



Rashmika's relationship

Actor Rashmika Mandana's mention of her 'partner' during a rapid-fire session sets the internet buzzing

LEISURE | **P2**



Canada tightens visas

Canada's tougher visa rules hurt Indian students, as the country loses appeal amid rising study permit rejections

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



UPI transactions

Fuelled by festive buying, UPI hits record high of ₹27.28 lakh crore and 20.7 billion in value and volume terms, respectively

BUSINESS | **P11**



Sinner takes top spot

Jannik Sinner reclaims No 1 ranking in men's tennis after beating Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4, 7-6 (4) in the Paris Masters final

SPORTS | **P12**

State gets ₹444cr as 15th FC grants

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: The Union government has released the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) grants for rural local bodies (RLBs) in Odisha for financial year 2025–26, totaling over ₹444 crore.

The release includes the second instalment of Untied Grants amounting to ₹342.60 crore, benefiting 20 zilla parishads (ZPs), 296 panchayat samitis (PSeS), and 6,734 gram panchayats (GPs) across the state. In addition, 101.78 crore, representing the withheld portion of the first instalment of Untied Grants for FY 2025–26, has been released to 20 ZPs, 233 PSeS, and 649 GPs.

The grants, recommended by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation), are aimed at strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions and RLBs. The Ministry of Finance releases these grants in two instalments each financial year.

Untied Grants can be used by PRIs and RLBs to meet location-specific needs under the 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule, excluding salaries and establishment costs.

However, Tied Grants are meant for essential services such as sanitation, waste management, maintenance of ODF status, drinking water supply, rainwater harvesting, and water recycling.



KEY ATTRACTION: A giant wheel being installed at Bali Yatra ground in Cuttack, Monday, ahead of the historic maritime festival

PHOTO: RAKISHORE MOHANTY

Jagatsinghpur man kidnapped in Sudan

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 3: A 36-year-old man from Jagatsinghpur district in Odisha has been kidnapped by Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia in Sudan, a country that has been witnessing violent clashes since 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the RSF.

According to reports, a video shows the man, identified as Adarsh Behera from Jagatsinghpur district, sitting between two RSF soldiers one of whom asks him, “Do you know Shah Rukh Khan?” A report by NDTV said that Behera was kidnapped from the city of Al Fashir, roughly 1,000 km from Khartoum. Behera's family sought the Union government's intervention in releasing him from the captivity of the RSF.



Amar Patnaik switches to BJP



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: In a significant political development ahead of the Nuapada byelection, senior BJD leader and former Rajya Sabha MP Amar Patnaik Monday joined BJP.

He joined BJP at an event held here in the presence of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, state BJP President Manmohan Samal, and state BJP In-charge Vijaypal Singh Tomar.

Welcoming Patnaik into the party, CM Majhi said in the political scenario of Odisha, Patnaik is known as a noted intellectual personality, both in the state as well as in the Parliament. **P4**

Will deal digital arrests with iron hand, says SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: The Supreme Court Monday said it needs to deal with digital arrest cases with an iron hand as it expressed shock over the scale of such cybercrimes in the country, with over ₹3,000 crore allegedly extorted from victims, including senior citizens.

Digital arrest is a growing form of cybercrime in which fraudsters pose as law enforcement or court officials or personnel from government agencies to intimidate victims through audio and video calls. They hold the victims hostage and put pressure on them to pay money.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan and Joymalya Bagchi, which appointed an amicus curiae to assist the court in the matter, perused two sealed



cover reports submitted by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Central Bureau of Investigation.

“It is shocking that over ₹3,000 crore have been collected from the victims, including senior citizens, across the country. If we don't pass stringent and harsh orders, this problem will magnify. We have to strengthen the hands of our agencies through judicial orders. We are determined to deal with these crimes with iron hands,” the bench observed.

The top court posted the

matter for hearing November 10 and said that it will pass certain directions based on the suggestions from the amicus. Justice Kant said CBI has pointed out that crime syndicates were being operated from offshore locations where they have “scam compounds” having financial, technical and human pillars.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the CBI, said that the Ministry of Home Affairs' cybercrime division is dealing with these issues.

The SC has taken cognisance of a letter written by an elderly woman from Haryana's Ambala to Chief Justice of India BR Gavai complaining that she and her husband were put under the so-called “digital arrest” on the basis of forged orders of the court and probe agencies by fraudsters.

TPCODL's 'arbitrary actions' flayed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Nov 3: Dhenkanal District Bar Association Monday vehemently opposed what it described as arbitrary functioning and consumer exploitation policies of Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL). The association also staged a protest against the company's alleged coercive practices.

At a presser held at the bar association office Monday, association president Gopal Chandra Patra criticised TPCODL for forcing the installation of smart meters

while the district's power infrastructure remains inadequate, particularly in rural areas. Patra said the association had received several complaints from residents alleging harassment by the company. “We accepted the grievance because it has become a major public issue,” he said, adding that TPCODL should first strengthen its infrastructure and ensure reliable service before proceeding with smart meter installation.

He also expressed concern over frequent and unannounced power cuts, saying the problem has worsened

over the past two years. Following public complaints, a TPCODL delegation met Bar Association officials October 21 to discuss the matter. Both sides agreed to hold a discussion in the presence of media at 4 pm November 6 at the bar association office.

MEMO TO COLLECTOR

Members of Dhenkanal Development Council met the Collector Monday and submitted a memorandum urging action against what they described as arbitrary functioning by Tata Power and opposing the installation of smart meters.

33 killed in T'gana, Rajasthan mishaps

Hyderabad/ Jaipur: At least 33 people died in two separate road mishaps in Telangana and Rajasthan Monday. In Telangana, 19 people, including 13 women and a girl child, were killed and 22 others suffered injuries when a tipper lorry carrying gravel collided head-on with a public transport bus in Ranga Reddy district Monday. Similarly, a rashly driven dumper truck ploughed into at least 17 vehicles, leaving 14 people dead and 13 injured in Rajasthan Jaipur's Harmada area Monday. **P9**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I think instead of spending all your time in here, you should go out and play some cricket

3 kids die falling into septic tank

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: Three children died after accidentally falling into a septic tank in Badamba area of Cuttack district Monday afternoon, police said.

The deceased were identified as Subham Nayak, 3, Shibani Nayak, 7, and Ankit Nayak, 9, natives of



Bada Barena and Ichhapur villages in the district. They fell into the septic tank while playing at their

uncle's residence in Ragadipada village, a police officer said. A few villagers rescued them and took the children to Badamba hospital, where doctors declared them dead, he said.

An unnatural death (UD) case has been registered and the bodies have been sent for postmortem, the officer added.

Sign of water found on 7-bn-year-old comet

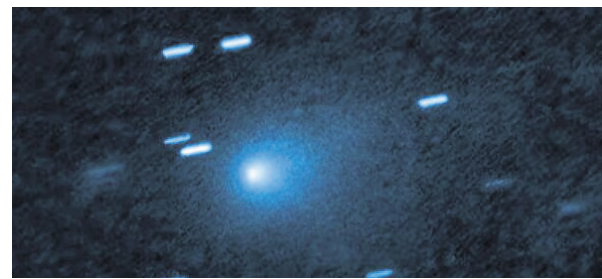
AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 3: In a major breakthrough, NASA scientists have confirmed the detection of chemical signature of water on the interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS – a finding that could fundamentally change the understanding of cometary evolution and whether distant planetary systems might hold the core ingredients of life.

The comet was first identified July 1, 2025 after it was found by the Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS) in Hawaii. 3I/ATLAS is only the third interstellar object ever detected. The others were 1I/'Oumuamua in 2017

and 2I/Borisov in 2019. Unlike most comets that orbit the Sun, 3I/ATLAS is currently travelling on a hyperbolic trajectory. This means it did not originate in our Solar System; it came from another star system and will depart our Solar System forever. Astronomers estimate its age at a remarkable seven billion years. This makes it almost twice as old as Earth and potentially the most ancient comet ever observed.

Its unique age and origin make it a prime candidate for close study. It offers a brief window to examine the chemical fingerprints of an alien planetary system before it vanishes into interstellar space.



An image captured by Hubble of the interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS July 21, 2025, when the comet was 277 million miles from Earth (AP PHOTO)

According to a report in ‘BBC Sky at Night’ magazine, the detection itself was made by NASA's Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory, operated in collaboration with Auburn University in Alabama. The facility picked up a faint ultraviolet signal emanating from the

comet. This glow is caused by the presence of hydroxyl (OH) gas, which forms when sunlight breaks down water molecules.

This ultraviolet signature, which is invisible to ground-based observatories, was captured by Swift's space-based instruments.

The finding confirms the first chemical evidence of water activity on an interstellar comet at such an extreme distance from the Sun.

The results have been published in a new study that astronomers say will influence future models of cometary evolution and planetary formation right across the Galaxy. Crucially, the detection of water—or its indirect signature—on 3I/ATLAS suggests that planet-forming systems beyond our own may possess similar chemical compositions.

According to lead researcher Dr Zexi Xing, “Every interstellar comet so far has been a surprise.”

DHARITRI



YOUTH

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CLIMATE CHANGE: FINDING SOLUTIONS

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BHUBANESWAR



British Deputy High Commission Kolkata



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ARIES
Feeling sentimental always gets in the way. If things don't go your way, life seems glum. But take a look at the food on the table. Levi's in the cupboard and your spaniel licking your toes, and you will thank God for a blessed life. You're welcome, says Ganesha.

TAURUS
You will notice significant development in your business dealings, predicts Ganesha. Your progress may slow down in the afternoon. Later in the day, financial opportunities will knock at your door. You will also make worthwhile progress in relationship matters, predicts Ganesha.

GEMINI
Today, you are likely to get some attractive options for buying a new house, says Ganesha. The afternoon will be all about striking deals, which will go on smoothly. You can be sure of success in joint ventures, but not if they include robbing a bank! You may attend classes in classical music or another such art form in the evening.

CANCER
Today, you will efficiently divide your time between business and pleasure, predicts Ganesha. You are looking forward to sealing big business deals and start new projects. If a student, you will raise your voice against discrimination and injustice.

LEO
Call it a day with a positive difference, but today, you are more keen and inclined towards entertainment and relaxation. Everybody needs a break from the routine, says Ganesha, so make the most of today. On a more personal note, you are required to make subtle moves as there are hints that you may want to give your love life a more definite turn, like a marriage.

VIRGO
Ganesha foretells that your professional life will get a boost today. There will also be some perks coming your way. You have the ability to execute your plans to perfection. Your family members will shower their unconditional love on you in the evening. All in all, says Ganesha, it is an optimistic day.

LIBRA
We all have our own worlds to manage, and play the superhero for. And our family, friends and work are what make up our world. Ganesha foresees a day in which you shall remain engrossed in managing these different aspects of your life.

SCORPIO
You share an unspoken bond with your partner; your eyes speak a thousand words even when you do not talk to each other. Your skills and talents at work are likely to grab attention and you may even receive a round of applause for it. Time to bask in the glory of success, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Spirituality may overwhelm every other state of your being today, feels Ganesha. Unavoidable expenses may also be on the cards where you must ensure you get the value for your money. Besides an odd shopping spree or some light socialising with friends and family, you are inclined to visit a holy shrine today in quest of spiritual peace, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
Faced with an unrelenting boss? Give him that million-dollar smile you flash to woo others, it might just work today. The first half of the day will be good for those looking to start a new venture, says Ganesha. But don't expect miracles to happen; you will not achieve success overnight and certainly not if you don't have your actions well planned.

AQUARIUS
Success aho! Go on, challenge your friends to a game; or your adversaries to a deadline. Today is your day, says Ganesha. Your image too gets a makeover due to your superhero antics! Enjoy it while it lasts, and before the wheels turn once again.

PISCES
Today being a slightly risky day for, tread cautiously when it comes to financial dealings. Read the fine print and thoroughly thrash out the nitty-gritty's of any contracts you commit to. Any mistakes made now could come back later and extract a heavy price.



GILLIAN ANDERSON WANTED TO BE MARINE BIOLOGIST

Hollywood actress Gillian Anderson once harboured the dream of becoming marine biologist before she found her calling in acting. What's interesting is that she wanted to become a marine biologist despite being terrified of the sea, reports *Female First UK*.

WITHERSPOON FOUND AN ALLY IN ANXIETY

The Oscar-winning actress Reese Witherspoon feels that she found growth in the most unexpected avenue. The actress has attributed her decades of success in Hollywood to a rather surprising source, anxiety, reports *The Independent UK*.



Sonakshi's revelation

Mumbai: Sonakshi Sinha is living her best life after tying the knot with her longtime partner Zaheer Iqbal in June last year. From fun family holidays to candid vlogs on their YouTube channel, the couple has been giving fans a sweet glimpse into their happily married life.

The *Dabangg* actress recently opened up about her bond with her in-laws, her husband's sweet question before marriage.

In a recent chat with Bharti Singh and Haarsh Limbachiya on their YouTube channel Bharti TV, the *Rowdy Rathore* actress opened up about her relationship with her in-laws.

The *Lootera* actress revealed that before their marriage, Zaheer had asked her if she wanted to live separately from his family. How-

ever, she instantly said no. "Zaheer had asked me before marriage if I want to live separately from my in-laws, but I said no."

She also shared that the couple not only lives with them but also enjoys going on trips together.

The Son of Sardaar actress said, "Yes, we go together for holidays. They are all very chill, and they have a lot of fun together. It's a very close-knit family."

While enjoying her personal life, Sonakshi is also gearing up for her next big project, *Jatadhara*, which also stars Sudheer Babu and Divya Khosla.

The film is set to release November 7, 2025. AGENCIES



Buzz over Rashmika's 'partner'

Hyderabad: Rashmika Mandanna may have just confirmed what fans have been speculating for months — her relationship with Vijay Deverakonda. The actress, who recently attended Swarovski's prestigious Masters of Light event in Los Angeles as the brand's ambassador, took part in a fun rapid-fire session with *Vogue*, but it was her effortless mention of her "partner" that set the internet buzzing again.

While answering questions about her beauty essentials, personal favourites, and fashion influences, Rashmika offered a glimpse into her life off-camera. When asked who influences her style the most, she replied with a smile, "My stylist and my partner." The understated yet telling mention was enough to send fans into a frenzy, with many taking it as a soft confirmation of her rumoured engagement to *Dear Comrade* co-star Vijay Deverakonda.

The duo, who have long been linked, sparked speculation in early October when reports surfaced about their private engagement on October 2. Since then, eagle-eyed fans have noticed Rashmika sporting a sparkling diamond ring in several social media posts — one that closely resembles the kind often worn on that special finger. AGENCIES

Shilpa reflects on her return

Mumbai: Shilpa Shirodkar, a recognized icon of the 1990s, has recently made a remarkable return to Bollywood after a long hiatus, and she is already generating buzz with her role in the upcoming film *Jatadhara*. Reflecting on her journey back to cinema, she shared some insightful comments about the physical and emotional challenges she faced.

Shilpa opened up about her comeback, saying, "*Gaja Gamini* was my last. So after that till now I've not done a film in the middle. It's been 25 years. I just did television then I did *Big Boss* and now I'm doing this. That's amazing," she expressed, highlighting her excitement at returning to the big screen after so many years.

