



LEISURE | P2



INTERNATIONAL | P10



BUSINESS | P11

SPORTS | **P12**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

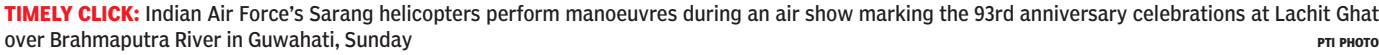
After receiving information, a police team reached the spot, rushed the injured to the hospital, and took the other two students into custody, police said.

London: Director General of BBC, Tim Davie, and chief executive of news, Deborah Turness, have resigned following criticism that a BBC documentary misled viewers by editing a speech by US President Donald Trump. "This is entirely my decision, and I remain very thankful to the Chair and Board for their unwavering and unanimous support throughout my entire tenure, including during recent days," Davie said in a statement. "I've been reflecting on the very intense personal and professional demands of managing this role over many years in these febrile times, combined with the fact that I want to give a successor time to help shape the Charter plans they will be delivering."

What's wrong in it? All this is public welfare scheme's money

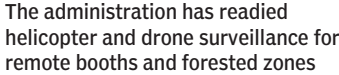
AGENCIES

Held between October 2 and 31, this year's campaign was the largest so far, both in scale and impact. During the drive, about 11.58 lakh government sites were covered across ministries, missions abroad, and public offices. The initiative



POST NEWS NETWORK

“BJP is fighting a positive and principled battle in Nuapada. Our double-engine government will bring real development to the people,” said Odisha BJP president Manmohan Samal Sunday, asserting confidence in party candidate Jay Dholakia.



Meanwhile, Congress has tried to project itself as a viable alternative, releasing a manifesto focused on tribal development, employment generation, and better rural infrastructure. State Congress leaders said the party would

POST NEWS NETWORK

The government and district administration has provided compensation to the victims, he said. **P3**



leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
The stars are up to some mischief – you may get into some kind of trouble. But matters may settle down, and by noon, you may have forgotten all about it. The evening will find you quieter and reflective, sober and wiser. Good thing, says Ganesha.

TAURUS
Today, your natural ability to deal confidently and successfully with problems and issues is likely to let you down. Ganesha sees this be particularly true in money matters. You will be caught up in financial problems without being able to resolve them suitably. Confusion and indecision will prevent you from finding a way out.

GEMINI
A day when you get the opportunity to show what stuff you are made of. By afternoon, you will be in your elements and will feel almost invincible. Your optimism will rub off on your colleagues and the atmosphere at the workplace will be nothing short of electrifying, says Ganesha. Also, you will attract a lot of attention from the opposite sex.

CANCER
Today you are likely to be full of enthusiasm, both at work and home, predicts Ganesha. At work, your convictions will get the better of other people's vindictiveness, and your colleagues will come around to your viewpoints. But don't take any critical decision without prior approval.

LEO
If you are the one who sets the corporate mantra each morning, then know that today, your mantra will be fabulous, and will be chanted by many in your organisation. Being a business magnate might not be the easiest thing, but you are who you are, and you are good at it. Your business-like approach shall come in handy later in the day, as you may launch new products in the market, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Share thoughts, concepts and ideas with people. You may get new perspectives, says Ganesha. Don't let any opportunity pass to make your loved one feel special. Ganesha predicts you might seek the counsel of friends on professional and ethical issues.

LIBRA
Today seems like a good day to take a break and go on a pleasure trip to revitalise yourself, says Ganesha. Even on the business front, it will do you a world of good to take a break from the usual routine. This evening, you are at your best winning the heart of the opposite sex at social gatherings.

SCORPIO
Today you are likely to remain the unvarying object of emotions and sentiments, predicts Ganesha. Your inkling for performing arts may draw you to take up some lessons in classical music and traditional dance. A romantic, candlelit evening with your sweetheart may be on the cards to wrap up the day.

SAGITTARIUS
Simple living and high thinking, says Ganesha, will be your mantra today. Approach your work with innovative thoughts and diplomatic words. Later in the day, family, friends and relatives revel in the attention that you shower on them. Students will excel in their studies and marvel in leisure activities, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
The day will have a bundle of things to offer today, some good, some not so good. At work, you are likely to overlook the most obvious things, and come across some unexpected ones. But as dawn turns to dusk, a pleasant surprise may get you all pepped up.

AQUARIUS
It always pays to have extra cash, and in that regard, you will be a happy person today! You may carefully update and crosscheck your financial position. Of course, there are people who don't share your happiness and will try to advise you to the contrary. Ignore them, says Ganesha.

PISCES
A good day is in the offing, says Ganesha. You are likely to receive news you will be glad to share and celebrate with your family. A few pending deals are likely to be finalised in the afternoon, and there are indications you will need to go off on a short visit for business purposes later on in the day.



SANDRA TO STAR IN FAIRYHEART

Emmy and Golden Globe winner Sandra Oh joins the voice cast of *Fairyheart*, an animated adaptation of Magda Szabo's 1965 novel *Tunder Lala*. The film follows Lala, a young prince of Tundarra, who teams up with Bea, a courageous human girl, and Gigi, a magical capybara unicorn, to save humanity

RENNER RUBBISHES HARASSMENT CLAIMS

Avengers star Jeremy Renner has reportedly dismissed the harassment claims made by Chinese director Yi Zhou describing them as "totally inaccurate and untrue". Zhou accused Renner in a series of posts Monday on her Instagram handle, which included "#Cancel" and "#CancelJeremyRenner" hashtags



Tamannaah's work ethics

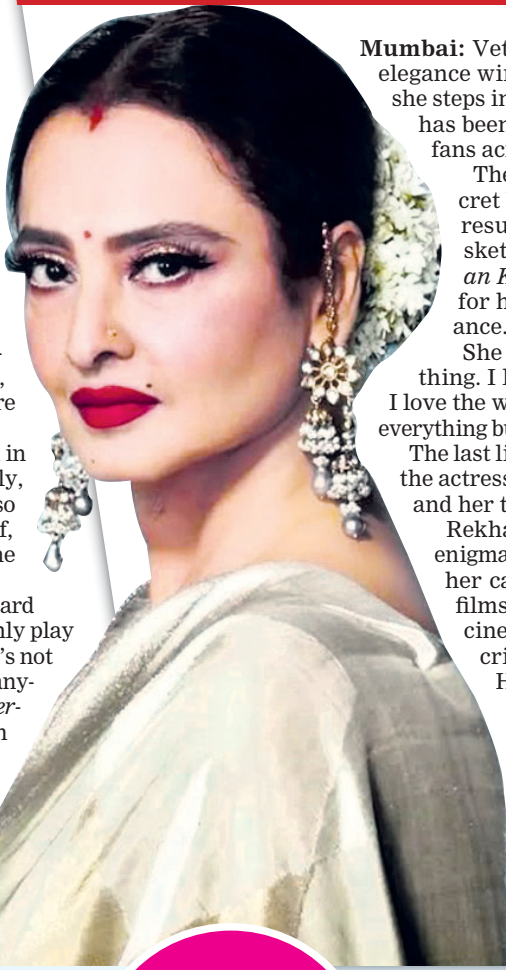
Mumbai: In an industry obsessed with perfection, Tamannaah Bhatia stands out for her authenticity and calm self-awareness. In a candid conversation, she peeled back the layers of her public image to reveal her philosophy of "curated chaos." Laughing, she described herself as "half Sagittarius and half Capricorn — a mix of spontaneity and structure," adding, "I like adventure and freedom, but I like to structure that adventure."

For Tamannaah, staying real is her quiet rebellion in a digital world of filters. "I take my job very seriously, but I don't take myself seriously," she said. "There's so much pressure to project a perfect version of yourself, but honestly, we're all just winging it—and that's the beauty of it."

Her career mirrors this balance—she gravitates toward roles that push her boundaries. "It would be sad to only play yourself," she noted. "Acting is about exploring what's not you." Drawing inspiration from films, she added, "If anyone wants to understand me, they should watch *Divergent*—I've discovered so much about myself through cinema."

To her, individuality is where true acceptance lies. "It takes courage to be different," she said. "Real acceptance begins when you embrace your uniqueness."

AGENCIES



Secret behind Rekha's eternal beauty

Mumbai: Veteran actress Rekha's grace and elegance wins over the audience every time she steps in public view. Her eternal beauty has been lauded and commended by her fans across generations.

The actress once had shared the secret behind her beauty. In a recently resurfaced clip from the streaming sketch comedy show *The Great Indian Kapil Show*, the actress said that for her, self-love is of prime importance.

She said in the video, "I love everything. I love my work, I love my friends, I love the world, and I love the nature I love everything but most importantly I love myself".

The last line summarises everything about the actress, her worldview, her philosophy and her thought-process.

Rekha is one of Indian cinema's most enigmatic and enduring icons. She began her career as a child actor in Telugu films, and later transitioned to Hindi cinema in the late 1960s, facing early criticism for her looks and diction.

However, she worked on the criticism, and redefined herself into a symbol of poise, talent, and timeless beauty. Her breakthrough came with films like *Do Anjaane* and *Ghar*, but it was *Umrao Jaan* that immortalised her as a poetic blend of grace and strength, earning her a National Award.

IAN5

Sayani talks about her unusual memory

Mumbai: Actress Sayani Gupta, who will be next seen in the 3rd season of the International Emmy-winning streaming show *Delhi Crime*, has shared that she has a very unusual memory.

The actress spoke with this news agency in the BKC area of Mumbai ahead of the release of season 3 of the show, and shared that her memory works differently. She remembers certain things vividly but fails to recollect things which her mind doesn't deem fit to remember in the long-run.

When asked about how she comes to ground zero after performing heavy scenes, she told, "My memory, in certain cases, is very good, and in certain cases, very bad. And I have, with time, realised that it's a thing of self-purging. So, in my hard disk (her mind) I mean, automatically, to fill it up, I keep emptying it. I'm really grateful, and I kept saying all these years, "Thank God, I don't forget the dialogues". And I know every character's every word".

She further mentioned, "I know the whole script. I'll come home, I'll go to my notes, which note I haven't done, if I haven't followed it, I'll feel bad. But once I'm done with a scene, that dialogue automatically goes away from my mind."

IAN5



Vijay on anxiety issue

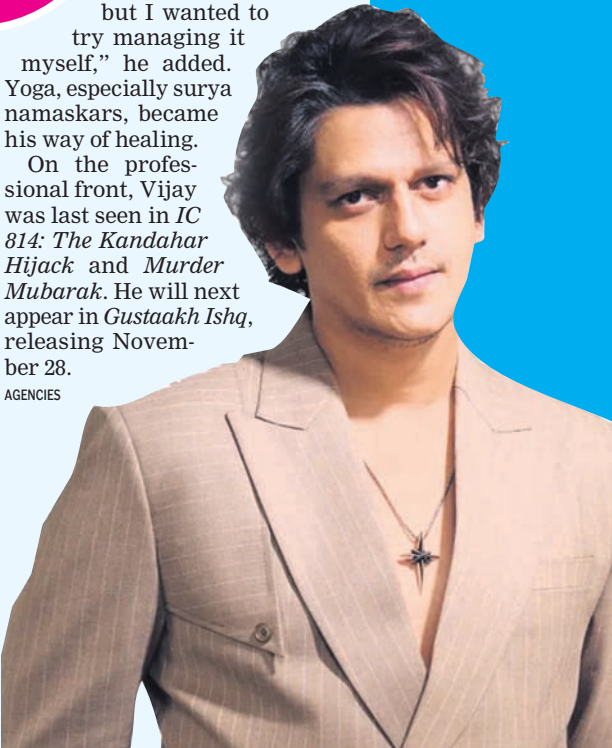
Mumbai: Actor Vijay Varma has opened up for the first time about his struggle with severe depression and anxiety. In a candid chat with Rhea Chakraborty on her podcast, he revealed that during a lonely phase in Mumbai, he found himself slipping into darkness. "I was all alone in my apartment. Luckily, I had a small terrace where I could see the sky and feel connected to something. Otherwise, I would've gone mad. I felt lonely, afraid, and couldn't move from my couch for days," he shared.

