Mr Gandhi also emphasised the alliance's commitment of removing the current 50 per cent reservation ceiling. Launching a scathing attack on the BJP-led



Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren with Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi at Birsamunda airport in Ranchi on Saturday. — PTI

Centre at a rally in Dhanbad, Mr Gandhi said that the country's tax structure is designed to "loot the poor". "The Indian tax structure is to loot the poor. Adani pays taxes equivalent to you. Dharavi

land, worth Rs 1 lakh crore, is being handed over to him," he alleged. Taking a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he alleged, "Prime Minister Mr Modi travels in seaplanes, goes inside

the sea, but the poor and women bear the brunt of price rise."

Former Congress Mr Gandhi further alleged that Scheduled Tribes (STs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) constitute 90 per cent of India's population, but they are not represented in government institutions.

"We will give to the poor funds equivalent to debt of capitalists waived by Prime Minister Mr Modi," he said.

Addressing the second rally in Jamshedpur, Mr Gandhi on Saturday attacked Prime Minister Mr Modi alleging that its policies on demonetisation and Goods and Services Tax (GST) were weapons to kill farmers, labourers and the poor in the country.

T'gana will hold caste census in 2025: CM

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 9

Telangana chief minister Revanth Reddy on Saturday said his government will carry out caste census in 2025. In a joint press conference, held along with Himachal chief minister Sukhvinder Sukhu and Karnataka deputy chief minister D.K. Shivakumar, Mr Reddy claimed that the Congress party has fulfilled the six guarantees it had announced before polls in Telangana. Mr Sukhu and Mr Shivkumar also said that the Congress governments have implemented "guarantees" in their states.

In order to counter Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "jhooth ki dukaan" barb, the Congress had summoned the Telangana and Himachal CMs and the Karnataka deputy chief minister. Mr Reddy stated that Congress leader Sonia Gandhi had promised an independent Telangana, and she fulfilled it. "For the Mahalakshmi Scheme, a provision of ₹20,000 crore has been made. To fulfil Rahul Gandhi's promise, a caste census will start in state in January 2025," he said.

Uddhav dismisses former MP over anti-party activity

Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray expelled former MP Subhash Wankhede on Saturday for anti-party activities. Mr Wankhede, previously hopeful for a 2024 election ticket, accused party leaders of selling nominations after being sidelined. He filed as an independent candidate, defying Shiv Sena (UBT). Thackeray countered BJP claims, asserting his commitment to Balasaheb's ideology while rallying for the MVA alliance.



SP President Akhilesh Yadav and others celebrate the birthday of Khazanchi Nath, a boy born in 2016 in a bank queue amid demonetisation, at the party headquarters in Lucknow on Saturday. — PTI

BJP big guns step up drive ahead of PM's J'khand visit

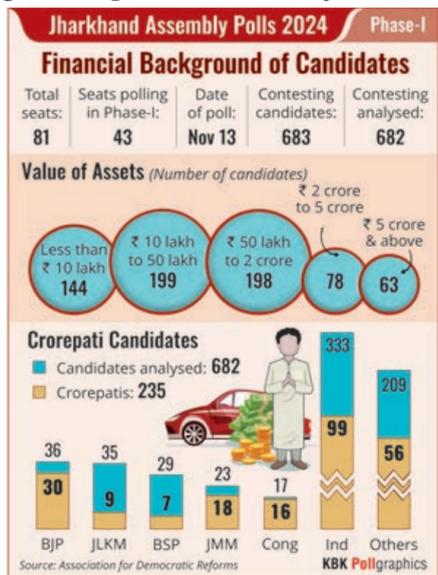
Shah: JMM giving red-carpet welcome to infiltrators

AGE CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI/RANCHI, NOV. 9

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's second visit to the poll-bound Jharkhand, a host of BJP star campaigners, including Union home minister Amit Shah and defence minister Rajnath Singh, held a series of rallies and roadshows in the state on Saturday. Mr Singh and BJP president J.P. Nadda also addressed election rallies in Jharkhand.

Accusing Hemant Soren-led government in Jharkhand of giving a red-carpet welcome to Bangladeshi infiltrators, Mr Shah on Saturday said that such forces would be deported as soon as the BJP forms government in the state.

Addressing his first election rally on Saturday at Palamu, Mr Shah accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of insulting and making a mockery of the Constitution by showing a "fake" copy of it. He also claimed that the BJP would never allow the Congress to implement reservations for minorities. "Rahul Gandhi shows a copy of the Constitution. He was exposed two days back. Someone got a copy of the Constitution he has



shown. The Constitution of India was written on the cover of that copy which was void of any content. Don't make a mockery of the Constitution. It is a question of faith and trust. By waving a fake copy of the Constitution, you have insulted B.R. Ambedkar and the Constituent Assembly. The Congress party has made the Constitution a mockery," the Union home minister said. He pointed out that Prime Minister Mr Modi has decided to observe November 26 as "Constitution Day".

Modi lauds U'khand, says govt doubled aid to state

'Dhami govt leaving no stone unturned for state's development'

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

Noting Uttarakhand to enter its 25th year of state formation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday urged the people to work for a bright future of the upcoming 25 years of the state, flagging the doubling of Central assistance to the state for its all round progress.

Greeting the people of Uttarakhand on its formation day, the PM also lauded the implementation of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state, which, he said, is being discussed by the entire country.

Urging the people to work for a bright future of the upcoming 25 years of the state, Mr Modi said, "This journey of Uttarakhand is a great coincidence, as India is also in 'Amrit Kaal' of the upcoming 25 years for a 'Viksit Bharat'."

Mr Modi said that the country would witness the resolution to be fulfilled in this period. Noting the efforts by the people of Uttarakhand for the formation of a separate state came to



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated by BJP leader Ashok Chavan during a public meeting in Nanded district of Maharashtra on Saturday. — PTI

fruiting under the leadership of former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpai, the PM expressed happiness that the dreams and aspirations are being realised today. He informed that the grants provided by the Centre to Uttarakhand has almost doubled, and listed down the achievements of establishing a satellite centre for AIIMS, drone application research centre and small industry township in Uddham Singh Nagar.

Mr Modi emphasised that development projects by the Centre worth ₹2 lakh crore are already

underway in the state, and connectivity projects are being completed at a fast pace. He underlined that the present government is leaving no stone unturned for the development of Uttarakhand.

The PM mentioned that the present decade belongs to Uttarakhand, and that his belief had been proven right in past years. Underlining that Uttarakhand is creating new records of development and achieving new milestones, Mr Modi informed that the state bagged the first place in terms of sustainable development goals index.

'Maha will not tolerate divisive language of PM'

JaIna, Nov. 9: Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Nana Patole on Saturday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was using "divisive language" during his campaign speeches for the Maharashtra polls. The PM, who addressed rallies in the state on Friday, accused the Congress of working against the unity of Dalits, tribals and backward classes in a bid to regain power and asked people to follow the mantra of "ek hai to safe hai" (safety in unity). Hitting back, Mr Patole said Maharashtra is a state that celebrates the legacy of social reformers like Mahatma Phule and legendary warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. — PTI

A half-burnt body of ex-MLA's wife seized

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 9

Odisha police on Saturday seized the half-burnt body of Ashrukana Pradhan, wife of former Brahmagiri MLA Ajay Jena, from the Satya Nagar crematorium in Bhubaneswar, in the wake of allegations by her family members. Her relatives claimed that Pradhan's daughter-in-law performed the cremation rites without informing the family and securing a post-mortem examination. Acted upon the complaint, the Kharavelanagar police, according to reports, took possession of the body and sent it to AIIMS on Sunday for an autopsy. The deceased's brother expressed concerns, alleging that he had not been allowed to see his sister for the past year. "My younger sister informed me of our elder sister's death. My family and I were kept away from her," he said. "My nephew informed me of the passing, so I immediately went to the crematorium, where I found her body burning. Due to her alleged confinement and mistreatment over the last one and a half months, I contacted the police," another sibling said. Refuting the allegations, Pradhan's daughter-in-law asserted that all necessary steps were followed. "After doctors at a private clinic declared her dead, I arranged her cremation at Satya Nagar, and proper documents were verified," she said.

In 2 yrs, C'garh will get roads like US: Gadkari

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY RAIPUR, NOV. 9

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday said the road network of Chhattisgarh will match that of US in quality in two years.

The Union minister also encouraged eco-friendly innovations like bamboo-crash barriers and biofuel, supporting sustainable development of rural farmers. He highlighted the self-reliant technology of making a bamboo-crash barrier in Chhattisgarh, and said that this eco-friendly innovation has the capacity to replace steel.

Mr Gadkari called for the use of bamboo-crash barriers instead of iron in construction works in Chhattisgarh to encourage the farmers to go for bamboo cultivation.

'Provocative': Kharge raps UP CM's 'Batoge to Katoge' remark

SONU SHRIVASTAVA MUMBAI, NOV. 9

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday slammed the BJP for diverting attention of people from "real issues", and rather misleading the countrymen, while campaigning for the party candidates of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra. Hitting out at the saffron party over Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath's statement "Batoge toh katoge", Mr Kharge asked, "Who wanted to divide the people in the country?"

Asserting that the BJP leaders give provocative speeches the Congress chief said, "Even the RSS likes Yogi Adityanath's 'Batoge toh katoge' statement and Mr Modi's slogan 'Ek hai to Safe hai'. Mr Modi and Mr Yogi should sit together and decide which slogan they want to give."

Starting his day with an interaction in Nagpur city, the Congress president said, "The Congress has always fulfilled all the promises. Congress-led UPA government had given the right to food security, RTI Act, MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) to the people."

"In addition to this, Congress-led state governments in Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana have also successfully implemented all the guarantees. But Narendra Modi, as Gujarat CM, and then as the Prime Minister, should answer what promises he had fulfilled," Mr Kharge asked.

Sabka Prayas via 'nudges': Reaching out in Andhra Pradesh

Dr Abhinav Walia

Serving the State

The world of civil services, in my experience, is a peculiar one, often misunderstood, trapped within the narrow corridors of perception, where reality rarely pierces through. I am reminded of a time (1989) when I was a probationer at the LBSNAA Academy, Mussoorie and had heard a joke that has since lingered on like an uncomfortable truth. A man walks into a bookstore and asks the shopkeeper for a book on good governance

in public services. The shopkeeper, without batting an eyelid, points him to the fiction section.

That joke, in all its biting humour, encapsulated the essence of what people thought of us, then. Yet, the joke now is dated, a relic of another time. Better citizen-centric services are on the ascendancy. Nonetheless, the outside world still clings to its old perceptions.

I recall my own experience of heading the Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle during the Covid-19

period and how I had tried to change these perceptions while auguring meaningful change. A key insight from previous functioning was this: commands and directions alone don't change much; these have a limited 'shelf life' and often lead to "reactance" from the staff.

I realised that the solution did not lie in more directives. Richard Thaler's 'nudge' theory offered an answer: indirect cues and a change in environment favourably influence people's decision-making. Thus, in conjunction with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra of Sabka Prayas, I began with a simple idea, something that didn't demand immediate action but invited it nonetheless: Make AP Circle Great (in Telugu, AP Circle Ni Goppaga

Nilabedadam). It was not an order, but an open-ended rallying call, a moral imperative that caught on and became part of the collective consciousness.

I learnt Telugu a bit to reach out to my fellow workers, especially those in the rural areas — the Gramin Dak Sevaks. Video messages were recorded as a nudge toward connection. For the first time, the Head of Circle had addressed them in this way, and the message was well received. WhatsApp groups were formed.

As the 75th year of Independence approached, I saw another opportunity for a nudge in the backdrop of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations. Instead of setting targets, I asked the staff to reflect and act upon: What contribution

can I make to AP Circle in this momentous year? This led to an all-round contribution to the Circle.

In our circle office in Vijayawada, I employed nudges to tap into hidden talents of the staff. Think-tanks were set up with a difference — not permanent entities, but rolling teams devoid of hierarchical channels. I interacted directly with the clerical staff in the 33 divisional offices, something that had not happened before.

Another simple nudge, but this time a public nudge, such as a Priority Board, placed strategically at the entrance of our office generated a different dynamic: teams worked together and commitments were met.

On International Women's Day, a meeting with our women staff — a

first in the circle was a moment of connection, of seeing each other as more than just postal workers. Nudging them for financial security of the girl child through

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana yielded very fine outcomes. Similar interactions happened with other segments of staff. These aided in propping up, so to say, a mental construct which unified the whole circle through Sabka Prayas.

This change grew into something much larger than the sum of its parts. And that, I think, is the lesson of applying ideas such as 'nudge' theory to our staff in Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle.

The writer is Additional Secretary/Member (HRD), Postal Services Board, Andhra Pradesh

SHORT TAKES
5 killed as tempo rams into canter

Firozabad (UP): Five people were killed and 24 injured when a tempo traveller rammed into a stationary canter on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway here as its driver, who was in an inebriated state, was drowsy, police said on Saturday. The tempo traveller, which was going from Mathura to Lucknow, was carrying 30 passengers when the incident took place in the Nasirpur police station area on Friday night, they said. The people travelling in the tempo traveller were returning from a "mundan" ceremony from Mathura on Friday when it suddenly rammed into a canter parked, SP Akhilesh Bhadoria said. — PTI

Junior R.G. Kar hosp docs hold rally again

Kolkata: Junior doctors took out a rally in Kolkata demanding justice for the raped and murdered medic on Saturday, marking three months of the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital incident that sparked outrage across the state. A section of members of the general public sympathetic to their cause also took part in the rally. The junior doctors under the banner of West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front also set up platforms at all medical colleges in the city, featuring photos, banners and posters about the protest over more than three months since the murder of the doctor on August 9. — PTI

Slain Naxal carried ₹8L bounty: Bastar IG

Raipur: A platoon commander of people's liberation guerrilla army (PLGA) of the outlawed CPI (Maoist), carrying a bounty of ₹8 lakh, was among three Naxals slain in the November eight encounter in Bijapur district in south Bastar of Chhattisgarh, police said on Saturday. One of the three Maoists slain in Friday's encounter has been identified as Joga Madvi, commander of platoon number ten of PLGA, Bastar IGP P. Sunderraj said.

Big action in J'khand

Continued From Page 1
Reacting to the raids, the INDIA bloc partner, the Congress, accused the BJP-led Centre of using probe agencies to target the Opposition leaders. Congress leader Rakesh Sinha claimed, "This is nothing new for Jharkhand. I-T raids are often carried out on the premises of the Opposition leaders and their staffers in the state. The BJP is trying to establish its footing through I-T and ED raids ahead of the elections. With such actions, they are just attempting to create pressure on opposition leaders." Hitting back, the BJP spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo said, "I do not know why the ruling parties in the state link the searches with the elections. They should wait till the official version of the I-T department comes out."

Modi-Xi Rio talks on cards as India, China rebuild ties

Continued From Page 1
"underscores the importance of properly handling differences and disputes and not allowing them to disturb peace and tranquility" and had also "welcomed the recent agreement for complete disengagement and resolution of issues that arose in 2020 in the India-China border areas". At the Kazan meeting, the two leaders also "agreed that the special representatives on the India-China boundary question will meet at an early date to oversee the management of peace & tranquility in border areas and to explore a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question". Beijing has always maintained that it is the "guidance" provided by the two leaders that is crucial in nurturing and strengthening bilateral ties with India. On Thursday, ministry of external affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal had said that patrolling by Indian troops had commenced in the Ladakh sector on all points as per the recent pact between the two nations. Mr Jaiswal further indicated that the foreign ministers of both nations would meet as part of efforts to rebuild ties between the two Asian giants. The presence of Mr Modi at the G-20 summit is also expected to boost India's leadership of the Global South. New Delhi had hosted the last summit in September last year in which the African Union was admitted as a permanent member of the grouping. India had formally handed over the G-20 presidency to Brazil last year. The visit of Mr Modi to oil-rich Nigeria, one of the most important and influential African nations, is expected to strengthen the messaging to the developing countries of the Global South.

