



Jannat fumes

Actor Jannat Zubair slams random beauty filter apps saying they set unrealistic beauty standards

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

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 215 | www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 6, 2025

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

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, Kamakhya Prasad Swain, and Tanuj 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 women-centric 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 payouts.

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 states.

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 Kalaingar 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 cautioned 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 Mayan 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 passengers 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.

₹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 Ganjam 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 the port town.

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 Ganjam 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 Odisha in coordination with the Central government's 'Sagarmala, Gati Shakti and National Logistics Policy' scheme. The state government is making efforts 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.



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

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

TRADITION TURNS MODERN

Swiss seek UNESCO shout-out for yodeling

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lucerne (Switzerland), Nov 5: Yodel-ay-hee ... what! Those famous 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 yodel 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, yodelling is built on the "sound colours of the voice" and features two types one centring on the

head — with a "u" sound — and 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 Swiss Alps.

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

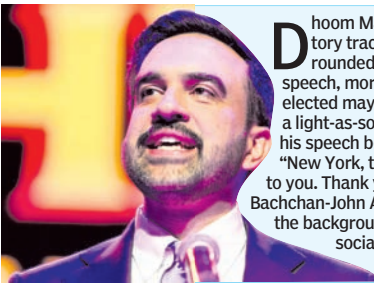
Dhoom machale: Zohran makes history, wins NY mayoral polls

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Nov 5: Zohran Mamdani, the 34-year-old Indian-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



Dhoom 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**

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
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.

GEMINI
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 refurbish 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, says Ganesha.

LEO
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 worry might come at the end of the day 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 good one for monetary benefits to you.

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 quite 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
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 invaluable, says Ganesha.



RADIOHEAD IS BACK ON 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 concert. The rockers kicked off their long-awaited European tour with a 25-song set at Madrid's Movistar Arena, reports *Female First UK*.

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-year-old landed her big break in Hollywood when she was cast as Xenia Onatopp opposite Pierce Brosnan as 007 in 1995's *GoldenEye*.



Jannat slams beauty apps

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.



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 versatile and bankable actor. Her diverse film choices have her collaborating with some of the industry's most acclaimed filmmakers, highlighting her growing demand and range.

Sharvari will next be seen in Aditya Chopra's *Alpha*, a much-awaited addition to the YRF Spy Universe.

She has also been cast as the leading lady in Sooraj Barjatya's upcoming family drama, opposite Ayushmann Khurrana.

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 repertoire. She will also headline Ali Abbas Zafar's next project under Yash Raj Films, opposite *Saiyara* sensation Ahaan Panday. The fresh on-screen duo is being touted as one of the most exciting pairs to look forward 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 screen."

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 Hindi cinema.

Yami's candid admission

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 anyone."

Gautam emphasised that

the deepest reward for her comes from the audience and the creative journey itself, 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, Yami underscores a broader

message for the industry and audience alike: true validation may not always come with a trophy, but rather through authenticity, impact and connection.



Akon set to light up India

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



hit you with a little *Chammak Chalo* to get the vibes right. Guess what? This November, I'm bringing the party of

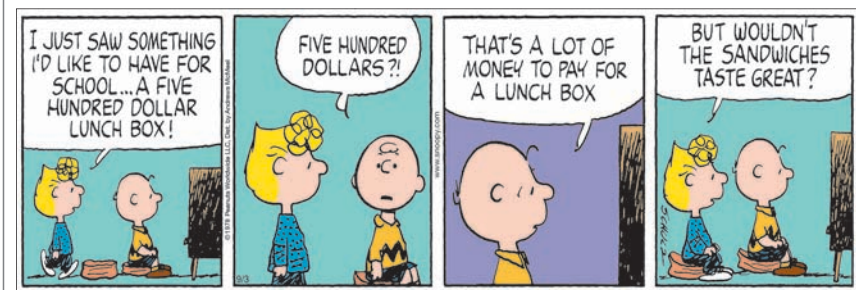
the year straight to YOU. So don't wait click that link, grab your tickets, and come turn up with me live on tour, India style. Can't wait to see my people, my fans, my fam out there let's make history together! Much love."

