

random beauty filter apps saying they set unrealistic

LEISURE | P2



UPS plane crash

Death toll from the crash of a UPS cargo plane in Louisville, Kentucky Tuesday has risen to 9

INTERNATIONAL | P10



US sanctions impact

India to cut direct imports of Russian crude from late November, following new US sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil

BUSINESS | P11



Modi lauds eves

PM Modi meets the victorious Indian women's cricket team, praises their remarkable resilience and WC comeback

SPORTS | P12

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BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 6, 2025

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



His contribution to strengthening our democracy is immense... He voted 223 times in the last election

Forester killed, 3 hurt in collision



POST NEWS NETWORK

Papadahandi/Nabarangpur, Nov 5: A forester was killed and three others of the same profession were seriously injured when their car and a pickup van collided head-on near Dengaguda Chhak on the Bharatmala road in Nabarangpur district Wednesday.

According to reports, foresters Gupta Prasad Mohanty, Kamakhva Prasad Swain, and Tanui Kumar Parichha were travelling in a car from Umerkote towards G. Udayagiri to attend a forest training programme.

Near Dengaguda, their vehicle collided head-on with a pickup van coming from the opposite direction.

All four occupants, including the pickup driver, sustained critical injuries. Local residents rushed to the scene and rescued the victims. While Forester Gupta Prasad Mohanty died on the spot, the others were taken to the Nabarangpur District Headquarters Hospital.

After initial treatment, foresters Kamakhya Prasad Swain and Tanuj Kumar Parichha were shifted to Visakhapatnam Medical College as their condition deteriorated. The pickup driver, identified as Anabesh Mandal, is undergoing treatment at the Nabarangpur District Headquarters Hospital.

The body of the deceased forester has been kept at the DHH for postmortem. Informed, Papadahandi and Kodinga police reached the spot and launched an investigation into the accident.

₹1.68L-cr cash sops for women

The practice of offering cash transfers, which began with farmers in Odisha, has since expanded to other sections. Think tank PRS Legislative Research in a report said 12 states including Odisha will spend ₹1.68 lakh crore on such schemes for women in 2025-26, with six already running revenue deficits. The number of states giving such womencentric sops has gone to 12 from just two states three years ago. While schemes such as Odisha's Subhadra Yojana enhance women's welfare, they also strain state budgets, limiting fiscal space for developmental and capital expenditure. Economists and the RBI have warned that this rising expenditure signals a "freebies culture", where welfare promises are increasingly used to appease vote banks ahead of elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: A total of 12 states across India will collectively spend ₹1.68 lakh



crore on unconditional cash transfer (UCT) schemes for women in 2025-26, up from just two states implementing such programmes three years ago, according to a new report by think tank PRS Legislative Research.

The report said six of these 12 states have projected a revenue deficit this year, highlighting growing fiscal pressure linked to the rapid expansion of women-centric welfare pay-

Among the 12 states implementing UCT schemes, six have estimated a revenue deficit in 2025-26. However, adjusting the revenue balance to exclude spending on UCT schemes shows an improvement in fiscal indicators of these states, the report said.

Unconditional cash transfer (UCT) schemes, which aim to empower women from economically weaker households through monthly direct benefit payments, have become a key welfare feature in several

The number of states providing largely unconditional cash transfers (UCT) to women has increased from two states in 2022-23 to 12 states in 2025-26.

The primary beneficiaries of these schemes are selected on the basis of an income threshold, age group, and other factors.

States such as Assam and West Bengal have sharply increased their allocations to women's UCTs over the previous year by 31 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively.

Crucial initiatives include Tamil Nadu's Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam, Madhya Pradesh's Ladli Behna Yojana, and Karnataka's Gruha Lakshmi scheme, each offering monthly support ranging from ₹1,000 to ₹1,500 for

women in eligible households. However, the report cau-

tioned that these schemes are adding strain to state budgets. Adjusted fiscal estimates

show that Karnataka, for example, would move from a revenue deficit of 0.6 per cent of its GSDP to a surplus of 0.3 per cent if the UCT expenditure were excluded. Similarly, Madhya Pradesh's surplus would improve from 0.4 per cent to 1.1 per cent.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had earlier warned that rising expenditure on subsidies and cash transfers for women, youth, and farmers could reduce fiscal space for productive spending.

Some states have already adjusted benefits to manage costs. Maharashtra cut monthly payouts under the CM Ladki Bahin Yojana in April 2025, while Jharkhand increased payments under the CM Maiyan Samman Yojana to ₹2,500 per month in late 2024.

6 WOMEN PILGRIMS RUN OVER BY TRAIN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

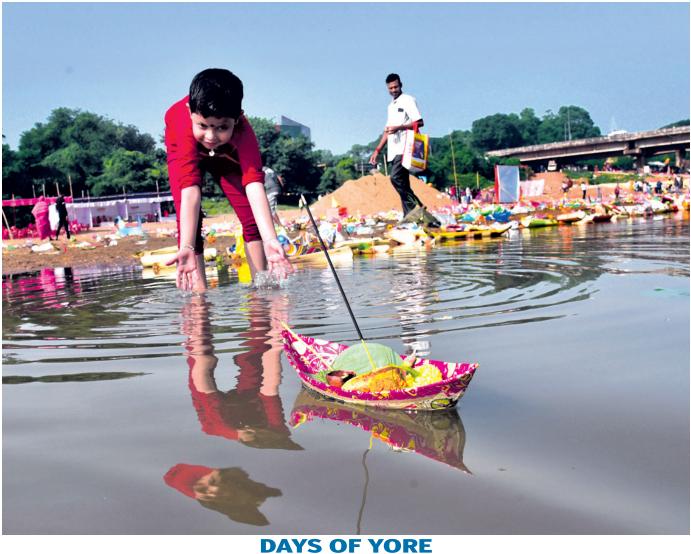
Mirzapur (UP), Nov 5: Six women were run over by an incoming train Wednesday while they were alighting from the wrong side at Chunar Railway Station, a railway official said

The incident took place at about 9.30am when the pas sengers got off the Chopan Express on the track and were hit by the approaching Netaji Express train from Howrah to Kalkaji, Amit Singh, Public Relations Officer, NCR Prayagraj Division, told PTI.

The deceased had come here for Kartik Purnima Snan.

The Chopan Express had halted at platform four of the station, and the passengers chose to get down on the track, though there is a footover bridge, the railways said.

These passengers had come to Mirzapur for Kartik Purnima Snan (bath). Despite the availability of a footover bridge, they were crossing the platform from the tracks due to which the incident happened Railways said in a statement.



A child floats a miniature boat in Kuakhai river as a man looks on during Kartika Purnima celebrations in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

₹46K-cr plans for new port, shipbuilding project: CM

PNN & AGENCIES

Paradip, Nov 5: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday announced plans to set up a new port at Bahuda in Ganiam district and a shipbuilding and repair centre at the Mahanadi river mouth near Paradip with a total investment of over ₹46,000 crore.

Majhi made the announcement while addressing a function to mark the foundation day of Paradip Port and the celebration of 'Boita Bandana Utsav' at

He also spoke about the state government's proposal to establish a world-class cruise terminal in Puri.

The state government and the Paradip Port Authority are jointly planning to construct a large port at Bahuda in Ganiam district with an investment of ₹21,500 crore, he said.

Similarly, a shipbuilding and repair centre will be established at the mouth of the Mahanadi near Paradip at an investment of ₹24,700 crore, while a world-class cruise terminal will come up in Puri, he said, adding that these projects will give a new direction to the key sectors of trade, tourism and industry of the state.

Highlighting the key role of Paradip Port in the state's economic growth, Majhi said the facility has been recognised as the best large port in India. The port's cargo handling capacity, which was 71 million tonnes in 2015, has been enhanced to 150 million tonnes by 2025, he said

Noting that the Paradip Port is the gateway to the progress of modern Odisha, he said it will be developed as a mega facility with an annual cargo handling capacity of 300 million tonnes according to 'Maritime India Vision 2030' and up to 500 million tonnes according to the 'Developed India 2047' plan.

The CM also said a port-based economy has developed in Odi sha in coordination with the Central govenrment's 'Sagar mala, Gati Shakti and Nation al Logistics Policy' scheme. The state government is making ef forts to set up Coastal Economic Zones in the maritime areas, he said. Later in the day, the CM inaugurated Mayfair Hotels & Resorts in Paradip.

While attending the Kalinga Bali Jatra festival in Paradip Tuesday, Majhi had announced that the port town will have a greenfield airport and also become a hub of green hydrogen.

TRADITION TURNS MODERN

Swiss seek UNESCO shout-out for yodeling

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lucerne (Switzerland), Nov 5: Yodel-ay-hee ... what! Those famed yodelling calls that for centuries have echoed through the Alps, and more recently have morphed into popular song and folk music, could soon reap a response — from faraway Paris.

Switzerland's government is looking for a shout-out from the UN cultural agency UNESCO, based in the French capital. to include the tradition of yodelling on its list of intangible cultural heritage. A decision is expected by year-end.

Modern-day promoters emphasise that the vodel is far more than the mountain cries of yesteryear by falsetto-bellowing male herders in suspenders who intone alongside giant Alphorns atop verdant hillsides. It's now a popular form of singing.

Over the last century, yodelling clubs sprouted up in Switzerland, building upon the tradition and broadening its appeal — with its tones. techniques and tremolos finding their way deeper into the musical lexicon internationally in classical, jazz and folk. US country crooners prominently blended yodels into their songs in the late 1920s and 30s

About seven years ago, the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, or HSLU by its German-language acronym, became the first Swiss university to teach yodelling.

"For me, actually, in Switzerland we have four languages, but I think really we have five languages. We have a fifth 'The yodel'," said HSLU professor Nadja Räss, alluding to the official German, French, Italian and Romansh languages in Switzerland. Yodelling exists in neighbouring Austria, Germany and Italy, but Swiss yodelling is distinctive because of its vocal technique, she said.



In its early days, yodelling involved chants of wordless vowel sounds, or "natural yodelling," with melodies but no lyrics. More recently, "yodelling song" has included verses and a refrain.

The Swiss government says at least 12,000 yodelers take part through about 780 groups of the

Swiss Yodelling Association. In Switzerland, Räss said, vodelling is built on the "sound colours of the voice" and features two types one centring on the one emanating from deeper down in the chest — with an "o" sound.

And even within Switzerland, styles vary — Yodelling in the northern region near Appenzell is more "melancholic, slower," while in the country's central regions, the sounds are "more intense and shorter," she said.

What began as mostly a male activity is now drawing more and more women in a country that only finalised the right to vote for all women in the 1980s. long after most of its European neighbours.

Julien Vuilleumier, a scientific adviser for the Federal Office of Culture who is spearheading the Swiss request, said it's tough to trace the origins of yodelling, which factors into the imagery of the

UNESCO's government-level committee for Intangible Heritage in New Delhi will decide in mid-December.

Dhoom machale: Zohran makes history, wins NY mayoral polls

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Nov 5: Zohran Mamdani, the 34-vear-old Indi an-origin democratic socialist, pulled off a stunning victory in the fiercely contested New York city mayoral elections. riding on an electrifying campaign to become the first South Asian, Muslim and youngest in a century to helm the administration of the world's financial capital.

Mamdani, the son of Indian filmmaker Mira Nair and Indian-origin scholar Mahmood Mamdani, defeated former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, a scandal-hit Democrat who ran as an independent, and Republican nominee Curtis Sliwa, in the keenly-watched contest that grabbed global attention.

His historic victory to run the city of more than 8.4 million people is seen as a comeback of



hoom Machale... The exuberant, celebratory track from the 2004 blockbuster Dhoom rounded off Zohran Mamdani's victory speech, more evidence that New York's newly elected mayor embraces his many identities with a light-as-souffle touch. As Mamdani concluded his speech before hundreds of supporters with "New York, this power it's yours. This city belongs to you. Thank you", the title track of the Abhishek Bachchan-John Abraham starrer started playing in the background. The use of "Dhoom Machale" set social media abuzz, with many users applauding Mamdani for his choice.

progressive politics, with Mamdani vowing to prioritise working-class issues as he proposed initiatives like free childcare, rent-freeze, free bus services, and government-run grocery stores to make New York affordable to live.

In a fiery speech, Mamdani described his victory as the "dawn of a new age for New York" and said "together, we will usher in

a generation of change". "New York, tonight you have delivered a mandate for change, a mandate for a new

kind of politics, a mandate for a city we can afford," the Uganda-born state lawmaker told his supporters at Brooklyn Paramount Theater. He will be inaugurated as the

111th mayor of New York in January, Currently a member of the Queens state assembly, Mamdani emerged victorious securing over 50 per cent of the votes. Cuomo, 67, who was endorsed by Trump trailed behind with just over 40 per cent votes while Sliwa garnered a mere seven per cent of the votes. P10

eisure



STAGE AFTER 7-YR HIATUS Radiohead, one of the most influential bands, has made a scintillating return to the stage. This comes after a seven-year hiatus as they took to the stage in an electrifying Madrid con-

Movistar Arena, reports Female First UK.

RADIOHEAD IS BACK ON

cert. The rockers kicked off their long-awaited European tour with a 25-song set at Madrid's

FAMKE HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT HER BOND ROLE

Actress Famke Janssen has admitted she feared being a Bond Girl could have ruined her career. The 61-yearold landed her big break in Hollywood when she was cast as Xenia Onatopp opposite Pierce Brosnan as 007 in 1995's *GoldenEye*.



Sharvari: The

next gen star

Mumbai: Sharvari continues to rise as one of the

most promising new-age talents in Bollywood.

With an impressive lineup of upcoming projects,

she is steadily cementing her position as a ver-

satile and bankable actor. Her diverse film choices have her collaborating with some of

the industry's most acclaimed filmmakers,

highlighting her growing demand and

Sharvari will next be seen in Aditya

She has also been cast as the leading

lady in Sooraj Barjatya's upcoming

family drama, opposite Ayushmann

In addition, the actress is set to

star in Imtiaz Ali's next romantic

film alongside Vedang Raina and

Diljit Dosanjh, adding another

distinct genre to her growing rep

ertoire. She will also headline Ali

Abbas Zafar's next project under

Yash Raj Films, opposite Saiyaa-

ra sensation Ahaan Panday. The

fresh on-screen duo is being touted

as one of the most exciting pairs to

Trade analyst Taran Adarsh shared his thoughts on Sharvari's

rising trajectory, saying, "I have

always believed that Sharvari is

a star in the making. The fact that

so many top directors have chosen

her to lead their projects shows the

kind of presence she brings to the

With such a wide range of films on the

horizon, Sharvari is poised to become one

of the defining stars of the next generation in

Chopra's Alpha, a much-awaited addi-

tion to the YRF Spy Universe.

Khurrana.

look forward to.

screen.'

SUDOKU

3

4

8

9 8

2

3

₹ Ganesha Speaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

The monotony of your humdrum existence will get to you today, says Ganesha. A change of décor is what you may have in mind. Money may not be an issue, and

a quick fix may result in a little partying in the evening. You want to show off your beautiful and serene ambience, don't you?

TAURUS

You might wake up yawning and keep yawning through-out today as lethargy gets the better of you. You may end up spending your day with loved ones, relaxing, while your wallet stresses out. New projects will wait in the shadow of your procrastination, predicts Ganesha.

A busy day for you as the

look of your house needs a change, predicts Ganesha. But it may have little to do with its need than yours to impress your colleagues and friends. The renovation will mainly be in the interiors of the house, mostly to get them in sync with the state of your mind.

CANCER

Today, you will long to be with your loved ones, says Ganesha. You will probably plan to refurnish and refurbish your residence. You may get a little stingy when it comes to making payments. You will spend the evening talking to a soul mate on phone,

Dashing off in a mad rush

never got anyone anywhere. Hence, Ganesha advises you to slow down a bit on this cheerful day. On the business front, you may be slightly concerned about the state of your finances; after all, a smooth functioning of one's enterprise largely depends on the flow of money.

VIRGO

You're the magician when it comes to people and relationships, says Ganesha. Later in the day, you may become all hush-hush about certain affairs. The real when you realise fun and frolic have been big-tickets. Ganesha foresees a happy and cheerful day, nonetheless,

LIBRA

Ganesha says that there are chances that you may start with a new business venture today. Those of you from the fields of Interior designing, beauty parlor, fashion boutiques etc will be able to gain success today. The day is a monetary bene

SCORPIO

At work, your day won't be smooth enough as you come across few hurdles. However, nothing will stop you from achieving short-term targets. Besides work, health will demand much of your attention today. You may even show an inclination towards the supernatural, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS Stars are aligned in a way

that they shower both, luck & money on you today. Profits and achievements galore at business front, says Ganesha. You may go on a shopping spree with your partner and splurge on the exclusive jewellery. Tighten your purse strings.

CAPRICORN Ambitions give direction to

life. You will harbour guite a few today, says Ganesha. At work, you will strive for perfection and watch out for every minute detail that can ruin the expected results. Also, you will be brilliant with executing ideas and ensuring coordination among team mates. At the end of it all, you can expect to get positive results for your day's work.

.......

AQUARIUS

Do you feel slightly awkward in social gatherings? Do you wonder how to break the ice and strike a conversation? Don't be conscious, in fact, be yourself to feel comfortable, feels Ganesha. You may find it difficult to get rid of some petty issues today. Listen to music, sing or play an instrument; it will relax your mind.

PISCES

invaluable, says Ganesha.

In spite of the pressure and stress you will be labouring under at the workplace today, you can expect to excel in all the activities that you choose to pursue. On the domestic front, the support that your family members extend will prove to be



Mumbai: Bollywood actress Soha Ali Khan, who hosted a podcast show, recently had television star Jannat Zubair gracing her show. Both the actresses were seen indulging in some mature conversation. Soha, tapping into the subject of the digital world, asked

Jannat which app she wished never existed, to which Jannat had a very mature answer. Jannat, calling it a tough choice, said, "Random beauty filter apps. They just set such unrealistic beauty standards, especially for the younger

audience." She added, "A little fun is okay, like if a pimple pops up in a picture, you remove it. You do a normal smoothening of the skin just to make it more clear a little bit, etc. All these things are okay, but you can't like completely change your face.'

Sharing examples, Zubair said, "I have met people; they look so different in the pictures, and then when you see them, you are shocked. "The apps – they will change your lips and your eyes; they'll give you some dimples, they will give you a good jawline and cheekbones, and they will slim your waist and all of that, and it's scary," she elaborated.

Fans were quick enough to laud the actress' maturity and thought process at such a young age. IANS



Mumbai: Seasoned actor Yami Gautam has candidly addressed a seldom discussed issue: being nominated often but never winning a major film award. In an interview ahead of her upcoming release, Haq, she revealed that the lack of an award win no longer defines her sense of self-worth. Gautam, who has earned

nominations for top honours such as the Filmfare Awards and IIFA Awards for works like A Thursday, Article 370 and Bala, acknowledged the fact that while these nods are meaningful, the trophy cabinet has remained empty.
As she explained: "As

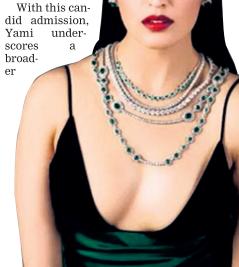
much as I have understood the Bhagwat Geeta, what Lord Krishna says to Arjun is true. Not that I have become that detached like the most perfect human, but if you have the ability to detach from the success and the fear of losing or seeking validation through somebody else's perspective, you are fine. I have stopped seeking any kind of validation from anvone.

Gautam emphasised that

the deepest reward for her message for the induscomes from the audience and try and audience alike: the creative journey itself, true validation may not rather than a physical

accolade. "The fact that my audience loves me, certain directors and producers are willing to take a punt on me, no award is bigger than these.'

With this candid admission, under-Yami scores broad-

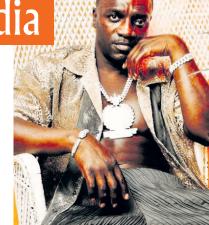


always come with a trophy, but rather through authenti-

city, impact and connection. AGENCIES

Mumbai: Global music sensation Akon is set to electrify India this November with the biggest party of the year. Famous for his chart-topping hits and dynamic performances, Akon will bring his unmatched energy to Delhi (Nov 9), Bangalore (Nov 14), and Mumbai (Nov 16) a tour that promises unforgettable nights of music, rhythm, and pure fire.