Neet aspirant held hostage, raped for over six months

Police files case against 2 teachers under PocsO Act

Kanpur (UP), Nov. 9: A minor student from Fatehpur who moved here to prepare for her medical entrance exam Neet at a prominent coaching institute was allegedly held hostage for over six months and raped by two of its teachers, police said on Saturday. They said the ordeal began for the student in December 2022, when she was putting up at a city hostel. Assistant commissioner of police (Kalyanpur) Abhishek Pandey said the case was registered on Friday after she approached the Kalyanpur police station. Both teachers — Sahil Siddiqui, who taught biology, and Vikas Porwal, who taught chemistry — have been arrested and charged with offences of rape, wrongful confinement, criminal intimidation and under provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (PocsO) Act. The student was 17 years old when this happened. In her complaint, the survivor told the police that in December 2022, Siddiqui invited her to his friend's flat in Kalyanpur's Makdi-Khera area for a New Year's party, saying other students would be there as well. She alleged that when she reached the flat, she found only Siddiqui there who drugged her by lacing her soft drink with sedatives and raped her while also recording the episode on video. As per the complaint, Siddiqui allegedly held her hostage in his flat for over six months, during which he repeatedly raped her and also threatened to share the video online if she spoke to anyone about it. The student alleged that Porwal raped her a few

months after this. She said in the FIR that she could not muster the courage to seek police help as she was afraid that it might land her family in danger. Six months later, the girl's mother arrived in Kanpur and took her along. Initially, the girl was hesitant to approach the police but she made up her mind to take the step when she came across a video showing Siddiqui sexually harassing a coaching student. The case was registered against the two teachers under Indian Penal Code sections 328 (causing hurt by means of poison, etc., with intent to commit an offence), 376(2)(n) (commits rape repeatedly on the same woman), 344 (wrongful confinement for 10 or more days) and 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) and the PocsO Act, an official said. — PTI

Politics heats up in HP; BJP orders 11 samosas for Sukhu

No formal inquiry ordered: Cong

Hamirpur/Shimla, Nov. 9: With samosa politics heating up in Himachal Pradesh, a BJP MLA has ordered 11 samosas online for chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. Taking a dig at the state's Congress government over the CID conducting an enquiry into the sequence of events that led to samosas brought for the chief minister being served to his security staff, Ashish Sharma, the MLA from Hamirpur, shared this information on social media on Saturday. However, the Congress maintained that the state government had not ordered any such inquiry and it could be an internal matter of the CID. A top CID official has also said that no formal inquiry was ordered into the incident. "The state is already grappling with problems like unemployment, financial crisis, delay in employees' pension and arrears of DA allowance and at such a time, ordering a CID inquiry on samosas brought for CM Sukhu is very disappointing," Mr Sharma said in a Facebook post. He said when the people of the hill state are fighting for their rights, the government should focus on real issues and not on such small matters. "In protest against this, I



Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu have sent 11 samosas to the chief minister, so that I can remind him that it is more important to solve the real problems of the people," he added. On October 21, Mr Sukhu had gone to attend a programme at the CID headquarters in Shimla, where samosas and cakes brought for the chief minister were served to his staff instead. Subsequently, CID officials ordered an inquiry into the episode. A noting by a senior official on the inquiry report said the act was anti-government and anti-CID. Sudhir Sharma, the BJP MLA from Dharamshala, in a statement, said the Congress government has made HP a laughing stock in the country. Both the MLAs are known critics of Sukhu. They were among the nine legislators, including Congress rebels and Independent MLAs, who had voted against the Congress in the Rajya Sabha polls earlier in the year. — PTI

'Panel has recommended prosecution of ex-CM, Sriramulu' BSY in trouble over Covid-19 scam

Bengaluru, Nov. 9: Karnataka health minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Saturday said the Justice Michael D' Cunha Commission of Inquiry that investigated alleged irregularities in the purchase of equipment and medicines during the Covid-19 pandemic has recommended prosecution of then chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa and former minister B. Sriramulu. It is clear that there was a "loot" in the purchase of equipment and medicines during Covid-19, when the BJP was in power, he said. Chief minister Siddaramaiah, in poll bound Sandur said, based

on the report that the cabinet sub-committee submits, the government will decide on future course action, after discussing it in the cabinet. Mr Rao said the report proves the Congress' allegation that the "then government made money over the dead bodies, misusing the situation." "...There had been lapses. No one could question them during the pandemic. Making use of that situation, the government of the day looted and took decisions convenient for them, in violation of rules. As an opposition party then, we (Congress) tried to highlight the issue. After com-



B.S. Yediyurappa ing to power in the state we constituted a commission of inquiry headed by a former judge to probe and submit a report," Mr Rao told reporters here. The commission has submitted its preliminary report and the second report might be submitted in six-seven months, he added. "The Cabinet sub-com-

mittee formed has discussed the report, and it is true that then CM Yediyurappa and former health minister Sriramulu have been directly named...About ₹14 crore loss has happened in procurement of PPE kits. It was procured in violation of rules at a higher price. Despite their availability in the country, they were procured from China — Hong Kong," the minister said. He advised Yediyurappa and Sriramulu to stay away from the November 13 Assembly by-poll campaigning, citing the serious allegations against them in the report. — PTI

Tigris Jamuna released in Odisha's Similipal

AGE CORRESPONDENT BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 9
Tigris Jamuna, recently relocated from the Tadoba-Andheri Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra, was on Saturday released into the core of the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha. Following her arrival on October 28, tigris spent time in a soft enclosure spanning around two hectares, where she made her first hunt on October 31, demonstrating her adaptability and health. The officials released Jamuna into the reserve's core area after close monitoring and confirmed her well being.

No decision yet on Cheetah release in MP's Kuno Park

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, NOV. 9
Decision is yet to be taken on the release of cheetahs, kept in the large enclosures in the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh since last one year, in the wild, a senior forest officer said on Saturday. Twelve adult cheetahs and an equal number of cubs have been shifted to the large enclosures in the national park since August last year for their regular health checkups after three felines succumbed to septicemia caused by maggot infestation.

STEERING COMMITTEE on the cheetah project may sit in a couple of weeks to take a decision on the release of cheetahs
"No decision has so far been taken on the release of the cheetahs in the wild in the KNP. All the agencies dealing with the cheetah project are reviewing the situation regularly. Hopefully, a decision in this regard may be taken very soon", a senior forest officer of KNP told this newspaper, requesting not to be quoted. Sources said that the steering committee on the

cheetah project may sit in a couple of weeks to take a decision on the release of cheetahs in the wild in KNP. "The cheetahs will be released in the wild in phases after examining their health. They will certainly not be released in one go", the forest officer said. The forest officer disclosed that the seven cheetah cubs who suffered from tick infestation earlier have now "completely recovered." "Usually, the cheetah cubs face the issue of tick infestation during monsoon. It is already a month since the monsoon has withdrawn", he added.

BJP leader's murder sparks tension in West Bengal dist

Body found inside BJP office ■ **Woman held**

Kolkata, Nov. 9: The body of a BJP leader was found inside the party office at Usthi in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, a police officer said on Saturday. The deceased, Prithviraj Naskar, used to handle the social media account of the party in the district. The BJP pointed an accusing finger at the TMC, while the police, after arresting a woman in connection with the killing, said the reason for the murder could be personal. The suspected assailant must have escaped through a rear door. Following a preliminary investigation and tracking of mobile phones, the woman was picked up from a nearby locality and during interrogation, she confessed that she committed the crime, the officer said. It was being investigated if she was aided and abetted by anyone else, he said. The BJP and TMC were engaged in a war of words following the murder. BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar told reporters that local TMC activists were behind the murder of Naskar as they wanted to frighten the saffron party's supporters in the area. In a post on X,

THE BJP pointed an accusing finger at the TMC, while the police, after arresting a woman in connection with the killing, said the reason for the murder could be personal
ble gate locked from inside of the party office before finding the body. The suspected assailant must have escaped through a rear door. Following a preliminary investigation and tracking of mobile phones, the woman was picked up from a nearby locality and during interrogation, she confessed that she committed the crime, the officer said. It was being investigated if she was aided and abetted by anyone else, he said. The BJP and TMC were engaged in a war of words following the murder. BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar told reporters that local TMC activists were behind the murder of Naskar as they wanted to frighten the saffron party's supporters in the area. In a post on X,

Majumdar said, "Our fight will continue until justice is served and the killers of martyr Prithviraj brought to light. BJP remains resolute in ending the blood-thirsty and oppressive rule of CM Mamata Banerjee in Bengal." The BJP state unit alleged in another X post that the party's district social media convenor was abducted, tortured and murdered by TMC goons. "The police ignored his family's desperate pleas for help," it claimed. Senior TMC leader and former Rajya Sabha MP Kunal Ghosh claimed that the BJP knows the exact reason behind Naskar's death but peddles falsehoods implicating the TMC. Mr Ghosh claimed in an X post that there are reports about the deceased having personal enmity with more than one person. The injury in some parts of his body showed animosity and contempt of the assailant towards the man, the TMC leader claimed, expressing hope that the investigation would cover all these angles. — PTI

French Army shows interest in Made in India Pinaka systems

India targets defence export of ₹50,000 crore by 2029-2030

Navy to celebrate Navy Day in Puri in Odisha December 4

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 9
France is evaluating Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher systems for its defence forces. India is already supplying Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers to Armenia that is facing heightened tension with neighbouring Azerbaijan. If the deal with France matures, it will be a big boost to India's endeavour to enhance defence exports. India is targeting a defence export of ₹50,000 crore by 2029-30. "We are evaluating the Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher system because we need a system like that. We are evaluating it with other systems offered by the highest countries offering such systems. India is among the highest countries producing weapons," French Army's Brigadier Gen. Stephane Richou told a news agency. The rocket system was discussed with the French side, during a high-level visit by Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Anil Chauhan earlier this year. The newly extended range of Pinaka rockets can hit a target at 70 kms, as compared to the earlier around 30 kms range. Earlier this year in February, General Pierre Schill, Chief of Army Staff of French Army, had witnessed the power of the indigenous Pinaka multiple-launch rocket system at the Pokhran field firing ranges. Brigadier Gen. Richou said the two countries share much more than a mere business relationship and want to cooperate even more. "This is much more than business partnership, and this is cooperation and a common future," he said. The Pinaka MBRL is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and produced by agencies including Solar Industries, Larsen and Toubro, Tata and Ordnance Factory Board companies.

3 coaches of Superfast Express derail near Howrah

Kolkata, Nov. 9: Three coaches of the Secunderabad-Shalimar Superfast Express derailed near Howrah in West Bengal early on Saturday, a South Eastern Railway official said. No casualties or major injuries have been reported so far, he said. The derailment occurred at Nalpur around 5.30 am, the SER official said. "The weekly special train derailed at Nalpur, about 40 km from Kolkata. No casualties or major injuries have been reported so far," SER spokesperson Omprakash Charan said. Two coaches - a third AC economy and a third AC — and a parcel van of the train got derailed when the rake was crossing over from one track to another, he said. The 22850 Secunderabad - Shalimar Weekly Express was passing through Nalpur station in the Kharagpur Division when the coaches derailed, he said. An accident relief train and medical relief trains from Santragachi and Kharagpur reached the derailment spot, he said. Buses have also been sent to ferry the passengers to their destinations. He said that restoration work was in progress. — PTI

CBI files fresh Neet-UG case, books dummy candidates

New Delhi, Nov. 9: The CBI has registered a fresh case in connection with alleged irregularities in the conduct of Neet-UG, booking a woman medical student caught taking the test for an aspirant in Navi Mumbai, officials said on Saturday. The Central Bureau of Investigation has taken over the investigation from the Maharashtra Police on the state government's recommendation. Nishika Premprakash Yadav, a second-year medical student, allegedly appeared at the D.Y. Patil (deemed to be) University centre in Navi Mumbai on May 5 on behalf of one Mayuri Manohar Patil, the officials said. Yadav was caught after an alert was issued by the National Testing Agency, which conducted the examination for admissions to undergraduate medical courses. The alert termed Patil to be a "suspicious" candidate following which Yadav, who had posed as the aspirant, was asked to provide her biometric data to be matched with her Aadhar, the officials said. — PTI



THE ASIAN AGE

10 NOVEMBER 2024



Rupa Gulab

Off the beaten track

Paperback or Kindle: Joy of reading in many ways

I'm not a ditherer like Hamlet. Nor do I have mood swings, but it's been almost two decades since the Kindle was launched, and I'm still not quite sure what deserves more votes: physical books or e-readers.

It's just that as I grow older, my needs constantly change. I confess that when the Kindle made its debut, I gave it a Roman Emperor-like thumbs down. "I love the smell and the feel of paper," I insisted, "Kindles are cold and metallic, whine, moan, etc." Apart from the emotional argument, I had practical considerations too: I only ever had to paint three walls in my rooms because the fourth walls were concealed by packed bookshelves with no breathing space — physical books helped me save money, and their spines added cheerful splashes of colour, yay.

When my sister bought her first Kindle I regarded her as a traitor. No, I did not shriek, "You wicked anti-national, go to Pakistan!" as is the peculiar practice in "new" India, but I did feel she had done authors a disservice, because there's nothing that turns on an author more than seeing her/his book on a shelf. I had already written two books by then, so I took it personally. I grimly stuck to physical books and pointedly averted my eyes when my sister shamelessly flaunted her Kindle.

A few years later, my jaw dropped when I saw my sister reading without her spectacles. "Jesus saves, or did you have laser eye surgery?" I squawked. She looked smug. Unbearably smug, and shoved her Kindle under my nose. The point size was super large, even I could read it without my spectacles. "You can adjust the type," Her Unroyal Smugness said. And just like how in those sweet old-fashioned romances the girl first detests the boy, and then suddenly falls in love with him, I developed a mad crush on the Kindle and ordered one immediately.

See, I have been wearing prescription spectacles since the age of eight, and I still hate how they make the bridge of my nose feel sweaty, and the way the spectacle arms jab the sides of my skull. I switched to contact lenses in my teens and spent less time partying and more time crawling on the floor looking for a lens that suddenly fell out of an eye. Very often, I never found the fallen lenses at all, and it turned out to be a rather expensive proposition. I wisely switched back to spectacles when I had to earn my own keep. Which is why when my very first Kindle arrived, I flung my spectacles aside and sang its praises daily. Needless to say, my sister rolled her eyes like an insolent gum-chewing teen.

I didn't give up physical books, though. I had both, and still had to paint only three walls in my rooms, and I was happy. Till my husband and I started moving from city to city, and rented house to rented house. Our collection of books weighed more than several well-fed adult elephants, and the owners of the packer & mover company we employed earned enough from us to educate their children in the US from Kindergarten onwards. But we loved our books, and it was worth transporting them because just seeing them around made rented flats feel like home.

Till the time we literally broke our backs during a shift from one flat to another in the very same complex. Trucks were not allowed in, and the packers used wheelbarrows to transport our books to the flat in C block. Yes, wheelbarrows, not even grocery store trollies! They had only two tiny wheelbarrows, so it took all day. By night fall, they had put the furniture in place but left all the books scattered on the floor. My husband and I literally broke our backs putting our books on the bookshelves. Then we paid a grand sum to a physiotherapist for a home visit. While lying in bed groaning over our aches, we decided to donate 99.9 per cent of our books and keep only the ones we absolutely could not live without.