Vijay credited Aamir Khan's daughter Ira Khan and actor Gulshan Devaiah for helping him during that difficult period. "Ira was assisting on *Dahaad*, and we became good friends. She noticed something was wrong and encouraged me to move, to work out. We'd do Zoom dinners and workouts together," he said.

Eventually, Vijay sought therapy online and was diagnosed with depression and anxiety. "My therapist suggested medication, but I wanted to try managing it myself," he added. Yoga, especially surya namaskars, became his way of healing.

On the professional front, Vijay was last seen in *IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack* and *Murder Mubarak*. He will next appear in *Gustaakh Ishq*, releasing November 28.

AGENCIES



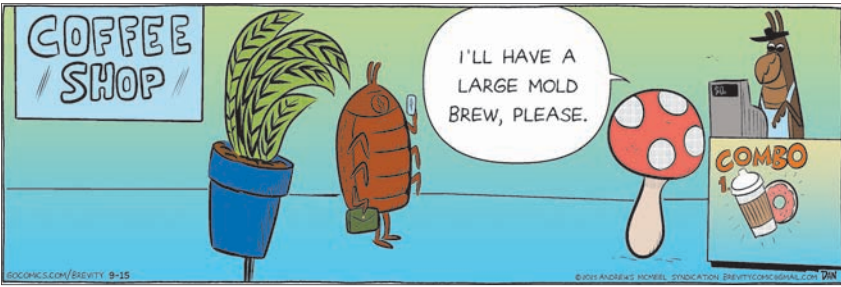
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

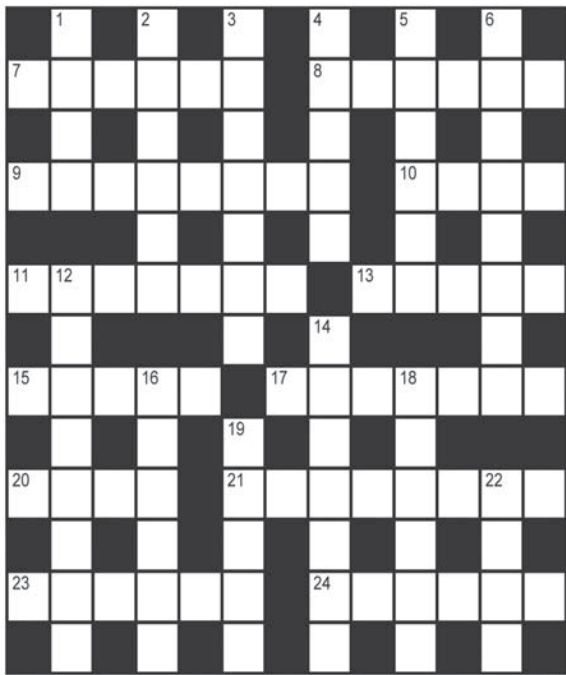


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
7 Gumdrop
8 Scottish clan leader and outlaw (3,3)
9 Blonde's secret?
10 Quarrel
11 Golf course area
13 Intense hatred
15 Barrel part
- Down**
17 Busybody
20 Toward shelter
21 Put together
23 Bucket accessory
24 Jamaica, e.g.
- Across**
4 Salad oil holder
5 Died down
6 Hairdo
12 Addax
14 Diver's gear (3,4)
16 City on the Danube
18 Chin feature
19 Sheik's bevy
22 Air sac

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Guv meets Gujarat CM, lauds tourism initiatives



AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, Nov 9: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Sunday, paid a courtesy visit to Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in Gujarat's Gandhinagar.

Kambhampati praised the Gujarat government's efforts under CM Patel's leadership for developing Ekta Nagar into a world-class tourism destination, noting the excellent arrangements made for artistes, artisans, and visitors.

He also conveyed his appreciation for state's cultural and infrastructural initiatives pro-

Met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel Ji in Gandhinagar. We discussed key aspects of development and shared perspectives on driving progress for a stronger and prosperous nation
HARI BABU KAMBHAMPATI | GOVERNOR, ODISHA

moting national unity. The governor was in Gujarat to attend 'Bharat Parv' celebra-

tions at Ekta Nagar November 8, held as part of the nationwide observance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 150th birth anniversary, inspired by PM Narendra Modi's vision of unity.

The grand celebrations, themed 'Ekta Prakash Parv', are being held at Ekta Nagar in Narmada district until November 15, featuring cultural performances by artistes from different states to showcase India's strength in 'Unity in Diversity'.

Under the 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' initiative, artistes and dignitaries from across the country are participating, fostering cross-cultural appreciation.

Odisha's artistes performed on the occasion, with Kambhampati gracing the occasion as the guest of honour.

During his visit, the governor explored several key attractions at Ekta Nagar, including the 'Statue of Unity' -- the world's tallest statue -- the Ekta Light Festival, Sardar Sarovar River Bed Power House, Butterfly Park, Food Court, Handicraft Haat, and Theme Pavilions.

CM presented a memento to Governor as a token of respect and goodwill.

The meeting was also attended by CM's Additional Chief Secretary Avantika Singh, who extended a warm welcome to the visiting dignitary.



SOULFUL ENSEMBLE: Odissi vocalist Mahapatra Minati Bhanja performs during 7th National Cultural Festival organised by Avantika Academy of Cultural and Social Welfare at GKCM Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

URBAN MOBILITY INDIA CONFERENCE 2025

CRUT's Ama Bus, Ama E-Ride bag special mention award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/New Delhi, Nov 9: For its innovative approach to sustainable urban mobility, Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) bagged the 'Special Mention Award in Urban Transport' for its flagship initiatives Ama Bus and Ama E-Ride under the category 'Running Trophy for State/UT' which has implemented best urban transport projects.

The award was presented by Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal during the valedictory session of Urban Mobility India (UMI)

Conference 2025 held Sunday in Gurugram. Representing the state and Housing and Urban Development department Principal Secretary Usha Padhee, along with senior officials from CRUT received the award.

The Minister also announced that the 19th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference and Exhibition 2026 will be held in Bhubaneswar, from October 23 to 25, 2026.

In order to ensure a complete transformation of urban public transport scenario in City and its hinterland through use of smart technolo-



gy, service benchmarking and customer satisfaction, CRUT rolled out its new buses under the brand name of 'Ama Bus'. The service was launched November 6, 2018 to provide reliable and safe transportation

connecting neighbourhoods. The aim of the initiative is not only to focus on customer service, employee development and technology but also to provide the best public transportation possible and continue to improve the quality of life.

CRUT's AMA E-Ride, aims at providing clean, eco-friendly, first and last-mile connectivity to the public through e-rickshaws. With the introduction of the service, CRUT is committed to providing seamless, reliable and affordable feeder transportation services to the citizens of the Capital region.

Repeal new labour codes: CITU

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) organised Khurda District Conference here Sunday, reiterating its strong opposition to Central government's new labour codes, calling for protection of workers' rights, including strict mandate to eight-hour working hours.

A 33-member new district committee was unanimously elected for next three years, with CPIM's state secretary Suresh Routray as president and Pradipta Nayak as secretary. Addressing the conference, CITU's all India vice president and state general secretary Bishnu Charan Mohanty criticised the BJP government for repealing existing labour laws and replacing them with

four anti-worker labour codes, without consulting any central trade unions. He said the move aims to benefit corporate houses at the cost of workers' rights.

Mohanty alleged that although the government has passed these codes, it has not yet dared to implement them due to strong nationwide protests. He targeted the state government for proposing an amendment to extend the workday from eight to ten hours and allowing women to work in the third shift after 8 pm, calling it a move that encourages worker exploitation for corporate profit.

He urged workers to continue united struggles against privatisation of key sectors such as railways, ports, mines, airports and public enterprises.



Heavy rush of devotees near Srimandir entry gate in Puri Sunday

OF PHOTO

All Things Odisha hosts talk on knowledge, belief systems

Bhubaneswar: All Things Odisha hosted its 16th monthly discussion circle, Odisha Manaska, Sunday at the ExtraOdinari and Safe Odisha For Her (SOFH) headquarters here on the theme 'Between Knowing and Believing: How We Make Opinions and Identities'. Participants explored the complex relationship between knowledge and belief systems, and how these two elements shape personal identities and opinions. Moderated by Sandip Bal and Sonali Priyadarshini, the discussion centered on how our deeply held beliefs often create barriers to expanding knowledge, leading people to become trapped in echo chambers. The interactive session saw active participation from a wide range of attendees, including intellectuals, professionals, and students, each offering insights from their lived experiences. Among the participants were Monalisa Padhee, Nachiketa, Aditya, Akankshita, Alka, and Pranay Manjari, who shared their perspectives on how beliefs can sometimes limit the pursuit of objective knowledge. The session also delved into the importance of fostering critical thinking, especially in a world where social media and digital platforms often propagate misleading narratives. "Critical thinking is not just a skill; it's a responsibility. It will allow us to break free from the chains of blind beliefs and embrace more informed, rational decision-making," Bal said.

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: Innovative research and practical applications in road engineering and infrastructure development came under sharp focus during the technical session of the 84th annual session of Indian Roads Congress (IRC) being held here. The session brought together experts and researchers presenting papers published in the IRC Journal, showcasing innovative approaches and solutions in highway engineering. It provided a platform to exchange ideas aimed at improving road design, construction, and maintenance practices.

The session was chaired by Mizoram Engineer-in-Chief H Zoramliana and co-chaired by Gujarat Roads and Building Chief Engineer Patanjali Mishra. The technical session highlighted the importance of research-based advancements in enhancing durability, cost-effectiveness, and technical efficiency in road projects across India.

The session featured presentations from key organisations like IIT Roorkee, PMGSY Jammu, Infrastructure Design



Consultants Pvt Ltd and GR Infraprojects Ltd. Discussions focused on durable bituminous mixtures, cost-effective SMA layers for low-volume roads, and HAM project challenges, and the use of machine learning in pavement evaluation, highlighting innovation and practical advancements in road construction and maintenance.

The session underlined the growing integration of innova-

tion, data-driven analysis, and sustainable materials in modern road construction, aiming to build stronger, smarter, and more resilient transport infrastructure. Another session Saturday showcased key advancements in sustainable and performance-based road engineering. Presentations included the Structural Health Monitoring of the Amarmahal Flyover in Mumbai, an FEA-based comparative study on pavements

EXHIBITION EXTENDED

A thematic exhibition, organised as part of 84th annual session of Indian Roads Congress (IRC) will be open to the general public until the forenoon of November 11, said Law, Works Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan Sunday. The exhibition aims to showcase the latest developments, innovations, and initiatives in road infrastructure, offering citizens a firsthand experience of the sector's advancements. This initiative marks a significant step in bridging the gap between government planning and public awareness in infrastructure development.

with foamed bitumen-treated bases by CRRRI researchers, and a paper on decarbonising road construction emphasising sustainability by experts from NHA and IIT Roorkee.

