

SHORT TAKES

Cong Nyay Yatra in 4 Assembly seats

New Delhi: Covering the longest distance of its "Nyay Yatra" on Monday, the Congress crossed four Assembly segments amid slogans like "Dilli Ki Lalkar - Chahiye Congress Sarkar". This yatra led by the party's Delhi unit chief Devender Yadav is seen as an attempt by the grand old party to regain its lost ground in the city ahead of the Assembly polls scheduled early next year. The yatra which started from Haiderpur Village in Shalimar Bagh covered the assembly segments of Badli, Adarsh Nagar and finally concluded at Gujranwala Town in Model Town, with thousands of people joining them. Mr Yadav while interacting with locals said, people want the Congress back in power as they are fed up with air and water pollution, garbage accumulation, dilapidated infrastructure etc —the AAP lets down people both in Delhi government and MCD. He said that the Nyay Yatra was to get justice for the people from the corruption and misuse of the AAP and BJP.

Tytlar moves HC to get stay on trials

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader Jagdish Tytler on Monday urged the Delhi high court to stay the trial proceedings against him in a case related to the killing of three persons in north Delhi's Pul Bangash area during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. Mr Tytler's counsel submitted that the case is listed for recording of evidence of prosecution witness before a trial court on Tuesday and the lower court be directed not to proceed with the matter till the high court decides his plea challenging framing of charges of murder and other offences against him. Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri, who had earlier granted time to Mr Tytler to file certain additional documents, noted that though the documents have been filed, they were not on record.

2 arrested in murder of vegetable vendor

New Delhi: Two youths have been arrested for allegedly killing a vegetable vendor in an extortion-related case in southwest Delhi's Dwarka area, the police said on Monday. On October 23, a vegetable vendor, Samarpal (49), was shot dead by two armed assailants. An FIR was registered in the matter and a probe launched, they said. With the help of CCTV footage, the police identify the two attackers as Prashant (18) and Aman Siddiqui (19), a police officer said. During investigation, the police discovered that Aman had attempted to extort money from vendors to maintain his monopoly. When Samarpal refused to comply, Prashant shot him, the officer said. The weapon used in the crime has been recovered, the police said.

L-G GIVES NOD TO HIRING OF 1,463 HEALTH WORKERS

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 11
Delhi lieutenant-governor V.K. Saxena on Monday approved the recruitment of 701 nurses and 762 paramedical staff. The L-G office said the recruitment drive, facilitated through public sector undertakings (PSU), allows hospitals to onboard essential personnel under a direct recruitment quota with relaxed recruitment rules. The decision to recruit healthcare workers on an outsourced basis aims to bolster the city's healthcare infrastructure and alleviate the strain on existing medical staff, it added. This development comes in response to recommendations from the Dr S.K. Sarin Committee formed after the Delhi high court raised concerns about the city's inadequate healthcare resources and workforce. The Delhi high court, in a directive issued in February, highlighted the urgent need for the government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) to strengthen its healthcare infrastructure, which it had deemed insufficient to meet the demands of a growing population. Following the high court's directive, the Dr S.K. Sarin Committee identified staffing shortages.

'No religion promotes pollution' ■ Asks top cop to form spl cell ■ Asks govt to decide on 'perpetual' firecracker ban by Nov. 25

SC raps police on Diwali firecracker ban violation

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

Observing that no religion encourages any activity that creates pollution, the Supreme Court on Monday directed the Delhi government to decide within a fortnight on extending the firecracker ban throughout the year. The apex court also came down heavily against the Delhi police for failing to comprehensively implement the firecracker ban in the national capital and directed it to form a special cell for implementation of the ban and hold all SHOs of local police stations responsible for enforcing the ban.

Underlining that the right to live in a pollution-free atmosphere is a fundamental right of every citizen, protected by Article 21 of the Constitution, a bench of Justices Abhay S. Oka and Augustine George Masih said, "Prima facie, we are of the view that no religion encourages any activity, which creates pollution. If firecrackers are burnt in this fashion then it also affects the fundamental right to health of citizens."

AQI 'very poor', smog engulfs city

■ 4 monitoring stations in 'severe zone' ■ MCD may double parking charges

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

Delhi's air quality remained in the "very poor" category on Monday with an AQI reading of 352 while four monitoring stations reported air quality levels in the "severe" zone. The 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) recorded until 4.00 pm daily was reported at 352, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data. As per CPCB data, four out of the 38 monitoring



Smoke emanates from burning of dry leaves at Ashoka Road Lane in New Delhi on Monday.

stations on Monday reported AQI in the "severe" category with readings above 400. These included Bawana, Jahangirpuri, Rohini, and Wazirpur.

A thick layer of mist and smog blanketed the city during the morning and evening hours, with a high of 32.4 degree Celsius, three degrees above normal. Meanwhile, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is planning to double its parking charges in a bid to discourage the use of private

vehicles and curb air pollution caused by vehicular emissions, officials said on Monday. A proposal for this will be tabled at the upcoming MCD House meeting scheduled for November 14, the same day as the elections for Delhi's next mayor and deputy mayor.

The idea of raising parking charges under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)-II has been on the agenda for a while, but has been repeatedly referred back to the House for reconsideration.

Punjab farm fires cross 7,000-mark

Chandigarh: Farm fire cases crossed the 7,000-mark in Punjab with the state reporting 418 fresh incidents on Monday. Meanwhile, the air quality in many parts of Punjab and Haryana remained in the "poor" category on Monday. However, Chandigarh's AQI was in the "very poor" zone. From September 15 till November 11, Punjab has seen a total of 7,029 stubble burning incidents, as per the Punjab Remote Sensing Centre data.

banning the use of firecrackers on October 14, just two days after Dussehra. "Till October 14, we didn't have the mandate to regulate or control the ban order. We can enforce the ban only after it is imposed," the ASG said.

neighbouring state governments to respond by banning the manufacture, sale, storage, and bursting of firecrackers in their areas. The bench directed the Delhi police commissioner to immediately inform all concerned about the ban and ensure the stoppage of sales and delivery on online platforms.

Additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Delhi police, said the AAP government issued the order

Justice Sanjiv Khanna takes oath as 51st CJI

Hears 45 cases on 1st day as CJI, thanks lawyers for wishes

RAKESH K. SINGH NEW DELHI, NOV. 11



President Droupadi Murmu exchanges greetings with PM Narendra Modi during swearing-in ceremony of the Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Monday.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna on Monday took oath as the 51st Chief Justice of India. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to him at a brief swearing-in ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. CJI Khanna took the oath in English language in the name of God. Justice Khanna, who was born on May 14, 1960, would have a tenure of a little over six months and demit office on May 13, 2025, at the age of 65 years. He succeeded former CJI D.Y. Chandrachud, who demitted office on November 10.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi who attended the swearing-in wished him. In a post on "X", Mr Modi said: "Attended the oath-taking ceremony of Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who has been sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India. My best wishes for his tenure."

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also took to "X" to wish CJI Khanna. "Extending best

wishes to Justice Sanjiv Khanna for taking oath as the 51st Chief Justice of India. The position of the chief justice of India would undoubtedly place a lot of weight on his shoulders due to the extensive scrutiny and expectations that the office brings with it," Mr Kharge said in his post. Besides PM Modi and former CJI Chandrachud, vice-president Jagdeep Dhankhar, defence minister Rajnath Singh, Union law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and former CJI J.S. Khehar were among the notable personalities in attendance. Justice Khanna heard 45

cases on his first day as the CJI, and thanked lawyers and bar leaders for wishing him well.

"I wish you a fruitful tenure as the CJI," said senior advocate and former attorney general Mukul Rohatgi.

CJI Khanna, who has served as a Supreme Court judge since January 2019, was a part of several landmark judgments like upholding the sanctity of EVMs, scrapping of the electoral bonds scheme, upholding the abrogation of Article 370 and grant of interim bail to former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, among others.

'Check age at liquor shops': SC seeks Centre's response

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Centre on a plea seeking direction for an effective protocol and robust policy for the enforcement of mandatory age checks at liquor sales points.

The petition said that the excise policy of different states has age legislation making it illegal to consume or possess alcohol below a certain age but a robust mechanism to check the age of con-

sumers or buyers at such sale points is absent.

The plea came up for hearing before a bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan. The apex court said, "Issue notice, restricted to respondent number one (Union of India)."

The bench then posted the matter for hearing after three weeks.

The counsel appearing for petitioner NGO "Community Against Drunken Driving" argued that there was no regime in place to check the age of buyers at liquor vends.

Menstrual hygiene policy framed, Centre tells top court

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

The Centre on Monday informed the Supreme Court that it has approved the "Menstrual Hygiene Policy for School Going Girls" which will entitle them to provision of sanitary napkins and ensure separate toilet facilities.

The SC was hearing a PIL filed by Congress leader and social activist Jaya Thakur seeking directions to the Centre and states to provide free sanitary pads to female students between Classes 6 and 12 and ensure separate female toilet facilities in all government, government-aided and residential schools.

Referring to an apex court order of April last year, the Centre said that the Union ministry of the health and family welfare framed the policy over menstrual hygiene of female school children which was approved by the minister concerned on November 2 this year.

I'm fighting in all 70 seats, Kejriwal tells AAP workers

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Monday delivered a strong message to the district and booth-level party workers, asserting that their loyalty should not lie with any individual MLA or councillor, but should be tied directly to him.

With Assembly elections due in Delhi early next year, Mr Kejriwal also emphasised that the party will decide on its candidates based purely on performance and work, and not on political favouritism.

Mr Kejriwal said during an event at Kirari in north-west Delhi, "Your loyalty should not lie with any MLA or councillor. You should work as if I am contesting all the 70 seats."

"We will distribute tickets based on performance and rigor-



Arvind Kejriwal

ous surveys. It does not matter if an MLA or councillor is not selected; your allegiance should be with me as I am in front of you in all the seats," he added.

The AAP supremo also urged the party workers to go to the voters even if they are angry, and remind them that if the party doesn't retain power, Delhi will again become like the other states.

"Remember that if the BJP comes to power, Delhi could end up being like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana or Rajasthan," Mr Kejriwal claimed.

Ex-AAP councillor defects to BJP

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

Former Aam Aadmi Party councillor Ram Narayan Bhardwaj on Monday joined the BJP at the party's Delhi unit office. Mr Bhardwaj was welcomed to the party fold by Delhi unit president Virendra Sachdeva and North West Delhi MP Yogender Chandolia.

Mr Bhardwaj was an AAP councillor in the North Delhi Municipal Corporation's

Bakaner ward during 2017-2022.

Mr Sachdeva said, the BJP is steadily strengthening in Delhi ahead of the upcoming assembly elections. He said that many people are joining the BJP, inspired by the relentless efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the country's development. He added that with Mr Bhardwaj's inclusion, BJP has become even stronger in outer Delhi and is ready to contest the upcoming assem-

bly elections with full strength.

The Delhi MP mentioned that Mr Bhardwaj shared with him how Arvind Kejriwal has deceived not just the people of Delhi but his own followers, and he himself fell victim to this. He stated that only Mr Kejriwal's word is law in the AAP, where members are only allowed to listen, not speak. Mr Kejriwal and his MLAs impose pressure when one tries to serve the public.

50-yr-old man held for raping 5-yr-old girl in Bawana factory

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

A 50-year-old man was arrested for allegedly raping a five-year-old girl in a factory in outer-north Delhi's Bawana area, police said on Monday.

Sabir, a native of Mahoba

of Uttar Pradesh, was arrested from forest area of Hamirpur on Sunday.

An incident of rape with a five-year-old girl was reported by his mother on October 25. A case under section 65 (2) of BNS and 6 Pocco Act was registered at local police station.

HC allows counting of votes of Dusu polls 1.5 mths after voting

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

The Delhi high court on Monday directed the Delhi University (DU) to count the votes for the DU Students' Union (Dusu) polls "on or before November 26", subject to the DU's satisfaction that all sites defaced with election graffiti were cleaned and repainted within a week.

The polls were conducted more than one and a half months ago but a division bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela had

cleaned," said the bench on Monday. The bench said although most colleges and faculties in the north and south campuses were cleaned up by the candidates, photographs showed posters and graffiti

stayed the counting on September 26 over allegations of large-scale defacement of sites across Delhi by candidates for the Dusu polls.

"The matter is closed) with a direction to DU to undertake the counting process on or before November 26 if it is satisfied that the (remaining) sites...are

cleaned," said the bench on Monday. The bench said although most colleges and faculties in the north and south campuses were cleaned up by the candidates, photographs showed properties close to the campus with posters and graffiti.

The counsel appearing for the candidates assured the removal of any such material from the remaining properties.

The intent of the proceedings was to reform and not punish the students, the bench underscored.