I, of course, kept all the books I had written, and about 200 others including Jane Austen's *Pride & Prejudice*, William Saroyan's *The Human Comedy*, and my mother's copy of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* gifted to her by "Aunt Margaret, February 1951, Sierra Leone." It goes without saying that we had stiff drinks the day the books were taken away. We got over it eventually, Dear Reader, and when we next moved house, we got down on our knees and thanked God for the Kindle.

Thanks are changing again now. The harsh glare from lap tops, smart phones, iPads, e-readers, etc has left us with blurred vision, watery eyes, and frequent visits to ophthalmologists who prescribe eye drops that we're frightened to use. We haven't forgotten the articles we've read condemning and banning certain brands of Indian eye drops across the world. What we've forgotten are the names of the manufacturers, so we play it safe and avoid all. We've limited our screen time drastically, and our bookshelves are blooming like colourful spring flowers again. Lovely, but not so lovely when I remember that our next house shift is a month away.

Rupa Gulab is an author and columnist

Subhani



EC's double standard on byelections irks parties



Pavan K. Varma

Chanakya's View

While critics allege so, I have tried to believe that the Election Commission of India (EC) is not partial and discriminatory in implementing its constitutional obligation of conducting elections freely and fairly. However, recently — and much to my own disillusionment — I found that the allegations appear to be true.

I tried to reach the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar last week to inform him that the four by-polls due on November 13 in Bihar would be seriously affected by the week long Chhath Puja celebrations just preceding them. As anyone familiar with Bihar knows, this Puja is the longest and most important festival in the state. This year it was scheduled from November 5 — although preparations began much earlier — and lasted until November 8. During these joyous celebrations, politics becomes an unwanted intrusion, and electoral canvassing extremely difficult.

However, my repeated phone calls to his office either went unattended, or if I got through, my request to talk or meet him elicited no response. Every time I was told by his staff that he was busy, and my message would be conveyed to him. My messages on his personal mobile were delivered but not replied to. When I called, I was directed to a voice mail, where even though I left detailed reasons why I urgently needed to talk to him, it was to no avail. I know that anyone holding the exalted position of the CEC is a very busy person, and

does not take calls from every Tom, Dick or Harry, but even if I was one such in his eyes, the professional purpose of my call, and my personal background in politics, had been given to his staff and conveyed to him. If nothing else, I thought that as his senior colleague in service, he could have shown the courtesy of responding. Other CECs before him have invariably been more accessible, and certainly — in terms of my own experience — less arrogant.

During this period, the Jan Suraj Party (JSP) sent a written representation to the EC, which was duly acknowledged but did not receive a reply, or an invitation for a hearing. Petitions from dozens of independent organisations of Bihar involved in the Chhath Puja, requesting for a postponement of the election date, were also received by the EC. Finally, only after crucial days had elapsed, Rajiv Kumar returned my calls. He was brusque, dismissive, and totally insensitive to such a genuine request, saying that if the EC took into account religious festivals it would be impossible to hold elections. He further said that even after November 8, there would be two days left for canvassing, and that the five days where it would be near impossible to do so, so close to the elections, was irrelevant. However, on my insistence, he did agree that since the party's petition had been received, and so had the requests from Chhath organisations, he would have the matter examined internally, and inform me. Needless to say, in spite of my emphasis on urgency in

Apart from the Jan Suraj Party, petitions from dozens of independent organisations of Bihar involved in the Chhath Puja, requesting for a postponement of the election date, were also received by the EC

the matter, I heard nothing further from him.

Imagine my shock then when the same EC issued a directive shortly thereafter that the by-elections in UP, Kerala and Punjab, also due on November 13, would be deferred to November 20 on account of "large scale social, cultural and religious engagements". These factors, the EC stated, may cause "inconvenience to large numbers of people, give rise to various logistic issues, and may lead to reduced voters participating during the poll". The sheer insensitivity and disdain to precisely the same reasons in the case of Bihar, was an unacceptable insult to Biharis, their "religious engagements", and their democratic participation.

To my mind, therefore, it does appear to be true that the EC has — as more and more people allege — greatly diluted its constitutionally mandated duty to be an independent, autonomous and fair ombudsman for the conduct of elections in the world's largest democracy. Worse, it appears that its three Commissioners who, in spite of a Supreme Court ruling to the contrary, are appointed through a process where the ruling party's will prevails, are selected for their admirable pliability and lack of spine, reinforcing the perception that they are mere puppets in the hands of the powers that appoint them.

Moreover, what lessons does this hold for a government that is a votary of "one nation, one election", when the EC selectively changes the dates

for even by-polls? If there is such arbitrariness in not sticking to one date for some states, and such inflexibility in enforcing the same date for others, in spite of legitimate if not identical reasons applicable to all, the only conclusion that one can come to is that where it suits a certain party, modifications in schedules are kosher, and where it does not, they are not. In the Haryana Assembly elections in October this year, the dates were changed to suit the religious requirements of the Bishnoi community, a decision I respect. When I mentioned this, the CEC's disingenuous answer was that in this case the festival would take place on the polling date, as though the disruption of the democratic process for a week before the polling date was of no consequence.

The JSP has approached the SC against such arbitrary double standards. While we await justice, the perception is growing that the EC only responds to the diktats of its political masters. As a citizen, I write this not only with a valid sense of indignation, but also great disappointment. A free and fair election, ensuring the functioning of a genuine democracy, is a basic structure of the Constitution. This is a principle which the highest court of the land has reiterated on more than one occasion. For ensuring this, a level playing field for all states, all political parties, and all politicians, is a must. For former IAS officers, or senior bureaucrats, who are supposed to have been apolitical during their official career, to so transparently jettison their conscience when they are appointed to a constitutional post as guardians of democracy, is a matter of deep anguish.

The writer is an author, diplomat and former member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)

LETTERS BAD FOR WOMEN

The recommendations of the UP Women's State Commission about having only women cut women's hair or be their gym trainers, or even their tailors who take their measurements are laughable. This kind of nonsense must be nipped in the bud, otherwise there is going to be no end. What next; only women gynecologists? In the guise of protecting women this is nothing but an attempt to subjugate them and restrict their agency. It is also quite insulting to males to be branded as leeches who are unable to keep their hands off permissible limits. Interestingly, no other state has come up with such recommendations. And thereby hangs a tale!

Anthony Henriques Mumbai

UNGODLY MESS

UNTREATED GARBAGE accumulating across plains has now extended its impact to hills and mountains due to the negligence of the authorities. This issue has become particularly concerning as even the sacred Kedarnath Temple, situated at an altitude of 12,000 feet, is affected. The surrounding areas of this revered site are filled with untreated waste. According to an RTI query filed by a Noida-based environmentalist, a staggering 49.18 tonnes of unprocessed garbage has been generated in Kedarnath. The presence of such a large volume of waste in an eco-sensitive area highlights the severe negligence of the authorities and paints a bleak picture of the future.

Jakir Hussain Kanpur

TEACHING CRISIS!

THIS REFERS to "Being Olympics-ready" (November 9). Hosting of the 2036 Olympics in India is easier said done. With our country infamous for its poor hospitality and infrastructure, the management will indeed have a task cut out. Having said that, if the bid is given the green light, it'll provide the opportunity to our country to prove its mettle to the entire world as its fifth largest economy. Furthermore, maintaining peace and decorum in addition to providing a conducive environment to the players ought to be the top priority of the management.

Aanya Singhal Noida, UP

Anita Katyal

Political Gup-Shup



Fadnavis really cosying up to RSS? Cong lets J'khand down

Though relations between the Bharatiya Janata Party and its ideological mentor, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, have recently improved after a brief period of tension, there is considerable speculation about Maharashtra deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis's recent disclosure that he has sought the Sangh's help in the upcoming Assembly elections. Different interpretations are being offered by BJP insiders about this statement. One section believes Mr Fadnavis was prompted by the top BJP leadership to make this statement to reassure the RSS that the party has not forsaken the Sangh and continues to depend on it for guidance. This was also an effort at damage control following BJP president J.P. Nadda's remarks in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election that the party had shed its dependence on the RSS. On the flip side, there is a buzz that Mr Fadnavis is keeping the RSS in good humour for personal reasons. He can do with the help of the Nagpur-headquartered RSS as he is contesting the upcoming Assembly election from this area. And in case the BJP fails to form

the government, Mr Fadnavis could well be securing his future at the national level by ensuring he is on the right side of the RSS.

Guess who is among the most sought-after campaigners in the Congress for the forthcoming Assembly polls in Jharkhand. It is Pappu Yadav. The Bihar MP from Purnea, who won his election as an Independent candidate but is aligned with the INDIA bloc, has been campaigning for the Congress and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha as the state prepares for the first phase of polling on November 13. Mr Yadav is particularly in demand by the backward castes who were depending on Rahul Gandhi and other top Congress leaders to make a strong pitch for a caste census in the run-up to the election. As it happens, Rahul Gandhi hit the campaign trail a few days before polling while most senior party leaders have not been sighted in Jharkhand. This has upset its alliance partner, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, which has to shoulder the responsibility of running the show on its own.

The conciliatory statements made by National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on taking over as Jammu and Kashmir chief minister was predictably seen as a move on his part to cosy up to the Narendra Modi government. This view was further strengthened following the resolution adopted by the state Assembly last week on restoring the special status of the erstwhile state. While the National Conference election manifesto had listed restoration of Article 370 in its election manifesto as a major poll plank, the text of the resolution makes no mention of Article 370 but instead expresses concern over the removal of the constitutional guarantees which safeguarded the rights and identity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The resolution also does not make an outright demand for the immediate restoration of this "special status" but instead asks the Centre to open a dialogue with the elected representatives in this regard. In fact, soon after winning the election, Omar Abdullah had publicly backtracked on the party's demand for the restoration of Article 370 which, he said, was not going to be accepted.

The Congress in Madhya Pradesh is in a mess, having been reduced to a rump after its successive defeats in the state Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. And yet the party refuses to get its act together. Though it is acknowledged that the party needs a new leadership in the state, veteran leaders like former chief minister Digvijaya Singh continue to call the shots. The latest example in this instance is the upcoming byelection in former chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's assembly constituency Budhni. It's a prestigious battle and it was expected that the Congress would field a strong candidate. Instead, the Congress leadership picked old timer and perennial loser Rajkumar Patel, a known protégé of Digvijaya Singh, for this seat. Mr Patel has been fielded for every election in the last 30 years but has won only once and that, too, way back in 1993. This has angered local Congress leaders who complained that the party's principle of denying tickets to candidates who have lost two elections is conveniently overlooked in Mr Patel's case only because he is backed by Digvijaya Singh's

backing. There is growing resentment among the foot soldiers of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh over the opulent lifestyle adopted by the organisation's leadership. The cadre is particularly upset about how the old low-key RSS headquarters at Delhi's Jhandewalan area have been replaced by plush new buildings which, they feel, do not reflect the organisation's ethos of service and simplicity. They said the striking contrast in the living conditions of the RSS bosses and karyakartas logging it out in remote villages and tribal areas is not going down well with ordinary workers. The new office, under construction for the past several years, has three 12-storey towers which are equipped with all modern amenities. The buildings have been earmarked for different activities while providing space for the Sangh's employees and visitors and for its affiliate organisations like the *Organiser* and *Panchjanya*.

Anita Katyal is a Delhi-based journalist

SHORT TAKES

SOUTH SUDAN FLOODS AFFECT 1.4 MILLION: UN

Nairobi, Nov. 9: Devastating flooding in South Sudan is affecting around 1.4 million people, with more than 379,000 displaced, according to a United Nations update that warned about an upsurge in malaria. Aid agencies have said that the world's youngest country, highly vulnerable to climate change, is in the grip of its worst flooding in decades, mainly in the north. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said about 1.4 million people were affected by floods in 43 counties and the disputed Abyei region, which is claimed by both South Sudan and Sudan.

POLITICIAN QUILTS AFTER SEX DOLL POST IN GERMANY

Berlin, Nov. 9: A local politician in northern Germany who posted a picture of a sex doll with a St Pauli T-shirt and a noose around its neck has stepped down following a wave of criticism. The posting by Bulent Buyukbayram, a member of the Christian Democrats in the city of Delmenhorst, also showed the words "shit St Pauli" written on the doll's head, with the letters 'S' shaped like the logo of the SS, the Nazis' main paramilitary force. Bundesliga club St Pauli, based in Hamburg, said they would consider legal action and Buyukbayram has apologised and stepped down from his local posts.

GREECE OPPN PARTY HIT BY NEW DEFECTIONS

Athens, Nov. 9: Greece's fractious main opposition party Syriza was hit by new defections Saturday during an emergency congress ahead of electing a new leader to replace Stefanos Kasselakis, who critics accuse of authoritarianism. Three lawmakers close to Kasselakis, Greece's first openly gay party leader who was elected to the post in September last year, defected late Friday. A fourth left Saturday and additional defections are expected.

4 HELD IN CROATIA FOR ATTACK ON FOREIGN WORKERS

Zagreb, Nov. 9: Police in Croatia said that four men were arrested over a racially-motivated attack against foreign workers. The European Union country of 3.8 million people is struggling to overcome chronic labour shortage as it faces mass emigration and a shrinking population. Traditionally reliant on seasonal workers from its Balkan neighbours, Croatia is counting on labourers from Nepal, India, the Philippines and elsewhere to fill tens of thousands of jobs in construction and its key tourism sector.

FRENCH RAIL UNIONS PLAN CHRISTMAS STRIKE

Paris Nov. 9: Trade unions at France's railway operator SNCF on Saturday called for an indefinite strike from next month that could disrupt train services during the upcoming Christmas holidays. They are demanding a moratorium on the dismantling of Fret SNCF, the freight division of the rail operator, and protesting against the conditions for opening up regional lines to competition. The unions also called for shorter strike from November 20 to November 22.

AUSSIE MINING CEO DETAINED BY MALI MILITARY

Canberra, Nov. 9: Terry Holohan, chief executive officer of Australian gold miner Resolute Mining Ltd., has been detained by the military-controlled government of Mali in West Africa, according to people with knowledge of the matter. Holohan and other company executives were taken by Mali's junta over the weekend, said the people, who weren't authorised to speak publicly. Perth-based Resolute declined to comment. A Mali mining ministry official declined to comment when reached by phone. Four Barrick employees were arrested in October.

Trump's victory brings back fears of tariff hikes, inflation

World leaders prepare for how his next tenure will shape global economy

Washington, Nov. 9: Donald Trump's decisive win of the US presidential election has world leaders already preparing for how his next administration will shape the global economy. In China, factories ramped up shipments ahead of Christmas holidays and likely in anticipation of worsening trade tensions. And back in the US, economists predict Trump's proposals — particularly on tariffs — would stoke inflation and depress growth.

Speaking after the Federal Reserve cut interest rates by a quarter point, Chair Jerome Powell said Trump's re-election will have "no effect" on the central bank's policy decisions in the near-term. The Bank of England also lowered borrowing costs for the second time this year.

China gave indebted local governments a 10 trillion yuan (\$1.4 trillion) lifeline but stopped short of unleashing new stimulus, preserving room to respond to a potential trade war when Trump takes office next year. The former and soon-to-be next president has promised an escalation of tariffs on all US imports and the biggest mass deportation of migrants in history. He also wants a say in Federal Reserve policy. Many economists reckon the platform adds up to higher inflation and slower growth ahead.

