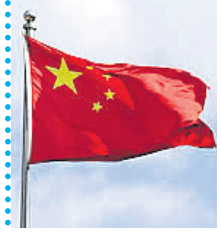




Unpleasant past

Actor Mouni Roy reveals a disturbing incident from her early days in the film industry

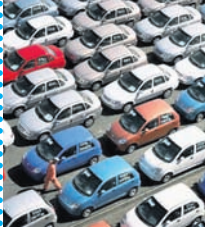
LEISURE | **P2**



Rare earth licensing

China is designing a new rare earth licensing system to ease shipments but retain some restrictions

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



Festive boost

Automobile retail sales across domestic market witness a 21% year-on-year increase in 42-day festive season

BUSINESS | **P11**



Hockey's century

The iconic Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium comes alive as Indian hockey celebrates 100 years with legends of the sport

SPORTS | **P12**



MOMENT TO CHERISH: State Works Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan hands over a memento depicting Odisha's art and culture to Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari at 84th Indian Roads Congress organised at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar Friday, as Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Development Commissioner Anu Garg look on (**Report P3**)

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

PM releases stamp, coin on 150th year of 'Vande Mataram'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday released a commemorative stamp and coin marking 150 years of national song 'Vande Mataram' at a programme organised at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here. The programme will mark the formal launch of the year-long nationwide commemoration – from November 7, 2025 to November 7, 2026 – celebrating 150 years of the timeless composition that inspired India's freedom movement and continues to evoke national pride and unity.

The song was written by Bankim Chandra Chatterji on the occasion of Akshaya Navami, which fell November 7 in 1875. The song first appeared in the literary journal, "Bangadarshan", as part of Chatterji's novel, "Anandamath".

SC: Shift stray dogs, cattle from NHs, schools, hosps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: The Supreme Court Friday took note of the "alarming rise" in dog bite incidents in institutional areas like educational centres, hospitals, bus stands and railway stations, and directed the authorities to move such canines to designated shelters.

The apex court also ordered the authorities, including the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), to ensure the removal of stray animals and cattle from highways and expressways. A three-judge special bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and NV Anjarlia passed a slew of directions in the stray dogs case.

"... (With) regard to the alarming rise in incidents of dog bites within institutional areas, such as educational institutions, hospitals, sports complexes, bus stands and depots and railway stations, this court deems it appropriate to issue the following directions in the interest of public safety, health and management of stray dogs," the bench said.

It directed states and Union Territories (UTs), through their respective local or municipal authorities, to identify such institutions within two weeks.



The apex court said this exercise should be completed as soon as possible, and preferably within eight weeks

The bench asked the administrative heads of such institutions to ensure that the premises are secured by adequate fencing, boundary walls, gates and such other structural or measures as may be necessary to prevent the ingress of stray dogs.

It said this exercise should be completed as soon as possible, and preferably within eight weeks. The bench said the management of such institutions shall designate a nodal officer responsible for the upkeep and cleanliness of the premises and

for ensuring that stray dogs do not enter or inhabit the campus.

"The details of the said officer shall be displayed permanently at the entrance and notified to the jurisdictional municipal body or authority," it said.

The bench said local municipal authorities and panchayats shall carry out regular inspections at least once in every three months of all such premises to ensure that no stray dog habitats exist within or in the immediate vicinity of these institutions.

"It shall be the responsibility of the jurisdictional municipal body or authority to forthwith remove every stray dog found within the premises of an educational institution and other institutions... to a designated shelter after due sterilisation and vaccination in accordance with the Animal Birth Control Rules," it said.

City CA loses ₹1.5cr to 'digital arrest'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7: In a shocking case of cybercrime in the City here, fraudsters posing as Mumbai Crime Branch officials duped a senior chartered accountant (CA) of ₹1.5 crore after subjecting him and his wife to a 'digital arrest' for 10 days.

The victim, identified as Bijay Kumar Sahu, a resident of VSS Nagar Housing Board Colony under Saheed Nagar police limits, was threatened and confined to his home by the cybercriminals, who forced him to transfer money to multiple accounts.

According to police, Sahu and his wife were mentally harassed and kept under constant surveillance through

video calls by the fraudsters. The couple, whose children stay abroad, were too terrified to seek help or inform anyone.

The incident came to light Friday after Commissionerate Police rescued the elderly couple from their home. Sahu had lodged a complaint with the Bhubaneswar Cyber Crime and Economic Offences police station Thursday night. Given the magnitude of the financial fraud, the case was transferred to the Crime Branch.

Preliminary probe revealed that Sahu received a call around 10 days ago from individuals claiming to be officers of the Mumbai Crime Branch. They accused him of involvement in a crime syndicate and warned



that his phone number was being used for illegal activities.

To make the deception more convincing, the fraudsters appeared in police uniforms during video calls and told him that he was under arrest. They instructed Sahu and his wife not to leave the house, warning of severe legal consequences if they disobeyed.

Believing the threats, Sahu shared his personal and banking

ATC glitch: Over 800 flights delayed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: Delhi airport, the country's busiest one, plunged into chaos Friday as more than 800 domestic as well as international flights were delayed due to technical problems with the air traffic control (ATC) system, sources said.

All airline operations at the airport have been impacted and authorities are working to fix the issues. The sources said airlines have cancelled at least around 20 flights.

IndiGo, Air India, Air India Express, SpiceJet, and Akasa Air said there are delays in their flights at the Delhi airport due to the issues with the air traffic control system.

The national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) handles more than 1,500



flight movements daily.

Airports Authority of India (AAI), in a post on X at 10:08 am, said flight operations at the Delhi airport are facing delays due to a technical issue in the Automatic Message Switching System (AMSS), which supports air traffic control data.

The state-owned AAI, which provides air traffic control and navigation services, said technical teams are working to restore the system at the earliest.

The ATC system had faced issues intermittently in the last two days and the technical

issue started to impact the system significantly from around 5:45am. "All airline operations at Delhi Airport are currently delayed. Concerned authorities are working on resolving the issue at the earliest," Delhi airport operator DIAL said in a post on X at 1:42 pm.

DIAL (Delhi International Airport Ltd) also said flight operations have been disrupted due to an ongoing technical issue with the AMSS that supports air traffic control flight planning process.

Later in the evening, AAI said the technical issue in the ATC's AMSS has been addressed and that the system "up and functional now". It, however, said that due to some backlogs, there may be some delays in the normal functioning of automated operations.

Suspension axe falls on 3 Srimandir servitors

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, Nov 7: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Friday suspended three servitors for indiscipline and breach of protocol.

Suar Badu servitor Narayan Panda and Khuntia servitor Rajaram Khuntia have been suspended for two months for indulging in clashes over devotees' offerings and allegedly collecting money in violation of temple rules.

Mahasuar servitor Bena Mahasuar has also been suspended for using vanaspati instead of the prescribed OMFED ghee in temple rituals, a temple official said.



May visit India next year, says US Prez

New York: US President Donald Trump said he could travel to India next year, emphasising that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi "wants" him to visit while calling him a "great man" and a friend.

P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Pilot not to be blamed for AI plane crash: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: The Supreme Court Friday said no one blamed the chief pilot of the Air India Dreamliner for the June 12 crash, which claimed 260 lives, and asked his 91-year-old father not to carry any emotional burden. "There is no insinuation against him even in the preliminary report," a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joydip Bagchi said, emphasising that if necessary, the court will clarify that the pilot is not to be blamed for the "unfortunate" plane crash.

The top court issued notice to the Centre and the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on a plea of Pushkaraj Sabharwal, the father of deceased pilot Captain Sumeet Sabharwal. Pushkaraj Sabharwal and the Federation of Indian Pilots have moved the Supreme Court for a court-monitored inquiry head-



ed by a former apex court judge into the crash of Air India flight AI171 in Ahmedabad.

"First of all, it was an unfortunate plane crash and secondly, you should not carry a burden on yourself that your son is being blamed. The pilot is not to be blamed for the plane crash. It was an accident," the bench told senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for Pushkaraj Sabharwal. "No one in the county believes that it was the fault of the pilot," it said.

Sankaranarayanan said it all started after US publication Wall Street Journal put out a news report pointing to errors on the part of the pilot that led to the plane crash and citing unnamed government sources.

Golden comet wows skywatchers after surviving Sun

AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 7: A spectacular sight has taken the skywatchers aback across the US as astronomers track a rare and stunning comet-C/2025 K1 (ATLAS). Unlike most comets that typically shine green or blue under sunlight due to their varying chemical compositions, this one stands out with its remarkable golden glow, according to a report by 'Newsweek'.

After observing the celestial visitor from June Lake, California, astronomer Dan Bartlett explained that the rare comet was not expected to survive its close approach to the Sun October 8, when it reached its perihelion



distance of 0.33 AU. However, it defied expectations and endured the encounter, now displaying a unique red, brown, and golden coloration that is seldom observed in comets.

Perihelion is the moment when a celestial body reaches its closest approach to the Sun in its orbit. Comet C/2025 K1 (ATLAS) originated in the distant Oort Cloud and was first

discovered by the Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS) in May 2025.

According to astronomer David Schleicher of Lowell Observatory, data from the Lowell database revealed that this comet has an unusually low number of carbon-containing compounds, including CN, compared to hydroxide ions. Only two other comets have ever recorded such

low carbon-to-hydroxide ratios.

It was previously speculated that this comet might break up as it approached the Sun, but now that it is safe, it can be observed with telescopes during autumn and winter. According to Bartlett, it looks "extremely impressive at 9th magnitude", which he witnessed from his backyard.

On how to visualise the rare celestial object, Tony Phillips, a writer for spaceweather.com, says the comet is easily visible with binoculars. He recommends astronomy enthusiasts to aim their equipment toward the border of the constellations Virgo and Leo in the eastern sky shortly before sunrise to catch a glimpse of this rare golden comet.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
You will make a great deal of progress which will help you set aside quite a chunk of money for lean times. There are yet more deals to be signed which will turn out to be landmarks in your business. Ganesha says that your current labours will bear fruits in the future.

TAURUS
It is very likely that you will stay physically alert and spiritually awake today, forecasts Ganesha. You will discover an artistic temperament as you engage in performing arts, designing, graphics and special effects. You will also appear extremely tempting to the opposite gender.

GEMINI
A busy day for you, predicts Ganesha, but it has little to do with work. Today, your mind is in a spiritual mode. You may want to make a few changes to the interiors of your house, mostly to get them in sync with the state of your mind. A romantic evening with your sweetheart in a sumptuous surrounding is likely, says Ganesha.

CANCER
Business rivals will try to wipe out your prestige, but will fail. Bold people can steer clear of hurdles and you are bold. So with Ganesha's grace you will be successful. People will praise your honesty and generosity. Your efforts alone beget you laurels.

LEO
You will want some change in your daily surroundings, and this will manifest in the form of shopping for new clothes or home renovation projects and the like. You may also modify your daily routine. You need to take a closer look at your personal relationships today, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
In all likelihood, you will want to go into seclusion today, both mentally and physically. You have a knack to work yourself up to face challenges and gather your resources to come up trumps in unpleasant situations. However, you will not be able to go beyond your limitations. Lord could bring some change.

LIBRA
Remember the joint account you were going to open one of these days? Well, today is the day best suited for such decisions. Make the most of this propitious day and make well-informed plans concerning your future career growth. Ganesha gives his nod.

SCORPIO
Today is that day when you make a fine show of your commitment to work and dedication to family. At work, the right job has landed on the right table - yours. At home, cement your place as the quintessential family man, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
You are inclined to be over-protective of your personal belongings. Sensational love affairs are plotting to hold you ransom. All the work you have been pushing off to do later will be completed reasonably on time.

CAPRICORN
You're on the verge of losing hopes as you can't bear the weight of work and responsibilities any more. But, like the strong individual that you are, you are not going to put your arms down without fighting fiercely. Also, your mental strength and physical stamina will be acknowledged and appreciated by one and all, predicts Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
Today, you will revel in a lot of tender loving and care (TLC). You may also be able to solve certain baffling situations plaguing your peace of mind. Ganesha suggests that you meet people, as any associations you form today will prove beneficial in the long run.

PISCES
You will find yourself embroiled in tough situations at the work-place today. However, do not let it make you pessimistic. Even if things do not work out as and when they are meant to be, you will find that as the day progresses, things begin to fall in place of their own accord. Come evening, you should see yourself in a much more relaxed state of mind, after a hard day's work, says Ganesha.

ARIANA GRANDE IN TALKS FOR LONDON WEST END DEBUT

Wicked star Ariana Grande could make her debut on London's West End next year in a revival of the musical *Sunday In the Park With George*. The 1984 musical was last revived on the West End back in 2006.

TIMOTHEE DISAPPOINTED TO NOT WIN BEST ACTOR OSCAR

Actor Timothée Chalamet has candidly admitted he was disappointed not to win the Best Actor Oscar this year. The 29-year-old actor was nominated for his work as Bob Dylan in *A Complete Unknown* but lost out at ceremony to *The Brutalist* star Adrien Brody.



Nora steps into her pop girl era

Mumbai: Nora Fatehi has stepped into her pop girl era with the release of her latest single, *What Do I Know*.

The actress-dancer dropped her latest single featuring Jamaican artist Shenseea. The energetic track, released under 5 Junction Records/Warner Records, is a dancefloor-ready anthem that perfectly blends global beats with pop flair. Accompanying the song is a stunning music video directed by Arrad, who is known for his work with Cardi B, Anitta, and Missy Elliott.

Speaking about the track, Nora shared, "I'm so excited to finally share *What Do I Know (Just A Girl)* with the world! This song marks the start of my pop girl era, and diving into this new sound has been such an inspiring journey. Shenseea and I poured our hearts into every part of it — from recording the vocals to nailing the choreography for the music video. I couldn't be prouder of what we created together!"