With hits like *Smack That*, *Lonely*, *Don't Matter*, *Right Now* (Na Na Na) and the Bollywood favourite *Chammak 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.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBES

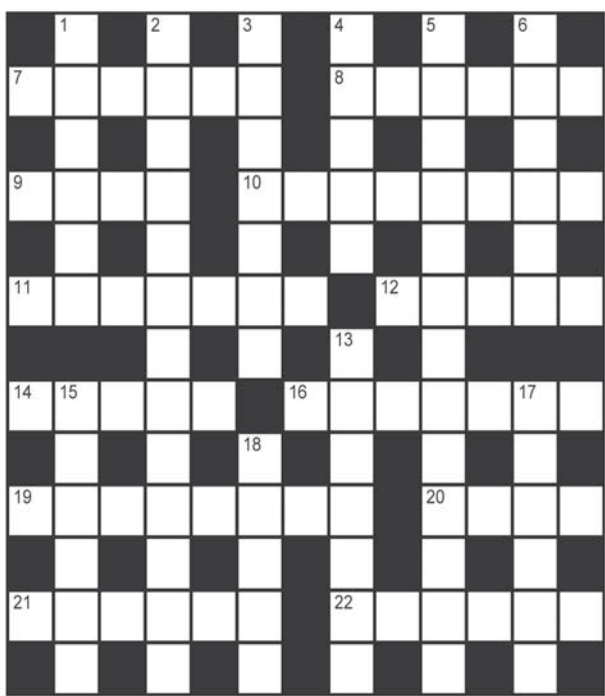


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

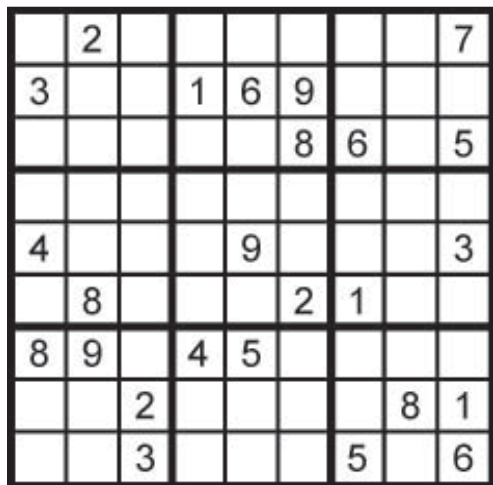


- Across**
- 7 Manx, e.g.
 - 8 Atone
 - 9 Commuting option
 - 10 Double-faced (3-5)
 - 11 Come apart
 - 12 Blue-pencils
 - 14 African grassland
 - 16 Bird with fanlike tail
 - 19 Play venues
 - 20 Old World duck
 - 21 Utilise
 - 22 Cigar
 - 3 Luxury motor car
 - 4 Hilda's transport?
 - 5 Ring outcome, possibly (5,8)
 - 6 Bug
 - 13 Endure
 - 15 Dig up
 - 17 Lowlife
 - 18 Hee-haws
- Down**
- 1 Hold up
 - 2 Snooker venue (8,5)

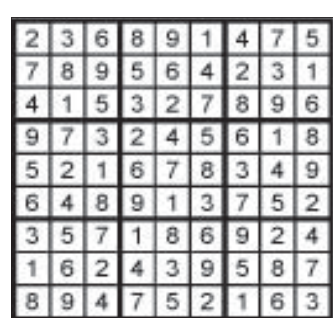
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



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

AGENCIES

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

AGENCIES

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 remains 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 farmers and affected citizens.

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 commended 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 one-time support.

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.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.79 ▼ 0.09	SENSEX	83459.15 ▼ 519.34	GOLD	₹120,326 ▲ ₹529
EURO	102.28 ▼ 0.27	NIFTY	25597.65 ▼ 165.70	SILVER	₹146,725 ▲ ₹1241

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	31.8°	30.1°	Fog/mist in the morning & mainly clear sky later
Min Temp	17.0°	17.6°	
Humidity	72%	71%	
Rainfall	NII	NII	

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KK-KR railway lines turn ganja smuggling corridor



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

▶ 23 CASES REGISTERED BY GRP

▶ 48 INCLUDING 9 MAFIA AND 8 WOMEN ARRESTED

▶ 345 KG GANJA SEIZED

states including Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are disguising themselves as tourists to enter Koraput district, investigations reveal.