Chinese officials unveiled details of a programme to refinance "hidden" local debt onto public balance sheets at a press briefing in Beijing on Friday. While policymakers didn't announce measures to directly stimulate domestic demand, in Europe, the BOE's path to further easing was complicated both by Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves' Oct. 30 budget and the election of Donald Trump. The UK now plans a £70 billion a year spending binge, almost half of which is financed by borrowing. — Bloomberg

N. KOREA JAMS GPS, HITS SHIPS, PLANES TO SEOUL

Seoul, Nov. 9: North Korea is causing GPS disruptions for South Korean airplanes and boats in its latest cross-border provocation, according to the Defense Ministry in Seoul. Several South Korean boats and dozens of commercial airplanes have experienced disruptions due to North Korea's moves that began Friday, the ministry said in a text message. Yonhap earlier reported the disturbances. Tensions between the two Koreas remain high after the Kim Jong Un regime sent thousands of balloons across the border this year, dumping trash and propaganda leaflets. North Korea is also sending troops to aid Russia's war against Ukraine, officials in South Korea and the US say, condemning the move. — Bloomberg

ANTI-WEST BLOGGER IN CHINA BANNED

Chinese authorities banned a popular blogger known for his strong anti-Western comments, according to the *South China Morning Post*. Sima Nan, who has more than 3 million followers on China's social media site Weibo, has been banned as per the paper, which cited two unidentified sources. Sima last posted on Nov. 5 to voice support for Trump.



IRAN FOR CHANGE IN 'MAX PRESSURE'

Iran on Saturday urged US President-elect Donald Trump to reconsider the "maximum pressure" policy he pursued against Tehran during his first term. "Trump must show that he is not following the wrong policies of the past," Iranian Vice-President for Strategic Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif told reporters here in Tehran on Saturday.

DONALD TRUMP WINS NEVADA

Former President Donald Trump won Nevada on Saturday, returning the state and its six electoral votes to Republicans for the first time since President George W Bush carried it in 2004. Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris made multiple campaign stops in the state this year. Most of Nevada's counties are rural and voted heavily for Trump in 2020.

DEMOCRATS LOSE BLUE COLLAR STAFF

The findings are undeniable and are already troubling Democrats as they analyse their defeat: the party is falling further behind with the working-class voters it has claimed for decades to represent, experts say. "It should come as no great surprise that a Democratic Party which has abandoned working-class people would find that the working class has abandoned them," leftwing Senator Bernie Sanders said.

CALIFORNIA TO SPEARHEAD NEW TRUMP RESISTANCE

California, Nov. 9: California is spearheading a new resistance to the incoming Donald Trump administration that will test the power of Democratic states to battle mass deportation, defend reproductive rights and combat climate change.

Trump's sweeping election victory this week came off the back of promises to swiftly expel millions of illegal immigrants and roll back nationwide environmental protections. Critics fear his allies could move to restrict access to abortion medication. But under the US constitution, states wield significant power and any such moves will certainly be met with lawsuits. — AP

Trump puts Musk on Zelenskyy call



Elon Musk

Kyiv, Nov. 9: President-elect Donald Trump put billionaire Elon Musk on the line with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy when the Ukrainian leader called to congratulate the incoming US president, according to a Ukrainian official with direct knowledge of the phone call. The person, who was not authorised to comment on the matter publicly, confirmed that Zelenskyy and Musk spoke during the call with Trump, but that Musk did not appear to be on the line for the entire conversation. Trump seemingly handed his phone over to Musk, the person said, and the Ukrainian president thanked the SpaceX owner for assisting with

access to the Starlink satellite internet platform. The presence of Musk on the call highlights his influence in the president-elect's circle. Trump has mused that Musk could have a formal role in his administration that focuses on government efficiency, raising questions about potential conflicts of interest given SpaceX's lucrative government contracts. — AFP

Trump finds support in Latinos

Florida, Nov. 9: From Pennsylvania to Florida to Texas, areas with high numbers of Hispanics often had little in common on Election Day other than backing Republican Donald Trump over Democrat Kamala Harris for president.

Trump, the president-elect, made inroads in heavily Puerto Rican areas of eastern Pennsylvania where the vice president spent the last full day of her campaign. Trump turned South Texas' Rio Grande Valley, a decadeslong

Democratic stronghold populated both by newer immigrants and Tejanos who trace their roots in the state for several generations. Trump was the first Republican since 1988 to win Miami-Dade County, home to a sizable Cuban population. — AP

Israeli strike kills over 13 in Gaza

Gaza Strip, Nov. 9: Gaza's civil defence agency said on Saturday that Israeli air strikes killed at least 14 Palestinians overnight, including women and children, while the Israeli military said it had eliminated dozens of militants in the territory's north.



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the southern Lebanese village of Khiam on Saturday.

An air strike hit tents housing displaced Palestinians in the southern area of Khan Yunis, killing at least nine people, including children and women, civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal said. The Palestinian Red Crescent also confirmed the toll, saying 11 others were wounded in the strike and were taken to Nasser Hospital. A second air strike killed five people, including children, and injured about 22 when "Israeli warplanes hit Fahad Al-Sabah school", which had been turned into a shelter for "thousands of displaced people" in the Al-Tuffah district of Gaza, Bassal said. Meanwhile, Lebanon's

health ministry said Saturday seven people including two children were killed in Israeli strikes on the southern city of Tyre a day earlier, with rescuers still searching for missing people under the rubble. The Israeli military said its troops killed "dozens of terrorists" in the Jabalia

area of northern Gaza, where it has been conducting a sweeping air and ground operation for more than a month to prevent Hamas from regrouping. Israeli forces also killed several militants in the area of Rafah in the territory's south, the military added. — AFP

QATAR PULLS OUT OF TALKS AS MEDIATOR

Dubai, Nov. 9: Qatar has withdrawn as a key mediator for a Gaza ceasefire and hostage deal and warned Hamas that its Doha office "no longer serves its purpose", a diplomatic source said on Saturday. "The Qataris informed both the Israelis and Hamas that as long as there is a refusal to negotiate a deal in good faith, they cannot continue to mediate," the source said on condition of anonymity. "As a consequence, the Hamas political office no longer serves its purpose." Qatar, with the United States and Egypt, has been engaged in months of fruitless negotiations for a truce with hostage and prisoner releases. — AFP

Canada govt ends fast-track visas for foreign students

Ottawa, Nov. 9: Canada has ended with immediate effect the popular fast track study visa programme, SDS, a major policy decision that is likely to impact scores of international students, including from India.

The move comes amid the ongoing diplomatic row between India and Canada. According to the Indian High Commission here, India is the largest source country of foreign students with an estimated 4,27,000 Indian students studying in Canada.

The processing time for students applying under the Student Direct Stream (SDS) was significantly shorter and approval rates higher, something that will change after Canada ended the scheme on Friday. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in September had announced on X: We're granting 35 per cent fewer international student permits this year. And next year, that number's going down by another 10 per cent. Immigration is an advantage for our economy - but when bad actors abuse the system and take advantage of students, we crack down, he added in the post as the Canadian

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) said in a statement on Friday. Canada's goal is to strengthen programme integrity, address student vulnerability, and give all students equal and fair access to the application process, as well as a positive academic experience, the statement said. — PTI

To preserve freedom



People attend a flower laying ceremony on occasion of the 35th wall anniversary at the grounds of the Berlin Wall Memorial in Berlin on Saturday. The theme was "Preserve Freedom!". — AP

China, Indonesia plan closer ties

Beijing, Nov. 9: Chinese President Xi Jinping met his Indonesian counterpart Prabowo Subianto in Beijing on Saturday, the state-run Xinhua news agency said. The newly sworn-in Indonesian leader landed in China on Friday, kicking off his first foreign tour seeking a more prominent position for Jakarta on the world stage. Xi held a welcome ceremony for Prabowo at Beijing's Great Hall of the People, where the bilateral talks took place, according to Xinhua. Beijing has said it hopes the visit will take bilateral relations to a "new level". "China is ready to work with Indonesia to take this visit as an opportunity to consolidate high-level political mutual trust," foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said at a regular briefing on Tuesday. Prabowo is also meeting Premier Li Qiang and number three official Zhao Leji on his trip, which ends on Sunday. He will travel onwards to Washington, as part of a world tour which will also include



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto during a signing ceremony in Beijing on Saturday. — AFP

Peru, Brazil and Britain. Prabowo was sworn in on October 20, pledging to stick to Jakarta's traditionally non-aligned foreign policy while making the world's fourth-most populous nation more active abroad. Confrontations over what Indonesia says are Chinese incursions into its territorial waters have weighed on the trading partners' relationship in recent years. In 2020, Indonesia deployed fighter jets and warships to patrol around the Natuna islands in South China Sea after Chinese vessels entered the area. — AFP

One of most popular sites for tourists who strain over crowds to throw coins into its water

Rome's Trevi fountain unveils tourist catwalk in cleaning

Rome, Nov. 9: A suspended walkway providing tourists an up-close view of Rome's Trevi Fountain was unveiled Saturday, a temporary addition while the famous "La Dolce Vita" site undergoes a cleaning.

The Baroque masterpiece constructed on the facade of a palace is one of the most popular sites in Rome for tourists, who strain over the crowds to throw their coins into its water. While the fountain is being cleaned to remove limestone deposits and grime, however, the walkway positioned over its basin will accommodate some 130 people at a time



A person is seen working at the renovation of the Trevi Fountain on November 9, 2024. A temporary suspended walkway was inaugurated today to allow visitors to see the fountain closer during renovation works. — AFP

to take a closer look. That will give tourists "an experience not ruined by excessive crowding," said Rome's mayor, Roberto Gualtieri. "We wanted to give everybody the opportunity to admire the fountain and to do this from a unique perspective, because what you can see from the walkway, you will never be able to see normally," he said.

French tourist Franck Petretto, 50, was one of the first to walk across the passageway, calling the view "wonderful and very, very beautiful." "Even without the water flowing inside the fountain, you can really see that the

architecture is serious... and that's really very pleasing," he said. Micaela di Caterina, a 32-year-old visiting from Argentina, agreed, saying

the up-close look at the intricate sculptures of Oceanus, father of the river gods, and his seahorses was "incredible". Still, she acknowledged, it was "kind of weird" to be walking over the fountain. The fountain — where Anita Ekberg frolicked in Federico Fellini's 1960 film *La Dolce Vita* — last got a thorough scrub a decade ago during an 18-month renovation sponsored by Fendi. Then, too, the Italian fashion house installed a plexiglass bridge above the basin allowing tourists to still admire the fountain. The current work involves removing lime-

stone deposits on the fountain's facade, which can turn black with time, while removing loose material between stones where vegetation grows. Tourists won't be allowed to toss coins over their shoulders into the fountain's basin — where tradition has it that visitors who do so will return to Rome. Instead, a small pool set up next to the walkway has been installed to receive spare change. That pool "allows us to avoid throwing coins, which, without water, would damage the fountain," Gualtieri said, adding that anyone doing so would be fined. It also

allows the flow of donations to Rome's needy to continue. Every week, authorities recuperated some 10,000 euros in coins from Trevi Fountain, which were donated to the Caritas charity to fund meals, said Gualtieri. "We are proud not to have interrupted such an important work for those in difficulty," he said. The walkway will be up until the cleaning is complete, sometime in December. Gualtieri said city officials were still considering a possible ticketing system to control the crowds at Trevi Fountain once the cleaning is over. — AFP

INDIAN TOP 10

NON-FICTION

- THE GOLDEN ROAD**
William Dalrymple, Bloomsbury, ₹999
- NEXUS**
Yuval Noah Harari, Fern Press, ₹1,099
- SPEAKING WITH NATURE**
Ramachandra Guha, HarperCollins, ₹799
- RATAN TATA: A LIFE**
Thomas Mathew, HarperCollins, ₹1,499
- WAR**
Bob Woodward, Simon & Schuster, ₹999
- FROM THE KING'S TABLE TO STREET FOOD**
Pushpesh Pant, Speaking Tiger, ₹699
- A WONDERLAND OF WORDS**
Shashi Tharoor, Aleph, ₹999
- WHAT WENT WRONG WITH CAPITALISM**
Ruchir Sharma, Penguin, ₹999
- GOLWALKAR**
Dhirendra K. Jha, Simon & Schuster, ₹899
- ICONOCLAST**
Anand Teltumbde, Penguin, ₹1,499

FICTION

- INTERMEZZO**
Sally Rooney, Faber, ₹699
- THERE ARE RIVERS IN THE SKY**
Elif Shafak, Penguin, ₹899
- AN EYE FOR AN EYE**
Jeffrey Archer, HarperCollins, ₹499
- THE LIFE IMPOSSIBLE**
Matt Haig, Penguin, ₹799
- WE SOLVE MURDERS**
Richard Osman, Penguin, ₹899
- JAMES**
Percival Everett, Pan Macmillan, ₹750
- BEFORE WE FORGET KINDNESS**
Toshikazu Kawaguchi, Pan Macmillan, ₹550
- IN TOO DEEP**
Lee Child, Penguin, ₹899
- SILKEN GAZELLES**
Jokha Alharthi, Simon & Schuster, ₹699
- THE BOOK OF EVERLASTING THINGS**
Aanchal Malhotra, HarperCollins, ₹799

Bahrsions, New Delhi

India's Schindler & his rescue list



Sucheta Dasgupta

review

According to legend, an officer in Austria's royal Habsburg army was the first to add sugar and milk to Turkish coffee. Thus, coffee shops were ubiquitous in Vienna in 1938 as were eateries. These sold traditional cuisine like wiener schnitzel (fried veal), tafel-spitz (boiled beef), beuschel (veal ragout) and selchfleisch (smoked meat). Enter Kundanlal from Ludhiana, a machine tools manufacturer; there for haemorrhoids surgery. A vegetarian and a teetotaler with zero appetite for books, music and movies, he was baffled at the sight of so many people spending hours in these shops 'idly' discussing politics and culture.

But ingeniousness, resolve and a rational, unassuming nature were Kundanlal's own qualities. Born to the self-made Daulat Ram as the eldest of four boys, he topped all exams

and upon completing his MSc in 1915 was nominated directly into the provincial civil service (PCS). In 1917, he opened a margin account and made a killing during the 1929 Wall Street Crash. That money helped launch his first business.

He was not ultraconservative either: He chose his wife based on the fact that she had a high school diploma, uncustomary in those days. Guests to his house remarked upon his garden, as grafting roses was his pastime.

But Kundanlal will forever now be remembered for his uncommon grit that led him to singlehandedly save the lives of 11 Austrians who then went on to extract other family members out from the Holocaust. Surprisingly enough, he never mentioned it to others. The author, his maternal grandson, learned it only when he enquired from his mother about the presence of White people

in their family photographs. He pieced together this extraordinary memoir from the recollections of his aunt Premalata. Kundanlal's oldest, she has thus proved to be a worthy keeper of his legacy.

While in Vienna for his surgery, Kundanlal befriended Lucy and Alfred Wachslers, a young Jewish couple about to have their first child, and lawyer, Fritz Weiss. From them, he learned about the changing political climate in Europe. As the owner of multiple factories, he found himself in a unique position to help. On the spot, he opened new businesses, and applied for visas for them, a la Oskar Schindler, passing them off as employees. He even published an ad in a news-

paper to hire weavers and craftsmen. It was answered by Hans Losch and Alfred Schafranek. He also did not forget fellow businessman Siegmund Retter, the first man he had met in Vienna. Sponsoring all of them, he actually built them homes to house their families in Ludhiana. 'The Wachslers' son, Alex, eventually wrote to the author.

Within a few months of his return from Vienna, Kundanlal also hosted the Ludhiana session of the famous All India States People's Conference, led by Jawaharlal Nehru. He became Nehru's trusted friend. He even ran a girls' school, Kundan Vidya Mandir, which operates to this day. But he lost his only son, a bright and capable young man, to his cultural puritanism.