Shenseea expressed her happiness saying, "This song and video were such a blast to make! You can really feel how much fun we had bringing this track to life. Working with Nora was such a treat, and I know our fans are going to love it!"

What Do I Know (Just a Girl) is written by Grammy-nominated hitmaker Justin Tranter and the song highlights Nora's strengths as a performer. The track also marks the first release from Anjula Acharya's 5 Junction Records in conjunction with Warner Records.

IAN S

Mouni shares darker reality of Showbiz

Mumbai: Behind the dazzling world of Bollywood lies a darker reality many actors struggle with. While several have spoken openly about facing the casting couch, Mouni Roy has now revealed a disturbing incident from her early days in the industry. In a conversation with Apoorva Mukhija on *Spice It Up*, the actress shared that although she never experienced the casting couch, she did face shocking misbehaviour at the age of just 21.

When asked if she had ever faced the casting couch or if someone had ever misbehaved with her, Mouni said, "Never faced casting couch but was misbehaved with. I was 21-22 years old and I had gone to someone's office where people were there inside the office where narration was being

given. Suddenly there was a scene where the girl falls into the swimming pool, she loses consciousness and the hero gets her out and gives her mouth to mouth respiration and she gains consciousness."

Without revealing whether it was an actor, director or casting agent who misbehaved with her, Mouni added, "The man literally held my face and showed me mouth to mouth respiration. I didn't understand what happened with me in that split second. I started shaking and I ran down. It really scared me for a real long time."

AGENCIES



Vicky, Kat welcome baby boy

Mumbai: Bollywood couple Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif have joyfully welcomed their first child, a baby boy, into the world.

On Friday, the couple shared the happy news via a post on Instagram. Vicky and Katrina posted a greeting card that read, "Our bundle of joy has arrived. With immense love and gratitude, we welcome our baby boy. 7th November, 2025."

Soon after the couple shared the happy news, fans and fellow celebrities flooded the comments section with heartfelt congratulatory messages, celebrating the joyous arrival of their baby boy.

Vicky and Katrina revealed their pregnancy on September 23, 2025, via a joint social media post. For the unversed, the duo had tied the knot on December 9, 2021, in an intimate

cere-mony held in Rajasthan. Katrina and Vicky first crossed paths

at a party hosted by Zoya Akhtar in 2019, where they were formally introduced. Later that year, during an award show Vicky playfully proposed to Katrina on stage while hosting the event.

Their connection grew over time, strengthened by subsequent interactions, including the award show—an encounter that echoed Katrina's earlier remark on "Koffee with Karan," where she had mentioned that the two would make a great pair.

OBITUARY

Sulakshana Pandit dies at 71

Mumbai: Veteran Hindi film actress Sulakshana Pandit passed away Thursday at 71.

According to reports, Pandit had been ill for quite a long time and took her last breath at a hospital in Mumbai. There had been no official statement released from her family or team at the time of filing the report. For the uninitiated, Sulakshana was star in the 1970s. The actress, along with acting in films, was also known for her exceptional singing.

Pandit was the sister of actress Vijay-ta Pandit and music composer duo Jatin-Lalit. She was also the niece of the legendary classical vocalist Pandit Jasraj. Pandit, born on July 12, 1954, in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh, began singing at the tender age of nine. She rose to fame as a singer with her hit song *Saat Samandar Paar Se* with Lata Mangeshkar from the 1967 movie *Taqdeer*.



IAN S

Sanjay Khan's wife Zarine passes away

Mumbai: Veteran actor-director Sanjay Khan's wife and actor Zayed Khan's mother Zarine Kartrak passed away aged 81 after suffering from age-related ailments.

As per sources, Zarine, who was the mother-in-law of Hrithik Roshan, was suffering from age-related ailments for a while now. She breathed her last on Friday morning at her residence in Mumbai.

Zarine is survived by her husband and four children Sussanne Khan, Simone Arora, Farah Ali Khan and Zayed Khan.

Zarine's eldest daughter Farah is married to DJ Aqeel, their second daughter Simone married businessman Ajay Arora, while their youngest daughter is Sussanne was formerly married to actor Hrithik Roshan. Their son Zayed is married to Malaika.

IAN S



IAN S

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

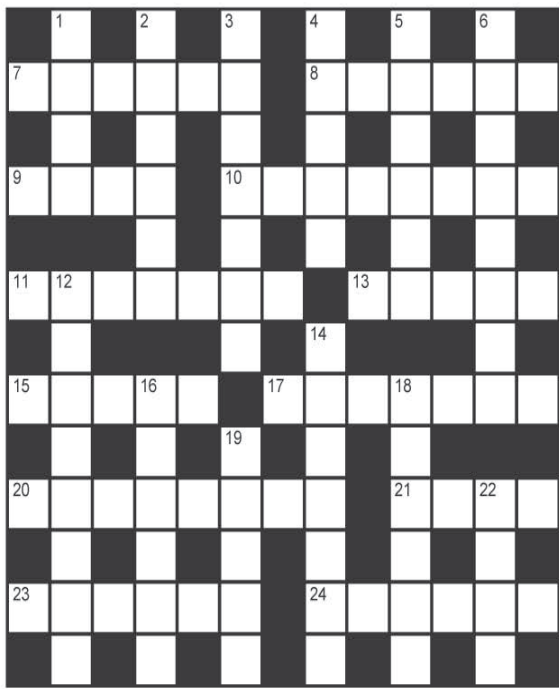


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 7 Like an ox
- 8 On the train
- 9 Bird of prey
- 10 Behemoth
- 11 Birthday items
- 13 Carpenter's tool
- 15 Building uprisings
- 17 Fall back

- 20 Pencil lead
- 21 Carryall
- 23 Despise
- 24 Alibi

Down

- 1 Exploding star
- 2 Evil
- 3 Holiday destinations
- 4 Angel and Iguazu, e.g.
- 5 Creamy dessert
- 6 Pants
- 12 Vestibule
- 14 Erases
- 16 Terminals
- 18 Artistic style
- 19 Margarita fruits
- 22 Mediocre (2-2)

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

D	R	U	M	A	S	E	A	N	A	B
O	T	M	P	M	I	O				
C	H	I	M	E	R	A	A	D	E	P
I	L	I	M	E	R	A	Z	E	C	A
E	L	O	I	T	E	R	B	O	L	E
E	S		E	N	E	R				Y
S		E	N	E	R	G	I	S	E	S
S		S	O							S
P	R	E	S	T	O					
R	X	U				C	A	V	E	A
U	L	T	R	A						
C	O	R	A							
E	E	L	Y	A	R	N		O	D	D

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Kandhamal minor raped, sold in MP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani/Kotagarh, Nov 7: A 14-year-old girl from Kandhamal district was allegedly sold in Madhya Pradesh after being lured with the promise of a job. Police rescued the minor girl two months after the incident and arrested three persons, including a middleman. The accused have been identified as Sashibhushan Pani of Chandrapur in Rayagada district, and two siblings — Sandeep Patel and Mahesh Patel — from Madhya Pradesh. Another intermediary involved in the case is at large, police said. According to police, Sashibhushan had been staying in Malipada under Tumudi-bandha block in Kandhamal for some time. During his stay, he befriended a family under Kotagarh police limits and promised them a job for their 14-year-old daughter with a monthly salary of ₹18,000. Trusting him, the girl’s father allowed her to travel with Sashibhushan. Police said Sashibhushan, with the help of another middleman, took the girl to Madhya Pradesh, where arrangements had already been made to sell her. The Patel brothers allegedly paid him ₹70,000 and took the girl home, while Sashibhushan

fled the state with the money. After two months without any word from the girl, her family received information from her about her plight and filed a complaint with Kotagarh police October 21. Acting on the complaint, police launched an investigation and detained Sashibhushan from Malipada. During interrogation, he confessed to the crime, leading to further action. A special team was then formed and sent to Madhya Pradesh, where, with assistance from local police, officers rescued the girl from Sagar village November 3 and arrested the Patel brothers. Kotagarh police station inspector Anand Chandra Patra said the accused had forced the girl into domestic labour and that Sashibhushan had raped her while transporting her to Madhya Pradesh. “The case was treated with utmost seriousness. Three accused have been arrested and forwarded to court, while another suspect remains at large. After medical examination, the girl was handed over to her family,” Patra said. A case (145/25) has been registered at Kotagarh police station, and further investigation is ongoing.

Patients hit as surgeries stop at Subarnapur DHH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, Nov 7: Surgical services at the Subarnapur District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) have come to a standstill due to the absence of a trained anaesthesiologist, leaving patients with no choice but to seek costly treatment at private nursing homes. Currently, the hospital is offering only outpatient department (OPD) services, while surgeries across several departments—including obstetrics, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, and ENT—have been suspended. The situation has sparked widespread resentment among local residents, who allege that the administration has failed to address the crisis. Subarnapur DHH boasts a 50-bed maternity and child health centre equipped with modern facilities and a newly constructed seven-storey building inaugurated in February 2024. However, the structure, built at a cost exceeding ₹100 crore, has been termed by locals as an “empty showpiece” due to the lack of functional healthcare services. Until recently, Dr Subas Panda was the hospital’s only



trained anaesthesiologist. He also provided anaesthesia support for surgeries in various departments after the inauguration of the new building. However, Dr Panda was transferred to Birmaharajpur Subdivisional Hospital as superintendent and relieved from duty October 22. Since his departure, even Caesarean sections at the maternity ward have been suspended. “Earlier, we conducted over 100 Caesarean deliveries in September and more than 35 in October. But since Dr Panda’s transfer, all surgical deliveries have stopped,” a hospital source said. Patients requiring surgery are now being referred to private nursing homes, where government doctors allegedly perform procedures for additional income. This arrangement, residents claim, is enriching pri-

vate operators while burdening poor patients financially and emotionally. Another trained anaesthesiologist, Dr Rabi Panda, reportedly continues to draw his salary from Subarnapur but has been posted at the Durgapali Community Health Centre since 2023 under government orders. Local citizens have demanded his immediate redeployment to the DHH, but no administrative or political effort has yet been made to facilitate his transfer. Superintendent of the DHH, Dr Durgadatta Dash, admitted that the transfer of Dr Subas Panda has created difficulties. “We have directed him to visit the hospital every Monday and Tuesday to assist in surgeries. Meanwhile, Dr Rabi Panda remains posted in Durguripali. The government can decide on his reassignment if it wishes,” Dr Dash said. As the deadlock continues, poor patients across Subarnapur district are being denied essential surgical care—a situation that residents say highlights a growing gap between infrastructure development and actual healthcare delivery.

Massive Red arms haul after encounter in Saranda forest



PNN & AGENCIES

Rourkela, Nov 7: A large cache of arms, ammunition, and explosives, including sophisticated rifles, cartridges, and IEDs have been seized following an encounter with Maoists in the Saranda forest along the Odisha-Jharkhand border during a combing operation, security officials said Friday. Officials said a fierce gun battle broke out with Maoist insurgents in the Kulapu Buru area of the dense Saranda forest in the West Singhbhum district. The Jharkhand police personnel and the 209 CoBRA Battalion of the CRPF later launched a search operation leading to the recovery of the weapons and explosives, which indicated a strong Naxal presence in the forest area. According to an official state-

ment, the recovered items include two SLR rifles, one 303 rifle, 37 live AK-47 cartridges, 78 SLR cartridges, and 130 .303 cartridges. In addition, security forces seized two SLR magazines, one .303 magazine, one 7.62 mm magazine, six gelatin packets weighing 16.68 kg in total, 13 IEDs fitted with detonators, 10 electric detonators, and five non-electric detonators. Other recovered items include five radio sets, two interceptors, 24 syringes, 20 plastic pipes (6 inches each) used in IEDs, two laptops, 11 FM radios, and various other materials. Officials stated that the presence of communication devices and IED components highlights the Naxals’ continued attempts to disrupt security operations in the region.

One dead, 10 injured as bus turns turtle in Kalinga Ghat

POST NEWS NETWORK

G. Udayagiri/Bhanjanagar, Nov 7: A Berhampur-bound passenger bus overturned on the Kalinga Ghat road in the Ganjam-Kandhamal border area early Friday, leaving one woman dead and 10 others injured, police said. The deceased was identified as Suryakanti Nayak of Aska in Ganjam district. The injured were taken to hospitals in Bhanjanagar and G. Udayagiri for treatment. Vehicular movement through the Kalinga Ghat route had remained suspended for nearly two months due to landslides. After repairs, authorities reopened the stretch



November 2, allowing only two- and four-wheelers to ply. Passenger buses and heavy trucks were still barred. Despite the restriction, the private bus named Sriram (OD 05 F 0629) was travelling from Bargarh

to Berhampur and met with the accident around dawn, officials said. Fire services personnel from Bhanjanagar and G. Udayagiri rushed to the spot and rescued the injured passengers. According to the injured conductor, there were 14 passengers on board. The driver realised that the brakes had failed about 6 km into the ghat road. After several unsuccessful attempts to control the vehicle, he swerved it to the right to avoid a deep gorge, causing the bus to overturn on a flat patch of road. Local police led by G. Udayagiri IIC Bijay Kumar Swain reached the scene and sent the injured to hospitals.