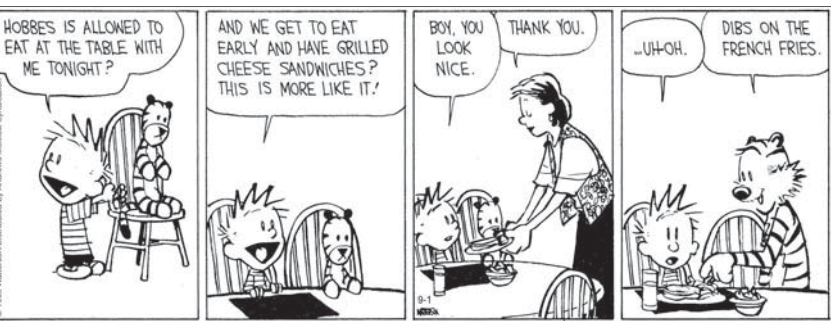
Shilpa observed the evolution of the industry, saying, "Today cinema has changed, writing has changed, there is work for everyone across borders, across age groups, across genders... me, I feel I'm in the best time of making or working in this entertainment industry. Because there's work for everyone, it's perceive it." AGENCIES



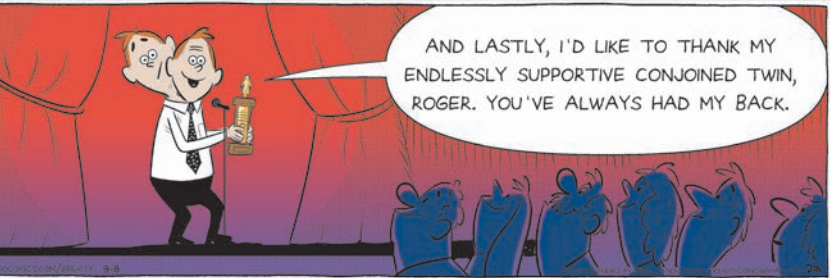
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

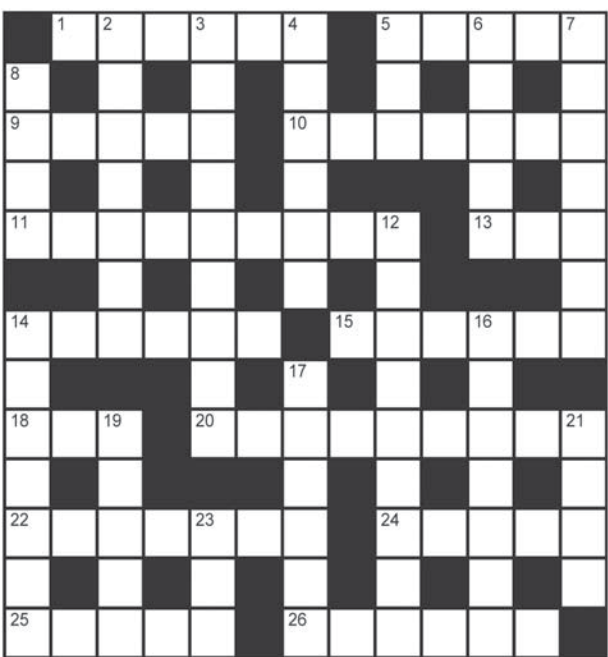


BREVITY



FUN post

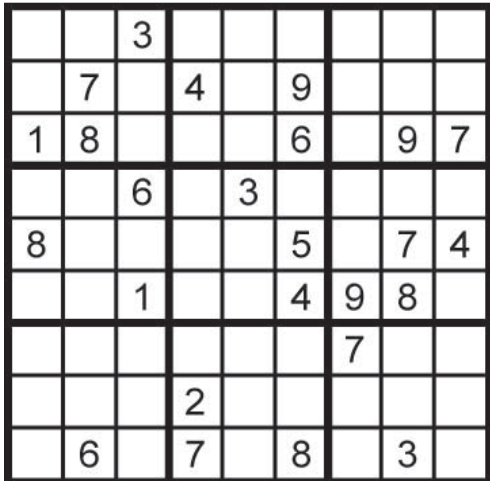
CROSSWORD



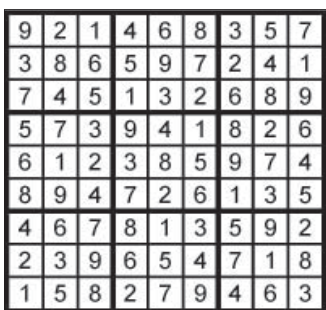
- Across**
- 1 Homes with domes
 - 5 Honkers
 - 9 Reserved
 - 10 Fencing cry (2,5)
 - 11 Theatre attraction (5,4)
 - 13 Swedish shag rug
 - 14 Drops by
 - 15 Unusual
 - 18 Séance sound
 - 20 Worm gatherer (5,4)
 - 22 Health profession
 - 24 Burger topper
 - 25 Greek Titan
 - 26 Cunning
 - Down**
 - 2 Furrows
 - 3 Lopsided (3-6)
 - 4 Sylphlike
 - 5 Harpoon
 - 6 Miscue
 - 7 Raise up
 - 8 Unguent
 - 12 Cold symptom (5,4)
 - 14 Lanai, in Hawaii
 - 16 Tonic water
 - 17 Calamitous
 - 19 Jeopardy
 - 21 Musty
 - 23 Psyches

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

Silicon Techlab promoter arrested over SI job scam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: The Crime Branch (CB) of Odisha Police Monday arrested Bhubaneswar-based Silicon Techlab Private Limited's promoter Suresh Nayak in connection with the agency's ongoing probe into the multi-crore rupees sub-inspector recruitment scam, official sources said.

With Monday's development, a total of 125 people, including 114 job aspirants, have been arrested in connection with the case. The job aspirants were, however, released on bail a few days ago.

Nayak – along with Shankar Prusty, the scam's alleged mastermind who was arrested near Nepal border in Uttarakhand Saturday – was produced before a court in Berhampur later in the day.

The Odisha Police Recruitment Board (OPRB) had outsourced the conduct of the Combined Police Service Examination (CPSE) to Kolkata-headquartered CPSU ITI Limited, which further sub-contracted the job to Silicon Techlab Private Limited.

"Nayak was the sole individual responsible for the preparation, printing, and transportation of the question papers. Sil-



icon Techlab Private Limited, however, assigned key responsibilities to Panchsoft Technologies, headed by Prusty," the CB said, adding that it was here that Prusty carried out the manipulation.

During the course of investigation, the CB found that Nayak was in continuous contact of Prusty.

"Evidence has established that Nayak had provided shelter to Prusty at his company guest-house located at Kalkaji in New Delhi, and then alerted him to abscond from the premises to evade police arrest and investigation. It clearly established their nexus," the CB said in a statement.

The scam came to light in the last week of September after police intercepted three buses heading to Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh and detained 114 candidates who were set to appear for the examination

scheduled October 5 and 6.

Investigations revealed that the candidates were to be given question papers for practice ahead of the examination. After the practice session, they would be brought to the examination centre to appear for the test. Each candidate had allegedly paid between ₹20 lakh and ₹25 lakh. The accused had also collected the original certificates of candidates. Police initially arrested 123 people, including the 114 candidates.

Another 110 candidates were supposed to get similar 'coaching' in West Bengal's Digha September 30. But due to the police action in Berhampur, it was cancelled, police said.

The state government has recommended a CBI investigation into the scam as it has interstate implications, involving organised gangs.

Prusty has claimed that the scam involved irregularities worth over ₹1,000 crore.

Opposition BJD alleged that the Chief Minister's Office was directly involved in the scam. "The CM is the Home minister, and the OPRB conducted the examination. How come Prusty's organisation, Panchsoft Technology, got the contract without knowledge of the CM," BJD Rajya Sabha MP Sulata Deo said.

Three arrested with leopard skin in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: The Commissionerate Police recovered a leopard skin and arrested three persons in connection with the incident in Jaydev Vihar area here, police said Monday.

The accused were identified as Rohit Mohapatra, 26, Manjit Sabat, 21, and Sambhu Bisoy, 23, they said.

Acting on intelligence inputs, a team of Special Crime Unit (SCU), led by DCP Anup Kanungo, carried out a raid at a slum near a premier hotel in Jaydev Vihar area at around 5pm Sunday and recovered a leopard skin. "Three persons have been taken into custody following the recovery," the twin city police said.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Rohit and his associates were involved in illegal wildlife trade for quite some time now.

"The accused had planned to sell the contraband for ₹30,00,000. We suspect the skin has been brought from outside Odisha and a probe is under progress to ascertain if some others are involved in the trade," Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh told the media.

The trio was booked under relevant provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. They were forwarded to the court following their arrest.

Guv's initiative to combat anaemia among schoolgirls



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Monday launched a special two-month Raj Bhavan initiative at Capital Girls' High School, Unit-II, Bhubaneswar, by distributing beetroot-carrot juice and peanut chikki to students to promote healthy dietary habits and combat anaemia.

Under this initiative, the students of the school will receive beetroot-carrot juice and peanut chikki made with jaggery every day for the next two months.

Interacting with the students during the programme, the Governor expressed concern over the widespread issue of anaemia among adolescent girls and emphasised the importance of regular health check-ups and nutritional awareness.

"Simple dietary habits can bring significant changes in one's health. Items like carrot-beetroot juice and jaggery

chikki are simple, accessible, and effective in improving haemoglobin levels," Kambhampati said.

Encouraging the girls to monitor their health, he added, "After two months, if you find your haemoglobin levels have improved, share it proudly with your parents and continue this healthy practice at home."

The Governor also emphasised the need for regular eyesight screening in schools, pointing out that many children remain unaware of their vision problems until they are tested. "Every student's eyesight should be checked, and if any issue is found, it must be communicated to parents so that corrective steps can be taken promptly," he advised teachers.

The event featured lively interactions, with students sharing their experiences of the AMLAN programme and the eye-testing initiatives conducted in their school.

Lord's Tribikram Besha draws lakhs to Puri

AGENCIES

Puri, Nov 3: Lakhs of devotees, especially elderly women observing Kartika Brata, witnessed the Tribikram Besha of Lord Jagannath at Srimandir Monday, the second day of holy Panchaka.

The 12th century shrine draws massive devotees during the last five days of Kartika Brata, Panchaka.

Many devotees spent Sunday night chanting holy hymns and singing devotional songs in the sprawling Parikrama Corridor. Early Monday morning, they lined up to enter the temple to witness the besha of the deity.

The crowd was so intense late Sunday night that it nearly caused a stampede, but timely police intervention prevented any mishap.

The temple administration made elaborate arrangements to facilitate the darshan of the deities. Anticipating large crowds, the Pahuda was temporarily suspended.



The usual one kilometre barricade was extended by 500 metres, from Municipal Market Square to Bagala Dharamshala, with sunshades provided along the line. Volunteers distributed water to devotees waiting for long hours.

Devotees were advised to enter through the Lion's Gate and exit through the three other gates.

Over 2,500 elderly women observing the month-long brata at government expenses were escorted for darshan by the administration.

During Panchaka, the deities are dressed in five different be-

CITY SHOW

Artistes perform during 'Nrutyayan' organised by Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Monday



shas daily, with Suna Besha on Kartika Purnima, the concluding day of the brata.

Streams of devotees entered through the Lion's Gate, passed through barricades, and exited via the other gates after darshan.

DGP YB Khurania, Superintendent of Police Prateek Singh,

Shree Jagannath Temple Administration chief Arabinda Kumar Padhee, and District Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida were present on the first day of Panchaka. On the second day, Additional DGP Soumendra Priyadarshi and other senior

officials oversaw arrangements. Several platoons of police, totalling over 200 officers, were deployed for crowd management.

Hundreds of lifeguards were stationed along the beach to ensure safe bathing, and power boats patrolled the coast for rescue operations.

This year, Panchaka ritua has been reduced to four days.

With a massive turnout expected for the Suna Besha on Kartika Purnima, the administration plans to deploy additional police personnel.

In the evening, Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida visited Brundabati Niwas, the main centre for Habisyalis.

She interacted with the inmates, distributed special packets or kits, and sought the blessings of the elderly women for the state's wellbeing.

Parida also expressed gratitude to the volunteers and staff who served over 2,500 devotees observing the month-long Kartika Brata at five government accommodations.

JHARKHAND BYPOLL

Majhi to address rallies in Ghatsila

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Nov 3: Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will visit Jharkhand Tuesday to address rallies in support of the BJP candidate for Ghatsila bypoll, a party official said.

Majhi will address rallies at Gandhaniyachat ground in Ghatsila block and at Baliyaposh football ground in Gurabandha block, he added.

"The party workers are enthusiastic over his arrival. Majhi will infuse new energy among them. All senior leaders and workers of the party are working day and night, engaging in public contact and campaign activities in favour of the NDA candidate," the BJP said in a statement Monday.

The Ghatsila bypoll was necessitated following the death of sitting JMM MLA Ramdas Soren August 15.

The BJP has fielded Babulal Soren, son of former Jharkhand chief minister Champai Soren, while the ruling JMM has nominated Ramdas' son Somesh Chandra Soren. The bypoll will be held November 11, and counting of votes will take place November 14.

Sand artwork for WC

Puri: Renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has crafted a stunning sand sculpture at Puri beach to congratulate the Indian women cricket team on winning the 2025 World Cup (WC). The artwork bears the message "Congrats! Bharat Ki Nari Shakti", celebrating the strength, spirit and achievements of Indian women. The centrepiece of the creation is a 6-foot-long sand bat, sculpted from five tonnes of sand and decorated with numerous cricket balls – a tribute to the dedication and teamwork of the triumphant players. "We congratulate our women cricketers through this sand sculpture," said Pattnaik, whose creations often serve as expressions of national pride and artistic excellence.

AGENCIES

Nuapada/Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik Monday launched a scathing attack on the BJP government in the state, calling it a 'name changer' rather than a 'game changer' administration.

Hitting the campaign trail in Komna block to seek votes for BJD's Nuapada bypoll candidate Snehangini Chhuria, Naveen said, "During the last 16 months, the BJP government has only focused on publicity, not development. They are hero in propaganda, but zero in work. Development activities across the state have come to a complete halt. The BJP government in Odisha is a name changer rather than a game changer administration."

He said the BJD government had brought rapid development to Nuapada — from the Biju Expressway to irrigation coverage of over 10,000 hectares and expansion of drinking water facilities — but claimed that all progress had stalled under BJP rule.

"Law and order has collapsed, atrocities against women are rising, Mission Shakti mothers have not received salaries for eight months, farmers have been denied fertilisers during the sowing season, and the elderly are still awaiting their ₹3,500 pensions promised by the BJP," the BJD supreme said.

Questioning the BJP's election pledges, Patnaik asked the crowd whether they were receiving 300 units of free electricity or the same health services earlier provided under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY).

"All of you know that the BJD has been betrayed. You and me have been betrayed. Those who indulged in 'vote



He (Naveen Patnaik) is campaigning for his party candidate. I would like him to stay in Nuapada and continue campaigning till the end. He must answer the people about what development took place during the BJD's 24-year rule. The people of Odisha have already made it clear whether his popularity has increased or declined

MANMOHAN SAMAL | STATE BJP PRESIDENT

chori' and formed the government have now started 'candidate chori'. I know that all of you are hurt and angry over this betrayal," Patnaik alleged.

The BJD chief's remarks were aimed at late BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia's son Jay Dholakia, who switched to the BJP ahead of the bypoll and is now contesting on a saffron party ticket. The bypoll was necessitated following the death of Rajendra Dholakia September 8. Voting for the seat will be held November 11.

Urging people to give a befitting reply to those involved in 'vote chori and candidate chori' and betrayal of trust, the former five-time CM appealed to voters to press the conch symbol — BJD's election symbol — on polling day.

His remarks hold significance as the BJD has often been criticised for extending unconditional support to the Narendra Modi government at the Centre — including backing BJP nominee Ashwini Vaishnaw's Rajya Sabha bids and supporting key Bills in Parliament.

The Nuapada seat is witnessing a triangular contest among the BJD, BJP and Congress.

While the BJD has fielded its women's wing president and former minister Snehangini Chhuria, the BJP has nominated Jay Dholakia. The Congress has put up senior tribal leader Ghasiram Majhi, who was the runner-up in the 2024 Assembly polls won by Rajendra Dholakia.

Jay had Sunday alleged that the BJD had ignored his late father Rajendra Dholakia during his illness.

Reacting to Patnaik's remarks, state BJP president Manmohan Samal said, "He is campaigning for his party candidate. I would like him to stay in Nuapada and continue campaigning till the end. He must answer the people about what development took place during the BJD's 24-year rule. The people of Odisha have already made it clear whether his popularity has increased or declined."

Environmental group demands to curb unregulated construction, tree felling in STR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: In a strongly-worded letter to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the Odisha State Government, the youth-led organization Youth United for Sustainable Environment has raised serious concerns over unregulated construction, tree felling, borewell digging, and plastic waste dumping within the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of the Similipal Tiger Reserve.

The letter, addressed to multiple high-ranking officials including the Deputy Director General of Forests (C), Additional Chief Secretary of Forests, and the Field Director of Similipal Tiger Reserve, highlights the ongoing violations despite the draft ESZ notification issued in January 2019 remaining unfinalized. Key concerns raised in the let-

ter include large-scale construction of resorts and commercial buildings along the stretch from Pithabata gate to Lulung, tree felling and borewell digging for new construction projects, improper disposal of plastic waste by tourists, threatening the fragile forest ecosystem, lack of enforcement by the Divisional Forest Officer, Baripada, and the Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve, leading to widespread violation of ESZ guidelines.

The organization emphasized the ecological importance of Similipal, which spans over 2,300 sq. km as a wildlife sanctuary and 2,750 sq. km as a tiger reserve, and hosts a rich biodiversity including tigers, elephants, and unique flora and fauna. The letter cites multiple Supreme Court rulings, including the Goa Foundation case and recent directives from April 2023, urging strict compliance with ESZ guidelines.

City AIIMS begins study on cycad toxicity in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: In a pioneering effort, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar has initiated research into the toxicological effects of cycad plants in Odisha, following alarming findings of the neurotoxin BMAA (-N-methylamino-L-alanine) in local cycad species. This comes as certain communities continue ancestral consumption of cycad products, such as 'pitha', raising concerns about potential links to neurological disorders.

Cycads, ancient plants that have survived for over 300 million years, contain potent toxins including Cycacin, BMAA, and MAM (methylazoxymethanol). Globally, studies have associated these toxins with debilitating neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinsonism, motor neuron disease, and dementia, notably in regions like



the Guam peninsula (USA) and Kii peninsula (Japan), where cycads were traditionally consumed.

The current research at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar aims to determine whether similar health risks exist in Odisha, where local tribes continue using cycad seeds as part of traditional diets.

The initiative gained momentum through an international



workshop titled "Cycad-Related Neurological Disorders: A Multi-Dimensional Approach to Its Remediation", jointly

organized by the Department of Neurology, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar, and North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong.

World-renowned neuroscientists Prof. Peter S. Spencer and Prof. Valerie S. Palmer from Oregon Health & Science University shared insights from decades of research in Guam and Japan. Other notable participants included Prof. Jacques Reis (University of Strasbourg, France), Dr. Rajarshi Majumder and Dr. Jessica Pasqua (UCLA, USA), and national experts like Prof. Manjari Tripathi (AIIMS, New Delhi).