This is a very competently written, engrossing slice of history, which also provides relevant facts from that era if only in passing. For instance, the author writes about how the PCS was formed to accommodate Indians because the British made ICS, the Indian Civil Service, practically off-limits to them. But since he discusses this with examples and in detail, why not mention Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose for being among those rare Indians who did clear it, even ranking fourth in the entrance exam? Is it because of his pro-Nazi stance?

Still, kudos to him for discovering a lost hero and bringing him to our midst.



A RESCUE IN VIENNA
By VINAY GUPTA
Bloomsbury
pp. 216; ₹599

A showcase of Odisha's rich literary tradition



Ankit Rath

review

In the mid-20th century Odisha, an anti-establishment movement emerged as a response to the socio-political tensions before and during the 1975 Emergency. It was named the Anam (Odia for 'Nameless') Movement. True to its name, despite having had an impact on Odisha's literary and cultural spheres significant enough to pit them as potent weapons against the regime, it is not too widely known today. Odia poet Manu Dash, a leading figure of the Anam group of poets and writers, has since been an active participant in shaping the literature of the state. From organising

various literary festivals to producing the *Anam* poetry journal and other curated volumes, he emphasises reading as a cultural practice. Dash's *The Big Book of Odia Literature*, published by Penguin India, also forms a part of his continuing endeavour.

As if in response to the scant exposure that the movement has gotten through the years, we have been given a book that is essentially "Odia literature at a glance". In the current context, "Odia" is not only a language but a cultural entity closely revolving around the personal and communal lives of its people. This becomes evident as one simply looks through the contents. *The Big Book of Odia Literature* brings together a wide range of well-curated poems, play excerpts, and prose works, both fictional and experiential, as well as translations from a

number of languages of the region into English.

The anthology covers an impressive range of styles and eras. The opening section features the poetry of ancient poets like Sarala Dasa, Balarama Dasa, Salabega, and Jayadeva; medieval poets like Upendra Bhanja, and King Birakishore; early modern and modern poets like Radhanath Ray, Mayadhar Mansinha, J.P. Das, Jayanta Mahapatra; and closes with contemporary writers such as Akhila Nayak and Akshaya Bahibala. *The Big Book* in the following sections contain excerpts from plays by Jagan Mohan Lal and Biswajit Das. In the two concluding sections of the book, one finds short stories of stalwarts like Fakir Mohan Senapati, Kalindi Charan Panigrahi, Binapani Mohanty, and Pratibha Rai, and essays of equally erudite personali-

THE BIG BOOK OF ODIA LITERATURE

Ed. by MANU DASH
Penguin
pp. 728; ₹699

ties. Thus, the reader is sure to find themselves exposed to a wide variety of work, as is the aim of the book. The fact that it offers translations from new and emerging translators alongside luminaries of the past make it a fresh new addition to any library.

However, since the anthology casts a wide net, it seems to struggle to target any specific demographic. Another issue to note is a lack of focus as much on the rich performance heritage of Odisha, of which drama forms a major part. Unlike novels, short stories, or even modern Odia poetry, stage plays do not imitate a Western form but are quite original. Despite these flaws, *The Big Book of Odia Literature* is a fitting title for those looking for an extensive entry point into the Odia literary canon. The book stays true to its name, being expansive and varied, even if it sacrifices a little cohesion.

Ankit Rath is a DPhil scholar at the University of Oxford

Were Nawabs of Oudh effete or visionary?



Ranjona Banerji

review

This is a refreshing and engaging look at the kingdom of Awadh and the colonial powers that whirled around India in those days. Ira Mukhoty, a popular historian, decided not to concentrate her research on the usual British sources for this work, and that in itself is a fairly unique approach with enlightening results. Instead, she looked at French archival material.

The Lion and the Lily takes you straight into an India that is a fighting ground for various European nations, embroiled in their own rivalries on their home continent, on the fractious and fruitful relationships between the various kings which ruled India, and the glory and culture that developed in Awadh. It also chronicles the rise of British power, through means more perfidious than honourable, which eventually led to the rule of Empire.

Mukhoty challenges the popular narrative that the Nawabs of Oudh were effete rulers, more interested in food and art than in the hardships of realpolitik and war. She argues that this belief stems from the British-created myths and popular culture. Both Shuja-ud-Daula and Wajid Ali Shah appear as very different characters than they do in most historical accounts. Chicanery and cunning are what distinguishes the British from the rest.

The French appear to have thrown themselves into Nawabi life, filled with art, music, food, politicking and liaisons. Many were the epitome of the clichéd nabob with his "bibis", native clothing and unimaginable wealth. All of which came either by proximity to the nabobs or by nefarious means.

They helped the nabobs to counter British attempts at control, to negotiate with the Mughals and to protect Awadh from political marauders. After a

fashion of course.

Mukhoty paints vivid pictures of the lives of these chancers and mercenaries, while also keeping the slow march of British power across India active in the background. Of all these nabobs, one that stands out is Claude Martin, a French mercenary who fought for the British, was a deserter and landed up in Awadh. He acquired enormous wealth, some of which led to the formation of one of the schools which I attended — La Martinière, which has branches in Lucknow, Kolkata and Lyon in France, where Martin was from. Sadly, Martin turns out to be despicable character, particularly because he was a pedophile, who adopted young girls, brought them up as his daughters and then turned them into his concubines. Nothing to hail about then as



THE LION AND THE LILY
By IRA MUKHOTY
Aleph
pp. 504; ₹999

the school song goes, sorry to all fellow Martinians.

For a work of popular history, a lot of research has gone into *The Lion and the Lily*. Mukhoty's writing style is easy and engaging, although conversely, it can occasionally become a bit dense. But there are enough details and journeys to keep the reader entertained and even educated without being obvious about it.

The reinterpretation of Indian history, beyond the stranglehold of British viewpoints, is vital and Mukhoty has certainly added to that growing body of work.

The writer is a journalist who writes on media affairs, politics and social trends. She tweets at @ranjona.

WORLD

SHORT TAKES

BRUSH FIRES BREAK OUT IN NEW YORK PARK

New York, Nov. 9: Brush fires broke out in a major New York City park and in New Jersey on Friday as the worst drought in more than two decades gripped the US Northeast. Firefighters worked to extinguish a blaze in Brooklyn's Prospect Park and used drone technology to identify hot spots, the New York City Fire Department said in posts Friday on X, adding that specialized brushfire units were also operating. The fire was reported under control at 9.38 pm. While tiny compared to the wildfires that regularly devastate California and other parts of the US, the blaze is an indication of just how dry this fall has been in New York City. Months of parched conditions across the Northeast have led to the region falling under a red flag fire warning Friday and the most extensive regional drought in 22 years.

SA PARTIALLY REOPENS BORDER AFTER CONCERNS

Johannesburg, Nov. 9: South Africa's border authority said on Saturday it had partially reopened its main crossing with neighbour Mozambique, where last month's disputed election sparked protests, raising safety concerns. Opposition supporters in Mozambique are demonstrating against what they say is a fraudulent win by Frelimo, the party that has ruled the country since 1975. South Africa closed the Lebombo port of entry in its Mpumalanga province earlier this week after receiving reports of vehicles being torched on the Mozambican side. "The port is now open for cargo movement, after the Mozambican authorities managed to address challenges with their systems to facilitate processing through the Ressano Garcia port of entry into Mozambique," the Border Management Authority said.

Dhaka to prevent Awami party rally

Terms former Bangladesh ruling party fascist

Dhaka, Nov. 9: Terming Awami League as "fascist", Bangladesh's interim government on Saturday said it will not permit the deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's party to hold Sunday's planned rally.

Chief adviser Muhammad Yunus's press secretary Shafiqul Alam in a Facebook post said that the interim government won't tolerate any violence or any attempt to break the law and order situation in the country.

The Awami League in its current form is a fascist party. There is no way this fascist party will be allowed to hold protests in Bangladesh, he said.

Alam further cautioned that anyone who would try to hold rally, gathering and processions by taking orders from the mass murderer and dictator Sheikh Hasina will face full force of the law enforcing agencies. Alam's statement followed a call from the Awami League on its verified Facebook page, urging supporters to gather at Shaheed Noor Hossain

BANGLADESH FACES REDUCED POWER SUPPLIES

Dhaka, Nov. 9: Bangladesh faces a continuing shortage of electricity, increasing the risk of blackouts, even after making a partial payment to a power plant in India that slashed supply because of unpaid bills. Adani Power Ltd. has received a letter of credit for \$170 million, easing pressure from lenders, two officials said, declining to be identified as internal discussions continue. The partial payment doesn't resolve the crisis. — Bloomberg

Chattar, or Zero Point, in Gulistan on Sunday to protest what they described as misuse.

"Our protest is against the deprivation of the rights of the people of the country; our protest is against the rise of fundamentalist forces; our

protest is against the conspiracy to disrupt the lives of the common people," read the Facebook post.

This was the first call for a rally by the Awami League since August 5, when Hasina fled to India amid a mass student-led uprising against her government.

Awami League also urged party men to stage rallies at grassroots levels across the country on Sunday in line with "the spirit of the call" as described in the Facebook post. The protest venue, Shaheed Noor Hossain Chattar, holds historical significance, as it was where Awami League youth leader Noor Hossain was killed on November 10, 1987 during a demonstration against the autocratic rule of the then military dictator General HM Ershad.

The interim government earlier banned Awami League's student front Bangladesh Chhatra League over allegations of its fascist role during and before the July-August Anti-Discrimination Students Movement. — PTI

QUEEN CAMILLA TO MISS KEY DATES IN ROYAL CALENDAR

London, Nov. 9: Queen Camilla, the wife of Britain's head of state King Charles III, will miss two of the most important dates in the royal calendar this weekend because of a chest infection, Buckingham Palace said Saturday. The 77-year-old will skip Saturday's Festival of Remembrance commemorative concert and Sunday's ceremony at the Cenotaph war memorial, events that honour Britain's war dead.

"Following doctors' guidance to ensure a full recovery from a seasonal chest infection, and to protect others from any potential risk, Her Majesty will not attend this weekend's Remembrance events," a palace spokesperson said. "While this is a source of great disappointment to The Queen, she will mark the occasion privately at home and hopes to return to public duties early next week." British media reported that there had been no downturn in Camilla's condition, and that she was mindful of minimising the risk of passing any lingering infection to others.

In March, the palace announced that Kate was diagnosed with cancer. — AFP

Foggy mountain route



Telekom towers are surrounded by fog on top of the Feldberg mountain near Frankfurt in Germany on Saturday. — AP

26 killed in Pak suicide attack

Quetta, Nov. 9: A bombing claimed by Pakistani separatists killed 26 people including 14 soldiers at a railway station in the southwestern Balochistan province, a hospital spokesman said Saturday. The blast hit as passengers waited on a platform at the main railway station in the provincial capital Quetta.

"Fourteen members of the army and 12 civilians were killed," said Wasim Baig, spokesman for Quetta's Sandeman Provincial Hospital, raising an earlier toll of 25 provided by police.

Forty-six members of the security forces and 14 civilians were wounded, the spokesman added.

A journalist saw pools of blood and ripped backpacks at the scene, where a large metal sheet protecting passengers from the elements had been blown off. Mohammed Oumer, one of the casualties, said he went to the station to get a train home to his village. "But just as we arrived, there was the explosion and I found myself wounded and in hospital," he told AFP. — AFP



A man who was injured in a bomb explosion at railway station, walks with help of his relatives after receiving treatment in Quetta on Saturday. — AP

MONKEYS THAT FLED IN U.S. WERE MOST-STUDIED SPECIES ON EARTH

Washington, Nov. 9: The 43 rhesus macaque monkeys that escaped a South Carolina medical lab this week are among the most studied animals on the planet.

And for more than a century, they have held a mirror to humanity, revealing our strengths and weaknesses through their own clever behaviours, organ systems and genetic code.

The primates with expressive eyes have been launched on rockets into space. Their genome has been mapped. They have even been stars of a reality TV show. Animal rights groups point out that the species was subjected to studies on vaccines, organ transplants and the impact of separating infants from mothers. Many in the scientific community will tell you just how vital their research is to fighting AIDS, polio and COVID-19. In 2003, a shortage of rhesus macaques threatened to slow down studies and scientists were paying up to \$10,000 per animal to continue their work. — AP

SHORT TAKES

Jurel shines but India 'A' lose

Melbourne: Wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel built a strong case for a possible Test eleven inclusion with his second successive fifty but it was not enough to prevent India 'A' going down to Australia 'A' by six wickets on the third day of the second and final unofficial Test here on Saturday. With this defeat, India 'A' lost the two-match series 0-2, as the visitors had earlier lost the first unofficial Test by seven wickets at Mackay. Resuming from overnight 73 for 5, Jurel, who made a valiant 80 in the first innings, once again stood tall amid the ruins with a patient 68 off 122 balls during which he hit five boundaries. Jurel shared vital 94 runs with Nitish Kumar Reddy (38) before being dismissed. Prasidh Krishna (29) and Tanush Kotian (44) also played good hands to take India to 229 in their second innings, setting a paltry target of 168 for the hosts. Off-spinner Corey Rocchiccioli (4/74) turned out to be the star performer for Australia 'A' in India's second innings, complemented well by all-rounder Beau Webster (3/49) and right-arm fast bowler Nathan McAndrew (2/53). **Brief scores:** India 'A' 161 & 229 in 77.5 overs (Dhruv Jurel 68, Tanush Kotian 44, Corey Rocchiccioli 4/74, Beau Webster 3/49, Nathan McAndrew 2/53) lost to Australia 'A' 223 & 169/4 in 47.5 overs (Sam Kotas 73 not out, Beau Webster 46 not out, Prasidh Krishna 2/37).

