

## WILL DONALD TRUMP OR KAMALA-BLOOM?

US election poll of polls hint at a nail-biting finish between the two candidates; with 19 electoral votes and no specific tilt, Pennsylvania is expected to be the deciding factor this election season

**AGENCIES, WASHINGTON:** With five days to go until the November 5 US presidential elections, the race between Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris remains tight as ever.

New York Times poll of polls national average gives razor thin edge to Kamala Harris with 49% versus 48% to Donald Trump.

With 19 electoral votes and no specific tilt, Pennsylvania is expected to be the deciding factor this election season.

Latest polling averages show Trump ahead with 2% in Pennsylvania, while Harris leading nationally by 1.4 points. Nonetheless, Harris is performing better in Pennsylvania than Biden was earlier this year, the Hindustan Times reported.

At the national level, Morning Consult survey indicates, Harris is leading by 3% nationally, 50% to 47%, in a poll of 8,807 likely voters. The findings indicate voters' positivity about Harris has grown, but 49% have heard negative news about Trump. The poll has



### WHICH WAY IS PENDULUM SWINGING?

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a 1% margin of error.

Reuters/Ipsos shows Harris holding a razor-thin lead of 44% to 43% in favour of Trump among 975 registered voters. Among the likeliest voters, Harris leads 47% to 46%. She has been leading in every Reuters/Ipsos poll of registered voters since July.

SurveyUSA/WRAL poll among voters in North Carolina show Harris and Trump are tied at 47% in the state among 853 likely voters. This indicates a statistical deadlock in a key battleground state with 16 electoral votes.

### IRAN WARY OVER US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

**AP, TEHRAN:** America's presidential election next week comes just after Iran marks the 45th anniversary of the 1979 US Embassy hostage crisis – and for many, tensions between Tehran and Washington feel just as high as they did then. Many are split on which candidate would be better for their country – if at all. "All US presidents elected after the (1979) revolution had the same views about Iran and I think that's

unlikely to change," said Sadegh Rabbani, 65. Harris and Trump have offered hard-line views on Iran, making Iranians wary. Both candidates have either undertaken or expressed tough stances on Iran. In 2018, Trump unilaterally pulled America out of Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers, setting off years of attacks across the Middle East even before Hamas' Oct 7, 2023, attack on Israel. Trump has been

briefed on Iranian plots to retaliate against him, as well over his decision to launch a 2020 drone strike that killed Iran's top general, Qassem Soleimani, in Baghdad. Harris, meanwhile, vowed at the September presidential debate that she would always "give Israel the ability to defend itself, in particular as it relates to Iran and any threat that Iran and its proxies pose to Israel."

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### DISPELLING DARKNESS



A woman lights up diyas at her residence in Curti-Ponda, on the occasion of Diwali, on Thursday. People from across Goa celebrated the Festival of Lights by decorating their homes with rangoli, earthen lamps and by hoisting akash kandils (lanterns)

## Delhi defies firecracker ban as air quality turns "poor"

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The Delhi sky lit up on Thursday as people celebrated Diwali, defying a ban on firecrackers, even as the air quality of the capital city turned "very poor".

Areas including Lajpat Nagar, Kalkaji, Chhatrapur, Jaunapur, East of Kailash, Saket, Rohini, Dwarka, Punjabi Bagh, Vikas Puri, Dilshad Garden, Burari and many other neighbourhoods of east and west Delhi saw firecrackers being burst.

At 9 pm, Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 327, with Alipur, Anand Vihar, Ashok Vihar, Aaya Nagar, Bawana,

Burari, Mathura Road, IGI Airport, Dwarka, Jahangirpuri, Mundka, Narela, Patparganj, Rohini, Shadipur, Sonia Vihar, Wazirpur, Mandir Marg, Nehru Nagar,

**With the 24-hour AQI recorded at 328 at 4 pm, Delhi experienced its worst air quality on Diwali in the last three years**

Najafgarh and other weather-monitoring stations witnessing "very poor" air quality, according to the Sameer app that provides hourly updates of the National AQI published by the

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

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Following the practice of the last four years, the city government announced a comprehensive ban on the manufacture, storage, sale and use of firecrackers earlier this month.

Delhiites woke up to a sky shrouded in a thick layer of smog on Diwali morning as the air quality continued to deteriorate, remaining in the "very poor" category with a recorded AQI of 328 at 4 pm.

### Protests banned outside UK abortion clinics

**AP, LONDON:** A British ban on protesting outside abortion clinics went into effect on Thursday, though it left a question mark over whether anti-abortion demonstrators who pray silently will be breaking the law.

The law, which applies to England and Wales, bars protests within 150 metres (164 yards) of clinics. Scotland and Northern Ireland, which make their own health policies, recently enacted similar bans.

The new rules make it an offense to obstruct someone using abortion services, "intentionally or recklessly" influence their decision, or cause "harassment, alarm or distress." Offenders face a fine, with no upper limit.