Additionally, IIT BHU researchers discussed a novel methodology for selecting fillers to enhance the fatigue performance of asphalt pavements. The interactive session highlighted the importance of research-backed approaches in structural monitoring, pavement design, and sustainable construction for building a resilient road network.

Dream big, stay humble: L&T chairman inspires KIIT students

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Chairman and Managing Director S N Subrahmanyan visited KIIT and KISS campuses recently and interacted with students, emphasising them to dream big, stay humble and tap opportunities emerging out of the green hydrogen revolution, artificial intelligence and EV transformation.

"Never forget the sacrifices your parents and teachers make for your education. Be humble, never stop asking questions, and remember -- 'Can do, will do, and will get it done' must be your spirit," Subrahmanyan said.

"Before you turn 35 achieve something significant," he added. Subrahmanyan attended Industry Symposium 5.0, organised by KIIT School of Management (KSOM), where he shared his vision of a rapidly transforming industrial landscape shaped by renewable energy, artificial intelligence, and sustainable technologies.

Describing KIIT and KISS as "humongous campuses with a



divine spirit rooted in peace," Subrahmanyan praised the institution for empowering thousands of students through education.

In a wide-ranging and thought-provoking address, the L&T Chairman highlighted major global shifts shaping the future -- from the solar and green hydrogen revolution to the artificial intelligence and EV transformation.

"Energy transformation is happening at an unprecedented pace," he said.

"We are building some of the world's largest solar facilities in the Middle East and one of the world's biggest green hydrogen plants. Solar and hydrogen are the future," he stated.

KIIT-DU VC Saranjit Singh, Registrar J R Mohanty, Dr. KSOM Director Kumar Mohanty and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	30.6°	30.1°	Dry weather very likely to prevail over the districts of Odisha
Min Temp	17.4°	17.6°	
Humidity	66%	68%	
Rainfall	NII	NII	

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Anaesthesia services, surgeries to resume at Subarnapur DHH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, Nov 9: After over two weeks of disruption, anaesthesia services at the Subarnapur District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) are set to resume from Monday. The announcement was made by Chief District Medical and Public Health Officer (CDM&PHO) Dr Usharani Dash, who issued an official directive outlining the new arrangements.

According to Dr Dash, trained anaesthetist and superintendent of Birmaharajpur Subdivisional Hospital Dr Subash Panda will serve at the DHH every Tuesday and Wednesday. In addition, Dr Panda will be available on call on Mondays and Saturdays for any emergency surgeries, including childbirths requiring anaesthesia.

Similarly, paediatric specialist and trained anaesthetist Dr Rabindra Panda, currently posted at the Dunguripali

Community Health Centre, will serve at the DHH every Thursday and Friday. These measures are expected to restore essential surgical and obstetric services that have remained suspended since October 22 due to the absence of anaesthetists.

The development follows widespread concern over the suspension of operations, which was published in OrissaPOST November 8 under the headline “Patients hit as surgeries stop at Subarnapur DHH.” The report highlighted how the transfer of the only trained anaesthetist, Dr Subash Panda, had left the hospital unable to conduct even minor operations, forcing patients to seek costly treatment at private nursing homes.

Social workers and intellectuals had drawn the attention of Chief Minister Mohan Charan

Majhi and Health Minister Dr Mukesh Kumar Mahaling to the issue through social media posts. In response, the state government instructed the district administration to take immediate steps, resulting in the CDM&PHO’s announcement.

Since the inauguration of the hospital’s new building, surgical services in departments such as orthopaedics, ophthalmology, and ENT had been suspended due to the lack of anaesthesia support. Even simple procedures like plastering fractures were not being performed, severely affecting poor patients who could not afford private care.

With the government’s intervention and the revised duty roster, there is renewed hope that surgical and maternal health services at the Subarnapur DHH will return to normal starting Monday.

OP
IMPACT



MISTY MORNING: Bikers travel on a road blanketed by mist in Koraput town Sunday as winter sets in

OP PHOTO

Woman, son killed in hit-and-run

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 9: A woman and her son were killed after an unidentified vehicle hit their vehicle head-on near Adarsha Vidyalaya Square under Redhakhole police limits in this district on Raipur-Vijayawada National Highway Sunday evening.

The deceased were identified as Manju Majhi, 60, and her son Manoj Majhi, 30, of Pipilikani village in Badmal panchayat and under Charmal police limits in Sambalpur district.

POLICE ARE TRYING TO TRACE THE UNIDENTIFIED VEHICLE, WHICH IS SUSPECTED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN MULTIPLE ACCIDENTS WHILE FLEEING

Reports said the duo was traveling on a motorcycle from Naktideula towards Redhakhole when a vehicle coming from the opposite direction rammed into their bike around 6:30pm Sunday. The driver fled the scene immediately after the collision.

Police said both victims sustained critical injuries and were taken to Redhakhole hospital in an ambulance, where doctors pronounced Manju dead on arrival. Her son succumbed to the grievous injuries a short while after treatment began.

Redhakhole police registered a case and launched an investigation. Officers are also trying to trace the unidentified vehicle, which is suspected to have been involved in multiple accidents while fleeing.

The bodies have been sent for postmortem and will be conducted Monday, police said.

Road accident claims 2 lives

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kabisuryanagar, Nov 9: Two persons lost their lives in a bike accident near Khajapalli village under this police limits in Ganjam district in the wee hours of Sunday.

The deceased were identified as Mitu Parida, 37, of Ranipada village and Kashinath Sethi, 70, of Mathasarasingh Salaban village.

After playing the role of Dushasana in a Mahabharata play at Ustali village under Kodala police limits Saturday night, Mitu was returning home on his motorcycle early morning. Near Khajapalli, he reportedly lost control of his two-wheeler and hit Kashinath, who was on a morning walk.

Both sustained critical injuries in the collision. Locals rushed Mitu to the Polasara Community Health Centre, where doctors declared him dead. Kashinath was taken to Kodala Community Health Centre, where he was also pronounced dead. Police have registered a case and are investigating the incident.

NH-20 land losers threaten protest over 16-yr delay in compensation



POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkikote, Nov 9: Residents who lost land during the expansion of National Highway 20, the lifeline of Keonjhar district, have warned of protest and road blockade if their long-pending compensation is not settled soon.

Although compensations were partly disbursed, several affected landowners said they are still waiting for the remaining amount even after approaching the court. The victims alleged that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) officials have disregarded court orders directing them to release the funds.

The land acquisition for ex-

pansion of the NH from Panikoili to Rajamunda began in 2009. In Dhenkikote panchayat alone, about 1 acre and 18 decimals were acquired, including 25 decimals from Maheswar Barik and 12 decimals from a tribal widow, Suneel Nayak. The toll plaza was later built on this land.

Maheswar Barik received compensation for only 20 decimals, and despite passage of 16 long years, payment for the remaining 5 decimals is still pending. Similarly, Nayak has not received any compensation for her 12 decimals.

Barik had earlier approached the Orissa High Court, which directed NHAI officials to pay compensation within 15 days.

Herd refuses to take elephant calf back; infection suspected

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Nov 9: Forest officials’ efforts to reunite an elephant calf with its herd went in vain as the pachyderms refused to take the new born calf back.

The 15-day-old elephant calf was rescued after it got trapped in the muck on a paddy field while feeding on the crops Friday night. Though forest officials released the calf near its herd the next morning, the animals refused to take it back, raising suspicion that the animal might be suffering from an infectious disease.

According to reports, a herd of around 45 elephants has been roaming near the villages on



the outskirts of Angul town for months. The herd had moved towards Shyamsundarpur to feed on paddy Friday night. By morning, they had crossed

towards the Mandargiri area, leaving the trapped calf behind in the slushy paddy field.

A rescue team led by Angul Forest department official Ranjan Pradhan reached the site, lifted the calf from the mud, and later shifted it near the Kulasinga forest beat house.

Acting on a veterinarian’s advice, the team conducted a medical examination, which revealed that the calf’s body temperature had dropped due to exposure to cold water and mud. The animal was given fluids and antibiotics.

Divisional Forest Officer Nitish Kumar supervised the rescue operation and stayed overnight at the site to monitor the

Woman outfit to impose ₹40K fine on liquor sale



POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul/Chhendipada, Nov 9: In a unique drive to discourage liquor consumption, an association of women in Badahinsara panchayat on the outskirts of Angul town has decided to impose ₹40,000 fine on those selling liquor and ₹10,000 for those consuming it. The decision came to the fore Sunday when they launched an anti-liquor campaign after repeated appeals to the Excise department and the local administration failed to yield any results.

Members of the association have begun visiting villages, spreading awareness among both liquor consumers and liquor sellers.

The campaigners urged residents to abstain from drinking alcohol. Carrying placards and raising slogans on the harmful effects of liquor consumption,

the women organised awareness rallies across villages.

The drive began at Khambeswar temple in Badahinsara, where the women gathered before marching through Nakchinipal and Bimalgarh villages and returning to the community centre of Badahinsara. The rally was led by association president Ambika Sahu, secretary Mamta Sahu, and naib sarpanch Khirodini Behera.

Mandodari Roul, district president of the All India Women’s Cultural Organisation, attended the rally as the guest and spoke about the social and health impacts of alcohol addiction. Community members Debashis Pradhan, Mukta Sahu, Bishwanath Sahu, Ashamati Pradhan, Dushmanta Pradhan, Soudamini Sahu, Lochan Pradhan, and Rashmita Sahu supported the initiative.

Farmer killed in elephant attack

RAIRANGPUR: A farmer was killed in elephant attack at Rajpal village under Jashipur police limits in Mayurbhanj district, police officials said Sunday. The incident occurred when Sanaga Bari, 55, was guarding his crops on his farmland. An elephant which had strayed into the area attacked him at around 8pm Saturday. He died on the spot. Jashipur police Sunday conducted a post-mortem and handed over the body to his family members. A case was also registered in this connection. On being informed, Manada range officer and forester under Rairangpur forest division reached the spot and launched an investigation. Locals have demanded financial assistance to the bereaved family members who are financially weak.

Determination paves the way to success for Rani

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baulla, Nov 9: Once dropped out of school owing to abject poverty and worked as a labourer at a brick kiln, 20-year-old Rani Hembram of Sangam village under Dhenka panchayat in Hatadihi block of Keonjhar district has broken the glass ceiling by cracking the NEET exam even as she wishes to be a good physician.

Although financial burden had been a stumbling block for her path to success, Rani left no stone unturned and with help from generous individuals, she is now pursuing MBBS at Phulbani Medical College.

Rani passed her matriculation exam in 2021 with 85 per cent marks, scoring 511. However, her family members were reluctant to allow her to pursue higher studies. Determined to

chase her dream, Rani decided to work as a labourer. She began working at a brick kiln in Soso village in the district.

Her commitment to education caught the attention of kiln owner and an Anganwadi supervisor Nirupama Rout, who in turn informed the local media persons. Former Anandapur MLA Bhagirathi Sethy promised to support her higher studies and provided financial assistance.

Later, after learning about her struggles, Bhubaneswar-based social worker Nibedita Lenka visited Rani’s home and extended further support. With Nibedita’s help, Rani enrolled at Navajyoti Science College in Bhubaneswar, setting her firmly on the path toward becoming a doctor.