Anvay Dravid in state probables

Bengaluru: Wicketkeeper batter Anvay Dravid, son of former India captain and coach Rahul Dravid, was on Saturday named in the Karnataka probable list of players for the under-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy, beginning from December 6. Anvay is one of the three wicketkeepers named in the 35-member probable list and other two are: Aditya Jha and Joy James. Anvay, who had captained the state under-14 side last year in the inter-zone meet, had cracked an unbeaten 200 for Bangalore Zone against Tumkur Zone in the KSCA Under-16 Inter Zonal tournament recently, underlining his potential. His elder brother Samit is currently playing for Karnataka in the Cooch Behar Trophy against Baroda in Vadodara. — PTI

Hughes saves Botham from croc

Melbourne: Once fierce rivals on the field, legendary England cricketer Ian Botham has thanked his former Australian adversary, Merv Hughes, for rescuing him after he fell into a crocodile-infested river in the Northern Territory. The incident happened last week when 68-year-old Botham went for fishing with his old mate and bunch of friends during a four-day trip. According to a report, Botham's slippers reportedly caught up in some roping while transferring to another boat and ended up slipping head-first into the Moyle River, 200km southwest of Darwin. Former Australia fast bowler Hughes acted fast and along with some fellow fishermen quickly got Botham out of the water. Botham suffered severe bruises in his body as he hit the side of the boat when being pulled out of the water. Botham is in Australia to commentate on the upcoming first Test between India and Australia for radio, alongside his saviour Hughes. — PTI

George's Korea Masters run ends

Iksan City, Korea: Indian shuttler Kiran George's impressive run at the Korea Masters came to an end with a semifinal loss to Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the men's singles competition here on Saturday. The 24-year-old, ranked 41st in the world, went down 12-21, 20-22 to the top-seeded and world number five Vitidsarn in the BWF World Tour Super 300 event. George, who trains at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA), had earlier registered a fine win over fifth seed Takuma Obayashi of Japan in the quarterfinals of the event. The semifinal loss brought an end to India's campaign in the tournament. George kept it tight in the opening game, staying level at 5-5 before Kunlavut pulled ahead to 11-6 at the break. The Thai shuttler extended his lead further, moving to 17-8 after the interval, and quickly sealed the first game. — PTI

WILLOW TALK

Onus on India top-order to bat better in second T20I

Gqeberha, Nov. 9: Sanju Samson will look to continue his domination of the bowlers but India need more stability in the top order when they clash with South Africa in the second T20I South Africa, aiming to extend their superior run in the shortest format, here Sunday. Samson's stunning 107 off 50 balls powered India to a commanding 61-run victory in the series opener, but the lack of runs from other key batters remains a concern for the visitors. India need address this issue to ensure that the burden doesn't fall too heavily on their in-form keeper-batter. The continued failure of opener Abhishek Sharma, who has squandered multiple opportunities, would be worrying the team management. Apart from his memorable 47-ball century against Zimbabwe in Harare earlier this year, Sharma has struggled for runs with scores of 0, 10, 14, 16, 15, 4, and 7 in recent outings. The dashing left-hander's lack of consistency at the top of the order could prompt India to rethink their options moving forward. While the team management is unlikely to make changes to the playing XI, it will be disappointed with Sharma's continued failure, especially as India look for second-line opening option after Yashasvi Jaiswal following Rohit Sharma's eventual retirement from the format. Tilak Varma showed promise with a quick-fire 33 off just 18 balls in the first match but will need to convert such cameos into bigger knocks. Varma has been largely off the radar since his last appearance against Afghanistan in January, and with competition for spots in the middle order heating up, the young batter will want to cement his place in the side. Skipper Suryakumar Yadav also got a start but fell cheaply, while all-rounder Hardik Pandya was unable to live up to his potential in the opening match. India's middle-order, which looked solid on paper, struggled to build partnerships as they lost six wickets for just 36 runs, slipping from a commanding 166/2 to 202/8 by the end of their 20 overs. This collapse highlighted the fragility of India's middle and lower order, something that they will aim to address before the second T20I. In the bowling department, India were clinical as they restricted South Africa to just 141 in 17.5 overs in the opening match. — PTI



India players leave the field at the end of the first T20 International match against South Africa at the Kingsmead Stadium in Durban, South Africa, on Friday. India beat South Africa by 61 runs. — AP

Sanju credits SKY, coach support for his comeback

Durban, Nov. 9: India batter Sanju Samson reflected on his early struggles in international cricket, saying that a string of failures made him doubt his ability, but self-belief and support of the captain and coach helped him stage a strong comeback. Samson hit back-to-back centuries in T20 Internationals with a breathtaking 50-ball-107 to headline India's comfortable 61-run win over South Africa in the opening game here on Friday. "I have faced a lot of failures in my career. I think when you go through that failure, you have a lot of doubts in your mind. People definitely say that social media definitely plays a role," Samson said. "But you also think a lot about yourself. Sanju, are you not made for international level? I think you are doing well in IPL. Why are you not doing well internationally? So I have a lot of such thoughts. But after so many years of experience, I know what my ability is. I know what I can do. I know what I can win the match. This is also a reality." Samson, who turns 30 on Monday, has often been criticised for not fulfilling his potential despite abundant talent. He had scored successive ducks in Sri Lanka but responded with a 111 against Bangladesh in the third T20I and followed it up with another ton on Friday. The Kerala batter acknowledged the crucial support he received from captain Suryakumar Yadav and coach Gautam Gambhir during his low phase. "When you have a supporting captain like Suryakumar Yadav and Gautam bhai and VVS Laxman sir, they all support you during failures. The way they communicate with you in your failures is very important. Everyone knows that if we are going through a negative phase, then the player can get lost there," he said. "So at that time, I received a lot of phone calls from Gautam bhai and Surya, telling me what to work on. So if your Indian team's captain is calling you and telling you how to practice after a duck, then you have confidence that the captain is trusting you. So I think all those small, small things play a huge role, I think, coming back here," Samson said. — PTI



Sanju Samson

"If I spend some time in the wicket, then I have a shot-making ability in spin and pace and I know that I can definitely contribute well to the team. I can win the match. This is also a reality." Samson, who turns 30 on Monday, has often been criticised for not fulfilling his potential despite abundant talent. He had scored successive ducks in Sri Lanka but responded with a 111 against Bangladesh in the third T20I and followed it up with another ton on Friday. The Kerala batter acknowledged the crucial support he received from captain Suryakumar Yadav and coach Gautam Gambhir during his low phase. "When you have a supporting captain like Suryakumar Yadav and Gautam bhai and VVS Laxman sir, they all support you during failures. The way they communicate with you in your failures is very important. Everyone knows that if we are going through a negative phase, then the player can get lost there," he said. "So at that time, I received a lot of phone calls from Gautam bhai and Surya, telling me what to work on. So if your Indian team's captain is calling you and telling you how to practice after a duck, then you have confidence that the captain is trusting you. So I think all those small, small things play a huge role, I think, coming back here," Samson said. — PTI

KOHLI SHOULD NOT BE JUDGED, SAYS PONTING

Dubai, Nov. 9: Batting stalwart Virat Kohli should not be judged on the basis of current form and that the star cricketer could make a powerful statement during the upcoming Border-Gavaskar series given his class, feels legendary Australian player Ricky Ponting. The much-awaited series against Pat Cummins' Australia will commence in Perth on November 22 and Kohli, as always, will be a vital cog in India's scheme of things if they are to retain the prestigious trophy. India's famed legacy in Test cricket at home was torn to shreds during their 0-3 decimation by New Zealand recently, with Kohli scoring just 93 runs in six innings. But Ponting, the former Australian skipper, said he had full faith in Kohli's fighting abilities. "I've said it before about Virat — you don't ever question the greatness of the game. There's no doubt he's a great of the game," Ponting told ICC. — PTI

HOCKEY | AWARDS

Harman, Sreejesh bag top honours

Lausanne (Switzerland), Nov. 9: Indian men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh and legendary P. R. Sreejesh have won the FIH Player of the Year and Goalkeeper of the Year awards for the year 2024. Both Harmanpreet and Sreejesh received the recognition during the 49th FIH Statutory Congress in Oman on Friday night. Harmanpreet beat the likes of Netherlands duo of Joep de Mol of Netherlands and Thierry Brinkman of Germany and Zach Wallace of England to bag the top award. Indian captain Harmanpreet Singh led the scoring charts at the Paris Olympics with 10 goals, including goals in the quarterfinal, semifinal and both goals in the bronze medal match against Spain, which India won 2-1 to secure their second consecutive podium finish at the Olympics. Double Olympic medalist Sreejesh, who quit the game after the Paris Olympics, prevailed over Netherlands' Pirmin Blaak, Luis Calzado of Spain, Jean-Paul Danneberg of Germany and Argentina's Tomas Santiago to win the top prize in goalkeepers category. Harmanpreet was also a crucial cog in the Indian team that had broken their 41-year podium drought at the Tokyo Olympics with a bronze medal. He has previously won the FIH Player of the Year award on two occasions in 2020-21 and 2021-22 but the third one might just be the most precious, as it came after he led his country to an Olympic medal — a bronze in Paris — in his first attempt, following his appointment as captain in 2023. "First off, I would like to thank FIH for this great honour. After the Olympics it was so great to go back home and have such huge crowds there to greet us and welcome us. It was a very special feeling. I would like to mention my teammates, none of this would have been possible without you all. Special thanks to Hockey India as well for always giving us every opportunity to succeed at all levels. My wife and daughter are here today and receiving this award in front of them means the world to me. So thank you to everyone who made that possible!" Harmanpreet said. — PTI



Indian men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh (left) and legendary P. R. Sreejesh pose with their awards in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Friday night.

CZECH LEGEND ZELEZNY NEW COACH OF NEERAJ

New Delhi, Nov. 9: Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra on Saturday roped in three-time Olympic champion and world record holder Jan Zelezny as his coach, setting the ball rolling for the upcoming season, where he will defend his World title. Zelezny, 58, is widely considered the greatest javelin thrower of the modern era. The Czech won three Olympic gold medals (1992, 1996, 2000) and as many world titles (1993, 1995, 2001) in his illustrious career. Zelezny holds the world record of 98.48m in the event. Chopra till recently worked with German biomechanics expert Klaus Bartonietz, who also doubled up as his coach. Neeraj, after becoming the first Indian athlete to win a gold at the Tokyo Olympics, finished second best at the 2024 Paris Games. The star Indian athlete said he was a great admirer of Zelezny in his formative days and watched the Czech legend's videos to hone his skills. "Growing up, I admired Jan's technique and precision and spent a lot of time watching videos of him. He was the best in the sport for so many years, and I believe that working with him will be invaluable because our throwing styles are similar, and his knowledge is unmatched," Neeraj said. "It's an honour to have Jan by my side as I push towards the next level in my career, and I can't wait to get started," he added. — PTI



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Mulani, Himanshu star in Mumbai's win

Mumbai, Nov. 9: Spinner Shams Mulani (5/71) and Himanshu Singh (4/77) wreaked havoc by sharing nine wickets between them as defending champions Mumbai crushed Odisha by an innings and 103 runs in their Elite Group 'A' match in the Ranji Trophy, here Saturday. Mulani was adjudged the Player of the Match for his impact in the outcome of the match. He snared 11 wickets in the game which the hosts dominated after piling up a massive 602 for four declared. Odisha were shot out for 214 in the second innings after Mumbai captain Ajinkya Rahane imposed a follow-on. They could manage only 285 in their first essay. Resuming at 126 for five on the final day, Odisha's hopes of delaying the inevitable were dashed by Mulani when he trapped wicketkeeper-batter Aashirwad Swain (51) soon after he completed his half-century. — PTI



Tamil Nadu's Narayan Jagadeesan celebrates his century against Assam on the fourth day of their Ranji Trophy match at the Assam Cricket Association Stadium in Guwahati on Saturday. — PTI

The rest of the Odisha batters could not trouble the scorers much as their innings folded in a jiffy. Mumbai earn a bonus point for their outright win. Shreyas Iyer's 233 and Siddhesh Lad's unbeaten 169 had powered Mumbai to a mammoth first

innings total. **CHANDIGARH CRUSH DELHI BY 9 WICKETS** Opener Shivam Bhambri made a mincemeat of spinners on a turner as Chandigarh shocked seven-time champions Delhi by nine wickets in a Group 'D' match to take a

BRIEF SCORES

- In Mumbai:** Mumbai: 602/4 decl. beat Odisha 285 & 214 in 72.5 overs (F/O) (Aashirwad Swain 51, Shams Mulani 5/71, Himanshu Singh 4/77).
- In Chandigarh:** Delhi 276 & 250 lost to Chandigarh 324 & 204/1 in 40.2 overs (Shivam Bhambri 100 not out, Arsalan Khan 68).
- In Ranchi:** Jharkhand 306 & 283 (Anukul Roy 90, Sharandeep Singh 73, DS Jadeja 4/15) drew with Saurashtra 386 & 69/1.
- In Raipur:** Chattisgarh 500/9 decl. & 129/5 (Sanjeet Desai 51 not out, Yuvraj Singh 3/51) drew with Railways 351 (Suraj Ashai 135, Vivek Singh 86, Ravi Kiran 5/56).
- In Guwahati:** Tamil Nadu 338 & 217/2 (N. Jagadeesan 118, PR Paul 68) drew with Assam 445.
- In Nagpur:** Himachal Pradesh 307 and 180 (Mukul Negi 40, Akash Vasishth 34, Harsh Dubey 6/36) lost to Vidarbha 575.
- In Ahmedabad:** Puducherry 361 & 177/2 (Aman Khan 77, Ajay Rohera 68 not out) drew with Gujarat 375 (Aarya Desai 200; Sagar Udeshi 5/79).
- In Jaipur:** Hyderabad 410 & 273/3 (Kodimela Himateja 101 not out, Rahul Singh 47) drew with Rajasthan 425.
- In Bengaluru:** Bengal 301 & 283/5 decl. in 81.4 overs (Sudip Kumar Gharami 101 not out, Wriddhiman Saha 63 not out, Vidyadhar Patil 3/53) drew with Karnataka 221 & 110/3 in 28 overs (R Smaran 35 not out, Manish Pandey 30 not out, Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal 3/27).

giant step towards clinching a spot in the Ranji Trophy knock-outs. Chandigarh are on top of Group 'D' with 19 points from four games and the defeat put Delhi in a bit of a spot as they are now placed fourth with 11 points from four games. Delhi have three matches left against Jharkhand, Saurashtra and Railways respectively with the first one being a home game. — PTI

glam sham

Baby on the way for Athiya & Rahul

11



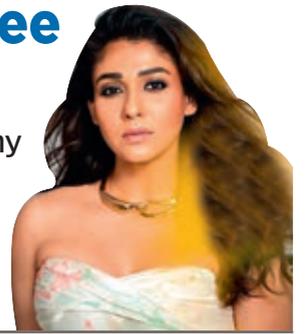
delhi THE AGE

SUNDAY | 10 NOVEMBER 2024

matinee

'This is my way of thanking my fans'

16 >>



“ I FEEL VERY RESPONSIBLE WHILE PICKING ROLES, AND I FEEL IT NEEDS TO HAVE A FAIR REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY TODAY.”
— SAMANTHA

B.V.S. PRAKASH

THE ASIAN AGE

✓ Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who plays a mother in the Hindi web series, *Citadel: Honey Bunny*, is the latest actress to try out mature roles. Earlier, Tamannaah played the mother to two kids in *Baak*, and Anushka Shetty played a mother-to-be in *Miss Shetty, Mr. Polishetty*.

Speaking about her responsibility as an actor at an event on Friday, Samantha said, “I feel very responsible while picking roles, and I feel it needs to have a fair representation of women in society today. There is a false representation of women in films, because mostly roles of women are defined by the male actor or protagonist, and not really a woman’s journey and her strengths and weaknesses. She’s mostly defined by her relationships, not by her experiences. I have made a conscious decision to pick roles that represent women, as well as the brands that I represent.”

Director Hemant Madhukar believes this willingness to play mature roles reflects the actresses’ versatility. “Tammannah is known for glam-



PRIYAMANI



TAMANNAAH

ACTRESSES REDEFINE 'MOM ROLES'

SAM IS THE LATEST ENTRANT TO PLAY MATURE ROLES AFTER TAMANNAAH AND ANUSHKA; IT'S THE CHARACTER PROFILE THAT MATTERS MORE TO THE YOUNGER CROP OF ACTRESSES THAN THEIR ON-SCREEN AGE, SAY EXPERTS

tric songs like *Kaavaala* and *Aaj Ki Raat* but played a mother in *Aranmanai 4 (Baak)* since it was a sequel and she fit the character. Similarly, Anushka did justice to her role as a pregnant woman in *Miss Shetty, Mr. Polishetty*,” he says.

Actresses, like Kajal Aggarwal and Pooja Hegde still shy away from such roles. “They are wary of losing their glam girl image and chances,” says producer Lagadapati Sridhar. “However, things are changing for the better and the advent of OTT has changed a few old perceptions.”

Noting that there was a time when most young actresses were unwilling to accept the roles

of mothers, he says this is no longer the case, provided the characters are well-designed.

“Shruti Haasan was seen as the mother of a kid in *Krack* while Keerthy Suresh in *Mahanati* and, Shradha Srinath in *Saindhav*. Just two weeks ago, another young actress, Meenakshi Chaudhury, impressed as a mother in *Lucky Bhaskar*. So, young actresses are shrewd, and mixing things nicely, though some are wary of getting stereotyped in older roles,” says Sridhar.

Actress Priyamani dismisses stereotyping as a myth, saying she pulled off a mother role in the *Family Man* series while doing other roles too. She says, “My role as mother in *Family Man* was well-etched and I enjoyed playing it,” she shares, but adds, “That doesn’t mean I will be doing more such roles. I will pick the ones that enhance my learning curve.”