Bhavishyanidhi Zonal Indoor Meet kicks off

BHUBANESWAR: The Zonal Indoor Tournament was inaugurated by EPFO at Bijui Patnaik Multipurpose Indoor Hall Friday. More than 100 participants from East Zone covering Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and NER will participate in the three-day long zonal sports festival. The participating teams from these states will have to qualify for All India Tournament in three category of indoor events—Badminton, Table Tennis, Carrom and Chess. Odisha is hosting this sports meet for the year 2025-26. Vijay Kumar Prasad, Regional PF Commissioner-I presided over the inaugural ceremony in presence of other senior officers of local office of EPFO. Rajarshi Chakma, Regional PF Commissioner-I rendered the welcome address and emphasised the role of sports in the social lives of all human beings while other Regional PF Commissioners SK Padhy, Surjeet Kumar, Dasarathi Nag, Abesh Mishra and Mausumilata Padhi presented their views. Alekh Ch. Sahoo, Enforcement Officer, anchored the inaugural function.

2 killed falling in poachers’ trap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Nov 7: In a tragic incident underscoring the perils of hunting practices, two persons were electrocuted after coming in contact with a live wire, allegedly laid to trap wild animals in the forest area under Laxmipur police station in Koraput district Friday. The incident occurred near Kendupai village under Pipalpadar panchayat in Laxmipur block. The deceased were identified as Gahela Mandinga, 26, of Kendupai and Kumar Miniaka, 35, of Pipalpadar. According to reports, the duo had ventured into a forested area to search for their missing cattle when they accidentally touched a wire connected illegally to an electric line. The high-voltage current killed

them instantly. Later, their bodies were discovered lying on a nearby hillock where the trap had been set to kill wild animals. On being informed, a team of Laxmipur police rushed to the spot and seized the bodies for postmortem. The incident has triggered outrage among locals, who accused the administration of failing to curb such illegal practices despite repeated complaints. Speaking on the matter, IIC of Laxmipur police station Sugyani Sahu said, “We have registered a case and launched an investigation to trace those responsible for laying the live wire. Such illegal hunting methods pose a serious threat not only to wildlife but also to human lives. Strict action will be taken against the culprits.”

Rare pied avocet spotted at far end of Chilika Lake



DWARKA PRASAD PATNAIK, OP

Chhatrapur, Nov 7: The onset of winter marks the return of spectacular migratory birds to the majestic Chilika Lake. The congregation of seldom-sighted birds, in quest of warmth in chilly winters, transforms the lake into a paradise much to the delight of wildlife photographers. Interestingly, in one of the rare occurrences, a pied avocet was spotted near Palur’s Saheb Canal in Ganjam district, located at the far end of Chilika.

These visiting birds usually find their comfort zones around the Barkul-Balugaon stretch extending to the Mangalajodi bird sanctuary on the lake’s periphery. The pied avocet was photographed by Rabindranath Sahu, secretary of the Rushikulya Sea Turtles’ Security Committee, who described it as “very uncommonly sighted” in the region. Describing the unique features of this beautiful avian species, Sahu said it has an upturned, slender black beak long enough to feed mostly on worms, insects, and crustaceans. Pied avocets prefer dwelling on swampy, shallow brackish waters or mudflats, where they can easily find their food. Adult birds display striking black-and-white plumage, with a black cap extend-

ing down the back of the neck. The pied avocet is widely distributed across Western Europe, Central Asia, parts of Africa, and regions of the Indian subcontinent. They undertake long southward migrations in search of temperate conditions during winter. Dr Ashish Kumar Das, a scientist with the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), said, “Ganjam witnesses the arrival of many migratory birds, including the pied avocet, during winters. Mudflats and shallow regions of Chilika Lake, the Rushikulya estuary, and other swampy plains become their choicest habitats.” Although these birds are classified as of “least concern” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) due to their extensive range and relatively large population, they face several human-induced threats, including habitat destruction, climate change, and pollution. The arrival of these migratory avian guests has sparked excitement among bird enthusiasts. However, conservation, caretaking, and protecting them from poachers remain key challenges for the Forest department while the birds stay in the region.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Environmental Clearance to M/s Sirius Speciality Chemicals Private Limited for Proposed greenfield Coal Tar Distillation unit with capacity 2,00,000 TPA and 1,00,000 TPA Carbon Black with 11MW of Co-generation Power Plant.

Sirius Speciality Chemicals Private Limited has been accorded Environmental Clearance by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha for Proposed greenfield Coal Tar Distillation unit with capacity 2,00,000 TPA and 1,00,000 TPA Carbon Black with 11MW of Co-generation Power Plant located at Village-Jakhpura, Tehsil- Danagadi, District- Jajpur, Odisha, vide File No: 546796/10-IND2/08-2025 on the recommendation of the State Expert Appraisal Committee constituted under the provisions of EIA notification dated 14.09.2006 and its subsequent amendments.

Copy of the EC is available with Odisha State Pollution Control Board and at the website of the Parivesh portal of MoEF & CC i.e. www.parivesh.nic.in for information of public.

SSCPL

Kalinganagar Industrial Complex, Jakhpura, Danagadi, Jajpur Road, Odisha

EAST COAST RAILWAY

EXPRESSON OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT OF PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORIES / DIAGNOSTIC CENTRES / HOSPITALS

No. ECoR/MD/CH/BBS/Pathology/Tie-up/2025-26/813,	Date : 03.11.2025
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Central Hospital/East Coast Railway/Bhubaneswar is planning to empanel Pathological Laboratories/Diagnostic Centres/Hospitals in Bhubaneswar for engaging to provide the Pathological investigation facilities to the Railway beneficiaries for a period of 03 years.

Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited, in sealed envelope with the prescribed application proforma available in website and relevant documents, to the office of the **Medical Director, Central Hospital, East Coast Railway, Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar-751017** on or before **Dt. 08.12.2025**.

For clarification, please contact the **Medical Director/Central Hospital/East Coast Railway/Bhubaneswar-751017, Tel. No.: 0674-2748895, E-mail: medicaldirector8@gmail.com**

For complete details, other terms & conditions and eligibility criteria please visit website www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in → **Tenders** → **Expression of Interest**.

PR-776/Q/25-26	Medical Director/Central Hospital/Bhubaneswar
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बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया

Bank of India

BOI

Regional Office : Star House, 1/1-D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli

Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751015

POSSESSION NOTICE

[Rule-8 (1) & (2)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Bank of India** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described here-in below in exercise of the powers conferred on him / her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule-8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property & any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of India, Khorda Branch**, for the amount stated below with interest thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.**

BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession (Symbolic) Notice	Description of Immovable Property/ies
KHORDA BRANCH / Borrower: Mrs. Sushanti Das , W/o- Ganeswar Das / Co-Borrower: Mr. Jaydev Das , S/o- Mr. Ganeswar Das, Both are at Gurujanga, Khordha.	₹8,72,065.42 + interest & other charges thereon	02.08.2024 / 04.11.2025	All that part and parcel of the Residential property consisting of Land & Building and Structures situated over Plot No.: 799/2157/2477, Khata No.: 472/531, Area: Ac.0.32dec. i.e. 1394 sqft., within the registration Mouza: Gurujanga, PS/Tahasil/ SRO: Khorda, Sub-District: Khorda and Dist.: Khorda, standing in the name of Mrs. Sushanti Das (Borrower) , W/o- Ganeswar Das, Bounded by- North: Bidulata Dei, South: Sarana Pattanaik, East: Road, West: Baya Nahak.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 07.11.2025 Authorized Officer, Bank of India

बैंक ऑफ़ बरौदा

Bank of Baroda

Regional Office (Sambalpur Region)

G.M. College Chowk, Christian Para, Sambalpur-768001

POSSESSION NOTICE

(Immovable Property)

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **BANK OF BARODA** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrower/Co-Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **POSSESSION** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrower/Co-Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **BANK OF BARODA** for an amount stated herein below plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**

RENGALI BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrowers	Description of the Immovable Property	Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Total Dues as on
Borrower: 1) Mr. Pramod Rout , S/o.: Mr. Kartik Rout / Co-Borrowers: 1) Mrs. Manisa Priyadarisni Kharsel , W/o.: Mr. Pramod Rout, 2) Mrs. Bhumisuta Rout , W/o.: Mr. Kartik Rout, All are residing at Dudumakani (Darba), Gumkarna, Ghichamura, Thelkoli, Khinda, Rengali, Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-768212	Equitable Mortgage and Extension of Equitable Mortgage of residential Land and Building Situated at Mouza: Darba, P.S.: Katarbaga, P.S. No.: 33, Tahasil: Rengali, District: Sambalpur, State-Odisha, PIN-768212, having Chaka Khata No.: 326/373, Plot No.: 1065/4180, Area: Ac.0.050 Dec, KISSAM: Gharabari, in the name of Mrs. Bhumisuta Rout , W/o.: Mr. Kartik Rout, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 1065 (P), West: Road, North: Plot No.: 1042 and South: Plot No.: 1065 (P)	19.08.2025 / 06.11.2025	₹15,60,311.04 as on 31.10.2025 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment

Place: Sambalpur, Date : 07.11.2025 Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

“

Our human knowledge is a candle burnt on a dim altar to a sun-vast truth.

SRI AUROBINDO



Course Correction

For years, officers within India’s Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) have quietly seethed at the glass ceiling above them; one made not of merit, but of deputation. Top posts in CRPF, BSF, CISF and other forces were long dominated by Indian Police Service (IPS) officers parachuted in from state cadres, while equally capable insiders watched their career graphs stagnate.

The Supreme Court’s latest refusal to review its May 2025 ruling, which ordered a phased, two-year reduction of IPS deputations to CAPFs, is more than a bureaucratic adjustment. It’s a long-overdue course correction. The court’s message to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is unambiguous: stand institutions, not dependencies.

The ruling recognises CAPFs as Organised Group-A Services, giving their officers long-denied perks like non-functional financial upgradation and structured career progression. More importantly, it restores dignity to their leadership ranks. These are men and women who’ve spent decades in border zones and Maoist belts rather than conference rooms in state secretariats.

Of course, the MHA’s reluctance to let go is understandable. Old hierarchies die hard, and the IPS lobby is nothing if not resilient. But with the review petition now dismissed, it’s time for the ministry to stop sulking and start implementing. The paramilitary forces have earned their autonomy.

North Block’s missing signature

It’s been four months since Ajay Seth moved from North Block to IRDAI, and India still doesn’t have a Finance Secretary. For a ministry that drives everything from taxation to reform, that’s like flying without a pilot. Six powerful departments—Revenue, Expenditure, Economic Affairs, Financial Services, Public Enterprises, and DI-PAM—are running solo, while the one person meant to keep them in sync is missing in action.

Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan is said to be doubling up, but that’s hardly ideal. With the Budget season fast approaching, the gap isn’t just procedural, but perilous. The Finance Secretary isn’t just a post; it’s the ministry’s nerve centre, the one that ensures coordination, discipline, and policy coherence across the board.

Without that anchor, inter-departmental drift is inevitable. Each arm starts chasing its own agenda, and before long, the ministry begins to sound like an orchestra without a conductor: busy, but off-key. There’s also the matter of perception. Markets, rating agencies, and global institutions read such silences closely. The absence of a clear fiscal leader suggests indecision at the top, not confidence. The Finance Ministry may still function, but without its designated head, India’s fiscal ship risks looking adrift—just when steady hands are most needed.

Time someone picked up that one-rupee note and signed it!

Why India’s babudom needs a hard reset

A post on social media about a Rajasthan officer’s spouse reportedly earning Rs 37.54 lakh from private firms without any record of work done has once again exposed the rot beneath India’s bureaucratic polish. We like to talk about “efficient administration” and “good governance,” but the reality often looks more like a private club where privilege trumps principle and accountability is just a decorative word in annual reports.

What’s alarming is not just the incident itself, it’s how unsurprising it feels. When those close to public office can pocket hefty sums from private players without raising red flags, it shows how blurred the lines between duty and indulgence have become. Babus were meant to serve the people, not be served by corporate patronage. Yet, the system’s moral compass seems to have gone conveniently magnetic, always pointing towards power and influence.

Transparency, meanwhile, remains a selective exercise. Probes are announced with much fanfare, reports leak in dribbles, and the conclusions, if they ever come, rarely shake the walls of entitlement. We hear endless chatter about digitisation, e-governance, and accountability dashboards, but the reality behind closed doors is a culture that quietly rewards silence and complicity.

For the many honest officers who still take their oath seriously, such episodes are more than just embarrassing; they’re demoralising. When shortcuts and “contacts” yield faster dividends than merit or efficiency, what message does that send to those trying to play by the book?

The reputational damage is immense. India wants to project itself as a place of clean governance and ease of doing business, but that narrative crumbles when bureaucratic power is seen as transactional. The world notices. Investors notice. Citizens notice.

The Rajasthan episode is just a symptom; the disease runs deeper. If governance wants to match our aspirations, it needs to move beyond slogans and ceremonies to real accountability.

WISDOM CORNER

“A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

“Beauty is truth’s smile when she beholds her own face in a perfect mirror.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE

“Don’t be seduced into thinking that that which does not make a profit is without value.

ARTHUR MILLER

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1913:** French author Albert Camus, who received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1957 for such classic works as *The Stranger* (1942), was born.
- **1940:** The Tacoma Narrows Bridge connecting the Olympic Peninsula with Tacoma, Washington, broke up in a wind of about 42 miles (67 km) per hour.
- **1962:** After losing the governor’s election in California, American politician Richard Nixon gave what he called his “last press conference,” telling reporters that “you won’t have Nixon to kick around any more”; he was elected president six years later.
- **1991:** American professional basketball player Magic Johnson announced that he was HIV-positive and was immediately retiring from the sport; he later played part of the 1995–96 season.

