



## Shehnaaz's thoughts

Actor Shehnaaz Gill says she doesn't see marriage as a necessity in today's time

LEISURE | P2



## Largest museum

Egypt inaugurates the Grand Egyptian Museum, the world's largest, dedicated to its ancient civilisation

INTERNATIONAL | P10



## Paperless Aadhaar

In a significant move to provide digital convenience to Aadhaar cardholders, UIDAI rolls out fully digital 'Aadhaar'

BUSINESS | P11



## On cusp of history

Indian women's cricket stands on the brink of a watershed moment with the team facing a formidable South Africa in the final

SPORTS | P12

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 211 | www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 2, 2025

12 PAGES + SUNDAY POST | ₹5.00

## SI recruitment scam mastermind Shankar Prusty held in U'khand



PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 1:** In a major breakthrough, the Crime Branch of Odisha Police Saturday arrested the main accused in the SI recruitment scam, Shankar Prusty, from the Nepal border in Uttarakhand.

The Crime Branch has started the process to bring him back to the state, a source said, adding that the accused will be produced in a local court in Uttarakhand and brought to Odisha on transit remand.

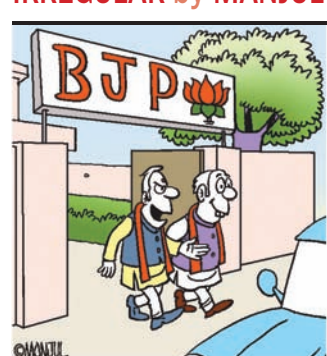
Prusty had been on the run ever since the scam came to light and a lookout circular was issued against him by the Odisha Police.

With this, the total number of people arrested in connection with this case has reached 124.

More than 1.53 lakh candidates competed for 933 SI positions, but the examination, initially slated for October 5-6, was indefinitely postponed after reports of widespread irregularities surfaced.

Prusty, director of Panchsoft Technologies Pvt. Ltd., a subcontractor involved in conducting the exam, has been accused of masterminding the question paper leak and granting unauthorised access to candidates in exchange for hefty kickbacks.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The best thing about our star speakers – they've wiped out their biggest critics, the stand-up comics

## 'Zaika-e-Lucknow': City of Nawabs gets UNESCO tag

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, Nov 1:** From the silken softness of Galouti kebabs to the intoxicating aroma of Awadhi biryani and the cloud-like nothingness of Makkhan Malai, the notes of Lucknow's cuisine are many, each more delectable than the last, and now recognised by UNESCO.

Reaffirming a widely acknowledged matter of fact, Lucknow has officially been inducted into UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (CCN), under the 'Gastronomy' category, marking a global acknowledgement of its culinary heritage.

UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay Friday designated 58 cities as new members of the CCN, which now includes 408 cities across more than 100 countries, "for their commitment to championing creativity as a driver of sustainable urban development".

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 1:** Odisha has taken a major stride in the semiconductor sector and, after Bangalore, is fast emerging as India's new electronics and IT capital, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Saturday.

Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony of SiCSem Pvt. Ltd. at Infovalley, Bhubaneswar — for a semiconductor manufacturing unit with an investment of ₹2,000 crore, the Chief Minister said that Odisha's journey in the semiconductor sector is gaining strong momentum.

"This moment is not just about bricks and cement; it symbolises aspiration, stability, collaboration, and self-reliance," Majhi said.

He added that the semiconductors produced at the new facility will be used in missiles, electric vehicles, defence equipment, railways, and solar energy systems.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister announced that SiCSem Pvt. Ltd. has also established a Research and Innovation Centre at IIT Bhubaneswar with an investment of ₹64 crore.

Additionally, union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has sanctioned ₹5 crore from his MPLAD fund for setting up



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi interacts with officials after laying the foundation stone for a semiconductor manufacturing unit of SiCSem Pvt. Ltd. at Infovalley, Bhubaneswar, Saturday. Among others, Electronics and IT Minister Mukesh Mahaling is seen

a "NaMo Semiconductor Laboratory" at IIT Bhubaneswar.

The initiative, Majhi said, will create greater opportunities for students to pursue ad-

vanced research in semiconductor technology.

Majhi stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India is advancing from

"chip to ship" in every mission.

Odisha, he added, is scripting a new chapter of self-reliance in semiconductor and electronics manufacturing and will play a

vital role in realising the Prime Minister's Semiconductor Mission.

He revealed that two companies have recently signed MoUs

## 9 killed in Andhra temple stampede

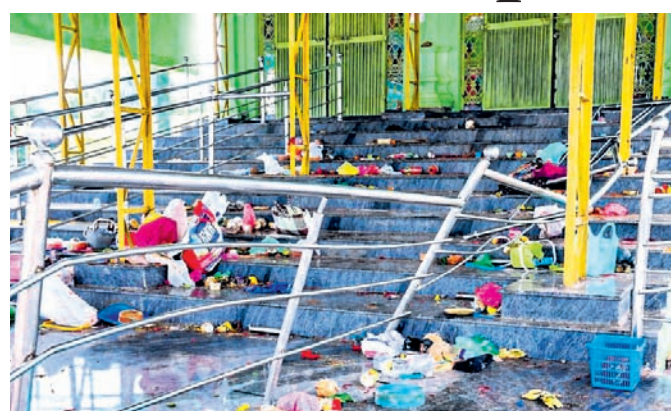
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kasibugga, Nov 1:** At least nine people – eight women and a boy – were killed and many others injured in a temple stampede here in Srikakulam district Saturday, said an official.

However, Srikakulam District Collector Swapnil Dinkar Pundkar earlier put the toll at 10. The stampede occurred at Venkateswara temple in Kasibugga town at around 11.30 am, said Kasibugga sub-division in-charge DSP Lakshman Rao.

"Nine (deaths). Nine only, (Condition of) one person is bit serious. He is not dead. Total nine people. One child is there, a 12-year-old child; the remaining (victims) are all female. And it is a private temple. It is not a government temple. It was constructed recently," Srikakulam Superintendent of Police KV Maheswara Reddy told PTI.

The police official further said that the incident occurred due to the collapse of an iron grill near the steps. The public, in fear, thought that something



was falling and panicked. They fell from a height of about six feet. There was no stampede. Since the collapse was from a height of six feet, one person fell on another, and that led to the incident.

"It is purely an accident and due to the owner's mistake. They haven't applied for police bandobust, there were no permissions also," he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was pained by the incident and announced an

ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh each from PMNRF to the next of kin of those who lost their lives and ₹2,000 to the injured.

"Pained by the stampede in Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh. My thoughts are with those who have lost their near and dear ones. I pray that the injured recover soon," he said in a post on X.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also expressed shock over the incident. AP Home Minister

## GIRL FROM ODISHA AMONG DECEASED

A girl from Odisha's Ganjam district is among the persons who were killed in the stampede at the Venkateswara temple in Kasibugga, Saturday. She has been identified as R Rupa, from Gudipadar village under the Patrapur panchayat in Ganjam. According to reports, Rupa was crushed to death while her kin, who accompanied her, managed to survive.

Vangalapudi Anitha noted that at least five people were injured. She said at least seven of the dead are in the age group of 35-40. According to her, the temple is located at an elevation on the first floor, and when the devotees were climbing, the railing broke off, resulting in the people standing at a corner falling off and others dropping on them.

Observing that Kasibugga Venkateswara temple is a private one and not under the Endowments Department, Anitha said it is common to see 1,500 to 2,000 devotees turn up here every Saturday.

## Woman abducted, gangraped while returning from work

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Birmaharajpur, Nov 1:** A 20-year-old woman was allegedly abducted and gangraped near Hikudi under Ulunda block in Subarnapur district while returning home from work Friday evening. The survivor lodged a written complaint at the Birmaharajpur police station Saturday.

According to reports, the victim, a resident of Hikudi village, was returning home from a private company when three masked men stopped her near the embankment close to the Hikudi ITI College. They allegedly sprayed a chemical substance on her, rendering her unconscious.

The accused then took the woman to a nearby field and raped her. After regaining consciousness, the woman realised what had happened and informed her family about the incident.

Dharamshala outpost officer Basant Kumar Rath reached



the crime scene and informed senior officials. Subarnapur Superintendent of Police Narayan Nayak, Sub-divisional Police Officer Hemant Kumar Rao and Birmaharajpur Inspector-in-Charge Saranga Dhar Panigrahi visited the spot and conducted an investigation late Friday night.

Birmaharajpur police registered a case and launched an inquiry. Sources said one of the accused is an acquaintance of the victim. Police have detained two suspects for questioning.

The incident, which occurred along the busy Sonapur-Sambalpur route, has triggered widespread outrage and discussions in the area over women's safety in public spaces.

## Only country with generational smoking ban

**THE MEASURE ALSO APPLIES TO VISITORS TO THE NATION OF 1,191 TINY CORAL ISLETS SCATTERED SOME 800KM ACROSS THE EQUATOR AND KNOWN FOR ITS LUXURY TOURISM**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Malé, Nov 1:** The Maldives began implementing a smoking ban on anyone born after January 2007, becoming the only country with a generational prohibition on tobacco, according to its health ministry.

The move, which was initiated by the President, Mohamed Muizzu, earlier this year and came into effect 1 November,



will "protect public health and promote a tobacco-free generation", the ministry said.

"Under the new provision,

individuals born on or after 1 January 2007 are prohibited from purchasing, using, or being sold tobacco products with-

in the Maldives," it added.

"The ban applies to all forms of tobacco, and retailers are required to verify

The measure also applies to visitors to the nation of 1,191 tiny coral islets scattered some 800km (500 miles) across the equator and known for its luxury tourism.

The ministry said it also maintains a comprehensive ban on the import, sale, distribution, possession and use of electronic cigarettes and vaping products, applicable to all individuals regardless of age.

Selling tobacco products to an underage person carries a penalty of 50,000 rufiyaa (\$3,200), while using vape devices carries a fine of 5,000 rufiyaa (\$320).

A similar generational ban proposed in the UK is still going through the legislative process, while New Zealand – the first country to enact such a law against smoking – repealed it in November 2023, less than a year after it was introduced.

# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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

**ARIES**  
Expect the unexpected. You may not understand everything that happens, but that's okay, says Ganesha. Avoid too much activity, as you may be too tired to go out in the evening. Put on your sequins and gloss, the stars predict some music and dancing coming your way!

**TAURUS**  
Today you need to flow with the tide instead of going against it, says Ganesha. This needs to apply particularly in your marital affairs. You'll tend to be guarded and suspicious. This is likely to sour your relationship with your spouse. There is an urgent need to have complete trust and full faith in your partner. Do not react to situations. Accept them and respond calmly, positively.

**GEMINI**  
Today, you are likely to over-react during a minor argument, and the tiff may blow out of proportion. Ganesha advises you to get a grip on your temper. You are a brave person and you'll need a lot of it today, mostly for accepting your own mistakes. If you are into retail business, it's a profitable day for you.

**CANCER**  
You must get ready yourself to handle a few usual situations in an unusual way, foretells Ganesha. You will probably learn a few lessons in public psychology during the afternoon. Before arriving at any crucial decision, weigh the pros and cons with an unbiased mind, says Ganesha.

**LEO**  
Making new friends is like having cookies: one is never enough. Ganesha sees that you take this idea quite seriously, and will make all the efforts to swell your circle of friends today. It is a good thing, since your new friends may prove to be useful to you in times of need. On a more personal front, Ganesha says your feelings need a free expression in the evening. So, mush things up a bit, light a few candles and lay out a spread. Invigorate the romantic ambience for you and your sweetheart.

**VIRGO**  
Don't blow up on trivial matters, says Ganesha, lest it may damage close relationships. An out-of-court settlement will terminate all legal hassles. In the evenings, swipe that credit card freely and indulge yourself.

**LIBRA**  
It's an early day for a successful start to a new joint business venture, so do not lose any time and get going. Carry on in the same enthusiasm, and you will generate magnificent results at work later in the day. Remember, it is the loved ones who shall prove to be very valuable for you today. But then again, it is always the loved ones who are the most valuable, reminds Ganesha.

**SCORPIO**  
A day to get those feet up and enjoy the luxuries of life with your spouse, predicts Ganesha. At work, your table is the best table to get jobs done. Unknown benefactors will support your cause and help you progress, predicts Ganesha.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Lady luck is all up for you today and your stars shine bright! However, be practical in your decision making and don't let emotions affect you. Don't take up any task that is beyond your capacity. Stay away from stress and pressure as far as possible.

**CAPRICORN**  
Lovelorn for long, today may be the start of a new chapter, foresees Ganesha. And for those of you already in love, your sweetheart may appear sweeter. No, it's not because they will be overpowered by love. They will probably try to make your day special and have you spend your hard-earned money on a nice outing or an expensive dinner.

**AQUARIUS**  
You have been working your socks off; now take a stop for refuelling. Plan a getaway to a hill-station nearby or just sit in an armchair with coffee mug in one hand and a book in another, feels Ganesha. You need to rejuvenate yourself for a busy day tomorrow.

**PISCES**  
It is a day where you find yourself upbeat and optimistic about your future, says Ganesha. Your hopefulness spurs you on to splurge and indulge your spouse in the evening. Good times!



## SCHUMER GRATEFUL TO BE FREE OF PAIN

American comic and actress Amy Schumer feels so grateful to be pain free following her recent spinal surgery and endometriosis treatment. *The Life and Beth* actress recently underwent spinal surgery following a surfing accident.

## WOODY ALLEN TO MAKE HIS NEXT FILM IN MADRID

After unsuccessful efforts to launch projects in Italy and Barcelona, Woody Allen is set to make his next film in Madrid. The 89-year-old director has obtained £1.27 million from the Madrid Regional Government to help finance the production, according to *El País*.



## ZAIN FOUNDATION TRUST'S FUNDRAISER FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

# Star-studded *One on One Dhamaal* showcases collage of modern India



Actor and stand-up comic Anu Menon in *I'm Every Woman*

**Bhubaneswar:** Eight powerful short plays written by eminent playwrights and performed by some of Mumbai's finest theatre and film actors captivated viewers here at Rabindra Mandap, Saturday.

Titled *One on One Dhamaal*, the production—directed and produced by Rage Productions, Mumbai—was presented by Bhubaneswar-based Zain Foundation Trust as part of its annual fundraiser to support people affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The anthology featured celebrated theatre and film artistes including Rajit Kapur, Neil Bhoopalam, Anu Menon, Gagandeep Riar, Shruti Vyas, Lisha Bajaj, and Zafar Karachiwala, who enthralled the packed auditorium with their compelling performances.

The evening opened with the Actress Shruti Vyas in *Mind Blowing Mannequin*

English play *I'm Every Woman*, written by Ayeesha Menon and directed by Faezeh Jalali. Performed by actor and comedian Anu Menon, the 13-minute act explored the inner struggles of a woman juggling multiple roles—a wife, daughter, mother, and daughter-in-law—all embodied in one person.