“EARLIER, ACTRESSES WERE WORRIED ABOUT BEING LABELLED AS ON-SCREEN MOTHERS, SO SHIED AWAY FROM IT. HOWEVER, TIMES HAVE CHANGED AND FILMMAKERS ARE SKETCHING INTERESTING ROLES.”
— PRIYAMANI



Meenakshi Chaudhury

PRABHAS' 'KANNAPPA' PIC LEAKED!

Film’s team warns of legal action; makers offer ₹5 Lakh reward for the source

✓ Reigning star Prabhas is the latest victim of social media leaks — a picture from his upcoming project *Kannappa* has surfaced online.

The image of Prabhas in a stunning spiritual avatar has gone viral. He is seen with *vibhuthi* on his forehead and a heavy Rudraksha chain. However, the team of Telugu film has urged fans



and supporters of Prabhas not to share the picture, as it would make their hard work go to waste. “For the past eight years, we have poured our hearts and souls into *Kannappa*. After two years of intense production, our team is dedicated to bringing you a film of unmatched quality and vision. It is with deep sadness that we recently discovered that a work-in-progress image of the film has been stolen and leaked without authorization,” a statement from the team said.

“This breach not only undermines our hard work but the efforts of thousands of people, including 2000-odd VFX artistes, who have been working tirelessly on this project. We are committed to uncovering how this leak happened and will be lodging a police complaint. In this regard,” the statement added, warning that sharing the picture / footage would make those responsible liable for legal action.

The devotional film is being produced by Mohan Babu, Vishnu Manchu plays the revered *Kannappa*, while Prabhas, Nayanthara, and Akshay Kumar have key roles.



— BVS



“HANDCRAFTED SHOES STAND OUT NOT ONLY FOR THEIR IMPECCABLE QUALITY BUT ALSO FOR THEIR ABILITY TO TELL A STORY.”

— LAKSHEETA GOVIL, owner, Fizzy Goblet



Handmade Solemates

From red carpet events to fashion shows, there has been a huge surge in the return of luxury handcrafted footwear, celebrating artistry and heritage



ANUSHREE CHAURASIA

✓ In today's fashion world, where fast-paced trends and mass production dominate, a new wave of appreciation is emerging for timeless, artisanal pieces. One of the most notable aspects of this movement is the return of luxury handcrafted footwear. Every 'sole mate' that resonates with culture, heritage, and high quality. Brands like Fizzy Goblet, Taur Juttis, The Cai Store and Canvas Kloset are at the forefront of this revival, offering exclusive collections that elevate traditional craftsmanship with modern luxury. Their latest limited-edition collection beautifully blends heritage techniques with opulent materials like silk and organza, creating a unique experience that speaks deeply to those looking for authenticity in festive fashion.

TIMELESS ALLURE

Handcrafted footwear has always held a unique place in the world of fashion. Unlike mass-produced shoes, handcrafted pairs are made by artisans who carefully dedicate time, skill, and artistry to each design. This process is inherently slow, valuing quality over speed, and ensures each piece carries the hallmark of true luxury. With a growing emphasis on sustainable and conscious consumerism, more people are drawn to the notion of owning items crafted with care, skill, and ethical practices.

"We focused on age-old crafts, which included brass embroidery, antique gold work, and played with oxidised silver and metals to enhance our footwear. The aari jaali work and antique studs also helped in making our collection with Kareena, stand out. The rich regal tones together with traditional jewelled accents added to the

understated luxury and captured the essence of festivities," says Laksheeta Govil, owner of Fizzy Goblet.

She adds, "Handcrafted shoes stand out not only for their impeccable quality but also for their ability to tell a story." Each pair is meticulously designed, bringing together traditional motifs and patterns that speak to a rich cultural heritage. This appeal is especially significant during the festive season, as consumers seek items that connect them to traditions while enhancing their celebrations.

CELEBRITY INFLUENCE

High-profile collaborations between luxury footwear brands and celebrities are helping to spotlight handcrafted footwear. Celebrities like Kareena Kapoor and other style icons have embraced the return of handcrafted luxury, often sporting these designs in public appearances, on social media, and during events. Their endorsement not only makes handcrafted footwear fashionable but also adds to its allure as a luxury product associated with glamour and exclusivity.

Many celebrities have partnered with brands to create curated collections that showcase unique designs and reflect the revival of handcrafted footwear. These collections often come with limited availability, making each piece a collector's item. For luxury footwear brands, celebrity collaborations serve as a platform to communicate the artistry and exclusivity of handcrafted shoes, appealing to a consumer base that values both status and authenticity.

HERITAGE & MODERN BLEND

The handcrafted footwear can add a sophisticated touch to your overall look. They can accentuate your style and make you look unique. Materials like silk, organza, and tissue among others, celebrate the textile heritage of the country and these fabrics make the intricately-done embellished or embroidered work stand out.

Some brands like Fizzy Goblet, Taur Juttis, The Cai Store, and Canvas Klosethas captured the essence of luxury handcrafted footwear by embracing heritage techniques and blending them with contemporary aesthetics. Each brand's limited-edition collec-

tion, particularly designed for the festive season, incorporates time-honoured methods such as hand embroidery and detailed beadwork. Opulent materials like silk, velvet, and organza brings a sense of grandeur to each pair.

THE EMOTIONAL CONNECTION

There is a tangible emotional value to owning handcrafted footwear. The time, skill, and story behind each pair create a personal connection between the wearer and the artisans who crafted them. For many, buying a pair of handcrafted shoes represents an investment in tradition, sustainability, and individuality. They are items that people cherish, wear, and even pass down through generations, making them not only a luxury purchase but also a legacy. This emotional connection is particularly significant in festive seasons, where wearing handcrafted items holds cultural and symbolic importance.

LUXE FOOTWEAR

The future of luxury handcrafted footwear looks promising. As more people seek out unique, meaningful pieces that tell a story, handcrafted shoes will continue to capture the interest of fashion lovers worldwide. Brands are increasingly recognizing this demand and dedicating resources to preserve and innovate traditional craftsmanship. The resurgence of luxury handcrafted footwear is a movement celebrating artistry, heritage, and individuality. From the skilled hands of artisans to the feet of wearers, each handcrafted pair carries a legacy of culture, quality, and timeless elegance. As the festive season unfolds, the return of handcrafted footwear stands as a beautiful reminder that true luxury is not just in the product but in the story it tells.





Zomato CEO takes on wife in ring toss

Deepinder Goyal with his wife and Mexican model Grecia Munoz join in for an episode packed with love and laughter

The fun begins with an iconic ring toss game, where Deepinder Goyal and Grecia Munoz go head-to-head in a spirited showdown. In a promo clip, Sudha Murty starts off with precision, declaring she's tossing for what she truly "needs." When it's Grecia's turn, she lands her throw too. But when Deepinder steps up, he misses his target – prompting a playful jab from a cast member, "Aapki galat jagah delivery ho rahi hai!" adding a dash of humour to his defeat.



The episode teases even more endearing moments as Narayana Murthy unveils his romantic side, sharing a compliment for his wife. But just when the atmosphere turns sweet, Sudha hilariously shifts gears with her quick-witted comeback, sending Kapil and the audience into fits of laughter.

In the promo, host Kapil Sharma showed a few examples of the flirty notifications that the Zomato CEO had sent to the customers. Kapil jokingly asked if Goyal meant to send those messages to Grecia, but they were accidentally delivered to the customers.

Baby on the way for Athiya & Rahul

The stork has finally made its way to Tinseltown! Bollywood star and cricket sensation KL Rahul have announced they're expecting their first child in 2025

Athiya, daughter of Bollywood icon Suniel Shetty, shared the joyous news with a sweet Instagram note that read, "Our beautiful blessing is coming soon. 2025," accompanied by visuals of tiny feet and a protective evil eye charm, symbolising both love and blessings for their little one. Within minutes, well-wishers poured in, from Athiya's brother Ahan Shetty to glam queen Pooja Hegde and screen siren Sobhita Dhulipala, filling the comment section with heartfelt congratulatory messages.

Rumours of a Shetty-Rahul baby had already made rounds earlier this year, sparked by Suniel's

teasing remarks on a reality dance show. Though the couple stayed tight-lipped back then, this official announcement has left no room for doubt. With a white heart emoji sealing her post, Athiya has set the stage for what is bound to be one of Bollywood's most eagerly awaited arrivals of 2025.

As soon as the news came out, wishes from fans and Bollywood stars started pouring in. Actress Rakul Preet Singh commented on the post and wrote, "OMG... Congratulations... I am very happy for both of you." 'Singham Again' star Arjun Kapoor wrote, "Dumpling coming thru." Among the cricketing circle, India captain Rohit Sharma wife Ritika Sajdeh wrote, "Happiest."



"OUR BEAUTIFUL BLESSING IS COMING SOON. 2025," THE COUPLE'S POST READ.

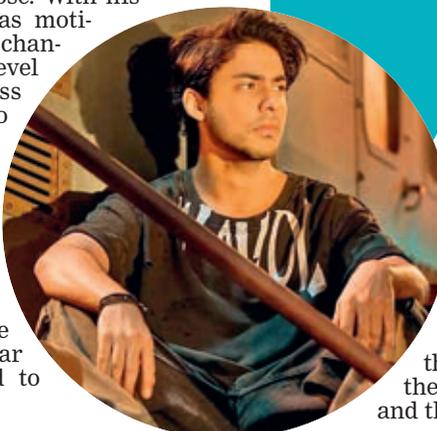
ARYAN HAILS SRK FOR SMART MARKETING MIND

Launching a luxury apparel brand alongside Shah Rukh Khan was no ordinary choice for Aryan. In the recent interview with *L'Officiel Arabia*, Aryan revealed just how integral Shah Rukh has been to his path as a budding fashion entrepreneur. "My father's primary profession may be acting, but what sets him apart is his relentless pursuit across multiple domains — be it sports, VFX, or film production. It's this versatility and commitment to excellence that has profoundly shaped my outlook as an entrepreneur and fashion innovator," Aryan shared.

The young mogul-in-the-making described Shah Rukh as "one of the smartest marketing minds," crediting his dad's business acumen as a guiding force in his career. Aryan noted that Shah Rukh's philosophy of giving "a hundred percent" to every endeavour, no matter the scale, is a lesson he holds close. With his father's example as motivation, Aryan is channeling that same level of meticulousness and attention to detail into making D'YAVOL a name to remember in luxury fashion.

The brand was launched in 2023. At the time, fans were stunned by the high prices. Last year in May, SRK reacted to the pricing.

The actor is singing praises for his father's influence in business



Final Destination actor dies at 69

The industry has lost a legend, the franchise wrote in a tribute

Tony Todd, an actor who starred in the *Candyman* and *Final Destination* horror franchises, has died. He was 69.

He died Wednesday at his home in Marina del Rey after a long illness, his wife, Fatima, confirmed. "The industry has lost a legend. We have lost a cherished friend. Rest in peace, Tony. Your *Final Destination Family*," New Line Cinema, which produced the *Final Destination* franchise, wrote on Instagram.

Born on Dec. 4, 1954, in Washington, D.C., Todd went on to study for two years at the University of Connecticut before getting a scholarship for the Eugene O'Neill National Theatre Institute. His time there helped lay a foundation for his later stints at the then-Hartman Conservatory in Stamford, Connecticut, and the Trinity Repertory Company in Providence.

A WEEK FOR REBUILDING AND GETTING RESULTS!

OSCAR CAINER



YOUR HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 10 NOVEMBER 2024

ARIES



March 21 - April 20

Our bodies are mind-blowingly complex pieces of bioengineering. Think of your digestive tract. You put a piece of toast into a hole under your nose. It travels down a tube and goes through lots of different processes to produce energy and useful nutrients. Anything unnecessary is eliminated (but we don't need to go there!). How effective is that? This week, you'll embark on a positive process that brings occasional, less-than-desirable side effects. But you can easily cope. The end result will re-energise your zest for life.

How will the Full Moon transform your life? There's inspiring news when you visit infree.cainer.com

TAURUS



April 21-May 21

Harry Houdini was famous for his sensational escape acts. From ropes around skyscrapers to straitjackets under water, he kept pushing his luck and putting himself in ever more complex challenges. Not that the coming days bring anything you need to escape! But think how much simpler your world would be if you refused to take any risks or go on adventures? Calmer... yes. But how bored you'd be! This week, you'll be more rebellious than usual. Good. You can extricate yourself from a source of stress. And have fun.

The Full Moon brings powerful positive change! For great news about your future visit infree.cainer.com

GEMINI



May 22-June 22

We don't interpret signs and signals objectively. We read them in ways that suit our purpose. When we're looking for excuses not to go ahead with an idea, and something happens that we can link with our concerns, we take it as an omen. When we're enthusiastic, the same event doesn't even register in our minds. It certainly won't stop us in our tracks. You're feeling discombobulated by a recent event. Do you need to reconsider your plans? Could you be looking for an excuse not to go ahead? This week brings clarity.

The Full Moon suggests good times are on the way. To find out more visit infree.cainer.com

My niece rolled her eyes when I told her to "girlboss' it" as she went on work experience. To be fair, I'm not sure any teenage TikTokker wants to hear that from their uncool uncle! But as Venus (love) links to dreamy Neptune before entering Capricorn this week, we can all strap on shoulder pads and access empowering energy. And with Saturn (the cosmic teacher) turning direct, and a Full Moon, we might need it! It's time to stare situations in the face, salvage what's good, and rebuild better.

CANCER June 23-July 23



Do our lives need to be so stressful? Sometimes it's like we're all guests at a social function where we feel slightly out of our depth. We're trying to fit in and make the right impression. The waiters are proffering drinks, which we accept because they might help us feel more at ease. But each sip only serves to intoxicate our minds with more insecurities. We pay a high price for taking something we should turn down. As your ruler, the Moon grows full this week, it brings the confidence to say no. Your stress levels will plummet.

Discover why this week's Full Moon is so magical for you. Visit infree.cainer.com

LEO



July 24-August 23

The way you wear your hat, the way you sip your tea, the memory of all that, no no, they can't take that away from me.' This old song reminds us of the little things we appreciate in one another; those tiny, mundane moments that, because we care, we cherish. And they can never be taken from us. They might not seem like much, but they create memories that continue to nourish us long into the future. This week brings a reminder of something you've put to the back of your mind. It will bring you confidence going ahead.

The Full Moon brings the key to the future you dream of. For info you need, visit infree.cainer.com

VIRGO



August 24-September 23

Ruled by Mercury, planet of communication, you're a good negotiator. You understand the importance of being able to give and take. That in order for a constructive dialogue to take place, the people involved must be prepared to bend and give ground. Good. Because this Full Moon week, your skills are going to be very much in demand. If you can subtly take control of an emotionally charged situation, you'll be able to encourage a dialogue that helps opposing parties to reach agreement. Harmony can replace discord. Yay!

Maximise the Full Moon energy! For your latest forecasts visit infree.cainer.com

LIBRA



September 24-October 23

Arguing is easy. We can pick holes in just about anything. When the source of the argument is based on historic disagreements, the more holes we pick, the more trouble we cause. But sometimes, when our passions are raised, we can express emotions that we normally keep under wraps. And there can be positive benefits from our disclosure. This week, the coming Full Moon suggests that emotive issues will dominate your world. But, with your ruler, Venus, linking to surprising Uranus, any disputes can have a positive outcome.

The Full Moon brings positive change! Find out more! Visit infree.cainer.com

SCORPIO



October 24-November 22

You only have to glance at a TV schedule to see that crime dramas are popular. They all, of course, follow a similar theme. A crime is committed. Then, the detective steps in and looks for clues. This formula resonates with our desire to solve the mysteries in our own lives. We're not trying to solve a crime. We're searching for clues that will help us work out the way to find happiness. This week brings a flash of inspiration that enables you to crack a code. It shows you how to navigate past the obstacle that's blocking your progress.