As a crucial component of the workshop, experts conducted field visits to the villages of Dhuannali in the Khordha district and Gangamunda, Suagnali of Kamakhyannagar in the Dhenkanal district. In these

areas, local tribal populations remain largely dependent on the Cycas plant (known locally as Veru; Odia name Aruguna) as a traditional food source.

Prof. (Dr.) Ashutosh Biswas, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhubaneswar, lauded the initiative for pioneering research into Indian cycad species.

The research is being led by Prof. S. K. Barik (Dean, School of Life Sciences, NEHU) and Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Bhoi (HOD Neurology, AIIMS Bhubaneswar), with collaboration from medical experts including Prof. Dillip K. Parida and Dr. Shakti Kanta Dash.

The workshop concluded with a commitment to a roadmap for translational research, community awareness, and interdisciplinary collaboration to understand and mitigate the health risks posed by cycad consumption in Odisha.

SC seeks Centre’s reply on plea to ban online gambling, betting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: The Supreme Court Monday sought response of the Centre on a plea seeking directions to the government to prohibit online gambling and betting platforms that allegedly operate under the guise of social and e-sports games.

A bench of justices JB Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan took note of the submissions of lawyer Virag Gupta, counsel for the petitioner, and said that it will hear the plea along with other pending ones Tuesday.

The bench asked the government to take action on the details about online gaming apps given by the petitioner.

Gupta submitted details of 2,000 betting and gambling apps to the Centre.

The top court was hearing the plea filed by Centre for Accountability and Systemic Change (CASC) and Shourya Tiwari that urged it to direct the government to clamp down on the proliferation of betting and gambling applications, which, they claimed, were inflicting widespread social and economic harm across the country.

The bench has already listed a batch of transferred petitions for hearing November 4. They challenge online gaming law which prohibits “online money games” and bars banking services and advertising related to them.



October 17, the bench said that the plea of CASC raises an “important issue” and asked Gupta to serve a copy of the plea to the lawyer representing the government.

“It is an important issue. You serve one copy to him. Let him look into it. He will come back to us,” the bench told advocate Gupta, who was appearing for the petitioners.

During the hearing, Gupta told the bench that the plea was regarding protection of 15 crore children who were suffering because of the “vacuum” in the current law.

He referred to the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025.

Gupta said as per Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, betting and gambling falls under the ambit of the State List.

“The central government is the gate keeper. They have power to issue the blocking orders and as per reply given in the Parliament, around 1,528 gam-

ing apps have been blocked,” he said.

The bench told him to serve a copy of the petition to the government’s counsel.

“Let him take instructions in the matter and he will come back to us and then we will pass some appropriate orders,” the bench said.

The plea has sought a direction to Union ministries of Electronics and Information Technology, Information and Broadcasting, Finance, and Youth Affairs and Sports “to do a harmonious interpretation of provisions of Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 and laws made by state legislatures, to prohibit online gambling and betting games operating in the guise of social and e-sports games”.

The petition names six respondents, including the four Union ministries and the two leading app store operators, Apple Inc. and Google India Pvt Ltd.

“Betting and gambling is regarded as an unlawful activity in the majority of the states in India. Several cases are contested in high courts wherein affidavits were filed by the government and gaming platforms. Upon analysing the same, it is reported that more than 65 crore persons are playing such games creating annual business of more than ₹1.8 lakh crore for these platforms in India,” the plea said.

10th JHW celebrates rich cultural legacy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, Nov 3: The tenth edition of the Jagatsinghpur Heritage Walks (JHW) concluded Sunday, carrying forward its legacy of exploring the district’s rich historical and cultural heritage. Around 35 history enthusiasts assembled near the Anakhia Post Office under Biridi block and began their journey with a visit to the Lakshminarayan Temple at Sadhei Sashan village.



Believed to have been built during the 15th–16th century under the Gajapati rulers, the Lakshminarayan Temple stands as a fine example of Odisha’s pidha deula architectural style. Constructed from stone, the temple complex features a sanctum sanctorum, a rectangular jagamohana with a flat roof, and an additional modern hall.

The presiding deity, Narayan, is enshrined as a low-seated chlorite stone idol flanked by Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess Saraswati. The intricate carvings and stylistic traits hint at a connection with the Ganga dynasty. Within the same complex also stands the Banteswar Mahadev Temple, adding to the site’s serene spiritual atmosphere.

The participants then proceeded to the Bhubaneswar Mahadev Temple and Bhagwati Peeth near Balia Gopinathpur village, located along the Biluakhai river basin. This ancient Shaivite shrine, believed to be over 1,100 years old as per the Archaeological Survey of India, stands as a treasured relic of Odisha’s sacred heritage. Built from black stone, the temple houses a finely carved chlorite Shiva Lingam.

The main deity here is worshipped in the Bhubanmohan form, portraying Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati serenely playing the veena together.

Khurda Road Division sets new record with 183 mn tonnes freight handling

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: The Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway (ECOR) has once again emerged as the top-performing division in overall traffic handling, achieving an impressive 183 million tonnes of freight movement up to October 2025.

The division handled 101 million tonnes of loading and 82 million tonnes of unloading — its best-ever performance — reaffirming its leadership in freight operations across Indian Railways. Following Khurda Road in the rankings are Bilaspur Division with 148 million tonnes, Dhanbad with 132 million tonnes, and Chakradharpur with 127 million tonnes.

In a historic feat, the Khurda Road Division crossed the 100-million-tonne loading mark

in just 213 days (as of October 30, 2025) — its fastest ever — surpassing the previous record of 234 days set in 2024–25. This milestone marks a new benchmark in operational efficiency and performance for the division.

The division also achieved a record-breaking monthly loading of 14.52 million tonnes in October 2025 — the first time it has ever crossed the 14-million-tonne mark in a single month.

Despite the challenges posed by Cyclone Montha and heavy rainfall, the division maintained uninterrupted freight operations and achieved record-breaking performances across several terminals. The Paradeep Port area handled 938 rakes, surpassing its previous best of 927 rakes recorded in March 2025. Similarly, Tata Steel at Jakhapura managed 160 rakes against its earlier record of 156 rakes in July 2025.

Community learning drive for students



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Sambalpur, Nov 3: The Indian Institute of Management Sambalpur (IIM Sambalpur) has set a new benchmark in value-based education by introducing a community-driven learning platform that brings together professors, professionals, and senior citizens to mentor and inspire high school students.

The initiative, developed in collaboration with the Sambalpur Public Library (SPL) under the institute’s flagship “Grooming Students Programme”, aims to foster holistic growth among students of the Sambalpur Municipality.

It marks a significant step in IIM Sambalpur’s mission

to nurture ethical, technological, and entrepreneurial skills among young learners.

Adding a unique intergenerational dimension, senior citizens have also volunteered their time and expertise to guide students, enriching the programme with their experience and wisdom.

As part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IIM Sambalpur and SPL, the initiative seeks to democratise education by extending learning beyond the classroom.

Every Sunday, around 45 experts—including faculty members from IIM Sambalpur and other institutions—conduct interactive sessions on topics such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Information Technology

Amar Patnaik joins BJP, stirs Odisha politics



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: In a major political development, senior Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader and former Rajya Sabha MP Amar Patnaik joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Monday, creating ripples in Odisha’s political landscape.

Patnaik, known as one of the BJD’s prominent intellectual and policy voices, formally joined the saffron party at

the BJP state headquarters in the presence of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and senior leaders.

Speaking to reporters after his induction, he said his decision was inspired by the leadership and vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

State BJP president Manmohan Samal said, “The BJP’s doors are always open for those who believe in transparency and nation-first politics. Amar Patnaik’s entry

reflects that capable leaders across Odisha see hope and purpose in Prime Minister Modi’s leadership.”

Reacting to the development, the BJD leadership downplayed the move, stating that individuals chart their own political paths.

BJD leader Lelin Mohanty alleged, “The BJP has clearly pressured Amar Patnaik to join their party. It’s evident that the BJP in Odisha faces a shortage of educated

and intellectual leaders, and they are trying to fill that gap by drawing individuals from other parties. This move reflects their insecurity, not strength.”

He added, “The BJD remains focused on serving the people of Odisha under the leadership of Naveen Patnaik. Individuals may come and go, but the party’s commitment to the state’s development remains unwavering.”

Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee president Bhakta Charan Das said, “This is yet another example of the BJP resorting to political poaching to weaken regional parties. The BJD has already surrendered to the BJP, and such defections only reveal the lack of ideological commitment among leaders.”

Patnaik is expected to play a significant role in shaping the BJP’s governance and policy outreach strategies in Odisha. Sources indicated that he may be assigned responsibilities related to economic policy, transparency, or state planning in the coming months.

OSSC CGL aspirants protest delay in recruitment process

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: Aspirants of the Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) Combined Graduate Level (CGL) Specialists exam staged a protest in front of the OSSC office here Monday, expressing deep concern over the prolonged delay in the recruitment process, which has remained pending since April 2025.

In a joint representation, the candidates urged the Commission to take immediate steps to resolve the uncertainty surrounding the examination.

The aspirants stated that despite waiting patiently for seven months, the continuous inaction has caused mental distress and uncertainty among thousands of candidates who have dedicated years to preparation.

The aspirants appealed to the Commission to expedite the ongoing court case that has been pending for several months and to coordinate with concerned authorities for an early resolution.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar to visit Odisha from Nov 6 to 10

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: World-renowned humanitarian and spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder and Life President of The Art of Living Foundation and Sri Sri University, will undertake a five-day visit to Odisha from November 6 to 10. The state government has accorded him the status of a state guest during his stay.

His visit will commence with a grand satsang in Jharsuguda November 6, followed by several major events across the state. November 8, he will address the 12th Convocation of Sri Sri University, Cuttack, where Union Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar will attend as the chief guest.

During his visit, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar will inaugurate Asia’s first International Osteopath Convention, a three-day global event to be held at Sri Sri University. He will also address the Bureaucrats’ Summit titled “Developed Odisha 2047 – Ethics in Governance”, organised at the Odisha State Public Service Building.

In addition, he will inaugurate ‘Navonmesh’, an exhibition at the Sri Sri University campus showcasing innovative academic and research projects



by students and faculty. The exhibition will highlight works on Artificial Intelligence, education, and social innovation, featuring contributions from scholars and academic leaders.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar will also launch the education leaders’ conclave ‘Sankalp’ and inaugurate the Sri Sri Centre for Enterprise Risk Management, established in collaboration with the Institute of Risk Management. Several MoUs with leading higher educational institutions are also scheduled to be signed during his visit.

A public gathering and satsang have been scheduled for the evening of November 7 at the university campus, offering students, faculty, and staff an opportunity to experience spiritual enrichment and inspiration in his presence.

‘Mini India’ comes alive at Subhadra Shakti Mela 2025

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: Odisha’s flagship women entrepreneurship event, Subhadra Shakti Mela 2025, has elevated itself to a national platform this year. Along with participants from Odisha, women entrepreneurs from nine other states — Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Assam — are showcasing their products and handicrafts. The exhibition ground, adorned with vibrant displays of Indian art, culture, and crafts, offers visitors a captivating “Mini India” experience.

While stalls featuring Odisha’s rich handicrafts and local products are drawing huge crowds, those representing other states are also witnessing impressive footfall.

The stalls from various states are truly winning the hearts of shoppers, drawing admiration for their craftsmanship and cultural richness. By the end of the third day, total recorded sales had crossed ₹1.02 crore, reflecting the fair’s growing popularity and economic impact.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.87 ▲ 0.05	SENSEX	83978.49 ▲ 39.78	GOLD	₹122,006 ▲ ₹774
EURO	102.54 ▼ 0.39	NIFTY	25763.35 ▲ 41.25	SILVER	₹149,223 ▲ ₹936

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	32.2°	30.4°	Partly cloudy sky.
Min Temp	22.6°	21.8°	
Humidity	77%	83%	
Rainfall	NII	NII	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

Ganjam elephant was shot dead: DFO 2 women drown in Ghodahada river

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, Nov 3: Two days after a tusker was found dead at Baniapalli forest under Mujagarh forest range of North Ghumusar forest division near here in Ganjam district, Forest department officials Monday revealed that the wild elephant was shot dead by a farmer.

According to the investigation by the Forest department, the farmer identified as Uma-kant Pradhan, 50, allegedly shot dead the animal while trying to protect his crops. He was arrested by the Forest department officials, leading to the breakthrough in the case.

Addressing a presser Monday evening, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Himansu Sekhar Mohanty said officials seized two functional guns, one broken gun, bullets, explosives, and other materials from Pradhan's possession.

The accused has been pro-

POACHER ARRESTED WITH SEIZURE OF 3 FIREARMS



duced in court, and the Forest department has applied for a three-day remand for further investigation. The case has been registered under Wildlife Offense Report (WOR) no-432/25.

Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACFs) Bibek Das, Bimal Pradhan, Ranger Bimbadhar Sahu, foresters Babul Sethi, Tuna Mallik, Anup Bishoi, Rajendra Dalei, forest guards Biswajit Hota, Pradyumna Bishoi, and Susant Mishra, among others attended the presser.

The investigations revealed that a herd of 24 elephants had entered the Baniapalli forest area Thursday night. Two elephants from the herd moved toward nearby farmlands in search of food. On learning this, Pradhan went to his field carrying a gun and crude bombs.

When the animals entered his paddy field, Pradhan hurled two bombs at the herd to drive them away. Instead of retreat-

POST NEWS NETWORK

ing, the elephants turned aggressive and began rampaging. In panic, Pradhan opened fires at the herd, and a bullet struck one of the tuskers on its left front leg.

Panicked, the injured elephant ran about 500 metres into the forest before collapsing and dying. After the incident, Pradhan returned home and hid his firearm in the field near his house.

Forest officials received information about the elephant's death Saturday morning. A Joint Task Force (JTF) from Bhubaneswar reached the spot and began a probe. A four-member team of wildlife experts accompanying them conducted the postmortem of the carcass.

The autopsy confirmed that the animal had died from gunshot wounds. Following the investigation, the Forest department formed multiple special teams and successfully arrested the accused.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, Nov 3: Two women drowned in the Ghodahada river in Ganjam district early Monday morning while taking a ritual bath for the auspicious 'Panchuka' observance during the holy month of Kartika.

The deceased were identified as Lalita Padhi, 64, wife of Simanchal Padhi, and Sabita Gouda, 40, wife of Dhanu Gouda—both residents of Sebak Tikarpada village under the Khamari panchayat in Digapahandi block.

According to sources, the women had gone to the river around 3:30am to take the dip as part of the 'Panchuka' fasting. Lalita reportedly slipped into the deep waters while trying to retrieve a piece of cloth that had floated away after washing. When Sabita attempted to rescue her, she too was swept away by the strong current.

Local representatives, including sarpanch representative Chitrasen Gouda and social

POST NEWS NETWORK



worker Simanchal Kar, immediately alerted the Digapahandi fire service. A rescue team, along with villagers, managed to recover both women nearly 1 km downstream near Golanada village. The victims were rushed to the Digapahandi Community Health Centre (CHC), where doctors declared them dead on arrival.

Police reached the health centre, seized the bodies, and sent them for post-mortem examination to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berrampur. A case of unnatural death (44/25) has been registered. After the autopsy, the bodies were handed over to the families, and the women were cremated in their village amid a mournful atmosphere.

Officials said following heavy rainfall caused by Cyclone Montha, water was released from a nearby dam into the Ghodahada river, increasing its water level. The irrigation department at Digapahandi had earlier issued an advisory warning residents not to enter the river or let their domestic animals near it.

Villagers said they had built a bathing ghat in the river for bathing purposes, and the tragedy occurred while the women were using that spot.

YOUTH BLUDGEONED TO DEATH OVER PAST ENMITY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 3: A brutal murder took place Monday night at Gandhi Nagar Para under the Hirakud police limits in Sambalpur district.

The victim, identified as 32-year-old Kalu Bahadur of Gandhi Nagar Para, was reportedly attacked by miscreants near the WESCO office while riding his motorcycle around 8pm. Police sources said the assailants stopped him on the road and attacked him with sharp weapons. After he fell to the ground, they allegedly crushed him with stones, killing him on the spot.

Passersby later found Ba-

POST NEWS NETWORK

hadur's body lying in a pool of blood by the roadside and immediately informed the police. A team from the Hirakud police station rushed to the scene, recovered the body, and took it to the Hirakud Primary Health Centre, where doctors declared him dead.

Police have sent the body for post-mortem examination. "We have registered a case and initiated an investigation. Preliminary findings suggest the murder may have been the result of previous enmity," said Hirakud SDPO Baleshwar Gidhi.

The accused are still absconding, and efforts are underway to trace and arrest them.

Rayagada rape survivor seeks justice

POST NEWS NETWORK

RAYAGADA: Police inaction in the rape of a 21-year-old tribal woman in an area under Chandili police station in this district has sparked concern among locals Monday.

The survivor has lodged a complaint in the Chandili police station but police are yet to take any action against the accused. The matter came to the fore after the survivor lodged a complaint at the joint grievance cell of the District Collector Ashutosh Kulkarni and Rayagada SP Swathy S Kumar Monday, seeking justice.