In a special message to fans, Akon shared his excitement for the upcoming shows, "Y'all ready, India? It's your boy Akon! You know I had to November, I'm bringing the party of



hit you with a little Chammak Chalo to get the vibes right. Guess what? This the year straight to YOU. So don't wait click that link, grab your tickets, and come turn up with me live on tour, India style. Can't wait to see my people, my fans, my fam out there let's make history together! Much love."

With hits like Smack That, Lonely Don't Matter, Right Now (Na Na Na) and the Bollywood favourite Cham mak Chalo, Akon's return to India is more than just a concert; it is the union of music that shaped an entire generation.

The concert is brought to you by White Fox and coproduced by Percept Live. Aman Kumar, co-founder of White Fox said, "Bringing Akon back to India is a full-circle moment for fans who grew up with his music.

Presented by HSBC and co-presented by The Spirit of KASHMYR, tickets for the concerts will be available exclusively on District by Zomato.

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

> 6 1

> > 9

4 5 9

8 6

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5

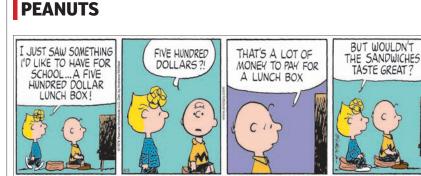
3

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the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



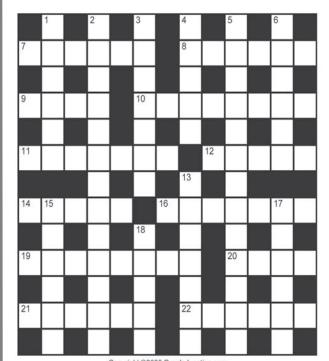
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



DOST **CROSSWORD**



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Across

7 Manx, e.g.

8 Atone 9 Commuting

option

10 Double-faced

(3-5)

11 Come apart

12 Blue-pencils

14 African grassland

<u>Down</u>

(8,5)

1 Hold up

tail

19 Play venues

20 Old World duck

2 Snooker venue

21 Utilise 5 Ring outcome, 22 Cigar

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

16 Bird with fanlike 3 Luxury motor

possibly (5,8)

4 Hilda's

transport?

6 Bug

13 Endure

15 Dig up 17 Lowlife

18 Hee-haws

SOLUTIONS R U H C A S N O O U G A Z E L L E S E T N A

SUDOKU

CROSSWORD

owntown

than 2.5, then it is classified as Common, the official said. In addition to the MSP, the state government has been paying Rs 800 per quintal as input subsidy from the state to the farmers. It was a major promise made by the BJP in its election manifesto.

Odisha to procure paddy at ₹2,369 this KMS Bhubaneswar: Following the Central government's decision to hike the paddy minimum support price (MSP) by Rs 69 per quintal, the Odisha government is also going to procure paddy at a MSP of Rs 2,369

per guintal for common variety during the 2025-26 Kharif marketing season, an official said Wednesto a notification issued by the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department, recently. All paddy

varieties are classified into two Grades - 'A' and 'Common' - based on the length and breadth ratio (LB). If the ratio is greater than and equal to 2.5, then it is classified as Grade A, and if the ratio is less

CM opens Cuttack Bali Yatra, raises govt grant by ₹8 crore

Cuttack, Nov 5: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday inaugurated the famous Bali Yatra on the banks of the Mahanadi river here and announced an increase in the government grant for the festival from Rs 2 crore to Rs 10 crore.

He also said the state government has prepared a comprehensive plan for beautification of Cuttack's Mahanadi riverfront at a cost of Rs 200 crore under the Mahanadi River Front Scheme.

Describing Bali Yatra as the living memory of the pride, courage and commercial history of Odisha, Majhi said the government is committed to preserving this legacy.

He added that Cuttack, known as the Silver City, will be developed into a silver filigree hub.

"The state government is making efforts to secure UNE-

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Odisha

celebrated Boita Bandana, a rit-

ual in which miniature boats

are floated in water bodies to

mark the state's maritime tradi-

tion, on the occasion of Kartika

President Droupadi Murmu,

In a post on X, she said, "On

this auspicious occasion of the

historic Bali Yatra and Boita

Bandana, I extend my heart-

felt best wishes to the people

of the country, especially to the

people of Odisha, Bali Yatra is

a symbol of Odisha's glorious

maritime trade tradition and

cultural heritage. I believe

that by drawing inspiration

from our glorious past, we

will work together to build a

Governor Hari Babu Kam-

bhampati, Chief Minister Mo-

han Charan Majhi and Leader

of the Opposition in the state

Assembly Naveen Patnaik al-

so greeted the people on the

who hails from Odisha, extend-

Purnima Wednesday.

ed her greetings.

developed India.

unveil a booklet during the inauguration of Bali Yatra in the Silver City, SCO World Heritage Site status for the historic Bali Yatra. Development works of Odisha's pride, Barabati Fort and Gadakhai, have already begun, and projects for Dhabaleswar

Over 3 lakh devotees

witness Suna Besha

Puri: Over three lakh devotees

Purnima Wednesday, Following

completion of the daily rituals,

three special sets of servitors

took nearly two hours. To

adorned the deities with golden

accommodate a larger number

temple administration skipped

Brata concluded on Purnima-

Wednesday. Devotees took holy

dips in the sea, offered prayers to

the rising sun, floated tiny boats,

People from various walks

of life participated in the Boi-

ta Bandana as large congre-

gations were seen at Bindu

Sagar near Lingaraj Temple

and Kuakhai in Bhubaneswar,

Gadagadia Ghat in Cuttack and

water bodies in different places

and later visited Srimandir to

witness the Suna Besha.

'Pahuda'. The month-long Kartika

of devotees for darshan, the

ornaments. The dressing process

witnessed the Suna Besha of

Srimandir deities on Kartika

copies of it. Peetha and Nandi Kishore Peetha on the Mahanadi bank The Bali Yatra, one of the largest open-air fairs in Asia, Odisha celebrates Boita Bandana

the CM said.

CM Mohan Charan Majhi, Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, MPs

Debashish Samantaray and Bhartruhari Mahtab, Barabati-Cuttack MLA

Sofia Firdous and Ambassador of Indonesia to India, Ina Krisnamurthi,

will continue for seven days till November 12, an official said. The festival's theme is 'Aama Bhasha, Aama Sahitya' (Our Language. Our Literature).

will also be taken up soon,'

The CM also unveiled a

booklet on the occasion and

the Cuttack District adminis-

tration will distribute one lakh

highlighting the significance of Odia language and literature. For the first time, the 'Cuttack-In-Cuttack' pavilion has been entirely dedicated to showcasing Odia literary works, writers, and the evolution of the language through

the ages, the official said. The fair is held in remembrance of the sea sailing tradition of Odia 'Sadhabas' (traders) who used to go on sea voyages for trade to places like erstwhile Bali, Java and Sumatra in vessels called 'Boita'.

The traders in ancient days set out for the long journey on Kartika Purnima. "To commemorate that glorious event, Odisha observes this Bali Yatra fair in Cuttack," the official said.

The fair is spread over more than 20 acres, on two fairgrounds with 2,500 makeshift stalls, the official said.

Both the district administration and police have made elaborate arrangements for the fair.

NUAPADA BYPOLL: MAJHI,

BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik and Telangana CM Anumula Revanth Reddy are scheduled to seek votes for their respective candidates November 7

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and his Chhattisgarh counterpart Vishnu Deo Sai are scheduled to campaign for BJP's Nuapada bypoll candidate Jay Dholakia Thursday, while BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik will visit the western Odisha district to seek votes for his party candidate Snehangini Chhuria Friday, official sources said Wednesday.

road show in Komna block of Nuapada, while Sai will address a public meeting at Panchampur November 6. BJP sources said.

Nuapada district shares borders with Mahasamund and Gariaband of Chhattis-

Earlier, Majhi had attended the BJP's 'Vijay Sankalp Samavesh' during which he took a sharp dig at the previous BJD government and accused it of neglecting Nuapada during its 24 years of rule in the state.

A few hours before the announcement of the date of the bypoll, Majhi had unveiled a Rs 1,100-crore package for the development of Nuapada district. Meanwhile, the BJD president Wednesday

In a video message, Patnaik conveyed his warm greetings. saying 'Juhar' to the people of Nuapada and thanked them for their continued affection and support. He announced that he will be visiting Nuapada and Khariar Road November 7 to meet the people once again, interact with them, and seek their blessings for the BJD candidate. The Congress, in a post on

X, said that Telangana Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy will campaign for the party's candidate Ghasiram Majhi, a prominent tribal leader, November 7. The Congress had earlier

included Reddy, his deputy Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot in its list of 40 star campaigners for the Nuapada byelection.

The Nuapada byelection was necessitated due to the untimely demise of sitting BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia September 8.

The polling for the Nuapada byelection will be held November 11. The campaigning for the bypoll will end November 9. officials said.

Cong alleges MCC violation by BJP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: A five-member women's delegation of the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) met the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Odisha Wednesday, to lodge a formal complain regarding an alleged violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by BJP workers during the Nuapada by-election campaign.

In the absence of the CEO the delegation submitted a memorandum to the Additional Chief Electoral Officer, alleging that several women members and workers of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have been openly distributing sarees and other gift items among women voters in various panchayats of the Nuapada Assembly constituency. The delegation further alleged that each saree packet which were handed over to the women voters also contained Rs 500 in cash. Such actions they said, are clearly intended to influence and entice voters. constituting a serious and pun ishable offence under Section 123(1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (Bribery) and a violation of the Model Code of Conduct.

They added that such activities not only jeopardize the fairness and integrity of the electoral process but also create an unethical and discriminatorv environment against other contesting political parties.

SAI TO CAMPAIGN TODAY

meeting November 3.

Majhi is slated to hold a

The polling for the Nuapada byelection will be held November 11. The campaigning for the bypoll will

> announced that he will again visit Nuapada November 7 to campaign for the BJD candidate in the bypoll.

end November 9

He expressed a heartfelt gratitude to the people of Nuapada for their overwhelming response and massive participation at the Komna public

Women BJD leaders condemn Jay's anti-Naveen remarks

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Women leaders of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Wednesday strongly condemned the alleged false remarks made against party supremo Naveen Patnaik by BJP's Nuapada byelection candidate Jay Dholakia and his mother Kalpana Bhaunii.

Addressing a press conference. BJD women leaders said Naveen Patnaik is regarded by the people of Odisha as a "father figure" who treats all 4.5 crore Odias as his own

"No one can make false ac-

cusations against such a person," they said. "Blinded by its lust for power, the BJP has stooped to a new low, something we never imagined. This is extremely unfortunate and deserves the strongest condemnation", they said.

Former minister Tukuni Sahu, MLA Barsha Singh Bariha, and former MLAs Dipali Das and Alka Mohanty were among those who criticized the comments, calling them "BJP-instigated and base-

Tukuni Sahu said the allegations made by the family of late minister Rajendra Dholakia that Naveen Patnaik and

the BJD neglected him, are "completely false and deplorable." "Raju Bhai was a loyal BJD leader for 24 years and was given ministerial posts and key responsibilities. Even after his illness and death, neither Naveen Babu nor the BJD abandoned his family," she said.

Sahu added that it was Naveen Patnaik who had initially proposed Jay Dholakia's candidature for the Nuapada by-election. "But Jay went to Delhi and sold himself out. Before pointing fingers at Naveen Babu, his mother should answer for her son's betrayal," she said.

BJD MLA Barsha Singh Bariha said the party's sup port in Nuapada has strengthened after Naveen Patnaik joined the campaign. "This has terrified the BJP, which in desperation has forced Ra ju Bhai's family members to speak lies. The people of Nua pada will never tolerate such cheap politics," she stated.

Former MLA Dipali Das accused Jay Dholakia and his family of betraying the BJD "Naveen Babu was close to Raju Bhai and stood by the Dholakia family during his illness and after his demise. He even attended Jay's wedding," she said.

Several injured, shops gutted as villagers clash over boundary dispute in Khurda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Several people were injured and three to four shops were gutted Wednesday as residents of two villages in Khurda district engaged in a violent clash over a boundary dispute, police said.

The incident comes a few days after prohibitory orders under Section 163 of Bharativa Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), imposed in the area after a previous incident of violence over the issue, were

"Several people were injured in stone-pelting between residents of Ostapur and Kotapalla villages in Baghamari

police station area this morning. Three to four shops were also gutted in the incident. Even a CCTV camera installed by the police to monitor the situation was damaged. Security forces were rushed to the area to control the situation," Khurda Superintendent of Police (SP) Vivekanand Sharma told reporters.

Three platoons of police, totaling nearly 90 personnel, have been deployed in the area to maintain law and order. he said. The dispute erupted over the installation of a signboard marking the boundary between the two villages, police said.

Violence erupted between the residents of the two villages in August, leading to the imposition of prohibitory orders under Section 163 of BNSS in the area.

However, the prohibitory orders were recently lifted after an improvement in the situation.

'We will investigate the matter and take further action. Those who damaged the CCTV will also not be spared,'

the SP said. After the previous instance of violence, a meeting was organised by the Sub-Collector between the representatives of the two villages and peace was restored, an administrative official said, adding similar action has to be taken again.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



The onomastics of Bhubaneswar's IRC Village & its relevance now

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: When it comes to naming places, Odisha, in particular, its capital city Bhubaneswar has the most peculiar set of names that have been associated with some of the most interesting legends.

Be it the famous Master Canteen square, which was purportedly named after a loving teacher who used to sell tea and snacks there or the Poonama Gate in the Old Town area which came to be called so after a girl named Poonam ended her life by jumping in front of a train at the same place, Bhubaneswar doesn't have a dearth of folklores that give meaning to its existence making it a delight to live for its residents.

Such a name is 'IRC Village' in the Nayapalli area of the Smart City; a relatively posh area, home to many rich and influential people of the State. And as Odisha once again prepares to welcome delegates for 84th Indian Roads Congress, the story of IRC Village reminds us that sometimes, the most enduring legacies are born out of temporary begin-

What is now a bustling, modern neighborhood in Nayapalli, once began as a temporary settlement built to host a grand national event — the 'Indian Roads Congress' (IRC)

The story dates back to 1982, when Odisha was chosen to host the Indian Roads Congress for the second time — the first being in 1954. The event was a

What is now a bustling, modern neighborhood in Nayapalli, once began as a temporary settlement built to host a grand national event — the 'Indian Roads Congress' (IRC)

major milestone, as engineers, officials and dignitaries from across the country were expected to gather in Bhubaneswar to discuss India's growing road

However, there was one big challenge — Bhubaneswar in the early 1980s did not have enough hotels or guest houses to accommodate such a large number of high-profile guests. To solve this problem, the government came up with an innovative idea — to build a dedicated residential area just

for the conference.

A piece of land in Nayapalli was selected for the project. Inspired by the Asiad Village built for the Asian Games, small and well-planned houses were constructed there to serve as temporary homes for the delegates attending the Indian Roads Congress.

The new settlement soon became known as 'IRC Village', named after the event that gave it life — the Indian Roads Congress. For the duration of the conference, the area buzzed

with activity, hosting engineers, ministers, and experts who had gathered to exchange ideas about the future of India's roads. Once the conference ended, most delegates returned home — but the name stayed. The temporary settlement, built for a few weeks of use, slowly evolved into a permanent and prestigious residential area.

Over the years, IRC Village transformed beyond recognition. The open fields that once hosted makeshift houses turned into a planned neighborhood filled with modern homes, parks, and community

What was once a short-term accommodation hub for guests of the Indian Roads Congress became one of Bhubaneswar's

most desirable addresses home to officials, professionals, and families? The area's name remains a living tribute to the event that first brought it into existence.

The return of the Indian Roads Congress to Odisha in 2025 symbolizes both continuity and progress — a reminder of how far the state has come in terms of development, planning and connectivity.

Today, IRC Village stands not only as a residential hub but also as a symbol of Bhubaneswar's growth and evolving identity. What began as a temporary solution has turned into a lasting landmark — a perfect example of how planning, purpose, and history can come together to shape the character of a city.

Stay informed to be empowered: Guv to tribal youth

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Wednesday called upon tribal youths to stay informed about their rights, responsibilities, and the various welfare schemes designed for their em powerment. He said this while interacting with the participants of the 17th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme at the

Rai Bhavan. As per reports, a total of 200 tribal students from five states-Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra participated in the programme, which was organised by Mera Yuva Bharat, Khurda.

Emphasising that awareness is the foundation of progress and empowerment, the Governor said, "Unless you are aware of your rights and responsibil ities, progress will not come.

Kambhampati highlighted several social security and de velopment initiatives, including the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bi ma Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, and Mukhya Mantri Kamadhenu Yojana, explaining how these schemes can transform lives and provide financial security

He elaborated on how youths can benefit from insurance un der PMJJBY and PMSBY and take up income-generating ac tivities with the help of Mudra loans. The Governor also urged the students to remain vigilant about cyber security and to spread awareness among their communities about various so cial security and development schemes.

ECoR commissions Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal

₹36.85-crore terminal, featuring four handling lines, is designed for handling cement as the main outward commodity and clinker, slag, and gypsum as key inward materials

. ____

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: A new Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal (GCT) has been commissioned at Jakhapura, under the Khurda Road Division of the East Coast Railway (ECoR).

Located in Jajpur, the terminal marks another milestone in strengthening the PM Gati Shakti – National Master Plan for integrated and seamless multimodal connectivity.

According to the Detailed Project Report (DPR), the total project cost is ₹36.85 crore. The terminal comprises four handling lines and is designed for exclusive use.



It will handle cement as the main outward commodity, while clinker, slag, and gypsum will be managed as inward commodities.

Projections indicate that the terminal will handle around 86 rakes per month—including 36

outward and 50 inward rakes—facilitating the movement of raw materials and finished goods for the cement and allied industries.

The commissioning of the GCT is expected to enhance freight handling efficiency, reduce logistics costs, and strengthen the regional industrial supply chain, benefiting both the Railways and the local economy.

The initiative underscores ECoR's commitment to advancing the PM's Gati Shakti vision, aimed at ensuring faster logistics movement and greater synergy between industry and infrastructure.



CAPTIVATING MOVES: Artistes perform Odissi at Indian Classical Dance Festival Rasanubhava 2025 organised by Nrutyankita at GKCM Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

BJD slams govt over Montha relief delay

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: The Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Wednesday slammed the state government over a letter by Bargarh BJP MP Pradeep Purohit to CM Mohan Charan Majhi, urging inclusion of 5,000 farmers from his constituency allegedly left out of the paddy procurement registration process and seeking compensation for those affected by Cyclone Montha.

Speaking to IANS, senior BJD leader and party spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said that BJD has repeatedly raised concerns over the exclusion of thousands of farmers from procurement process, which the state government has failed to address.

"It's not just about 5,000 farmers. Thousands across Odisha have been left out due to faulty registration procedures and technical glitches," he stated.

He criticised the government's handling of the paddy procurement and fertiliser distribution system, calling it "harassing and mismanaged."

"Farmers are standing in queues for hours and even days because of poor coordination and technical hurdles. The system needs urgent reform to make it easier for cultivators," Mohanty said.

Taking a dig at the Agriculture minister, he added, "The minister seems more interested in promoting dragon fruit cultivation than resolving the plight of lakhs of paddy farmers in Western Odisha."

Speaking on the Cyclone Montha compensation issue, Mohanty accused the government of downplaying the distress faced by the affected areas.

"While certain parts of Bargarh, Kalahandi, and Nuapada were moderately hit, the government's delayed response and lack of proper compensa-

tion have worsened the situation for farmers," he remarked.

He further said, "Under Naveen Patnaik, Odisha transformed from a disaster-prone to a disaster-resilient state. But the present government's inefficiency has reversed that progress. People are suffering while the administration re-

mains indifferent."