The Hindi play *Kachre Ki Hifazat* followed, featuring Rajit Kapur as the bodyguard of a chief minister who dies mysteriously. Written by Ashok Mishra and directed by Kapur himself, the satirical piece drew laughter while exposing the absurdities of political life.

Next came *Keeda Saala*, a Hinglish play written and directed by Rahul da Cunha

the stage next with *Laughing Hyena*, an English play about a karaoke DJ dealing with tone-deaf singers and outdated laws. The play was written and directed by Rahul da Cunha.

*Hum Hain Raahi Pyaar Ke*, performed by Lisha Bajaj, delved into the search for love and companionship. Written by Bajaj and directed by Shiksha Talsania, the Hindi play offered a tender and relatable portrayal of human longing.

Anu Menon returned for *Hel-lo Check*, an English monologue written and directed by Rahul da Cunha, where she played a glamorous yet insecure housewife navigating her social life with wit and charm.

The evening concluded with *TC Rasbihari*, a 15-minute Hindi play written by Ashok Mishra, directed by Rajit Kapur and enacted by Gagan Dev Riar, which told the inspiring story of a ticket collector finally standing up against repeated injustices.

Before the performances, Gargi Bhattacharya, Managing Trustee of Zain Foundation Trust, said, "There is still a lot of denial about autism in our country. People with autism have the right to live freely and with dignity. We hope this event will raise both awareness and funds to support them. We are working towards establishing the first residential facility for people with autism."

She went on to add that the foundation has also launched PECS Café, a groundbreaking initiative designed to train young adults with autism in essential social and communication skills through the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). The café aims to create an inclusive environment where participants can learn, grow, and interact with their peers.

Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja attended the event as the Chief Guest and felicitated the artistes and partners who contributed to the programme.

With its blend of humour, empathy, and artistry, *One on One Dhamaal* not only entertained but also underscored the power of theatre as a force for social change.

**Orissa POST** and **Dharitri** were the print media partners for the event.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP



Actor-director Rajit Kapur in *Kachre Ki Hifazat*

and performed by Zafar Karachiwala, depicting the life and aspirations of a junior artist from Mumbai's Dongri.

In *Mind Blowing Mannequin*, talented actress Shruti Vyas portrayed a mannequin born with a small defect navigating life with humour and grit. The Hindi play, written by Ashok Mishra and directed by Rajit Kapur, delighted the audience with its quirky take on perfection and acceptance.

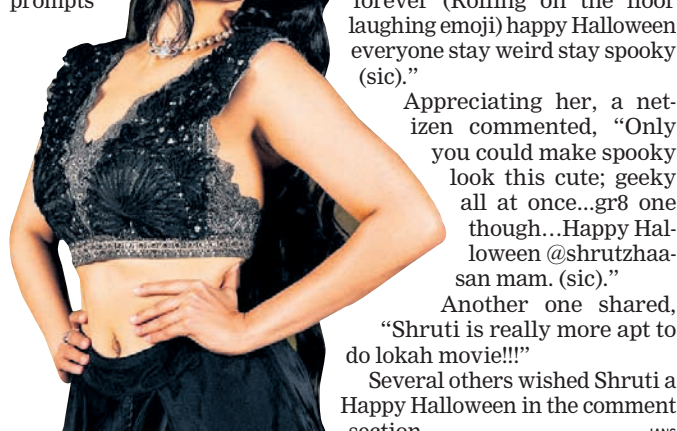
Actor Neil Bhoopalam of *NH10* and *Shaitaan* fame took

# Shruti turns her life into story book

**Mumbai:** Multifaceted Shruti Haasan decided to turn her life, as she sees it, into a storybook this Halloween.

The Salar actress took to social media and shared her beautiful illustrations with the netizens.

Expressing her- for Halloween demons so I ,here's my these days :) sit around black in prompts



## I'll never say never on marriage: Shehnaaz

**Mumbai:** Shehnaaz Gill has shared her candid thoughts on marriage, saying she doesn't see it as a necessity in today's time. The actress, whose latest release is *Ikk Kudi* said that while she currently has no plans to get married, she wouldn't completely rule out the possibility in the future.

*Ikk Kudi*, which marks Shehnaaz's debut as a producer, showcases the journey of a girl's struggle to find the right partner. Written and directed by Amarjit Singh Saron, the film released on October 31.

Asked if marriages are important in today's time?

Shehnaaz told this agency: "Marriage is not important. If you don't have to do

it, it's okay. People get married. It's okay. Even though I feel that I won't get married, I can't say that I will never say never. Maybe, I'll have to do it tomorrow. I have to make the right decision for myself."

Shehnaaz, who gained the spotlight with her stint in *Bigg Boss 19* and her chemistry with late star Sidharth Shukla in the show, agrees that it is a matter of life.

"You are giving your entire life to a boy after leaving your parents' house. You are doing everything for him, it's a big decision... you are giving your entire life to a boy after leaving your parents' house. It's different. You don't know who will be your partner. You don't know. So, let's see what happens."



IAN S

## PEANUTS



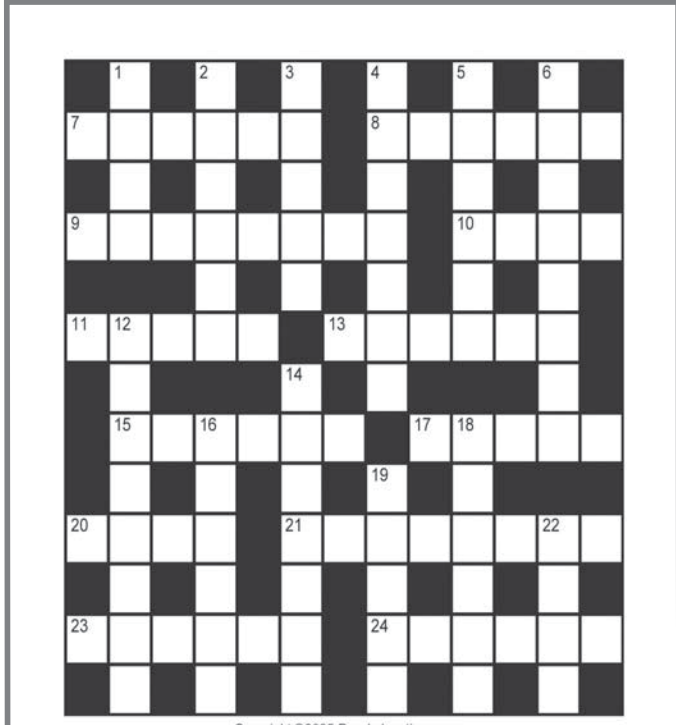
## CALVIN AND HOBBS



## BREVITY



## CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Armagnac, e.g.
  - 8 Igloo dweller
  - 9 Napoleon's undoing
  - 10 Mountain pool
  - 11 Old hat
  - 13 Deadly
  - 15 Juries
  - 17 Nagoya locale
  - 20 Assistant
  - 21 Big mouth sea birds
  - 23 Horse's pace
  - 24 Fractures
- Down**
- 1 Killer whale
  - 2 Earwig
  - 3 African antelope
  - 4 Kicked downstairs
  - 5 Draw
  - 6 Rainy day defense
  - 12 Copies
  - 14 Miscues (4-3)
  - 16 Tease
  - 18 Robin Hood was one
  - 19 Excuse
  - 22 Certain W.M.D.

## SUDOKU

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

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

## SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | P | L | F | M | M |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| R | E | M | E | D | I | A | L | A | R | I | D |
| R | A | I | R | N |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| S | O | L | O | T | I | O | N |   |   |   |   |
| K | S | G | U | I | M |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| V | I | C | E | R | O | E | R | O |   |   |   |
| M | N | S |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| O | P | E | N |   | S | T | Y | M | I | E | S |
| O | A | S | H | A | U |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Y | S | E | R | O | I | N | T | M | E | N | T |
| T | R | U | D | B | O |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| S | O | L | O | N | E | B | U | L | O | U | S |
| R | W | D | Y | E | N |   |   |   |   |   |   |

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

SUDOKU

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# Academic leadership key to higher edu growth: Min



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 1:** Visionary academic leadership is key to advancing higher education in the state, Higher Education Minister Surjiyabanshi Suraj said Saturday.

He was speaking as chief guest at the valedictory session of a “Capacity Building and Leadership Development Workshop” for principals and senior faculty members of government colleges, organised jointly by the Higher Education department, Odisha State Higher Education Council, and Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar (XIMB).

Held from October 27 to November 1, the workshop brought together principals and senior faculty members from 36 government colleges across Odisha. It covered a wide range of themes, including the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, institutional governance, financial management, academic innovation, pedagogical re-

Minister Suraj described colleges and universities as the “true nurseries of nation-building” and urged academic leaders to drive institutional transformation with vision and commitment

He cited the implementation of NEP 2020, launch of the PM-USHA Scheme, establishment of new degree colleges, and initiatives like Shaktishri to promote inclusivity and empowerment

forms, skill-based evaluation, digital learning, and quality research.

Minister Suraj said, “Building a world-class educational ecosystem and ensuring quality education for a brighter future of our students is our collective mission. To achieve this, we are focusing on quality education, skill development, qualitative research, and the overall strengthening of the academic ecosystem.”

The minister described colleges and universities as the “true nurseries of nation-building,” emphasizing their vital role in shaping responsible

Building a world-class educational ecosystem with a focus on quality education, skill development, and research is a collective mission to ensure a brighter future for students

SURIYABANSHI SURAJ | HIGHER EDUCATION MINISTER

citizens. He urged vice-chancellors, principals, and faculty members to lead the transformation of higher educational institutions with vision, commitment, and foresight.

Elaborating on the state’s initiatives, Minister Suraj said, “Odisha has undertaken several transformative measures such as implementing the National Education Policy 2020, launching the PM-USHA Scheme in higher education, establishing new Government Degree Colleges in remote districts, enhancing skill development and employability and ensuring a safe and inclusive academic environment through initiatives like Shaktishri.”

He further added that such leadership workshops are instrumental in empowering college heads to enhance institutional management and academic excellence.

Higher Education department Additional Secretary Dharanidhar Nanda, Additional Secretary Pratibha Sahu, Xavier Institute of Management Registrar S Anthony, and Associate Dean SS Ganesh graced the occasion.

## Chief Secy reviews pollution control measures in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 1:** An organisational meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja was held Saturday in collaboration with the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) to review the implementation of various pollution control measures and schemes across the state.

The meeting also focused on strengthening inter-departmental coordination to ensure cleaner air in both urban and rural areas. Held at Lok Seva Bhawan, the meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Satyabrata Sahu, Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee, and senior officials from various departments.

The committee reviewed the implementation status of resolutions passed during its previous (5th) meeting and assessed the progress under the State Clean Air Programme (SCAP) and National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). Cities such as Rourkela, Angul, Talcher, Balasore, Rajgangpur, Cuttack, and Bhubaneswar are part of the NCAP framework, which aims to achieve a 40 per cent reduction in PM10 and PM2.5 levels in the coming years.

Officials identified vehicular emissions, industrial activities, road dust, and waste burning as the major sources of particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) pollution. The committee stressed the need for long-term strategies such as transitioning to renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydropower, and promoting electric mobility to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

# 2 senior BJD leaders booked for assaulting BJP worker in Nuapada

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Nuapada/Bhubaneswar, Nov 1:** Two senior BJD leaders, including an MLA, were Saturday booked for allegedly assaulting a BJP worker in the bypoll-bound Nuapada Assembly constituency, police said.

The FIR, filed at Komna police station, named BJD vice-president and former MLA Pranab Prakash Das and Khariar MLA Adhiraj Panigrahi as accused.

The complaint was lodged by Jitu Adabanga, a tribal youth and BJP worker, who alleged that the two leaders verbally abused and assaulted him at the farmhouse of BJD general secretary Manoj Mishra in Komna Friday evening.

Police said the case was registered under various Sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

“Investigation is underway,” an officer said.

Adabanga claimed he was rescued by Komna police personnel from the spot.

He was earlier associated with the BJD before joining the BJP after party candidate Jay Dholakia switched sides.

Though Das and Panigrahi were not immediately available for comment, BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said, “The allegations are false, fabricated and politically motivated. The BJP has been filing false cases against our leaders after realising that they will be defeated in the bypoll.”

The FIR came a day after police raided the rented house of

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PARTY’S SENIOR GENERAL SECRETARY LEKHASRI SAMANTSINGHAR ACCUSED BJP LEADERS OF TERRORISING POLITICAL OPPONENTS WITH THE SUPPORT OF LOCAL POLICE                                                                  | BJD SPOKESPERSON LENIN MOHANTY DISMISSED THE ALLEGATIONS AS FALSE, FABRICATED, AND POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, ACCUSING THE BJP OF FILING FALSE CASES OUT OF FEAR OF DEFEAT IN THE BYPOLL |
| A BJP DELEGATION LED BY VICE-PRESIDENT JATIN MOHANTY MET THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER IN BHUBANESWAR, DEMANDING THE ARREST AND REMOVAL OF DAS AND PANIGRAHI FROM THE CONSTITUENCY TO ENSURE PEACE AHEAD OF BYPOLL |                                                                                                                                                                                      |

senior BJD general secretary and former minister Prithi-ranjan Gharai in Komna, following allegations that cash was being stored to influence voters.

At a press conference in Bhubaneswar, BJD senior general secretary Lekhasri Samantsinghar alleged that BJP leaders with help of local police have been terrorising the political opponents.

“BJP’s Koraput MLA Raghuram Machha’s personal security officer (PSO) fired blanks in the Komna area Friday to terrorise BJD supporters. We demand an explanation from him,” Samantasinghar said.

Samantsinghar also alleged that there were attempts to disrupt BJD president Naveen Patnaik’s public meeting scheduled for November 3 at Dhanmandi Ground in Komna block.

She alleged that Panchayati Raj Minister Rabi Narayan Naik had encouraged a group of “gram saathis” (village volunteers) to stage a protest rally at the same venue.

“Our Rajya Sabha MP and other leaders met the Nuapada Collector today, requesting that no other programme be allowed at the venue November 3,” she said, adding that the administration would be “responsible for any untoward incident.”

In another press conference at Nuapada, Odisha Congress in-charge Ajay Kumar Lallu accused the BJP of attempting to create disturbance in Nuapada.

“The BJP is worried because our candidate, a tribal leader, has gained wide support,” Lallu claimed.

A BJP delegation led by vice-president Jatin Mohanty met the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) in Bhubaneswar, demanding the immediate arrest and removal of Das and Panigrahi from the constituency to maintain peace before the November 11 bypoll.