The Full Moon can transform your world. For valuable keys to the week visit infree.cainer.com

SAGITTARIUS November 23-December 21



With your ruler, Jupiter, in mutual reception with Mercury, you're being blessed in ways you don't yet fully comprehend. The cosmos has your best interests at heart. This week, you'll become more aware of people around you who will go out of their way to support you. Good. Because there are all sorts of opportunities ahead. Some of these are financial. And some of them are romantic. You need to focus on what's possible. And, for now, put the impossible aside. It's what's on offer that has value to benefit you in the long term.

Be ready for a special time! The Full Moon brings exciting opportunities. Visit infree.cainer.com

CAPRICORN



December 22-January 20

The deeper we move into November, the brighter your outlook becomes. There. I've said it. Now, if you wish, you can forget you have ever read that, and carry on with your current struggle, feeling as if you're doing your best, but not making enough progress. But from where I'm standing, your route ahead looks bright. Venus is entering your sign, and your ruler, Saturn, is turning direct. Expect sparkles of magic that brighten tired situations. Here comes the inspiration to see beyond challenges and find ways towards success.

The Full Moon highlights dynamic changes. Your future has huge potential. Visit infree.cainer.com

AQUARIUS



January 21-February 19

Some aspects of our daily routines take up more time than we think. Food is a good example. Yes, we need several meals a day. But think of the energy we invest in considering what we should eat and talking about what we're going to eat. It's a lot! Sleep gets lots of attention and discussion too. Yet we give hardly any thought to the essential process of breathing. This Full Moon week brings the insight to notice a process you've been taking for granted. It holds the key to a self-discovery that will be hugely beneficial.

Wonderful opportunities arise as the Full Moon energises your life. Visit infree.cainer.com

PISCES



February 20-March 20

Brilliant ideas are often deceptively simple. When they pop into our minds, they feel so natural we can't believe we didn't think of them before. We just know they're 'right'. We might not even be particularly amazed by the insight. They elicit a sense of calm acceptance. And acting on them feels like the most natural thing to do. Oh, if only they happened all the time! With your ruler, Neptune, linking to Venus (creativity and love) you'll recognise something that's really right in your world. It changes your perspective on everything.

This week brings a powerful Full Moon. To create the change you wish for, visit infree.cainer.com

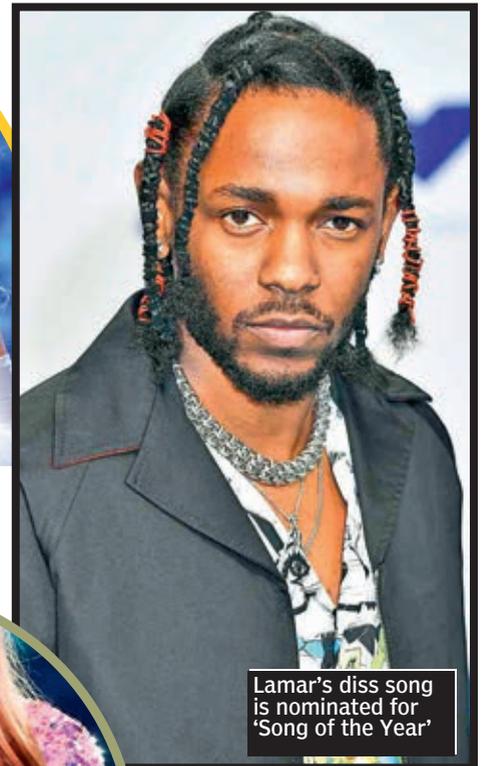
WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The late Jonathan Cainer's nephew Oscar, will bring you your weekly zodiac forecasts over the weeks and months to come. For more from Oscar, visit cainer.com

GRACEFUL GRAMMY NOMS 2025



Beyoncé rules the roost!



Lamar's diss song is nominated for 'Song of the Year'

Beyoncé leads the list, to become the most nominated artist in the show's history

Welcome to Beyoncé country. When it comes to the 2025 Grammy Award nominations, *Cowboy Carter* rules the nation. She leads the nods with 11, bringing her career total to 99 nominations. That makes her the most nominated artist in Grammy history.

If Beyoncé wins the album of the year, she'll become the first Black woman to do so in the 21st century. Lauryn Hill last won in 1999 for *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*, joining Natalie Cole and Whitney Houston as the only Black women to take home the Grammys' top prize.



Rising pop star Charli XCX

MILESTONES

Post Malone also received his first ever nominations in the country categories this year, having released his debut country album *F-1 Trillion* in August. That one is up for country album and *I Had Some Help*, his collaboration with Morgan Wallen, is nominated for country song and country duo/group performance. They are Wallen's first ever Grammy nominations.

Malone is just behind Beyoncé, with seven nominations, tied with Billie Eilish, Kendrick Lamar and Charli XCX, who earned her first nominations as a solo artist.

Lamar's ubiquitous diss track released during his feud with Drake, *Not Like Us*, is nominated for record and song of the year, rap song, music video as well as best rap performance. He has two simultaneous entries in the latter category, a career first: 'Future & Metro Boomin' featuring Lamar, *Like That* is up for best rap performance and best rap song.

This is his third time receiving two simultaneous nominations for best rap song.

Taylor Swift and first-time nominees Sabrina Carpenter and Chappell Roan boast of six nominations each.

ALL-INCLUSIVE

Last year, women artists dominated the major categories. This year, that continues somewhat, but the main trend seems to be a variance of genre. In the album of the year category, alongside *Cowboy Carter* is André 3000's new age, alt-jazz *New Blue Sun* and multi-instrumentalist Jacob Collier's *Djesse Vol. 4*. Rising pop stars Carpenter and Roan round it out, with *Short n' Sweet* and *The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess* respectively, as well as Swift's *The Tortured Poets Department*, Eilish's *Hit Me Hard and Soft*, and Charli XCX's rave-ready *BRAT*. Eilish is the only artist to have her first three albums become nominated for album of the year.

NEW-AGE DREAM POP?

Last year, Swift won album of the year for *Midnights*, breaking the record for most wins in the category with four. This



Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars



Taylor Swift



Billie Eilish

SONG OF THE YEAR

year, she becomes the first ever woman to receive seven career nominations in the category.

"The breadth and the variety of genres represented in the general field feels new and really exciting," says the Recording Academy CEO and President Harvey Mason jr. He credits an active and evolving voting body for its success. "We've been very intentional in how we looked at and tried to rebalance our membership. So not just gender or people of color, different racial makeup, but also genre equity and trying to make sure that all different types of music in different

BUT THERE'S A HUGE DEARTH OF LATIN MUSIC, THE FASTEST GROWING STREAMING GENRE IN US, AND NO REPRESENTATION IN THE MAJOR CATEGORIES. THERE ARE ALSO ONLY FOUR ENTRIES IN THE BEST MÚSICA MEXICANA ALBUM CATEGORY, DESPITE IT ALSO BEING ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING GENRES.

regions and different locations are being represented in every way possible."

Only recordings commercially released in the U.S. between Sept. 16, 2023 through Aug. 30, 2024 were eligible for nomina-

tions. The final round of Grammy voting, which determines its winners, will take place Dec. 12 through January 3.

In the best new artist category, Carpenter and Roan will go head-to-head, alongside Benson Boone, Doechii, Khruangbin, RAYE, Shaboozey and Teddy Swims.

In the song of the year category, Beyoncé is joined by Eilish with *Birds of a Feather*, Swift and Post Malone with *Fortnight*, Roan's *Good Luck, Babe!*, Carpenter's *Please Please Please*, Lamar's *Not Like Us*, Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars' *Die With A Smile*, and Shaboozey's *A Bar Song (Tipsy)*.

Shaboozey is also a first-time nominee. His *A Bar Song (Tipsy)* is the biggest song of the year, having spent more weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 than any other — it is so popular, a remix of the track is also up for remixed recording. Elsewhere, Shaboozey is nominated in the melodic rap performance category for his feature on Beyoncé's *SPAGHETTI*. Linda Martell, the first commercially-successful Black woman musician in country, is also featured on the song, delivering the 83-year-old artist her first Grammy nomination.

OLD IS GOLD

Dolly Parton scored her 55th career nomination in the audio book, narration, and storytelling recording category for her 'Behind the Seams: My

Life in Rhinestones,' news *The Associated Press* broke to the country music legend Friday morning. "No! What did I get nominated for?" she cheered over the phone. "Oh, well, that's cool. I thought it would be for my rock album, I'd take it. "It feels good. I'm always appreciative of everything. I don't work for that, but it's always good to say 'you've done good work,' and for somebody to acknowledge that. So, I'm always proud of every award I get and every mention I get. That just makes me feel like I'm doing the right thing."

— AP

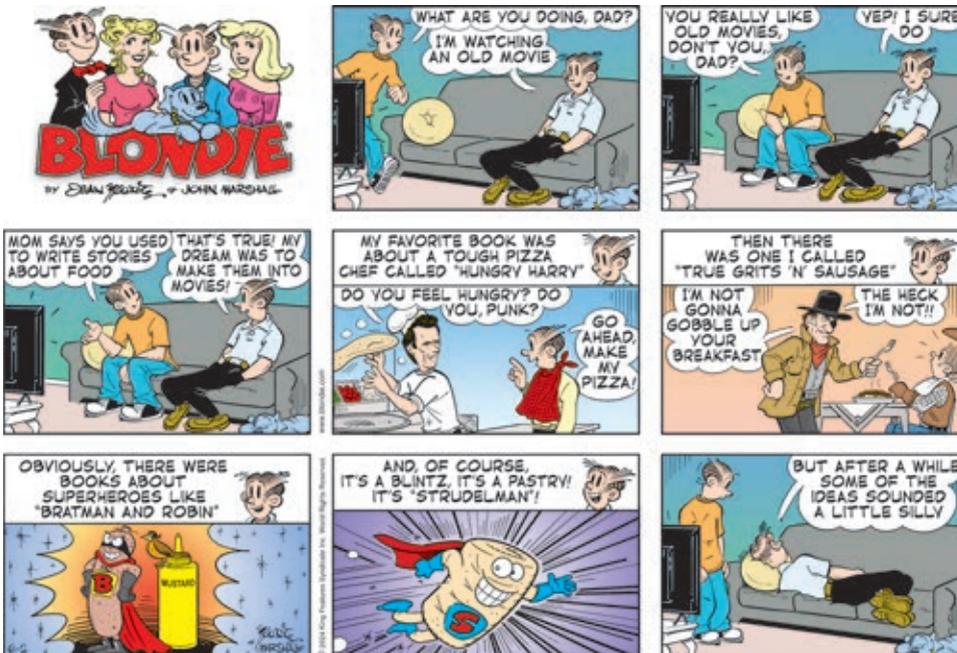
PHANTOM



GARFIELD



BLONDIE



FUNDAMENTALS SENJAM RAJ SEKHA

How much do you know about the origins of names of places you are familiar with? Test your knowledge quotient with this quiz.

Write with your suggestions, questions (with answers) to senjam@gmail.com.

ORIGIN OF PLACE NAMES IN INDIA

1. Till very recently, which place in India was formerly named Port Cornwallis, after Admiral William Cornwallis, brother of Charles Cornwallis, the former Governor General of India?
2. Dalhousie was named after Lord Dalhousie, Viceroy of India by a Lieutenant Governor of Punjab. Incidentally, the same Lieutenant Governor also has a town in Kangra valley in his name. Name the town?
3. Which town is named after a hermit saint who is believed to have cured a Rajput chieftain named Suraj Sen from a deadly disease?
4. Many Indian towns and villages in Northern India have the same name with a differentiating suffix - Kalan and Khurd. For example Kosi Kalan and Kosi Khurd in UP or Chunni Kalan and Chunni Khurd. What is the origin of the two terms Kalan and Khurd?
5. Which town in Western India is believed to be named after the vehicle of Lord Shiva who performed penance on the banks of river Godavari?
6. Which tea town takes

FUNDA OF THE WEEK

What is common to Sydney Opera House, Great Wall of China, Jamestown, the first English colony in the United States and Voltaire's academic career? (Philip Joshua, Secunderabad)

ANSWERS:
All were funded by lottery

its name from a local term meaning 'lots of water'?

7. There are two theories on the origin of the name of this scenic town surrounded by hills. One school suggests it comes from the Arabic word for hills. The other school says that it takes its name from an ancient saint. Name this town in central India?
8. Which city was originally called Bhagyanagar after Bhagamathi, a Hindu girl who married the Sultan?
9. Which town is named after the settlement of Ram Rai, Guru of Udasi Sikhs, who was exiled by Mughal King Aurangzeb?
10. Which hill station in Assam means 'white ants hillock' in the tribal Jaintia language?

ANYTHING GOES

1. The term Fanum Tax was coined by the American Streamer Fanum who did something regularly during

his streams with other content creators. What is Fanum Tax and what did Fanum do? (Deepak Bhatia, Chennai)

2. Kia Seltos in India got an unfortunate nickname as one customer decided to vent his frustration for the company's lack of response after his new car broke down. He decorated his car with posters of a certain animal and it went viral on social media. (Dr. J.V. Subba Rao, Secunderabad)
3. Scientifically, there are three kinds of twilight. Civil Twilight is when the centre of the Sun is up to 6 degrees below the horizon. Nautical Twilight happens when the centre of the Sun is up to 12 degrees below the horizon. What name is given when the centre of the Sun is up to 18 degrees below the horizon? (Dr. Kota Tirupataiah, Hyderabad)
4. What world famous Trademark is owned by Toho Company of Japan? (Aadish Grover, Kolkata)
5. What is common to Thomas Matthew Crooks and Ryan Routh? (Harika Thaanushree, Secunderabad)
6. In Japan, Benzaiten is the goddess of everything that flows: water, time, words, speech, eloquence, music and by extension, knowledge. How do you better know her as in India? (Dee Surendranath, Secunderabad)
7. The Olavakkode Junction station is named after the locality of a town in Kerala. What is the new name of this station? (Abin KI, Ernakulam)

ANSWERS

1. Port Blair, now officially named Sri Vijaya Puram. Originally named after Archibald Blair, the British naval surveyor who was the first person to do a geographical survey of the area.
2. McLeod, the Bhagamagar was called Hyderabad after Bhagamathi married Sultan Md. Quli Qutab Shah, she began to be called Hyderabad Mahal and eventually settlement of Guru Ram Rai, Doon 9. Dehradun. After the Derra or camp Lieutenant Governor of Punjab, It was McLeod who suggested that Dalhousie town be named after Lord Dalhousie and named it after the hermit saint Gwalipa
4. Kalan means Big and Khurd means small. Historically, as the population in a town grew, people moved to an adjacent area and formed newer settlements. They were called Khurd.
5. Nanded after Nandi (Tat (banks) of River Godavari. Nandi the bull is the mount or vehicle of Lord Shiva
6. Palampur, the centre of Kangra tea. Its name comes from 'Pulm' meaning lots of water
7. Jabalpur: According to the first theory, the trading community in Jabalpur had links with the Middle East and the
8. Hyderabad
9. Dehradun. After the Derra or camp settlement of Guru Ram Rai, Doon
10. Hallong

ANYTHING GOES

1. Taking a portion of another person's belongings without asking. He used to jokingly 'tax' snacks from fellow content creators during streams.
2. Donkey car
3. Astronomical twilight
4. Godzila
5. Both made assassination attempts on Donald Trump
6. Saraswati
7. Palakkad Junction

ORIGIN OF PLACE NAMES IN INDIA