Mohanty warned that if the government does not take immediate steps to address both the paddy procurement and cyclone compensation issues, the BJD will be forced to hit the streets in support of the state's

the BJD will be forced to hit the streets in support of the state's farmers and affected citizens. CM, the candidates highlighted that between 2011 and 2024, around 806 OPS posts were filled through promotions from Inspectors to DSP/OPS, whereas only a handful of posts were filled through direct recruitment by the Odisha Public

Service Commission (OPSC).

The aspirants noted that no OPS vacancies were advertised in 2022 or 2024, widening the gap between promoted and directly recruited officers.

Aspirants urge CM for more OPS posts in

OCS-2025 notification

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Odisha

Civil Services (OCS) aspirants

have urged Chief Minister Mo-

han Charan Majhi to include a

fair number of Odisha Police

Service (OPS-Group A) posts

in the upcoming OCS-2025 re-

cruitment notification, citing

long-standing stagnation and

minimal direct recruitment

In a letter addressed to the

over the past decade.

POST NEWS NETWORK

"This disproportionate trend has created an imbalance within the cadre and demotivated thousands of sincere OCS aspirants who have been preparing for years," the letter stated.

According to the candidates, nearly 95 OPS posts are currently lying vacant. They have urged the state government to fill at least 50 per cent of these through the upcoming OCS-2025 notification, arguing that the move would help restore fairness, transparency, and structural balance within the service.

Students display creative boat models at City RSC



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: The Regional Science Centre (RSC), Bhubaneswar, a unit of National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), celebrated Kartika Purnima through a 'Boat Model Demonstration Contest' that combined Odisha's maritime heritage with principles of modern science and engineering.

Organised in collaboration with Forum for River and Ocean Scientists and Technologists (FROST), the event aimed to inspire students to explore the science behind ancient navigation and marine technology. Participants from schools across Cuttack and Bhubaneswar designed and demonstrated scientifically constructed powered and non-powered boat models, displaying creativity, innovation, and understanding of scientific concepts.

The models reflected key principles of physics, hydrodynamics, buoyancy, propulsion, and stability, illustrating how forces of lift, drag, and thrust deter-

mine a vessel's motion in water. Some teams used small electric motors and renewable energy sources such as solar panels to power their models, while others relied on mechanical propulsion methods mimicking traditional sails and paddles.

The demonstration took place in an open water setup, where each boat was tested for design efficiency, stability, and performance before a panel of experts. The students explained how their models integrated engineering design, material science, and environmental awareness, linking modern marine technology to the ancient sea-faring spirit of Kalinga.

An interactive session followed, where FROST president Suresh Chandra Mishra and Purnendu Misra from discussed scientific evolution of maritime transport, from wooden vessels of ancient Odisha to present-day advancements in marine research and ship design. They emphasised how STEM learning and hands-on experimentation can help students understand real-world engineering challenges.

Guv: Guru Bhagwat an eternal light of spiritual literature



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Wednesday hailed Shri Guru Bhagwat as an eternal light in the realm of spiritual literature, continuing to inspire people with its timeless message of truth, compassion, and wisdom. He was speaking as the chief guest at the 25th anniversary celebration of Shri Guru Bhagwat held in Bhubaneswar.

The Governor said the scripture beautifully blends devotion with knowledge. "Originally written in Odia, Shri Guru Bhagwat has transcended the boundaries of language, faith, and geography. It is not merely a compilation of verses but a living message of spiritual awakening — a bridge that unites knowledge with realisation and the seeker with the divine," he remarked.

The Governor commeded the author of Shri Guru Bhagwat, Chandra Bhanu Satpathy, for his lifelong dedication to promoting education, healthcare, and culture. "Through his writings and service, Satpathy has inspired people around the world, combining wisdom with action and spirituality with service." Kambhampati said.

During the event, Satpathy spoke about the message and purpose of Shri Guru Bhagwat. Professor Hare Krishna Satpathy also addressed the gathering, while Additional Chief Secretary Satyabrata Sahu delivered the welcome address. On this occasion, the second volume of Shri Guru Bhagwat was released.

Millet products steal the show at Subhadra Mela

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Millet-based products have emerged as a major attraction at the ongoing Subhadra Shakti Mela at the IDCO Exhibition Ground. From millet poda pitha and kheer gaja to ragi laddoo, millet biscuits, bajra dosa mix, and foxtail noodles, a wide range of nutritious and flavourful items are delighting visitors of all ages. Attendees are exploring the versatility of millets through ready-to-eat snacks, bakery products, mixtures, and traditional sweets.

Prepared by members of women's self-help groups (SHGs), these millet products are fully organic and packed



with natural nutrients. Organically grown in rural areas, the millets are processed using traditional methods and transformed into innovative food items by women entrepreneurs—creating dishes that are both delicious and wholesome. Rich in fiber, protein, iron, calcium, and antioxidants, millets are known to aid digestion, control diabetes, and strengthen immunity.

With rising health consciousness, the demand for mil-

let-based products is steadily growing. Celebrated as "super grains," millets are increasingly recognised as vital to a healthy lifestyle. Women entrepreneurs from districts like Sundargarh, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Cuttack, and Khurda are crafting innovative items such as millet pasta, cookies, and biscuits using varieties like ragi, little millet, and bajra.

At stall no. 137, members of the Dulanpur Producer Group from Cuttack district are offering millet chocolate cookies, mandia mudhi (puffed ragi), and energy chocolates—earning over ₹50,000 in a single evening by catering to the growing urban demand for healthy, innovative foods.

Patients seek CJI, PM's help for sustainable funding

HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN ARE LOSING ACCESS TO TREATMENT DUE TO DELAYS AND FUNDING LIMITS UNDER THE NATIONAL POLICY FOR RARE DISEASES (NPRD) 2021

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: Rare disease patients and advocacy groups across the country have written to Chief Justice of India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging sustainable funding ahead of the Supreme Court hearing November 7, to save the lives of children and young adults battling critical conditions.

Hundreds of children are being denied treatment due to administrative delays and the restrictive one-time funding limit under the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD) 2021, they said in the letter.

According to the policy, financial assistance of up to ₹50 lakh per patient is provided for the treatment of identified rare diseases. This support is provided to patients registered with any of the 12 identified centres of excellence across

the country for their treatment. "In the past two years alone, nearly 60 patients have died after exhausting the ₹50 lakh funding cap and over 55 others



remain untreated for months despite being registered at centres of excellence and eligible for approved life-saving therapies. Without urgent intervention, this number will exceed

100 by year-end," the letter said. The Delhi High Court, in its order October 4 last year, said that a 'National Fund for Rare Diseases' be established with an allocation of ₹974 crore to remove the ceiling and ensure uninterrupted therapy.

Instead of implementing this order, the Health ministry filed a special leave petition before, halting relief for patients, the letter added.

The matter has remained pending for nearly a year while lives continue to be lost, the letter rued

Noting that each week of delay is another irreversible loss, Manjit Singh, national president of Lysosomal Storage Disorders Support Society of India (LSDSS), said, "We are not asking for sympathy, we are asking for the implementation of the High Court's order that upholds our children's right to live with dignity."

Jayanta Mudi, father of Gaucher patient Adrija (6) from Kolkata, said, "My daughter's health had improved remarkably when she was on therapy. Since treatment stopped, she has been deteriorating each day. Our children deserve a chance to live."

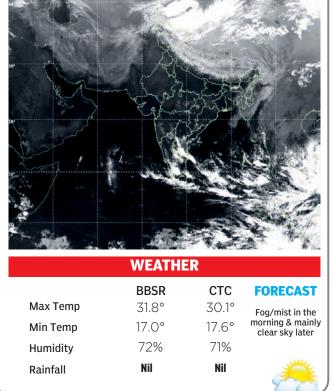
Abul Kalam, father of Abdul Rehman (10) from Delhi, added, "My son's therapy stopped in September 2024. His condition is worsening, and we are helpless as the proceedings drag on. We only seek a chance for our children to live."

Raja Murugappan, member of the Rare Diseases Support Society, Tamil Nadu, emphasised, "The ₹50 lakh limit was never meant to be a death sentence. We appeal to the Supreme Court and the PM to uphold the hope these families

still hold."

They had appealed for immediate listing and expeditious hearing of the pending SLP in the Supreme Court and restoration of the Delhi High Court's order in full and immediate restoration of treatment for those who have exhausted their onetime support.





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KK-KR railway lines turn ganja smuggling corridor

23 CASES REGISTERED

48 INCLUDING 9 MAFIA

345 KG GANJA SEIZED

AND 8 WOMEN ARRESTED

states including Chhattisgarh,

Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh,

Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and

Telangana are disguising

themselves as tourists to en-

ter Koraput district, investi-

nev, mafia networks operating near major railway sta-

tions coordinate the trans-

The traffickers, who are

supplied with ganja at small-

er stations by local peddlers,

move consignments across

state borders facilitating the

During their return jour-

gations reveal.

portation.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nandapur, Nov 5: Kottavalasa-Kirandul (KK) railway line connecting Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh, and Koraput-Rayagada (KR) railway line passing through Koraput district have reportedly turned into new corridors for ganja smuggling.

Sources said in the past eight months, the Koraput Government Railway Police (GRP) has registered 23 cases related to ganja trafficking, highlighting an alarming trend. Between March and October, 345 kg of the contraband was seized and 48 persons involved in smuggling arrested, including nine local mafia members, more than 10 educated youths and eight women, GRP OIC Santoshi Mohanta said.

Traffickers from other

Mohanta said that the pattern has raised concerns among local intellectuals and residents about the district's growing role in the illegal drug trade.

Cannabis cultivated in the erstwhile undivided Koraput district has now gained a reputation for being among the finest in India, according to sources. With intensified vigilance by state police and the excise department along highways and checkpoints, traffickers have begun adopting new routes and innovative methods to transport the contraband.

Smuggling activities are reportedly taking place at several stations along these routes, including Darliput, Padua, Bheja, Machhkund, Paliba, Suku (SXV) and Suku, Koraput junction, Koraput Cabin B, Manabar, Jarti, Maliguda, Chhatriput, Jeypore, Dhanpur, Khadapa, and Kotpur along the KK line. On the KR line, hotspots include Dumuriput, Damanjodi, Baiguda, Kakiriguma, Lakshmipur, Singaram, Tikiri, Rauli, Religuma, Bhalumaska, Sikarpai, Keutaguda, Singapur, and Rayagada stations. Local peddlers supply cannabis from these points to organised dealers.

Most of the arrested traffickers hail from outside Odisha, suggesting that railway routes have now become the preferred network for interstate cannabis smuggling, local observers noted



FOR A CAUSE: Devotees perform grand Aarti at Triveni Sangam in Rameswar, Subarnapur — known as Odisha's Swarna Prayag — on the occasion of Kartik Purnima, Wednesday, calling for preservation of clean river waters

Maoist arms factory busted near Ch'garh border

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Nov 5: Security forces unearthed an arms manufacturing unit run by Maoists along Odisha-Chhattisgarh border and seized a large cache of sophisticated weapons and materials, officials said Wednesday.

According to reports, the operation was carried out in Gamgunda area of Sukma district in Chhattisgarh, during an anti-Maoist drive. Acting on intelligence inputs, security personnel raided the site and discovered an arms factory

allegedly operated by Maoists

to produce weapons for attacks against security forces.

During the raid, the forces seized 11 rifle manufacturing

tools and machines, gun parts, and various weapon-making materials. The recovered items included one BGL rocket launcher, six BGL launchers, 12 rifles,

three single-shot rifles, two bar rels, one hand-operated machine set, 17 wire tables, one axe, five iron pipes, and two gear units, among other equipment.

Sukma Superintendent of Police confirmed that the Maoists had set up the facility to strengthen their armed capabilities and launch attacks on security personnel. The official added that the timely action foiled their plans.

Security forces have intensified combing operations in the region following the discovery, and further investigation is un

Pugmarks in Anandapur village trigger panic

POST NEWS NETWORK

Anandapur, Nov 5: Panic gripped Sarangi village under Anandapur forest range in Keonjhar district after some footprints, purportedly that of a tiger, were spotted near the village, locals said.

According to Forest department officials, villagers first noticed large pugmarks in nearby farmland and informed the department. Upon inspection, officials confirmed the footprints belonged to a tiger. The confirmation has left residents of Sarangi and nearby villages living in fear.

Reports said late Tuesday night, a local youth spotted the tiger near the village and alerted others. Following the discovery of the pugmarks, a forest team led by the Anandpur range officer visited the area for verification.

Anandpur ranger Naba Nayak said the tiger was last seen near the Santoshpur forest beat area close to Sarangi village. "The tiger is believed to be moving towards Hadagada forest, and our team is tracking its movement," Nayak said.

Forest officials assured that surveillance has been intensified and residents have been advised to remain cautious until the animal moves deeper into the forest.

Woman stuck in cave rescued after 6 hours

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 5: A woman had a close shave with death after being trapped for nearly six hours inside a narrow cave passage near the Saptarshi temple at Bhandarimal village under Jujumura block of Sambalpur district on the occasion of Kartika Purnima Wednesday.

The woman, identified as Sujata Meher, 32, wife of Manoj Meher of Meghpal village, reportedly entered a small cave near the temple around 9am for a ritual prayer. However, she got stuck inside a narrow section of the cave and could not

Police and fire service personnel were immediately



informed and began a rescue operation. After six hours of strenuous efforts, the fire

brigade team successfully rescued her. She was first rushed to the district headquarters hospital in Sambalpur in critical condition and later shifted to Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR), Burla, for advanced treatment.

Doctors said Sujata suffered injuries on her left waist and chest but is now

According to locals, it is widely believed that crawling through the cave near the temple fulfils one's wishes. Sujata reportedly attempted the same ritual but got stuck midway. Fire personnel had to cut through a nearby banyan tree root structure to bring her out safely.

7 held for killing youth over past enmity

Sambalpur, Nov 5: Police Wednesday arrested seven people on charges of killing a youth facing several criminal cases in this district November 3.

The accused people attacked Chintu Bahadur with a sword, knife, and stones, causing his

instant death. The attackers had previous enmity with the deceased, police said.

Bahadur was accused of murdering the brother of one of the arrested people in 2019.

Bahadur's friend Satya Ranjan Dhala (Lipu), who was injured in the attack, managed to flee. He is now undergoing

treatment at a hospital. Sambalpur Additional SP Ajay Kumar Mishra said the deceased was involved in more than 25 criminal cases including murder, attempt

to murder, kidnapping and extortion. The arrested were from Hirakud area in Sambalpur district.

Jilted lover slits neck of minor girl's father

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Nov 5: A youth allegedly attacked and slit the throat of the father of a Class IX girl at a village in Bhadrak dis trict after the minor rejected his proposal, police said Wednesday.

The incident took place at Aruha village under Basudevpur police station limits of the district. Police identified the accused as Alok Behera, a local resident.

According to police, Alok had been harassing the girl from nearby Tulmatula village, claiming to be in love with her. The girl reported it to her father.

Alok again approached the girl at her tuition class in Tulmatula, near her village Tuesday. When the girl's father, Rajendra Rout, arrived to pick her up, he confronted Alok, leading to a heated altercation. Following the quarrel. Alok left the spot.

However, Alok later went to Rajendra's house, where he allegedly attacked him with a knife, slitting his throat. The accused then abandoned his motorcycle nearby and escaped from the scene, police said.

Villagers took Rajendra to Basudevpur CHC in a critical condition. However, after treatment, Rajendra returned home, a family member said. "We have launched an investigation and efforts are on to nab the absconding accused," said Lopamudra Nayak, IIC, Basudevpur PS.

Pitabas murder: Police recreate crime scene



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Nov 5: Odisha Police Wednesday secured a two-day remand of four more accused arrested in the murder of senior advocate and BJP leader Pitabash Panda and recreated the crime scene, an official said.

Panda, who was also a member of the state Bar Council, was shot dead near his residence here while returning home on his scooter October 6

He was taken to MKCG Medical College and Hospital here, where doctors declared him dead. Police have arrested 16 people, including former MLA (Berhampur) Bikram Kumar Panda and former mayor (Berhampur) Shiva Shankar Das in the case.

Meanwhile, accused shooter Chintu Pradhan, along with murder plotters BJD corporator Malay Kumar Bisoyi, Madan Mohan Dalai, and Jogendra Raut, were taken on remand, the police said. Two other accused, shooter Kurupathi Bhuyan and plotter Uma Shankar Bisoi, were placed on a two-day remand after being produced be fore the Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) court here Tuesday. With this, six accused in the sensational murder case are now in police custody.

During the remand, police recreated the crime scene with shooters Kurupathi and Chintu demonstrating how they alleged ly fired at Panda.

Chintu reportedly rode the motorcycle while Bhuyan sat in the pillion. When Panda reached his residence, Bhuyan allegedly got down and fired at him at close range before they fled the spot, po lice said. Panda's younger broth er Purna Chandra said they were satisfied with police investigation.

"The shooters gunned down his brother for money. The conspirators, who were once Panda's close friends, are in jail. We hope they get exemplary punish ment," he said.

Champua farmers face double whammy Untreated hotel sewage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Champua. Nov 5: Favourable weather this year helped paddy cultivation flourish across the Champua area in Keonjhar district. With more than half of the paddy fields ripening and harvesting underway in some areas, farmers were optimistic about a good yield until wildlife and pests began wreaking havoc.

Wild elephants and a severe brown planthopper (locally known as Matiagundi) infestation have left farmers anxious. Herds of elephants and wild boars from nearby forests have been entering ripened fields, trampling vast stretches of paddy rather than consuming it.

Elephant herds have made areas under the Champua, Balibandha and Ukhunda forest sections their new habitats and enter adjoining villages and



farmlands as evening descends.

According to official data, elephants have damaged crops belonging to 787 farmers across 1,69,527 acres this year. The state government has reportedly disbursed ₹32,14,695 as

compensation. Adding to the crisis, the pop-

ulation of wild boars in the region has also increased. Boars enter fields after dusk, rooting through ripened paddy and causing extensive damage. Despite farmers' attempts to guard their crops from elephants and boars, many are now losing their harvests to the brown planthopper pest. Agriculture department

sources said about 110 acres of farmland in Champua block have been affected by the pest outbreak. Assistant Agriculture Officer Ramamani Sahu said the insects suck the sap from paddy plants, drying and destroying them completely. Farmers are being advised to apply pesticides to control the spread.

ment norms, he added.

Meanwhile, Assistant Conservator of Forests and Forest Ranger Akshay Chhatria said the Forest department has taken steps to minimise elephant movement and protect both lives and property. However, he acknowledged that elephant herds often split and cause crop damage before being driven away. Compensation to affected farmers is being provided as per govern-

makes Circuit House stink

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 5: Foul smell blanketed the Circuit House in Keonjhar district headquarters after sewage from nearby hotels reportedly entered and accumulated behind the building, creating an unhealthy environment for the guests.

Although the premises are being beautified with substantial public spending, poor supervision has allowed hotel waste to flow into the area. The problem has persisted for years, leaving the site in deplor able condition.

Players using the tennis court within the premises have repeatedly expressed dissatisfaction with the polluted surroundings, but officials have largely remained silent. Locals



allege that the administration's inaction amounts to indirect favoritism toward the hotels, a situation that has surprised many guests. As construction of a new Cir-

cuit House building begins, the accumulation of garbage and sewage is now hindering the work. The facility sees regular visits from VVIPs throughout the year. Its importance has grown further since Chief Min-

ister Mohan Majhi, who hails from Keonjhar, began visiting the district frequently.

The residents of the area are concerned that the continued dumping of hotel sewage has worsened the environment Sources claimed that the problem stems from hotels operat ing without proper drainage systems. The situation becomes particularly severe during the rainy season. Despite repeated complaints, authorities have yet to take meaningful action. Senior lawver Ashok Das al

leged that the illegal discharge continues under the influence of corrupt officials. "People are being forced to eat in an unhealthy environment, but the Food Safety Department is not taking any action, which is very unfortunate," he said.



The great are strongest when they stand alone, A God-given might of being is their force.