FOCUS MAYORAL POLL

RED DAWN OVER NYC



Bhabani Shankar Nayak

UNDERGROUND REVOLUTIONARIES, COMMUNISTS, CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS, AND SOCIALIST ACTIVISTS HAVE KEPT THE CITY’S PROGRESSIVE FOUNDATIONS ALIVE THROUGH DECADES OF RESISTANCE

As the dust of the recently concluded mayoral election settles in New York’s political consciousness, a new dawn begins. Red babies are once again in the streets of Harlem, and it is now confirmed that thirty-four-year-old Zohran Kwame Mamdani is the mayor-elect of New York City. Mamdani, a self-confessed socialist, is a member of both the Democratic Party and the Democratic Socialists of America. His victory demonstrates that market-led bourgeois politics can be challenged and defeated by working people united around a clear, progressive political agenda.

New York is one of the richest cities in the world, yet one in four of its residents lives in poverty. The costs of housing, rent, childcare, transportation, food, and other essentials have become unaffordable for a dignified, basic life. In this wealthy city, more than 500,000 children go to bed hungry each night. In response to such acute crisis, Mamdani offer politics of hope in the hopeless world of racialised capitalism in USA. Mamdani’s campaign promised to freeze rents, reduce the cost of childcare, double the minimum wage, provide free public transportation, and increase corporate tax rates. He also pledged to establish city-owned grocery stores, expand mental health services, and promote community safety across New York. These progressive policies are not radical enough for a total transformation but the policies are a necessary response to the times and essential for the survival and dignity of working people in New York.

Mamdani’s victory is the outcome of a historic struggles and mass mobilisation led by Black people in the city under the leadership of the Communist Party. During the post–Second World War depression years, trade unions, WPA workers, the Workers Alliance, tenants’ unions, legal defense organiza-



New York City Mayor elect Zohran Kwame Mamdani inherits Harlem Renaissance’s emancipatory politics, progressive agenda, and ideals of justice and equality that continue to inspire the city’s working people

tions, and cultural groups—under the leadership of the Workers Party of America (WPA) and the Communist Party USA—from 1921 to 1939 mobilised the working masses and communities around demands similar to those Mamdani is raising today. Major Black organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Urban League, Garveyites, and other Black and civil rights groups led by communists played a significant role in shaping progressive politics and proposing alternative policy platforms to confront racialised capitalism in the city. Black communists in Harlem, in particular, were instrumental in developing the progressive political traditions and policy ideas reflected in Mamdani’s platform today. Rampant racism and economic depression created fertile ground for the growth of radical and progressive politics led by the Communist Party in Harlem. Mark Naison, in his book *Communists in Harlem During the Depression* (University of Illinois Press, 1983), documents in detail the contributions of these activists and movements.

The communists were among the founders and principal organ-

isers of the Harlem Renaissance, which gave rise to powerful cultural, political, and intellectual movements led by African American communities. These movements flourished across art, cinema, dance, fashion, film, music, literature, theater, culture, and radical scholarship—laying the progressive foundations of New York City at a time when both Democratic and Republican leaders were more concerned with protecting their shared interests in systems of exploitation and racial inequality based on slave ownership. This pattern of political collaboration continues to resonate today—for instance, when Republican President Donald Trump expressed support for former Democratic Mayor Andrew Cuomo during the recently concluded mayoral election in New York. Mamdani’s victory, achieved despite fierce opposition from the billionaire class, stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of the Harlem Renaissance. The victory also mirrors the heroic and historic 1968 struggle against Columbia University, when the Black United Front in Harlem, the Students’ Afro-American Society, and the Students for a Democratic Society confronted both Columbia University and the city’s political and economic estab-

lishment. They rose up against racist gentrification driven by the ruling-class slumlords—and the people of Harlem and Morning-side Heights ultimately won that struggle.

The Black men, women, and tenants of Harlem and Morning-side Heights have long served as the moral compass of New York City’s politics, shaping the struggles of working people and paving the way for victories like Mamdani’s.

However, reactionary forces in all their forms have already begun attacking Mamdani. The path forward will be difficult, but only the persistence of working-class struggles and ideological battles can secure the lasting gains of this political victory.

The future of Mamdani’s politics, leadership, organisation, campaign and movement will depend on his ability to carry forward the progressive and radical legacies of the communists, socialists, and civil rights struggles that shaped the city’s political consciousness. His challenge is to make their emancipatory agendas relevant to the people of New York today. The struggle against racial capitalism remains central to realising Mamdani’s political promises. There is no shortcut to liberation—only the continued strengthening of ideas, movements, and organisations dedicated to freeing working people from the modern forms of racialised capitalism, both in the United States and beyond. Political contradictions are natural, but even a single ideological deviation, opportunism or political compromise risks destroying the hard-won progressive gains of the working-class movement and jeopardising its future. Keep hope alive in progressive, democratic, and socialist politics by unwaveringly upholding the interests of working people. March forward to greater and wider victories, grounded in radical political commitment to the people and the planet.

The writer teaches at the London Metropolitan University.

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

COP-30 and climate justice imperative



Nalinikanta Dhar

FOR A POOR NATION, A SINGLE MAJOR CLIMATE DISASTER CAN UNDO DECADES OF DEVELOPMENT

The 30th Conference of Parties (COP-30) on climate change will be held from November 10 to 21 in Belém, Brazil, bringing together nearly 40,000 delegates from about 200 countries. Since its inception in 1995 in Berlin under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the COP process has aimed to build consensus on science-based strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and plan long-term climate action.

Since the Industrial Revolution, rapid industrialization has transformed human living standards. Yet, Europe and North America alone have been responsible for nearly 47% of cumulative global carbon emissions. Developing nations, with limited capital, technology, and infrastructure, have borne the greatest burden of climate disruption despite contributing little to the problem.

Today, the evidence of climate change is everywhere—rising temperatures, intensifying cyclones, heatwaves, droughts, and storms. These have triggered food insecurity,

health crises, water scarcity, and economic shocks, displacing millions and deepening inequality. According to the UN’s Multidimensional Poverty Index, nearly one billion people worldwide are now directly affected by climate change. For a poor nation, a single major climate disaster can undo decades of development.

Climate change knows no borders. The IMF ranks it among the top five global risks. The Kyoto Protocol of 1997 was a milestone for establishing legally binding emission-reduction targets for developed countries. The 2015 Paris Agreement went further, uniting all nations in a shared goal to limit global warming to below 2°C, with determined efforts to keep it within 1.5°C.

Recognising historical responsibility, the principle of “Common but Differentiated Responsibilities” (CBDR) was adopted—holding that wealthy nations must bear a greater share of the burden. At Copenhagen in 2009, developed countries pledged to mobilise \$100 billion annually by 2020 to support developing nations. The target was met on-

ly by 2022, and even then, over 60% of funds went toward mitigation—mainly in the energy and transport sectors—while adaptation, crucial for vulnerable regions, received very little. Moreover, much of this financing came as loans rather than grants, undermining the very spirit of climate justice.

Compounding this, the United States—the world’s largest historical emitter—withdrew from the Paris Agreement in 2017 under President Donald Trump and remains hesitant to recommit fully. Several major financial institutions—JP Morgan, BlackRock, Goldman Sachs, CitiGroup, Morgan Stanley, and Bank of America—have also withdrawn from Net-Zero alliances, weakening global climate-finance mechanisms.

The world now looks to COP-30 with a mix of hope and apprehension. UNICEF’s latest analysis shows that global emission reduction has reached only 24% instead of the 60% needed to stay within safe limits. China, responsible for about 29% of global emissions, has reduced its output by only 7–10%. Meanwhile, the rapid expansion of artificial intelli-

gence and data centres, consuming massive electricity and water, adds new stress to an already fragile planet.

History shows that a lack of political will and cooperation among developed nations has been the biggest barrier to climate progress. Humanity depends on clean air, water, soil, and thriving ecosystems—these are not privileges but rights. Wealthy nations and corporations cannot continue to pollute for profit while the world’s poor bear the consequences.

In July 2025, the International Court of Justice in The Hague reaffirmed that developed nations have both a moral and legal duty to maintain a balanced environment—a responsibility with no substitute. The Global South, therefore, is justified in demanding fair financial and technological support for climate resilience. As India’s leadership grows on global platforms, it is expected to play a decisive role at COP-30—championing equity, justice, and the planet’s collective survival.

The writer is an expert in Economics. Views are personal

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



Photovoltaic recycling

Sir, India is dependent on imports, to meet its needs as its production of solar photovoltaic (PV) materials like silicon, copper, tellurium, cadmium and others is low. India needs to recycle solar PV cells to recover valuable materials, strengthen energy security and economy and reduce environmental impact. India must fast-track PV recycling innovation. Strong policies need to be put in place for solar waste management. Moreover, India needs to provide strong recycling infrastructure along with financial incentives. With the right mix of policy, technology and collaboration, PV recycling can move to a national mission..
Nabnit Panigrahi, RAYAGADA

Opportunity & warning

Sir, ‘Vibe-coding’—Collins Dictionary’s Word of the Year 2025—reflects the art of creating apps and digital spaces that connect emotionally with users. Other buzzwords like clanker (noisy phone user), brioligarchy (brotherly elite), aura farming, biohacking, microritirement, and colocation show life-style and tech merging. HENRY (high earners not rich yet) and Gen A rising reveal new economic mindsets. These trends promote creativity, wellness, and digital innovation but also risk promoting superficiality, tech dependence, and inequality. For India, this is both an opportunity and a warning: it should harness vibe-coding for youth-led app design, ethical AI, and wellness-driven tech while curbing over-commercialization and screen fatigue through education and balanced digital policies.
RS Narula, PATIALA

Kamal-Rajini bonding

Sir, The news that veteran actors Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan are set to reunite on silver screen after 46 years for a new Tamil film, which is tentatively titled *Thalaivar 173*, must have already sent waves of excitement across the industry. As fans of these two legendary actors eagerly await further updates on this new film, their reunification is set to become a historical moment in Indian cinema. More than a big movie, *Thalaivar 173* will be a throwback to a strong bonding of the two, whose decades-long friendship and brotherhood in Indian cinema is characterized by deep mutual respect despite professional rivalry.
Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI



Over 6,000 registered for maiden BSF Jammu marathon Sunday



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 7: Over 6,000 people have registered for the first-ever Jammu BSF Marathon November 9, a top officer of the border guarding force said Friday, as preparations are almost complete for the mega event.

Director General of BSF Daljit Singh Chawdhary will flag off the marathon in four race categories -- 42 km, 21 km and 10 km -- besides the 5 km 'run for fun' which is open to all, Inspector General of BSF, Jammu frontier, Shashank Anand told reporters here.

He said famous Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty and J&K's acclaimed para-archer Rakesh Kumar are also participating in the opening and closing ceremonies of the event, which carries a cash prize of Rs 1.50 lakh for full marathon, Rs 75,000 for half-marathon and Rs 50,000 for 10-km run.

Six foreigners have also registered themselves for the marathon which will be a regular

annual event to be organised by the Jammu BSF frontier hence forth, he said.

In addition to the marathon, IG BSF Anand said the DG will also flag off a strong contingent of 60 motorcycle-borne personnel of the force who will reach Bhuj area of Gujarat November 19 to participate in the main raising day celebrations of the force two days later.

"BSF was raised in 1965 and is celebrating its 60th raising day this year in Gujarat November 21. Our contingent of motorcyclists after covering various areas along the Indo-Pakistan border in J&K, Punjab and Rajasthan will reach Gujarat November 19 They will participate in the raising day celebrations there," Anand said.

He highlighted that the marathon promotes fitness, unity and national pride, in line with the fit-India and Khelo India initiatives, and aimed at fostering stronger bonds between border communities and the nation.

DELHI'S 'HERITAGE FOR HIRE' PLAN

Ancient monuments as wedding venues

The official said that about 80 monuments may be chosen for hosting cultural and private events under a public-private partnership model

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: Wedding at Delhi's several historical sites will no longer be a dream, as the city government is planning to open them to a host of events.

A scheme allowing bookings of select heritage monuments for weddings and cultural events is in the works, an official said.

Several monuments under the Delhi Archaeology Department have been shortlisted for the initiative.

Mutiny Memorial at Northern Ridge, built in 1863 to commemorate soldiers who died during the Revolt of 1857, the Dara Shikoh Library at Kashmere Gate, once the residence of Mughal prince Dara Shikoh and later a British office, Maqbara Paik near the GTK bus depot, a Mughal-era tomb believed to belong to one of the imperial couriers, are some of these monuments, the official said.

The tomb in Sadhana En-



clave, a Lodi-period structure reflecting early Indo-Islamic architecture, and the pavilions at Qudsia Garden, part of an 18th-century palace complex built by Qudsia Begum, wife of Emperor Muhammad Shah, are in the list of places where civilian affairs will be consummated.

Such sites in Vasant Vihar as remains of medieval tombs and walls from the Lodi and Sayyid periods, Ghalib Haveli in Chandni Chowk, the 19th-century residence of celebrated Urdu poet Mirza Ghalib, and the 14th-century Bara Lao ka Gumbad, a domed structure believed to have served as a traveller's rest house, too, may grace wedding parties.

The official said the plan is in its initial stage, and discussions

are still underway on implementation and venue selection.

"Extra security measures will be introduced to ensure that heritage structures are not damaged during private or cultural events," the person said.

"The government is also considering providing relaxation in GST on booking fees for such heritage venues," he told PTI.

The official said that about 80 monuments may be chosen for hosting cultural and private events under a public-private partnership model.

The plan was earlier aired by Delhi Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra. Mishra said that his department was working on building basic infrastructure and obtaining approvals to make these sites more accessible to the public.

Delhi zoo to reopen today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: Delhi Zoo is ready to welcome visitors from November 8, after more than two months of shutdown, officials announced Friday.

The National Zoological Park has been closed since August 30, following the detection of avian influenza in its waterbird aviary and death of several birds, as a precautionary measure. "After receiving approval from the competent authority, the National Zoological Park will reopen for visitors from November 8," the zoo said in a statement, adding that strict biosafety and preventive measures will continue to be followed. Authorities carried out rigorous cleaning, surveillance, and multiple rounds of testing under the "Action Plan for Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza (Revised 2021)" issued by the

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, it said.