During their return journey, mafia networks operating near major railway stations coordinate the transportation.

The traffickers, who are supplied with ganja at smaller stations by local peddlers, move consignments across state borders facilitating the

illegal trade.

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, Chhatripur, Jeyapore, Dhanpur, Khadapa, and Kotpur along the KK line. On the KR line, hotspots include Dumuriput, Damanjodi, Baiguda, Kakiriguma, Lakshmi-pur, 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

OP PHOTO

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 barrels, 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 underway.

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 move further.

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 stable.

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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.

Champua farmers face double whammy

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.

Meanwhile, Assistant Conservator of Forests and Forest Ranger Akshay Chhatra 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 government norms, he added.

Untreated hotel sewage 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 deplorable 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 Circuit 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 operating without proper drainage systems. The situation becomes particularly severe during the rainy season. Despite repeated complaints, authorities have yet to take meaningful action.

Senior lawyer Ashok Das alleged 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.

FOCUS POWER SECTOR

UNEVEN PLAYING FIELD



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.

A 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.

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



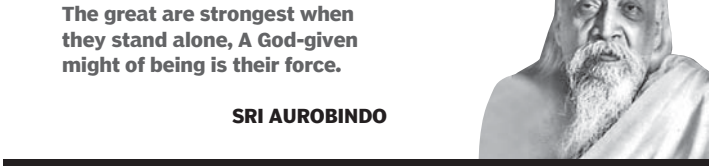
DV Ramana

ELECTRICITY REFORMS NEED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY BALANCING EFFICIENCY WITH EQUITY



Ana Palacio

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



New Monroe Doctrine

“We’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 Milei – who just secured a decisive victory in midterm elections – 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 rules-based international order.

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

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WISDOM CORNER

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

VINCENT VAN GOGH

“Iron rusts from disuse; water loses its purity from stagnation... even so does inaction sap the vigor of the mind.”

LEONARDO DA VINCI

“Mostly people are ignorant, what is the language of painting. It is so difficult to make them aware, but time will teach them.”

MF HUSAIN

SPECTRUM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Weathering the next financial crisis



Jayati Ghosh

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

As 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 disturbingly 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 au-

to 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 ad-

vanced 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 adopting 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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Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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



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

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

Rail route costs forests

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



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

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

SHANKARLAL GARG | INDORE-BASED ENVIRONMENTALIST

and Khargone districts for the construction of the Mhow-Sanawad section of the railway's Mhow-Khandwa gauge conversion project," Indore's Divisional Forest Officer Pradeep Mishra told PTI.

"According to our estimates, 1.24 lakh trees will be cut, but we will make every effort to save the remaining trees. Many trees will also be saved due to the construction of tunnels for the railway line in the hilly area," he said.

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.

The forest department has prepared a detailed plan to minimise the adverse effects of tree cutting on wildlife, soil, and moisture, he said.

The Mhow-Sanawad section 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, he added.



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

PTI PHOTO

Maharashtra 1st state to tie-up with Starlink

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Ltd.

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 Fadnavis.

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 the world.

"It is our honour that the

company is arriving in India and partnering with Maharashtra," 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-foot hole.

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

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 to sink."

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 distress."

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

Art Mumbai to highlight works by women artists at Sculpture Park

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 5: The third edition of Art Mumbai returns to the Mahalaxmi Racecourse from November 13, aiming to bridge global and regional perspectives on modern and contemporary art, with a curated Sculpture Park that celebrates the creative voices of women sculptors.

An anchor event in the region's art calendar, the art fair brings together leading artists, galleries, institutions, curators, collectors, and industry experts from South Asia and beyond.