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID

NOTICE

1. Approval under regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations '1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations '2019 for determination of Transmission Tariff from DOCOs to 31-03-2024 for Asset (01 nos) under "Eastern Region Expansion Scheme - XXXVI (ERES-XXXVI)" in Eastern Region.

2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (i) Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd. (ii) West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. (iii) Grid Corporation Of Orissa Ltd. (iv) Damodar Valley Corporation, (v) Power Department, Govt Of Sikkim, Gangtok, (vi) Jharkhand Biji Vitran Nigam Ltd.

3. No of Bays, Apportioned Approved capital cost (Rs. in Lacs), Date of Commercial Operation and Capital cost up to date of Commercial Operation (Rs. in Lacs):

Asset	No of bays	Apportioned approved Capital cost (Rs in Lakhs)	DOCO	Capital cost in DOCO (Rs in Lakhs)
Asset-I	01 (220kV) & 01 (132kV)	2943.00	18.08.2024	711.48

4. The annual transmission tariff for the tariff period 2019-24 is summarized as below:

Asset/Tariff	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Asset-I	174.51	451.36	537.55	532.79	528.58

5. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergrid.in.

6. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4th floor, Chandralok Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place : GURUGRAM Sd/-
Date : 11.11.2024 General Manager (Commercial)

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)

Reg. Office : B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi - 110 016
Corporate Office: Soudamini, Plot No.2, Sector-29, Gurugram, Haryana - 122 001
www.powergrid.in, CIN : L40101DL1989GO038121

A Maharashtra PSU

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation for Tenders through E-procurement system

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders through E-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S.N	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1.	03240999	FLEXIBLE POLY VINYL CHLORIDE (PVC) FLOORING FOR NON AC COACHES.	68601 MTR	04.12.2024

NOTE - 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details 2. No manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice NO.71/2024-2025 Date: 11.11.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3499/24

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

(Through e-tendering)

Name of work with its location: Provision of telecom facility in c/w balance work for development of Hydrogen plant with the provision of water softening plant, rain water harvesting system & improvement of architectural appearance of hydrogen plant at Jind & Laying & shifting of telecom cables in c/w Delhi - Ambala RUB in place of ROB in lieu of L.C no. 43 at km 71/121-23 near Samalkha & Delhi - Bhatinda RUB in place of ROB in lieu of L.C no. 110 at km 123/7-9 near Jind.

App. Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 36,35,543.39/- only

Earnest Money Deposit (₹): ₹ 72,700/- only

Address of the office: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055.

Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender: Tender uploading / closing date & time- 05.12.2024 up to 15.00 hrs.

Website particular & notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen etc.: See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at the S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

No.: 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-1009 Dated: 11.11.2024 3503/24

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/TC(FM)/10/04 dated 13.06.2022, invites bids through e-Auction module (www.ireps.gov.in) for the contract of 03 Parcel Scanner Machines (at prescribed locations as per the site map) at Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station (NZM).

Note: For this contract, these 03 parcel scanning machines will be used for scanning of outward parcels (leased and Railway booked parcels), loaded at platform only.

Important notes:

- For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding these e-Auctions, interested bidders are advised to visit www.ireps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning_centre.html (e-Auction learning section).
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): 5% of the total contractual bid value to be deposited online during the auction. EMD of the successful bidder will be retained as Security Deposit.
- Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these contracts at any point of time and/or for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these contracts with modified/additional terms and conditions depending upon the situations.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3501/24

SHORT TAKES

'Influential man': SC refuses Revanna bail

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed the bail plea of former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, an accused of rape and sexual assault, saying he was a "very influential person". On the beleaguered politician's counsel Mukul Rohatgi's submission that the chargesheet had been filed in the case without the charge of Section 376 (rape) of the IPC, a bench of Justices Bela M. Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma observed it could not interfere with the Karnataka high court's October 21 decision denying him bail. Mr Rohatgi then sought the liberty to approach the court after six months, but the bench said it could not say anything about it and dismissed the plea. In August, a special investigation team (SIT) in Karnataka which is probing four cases of sexual assault and harassment against Mr Revanna submitted a 2,144-page chargesheet.

Owaisi from Razakar lineage: Fadnavis

Mumbai: Maharashtra deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday slammed AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, calling him "descendants of Razakars". The attack came a day after the Hyderabad MP took a jibe at the BJP leader, saying, "Our ancestors waged jihad against the British Raj, when yours were writing 'love letters' to them." "They are descendants of Razakars. The Razakars tortured the people of Marathwada, looted their lands, tried to rape women and destroyed families. How can they talk to us?" Mr Fadnavis said. The Razakars mean "volunteers" in Arabic. They were a paramilitary force in the princely state of Hyderabad in British India, created to maintain the rule of Nizams after Independence.

Anti-nationals are trying to divide country, be united: PM

AGE CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs
NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD, NOV. 11

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that some "anti-nationals" are trying to divide the society for their vested interests, and stressed the need for people to understand the seriousness of their intentions and get united to defeat them.

Virtually addressing a gathering of devotees at Vadatal in Gujarat's Kheda district, on the 200th anniversary of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Mr Modi said that unity and integrity are important to make India a developed nation by 2047.

Highlighting the importance of unity and integrity of the country for a developed India, the PM asserted that those with vested interests are conspiring to destroy the society, and it is imperative to understand the seriousness of the matter and defeat such attempts in a united manner.

"Unity among citizens and integrity of the nation is important to make India a developed nation by 2047. But unfortunately, some people are trying to divide our society on the lines of caste, religions, language, man and woman, and city and village, to fulfil their vested interests or due to their narrow-mindedness. We have to understand the ill intentions of these anti-nationals and get united to defeat them," Mr Modi said.

The PM said the first key step to make India a developed nation is "atmanaribharta" (self-dependence).

RG Kar case in camera trial begins in Kolkata

'I've done nothing': Key accused Roy produced before court

Kolkata, Nov. 11: The trial in the rape and murder case of a doctor commenced in a Kolkata court on Monday, three months after the medic's body was found inside the state-run R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital here.

The proceedings were held in-camera at the court of additional district and sessions judge Anirban Das.

Prime accused Sanjay Roy who was present in the court during the trial, later alleged outside the court that he was framed by senior police officers, including former city police commissioner Vineet Goyal.

The father of the victim was present in the court as a witness, police sources said.

Mr Roy was brought to the court in the afternoon and the proceedings are being held behind closed door. The prime accused, while coming out of the court, again claimed that he has been framed by the administration and he was not guilty.



Sanjay Roy

"They did not let me speak even today. I've done nothing and have been framed," Mr Roy told reporters while being whisked away.

"Senior officers are involved in this," Mr Roy said.

"The government is backing them. They have been threatening me. I am giving you the names. They are Vineet Goel and DC Special... They have conspired to frame me into this," he added.

On November 4, when charges were framed against him, he claimed that he is innocent.

Mr Roy has been booked

► **PRIME ACCUSED** Sanjay Roy later alleged outside the court that he was framed by senior police officers

► **ROY WAS** arrested by the Kolkata Police on August 10, a day after the on-duty woman doctor's body was found inside the seminar room of the R.G. Kar hospital

under Section 64 of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (rape), Section 66 (punishment for causing death or resulting in a persistent vegetative state) and 103 (punishment for murder).

Mr Roy was arrested by the Kolkata Police on August 10, a day after the on-duty woman doctor's body was found inside the seminar room of the R.G. Kar hospital.

— PTI

Russia's dy PM calls on Modi, discusses trade

New Delhi, Nov. 11: Russia's first deputy prime minister Denis Manturov called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday and the two leaders exchanged views on enhancing cooperation in various areas, such as trade and economic ties, energy and connectivity.

Mr Modi welcomed the sustained and joint efforts being made by the teams on both sides for the implementation of decisions taken during his recent visits and meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin to further strengthen the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

They exchanged views on enhancing cooperation in various areas, including trade and economic ties, energy and connectivity, it said.

Mr Modi extended his warm greetings to President Putin and said that he looked forward to continued exchanges with him, according to the statement. — PTI

Thackeray blasts EC officials for checking his bags before rally

BHAGWAN PARAB
MUMBAI, NOV. 11



Uddhav Thackeray

Former Maharashtra chief minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray had a heated exchange with Election Commission officials on Monday over their move to check his bags upon his arrival in Yavatmal for a public rally, amid the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in place.

Mr Thackeray asked if the EC authorities would also inspect the bags of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior leaders. He also demanded the officials to send a video of bags also being checked of PM Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah, Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde and deputy CMs Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar.

Mr Thackeray made a video of the incident, showing EC officials checking his bags at the helipad in Wani.

He also asked the EC officials, "Which political leaders' bags have you checked before checking mine? Have you checked Eknath Shinde, Fadnavis, Ajit Pawar, Modi and

Amit Shah's bags? I should get to watch a video of you checking Modi's bags." Later addressing a public meeting at Wani, he asked his party workers and voters to also check the pockets and identity cards of the officials who check them. Saying that he was not miffed with the election authorities, he added, "You are following your responsibility and I will perform my responsibility." "All these useless things are going on. I don't consider it democratic. This can't be a democracy. In a democracy, no one is big or small." Mr Thackeray said. According to officials, with the MCC in force, poll officials can carry out surprise checks to prevent distribution of gifts and cash.

Rejects EC's claim of disposing of complaints in 20 hours

'Lie': TMC targets EC for inaction

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

After the Election Commission (EC) said it acted "within 20 hours" of receiving the Trinamul Congress' complaints on West Bengal bypolls, the ruling party in the state Monday termed the poll authority's claim as "lie" and accused it of becoming a "wing of the BJP". The TMC on Monday

alleged that the EC is slow in providing response to its grievances, and that the delays serve to benefit the BJP, thereby, compromising the fairness of the elections and eroding public confidence in the impartiality of democratic institutions. On this, the EC said it had taken prompt action in all complaints and rejected complaints of inaction. A delegation of TMC

► **THE TMC** said it is dismayed that they have been given an appointment at 3:30 PM, a mere 90 minutes before the campaigning period concludes at 5 pm

leaders, including TMC parliamentary party leader of Lok Sabha Sudip Bandopadhyay, Rajya Sabha parliamentary party leader Derek

O'Brien, and MPs Kirti Azad, Mr Saket Gokhale and Ms Sushmita Dev, had visited the EC on Saturday and submitted two memoranda related to the ongoing bypoll campaign.

In a letter to the EC, the TMC said it is "dismayed" that they have been given an appointment at 3:30 PM on Monday, a mere 90 minutes before the campaigning period concludes at 5 pm.

EC notice to WB BJP chief for remarks on national emblem

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

The Election Commission (EC) on Monday issued a showcause notice to West Bengal Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Sukanta Majumdar for his alleged remarks on the national emblem and against the West Bengal police. Mr Majumdar has been asked to submit his

response by Monday late evening.

"In the event of no response from your side within the stipulated time, it will be presumed that you have nothing to say in the matter, and the Election Commission will take appropriate action in the matter, without making any further reference to you," the poll body said.

उत्तराखण्ड शासन | देवगुप्ति टाउन उत्तराखण्ड

उत्तराखण्ड के लोक पर्व

इगास बगवाल (बूढ़ी दीवाली) की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

पुष्कर सिंह धामी
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तराखण्ड

नरेन्द्र मोदी
प्रधानमंत्री

सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड द्वारा जनहित में जारी

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SHORT TAKES

Elephant calf hurt in bomb blast in C'garh

Raipur: An elephant calf was injured in a bomb explosion in Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve (USTR) in Gariaband district in Chhattisgarh, a senior forest officer said on Monday. The incident came to light on November seven when the local forest ranger received reports of blood stains in a vast patch of area in the Risgaon forest range where movements of 38-40 elephants were noticed, the forest officer said. A team of forest officers rushed to the area and found splinters of potash bomb, blood stains and pugmarks of elephants at the spot, deputy director of USTR Varun Jain told this newspaper. "A three-day search involving dog squad and drone surveillance has led to disclosure that an elephant calf was injured in the potash bomb explosion", he said. The calf was found injured in its jaw and legs during the drone surveillance on Sunday, Mr Jain said.

Odisha updates dress code for nursing staff

Bhubaneswar: The health and family welfare department of the Odisha government has implemented a new dress code for employees in the Odisha Nursing Service cadre. This change, approved after considering a proposal from the Odisha Nursing Employees Association, is subject to the condition that it will not impose substantial financial implications on the state government. The notification specifies the following dress guidelines: The uniform will be in light lavender. In the intensive care unit (ICU), operation theatre (OT) and labor room settings, nursing staff will wear scrub suits. For general wards, female staff will wear sarees or salwar kameez with 3/4th sleeve tops, while male staff will wear shirts with deep navy blue formal trousers.