In another petition to the CEO, the BJP submitted a list of 108 sensitive booths in Nuapada constituency and stressed the need to ensure free and fair elections.

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Notary Public, Dated- 23.09.2025, I, Anjan Kumar Sahoo, At- Kilipal, P.O.-Narijanga, P.S.- Tirtol, Dist.- Jagatsinghpur, PIN- 754137 declare that I have changed my name from Anjan Kumar Show to Anjan Kumar Sahoo. Henceforth, I shall be known as Anjan Kumar Sahoo for all purposes. Anjan Kumar Sahoo

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Baripada, Mayurbhanj, I, Rajib Lochan Ratha, S/o-Niranjan Ratha, resident of PO/PS-Bhanjpur, Baripada, Mayurbhanj, Pin-757002, Odisha declare by this Affidavit No.1373 dtd- 31.10.25 that I will be known and signed as Rajib Lochan Ratha for all purposes instead of Rajib Lachan Ratha, that reflects in my Matric Certificate.

I, Mvgs Vamsi Krishna, S/o. Mallapragada Subba Rao, Resident of Satyavati Nillayam, Santi Vihar, Raniguda Farm, PO/Dist.-Rayagada, Odisha, Pin- 765001, Declared by this Affidavit No.4768, dated 22.10.2025 that now onwards I shall be known as Mallapragada Vamsi Krishna for the future purposes. Sd./- Mallapragada Vamsi Krishna

## OUAT holds skill training on mushroom cultivation



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 1:** The Centre for Tropical Mushroom Research & Training, in collaboration with the All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Mushroom, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), organised a five-day skill training programme on mushroom production at the university premises.

Arabinda Dhal, Officer-in-Charge of the Centre, along with mushroom scientists Anita Priyadarsini and N

Chinara, trained participants on various aspects of cultivation, processing, and marketing of paddy straw, oyster, and milk mushrooms.

Thirty farmers and farm women from different districts took part in the training. On the closing day, Dean of the College of Agriculture, OUAT, BK Mohapatra attended as chief guest and encouraged participants to take up mushroom cultivation as a profitable enterprise. He also distributed certificates to the successful trainees.

## NAT'L CONFERENCE ON HANDLOOMS & HANDICRAFTS CONCLUDES

# ‘Blend tradition with tech in crafts to boost productivity’

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 1:** In order to boost productivity and reduce drudgery during production of handlooms and handicrafts, traditional craftsmanship needs to blend with modern tools and techniques, said Ministry of Textiles Secretary Neelam Shami Rao, while chairing the concluding session of two-day national conference on Handlooms and Handicrafts 2025 here Saturday.

Organised under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative by Ministry of Textiles, through the offices of Development Commissioners (Handlooms and Handicrafts), the conference brought together senior officials from states and Union



Territories, policymakers, and experts to frame a unified roadmap for sustainable growth in the handloom and handicraft industries.

The conference reaffirmed Centre’s commitment to re-imagining the country’s handmade sector as a key pillar of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Speaking at the event, Rao urged design institutions like NIFT and IIHT to proactively forecast design and colour trends and called for smoother

# 2 held for Chandaka witchcraft murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 1:** In a shocking case of superstition-driven crime, two youths were arrested Saturday for the murder of a 72-year-old man whose skeletal remains were recovered from Chandaka forest Friday.

Police identified the deceased as Balaram Deogam (72), whose remains were found by Chandaka police, raising suspicion of foul play.

The accused youths have been identified as Kanhei Hembram and Rama Samada, both residents of the district.

According to reports, police recovered a human skeleton from Chandaka forest October 31, leading to suspicion of foul play.

Police immediately launched an investigation into the incident, and a scientific team conducted a forensic examination at the site. During the preliminary probe, a neck ornament



and a lungi found near the remains were identified by the victim’s son as belonging to his father, who had been missing since September 30.

According to police, Balaram had gone to guard his agricultural field that night and never returned. His family initially believed he had left on his own, as he occasionally did.

During the investigation, suspicion fell on Kanhei, a for-

est watchman, and his friend Rama, both from the same village. Police said Kanhei believed his father had died due to witchcraft allegedly practiced by Balaram. Seeking revenge, he conspired with Rama, who also blamed Balaram for his father’s death.

On the night of September 30, the duo allegedly waited near a pond close to Balaram’s field. When he arrived, Kanhei

Police recovered a human skeleton from Chandaka forest October 31, later identified as 72-year-old Balaram Deogam, missing since September 30

Investigation revealed that accused Kanhei and Rama killed Balaram, suspecting him of practicing witchcraft that caused their fathers’ deaths

reportedly kicked him, and together they strangled him to death. They later buried the body in the forest and threw his belongings into a nearby pond.

Based on the accused’s confession, police recovered a bag, torch, water bottle, and lathi from the pond bank. Both were arrested Saturday after admitting to the crime and were booked under Sections 103(1)/238(a)/(3)(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). They were later forwarded to court following a medical examination.

WEATHER

|          |       |       |                                     |
|----------|-------|-------|-------------------------------------|
|          | BBSR  | CTC   | FORECAST                            |
| Max Temp | 32.6° | 30.8° | cloudy sky with possibility of rain |
| Min Temp | 25.0° | 23.0° |                                     |
| Humidity | 87%   | 94%   |                                     |
| Rainfall | Nil   | 1.2mm |                                     |

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

NUAPADA BYPOLL

Komna voters may tilt the balance

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nuapada, Nov 1:** With the Nuapada Assembly constituency heading to bypolls soon, Komna block holds a decisive position. In most past elections, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has secured a significant majority from this block, helping the regional party clinch victory.

Former MLA Rajendra Dholakia won the seat four times—thrice on a BJD ticket and once as an Independent candidate. Komna has long been considered his political stronghold and vote bank. The combination of the BJD’s ‘Sankha’ (conch) symbol, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik’s popularity, and Dholakia’s personal influence had kept Komna voters loyal to the party.

In the 2024 Assembly elections, Dholakia won by a margin of 10,881 votes securing around 3,047 more votes than his nearest rival in Komna block alone. Both the BJD and Dholakia enjoyed strong support in the area.

However, the political equation has now changed. Dholakia’s son, Jay Dholakia, has quit the BJD and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), becoming its candidate for the bypoll. This shift has divided the Komna electorate. Some of Rajendra Dholakia’s loyal supporters have also switched to the BJP following Jay’s move.

Voters who previously supported both Naveen Patnaik’s



**The political landscape in Komna block has undergone a noticeable transformation as several local leaders who supported one party in the last election have switched sides this time**

BJD and Rajendra Dholakia’s leadership are now reportedly unsure about their allegiance , said a resident of Jadamunda village in the block.

In the last election, BJD’s Rajendra Dholakia garnered 27,637 votes from Komna block, while BJP’s Abhinandan Panda secured 18,196. Then Congress rebel Ghasiram Majhi, the party’s official candidate this time, had finished second with 24,590 votes. Former PCC president

Sarat Pattanayak, contesting on the Congress ticket then, got only 7,740 votes.

**Shift in political equations**

The political landscape in Komna block has undergone a noticeable transformation ahead of the upcoming by-election. Several local leaders who supported one party in the last election have switched sides this time.

Komna block, which comprises 32 gram panchayats and three Zilla Parishad zones, had a majority of sarpanches and samiti members aligned with the BJD in the previous election. However, more than half of them are now backing the BJP.

All three sitting Zilla Parishad members belong to the BJD. Zone 1 member Muralidhar Bhoi and Zone 3 member as well as Zilla Parishad Vice Chairperson Deepanjali Deep continue to work for the BJD. Zone 2 member Abani Ranjan Joshi, who now serves as the district BJD president, remains loyal to

the party. BJD ticket aspirant Manoj Mishra, who was with the party during the last election, continues to stay with it.

However, notable defections have reshaped the local balance. Block Chairperson Annasuya Kumbhar and Vice-Chairperson Jayadev Pradhan, both formerly with the BJD, have joined the BJP and are now actively campaigning for the party. Senior leader Kshyama Singh Nial and Sialti panchayat sarpanch Kalia Pradhan, once loyal to the BJD, have shifted to the BJP.

Similarly, tribal leader Somanath Khamari, Gonda Samaj district president Dibya Singh Majhi, and former sarpanch Bhakta Sabar, who had earlier supported Ghasiram, are now backing BJP candidate Jay.

Meanwhile, several grassroots BJP leaders and workers are reportedly at unease about accepting Jay’s leadership.

As the bypoll draws closer, the BJP, BJD, and Congress are all exerting full effort to secure victory. There is also speculation that some leaders from all three major parties maintain covert links with rival camps, prompting senior leaders to closely monitor their activities.

Political observers said that while party leaders are switching sides to protect their personal interests, voters in Komna could still play a decisive role in upsetting the electoral arithmetic of any party.

**Tension after BJP MLA’s PSO fires blank round**

**Nuapada:** Political tension gripped Nuapada district after a blank firing incident in Komna late Friday night involving the personal security officer (PSO) of Koraput MLA Raghuram Machha. Following the incident, the Congress filed a written complaint at Komna police station, demanding immediate action against the accused. Acting on the complaint, police registered a case and suspended the PSO. According to police reports, a single round of blank fire was discharged near a hotel in Komna where MLA Machha was staying. The incident created panic among local residents. Based on the Congress complaint, police registered a case (319/25) and took PSO Dambaru Hantal into custody. His service firearm has been seized. Additional Superintendent of Police Ranjit Naik confirmed that Koraput Superintendent of Police Rohit Verma has suspended the PSO. The investigation has been assigned to Sub-Inspector Minati Badanayak. Congress leaders alleged that firing a weapon during the election process was an attempt to intimidate voters and influence the by-election in favour of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). “Such an act constitutes a criminal offence under law and could not have occurred without the MLA’s direct support,” the Congress stated in its complaint.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Nov 1:** A woman forest guard was allegedly assaulted by a group of illegal sand smugglers in Keonjhar district when she tried to seize a tractor carrying stolen sand from a stream in a reserve forest. The incident, which was captured on video and widely circulated on social media, has sparked outrage and raised concerns over the safety of women personnel working in remote forest areas.

The matter came to the fore after the forest guard Debajani Mohanta lodged a complaint at Ghatagaon police station Saturday.

According to the complaint Mohanta, posted in the Tando beat in Patana forest range, went to the Atei reserve forest near Pichulabeda village along with another squad member Kailash Mohanta for investigation after receiving a tip-off about sand smuggling from a stream Friday.

Upon arrival, they found a sand-laden tractor (OD-09J-3271) on the spot. As they approached, the workers fled the scene in panic. While Debajani contacted the range officer for assistance and began preparing a seizure list, a group of men led by Prahalad Palei allegedly reached there and confronted her.

In her complaint, the forest guard alleged that the men verbally abused her, threat-



ened to kill her and her family, and attempted to flee with the tractor. When she tried to stop them, they pushed her to the ground and allegedly tore her uniform. She also accused them of making inappropriate physical contact and issuing threats of gangrape if she continued performing her duties in the area.

The accused reportedly unloaded the sand, drove the tractor away from the site, and escaped. They also allegedly tried to run the vehicle over the official. Mohanta sustained injuries to her finger during the scuffle.

Following her complaint, Keonjhar Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Dhanaraj HD said a case has been registered under the Forest Act against the accused, including Prahlad Palei. “Notices have been issued for their appearance. If they fail to cooperate, further legal action will be taken,” he said.

The incident has triggered widespread condemnation, with many calling for immediate action and improved protection for women forest staff working in isolated areas.

**Lanjigarh locals file police complaint over casteist post**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Lanjigarh, Nov 1:** Residents of Lanjigarh and members of the Lanjigarh Regional Paika Samaj have lodged a written complaint at the Lanjigarh police station over an obscene and casteist video that went viral on social media.

According to the complaint, a youth named Mahendra Dalei from Pradhanipada in Lanjigarh died October 28. After his funeral, a few youths from Mahadev Pada in Lanjigarh allegedly made derogatory and caste-based remarks targeting individuals and organisations belonging to a particular community. The accused reportedly used obscene language in their social media posts, which later went viral.

In response, an emergency meeting of the Lanjigarh Regional Paika Samaj and local residents was held Friday at the Lanjigarh Sadar Mandap. The gathering unanimously decided to file a complaint against those involved in the incident. The written complaint names six youths — Jogesh Nayak, Shibu Nag, Raja Nayak, Ankit Kumar, Dipesh Suna, and Arun Nayak — who allegedly used obscene language and circulated the video on Facebook and other platforms. More than a hundred residents reportedly signed the complaint demanding strict action against the accused. SI Dolamani Bishi confirmed of receiving the complaint and an investigation is underway.

Tusker found dead in Ganjam forest



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhanjanagar, Nov 1:** A tusker was found dead with marks of blood stain on its trunk and injury marks on its ears and thighs at Baniapalli reserve forest under Mujargarh forest range of North Ghumusar forest division in Ganjam district Saturday.

The exact cause of the death is yet to be determined, but forest officials said it could be due to a fight between elephants, gunshot wounds, or an electric shock. Officials said the actual cause will be known after the post-mortem report is available to them.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Himanshu Sekhar Mohanty and Ranger Bimbahar Sahu visited the site and launched an investigation. A post-mortem of the animal was

conducted after a Joint Task Force (JTF) team from Bhubaneswar reached the spot in the afternoon. Preliminary investigation suggested that the elephant might have died a day or two ago.

Blood was found flowing from its trunk before death, and there were visible injury marks near its ear and thigh. Marks resembling tusk impressions by another elephant were also seen on its abdomen, adding to speculation that the death was not natural.

Locals claimed the area has frequent instances of “hooking” and suspected that the elephant might have fallen victim to human aggression, possibly by farmers protecting their crops.

The Ghumusar North Division had 56 elephants until Thursday; this death brings the number down by one.

PNN & AGENCIES

**Kendrapara/Berhampur, Nov 1:** The state government Saturday imposed a seven-month-long ban on sea fishing activity within 20 km of the coast at the river mouths of Dhamra, Devi and Rushikulya as part of its annual Olive Ridley turtle conservation programme, officials said.

The ban on sea-fishing, however, remains enforced round-the-year in the Gahirmatha coast, which is widely regarded as the largest habitation corridor of these highly endangered marine species.

Besides, Gahirmatha has been accorded the status of a marine sanctuary in view of the congregation of turtles, said forest officials.

The ban on sea fishing activity would remain effective from November 1 to May 31. It ensures the safety of marine animals during their breeding and mating season, said officials, adding that the ban has been clamped in accordance with Sections 2, 7 and 4 of Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act (OMFRA), 1982 and provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

The ban will be strictly implemented as it is done every year to save turtles, as these endangered species perish in larger numbers either by getting entangled in fishing nets or being hit by fishing trawlers’

**Trawler seized; 8 arrested**



**Rajnagar:** The Forest department Saturday seized a trawler and arrested eight fishermen for unauthorised fishing in the prohibited marine zone of Gahirmatha Wildlife Sanctuary.