College principal Shantanu Mohapatra not only provided free education but also medi-



cal coaching to Rani, a student from an impoverished background. After passing her Plus II examinations, she took medical coaching the next year. Her hard work paid off when she secured the 4,381 rank in the state merit list.

As the news of her admission

to the medical college spread, congratulatory messages poured in from all quarters, bringing a wave of joy to her tribal, economically disadvantaged family. Anandapur MLA Abhimanyu Sethi, the former MLA, Zilla Parishad Vice Chairman Somanath Das, Anchalika

Baristha Nagarik Bikash Mancha president Parshuram Peda, working president Nrusingha Charan Dehury, senior educationist Mohan Kumar Mohanty, MP nominee Gyan Ranjan Samantasinghar, and educationist Madhusudan Jena wished her all success in life.

Teachers from Swampatna region also met Rani, offering her financial support and felicitated her with certificates for her success.

Expressing gratitude toward the media, Rani thanked the organisations and individuals who came forward to help after her story was published. She also extended her thanks to Nibedita Lenka, her college’s principal, and all her teachers for their constant guidance.

Rani said she is determined to dedicate her life to serving people through her medical career.

IT raids on BJD, Cong leaders’ residences

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Nov 9: Ahead of the Nuapada by-election, the district and police administrations have intensified inspection drives to ensure a free and fair poll. On Sunday, the Income Tax (IT) Department conducted raids on the residences of BJD leader Manoj Mishra and Congress leader Ankit Singhai in the district.

According to reports, IT officials raided the Komna residence of Manoj Mishra, a former block chairman, former BJD district president, and the current state general secretary of the party around 10am.

Later in the afternoon around 3pm, another IT team carried out a raid at the Khariar Road residence of Ankit Singhai, a businessman and state general secretary of the Youth Congress. It remains unclear why the raids were conducted and what items, if any, were seized from their homes.

Cattle trader shot dead by miscreants

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Nov 9: A cattle trader was shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Kendua area under Ghagarbeda police limits in Mayurbhanj district Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Hara Mohanta of Kalandia village. Police said the miscreants looted cash worth several lakhs from him before fleeing the spot.

According to reports, Mohanta had gone to the Angarpada weekly market to buy a bull. The assailants allegedly followed him and tried to snatch the money near Kendua. When Mahanta resisted, they opened fire, killing him on the spot.

Police reached the scene after receiving information and have launched an investigation into the incident.

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
E-AUCTION OF CATERING UNIT	
1. STATION: KHURDA ROAD (KUR)	Location: Platform No. 3 (In between Pole No. 5 & 6)
2. STATION: KHURDA ROAD (KUR)	Location: Platform No. 3 (In between Pole No. 19 & 20)
3. STATION: KHURDA ROAD (KUR)	Location: Platform No. 6 & 7 (In between Pole No. 9 & 10)
4. STATION: PURI (PURI)	Location: Platform No. 3 & 4 (In between Pole No. 4 & 5)
5. STATION: BRAHMAPUR (BAM)	Location: Platform No. 1 (Near 2nd Class waiting room)
6. STATION: BRAHMAPUR (BAM)	Location: Platform No. 2 & 3 (In between Pole No. 14 & 15)
7. STATION: CHHATRAPUR (CAP)	Location: Platform No. 1 & 2 (Middle)
8. STATION: PALASA (PSA)	Location: Platform No. 2 & 3 (Brahmapur end near Crew & Guard Office)
9. STATION: PALASA (PSA)	Location: Platform No. 2 & 3 (Near Foot Over Bridge)
Category of Reservation : General Minor Unit (for Sl. No. 1, 2 & 5-8), General Minor Unit - Ladies (for Sl. No. 3 & 4), Fresh Fruit & Juice Stall (General Minor Unit-Ladies) (for Sl. No. 9)	
E-Tender Date & Time : 08.12.2025 at 1100 Hrs (for all the Stations)	
Note: Prospective bidders are advised to visit the website : www.iraps.gov.in and check the all details regarding eligibility criteria, details of site and any other information.	
Divisional Commercial Manager - II	
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Trust the divine power, and she will free the godlike elements in you and shape all into an expression of divine nature

SRI AUROBINDO



Mamdani’s Sops

After a year in the political wilderness, Democrats in the US have finally got the taste of convincing victory in elections to different bodies and posts that appear to puncture the pride and confidence of President Donald Trump and the Republican Party. This will be a big and much needed boost to the morale of the Democrats in their bid to try and bounce back in the mid-term polls slated a few months away. In every election held in the US on November 4, whether for Mayor of New York, Governor in Virginia and New Jersey, Supreme Court judges in Pennsylvania, or a redistricting referendum in California, the results clearly went in favor of the Democratic Party. This means the gains the Republicans had made among Latino and African American voters just a year earlier seem to have started to abruptly evaporate. It is certainly a cause of concern for the ruling dispensation even though Trump tries to brazen it out by asserting that his name in no way figured in the ballot papers of those elections. That could be a solace Trump may desperately need, but it does show how the white supremacist agenda that brought Trump back to power is losing its sheen and cost of living issues are swaying the common man far more than rhetoric on divisive politics.

It could be that Trump’s approach to governance and the consequences of his economic decisions got rejected. With the current federal government shutdown - the longest in US history-, Republican candidates rather than the Democrats seem to have been held responsible at the polls, even though the latter had initiated the standoff to defend health insurance against proposed budget cuts. The very next day – November 5 - the Supreme Court justices examining the constitutionality of the tariffs the US President had unilaterally imposed on other countries showed their scepticism of the supposedly special powers Trump had used bypassing the Congress to launch his global tariff war. Some of the judges appointed by Trump also put tough questions to the Solicitor General. If the verdict goes against Trump, the fallout would damage his image.

Of all these Democratic successes one stands out as the most remarkable – the victory of Zohran Mamdani as the New York City mayor. The young Mamdani had entered the mayoral race in October as a socialist outsider who was not known beyond his constituency. Yet, what he did was a miracle of sorts, winning over 50% of the vote after the highest turnout in more than half a century. He was pitted against the former New York governor Andrew Cuomo as Independent and backed by billionaires. He becomes the youngest mayor of the US’ largest city for more than 100 years and the first Moslem to assume charge. New York is a traditional Democratic stronghold and as such Mamdani’s victory should not be hailed as a national bellwether but it has emboldened Islamists across the world. But, the significance of his victory lies in the specific challenge that he has thrown at the Republican Party by enlisting the support of working-class and immigrant voters. He steered the polarization politics Trump-led Republicans are good at and seems to have excelled them. He campaigned relentlessly and almost exclusively on the theme of affordability but underpinned by the immigrant story. His opponents sought to use his socialist credentials against him, but the charges of ideological extremism failed to cut much ice with the voters who responded overwhelmingly to his pledges of free childcare, free buses and a rent freeze offering public solutions to years of rising inequality. With Indian blood running in his veins, Mamdani seems to have worked out his American political dream with, probably, a huge dollop of the idea of sops for the poor just as politicians do here in India.

Mamdani’s promises persuaded a vast army of 100,000 volunteer canvassers to knock on millions of doors, akin to the early days of Kejrival and his Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi.

It would be wrong to read too much into these Democratic victories. But at the same time it would be a mistake to dismiss green shoots of political recovery when they appear. US politics is now delicately poised with Trump’s popularity sinking amid ongoing cost-of-living concerns, high inflation and the hollowness of MAGA pledges to improve blue-collar living standards. The new focus on affordability may turn out to be the right strategy for the Democrats to regain their lost ground.

WISDOM CORNER

- “When a man denies the power of women, he is denying his own subconscious.”

AMRITA PRITAM
- “People don’t notice whether it’s winter or summer when they’re happy.”

ANTON CHEKHOV
- “No worse fate can befall a young man or woman than becoming prematurely entrenched in prudence and negation.”

KNUT HAMSUM

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1444:

Turkish forces defeated the Hungarians in the Battle of Varna, securing Turkey’s control over Constantinople (Istanbul) and assuring the Ottoman conquest in the Balkans.
- 1871:

According to his journal, explorer Henry Stanley greeted David Livingstone, the fellow explorer in search of the source of the Nile River, with the famous words “Dr. Livingstone, I presume?”
- 1958:

The Hope diamond, one of the largest blue diamonds known, was donated to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., becoming one of its most-popular attractions.
- 1969:

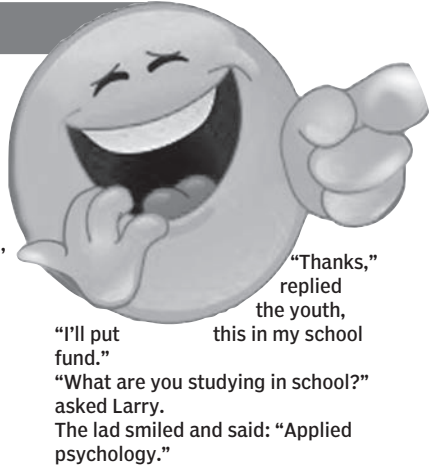
The American children’s TV series Sesame Street—which featured a cast of puppet characters that included Elmo, Big Bird, and the Cookie Monster—debuted on the National Educational Television network (later PBS).

LOL

TIP THE PIZZA DELIVERY BOY

A college pizza delivery boy arrived at the house of Larry Johnson. He delivered the pizza to his trailer. After giving it to him, Larry asked: “What is the usual tip?”

“Well,” replied the youth, “this is my first trip here, but the other guys say if I get a quarter out of you, I’ll be doing great.” “Is that so?” snorted Larry. “Well, just to show them how wrong they are, here’s five dollars.”



“Thanks,” replied the youth, this in my school fund.”

“What are you studying in school?” asked Larry.

The lad smiled and said: “Applied psychology.”

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Energy transition achievable in emerging markets

Efforts to mitigate climate change have largely focused on the shift away from fossil fuels in energy production. As a result, most climate-finance assessments have studied the costs of such a transition and determined that large investments are required to deploy cleaner sources of power.

But in a new working paper, we found that shifting the energy sector to renewables is relatively affordable for emerging-market economies (EMEs) in the G20. Our study measures the climate-finance needs from 2022 to 2030 of Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, and Turkey to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the power, road transport, cement, and steel sectors, which account for about half of such emissions in these nine EMEs.

For starters, we found that the clean-energy transition is advancing at a steady pace. The power sector accounts for about 27% of the CO2 emissions in these nine EMEs, which together ac-

count for 44% of global power-sector emissions. To meet increasing energy demand and climate targets, these economies have focused on incrementally phasing out the use of fossil fuels in power generation and replacing them with renewables. Between 2023 and 2030, the share of clean energy in their total installed capacity is projected to rise from 54% to 65%, while their total installed capacity of renewables should almost double, from 2,150 gigawatts to 4,220 gigawatts.

The largest shifts during this period are expected in India and South Africa, where the share of renewables is set to rise from 45% to 63% and from 25% to 42%, respectively. China is also making significant advances, with its share of renewables projected to increase from 55% to 65%. In seven of these EMEs (excluding Indonesia and South Africa), more than half of the total installed power capacity will come from non-fossil-fuel sources by 2030.

This is possible because

rapid technological developments and China’s massive push into green manufacturing have dramatically lowered the cost of establishing solar and wind farms in recent years.

Given the falling costs of renewable energy, the G20’s EMEs will need only \$121 billion in climate finance for power generation – the amount over and above the investment required in a business-as-usual scenario – between 2024 and 2030. According to our estimates, capital expenditure for fossil-fuel-based power plants will decline by \$156 billion over that period, while spending for clean power will increase by \$277 billion.