Ahmedabad mishap: MBA student killed

Ahmedabad: A 23-year-old student of a prominent business school in Ahmedabad was stabbed to death allegedly by an unidentified driver of a car after an argument over rash driving, police said on Monday. The incident took place at around 11.30 pm on Sunday when two students of the Mudra Institute of Communications (MICA) were returning on a motorcycle to a hostel of their institute after buying a cake at a bakery shop. On their way back, they had a heated argument with the speeding four-wheeler's driver at the Bopal locality crossroads over his rash driving, SP, Ahmedabad rural, Om Prakash Jat said. The car driver trailed the students for about 200 metres before taking out a knife from his vehicle and stabbing one of them, Mr Jat said. — PTI

'India-Russia trade in local currencies vital'

Urgent steps needed to trim trade imbalances: Jaishankar

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

In the wake of Western sanctions on Russia, external affairs minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Monday underscored the importance of mutual trade settlements in national currencies, particularly in the current global context. Speaking at the India-Russia Business Forum in Mumbai, Mr Jaishankar said, "Special rupee vostro accounts are an effective mechanism. However, even in the short run, a better trade balance with national currency settlements is the answer."

With bilateral trade galloping largely due to India's increased imports of cheaper oil from Russia, the EAM also called for "urgent" measures to address the issue of the widening trade deficit between India and Russia. While India's exports to Russia stood at only \$2.24 billion in April-August this fiscal, imports soared to \$27.35 billion during the period. The trade deficit is aggregated at \$25.11 billion. The high trade deficit is mainly on account of crude imports.



External affairs minister S Jaishankar speaks at the India-Russia Business Forum in Mumbai on Monday. — PTI

deputy prime minister Denis Manturov, marked the lead-up to the 25th session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical, and Cultural Cooperation, set to take place in New Delhi on Tuesday. Mr Jaishankar and Mr Manturov will co-chair the session, which will review bilateral cooperation and explore new avenues for collaboration. Pointing out that the "bilateral trade today stands at \$66 billion (and that) this makes the goal of reaching \$100 billion by 2030 more than realistic", Mr Jaishankar said, "In energy domains such as oil, gas, coal or uranium, India will always be a major player in the international markets. This applies as well to the demand for fertilisers of various kinds. Constructing a mutually beneficial arrangement will help us both address the volatility and the uncertainty of our times."

Mr Manturov, while talking about Russia's manufacturing sector, stressed that Western sanctions have failed to achieve their intended goals. The Memorandum of Understanding between Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Rosoboronexport was signed recently on the sidelines of the fifth IRIGC (India-Russia Inter-governmental Commission Subgroup) in Goa, according to the DPSU. Headquartered in Hyderabad, BDL was incorporated in 1970 as a public sector undertaking

Govt extends tenure of FS Misri till 2026

New Delhi, Nov. 11: The Centre on Monday extended the tenure of foreign secretary Vikram Misri till July 14, 2026, according to a personnel ministry order.



Vikram Misri

Mr Misri, a 1989 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, assumed charge as India's foreign secretary on July 15. The appointments committee of the Cabinet approved extension of Mr Misri as foreign secretary beyond the date of his superannuation on November 30 for a tenure up to July 14, 2026 or until further orders, whichever is earlier, in terms of provisions of FR 56 (d), the order said.

The provisions allow extension in the service of a foreign secretary beyond the date of superannuation in public interest, officials said. Mr Misri is said to have played the key role in contacts with the Chinese government after the standoff in eastern Ladakh and the Galwan Valley clash in June 2020. — PTI

NIA raids in states to probe Al Qaeda terror conspiracy

AMRESH SRIVASTAVA NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

The NIA on Monday conducted extensive simultaneous searches at multiple locations across the country in connection with the activities promoted by some Bangladeshi nationals as part of terror group Al Qaeda's conspiracy to destabilise India.

The central anti-terror probe agency raided nine locations, linked with individuals suspected of supporting and funding the activities of the proscribed terrorist organisation Al Qaeda in the morning in the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, West Bengal, Bihar, Tripura and Assam and recovered incriminating documents showing detailed banking transactions, digital devices including mobile phones, and other evidence related to terror funding activities.

As per NIA probe, the suspects whose premises were raided are sympathisers of a Bangladesh-based Al Qaeda network. The searches were part of NIA's ongoing investigations into a 2023 case pertaining to a conspiracy orchestrated by Bangladesh-based Al Qaeda operatives in collaboration with the arrested individuals.

AS PER NIA probe, the suspects whose premises were raided are sympathisers of a Bangladesh-based Al Qaeda network

The conspiracy was aimed at propagating Al Qaeda's terrorist activities and radicalising gullible youths in India. In November last year, NIA had filed a charge sheet against five accused, including four Bangladeshi nationals — Mohd Sojibmiyan, Munna Khalid Ansari alias Munna Khan, Azarul Islam alias Jahangir or Aakash Khan, Abdul Latif alias Mominul Ansari whereas the fifth accused, Farid, is an Indian national.

The NIA investigations into their antecedents had revealed that the accused had procured forged documents to carry out their activities covertly. The incident took place near Karaiya Bhadohi railway station late on Sunday evening, police said. Rajendra Mishra, in-charge of Bandakpur police station, had gone to the spot after receiving information that two men fell down from a train and their bodies were lying on the railway track, Damoh district superintendent of police Srut Kirti Somvamsi said.



Smoke fills the sky after an explosion at a refinery of Indian Oil Corporation in Gujarat's Vadodara Monday. A 32-year-old worker died in the fire, an official said. IOCL said the blaze was reported at around 3:30 pm in a benzene storage tank and firefighting operations are currently underway. — PTI

Delhi-Moscow ink Pantsir deal to bolster air defence

New Delhi, Nov. 11: A major Indian defence public sector undertaking has signed an agreement with Russia's Rosoboronexport for cooperation on variants of the Pantsir air defence missile-gun system.

The Pantsir air defence system is a versatile platform designed to protect critical military and industrial facilities from aerial threats and reinforce air defence units. The Memorandum of Understanding between Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Rosoboronexport was signed recently on the sidelines of the fifth IRIGC (India-Russia Inter-governmental Commission Subgroup) in Goa, according to the DPSU. Headquartered in Hyderabad, BDL was incorporated in 1970 as a public sector undertaking

AS PER the website of BDL, since its inception, it has been working in collaboration with DRDO and foreign original equipment manufacturers for the manufacture and supply of various missiles

under the ministry of defence to be the manufacturing base for guided missile systems and allied equipment for the Indian armed forces. "BDL and Rosoboronexport (ROE), Russia entered into an MoU for cooperation on Pantsir variants, air defence missile-gun system. The MoU was signed by Cmde A. Madhavarao, (Retd), CMD, BDL and Kovalenko German, DDG, Naval Dept, ROE on sidelines of 5th IRIGC Subgroup at Goa," BDL posted on X. The agreement came ahead of the "working

visit" of Russia's first deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov, who took part in the Russian-Indian Business Forum in Mumbai.

External affairs minister S. Jaishankar also attended this key event. On November 12, Manturov jointly with Jaishankar will hold the 25th Session of the inter-governmental Russian-Indian commission on trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation, the Russian embassy said in a statement on Saturday.

As per the website of BDL, since its inception, it has been working in collaboration with DRDO and foreign original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) for the manufacture and supply of various missiles and allied equipment to the Indian armed forces. — PTI

India holds war drill to secure its space assets

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

A first-of-its-kind exercise aiming to secure India's national strategic objectives in space kicked off on Monday with Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Anil Chauhan asserting that space is now the "critical enabler" of the country's defence and security apparatus.

"Antariksha Abhyas-2024", an exercise to "war-game the growing threats from and to space-based assets and services", is being conducted by the Defence Space Agency of headquarters integrated Defence Staff from November 11-13, the defence ministry said in a statement.

The space exercise aims to provide an enhanced understanding of space-based assets and services and to gain an understanding of operational dependency on space segments.

In addition, it intends to identify vulnerabilities in the conduct of operations in the event of denial. It will have participants from the Defence Space Agency and its allied units along with personnel from the Army, Navy and Air Force. Specialist branches under Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff that's Defence Cyber Agency, the Defence Intelligence Agency and Strategic Forces Command would also be active participants in the

Cop loses arm while removing bodies from rail track in MP

AGE CORRESPONDENT BHOPAL, NOV. 11

A sub-inspector of police lost his arm after being hit by a running train while removing bodies of two men from the railway track in Damoh district in Madhya Pradesh, police said on Monday.

The incident took place near Karaiya Bhadohi railway station late on Sunday evening, police said. Rajendra Mishra, in-charge of Bandakpur police station, had gone to the spot after receiving information that two men fell down from a train and their bodies were lying on the railway track, Damoh district superintendent of police Srut Kirti Somvamsi said.

Aussie film Better Man to open Iffi, Ray Award to Phillip Noyce

SHASHI BHUSHAN NEW DELHI, NOV. 11



Phillip Noyce

Celebrated Australian filmmaker Phillip Noyce will be accorded the "Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award" at the 55 International Film Festival of India (Iffi), where Better Man, a semi-autobiographical film about British pop singer Robbie Williams, will open the annual gala.

Mr Noyce is known for his exceptional storytelling and mastery in creating suspenseful, culturally resonant films. The annual film gala, which will run through November 20-28 in Goa, will present over 180 international films from 81 countries, including 15 world premieres, three international premieres, 40 Asian premieres and 106 Indian premieres. Mr Noyce's filmography

includes iconic films like Patriot Games, Clear and Present Danger, Salt, The Saint, The Bone Collector and many more. His collaborations with celebrated actors like Harrison Ford, Nicole Kidman, Angelina Jolie, Denzel Washington, and Michael Caine, underscore his lasting impact on cinema. The curtain raiser press conference for Iffi 2024 was held on Monday at the National Media Centre here. The event was attended by Union minis-

ter of state for I&B L. Murugan, I&B secretary Sanjay Jaju, festival director Shekhar Kapur and chairman, CBFC, Prasoon Joshi.

The festival will open with the Asia premiere of Michael Gracey's Better Man, an Australian film that offers a captivating glimpse into the life of the iconic British pop star Robbie Williams, portrayed by Jonno Davies in a groundbreaking motion-capture performance.

Union minister of state for information and broadcasting Dr L. Murugan said, "The Iffi has become a landmark event, not just for India but internationally, comparable to global festivals such as Cannes." Dr Murugan also highlighted the festival's continuous evolution, with new initiatives each year aimed at enriching the festival experience.

11 militants die in Manipur gunfight, violence escalates

Continued From Page 1

November 7, security sources said the violence has reignited fear among locals, as the security forces struggle to contain the escalating unrest in the region. Security sources said that Kuki terrorists shot at and killed Sapam Ongbi Sonia Devi, a young married woman who was working in a paddy field on Monday. She was the wife of S. Dayananda Singh of Kumbi Watha Lambi in Bishnupur district.

Another incident took place in the Yaingangpokpi area of Imphal East on Monday, injuring two people. They were harvesting paddy near Yaingangpokpi when suspected armed terrorists opened fire at approximately 9:20 am, security sources said.

These recent incidents have left residents on the edge, particularly in the districts of

Jiribam, Kangpokpi, and Churachandpur, and Bishnupur which have been the focal points of violence in the past.

It is significant that armed extremists shot at, captured, and burnt down a tribal woman to death, along with torching at least a dozen houses in Jiribam district on November 7.

On November 9, a woman was killed after being hit by a bullet during firing by miscreants from the Churachandpur hills while she along with several others was working in paddy fields in Saiton, under the Kumbi police station in Bishnupur.

These incidents have come at a time when the Centre is making efforts to bring MLAs from both Meitei and Kuki communities on one platform to ensure return of complete normalcy in the state.

BJP seeks EC censure of Rahul

Continued From Page 1

The BJP's complaint was submitted to the poll body, the BJP demanded that it reprimand, censure and rest rain Mr Gandhi from handing out lies during election campaigning during the remaining term of the election-calling.

The BJP also demanded registration of an FIR against Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Mr Gandhi.

In connection with Mr Gandhi's speech at an election rally in Mumbai on November 6 where he alleged that on one side, there is Dr Ambedkar's Constitution, which has unity, equality, love and respect, and on the other hand, are the people of the BJP-RSS, who want to destroy the Constitution.

'PM 'toppling' Opp. govts', buying MLAs'

Continued From Page 1 palna aur fir baad me kaat kar khana hai... (Modi keeps MLAs like goats, feeds them and later feasts on them). This is Modi," Mr Kharge alleged.

Addressing two poll rallies in the state, he also charged Mr Modi and Mr Shah of running the Central government with "Adani and Ambani".

Mr Kharge took a jibe at the PM, saying "Modi believes he is not biological", and alleged: "He is a habitual liar who never fulfils his promises... Did any golden era come to Gujarat?"