SRI AUROBINDO



BY BENDING

THE WESTERN

HEMISPHERE

TO HIS WILL,

NOT ONLY

TO ASSERT

OVER THE

OUTSIDE

ALSO TO

AT HOME

DOMINANCE

WORLD, BUT

AUTHORITY

REINFORCE HIS

TRUMP HOPES

New Monroe Doctrine

Te're just going to kill people that are bringing drugs into our country," US President Donald Trump recently told reporters in the White House. His administration had already begun to do just that, using air strikes in the Caribbean Sea and the eastern Pacific Ocean to destroy suspected drug-smuggling vessels and kill those on board – at least 64 people so far. With Trump now threatening to conduct similar operations on land, the contours of a violent new US foreign-policy doctrine are becoming sharper.

This new doctrine carries echoes of the one President James Monroe articulated in 1823, which held that the US would regard any foreign intervention in the Americas – specifically, European colonialism in Latin America – as a hostile act. In 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt expanded on this idea with his "corollary to the Monroe Doctrine," which stated that the US had a "responsibility to preserve order and protect life and property" in the countries of the Western Hemisphere.

Lest this sound benevolent, it is worth recalling Roosevelt's 1904 assertion that the US – as a "civilized nation" – may be "forced" to exercise "international police power" in response to chronic unrest or "wrongdoing" in Latin American countries. In other words, the US would decide what behaviour was acceptable in sovereign countries in its "sphere of interest" - and was entirely justified in punishing whoever did not comply.

The parallels with Trump's approach are obvious. On top of the recent air strikes, which have often taken place near Venezuelan waters, Trump's administration has renewed accusations that Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro's government constitutes a 'narco-terror cartel." Add to that a US military buildup in the Caribbean - including warships, surveillance planes, fighter jets, and troops - and it seems that the US is not seeking simply to disrupt the drug trade; it is eyeing regime change

But there are key differences between the Monroe Doctrine and Trump's approach. For starters, whatever "moral duty" the Monroe Doctrine claimed to reflect has been replaced by a more overtly coercive, ego-driven logic. Thus, the Panama Canal is a strategic hub that the US is "taking back." Mexico does what the US administration "tells it to do." Brazil is to be punished with a 50% tariff for prosecuting former President Jair Bolsonaro for his Trump-inspired attempt to overturn his 2022 election defeat. And Canada, which should become the 51st US state, is similarly punished with a suspension of trade talks over a television ad airing in Ontario that used audio of President Ronald Reagan criticising tariffs.

Meanwhile, Trump has authorised a bailout package worth up to \$40 billion for Argentina, in order to give a boost to his ideological ally President Javier Milei - a deal that US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has referred to as central to a new "economic Monroe Doctrine." Expressions of gratitude and admiration from

 $\label{eq:milei-who} \mbox{Milei} - \mbox{who just secured a decisive victory in midterm elections} - \mbox{feed}$ Trump's ego and reaffirm US leadership in the region, while highlighting the erosion of Latin American countries' autonomy.

Such actions reflect Trump's perception of intra-American relations as fundamentally hierarchical, with a country's position in the pecking order being determined by the benefits - and obedience - it offers to the dominant US. Whereas previous US presidents tried to reconcile Woodrow Wilson's idealism with Roosevelt's realism, Trump merges both impulses into a single, volatile creed: exceptionalism without responsibility or restraint.

Another critical difference is that Trump's approach is shaped by domestic populism. Just as he purports to be rooting out the "enemy within" - from deploying the National Guard in US cities to waging lawfare against perceived foes like former FBI Director James Comey - he claims to be protecting the US from the "enemy" on its doorstep. By bending the Western Hemisphere to his will, Trump hopes not only to assert dominance over the outside world, but also to reinforce his authority at home. The Trump administration's call on the US military to embrace a "warrior ethos," and its decision to call the Department of Defense the Department of War (the pre-1947 name) serve similar ends.

The implications extend well beyond Latin America. For Trump. meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping amounts not to engagement between rivals seeking balance, but to a transaction between masters of their respective domains. This helps to explain why Trump views China's inclusion of Latin America in its Belt and Road Initiative and its presence in Cuba and Panama as provocations.

China, hardly keen to respect Trump-imposed boundaries on its "sphere of influence," continues to expand its footprint, from Pacific maritime routes to African infrastructure. But, in many ways, Xi's "dual-circulation" strategy, which aims to balance self-reliance with selective openness, is a mirror image of Trump's insular assertiveness. In fact, when it comes to foreign policy, Trump and Xi differ more in style than in substance. Both reject the old multilateral order and favour power over process. Decades of institutional efforts to subordinate force to rules are now unravelling.

This emerging world is not bipolar in the rigid Cold War sense. Rather, it has two gravitational centres, orbited by middle powers – such as Brazil, India, Indonesia, and the Gulf states – which have no interest in being dragged into either sphere of influence. Whether these countries manage to cooperate with one another could decide whether the 21st century degenerates into a sort of feudal system, where might makes right, or evolves into a more pluralistic order constrained by rules.

This transformation poses a daunting challenge for Europe. Its closest ally now views the rule of law as an obstacle to be trampled, and security commitments as leverage to be wielded to advance its own goals. But rather than lament this shift, Europe must adapt, investing in defence, deepening partnerships beyond the Atlantic, and working with those in the "periphery" that share its commitment to a rulesbased international order.

The writer is a former foreign minister of Spain and former senior vice president of the World Bank Group.

WISDOM CORNER

I often think that the night is more alive and more richly colored than the day.

Iron rusts from disuse; water loses its purity from stagna-

tion... even so does inaction sap the vigor of the mind.

Mostly people are ignorant, what is the language of painting this and the language of painting. It is so difficult to make them aware, but time will teach **FOCUS POWER SECTOR**

UNEVEN PLAYING FIELD

few days ago, I had a conversation with a group of students who were keen to understand the impact of the amendments proposed in The Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025. The students had a straightforward question: Will the amendments continue to serve the larger interests of people while improving efficiency and competition?

On the face of it, the answer seems to be yes. However, reading the finer prints offers a different perspective. The proposed amendments, particularly to Sections 43, 61(g), and 90, may make the rules more favourable to larger consumers while creating uncertainty for smaller ones.

According to Section 43 of the Electricity Act 2003, every distribution company has a duty to supply electricity to applicants without any discrimination. In fact, it is the legal right of the consumer to get electricity connection. The 2025 Amendment empowers the government to exempt the state power discom from the obligation to supply electricity to larger consumers, and to transfer the right to serve such consumers to an alternative licensee.

DVRamana

REFORMS

ELECTRICITY

NEED TO BE

EFFICIENCY

WITH EQUITY

UNDERTAKEN

BY BALANCING

While this amendment may introduce competition in the market, it also creates an opportunity for the new licensee to cherry-pick profitable customers. Although the intention may be to reduce the financial burden of discoms, the amendment could end up serving the interest of larger consumers. This undermines the very principles of social equity that the electricity sector is expected to uphold. Transferring larger consumers to a new licensee may lead to a reduction in the revenue of the existing licensees without a corresponding decrease in fixed costs. This could increase their financial problems, which are already burdened with debt and unpaid subsidies.

The amendments will be financially beneficial for the new licensee. They will get the benefit of using the existing distribution network without bearing equivalent infrastructure costs or universal service obligations.

Therefore, the amendment of Section 43 requires careful reconsideration. There is a need to explore the possibility of the introduction of a proper



The amendments to the Electricity Bill 2025 will be financially beneficial for the new licensees. They will get the benefit of using the existing distribution network without bearing equivalent infrastructure costs or universal service obligations

compensatory mechanism such as network usage charges, universal service funds, or equitable cost-sharing frameworks, to prevent further widening of the gap between large and small consumers.

Section 61(g) guides regulators in determining tariffs. The proposed amendment requires the Appropriate Commission to fix tariffs that reflect the cost of supply and progressively reduce cross-subsidies. It further adds that cross-subsidies for railways, metro railways, and manufacturing enterprises shall be fully eliminated within five years of the amendment's commencement. Electricity is an essential good. Eliminating cross-subsidies without implementing compensatory measures will likely have the following long-term repercussions: i) Higher tariffs may affect the smaller enterprises. This amendment may result in higher costs and lower profits for these small enterprises; ii) Higher tariffs may force small householders to limit their electricity use; in the process, it may create energy poverty; iii) Higher tariffs due to the removal of cross-subsidisation may also widen the digital divide as those at the bottom of the pyramid may not be in a position to afford the electricity needed for devices

and to access the internet. Moreover, calculating the Cost of Supply (CoS) for small consumers presents significant challenges. Even within a single category, such as agriculture, SMEs, or institutions, the CoS can vary widely. As a result,

CoS-based tariffs may lead to multiple rates within the same consumer segment, creating administrative complexities.

In light of the above implications, the proposed amendment to Section 61(g) demands thorough reconsideration. Without addressing these foundational issues, enforcing a uniform CoS-based tariff risks creating further distortions and inequities in society.

Section 90 currently provides clear legal safeguards for the removal of members of Central and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, ensuring due process, defined grounds, and review by the Appellate Tribunal. Such provisions help in maintaining both the accountability and independence of regulators.

The proposed amendment introduces vague and subjective terms like 'wilful violation' and 'gross negligence' as new grounds for the removal of regulators. These additions open the door to subjective interpretation as they lack legal clarity. Such subjectivity increases the risk of regulatory capture, with regulators potentially refraining from making decisions that could go against large players.

Instead of focusing on strengthening the process of removing regulators, the Act should introduce changes to the selection process. Additionally, to ensure that regulators maintain an arm's length relationship with all stakeholders. the Act should explicitly prohibit them from holding any honorary or unpaid positions

in private clubs or associations during their tenure. This would boost impartiality and reduce potential conflicts of interest.

The amendment Bill also proposes that regulators may revise tariffs suo motu, if licensees fail to file petitions within the prescribed timeline. The current process follows a transparent, participatory approach, wherein utilities submit data and public hearings are conducted, culminating in tariff determination by the regulator. The proposed amendment appears to weaken the existing tariff-setting framework and reduce public participation in the regulatory process

The financial problems of the power sector are not solely due to cross-subsidies. The current stress is largely caused by high transmission and distribution losses, billing inefficiencies, and poor collection performance. Without addressing these structural issues, making tariffs "cost-reflective" merely shifts the burden of inefficiency onto consumers. Unfortunately, the current Bill remains conspicuously silent on these fundamental challenges.

Electricity reforms need to be undertaken by balancing efficiency with equity. To make these reforms inclusive, the Act should ensure the following: i) Reaffirm the universal duty of the licensee to supply electricity without exemptions; ii) Stress improvement of the electricity system while making tariffs reflect the cost to serve; iii) Ensure that budgeted subsidies, whether capital or revenue, continue to support sectoral improvements and benefit small and marginal consumers; iv) Reinforce regulatory independence, ensuring that regulators operate at arm's length from all stakeholders.

Citizens, consumer groups, and local bodies should use this opportunity to participate in strengthening the Electricity Act by sharing their views on these important amendments. If the public remains silent, the interests of the few will quietly become the law of the land. Let us hope the amended Act safeguards the public interest, not corporate profit.

> The writer is a professor at XIMB.

SPECTRUM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Weathering the next financial crisis



TO BOLSTER THEIR FINANCIAL RESILIENCE, **DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NEED TO LIMIT** THEIR EXPOSURE **TO VOLATILE CAPITAL FLOWS BY ADOPTING EFFECTIVE CAPITAL-MANAGEMENT TOOLS**

s stock markets hit record highs, rising financial fragility is setting off alarm bells across the US and Europe.

The warning signs are everywhere – and they are disturb ingly familiar. Asset prices are climbing well beyond what can be justified by underlying fundamentals, while non-bank financial intermediaries now play a similar role to that of "shadow banks" in the years leading up to the 2008 financial crisis. At the same time, the rise of stablecoins has pulled regulated banks into the opaque world of cryptocurrencies, and vast sums of speculative capital are flooding into AI stocks, driven more

by hype than by proven returns. These trends bear the unmistakable marks of a financial bubble entering its most precarious stage, when even minor shifts in investor sentiment can trigger a sharp correction. The recent collapse of US auto parts supplier First Brands and subprime auto lender Tricolor, both heavily leveraged and closely linked to non-bank financial institutions, may be early indications of structural vulnerabilities that are only just coming into view.

Behind this growing fragility lies the rapid expansion of private financial institutions over the past decade. And the dismantling of already-weak financial regulations under US President Donald Trump has only compounded the threat.

Taken together, these forces could set in motion the manic cycle famously described by economic historian Charles Kindleberger. The first stage, "euphoria," is dominated by optimism and excess. It is inevitably followed by a period of "stringency" as defaults rise and credit tightens, before giving way to "revulsion," when fear grips financial markets and even solvent borrowers struggle to find financing.

If history is any guide, the

question is when - not if - another major financial meltdown will occur. For most of the world's population, however. the more pressing concern is how a crisis that originates in the US and Europe will affect their own countries

The precedents are hardly reassuring: both the 2008 crisis and COVID-19 showed that turmoil in the US and other wealthy economies can devastate poorer countries with limited fiscal space and little protection against external shocks.

Entrenched currency hierarchies exacerbate the problem. The dominance of the dollar, for example, ensures that in times of heightened uncertainty, private capital flows back to the US, causing sharp depreciations and banking crises in lower-income countries. The fallout could be especially severe for debt-distressed countries, many of which built their growth strategies around exports to advanced economies. Developing countries must recognize these risks and take urgent steps to strengthen their economic resilience. The top priority should be to diversify trade relationships Confronted with the Trump administration's erratic and often unreasonable demands, some have already begun reducing dependence on the US. This process, though necessary, will not be painless.

To bolster their financial resilience, developing countries need to limit their exposure to volatile capital flows by adopt ing effective capital-management tools and strengthening financial oversight, not merely through prudential regulations but by curbing speculative and opaque activities. Such safeguards must be in place before the next crisis erupts.

The writer is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

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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:

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

Rare minerals

Sir, India's push to increase the production of rare earth magnets is both timely and strategically imperative, given China's near monopoly and leverage in this critical sector. Rare earth magnets, essential for electric vehicles, wind turbines, smartphones, and defence technologies, are the backbone of modern industry and clean energy. Currently, China controls about 70% of global rare earth production and over 90% of magnet manufacturing, giving it immense geopolitical and economic influence. Any disruption in Chinese supply chains can severely impact global industries, including India's growing tech and defence sectors. Recognising this vulnerability, India is now focusing on developing its own rare earth value chain—from exploration and extraction to refining and magnet manufacturing. Public sector undertakings like IREL and collaborations with global partners are being strengthened to reduce dependence on China. Moreover, the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative emphasises domestic capability in strategic materials. By boosting local production and investing in research and processing technologies, India aims to ensure supply security, enhance export potential, and assert its place as a reliable player in the global rare earth ecosystem. N Sadhasiva Reddy, , BANGALORE

New arms race

Sir, A fresh nuclear arms race is re-emerging. Former US President Donald Trump has ordered the Pentagon to resume nuclear testing, citing violations of the CTBT by other nations. Pakistan, estimated to possess about 170 warheads, is also reportedly preparing tests to match India's growing arsenal of around 180 warheads. Despite severe economic strain and IMF dependence, Pakistan views its nuclear programme as a symbol of national pride and deterrence against India. Its focus remains on missile upgrades like the Shaheen-III with a 2.750 km range. For India, this heightens regional instability and compels greater vigilance in nuclear diplomacy, deterrence posture, and crisis management. The revival of the US and Pakistani testing nukes risks triggering a broader global arms race, undermining decades of restraint and challenging India's strategic balance in South Asia.

RS Narula, PATIALA



TWO STATES





Rail route costs forests

1.24 lakh trees to be felled for rail project in MP; environmentalists raise alarm

city like Indore is largely

dependent on these

forests. Consequently, tree

felling will definitely impact

rainfall and temperature in

and Khargone districts for

the construction of the Mhow-

Sanawad section of the rail-

way's Mhow-Khandwa gauge

conversion project," Indore's

"According to our estimates,

1.24 lakh trees will be cut, but

we will make every effort to

save the remaining trees. Ma-

ny trees will also be saved due

to the construction of tunnels

for the railway line in the hilly

The official said the forest

department has received

in-principle approval from

the central government to cut

trees for the railway project,

and final approval will be

issued after completing the

necessary formalities.

Officer

INDORE-BASED ENVIRONMENTALIST

Divisional Forest

area," he said.

Pradeep Mishra told PTI.

the city



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Nov 5: At least 1.24 lakh trees are likely to be felled on a section passing through dense forests to clear the way for the construction of the railway's Mhow-Khandwa gauge conversion project in Madhya Pradesh, officials said Wednesday.

Under this crucial project, the railway's historic narrow-gauge line is being converted into a broad-gauge line, they said.

The new railway line will reduce the distance between Indore, the economic capital of Madhya Pradesh, and Mumbai, the country's financial capital, and will also strengthen western MP's connectivity with south India, the officials said.

Environmentalists have warned of the adverse impact of tree felling for the railway line, even as the forest department said it has prepared a detailed mitigation plan.

"As many as 1.41 lakh trees are estimated to be affected in the dense forests of Indore

prepared a detailed plan to minimise the adverse effects of tree cutting on wildlife, soil, and moisture, he said. The Mhow-Sanawad section

The forest department has

of the Mhow-Khandwa gauge conversion project is affecting 404 hectares of forest area in Indore district and 46 hectares in Khargone district, Mishra said.

To compensate for the environmental damage caused by tree felling, trees will be planted in twice the area, he said.

"There is limited land available for tree plantation in Indore district. Therefore, trees will be planted in a total of 916 hectares in the forest divisions of Dhar and Jhabua districts....1.000 trees will be planted per hectare," the official said.

Under the Mhow-Khandwa gauge conversion project, a 156-km-long broad-gauge railway line is to be laid, while the narrow-gauge line laid before India's independence was 118 km long, a railway official said.

Work on the gauge conversion project is underway and is likely to be completed by 2027-28, the official said.

Indore-based environmentalist Shankarlal Garg, however, claimed, "A large number of trees will be cut in the dense forests of Choral and Mhow for the railway project. The climate of a large city like Indore is largely dependent on these forests. Consequently, tree felling will definitely impact rainfall and temperature in the city.'

The shrinking of forest cover due to tree felling will also increase human-wildlife conflict,



A customer looks at a portrait of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism and the first of the ten Sikh Gurus, on his birth anniversary, at a shop in Thane Maharashtra, Wednesday

Maharashtra 1st state to tie-up with Starlink

Mumbai, Nov 5: The Maharashtra government on Wednesday announced partnership with billionaire Elon Musk's satellite communications venture in India to deploy a host of satellite-based internet services, becoming the first Indian state to formally tie-up with the US firm.

The government signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with Starlink Satellite Communications Pvt

This marks Maharashtra as the first state to collaborate with Starlink to deploy satellite-based internet services for government institutions, rural

communities, and critical public infrastructure across "remote and underserved regions and aspirational districts' such as Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, Washim and Dharashiv, said Chief Minister Devendra

Musk's Starlink is one of the largest companies in the ICT (Information and Communication Technology) industry, holding the largest number of communication satellites in

"It is our honour that the

company is arriving in India and partnering with Maharash tra," Fadnavis said in an X post.

The Maharashtra-Starlink collaboration supports state's flagship Digital Maharashtra mission and integrates with its EV, coastal development, and disaster resilience programmes, he noted.

With this landmark decision. Maharashtra will lead India in satellite-enabled digital infrastructure, Fadnavis maintained.

"This is a giant leap towards future-ready Maharashtra and sets the benchmark for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India mission at the grassroots," he said.

RATS BLAMED AS 75-YEAR-OLD INDORE BRIDGE COLLAPSES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Nov 5: A section of a nearly 75-year-old overbridge in Indore has collapsed with a member of the civic corporation's mayoral council blaming rat infestation for the cave in, a claim junked by civil engineering experts who said it was caused by lack of maintenance and traffic surge.

Officials said a section of the Shastri Bridge, located on a busy road in the Madhya Pradesh city, collapsed Sunday, creating a five-by-seven-

They said following the incident, the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) has started

exhibitors, including prominent

Indian galleries Experimenter,

DAG, Akar Prakar, Nature

Morte, Chemould Prescott Road,

Vadehra Art Gallery, Gallery

Espace, and TARQ, alongside

international galleries includ-

ing Lisson Gallery, Sundaram

Tagore Gallery, Galleria Conti-

nua and Ben Brown Fine Arts.

oneering and emerging talents

will showcase their works that

reimagine space, scale, and ma-

terial, exploring themes of iden-

tity, labour, migration, reclama-

The art fair will feature sculp-

tural works from veterans like

Madhvi Parekh, Meera Mukher-

jee, Shanthamani Muddaiah,

Tayeba Begum Lipi, and Rat-

nabali Kant, as well as emerg-

ing artists like Natasha Singh.