The samples collected after the initial outbreak were found negative in tests conducted at the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal, paving the way for reopening. The zoo reported its last positive case of H5N1 avian influenza September 1, it said.

Since then, random sampling has been carried out from the aviary and various enclosures, all of which have tested negative so far. The zoo reported at least 12 bird deaths between August 28 and 31, including of painted storks and black-headed ibis. Four of these samples had tested positive for bird flu, prompting the closure.

This was the third closure of the Delhi zoo due to avian influenza in recent years, after shutdowns in 2016 and 2021.



A worker sprays chemicals in the Yamuna river partially covered in toxic foam at Okhla barrage, in New Delhi

White Knight Corps celebrates 150 yrs of 'Vande Mataram'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 7: The Army's White Knight Corps Friday commemorated the 150th anniversary of the National Song, "Vande Mataram", though its recital at various war memorials, schools and forward posts across the corps' zone, a defence spokesman said.

The celebration aimed to rekindle the patriotic fervour and remind the younger generation of the timeless message of unity, freedom and devotion to the motherland embodied in the song, the spokesman said.

He said the commemorative events featured special cultural programmes that included patriotic songs, speeches and performances by students, showcasing the legacy of "Vande Mataram" and its pivotal role in India's freedom struggle. Army personnel shared stories of national pride and sacrifice, motivating students to uphold values of discipline, service and love for the nation, he said.

The spokesman said the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and local residents, generating a strong sense of national pride.

Teachers and community members expressed their heartfelt appreciation to the Indian Army for organising such initiatives that strengthen the bond between the Armed Forces and civilians, he said.

Through the commemoration, the Army reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing patriotic values, fostering unity and promoting harmony among the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

Meanwhile, a police spokesman said a grand programme was organised at the premises of Jammu & Kashmir Police Public School at Miran Sahib here, as part of the nationwide commemoration marking the 150th anniversary of the National Song. The event was held in accordance with the Union government's decision to celebrate the milestone across the country, he said.



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

No.O-1316
Phone : 0680-2404096, E-Mail : eernwgmt@yahoo.co.in
Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/17/SEPWD-II/2025-26
Memo No. 8157/RWD-IIGB, Date : 29.10.2025

1	Name of the Work	Road Works
2	Estimated Cost	Rs.5.04 to Rs.27.73 lakhs
3	Period of Completion	1 (One) Month as per Annexure
4	Date & Time of Availability of Bid Documents in the Portal	07.11.2025 at 10.00 A.M. to 14.11.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.
5	Last Date / Time for Receipt of Bids in the Portal	14.11.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.
6	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Ganjam, Berhampur

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app

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

OIPR-

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER BHANJANAGAR (R&B) DIVISION, BHANJANAGAR

(Phone Fax:(06821) 241133/ Email eernbngr@yahoo.in)
Ltr. No. 10982/Dtd.31.10.2025
No.B-665:
E-Procurement Bid Identification No.S.E.-BNJ-R&B-14/2025-26

1.	Name of Work	Electrical Works
2.	No. of Works	6 Nos. Electrical Work
3.	No. of Covers	Single Cover
4.	Estimated Cost	Rs.13.81 to 19.99 Lakhs
5.	Period of Completion	Three Calendar Months
6.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 12.00 Noon of dated 07.11.2025 to 5.00 PM of dated 21.11.2025
7.	Last date time for receipt of bids in the portal	Upto 5.00 P.M. of dated 21.11.2025
8.	Date of opening of bid documents	At 11.00 A.M. of dated 24.11.2025
9.	Class of Contractor	"MV" & "HT" Elect. Contractor
10.	Name and address of Officer Inviting Bid	Superintending Engineer, Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjanagar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. The Addendum/Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division

OIPR-

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
OFFICE OF THE SENIOR GENERAL MANAGER (ELECTRICAL)
BALIMELA HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT POST, BALIMELA, DIST. MALANGIRI (ODISHA) PIN - 764001
Phone: 06861-281058(O)/291048(R), E-mail: uni-head_balimela@yahoo.com
Regd. Office: Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited
BHOJ NAGAR, JAMNATH, BHUBANESWAR-75
Tel: 91-0674-2542993, 2542802, 2545526, Fax: 2542102, GRAM: HYDROPOWER, E-MAIL: ohpc.co@gmail.com / md@ohpcid.com Web: www.ohpcid.com
CIN: L2810(OE)198556000033

TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. BHEP/29/2025-26 DATED-04.11.2025
No.CAD-2193 : Sealed tenders are invited in two part basis i.e. (i) Technical Bid & (ii) Price Bid from the Registered Firms having valid Registration Certificate issued by Govt. Authority IT PAN, GST Regn Certificate, valid ITEHT License issued by E.LBO, valid contract labour license & fulfilling the eligibility criteria as per the tender specification for the work as mentioned below.

SL. No.	Description of Services	Cost of tender paper	EMD in Shape of DD only (Refundable)	Period of availability of Tender document at OHPC Website	Last date & Time of receipt of Tender	Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid
01	AMC Services for Maintenance of 4x60 MW + 2x75 MW Generators and its Auxiliaries, Turbine and its Auxiliaries, other Equipments with their Auxiliaries, Illumination System, Generator Transformers with auxiliaries, Oil Puffers and all equipments of Valve House of Balimela Hydro Electric Project, Balimela for a period of One Year on Job Contract basis.	Rs.11800/- (Rs.10000/- + @ 18% GST) (Non Refundable)	01 (one) % of Quoted value (Excluding GST)	From 07.11.2025 to 11.00 hrs of 21.11.2025	Upto 12.00 Hrs of 21.11.2025	At 12.30 Hrs of 21.11.2025

The tender documents can also be downloaded from our website at www.ohpcid.com

OIPR- Sd./- C&P Head, BHEP, Balimela

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-I, BHADRAK
E-mail : ee_rwbdk@yahoo.com

"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works
Bid Identification No. Online Tender 11 of 2025-26

1. Name of the Work : Road, 2. Total No. of Works : 1 No., 3. Estimated Cost : Rs.63.56 Lakh, 4. Class of Contractor : "B" Class, 5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure, 6. Type of Tender : Double Cover, 7. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	Date of seeking of Tender	Date & Time of Technical Opening of Tender	Date & Time of Financial Opening of Tender
1	2	3	4	5	6
Executive Engineer, Road Wprks Division-I, Bhadrak	Online-11 of 2025-26	06.11.25 At 11.00 A.M. To 14.11.25 At 4.00 P.M.	14.11.2025 At 2.00 P.M. To 11.00 A.M.	15.11.2025 At 11.00 A.M.	Intimated later

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>"
N.B - Transparency Lottery date will be intimated later. Signed Scan copy of Schedule "A", "E" & "F" Sheet is mandatory. Non submission of the sheet may cause rejection of the bid.

Sd./- Er. Ganesh Chandra Hembram
Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Bhadrak

OIPR-

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, HEAD WORKS DIVISION, SAMAL
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
'e'-Procurement Notice No. SE-HWD-04/2025-26

No.A-832: The Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bid in Single Cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors registered with the State Government, contractors of equivalent Grade/Class Registered with Central Government/MES/Railways/CPWD for execution of civil works mentioned as detailed below:

1	No. of works	02 (Two) Nos. of Civil works
2	Name of the work	1. Improvement of Languabada-Hanumantpur Village road in Rehabilitation colony of Samal Barrage. 2. Repair & Maintenance of E-type quarters including drainage systems at SBTS
3	Estimated Cost	Approximately 13.39 lakhs & 38.69 lakhs
4	Cost of Tender Paper	Rs.6000.00 each (Non-refundable)
5	EMD/Bid Security	Rs.13,400.00 & Rs.38,700.00 (Refundable)
6	Class of Contractor	"D" & "C" Class and "C" & "B" Class
7	Period of Completion of work	2 Months & 6 Months
8	Date and time of availability of bid document in the website	From 10.00 A.M. of Dt.06.11.2025 to 5.00 P.M. of Dt.15.11.2025 in the website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
9	Date, time and place of opening of online tender	Dt.17.11.2025 at 11.30 A.M. in O/o. the Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal
10	Date, time and place for finalization of tender through Transparent Lottery System (if required)	Intimate Later
11	Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)	The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class II or Class III Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal, A/P.O.: Samal Barrage Township, Dist.: Angul, Odisha, PIN - 759037 Email ID: ee.hwd.samal@gmail.com
12	Name and address of Officer Inviting Tender	

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only, further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal: www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Head Works Division, Samal

OIPR-

of the day **quote**

India has achieved historic progress through the Semiconductor Mission, electronics manufacturing, and chip design initiatives. This mission is not just about infrastructure, it is about empowering youth and fuelling innovation. Semiconductors form the backbone of modern life, powering mobile phones, satellites, defence systems, and artificial intelligence

VISHNU DEO SAI | CHHATTISGARH CM

The new laws are helping in quicker investigation and conviction of accused persons through the use of modern technology. This has improved conviction rates. Maharashtra must remain ahead of other states in implementing every aspect of these laws

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHA CHIEF MINISTER

We had gone to Delhi recently. Twenty-five MLAs met BJP North East in-charge Sambit Patra, who personally came to Manipur Bhavan. We informed him that it is public demand that a popular government be installed. We also conveyed issues related to IDPs. He said the matter will be pursued with higher levels as the situation in the state has improved considerably

N BIREN SINGH | FORMER MANIPUR CM

SHORT TAKES

Delhi's air quality remains 'very poor'

New Delhi: Delhi woke up to another day of hazardous air quality Friday, with the city's overall AQI recorded at 309 at 9 am, while temperatures began to dip as well. According to the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) hourly air-quality bulletin, the city recorded an overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of 311. Out of 38 monitoring stations in the national capital, 26 reported air quality in the 'very poor' category.

Wanted criminal shot dead in encounter

Azamgarh (UP): A wanted criminal carrying a cash reward of Rs 50,000 was shot dead here Friday in an encounter with the Special Task Force (STF), officials said. Three accomplices of the criminal, however, managed to escape, they said. The encounter occurred near the Jokhara bridge in the Rounapar police station area, when joint teams from Lucknow STF, Azamgarh SWAT, and Sidhari police intercepted a group of criminals.

Israeli national killed in motorcycle crash

Mathura (UP): An Israeli tourist en route from Delhi to Agra on a motorcycle as part of his India tour died in a road accident here Friday morning, police said. According to the Farah police station in charge, two Israeli nationals were riding separately towards Agra to visit the Taj Mahal when one of the motorcycles skidded, leaving 22-year-old Chenven Aire seriously injured.

Teenager held for raping a minor

Ballia: A 17-year-old boy was apprehended Friday for allegedly raping a girl in a village here, police said. According to police, the incident occurred Wednesday when the 10-year-old girl was reportedly alone at home and the accused entered her house.

I don't have any belief in revolution, the discussions have been going on about revolution, but there will be no revolution in my opinion

HD KUMARASWAMY | JD(S) LEADER

NGT RAPS MCD AFTER IT CLAIMS 'NO CONTROL' OVER TREE PRUNING

The National Green Tribunal has rebuked the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, calling it 'irresponsible', after the civic body submitted that it has no control over the pruning of trees in the national capital



Ajit Pawar scraps son's Pune land deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 7: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar Friday said his son Parth and his business partner were not aware that the land in Pune which their company purchased belonged to the government, and the controversial transaction has now been cancelled.

A committee appointed by the government to probe the Rs 300 crore deal will submit its report within a month, he told reporters here, soon after meeting Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis amid the raging controversy.

The registration of documents related to the deal was cancelled, and affidavit to this effect were submitted to the authorities, the NCP chief said, adding that not a rupee had changed hands in the deal.

"The concerned land is a government land which cannot be sold. Parth and his partner Digvijay Patil were not aware of this fact. How the registration (of its sale) was done and who is responsible will come out in the probe being headed by ACS (additional chief secretary) Vikas Kharge, and he will submit his report in a month," Pawar said.

As per his information, the authorities had not been pressurised to transfer the land to Parth Pawar's company (Amadea Enterprises LLP), the deputy CM said.

The FIR named three persons (including Digvijay Patil) but



FRESH FIR AGAINST PARTHA'S PARTNER

PUNE: A day after an offence was registered against three people including Digvijay Patil, business partner of Maharashtra deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's son, in a Rs 300 crore land deal, another FIR was registered Friday against Patil, Shital Tejwani and suspended revenue official Suryakant Yewale. The fresh First Information Report for alleged misappropriation, cheating and forgery was registered at Khadak police station in Pune city on a complaint of a naib (deputy) tehsildar, said district collector Jitendra Dudi. This case was transferred to the Economic Offences Wing (EOW), a police official said.

not his son because these three persons had visited the registrar's office to sign the documents, Ajit Pawar further said.

He has told officials that if they found any irregularity in any other land deals involving his relatives, they should scrap the deal and take action, he said.

He had spoken to Fadnavis, who was in Nagpur Thursday when the media started reporting on the controversy, and told the chief minister that he can take appropriate action,

Pawar said. Parth Pawar is a director of the firm involved in the transaction, Ajit said, adding that he spoke with the concerned officials and his son to "understand the facts completely".

"I want to make it clear that neither I nor my office made any phone calls, gave any help, or had any role or knowledge about this transaction at any stage," the deputy CM said.

"From the information now available, it was clear that this



Daredevil team of Uttarakhand Police performs stunts during parade to mark 50 years of the state of Uttarakhand, in Dehradun

ED makes 3rd arrest in Reliance Power money laundering case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: The Enforcement Directorate Friday said it has made a fresh and the third arrest in connection with a money laundering probe against businessman Anil Ambani's group company Reliance Power linked to issuance of an alleged fake bank guarantee of Rs 68 crore.