On being apprised, the Collector directed the police to take up the issue immediately and take action in this regard. Sources said that the woman, a resident of Kolnara block had gone to graze her herd of goats September 2. Meanwhile, a youth of the village picked her up to a thatched house and raped her over there, she alleged. Later, the accused threatened to kill her after she informed her family members. Left with no option, the woman lodged a written complaint at Chandili police station September 3. Police conducted a medical examination on her but failed to arrest the accused. Since then, two months have passed but Chandili police is yet to take any action in this regard, she alleged.

When contacted, Chandili ICC Uttam Kumar Sahu said the medical examination failed to show any signs of rape and investigation is underway.

Jumbo kills 5-yr-old, injures elder brother

POST NEWS NETWORK

Lanjigarh, Nov 3: A five-year-old boy was killed and his elder brother critically injured after a wild tusker attacked them at Harada Padar village under Trilochanpur panchayat in Kalahandi district's Lanjigarh block Monday morning.

The deceased, identified as Rabi Majhi, 5, was the younger son of Kanu Majhi. His elder brother, 8-year-old Sambaru Majhi, sustained serious injuries and is undergoing treatment at a hospital, according to sources.

The area, part of Bishwanathpur forest range under South division in Kalahandi district, has long suffered from frequent elephant intrusions that have caused widespread damage to life, property, and crops.

Reports said Kanu Majhi, who had moved to Harada Padar a few years ago with his wife and three sons to earn a living through shifting cultivation, was heading to his farmland with his wife around 7am Monday. Their two sons fol-

POST NEWS NETWORK

lowed a few minutes later when a tusker suddenly emerged from the nearby forest and attacked the children.

Rabi died on the spot, while Sambaru was left critically injured and later rescued by locals who rushed to the scene after hearing the children's cries. Villagers managed to drive the elephant back into the forest and informed forest officials.

Police said postmortem was conducted and the body was later handed over to the family. A UD case has been registered in this regard.



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DEMAND NOTICE

Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002

Whereas the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of Central Bank of India** under the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred u/s 13(12) of the SARFAESI Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, had issued Demand Notices u/s 13(2) on date against the under mentioned Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors of **Concerned Branches** calling upon them to discharge their liabilities in full **within 60 days** from the date of the said notice. The Said Demand Notice Could not be served on the below mentioned parties. By this notice you are hereby called upon to discharge the entire liabilities as on date with future interest thereon & other charges to us as secured creditor, **within 60 days** from the date of this notice, failing which we shall be constrained to exercise all or any of our rights conferred under section 13(4) and other provision of the above SARFAESI Act, 2002. You are required to note that in terms of Sec.13(13) of the said SARFAESI Act, you shall not, after receipt of this notice, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, any of the secured assets above referred to without prior written consent of our Bank. You are also put on notice that any contravention of the injunction/restraint as provided under the said SARFAESI Act-2002 is an offence. This notice is issued without prejudice to any other rights available to our Bank under the above SARFAESI Act-2002 and / or any other law in force. **Your attention is drawn to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 in respect of time available to you to redeem the secured assets.**

BRANCH / Name & Address of the Account /Borrowers /Guarantors / Mortgagors	Type of Loan /Loan Amount / Date of Notice	Outstanding Amount	Description of Properties
CHANDRASEKHARPUR BRANCH / Borrowers: 1) Mr. Bijaya Kumar Mallick, S/o.: Surendra Mallick, 2) Mrs. Kausalya Mallick, W/o.: Mr. Bijaya Kumar Mallick, Both are At: Ratanpur, PO.: Madhaba, P.S.: Niali, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN-754004 / Guarantor/Mortgagor: Mr. Bijaya Kumar Mallick, S/o.: Surendra Mallick, At/PO.: Tulasipur, P.S.: Nimapara, Dist.: Puri, PIN-753113, Odisha	TL - ₹41,00,000/- / 15.10.2025	₹ 45,99,151/- as on 14.10.2025 plus interest & other charges thereon	All that part & parcel of the Immovable property situated at Mouza: Nuahat, Tahasil: Cuttack-273, P.S.: Cuttack Sadar-45, Dist.: Cuttack, 1) Mutation Khata No.: 498/686, Plot No.: 1237/2276, Area: Ac.0.01 Dec 6 Kadi, 2) Mutation
NIAMAPARA BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Bijaya Kumar Mallick, S/o.: Surendra Mallick / Guarantor/Mortgagor: Mr. Bijaya Kumar Mallick, S/o.: Surendra Mallick, Both are At: Ratanpur, PO.: Madhaba, P.S.: Niali, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN-754004	CC - ₹9,70,000/- / 13.10.2025	₹ 9,78,860/- as on 12.10.2025 plus interest & other charges thereon	All that part & parcel of the Immovable property situated at Mouza: Ratanpur, Tahasil: Niali, P.S.: Govindpur-192, Dist.: Cuttack, Khata No.: 746/163, Plot No.: 1752/3603, Area: Ac.0.07 Dec, Standing in the name of Mr. Bijaya Kumar Mallick, Bounded by East: Surendra Malik, West: Village Road, North: Charan Behera, South: Rabindra Malik,

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 03.11.2025

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Central Bank of India

SURYO FOODS & INDUSTRIES LIMITED
CIN - L05004OR1989PLC002264

Extract of Financial Results For the Quarter Ended On Sep 30, 2025

Key numbers of Financial Results						(Rs. in Thousands)
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Half year Ended		Year Ended
		30.09.2025 (Un-Audited)	30.06.2025 (Un-Audited)	30.09.2024 (Un-Audited)	30.09.2025 (Un-Audited)	
1	Total Revenue from Operations	-	-	-	-	-
2	Net Profit / (Loss) (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	512	185	171	697	2,339
3	Net Profit / (Loss) before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	512	185	171	697	2,339
4	Net Profit / (Loss) after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	512	185	171	697	2,487
5	Total Comprehensive Income [Comprising Profit / (Loss) after tax and Other Comprehensive Income after tax]	512	185	171	697	2,487
6	Equity Share Capital	39,600	39,600	39,600	39,600	39,600
7	Earnings per share (of Rs 10/- each) Basic & Diluted (Rs.)	0.13	0.05	0.04	0.18	0.00
Notes:						
a) The above financial results of the Company for the quarter and half year ended Sep 30, 2025 have been audited and recommended by the audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company in their respective meetings held on 3rd November, 2025. These results are being published in accordance with Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.						
b) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Statement of Audited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended on Sep 30, 2025 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Statement of Audited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended on 30th Sept, 2025, are available on the website of the Stock Exchanges - www.bseindia.com as well as on the website of the Company - www.suryofoods.com						

Date : 3rd November, 2025

Place : Bhubaneswar

By order of the Board
For Suryo Foods & Industries Limited
Sd./- Aditya Dash
(CEO, Director & Chairman of the Meeting)
DIN - 00582799



The cup has to be left clean and empty for the divine liquor to be poured into it.

SRI AUROBINDO

Sudan Savaged

A proxy war is being waged in Sudan taking a heavy toll of human lives and leaving behind a trail of blood, rape and genocidal violence on an unprecedented scale. The fierceness has assumed such proportions that the country is now being virtually carved out into two and a partition seems imminent following the fall of El-Fasher in the western region October 28. All this is for a bloody power struggle within the country and the lure of gold locked up in the country’s subterranean region on which some foreign powers have set their eyes. The involvement of foreign powers is such that both the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), fighting for grabbing power in Sudan since April 2023, have been accusing each other of receiving support from foreign powers. Deeply concerned over one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world now with about 150,000 people killed and 12 million displaced from their homes, the United Nations has repeatedly called on member states to “refrain from any external interference.” All in vain.

Sudan’s de facto leader General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan leads the army while the RSF is headed by Mohamed Hamdan Daglo. In October 2021, Burhan along with Daglo, who was his deputy at the time, led a coup and overthrew the civilian-led transitional government which was set up following the 2019 ouster of deeply entrenched President Omar al-Bashir. However, within two years the two fell out and an internecine war broke out between their forces by mid-April 2023. The war has turned out to be catastrophic for the entire population.

The RSF originated from the Janjaweed militias who are Arab camel and horse-mounted fighters. They carried out ruthless atrocities during the 2003 conflict that erupted in one region of Darfur. It has now established its control in the entire western region of the country and has formed a rival parallel administration in Nyala, the capital of South Darfur. The situation got complicated by the role being played by Egypt, Sudan’s neighbour to the north and a key backer of the Sudanese army. It considers Burhan the legitimate ruler of Sudan. The RSF has in the past accused Egypt of providing direct military support to Burhan’s troops, an allegation Cairo consistently denies. Cairo is believed to have benefited from Saudi Arabia’s tacit support.

On the other hand, the Sudanese army has accused the UAE of supporting the RSF with weapons and mercenaries, including Colombians, sent via Chad, Libya, Kenya and Somalia, by land or air. All these countries are complicit in the ethnic cleansing going on in Sudan for the past two years. Consequently, the army-aligned government severed diplomatic ties with the UAE in May, charging it with supplying drones to the RSF. Predictably, Abu Dhabi has consistently denied any interference, whereas the UN in its reports and investigations claims to have strong evidence of UAE’s involvement in the conflict.

Under Bashir’s three-decade rule, Sudan relied militarily on Russia and negotiated to build a Russian naval base on the Red Sea - a deal that Moscow publicly announced in 2020. In 2021, Sudan’s military said the deal was “under review” but the issue has in recent months been on the agenda of high-level discussions, according to some Russian media. The two countries have recently signed several bilateral military and economic cooperation agreements.

Sudan’s civil war took a critical turn when the RSF captured the entire Darfur region following the fall of El-Fasher, the army’s last Darfur stronghold 30 October. Reports suggest the RSF has killed hundreds of unarmed civilians in ethnically motivated attacks. The group has also been accused of hunting down specific individuals, detaining civilians, and releasing them only after receiving ransom payments. This is a pattern consistent with what happened after the RSF took over other major cities. The forces even raided a hospital after the fall of El-Fasher and massacred scores of patients, including children, while they keep raping women trying to flee the region.

It is unfortunate that the world, which shows so much interest in ending many other conflicts, is paying only lip service to the bloodbath in Sudan. Many powerful nations officially claim to be concerned about the fate of the Sudanese people, but have done nothing so far to hold the perpetrators there of crimes against humanity. That is probably how pages of human history have always been soaked in blood.

WISDOM CORNER

God creates out of nothing. Wonderful you say. Yes, to be sure, but he does what is still more wonderful: he makes saints out of sinners.

SOREN KIERKEGAARD

Wisdom ceases to be wisdom when it becomes too proud to weep, too grave to laugh, and too selfish to seek other than itself.

KAHLIL GIBRAN

We’re all going to die, all of us; what a circus! That alone should make us love each other, but it doesn’t. We are terrorized and flattened by trivialities. We are eaten up by nothing.

CHARLES BUKOWSKI

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

■ **1924:** American politician Nellie Tayloe Ross became the first woman to be elected governor of a U.S. state (Wyoming). In addition to being the first woman to be ever elected as a state governor in the US, she was also the first female director of the United States Mint.

■ **1946:** UNESCO was officially established as its constitution entered into force; this specialized agency of the UN called for the promotion of international collaboration in education, science, and culture.

■ **1979:** Iran Hostage Crisis. A hostage crisis in Iran began as the U.S. embassy in Tehrān was seized by Iranian militants in a move sanctioned by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The 444-day crisis began when a group of students took over the American Embassy in Tehran and took 52 Americans hostages. The crisis led to a breakdown in American and Iranian diplomatic relations.

■ **1980:** Conservative Republican Ronald Reagan was elected the 40th president of the United States.

■ **1995:** Yitzhak Rabin assassinated. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, corecipient with Shimon Peres and Yāsir Arafāt of the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1994, was assassinated this day in 1995 by a Jewish extremist while attending a peace rally.

power post

FOCUS SOCIETY

THE MAKINGS OF PEACE

Like the air we breathe, peace does not typically command our attention until we lose it. That is why the study of peace is inextricably linked to that of war: it seeks to understand the root causes of conflict and illuminate ways to end or avoid violence. But peace is a condition in itself, and it warrants our attention as much today as it did in the 14th century, when the Italian artist Ambrogio Lorenzetti painted his powerful and enigmatic three-panel fresco in the Sala dei Nove of Siena’s Palazzo Pubblico, where Siena’s council of nine magistrates met.

The fresco’s main scenes, which depict the “Allegory of Good Government,” the “Effects of Good Government in the City and the Countryside,” and the “Allegory of Bad Government,” are considered to be one of the most influential secular cycles in art history. They have been studied extensively, with generations of scholars drawing lessons on all manner of topics, from agriculture to politics. But even today, Lorenzetti’s frescoes have much to teach us about peace.

To be sure, the room reflects our tendency to view peace in opposition to war. The “effects of bad government” depicts a horned devil presiding over a court that includes War, with Justice bound and powerless beneath them. Meanwhile, the city is crumbling, its inhabitants are suffering, and chaos reigns. The “allegory of good government,” painted on the adjoining wall, depicts an old, wise monarch on a throne surrounded by figures representing values like Justice, Temperance, Prudence, Strength, and Peace. In a sense, this allegory represents much of the focus of “peace studies”: how peace is “created” in the rooms where decisions are made.

But it is the “effects of good



While leaders can undoubtedly help to create the conditions for peace, it is ordinary people living their lives who make peace a reality, not once, but on a daily basis

government in the city and countryside” – which confronts the “bad government” panel on the opposite wall – that offers insights into the content and mechanics of peace. The panel depicts a bustling, prosperous city, in which people work, dance, talk, play, and learn. The city gates are open – there is no need for fortification – and in the countryside beyond, people busily farm the land, surrounded by trees and livestock.

The scene is serene, but not stagnant. This is not some fixed utopia that exists out of time, or an unspoiled “Garden of Eden,” to which we can never return. It is a dynamic environment, comprising countless imperfect human actions that perpetuate peace. The message is clear: while leaders can undoubtedly help to create the conditions for peace, it is ordinary people living their lives who make peace a reality, not once, but on a daily basis.

This is not an individualistic process. Lorenzetti’s fresco depicts a community prospering together – engaging with one another, exchanging goods and services, and fulfilling their respective roles, from repairing roofs and growing food to playing music. In bad times, people

may be more likely to adopt an “every man for himself” mindset. But there is no shortage of stories of communities taking care of one another during crises, often at great personal cost. The inhabitants of one French village, Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, risked their lives to hide thousands of Jews during the Holocaust – earning the collective designation of “Righteous Among the Nations” by Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust remembrance center.

Perhaps it is in such subversive and seemingly irrational choices that peace resides in times of war. And perhaps it is when such behaviors become the norm that peace flourishes. As the 19th-century sociologist Émile Durkheim observed, the community’s shared beliefs, practices, and values play a major role in shaping individual behavior. For Lorenzetti, one of those values appears to be openness. Farmers freely enter the city to sell their goods, while elegant urbanites head out to the countryside. Another key value is moderation. While the scene he depicts is full of activity, it remains rather tranquil, seemingly embodying the Latin adage *festina lente* (make haste, slowly). A third value is

respect, for oneself, one’s neighbours, and one’s surroundings. People are contributing to their community; the urban buildings are clean and well maintained; and the countryside is bedecked by golden wheat fields and flourishing fruit trees.

This is a society that understands its connection to – and dependence on – nature. In a single image, Lorenzetti shows us the entire agricultural cycle: ploughing, planting, and harvesting. Animals can be seen throughout the panel, from the horses the city dwellers ride and the donkey that helps the farmer bring food to market to the pigs that will eventually nourish the community. The implication is that a peaceful society must also be in tune with its environment, acting in accordance with the natural forces that govern our planet – the order of the seasons, the alignment of the planets.

As the late Nobel laureate economist Elinor Ostrom explained in her 2015 book *Governing the Commons*, local communities have often proven far more successful in managing resources sustainably, through voluntary self-governance, than either the state or the market. As our communities act as stewards of nature, so too do they act as custodians of peace.

But there is one more value that seems to define Lorenzetti’s scene: joy. The bride’s retinue evokes not only the commitment of marriage and family, but also the delight of love. The dancers remind the viewer of the importance of pleasure and creativity – activities that provide us with connection and catharsis. While hard work and prudence are essential to nurture peace, happiness is what makes it all worthwhile.

The writer is a lawyer and art historian.

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SPECTRUM SOCIAL SECURITY

Patience betrayed, promises broken

The story of India’s Central Government employees and pensioners today is not one of privilege, but of patience betrayed and promises broken. Their decades of service, which once formed the silent backbone of India’s governance, now stand discounted in the name of fiscal caution. Beneath the glittering slogans of economic might and trillion-dollar dreams, a growing discontent brews — a moral protest against the slow erosion of fairness. The Terms of Reference (ToR) of 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC) approved by the Cabinet on 28 October widely disclose that the government’s words and deeds are increasingly drifting apart.