Of the nine EMEs we studied, India is projected to need the largest amount of climate finance – \$57 billion, or 38% of the total estimate – to continue decarbonising the power sector, while China will require slightly less, around \$55 billion, because the increase in renewables’ share of installed capacity is expected to be more pronounced in India than in

China. Climate finance as a percentage of GDP will likely be largest in South Africa, at 0.25%, followed by India (0.13%) and Mexico (0.09%).

A decade or so ago, a consensus emerged that financing the energy transition would require massive amounts of capital. But, in the intervening years, the cost of renewables has fallen dramatically. Compared to road transport, cement, and steel in the nine EMEs we studied, the power sector will require the least amount of climate finance for the foreseeable future, even after accounting for storage costs and low renewable load factors. Now that decarbonising the energy system is much more affordable in EMEs, there is no excuse not to do so.

Rakesh Mohan is President Emeritus and Distinguished Fellow Janak Raj is Senior Fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress.

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Letters TO THE EDITOR

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

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

SC’s impractical ruling

Sir, The Supreme Court order to remove stray dogs from public institutions is totally ‘illogical’ because it conflicts with existing Animal Birth Control (ABC) rules that advocate a ‘sterilize-vaccinate-return’ approach. The order is also impractical and inhumane due to the immense logistical challenges and costs of building enough shelters and the negative ecological consequences of a ‘vacuum effect’ that could increase rabies risks. The order to permanently relocate dogs to shelters directly contravenes the ABC Rules, 2023, which mandate that sterilized and vaccinated dogs be returned to their original localities. The previous SC bench that issued the initial blanket removal order had explicitly dismissed these rules, leading to legal conflict and a re-examination by a larger bench. The ‘sterilize-vaccinate-return’ (Catch-Neuter-Release, or CNR) approach is endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and is considered the most humane and effective method for long-term population control and rabies eradication. Mass sheltering is logistically impossible given India’s large stray dog population (estimated at 8-10 lakh in Delhi-NCR alone). The cost of building and maintaining thousands of adequate shelters with proper veterinary care, food, and staff would be staggering, potentially running into thousands of crores of rupees, a sum unbudgeted by most municipalities.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

Stalin’s allegory

Sir, The TN Chief Minister MK Stalin said that the alliance of DMK, left parties and VCK cannot be defeated by the BJP and its alliance partners. When black, red and blue come together, saffron can’t do anything he opined. But he shouldn’t forget that the people of Tamil Nadu can’t be taken for granted. They can turn colourblind if the CM overlooks the fact that the governance in this term missed most of the people’s expectations. The government has failed in keeping up promises with respect to price rise and infrastructure development. It has mocked the people’s mandate by applying a divide and rule policy.

AP Thiruvadi, CHENNAI



Shivaji Sarkar

A MORE SOCIALLY BALANCED NEW YORK COULD BECOME A TEST CASE FOR POST-NEOLIBERAL URBAN POLICYMAKING – SOMETHING INDIA AND EUROPE ARE BOTH DEBATING INTENSELY

The New York mayoral election is being watched far beyond city limits. New York is not just the largest city in the United States; it is a cultural and financial power centre whose policy choices often ripple across national politics. The contest has become a test of whether American cities can pivot towards more people-centric governance in an era of rising inequality, unaffordability, corporate dominance, and deepening mistrust in political institutions.

Even Indians are watching how it could change city governance and bring down rental, transport, health and overall living costs in major metros – Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, some major state capitals like Lucknow, Bhubaneswar or Guwahati. No less the Europe is watching it. Apparently, inflation rocks global living conditions.

Would it happen or once again the giant companies bolstering their profits remain the concern?

Zohran Mamdani’s victory is striking because he entered the race with little funding, and low name recognition, yet defeated prominent figures like former Governor Andrew Cuomo; Republican Curtis Sliva and threw up a challenge to US President Donald Trump.

The Wall Street and the finance industry had broad misgivings about Mamdani becoming mayor, but many are hopeful he will moderate his positions or face roadblocks to hiking taxes on corporations and the wealthy.

Mamdani has emerged as a symbol of the Democratic Party’s diverse, progressive wing, pushing for free childcare, better public transit, and stronger public-sector intervention—prompting Donald Trump to denounce him as “communist” and threaten to

FOCUS NYC MAYORAL POLL

CITY COSTS UNDER FIRE



If New York proves that people-first policy is both possible and economically sustainable, the political signal could spread nationwide – and even internationally

defund New York City.

For decades, New York has symbolized both extremes of American urban life — immense wealth and stark inequality. Its next mayor will inherit challenges that sit at the very heart of US political debate: affordable housing, public transit decay, crime perception, migrant inflows, and the rising cost of living.

Cities like New York are where the real test of democracy happens — not in speeches in Washington, but in whether people can afford rent, commute safely, and access public services.

The results could influence national economic thinking. If the city pivots toward stronger public housing investments, expanded social services, and tighter regulation of price-gouging in rents and utilities, it could pressure both Democratic and Republican policymakers to rethink the role of government in ensuring basic urban stability.

However, entrenched corporate interests — from real estate lobbies to private

transit contractors (a reign of Trump Towers as in India)—are not likely to step aside easily. They may resist price controls, transparency requirements, and tax reforms, triggering battles at city hall and in the courts.

So, the real shift depends not just on the winner, but on how forcefully the next mayor can challenge corporate influence in day-to-day governance.

If New York aggressively targets cost-of-living inflation — especially rent, transit, healthcare billing, and essential goods — other cities may adopt similar models. Corporations might respond in one of two ways: Adapt, by cooperating with price stability measures, improving service quality, and taking on public-private responsibility roles; or push backlobbing state and federal allies to override local regulations, delay reforms, or shift costs to consumers in different ways.

The question is not whether corporations can fight change — they can — but whether they can afford to, as public

frustration with rising urban living costs grows sharper.

President Trump has repeatedly signalled that he may cut federal funding to major Democratic-run cities, including New York, accusing them of mismanagement.

If such a defunding move is executed, New York could face significant fiscal strain, because a sizable portion of its social and civic infrastructure depends on federal grants.

The city runs the largest municipal budget in America, but it is not insulated from Washington. Funding squeeze could force the city to choose between raising local taxes or cutting critical services — both politically combustible. Defunding could shape not only NYC but also global political and social trajectory.

Will This Matter to India and Europe?

Yes, indirectly. New York is a bellwether for global investment, financial regulation, and progressive governance models. These developments shape global debates on how cities finance infrastructure, regulate housing, reform metropolitan governance, and control speculation—from US urban bonds to EU affordability rules and India’s major city reforms.

Moreover, a more socially balanced New York could become a test case for post-neoliberal urban policymaking — something India and Europe are both debating intensely.

The New York mayoral election is about far more than who governs a single city. It is a referendum on what kind of urban life the future of America will support — a future driven by markets alone, or one that centres public welfare, affordability, and inclusive development.

When New York shifts, the world’s major cities take note. Its governance experiments rarely stay local.

INFA



SMOG CHOKES DELHI-NCR

AQI BREACHES 400 IN SEVERAL AREAS

According to health advisories, prolonged exposure to such poor air quality can significantly increase the risk of lung and respiratory diseases, especially for children, the elderly, and individuals with asthma or heart conditions

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 9: Delhi-NCR woke up to a thick blanket of smog on Sunday as the Air Quality Index (AQI) plunged into the 'very poor' category across several parts of the city. In some areas, the situation was even grimmer, with AQI readings slipping into the 'severe' zone.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) reported that the 24-hour average AQI stood at 361. Data revealed that 24 out of 39 monitoring stations in the region recorded AQI levels above 400, marking the highest pollution spike of the season so far.

Stations at Wazirpur (424), Bawana (424), and Vivek Vihar (415) were among those registering alarming figures. Areas worst affected included Rohini (435), Nehru Nagar (426), Bawana (426), RK Puram (422), and ITO (420). The average AQI was recorded at 391 in Delhi, 391 in Noida, 366 in Greater Noida, 387 in Ghaziabad, and 252 in Gurugram. On Saturday, CPCB data had already flagged Delhi as the most polluted city in India. Neighbouring NCR cities mirrored the crisis, as Noida (354), Greater Noida (336), and Ghaziabad (339) reported hazardous air quality levels.



Parents, activists protest at India Gate

New Delhi: Scores of people, including parents and environmental activists, staged a protest at the India Gate Sunday against the worsening air quality in the national capital. The protesters, many of them mothers accompanied by children, said they had gathered to demand urgent government action to ensure clean air. "We want to meet our elected officials. We had sought an appointment with the chief minister but were refused. So many parents are here because their children are suffering," environmentalist Bhavreen Khandari said. "Every third child already has damaged lungs; they will live nearly 10 years less than those growing up in cleaner air," she said. Another protester, Abhishek, said the government had failed to provide even the basic right, to breathe clean air.

According to the latest report from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Saturday, the minimum temperature is expected to remain around 13 degrees Celsius for the next seven days. Cold morning and evening winds are further intensifying the winter chill. Rain is not expected at present, and the weather is likely to remain foggy. According to health advisories, prolonged exposure to such poor air quality can significantly increase the risk of lung and respiratory diseases, especially for children, the elderly, and individuals with asthma or

heart conditions.

The IMD stated that the worsening pollution is linked to falling temperatures, which make the air heavier and reduce wind speed, causing pollutants to remain trapped near the surface. The combination of fog and smog is making the haze denser. Construction activities and vehicular emissions continue to be major contributing factors. Health experts have advised residents to limit outdoor activities, especially during early mornings and late evenings, wear protective masks, and avoid direct exposure to polluted air.

Delhi zoo draws over 15K visitors on 2nd day

RESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 9: The Delhi zoo, which had remained closed for the last two months, witnessed a strong turnout on the second day of its reopening Sunday, officials said.

According to official data shared by authorities, the National Zoological Park in New Delhi witnessed 15,292 visitors, including 262 students from five schools, November 9.

It had drawn 8,065 visitors, including 954 students from 12 schools Saturday.

The Delhi zoo had been shut since August 30 following the detection of avian influenza virus in its water bird aviary, which led to the death of several birds.

According to officials, the high footfall in the first two days of the zoo's reopening reflects the public's excitement to return to one of the capital's most popular weekend spots.

They added that the recently introduced 'Insta Ticket Book-



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ing Service' -- which allows visitors to instantly book entry tickets by scanning a QR code at the gate, ensuring a smooth and quick access -- has been well received. In a statement,

the zoo management said it remains committed to improving visitor facilities and ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all. "The National Zoological Park always prioritises

the convenience and safety of its visitors and continues to enhance its facilities to offer a memorable experience of nature and wildlife," the statement said. The zoo is open from 9 am to 5 pm, with ticket booking and entry allowed till 4.30 pm and the last exit set at 5.30 pm.

Late flamingo arrival signals environmental stress, says experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thane, Nov 9: The delayed annual arrival of flamingo flocks in Navi Mumbai's wetlands and Thane Creek is a critical warning sign of increasing environmental stress, experts said Sunday.

The prolonged monsoon and post-monsoon rains this year are believed to be the cause, reflecting how climate change challenges are disrupting local ecosystems, they added.

"Flamingos are more than a spectacle. They are ambassadors of a healthy environment. Their presence in declining numbers indicates the ecosystem is struggling. Wetlands are protective climate infrastructure. As filter-feeders flamingos maintain ecosystem health through bioturbation, which oxygenates mudflats and balances nutrients," said Nat-Connect Foundation director BN Kumar.