Acting on the direction of Gahirmatha Deputy Ranger Kapilendra Pradhan, a forest patrol team led by foresters Sanjeeb Kumar Dash and Mahanta Kumar Mallik intercepted the trawler ‘Bharati’ near Ekakula coast.

During the raid, officials seized around 25 kg fish catch,

propellers, an official said.

As per the arrangements, a multi-layered patrolling exercise will be done involving the Forest, Fisheries, and Marine Police, besides the Coast Guard personnel.

To ensure effective patrolling, 61 on-shore camps and five off-shore camps have been

one GPS device, two VHF sets, and seven fishing nets from the vessel.

The arrested fishermen were identified as Nagendra Majhi, Purustam Jena, Bimbahar Majhi, Bharat Jena, Rajesh Khatua, Ajay Majhi, Dushasan Tarai, and Nandu Singh—all residents of Balasore district.

According to forest officials, a case has been registered against them under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and they have been forwarded to court.

set up in the state’s four wildlife divisions - Bhadrak, Rajnagar, Puri and Berhampur.

The armed police force will flank the Forest and Fisheries patrolling teams. Five high-speed boats, 13 trawlers and support boats are pressed in to service to intercept illegal marine fishing in prohibited

Student death in college hostel sparks tension

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jajpur, Nov 1:** Tension prevailed in Panikoili police station area in Jajpur district following the death of a 17-year-old college student, police said Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as Asish Kumar Pal, a native of Kendudipi village under Danagadi block in Jajpur district. The student was found hanging in the college hostel washroom with the help of a towel late Friday night, police said.

While initial reports suggest it to be case of suicide, his parents alleged that their son was murdered. “The college authorities informed us that our son was ill and he was admitted to Jajpur Road hospital around 3am. When we reached the hospital around 5am, we found out that our son had already died,” Asish’s father Bijay Kumar Pal said.

“My son was a brilliant student and he was always good at studies. Besides, he was very



strong and stable in mind. I am confident he did not die by suicide. He has been murdered,” Pal said. When the news spread in the area, family members of the deceased, students, guardians and locals reached the hospital and accused the college authorities of concealing information. A scuffle reportedly took place between police and the agitators. The father has filed a complaint alleging murder. “We have registered a case in connection with the incident and sent the body to Danagadi CHC for post-mortem examination. We are investigating the matter from all angles and the exact cause of death will be known after the autopsy report,” said a senior police official.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, Nov 1:** At a time when many traditional art forms are fading under the weight of modernity, a painter in the Silk City has kept tribal art alive and thriving.

Dinabandhu Soren, who developed a love for tribal painting as a child, has dedicated over 15 years to preserving and popularising these indigenous art forms both in India and abroad. Today, he works as a master trainer, helping others, especially women to earn livelihoods through painting. His works have brought international recognition to tribal art, making it widely admired overseas.

Recently, the state government granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags to nine tribal folk art forms of Odisha, including Lanjia Saura, Sorai, Gond, Dongria Kondh, Kutia Kondh, Santhal, Kohla, Juang and Oraon paintings.

Dinabandhu specialises in Saura, Sorai, Kohla, Juang



and Gond traditions, adapting them onto various mediums for display and sale. This has made the tribal art forms popular in foreign countries.

He began formal training in 2009-10 with a diploma at Gan-

**Dinabandhu’s brush with tribal art leads to glory**

damunda Art and Craft Training Centre, where he also started research on tribal painting. He credits Bhikari Maharana, a palm-leaf manuscript artist, and Gokul Bihari Pattnayak, a pattachitra artist, for inspiring

him to pursue this path.

Later, he evinced interest in learning more about tribal paintings.

Currently, Dinabandhu creates tribal artworks on 62 different surfaces and materials. These include tussar silk, canvas, wood, stone, sarees, shirts, kurtas, kurtis, and household interior designs, extending his art into everyday essentials.

At present, he is training at least 30 women at Tata Colony on the outskirts of the city under the aegis of Srujanika Trust, supported by Tata Steel. The women are not only learning painting but also becoming self-reliant through the art form.

Dinabandhu’s paintings have even been purchased by the Norwegian Embassy. He showcased tribal art during a live broadcast at the G20 Summit and promoted it across 20 countries while participating in the Jagriti Yatra.

Looking ahead, Dinabandhu said his goal is to establish a tribal folk art museum.

FOCUS UNITED STATES

MAGIC OF BIG LIE



The Trump administration is training the press and the American people to associate the military strikes on small boats in international waters with stopping the flow of fentanyl and other drugs

When announcing an aggressive policy, US President Donald Trump typically offers some grotesque justification – a nonsensical fiction that is supposed to stick in our minds as a rationale for violence. The more we swallow these lies now, the harder it will be to question future falsehoods, because that would challenge our view of ourselves as intelligent beings.

This is the magic of the Big Lie, as Hitler explained in Mein Kampf: Tell a whopper so outrageous that people simply cannot believe it is untrue. Hitler’s biggest lie was to claim that an international Jewish conspiracy was the source of Germany’s woes – a scapegoat that could be blamed for any problem and absolve others of any responsibility. In 1939, Hitler and his propagandists spread blatant falsehoods about Poland as well – that it did not really exist as a state, and also that it was the aggressor that had triggered World War II.

Trump’s big lies are almost too numerous to count. Perhaps the most versatile is that his policy focus is on curbing the illicit fentanyl trade. Early in his second term, Trump claimed that Canada attacked the United States first by allowing fentanyl to flow freely across the border. And really, shouldn’t it be the 51st US state?

This complaint was a pretext for imposing tariffs on Canadian exports. But when Trump lumps Canada and Mexico together and claims that fentanyl is “pouring in” across the borders with both countries, he is lying. In 2024, only about 0.2% of the fentanyl

seized by US border authorities came from Canada, which was not even mentioned in the US Drug Enforcement Administration’s 2024 National Drug Threat Assessment.

But in the past few months, the Trump administration has constructed an even more sinister geopolitical fantasy: military strikes on small boats in international waters are necessary to deter drug smuggling. These attacks, which many experts view as patently illegal, have been clustered off the coast of Venezuela and have killed at least 61 people so far. Although it is widely recognized that the attacks will not stop the flow of fentanyl into the US, Trump has said that his government will continue “to kill people that are bringing drugs into our country.”

The extrajudicial killing of alleged narcotics smugglers is less about drug trafficking and more about power projection – and maybe even regime

change. Although videos of the bombings have become social-media fodder, there is no evidence that the targets were drug traffickers.

The Americans living at the epicenters of the addiction crisis tend to vote Republican; without their support, Trump would never have been elected. Trump and Vance are attuned to the opioid epidemic, in the sense that they see the wellspring of misery as a political resource that can be directed against an enemy of choice – whether an ally like Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney or an adversary like Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. In his 2016 memoir *Hillbilly Elegy*, Vance recounts how his mother, a nurse with easy access to prescription drugs, was addicted to pharmaceuticals. But his political messaging on immigration and security has spun a different story, with Vance blaming other countries – “the poison

coming across our border” – for her travails. It follows that Americans must view their addictions as an attack from outside.

It is important to understand the psychology Trump and Vance are exploiting. Addicts tend to blame others for their condition. The rise of the far right in US politics has elevated this mindset to a national platform. The belief that someone else must be responsible for the country’s problems has come in to form foreign policy, with the Trump administration concocting ever more absurd stories, for example that each strike on a Venezuelan boat saves 25,000 American lives.

Lies work because they shift blame. Holding other countries responsible for the opioid crisis is an attractive form of moral outsourcing for Americans. But fiction on such a grand scale requires an entire alternative reality to be constructed around it. Trump and his administration are training the press and the American public to associate the boat strikes with stopping the flow of fentanyl and other drugs – a prime example of the falsehoods that imperialists tell before launching doomed wars of choice.

Wars begin with words, which implies that words must be taken seriously before conflict erupts. Only by calling out the big liars and telling the small truths can we have any hope of restraining Trump’s increasingly aggressive presidency.

*The writer is the inaugural Chair in Modern European History at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto.*

© PROJECT SYNDICATE



Timothy Snyder

LIES WORK BECAUSE THEY SHIFT BLAME. HOLDING OTHER COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPIOID CRISIS IS AN ATTRACTIVE FORM OF MORAL OUTSOURCING FOR AMERICANS



Aakar Patel

SMART CITIES MISSION EMPHASISED HIGH-END INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN SURVEILLANCE, BUT DID NOT ADDRESS AMENITIES—WATER, SCHOOLS, PUBLIC HOSPITALS, HOUSING. WITH ITS AREA-BASED DEVELOPMENT, IT WAS FOCUSED ON SPENDING MOST OF THE MONEY ON SMALL PATCHES OF CITY CENTRES THAT WERE ALREADY DEVELOPED



Piotr Opalinski

THE COMING DECADES MAY BELONG TO THOSE WHO ACTIVELY SHAPE THE RULES OF THE GAME RATHER THAN SIMPLY REACT TO UNFOLDING EVENTS

The global order is undergoing profound transformation. The post-World War II system, historically anchored in US leadership and Western European institutions, is giving way to a complex, multipolar environment. Traditional mechanisms of global governance face pressure. In this context, India encounters both strategic challenges and opportunities.

Safeguarding long-term economic and security interests requires New Delhi to look beyond traditional partners and to build relationships anchored in institutional stability, technological sophistication, and shared values. The European Union represents a key strategic partner, offering economic scale, institutional coherence, and avenues for long-term collaboration. It combines economic clout, institutional coherence, and adherence to rules. Its rules-based approach to international engagement provides a stable reference point for Indian foreign policy. Policies in cybersecurity, critical infrastructure protection, and defence modernisation are particularly relevant, creating opportunities for sustained cooperation that extend beyond ad hoc arrangements or unilateral agreements.

Economically, the European Union is India’s largest trading partner. In the fiscal year 2023–24, EU–India trade reached \$137.5 billion, com-

prising \$75.85 billion in exports from India and \$60.68 billion in imports from the EU, accounting for approximately 12.3% of India’s total trade. By comparison, the United States and China recorded lower trade volumes: \$120.3 billion and \$118.4 billion, respectively. This underscores the EU’s pivotal role in supporting India’s economic growth and industrial expansion.

The EU provides Indian businesses with access to advanced manufacturing, high-value technologies, and sustainable energy solutions. Within the EU, Central European economies such as Poland offer particular opportunities for industrial collaboration, joint ventures, and knowledge transfer. Leveraging Poland’s position allows Indian companies to access broader European markets under uniform regulatory standards, enhancing efficiency and reducing transactional risks. Poland’s diversified economic structure, covering sectors such as automotive, electronics, green technologies, and IT, aligns with India’s domestic priorities, including Make in India, clean energy expansion, and digital infrastructure development. Collaborative projects in these areas can accelerate technological advancement while embedding India more deeply within European value chains.

India’s defence requirements are increasingly com-

plex, encompassing modernisation of armed forces, technology acquisition, and interoperability. Engagement with EU member states provides India access to advanced defence technologies, strategic intelligence, and frameworks for collaborative research and development. Countries such as Poland, with experience in integrating advanced systems, maintaining readiness along eastern borders, and balancing NATO commitments, offer comparative insights valuable for India. While Poland is not an Indo-Pacific neighbour, its approach to balancing regional security priorities with multilateral commitments provides lessons relevant to India. In addition, EU-wide collaboration allows India to access technology, training, and intelligence-sharing platforms that support both conventional and asymmetric defence capabilities. Such partnerships enhance India’s preparedness while reinforcing long-term strategic trust between Europe and India.

India and EU countries share democratic governance frameworks, rule of law, transparency, and accountability. These shared norms facilitate predictable policy coordination and reduce friction in trade, intellectual property, and environmental regulation. Poland’s transition from a post-communist state to a consolidated democracy provides practical insights into managing rapid economic trans-

formation while maintaining social cohesion—a lesson applicable to India’s ongoing modernisation and urbanisation challenges.

India’s pragmatic foreign policy, blending economic ambition with strategic autonomy, exemplifies effective navigation in a multipolar era. Strengthened cooperation with the EU enhances India’s global leverage while enabling it to manage challenges in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

Countries such as Poland contribute technological expertise and policy capacity within the EU framework, supporting effective engagement. Together, India and the EU can build a partnership that is economically productive, technologically advanced, and strategically resilient.

India’s engagement with Europe, leveraging shared values, technological collaboration, economic complementarity, and defence cooperation, enables New Delhi to secure critical advantages while strengthening Europe’s global standing.

India and Europe, by combining foresight, innovation, and practical partnership, have the potential to redefine global geopolitics—not through dominance, but through resilience, trust, and shared development.

*The writer is an expert, Centre for International Relations, Poland.*

INFIA

Hollow Promises

I walk out of my house and onto the street and look around. Not much is different from 10 years ago except that there is more traffic. ‘Crores spent, Smart Cities Mission leaves behind more bills, superficial infrastructure’, reads a headline from a couple of days ago. The report says what is obvious to those who examine what is around them: that a 10 year programme that ended this year has made no impact. Now that it is dead and buried and no further promises will be made over it, we can sift through its remains.

The Smart Cities mission was set up with a concept note that said the aim was to make cities that would offer ‘decent living options to every resident’, which would provide a ‘very high quality of life comparable with any developed European city’, according to the Urban Ministry’s concept note on Smart Cities. The government said this would happen by 2020. These Smart Cities were required, Arun Jaitley told parliament in 2014, to service the middle class that Modi’s economic policies would greatly expand. The following year, 2015, the language was tweaked to make the target more modest and, instead of emulating a European city, we were told that the Smart City of India would provide citizens with adequate water supply, assured electricity supply, sanitation, public transport, affordable housing for the poor, safety of women, health and education. This was, of course, not different from what the municipalities in all cities were focussed on in any case. The problem was one of hard governance and not logo and nomenclature alone. This may be why the Modi government’s interest in this waned almost immediately. It was reported in 2021 that the ‘Smart Cities project had failed to take off, with half of its funds unspent’. The project ‘should have been on its winning lap come 2020’, the report said, but instead, the reality was that by 2019, of the total Rs 48,000 crore ‘approved’ between 2015–19, only half was actually allocated. Of this half, only three-fourth was then actually released, and of what was released a mere 36 per cent was then utilised. While Rs 48,000 crore had been ‘approved’, only Rs 6,160 crore was spent.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Development said it was ‘perplexed about the actual progress made so far under the Mission at ground level’ and it also ‘observed numerous instances of one agency undoing the work of another’. Out of the 35 states and Union territories, 26 had utilised less than 20 per cent of the funds released. The usual problems associated with India also came to light. The standing committee said it was ‘surprised to find that in spite of available mechanisms, the complaints about poor work under the Mission are still pouring in before the Committee’. It recommended that ‘all those cases questioning the claim of work done under Smart Cities emanating from local MPs be probed expeditiously and the guilty be brought to book’.