The buffer zone rule was passed 18 months ago as part of the previous Conservative government's Public Order Act, but wrangling over whether it would apply to silent prayer protests, and a change in gov-

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## Protest against Bhutani Infra at Sancoale continues to gather steam

Community members, activists join chain hunger strike against the mega project at Savorfond

Team Herald

**VASCO:** Even though former Sarpanch of Sancoale village, Premanand Naik had to end his hunger strike against Bhutani Infra due to health issues, his campaign continues unhindered as community members, activists and social workers continued their chain hunger strike against the mega project at Savorfond, Sancoale.

On Thursday, A group of youth activists Harsha Wadkar, Frank, Keith, Shawn Furtado and others along with Chicalim parish priest Fr Bolmax Pereira joined chain hunger strike and questioned the State government's inaction in Bhutani Infra matter.

Fr Bolmax held the government irresponsible for the ongoing happen-



Community workers continue with chain hunger strike in Sancoale to support Premanand Naik, on Thursday

**“Youth are ready to take their responsibility for Goa. There is systematic destruction of Goa, be it at Old Goa, Reis Magos and Sancoale. Mega projects are approved without checking the carrying capacity of the State. Can Goa really sustain these mega projects?”**

– Shawn Furtado, youth activist

ings. "When will the youth study and make their career if they continue participating in protests and

agitating on street to save Goa?" he asked.

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### UN warns of severe food crisis

**AP, ROME:** Severe food crisis threatens hundreds of thousands of people in conflict-hit areas, including the Palestinian territories, Sudan, South Sudan, Haiti, and Mali, where populations face or near famine, says a report by the United Nations' food agencies released on Thursday.

Conflicts, economic instability, and climate shocks -- combined with reduced funding for emergency food and agriculture assistance -- are driving alarming levels of acute food insecurity, the report warned.

"Immediate, scaled-up intervention is needed to prevent further deterioration in these already vulnerable regions," it added.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme said acute food insecurity is projected to worsen across 16 "hunger hotspots" during the next six months in 14 countries and two regions.

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## India, China troops complete disengagement at LAC

Armies of both countries exchange sweets at several border points along the LAC on the occasion of Diwali

**PTI, NEW DELHI/BEIJING:** Indian Army sources said on Wednesday that the troops of both countries have completed disengagement at two friction points at Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh and patrolling is set to commence soon at these points.

The verification process post-disengagement is in progress and patrolling modalities are to be decided between ground commanders, an Indian Army source said.

"Talks will continue at the local commander level," the Army source added.

Meanwhile, troops of India and China exchanged sweets at several border points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the occasion



Indian and Chinese Army personnel exchange sweets on the occasion of Diwali, at a border point along LAC, on Thursday

of Diwali on Thursday, Army sources said.

The traditional practice was observed a day after both countries completed the disengagement at two friction points at Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh, bringing a fresh thaw in

Sino-Indian ties.

"Sweets exchange between members of the troops of India and China took place at several border points along the LAC on the occasion of Diwali," an Army source told PTI.

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MAX. TEMP 31.2 °C  
MIN. TEMP 24.6 °C

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Forget the interview; let's buy the government job instead.

## Narco-Control Bureau & ANC Goa have a fight on their hands, as Goa becomes the melting pot of drugs

Contraband is adulterated and distributed in Goa and sent out of the State; ANC suspects drugs are linked to parties; strict watch on couriers as drugs are being smuggled from abroad; The Narcotics Control Bureau in Goa has been upgraded from sub-zonal to zonal

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

**PANJIM:** The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has clearly understood the need to increase sur-



veillance and intensify investigation into the increased menace of drugs in Goa

The drug trade is now a

well-established industry with major operatives from across the border going to any lengths to fuel this business; including marrying locals in Goa, applying for OCI cards to live and doing their shady business here. "Most of these foreigners, male and female marry locals and then apply for OCI or some have children born here. This makes it easier for them to stay and operate," confessed an intelligence officer.

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**“With the number of parties taking place, we have asked for test kits immediately to check consumption of drugs and are now working with courier agencies. Drugs are now being imported in raw form from abroad. I came to know from Delhi Police that part of the quantity of cocaine (roughly worth over Rs 5,000 crore) recently seized in New Delhi was bound for Goa. Since Goa is a party spot and a coastal State, by default it is a good destination**

– Tikam Singh Verma, Superintendent of Anti-Narcotics Cell, Goa Police

### GOA DRUG DIARIES: SUM & SUBSTANCE

► Goa has moved from a place to consume drugs to a destination where contraband is adulterated and distributed

► Courier services are used to get drugs from abroad and then made into paper blots and sold

► Drugs are sent packed to India as consumables or even as dinner sets that are then distilled in laboratories

► Foreigners are behind the supply of drugs like cocaine, LSD and other

chemicals to India and they are primarily shipped to Goa

► LSD blots, MDMA powder, Hashish powder, Hydroponic weed and Psilocybin mushroom capsules, and crude and sophisticated lab equipment were found in a busted drug laboratory in Anjuna in May 2023

► Most foreigners marry locals and then apply for OCI or some have children born here. This makes it easier for them to stay and operate