Global bodies like Ramsar and UNEP recognize these coastal wetlands and mangroves as vital "blue carbon" sinks, storing vast amounts of carbon and reducing flood risk, and destroying these areas releases stored carbon and increases natural disasters Kumar noted.

This science cannot be ignored, he said, adding authorities must stop debris dumping and treat wetlands as crucial climate assets rather than real estate ready for reclamation.

Mumbai: Panel to explore unified metro authority



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 9: In a significant step to streamline metro rail operations in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), the Maharashtra government has constituted a high-level committee that will recommend measures for integrating multiple agencies under one unified authority.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Sanjay Mukherjee, Metropolitan Commissioner, MMRDA, will examine various aspects and recommend measures for integrating multiple metro rail agencies under one Unified Metro Rail Authority, the Maha Mumbai Metro Operation Corporation Ltd said in a post on X Saturday.

The state Urban Development Department's government resolution (GR) dated November 6 concerns the formation of a committee to recommend the integration of various metro rail agencies operating in the MMR.

The GR stated that the committee will study issues arising from the current multi-agency structure and propose a framework for establishing a unified metro rail entity.

"Now that the metro lines are getting commissioned one by one and now that we, at MMRDA, have launched the Mumbai One App, where the entire journey through various modes of transport through MMR like bus, train, metro can be planned on the Mumbai One app, this step will go a long way in integrating the various metro lines which are operated today by various entities," Mukherjee said in a post on X.

The high-level panel includes the managing directors of the Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (Maha Metro), Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MMRCL), Maha Mumbai Metro Operations Corporation Ltd (MMMOCL), and senior officials from CIDCO and the Urban Development Department.

The committee will outline the stages of integration, prepare a roadmap for asset transfer and valuation, and study international models such as Transport for London (TfL) and Singapore's Land Transport Authority (LTA). It has been directed to submit its report within three months.

Truth will surface soon: Ajit Pawar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Nov 9: Forced to do the firefighting to defend his son in a controversial land deal, Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar Sunday wondered how a document can be registered without a "transaction of one rupee" and sought to link the allegations with elections to local bodies.

He reiterated that the ongoing inquiry will reveal the truth about the land deal to the public.

The sale of 40 acres of land in Pune's upscale Mundhwa area for ₹300 crore to a company in which Ajit Pawar's son Parth Pawar is a majority partner is under scrutiny amid allegations of irregularities and a lack of requisite clearances.

Opposition leaders alleged that the market value of the land was ₹1,800 crore. "Earlier too, allegations of (irregularities of) ₹70,000 crore were raised against me; it's been 15 to 16 years since then. Whenever there are elections, multiple accusations are made against us. We try to work transparently, but as soon as we do, people start digging up and alleging against random land deals," Pawar told reporters at Bara-mati in Pune district.

Elections to various local bodies in the state are scheduled to be held December 2.

Pawar said he had already clarified his position on various ongoing issues over the past few days. "An inquiry has

LAND ROW

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Elections to various local bodies in the state are scheduled to be held December 2.

Pawar said he had already clarified his position on various ongoing issues over the past few days. "An inquiry has

begun, and the truth will soon come before the public. I still don't understand how a document can be registered without even a transaction of one rupee? We'll know within a month why the person who carried out this registration actually did it," the NCP leader said.

He further said Chief Minister Fadnavis has appointed the inquiry committee. The NCP chief appealed to authorities to take appropriate action if his close associates or

DDA grants permission for 'Phool Walon Ki Sair'

"Phool Walon Ki Sair" brings together Hindu and Muslim communities, who offer floral chaadars and pankhas at the dargah of Khwaja akhtiyar Kaki and the Yogmaya temple in Mehrauli. The festival traces its roots to the early 19th century

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 9: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has granted permission to organise "hool Walon Ki Sair", following the intervention of Lt Governor V K Saxena, Raj Niwas officials said Sunday.

Last week, the organisers announced that they had decided to postpone the event as the DDA did not grant permission to organise the festival in Meh-



rauli's Aam Bagh.

After Saxena's intervention, the DDA has granted permission to the Anjuman-Sair-E-Gul-Faroshan, the organising body, to hold the traditional festival at its original venue, an official said, adding that the approval has been conveyed to the organisers.

Following reports about the festival being cancelled due to a lack of permits from the DDA, Saxena ordered an investigation. It was revealed that the DDA's permit was delayed due to a Department of Forests and Environment direction dated November 23, 2023, prohibiting the organisation of such a festival in

the area, the official claimed.

The DDA had been granting permission for the festival regularly till 2023 and even facilitated the organisation of "Phool Walon Ki Sair" in 2024, despite the orders of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, he said. However, the organisers this time insisted on a written permission, which was issued after the LG's intervention.

The officials said that a conditional permit has been granted, ensuring that no harm is done to the environment during the festival. Saxena urged action against the erring officials for their unresponsive and apathetic approach towards the issue, the official said. "He has reiterated that any official found acting in deterrence to public interest will be punished as per provisions," the official added.

Upon receiving permission, the organisers said that the event will be held in February-March next year.

The Lt Governor attended the festival last year, while the

then chief minister, Atishi, also joined the festivities.

Hitting back, AAP Delhi unit chief Saurabh Bharadwaj accused Saxena of lying.

"LG saab has an old habit of lying, we challenge LG saab to suspend the Secretary and IAS officers who took the decision to stop Phool waalon Ki Sair, this year as well as last year. We know he will not dare to suspend the officer because it was on his directions that such anti-people and communal orders were passed by officers," he said in a post on X.

Claiming that AAP raised the issue of "Phool Walon Ki Sair", Bharadwaj said the BJP government is stopping the "centuries-old heritage of the Ganga-Jamuni culture of Delhi".

"Phool Walon Ki Sair" brings together Hindu and Muslim communities, who offer floral chaadars and pankhas at the dargah of Khwaja Bakhtiyar Kaki and the Yogmaya temple in Mehrauli. The festival traces its roots to the early 19th century.

of the day **note**

High voter turnout in the first phase shows that there is an anti-incumbency factor among voters. They are voting against the government. The INDIA bloc will get 140-150 seats in the Bihar polls, and the NDA will be reduced to below 100

DIPANKAR BHATTACHARYA | LIBERATION GENERAL SECRETARY

It is a matter of pride that Maharashtra has the highest number of registered startups in India and 45 per cent of these are led by women. The state's youth and women entrepreneurs will play a crucial role in driving India's growth

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | CM, MAHARASHTRA

This is nothing new or surprising for our leader, Rahulji, to do. In our camp, we follow the discipline strictly. There is a democracy in the party where all members are equal and treated as equals. There is no bossism in our party like in the BJP

ABHINAV BAROLIA | CONGRESS MEDIA COORDINATOR, MP

POST OF THE DAY

Gen Z are now following footsteps of Rahul Gandhi
Today hundreds of youths came out at India Gate to demand accountability from BJP on air pollution.
Just look at this girl she is flaunting copy of Constitution.
- This is terrible news for BJP
@Politcx2029

SHORT TAKES

Man dies of stroke, family links it to SIR

Kolkata: A booth-level officer (BLO) engaged by the Election Commission for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls died after suffering a brain stroke in West Bengal's Purba Bardhaman district, her husband claimed on Sunday, attributing the death indirectly to extreme mental stress caused by work pressure. District officials said Namita Hansda (50) collapsed at her home in Memari late Saturday night due to "severe stress because of the mounting workload." She was taken to Kalna Subdivisional Hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead.

Indian Navy deploys warship INS Sahyadri

New Delhi: The navies of India, the US, Australia and Japan will kick-start the annual Malabar naval exercise in the Northern Pacific beginning Monday with an aim to further bolster interoperability among them. The Indian Navy has deployed its guided missile frigate INS Sahyadri for the mega exercise being hosted by the US.

MCD bypolls: AAP announces candidates

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party Sunday announced its candidates for the November 30 bypolls to the 12 wards of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, a day ahead of the conclusion of nomination submission. The list was approved by Delhi unit president Saurabh Bharadwaj. A keen contest between the ruling BJP and AAP is likely during the polls. While it serves as an opportunity for AAP to regain lost ground in the MCD, the BJP will look to further strengthen its tally in the 250-member civic body.



Have you heard what the Telangana chief minister said? He said that 'Congress means Muslims and Muslims means Congress'. What is the meaning of this statement? This statement is aimed at dividing the country. Is this the kind of politics you stand for? This is Congress culture
RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

KERALA ORDERS PROBE INTO STUDENTS SINGING RSS SONG

The Kerala government Sunday ordered a probe into the singing of an RSS song by school students onboard the newly inaugurated Vande Bharat Express from Ernakulam to Bengaluru, even as union ministers strongly defended the act, calling it a patriotic song



Gujarat ATS nabs 3 hatching terror plot



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 9: The Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad has busted a suspected terror syndicate by arresting a 'doctor' with a Chinese MBBS degree, who was allegedly preparing highly-lethal chemical poison, 'Ricin', and whose handler is associated with the Islamic State Khorasan Province, and two others.

One of the accused, Dr Ahmed Mohiyuddin Saiyed, and two other arrested accused, identified as Azad Suleman Sheikh and Mohammad Suhail Mohammad Saleem, had conducted a recee of several sensitive locations in Lucknow, Delhi, and Ahmedabad, a senior ATS officer said Sunday.

"Dr Ahmed Mohiyuddin Saiyed is highly educated and radicalised, and had planned to collect funds and recruit persons as part of a conspiracy to carry out major terrorist activities", Gujarat ATS DIG Sunil Joshi told reporters.

The accused men have also disclosed that their handler sends the arms consignment via a drone across the Pakistan border, he said.

Acting on a tip-off, an ATS team arrested Dr Saiyed, orig-

Anti-terror ops across Jammu

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Police Sunday extended the ongoing crackdown against terror operatives to different areas across Jammu, targeting local terrorists operating from Pakistan and their overground workers (OGWs), officials said. A massive search and cordon operation is underway at dozens of places in Ramban, Kishtwar, Doda, Kathua, Reasi, Poonch and Rajouri districts, they said. On Saturday, scores of suspected persons were called for questioning amid a massive anti-terrorist operation in Doda district of Jammu.

inally from Hyderabad, near Adalaj in Gandhinagar November 7 with two Glock pistols, a Beretta pistol, 30 live cartridges and four litres of castor oil, Joshi told reporters.

Saiyed, who earned his MBBS degree in China, has been preparing a highly lethal poison named 'Ricin' to execute a major terrorist attack. He had already begun the necessary research. procured the equipment and raw materials, and initiated

the initial chemical processing, Joshi said.

Ricin is a chemical poison and can be made from the waste material left over from processing castor beans.

Saiyed, Sheikh and Saleem were in Gujarat to exchange weapons and had conspired to carry out terrorist activities involving Ricin, Joshi said.

On interrogation, Saiyed revealed that he was plotting to carry out terrorist activities and had collected the weapons from an isolated place at Kalol in the Gandhinagar district.

The officer said that Saiyed's handler, Abu Khadija, was a resident of Afghanistan associated with the ISKP (Islamic State Khorasan Province), and he has also been in contact with several individuals from Pakistan.

The other accused, Sheikh and Saleem, both hailing from Uttar Pradesh, were arrested in Banaskantha district for allegedly supplying weapons to Saiyed based on information collected from his mobile phone, he said.