"We have been tolerating Modi for 25 years as chief minister and PM. He supports those who exploit backward people and women... Modi is afraid to visit Manipur, I dare him to go there," the Congress president said.

He also alleged: "PM Modi is looting coal and iron ore from Jharkhand; his party is of snatchers. They are yet to clear Rs 1.36 lakh crores of Jharkhand in lieu of coal mining."

Attacking Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath, Mr Kharge said: "A true Yogi cannot use language like 'batenge toh katenge' (if divided, we will be wiped out). This language is

used by terrorists. Yogi is head of a mutt, wears saffron robes, but believes in 'mukh me Ram bagal me chhuri'."

Earlier in the day, Union home minister Amit Shah said that a committee will be formed if BJP forms the government in the state to identify and drive out infiltrators from the state besides reclaiming land grabbed by them, and legislation will be brought to prevent the transfer of land to infiltrators on their marrying tribal women, Mr Shah said, blaming the JMM-led government of patronising Bangladeshi infiltrators.

"The tribal population is declining in Jharkhand. Infiltrators are grabbing land by marrying our daughters. We will bring legislation to prevent the transfer of land to infiltrators if they marry tribal women."

"We will also form a committee to identify infiltrators to drive them out and reclaim land grabbed by them," the home minister said, addressing a rally at Serakela from where a JMM turnout is contesting on a BJP ticket.

He claimed that Champai Soren was insulted when he raised the infiltration issue and was forced to resign from the CM's post by Hemant

Soren. Accusing JMM-Congress and RJD leaders of only working for personal growth and indulging in corruption, he said: "Corrupt leaders of JMM-led coalition to be sent behind bars if BJP forms government in Jharkhand."

Hitting at the JMM-led coalition, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath accused it of converting the state into a "dharma-shala" for Rohingyas and Bangladeshi infiltrators. "Jharkhand has been converted into a 'dharma-shala' for Rohingyas and Bangladeshi infiltrators who have been given free rein to spread anarchy," he claimed, addressing an election rally at Bhawanathpur in Garhwa. He urged people to remain united, saying that if divided they will be wiped out.

In an apparent reference to the Soren family, Lalu Prasad Yadav's family and the Gandhi family, the Uttar Pradesh chief minister alleged that three families in Ranchi, Patna and Delhi indulged in loot and corruption for personal growth. "Natural wealth is being plundered under the JMM-led regime, labourers are forced to migrate from Jharkhand and farmers are committing suicide," he alleged.

Key Siddique shooter has no criminal history: Police

Bahraich, (UP), Nov. 11:



Crime Branch personnel arrives with the accused in the NCP leader Baba Siddique murder case at the Santacruz Airport in Mumbai on Monday. — PTI

Suspected main shooter Shivkumar Gautam arrested in the NCP leader Baba Siddique's murder case has no criminal history while three of his accomplices have been booked here earlier for molesting a minor girl, a senior official said on Monday.

The UP STF and Mumbai police on Sunday arrested Shivkumar along with his four protectors — Anurag Kashyap, Gyan Prakash Tripathi, Akash Srivastava and Akhileendra Pratap Singh — from Nanpara in Bahraich district. "During investigation, we have found that the main accused Shivkumar Gautam alias Shiva and his accomplice Anurag Kashyap have no criminal history in Bahraich," superintendent of police Vrinda Shukla said.

However, Ms Shukla said that a case was registered against three others — Akhileendra, Akash and Gyan Prakash — who were arrested on Sunday, for allegedly molesting a minor during a Moharram procession and under sections of the PoCSO Act. It has also come to the fore that they had some

land dispute with the other party, she said, adding that a probe is on in the matter.

According to the police, Anurag, Gyan Prakash, Akash, and Akhileendra have been arrested for sheltering Shivkumar and helping him flee to Nepal.

Former Maharashtra minister Siddique, 66, was shot dead on October 12 by three assailants outside his son MLA Zeeshan Siddique's office building in Bandra East, Mumbai. Meanwhile, during interrogation, Shivkumar said he was told that in exchange for killing Siddique he would get ₹10

lakh after the murder and that every month he would get something, the UP STF said in a statement.

Shivkumar also told the STF that they had been following Siddique in Mumbai for several days and on the night of October 12 when they got the right time, they killed him, the statement said. As per the STF, Shivkumar told the force that "he and Dharmaraj Kashyap (already arrested in the case) are from the same village. He used to work as a scrap dealer in Pune. His and Shubham Lonkar's scrap shops were next to each other." — PTI

THE ASIAN AGE

12 NOVEMBER 2024

Maha rival fronts agree on job creation priority

The battle for Maharashtra has entered the hottest phase with both the BJP, which leads the Mahayuti alliance and the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) releasing their manifestoes for the elections, reflecting some of the demands from the grassroots. Both the fronts have, however, returned to pet themes they had employed in the recently held Lok Sabha elections when it comes to the larger socio-political questions: while the BJP is determined to harp on Hindutva, the MVA would like to position itself as the champions of social justice.

The immediate takeaways from the manifestoes are the financial freebies on offer: both have rained promises of costly financial assistance on the electorate in varying measures. The intended beneficiaries are homemakers, unemployed youth, senior citizens and farmers. It is interesting to note that both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge have on different occasions cautioned against parties making promises beyond the means of the state governments. Political expediency appears to have gotten the better of fiscal prudence, but it is never a matter of concern in Indian politics.

The immediate takeaways from the manifestoes are the financial freebies on offer: both have rained promises of costly financial assistance on the electorate in varying measures.

That both the manifestoes have given job creation the prime slots reflects the fact that the politicians have their ears to the ground: while the BJP promises 2.5 million jobs in the next five years, the MVA would pare it down to half but offers to fill more than one lakh vacancies in the government sector.

The stark difference in the manifestoes is the positions the two fronts take with respect to socio-political issues. The BJP's promise is to introduce "a law against forced and fraudulent conversions, ensuring protection from conversions". The promise is in tune with the tone and tenor of the campaign the saffron party conducted in the Lok Sabha elections. It is not that the state has witnessed mass-scale conversions any time soon but the BJP thinks it has a formidable opposition in the MVA to defeat if it were to retain power in the crucial state, which sends the second largest contingent of members to the Rajya Sabha, and rekindling communal passion will be the best way to achieve the target.

The party has let loose Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who unapologetically marshals the thoughts of Hindutva politics to the Maharashtra electorate with the aim of consolidating the majority community under its banner. Whether its allies approve it or not, the BJP is clear in its mind that it is the saffron politics that pays, and hence the obvious scent of that politics gets an overarching presence in the party's scheme of politics and promises.

As for the MVA, the party has returned to harping on social justice, hence the thrust on caste census. The party has chosen to play caste politics to the hilt and hence the assertion that it will do away with the 50 per cent cap on the reservations in jobs, and will move to a system similar to that prevails in Tamil Nadu where the total reservations go up to 69 per cent. The MVA obviously does not want to let go of a state with an overwhelming presence of OBC votes.

Political parties are not known for attaching much importance to their manifestoes once elections are over. It remains to be seen how much the electorate cares for them, too.

Musk soars in Trump orbit

The speed at which the billionaire Elon Musk has become a point person in a prospective Donald Trump regime is an indicator of how the US President-elect is likely to handle global issues through friends and advisers in positions that may not necessarily be with formal government. Musk, once an Obama supporter who is perched among the world's richest and who spent \$130 million on the Trump campaign after swearing allegiance on the day he got shot at during a Republican campaign rally, might even get an official spot as the head of an efficiency commission to cut government costs. Long before that, he is already playing a key role in the negotiations over ending the Ukraine war.

While Trump may prefer to deal with Vladimir Putin directly, with a plea not to escalate the war, he had let Musk come in on a conference call with Ukraine's Zelenskyy to try and hard sell a vice president-elect J.D. Vance-inspired peace plan that envisages loss of Russia-occupied Ukrainian territory and an 800 km buffer zone to be policed by UK and European troops.

It is a formula that could see Zelenskyy save face while yielding a little ground to Putin to show the world Trump can stop the war as he had been saying right through his campaign. War is a more complex business, and it seems the UK's Prime Minister is pressing US President Joe Biden to allow Ukraine more powerful missiles to strike within Russia even as North Korean troops have joined Russian soldiers to try and take back territory lost in the Kursk region.

As radically non-conformist in his views as his friends and advisers, Trump has already set in motion plans to free constraints on absolute free speech as advocated by Musk on his social media platform X. Mediating in Ukraine is, however, a matter of greater import, and how this Trump-Musk team performs in marketing a peace deal may well determine the course of at least one war that has been draining resources and costing lives. Whatever else he may be projected to be, Trump is no war hawk.

True, the threat is aimed mainly at Latinos. But statistics show that Indians are emerging as one of the largest groups of migrants to the US. It may not worry them that Mr Trump's threat reneges on the lofty promise of New York's Statue of Liberty and betrays the perception of America as a land of immigrants. But they cannot pretend to ignore the practical implications of a policy that was repeated so endlessly during the recent campaign that it became a rallying cry.

THE ASIAN AGE

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Published and Printed on behalf of and for
Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110 002 at BFL Infotech Ltd., C-9, Sector-III, Noida -201301.
London: Quickmarsh Ltd, 8th Floor, Block 2, Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London, SE1 7NQ.
RNI Registration number: 57290/94

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Aakar Patel

Why Modi era is not ending soon; Rahul still has a long way to go...

The American journalist Bob Woodward (famous for his reporting of the Watergate scandal and the author, most recently, of *War*, his memoir of Joe Biden's White House years) has been documenting US Presidents since Bill Clinton. Meaning that he has been writing books about their terms and events within, a sort of history as it unfolds in real time. Our Rajdeep Sardesai has done something similar with the last three Lok Sabha elections. He has reported on and written books about the 2014 and 2019 elections and is now out with a volume titled *2024: The Election that Surprised India*.

Naturally, the book is about the campaign but it also takes us through the time leading up to it. There is a chapter on the Covid-19 pandemic and the incompetence with which it was managed (now of course long forgotten). And another on the farmers' protest and perhaps the decline of the Narendra Modi government can be traced to that period beginning with the Shaheen Bagh movement in late 2019 and peaking at the moment he belatedly surrendered to the farmers in late 2021.

That brings me to the most interesting part of the book, towards the end, where Sardesai answers what he calls some frequently asked questions. There are three of them, the first being: Is the Modi era drawing to a close? Sardesai says no for a few reasons. It is

important to understand that he approaches this question from the angle: Is Modi going away? There is another way of looking at it, and we will come to that in a moment. Sardesai writes that "fierce determination" and "readiness to do whatever it takes to stay in power" will ensure that Prime Minister Narendra Modi completes his third term in office. He points to the recent rollbacks in policy, including on lateral recruitment, as a sign of this.

Mr Modi's "allies", meaning those supporting him in office, like N. Chandrababu Naidu of the Telugu Desam Party and Nitish Kumar of the Janata Dal (United), have regional agendas to further and are uninterested in destabilising their arrangement. This is another plus. What about the RSS and its interests?

Sardesai says that the Sangh recognises that Mr Modi is more popular than the BJP (according to surveys), with one in four voters saying they came to the party because of him, a decrease from 2019 when it was one in three.

The absence of internal rivals for now means that Mr Modi will continue past his 75th birthday, which is less than a year away.

Next, the book looks at the question of whether Rahul Gandhi has "finally arrived as a politician of substance". Sardesai offers a qualified "yes". He says there has been a shift from the past (which is why the question itself of having "finally arrived" arose). Mr Gandhi's

Bharat Jodo Yatra and of course the election results and the subsequent change inside Parliament are evidence.

However, there remains some work to be done, Sardesai writes, and the state elections will reveal more to us about Mr Gandhi's leadership qualities and abilities.

The third question he takes up is whether democracy will "survive the Modi era"? This is interestingly put and the author takes up two things as indicators. First, the broad weakness in economic development in the meaningful sense of the word, and second, the drift towards authoritarianism under Mr Modi. Both need to be addressed if the answer to the question is to be "yes".

None of what Sardesai says is exceptional. There is another way of answering the question on the Modi era and whether it has ended. What did the era mean in essence? It was the time of an individual claiming he would personally make a difference and bring to government what was missing all these decades. An honest assessment of the last decade would show that this was untrue and that the impact isn't visible. The lives of most Indians are not different today than they were in 2014.

Today, Mr Modi's ability to get things done with 240 seats is limited as we have seen in the rollbacks. There is no question of claiming any longer that he is special and unique. His

agency to produce masterstrokes that the Cabinet does not know about, such as his experiments with our currency and the lockdown, is depleted. Much time and energy is now being spent and will be spent, as Sardesai notes, in managing allies and ensuring there is no internal dissent.