Radhika Hamlai, Shiffali Wad-

tion, and collective memory.

At the Sculpture Park, both pi-

fixing the cavity and was also carrying out additional structural repair work on the bridge. Rajendra Rathore, in-charge

of the Public Works Department in the IMC's Mayor-in-Council, told PTI on Tuesday, "There is no structural defect in the Shastri Bridge. However, there is a menace of rats on this bridge. Large rats have dug numerous burrows near the footpath, hollowing out the bridge. This caused a section of the bridge Rathore noted that to combat

the rat infestation, the footpath of the Shastri Bridge is being reinforced with a new layer of cement-concrete, and citizens have been advised not to give



food or drinks to needy people sitting on the structure as these items attract rodents.

The repair work on the bridge has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs 40 lakh, he informed. Officials said the repair work is being carried out according to standards of the Indian Roads Congress (IRC) and based on recommendations of civil engineering experts from the city's Shri GS Institute of Technology and Science (SGSITS).

SGSITS is a government-aided autonomous institution.

One of these experts, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "The sinking of a section of the Shastri Bridge is a wake up call. The traffic pressure on the bridge is constantly increasing, and this incident is a result of inadequate maintenance. Rats alone could not have caused such a large cavity in the bridge, and this incident is a consequence of structural

According to standards, every bridge older than 25 years should undergo regular testing of its strength and load-bearing capacity to eliminate the possi bility of accidents, he suggested.

ease be noted:

sical Submission

ww.ireps.gov.in

EAST COAST RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM NO. 5 to ender Notice No. EPC-CECONIIBBS

ollowing modifications have been made gainst above tender notice which may

Date Time: 1200 Hrs. 1200 Hrs.

As in the REF Now to be

1800 Hrs. 1800 Hrs.

urther modification in the schedule for

Bids at Venue as 1200 Hrs. 1200 Hrs.

Chief Administrative Officer (Con)

Mentioned in clause no. 2.11.4(i) of RFP docum

EAST COAST RAILWAY

'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS

The following tenders have been uploaded o website: www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Notice No. PCMM/EP/2025-26/15. Dt.07.11.2025

01. Tender No. 02251563 : Short

02. Tender No. 03253860 : Short

Description of Item: Manufacture and Supply of MS Bolts and Nuts, Quantity

04. Tender No. 06255399 : Short

05. Tender No. 03251067 : Shor

Description of Item: Flap door Arrangement for BOXNHL Wagon

06. Tender No. 03251615 : Short

Principal Chief Materials Manager,

25.11.2025 (For SI, No. 01 & 05).

Quantity: 3326 Nos

Description of Item: Inter car Gange Mounting, Quantity: As per TS.

llowing particulars have been made.

isted in clause no. 2.11.2 of RFP Docu

Maharashtra farmer gets ₹6 aid for crop losses CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR: A farmer from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

district in Maharashtra Wednesday claimed to have received only Rs 6 as compensa tion from the government for the crop losses he suffered as a result of heavy rains and subsequent flooding. The farmer, Digambar Sudhakar Tangde, is a resident of Dawarwadi village in Paithan taluka. Tangde spoke to reporters at Nandar village in Paithan on the sidelines of Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray's visit as part of the latter's tour of Marathwada region, during which he is interacting with farmers

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, KHALLIKOTE Letter No.1745/NAC Khallikote "e" Procurement Notice

> TENDER REFERENCE NO.: KIT-NAC-02/2025-26 BID ID No. 2025-ORULB-120435

No.C-1364 : Bid documents consisting of work, Estimated cost, Cost of Tender

aper, EMD, Time of completion, Class of Contractor and the set of terms an

onditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Goyt, website

e www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Civil construction works as mentioned in DTCN

Name of the Work

Rs.5.00 lakhs to 19.99 lakhs Estimated cost Period of completion : As per DTCN
Date & time of availability of : From 10.00 A.M. of 03.11.2025 to 17.11.2025

bid document in the portal up to 5.00 P.M. 6. Last date / Time for receipt : 17.11.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.

of bids in the porta Last Date / Time of : 18.11.2025 at 10.00 A.M. to 05.00 P.M

receiving of document relating of tender Off-line

: 19.11.2025 at 11.00 A M be opened on Name and address of the : Executive Officer, NAC, Khallikote

Officer Inviting Bid

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal

nttps://tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- Executive Officer

NAC, Khallikote

OFFICE OF THE

NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, KODALA Lt. No.3051/ Dev / 2025 e-NOTICE BID IDENTIFICATION NO. KOD-NAC-11/2025-26 No.C-1378: The Executive Officer, NAC, Kodala on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites

for consultancy or bidders of eligible class registered with the State Goyt, and bidders of

equivalent grade/class registered with Central Govt./MES/Railways according to norm of e-procurement system in online mode for the work as per DTCN. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Number of Work 01 Nos.

As per DTCN As per DTCN Period of Completion

Date and Time of availability of Bid Document in the Portal From 10.00 A.M. of Dt.04.11.2025 to 05.00 P.M. of Dt.17.11.2025

. Last date and time for receipt of 05.00 P.M. of Dt.17.11.2025

The bid received online shall be opened on 12.30 P.M. of dtd. 18.11.2025 Name and Address of the Officer

Further details can be seen from the Procurement Portal; www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Executive Officer, Kodala NAC

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA (ACC) OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KENDRAPARA eerw_kpd@yahoo.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (SHORT NOTICE) 'E' PROCUREMENT NOTICE No. RWD/KPD-09/2025-26 Dt.29.10.2025

the year 2025-26

As Specified in the Annxure

As Specified in the Annexure

As specified in the Annexure

Total No. of Work Estimated Cost Period of Completion

Cost of Tender Paper

Other details as follows

Procurement Officer

Availability of tender online Last date & time of seeking of Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division

as specified in Column-5 of the Annexure

Kendrapara 04.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to 14.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M

Road works in the District of Kendrapara for

09 Number of Road Work
Rs.7.20 Lakhs to 25.42 lakhs approximately

Cost of tender paper is to be remited ONLINE

13.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.

If required to decide the agency, transparent Lottery shall be conducted on Dt.26.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. in Office Chamber of th

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in Sd./- Executive Engineer

Tender Opening Date : 10.11.2025 (For SI. No. 04), 17.11.2025 (For SI. No. 02), 24.11.2025 (For SI. No. 03 & 06) & tender clarification Opening of Tender Decision to conduct Lottery 15.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase estrictions and detailed tender condition please visit Website : www.ireps.gov.in and www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in

Rural Works Division, Kendrapara



Art Mumbai to highlight works by

women artists at Sculpture Park

The Sculpture Park this year embodies our commitment to celebrating the power and perspective of women artists. Each work invites us to pause, to listen, and to connect - not just with the material, but with the deeply personal narratives that shape our shared experience of art

MINAL VAZIRANI | CO-FOUNDER, ART MUMBAI

hawan, Savia Mahajan, Sudipta Das, Tarini Sethi, and Vinita Mungi, among others.

The Sculpture Park will offer an opportunity to experience outdoor installations that transcend traditional white-cube spaces. Each work promises to contribute to a multi-layered narrative – merging urban and natural

environments, personal and collective histories - to create a reflective and transformative experience.

"In just three years, Art Mumbai has established itself as an anchor on the global art calendar. The growing participation of international galleries and the strong attendance at the fair reflect how South Asia's artists are embodies our commitment to celebrating the power and perspective of women artists. Each work invites us to pause, to listen, and to connect - not just with the material, but with the deeply personal narratives that shape our shared experience of art," Minal Vazirani, festival co-founder, said in a statement. Founded by Minal and Dinesh

shaping global conversations.

The Sculpture Park this year

Vazirani, Conor Macklin and

To mark 100 years of Tyeb Me-

The art fair will also showcase a retrospective by the Tyeb Mehta Foundation, the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art and Saffronart Foundation, apart from public performances, guided walks and food and lifestyle offerings.

For details, the intending tenderer(s) are advised to visit the website

Nakul Dev Chawla in 2023, the art fair this year will include conversations on the intersection of philanthropy, cultural development and sustaining engagement; South Asian patronage shifting global conversations; evolution of educational policies to position the region as a hub for academic and cultural opportunity; how art is produced, why it holds values, and how collectors can build and sustain long-term investments.

hta, a panel will delve into the artist's oeuvre by drawing out themes of transitions, distance, recurring motifs as well as insights into his creative process, influences and relationships with fellow artists and family.

national

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul **Gandhi, has once again** exposed the dark face of systematic electoral malpractice in India's **election system**

SIDDARAMAIAH



SC TO EXAMINE LAW WHICH BARS SURROGACY FOR SECOND CHILD

The Supreme Court has agreed to examine whether a law banning married couples facing secondary infertility from using surrogacy to have a second child amounts to a restriction by the State on the reproductive choices of citizens



Rahul Gandhi refused their arrest, saying BRS is our friend. That is why they are trying to blame the BJP. They don't want to

investigate corruption

G KISHAN REDDY | UNION COAL MINISTER

I have already urged the chief minister to fix the sugarcane price at Rs 3,500 per tonne.

However, the CM seems indifferent towards the farmers and is preoccupied with political calculations to retain his post, leaving him with no time to address farmers' problems BASAVARAJ BOMMAI

SENIOR BJP LEADER IN KARNATAKA





change their plans accordingly

SHORT **TAKES**

3 killed as truck crashes into car

Wardha: Three persons were killed when a container truck rammed into a car in Maharashtra's Wardha district, police said Wednesday. The accident took place at Allipur village in Hinganghat tehsil around 11.30 pm Tuesday, they said. At Dhotra Fata, a container truck hit a car carrying four persons. While three occupants of the car lost their lives, its driver survived, an official said. The persons have been identified as Vaibhav Shivankar (25), Gaurav Gawade (27), and Vishant Vaidya (28). Assistant inspector Vijay Ghule of Allipur police station told.

Mother arrested for infant's death

Kannur (Kerala): A woman was arrested for allegedly killing her two-month-old baby by throwing him into a well in this district, police said. The incident took place Monday morning at Kurumathur in Taliparamba, and the arrest of the accused (identified as Mubashira) was recorded Wednesday, they said. According to police, the infant, Amish Alan, was found dead after being thrown into a well located near the bathroom of the house.

Farmer, son murdered

Latur (Maharashtra): Two persons allegedly killed an elderly farmer and his son at their farm in Maharashtra's Latur district over a land issue, police said Wednesday. The duo was found dead at Rudhda village in Ahmadpur tehsil Tuesday, they said, adding that two accused persons have been arrested. Shivraj Nivrutti Surnar (70) and his son Vishwanath Shivraj Surnar (20) had, as usual, gone to sleep in a hut on their farm around 9.30 pm Monday.

Leopard shot dead

Pune: A "man-eater" leopard that had struck terror in Shirur tehsil of Pune district, which has reported cases of human-animal conflict over a month, has been killed by sharpshooters, forest officials said Wednesday. The operation was carried out Tuesday night after the team traced the elusive feline through the pugmark near Pimparkhed village and attempted to tranquillise. In the last month, two minors and an elderly person were killed in leopard attacks in the Mauje Pimparkhed area of Shirur tehsil, sparking protests across Junnar, Shirur, Ambegaon, and Khed talukas for action.

Phase 1 voting today; Tejashwi, Samrat in fray

Patna, Nov 5: The stage is set for the crucial first phase of the Assembly elections in Bihar Thursday, as 3.75 crore voters will decide the electoral fate of 1,314 candidates, including top leaders such as INDIA bloc's chief ministerial face Tejashwi Yadav and Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary of the BJP.

Yadav aims at a hat-trick in Raghopur, while his principal challenger Satish Kumar of the BJP had defeated his mother Rabri Devi in 2010 while contesting on a JD(U) symbol. The seat was expected to witness a high-voltage contest, with Jan Suraaj Party founder Prashant Kishor declaring that he wanted to take on Yadav on his home turf. However, Kishor decided not to contest, and his party

rests of Indian fishermen from

Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan

navy, women's safety in the

state--the latest sexual assault

of a woman in Coimbatore was

highlighted, and the SIR of elec-

the party founder to decide on

alliance for the Assembly polls

was unanimously adopted at

the general council, the party's decision-making body.

loved by all sections of people.

Under his leadership, will face

the 2026 polls and authorise

him to take all decisions re-

garding electoral alliance," the

At the meeting, which

came over a month after the

September 27 stampede at the

party's Karur rally addressed

by Vijay, the members ob-

served a two minute silence

for the 41 persons killed in

the incident. One of the res-

olutions demanded adequate

police protection for Vijay

and the public at TVK party

events. Among others, TVK

demanded halting the Spe-

cial Intensive Revision (SIR)

of electoral rolls. Vijay had

convened the meeting to take

future decisions regarding the

party as the "ground situation

is favourable to us.

resolution said.

Vijay is "the CM candidate

The resolution authorising

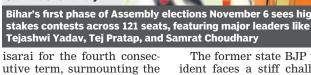
toral rolls was adopted.

candidate Chanchal Singh. In adjoining Mahua. Yaday's estranged elder brother Tej Pratap, who has floated his own outfit Janshakti Janata Dal, is locked in a multi-cornered contest. The elder son of RJD president Lalu Prasad seeks to wrest the seat from sitting RJD MLA Mukesh Raushan, though the presence of Sanjay Singh, the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) candidate who represents the NDA, and Independent Ashma Parveen, the runner-up of 2020, has queered the pitch. Several ministers in the Nitish Kumar government, including Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, will also have their electoral fates decided in the first phase of polls.

Sinha hopes to retain Lakh-

BIHAR ASSEMBLY POLLS Bihar's first phase of

Assembly elections November 6 sees high-stakes contests across 121 seats. featuring major leaders like Teiashwi Yadav, Tej Pratap, and **Samrat Choudhary**



of the Jan Suraaj Party. Choudhary, who is enjoying his second consecutive term in the legislative council, is contesting a direct election after about a decade from Tarapur.

not-so-formidable challenge

provided by Amresh Kumar of

the Congress and Suraj Kumar

The former state BJP president faces a stiff challenge from RJD's Arun Kumar Sah, who had lost the seat in 2020 by a thin margin of about 5,000 votes. Somewhat similar to Choudhary's case is that of Mangal Pandey, a minister and a former state BJP president who is contesting from Siwan, the first instance of his fighting

Pandey, who has been an MLC since 2012, faces a formidable adversary in RJD's Awadh Bihari Chaudhary, a former assembly Speaker who has been a several-term MLA from the seat. The neighbouring seat of Raghunathpur is being keenly watched because of Osama Shahab, the 31-year-old son of deceased gangster-turned-politician Mohd Shahabuddin, a several-term MP from Siwan who was known as the "uncrowned king" of the area.

Osama's candidature has been latched onto by the NDA, which cites it as proof that the RJD stood for "return of jungle raj", and BJP leaders like Himanta Biswa Sarma have even pointed out that the name reminded one of slain terrorist Osama Bin Laden.

Monorail train tilts in Mumbai during test run



Mumbai, Nov 5: A coach of a monorail train suffered severe damage after it apparently hit a beam during a test run at Wada la depot in Mumbai Wednesday morning, with officials saying that there were no passengers inside the train.

Terming it a "minor incident", Monorail operator Maha Mumbai Metro Rail Oper ations Limited (MMMOPL) said nobody was injured in the accident. In the photos and vid eos shared on social media, the train appeared slightly tilted.

The accident was reported at 9 am. Two crew members were safely rescued from the mono rail, a fire brigade official said. According to an eyewitness one of the rescued persons had suffered minor scratches on his forehead, and he was immediately taken inside the depot for first aid.

Officials said the accident occurred on a crossover point right outside Wadala depot, when the white colour monorail rake was being taken out for signalling trials around 9 am. An engineer of the company involved in the tri als was accompanying the train captain, they said.

The first coach's undergears coupling and bogies suffered major damage, along with the covers on the wheels, said of ficials. From beneath the cor ridor, the train appears stuck between two beams, with one side hanging in the air. In a monorail system, the bogie or carriage sits below the elevated beam, carrying the wheels and suspension that guide and sup

Vijay named TVK's CM candidate, to decide on alliance PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Chennai, Nov 5: A special general council meeting of Vijay-led TVK Wednesday authorised the actor-politician to take a call on the party's alliance for next year's Assembly polls and announced him as its Chief Ministerial candidate. The special meeting of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam was held at a private hotel in Mahabalipuram near here under the leadership of the actor, who turned up in his trademark white shirt and stubbled look. A total of 12 resolutions on issues including the recurring ar-

Indian Air Force's (IAF) Sarang Helicopter Display Team performs manoeuvres during rehearsals for the upcoming air show as part of the 93rd Air Force Day celebrations, in Guwahati, Assam

CHHATTISGARH TRAIN COLLISION FIR filed against unidentified persons

The local MEMU passenger train rammed into a stationary goods train

killing 11 including the loco pilot, and injuring several others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bilaspur, Nov 5: An FIR for causing death by negligence and endangering life of others has been registered against unidentified persons in connection with the train accident in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district in which 11 people were killed and 20 injured, an official said Wednesday.

The case was registered at the Torwa police station based on a memo received from a Railway official, said Abhay Singh Bais, Station House Officer (SHO), Torwa.

Sections 106 (1) (causing death by negligence), 125(A) (act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BSN) and



relevant sections of the Railways Act have been invoked in the case, he said, adding further probe was underway.

Meanwhile, Commissioner of Railway Safety BK Mishra has arrived Bilaspur to investigate the accident which took place Tuesday, Railway officials added.

Eleven persons, including six women, were killed and 20 others injured when a MEMU (mainline electric multiple

unit) passenger train hit a stationary goods train from behind after allegedly overshooting a red signal near Bilaspur station. The crash occurred around 4 pm between Bilaspur and Gatora stations on the busy Mumbai-Howrah section, when the passenger train was heading to Bilaspur from Gevra (in neighbouring Korba district).

Loco pilot of the passenger train, Vidya Sagar (53), was among the deceased.

The 20 injured include nine women and a two-year-old-boy. Assistant loco pilot of the pas senger train, Rashmi Raj (34), and its manager (guard) Ashok Kumar Dixit (54) and guard of the goods train Shailesh Chadra (49) are among those hospitalised, they said.

'India-US trade talks going on very well'

Auckland, Nov 5: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal Wednesday said India and the US are holding continuous discussions for the proposed bilateral trade agreement.

"Talks are going well...and are continuously going on. ..kaee samvedanasheel mudde hai, kaee gambheer mudde hai. toh svaabhaavik hai ki thoda samay lagega (There are many sensitive issues, many serious issues, so it is natural that it will take some time)," he told reporters here. He was replying to a question about the progress on India-US negotiations on the pact. Goyal is here on a fourday official visit. He is leading a business delegation. Five rounds of talks have been completed so far for the first phase

of the bilateral trade agreement between the US and India.

A team of Indian officials, headed by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, was in Washington last month to hold trade talks with their US

counterparts In February this year, leaders of India and the US directed officials to negotiate a pro posed Bilateral Trade Agree ment (BTA). They have fixed a deadline to conclude the first tranche of the pact by the fall of 2025. These deliberations are important, as relations between the two countries have been under severe strain since the US President Donald Trump ad ministration imposed a steep 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods It includes a 25 per cent additional import duty for buying Russian crude oil.

'DRISHYAM'-STYLE MURDER

Man's body buried in his house; wife's paramour held

Nearly a year after the mysterious disappearance of the man, Samir Ansari, the city crime branch Tuesday night exhumed his bones and other remains from beneath the kitchen floor of his locked house in Ahmedabad's Sarkhej area

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 5: A man was murdered allegedly by his wife's paramour and two relatives who buried the body beneath the kitchen floor of his house in Ahmedabad city, police said Wednesday, a chilling crime reminiscent of a scene from Hindi movie 'Drishyam'.