Amar Nath Dutta, a resident of Kolkata, was taken into custody Thursday under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PM-LA). A special court sent him to ED custody till November 10, it said in a statement. The federal probe agency has arrested



ed former Reliance Power CFO Ashok Kumar Pal and a private person Partha Sarathi Biswal, MD of an Odisha-based company named Biswal Tradelink, sometime back as part of this investigation.

"He (Dutta) claims to provide consultancy services in Trade Financing. Dutta played an ac-

tive role along with Ashok Pal and Partha Sarathi Biswal, for providing fake bank guarantees," the agency said.

The case pertains to a bank guarantee of Rs 68.2 crore submitted to the Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) on behalf of Reliance NU BESS Limited, a subsidi-

44 Indians still in Russian army: MEA



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 7: India Friday said that the number of Indian nationals serving in the Russian Army has increased to 44 in view of recruitment in recent months.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said it has

RECENT REPORTS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT MANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS RECRUITED ARE FROM REGIONS LIKE KASHMIR, PUNJAB, AND HARYANA, AND HAD ORIGINALLY TRAVELED TO RUSSIA ON STUDENT OR BUSINESS VISAS

THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS RAISED THE ISSUE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS WITH RUSSIAN OFFICIALS, MOST RECENTLY DURING EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER S JAISHANKAR'S VISIT TO MOSCOW IN AUGUST.

OFFICIAL RECORDS INDICATE THAT NEARLY 170 INDIAN NATIONALS HAVE BEEN RECRUITED BY THE RUSSIAN MILITARY, WITH 96 DISCHARGED BY RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES. ADDITIONALLY, 16 ARE CURRENTLY LISTED AS MISSING

said. There have been reports that some Indians on student and business visas were forced into joining Russian military units deployed on the frontlines of the war in Ukraine.

India has been repeatedly asking Russia to release all Indians serving as support staff, such as cooks and helpers, with Russian military units.

The issue was raised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Russia last year as well.

Jaiswal called upon Indians to stay away from offers being made to serve in the Russian Army as they are "fraught with danger to life".

"We have said this so many times. In spite of our repeated reminders people continue to enlist. If

somebody wants to do it, we cannot stop him but we continue to press that you must be aware of the dangers that are there once you sign up for these jobs," Jaiswal said.

According to official data, the number of Indians recruited by the Russian military is now close to 170. While 96 were discharged by Russian authorities, another 16 have been listed as missing.

At least 12 Indians were killed while fighting on the frontlines of the conflict in Ukraine.

AI-generated video shows tiger drinking liquor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, Nov 7: A "wildly" circulated, six-second social media clip showing a man feeding liquor to a tiger and casually patting the big cat on an empty street has been exposed as fake and entirely generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The deceptive video, which went viral with false claims of a stray tiger from the Pench Tiger Reserve, prompted the Nagpur rural police police to issue a legal notice to the Mumbai resident who ran the social media account responsible for posting the clip.

The video was spuriously claimed by numerous users to be from Madhya Pradesh, and the posts identified the man as a 52-year-old drunk labourer named Raju Patel, alleging he mistook a stray tiger from the Pench Tiger Reserve for a large cat while returning from a card game.

The fabricated narrative further claimed that villagers were terror-stricken and forest officers later tranquilised the animal.



Animal lovers protest SC order to move strays to shelters

THE APEX COURT, CITING AN "ALARMING RISE" IN DOG BITE INCIDENTS IN INSTITUTIONAL AREAS SUCH AS EDUCATIONAL CENTRES, HOSPITALS, BUS STANDS AND RAILWAY STATIONS, HAD ORDERED THAT SUCH CANINES BE MOVED TO SHELTER HOMES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: Animal lovers and caregivers once again took to the streets Friday, demanding the withdrawal of the Supreme Court order directing authorities to shift stray dogs from public places to designated shelters.

The Apex Court, citing an "alarming rise" in dog bite incidents in institutional areas such as educational centres, hospitals, bus stands and railway stations, had ordered that such canines be moved to shelter homes.

It also directed authorities, including the National Highways Authority of India



(NHAI), to ensure that highways and expressways are cleared of stray animals and cattle.

Scores of protesters gathered

at Connaught Place to oppose the decision. The demonstration was later dispersed, and several protesters were detained by the Delhi Police.

Animal activist Preeti Singh said that relocating dogs from educational institutions, hospitals and highways would mean removing nearly 60 per cent of Delhi's stray dog population.

"There are so many such institutions, but no proper shelters to accommodate them. No one is being harmed by their presence. We will continue to protest until the government withdraws this decision," she said. Another protester, Shakrudin, said the move was unfair to the "voiceless" animals.

"They need care, sterilisation and love. They are harmless. This is the second time the government is trying to put

them in cages," he said.

He added that there were no proper facilities to house the animals, and keeping them in overcrowded shelters would be like "imprisoning the dogs and leaving them to die."

In August, similar protests had erupted in the national capital after the court directed authorities to begin relocating stray dogs from the streets to shelters. The court had then reserved its order on an interim plea seeking a stay on some of the directions issued August 11, observing that the "whole problem" relating to stray dogs was a result of "inaction" by local authorities.

of the day

quote

If it is the latter, then this will create negative dynamics and trigger steps from other states, including Russia, in response

MARIA ZAKHAROVA | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, RUSSIA

We need to look into the lessons learned from the war in Ukraine, adapt them for ourselves and develop our own concepts and structures accordingly because the war in Ukraine is our teacher

CARSTEN BREUER | INSPECTOR GENERAL, GERMANY

Too many corporations are making record profits from climate devastation, with billions spent on lobbying, deceiving the public and obstructing progress, too many leaders remain captive to these entrenched interests

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECURITY GENERAL

SHORT TAKES

China commissions third Aircraft Carrier

Beijing: China has commissioned its third aircraft carrier, the Fujian, stated to be the most modern warship equipped with electromagnetic catapults, at a ceremony attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping, wrapped in secrecy. While the official media reported its commissioning Friday, a report by state-run Xinhua news agency said that Xi attended the commissioning and flag-presentation ceremony of the Fujian Wednesday at Sanya port in south China's Hainan Province. The Fujian is equipped with an Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS), used only by the American aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford.

Syrian Prez freed from sanctions

United Nations: The United Nations Security Council has removed sanctions on Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa, who is due to meet US President Donald Trump at the White House Monday. The US-drafted resolution Thursday also lifted sanctions on Syrian Interior Minister Anas Khattab. It received 14 votes in favor, while China abstained. Washington has been urging the 15-member Security Council for months to ease Syria sanctions. Trump announced a major US policy shift in May when he said he would lift US sanctions on Syria.

India, New Zealand conclude FTA talks

Rotorua: India and New Zealand Friday concluded the fourth round of negotiations for the proposed free trade agreement and have agreed to work towards its early conclusion. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was here to review the progress of these negotiations with his New Zealand counterpart Todd McClay. The fourth round of India-New Zealand FTA negotiations was focused on goods market access, services, economic and technical cooperation, and investment opportunities, Goyal said in a social media post.

Denmark to ban social media for under-15s

Copenhagen(Denmark): Denmark's government Friday announced a political agreement to ban access to social media for anyone aged under 15. The move, led by the Ministry of Digitalisation, would set the age limit for access to social media but give some parents – after a specific assessment – the right to give consent to let their children access social media from age 13.



We will soon announce a Signing Ceremony to make it official, and there are many more Countries trying to join this club of STRENGTH

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, USA

MALDIVES TO ACQUIRE MILITARY AIRCRAFT NEXT YEAR

Maldives will acquire a military aircraft next year, President Mohamed Muizzu said as he inaugurated the national defence force's first dedicated air station. The landmark event formalises a key component of the island nation's defence strategy, significantly expanding the capabilities of the newly constituted Air Corps



AF-PAK PEACE TALKS

Pakistan makes ‘evidence-based’ terrorism demands

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Nov 7: Pakistan Friday said that it has handed over “evidence-based” and “logical demands” to the mediators - Turkiye and Qatar - during the third round of peace talks being held in Istanbul with the Afghan Taliban regime.

Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban resumed the third round of talks in Istanbul Thursday to tackle the issue of cross-border terrorism and avoid further escalation between the two sides.

Foreign Office Spokesperson Tahir Hussain Andrabi said that talks with the Afghan Taliban regime commenced in Istanbul Thursday in the presence and with the participation of mediators. “The Pakistan delegation has handed over its evidence-based, justified, and logical demands to the mediators with a singular aim to put an end to cross-border terrorism,” Andrabi said while addressing his weekly media briefing here.

“The mediators fully endorsed Pakistan’s stance on the basis of evidence provided by our side, as well as the tenets of international law and principles,” he said, adding that the mediators were discussing Pakistan’s demands point by point with the Afghan delegation.

Andrabi said any other information being circulated on social media, particularly from Afghan handlers or Af-

ghan accounts, is either pure speculation or deliberate disinformation.

He also said that Pakistan’s demand to the Afghan Taliban regime was simple: that it should stop the infiltrators from operating from Afghan soil.

The third round of talks had begun in Istanbul to defuse tension between Islamabad and Kabul that erupted in an open border conflict last month. Earlier, the two sides failed to agree on the contentious issues during the two rounds of talks held October 19 in Doha and October 25 in Istanbul.

Both sides reported human losses during the clashes from October 11-15, which were brought under control after a temporary ceasefire that was extended and is still holding.

However, as officials from both Pakistan and Afghanistan held talks in Turkiye, their forces traded fire, testing the fragile peace between the two sides.

Thursday witnessed an exchange of fire, for which the two sides blamed each other. The situation, however, was brought under control.

“We strongly reject claims circulated by the Afghan side regarding today’s incident at the Pak-Afghan border at Chaman,” Pakistan’s Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said in a statement.

China moves to ease rare earth export curbs

REUTERS

Beijing, Nov 7: China has begun designing a new rare earth licensing regime that could speed up shipments, but it is unlikely to amount to a complete rollback of restrictions as hoped by Washington, industry insiders said.

The Ministry of Commerce told some rare earth exporters they will be able to apply for new streamlined permits in the future and in industry briefings outlined the documents that will be required, two sources familiar with the matter said.

The export curbs have become Beijing’s most potent source of leverage in its trade rivalry with Washington, as China produces over 90% of the world’s processed rare earths and rare earth magnets, vital in products ranging from cars to missiles. Following the agreement reached between Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping, China said last week it would pause for one year the restrictions it imposed in October.

However, China’s commerce ministry has said nothing publicly about a broader round of controls introduced in April that rattled global supply chains.

The White House said Saturday that China had agreed to introduce general licenses and characterised such permits as the de facto end of China’s rare earth export controls.

In private, Chinese officials



- New export permits would be valid for a year, sources say
- New licenses may not be available for some sectors like defence
- No sign yet restrictions introduced in April will be removed

have said they are working on the licenses, three other sources briefed on discussions said, although one said it could take months. However, other industry insiders said the new licenses do not mean China’s wide-ranging rare earth export controls introduced in April have been removed.

ONE YEAR, POTENTIALLY HIGHER VOLUMES

The new licenses would be valid for a year and probably allow larger export volumes, the first two sources said. Companies are preparing documents, which will require more information from customers, they said.

Blasts injure dozens at Indonesian mosque



REUTERS

Jakarta, Nov 7: Explosions at a mosque in Indonesia’s capital Jakarta that injured dozens of people during Friday prayers could have been an attack, officials indicated, with a 17-year-old student the suspected perpetrator.

Police said 55 people were in hospitals with a range of minor to serious injuries, including burns, after the blasts at the mosque inside a school complex in the Kelapa Gading area.

“We were so surprised by the sound, it was massive. Our hearts were beating fast, we couldn’t breathe, and we ran outside,” said Luciana, 43, who was working at the school canteen at the time. She described multiple blasts, broken windows and panic as dozens fled the complex.

“I thought it was an electrical wiring problem, or the

Student suspect undergoing surgery: official

‘Toy weapon’ with inscriptions found

Police say 55 injured in explosions during Friday prayers

Witness describes chaos and panic at Jakarta mosque

sound system exploded, but we didn’t know exactly what it was because we ran out just as a white smoke billowed from the mosque.” Deputy house speaker Sufmi Dasco Ahmad, speaking to media after visiting a hospital, said the young male suspect was undergoing surgery, without giving more details or possible motive.

Indonesia’s national police chief Listyo Sigit Prabowo said the suspect was a student at the adjacent school, and an investigation was underway into his background and motive. “We have identified the suspected perpetrator, and we are currently investigating the perpetrator’s identity, his environment, including his home and other things,” he said.

India will host leaders from Australia, Japan, and the United States for the Quad summit in New Delhi after the 2024 summit was held in Wilmington, Delaware

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York/Washington, Nov 7: US President Donald Trump said he could travel to India next year, emphasising that Prime Minister Narendra Modi “wants” him to visit while calling him a “great man” and a “friend”.

“He’s (PM Modi) a friend of mine, and we speak. He wants me to go there. We’ll figure that out. I’ll go. I will have a great trip there with Prime Minister Modi, he’s a great man. And I’ll be going,” Trump said at the Oval Office Thursday in response to a question.

When asked if he is planning to go to India next year, Trump said, “It could be, yeah.”

India will host leaders from Australia, Japan, and the United States for the Quad summit

Mexico’s Prez presses charges after groping attack on street

REUTERS

Mexico City, Nov 7: Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Wednesday she filed a complaint against a man who groped her and tried to kiss her as she walked between meetings in the capital city, a day after a video of the incident went viral.

“If this happens to the president, where does that leave all the young women in our country,” said Sheinbaum, Mexico’s first female president. “No man has the right to abuse women’s personal space.”