He is now just another politician and the gloss of messianism is gone, forever. He will likely remain in office for the rest of this term, but that is because of the factors that Sardesai has listed. It is not because he still possesses what people thought he had in 2014 and to a large extent in 2019. By itself this is not a bad thing.

After so much hype, much if not most of it unjustified and all of it unrealised, we have returned to a time of regular politics. Where we can focus on the hard questions of how to transition half a billion people from poverty to prosperity and how to create hundreds of millions of jobs in a time when this is more difficult than it was in the past.

It will be democracy's finest achievement if we are able to do this, and whether or not we get there, we can look forward to Sardesai taking us through the journey in his five-year instalments.

The writer is the chair of Amnesty International India. Twitter: @aakar_patel



Trump's America: Will it hit Indians' hopes and dreams?



Sunanda K. Datta-Ray
Reflections

The death of a 40-year-old Indian in the icy waters of the English Channel is another reminder that the United States of America is not the only country that is at war with itself. Ranking 105th among the 127 countries of the Global Hunger Index, Indians are even more deeply engaged in a war of survival that is all the more vicious for being so determinedly glossed over by the country's rulers and the media.

It would be extremely short-sighted for everyone — Indians and the rest of the world — to do so any longer. "The United States is now an occupied country," Mr Trump told a recent rally in Atlanta. "But on November 5, 2024, that will be liberation day in America." Liberation meant his re-election as the 47th President of the United States. That he is a convicted felon is neither here nor there. Nor does his threat to impose punishing import duties on Chinese goods really matter (except, maybe, to the Chinese). But the promise to stage the "largest deportation operation in American history" cannot similarly be ignored at a time when the world is on the move mainly because countries like India do not offer any great opportunities at home.

True, the threat is aimed mainly at Latinos. But statistics show that Indians are emerging as one of the largest groups of migrants to the US. It may not worry them that Mr Trump's threat reneges on the lofty promise of New York's Statue of Liberty and betrays the perception of America as a land of immigrants. But they cannot pretend to ignore the practical implications of a policy that was repeated so endlessly during the recent campaign that it became a rallying cry.

Trump loyalists waved signs that read "Mass deportations now!" and chanted "Send them back" at the Republican convention in Milwaukee earlier this year.

Earlier, in 2015, he pledged to construct a "great wall" along the US-Mexico border to keep out immigrants who he disparaged as "rapists" and drug dealers. In the final weeks of the race, he again turned his wrath against immigrants as well as people who were already there. Perhaps some echo of this reached India with Amit Shah describing Bangladeshi immigrants as "termites".

Not that he has offered concrete details about his plans, but in public remarks and interviews, the President-elect and his allies, including Stephen Miller, the architect of his harsh immigration agenda and an influential adviser, have sketched out a vision that dovetails with Project 2025, a 900-plus page presidential transition blueprint led by the right-wing Heritage Foundation.

Some fear that implementation of this strategy may involve the use of American soldiers for immigration enforcement and border security and the application of antediluvian wartime powers.

Mr Trump himself has invoked the 1954 campaign by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Dubbed "Operation Wetback", it involved rounding up and deporting hundreds of thousands of people of Mexican descent, including US citizens.

Many fear that the pledge to expel "maybe as many as 20 million" people from the US may throw out legal migrants too. The vast majority of the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the US in 2022 had been in the country for more than a decade. More than two million new arrivals since Joe Biden took office remain in the

Trump loyalists waved signs that read "Mass deportations now!" and chanted "Send them back" at the Republican convention in Milwaukee earlier this year.

country. Lakhs of immigrants allowed to temporarily live and work in the US could see their status revoked.

Mr Trump also warns that the archaic Alien Enemies Act of 1798, which allows the summary deportation of non-citizens from a country with which the US is at war, could be used "to target and dismantle every migrant criminal network operating on American soil". His plans also include the construction of enormous detention camps "greater than any national infrastructure project we've done to date".

Beyond deportation, Mr Trump has vowed to "terminate" every one of President Biden's "open-borders" policies. Instead, asylum-seekers would be required to remain in Mexico while their claims are processed, under the emergency health authority, Title 42, that will be invoked to allow US officials to turn away asylum seekers at the border.

This platform calls for reinstating a version of his controversial ban on travel from several primarily Muslim countries, which Mr Biden denounced as "a stain on our national conscience" and ended on his first day in office.

Most scholars think the Trump camp's legal theories to support ending birthright citizenship for the American-born children of undocumented immigrants is unconstitutional. Mr Trump also says that he would impose ideological screenings to keep "Christian-hating communists, Marxists and socialists out of America". The visas of foreign students who participated in anti-Israel or pro-Palestinian protests could be rescinded.

US Presidents do enjoy wide latitude to act on immigration. An embold-

ened Mr Trump, with a supportive or deadlocked US Congress, could therefore dramatically reshape the immigration system, especially by restricting legal pathways. This is a theme that might be developed as Trump spokespersons blame the Biden-Harris administration for creating an "unprecedented immigration, humanitarian and national security crisis on our southern border".

"President Trump will restore his effective immigration policies, implement brand new crack-downs that will send shockwaves to all the world's criminal smugglers, and marshal every federal and state power necessary to institute the largest deportation operation of illegal criminals, drug dealers and human traffickers in American history," according to a prominent spokesperson.

Returning to the Channel drowning, Mr Trump's proclaimed intentions gain some sort of legitimacy from the pressure that is building up across the Atlantic to force Britain's new Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, to announce and enforce a strict migrant policy. An Oxford University study reckons that Britain might have as many as 745,000 illegal migrants, equivalent to a city the size of Leeds. There are fears that all social services will collapse under the weight of an unchecked influx of unauthorised foreigners like the hapless Indian.

But whether Mr Trump will go through with his drastic plans is another matter. He is an impetuous man whose bark may at times be worse than his bite.

He is deeply conscious of his global image and affects to admire Prime Minister Narendra Modi. If he truly does so, he cannot be oblivious of the damage that such restricted migration into the United States can have on Mr Modi's standing among Indians who prize a US "Green Card" as a bride's most attractive dowry.

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

LETTERS

BJP IS AT IT AGAIN

The Centre's investigative agencies aren't unduly perturbed at the criticism against them that they target only Opposition leaders as they arrested an aide of Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren. Coming just before the Assembly elections, this will be seen as an attempt to discredit the JMM's campaign and demoralise the supporters. The BJP has denied the raid had anything to do with the polls. The BJP will not be in power forever and soon the boot could well be on the other foot.

Anthony Henriques
Mumbai

UNCHARITABLE REMARK

CONSIDERING THAT near the end of his tenure, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to his residence to attend a Ganapati puja and said he was only invoking God's intervention before the verdict in the hotly contested Ram Jannabhooni case, it's no surprise he has made unavowable remarks that the "Justice Krishna Iyer doctrine" has done a disservice to the spirit of the Constitution! It is an established truth that Justice Krishna Iyer never crossed the "lakshman rekha" as far as the Constitution's tenets were concerned. He delivered many historic judgments, which still serve as guidelines. It is, however, a great solace that Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Sudhanshu Dhulia recorded their dissent over the CJT's uncharitable comments.

Tharcus S. Fernando
Chennai

ADIEU, DELHI GANESH

THE PASSING of veteran and versatile actor Delhi Ganesh is a big shock to the movie industry. He was one of the rare talents who brought respectability to the field through his magnetic screen presence. His career in acting started from Dakshina Bharata Nataka Sabha troupe and he was spotted by K. Balachander, who christened him Delhi Ganesh. Before he received the moniker Ganesh, he served in the Indian Air Force from 1964 to 1974. His professional approach towards acting right from the start paved the way for a glorious career. He turned himself into a fine character artist and used to have a fine sense of humour that showed in his delivery of dialogues. With over 400 films to his credit, Delhi Ganesh left an indelible mark on the industry.

A.P. Thiruvadi
Chennai

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: asianage.letters@gmail.com.

SHORT TAKES

TAIWAN: NO NEW TALKS WITH U.S. ON ARMS SALES

Taipei, Nov. 11: There is no new "stage of talks" with the US at the moment for arms sales, Taiwan's government said on Monday, as the island considers how best to respond to US President-elect Donald Trump's previous demands that Taipei pay for protection.

Trump, who won a second term as President last week, unnerved democratically governed Taiwan, which is claimed by China, by saying it should pay the US for its defence and that it had taken away semiconductor business from America.

MAURITIUS PM CONCEDES DEFEAT IN ELECTIONS

Port Louis, Nov. 11: The Mauritius opposition appeared to be headed for victory in legislative elections after Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth on Monday conceded defeat.

Final results have yet to be officially released, but opposition leader Navin Ramgoolam looked set to take over the post of PM for the third time at the head of his Alliance of Change coalition. Jugnauth said his Lepep alliance, led by his Militant Socialist Movement (MSM), was "heading towards a big defeat" in Sunday's poll in the prosperous Indian Ocean island nation.

S'PORE MAN CHARGED FOR STABBING PRIEST

Singapore, Nov. 11: A 37-year-old Singaporean man was charged in court on Monday for allegedly causing grievous hurt with a dangerous weapon after stabbing a priest in the mouth during a children's mass in a church. The stabbing incident took place on Saturday last week at St Joseph's Church in Upper Bukit Timah area. *The Straits Times* newspaper reported.

Basnayake Keith Spencer, a Singaporean Sinhalese, stabbed Reverend Christopher Lee while the 57-year-old was celebrating evening mass.

ATTACK KILLS FIVE IRANIAN SECURITY MEN

Tehran, Nov. 11: A militant attack near the Pakistani border with Iran left five Iranian forces dead, the state-run IRNA news agency reported.

The report said the dead were ethnic Baluch members of the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard's volunteer Basij force and were killed in Saravan city in Sistan and Baluchistan province. Saravan is some 1,400 km southeast of Tehran. No group immediately claimed responsibility. Earlier in the day, state TV reported that Revolutionary Guard forces killed three terrorists and arrested nine others.

GEORGIA PREZ CALLS FOR FRESH POLL AFTER VOTE

Tbilisi, Nov. 11: Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili on Monday called for fresh parliamentary elections to resolve a crisis sparked by last month's vote denounced by the opposition as rigged in favour of the ruling party.

The European Union and the United States have called for a probe into electoral "irregularities" in the October 26 vote won by the ruling Georgian Dream party.

The pro-Western opposition has refused to recognise the election result or enter the newly elected Parliament, which it deems "illegitimate."

3.76BN EUROS IN AID TO VALENCIA AFTER FLOODS

Madrid, Nov. 11: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Monday announced 3.76 billion euros (\$4.01 billion) in additional measures to reconstruct the Valencia area.

More than 220 people died after torrential rains on Oct. 29 triggered floods that swept through the suburbs.

"There are still streets to be cleaned, there are garages to be drained, there are many infrastructures to be repaired and, above all, many lives, many homes and many businesses to be restored to normal," Sanchez told reporters.

COP29 climate summit clouded by Trump worry, absent leaders

Delegates eye \$1 trillion deal in climate finance for developing countries

Baku, Nov. 11: The annual UN climate summit began on Monday with some prominent leaders planning to skip the event ahead of tough talks on finance and trade, after a year of weather disasters that have emboldened developing countries' demands for cash.

Delegates gathering in Azerbaijan's capital, Baku, hope to resolve the COP29 summit's top agenda item — a deal for up to \$1 trillion in annual climate finance for developing countries, replacing a target of \$100 billion.

"Let's dispense with the idea that climate finance is charity," UN climate chief Simon Stiell said at the Baku Stadium venue. "An ambitious new climate finance goal is entirely in the self-interest of every nation, including the largest and wealthiest."

But the financing goal is competing for attention with economic concerns, wars in Ukraine and Gaza, and the election of Donald Trump, a climate-change denier, for a second term as President of the US.

Political leaders expected to stay away include US President Joe Biden, Chinese President Xi Jinping and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

The Caspian Sea nation, which is home to the world's first oil wells, faces pressure to make progress on last year's COP28 pledge to transition away from fossil fuels.

Azerbaijan's oil and gas revenues accounted for 35% of its economy in 2023, down from 50% two years earlier. The government says these revenues will decline to 22% by 2028.

One of the first tasks as the summit talks began, was to adapt the agenda to accommodate China's last-minute proposal to discuss trade.