News reports from organs that were still interested in the issue pointed out some primary flaws with the Smart Cities mission. It emphasised high-end infrastructure and technology-driven surveillance, but did not address amenities—water, schools, public hospitals, housing. With its area-based development, it was focussed on spending most of the money on small patches of city centres that were already developed. In Bangalore, for instance, the Smart Cities allocation was used on developing Church Street — which was already developed more than most of the rest of the city — and elite neighbourhoods like Infantry Road, Kamaraj Road, Tata Lane, Wood Street, Castle Street, Dickenson Road, Kensington Road, St John’s Road, Residency Road, Kasturba Road, Bowring Hospital Road, Millers Road, Lavelle Road, McGrath Road, Convent Road, Queen’s Road, Hayes Road, Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road and Race Course Road.

In Delhi, it was the area under the New Delhi Municipal Corporation, also already the most developed part of the National Capital Region. The mission was aimed at a particular section, the upper class, which comprised a very small part of the population and not any neo-middle class, which Modi’s economic policies in any case didn’t produce. The elitism showed elsewhere, for instance in the public bicycle sharing project implemented by many cities, including Pune, Delhi, Bhopal and Coimbatore. The instructions for hiring a bicycle on the company’s website were only in English and it only accepted online payment. Smart Cities were pushing India’s urban poor further to the margins. ‘Allocations’ in 2019 remained the same as that of 2018. And, in the 2021 Budget, the phrase ‘Smart Cities’ was not used at all. The former deputy mayor of Shimla, Tikender Singh Panwar, explained why: ‘These smart cities were supposed to be the lighthouses for other cities in the country. The Budget is completely silent over it owing to the fact that it has become one of the biggest embarrassments to the Modi government.’

This is why you likely did not know what the programme was intended to do (other than having a glitzy name), what change it actually achieved or indeed that the programme had been ended, never to be spoken of again.

WISDOM CORNER

“People are just people, and all people have faults and shortcomings, but all of us are born with a basic goodness.”

ANNE FRANK

“I’m telling you there is hope. I have seen it, but it does not come from the governments or corporations. It comes from the people.”

GRETA THUNBURG

“Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.”

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1917:** The British issued the Balfour Declaration, a statement of support for “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people”; it was made in a letter from Arthur James Balfour, the British foreign secretary.
- **1936:** The British Broadcasting Corporation officially launched its first television channel, which was also the world’s first regular TV service.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: [edit@orissapost.com](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rasulgargh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

# BMC allows ‘controlled feeding’ of pigeons

The permission for controlled feeding at the newly identified sites will be permitted only if voluntary organisations come forward to take responsibility for managing it, the civic body said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 1:** Mumbai's civic body, Friday said it has permitted "controlled feeding" of pigeons at four new locations in the city for two hours in the morning.

In a release, the Brihan-



mumbai Municipal Corporation said this is an interim measure until a report from an expert committee and further orders from the High Courts are received.

"Pigeon feeding will be allowed at Worli Reservoir in G South ward, a mangrove area near Lokhandwala Back Road close to Vesave STP project in Andheri West (K West ward),

an area near the creek at the old Airoli-Mulund check post along the Airoli-Mulund Link Road in Mulund East (T ward), and at Gorai Maidan in Borivali West (R Central ward)," the release informed.

At these sites, pigeon feeding will be allowed only between 7 am and 9 am, it said. The permission for controlled feeding at the newly identified sites will be permitted only if voluntary organisations come forward to take responsibility for managing it, the civic body added.

"The organisation will be required to ensure cleanliness, avoid obstruction to pedestrian or vehicular movement, address citizen complaints and execute an undertaking to comply with all conditions. Assistant municipal commissioners of

respective wards will act as nodal officers, and signages will be installed to spread awareness about health concerns," the release said.

The BMC clarified that existing 'kabutarkhanas' or pigeon-feeding spots that were shut following directions of the Bombay High Court will continue to remain closed and have not been permitted to re-open. These spots were closed in August, with some, like the one at Dadar, being covered with plastic sheets to deter people from feeding pigeons.

The civic body further said it has received 9,779 objections, suggestions and complaints so far from citizens regarding pigeon feeding in Mumbai.

It includes issues such as closure or continuation of pigeon feeding spots, sanitation and the need for controlled feeding.

## Revisiting charm of Delhi tourism



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 1:** When Delhi became a Union Territory in 1956, the Centre planned to make tourism accessible for all by transforming the national capital into a cultural and tourism hub by developing its key heritage sites, public amenities and rest houses to attract visitors.

Delhi attained Union Territory status on this day 69 years ago, November 1, 1956, following the reorganisation of Indian states.

An archival record from July 1956, accessed by PTI, shows that the Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog) and the Union Ministry of Transport approved several schemes under the second Five-Year Plan for tourism development in Delhi. The project focused on creating public amenities and visitor facilities around the heritage and recreational sites such as Qutab, Suraj Kund, Tughlaqabad, Hauz Khas and Okhla, marking some of the earliest coordinated efforts to promote tourism in post-Independence Delhi.

The document, issued by the Delhi Secretariat, includes detailed proposals for building pavilions, canteens, parking lots, gardens, rest houses and drinking water facilities.

It also includes plans for developing the lake at Hauz Khas and creating a low-in-

come group rest house with 25 beds at Tughlaqabad, indicating efforts to make tourism accessible for all.

According to the records, the Centre financed projects such as the Qutab pavilion, canteen, car park and cloak-rooms with a budget of Rs 1.02 lakh, Suraj Kund's development with an outlay of Rs 56,000, and similar works at Tughlaqabad, Hauz Khas and Okhla, bringing the total allocation to Rs 6.02 lakh.

Some provisions were also made for the development of spas in Delhi at Sonā, with details finalised by the transport ministry, according to records.

Delhi, now officially known as the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, is both a city and a Union Territory that houses New Delhi, the national capital.

The city lies along the Yamuna River, extending mostly to its western bank, and shares its borders with Uttar Pradesh to the east and Haryana on the other three sides.

Historically, Delhi has been the heart of power and culture for centuries. It served as the capital for several dynasties from the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire to the British.

Its strategic location along the ancient trade routes and its political centrality made it a natural choice for India's capital after Independence.

## CSM Hospital gets extra beds in Thane

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thane, Nov 1:** The civic body in Maharashtra's Thane city has increased the bed capacity in the maternity ward of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital to 90, an official said, Saturday.



The decision was made in view of the growing number of women coming to the civic-run hospital for delivery, which caters not only to residents of Thane city but also to patients from Thane Rural and Palghar districts, the Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) stated in a release.

Municipal Commissioner Saurabh Rao has also directed officials to modernise the maternity ward at Swatantra Sainik Hakim Ajmal Khan Hospital in the Mumbra area and grant it the status of an extended centre of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital, it stated.

According to official data, 200 outpatients visit the obstetrics department of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital every day. The department currently has 70 beds in its postpartum ward, with an average of 18 deliveries conducted each day.

In October, the daily delivery count rose to 22, with as many as 98 women admitted simultaneously on several occasions, exceeding the available bed capacity, the release said.

During a high-level meeting, Friday, Commissioner Rao instructed officials to prepare a comprehensive plan to operationalise modern maternity services at the Ajmal Khan Hospital.



An anti-smog gun is being used to spray water droplets to curb air pollution, near Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

## SRK@60: Fans from world gather in Mumbai to celebrate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 1:** As Shah Rukh Khan turns 60; fans from across the globe are gearing up to celebrate not just the movie star, but the man who showed them the many shades of love through his films.

Sunday, the actor, fondly known as SRK or King Khan, will celebrate his 60th birthday. Often hailed as one of the last true superstars of Hindi cinema, alongside Salman Khan and Aamir Khan, Shah Rukh continues to have a global fan following.

Among them are Claudia Calle and Manigret Aparicio, who have travelled to Mumbai all the way from their home country Peru, just to witness the charm of their beloved star.

Claudia, an artist by profession, runs the SRK Peru fan club and remembers how she fell in love with the actor after watching his 2004 hit "Veer Zaara".

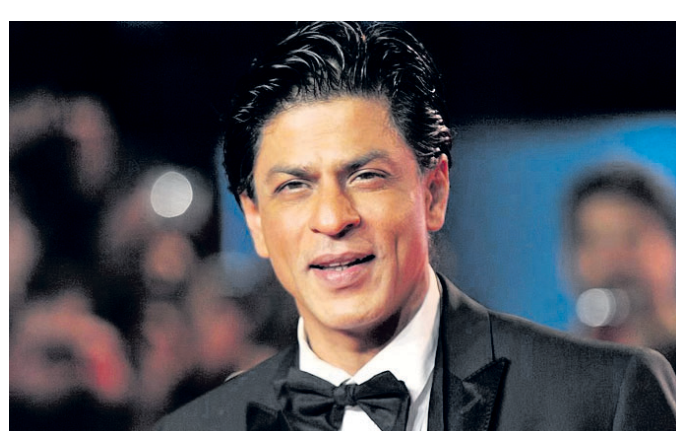
"I saw the movie with my husband and I instantly fell in love with Shah Rukh. Afterwards, I watched all of his past films on DVD, including 'Karan Arjun', 'Baazigar', 'Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa' and 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge'.

"We are crazy Shah Rukh Khan fans. Our home is a tribute to him, filled with posters and memories. Words can hardly capture our love for him. Shah Rukh means love. We are so looking forward to meeting him," Claudia told PTI.

Their admiration for SRK runs so deep that they've named their home in Peru "Mannat", inspired by Shah Rukh Khan's iconic sea-facing residence in Bandra. Claudia said they've made a special handmade gift for Shah Rukh.

"We've made about 26 to 27 figurines of his popular on-screen characters from different films like 'Ra.One', 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham', and 'Jawan', among others," she said.

The Delhi-born actor started



his acting journey with TV serials such as "Fauji" and "Circus" before making his feature film debut with Raj Kanwar's "Deewana" in 1992.

Over the years, he captured the hearts of audiences with his unforgettable performances as the brooding hero of "Baazigar" and "Darr" or as the epitome of romance in "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge", "Dil Toh Pagal Hai" and "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai".

SRK has displayed remarkable range, taking on inspiring roles in Swades and Chak De! India, and reaffirmed his superstardom with two action blockbusters in 2023, "Pathaan" and "Jawan". Ahead of his birthday, his fan clubs have begun planning a series of celebrations. Two of the biggest - SRK Universe, and Team Shah Rukh Khan- boast a significant presence on social media.

Yash Paryani, co-founder of SRK Universe fan club, which has 613K followers X (Formerly Twitter), and 147K on Instagram, said they're doing a lot of charity work on SRK's behalf.

The club was founded in 2013 by a Maldivian citizen Muhammad Ashraf, and Paryani joined in 2014.

"Instead of celebrating his birthday for one day, we are celebrating it for a week. We're doing it as SRK week. We started with charity work for can-

cer patients, senior citizens, and differently abled children. We've done blood donation drives, we've screened 'Main Hoon Naa' for underprivileged kids, and food distribution drive outside Nair hospital," Paryani, a businessman, told PTI.

"He has been an inspiration to millions like us to follow our dream and be successful. He has inspired me to do well for society and be a better person," he added.

Chennai-based Sudhir Kothari, who leads the SRK Chennai fan club, founded in 2013, said they've planned a special surprise for Khan on his birthday.

"We've planned some activities outside Mannat, like flying drones and releasing something. We've made huge size banners with a special message. We don't want to reveal much. This birthday, we want to celebrate his entire journey as an actor, and his first national award. For us 60 is just a number, we don't think he is 60, we don't want to highlight. For us he is young, age is just a number," Kothari told PTI.

Shah Rukh's residence is currently going through renovation work with the actor and his family, including his wife Gauri Khan and three children Aryan, Suhana and Abram, shifting to an alternative place.

## Delhi: Missing 11-year-old boy rescued

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 1:** An 11-year-old boy, who had been missing for nearly a month, was rescued from Delhi's Shakurpur after a woman allegedly lured him with 'prasad' and forced him into collecting garbage while subjecting him to physical abuse and starvation, police said, Saturday.

Police registered a case of kidnapping and launched a search after the parents of the boy, both daily wage, reported the matter at Subhash Place police station October 5, a day after his disappearance.

The investigators followed a lead provided by the boy's mother, who received a brief phone call from an unknown number after her son had gone missing.

"She heard a child's voice saying 'mummy' before the call got disconnected. Attempts to reach the number later failed," a police officer said. Acting on the lead, police conducted local inquiries, analysed technical data, and examined the residents of the area before shortlisting a few suspects, the officer said.

Police traced the boy to Shakurpur on the basis of technical surveillance and field verification, from where he was rescued safely, the officer said.

The boy told police that a woman who lived in Shakurpur lured him by offering 'prasad' and later forced him into collecting garbage. The accused allegedly subjected him to physical abuse and starvation, the officer said.

The boy also said that he once managed to call his mother but the woman snatched the phone moments later. Efforts are being made to trace and arrest the woman, whose details have been shared with local police, the officer said.

## CULTURAL EVENTS RUSH

# Delhi issues traffic advisory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 1:** The Delhi Traffic Police, Saturday issued an advisory for commuters, warning of traffic restrictions and diversions in some areas until 10 pm, due to an event at the Red Fort and the Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra.

A large gathering was organised at the Red Fort, where the Delhi government's education and culture departments hosted an event to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, as well as the Delhi Foundation Day.

The Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra also commenced from the Red Fort around noon, with a large number of devotees participating in the procession. A heavy footfall along Netaji Subhash Marg and adjoining areas throughout the day was anticipated, it said.

"To ensure smooth traffic flow, pedestrian safety, and public convenience, traffic arrangements, restrictions, and diversions will remain in force on Saturday from 12 noon to 10 pm," the advisory said.

Buses and commercial vehicles coming from the Daryaganj side were diverted from the T-point at Subhash Marg towards Shanti Van, while vehicles from GPO and Kodia Pul heading to the Red Fort were rerouted towards Ring Road via Chhatta Rail



Chowk. Additional diversions may be imposed at Shanti Van Chowk, Delhi Gate Chowk, and GPO Chowk depending on traffic conditions, police said.

Commuters visiting

Chandni Chowk and nearby markets have been urged to park only at designated parking lots such as ASI Parking (Nishad Raj Marg), Dargal Maidan Parking (SPM Marg), Omaxe Mall Parking (HC Sen Road), and Aadi Maidan Parking.