A closer reading of the ToR reveals how far the vision of the 8th CPC has strayed from its predecessors. The Sixth and Seventh CPCs were grounded in the belief that a motivated workforce is the lifeblood of public administration. The 8th CPC, however through its ToR, marks a visible shift. Its first clause directs the Commission to consider “the economic condition of the country and the need for fiscal prudence.” The tone is defensive, almost suspicious of its own employees, viewing

them as financial burdens rather than the very instruments of governance. The emphasis on “unfunded cost of non-contributory pension schemes” and the “likely impact on State finances” subtly redefines welfare as liability. The government that once acknowledged public servants as partners in national development now seems to treat them as expenses to be managed. Yet the record of official statements tells a different story. In reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 870 on 3 December 2024, when asked whether the Union’s fiscal position prevented pay increases, the Government clearly stated that “the question does not arise.” In another reply — Unstarred Question No. 223 on 22 July 2025 — the Government admitted that it had received ToR suggestions from the National Council (JCM). The Council’s letter dated 18 June 2025 had requested that the ToR explicitly affirm that all Central government pensioners would benefit from the 8th CPC, thereby dispelling confusion created by the Finance Act 2025. That Act, by introducing ambiguous language regarding “risk-based” and “fixed” pension returns, had already sown fears of discrimination among retirees.

Despite these formal representations and the clear moral logic behind them, the ToR approved on 28 October ignored every one of these recommendations. There was no assurance of parity, no mention of protecting defined-benefit retirees, and no acknowledgement of the JCM’s concerns. Instead, the ToR reasserted the familiar refrain — fiscal prudence, economic conditions, and impact on State finances.

The invocation of fiscal prudence, however, is riddled with irony. India today boasts of record tax revenues, massive capital outlays, and ambitious infrastructure targets. The nation dreams of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2028. If such growth projections can justify corporate incentives, subsidies, and large-scale investments, why does the argument of prudence appear only when it concerns salaries and pensions? Every Pay Commission in India’s history has conclusively shown that revisions in pay and pensions boost consumption, energise local markets, and stimulate GDP growth. The 6th CPC alone, implemented in 2008–09, is widely acknowledged to have softened the blow of the global financial crisis by increasing domestic

demand. Thus, denying wage or pension revision in the name of fiscal prudence is not economic wisdom — it is economic hypocrisy. The timing of the 8th CPC developments also raises uncomfortable questions. The announcement of its constitution on 16 January 2025 without any official press release from the PMO, the Cabinet Secretariat, or the Finance Ministry came just before the Delhi elections, and now the release of its ToR coincides with the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections.

The 8th CPC ToR, by failing to restore clarity or parity, has deepened the wound. Fiscal prudence, when selectively applied, becomes fiscal injustice. The government must urgently revisit the ToR. The spirit of the CPC should not be to calculate cost, but to recognise contribution.

If the government truly believes in “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas,” it must start by standing with those who have served under its flag. The call today is not for confrontation, but for conscience. A prosperous nation cannot rise on the unpaid debts of its own people.

The writer is a service union representative and a columnist.

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarih Industrial Estate,
Bhubaneswar-751010

AI & early education

Sir, The Ministry of Education deserves appreciation for its forward-looking decision to modernise India’s school system by introducing Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Computational Thinking (CT) from Class III onwards starting in the 2026–27 academic year. This move reflects a deep understanding of how early exposure to technology can shape young minds to think critically, act responsibly, and prepare confidently for the future. This visionary programme, designed by the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL) under the theme “AI for Public Good,” links AI learning with “The World Around Us.” It aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF-SE) 2023, supported by NCERT, CBSE, KVS, NVS, and various state boards. The initiative highlights India’s commitment to nurturing curiosity, creativity, and moral responsibility among students in the digital age. Teacher training under the NISHTHA programme and digital resources from NCERT have already been planned. What is now essential is strong implementation, ongoing digital upskilling, and better support for rural schools. If carried out effectively, this reform can make AI education inclusive and impactful, shaping a generation that uses technology wisely and for the nation’s progress.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Historic victory

Sir, Sunday night witnessed ecstasy and jubiliations at DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai when the Indian Women’s Cricket team lifted the World Cup trophy defeating the maiden finalist South Africa in a thrilling encounter. Credit goes to the entire squad and the support staff who were instrumental in making the dream come true. The historic journey of the Women In Blue was not smooth all these 52 years of the tournament. Finally for the country, the 13th edition of the tournament witnessed a thumping win, thanks to the army of eve cricketers Smriti Mandhana, Dipti Sharma, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Pratika Rawal, and Richa Ghosh under the leadership of Harmanpreet Kaur. The all important victory was possible due precisely to the grit and determination of the players.

Sanjib Kumar Das, CUTTACK

HIATUS OF FOUR YEARS

Historic Darbar Move resumes

The Darbar Move involves the seasonal shifting of the Jammu and Kashmir government's offices from Srinagar to Jammu, a practice started by Dogra rulers nearly 150 years ago

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 3: Amid scenes of jubilation and festivity, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah received a rousing welcome from the people of Jammu as the historic 'Darbar Move' resumed Monday, marking the return of government offices to the winter capital after a four-year hiatus.

Abdullah was greeted like a returning hero. The chief minister ditched his motorcade and instead chose to walk on foot from his official residence to the Raghunath Market en route to the Civil Secretariat -- a simple gesture that instantly resonated with the people. The chief minister covered more than a kilometre on foot.

Accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and Minister Javed Rana, Abdullah was greeted by surging crowds along the Residency Road, where traders and citizens distributed sweets and cheered his government's decision.

The mood of the crowd was electric, and their excitement palpable. Along the Residency Road and through the busy Raghunath Bazar, flower petals rained down on the chief minister as rhythmic beats of drums and fervent sloganeering rent the air. The chief minister, who fulfilled a key election promise by reviving the centuries-old tradition, underscored the move's significance as unity over mere fiscal savings.



The most important thing is that everything should not be weighed in money. The Darbar Move was stopped to save money. Some things are more important than money, as they involve sentiments and unity between the two regions of Jammu and Kashmir

OMAR ABDULLAH | CM, JAMMU AND KASHMIR

The Darbar Move involves the seasonal shifting of the Jammu and Kashmir government's offices from Srinagar to Jammu, a practice started by Dogra rulers nearly 150 years ago.

The Civil Secretariat and other offices closed in Srinagar October 30 and 31 and began functioning in the winter capital Monday for the next six months. The Darbar Move was halted by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in June 2021, citing the administration's complete transition to e-office, which, he said, would save around ₹200 crore annually.

"How important was this (decision), especially for Jammu, you might have come to know this morning. The journey (from my official residence to the Civil Secretariat), which

usually takes five minutes, took an hour with people pouring out on the streets and showering their love...Jammu was greatly affected when the Darbar Move was stopped," Abdullah said.

Addressing this rationale, the chief minister told reporters at the Civil Secretariat that the decision was driven by sentiment and regional integration.

The decision to stop the move had previously drawn sharp criticism, especially from Jammu's business community, which termed it a significant blow to trade and the traditional bond between the regions. They had been pressing for its revival ever since.

Traders turned up in large numbers and garlanded the

chief minister, showered flower petals and distributed sweets amid drumbeats and slogan shouting throughout the route.

The chief minister received a guard of honour from the Jammu and Kashmir Police contingent upon reaching the Civil Secretariat. His father and former chief minister and National Conference President Farooq Abdullah, who was present at the Civil Secretariat, said the city was brimming with new energy.

"After years, the full Darbar Move has returned...I am very happy that those who were trying to separate Jammu and Kashmir failed today. Jammu and Kashmir is a single entity, and Jammu will benefit a lot," he said.

The chief minister further expressed hope that the economy of the region would benefit greatly from his decision to revive the age-old tradition.

A group of people waiting for the chief minister outside the secretariat showered flower petals on his cavalcade.

After fatal leopard attack in Pune, forest department orders feline's 'elimination'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Nov 3: A day after enraged locals set ablaze a forest department vehicle following the death of a 13-year-old boy in a leopard attack in Pune district, the authorities Monday ordered the capture and "elimination" of the animal.

A team of five sharpshooters has been deployed in the area for the purpose, forest officials said.

People from leopard attack-prone regions like Junnar, Ambegaon, Shirur in the district organised a "rasta roko" (road blockade) near Avsari on the Pune-Nashik Highway Monday to protest against the frequent attacks by big cats.

In the last one month, three persons died in leopard attacks in the Shirur region, sparking anger among the locals, who have been demanding preventive steps to curb the human-animal conflict.

"Today, we are conducting a camera trap exercise. Swabs will be collected from leopards caught during the tranquillising process to identify those involved in the recent fatal attacks. The samples will be sent to the labs for DNA matching with swabs taken from the victims and if a match is found, the particular leopard will be eliminated," said Smrita Rajhans, assistant conservator of forests, Junnar forest division.

She said that the principal conservator of forests has issued the "shooting orders".



Maha reserves 70% local quota in DCCBs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 3: In a move aimed at encouraging local employment, the Maharashtra government has directed that 70 per cent of jobs in District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) be reserved for candidates domiciled in the respective districts.

The government has also decided that all future recruitments in DCCBs across the state be conducted only through the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS), TCS-iON (Tata Consultancy Services), or Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Ltd (MKCL) to ensure transparency and fairness in the process.

A government resolution (GR) issued October 31 said "70 per cent of the posts should be reserved for domicile candidates of the respective districts", while the remaining 30 per cent will be open to candidates from outside the district.

If suitable out-of-district candidates are not available, those



posts may also be filled by local candidates.

As per the GR, the directive applies even to the banks that have issued recruitment advertisements before this order.

The GR said online recruitment will ensure transparency and boost public confidence.

The decision follows complaints received against certain agencies previously empanelled by the Commissioner and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Pune, for conducting

online recruitment for cooperative banks.

Consequently, the state government scrapped the existing panel of seven authorised recruitment agencies.

According to the GR, DCCBs must now conduct their recruitment exclusively through one of the three approved institutions using the online process.

Once a recruitment agency is selected, the work cannot be subcontracted to any other organisation.

Cricket stars stranded in Srinagar hotel after IHPL scam

The event had drawn huge crowds to the stadiums as locals got to see international players in action for the first time in nearly 40 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 3: Billed as a major event to unearth new cricket talent from Kashmir, the Indian Heaven Premier League (IHPL) has turned out to be a scam as the organisers have fled, leaving several former international stars like Chris Gayle stranded in a hotel here due to non-payment of bills.

The IHPL, which began here amid huge fanfare in the last week of October, was organised by the Mohali-based Yuva Society.

Huge billboards featuring

former cricketers like Gayle, Devon Smith, Jesse Ryder and Shakib-al-Hassan came up at several places across the city, announcing that these megastars will play alongside the local players in the league which was scheduled to end on November 8.

Most of the matches were played at Bakshi Stadium with music blaring from loudspeakers during the intervals.

However, the league ended abruptly Saturday as the players refused to turn up for matches due to unpaid dues. The organisers did a vanishing act, forcing the hotel where the players were staying, to stop them from leaving till their dues were cleared.

The story came to the fore when Mellisa Juniper, an Englishwoman who was an umpire at the event, said they had not been paid.

"We have not received any



payment," Juniper said, adding she was informed by the hotel staff about the "missing organisers". While police did visit the hotel, there was no official word whether any action has been initiated by the cops.

Parminder Singh, who is listed as chairman of the Yuva Society, might have been swayed by the success of the Legends' League to organise the IHPL in Kashmir. They booked the Bakshi Stadium, owned by the

Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, and paid the rent up front for hosting the matches.

Eight teams -- Srinagar Sultans, Jammu Lions, Ladakh Heroes, Pulwama Titans, Uri Panthers, Gulmarg Royals, Patnitop Warriors and Kishtwar Giants -- were formed to play the league. Each team had a former international player in its ranks. However, the IHPL did not pull the crowds in despite the presence of Gayle and other international stars. The organisers offered huge discounts on tickets and used the services of a local social media influencer, Umar Zargar, in an attempt to boost ticket sales but in vain.

Questions are being asked as to how the organisers -- Yuva Society -- with no past experience in holding leagues of such magnitude was allowed to use Bakshi Stadium to host the matches.

Secretary of the Sports Council Nuzhat Gul said the organ-

isers wanted to use the venue to host the matches and had paid the money. "I have no association with the IHPL. I was present at the inaugural ceremony only as an invitee," she added.

The Yuva Society, while announcing the IHPL on its website, used photographs of former cricketers Suren-dra Khanna and Ashu Dani without mentioning roles, if any, the duo played in the organisation.

Jain monk sits on fast against closure of Dadar Kabutarkhana

The BMC's action to close the pigeon enclosures in Dadar and other areas across the city stems primarily from grave public health and safety concerns, including respiratory illnesses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 3: Jain monk Nileschchandra Vijay began an indefinite hunger strike at Azad Maidan here Monday, demanding the immediate reopening of the iconic Dadar Kabutarkhana, a traditional pigeon feeding site shut down by the civic body.

Speaking to reporters near the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) headquarters, the monk announced he had stopped drinking water upon starting his protest.

He framed his action as a democratic right, saying, "My protest is within the framework of the Constitution written by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, who has given the right to each individual to protest in a democratic way."

The issue gained legal and legislative attention in July after an MLC raised concerns about residents near the Dadar Kabutarkhana suffering from respiratory ailments linked to the massive presence of birds and their droppings. Several residents supported the ban, citing the health risks.

The closure of the Kabutarkhana came up before the Bombay High Court in August, which ordered the state government to establish an expert committee to study the impact of pigeons and their droppings on human health in public places.

A court-mandated committee, comprising public health experts, pulmonologists,



and officials from ICMR and AIIMS, is tasked with framing guidelines on the issue.

The protest by the Jain monk comes in response to the BMC's recent decision to permit controlled pigeon feeding only at four designated alternate locations -- Worli Reservoir, a mangrove area in Andheri West, the Airolī Mulund check post area, and Gorai ground in Borivali West, and the feeding is restricted to between 7 am and 9 am, with NGOs managing the sites.

Nileschchandra Vijay rejected these alternate sites, arguing they were too far from Dadar.

"The alternate sites given by the BMC are as far as 4, 5, and even 9 kilometres away. Will a pigeon fly so far? The administration should have given a site within 2 km of the existing Kabutarkhana," he said, and insisted on reopening Dadar kabutarkhana.

Asserting he would launch a protest, forsaking food and water for a month, he also spoke

of the now-scrapped sale of a Jain trust property to a builder in Pune and alleged attack on cow vigilantes in various parts of Maharashtra.

The monk appealed to Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for a solution, besides calling on the Jain community nationwide to travel to Mumbai to support the cause.

He pointed out that this sacred site-the kabutarkhana in Dadar-has existed for over a century and is culturally and religiously significant.

"This Kabutarkhana has existed for more than a century and holds religious significance for the community... it is our responsibility to protect their home," he said.

He claimed a tragic toll on the bird population since the closure and alleged that more than one lakh pigeons have died.

According to the monk, the community organisations are currently treating 50 to 60 injured or sick pigeons daily.

'Smart houses' for cloudburst-hit families

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 3: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday laid the foundation stone for the construction of 'smart houses' for cloudburst-hit families in Chisoti village of Kishtwar district.

As many as 19 houses, which were completely damaged during the natural disaster on August 14, will be rebuilt free of cost with the support of the High-range Rural Development Society (HRDS India), a civil society organisation.

The cloudburst also killed 65 people, mostly pilgrims visiting the Machail Mata shrine, and left over 100 others injured, while more than 30 people remain untraced.

Paying homage to those who

lost their lives in the tragedy, the Lieutenant Governor said the catastrophic floods swept away precious lives, wiped out several homes, and tore through infrastructure. "I am hopeful that the three-bedroom prefabricated smart houses, for which the foundation stone was laid today, will help bring the lives of the affected families back on track," he said.

Sinha appreciated HRDS India for its noble initiative.

"Since SDRF relief is insufficient, I had earlier requested HRDS India to rebuild 1,500 fully damaged houses across the UT in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor and the August floods, to which they had agreed. This initiative will provide huge relief to the affected families," he said.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-I, GANJAM, BERHAMPUR

Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. Online Tender//12/SERWDG-II/2025-26
E-mail: eerw_gm1@yahoo.co.in, Phone: 9680-2291405
No.O-1264 Letter No.4952//RWGD-II/BAM/Date:25.10.25

1.	Name of the Work	::	Repair to Road Works
2.	Estimated Cost	::	Rs.6.72 to 42.02 Lakhs
3.	Period of Completion	::	As per Annexure Column No.06
4.	Date & Time of Availability of Bid documents in the Portal	::	From 03.11.2025 at 11.00 AM to 19.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
5.	Last Date/Time for Receipt of Bids in the Portal	::	19.11.2025 upto 5.00 PM
6.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	::	Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-I, Ganjam, Berhampur

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal website: <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd./- Executive Engineer
R.W. Division-I, Ganjam, Berhampur

OIPR-

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR

No.O-1243 Ph. No.-0674-23017, Fax No.-0674-23009, E-Mail I.D.-eerw_bbsr@yahoo.co
NO.-Tender-Online-BBSR Divn.-23 Date : 27.10.2025

1.	Name of the work	::	Constn./Repair & Renovation of works
2.	Total No. of Road & Building	::	94 Nos. of works
3.	Class of contractor	::	'B' Class (of Odisha PWD) or equivalent class of other licensing authorities.
a)	Above Rs.20 lakh and upto 3 crore	::	'C' Class (of Odisha PWD) or equivalent class of other licensing authorities.
b)	Upto Rs.40.00 lakh	::	'D' Class (of Odisha PWD) or equivalent class of other licensing authorities.
c)	Upto Rs.20.00 lakh	::	Rs.1.68 lakh to Rs.30.66 lakh
4.	Estimate cost of Individual project	::	As per annexure of TCN
5.	Time for completion	::	
6.	Other details	::	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for Bidding	Date & Time of opening of tender
1	2	From To	
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Bhubaneswar	Tender Online- BBSR Divn.-23	01.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	12.11.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.
			13.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

OIPR-

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Rural Works Divn., BBSR

of the day

quote

Farmers have taken to the streets demanding loan waiver. The Chief Minister says it will be done in June next year. Should farmers pay instalments till then or not? He (CM) claims if waiver is done now, it will benefit banks. How will it not benefit them in June

UDHAV THACKERAY | SENA (UBT) HEAD

From the time of Emperor Chandragupta Maurya to Narendra Modi, the Gandak, Koshi and Ganga rivers have wreaked flood havoc in Bihar. The NDA, if voted to power, will form a commission to make Bihar flood-free

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

Nitish Kumar is sitting in the lap of the BJP, which believes in Manu Smriti. He has given up on JP, Lohia and Thakur. He cannot champion the cause of Dalits, OBCs and EBCs

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

4 killed in car-truck collision in Andhra

Bapatla: Four people died in a collision involving a car and a container truck near Karlapalem in this district, said police Monday. The accident occurred around 12:30 am Sunday when the car, carrying a family of eight, tried to overtake the truck. "While returning from a wedding, the car crashed into the truck near Karlapalem, causing four deaths. The car driver lost control and was unable to return to their lane, resulting in a head-on impact," an official told PTI.