Activists demonstrate for climate justice and a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war at the COP29 UN Climate Summit, in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Monday. — AP

CLIMATE COUNTDOWN

HERE ARE SOME OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF CLIMATE TALKS

- 1800s:** For about 6,000 years before the industrial era, global levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) remained around 280 parts per million (ppm).
- 1890s:** Svante Arrhenius of Sweden calculates the temperature effect from doubling atmospheric CO₂ levels.
- 1938:** British engineer Guy Callendar determines that global temperatures are rising with increasing CO₂ levels, and hypothesises that the two are linked.
- 1958:** American scientist Charles David Keeling starts measuring CO₂ levels over Hawaii's Mauna Loa Observatory, resulting in the "Keeling Curve" graph.
- 1990:** At the UN's Second World Climate Conference, scientists highlight the risks of global warming. British PM Margaret Thatcher calls for binding emissions targets.
- 2001:** US President George W. Bush calls the Kyoto Protocol "fatally flawed," signalling the country's effective exit.
- 2001:** US President George W. Bush calls the Kyoto Protocol "fatally flawed," signalling the country's effective exit.
- 2011:** COP17 talks in Durban falter after China, the US and India refuse binding emissions cuts before 2015.
- 2012:** At COP18 in Doha, Russia, Japan and New Zealand resist new emissions targets that do not extend to developing nations.
- 2013:** Atmospheric CO₂ levels cross 400 ppm for the first time in recorded history.
- 2017:** US President Donald Trump pledges to remove the US from the 2015 Paris climate agreement.
- 2020:** The annual COP is postponed amid the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2021:** At COP26, the Glasgow Pact sets a goal of using less coal and resolves some rules for trading carbon credits to offset emissions.
- 2023:** At COP28, countries agree to transition away from fossil fuel use.

Tom Homan is US 'border czar'



Tom Homan

Washington, Nov. 11: US President-elect Donald Trump said late Sunday he was bringing back hardline immigration official Tom Homan to oversee the country's borders in the incoming administration.

The 78-year-old Republican tycoon has pledged to launch — on day one of his presidency — the largest deportation operation of undocumented immigrants in US history.

"I am pleased to announce that the Former ICE director, and stalwart on Border Control, Tom Homan, will be joining the Trump Administration, in charge of our Nation's Borders ("The Border Czar")." Trump posted on his social network *Truth Social*.

Trump said he has offered Republican Congresswoman Elise Stefanik the job of US ambassador to the United Nations, in comments to US media late on Sunday.

"I am honoured to nominate Chairwoman Elise Stefanik to serve in my Cabinet as United States Ambassador to the United Nations. Elise is an incredibly strong, tough, and smart America First fighter," Trump said in a statement to the *New York Post*.

SK PLANS CHIPS LAW TO AVERT TRUMP THREAT

Seoul, Nov. 11: South Korea's ruling party proposed a special chips act on Monday to give chipmakers subsidies and an exemption from a national cap on working hours, to tackle measures threatened by incoming US President Donald Trump.

The semiconductor industry is critical for the trade-dependent economy, with chips making up 16% of total exports last year.

"I've known Tom for a long time, and there is nobody better at policing and controlling our Borders." Trump said Homan will be in charge of "all Deportation of Illegal Aliens back to their Country of Origin". — *AFP*

Trump, Musk weigh in on Senate leader

Washington, Nov. 11: President-elect Donald Trump and Elon Musk moved to make demands of the next Senate Republican leader, potentially scrambling a race that has been expected to go to one of Mitch McConnell's longtime allies.

Trump insisted the next Republican leader endorse letting him make recess appointments bypassing the Senate, which Musk quickly said was essential to accomplishing Trump's agenda.

Musk then endorsed Florida Senator Rick Scott,

a longtime Trump ally and McConnell critic, for the leader job, after Scott backed Trump's demand. Musk also has posted a poll asking his followers who should replace McConnell, who isn't running for another term atop the GOP in Wednesday's secret-ballot election.

Naming officials while the Senate is out of session, a mechanism known as recess appointments, allows presidents to work around the Senate's role in confirming appointees. The process is much faster. — *Bloomberg*

Pak limits outdoor activities over pollution

Lahore, Nov. 11: Pakistan's Punjab province banned most outdoor activities and ordered shops, markets and malls in some areas to close early from Monday to curb illnesses caused by intense air pollution.

The province has closed educational institutions and public spaces like parks and zoos until Nov. 17 in

places, including Lahore, the world's most polluted city in terms of air quality, according to Swiss group IQAir's live ratings.

The districts of Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad and Gujranwala have seen an unprecedented rise in patients with respiratory diseases, eye and throat irritation, and pink eye disease.

se, the Punjab government said in an order issued late on Sunday.

The new restrictions will also remain in force until Nov. 17.

"The spread of conjunctivitis/pink eye disease due to bacterial or viral infection, smoke, dust or chemical exposure is posing a serious and imminent threat to public health," the Punjab government said.

While outdoor activities including sports events, exhibitions and festivals, and dining at restaurants have been prohibited, "unavoidable religious rites" are exempt from this direction, the order said.

Outlets like pharmacies, oil depots, dairy shops and

fruit and vegetable shops have similarly been exempt from the directions to close by 8 pm local time.

Lahore's air quality remained hazardous on Monday, with an index score of more than 600, according to IQAir, but it was lower than the 1,900 that it touched in places earlier this month.



A Russian tank fires towards Ukrainian positions at an undisclosed location in Ukraine, on Monday. — AP

Trump-Putin recent talks fiction: Kremlin

Moscow, Nov. 11: The Kremlin on Monday denied reports that US President-elect Donald Trump had spoken to Russian President Vladimir Putin in recent days, and said Putin had no concrete plans yet to speak to Trump.

The *Washington Post* first reported that the call had taken place, citing unidentified sources, and said that Trump had told Putin that he should not escalate the Ukraine war. *Reuters* also reported on the call, citing an unidentified source. "This is completely untrue. This is pure fiction, it's just false information," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"This is the most obvious example of the quality of the information that is being published now, sometimes even in fairly reputable publications," Peskov said.

Asked if Putin had plans for any contacts with Trump, Peskov said: "There are no concrete

plans yet." The 2-1/2-year-old war in Ukraine is entering what some officials say could be its final phase as Moscow's forces advance at their fastest pace since the early weeks of the conflict and the West ponders how the war will end.

Trump said during campaigning that he could bring peace in Ukraine within 24 hours if elected, but has given few details on how he would seek to end the biggest land war since World War Two.

Putin congratulated Trump on Thursday, praised him for showing courage when a gunman tried to assassinate him, and said Moscow was ready for dialogue with Trump.

Russia has been signalling to the United States and its allies for weeks that if they give permission to Ukraine to strike deep into Russian territory with Western-supplied missiles, then Moscow will consider it a major escalation. — *Reuters*

Palestine is not realistic, says Israeli top diplomat

Jerusalem, Nov. 11: Israeli foreign minister Gideon Saar on Monday rejected the establishment of a Palestinian state as a "realistic" goal, amid the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip. "I don't think this position is realistic today and we must be realistic," the newly appointed minister said in response to a question over the creation of a Palestinian state in exchange for a normalisation of ties between Israel and Arab countries.

A Palestinian state would be "a Hamas state", Saar added, referring to the Palestinian militant

ISRAEL SEES PROGRESS IN LEBANON TRUCE TALKS, SAYS RUSSIA CAN HELP

Jerusalem, Beirut, Nov. 11: Israel said on Monday there was progress in talks about a Lebanon ceasefire and indicated Russia could play a part by stopping Hezbollah rearming via Syria, although the Iran-backed group said it had not received any new truce proposals.

Pummelled by Israel's offensive, Hezbollah said that diplomatic contacts were under way. These involved its backers in Tehran, Washington and Moscow. — *Reuters*

Abraham Accords overseen by Donald Trump and the process could resume after he returns to the White House.

Abraham Accords overseen by Donald Trump and the process could resume after he returns to the White House. — *AFP*

Varsity students' mass cycling catch officials off guard

China back pedals over night cycling

Beijing, Nov. 11: A nighttime biking craze has sparked a backlash from Chinese officials concerned about traffic chaos and caught off guard by a surprise mass-cycle of university students — a demographic with a history of protest.

Thousands of cyclists flooded a six-lane highway this weekend, according to videos that swept Chinese social media, as they made the 50-km (31-mile) trip from Zhengzhou to an ancient city in central Henan. Students overwhelmed the town of Kaifeng, with some riders dumping their rental bikes on arrival,

local media reported. Just days ago, the ruling Communist Party mouthpiece *People's Daily* had hailed the nascent nocturnal trend as "one way university students were breathing life into China's tourism scene." While some students this weekend carried Chinese flags and chanted nationalist slogans such as "long live the party" during the trip, the mass gathering appeared to have flipped the official sentiment.

The ministry of emergency management issued a notice on its *WeChat* account on Saturday reminding cyclists to comply



Thousands of cyclists flooded a six-lane highway this weekend. — *AFP*

with traffic and bicycle rules. Bike sharing apps warned they'd remotely freeze any two-wheelers taken

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba (C) arrives at his office in Tokyo, on Monday. — AP

Japanese PM set to form minority govt

Tokyo, Nov. 11: Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba was on Monday pitted against the main opposition chief as Parliament votes to appoint the nation's leader.

Ishiba, 67, is expected to keep his job, but with a fragile grip on power after his ruling coalition lost its majority in a snap election last month.

The ex-defence minister, who took office six weeks ago, had hoped to shore up his mandate as leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)

in the October 27 polls. Instead, voters unhappy with inflation and a slush fund scandal that helped sink his predecessor Fumio Kishida delivered the party its worst result since 2009, which could cause political gridlock in a hung Parliament.

Ishiba is reportedly trying to arrange a meeting with Donald Trump later this month. Lawmakers in the lower house convened for a special session to nominate the PM, a necessary step after a general election. — *AFP*

according to the state-affiliated *Jimu News* in neighbouring Hubei.

"Why are you closing off the schools? Who will go night cycling on Monday and Tuesday?" one user complained on the platform. "I've had it, when will it be unsealed?" A hashtag about such controls attracted some 5,000,000 views on China's X-like *Weibo* as of Monday. Media channel *Shenyang News* emphasised the road safety and traffic congestion issues around the night cycling phenomenon, saying it was understandable for youths to be wild, but "once is enough." — *Bloomberg*

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	81,634.81 0.72
Nifty 50	25,013.15 0.88
S&P 500*	5,739.19 0.76
Dollar (₹)	83.96 0.02
Pound Sterling (₹)	109.96 0.17
Euro (₹)	109.96 -0.29
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	75,810.253 0.31
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	77.26 -4.53
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.806 -0.04
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	4.047 0.021

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Aparna to invest ₹2,851 crore in new township

Realty firm Aparna Constructions and Estates Pvt Ltd will invest ₹2,851 crore in the first phase of its new 123-acre township in Hyderabad. The company said it will develop a township 'Aparna Deccan Town' located at Gopanpally, Hyderabad. "This landmark township represents an ambitious foray into the ultra-luxury residential market, supported by an investment of ₹2,851 crore for phase-I," it said.



Asian Paints falls 8% after weak earnings

Shares of Asian Paints on Monday tumbled over 8 per cent after the firm reported a 43.71 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹693.66 crore for the September quarter. The stock dropped 8.18 per cent to ₹2,542.65 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it tanked 9.47 per cent to ₹2,507 — the 52-week low level. On the NSE, it slumped 8 per cent to ₹2,547.80. Intra-day, it hit its 52-week low (₹2,506/share).

P&G Home FY24 net jumps 37% to ₹573.6 crore

Procter & Gamble Home Products Ltd has reported a 36.8 per cent increase in its net profit at ₹573.6 crore and a 4.8 per cent rise in revenue from operations at ₹8,756.8 crore during FY24, according to the company's filing to Registrar of Companies. The FMCG major's total income, which also includes other income, was up 11.2 per cent to ₹9,413.02 crore during the financial year ending March 2024.

Godfrey Phillips Q2 net up 23% to ₹248.3 crore

Cigarette maker Godfrey Phillips India Ltd on Monday reported a 23 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹248.31 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, 2024, fuelled by higher sales. The company posted a consolidated net profit of ₹202.06 crore in the same quarter last fiscal. Consolidated total revenue from operations stood at ₹1,651.42 crore in the quarter under review.

Printed & Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at BFL Infotech Ltd, C-9 Sector 3, Noida-201301. Published at 219, N D Tiwari Bhawan, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Editor: Kausnik Mitter, RNI Registration number 30074/09, Air surcharge Re 1. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle is prohibited.

SIP investments in MFs cross ₹25,322 cr in Oct.

Awareness rising about averaging equity market returns

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, NOV. 11

Mutual fund investments through systematic investment plan or SIP route crossed ₹25,000 crore monthly for the first time in the month of October 2024, monthly data released by Association of Mutual Funds in India showed.

SIP is becoming a popular mode of monthly or periodic investment in mutual funds, compared to one time lump sum investments on rising awareness about its benefits of averaging equity market returns.

SIP contribution stood at an all-time high of ₹25,322.74 crore in October 2024 as against ₹24,508.73 crore in September 2024, AMFI said.