"No e-rickshaws, auto-rickshaws, or cycle rickshaws will be permitted beyond Chhatta Rail Chowk and the T-point at Subhash Marg," the advisory said, adding that pedestrians should use footpaths and designated crossings only.

### OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, BOUDH

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-Procurement Notice  
Bid Identification No. 09/BMID/2025-2026  
E-mail ID : bmidboudh@gmail.com  
No.A-803 Letter No.1532 / Date 25.10.2025

|                                            |                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 Name of work                            | : Improvement of M.I.P.s in different Blocks of Boudh District under MIP-SP, DPIW & Critical Scheme for the year 2025-2026                                |
| 02 Numbers of Work                         | : 08 (Eight) Nos                                                                                                                                          |
| 03 Tender Amount                           | : Varies from 12.71 Lakh to Rs.42.37 lakh                                                                                                                 |
| 04 Class of Contractor                     | : "D", "C" & "B"                                                                                                                                          |
| 05 Tender paper Cost (Online)              | : Rs.6000/-                                                                                                                                               |
| 06 Period of Completion                    | : 03 (Three) & 06 (Six) Calendar Months                                                                                                                   |
| 07 Availability of Bid Document            | : From 01.11.2025 at 10.00 A.M. to 14.11.2025 upto 05.30 P.M. in website ( <a href="http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in">www.tendersorissa.gov.in</a> )       |
| 08 Last date & Time of receipt of Bid      | : 14.11.2025 upto 05.30 P.M. through online                                                                                                               |
| 09 Date of opening of Bid Documents        | : 15.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. in the office of the SE, M.I. Division, Boudh                                                                                  |
| 10 Date of Lottery                         | : 21.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.                                                                                                                                |
| 11 Digital Signature Certificate of Bidder | : The bidder must process compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)                                                                                  |
| 12 Name and address of the OIT             | : Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Boudh A.P.O. : Mallisahi, District : Boudh, PIN-762014<br>Sd./- Superintending Engineer<br>M.I. Division, Boudh |

Further details can be seen from the Government of Odisha Web-site [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)  
OIPR-32279/11/0022/2526

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARGARH

e-Procurement Notice No. ONLINE-BGH-15 of 2025-26  
No. O-1165

|                    |                                                           |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Name of the Work | : Building work during 2025-26 in the district of Bargarh |
| 2 EMD              | : @1% of the Estimated Cost put to tender                 |
| 3 Other details    | : As per DTCN                                             |

| Procurement Officer                               | Bid Identification No.   | Availability of Tender online for bidding |                           | Last date & time of seeking tender clarification | Date & time of opening of tender |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                                   |                          | From                                      | To                        |                                                  |                                  |
| 1                                                 | 2                        | 3                                         | 4                         | 5                                                | 6                                |
| Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Bargarh | ONLINE-BGH-15 of 2025-26 | 01.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.                  | 14.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M. | 14.11.2025 upto 4.00 P.M.                        | 15.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.         |

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in).  
OIPR-25062/11/0041/2526  
Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Bargarh





# international

## of the day quote

Mass executions, starvation and the devastating use of rape as a weapon of war, with women and children bearing the brunt of the largest humanitarian crisis in the 21st century

YVETTE COOPER | FOREIGN SECRETARY, BRITAIN

China's sweeping territorial and maritime claims in the South China Sea fly in the face of their commitments to resolve disputes peacefully. We seek peace. We do not seek conflict. But we must ensure that China is not seeking to dominate you or anybody else

PETE HEGSETH | DEFENCE SECRETARY, US

I did apologise to the president (Donald Trump). I told Ford I did not want to go forward with the ad

MARK CARNEY | PM, CANADA

## SHORT TAKES

### Drone sighting shuts air travel at Berlin airport

**Berlin:** A late evening drone sighting at Berlin's airport suspended flights for nearly two hours, according to the news agency dpa, before air travel returned to normal in the German capital Saturday morning. Flights were suspended between 8:08 pm and 9:58 pm local time at Berlin Brandenburg Airport, the news report cited the airport. Local police told the Tagesspiegel newspaper that a witness reported seeing a drone. Police confirmed the sighting but did not find the drone. Europe is on high alert after drone intrusions into NATO's airspace reached an unprecedented scale in September. Some European officials described the incidents as Moscow testing NATO's response, which raised questions about how prepared the alliance is against Russia. Last month, Munich Airport was closed twice in less than 24 hours because of drone sightings.

### US govt shutdown prompts flight delays

**Washington:** Continued staffing shortages in air traffic control facilities around the country were again causing delays at airports Friday as the government shutdown neared the one-month mark. US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy has been warning that travelers would start to see more flights delayed or cancelled as the nation's controllers continue to work without pay during the shutdown, which began October 1. The Federal Aviation Administration reported staffing-related delays Friday at a number of airports, including in Boston, New York City, Nashville, Houston, Dallas and Newark, New Jersey. The airports in Boston, Nashville and New York City were experiencing delays averaging two hours or longer.

### 40K Afghan refugees leave Balochistan

**Karachi:** More than two years after Pakistan started a crackdown against Afghan nationals, nearly 40,000 of them have left Balochistan capital Quetta, a top provincial official has said. Since October 2023, when Pakistan asked all the foreign nationals, including Afghan illegal immigrants, to leave voluntarily or face deportation, the deadline has been extended multiple times. Pakistan hosts over 1.7 million registered Afghan refugees, with many more living without documentation. The government recently launched yet another repatriation drive, citing security and economic concerns, prompting thousands of Afghans to return to their home country.



Christianity is facing an existential threat in Nigeria. Radical Islamists are responsible for this mass slaughter. I am hereby making Nigeria a COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

## ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION

China Saturday dispatched its 42nd Antarctic expedition team with a mission to conduct drilling experiments in the coldest continent to explore its evolution process and natural resources. China has been sending expeditions periodically to Antarctica, where it has five research stations to explore the resource-rich continent, but this will be the first time its team will focus on drilling the continent's bed



## APEC SUMMIT WRAPS UP

# Asia-Pacific leaders call for shared trade benefits



REUTERS

**Gyeongju, Nov 1:** Facing deepening fractures in the global trade order, Asia-Pacific leaders adopted a joint declaration that emphasised the need for resilience and shared benefits in trade at the end of the annual APEC summit Saturday.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting, hosted by South Korea this year, unfolded under the shadow of rising geopolitical tensions and aggressive economic strategies - ranging from US tariffs to China's export controls - that have pressured global trade.

Ahead of the gathering, US President Donald Trump announced trade deals with a number of countries, including China and South Korea. But he left before the summit kicked off.

"It is a result of member countries acknowledging, at least to some degree, that it will be difficult to restore a free trade order based on multilateralism and the World Trade Organization," said Heo Yoon, a professor of international trade at Sogang University in Seoul.

"We cannot deny anymore that there is a paradigm shift in the global trade order."

With Trump's swift exit before the summit, China sought to position itself as a steady advocate of free and open trade, a

role the US had dominated for decades. China will host APEC in Shenzhen in 2026, President Xi Jinping announced.

In closing remarks, Xi proposed the establishment of a World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization, while the gathering adopted other declarations on demographic change and AI. But there was no mention of AI regulations.

However, Heo and analysts say the joint declaration suggests that member nations were wary of giving an impression that the US was undermining free trade while picturing China as a guardian of multilateralism.

"Few countries believe there can be a new trade order that excludes the US," he said.

China's Xi wrapped up his three-day visit to South Korea Saturday with a state dinner and summit hosted by President Lee Jae Myung, the newly elected US ally who has pledged to balance Seoul's ties with Beijing.

The stakes were high for Lee, who assumed office in June after the ouster of his hawkish predecessor over a failed attempt to impose martial law. Lee faces the dual challenge of protecting South Korea's export-driven economy and easing tensions with North Korea amid rising China-US competition.

Lee said it was difficult to say that relations between South

- APEC LEADERS ADOPT DECLARATIONS ON TRADE, AI AND DEMOGRAPHICS
- SOUTH KOREA'S LEE AIMS TO BALANCE TIES WITH CHINA
- CHINA'S XI AND LEE DISCUSS COOPERATION, NORTH KOREA
- XI PROPOSES CREATION OF WORLD ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

Korea and China had ever been completely normalised, and he hoped for a substantial improvement.

"We must go beyond simple restoration to find a path of cooperation that is beneficial to each other," Lee told a press conference ahead of his planned meeting with Xi.

Earlier this week, Lee also hosted Trump for a rushed state visit, showering him with gifts and praise before announcing a surprise trade deal aimed at lowering US tariffs in return for billions of dollars in South Korean investment in the US.

Lee held similar events for Xi Saturday, including a summit meeting and state dinner. This was Xi's first visit to South Korea in 11 years.

### NORTH KOREA ON AGENDA

Lee asked Xi for China's help in engaging North Korea, according to Seoul's presidential office. Chinese state media did not mention North Korea in their reports on the meeting.

After the South said Lee would raise denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula with Xi, North Korea, a military and economic ally of China, issued a statement Saturday dismissing any efforts to remove its nuclear arsenal as an unrealisable "pipe dream".

Trump had offered to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during his visit to South Korea, but Pyongyang did not make a public response.

## 'THE GATEWAY TO DONETSK'

# Russia pushes forward in Pokrovsk

REUTERS

**Moscow, Nov 1:** Russian forces defeated a team of Ukrainian special forces which were rushed to the embattled eastern city of Pokrovsk in an attempt to prevent Russian forces from advancing further into the city, the Russian defence ministry said.

Russia wants to take the

whole of the Donbas region, which comprises Luhansk and Donetsk provinces. Ukraine still controls about 10% of Donbas - an area of about 5,000 square km in western Donetsk.

Capturing Pokrovsk, dubbed "the gateway to Donetsk" by Russian media, and Kostiantynivka to its northeast which Russian forces are also trying

to envelop, would give Moscow a platform to drive north towards the two biggest remaining Ukrainian-controlled cities in Donetsk - Kramatorsk and Sloviansk.

Ukraine said that it had deployed special forces in Pokrovsk earlier in the week, landing a Black Hawk helicopter. Russia's defence ministry

said it had killed the group of Ukrainian military intelligence special forces.

Ukraine's only mine producing coking coal - used in its once vast steel industry - is around six miles (10 km) west of Pokrovsk. Ukrainian steel-maker Metinvest said in January it had suspended mining operations there.

# Tanzanian prez Hassan wins disputed election



REUTERS

**Kampala, Nov 1:** Tanzania's electoral commission declared on Saturday that President Samia Suluhu Hassan had won, with nearly 98% of the votes, an election that set off violent protests across the country this week.

The result hands Hassan, who took power in 2021 after the death in office of her predecessor, a five-year term to govern the East African country of 68 million people. Protests erupted during Wednesday's vote for president and parliament, with some demonstrators tearing down banners of Hassan and setting fire to government buildings and police firing tear gas and gunshots, according to witnesses.

Demonstrators are angry about the electoral commission's exclusion of Hassan's two biggest challengers from the race and what they described as widespread repression.

Tanzania's main opposition party said Friday that hundreds of people had been killed in the protests, while the UN human rights office said credible reports indicated at least 10 people

ELECTION COMMISSION DECLARES HASSAN WINNER WITH NEARLY 98% OF VOTES

PROTESTS ERUPTED OVER EXCLUSION OF HASSAN'S CHALLENGERS

UN CALLS FOR PROBE INTO USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE

were killed in three cities.

The government dismissed the opposition's death toll as "hugely exaggerated" and has rejected criticism of its human rights record.

The electoral commission said that Hassan received more than 31.9 million votes, or 97.66% of the total, with turnout nearing 87% of the country's 37.6 million registered voters.

Turnout appeared low on election day, according to witnesses, with some polling stations disrupted by the protests.

The Tanzanian authorities have imposed a nationwide curfew for the past three nights and restricted access to the internet.

Foreign Affairs Minister Mahmoud Thabit Kombo Friday denied allegations that security services had used excessive force, saying there had only been a "very few small pockets of incidents" caused by criminal elements.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in a statement issued Friday by his spokesperson, called "for a thorough and impartial investigation into all allegations of excessive use of force" and deplored the loss of life.

It's time to unite our country and not destroy what we've built over more than six decades

SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN | PRESIDENT, TANZANIA

# World's largest museum flaunts Egypt's ancient civilisation

Two decades in the making and located near the Giza Pyramids on the edge of Cairo, the museum showcases over 50,000 artefacts detailing life in ancient Egypt

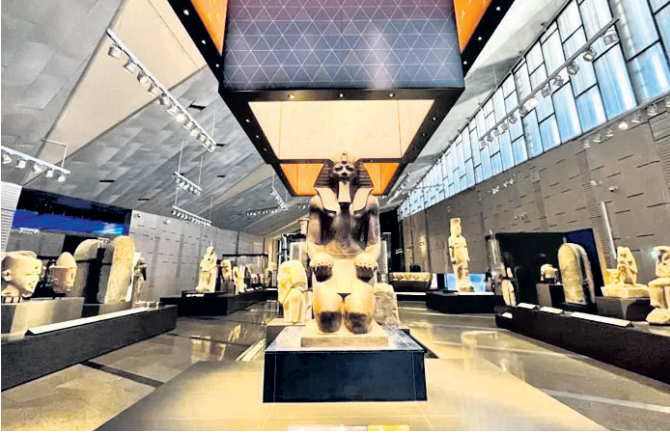
Egyptians and the creativity of modern Egyptians, enhancing the world culture and art with a new landmark that will attract all those who cherish civilisation and knowledge."

A symphony of humanity' The museum is one of several megaprojects championed by el-Sissi since he took office in 2014, embarking on massive investments in infrastructure with the aim of reviving an economy weakened by decades of stagnation and battered by the unrest that followed the 2011 Arab Spring uprising.

Preparations for the grand reveal have been shrouded in secrecy. A stage was built in the museum courtyard where an orchestra and musicians would later perform what the Egyptian media described as a "global symphony of humanity."

Security around Cairo was tightened ahead of the opening ceremony, with the government announcing Saturday would be a public holiday. The museum, which has been open for limited visits over the past few years, was closed for the final two-week preparations.

The government has revamped the area around the



museum and the nearby Giza Plateau that holds the pyramids and the Sphinx. Roads were paved, and a metro station is being constructed outside the museum gates to improve access. An airport, Sphinx International Airport, has also opened west of Cairo, 40 minutes from the museum.

The \$1 billion facility had faced multiple delays, with construction beginning in 2005 but interrupted due to political instability.

### Ramses the Great, King Tut

The museum, known as GEM, boasts a towering, triangular

glass facade imitating the nearby pyramids, with 24,000 square meters (258,000 square feet) of permanent exhibition space.

It opens to a granite colossus of Ramses the Great, one of ancient Egypt's most powerful pharaohs who reigned for around 60 years, from 1279 BC to 1213 BC, and is credited with expanding ancient Egypt's reach as far as modern Syria to the east and modern Sudan to the south. The statue greets visitors once they step inside the museum's angular atrium.