Child with hands tied assaulted in school

Mumbai: Maharashtra Minister for Disability (Divyang) Welfare Atul Save Monday announced a probe and action against those involved, after a disturbing viral video showing a child at a school for the disabled being mercilessly beaten by the staff. The video is from the Chaitanya Kanifnath Apang Vidyalay in Mandki village of Chhatrapati Sambhaji nagar district and shows a disabled boy studying in the residential school being brutally beaten with a cooker lid with his hands tied behind.

Infant mowed down by SUV

New Delhi: An infant was killed allegedly after being hit by an SUV in outer Delhi's Samaypur Badli area, police said Monday. The incident took place around 4 pm Sunday near Balaji Nursery on the Siras Pur Road, when the vehicle, being driven by a 20-year-old youth, hit the 14-month-old baby, the police said. "The victim's mother was standing by the road with her son when the speeding vehicle struck the boy. The child sustained grievous injuries and was rushed to Burari hospital, where doctors declared him dead," a police officer said.

Teen abducts minor girl

Beed: A sugarcane cutter allegedly kidnapped a 15-year-old girl in Maharashtra's Beed district and then called up her father to inform about the abduction, a police official said Monday. The victim's father is a driver of a vehicle engaged in ferrying sugarcane from the fields to a factory, the Kaij police station official said.

Priyanka's 'Apamaan Mantralaya' dig at PM

Addressing back-to-back rallies in Bihar's Saharsa and Lakhisarai districts, Priyanka accused the prime minister of diverting public attention from issues such as unemployment, corruption and poverty by constantly targeting his political opponents instead of speaking about governance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Saharsa/Lakhisarai (Bihar), Nov 3: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Monday mocked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for frequently accusing Opposition leaders of "insulting him, the country and Bihar", and sarcastically suggested that he should create a new ministry, the 'Apamaan Mantralaya' (Ministry of Insults).

Addressing back-to-back rallies in Bihar's Saharsa and Lakhisarai districts, Vadra accused the prime minister of diverting public attention from issues such as unemployment, corruption and poverty by constantly targeting his political opponents instead of speaking about governance.

"Instead of talking about development, the prime minister keeps accusing every opposition leader of insulting the country. He should form a new ministry, 'Apamaan Mantralaya', because that's what his government seems to be most focused on," she said to loud cheers from a packed crowd at Sonabarsa in Saharsa.

The Congress general secretary added, "That ministry will make a list of all the people who disrespected or insulted him or the country. The prime minister seems more interested in counting insults than addressing people's problems."

Her comments came days after Modi accused the Congress-RJD combine of "insulting Chhathi Maiyya, opposing the Ram temple in Ayodhya, and protecting infiltrators for vote-bank politics".



“Year after year, Delhi's air is becoming increasingly poisonous, but BJP governments just keep changing their excuses. Now, both at the Centre and in Delhi, it's their own government in power. No excuses now, the public wants clean air

RAHUL GANDHI | CONG LEADER



Taking a sharp dig at the prime minister, Vadra said, "Whenever you ask any question to the PM, he is either touring the globe or starts crying that everyone is insulting him. Instead of cribbing, he should answer the people of Bihar and the youth about the misrule here."

She compared the current situation in the country to colonial times, remarking, "First it was British rule, now it's Modi Raj, where if you ask a question, you are either killed or beaten up, but you don't get any answers."

At her rally in Lakhisarai, Vadra mounted a strong offensive against the Centre's Agnipath recruitment scheme, an emotive issue in Bihar, where a large number of youths aspire to join the armed forces, saying it was neither in the interest of the nation nor of the young men dreaming to serve in uniform.

"The Agnipath scheme is neither serving the interests of the youth nor the country. The government must answer why it is playing with the future of lakhs of young men who dream of serving India. Whose interest is this NDA government trying to serve?" she asked.

ZUBEEN MURDERED: HIMANTA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tezpur (Assam), Nov 3: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Monday claimed that cultural icon Zubeen Garg was murdered in Singapore, even as the probe into the case was underway.

The celebrated singer died under mysterious circumstances while swimming in the sea in Singapore September 19. He had gone to the Southeast Asian nation to attend the 4th edition of the North East India Festival (NEIF). "I am not terming it an accident. The charge-sheet in Zubeen Garg's murder case needs to be submitted by December 17. I have set a target to submit it by December 8. We are ready now," Sarma told reporters here.

He, however, did not share further details about the case or the kind of evidence that establishes the death as murder.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Assam Police is currently probing Garg's death case after more than 60 FIRs were lodged across the state.



The celebrated singer died under mysterious circumstances while swimming in the sea in Singapore September 19

A SIT under the CID of the Assam Police is currently probing Garg's death case after more than 60 FIRs were lodged across the state

Speaking about the process of filing the charge-sheet, Sarma said, "If any incident takes place abroad, an approval is required from the Ministry of Home Affairs. Yesterday, I met Union Home Minister Amit Shah to get an approval soon."

He said the SIT is likely to write to the MHA within the next three to four days, seeking necessary approval. "Then, we will file the charge-sheet," the

CM said. When asked if the Assam government has released any funds to the NEIF, Sarma replied in the negative.

NEIF chief organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta, the singer's manager Siddharth Sharma, and his two band members -- Shekhar Jyoti Goswami and Amrit Prabha Mahanta -- were apprehended.

Later, Garg's cousin and Assam Police DSP Sandipan Garg

was arrested in connection with the singer's death.

Zubeen Garg's PSOs Nandeswar Bora and Prabin Baishya were also arrested after police found huge financial transactions, worth over Rs 1. crore, from their accounts.

All seven arrested people are now in judicial custody. They were booked under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for murder, culpable homicide not amounting to murder, criminal conspiracy and causing death by negligence.

Singapore Police Force (SPF) is also carrying out an independent investigation into the incident of Garg's alleged drowning in the sea.

In a statement October 17, the SPF said that the preliminary investigations have not indicated any foul play in Garg's death.

It also said that investigations into the death of the popular Indian singer-songwriter-composer may take up to another three months, after which the findings will be submitted to the state coroner for further proceedings.

Fugitive Mehul Choksi challenges extradition in Belgium top court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: Fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi has challenged before the Supreme Court of Belgium the October 17 order of the Antwerp Court of Appeals, which had termed India's request seeking his extradition "enforceable", officials said Monday.

In response to queries sent by the PTI, the public prosecutor at the Court of Appeal in Antwerp said Choksi filed an appeal in the Court of Cassation October 30.

"This appeal is strictly limited to legal merits and will be judged by the Court of Cassation. During this procedure, the execution of the extradition is suspended," Ken Witpas said.

The Court of Cassation is the Supreme Court of Belgium. On October 17, a four-member indictment chamber at the Court of Appeals in Antwerp found no infirmity in the orders issued by the pre-trial chamber of the district court November 29, 2024, terming the arrest warrants issued by a Mumbai special court in May 2018 and June 2021 as "enforceable", allowing Choksi's extradition.

The Court of Appeals ruled that fugitive Choksi, the main accused in a Rs-13,000 crore PNB scam, faces "no risk" of being denied a fair trial or subjected to ill-treatment if he is extradited to India.

Of the Rs 13,000-crore scam, Choksi alone has siphoned off Rs 6,400 crore, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has alleged in its chargesheet.

Woman held for killing pet dog in lift

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 3: A woman has been arrested for allegedly killing a pet dog by banging it against the floor of an apartment lift here, police said Monday.

The incident, which took place November 1, was captured on CCTV installed inside the lift, they said. In the footage, the woman—identified as Pushpalatha—is seen entering the lift with the pet dog. As the doors closed, she allegedly banged the animal against the floor, killing it on the spot, police said. According to the complaint filed by a 23-year-old woman, she had hired Pushpalatha to take care of her four-year-old dog, Goofy,



on a monthly salary of Rs 23,000 from September 11.

"On November 1, my dog died. When I asked Pushpalatha how the dog had died, she said she did not know. Later, upon checking the CCTV footage, it was found that near the lift, she had lifted the dog and thrown it onto the ground, causing its death," the complainant alleged. A case has been registered under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and Section 325 (mischief by killing or maiming an animal) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at Bagalur police station.

Yogi: Rahul, Tejashwi, Akhilesh three monkeys of INDIA bloc

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Darbhanga/Muzaffarpur, Nov 3: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Monday accused the Congress, RJD, and SP of "embracing" criminals and lampooned their party leaders -- Rahul Gandhi, Tejashwi Yadav, and Akhilesh Yadav, calling them "Pappu, Tappu, and Appu -- three new monkeys" of the INDIA bloc.

Addressing back-to-back election rallies in Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Saran, and Patna, he said after the NDA returns to power in Bihar, it would

"chase" infiltrators out and distribute their wealth among the poor in the state.

"Mahatma Gandhi's three monkeys saw, heard, and spoke no evil. But now we have three monkeys of the INDI Alliance. The new monkeys are Pappu, who sees no good work done by NDA, Tappu, who cannot hear about it, and Appu, who will not admit to these while speaking," he said. Adityanath alleged that the Congress, RJD, and SP were "embracing" criminals and allowing infiltrators, thereby compromising the state's security. After the NDA returns to

power in Bihar, it would "chase infiltrators out of the state, and distribute their wealth among the poor", he added.

The UP CM alleged that the opposition was working to divide people in the name of caste and perpetuate riots. "Caste struggles and divisions led to dozens of riots and massacres between 1992 and 2005 in Bihar," he said. Referring to the alleged misrule when the RJD was in power in Bihar, he said that "back then, ration shops got looted. Today, 80 crore people, including those in Bihar, are getting free ration".

'Law students can't be denied exams for attendance'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: No law college or university can bar students from taking examinations due to lack of minimum attendance, the Delhi High Court ruled Monday and directed the Bar Council of India to re-evaluate the mandatory attendance norms.

The high court, in the significant order, said it was of the strong view that attendance norms for education in general, and legal education in particular, cannot be made so stringent that they lead to mental trauma, let alone the death of a student.

The court passed the judgment while disposing of a suo motu petition, initiated by the Supreme Court and transferred to the high court, in relation to the death of law student Sushant Rohilla by suicide in 2016 after allegedly being barred from sitting for the semester exams due to lack of requisite attendance.

"Legal education does not merely require rote-learning or one-sided teaching. It has various dimensions to it, such as knowledge of law, practical application of the law and implementation thereof. To obtain such holistic education, mere presence in classrooms is neither required, nor can be sufficient," a bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Amit Sharma said in a 122-page judgment.

The court said classroom education has to be coupled with practical training, knowledge of court and prison systems, legal aid, and gaining practical experience through moot courts, seminars and model parliament.

Rohilla, a third-year law student of Amity Law School, had hanged himself at his home here August 10, 2016, after his college allegedly barred him from sitting for the semester exams due to lack of requisite attendance. He left behind a note, saying he was a failure



and did not wish to live.

The high court said even if attendance may not have been the only factor leading to the unfortunate incident and was just a contributing factor, the loss of the life of a young boy could not have come at the behest of such norms.

The court directed that it would be mandatory for all educational institutions and universities to constitute grievance redressal committees (GRCs) in terms of the Univer-

sity Grants Commission regulations, 2023.

Observing that GRCs are for safeguarding the interests of students, including their mental health, the bench directed the UGC to initiate consultations and consider amending the UGC regulations.

The court said BCI should incorporate the modification of attendance norms to enable giving credit to moot courts, seminars, model parliament, debates and attend-

The High Court ruled that attendance requirements for education, especially legal education, should not be so strict that they cause mental trauma or lead to student deaths

The court delivered the judgment while disposing of a suo motu petition, transferred from the Supreme Court, regarding the 2016 suicide of law student Sushant Rohilla, who allegedly took his life after being barred from exams due to insufficient attendance

ing court hearings.

It should also undertake consultation with students, parents and teachers for this purpose expeditiously to safeguard the life and mental health of students. It added that no law college, university or institution should be permitted to mandate attendance norms over and above the minimum percentage prescribed by the BCI under the Legal Education Rules.

The bench directed all BCI recognised law colleges and universities to implement accelerative measures, including weekly notification of attendance of students to online portal or a mobile app, monthly notice to parents or legal guardians on shortage in attendance, conducting extra physical or online classes for such students who do not fulfil the minimum attendance norms, with immediate effect.

It added that the student should be permitted to take the semester examination. However, in the final result, the grade of the student would be permitted to be reduced by a maximum of 5 per cent in case of marks being awarded and by 0.33 per cent in case of the CGPA system.

It said that a September 2024 circular issued by the BCI regarding biometric attendance and installation of CCTV cameras in all centres of legal education across India should not be given effect to.

international

of the day quote

Since the ceasefire agreement, we are facing an (Israeli) administration that has killed more than 200 innocent people and has not halted its occupation and attacks in the West Bank

TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT, TURKEY

The Americans sometimes say they would like to cooperate with Iran. Cooperation with Iran is not possible as long as the U.S. continues to support the accused Zionist regime, maintains military bases, and interferes in the region

AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI | SUPREME LEADER, IRAN

China is willing to join hands with Spain to seize the opportunity presented by the king's visit to expand mutual cooperation and enhance the two countries' strategic partnership

MAO NING | FOREIGN MINISTRY, CHINA

SHORT TAKES

Avalanche in Nepal kills 7

Kathmandu: At least seven people including foreign climbers were killed and four others injured Monday after an avalanche struck northeastern Nepal's Yalung Ri peak, according to media reports. Four others remained missing after the avalanche swept through the base camp of the 5,630-metre-tall peak. The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported. The peak is located in the Rolwaling Valley of Bagmati province's Dolakha district. Among the deceased are three American citizens, one Canadian, one Italian, and two Nepali nationals.

Famine spreads to 2 regions in Sudan

Cairo: Famine has spread to two regions of war-torn Sudan, including a major city in Darfur where paramilitary fighters have been rampaging the past week, a global hunger monitoring group said Monday, marking the latest crisis in a war that has created the world's largest humanitarian disaster. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC, said famine has been detected in the Darfur city of el-Fasher and the city of Kadugli in South Kordofan province. Twenty other areas in Darfur and Kordofan, where fighting intensified in recent months, are also at risk of famine.

15 missing after floods in Indonesia

Jakarta: At least 15 people, mostly children, are missing and are likely to be dead after floods and landslides hit Indonesia's easternmost Papua region after torrential rain, a local official said Monday. Thirteen of the victims were children aged between eight and 17 years old, Alfredo Agustinus Rumbiak, the police chief of the remote Nduga region, told Reuters. The children were heading home after playing volleyball and had attempted to cross a river when the floods happened, he said.

Train mass stabbings: UK police charge man

London: British police said a 32-year-old British man was Monday charged with 10 counts of attempted murder over a knife attack on a train Saturday, an incident officers had already said was not being treated as terrorism-related. Eleven people were injured in the mass stabbing on the train, including a member of the train crew who remains in hospital in a critical but stable condition.

Deadly tremor strikes Afghanistan again

Powerful 6.3 quake kills at least 20 in Afghanistan, hundreds injured

REUTERS

Kabul, Nov 3: A powerful 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck near the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e Sharif early Monday, killing at least 20 people, injuring hundreds and damaging the city's historic Blue Mosque, authorities said, with the death toll likely to rise.

The US Geological Survey said the quake hit at a depth of 28 km (17.4 miles) near Mazar-e Sharif, a city of around 523,000 people famous for its shrines and historic sites.

Mohammad Rahim, a survivor in Tashqurghan district close to the quake's epicentre, said the earth shook violently for around 15 seconds.

"When we finally got outside, there was so much dust in the air that we couldn't see anything," he told Reuters while standing in front of a collapsed building.

His mother and brother, who were both trapped in the rubble, were eventually freed by rescue workers and other locals, he said.