This year nearly 2000 artworks will be on display from 82 exhibitors, including prominent Indian galleries Experimenter, DAG, Akar Prakar, Nature Morte, Chemould Prescott Road, Vadehra Art Gallery, Gallery Espace, and TARQ, alongside international galleries including Lisson Gallery, Sundaram Tagore Gallery, Galleria Continua and Ben Brown Fine Arts.

At the Sculpture Park, both pioneering and emerging talents will showcase their works that reimagine space, scale, and material, exploring themes of identity, labour, migration, reclamation, and collective memory.

The art fair will feature sculptural works from veterans like Madhvi Parekh, Meera Mukherjee, Shanthamani Muddaiah, Tayeba Begum Lipi, and Ratnabali Kant, as well as emerging artists like Natasha Singh, Radhika Hamalai, Shiffali Wad-



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

shaping global conversations. 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, festival co-founder, said in a statement.

Founded by Minal and Dinesh Vazirani, Conor Macklin and 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.

To mark 100 years of Tyeb Mehta, 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.

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.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM NO. 5 to
Tender Notice No. EPC-CECONIBBS
2025039, DT. 08.09.2025

Following modifications have been made against above tender notice which may please be noted:

Sl. No.	Particulars	As Published	Now to be read as
1.	Tender Closing	08.11.2025, 1200 Hrs.	21.11.2025, 1200 Hrs.

Further modification in the schedule for following particulars have been made.

Sl. No.	Particulars	As in the REF Document	Now to be read as
1.	Physical Submission of all documents listed in clause no. 2.11.2 of RFP Document	14.11.2025, 1800 Hrs.	28.11.2025, 1800 Hrs.
2.	Opening of Technical Bids at Venue as Mentioned in clause no. 2.11.4(i) of RFP document	18.11.2025, 1200 Hrs.	02.12.2025, 1200 Hrs.

For details, the intending tenderer(s) are advised to visit the website: www.irps.gov.in

Chief Administrative Officer (Con), Bhubaneswar
PR-154/Ci-25-26

EAST COAST RAILWAY
'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS

The following tenders have been uploaded on website: www.irps.gov.in

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

01. Tender No. 02251563 : Short Description of Item : Blower Motor Complete without Impeller, Quantity : As per TS.	02. Tender No. 03253860 : Short Description of Item : Inter car Gangway Mounting, Quantity : As per TS.
03. Tender No. 06255050 : Short Description of Item : Manufacture and Supply of MS Bolts and Nuts, Quantity : As per TS.	04. Tender No. 06255399 : Short Description of Item : Manufacture and supply of Elastic Rail clip, Quantity : As per TS.
05. Tender No. 03251067 : Short Description of Item : Flap door Arrangement for BOXNHL Wagon, Quantity : 3326 Nos.	06. Tender No. 03251615 : Short Description of Item : Elastomeric pad, Quantity : 6900 Nos.

Tender Opening Date : 10.11.2025 (For Sl. No. 04), 17.11.2025 (For Sl. No. 02), 24.11.2025 (For Sl. No. 03 & 06) & 25.11.2025 (For Sl. No. 01 & 05).

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit Website : www.irps.gov.in and www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Bhubaneswar
PR-765/Ci-25-26

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, KHALIKOTE
Letter No.1745/NAC Khallikote Date : 31.10.2025

"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 Paper, EMD, Time of completion, Class of Contractor and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e www.tendersodisha.gov.in

1. Name of the Work	: Civil construction works as mentioned in DTCN.
2. No. of works	: 22 No.
3. Estimated cost	: Rs.5.00 lakhs to 19.99 lakhs
4. Period of completion	: As per DTCN
5. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 10.00 A.M. of 03.11.2025 to 17.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
6. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 17.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
7. Last Date / Time of receiving of documents relating of tender Off-line	: 18.11.2025 at 10.00 A.M. to 05.00 P.M.
8. Bids received online shall be opened on	: 19.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
9. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Officer, NAC, Khallikote

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

OIPR- Sd./- Executive Officer, NAC, Khallikote

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, KODALA
Odisha, Pin - 761032, e-Mail : nackodala@gmail.com
Lt. No.3051/ Dev / 2025 Dated : 31.10.2025

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 Govt. 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.