From the atrium, a grand six-story staircase lined with

ancient statues leads up to the main galleries and a view of the pyramids. A bridge links the museum to the pyramids, allowing tourists to move between them either on foot or via electric vehicles, according to museum officials.

The museum's 12 main galleries, which opened last year, exhibit antiquities spanning from prehistoric times to the Roman era, organised by era and by themes.

Two halls are dedicated to the 5,000 artefacts from the collection of King Tutankhamun — a boy pharaoh who ruled from 1361 BC to 1352 BC — that will be displayed in its entirety for the first time since British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered King Tut's tomb in 1922 in the southern city of Luxor.

Zahi Hawass, Egypt's most renowned archaeologist and former minister of antiquities, said the Tutankhamun collection is the museum's masterpiece.

"Why is this museum so important, and everyone is waiting for the opening?" he told The Associated Press. "Because of Tutankhamun."

The collection includes the boy pharaoh's three funeral

beds and six chariots, his golden throne, his gold-covered sarcophagus and his burial mask, made of gold, quartzite, lapis lazuli and colored glass.

### Boosting tourism, economy

The government hopes the museum will draw more tourists who will stay for a while and provide the foreign currency needed to shore up Egypt's battered economy. The state-run Al-Ahram daily said the museum is expected to attract 5 million visitors annually.

The tourism sector has suffered during years of political turmoil and violence following the 2011 Arab Spring uprising.

A record number of about 15.7 million tourists visited Egypt in 2024, contributing about 8 per cent of the country's GDP, according to official figures. Tourism and Antiquities Minister Sherif Fathy has said that overall, Egypt expects about 18 million tourists this year, with authorities hoping for 30 million visitors annually by 2032.

The museum will open to the public starting November 4 — the anniversary of Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, authorities said.

of the day

quote

By sharing best practices, aligning policies, building industries, and developing skills, we can harness Africa's critical minerals not just for economic gains, but for building a sustainable and inclusive future



The upcoming EPFO 3.0 platform will further improve efficiency and accessibility, while new initiatives such as simplified withdrawal categories and the Viswas Scheme have eased compliance for employers



There is a need to scale domestic capital, nurture homegrown funds, and encourage startups to contribute to 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' by developing frontier technologies in India



SHORT TAKES

Mahindra Lifespace posts profit

**New Delhi:** Realty firm Mahindra Lifespace Developers Ltd has reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 47.91 crore for the second quarter of this fiscal year. The company had posted a net loss of Rs 14.01 crore in the year-ago period. Total income rose to Rs 33.06 crore during July-September period of 2025-26 fiscal from Rs 15.96 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding year, according to a regulatory filing, Friday.

₹2,000 notes worth ₹5,817cr in mkt

**Mumbai:** The high-value Rs 2,000 notes worth Rs 5,817 crore are still in circulation, according to the Reserve Bank data released, Saturday. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had announced the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes from circulation on May 19, 2023. Rs 2,000 banknotes continue to be legal tender. In a statement, the central bank said the total value of Rs 2,000 banknotes in circulation, which was Rs 3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, when the withdrawal of the currency was announced, has declined to Rs 5,817 crore at the close of business on October 31, 2025.

Gold, silver roundup

**New Delhi:** Gold prices extended their decline for the second consecutive week as improved global risk appetite, a strong dollar, and the US Federal Reserve's cautious tone of further rate cuts have dampened the demand for safe-haven asset. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for December delivery plunged Rs 2,219, or 1.8 per cent, over the past week. During the past week, the yellow metal hit an intra-day low of Rs 1,17,628 per 10 grams, October 28. Silver, which outshone gold during the recent rally, saw a significant swings during the week. The white metal saw volatile movements before staging a mild recovery towards the end of the week. On the MCX, silver futures for December delivery ended nearly a two-week losing streak by rising Rs 817, or 0.55 per cent. Silver futures experienced a larger crash, falling from near Rs 1,55,000 per kilogram to test Rs 1,45,000 per kg, before regaining some ground. In the overseas markets, Comex silver futures remained largely flat in the past week, when it ended at \$48.16 per ounce.



Commended the progress of states for their exceptional renewable capacity share, reviewed the progress of flagship schemes and discussed actionable steps to harness the region's immense potential in solar, small hydro, green hydrogen and biomass

PRALHAD JOSHI | UNION MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS & RENEWABLE ENERGY

GST registers 4.6% growth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 1:** Festive buying spree unleashed by lower tax rates pushed gross GST collection to about Rs 1.96 lakh crore in October, registering a 4.6 per cent year-on-year growth, the slowest rate so far this fiscal.

The slowest pace of revenue growth in October comes after Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates on 375 items, from kitchen staples to electronics and automobiles, were slashed with effect from September 22, the first day of Navratri.

According to the government data released, Saturday, gross GST mop-up in October was about Rs 1.96 lakh crore, a 4.6 per cent higher over Rs 1.87 lakh crore collections in October 2024.

The gross domestic revenue, an indication of local sales, grew 2 per cent to Rs 1.45 lakh crore, while tax from imports surged about 13 per cent to Rs 50,884 crore in October.

The rate of growth in gross GST collections in year-on-year terms in October at 4.6 per cent is, however, lower than about 9 per cent average growth in GST mop-up so far this fiscal.

In August and September this year, GST collection grew at 6.5 per cent to Rs 1.86 lakh crore and at 9.1 per cent to Rs 1.89 lakh crore, respectively.

The October GST collection number reflects the impact of festive season sales and the pent up demand. Consumers had held back their purchase decision, awaiting GST rate cut after Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech had announced that GST rates will be cut ahead of Diwali. The rate cut was, however, implemented with the onset of Navratri.

As per the data, GST refunds jumped 39.6 per cent year-on-year in October to Rs 26,934 crore.



Net GST revenue, after adjusting refunds, stood at Rs 1.69 lakh crore in October 2025, recording 0.2 per cent YoY growth.

Price Waterhouse & Co LLP Partner Pratik Jain said despite massive rate cuts effective from September 22, a slight increase in domestic GST collection shows that demand is steadily increasing.

“Consistent increase in GST refunds (domestic as well as exports) shows confidence of tax administration that GST collections would show positive trend in future as well,” Jain said.

EY India Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said GST collections reflected a muted momentum in tax collection primarily due to rate rationalisation effect and the deferred consumer spending ahead of the festive season.

This anticipated lag is likely to be compensated by more robust numbers in the next month, driven by seasonal buoyancy.

Deloitte India, Partner & Indirect Tax Leader, Mahesh Jaising said the GST collection numbers underscores the resilience of economy amid festive momentum and enhanced compliance.

This fiscal strength arms the government with the bold resolve to drive GST 2.0 re-

forms, streamlining rates, curbing evasion and simplifying compliance -- propelling India toward a truly seamless, tech-driven tax ecosystem.

Tax Connect Advisory Services Partner Vivek Jalan said the growth in collections by 4.6 per cent re-affirm that the boost in consumption has, to an extent, balanced the de-growth in revenue due to the tax rate cuts.

According to Jalan, the sustained buoyancy in receipts despite significant rate-rationalisation underscores that the reforms are stimulating consumption rather than constraining it. Also, refund disbursements surged nearly 40 per cent YoY, which is a clear indication of improved compliance discipline and smoother credit flows for business.

Grant Thornton Bharat, Partner and Tax Controversary Management Leader, Manoj Mishra said early retail indicators show broad-based demand across autos, FMCG, apparel and electronics, reflecting renewed consumer confidence.

“With India's vast household consumption base and an industrial revival now increasingly complementing services-led growth, the October GST data affirm that India's growth story is both broadening and deepening,” Mishra said.

SMALL BIZ TO GET EARLY GST REGISTRATION

Small and low-risk businesses will get GST registration within 3 working days as the Goods and Service Tax (GST) department rolls out a simplified GST registration scheme for small and medium businesses from, Nov 1. Small and low-risk businesses applicants who self-assess that their output tax liability will not exceed Rs 2.5 lakh per month (inclusive of CGST, SGST/UTGST and IGST) will be able to opt for the scheme. Over 1.54 crore businesses are currently registered under GST



UIDAI makes ‘Aadhaar paperless’



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 1:** In a significant move to provide digital convenience to Aadhaar cardholders, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has announced major reforms to make Aadhaar updates faster, simpler, and entirely online, effective from Saturday.

The new changes will allow cardholders to update key details such as their name, address, date of birth, or mobile number directly through the UIDAI portal, eliminating the need to visit enrolment centres. The information that an individual submits will be digitally verified using linked government documents like PAN cards, passports, driving licences, or ration cards, ensuring both speed and accuracy.

Additionally, the government has mandated that Aadhaar-PAN linking be completed by December 31, 2025, and that PAN cards that are not linked will be deactivated, January 1, 2026.

As part of the procedure, new PAN applicants will also need to finish an Aadhaar-based verification.

Furthermore, UIDAI has streamlined the digital Know Your Customer (KYC) process for banks and other financial institutions, enabling users to confirm their identity via video KYC, Aadhaar OTP-based authentication, or optional in-person verification.

The authority has introduced a revised service fee structure that will also come into effect on November 1. Under the new fee structure, the Aadhaar re-prints will be done at Rs 40.

For a biometric update, the cardholders need to pay Rs 125, and for updating demographic information, the fee would be Rs 75. Home enrolment service for the first applicant will be charged at Rs 700, and Rs 350 for each additional person at the same address.

The digital-first reforms are intended to improve the security and usability of Aadhaar services so that citizens can easily manage their identity records from home.

Earlier, a cardholder had to visit an Aadhaar Seva Kendra for any correction or update. The new reforms bring the entire process online through the UIDAI portal.

BIZ BUZZ

CMPDI celebrates 51st Coal India Foundation Day

**Ranchi:** Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI) celebrated the 51st Foundation Day of Coal India Limited (CIL) with enthusiasm at its headquarters in Ranchi. The event began with the hoisting of the CIL flag by Shankar Nagachari, Director (Technical/CRD), followed by the singing of the CIL corporate anthem. Directors Ajay Kumar, Rajeev Kumar Sinha, Nripendra Nath, Regional Director Kanchan Sinha, and other senior officials, employees, and their families were present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, Nagachari said, “The objective behind establishing Coal India was not only to ensure coal production but also to provide sustainable sources of energy for the community and the nation. The coal industry contributes far beyond energy; it fuels employment, development, and sustainability.” Award ceremony also held, where Manoj Kumar, Regional Director, RI-5, Bilaspur, recognised as the Best Regional Director of CMPDI; Vinod Kumar Pandey, General Manager (Environment), Headquarters, Ranchi, received the Best Department Head Award; and Randeep Singh, General Manager (Excavation/Open Cast), CMPDI Headquarters, won the Individual Excellence Award. The prestigious N Kumar Innovation Award was conferred upon Kunal Das, General Manager (Mining/Blasting), Headquarters, Ranchi. On this occasion, CMPDI also honoured the children/wards of its employees who excelled academically by securing over 90 per cent marks in their Class 10 or 12 Board Examinations during the academic year 2024-25.



Nripendra Nath takes charge as Director (Technical) at CMPDI

**Ranchi:** Nripendra Nath has assumed charge as Director (Technical) of the Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI), October 31, 2025 here Friday. An alumnus of IIT (ISM), Dhanbad, Nath graduated in 1988 and began his career in Central Coalfields Limited's (CCL) NK Area. He made notable contributions to the World Bank-assisted KDH Project for nearly two decades. Over the years, he has held several key positions, including Project Officer at various mines under Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL). As General Manager of CCL's Magadh-Sanghmitra Area, he was instrumental in achieving the milestone of joining the prestigious 20 Million Tonne Production Club. A SIMTARS-certified trainer trained in Australia, Nath has been actively involved in safety training and the formulation of mine safety management plans across Coal India subsidiaries. He also represented India as part of the AGTM delegation to several European countries in 2024. With his extensive experience and international exposure, Nath is expected to play a crucial role in advancing CMPDI's technical capabilities, safety standards, and operational excellence in alignment with Coal India's growth vision.



Carmakers post record sales in October

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 1:** Top car-makers led by Maruti Suzuki, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and Kia India, Saturday reported record sales in the domestic market riding on festive demand boosted by Gooda and Service Tax (GST) rate cut.

Other manufacturers such as Skoda Auto India and Toyota Kirloskar Motor also posted impressive growth in sales in October.

“In October, we did a retail of 2,42,096 units, which is a growth of almost 20 per cent over the last year,” Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Partho Banerjee, told reporters in a virtual interaction. Banerjee said before the GST reforms there were challenges in the new set of first-time car buyers entering the market but after GST 2.0 many customers have started coming to showrooms.

In terms of wholesales, Maruti Suzuki India said its total domestic sales, including com-

mercial vehicles, stood at an all-time high of 1,80,675 units as against 1,63,130 units in the same month last year, up 10.75 per cent. Domestic passenger vehicle sales were at 1,76,318 units as against 1,59,591 units in October 2024, up 10.48 per cent, it added. Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd also reported record SUV sales in the domestic passenger vehicle market growing by 31 per cent to 71,624 units in October as compared to 54,504 units in the same month last year.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd also reported its best ever wholesales at 61,295 units in October as compared to 48,423 units in the same month last year, a growth of 26.6 per cent.

On the other hand, Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) reported a 3.2 per cent decline in domestic sales at 53,792 units in October as compared to 55,568 units in the same month last year. Yet, the company witnessed robust market demand, leading to second highest monthly sales of its SUVs Creta and Venue with combined sales of 30,119 units.

India urges WTO to promote secure digital infra for e-commerce

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 1:** India has suggested that WTO countries should discuss ways to promote secure and interoperable digital public infrastructure for e-commerce to prevent monopolistic market segmentation by big tech companies and encourage participation of MSMEs in the sector.

The country has also proposed to discuss the existing gaps in terms of digital infrastructure and access to technologies that hinder participation of developing and least developed countries in global e-commerce, and how the WTO (World Trade Organisation) or the Council for TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects

of Intellectual Property Rights) can play a role in addressing the same.

According to a communication from India, posted on the WTO platform, India has stated that international collaboration on DPI (digital public infrastructure) systems would address the issue of digital access and divide in the context of e-commerce and IP (intellectual property) and its development dimension.

“...we propose the following discussion points and proposals - we invite other members to... discuss how WTO Members can promote secure and interoperable digital public infrastructure and adopt the DPI approach in the context of e-commerce to prevent monopolistic market



segmentation by big tech companies and to promote competition and participation of MSMEs in e-commerce,” it said.

India has said the council for TRIPS can discuss a possible online platform for technolo-

gy exchange to support global efforts to address the digital divide in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

“International collaboration on DPI systems would address the issue of digital access and

divide in the context of e-commerce and IP and its development dimension,” the communication said.