Video of the incident quickly ricocheted across the internet before being taken down by some accounts, underscoring for many in Mexico the insecurity women face in a country steeped in machismo and gender-based violence.

It has also raised questions about Sheinbaum’s security detail. Like her predecessor, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, Sheinbaum travels with minimal security and makes herself widely available to the public, including wading into crowds of people. She said Wednesday that she did not plan to change that practice, saying “we have to be close to the people.”

The incident happened Tuesday in the capital’s historic center as Sheinbaum was greeting members of the public while making the short walk from Mexico’s national palace to the Ministry of Education. The video shows a middle-aged man putting his arm around Sheinbaum, touching her chest and attempting to kiss her. She moves his hands away before a member of her staff steps between them.



He’s (PM Modi) a friend of mine, and we speak. He wants me to go there. We’ll figure that out. I’ll go. I will have a great trip there with Prime Minister Modi, he’s a great man. And I’ll be going

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

in New Delhi after the 2024 summit was held in Wilmington, Delaware.

However, the dates for the summit in India are yet to be announced. When asked about Trump’s visit to India, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal in New Delhi declined to comment on the issue.

“I do not have anything on this to share. I will let you know when I have,” Jaiswal said.

Meanwhile, President Trump

once again claimed that India has stopped buying from Russia. “It’s great, going good. He (PM Modi) stopped. Largely he stopped buying oil from Russia,” Trump said in response to a question on how talks with Modi and trade discussions with India are progressing.

Trump imposed 25 per cent reciprocal tariffs on India and an additional 25 per cent levies for Delhi’s purchases of Russian oil, bringing the total

duties imposed on India to 50 per cent. India had described the US action as “unfair, unjustified and unreasonable” while maintaining that its energy policy is guided by its own national interest.

In his remarks before the press, Trump also reiterated his claim that he stopped the war between India and Pakistan in May using trade.

“Of the eight wars I ended, I would say five or six were ended because of tariffs. I’ll give you an example. If you take a look at India and Pakistan, they started to fight; they are two nuclear nations... They were shooting each other. Eight planes were shot down. It was seven. Now it is eight, because the one that was sort of shot down is now abandoned. Eight planes were shot down.

“And I said, ‘Listen, if you guys are going to fight, I’m gonna put tariffs on you. And they both went, you know, they were not happy about that. And within 24 hours, I settled the war. If I didn’t have tariffs, I wouldn’t have been able to settle that war,” Trump said. The president also termed tariffs a “great national defence”.

Couples say ‘I do’ from nightclubs to Alpine peaks

CHINA'S WEDDING REFORM

REUTERS

Singapore/Beijing, Nov 7: When bank clerk Ren Yingxiao was looking for a honeymoon destination with her partner, they came across a scenic spot in the Xinjiang region that had it all - including a marriage registration office.

“So we thought, why not go there and get our marriage certificate as well?” the 30-year-old said about secluded Sayram Lake, where authorities are trying to attract young Chinese to tie the knot as part of a nationwide push to boost marriage rates and ease the country’s demographic crisis.

In May, China started allowing couples to get married anywhere in the country - instead of their place of residence - making the process more convenient and the

event more special.

Local governments have since started to scramble for marriage tourists, setting up registration offices around scenic spots, at music festivals - and even in subway stations, shopping malls and parks.

CHINA'S MARRIAGE RATES RISE

For now, the effort is working. Marriages, which demographers use as a proxy for the country’s birth rate, rose 22.5% from a year earlier to 1.61 million in the third quarter of 2025, putting China on track to halt a downtrend in annual nuptials, which has gone almost uninterrupted for more than a decade.

Last year’s 20.5% decline in marriages, to 6.1 million, was the biggest on record.

In the eastern city of Nanjing, couples can get married at the Confucius Temple, where they can have a Ming Dynas-



ty-themed ceremony. In southwestern Chengdu, authorities set up an office on the picturesque Xiling Snow Mountain at an altitude above 3,000 metres (9,842 feet). In eastern Hefei, a marriage booth opened in a subway station whose name, Xingfuba, translates to “the

place of happiness.”

And in Shanghai, couples can choose to get their certificate at a nightclub after appearing at a marriage registration office, thanks to a partnership between INS Park, a six-storey nightlife complex, and the Huangpu District Civil Affairs

China allows couples to get married anywhere in the country

Couples previously had to register at their place of residence

Marriage offices open at scenic spots, music festivals

Marriages spike 22.5% from a year earlier in third quarter

Demographers expect marriage uptrend to be short-lived

Bureau. In Beijing, 31-year-old lawyer Wang Jieyi and 33-year-old Zhan Yongqiang, a bank employee, registered their marriage at the Huguo Guanyin Temple.

IT'S A NUMBERS GAME

Tourists go to Xinjiang’s Sayram Lake, where Ren got married, for the steep moun-

tains and quiet pastures surrounding it. But it’s the lake’s geographical statistics that convince couples to marry there.

It stands 2,073 metres above sea level, a number that sounds like “love you deeply” in Chinese. It has a surface area of 1,314 square kilometres and that figure is phonetically similar to “a lifetime.” Xinjiang’s capital, Urumqi, is 520 kilometres away - homophonous with “I love you.”

“All those numbers had symbolic meaning,” said Ren.

With the population declining, Yi expects the number of women aged 20 to 34 to nearly halve to 58 million by 2050. Moreover, he expects young women - and their parents - to give greater priority to education and economic independence over marriage, in line with global trends.

of the day

quote

Comfortable looking at a number north of 6.8 per cent now. My original range was 6.3 to 6.8 per cent (projected in Economic Survey). Back in August, we were all concerned about whether we would even go towards the lower end of the 6-7 range

V ANANTHA NAGESWARAN | CEA

I think things have been a bit difficult with the United States, and I think a reset is being tried. The trade negotiations are on... Hopefully, by end of the month, we may hear some news on that front

BVR SUBRAHMANYAM | CEO, NITI AAYOG

Economic interest warrants increasing efficiency and promoting innovation, which also is the duty of RBI. We recognise that just like there are no free lunches, regulation to enhance stability too is not devoid of costs

SANJAY MALHOTRA | GOVERNOR, RBI

SHORT TAKES

Nykaa goes full glam

New Delhi: FSN E-Commerce, the parent company of fashion and beauty retailer Nykaa, Friday reported a multifold growth in consolidated net profit to Rs 34.4 crore in the September quarter. The company had posted a net profit (attributable to equity shareholders of the parent company) of Rs 10.04 crore in the year-ago period. Nykaa's revenue from operations rose 25.13 per cent to Rs 2,345.98 crore in Q2, FY26, as compared to Rs 1,874.74 crore in the year-ago period, according to regulatory filings by the company.

Nalco profit rises 37%

New Delhi: State-owned National Aluminium Company Ltd (Nalco) Friday reported a 36.7 per cent rise in consolidated profit to Rs 1,429.94 crore in the quarter ended September 30, 2025. The company had posted a consolidated profit of Rs 1,045.97 crore in the year-ago period. The consolidated revenue from operations during the July-September period rose to Rs 4,292.34 crore against Rs 4,001.48 crore in the year-ago period.

Hindalco profit up 21%

New Delhi: Aditya Birla Group's metals arm Hindalco Industries Ltd Friday reported a 21.2 per cent rise in consolidated profit after tax at Rs 4,741 crore in the quarter ended September 2025 on the back of strong performance by the India business, disciplined cost management and operational efficiencies across segments. The company had posted a consolidated profit after tax of Rs 3,909 crore in the year-ago period, Hindalco Industries Ltd said in a filing to BSE.

Bajaj Auto net surges

New Delhi: Bajaj Auto Friday said its consolidated profit after tax increased 53 per cent year-on-year to Rs 2,122 crore for the September quarter, aided by robust sales in export markets. The Pune-based firm reported a profit after tax (PAT) of 1,385 crore in the September quarter of the previous fiscal year. Revenue from operations rose to Rs 15,735 crore for the September quarter as compared with Rs 13,247 crore in the year-ago period, Bajaj Auto said in a regulatory filing.



The momentum we see in India is incredible. We're seeing tremendous growth. The growth in India we've seen has tripled year over year

OLIVER JAY | MD, OPENAI

GOLDMAN'S BIG INDIA LEAP

Leading global financial firm Goldman Sachs has promoted 49 Indian employees out of 638 as Managing Directors (MDs), the largest ever in the country. In India, 49 employees were promoted to the MD position this year, compared with 35 in 2023, Goldman Sachs said in a statement Friday



Festive boost for auto sector

Automobile retail sales surge to all-time high of over 52 lakh units in 42-day festive period

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: Automobile retail sales across the domestic market witnessed a 21 per cent year-on-year increase in the 42-day festive season led by record registrations of passenger vehicles and two-wheelers aided by GST rejig enabled drop in prices across segments, dealer' body FADA said Friday.

Overall retail sales rose to 52,38,401 units in the festive period this year as compared with 43,25,632 units in the same period last year, registering an increase of 21 per cent.

"The 42-day festive period of 2025 stands as a defining milestone for India's auto retail, delivering the highest-ever sales and growth across categories," Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) President CS Vigneshwar said in a statement. Passenger vehicle registrations rose to 7,66,918 units during the period as against 6,21,539 units in the same period last year, logging an increase of 23 per cent.

"The GST 2.0 vision of empowering affordability and boosting middle-class consumption found real reflection on dealership floors. Compact and sub-4-metre cars saw strong resurgence as reduced tax rates expanded the buying base. Dealers also noted that retail



Overall retail sales rose to 52,38,401 units in the festive period this year as compared with 43,25,632 units in the same period last year, registering 21% rise

Passenger vehicle registrations rose to 7,66,918 units during the period as against 6,21,539 units in the same period last year, logging an increase of 23%

The 42-day festive period of 2025 stands as a defining milestone for India's auto retail, delivering the highest-ever sales and growth across categories

CS VIGNESHWAR | PRESIDENT, FADA

momentum exceeded supply in several models," Vigneshwar stated.

Two-wheeler retails rose to 22 per cent to 40,52,503 units as compared with 33,27,198 units in 2024.

The segment was powered by improved rural sentiment, better liquidity, and the affordability impact of GST rationalisation, Vigneshwar stated.

Dealers described it as the best festive season in recent

memory, with strong traction in commuter bikes and scooters, alongside rising EV interest, he added. Similarly, three-wheeler and commercial vehicle registrations rose 9 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively during the 42-day period.

"This season's success has reaffirmed that the GST 2.0 reform is not just a tax simplification, but a catalyst for consumer-led growth and national prosperity. It has lowered own-

BIZ BUZZ

Metro opens third store in City

Bhubaneswar: Metro Brands, one of India's leading footwear retail chains, has inaugurated its third showroom in Patia, Bhubaneswar. The new 900 sq. ft. outlet was inaugurated by Bhubaneswar Mayor Sulochana Das, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest here Friday. Speaking on the occasion, SK Jafar Hussain, Store Manager of Metro, said, "We are delighted to expand our presence in Bhubaneswar with this new outlet. The response from our customers has always been encouraging, and this store will further enhance accessibility to our wide range of stylish and quality footwear." Also present at the event was Tarun Guha, Metro's Area Manager. The brand offers a comprehensive selection across categories—casual, formal, and festive wear—along with handbags, belts, and wallets. Metro retails both its in-house brands like Metro, Mochi, Walkway, Da Vinci, and J. Fontini, as well as international and third-party brands such as Crocs, FitFlop, Fila, Clarks, Skechers, Puma, and Adidas. Curating its collection to match regional preferences, Metro aims to cater to diverse consumer tastes across India.



Sreeleathers Bhubaneswar store gets makeover

Bhubaneswar: The Sreeleathers store in Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar, reopened its doors Friday with a grand inauguration ceremony attended by Satyabrata Dey, Managing Director of Sreeleathers Ltd, as the chief guest. GK Behera, owner of the Bhubaneswar dealership, was the key speaker, while Rochita Dey, Director represented the company headquarters. Established July 3, 1996, the Bhubaneswar outlet has grown from a modest 2,200 sq. ft. space to a sprawling 12,000 sq. ft. showroom. The newly renovated store features dedicated sections—ladies, kids, and accessories on the ground floor; gents' collections on the first floor; and a premium footwear and accessories range on the second floor. To enhance customer convenience, an escalator has been installed, along with a dedicated exchange counter allowing customers to make returns at any time before store closing hours. "The growth journey of this store has been humbling. The continued patronage of our customers has inspired us to expand and offer more variety and comfort," said GK Behera. The newly refurbished Sreeleathers Bhubaneswar store aims to offer an enhanced and hassle-free shopping experience for its loyal customer base.

INDOMACH Bhubaneswar 2025 expo inaugurated

Bhubaneswar: The three-day INDOMACH Bhubaneswar 2025, a mega industrial machinery and engineering expo, was inaugurated at Baramunda Ground Friday. Organised by IndoMach Business Solutions in association with the Orissa Small Scale Industries Association (OSSIA), the event will continue till November 9. The expo brings together over 150 leading companies from across India, representing diverse sectors including automation, robotics, hydraulics, pneumatics, and material handling. More than 15,000 business visitors from industrial hubs such as Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Jharsuguda, and Angul are expected to participate, making it one of the largest B2B industrial gatherings in eastern India. "This is the first expo in Odisha where engineering and machinery goods are on display. It will be highly beneficial for our MSMEs. We feel proud to be associated with INDOMACH," said Smarajit Mohanty, President of OSSIA. Manish Sinha, Director of INDOMACH B2B Industrial & Machinery Expo 2025, added, "Industries of the state, along with dealers and distributors, will immensely benefit from this event. Various advanced technologies and mechanisms are being displayed by more than 110 participants." Leading brands including Ashok Leyland, Taparia Tools, Messer Cutting Systems, Salzer Electronics, Polymak Tools, and Tally Solutions are showcasing their latest products and innovations. The expo also features live machinery demonstrations, new product launches, and exclusive B2B networking sessions aimed at strengthening Odisha's manufacturing ecosystem.