1. Name of the Work	: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
2. Number of Work	: 01 Nos.
3. Estimated cost	: As per DTCN
4. Period of Completion	: As per DTCN
5. 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
6. Last date and time for receipt of Bid in the Portal	: 05.00 P.M. of Dt.17.11.2025
7. The bid received online shall be opened on	: 12.30 P.M. of dtd. 18.11.2025
8. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Officer, NAC, Kodala

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

OIPR- Sd./- Executive Officer, Kodala NAC

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KENDRAPARA
No. O-1287 eerw_kpd@yahoo.com

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

1. Name of Work	: Road works in the District of Kendrapara for the year 2025-26
2. Total No. of Work	: 09 Number of Road Work
3. Estimated Cost	: Rs.7.20 Lakhs to 25.42 lakhs approximately
4. Period of Completion	: As Specified in the Annexure
5. Class of Contractor	: As Specified in the Annexure
6. Cost of Tender Paper	: Cost of tender paper is to be remitted ONLINE as specified in Column-5 of the Annexure
7. Detail Projects	: As specified in the Annexure

Other details as follows:

a) Procurement Officer	: Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Kendrapara
b) Availability of tender online	: 04.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to 14.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
c) Last date & time of seeking of tender clarification	: 13.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
d) Opening of Tender	: 15.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
e) Decision to conduct Lottery	: 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 the undersigned.

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

OIPR: Sd./- Executive Engineer Rural Works Division, Kendrapara

of the day

quote

With the guidance and support of the Prime Minister, various development projects worth over 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

Congress) are misleading the country by speaking lies. People will not join you by spreading such falsehoods

NAYAB SINGH SAINI | HARYANA CM

Zohran Mamdani’s stunning victory is not merely a personal milestone but a clarion call for collective progress

FAROQOQ ABDULLAH | NC PRESIDENT

X

POST OF THE DAY

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 become rich before getting old?

@ayusshsanghi

SHORT TAKES

JNUSU elections: Counting underway

New Delhi: Counting of votes is underway for the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) elections, held Tuesday amid high enthusiasm and colourful campaigning 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, the highest in the past decade.

Stalker who shot at girl arrested

Faridabad: The man who allegedly stalked and shot at a 17-year-old JEE aspirant in broad daylight in Faridabad was arrested Wednesday, police said. Jitendra alias Jatin Mangla (30) allegedly confessed during interrogation that he fired shots at the victim in a fit of rage after she refused to talk with him, they said. The victim, a Class XII student was on her way back from the 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 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.

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

M K STALIN | TN CM

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



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 its victory.

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 Rijju. “But he never does it,” the minister said.

Election Commission officials 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 satya and ahimsa. Peacefully,



but by expressing their desire 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 Haryana 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 Haryana. 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 panchayat 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 three-year-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 Kumar Saxena (22) died and another 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 collisions. In another Unnao incident, 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 Jaunpur 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 separate 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 Kartik Purnima.

Vande Mataram mandate in J&K schools sparks row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

PTI PHOTO

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

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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

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 (Farooqabad) 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, who is also a BJP leader, 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 Redressal 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.

MISLEADING PAN MASALA ADS

international

of the day quote

As president, I have assessed that it is in Kosovo's interest to attempt to form a government so these important decisions are not delayed for several more months

VIJESA OSMANI | PRESIDENT, KOSOVO

We will 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

ALEXANDER DOBRINDT | INTERIOR MINISTER, GERMANY

China says 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 TSAHKINA | 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 Novaya Zemlya could host such tests at short notice.

Beijing conditions Taiwan participation

Beijng: As it gears up to host the APEC summit next year, 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 the event.



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



Fierce battle grips Pokrovsk

REUTERS

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 that its troops face a difficult position in the strategic eastern city, once an important transport 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 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 ministry 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 denied that its troops were surrounded 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 attempting to infiltrate and accumulate in the city of Pokrovsk,” the Ukrainian General Staff said in a statement.