Sheikh and Saleem had allegedly procured weapons from Hanumangadh in Rajasthan and supplied them to Saiyed, Joshi added. Joshi said that ATS also seized three mobile phones and two laptops from their possession.

"The CDR (call detail record) and interrogation of the accused showed they had been conducting reconnaissance (operations of sensitive locations) for the last year. We have not come across any local sleeper cell yet in their connection, but an investigation will be carried out on every aspect of involvement of local and international networks," he added.

Campaign ends for high-stakes Bihar polls



While the first phase of polls, which registered a record 65 per cent turnout, was held November 6, voting for the second phase will be held November 11, followed by the counting of votes November 14

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Nov 9: Campaign ended Sunday evening for the second and final phase of the high-stakes Assembly elections in Bihar, bringing to a close a nearly month-long fierce battle of words and nerves among rivals vying for power in the state.

While the first phase of polls, which registered a record 65 per cent turnout, was held November 6, voting for the second phase will be held November 11, followed by the counting of votes November 14.

Elections will be held in 122 seats in the second phase, while polling happened in 121 Assembly segments in the first round. Among the significant seats going to the polls in this phase are Chakai, from where JD(U) minister Sumit Kumar Singh is seeking a re-election, BJP MLA Shreyasi Singh's Jamui, JD(U) minister Leshi Singh's Dham-

daha, and BJP minister Neeraj Kumar Singh's Chhatapur.

Finishing touches were given to the blitzkrieg on the closing day by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi.

The former Congress president addressed rallies in Kishanganj and Purnea districts in the Seemanchal region, which has a sizeable population of Muslims, whose support is vital for the Opposition INDIA bloc.

It was an energetic campaign by Gandhi, who addressed 15 election meetings altogether. He led a fortnight-long Voter Adhikar Yatra a couple of months ago, during which he received a good response, even though his 'vote chor' allegations did not seem to catch enough public imagination to become a poll plank.

Shah, who has been staying in the poll-bound state for days on end, running, by far, the most intensive campaign by any national leader, addressed rallies in Sasaram and Arwal, places where the BJP is relatively weak and which are, therefore, on the radar of the party's veritable principal strategist.

Singh, a former BJP president himself, addressed rallies in Aurangabad and Kaimur districts, both bordering his home state of Uttar Pradesh.

PM inaugurates projects worth ₹8,260 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Nov 9: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various projects worth ₹8,260 crore in Uttarakhand to mark 25 years of the formation of the hill state, and lauded the all-round progress made by it in different sectors. He also noted that work on infrastructure projects worth ₹2 lakh crore is underway in Uttarakhand.

At an event to celebrate the silver jubilee of the state, the prime minister noted that

Uttarakhand's budget was only ₹4,000 crore 25 years ago but it has now crossed ₹one lakh crore.

U'KHAND FORMATION DAY

Uttarakhand can also become the spiritual capital of world, he said referring to the large number of pilgrimage centres in the state.

The projects inaugurated by the prime minister cater to several key sectors, including drinking water, irrigation, technical education, energy, urban development, sports, and skill development.

The projects include Dehradun water supply coverage for 23 zones under AMRUT scheme, electrical substation in Pithoragarh district, solar power plants in government buildings, AstroTurf Hockey Ground at Haldwani Stadium in Nainital, among others.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and other senior leaders of the state were among those present at the function. Modi Sunday praised the Uttarakhand government's "bold" initiatives on demographic change, uniform civil code and checking illegal religious conversion, suggesting other states should emulate them.

Tharoor's remarks on Advani draw rebuke from Congress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 9: Congress leader Shashi Tharoor Sunday said reducing veteran BJP leader L K Advani's long years of service to one episode, however significant, is unfair, remarks his party distanced itself from.

The Congress said Tharoor speaks for himself and the fact that he continues to do so as a CWC member reflects the party's democratic and liberal spirit. The Thiruvananthapuram MP also said that when the totality of Jawaharlal Nehru's career cannot be judged by the China setback and Indira Gandhi's by the Emergency alone, he believes "we should extend the same courtesy to Advaniji".

Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khara said, "Like always, Dr. Shashi Tharoor speaks for himself and the Indian National Congress outrightly dissociates itself from his most recent statement."

"That he continues to do so

as a Congress MP and CWC member reflects the essential democratic and liberal spirit unique to INC," Khara said.

It started with Tharoor wishing Advani on his birthday on Saturday.

"Wishing the venerable Shri L.K. Advani a very happy 98th birthday! His unwavering commitment to public service, his modesty & decency, and his role in shaping the trajectory of modern India are indelible," the Congress leader said on X.

He described Advani as a true statesman whose life of service has been exemplary.

"Sorry Mr Tharoor, unleashing the 'dragon seeds of hatred' (to quote Kushwant Singh) in this country is NOT public service," a lawyer posted on X in response to Tharoor's post, alluding to Advani's role in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.

Replying to the post, Tharoor said, "Agreed, @sanjayuvacha, but reducing his long years of service to one episode, however significant, is also unfair."



Visitors pose for a picture at the Chrysanthemum Garden, also known as 'Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood' in Srinagar

PTI PHOTO

'New office supply up 26% in top 6 Indian cities'

US-based real estate consultant Vestian data showed that the new supply of office space was the highest in Pune at 3.70 million sq ft during the July-September period, an increase of 164 per cent from the year-ago period

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 9: India's top six cities witnessed a 26 per cent annual growth in new supply of office spaces during the September quarter to 16.1 million sq ft as developers look to encash strong demand of premium workspaces from global and domestic firms, according to Vestian.

US-based real estate consultant Vestian data showed that the new supply of office space was the highest in Pune at 3.70 million sq ft during the

July-September period, an increase of 164 per cent from the year-ago period.

In Delhi-NCR, the new office supply increased 35 per cent to 3.10 million sq ft.

The fresh supply of office space in Chennai jumped 320 per cent to 2.1 million sq ft, while the supply doubled in Mumbai to 1.80 million sq ft.

However, Bangalore, the biggest office market in India, witnessed a 6 per cent drop in new office supply to 3.40 million sq ft.



In Hyderabad, too, the new supply fell 51 per cent to 2 million sq ft during July-September period of this calendar year.

Interestingly, Kolkata, the seventh major cities tracked by Vestian, saw no fresh supply

of office space during the latest September quarter.

Vestian CEO Shrinivas Rao said, "The third quarter of 2025 reported the highest absorption of the current year, primarily driven by GCCs (global capa-

bility centres). This robust demand kept the office market buoyant amid global trade uncertainties and geopolitical tensions."

He noted that construction activity also gained momentum, with significant supply additions across key markets.

"Robust absorption, healthy supply, and a diversified occupier base are expected to drive the next wave of growth in the coming quarters. H-1B visa restrictions may further amplify the demand for offices in India as more and more GCCs expand their footprint in India," Rao said.

According to Vestian, the leasing or absorption of office space rose 6 per cent to 19.69 million sq ft during July-September period of 2025 across

seven major cities in the country.

Major developers who are constructing office spaces include DLF Ltd, Tata Realty & Infrastructure, Hiranandani Group, Embassy Group, Prestige Estates, Sattva Group, and RMZ Group.

There are four listed Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) that are backed by rent-yielding office assets. They have a huge portfolio of office assets and are also expanding through both greenfield and brownfield routes.

The four listed REITs are Sattva-Blackstone Backed Knowledge Realty Trust, Embassy Office Parks REIT, K Raheja-backed Mindspace Business Parks REIT, and Brookfield India Real Estate Trust.

of the day quote

It was President Trump's bold and decisive leadership that brought about the ceasefire between Pakistan and India, restoring peace in South Asia, averting a major war, and saving millions of people



SHEHBAZ SHERIF | PRIME MINISTER, PAKISTAN

We live in an era equivalent to 1938, where synagogues are burned, and people in the street are attacked



WALTER BINGHAM | JOURNALIST, ISRAEL

There are agreements whose implementation is guaranteed by the mediators, and we shouldn't allow anyone to come know and play (games) and to reopen the agreement



GILA GAMLIEL | MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ISRAEL

SHORT TAKES

Polling starts in Iraq

Dohuk: Members of Iraqi security forces and displaced people living in camps, including minority Yazidis, cast their ballots Sunday in early voting ahead of this week's parliamentary election in Iraq. The election, which will help determine whether Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani gets a second term, comes against the backdrop of fears of another conflict between Israel and Iran, and Iraq's balancing act with Tehran and Washington. An estimated 1.3 million army and security personnel and around 26,000 displaced people are eligible to vote. Election day is set for Tuesday. Since the defeat of IS in Iraq and Syria, members of the Yazidi community have been trickling back to their homes in Sinjar, but many see no future there.

Strikes disrupt power

Kyiv: Ukrainian strikes disrupted power and heating to two major Russian cities near the Ukrainian border, local Russian officials reported Sunday. The report comes as Russia and Ukraine have traded almost daily assaults on each other's energy infrastructure, and US-led diplomatic efforts to stop the nearly four-year war have not advanced. Elsewhere, Ukraine's top diplomat accused Moscow of deliberately endangering nuclear safety, as he said Russia's mass drone and missile attack on Friday struck substations that power two nuclear power plants. Russia's defence ministry said Sunday that its forces destroyed or intercepted 44 Ukrainian drones during the night that flew over southwestern Russia.



Putin has repeatedly said that Russia adheres to its obligations under the nuclear tests ban and we are not going to carry them out, but if another country does, we will have to do so to observe parity

DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN, RUSSIA

INDIA DEBUTS AT SHARJAH

The National Book Trust (NBT) of India, the country's state-owned publishing body, is leading the first-ever India Pavilion at the Sharjah International Book Fair 2025, marking a milestone in India-Arab literary and cultural collaboration. The book fair, being held from November 5-16, features India's largest publishing showcase outside the country, offering multilingual titles across several Indian languages



LOST CHILDHOODS

Over 1.6mn kids trapped in labour

Pakistan Sindh's silent crisis highlights 10.3% of children aged 5-17 engaged in child labour in the province



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, Nov 9: Over 1.6 million children are engaged in child labour in Pakistan's Sindh province, a senior official said Sunday, citing a recent survey.

Child labour remains a major menace in the country despite efforts by the government to update and institute laws to protect children aged between 5 and 17, said Sindh Director General of Labour Syed Muhammad Murtaza Ali Shah.

A survey conducted by his department in July-August with the technical assistance of UNICEF and the Bureau of Statistics revealed that over 1.6 million (10.3 per cent of children aged 5-17) were engaged in child labour in the province.

"The other provinces are also now carrying out fresh surveys on child labour but in Sindh we

Until and unless more jobs are created, there is greater access to education for underprivileged children, at least technical education and poverty reduction, it is an uphill battle against child labour

NAZRA JAHAN | OFFICER, SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF CHILD

found that as many as 800,000 children (50.4 per cent of those aged 10-17) are working in hazardous and exploitative conditions, which include excessive hours, extreme weather, and unsafe tools in agriculture and industrial sectors," Shah said.

The survey also showed that only 40.6 per cent of working children attend school, compared to 70.5 per cent of non-working children.

The Qambar Shahdadkot district had the highest prevalence of child labour of 30.8 per cent, followed by Tharparkar at 29 per cent, Tando Muhammad Khan at 20.3 per cent, and

Shikarpur at 20.2 per cent. Karachi has the lowest rate, at just 2.38 per cent.