Nearly a year after the mysterious disappearance of the man, Samir Ansari, the city crime branch Tuesday night exhumed his bones and other remains from beneath the kitchen floor of his locked house in Ahmedabad's Sarkhej area, said Deputy Commissioner of Police,

Crime, Ajit Rajian.

It was revealed that Ansari's wife Ruby, who is absconding, took help of her paramour Imran Vaghela and two of his relatives to kill Ansari, cut his body into pieces and bury them under the kitchen floor, a crime resulting from her alleged extramarital affair, stated Rajian.

"While Vaghela, who lives in the same area, has been arrested, Ruby along with two relatives of Vaghela -- Rahim and Mohsin -- are still absconding,' said the DCP, adding bones and other remains found in the house have been sent for forensic analysis and DNA

Around three months ago, a crime branch inspector re-

matching.



ceived a tip-off that one Samir Ansari, originally a native of Bihar, had not been seen in the area for a long time and there was no police record of his disappearance too, said Rajian.

"We then kept a watch in the area and learnt Ansari has been missing for the last one year. During questioning, Vaghela broke down and admitted that he along with two others (his

kin) murdered Ansari at the

behest of his wife Ruby a year

"Vaghela claimed Ruby hatched the plan to kill Ansari because he used to thrash her after learning about her extramarital affair and she saw him as an obstacle in her illicit rela-

tionship," said the DCP. Ansari, who used to work as mason, came to Ahmedabad from Bihar in 2016 after his

love marriage with Ruby and

the couple has two children During their stay at Ahmedi Row House near Fatehwadi canal, Ruby fell in love with Vaghela, which angered her husband, said Rajian.

"With the help of Ruby and two others, Imran first slit Ansari's throat and cut his body into pieces. They then dug a pit in the kitchen and covered it with cement and tiles after dumping the body. When people used to enquire about Ansari, Ruby would tell them he had gone to some other city for

work," said the police officer. She lived in the house where her husband was murdered for several months and then moved elsewhere with her children, he said. The house was locked when a crime branch team reached there to exhume the body in the presence of an executive magistrate, Rajian added.

Air India's check-in system faces issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: Scores of Air India flights were delayed at many airports, including at Delhi, Wednesday due to problems with check-in systems caused by a third-party connectivity network issue.

Sources said the problems persisted for more than an hour before the systems were restored. Air India, in a post on X at 5.13 pm, said that some of its flights may continue to be delayed for some time. "A third-party connectivity net work issue had impacted checkin systems at some airports, thereby delaying flight departures of some airlines, including Air India," the airline said While the carrier did not dis close details about the airports where the check-in systems were affected, the sources said most of the domestic airports were impacted, and the check-in sys tems were down at the various airports for more than an hour.

national



A situation where people are no longer prepared to believe the divisive politics of the BJP, which came to power in 2014 by inciting hatred and making false promises, happened long ago. Therefore, surpassing all electoral malpractices, they have now taken their atrocity to the electoral rolls itself. stealing the people's democratic verdict, and the BJP stands exposed today

DELHI: AIR QUALITY SHOWS IMPROVEMENT, STILL 'POOR'

Delhi's air quality showed further improvement Wednesday but was still recorded in the "poor" category with an overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of 202, as favourable wind conditions helped disperse pollutants





With the guidance and support of the Prime Minister, various devel-



Rs 2 lakh crore are underway in the state. Once they are completed, our state will play a key role in realising the dream of 'Viksit Bharat' PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI UTTARAKHAND CM



NAYAB SINGH SAINI | HARYANA CM





FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NC PRESIDENT





Japan is on the verge of collapse... Japan is one of the oldest countries in the world. 29% - almost a third of youth. Youths have delayed their marriages...

only working to make ends meet Married couples don't want to have kids. The elderly population is eating the economy. Old age care, hospitals, loneliness and a silent catastrophe. By 2100, their population is expected to shrink to 7 crores from today's 12 crores. This trend is also being observed in Indian Urban Youths. Late marriages and the concept of DInKs (Double Income No kids) are also gaining popularity. Japan is collapsing, but they got rich. India might be the next, but can India

SHORT TAKES

JNUSU elections:

Counting underway

New Delhi: Counting of votes

is underway for the Jawaharlal

Union (JNUSU) elections, held

Tuesday amid high enthusiasm

across the campus. The results

are expected to be announced

November 6, according to the

JNUSU Election Committee.

The polls recorded a voter

turnout of 67 per cent this

year - a slight dip from 70 per

cent in the previous election.

In 2023-24 polls, the university

witnessed 73 per cent voting,

Stalker who shot

at girl arrested

Faridabad: The man who

allegedly stalked and shot at

a 17-year-old IFF asnirant in

broad daylight in Faridabad

was arrested Wednesday,

police said. Jitendra alias Jatin Mangla (30) allegedly confessed during interrogation

to talk with him, they said. The victim, a Class XII student

that he fired shots at the victim in a fit of rage after she refused

was on her way back from the

the highest in the past decade.

Nehru University Students'

and colourful campaigning

become rich before getting old? @ayusshsanghi

Brazilian model voted 22 times in Haryana: Rahul

The 'centralised plan' included a Brazilian model whose photograph was used 22 times in 10 booths in the Rai Assembly constituency using names such as "Seema, Sweety and Saraswati" for her, Rahul Gandhi said at a press conference during which he put up a presentation "The H-files" to back his claim

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: The 2024 Haryana Assembly polls were "stolen", Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged Wednesday, citing electoral roll data to claim that 25 lakh entries were fake and the Election Commission colluded with the BJP to ensure

The 'centralised plan' included a Brazilian model whose photograph was used 22 times in 10 booths in the Rai Assembly constituency using names such as "Seema, Sweety and Saraswati" for her, the former Congress president said at a press conference during which he put up a presentation "The H-files" to back his claim.

The BJP dismissed the allegation of mass vote theft as "false and baseless" and accused the Congress leader of raising questions on the Election Commission to hide his failures and defame the country's democracy. If there is any irregularity

with the voting, then one must flag it with the EC or approach the court, said BJP's Kiren Rijiju. "But he never does it," the minister said. Election Commission offi-

cials also trashed the allegation as unfounded, saying no appeals were filed against the electoral rolls in Haryana.

According to Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini are "not legitimately in government".

"The message is that the Gen Z and youth have the power to restore our democracy with satva and ahimsa. Peacefully.



sire for a democratic India, by fighting for a democratic India and by resisting this wholesale theft of democracy and murder of the Constitution and democracy," he said while addressing the media at Indira Bhawan.

Training his guns on the Election Commission, Gandhi alleged that it "colluded" with the prime minister and the BJP to launch "Operation Sarkar Chori" to convert the Congress' landslide victory in the state into a loss in 2024.

The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha said he is questioning the Election Commission and the democratic process in the country and is doing so with 100 per cent proof.

Gandhi alleged that Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and the two election commissioners colluded with the BJP to destroy democratic foundations and to ensure the ruling party's victory in Haryana.

He cited the electoral list of Harvana to claim that 25.41.144 were fake voters with 5.21.619 duplicate voters, 93,174 inval-

id addresses and 19,26,351 bulk voters. "One in eight voters in Haryana are fake and despite that the Congress loses by 22,779 votes which was the difference in eight seats," Gandhi said, adding that 1,24,177 fake pictures of voters were used

"The big picture is that 22,000 is the margin and 25 lakh is this... You can understand that there was no election in Harvana. There was a theft (of elections) in Haryana and it is very clear who is responsible for the theft."

The Congress leader also alleged that the CEC lied to the people of India when he stated that "house number zero" is given to homeless people.

CEC Kumar had said crores of people have 'zero number' in their house addresses because the panchavat or the municipality has not given the number to the house.

"Why is the Election Commission not removing duplicates? It is because if it does so, it would result in fair elections and it doesn't want fair elections," Rahul alleged.

SIR IN BENGAL

More than 1.10 crore enumeration forms distributed so far

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 5: As part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal. more than 1.10 crore enumeration forms were distributed across the state till 8pm Wednesday, an official said.

The month-long exercise began Tuesday and will continue till December 4. "More than 1.10 crore enumeration forms were distributed by booth-level officers (BLOs) till 8 pm Wednesday," an official of the Election Commission said. "Yesterday. there were no untoward incidents reported from anywhere in the state. If any resistance is reported against a BLO, we immediately instruct the district electoral officers (DEOs) to investigate," the official said.

As part of the process, 80,681 BLOs have been deployed across the 294 Assembly constituencies. Around 7.66 crore enumeration forms have so far been prepared. and each voter will receive two copies, the EC official said.

According to the guidelines for the SIR process, BLO would countersign both forms. The officer would retain one filled-up form for the Election Commission and return the second with a stamped acknowledgement, which may be required for future reference. The SIR is being conducted in West Bengal after a gap of 23 years. The last such revision of voters' lists was held in the state in 2002.

Meanwhile, EC Principal Secretary SB Joshi, Deputy Secretary Abhinav Agarwal reached West Bengal as a part of their schedule to oversee the SIR rollout in Cooch Behar, Alipurduar, and Jalpaiguri districts, an official said. The EC officials are scheduled to meet the district electoral officers (DEOs). ADM (Election), all the Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), and sector magistrates (SMs) in the three districts, he added.

30 killed in road mishaps across UP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 5: At least 30 people were killed and more than two dozen injured in multiple road accidents across several districts of Uttar Pradesh in the past 24 hours, police officials said Wednesday. The victims included devotees and daily commuters, with many crashes linked to dense fog, speeding, and driver fatigue.

Sixteen people died Wednesday in districts including Bahraich, Kanpur, Pratapgarh, Etah, Ballia, and Chandauli, while over a dozen fatalities were reported Tuesday night in Unnao, Jaunpur, Saharanpur, Bhadohi, Hamirpur, and Etawah.

In Bahraich, four members of a family, including a threeyear-old child, were killed when their motorcycle collided with a gravel-laden truck on the Bahraich-Lucknow highway amid heavy fog. They were en route to a Kartik Purnima fair in Barabanki. In Kanpur, two devotees—Samta (32) and Sudhir alias Golu (20)—died and 11 were injured when an e-rickshaw overturned near Navsheel Dham outpost while heading to Bithoor for a holy dip in the Ganga.

In Pratapgarh, brothers Mahendra (35) and Mithlesh Vishwakarma (18) died after their motorcycle was hit by an unidentified vehicle. In Etah, Ram Singh Lodhi (45), a mentally challenged man, was fatally

struck by a vehicle. In Deoria Shiv Shankar (43) was killed and his son seriously injured when their motorcycle was hit by a speeding car.

In Unnao, three men died after their motorcycle plunged into a water-filled ditch along the Lucknow-Agra Expressway A retired Army man (72) and an elderly pedestrian (80) were killed in separate accidents in Ballia. In Chandauli, Azad Ku mar Saxena (22) died and an other was injured in a head-on collision between a motorcycle and a pickup truck.

Other fatalities included a man in Ayodhya and Balendra Singh (38) in Banda, who died in separate motorcycle colli sions. In another Unnao inci dent, three brothers-Sachin (20), Chhotu (18), and Arun (26)—were killed when their motorcycle collided with a pickup truck carrying fertilizer.

Two truckers died in Jaun pur after their vehicle rammed another truck, likely due to the driver dozing off. In Saharanpur, three men were killed when a tractor overturned and another man died after his motorcycle was hit by an e-rickshaw. Two youths died in Bhadohi after an SUV rammed their bike, while sep arate crashes in Hamirpur and Etawah claimed two more lives

Officials said most accidents were caused by speeding, poor visibility, or driver negligence with many victims traveling for religious observances on Kar tik Purnima.

Vande Mataram mandate in J&K schools sparks row

Srinagar, Nov 5: Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), an amalgam of several religious organisations in Jammu and Kashmir, Wednesday asked the government to immediately withdraw "coercive order" on recitation of Vande Matram in the schools in the Union territory as the national song contained parts which were against Islamic beliefs of monotheism.

"The MMU, headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, expresses serious concern over the recent directive issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Government's Department of Culture instructing schools across the region to commemorate the 150th year of Vande Mataram through organized musical and cultural programs ensuring participation of all students and staff," the amalgam said in a statement here. The MMU said singing or reciting Vande Mataram "is un-Islamic, as it contains

expressions of devotion that contradict" the fundamental Islamic belief in the absolute 'Oneness of Allah (Tawheed)'.

"Islam does not permit any act that involves worship or reverence directed to anyone or anything other than the Creator," the statement said.

The amalgam said while Muslims are urged to deeply love and serve their homeland, "that devotion should be expressed through service, compassion, and contribution to society not through acts conflicting with faith."

"Forcing Muslim students or institutions to participate in activities that conflict with their faith is both unjust and unacceptable," it added.

The statement said the directive appears to be a "deliberate attempt to impose an RSS-driven Hindutva ideology" on a Muslim-majority region under the "guise of cultural celebration", rather than promoting genuine unity and respect for diversity.



Tourists seem to enjoy as a thick white layer blankets the Gulmarg area after the season's first snowfall, in Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir

library when she was attacked.

4 of family killed in road accident Gurugram: Four members of a family including two children were killed after a truck hit their motorcycle in Haryana's Nuh district Wednesday

New Delhi, Nov 5: Fourteen Indian citizens who travelled to Pakistan as part of a large group of pilgrims for Guru

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Nanak's 556th birth anniversary celebrations were denied entry and turned back after officials reportedly refused to accept them, allegedly saying that 'they were Hindus, not Sikhs".

The pilgrims — Pakistani-origin Sindhi Hindus who later acquired Indian citizenship had joined around 2,100 devotees cleared by India's Home Ministry to visit Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of Guru Nanak. Pakistan had issued travel documents for roughly

the same number of people.

On Tuesday, approximately 1,900 pilgrims crossed the Wagah border, the first civilian movement between the two nations since Operation Sindoor, India's military action in May following the Pahalgam terror attack. However, it is now confirmed that 14 people were forced to return.

According to a report by NDTV, Pakistani authorities told them, "You are Hindu... you can't go with Sikh devotees". The group, which reportedly included pilgrims from Delhi and Lucknow, walked back "humiliated", the report said. In addition, nearly 300 others who had independently



applied for visas were stopped on the Indian side due to a lack of mandatory approval from the Home Ministry. Senior Sikh leaders, including Akal Takht representative Giani Kuldeep

'You are Hindus, not Sikhs': Pak denies entry to 14 Indian pilgrims

Singh Gargaj, SGPC delegate Bibi Gurinder Kaur, and DS-GMC's Ravinder Singh Sweeta, were among those who entered Pakistan. The main Gurpurab ceremony is being held at Gurd-

wara Janamasthan, about 80 km from Lahore. During their 10-day pilgrimage, Indian Sikh devotees are scheduled to visit historic shrines including Gurdwara Panja Sahib (Hasan Abdal), Gurdwara Sacha Sauda (Faroogabad) and Gurdwara Darbar Sahib (Kartarpur).

The episode has unfolded amid persistent strain between New Delhi and Islamabad after the Pahalgam massacre in April, which killed 26, mostly civilians. India has not yet issued an official condemnation of the incident involving the Hindu pilgrims, but the development is likely to add to diplomatic friction during an already tense period.

Kota consumer court issues notice to Salman KOTA (RAJASTHAN): A consumer

court here has issued notices to Bollywood actor Salman Khan and a pan

masala company over claims that a "misleading" campaign is being run to

promote a product that is hazardous

to public health. The complainant,

advocate Inder Mohan Singh Honey,

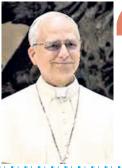
a BIP leader. PAN MASALA AD demanded that advertisements

of such harmful items be immediately banned and the government awards received by Salman Khan be withdrawn for misleading people and promoting such products. Based on the complaint the Kota District Consumer Disputes Re dressal Commission issued the notices and sought Khan's and the company's response by November 27, the next day of the hearing in the matter. The complaint claimed that the pan masala company and Salman Khan were misleading people through advertisements for saffron-infused cardamom and saffron-infused pan masala.

afternoon, police said. The truck driver fled the scene after the accident, abandoning his vehicle. An FIR has been registered at the Ferozepur Jhirka City police station, and the bodies have been sent to the Mandi Khera hospital for a

post-mortem, they said.

international



Many people who have lived for years and years and years, never causing problems, have been deeply affected by what is going on right now POPE LEO XIV CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

US ENDS PROTECTED STATUS FOR SOUTH SUDANESE

The Trump administration is ending the temporary protected status for South Sudanese nationals that has been in place for more than a decade. Nationals from South Sudan have a 60-day grace period to leave the United States before facing deportation starting in early January, DHS said

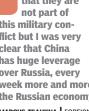


We will

these important decisions are not delayed for several more months VJOSA OSMANI PRESIDENT, KOSOVO

respond with the full force of the law to anyone who aggressively calls for a caliphate on our streets, incites hatred against the state of Israel and Jews in an intolerable manner, and despises the rights of women and minorities

China savs that they are not part of this military conflict but I was very clear that China has huge leverage over Russia. every



week more and more, because the Russian economy is weak MARGUS TSAHKNA | FOREIGN MINISTER, ESTONIA

SHORT **TAKES**

Plans on resumption of nuclear testing

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin Wednesday ordered his top officials to draft proposals on possible nuclear weapons testing after US President Donald Trump said last week that the US would resume such tests. Putin said that Russia had always strictly adhered to its obligations under the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty but that if the United States or any nuclear power tested such a weapon, then Russia would do so too. Defence Minister Andrei Belousov told Putin that recent remarks and actions by the United States meant that it was "advisable to prepare for full-scale nuclear tests" immediately. Belousov said Russia's Arctic testing site at Novava Zemlva could host such tests at short notice.

Beijing conditions Taiwan participation

Beijing: As it gears up to host the APEC summit next vear. China Wednesday put Taiwan's participation as a member state on notice, insisting that acceptance of the 'One-China' principle is a political requisite. The Asia Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) last week concluded its summit in South Korea, where Chinese President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Donald Trump had a fruitful meeting, reaching an informal agreement to end the tariff war between the two countries. Xi later announced that next year's summit of the grouping will be held in the Chinese city of Shenzhen. Taiwan, which China claims as part of its mainland, is a member of the APEC as Chinese Taipei. Taiwanese Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung accused Beijing of backtracking on a prior commitment to support the island's "equal" participation in APEC.

Pak Prez Zardari meets Qatari Emir

Islamabad: Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari Wednesday met Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and offered to expand bilateral cooperation in the areas of defence and defence production. The meeting was held in Doha on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development, which is being held in the Qatari capital from November 4 to 6. Zardari is representing Pakistan at the conference and holding meetings with several leaders attending

Turn the volume up: Mamdani to Trump

Democrats swept a trio of races Tuesday in the first major elections since *Trump returned to power* nine months ago, elevating a new generation of leaders and injecting fresh momentum into the beleaguered party ahead of next year's

congressional elections

New York, Nov 5: New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani wasted no time calling out President Donald Trump, formally kicking off the battle that will likely define relations between the 34-year-old mayor and the president whose celebrity is tied to the city.