CASUALTIES REACH INTO HUNDREDS
At least 20 people were killed and 643 were injured, 25 of them

Lahore tops global pollution charts

AGENCIES

Islamabad, Nov 3: Pakistan's Lahore once again topped global pollution charts Monday, with toxic smog in the eastern Punjab province showing no signs of letting up.

Lahore and other plane areas of Pakistan's Punjab province are prone to thick smog every winter as cold, heavy air traps construction dust, vehicle emissions and smoke. The smog crisis, which is spurred by crop burning, vehicle emissions and industrial pollution every winter, threatens public health and daily life.

According to Swiss monitoring group IQAir, Lahore topped the list of most polluted cities in the world Monday around 10:00 am, with its Air Quality Index (AQI) measured at a "hazardous" level of 401.

India's capital Delhi followed behind at number two with an AQI of 262 while Pakistan's commercial hub Karachi ranked at number four with an AQI of 165.

Lahore recorded a PM2.5 of 276 µg/m³. The PM2.5 refers to floating particulate matter in the air measuring 2.5 micrometers in diameter or less that can be absorbed into the bloodstream upon inhalation.

"PM2.5 concentration is currently 55.2 times the World Health Organization annual PM2.5 guideline value," IQAir said regarding the air quality in Lahore. Smog season begins in late October and peaks from November to January, lasting through February.

The Indian embassy in Ottawa said the rejection of study permit applications from students in India had come to its attention, but that the issuance of study permits is Canada's prerogative

REUTERS

Toronto, Nov 3: Canada's clampdown on international students has hit applicants from India particularly hard, government data shows, as what was once a preferred destination loses its allure for Indian students.

Canada lowered the number of international student permits it issues for the second year in a row in early 2025 as part of a broader effort to reduce the number of temporary migrants and address fraud related to student visas.



seriously, according to preliminary figures from the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority.

"Our rescue and health teams have arrived in the area, and all nearby hospitals have been put on standby by the leadership to treat the injured," Health Ministry spokesperson Sharfat Zaman said.

Footage released by the Afghan Ministry of Defence showed military rescue teams digging through rubble and pulling the body of a young girl from the dirt. Reuters was not able to independently verify the location and date of the images.

The United Nations mission in Afghanistan said in a post on social media platform X it was on the ground supporting rescue efforts.

"We stand with the affected communities and will provide necessary support," the post said. India, which has been seeking to reset relations with the Taliban after severing diplomatic ties following their 2021 takeover of Afghanistan, also pledged support.

"Indian relief material for the earthquake impacted communities is being handed over today. Further supplies of medicines to reach soon," Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaisankar said in a post on X.

BLUE MOSQUE
The earthquake damaged part of the Blue Mosque, considered one of the holiest sites in Afghanistan and believed to be the burial site of the cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet

Could be. I mean, other things. I envisage a lot of things. They're killing record numbers of Christians in Nigeria ... They're killing the Christians and killing them in very large numbers. We're not going to allow that to happen

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

B'DESH REMEMBERS 1971 LEADERS

Bangladesh Monday observed a low-key anniversary of the assassination of four top leaders of the 1971 Liberation War inside a high-security prison in 1975. War-time Acting President Syed Nazrul Islam, PM Tajuddin Ahmad and senior ministers Captain M Mansur Ali, and AHM Quamruzzaman were assassinated by rebel army soldiers who staged a coup August 15, 1975



WE'RE NOT A VIOLENT CITY

Chicago locals take on ICE block-by-block



REUTERS

Chicago, Nov 3: The immigration agents' tear gas grenades clinked and then exploded against the concrete, shrouding the block in plumes of white gas. The dozen or so residents at the scene only screamed louder.

"We don't want you here," yelled Rae Lindenberg. The 32-year-old, who works in marketing, ran out of her apartment when she heard the shrill sound of whistles. "Get out of our neighborhood!"

The squad of agents had appeared in Lakeview last month, an upscale neighborhood dotted with dog daycares, medical spas and vegan restaurants, hopping over a gate to chase down a construction worker who was handcuffed and shoved into a vehicle.

When Courtney Conway, a 42-year-old lifelong Chicago resident, heard about the chase through Facebook groups and text message chains, she hopped on her bike to join the protesters.

"We are not a violent city. This is not a war zone, and I think these guys are terrorizing us and trying to incite us," said Conway. "We want them out. We want them to stop kidnapping our neighbors."

CREATING A ZONE DEFENSE
Chicago, a city of 2.7 million, has long been known as a patchwork of close-knit neighborhoods. And since the city took center stage of President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown in September, those

•Tear gas, car chases. The immigration crackdown in Chicago grows increasingly heated

•In Chicago neighborhoods, locals keep vigil for ICE operations

•Sounding the alarm on immigration crackdown by whistle and messaging apps

neighborhoods have mobilized against enforcement efforts, sometimes block-by-block.

That hyperlocal effort, spun off into dozens of chats on social platforms, has helped create a type of zone defense that - activists say - has slowed down immigration agents and in some cases forced them to withdraw without making an arrest.

When asked for comment, Tricia McLaughlin, assistant secretary for public affairs at the Department of Homeland Security, said, "Our officers are highly trained and in the face of rioting, doxxing and physical attacks they have shown professionalism. They are not afraid of loud noises and whistles."

Over 3,000 people have been detained in Chicago since early September, according to DHS.

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement and US Customs and Border Protection agents prowling city streets in unmarked cars are often trailed by drivers honking their horns and cyclists blowing their whistles on an almost daily basis.

SNIPPETS

Tanzania's Prez Hassan sworn in after deadly poll violence

Dodoma, Tanzania: Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu Hassan vowed Monday to move on from deadly protests set off by last week's disputed election as she was sworn into office for her first elected term. Opponents say the vote was rigged and that hundreds died, but the government has dismissed that toll as exaggerated. Hassan, who came to power in 2021 following the death of her predecessor, was declared the winner of last Wednesday's election with nearly 98% of the vote. Her two leading challengers had been disqualified from the race. The 65-year-old, one of only two female heads of state in Africa, took the oath of office at a ceremony on a military base in the capital Dodoma. "Life must continue," she told dignitaries including the presidents of Somalia, Burundi, Mozambique and Zambia. Hassan condemned the protests as violent and destructive. "Our responsibility is to build our today to be better than our yesterday. I beg that we continue protecting our values of unity and collaboration," she said.

Hamas hands over 3 more hostage bodies

Jerusalem/Cairo: Hamas handed over bodies of three hostages Sunday, even as the Palestinian militant group traded blame with Israel for violations of the tenuous truce that has mostly halted two years of war. Israeli forces in Gaza received coffins carrying the bodies of three hostages, conveyed through the Red Cross, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said. The remains will be transported to Israel for identification. The bodies are expected to be those of three of the 11 hostages whose remains Israel is seeking from Gaza under the terms of the ceasefire. Israel has said Hamas has been too slow in delivering them; Hamas says it is working as quickly as possible under difficult conditions. The issue has been just one of the disputes holding up full implementation of the US-brokered ceasefire in place since October 10.

Turkey hosts ministerial meeting on Gaza ceasefire

REUTERS

Istanbul, Nov 3: Foreign ministers from several Muslim-majority countries will meet in Istanbul Monday to discuss the fragile Gaza ceasefire, as Hamas and Israel trade accusations of violations and talks continue on forming a force to monitor the truce.

The foreign ministers of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Pakistan and Indonesia are set to join the meeting to discuss the ceasefire and humanitarian situation in Gaza, a Turkish foreign ministry

source said Sunday.

The ministers, whose leaders met with US President Donald Trump in New York in September, will discuss the next stage of Trump's ceasefire deal and the formation of the planned 'international stabilisation force', Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said Friday.

The US-brokered Gaza truce, which left issues such as the disarmament of Palestinian militant group Hamas and a timeline for Israel's withdrawal from Gaza unresolved, has been tested by periodic violence since coming into force October 10.



INS Savitri arrives at Port Louis, Mauritius Nov 3 as part of a long-range operational deployment to the south-west Indian Ocean region

PTI PHOTO

Fearing fraud, Canada rejects most Indian study permit applicants

The Indian embassy in Ottawa said the rejection of study permit applications from students in India had come to its attention, but that the issuance of study permits is Canada's prerogative

REUTERS

Toronto, Nov 3: Canada's clampdown on international students has hit applicants from India particularly hard, government data shows, as what was once a preferred destination loses its allure for Indian students.

Canada lowered the number of international student permits it issues for the second year in a row in early 2025 as part of a broader effort to reduce the number of temporary migrants and address fraud related to student visas.

About 74% of Indian applications for permits to study at Canadian post-secondary institutions in August - the most recent month available - were rejected, compared to about 32% in August 2023, according to immigration department data provided to Reuters.

By contrast, about 40% of study permit applications overall in each of those months were refused. About 24% of Chinese study permits in August 2025 were rejected.

The number of Indian applicants has dropped, as well, from 20,900 in August 2023 -



when Indians formed just over one quarter of all applicants - to 4,515 in August 2025.

India has been Canada's top source of international students over the past decade. In

August, it also had the highest study-permit refusal rate of any country with more than 1,000 approved applicants.

The spike in refusals of would-be students comes as

74% of Indian applicants for Canadian study permits in August were rejected, up from 32% in August 2023

Rejection rate for applications overall was 40%

Canadian government cites fraud concerns

Canada and India seek to mend ties after more than a year of tension. Former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused the Indian government of involvement in the 2023 murder of a Canadian in Surrey, British Columbia. India has repeatedly denied the allegations.

AN EFFORT TO CRACK DOWN ON FRAUD

In 2023, Canadian authorities uncovered nearly 1,550

study permit applications linked to fraudulent letters of acceptance, most of which originated from India, Canada's immigration department told Reuters in an email.

Last year its beefed-up verification system detected more than 14,000 potentially fraudulent letters of acceptance from all applicants, it said.

Canada has implemented enhanced verification for international students and has increased its financial requirements for applicants, the immigration department spokesperson said.

The Indian embassy in Ottawa said the rejection of study permit applications from students in India had come to its attention, but that the issuance of study permits is Canada's prerogative.

of the day

quote

Cross-border paperless trade, which builds on the broader idea of paperless trade and refers to conducting trade through electronic communication, is gaining momentum regionally with the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA) being a key driver

ARPITA MUKHERJEE | PROFESSOR, ICRIER

India's AI adoption rate, the highest in Asia Pacific, signals not just enthusiasm but readiness for the next phase of transformation. What's unique about India's journey is the confidence of its workforce and the strength of its leadership engagement

NIPUN KALRA | INDIA LEADER, BCG

The proposed FTA with New Zealand is expected to further boost trade flows, promote investment linkages, strengthen supply chain resilience, and create a predictable framework for businesses in both countries

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

City Union Bank profit rises

New Delhi: City Union Bank, Monday reported 15 per cent rise in net profit at ₹329 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025. The bank had earned a net profit of ₹285 crore in the year-ago period.Total income also increased to ₹1,912 crore in the second quarter from ₹1,660 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal, City Union Bank said in a regulatory filing. Interest income improved to ₹1,653 crore from ₹1,434 crore in the same period a year ago.

Westlife posts profit

New Delhi: Westlife Foodworld, operator of McDonald's restaurants in west and south India, Wednesday reported a multifold jump in consolidated net profit to ₹27.7 crore for the September quarter of FY26, helped by gains from exceptional items. The company had reported a consolidated net profit of ₹35 lakh in the July-September period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing.

Lenskart IPO gets subscribed 2 times

New Delhi: The initial public offering of Lenskart Solutions Ltd received 2.01 times subscription on the second day of share sale, Monday. The ₹7,278-crore IPO received bids for 20,09,53,512 shares, as against 9,97,61,257 shares on offer, as per NSE data. The Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) part fetched 3.33 times subscription, while the non-institutional investor category got subscribed 1.88 times. The portion for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) received 1.64 times subscription.

Airtel profit doubles

New Delhi: Telecom operator Bharti Airtel, Monday reported over twofold jump in consolidated net profit at ₹8,651 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025. The company had clocked a profit of ₹4,153.4 crore in the same period a year ago. Revenue from operations increased by 25.7 per cent to ₹52,145 crore during the quarter from ₹41,473.3 crore in the year-ago period. Bharti Airtel's India revenue rose by 22.6 per cent year-on-year to ₹38,690 crore.

The real impact of frontier technologies will come from how well we customize solutions -- whether for a smallholder or a commercial cultivator; a farmer growing staples or a horticulturist

BVR SUBRAHMANYAM | CEO, NITI AAYOG

UPI transactions hit record high

On a month-on-month basis, the growth was 9.5 per cent in terms of value. The UPI transaction in value terms was ₹24.90 lakh crore, while volume was 19.63 billion.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: Fuelled by festive buying, the transaction through the popular Unified Payments Interface (UPI) touched a record high of ₹27.28 lakh crore and 20.7 billion in value and volume terms, respectively, in October, according to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). In terms of value, the last highest recorded was ₹25.14 lakh crore in May, while in terms of volume, the last high was 20 billion in August. NPCI said the value of transactions was at ₹27.28 lakh crore in October against ₹23.49 lakh

Gold falls by ₹300

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: Gold prices fell by ₹300 to ₹1,25,300 per 10 grams in the national capital, Monday as a stronger dollar and easing global uncertainties weighed on investor appetite for the safe-haven asset. The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity declined by ₹300 to ₹1,24,700 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had closed at ₹1,25,000 per 10 grams, Friday, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Gold of 99.9 per cent purity had settled at ₹1,25,600 per 10 grams, Friday. On the other hand, silver rallied by ₹1,000 to ₹1,54,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) from Friday's closing of ₹1,53,000 per kg. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.09 per cent to 99.89, weighed on bullion prices. In international markets, spot gold slipped below \$4,000, declining 0.14 per cent to \$3,996.77 per ounce, while spot silver was marginally lower at \$48.64 per ounce. "Gold prices fell below USD 4,000 per ounce on Monday, extending losses from the previous session, as expectations for further rate cuts diminished and safe-haven demand eased after a US-China trade deal," Jigar Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities, said. Meanwhile, China removed a long-standing tax incentive on gold sales, a move that could raise consumer prices and weaken demand in one of the world's largest bullion markets. "Traders will now focus on this week's US macroeconomic events including ISM PMI figures and ADP private payroll data," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HD-FC Securities, said. The data releases will provide more cues on the monetary policy.



crore in the same month a year ago, registering a 16 per cent growth on an annual basis. On a month-on-month basis, the growth was 9.5 per cent in terms of value. The UPI transaction in value terms was ₹24.90 lakh crore, while volume was 19.63 billion. The average daily transaction in October was 668 million with an average value of ₹87,993

crore during the festival month. "The steady rise in UPI volumes, particularly during high-traffic periods like Diwali, demonstrates the strength of India's digital infrastructure and its ability to handle massive, real-time transactions seamlessly. It also highlights how behavioural change has taken firm root, from large cities to the heart of Bharat, where dig-

India set to triple size of rare earth magnet plan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 3: In a major push to build domestic capacity in the strategic rare earth sector, India plans to almost triple the size of its incentive programme for rare earth magnet manufacturing to more than ₹7,000 crore.

The move comes as several nations, including India, step up efforts to establish a reliable supply chain for rare earth magnets, key components used in electric vehicles, wind turbines, smartphones, and defence systems amid China's growing export restrictions, according to reports. China currently processes nearly 90 per cent of the world's rare earth output. In April this year, Beijing tightened export controls on critical minerals as its trade tensions with the US deepened, disrupting supplies to automakers and clean energy industries across the globe. India's expanded production-linked incentive (PLI) plan aims to attract private investment, promote local manufacturing, and reduce dependence on Chinese imports. The government is also exploring partnerships with re-



source-rich nations to ensure secure access to raw materials needed for magnet production. Industry experts said the proposed boost in incentives reflects India's broader strategy to strengthen its critical minerals ecosystem from exploration and mining to value addition and high-tech manufacturing. Earlier in the day, the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) had urged the government to set up a dedicated Department of Critical Minerals and adopt an "aggressive mineral diplomacy" to safeguard India from global supply-chain disruptions. The chamber also called for inter-ministerial coordination and strategic stockpiling of key

MEESHO, SHIPROCKET WITH 7 OTHERS TO LAUNCH IPOs

Seven companies, including Softbank-backed e-commerce firm Meesho and Temasek-backed e-commerce enablement platform Shiprocket, have secured SEBI approval to raise nearly ₹7,700 crore collectively, through initial public offerings (IPO), an update with the markets regulator showed, Monday. Others that received regulatory approval are German Green Steel and Power, Allied Engineering Works, Skyways Air Services, Rajputana Stainless and Manika Plastech. All seven companies, filed their preliminary IPO papers between May and July, obtained its observations during October 14 to 31



Sensex inches up 40 pts in muted trading



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 3: Benchmark Sensex edged up nearly 40 points while Nifty ended above 25,750 points in a muted trade, Monday, snapping the two-day declining streak on buying in select auto and banking shares. The 30-share BSE Sensex inched up by 39.78 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 83,978.49 as 14 of its constituents advanced and 16 declined. During the day, it hit a high of 84,127 and a low of 83,609.54. The 50-share NSE Nifty eked out a marginal gain of 41.25 points or 0.16 per cent to end at 25,763.35.