Driver rams into pedestrians in France, 9 injured

REUTERS

Saint-Pierre-D'oleron, 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, officials said.

The suspect shouted “Allahu Akbar” (Arabic for “God is Greatest”) when arrested by police, the local prosecutor, Arnaud Laraize, told Sud Ouest newspaper. However, Olivier Falorni, the region's deputy 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 individuals.



“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-terrorism 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 areas of Oleron island, the mayor of Dolus-d'Oleron, Thibault Breckhoff, told BFM TV. The man then set fire to his car. Police could later be seen inspecting the partially burnt-out vehicle.

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

REUTERS

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 night speech to a raucous



34-year-old is first Muslim mayor of biggest US city	Mamdani vows to dismantle conditions enabling Trump's rise	Trump threatens federal funding cuts over Mamdani's socialist agenda	Democrats gain momentum with election victories
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crowd of supporters shortly after being declared the victor.

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.

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

Democrats sweep first major elections of 2nd Trump term

In Virginia and New Jersey, moderate Democrats Abigail Spanberger, 46, and Mikie Sherrill, 53, won their elections 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.

At least 9 dead in Philippines begins cleanup

Typhoon Kalmaegi leaves at least 85 dead, dozens missing

REUTERS

REUTERS

Louisville, Nov 5: A UPS wide-body 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-

ments arrive at their final destinations 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 to return to.

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



Cebu hardest hit, homes destroyed, residents salvage belongings

Kalmaegi to strengthen over South China Sea, heads towards Vietnam

her neighbourhood, only to find her home completely destroyed.

“We worked and saved 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 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 devastation from Kalmaegi, locally named Tino, comes just over a month after a magnitude 6.9 earthquake struck northern Cebu, killing dozens and displacing thousands.

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, full-grain rice are lost this way each year.

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

Greece is the EU's third-largest rice producer, exporting most of its 250,000-ton annual production. But the sector is struggling with fierce competition from low-cost 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,

who backs the initiative.

Tens of thousands of religious and civil weddings are held in Greece each year, and many foreign couples choose the scenic islands of Santorini or Mykonos as a marital backdrop.

Broken rice - damaged during harvesting or processing - accounts for roughly 9% of Greece's rice exports and channelling it into weddings could help boost the sector.

“Some people will keep tossing edible rice,” said Giannis Gogos, head of sales at Chalastra's primary cooperative. “But (this way) we can reduce the waste.”

of the day

quote

India's MSME space is marred by several structural and persistent challenges, including limited 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 businesses

VISWANATH PS | CEO, RANDSTAD INDIA

Going ahead, markets are likely to remain range-bound with a positive bias as investors monitor global developments, foreign fund flows... Resilient domestic fundamentals continue to offer support, even as external uncertainties may cap near-term upside

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA | 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 construction and rail and metro.

Embassy REIT posts rise in NOI

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.



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

GAURAV JALAN | FOUNDER, MPOKKEIT

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



US SANCTION IMPACT

India to cut Russian oil imports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 long-term 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



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

BIZ BUZZ

MGM Minerals gives advanced ambulance to Rourkela Police

BHUBANESWAR: An advanced ambulance equipped with modern medical facilities was handed over to Rourkela Police today by MGM Minerals Limited from its Patabeda Iron Mines located in Koida block of Sundargarh district. The ambulance was presented to the police by Satyajit Panda, AGM (Mines) of MGM Minerals Limited, 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 emergency 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 Bhubaneswar, 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 together MSME and agriculture customers, Self-Help Group (SHG) members, and Bank Mitras. The occasion was graced by Goutam Patra, Chief General Manager (Business Development for Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh & Telangana) and Convenor, SLBC Odisha; and Prasenjit Roy, DGM, Agriculture & Rural Business Department, UCO Bank Head Office, Kolkata. Welcoming the dignitaries, Bhagwat Singh Bhakuni, Deputy General Manager and Zonal Head, Bhubaneswar, highlighted the zone's performance during the first half of the financial year. "SHGs can be developed into social enterprises, cooperatives, and brands of local products," he said, emphasizing the potential of grassroots entrepreneurship. Addressing the gathering, Goutam Patra reaffirmed the bank's commitment to inclusive growth. "UCO Bank is deeply invested in uplifting citizens, particularly women MSME entrepreneurs, by financing SHGs to enhance confidence, decision-making, and social standing," he noted. Prasenjit Roy underscored the critical role of public sector banks in nation-building. "Through credit facilitation, digital banking, and financial literacy, we empower businesses and farmers with timely credit and modern solutions. Innovation and adaptability will shape the future," he remarked. The carnival also showcased success stories from MSMEs and SHGs, while Ramachandra Dash, AGM & Resources Head, introduced special offerings for women customers, including UCO Aparajita, UCO Jayalaxmi, and UCO Sanchayika under the exclusive Pink Basket initiative.