The total number of SIP accounts also crossed over 10.12 crore, highest ever as compared to over 9.87 crore in September 2024 with nearly 25 lakh new SIP accounts getting added in October month, as per AMFI data.

Total net asset under management of the mutual fund industry also inched higher to over ₹67.25 lakh crore in October from ₹67.09 lakh crore in September despite market correction, aided by higher inflows across debt, equity, hybrid and other schemes.



SATELLITE COMM. TO OPEN UP NEW FRONTIERS: SCINDIA

FC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV 11

Union telecom minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Monday hinted that the government is looking at the evolution of satellite communication networks or non-terrestrial networks with great optimism. He believes it will open up new frontiers and connect the unconnected. These are aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, he said.

India pushes rupee deals as Russia trade grows

New Delhi, Nov. 11: India is battling for more trades with Russia to be settled in rupees as its commerce with Moscow witnesses a sharp increase.

"Mutual settlement of trade in national currencies is of great importance," external affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said on Monday speaking at the India-Russia Business Forum in Mumbai and attended by Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov.

INVESTING WITH DISCIPLINE



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Total number of SIP accounts also crossed over 10.12 crore, highest ever as compared to over 9.87 crore in Sept. 2024.



GOLD ETFs saw inflow of ₹1,961 crore much higher to ₹1,233 crore in Sept. 2024.

TOTAL NET ASSET under management of the mutual fund industry inched higher to over ₹67.25 lakh crore in October from ₹67.09 lakh crore in September.

EQUITY FUNDS saw inflow of ₹41,886.69 cr as against ₹34,419.26 cr in Sept. 2024

DEBT FUNDS saw inflow of ₹1,57,402 cr as against ₹1,13,833.95 cr outflow in Sept. 2024



THE HEALTHY net flows is a testimonial to the resilience amongst domestic investors to continue investing in equities despite market volatility.

— AKHIL CHATURVEDI, Chief business officer, Motilal Oswal AMC.

Equity funds saw inflow of ₹41,886.69 crore as against ₹34,419.26 crore in September 2024, debt funds saw inflow of ₹1,57,402 crore as against ₹1,13,833.95 crore outflow in September 2024, hybrid funds saw inflow of ₹16,863 crore (₹4,901.05 crore in September) while other schemes saw inflow of ₹23,428 crore (₹3,254.09 crore in September).

Gold ETFs saw inflow of ₹1,961 crore much higher to ₹1,233 crore in September 2024.

"During the month, investors pumped in ₹41,886.69 crore, which is the highest ever monthly net inflow into equity-oriented funds and a growth of 21.7 per cent from the net inflow of ₹34,419 crore received in September. The investors focus

towards making the most of the market fall could be gauged from the fact that the redemption number was much lower in October compared with that in September," said Himanshu Srivastava, manager - Research, Morningstar Investment Research India. Mutual fund schemes attracting very high inflows include sectoral, ETFs, etc.

Oil falls as China debt refinancing stimulus fails to boost sentiment

Beijing, Nov. 11: Oil prices fell about 2 per cent on Monday after China's stimulus plan disappointed investors seeking fuel demand growth in the world's second-biggest oil consumer and as the U.S. dollar edged higher.

Brent crude futures LCOc were down 1.83, or 2.48 per cent, to \$72.04 a barrel by 1444 GMT while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures CLc1 were at \$68.47 a barrel, down 1.91, or 2.71 per cent.

Both benchmarks fell more than 2 per cent on Friday. The US dollar index, a measure of its value relative to a basket of foreign currencies, slightly overshot the highs seen right after the November 5 US presidential election, with markets still waiting for clarity



about future US policy.

A stronger dollar makes commodities denominated in the US currency, such as oil, more expensive for holders of other currencies and tends to weigh on prices.

In China, consumer prices rose at the slowest pace in four months in October while producer price deflation deepened, data showed on Saturday, even as Beijing doubled down on stimulus to support the sputtering economy. "Chinese inflation figures were again weak,

with the market fearing deflation, particularly as the yearly change in the producer price index fell further into negative territory... Chinese economic momentum remains negative," said Achilleas Georgolopoulos, a market analyst at brokerage XM. The latest support measures will not revive China's oil demand growth or crude oil imports, said Tamas Varga, an analyst at oil broker PVM. "After last week's US presidential election, attention is slowly drifting back to the underlying fundamentals," Varga said.

Oil prices also eased after concerns about potential supply disruptions from storm Rafael in the US Gulf of Mexico subsided.

— Reuters

Vistara merges with Air India, consolidation in Indian skies

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, NOV. 11

Indian aviation space will be left with one full-service carrier after Vistara's merger with Air India gets completed on Tuesday. With the merger, 90 per cent share of the sector will be held by two players.

Vistara's merger with Air India was announced on November 29, 2022, and was set to be completed on November 11, 2024. With the completion of the process, Air India group owned by the Tatas, will comprise Air India, AIX Connect and Vistara.

Full-service carrier Vistara, which started flying on January 9, 2015, was a joint venture between Tatas and Singapore Airlines.

Singapore Airlines will hold 25.1 per cent equity interest in the Air India Group. It held a 49 per cent share in Vistara earlier. Tata had also bought out the shares of Air Asia in its joint venture in Air Asia India and renamed the carrier as AIX Connect.

Meanwhile, the concerns among a section of Air India pilots over the

VAST SKIES

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Tatas, will comprise Air India, AIX Connect and Vistara.

disparity in retirement age limits between Air India and Vistara seems to remain unresolved. The retirement age for pilots and other employees at Air India is 58 years, while it is 60 years at Vistara.

After the merger of Vistara, there will be only one full-service airline left in the market — Air India. There were five full-service carriers in the past decade. Budget airlines Indigo had earlier announced that it will be adding a few premium seats in its select flights.

While the aviation traf-

fic is growing at around 15 per cent and new airports are getting added, the sector has witnessed increased consolidation.

In the last few years, three Indian airlines — Kingfisher, Jet Airways and Go First went bankrupt. Even for Vistara, except for one quarter, profits remained elusive in almost a decade of operations. Except for Indigo, the aviation sector is running on heavy losses and holds huge debt. Over 90 per cent of the market share is now held by Indigo and Air India.

Sebi issues guidelines for reclassifying FPI into FDI

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, NOV. 11

Securities and Exchange Board of India has modified the procedure for reclassification of foreign portfolio investors' (FPI) investment to FDI in excess of prescribed limit by directing FPIs to seek FPI to FDI reclassification through their custodians with immediate effect.

Earlier Sebi Foreign Portfolio Investors Regulations, 2019 provided that in case a FPI fails to divest its holdings (in excess of the prescribed threshold), within five trading days, the entire investment in the company by such FPI including its investor group shall be considered as investment under the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), as per the procedure specified by



the Board. A Sebi circular said, "In case the investment made by a report FPI (along with its investor group) reaches 10 per cent or more of the total paid up equity capital of a company on a fully diluted basis and the FPI (along with its investor group) intends to reclassify its FPI holdings as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), it shall follow extant FEMA Rules and circulars issued thereunder in this regard."

Const. tenders up 31% to ₹4.5 L-cr

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, NOV. 11

The overall tenders announced in the construction space rose 31 per cent to ₹4.5 lakh crore in Q2 FY25, though tender awarding activity is yet to pick up pace.

Tenders valued above ₹250 crore across all divisions in the construction space increased 31 per cent to ₹4.546 lakh crore against ₹3.479 lakh crore in Q2 FY24.

With the improvement in tender announcement in Q2 FY25, the tendering activity is expected to increase in Q3 FY25. It had slowed down in Q1 FY25 due to the general elections. Of the tenders

floated, 38 per cent are for roads, up from 32 per cent in the same quarter last year. Further, 11 per cent are for railways, 19 per cent for irrigation and sewage, 10 per cent for power and 21 per cent are for buildings, according to India Ratings.

However, the number of orders awarded were still lower in Q2 FY25 by 31 per cent at ₹1.547 lakh crore against ₹2.238 lakh crore in the same quarter last year. Roads and power segments contributed to the major chunk of the orders awarded with 22 per cent and 38 per cent share, respectively. Buildings accounted for 17 per cent of projects awarded.

EXPORT OF GOODS, SERVICES SET FOR BIG JUMP IN 5 YRS

FC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said that collective effort is required to achieve the "big" exports target of \$2 trillion by 2030. In 2023-24, India's exports of goods and services stood at \$778 billion.

Expressing confidence in achieving the target, the government, however, is hopeful for a big jump in exports in the next five years or so.

"Let us partner to achieve the export target of \$2 trillion by 2030, given that we will cross \$800 billion this (fiscal) year. We will have to really put in a lot of effort collectively to achieve \$2 trillion. It will not happen by chance," Goyal said at the convocation of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade. The minister urged students to contribute to studying the non-tariff barriers being faced by Indian products in other countries.

ZETWERK MAY LOOK AT RAISING \$1 BN VIA INITIAL OFFER

Bengaluru, Nov. 11: Zetwerk Pvt Ltd., an Indian supply chain start-up, is considering fundraising options including an initial public offering that may help it raise as much as \$1 billion, according to people familiar with the matter.

The Bengaluru-based firm, backed by investors such as Peak XV Partners and Lightspeed India Partners, has held talks with investment banks to help prepare for a potential IPO in Mumbai next year, the people said, asking not to be identified. — Bloomberg

HIGH DEMAND AI scientists speaking out on limitations of 'bigger is better' philosophy

OpenAI, rivals focus on making AI smarter

San Francisco, Nov. 11: Artificial intelligence companies like OpenAI are seeking to overcome unexpected delays and challenges in the pursuit of ever-bigger large language models by developing training techniques that use more human-like ways for algorithms to "think".

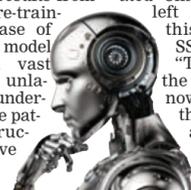
A dozen AI scientists, researchers and investors told Reuters they believe that these techniques, which are behind OpenAI's recently released o1 model, could reshape the AI arms race,

and have implications for the types of resources that AI companies have an insatiable demand for, from energy to types of chips. OpenAI declined to comment for this story. After the release of the viral ChatGPT chatbot two years ago, technology companies, whose valuations have benefited greatly from the AI boom, have publicly maintained that "scaling up" current models through adding more data and computing power will consistently lead to improved AI models. But now, some of the

most prominent AI scientists are speaking out on the limitations of this "bigger is better" philosophy. Ilya Sutskever, co-founder of AI labs Safe Superintelligence (SSI) and OpenAI, told Reuters recently that results from scaling up pre-training - the phase of training an AI model that uses a vast amount of unlabeled data to understand language patterns and structures - have plateaued.

Sutskever is widely credited as an early advocate of achieving massive leaps in generative AI advancement through the use of more data and computing power in pre-training, which eventually created ChatGPT. Sutskever left OpenAI earlier this year to found SSI. "The 2010s were the age of scaling, now we're back in the age of wonder and discovery once again. Everyone is looking for

the next thing," Sutskever said. "Scaling the right thing matters more now than ever." Sutskever declined to share more details on how his team is addressing the issue, other than saying SSI is working on an alternative approach to scaling up pre-training. Behind the scenes, researchers at major AI labs have been running into delays and disappointing outcomes in the race to release a large language model that outperforms OpenAI's GPT-4 model. — Reuters



SHORT TAKES

Sindhu, Sen hope to regain form

Kumamoto, Japan: Star shuttlers P. V. Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will be eager to regain form when they lead the Indian challenge at the Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500 tournament beginning here on Tuesday. Both players have struggled to find their best form since disappointing performances at the Paris Olympics. While Sindhu reached the quarterfinals at the Denmark Open Super 750, Lakshya Sen suffered early exits at both Arctic Open Super 500 and Denmark Open. The two players have struggled to close out decisively after staying competitive in their matches. Sindhu, after a shock first-round exit to Canada's Michelle Li in Finland, made it to the quarterfinals in Odense but lost to Paris bronze medalist Gregoria Mariska Tunjung of Indonesia in a tense deciding game. Lakshya, on the other hand, fell short against Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen and China's Lu Guang Zu in Finland and Odense. Despite these setbacks, Sindhu has expressed confidence in her preparations, having worked closely with new coaches Anup Sridhar and Korean legend Lee Syun Il. — PTI

Aravindh clinches Chennai chess title

Chennai: A late surge by GM Aravindh Chithambaram in the last two classical rounds helped him secure the Chennai Grand Masters title while GM V. Pranav remained unbeaten throughout to claim the Challengers crown here on Monday. With the Masters category witnessing a three-way tie for the top spot, Aravindh defeated GM Levon Aronian in the first blitz play-off and then held his nerves to draw the second with black pieces to clinch the second edition of the competition. Aravindh catapulted himself into title contention by registering his second successive win in the competition while overnight joint leaders GM Arjun Erigaisi and Levon Aronian played out a draw. Aravindh, who had ended Arjun's unbeaten run in the earlier round, dominated the final round game against GM Parham Maghsoodloo with black pieces. He opted for the Queen's Gambit declined in the English opening and took control of the board in the middle game after Parham traded the queens in the 24th move. — PTI

Biggies fail, silver for Moradiya

New Delhi: Leading Indian rifle shooters Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and Sift Kaur Samra failed to make an impact even as little-known Smit Rameshbhai Moradiya clinched the men's 10m air rifle silver after an extremely close fight for gold in the World University Shooting Championship here on Monday. On a day when Rameshbhai was the only Indian to win a medal, his more illustrious counterpart, Olympian Tomar finished fifth in the event, while Samra, a member of the Paris Games contingent, ended at fourth in the women's 50m rifle three-positions event. Rameshbhai, who hails from Gujarat, missed the gold medal to Czech Republic's Jiri Privratsky by just 0.1 point, scoring 252.1 in the final. It was a grand double for Privratsky, who shot 252.2 to claim the top-podium finish and add to the men's 50m rifle three-positions gold he won on Sunday. — PTI

Pirates secure impressive win

Noida: Patna Pirates returned to winning ways with an all-round performance as they secured an impressive 40-27 win over Gujarat Giants in the Pro Kabaddi League here on Monday. Ayan Lohchab was Pirates' star player once again with 10 points, including three Tackle Points, while Devank Dalal and Sandeep finished with six and five points respectively. After a slow start, the Pirates found their groove as Dalal and Ayan Lohchab made up for their initial mistakes with raids that got the likes of Balaji D. and Sombir off the mat. The two teams matched each other like-for-like in terms of both attack and defence at the start as Rakesh led the raiding department for the Gujarat side, scoring four quick points. As the first half came to a close, the Pirates got themselves back into the game, equalising the score and then getting the Gujarat Giants ALL OUT.