Profit taking at higher levels due to the absence of fresh domestic trigger and foreign fund outflows kept the market range-bound, analysts said. Among Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra was the biggest gainer, gaining 1.7 per cent after the October sales data. Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV) rose by 1.69 per cent. Eternal, State Bank of India, Bharti Airtel and Kotak Mahindra Bank were also among the major gainers. However, Maruti Suzuki dropped the most by 3.37 per cent. ITC, Tata Consultancy Services, Larsen & Toubro, Bharat Electronics and Titan were the major laggards. "The domestic market ended on a marginal positive note as profit-booking was visible at the higher levels due to the absence of fresh domestic triggers. While the broader market outperformed since the quarterly earnings are steering investors' preference to take a short-to-medium-term view," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said. The PSU Banking index remained a preferred bet for investors, driven by healthy earnings and improving asset quality. In contrast, IT stocks declined amid fading expecta-

OPGC observes Vigilance Awareness Week 2025

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Power Generation Corporation Ltd (OPGC) observed Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 across all its locations- including its Corporate Office in Bhubaneswar and the IB Thermal Power Station in Jharsuguda, from October 27 to November 2. The theme for this year's observance was "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility." A host of activities such as quiz, slogan, speech, art, and rangoli competitions were organised to promote awareness and participation. At the valedictory ceremony, the winners of various competitions were felicitated. Managing Director Kedar Ranjan Pandu presented awards at the Corporate Office, while Director (Operations) AR Dash and VP (Operations) Sukanta Mohapatra distributed prizes in the presence of the Ladies Club President and senior officials. Prem Narayan, IRSS, Principal Chief Materials Manager, East Coast Railway, addressed the gathering as Guest Speaker. The session was attended by OPGC's senior leadership and employees both in person and virtually.



Vedanta extends education support under Project Vidya

Bhubaneswar: Vedanta Aluminium has extended academic support to over 600 students of Classes 9 and 10 in government schools across Lakhapur block, Jharsuguda, under its flagship educational initiative Project Vidya. As part of the programme, the company distributed reference books published by the Odisha Secondary School Teachers' Association (OSSTA) to students of Banjari SSD Government High School, Piplimal High School, Khairkuni High School, Kuraloi and Luabahal High School, UGHS Jharpalram, and Government UGHS Chattabar. The books, covering both subjective and objective materials, aim to strengthen students' conceptual understanding and exam readiness ahead of the upcoming board examinations. "Education is the foundation for progress because it empowers individuals to think, innovate, and shape their future," said Rajiv Kumar, CEO of Vedanta Aluminium. "Through Project Vidya, we aim to equip students with the right learning tools and opportunities to help them succeed and contribute meaningfully to society." Appreciating the initiative, Rajendra Prasad Sahu, Block Education Officer, Lakhapur, remarked, "Vedanta Aluminium's Project Vidya will significantly help rural students excel academically. These reference books will enhance their preparedness and boost their confidence for board exams."



White collar hiring dips 9% in Oct

While the festive season led to a broad-based slowdown, sectors such as Accounting and Finance (15 per cent), Education (13 per cent), and BPO/ITES (6 per cent) defied the trend with positive growth, says report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 3: The white-collar hiring activity in October declined 9 per cent year-on-year as the Diwali-Dussehra festive holidays temporarily impacted recruitment momentum, a report said, Monday. India's white-collar hiring activity eased in October as the Diwali-Dussehra festive cluster temporarily slowed recruitment momentum, according to the Naukri JobSpeak Index report. The Naukri JobSpeak is a

monthly Index representing the Indian job market and hiring activity based on new job listings and job-related searches by recruiters on the resume database of Naukri.com. While the festive season led to a broad-based slowdown, sectors such as Accounting and Finance (15 per cent), Education (13 per cent), and BPO/ITES (6 per cent) defied the trend with positive growth, it stated. The growth in hiring in the education sector was propelled by fresher and startup hiring and this momentum was geo-



graphically widespread, with major contributions from Hyderabad (47 per cent), Chennai (34 per cent), and Bengaluru (31 per cent), it added. The demand for professionals in AI/ML roles also continued its unabated climb, with a significant 33 per cent year-on-year increase in hiring, said the report. However, other sectors, including bellwether IT (15 per cent) and banking (24 per

cent), witnessed a contraction in hiring activity during the month, it said. The hiring data for the IT sector revealed that the emerging technologies sub-sector, which includes companies working on blockchain and cryptocurrency, registered a 60 per cent year-on-year growth, showcasing sustained investment in future-forward skills. Further, the report revealed that hiring activity within IT unicorns remained stable this month, demonstrating considerably more resilience than IT hiring in Foreign MNCs (14 per cent) and global capability centres (15 per cent). The report also found that the demand for niche and high-skill talent continued to intensify, with several specialised roles posting exceptional growth.

TPCODL powers Baliyatra

Bhubaneswar: TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has undertaken extensive preparations to ensure uninterrupted and safe power supply for the upcoming historic Baliyatra festival in Cuttack, beginning November 5. Spanning 130 acres, the Baliyatra fairground has been fully electrified, with over 10,000 KVA capacity installed to cater to an estimated load of 3 megawatts. The company has facilitated around 1,000 temporary power connections for stall owners through a streamlined application process. To strengthen safety and reliability, TPCODL has implemented measures including proper fencing of substations and the use of LT AB cables for enhanced protection. Around 200 employees have been deployed to oversee operations, and 600 electric poles have been installed across the venue. Commenting on the preparations, Arvind Singh, CEO, TPCODL, said, "As Historic Baliyatra unfolds, TPCODL remains dedicated to making this festive season a secure and enjoyable experience for all. With our comprehensive planning and robust infrastructure, we are ensuring that the power needs of the festival are met efficiently and safely."



In a new dawn for Indian women's cricket, years of toil and near-misses culminated to redemption Sunday night as the team becomes only the fourth side to lift the ODI title

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, Nov 3: Even before the magical Sunday night on the outskirts of the Maximum City, women's cricket had already become a viable career option in India thanks to Women's Premier League.

But from Monday morning, women's cricket will not just be a career option, it would be a calling for the millions of girls, whose parents have remained sceptical about their daughters dreaming about wearing India Blues.

At least India's first World Cup winning women's team skipper Harmanpreet Kaur would love to believe after being the first among equals.

"We have been talking about this for many years - we've been playing good cricket, but we had to win one big tournament. (But) without that, we couldn't talk about change," Harmanpreet told the media after India's win.

"At the end of the day, fans and the audience want to see their favourite team win. It's not that we weren't playing good cricket, but we were waiting badly for this moment, and today we got a chance to live

22 YARDS AND NEW SONG OF GLORY



it. I don't know how to express it, but I'm so happy and so proud of this team," Harmanpreet looked composed but one could sense that she was going through a lot.

"I'm just trying to express what I'm feeling. I am numb. I am not able to understand. He (a journalist) asked two questions; I answered only one," she replied when asked to describe that "winning feeling" after being on the losing end several times.

If one looks at the Indian team, there was only cricketer from Metro City and

We have been talking about this for many years - we've been playing good cricket, but we had to win one big tournament. (But) without that, we couldn't talk about change

HARMANPREET KAUR

that is Mumbai's Jemimah Rodrigues.

The skipper hails from Punjab's Moga, her deputy comes from Sangli in Maharashtra.

₹51cr for Harmanpreet and Co: The BCCI Monday announced a cash award of ₹51 crore for the Harmanpreet Kaur-led squad and its support staff for winning the country's maiden ICC World Cup title. The Indian women's team under Harmanpreet's leadership beat South Africa by 52 runs in the final Sunday to win its first ever global trophy

The big-hitting Richa Ghosh belongs to North Bengal's Siliguri while Shafali Verma plied her trade in Haryana Rohtak. There is Deepti Sharma from

Agra, Shree Charani from Andhra's Eramalle and Renuka Thakur comes from a hilly small town named Rohru. For girls hailing from small

town and even at the start of the millennium, there was no systematic coaching.

You always had to be that girl, who played with the boys and wished that her talent was recognised and the potential realised.

"I used to play with boys, and the school principal picked me up, and within a year, I started representing the country."

In victory, one needs to be magnanimous and the Indian skipper didn't forget her predecessors, whose also have been a part of this journey.

Tribute to the OGs

Called the two OGs of Indian women's cricket -- Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami -- to hold the Cup. Both the legends broke down. It was a moment to frame when the skipper and her deputy Smriti Mandhana engaged in a bear hug with Jhulan, telling her "Didi, Yeh Aapke liye tha (Sister, this is for you)".

"When I joined the team, Jhulan di was my biggest support. She was captain back then. She always supported me in my early days when I was very raw and didn't know much about cricket," Harmanpreet said.

"In the initial days, Anjumdi supported me a lot. I always remember how she used to take me along with her team. I learnt a lot from her and passed it on to my team. Both of them have been a great support for me. I'm very grateful that I got to share a special moment with them. It was a very emotional moment," she added.

A LONG JOURNEY TO VICTORY	
ICC WOMEN'S WORLD CUP (ODI FORMAT)	
●	
1973 England - Didn't participate	
●	
1978 India - Group stage (India hosted; made their debut but didn't progress beyond the group stage)	
●	
1982 New Zealand - Group stage (Earned first World Cup win; showed promise under Diana Edulji)	
●	
1988 Australia - Didn't participate	
●	
1993 England - Finished fourth in the round-robin stage, India's best show till then.	
●	
1997 India - Semifinalist (Hosted the event for second time; lost to Australia in semifinals)	
●	
2000 New Zealand - Semifinalist (lost to New Zealand in the semis)	
●	
2005 South Africa - Runners-up (lost to Australia in the final)	
●	
2009 Australia - Third place (defeated Australia in third place play-off)	
●	
2013 India - Group stage (hosted in India for third time; failed to make super six, finishing bottom in Group A of four teams)	
●	
2017 England - Runners-up (lost to England at Lord's)	
●	
2022 New Zealand - group stage (failed to make semifinals, finishing fifth in round robin league)	
●	
2025 India - Champions (beat South Africa by 52 runs in Navi Mumbai)	

moment to the fullest. Well done Harman and the team. Jai Hind," wrote Kohli.

11167 runs but not good enough to play for India, now coaches women's team to World Cup trophy



AMOL'S 'CHAK DE' MOMENT

Amol Muzumdar had carried his scars of a "what could have been" for far too long. But not anymore though. One of the domestic doyens of 1990s, Muzumdar was a rare Mumbai stalwart, who missed out on a coveted Test cap due to presence Rahul Dravid, VVS Laxman and Sourav Ganguly in that Indian line-up. As a school cricketer, he remained padded forever as Sachin Tendulkar and Vinod Kambli recorded a 664 run stand for Sharadashram Vidyamandir in the Harris Shield final. For all his exploits at the domestic level - he scored 11167 runs in first-class cricket with an average of 48.13 - the right-handed batter never got to play for the country. This World Cup triumph, one is sure, will go some way towards wiping out that bitter disappointment. He never experienced the highs of an India cricketer but now he is a World Cup winning head coach and we have had only three -- Gary Kirsten, Rahul Dravid and now Amol Muzumdar. Kapil Dev's 'Class of 1983' didn't have any national coach as the concept was alien back then and MS Dhoni's 'Batch of 2007' had Lalchand Rajput, who was a stop-gap cricket manager. "It has not sunk in yet but probably as the days go by, it will sink in. But it's a surreal feeling," he said when asked about his reaction to winning the tournament."

WORDS OF PRAISE FROM FRATERNITY

India raised a toast to the women's cricket team after its historic maiden World Cup victory, with leading sports personalities, political figures, corporate honchos, Bollywood actors calling it a "defining" moment that could inspire an entire generation. "1983 inspired an entire generation to dream big and chase those dreams. Today, our Women's Cricket Team has done something truly special," cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar wrote on 'X'. "They have inspired countless young girls across the country to pick up a bat and ball, take the field and believe that they too can lift that trophy one day. "This is a defining moment in the journey of Indian women's cricket. Well done, Team India. You've made the whole nation proud." Calling it an iconic moment, Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya wrote: "History scripted! What an iconic performance by our Women in Blue. 140 crore Indians are cherishing this proud moment. Congratulations, World Champions!." Former captain Mithali Raj said her dream of

seeing Indian women's team lifting the World Cup trophy was realised. "Champions of the World. I've seen this dream for over two decades, to watch the Indian women lift that World Cup trophy. Tonight, that dream finally came true. "From the heartbreak of 2005 to the fight of 2017, every tear, every sacrifice, every young girl who picked up a bat believing we belong here, it all led to this

moment. "To the new champions of world cricket, you didn't just win a trophy, you won every heart that ever beat for Indian women's cricket." Star cricketer Virat Kohli lauded the team for playing "fearless" cricket. "Inspiration for generations to come, you've made every Indian proud with your fearless cricket and belief throughout. You guys deserve all the accolades and enjoy the



PGTI'S DEBUT IN ODISHA

Inaugural Dilip Tirkey Invitational to begin at Bhubaneswar Golf Club

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: The inaugural Dilip Tirkey Invitational will be played at the magnificent Bhubaneswar Golf Club from November 4 to 6. The eighth and final event of the 2025 Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) NEXGEN season marks PGTI's debut in the state of Odisha.

The tournament offers a prize purse of ₹20 lakh. The winner's cheque will be of ₹2,54,000. The tournament, featuring a field of 72 players, will be played over three rounds (54 holes) with the cut being applied after two rounds (36 holes). The top-36 players and ties will make the cut for the third and final round.

The field will feature leading professional golfers from

all across India. The prominent local names competing include those of professionals Ankit Padhi and Satya Ranjan Pattanaik as well as amateur Pradeep Bhagat.

The PGTI NEXGEN Order of Merit is currently being led by Lucknow's Sanjeev Kumar, who has the season's earnings of ₹7,08,740.

The winner of this year's NEXGEN Order of Merit will earn an exemption on the main tour (PGTD) for the 2026 season.

The PGTI has so far staged events across India in 17 States, 2 Union Territories and the National Capital Territory of Delhi. With the staging of the Dilip Tirkey Invitational, the PGTI makes its first foray into the state of Odisha, thus further expanding its geographical footprint in the country to 18 States.



Sinner replaces Alcaraz at No 1

The Italian star reclaims World No 1 with first Paris Masters crown; year-ending top spot still uncertain

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome, Nov 3: It's not just Grand Slam titles that Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz have taken turns collecting this year.

The top two tennis players are also trading the No 1 ranking back and forth.

Sinner officially returned to the top spot in the ATP rankings Monday following his Paris Masters victory -- replacing Alcaraz, who had held the honor for nearly two months.

But due to the rankings' math and rules, Alcaraz will return to No 1 next Monday.

The Italian and the Spaniard are separated by so few points now -- Sinner leads with 11,500 points to Alcaraz's 11,250 -- that it will come down to their performances at the upcoming ATP Finals in Turin to determine who ends the year at No 1.

While neither Sinner nor Alcaraz are playing this week -- except for when the ATP Finals start Sunday -- the reason the rankings will change again next Monday is because that's the day when the points from each player's performance at last year's finals drops off.

Sinner next week will lose the 1,500 points he earned from winning the finals last year, while Alcaraz will lose only the 200 points that he earned



SEE-SAW BATTLE: Sinner and Alcaraz have amassed their huge points totals by winning -- among other tournaments -- all four of this year's majors. Sinner won the Australian Open. Then Alcaraz beat Sinner in an epic French Open final. Sinner got some revenge by beating Alcaraz in the Wimbledon final. And then Alcaraz beat Sinner again for the US Open trophy

after failing to advance from the group stage.

So next Monday, the rankings will read: Alcaraz 11,050

and Sinner 10,000.

And there's zero possibility for any other player to move into the top two spots any-

time soon since No 3 Alexander Zverev (5,560 points), No 4 Taylor Fritz (4,735) and No 5 Novak Djokovic (4,580) trail far behind.

ATP Finals seedings

Making matters more complicated is that Alcaraz will be seeded No 1 for the finals -- even though he won't be ranked No 1 entering that tournament.

That's because the finals uses another rankings system -- the "Race to Turin" that takes into account only points accumulated in the calendar year.

Alcaraz leads Sinner by more than 1,000 points in the Race rankings.

Sinner lost ground in both systems during a three-month doping suspension near the start of the year.

Year-ending scenarios

Sinner needs to win the ATP Finals and hope Alcaraz doesn't reach the final to secure the year-end No. 1 for a second consecutive year.

Alcaraz needs to win three matches at the finals to finish 2025 atop the rankings for the second time in his career. Alcaraz became the youngest player to finish a year at No 1 when he achieved the feat as a 19-year-old in 2022.

As for the WTA rankings, Aryna Sabalenka has already secured the year-ending No 1 spot.

World's oldest living gold medallist Charles Coste departs at 101

REUTERS

Paris, Nov 3: French cyclist Charles Coste, who had been the world's oldest living Olympic gold medallist, has died aged 101, French media reported Sunday.

Coste, who won Olympic gold in track cycling's team pursuit alongside Pierre Adam, Serge Blusson, and Fernand Decanali, passed away Thursday.

He had been the world's oldest living Olympic gold medallist following the death of Hungarian artistic gymnast Agnes Keleti at the age of 103 2 January 2025.

Coste was one of the torchbearers during the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympics.

His record also includes the 1949 Grand Prix des Nations, a 140-km time trial in which he beat Italian Fausto Coppi, a Tour de France and Giro d'Italia champion.