10th edition of TechnoVIT begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chennai, Nov 5: The 10th annual edition of TechnoVIT, the flagship global technology festival of VIT Chennai, commenced, Friday, drawing participation from over 10,000 students across India and 10 foreign nations including Thailand, Poland, Australia, and Taiwan.

Racha Aribarg, Consul-General, 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 young and the elderly. Spend time with elders, or they will be left behind, unable to use technology in their daily lives."

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-

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 STMAI.

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 (STMAI) 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 body said.

"Chinese importers are re-

portedly declaring inflated invoice values at the time of customs clearance, while subsequently selling the same products 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 disadvantage," Singhal explained.

China is not only harming the Indian economy by flooding the market with cheap pipes, but also raising serious security concerns by supplying sub-standard materials to critical 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 explained.

This has also resulted in loss of employment opportunities, Singhal said.



Racha Aribarg, Consul-General, Royal Thai Consulate-General, Chennai, and G V 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 innovation capital."

The fest features over 150 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 Sathiyarayanan, and P K Manoharan attended the inauguration.

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: As gold prices soar to new heights, a study, Wednesday made a case for a comprehensive policy for the yellow 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 geopolitical 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 fetted 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 long-term gold policy that supports localisation," the report said.

SBI study said China has a



national policy on gold, which has a specific purpose. It has a comprehensive approach to reshaping how gold is traded, stored, valued, and used in international commerce. It represents a coordinated approach to addressing several economic and geopolitical priorities simultaneously.

On India's gold policy till

now, it said, "if one were to take an objective view of the policy discussions on gold since 1978, one finds that the major thrust has been to wean away the masses from physical gold. They were therefore only short-term in horizon".

"The time has now come 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-on-year (yoy).

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

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 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.

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana said the Prime Minister's

words were a huge source of motivation.

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 52-run 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

India'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 extended an open invitation to

meet 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 years of toil and near-misses, as Harmanpreet's side overcame formidable South Africa to become only the fourth team to lift the ODI title.

‘Embracing Odisha’s hockey heritage to empower talent’

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 dynamic, 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

within our setup.

■ 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 India League?

■ At club level, especially with Gantoise, the biggest lesson was about structure and discipline, both on and off the pitch. Creating a professional environment where every player knows their role and feels valued makes a massive difference. That’s my aim here. It’s not just about individual skill; it’s about creating a strong system.

■ Working alongside Head Coach Jay Stacy, how do you envision the partnership shaping the team’s tactical and technical direction this season?

■ 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 understanding of international hockey cultures. It helps in managing diverse playing styles and personalities. At the end of the day, we both know the importance of creating a cohesive

unit where Indian and foreign players gel seamlessly.

■ Talk us through the team composition for the new season.

■ I and Jay, we already have 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 genuinely excited. The energy around hockey here is incredible, and the league provides a fantastic 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 it.



SHORT TAKES

Chhetri dropped

New Delhi: Indian football team head coach Khalid Jamil announced 23 probabilities 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, Bayern 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 after 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 Suryakumar 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.

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 Athens 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

It feels really like home playing in Athens. More than recognition for my tennis achievements, I felt that people here approached me in a friendly and humane way, and that touched my heart

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

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.”

INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA TEST

Shami ignored again; fit-again Pant returns

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 Shubman 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 successive 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 Indian 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.