It has been stated that DPI is pivotal in facilitating the growth of e-commerce by providing scalable, inclusive, and interoperable platforms that underpin seamless transactions. It can be instrumental in increasing the participation of developing and least developed countries in global e-commerce.

India has been driving its digital transformation through its DPI approach, which includes Unique Digital ID 'AADHAAR', Unified Payments Interface (UPI), and the launch of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

For several years, it said,

the e-commerce agenda has received limited attention, with slow progress on TRIPS-related digital trade issues.

Therefore, efforts to reinvigorate discussions on the relationship between DPI, the TRIPS Agreement, and the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce (WPEC) are both relevant and timely.

“Availability of a robust digital infrastructure would facilitate increasing participation of developing and least developed countries in global e-commerce,” India has said, adding the DPI approach has been instrumental in driving the digital transformation in India and other countries, such as Singapore, UAE, Brazil, and Estonia.

# Women in Blue eye historic glory

The 13th edition of the World Cup is guaranteed to crown a new champion — between third-time finalists India and first-time finalists South Africa — both riding on the back of remarkable campaigns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Navi Mumbai, Nov 1:** Indian women's cricket stands on the brink of a watershed moment, reminiscent of the men's historic 1983 triumph, with the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side determined to end its ICC trophy drought when it faces a formidable South Africa in the Women's World Cup final here Sunday.

A title triumph could trigger an unprecedented surge of interest in women's cricket in India, inspiring a new generation of young girls to take up the sport — perhaps even more than the advent of the Women's Premier League did three seasons ago.

But the hosts will need to quickly move past their emotionally draining semifinal win here three nights ago — one that might have already earned them the “favourites” tag.

Jemimah Rodrigues' unforgettable 127 not out and Harmanpreet's gritty 89, coupled with an uncharacteristically erratic outing from seven-time champions Australia, carried India into yet another summit clash — a stage where heartbreak has struck far too often.

India's nine-run loss to England in the 2017 ODI World Cup final still lingers painfully for those who were part of that campaign, including Harmanpreet. It was followed by a narrow five-run defeat to Australia in the 2023 T20 World Cup semi-



final and another gut-wrenching loss to the same opponents in the 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medal match.

For India, the battle is no longer about proving skill or form, but about crossing the elusive final hurdle that has so often tripped them — including in this very tournament.

After a stuttering start that saw them lose three matches on the trot, India revived their home campaign with compelling wins over former champions New Zealand and Australia, rediscovering their spark when it mattered most.

Semifinals can often drain teams emotionally, and India will have to regroup quickly after that high-voltage chase.

## ONE LAST FIGHT

Their new anchor at No 3, Jemimah Rodrigues, has emerged as a force to reckon with, but her heroics have now raised expectations that mirror those faced by India's male stars.

It was a game in which India

expected their best batter Smriti Mandhana (385 runs) to fire but found a hero in a diminutive Jemimah.

On a flat DY Patil Stadium surface — known for its high scores and evening dew — an-

We know how it feels to lose. But we are looking forward to how it feels to win. Hopefully tomorrow is a special day for us, we have done a lot of hard work, and it's only about getting everything (done) tomorrow for the team

HARMANPREET KAUR | CAPTAIN, INDIA

other run-fest could be on the cards, testing India's fielding and bowling discipline.

South Africa, meanwhile, will not mind the “underdog” tag. They've shown remarkable resilience through the tournament — from being bowled out for 69 against England in Guwahati to later thrashing the same opponent at the same venue, and recovering from a 97 all-out against Australia in Indore.

For a nation that has weathered its share of cricketing turbulence, this South African side has scripted an inspiring turnaround — reaching a fifth successive ICC final across genders and age groups.

Having lost to New Zealand in last year's T20 World Cup final, their hunger to go one step further is immense.

Ultimately, the contest will come down to which team handles the pressure better. For Harmanpreet Kaur, it could be the final opportunity to etch her name in history as the first Indian woman to lift an ODI World Cup as captain.

# No Hazlewood around, batters to breathe easy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hobart, Nov 1:** The Indian batters will breathe a little easier in the absence of Josh Hazlewood as they look to put up an improved performance, but the baffling omission of left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh continues to raise eyebrows ahead of the third T20 International against Australia Sunday.

Hazlewood's pinpoint accuracy when it comes to hitting the right length, coupled with disconcerting bounce that he always generates around the corridor of uncertainty did become a bit of a nightmare for the Indian batters.

With the Ashes Test starting at the end of this month, Hazlewood has been given a break to rejuvenate before the gruelling five-Test series. He won't be part of the remainder of the series.

"It would obviously be a relief. I have never faced such bowling," star opener Abhishek Sharma had said after the Melbourne game as he seemed to be in awe of the Aussie speedster.

And his absence would also mean that Indian batters, who have serious technical flaws in dealing with bounce and seam movement, will feel a bit more assured while facing the likes of Xavier Bartlett, Nathan Ellis or Sean Abbott.

Both skipper Suryakumar Yadav and skipper-in-waiting Shubman Gill have had problems negotiating deliveries with extra bounce and good degree of seam movement. Surya and Gill would like to revisit their opening game's playbook when they looked in ominous touch at Canberra.

The Bellerive Oval at the Hobart is one ground where the side boundaries are smaller in size and hence the length would be paramount considering anything short would be flying over cover, point, square leg or mid-wicket on either side of the fence.

Bellerive Oval is the ground where the phenomenon of Virat Kohli as a champion ODI batter took shape back in 2012 when he played a masterful knock of 133 not out in 86 balls against Sri Lanka in a chase of 321. Bellerive Oval track has traditionally been a belter for white ball games. This is also the BBL home ground for pacer Ellis, who happens to captain local franchise Hobart Hurricanes.

The Indian team management's obsession with batting depth has been a topic of discussion on this tour and some of the batting failures like a paltry total of 125 at the MCG does question the merit of such a strategy.



## SHORT TAKES

### Shreyas discharged

**New Delhi:** India ODI vice-captain Shreyas Iyer has been discharged from a Sydney hospital after undergoing a minor procedure following a spleen and rib cage injury while successfully attempting a catch in the third ODI against Australia. "He (Iyer) is now stable and recovering well. The BCCI Medical Team, along with specialists in Sydney and India, are pleased with his recovery, and he has been discharged from the hospital today," BCCI said in a statement Saturday. The 30-year-old had sustained a lower left rib cage injury while attempting a difficult running catch to dismiss Alex Carey off Harshit Rana's bowling in the third ODI. Iyer is expected to return to India when he is fit to fly but will be out of action for at least next two months.

### Babar's T20Is milestone

**Karachi:** Former captain and Pakistan batting stalwart Babar Azam became the highest run-getter in T20 Internationals to leave behind Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. Babar achieved the feat while scoring 11 from 18 balls in the second T20Is against South Africa in Lahore Friday night. But a close look at the statistics of the top five T20 run getters also gives a clear picture of why Babar was sidelined from the Pakistan T20 side since December 2024 before he was surprisingly recalled for the South Africa series. The statistics shows that Babar has now scored 4234 runs in 123 matches at an average of 39.57 but the telling stats are his strike and number of sixes hit compared to the others in the list. Babar has the lowest strike rate 128.77 and least number of sixes (73) hit in the list that has Rohit, Kohli, Jos Butler and Paul Sterling.

### Kiwis clean sweep Eng

**Wellington:** England will head to the five-test Ashes series in Australia low on form and confidence after being bowled out for 222 in a two-wicket loss to New Zealand in the third one-day international Saturday and a 3-0 series defeat. New Zealand was desperate at the end, with two wickets remaining and 20 runs still needed to win. But Zak Foulkes with 14 not out and Blair Tuckner, with an unbeaten 18, saw New Zealand home with 32 balls to spare and a total of 226-8. New Zealand won the first match by four wickets and the second by five wickets.

# AGELESS BOPANNA HANGS RACQUET

A two-time Grand Slam champion and former World No 1 in doubles, Rohan Bopanna retires not just as one of India's greatest tennis icons, but as a player who redefined longevity in the modern game

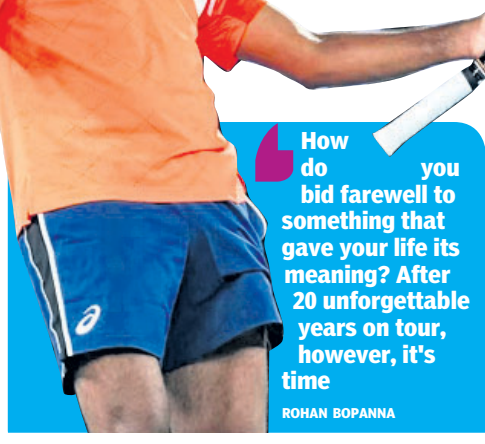
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 1:** Indian tennis veteran Rohan Bopanna, one among the only four Indians to win Grand Slam titles, Saturday announced his retirement from professional tennis, bringing an end to a career spanning more than two decades on the challenging ATP Tour.

The 45-year-old Bopanna's final appearance on the Tour came at the Paris Masters, where he partnered Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik, losing in the opening round earlier

this week.

In an emotional statement titled "A Goodbye... But Not The End," Bopanna said he was "officially hanging up racquet," reflecting on a journey that took him from his hometown of Coorg to the biggest are-



How do you bid farewell to something that gave your life its meaning? After 20 unforgettable years on tour, however, it's time

ROHAN BOPANNA

nas in world tennis.

"How do you bid farewell to something that gave your life its meaning? After 20 unforgettable years on tour, however, it's time. Starting my journey from a small town of Coorg in India, chopping blocks of wood to strengthen my serve, jogging through coffee estates to build stamina and chasing dreams on cracked courts to standing under the lights of

the biggest arenas in the world—it all feels surreal," Bopanna wrote.

Bopanna had ended his India career after the Paris Olympics last year. He had announced his retirement from Davis Cup in 2023, playing his last tie

## A CAREER ETCHED IN HISTORY

- Rohan Bopanna won the French Open 2017 mixed doubles title with Gabriela Dabrowski, becoming one of the few Indians to capture a Grand Slam crown along with Leander Paes, Sania Mirza and Mahesh Bhupathi
- He won the men's doubles titles at the 2024 Australian Open with Matthew Ebden. At 43, he became the oldest man to win a Grand Slam men's doubles title in the Open Era
- He became the world No 1 in men's doubles in January 2024, making history as the oldest player ever to debut at the top of the rankings
- At the 2023 US Open, Bopanna, partnering Matthew Ebden, became the oldest Grand Slam finalist in men's doubles history
- He has won a total of 25 ATP titles — including 6 ATP Masters 1000 titles, 5 ATP 500 titles, and 14 ATP 250 titles
- He became the oldest ATP Masters 1000 champion at age 43 after winning the 2023 Indian Wells title with Matthew Ebden
- Bopanna repeated the feat by becoming the oldest player to win a Masters 1000 title once again, capturing the Miami Open crown at the age of 44

against Morocco in Lucknow.

The doubles specialist, who played for 22 years, described tennis as more than a sport, calling it a source of "purpose, strength and belief" through challenging moments.

"Every time I stepped onto a court, it taught me perseverance, resilience to rise, to fight again when everything inside me said I couldn't—and most of

all, reminded me why I started and who I am," he said.

Bopanna also paid tribute to his family, crediting them for their support throughout his career.

He thanked his parents for their sacrifices, his sister Rashmi for her constant encouragement, and his wife Supriya for being his "greatest partner off court."

# Odisha bowlers keep Andhra in check on Day 1 at Barabati

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Nov 1:** Odisha delivered a disciplined bowling performance to restrict Andhra to 222 for 3 on the opening day of their Ranji Trophy 2025-26 encounter at Barabati Stadium, Cuttack.

After Andhra chose to bat first, Odisha's bowlers maintained consistent pressure throughout the day. Sambit S Baral led from the front with an impressive spell of 16 overs, 5 maidens, 32 runs, and 2 wickets, displaying remarkable control

and accuracy. Badal Biswal complemented him well, claiming 1 wicket for 52 runs in 18 overs at an economy of 2.89.

Andhra's KS Bharat (93) and Abhishek Reddy (76) were the main contributors, holding the innings together with a patient partnership. Despite their efforts, Odisha ensured the run flow remained in check with tight bowling and sharp fielding. With the second new ball due early on Day 2, Odisha will look to strike early and tilt the contest in their favor.



# Messi tour goes Pan-India

## HYDERABAD ADDED AFTER KERALA CANCELLATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Nov 1:** Lionel Messi's much-anticipated 'GOAT Tour to India 2025' just got bigger with Hyderabad added as the new southern leg stop to ensure fans in the region are not "deprived" of seeing their idol following the cancellation of Argentina's proposed friendly in Kerala.

The decision to add Hyderabad comes in the wake of the cancellation of Argentina's proposed friendly in Kochi, which had been originally announced by Kerala Sports Minister V Abdurahiman for November 17.

The revised plan now ensures Messi's 'GOAT Tour' will span all four corners of India -- east (Kolkata), south (Hyderabad), west (Mumbai) and north (New Delhi) -- turning it into one of the biggest sporting spectacles ever hosted in the country.

"Now we are covering south also. This will be a tribute to millions of football fans in



## REVISED ITINERARY

- DEC 12-13 (KOLKATA):** Arrival in the midnight or early hours; Meet and greet at Hotel (9.30-10.40am); GOAT Cup at Salt Lake Stadium (11.30am-1.10pm); Statue unveiling at Sreebhum, Lake Lake Town; leaves for Hyderabad (2.15pm).
- DEC 13 (HYDERABAD):** Meet and greet (5pm); GOAT Cup (7-8.45pm) at either Rajiv Gandhi or Gachibowli Stadiums.
- DEC 14 (MUMBAI):** Meet and greet at Hotel (12 noon); Padel GOAT Cup inauguration; GOAT Cup at Wankhede Stadium (5.30pm).
- DEC 15 (NEW DELHI):** Meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi; GOAT Cup at Arun Jaitley Stadium (2.15pm).

South India," Satadru Dutta, the sole organiser of the 'GOAT Tour to India 2025', told PTL.

"With this, every part of India is covered. West is covered through Mumbai, east through Kolkata, north through Delhi. There is a huge Messi fan base in Chennai, Kerala and Hyderabad," Dutta said.

The Argentine superstar, who last visited India in 2011 for a friendly against Venezuela, will be joined by his long-time teammates and friends Luis Suarez and Rodrigo De Paul, who have already confirmed their participation in the tour.

The Kerala match was later postponed to the next FIFA window due to delays in obtaining necessary clearances, leading to public disappointment and political controversy. The Kochi cancellation has left fans in Kerala disheartened, but Dutta said he was determined not to let the southern region miss out on Messi's visit.