Eli Lilly's weight-loss therapy Mounjaro tops India drug sales

The US drugmaker's popular injectable therapy raked in Rs 1 billion (\$11.38 million) in October and outpaced Augmentin sales of Rs 800 million

REUTERS

Hyderabad, Nov 7: Eli Lilly's weight-loss therapy Mounjaro became India's top-selling drug by value in October, data showed Friday, overtaking GSK's widely used antibiotic Augmentin, as demand surges in the world's most populous nation.

The US drugmaker's popular injectable therapy raked in Rs 1 billion (\$11.38 million) in October, research firm Pharmarack said. That outpaced Augmentin sales of Rs 800 million last month.

By volume, Augmentin was way higher than Mounjaro with 5.8 million units sold during October, compared with just

85,000 units of Mounjaro, which is sold at a higher price point.

The news comes as India becomes a key battleground for drugmakers, looking to grab a slice of the burgeoning weight-loss treatment market, which some analysts predict will generate \$150 billion a year or more by the end of the decade.

Mounjaro, which helps control blood sugar and slow digestion, saw its sales double within months of its March launch in India, ahead of rival Novo Nordisk's Wegovy, which entered the market in June.

The drug has generated 3.33 billion rupees in revenue till the end of October, according to Pharmarack.

"Mounjaro's consumption in



India by volume was 10 times more than Wegovy in October," Sheetal Sapale, Pharmarack's

Vice President (Commercial), told the media Friday.

While Lilly sold 262,000

WEAK GLOBAL PEERS

Foreign fund outflows send D-St on freefall

In a holiday-shortened week, BSE tanked 722.43 points or 0.86%, and the Nifty declined 229.8 points or 0.89%

BSE SENSEX

NOVEMBER 7, 2025



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 7: Falling for the third straight day, benchmark index Sensex declined by nearly 95 points while Nifty slipped below 25,500 Friday as relentless foreign fund outflows and weak trends in global markets hit investors' sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 94.73 points, or 0.11 per cent, to settle at 83,216.28. During the day, it tanked 640.06 points, or 0.76 per cent, to 82,670.95.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 17.40 points, or 0.07 per cent, to 25,492.30.

Among Sensex firms, Bharti Airtel tumbled 4.46 per cent after Singtel said it has sold about 0.8 per cent stake in the firm for Rs 10,353 crore (SGD 1.5 billion).

Tech Mahindra, Trent, Reliance Industries, HCL Tech, Hindustan Unilever, and ITC were also among the laggards. However, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, and Bajaj Finserv were among the gainers.

"Domestic equities rebounded from early losses as buying emerged at key support levels, though it may be premature to call this a trend reversal amid

mixed earnings, cautious global cues, and persistent FII outflows. Going forward, markets will closely monitor US shutdown and tariff-related developments with US-India and US-China deals to assess the durability of the current momentum," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

The BSE midcap gauge went up by 0.25 per cent, while smallcap ended marginally lower by 0.01 per cent.

Tech dropped 1.46 per cent, followed by telecommunication (1.19 per cent), power (0.52 per cent), BSE Focused IT (0.50 per cent), IT (0.39 per cent) and services (0.37 per cent).

However, metal jumped 1.41 per cent, financial services (0.74 per cent), commodities 0.65 per cent, auto (0.55 per cent) and bankex (0.31 per cent).

A total of 2,105 stocks declined while 2,069 advanced and 141 remained unchanged on the BSE.

On Thursday, the Sensex declined 148.14 points, or 0.18 per cent, to settle at 83,311.01. The Nifty dipped 87.95 points, or 0.34 per cent, to 25,509.70.

Forex reserves drop \$5.6bn to \$689.73bn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 7: India's forex reserves dropped \$5.623 billion to \$689.733 billion for the week ended October 31, the Reserve Bank of India said Friday.

The overall reserves had declined by \$6.925 billion to \$695.355 billion.

For the week ended October 31, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by \$1.957 billion to \$564.591 billion, the data released Friday showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units, like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. The value



of the gold reserves declined by \$3.81 billion to \$101.726 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by \$19 million to \$18.644 billion, the apex bank noted.

India's reserve position with the IMF increased by \$164 million to \$4.772 billion in the reporting week, according to the data.

India hockey celebrates centenary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: The iconic Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium came alive Friday as Indian hockey celebrated 100 glorious years with legends of the sport, including Olympic gold medallists Gurbux Singh and Aslam Sher Khan, gracing the historic occasion.

Hockey India felicitated some of the game's most celebrated icons in recognition of their lasting contributions to the sport and for the inspiration they provided to the generations of players.

Those honoured at the ceremony included Gurbux, Aslam, Harbinder Singh, Ajith Pal Singh, Ashok Kumar, BP Govinda, Zafar Iqbal, Brigadier Harcharan Singh, Vineet Kumar, Mir Ranjan Negi, Romeo James, Asunta Lakra, and Subhadra Pradhan.

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who attended the event alongside Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju and Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Thiru Udhayanidhi Stalin, lauded the sport's illustrious journey and its deep-rooted connection with India's sporting pride.

"The sport has seen many phases, and it was through hockey at the Olympics that

INDIAN HOCKEY DOMINATED THE LAST CENTURY WITH EIGHT OLYMPIC GOLDS, GLOBAL SUPREMACY FROM 1928-1956, AND EVOLVING FROM NATURAL FLAIR TO MODERN, STRUCTURED PLAY STYLES



With its rich history, Indian hockey is once again rising and moving towards another Olympic medal

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | SPORTS MINISTER

we showed the world what India can achieve in sports. We have never looked back since," Mandaviya said.

The centenary celebrations began with an exhibition match between the Sports Minister's XI led by Mandaviya himself and the Hockey India XI captained by Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey. The friendly yet competitive game set the tone for the

day's festivities.

The Sports Minister's XI registered a 3-1 victory, with goals from Beauty Dungdung, Salima Tete, and Krishna Pathak, while Manpreet Singh netted the lone goal for the Hockey India XI.

The match featured a mix of players from both the men's and

women's national hockey teams.

Adding to the celebrations was the launch of a commemorative book, "100 Years of Indian Hockey," chronicling the sport's century-long journey through triumphs, challenges, and revival.

A special photo exhibition



Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey looks at his photograph from his playing days during an event marking 100 years of Indian Hockey, at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium

RICH HISTORY

MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM Olympic Games
Gold: 1928, 1932, 1936, 1948, 1952, 1956, 1964, 1980; Silver: 1960; Bronze: 1968, 1972, 2020, 2024
World Cup
Champion: 1975; Runner-up: 1973; Third place: 1971
Asian Games
Gold: 1966, 1998, 2014, 2022; Silver: 1958, 1962, 1970, 1974, 1978, 1982, 1990, 1994, 2002; Bronze: 1986, 2010, 2018
Asia Cup
Champion: 2003, 2007, 2017, 2025; Runner-up: 1982, 1985, 1989, 1994, 2013; Third place: 1999, 2022
Asian Champions Trophy
Champion: 2011, 2016, 2018, 2023, 2024; Runner-up: 2012; Third place: 2021
Commonwealth Games
Silver: 2010, 2014, 2022

WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM Olympic Games
Best Finish: 4th place (Tokyo 2020)
World Cup
Best Finish: 4th place (1974, 2010)
Commonwealth Games
Gold: 2002; Silver: 2006; Bronze: 2022
Asian Games
Gold: 1982; Silver: 1998, 2018; Bronze: 1986, 2006, 2014, 2022
Asia Cup
Champions: 2004, 2017; Runner-up: 1999, 2009, 2025; Third place: 1993, 2013, 2022
Asian Champions Trophy
Champions: 2016, 2023, 2024; Runner-up: 2013, 2018; Third place: 2010

FINAL T20I

Men in Blue target batting consistency

With an unassailable 2-1 lead in the five-match series, India have extended their 17-year streak of not losing a T20I series against Australia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Brisbane, Nov 7: On the cusp of another overseas series win, India will look to overcome batting inconsistencies and finish the tour of Australia with authority when the two sides clash in the fifth and final T20 International here Saturday.

With an unassailable 2-1 lead in the five-match series, India have extended their 17-year streak of not losing a T20I series against Australia and Suryakumar Yadav and Co. will look to finish strongly in this one too.

The focus will be on Shubman Gill and skipper Suryakumar Yadav's batting, while Australia will look to counter India's spin challenge when the two sides clash for the last time ahead of next year's T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka.

India showed better tactical awareness in the previous match, adjusting on a tricky Carrara pitch. Gill led the way in a promising start of 121 for 2 in 14 overs before a late collapse saw them lose four wickets for 15 runs.

For vice-captain Gill, it has been seven innings without a fifty, though his 46 in the fourth T20 was a sign of his returning form. Gill has not quite displayed the fluent touch that has defined his batting in recent years. He looked composed in the last match before being undone by a slower ball. The opener will be eager to sign off on a high and ease concerns within the team management.

Suryakumar has also shown flashes of brilliance across the series but has struggled to convert his starts. The captain would be expected to bat with more freedom and lead by example ahead of next month's South Africa.

Tilak Varma is another batter who is yet to find his rhythm, managing scores of 0, 29, and 5 in his last three outings.

The pressure will also be on wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma, who has featured ahead of Sanju Samson in the last two games but is yet to make a substantial impact.



Abhishek Sharma, however, has lived up to his reputation as the world's top-ranked T20 hitter, scoring a fluent half-century and providing brisk starts.

In the bowling department, Arshdeep Singh has once again proved his worth for India, picking up four wickets and forming an effective new-ball pairing with Jasprit Bumrah. The spin trio of Varun, Axar, and Washington has been a major strength for India despite the absence of Kuldeep Yadav. Both Shivam Dube and Washington have been instrumental with bat and ball.

ERIGAISI DRAWS FIRST BLOOD; GUKESH HELD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panjim (Goa), Nov 7: Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi continued with his fine form to beat his Uzbek counterpart Shamsiddin Vokhidov in a clean attacking game, while world champion D Gukesh played out a draw with Frederik Svane of Germany in the first game of the third round of Chess World Cup, here Friday.

Apart from Erigaisi, Grandmaster P Harikrishna also shot into lead with another finely-crafted victory at the expense of young GM Daniel Dardha of Belgium. With both Erigaisi and Harikrishna winning with white pieces, a draw would be enough for them to get over the line to the fourth round.

In the round of 64, R Praggnanandhaa also drew the first



game with Robert Hovhannisyan of Armenia to start easy with black pieces, while Vidit Gujrathi played out a draw with Sam Shankland to start his campaign for the fourth round.

Erigaisi was great for the third time running, scoring his third straight win in the knockout event. Playing white, it was a Queen-pawn opening

wherein Erigaisi found some nice resources in the opening and crushed Vokhidov in a one-sided affair.

Harikrishna continued his success story with the seasoned Grandmaster, who famously assisted Gukesh in the World Championship title match, showcasing his skills as a brilliant attacker.

Women's ODI WC expands from eight teams to ten

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Nov 7: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Friday announced that the next edition of the Women's ODI World Cup in 2029 will feature 10 teams, expanding from the existing eight-team format.

India won its first ever global trophy in women's cricket, beating South Africa by 52 runs in the final played in Navi Mumbai November 2. "The ICC board, keen to build on the success of the event, agreed to expand the next edition of the tournament to 10 teams (from 8 teams in 2025)," an ICC press release stated.

RECORD VIEWERSHIP

India's historic title victory in the Women's ODI World Cup saw new benchmarks being set for cricket broadcast in the country, with the official broadcaster recording an over-



all reach of 446 million on its digital platform over the course of the tournament.

JioHotstar said in a release Friday that the Women's World Cup final, which India won by defeating South Africa, was watched by 185 million users on its platform.

The viewership in the final exceeded the daily average reach of the Indian Premier League, while it also equalled the viewership recorded during last year's men's T20 World Cup final between India and South Africa.

NEW ERA IN INDIAN FOOTBALL

Williams, Bharti give up foreign citizenship to join India camp

AIFF opens door for Indian-origin overseas-based-players to play for the Blue Tigers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: In what could mark a new beginning for Indian football, the game's national federation AIFF has roped in two overseas-based players - Ryan Williams and Abneet Bharti - for the national camp ahead of the AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Bangladesh in Dhaka November 18.

The move reflects a bold shift in approach by the federation, opening the door for Indian-origin players and those willing

to give up foreign citizenship to represent the country.

If cleared, both players will join the squad in Dhaka for the November 18 qualifier in a development that could open the door for many more such aspirants and signal a new, inclusive phase for Indian football.

Williams, a 31-year-old midfielder born in Perth represented Australia at U-20, U-23 levels and the senior team as a second half substitute during a friendly against South Korea in 2019. He also represented English clubs Fulham and Portsmouth before joining former Indian Super League champions Bengaluru FC in 2023.

In a humorous Instagram video, Williams was seen taking a mock "citizenship interview" conducted by Sunil Chhetri, who tested him with tongue-in-cheek India-specific questions



like "Haar ke jeetne wale ko kya kehte hain?" and "Rishtey mein hum tumhare...?" The light-hearted clip ends with Williams proudly collecting his Indian passport. "Honoured to make official what's long felt true. Grateful for

the love, the opportunity, and the sense of belonging this country has given me. "As you can see, the last round of interviews was the hardest. India, I'm one of your own!" Williams posted.

AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey said the idea was first