"Donald Trump, since I know you're watching. I have four words for you: turn the volume up!" Mamdani, a Democrat, said during a Tuesday

Trump threatens federal funding to dismantle mayor of

crowd of supporters shortly after being declared the victor.

enabling

Democrats swept a trio of races Tuesday in the first maior elections since Trump returned to power nine months ago, elevating a new generation of leaders and injecting fresh momentum into the beleaguered party ahead of next

year's congressional elections. Mamdani made countering the 79-year-old Republican president's actions in the city -- especially on immigration -a centerpiece of his campaign. The next three years will test his ability to go toe-to-toe with Trump, who wields the world's biggest bully pulpit and thrives

Mamdani's

socialist agenda

with election

Democrats sweep first major elections of 2nd Trump term

🛮 n Virginia and New Jersey, moderate Democrats Abigail Spanberger, 46, and Mikie Sherrill, 53, won their lelections for governor with commanding leads, respectively. Indian-origin mayor of Cincinnati, Ohio, Aftab Pureval, won a second term defeating Republican challenger Cory Bowman, half-brother of Vice President JD Vance, local media reported. Pureval's Tuesday victory cements Democrats' control of Cincinnati's local government and adds to Pureval's growing profile in Ohio politics, Fox News reported Tuesday. Pureval, 43, a former special assistant US attorney, first claimed the mayor's office in 2021 after winning nearly 66 per cent of the vote, the report said. India-born American politician Ghazala Hashmi has been elected as Virginia's Lieutenant Governor, becoming the first Muslim and South Asian American to be elected to the top political post in the state. Hashmi, 61, a Democrat secured 1,465,634 votes (54.2 per cent), way ahead of her Republican rival John Reid, who secured 1,232,242 votes, with 79 per cent of the votes in. The Virginia State Senator, who emerged victorious on Election Day Tuesday, was among the over 30 Indian-Americans and South Asian candidates running for office for key nationwide positions in the 2025 elections. Tuesday's contests offered a barometer of how Americans are responding to Trump's tumultuous nine months in office. The races also served as a test of differing Democratic campaign playbooks ahead of 2026, with the party locked out of power in Washington and still trying to forge a path out of the political wilderness. All the Democratic candidates emphasized economic issues, particularly affordability, an issue that remains top of mind for most voters.

From state lawmaker to NYC Mayor

emocratic socialist Zohran Mamdani has made history with his election as Mayor of New York City, marking a groundbreaking moment for the Indian-American and Muslim communities. The 34-year old of Indian and Ugandan descent defeated independent Andrew Cuomo and Republican Curtis Sliwa in a tightly contested race. When he takes office January 1, Mamdani will become New York's first Muslim, first Indian-origin, first African-born, and youngest mayor in more than a century. In his victory speech, Mamdani proudly embraced his identity, declaring, "I am young and I am a Muslim. I refuse to apologise for being a Muslim." Quoting Jawaharlal Nehru, he described his win as a moment of transformation for New York. He reaffirmed his commitment to keeping the city "built by immigrants, powered by immigrants, and now led by an immigrant." Born in Kampala, Uganda, Mamdani moved to New York at age seven and became a naturalised US citizen in 2018. The son of filmmaker Mira Nair and academic Mahmood Mamdani, he attended Bronx High School of Science and earned a degree in Africana Studies from Bowdoin College. Before entering politics, he worked as a housing counsellor, assisting low-income homeowners in Queens. Elected to the New York State Assembly in 2020, Mamdani represented Astoria and nearby neighbourhoods, championing housing justice and working-class issues. His campaign for mayor focused on lowering living costs and addressing inequality in an increasingly expensive city. Mamdani's rise symbolizes a new political era in America's largest citywhere a democratic socialist now leads the citadel of capitalism, pledging to make New York fairer, more affordable, and inclusive for all its residents.

on bare-knuckle politics.

"If anyone can show a nation betrayed by Donald Trump how to defeat him, it is the city that gave rise to him," Mamdani told supporters. "And if there is any way to terrify a despot, it is by dismantling the very conditions that allowed him to accumulate power. This is not only how we stop Trump, it's how we stop the next one.

NEW YORK CITY MAYORAL ELECTION

Trump has repeatedly turned the massive powers of the presidency on political rivals, and already before the election had threatened to possibly withhold billions of dollars in federal funding from New York City if Mamdani, a democratic socialist, was elected. This would follow previous funding cuts by the Trump administration in political moves targeting Dem-

Typhoon Kalmaegi leaves at least 85 dead, dozens missing

ocratic congressional leaders also from the city.

"If you have a communist running New York, all you're doing is wasting the money you're sending there," Trump told CBS' 60 Minutes Sunday, previewing how Republicans will use Mamdani's embrace of a socialist agenda as a line of attack against the Democratic Party.

Mamdani acknowledged his win poses a challenge implementing what he calls "the most ambitious agenda to tackle the cost-of-living crisis this city has seen" since the 1940s -- including a proposed rental freeze, universal childcare and other government actions targeting the private sector. But, in the meantime, Mamdani pledged to fight.

"So hear me, President Trump, when I say this: To get to any of us you will have to go through all of us," Mamdani added

Fierce battle grips Pokrovsk

Moscow, Nov 5: Russia said Wednesday that its forces were advancing north inside Pokrovsk in a drive to take full control of the Ukrainian city, but the Ukrainian army said its units were battling hard to try to stop the Russians from gaining new ground. Ukraine has acknowledged

position in the strategic eastern city, once an important trans port and logistics hub for the Ukrainian army, which Russia has been trying to capture for more than a year. Russia sees the city as the gateway to its capture of the

that its troops face a difficult

remaining 10%, or 5,000 square km (1,930 square miles) of Ukraine's eastern industrial Donbas region, one of its key aims in the almost four-year old war.

The Russian defence min istry said two assault groups were destroying Ukrainian troops that were surrounded in several districts of the city and continuing an offensive pushing north through it. Russian forces were clearing Ukrainian troops from settlements on Pokrovsk's southeastern flank and had repelled Ukrainian attempts to break out of encirclement.

The Ukrainian military de nied that its troops were sur rounded in Pokrovsk. It said they were trying to stop Russian soldiers from digging in while seeking to secure and protect logistics routes in the wider area.

"Measures are being taken to block the enemy, which is at tempting to infiltrate and accumulate in the city of Pokrovsk, the Ukrainian General Staff said in a statement.

Driver rams into

France, 9 injured

France, Nov 5: A 35-year-old

French man rammed his car

into pedestrians and cyclists

on France's Oleron island off

the Atlantic coast Wednesday,

injuring at least nine people

The suspect shouted "Alla

hu Akbar" (Arabic for "God

is Greatest") when arrested

by police, the local prosecu-

tor, Arnaud Laraize, told Sud

Ouest newspaper. However, Ol-

officials said.

pedestrians in

Saint-Pierre-D'oleron,

At least 9 dead in Philippines begins cleanup UPS plane crash

Louisville, Nov 5: A UPS widebody cargo plane crashed Tuesday and erupted into a fireball moments after takeoff from the international airport in Louisville, Kentucky, killing nine, and injuring 11 on the ground, officials said.

Flames from the crash, shortly before sundown, ignited a string of fires in an industrial corridor adjacent to the airport. forcing authorities to halt flight operations through the night, the officials said.

The Louisville airport, which is home to UPS Worldport - a global hub for the shipping company's air cargo operations and its largest package-handling facility worldwide - was expected to reopen Wednesday morning.

Two runways were strewn with debris from the crash.

In a Tuesday night service alert, UPS said delivery schedules for airborne and international packages "may be affected" by the disruption.

"Contingency plans are in place to help ensure that ship-

tinations as quickly as conditions permit," it added.

The triple-engine plane was fueled for an 8-1/2 hour flight to Honolulu. It had a crew of three, UPS said. None survived, officials said.

Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg told reporters at a late-night news briefing that four deaths were confirmed on the ground, with 11 injured people taken to hospitals

Separately, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear said the death toll was at least nine and expected to rise. Some survivors had suffered "very significant" injuries, he said.

It was the first UPS cargo plane to crash since August 2013, when an Airbus aircraft went down on a landing approach to the international airport in Birmingham, Alabama, killing both crew

Beshear said stricken facilities on the ground included a petroleum recycling center and an auto parts business.

FAA records show the crashed plane, an MD-11 freighter, was 34 years old.

Cebu, Philippines, Nov 5: Residents of the central Philippines

Wednesday began scraping mud from streets and homes that survived after Typhoon Kalmaegi killed at least 85 and left dozens missing as it tore through the region. Scenes of destruction emerged

in the hardest-hit province of Cebu, a major tourist hub, as floodwaters receded, revealing the scale of the damage: homes reduced to rubble, overturned vehicles streets choked with debris, and lives upended. In Cebu City, 58-year-old Marlon Enriquez tried to salvage what was left of his family's belongings as he scraped off the thick mud coating his house.

"This was the first time that has happened to us. I've been living here for almost 16 years and it was the first time I've experienced flooding (like this)," he said.

HELICOPTER CRASH DEATHS

But not everyone had homes

In the neighbouring city of Talisay, 38-year-old Eilene Oken walked through what used to be



hardest hit,

residents salvage

her neighbourhood. only to find her home completely destroyed.

<u>belongings</u> Kalmaegi to strengthen ver South China Sea, worked heads towards and saved Vietnam for this for years, then in an

instant, it was all gone," she said, her voice breaking. But Oken said she remains grateful because her family, including her two daughters,

were unharmed.

Among the 85 fatalities were six military personnel homes destroyed, devastation from Kalmaegi, locally named Tino, comes just over a month after a magnitude 6.9 earthquake struck northern Ce-

whose helicopter crashed in Agusan del Sur on the island of Mindanao during a humanitarian mission. The disaster agency reported 75 people missing, and 17 injured. The bu, killing dozens and displacing

ivier Falorni, the region's dep uty in the French parliament said the motive for the attack on a quiet island popular with summer tourists remained unknown, saying the suspect was not on a watchlist of radicalised



'We're dealing with an individual who lives on the island, and the victims also live on the island," Falorni told reporters at the National Assembly in Paris. "Is this a settling of scores? Or an Islamist attack? I have no idea. Is there a political motive? Is it someone mentally unstable who snapped?" French media said the anti-ter-

rorism prosecutor's office was not in charge of the inquiry at this stage, and that an investigation for attempted murder was for now being handled by the local prosecutor's office in La Rochelle. The anti-terrorism prosecutor's office could not immediately be reached for comment.

Officials said two of the victims were seriously injured including the parliamentary assistant of a far-right National Rally lawmaker.

The suspect's car struck pedestrians and cyclists in various ar eas of Oleron island, the mayor of Dolus-d'Oleron, Thibault Brechkoff, told BFM TV. The man then set fire to his car. Police could later be seen inspecting the partially burnt-out vehicle.

Greek rice farmers find new income in confetti

Under a new initiative, a cooperative in northern Greece's Chalastra, a major rice-growing region, has since May sold over three tonnes of broken rice rebranded and sold in white sacks labelled 'wedding rice'

REUTERS

Chalastra, Greece, Nov 5: Faced with droughts and sharper competition, Greek rice farmers are tapping into a new revenue stream: selling their cheap, broken rice to wedding goers instead of discarding it or using it for animal feed.

The tradition of tossing rice over newlyweds has become a wasteful problem in the Mediterranean country, say farmers, who estimate that nearly 200 metric tons of edible, fullgrain rice are lost this way each vear.

Under a new initiative, a cooperative in northern Greece's



Chalastra, a major rice-growing region, has since May sold

over three tons of broken rice rebranded and sold in white sacks labelled "wedding rice". 'When there is malnutri-

tion... it is unfair to throw it away," said Christos Gatzaras, a 52-year-old farmer and head of the cooperative's rice pro-

is the EU's Greece third-largest rice producer, exporting most of its 250,000ton annual production. But the sector is struggling with fierce competition from lowcost imports from South Asia and recent droughts in Greece's agricultural areas.

"We face many difficulties, the costs have spiked, we are under a lot of pressure," said farmer Vasilis Matziounis, 34,

tossing edible rice," said Giannis Gogos, head of sales at Chalastra's primary cooperative. "But (this way) we can

who backs the initiative.

Tens of thousands of reli-

gious and civil weddings are

held in Greece each year, and

many foreign couples choose

the scenic islands of Santori-

ni or Mykonos as a marital

during harvesting or process-

ing - accounts for roughly 9%

of Greece's rice exports and

channelling it into weddings

could help boost the sector.

Broken rice - damaged

backdrop.

"Some people will keep reduce the waste.'

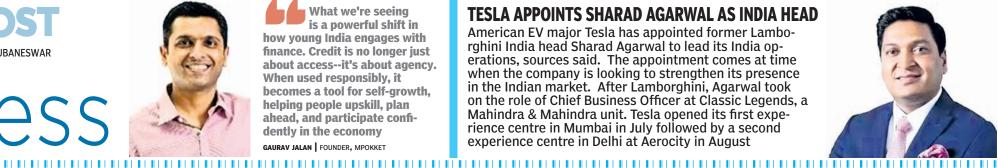
business



What we're seeing is a powerful shift in how young India engages with finance. Credit is no longer just about access--it's about agency. When used responsibly, it becomes a tool for self-growth, helping people upskill, plan ahead, and participate confidently in the economy

TESLA APPOINTS SHARAD AGARWAL AS INDIA HEAD

American EV major Tesla has appointed former Lamborghini India head Sharad Agarwal to lead its India operations, sources said. The appointment comes at time when the company is looking to strengthen its presence in the Indian market. After Lamborghini, Agarwal took on the role of Chief Business Officer at Classic Legends, a Mahindra & Mahindra unit. Tesla opened its first experience centre in Mumbai in July followed by a second experience centre in Delhi at Aerocity in August





space is marred by several structural and persistent

access to formal credit, outdated technology, regulatory complexity and infrastructure bottlenecks

RUMKI MAJUMDAR DELOITTE INDIA ECONOMIST

Employers who embed lifelong learning, inclusive cultures, and flexible policies will not just attract and retain Gen Z talent -- they

will build resilient, future-ready VISWANATH PS | CEO, RANDSTAD INDIA



developments, foreign fund flows. Resilient domestic fundamentals continue to offer support, even as external uncertainties may cap near-term upside

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA I HEAD OF RESEARCH. MOTILAL OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD

SHORT **TAKES**

Maruti Suzuki sales

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India, Wednesday said it has crossed 3 crore cumulative sales mark in the domestic market. The country's largest carmaker said it crossed its first 1 crore cumulative sales milestone in 28 years 2 months and the next one crore units were sold in 7 years and 5 months. The next one crore units in the domestic market were sold in a record time of 6 years 4 months, the company said in a statement Among the 3 crore units sold in India, Alto emerged as the most popular model, with over 47 lakh units sold, followed by the Wagon R with around 34 lakh units, and the Swift with over 32 lakh units, it stated.

Mitsubishi minority stake

New Delhi: Japan's Mitsubishi Corporation has acquired a minority stake in KIS Group's Indonesia operations, marking its entry into the global biogas business. KIS Group said, Wednesday, KIS Group, plans to invest about USD 1 billion in renewable gas and biofuel projects across Southeast Asia and India by 2030, it said in a press statement. Without giving financial details as well as the percentage of stake acquired. KIS said that with Mitsubishi's backing, it aims to expand to North and South America and Europe within five years.

BEML profit drops 6%

New Delhi: State-owned BEML, Wednesday reported a 5.8 per cent decline in consolidated profit to Rs 48.03 crore in the quarter ended September 30, 2025, on account of lower income. The company had posted a consolidated profit of Rs 51.03 crore in the year-ago period. Its consolidated income during the July-September period fell to Rs 846.13 crore against Rs 874.70 crore in the year-ago period. BEML serves core sectors like defence, rail and mining. It operates under three major verticals defence and aerospace, mining and

Embassy REIT posts rise in NOI

construction and rail and metro.

New Delhi: Embassy Office Parks REIT, Wednesday reported a 15 per cent increase in its net operating income (NOI) to Rs 927 crore for the second quarter of this fiscal year. Its revenue from operations rose 13 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,124 crore during the July-September quarter, according to a regulatory filing. The Board declared a distribution of Rs 617 crore, or Rs 6.51 per unit, to unit holders for the second quarter of this fiscal.

US SANCTION IMPACT

India to cut Russian oil imports

New Delhi, Nov 5: India is set to reduce its direct imports of Russian crude from late November, following new US sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil, effective November 21. Indian refiners accounting

for more than half of the country's import of Russian crude oil, which is turned into fuels like petrol and diesel in refineries, are expected to comply with the latest sanctions on Moscow's two largest oil exporters, analysts said.

This, according to maritime intelligence firm Kpler, will trigger a sharp decline in Russian arrivals in December, with gradual recovery projected through early 2026 via intermediaries and alternative trading routes.

Top importer Reliance Industries Ltd, which has a longterm supply contract with Rosneft, will stop taking Russian oil. Two other state-controlled refiners have said they are stopping Russian oil imports. Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd and HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd, a joint venture of

Bitcoin tumbles

below \$100,000

Mumbai, Nov 5: Bitcoin prices

fell sharply, Wednesday, brief-

ly dipping below the \$100,000

mark amid heavy selling in the

The fall came as part of a

broader global sell-off in risk as-

sets, with investors increasingly

worried about overvalued mar-

The world's largest cryp-

tocurrency dropped 3.7 per

cent to trade at \$101,822 after

touching an intra-day low of

\$99,010.06- its weakest level

Other major digital assets al-

so traded lower, with Ethereum

sliding 6.76 per cent to \$3,331.65,

Solana down 3.16 per cent at

\$157.66. XRP declining 3.16 per

cent to \$2.24, and Dogecoin slip-

Bitcoin has now officially

entered bear market territory,

falling more than 20 per cent

from its record high of \$126,186

According to data from an-

alytics firm CoinGlass, more

than \$1.27 billion worth of lev-

eraged crypto positions were

liquidated earlier this week.

most of them being long po-

sitions as traders betting on

further price gains faced steep

In total, nearly \$2 billion in

crypto positions were wiped out

in the past 24 hours, although

the scale was smaller compared

to the \$19 billion liquidations

seen during last month's crash.

interest in Bitcoin futures re-

mains subdued, while options

traders are increasingly betting

on further downside, with sev-

eral targeting the \$80,000 level

through put contracts.

Reports suggest that open

reached in early October.

ping 1.47 per cent to \$0.165.

kets and fading risk appetite.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

spot market.

since mid-June

steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal's Mittal Energy and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), have announced plans to suspend future imports.

The three accounted for more than half of the 1.8 million barrels of Russian crude oil imported in the first half of 2025.

However, Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery, partially owned by Rosneft and already under EU sanctions, is likely to maintain its Russian crude intake.

According to Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst (Refining & Modelling) at Kpler, Russia remained India's top crude supplier in October, followed by Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Russian shipments to India reached 1.6-1.8 million barrels per day (mbd) before the sanctions, with declines observed post-October 21 as refiners avoided potential US OFAC exposure.

Analysts say Russian barrels are unlikely to disappear entirely, but future imports will rely on more complex logistics and trading arrangements.

To offset reduced Russian flows, Indian refiners are increasing procurement from the Middle East, Latin America, West Africa, Canada, and the United States. US crude imports hit 5,68,000 barrels per day (kbd) in October, the highest since March 2021, driven by economics and arbitrage opportunities rather than sanctions. Flows are expected to normalise to 250-350 kbd in December and January.

In contrast, Nayara Energy's 400 kbd Vadinar refinery is unlikely to alter its current procurement pattern, as it is already almost entirely reliant on Russian crude.

"To offset reduced direct Russian inflows, Indian refin ers are expected to increase procurement from the Middle East, Brazil, Latin America, West Africa, Canada, and the United States," he said.

"However, higher freight costs could limit the scale of substitution by eroding arbitrage opportunities.

Overall, refiners are likely to broaden their import baskets, with higher inflows from Lat in America (Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Guyana), the United States West Africa and the Middle East. While near-term Russian imports may dip starting in December, Russian barrels will continue reaching India through intermediaries, he said.

Chinese pipe imports surge two-fold in FY25



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: Imports of seamless pipes and tubes from China have increased by more than two-fold annually to 4.97 lakh metric tonnes in FY25, according to domestic manufacturers' body STMAL

The country had imported 2.44 lakh metric tonnes of seamless pipes and tubes from China in the preceding financial year.

Imports in FY23 were 1.47 lakh tonnes as against the total shipment of 82.528 metric tonnes in the fiscal year 2021-22, the industry data showed.

Seamless Tube Manufacturers' Association of India (ST-MAI) President Shiv Kumar Singhal said that imports of Chinese pipes have increased nearly five-fold in the last fiscal year compared to that of FY22.

"Chinese pipe imports have increased exponentially over time...despite strong support from the Indian government through various safeguard measures aimed at protecting the domestic seamless pipe industry. These efforts have proven largely ineffective in curbing imports from China," Singhal explained.

Chinese players are dumping seamless pipes into Indian market, and evading taxes and duties through over-invoicing at Indian customs, the industry

'Chinese importers are re-

portedly declaring inflated invoice values at the time of customs clearance, while subse quently selling the same prod ucts in the Indian market at significantly lower prices than those of domestic manufacturers. This practice undermines fair trade and puts Indian producers at a serious disadvan tage," Singhal explained.