ALL JASSED UP

Bumrah to lead, Rahul likely to open against Oz in Perth

Mumbai, Nov. 11: Head coach Gautam Gambhir on Monday said Jasprit Bumrah, as designated vice-captain, will lead India in the opening Test against Australia in Perth if regular skipper Rohit Sharma is unavailable for the game due to personal reasons. The straight-talking former opener also indicated that K. L. Rahul could be asked to open the innings in place of Rohit. "The second batch of the Indian players is leaving for Perth, but Rohit has stayed back. Uncertainty remains if Rohit will compete in the series-opener. "At the moment, there is no confirmation. We will let you know exactly what the situation will be. Hopefully, he is going to be available, but everything you want to know, you will get to know before the start of the series," Gambhir said. "Bumrah is the vice-captain, so obviously if Rohit is not available, he is going to lead in Perth," the coach added.

RAHUL LIKELY TO OPEN

Rohit's possible absence also leaves a spot vacant at



India head coach Gautam Gambhir addresses a press conference in Mumbai on Monday before the cricket team's departure to Australia for a series. — PTI

the top of the batting order and Gambhir said one among the uncapped Abhimanyu Easwaran and K. L. Rahul, who both played in the unofficial Tests against Australia 'A' for India 'A', will be picked. "Obviously, there is Easwaran, there is K. L.

there. We will take a call closer to the first Test match if Rohit is not available. "There are options. There are quite a lot of options in this spot. Once it gets closer to the first Test match, we will try and play the best playing

XI who is going to do the job for us," he added. However he gave enough indications that Rahul's experience might prevail over rookie Easwaran's current form. "There are times when you go with the experienced players as well and

that is the quality of the man. He (Rahul) can actually bat at the top of the order, he can bat at number 3 and at number 6 as well," said the former southpaw. "So you need quite a lot of talent to be doing these kind of jobs as well and he has kept wickets in One-day format as well. So imagine how many countries have players like K. L. who can actually open the batting and can bat at number 6 as well? "So I feel that if needed be, I think he (Rahul) can do the job for us, especially if Rohit is not available for the first Test match," Gambhir said. While there is no Mohammed Shami and tremendous pressure on Bumrah to carry the pace bowling load, Gambhir feels that the attack is potent even with three inexperienced speedsters in Nitish Rana, Prasadh Krishna and Akash Deep. Gambhir, who will be travelling with the second batch of Indian squad on Monday, said adjusting to conditions in Australia over the next 10 days will be vital for the team. — PTI

Varun revels in new-found success

Gqeberha, Nov. 11: Mystery spinner Varun Chakaravathy has described the three-year gap from international cricket as "tough," saying he had to completely overhaul his bowling after finding that his orthodox side-spin wasn't working at higher levels. The 33-year-old recorded his career-best figures of 5 for 17 in Sunday's second T20I against South Africa, though his efforts could not prevent India from losing by three wickets. "I had to go to the drawing board and check out all my videos. I figured out that I was bowling side spin and it was not working out in the higher levels," he told *Jio Cinema*. "I had to change everything about my bowling. It took me two years and I started bowling in the local leagues and IPL also. It worked there and I have started bowling in the international stage and it's working out for me," he added.

While side spin creates enough revolutions to make the ball drift sideways, over-spin generates a sharp bounce and turn. Talking about what worked for him as he added a fiver on Sunday to the three wickets he scalped in the first T20I in Durban, Chakaravathy said: "It is a combination of both my consistency and overspin. The over-spin I bowl has more bite from the pitch and hopefully I can keep doing that and hopefully I can keep contributing for country." Chakaravathy was axed from the Indian team after going wicketless during the 2021 World Cup but he earned his place back after his exploits in the last two editions of the



India's Varun Chakaravathy (right) celebrates with teammates the dismissal of South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen during the second T20 match in Gqeberha on Sunday. — AP

BEST BOWLING FOR INDIA IN TWENTY-20 INTERNATIONALS					
Figures	Bowler	Opponent	Venue	Date	Result
6-7	Deepak Chahar	Bangladesh	Nagpur	10-11-2019	India won by 30 runs
6-25	Yuzvendra Chahal	England	Bengaluru	01-02-2017	India won by 75 runs
5-4	Bhuvneshwar K.	Afghanistan	Dubai	08-09-2022	India won by 101 runs
5-17	Kuldeep Yadav	South Africa	Johannesburg	14-12-2023	India won by 106 runs
5-17	Varun Chakaravathy	South Africa	Port Elizabeth	10-11-2024	India lost by 3 wickets

STATS: S. PERVEZ QAISER

IPL. He snapped 20 wickets in IPL 2023 before finishing as the second highest wicket-taker this year. "Definitely, the last three years were a little tough. The only thing I could do was play lots of cricket. And I started playing a lot

of the domestic league (TNP) in India. And that definitely helped me understand my game better. And that's what helped me," Chakaravathy said after the match. Chakaravathy was part of the Kolkata Knight

Riders' IPL-winning team this year under Gambhir, who recently took over as the coach of the Indian team and he credited the role clarity provided by the coach for helping him to regain his lost form. — PTI

Sangita's double strike hands India big win

Rajgir (Bihar), Nov. 11: Young striker Sangita Kumari scored a brace as defending champions India defeated Malaysia 4-0 to open their campaign at the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament on a confident note here on Monday. Sangita (8th, 55th minutes) struck twice, while Preeti Dubey (43rd) and Udita (44th) were the other goal getters for the hosts. India will next play South Korea on Tuesday. In other matches of the day, Japan and Korea played out a 2-2 draw, while reigning Olympic silver medalist China thrashed Thailand 15-0. The Indians completely dominated the proceedings in the first quarter even though Malaysia had the first shy at the goal in the form of a penalty corner in the fifth minute which they wasted. Thereafter, it was India all the way as they mount-



India's Sangita Kumari (right) celebrates after scoring against Malaysia in their Women's Asian Champions Trophy match in Rajgir on Monday. India won 4-0.

ed attack after attack to put pressure on the Malaysian defence. India secured two penalty corners in two minutes

and Sangita scored with a variation from the second effort in the eighth minute. Preeti then came close to

doubling India's lead twice. First, her push from close range was saved by the Malaysian goalkeeper, and then a minute from

the first quarter, she struck the side post. Just seconds from the first quarter, India secured another penalty corner but wasted the opportunity. India continued in the same vein and dominated the share of exchanges with persistent attacks on Malaysia but lacked the finishing touch. The Indians earned four penalty corners in the second quarter but failed to capitalise on a single opportunity to go into the breather with a slim one goal lead despite dominating the match. The Indians kept up the pressure after the change of ends and secured another penalty corner two minutes after the changeover but failed to get past the Malaysian goalkeeper. Minutes later, Malaysia secured their second penalty corner but didn't trouble the Indian backline. — PTI

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

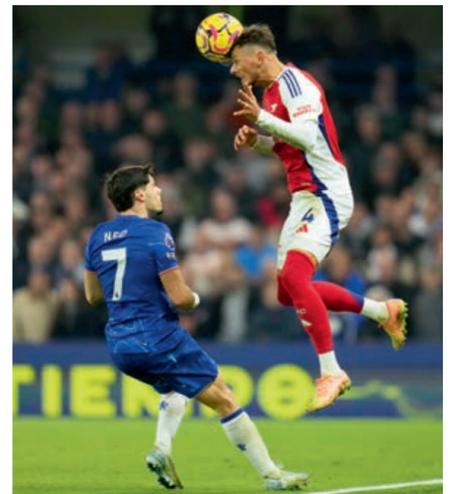
Arsenal stretch winless streak

London, Nov. 11: Arsenal and Chelsea are nine points behind Premier League leaders Liverpool after their 1-1 draw on Sunday, while Ipswich stunned Tottenham 2-1 for their first Premier League victory in 22 years. Manchester United signed off Ruud van Nistelrooy's temporary stint in charge with a 3-0 win over Leicester and Nottingham Forest dropped out of the top four after a 3-1 home defeat by Newcastle. Arsenal are now winless in four Premier League games as their bid for a first title since 2004 is at risk of unravelling. The Gunners welcomed captain Martin Odegaard back to the starting lineup for the first time in two months and were much improved at Stamford Bridge, but still could not come away with a vital three points. "We were very unlucky. We have dominated one of the best teams in Europe but we don't get the results. That is what is missing," said Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta. Odegaard teed up Gabriel Martinelli to open the scoring with a near-post shot on the hour mark. Chelsea responded through Pedro Neto's brilliant long-range effort for his first league goal since a £51 million (\$66 million) move from Wolves. A share of the spoils

THE RESULTS

Manchester United (Fernandes 17, Kristiansen 38-og, Garnacho 82)	3
Leicester	0
Chelsea (Neto 70)	1
Arsenal (Martinelli 60)	1
Tottenham Hotspur (Bentancur 69)	1
Ipswich Town (Szmolcics 31, Delap 43)	2
Nottingham Forest (Murillo 21)	1
Newcastle United (Isak 54, Joelinton 72, Barnes 83)	3

see the Blues remain ahead of Arsenal on goal difference as both sides move into the top four. Ruben Amorim will be in charge for the first time when Manchester United return from the international break. But Van Nistelrooy was able to hand over the reins with a four-game unbeaten run since stepping up to replace the sacked Erik ten Hag. "I really enjoyed it, it's been a short but amazing period," said Van Nistelrooy. Bruno Fernandes marked his 250th United appearance in style by smashing in his fourth goal in four games after a neat interchange of passes with Amad Diallo. — AFP



Arsenal's Ben White (right) heads the ball ahead of Chelsea's Pedro Neto during their English Premier League match at the Stamford Bridge Stadium in London on Sunday. — AP

Barca stumble in controversial loss at Real Sociedad

San Sebastian (Spain), Nov. 11: La Liga leaders Barcelona fell to a 1-0 defeat at Real Sociedad on Sunday as they had a Robert Lewandowski goal controversially disallowed. Seraldo Becker's 33rd-minute goal consigned the Catalan giants to their second league defeat of the season, leaving Hansi Flick's side six points clear of second-placed Real Madrid, having played an extra match. while defender Pau Cubarsi played in a mask after suffering a cut which needed stitches on his face in Serbia. The Catalans have struggled in San Sebastian in the past and were given another uncomfortable night in the Basque country. Lewandowski thought he had fired Barcelona in front after 13 minutes when he reacted well to a blocked shot to fire home, but the goal was ruled out following a VAR review. Referee Guillermo Cuadrado Fernandez was told Lewandowski was offside, although the forward did not appear to be in front of Real Sociedad defender Nayef Aguerd. — AFP

Barcelona were without teenage star Lamine Yamal after he suffered a blow to his ankle in the Champions League win at Red Star Belgrade midweek and badly missed his spark. The Catalans failed to score in a match for the first time this season across all competitions as Real Sociedad, eighth, held firm. Playmaker Dani Olmo started on the bench