China is not only harming the Indian economy by flood ing the market with cheap pipes, but also raising serious security concerns by supplying sub-standard materials to crit ical sectors such as thermal power, nuclear power and oil and gas.

"These practices suggest a strategic attempt to infiltrate and potentially compromise key components of India's future energy and infrastructure landscape. Such developments warrant urgent attention, as they may pose long-term risks to India's economic sovereignty and national security," he said

The minimum import price of seamless pipes is Rs 85.000 per tonne and the market selling price of Chinese pipes in Indian markets in small quantities is 70,000 per tonne resulting in under-utilisation of the indigenous capacity due to large scale dumping, he ex plained.

This has also resulted in loss of employment opportunities

BIZ BUZZ

MGM Minerals gives advanced ambulance to Rourkela Police

BHUBANESWAR: An advanced ambulance equipped with modern medical facilities was handed over

Police today by Limited from its Mines located of Sundargarh



by Satvaiit Panda, AGM (Mines) of MGM Minerals mited, in a ceremony held at the premises of the Rourkela Reserve Police Office. The state-of-the-art ambulance will be used for the welfare and emer gency needs of police personnel. Panda informed that the ambulance was provided to the Rourkela Police as part of MGM Minerals Limited's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

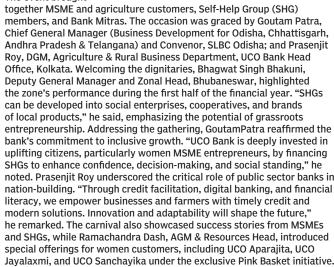


Jaibaba Automobiles, Luis Road, celebrated the ever highest festive sale of Royal Enfield bikes, in presence of RE state head Narendra Shaw(RBM), MR Talib Rasul (ASM), Madhav Lodha (DP), Harshit Lodha (DP) and the entire Jaibaba team.

UCO Bank hosts MSME & Agriculture carnival

BHUBANESWAR: UCO Bank, Zonal Office Bhuhaneswar. organised the Resources,

MSME & Agriculture Carnival at the Guru Kelu charan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre Auditorium, celebrating financial inclusion and enterprise development. The event brought





students across India and 10 foreign nations including Thailand, Poland, Australia, and Taiwan. Racha Aribarg, Consul-Genyoung and the elderly. Spend time with elders, or they will

the flagship global technology festival of VIT Chennai, commenced, Friday, drawing participation from over 10,000

eral, Royal Thai Consulate-General, Chennai, inaugurated the three-day event as Chief Guest. Urging youth to harness technology for social good, he said, "The world over, there is a serious issue of digital divide a gap of knowledge between

G V Selvam, Vice President, VIT, who presided over the event, highlighted India's growing self-reliance in education and innovation. "There's a per-

be left behind, unable to use

technology in their daily lives."



Racha Aribarg, Consul-General, Royal Thai Consulate-General, Chennai and GV Selvam, Vice President, VIT, Prince Jayakumar D, Executive Vice President, HCLTech also present at the event.

ception that Indian education is theoretical, but TechnoVIT'25 proves otherwise. Our students are applying their knowledge to create solutions that benefit society," he said.

Guest of Honour, Prince Jayakumar D, Executive Vice President, HCLTech, spoke on emerging technologies, stating, "If India became the IT services capital in the past three

decades, in the next, it will be

The fest features over 150

the innovation capital.

technical events and 40 workshops, with a total prize pool of Rs10 lakh. Highlights include

Robo Race, Robo Sumo, Robo Tug of War, and Rotor Rush. Senior officials including T Thyagarajan, K Sathi yanarayanan, and PK Manoha-

ran attended the inauguration

Time for India to have a comprehensive gold policy: SBI study

New Delhi. Nov 5: As gold prices soar to new heights, a study, Wednesday made a case for a comprehensive policy for the vellow metal as India is one of the world's largest bullion markets, influenced by a cultural affinity for the shiny metal and investment demand.

Gold price has been reaching new heights driven by geo-political tensions, economic uncertainty, and a weakening US dollar, said the report titled 'Coming Of (A Turbulent) Age: The Great Global Gold Rush' by the State Bank of India's Economic Research Department.

The year-to-date price has increased by over 50 per cent in 2025. The price came down to below \$4,000 per ounce for a few days in October, but again moved above \$4,000/

oz in November.

The report noted that the domestic supply of gold is only a fraction of the total gold supply in India, with imports contributing around 86 per cent of the total supply in 2024 as per the

World Gold Council estimate. India is one of the largest gold markets, influenced by cultural affinity for shiny metal, investment demand and other economic factors, including a hedge against inflation and a safe-haven asset, it noted.

"Cherished by households, cheered by investors, hoarded by central banks and feted by speculators, the recent chequered journey of the shiny metal has been straight out of a story book, but also cautions as a fear gauge of the tempest waiting on the sidelines. Time for India to have a dedicated longterm gold policy that supports localisation," the report said.

SBI study said China has a

now, it said, "if one were to national policy on gold, which has a specific purpose. It has take an objective view of the policy discussions on gold since a comprehensive approach to 1978, one finds that the major reshaping how gold is traded, stored, valued, and used in inthrust has been to wean away ternational commerce. It repthe masses from physical gold. resents a coordinated approach They were therefore only shortto addressing several economic term in horizon". and geopolitical priorities si-"The time has now come

multaneously.

On India's gold policy till

to conceive a comprehensive policy on gold, and for such it

is important that one defines what gold is (commodity or money) and how gold is perceived by its ultimate consumer," the report said.

There is also a need to have greater debate on evolving a comprehensive policy on gold, say a gold-backed pension scheme, that will integrate with broader financial sector reforms and with currency convertibility on capital account, it added.

According to the report, policy tools as Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) aimed to provide an alternative to holding physical gold and reduce its imports, have led to an increase in government debt. Capital loss alone for the outstanding SGB units accounts

for Rs 93,284 crore. Further, increased returns of gold as an asset class have led to huge inflows in gold ETFs. In FY25 (Apr-Sep), inflows in gold

ETF jumped 2.7 times, and in FY26, it increased 2.6 times. The net asset under management of Gold ETF increased to Rs 901.36 billion as on Sep'25, representing a 165 per cent rise year-onyear (yov).

In terms of reserve change, RBI's gold reserves have increased by USD 25 billion in FY25 and USD 27 billion in FY26 so far till October 10, 2025, mainly due to valuation increase.

Mining of gold in India is limited, thereby increasing its reliance on imports. Gold mined during FY25 was 1,627 kg.

The study said that the recent discoveries of new gold mines in various districts of Odisha Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh and Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh could help ease the pressure on imports and are positive for the country's current account balance.

PM meets victorious Women in Blue



Recalling their earlier meeting with Modi after the 2017 World Cup, captain Harmanpreet Kaur said the team had then come without a trophy, hopefully they will achieve success and get to meet him more often

motivation.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday met the triumphant Indian women's cricket team at his residence and lauded the players for their "remarkable resilience and comeback" in the World Cup after enduring a tough phase marked by three consecutive defeats.

The Prime Minister also referred to the trolling the players had faced on social media after the early setbacks and praised them for showing exemplary mental strength to bounce back and script history. Recalling their earlier meet-

ing with Modi after the 2017 World Cup, captain Harmanpreet Kaur said the team had then come without a trophy, hopefully they will achieve success and get to meet him more often.

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana said the Prime Minister's

words were a huge source of

The Harmanpreet-led side arrived in the national capital Tuesday evening for the meeting, two days after scripting a defining moment for Indian women's cricket by winning its maiden global title — the 50-over World Cup — with a 52run victory over South Africa in the final in Navi Mumbai.

During the interaction, Player of the Tournament Deepti Sharma told Modi she had been waiting to meet him since 2017, recalling how he had then urged them to keep working hard to achieve their dream.

When the Prime Minister mentioned her "Jai Shri Ram" Instagram bio and the tattoo of Lord Hanuman on her arm, Deepti smiled and said they gave her strength.

Harmanpreet asked Modi how he manages to stay in the present at all times. The Prime Minister replied that it had

Mandhana, Kaur get WC trophy inked

ndia's vice-captain Smriti Mandhana got a tattoo of the World Cup trophy on her forearm, with '2025' inked just below it, denoting the year of the team's historic victory. Team India defeated South Africa by 52 runs in the final of the ODI World Cup Sunday night to win their maiden ICC trophy and to be crowned the new World Champions. Smriti joined skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, as the Indian skipper also got a tattoo of the trophy on her arm. She also has '52' and '2025' inked around it, with the former denoting the margin of victory. She shared a picture of the same on her Instagram handle and captioned it, writing, "Forever etched in my skin and my heart. Waited for you since Day 1 and now I will see you every morning and be grateful.

become a part of his life and a habit over time.

He also recalled some memorable moments from the team's journey, including Harleen Deol's spectacular catch against England in 2021, about which he had posted on social media.

The Prime Minister fondly referred to Harmanpreet pocketing the ball after the World Cup final. She said she was lucky that the ball came to her.

In a lighter vein, Modi also spoke about Amanjot Kaur's juggling catch in the final While catching, you must have been seeing the ball, but after catching it, you must have been seeing the trophy, he joked.

Kranti Gaud told the Prime Minister that her brother is a big fan of his, to which he exmeet him.

Modi urged the players to promote the Fit India message, especially among girls across the country. He expressed concern over the growing problem of obesity and emphasised the importance of fitness and physical activity

The players will now disperse to their respective hometowns. Shafali Verma, however, will head to Nagaland to lead the North Zone side in the upcoming Inter-Zonal T20 meet.

India's World Cup triumph marked a watershed moment for women's cricket in the country, bringing to fruition vears of toil and near-misses. as Harmanpreet's side overcame formidable South Africa to become only the fourth team

'Embracing Odisha's hockey heritage to empower talent'

within our setup

India League?

Having recently guided

Gantoise HC to significant

success in Europe, what

key lessons from club-level

triumphs do you intend to

apply in the Hero Hockey

At club level, especially

with Gantoise, the biggest

lesson was about structure

and discipline, both on and

off the pitch. Creating a pro-

fessional environment where

every player knows their role

and feels valued makes a mas-

sive difference. That's my aim

here. It's not just about indi-

vidual skill; it's about creat-

■ Working alongside Head

Coach Jay Stacy, how do

vou envision the partner-

ship shaping the team's

tactical and technical di-

I'm really looking forward

to working with Jay. He's got

tremendous experience, both

as a player and as a coach,

and importantly, he already

knows the Indian hockey

ecosystem well, having been

involved in the league before.

Our combination is a good

mix, his experience,

my experience, and

our shared under-

standing of inter-

national hockey

helps in man-

aging diverse

playing styles

the end of the

day, we both

know the im-

portance of

creating

cohesive

and person-

alities.

cultures.

rection this season?

ing a strong system.

Pascal Kina brings over two decades of experience to Vedanta Kalinga Lancers as Technical and Strategy coach in the new Hero Hockey India League season

POST NEWS NETWORK

You've coached across several continents with both men's and women's teams. How do you plan to bring that diverse international experience to the Vedanta Kalinga Lancers setup?

Well, like I said, I've coached a lot of teams — more men's teams, though I did work with a national women's team for six years. Over the years, I've learned that each environment teaches you new tactics. discipline, or team dynamics, I watched all the Kalinga Lancers' games last year, my son Antoine Kina was playing for them. I could clearly see a few areas where we can make real improvement but I wouldn't say it's easy. With the new players we've brought in, we now have the opportunity to address those areas and strengthen it. I'll bring all my experience and knowledge to the team.

The Kalinga Lancers have emphasised building a strong local identity rooted in Odisha's hockey culture. How do you plan to integrate local talent into your overall strategy?

That's something I'm very mindful of. When I was asked if I could arrive early, I immediately said yes. I think it's important to spend time with the Indian players and understand them better. I already know the Belgian and Australian boys quite well. but to build a real team dy namic, I need to connect with the local players too. I want every player, whether Indian or overseas, to feel equally important. Odisha has such a rich hockey culture, and I'm excited to learn from it and help the local talent thrive

players gel seamlessly.

Talk us through the team composition for the new sea-

I and Jay, we already have

unit where Indian and foreign

a few clear ideas. Players like Antoine and the Australian group give us great control in the midfield, while we have some exceptional Indian strikers who bring speed and creativity up front. It's a balanced squad, a blend of experience, flair, and potential. The best part is that this time, players will arrive well before the tournament begins, giving us enough time to use that period to assess player combinations through training matches and tactical drills, adjusting our plans based on our opponents. Flexibility will be the key.

As someone who has worked with both emerging and elite teams, what excites you most about this new coaching chapter in India's premier hockey league?

This is my first time coaching in India, and I'm genuine ly excited. The energy around hockey here is incredible, and the league provides a fantas tic platform to work with both top-level international stars and talented young Indian players. My coaching philosophy is simple, hockey should be vertical, fast, and attacking, but with structure and balance. That's very much in

> line with the Indian and Australian styles of play, which I admire. We'll focus on being organised, knowing exactly what to do when we're pressing high or defending deep. But above all, I want the players to enjoy the process, grow as a unit, and believe in what we're building. It's going to be a great challenge, and I'm looking forward to

SHORT TAKES

Chhetri dropped

New Delhi: Indian football team head coach Khalid Jamil announced 23 probables for the Asian Cup qualifiers match against Bangladesh with talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri's name missing. The game is scheduled to be held in Dhaka November 18. India are already out of contention for a berth in the main tournament to be held in Saudi Arabia in 2027 after losing their previous match against Singapore (1-2) in Margao last month. It is not known if Chhetri's name will be included later and his exclusion is not a surprise since he had come out of retirement to help India qualify for Asian Cup.

Haria, Gupta lose

Doha: India's Dhvaj Haria and Paras Gupta, who were one win away from making the final stage, suffered narrow defeats in the first stage of the IBSF World Snooker Championships here. Impressive in his two previous wins, Haria called the shots for the better part of the last-16 meeting against Thor Chuan Leong Tuesday night. However, the 32-year-old frittered away a 3-1 advantage and lost 3-4 to the Malaysian.

Bayern, Liverpool win

London: Bayern Munich and Liverpool won the blockbuster matchups in the Champions League. Micky van de Ven from Tottenham might have already scored the competition's goal of the season. With a 2-1 win at defending champion Paris Saint-Germain, Bavern made it 16 straight victories in all competitions. Real Madrid came unstuck at Anfield for the second straight season, losing 1-0 to Liverpool.

Virat Kohli turns 37

New Delhi: India batting stalwart Virat Kohli turned 37 Wednesday, and his India teammates extended heartfelt wishes to celebrate the special day of one of the most iconic cricketers of the modern era. Kohli, who announced his retirement from Tests and T20Is to concentrate on the 50-over format, has won nearly every ICC tournament, except the World Test Championship.

Time for Gill to up the ante

INDIA LOOK FAVOURITES VS AUSTRALIA

The series is locked at 1-1 after three games

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Carrara (Gold Coast), Nov 5: Shubman Gill will be looking to turn the tables with a big knock after what has been an underwhelming tour when a confident India aim to go one up against a depleted Australia in the fourth T20 International here Thursday. The series is locked at 1-1 af-

ter three games and the absence of Josh Hazlewood in the previous game did make a difference to Australia's defence of a standard total of 186.

Going into the fourth game, there won't be any Travis Head for Australia as the opener is set to play Sheffield Shield to prepare for the Ashes.

With two pillars of the rival



team unavailable, this is the best chance for India to go 2-1 up before the final game at the

Gabba and wrap up a series win. In the last game, India finally did look to get their combination right within their ambit of having an all-rounder at No 8.

However, what will slightly

bother the Indian team management is skipper Shubman Gill's form in the series as he has now played six games without a half-century.

The sequence of scores since the start of the ODI series reads 10, 9, 24, 37 not out, 5, and 15. The only time he looked in good nick was at Canberra when he stitched a nice little stand with skipper Survakumar Yadav.

Gill has been troubled by fuller deliveries with a hint of movement and throughout the better part, he hasn't exactly looked in the regal touch which has made him the player that he is.

At the other end, Abhishek Sharma has done his reputation no harm as the world's No 1 T20 batter with a fine half-century and two quick starts in the series. However Gill, who will have to switch on to the red ball mode in a week's time, will certainly get a lot of confidence if he gets some runs irrespective of the format he is playing.

Diptayan sees biggest win of career, ousts Nepomniachtchi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panjim, Nov 5: Grandmaster Diptayan Ghosh caused the biggest upset of the World Chess Cup by ousting former world championship challenger Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia with a win in the second game of the second round here Wednesday.

In what was simply a one sided affair, Ghosh did not give any chance to Nepomniachtchi who was rather erratic with his white pieces. The opening gave Ghosh an unclear position early and Nepomniachtchi missed a simple tactic early in the middle game which cost him a pawn.

"This is certainly the biggest victory of my chess career, beating Nepo in a match," said Ghosh after his win. Earlier. Grandmaster P Harikrishna became the first Indian to advance to the third round, crushing Russian Arseniy Nesterov.

Shami ignored again; fit-again Pant returns

INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA TEST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: Star wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant Wednesday made a much-anticipated return to India's Test squad for the upcoming two-match home series against South Africa but the selectors chose to ignore pacer Mohammed Shami yet again, putting a question mark over the senior pacer's career. Pant expectedly made a

comeback to international cricket after recovering from a foot fracture, sustained during the fourth Test against England in Manchester in July. He was forced out of the following series against the West Indies.

The 26-year-old impact batter recently captained India A to win over South Africa A in a four-day game in Bangalore, scoring 90 in the second innings in a chase of 275.

He replaced N Jagadeesan in the 15-man squad and will be deputy to Shubhman Gill. Is Shami's India career over?

However Shami, who did quite well in three recent Ranji Trophy matches for Bengal, yet again did not find a place in Test squad.

The 35-year-old premier pacer, who once made a lethal combination with Jasprit Bumrah, guided Bengal to succes sive wins over Uttarakhand and Gujarat with his skill set. He bowled 93 overs, across three matches, albeit in short spells and accounted for 15-plus scalps.

However, it seems that the selectors are unsure if Shami's body can withstand the vigours of Test cricket that requires long bowling spells.

Since India are not playing Test cricket for at least six months after the South Africa series, it seems that the Indi an team door has been shut on Shami, who has 462 wickets to his name across formats. He last played a Test match in 2023 and competed in ODIs and T20Is this year.

India's pace attack features Bumrah and Siraj, while the spin department will once again rely on veteran Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel Kuldeep Yadav and all-rounder Washington Sundar.

The first Test will be played in Kolkata from November 14, followed by the second in Guwahati from November 22.

A WIN, A NEW HOME, TEARS

Djoko marks Greece's comeback with triumph

The first top-tier tournament held in **Greece in over** three decades

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Athens, Nov 5: Novak Djokovic battled through a tough opening set before pulling away to defeat Chile's Alejandro Tabilo 7-6 (3), 6-1 at the Hellenic Championship, the first top-tier tournament held in Greece in more than 30 years.

Both players held their serve under pressure in the first set until Djokovic edged out the tiebreaker. The momentum shifted in the second set, where the top seed broke Tabilo twice



and completed the match in just

over 90 minutes. Djokovic's win secured him a spot in the quarterfinals at the ATP 250 event, as elite-level tennis returned to Greece for the first time since 1994. The

Telekom Center crowd in Ath-

ens offered constant support for

the 38-year-old Serb, who moved with his family to Athens earlier this year.

Djokovic had lost his past two encounters with the 28-year-old Tabilo and told the crowd: "I'm thrilled to get through tonight. I played against Tabilo and I've never won against him, so I was

people here approached me in a friendly and humane way, and that touched my heart NOVAK DJOKOVIC

playing in Athens. More

than recognition for my

tennis achievements, I felt that

more under tension before the match than I would be before some others.

Djokovic was brought to tears while watching a tribute video for Croatian tennis great Nikola Pilic, who died earlier this year. Djokovic had trained at Pilic's academy as a teenager. "He was more than just a mentor and a coach to me," Djokovic told the crowd. "He was part of my family — to me and my brothers.'

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