Shah said that the provincial government was working on updating laws, increasing projects to educate people about the illegalities of child labour and even conducting raids at workplaces to protect children.

He added that Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah had also set up a special task force to mitigate and eliminate the menace.

According to the survey, child labour had declined by nearly 50 per cent since 1996, when the percentage was 20.6, he said.

Shah said the government had launched social protection schemes to support poverty-ridden families. However, activists working to protect vulnerable children say more action is required to change the environment.

The Society for the Protection of Rights of Child (SPARC) which has been advocating for stricter laws against child labour said that poverty, big families and a lack of empathy for children's rights are the main reasons for the high percentage of child labour in the country.

Nazra Jahan, a SPARC protection officer, said that in the poorest households, 33.7 per cent reported had at least one child engaged in work.

She said that many of these vulnerable households living in poverty were forced to send children to work to survive.

Pak SC faces threat, amendment passed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Nov 9: Pakistan's joint parliamentary committee of the Senate and National Assembly Sunday approved the 27th constitutional amendment bill with the opposition alleging that the government was sounding "the death knell for the Supreme Court."

The amendment proposes a change in Article 243, seeking to abolish the 'Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee' and introduce a new 'Chief of Defence Forces.'

Other proposals under the same amendment include establishing a Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) and reducing the powers of the Supreme Court.

The Senate is scheduled to meet at 11 am Monday to take up the bill in the light of the committee report and vote on every amendment and pass it by a two-thirds majority.

Philippines braces for 21st storm this year

Super Typhoon Fung-wong, the biggest storm to threaten the Philippines this year, leaves 2 dead, forces more than 1 million to evacuate

REUTERS

Isabela, Nov 9: At least two people died in the Philippines as Super Typhoon Fung-wong lashed central and eastern parts of the country, with heavy rains and strong winds cutting power in large areas of the Bicol region ahead of its expected landfall in northern Luzon.

More than a million people have evacuated vulnerable areas ahead Super Typhoon Fung-wong's projected landfall in Aurora province as early as Sunday night, with officials urging residents to heed evacuation orders.

Sustained winds of 185 kph (115 mph) and gusts of up to 230 kph (140 mph) are already

battering many parts of Luzon with the Fung-wong's massive rain bands, the authorities said.

More areas across Luzon, the Philippines' most populous island, have been placed under the highest and second-highest storm warning levels while Metro Manila and nearby provinces remain at level 3.

As a safety precaution, the civil aviation regulator has closed several airports, including Bicol International Airport and Sangley in Metro Manila.

The civil defence office reported that one person drowned

Philippines is still reeling from recent storm that killed over 200



In Catanduanes and firefighters recovered the body of a woman trapped under debris of a collapsed home in Catbalogan City.

Named locally as Uwan, Fung-wong is the 21st storm this year to hit a nation that

normally has about 20 a year and threatens to place further strain on disaster response efforts as the Southeast Asian archipelago recovers from Typhoon Kalmaegi, which killed 224 people in the Philippines and five in Vietnam.

Fedora and fame: Mysterious teen who fooled the Louvre

Pedro's viral Louvre look wasn't a costume but a style he adopted less than a year ago, inspired by 20th century icons and detectives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, Nov 9: When 15-year-old Pedro Elias Garzon Delvaux realised an Associated Press photo of him at the Louvre on the day of the crown jewels heist had drawn millions of views, his first instinct was not to rush online and unmask himself.

Quite the opposite. A fan of Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot who lives with his parents and grandfather in Rambouillet, 30 kilometres (19 miles) from Paris, Pedro decided to play along with the world's suspense.

As theories swirled about the sharply dressed stranger in the "Fedora Man" shot — detective, insider, AI fake — he decided to stay silent and watch.

"I didn't want to say immedi-

ately it was me," he said. "With this photo, there is a mystery, so you have to make it last."

For his only in-person interview since that snap turned him into an international curiosity, he appeared for the AP cameras at his home much as he did that on Sunday: in a fedora hat, Yves Saint Laurent waistcoat borrowed from his father, jacket chosen by his mother, neat tie, Tommy Hilfinger trousers and a restored, war-battered Russian watch.

In person, he is a bright, amused teenager who wandered, by accident, into a global story.

The image that made him famous was meant to document a crime scene. Three police officers lean on a silver car blocking a Louvre entrance, hours



after thieves carried out a daylight raid on French crown jewels. To the right, a lone figure in a three-piece ensemble strides past — a flash of film noir in a modern-day manhunt.

The internet did the rest. "Fedora Man," as users dubbed him, was cast as an old-school detective, an inside man, a Netflix pitch, or not human at all. Many were convinced he was

People said, you've become a star. I was astonished that with just one photo, you can become viral in a few days

PEDRO ELIAS GARZON DELVAUX

AI-generated.

Pedro understood why. "In the photo, I'm dressed more in the 1940s, and we are in 2025," he said. "There is a contrast."

Even some relatives and friends hesitated until they spotted his mother in the background. Only then were they sure: The internet's favourite fake detective was a real boy.

The real story was simple. Pedro, his mother and grandfather had come to visit the Louvre.

"We wanted to go to the Louvre, but it was closed," he said. "We didn't know there

was a heist."

They asked officers why the gates were shut. Seconds later, AP photographer Thibault Camus, documenting the security cordon, caught Pedro midstride.

"When the picture was taken, I didn't know," Pedro said. "I was just passing through."

Four days later, an acquaintance messaged: Is that you?

"She told me there were 5 million views," he said. "I was a bit surprised." Then his mother called to say he was in The New York Times. "It's not every day," he said. Cousins in Colombia, friends in Austria, family friends and classmates followed with screenshots and calls. One photo turned him into a symbol. Meeting him confirms he is, reassuringly, real.

5-YEAR HIATUS

China resumes flight to New Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Nov 9: China Eastern Airlines started its Shanghai-Delhi service Sunday with a 95 per cent occupancy, becoming the first mainland Chinese carrier this year to resume direct flights to India after a gap of five years.

Flight MU563, carrying 248 passengers, departed from Shanghai Pudong International Airport for Delhi, the state-run Global Times reported.

Indian airline IndiGo will begin its daily Delhi-Guangzhou service from November 10.

The Shanghai-Delhi route is considered a key corridor linking two major economic centres and is expected to boost exchanges in trade, economy and culture, the report said.

Flights between India and Chinese mainland resumed October 26 when an IndiGo aircraft landed at Guangzhou in Guangdong province from Kolkata, ending a hiatus that began with the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Services were not restored due to the military standoff between the two countries in eastern Ladakh, which ended in October last year.

The airline plans to increase frequencies based on market demand and aims to resume the Kunming-Kolkata service and launch a new Shanghai-Mumbai route.

NO BUYERS

Sri Lanka to overhaul loss-making nat'l airline

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Nov 9: The Sri Lankan government will restructure the loss-making national flag carrier after efforts to find a buyer for its management control failed, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake has said.

Presenting the 2025-26 budget Friday, Dissanayake said, "There are no buyers," referring to efforts by the successive governments to divest the Sri Lankan Airlines' management from government control.

The national carrier's divestiture became crucial with the tough conditions attached to Sri Lanka's International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout of nearly \$3 billion, extended in 2023 after the island nation announced its first-ever sovereign default.

"We will restructure its management by early next year; the management has been asked to formulate a business plan for the work," said Dissanayake, who is also the finance minister.

Successive governments have so far resisted the idea of completely shutting down the airline to prevent bleeding of the national treasury.

According to a report by the Auditor General, the airline's accumulated loss was SLRs 596,461 million (approximately \$2 billion) as of March 31, 2025.

Dissanayake said the airline's defaulted debt stood at \$210 million.

business

Quote of the day

A voluntary scheme for SAF will be an opportunity for airlines to differentiate and to propose something new to their corporate customers first, then to cargo customers and eventually to private customers

JULIEN MANHES | HEAD, SAF AND CDR SUSTAINABILITY, AIRBUS

Today, we have systems that can outperform the smartest humans at some of our most challenging intellectual competitions

SAM ALTMAN | CEO, OPENAI

India's remarkable journey from the 10th to the 4th largest economy in just a decade reflects the country's expanding global clout and resilient growth engine

NILESH SHAH | MD, KOTAK MAHINDRA (AMC)

SHORT TAKES

Mcap of most valued firms erodes

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms eroded by ₹88,635.28 crore in a holiday-shortened last week, with Bharti Airtel and Tata Consultancy Services taking the biggest hit, in line with the weak trend in equities. BSE benchmark tanked 722.43 points or 0.86 per cent, and the Nifty declined by 229.8 points or 0.89 per cent. While Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), ICICI Bank, Infosys and Hindustan Unilever faced erosion from their valuation, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) were the gainers from the top-10 pack. The market valuation of Bharti Airtel tumbled ₹30,506.26 crore to ₹11,41,048.30 crore. TCS faced an erosion of ₹23,680.38 crore from its valuation, which stood at ₹10,82,658.42 crore.

Govt allows 1.5 MT sugar exports

New Delhi: The Centre has decided to allow export of 1.5 million tonne (MT) of sugar for the 2025-26 sugar season that started from October, according to Food Minister Pralhad Joshi. The Union Food Ministry has also decided to remove 50 per cent export duty on molasses, he said in a letter dated November 7 to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The export decision was communicated to the chief minister while listing out the steps taken by the central government to protect the interest of sugarcane farmers in the country. The export allocation is lower than the 2 MT demanded by the industry. India exported about 8,00,000 tonnes of sugar against an allocation of 1 MT during the 2024-25 sugar season that ended in September.

Rapido to start working on IPO

New Delhi: Bike taxi aggregator Rapido expects to start working on the process for public listing by the end of next year, a top company official said. Rapido Co-Founder Aravind Sanka told PTI that the company expects to maintain its growth rate of 100 per cent year-on-year for the next few years and be a much larger player compared to its nearest competitor before going for the initial public offering (IPO). On whether Rapido is looking to start preparing for IPO after two years, Sanka said the timelines keep changing every quarter depending on the firm's performance but the company wants to be ready irrespective of the way things are outside.



Gold prices are expected to see some consolidation or more correction as focus will be on the inflation numbers, US Supreme Court hearing on tariffs, speeches from Fed officials, and Chinese data

PRANAV MER | VICE PRESIDENT, EBG, JM FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD

SKODA TO EXPAND BIZ IN INDIA

Czech carmaker Skoda plans to bring more of its global nameplates into the Indian market as it looks to cater to a diverse set of customers, according to a senior company executive. The company, which now sells products in India ranging from over ₹7 lakh to upwards of ₹40 lakh, however, has no immediate plans to introduce electric cars in the country



CII urges govt to setup IDSF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 9: Industry lobby Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Sunday urged the government to establish a professionally managed India Development and Strategic Fund (IDSF) to finance the country's long-term growth, resilience, and secure critical economic interests abroad.

Conceived as a national fund, IDSF would mobilise patient, long-horizon capital to build India's productive capacity at home and secure critical economic interests abroad, it added.

CII believes that with disciplined design and funding, IDSF could, over the next two decades, build a managed corpus in the range of \$1.3 to 2.6 trillion by 2047.

The proposed capitalisation roadmap includes a modest initial budgetary allocation to establish credibility, followed by systematic channelling of a share of asset monetisation proceeds, from roads, transmission lines, ports, and spectrum, into the fund instead of one-time deficit reduction.

Over time, a portion of the government's equity in select public sector enterprises could be transferred to the fund, turning these enterprises into instruments for India's global expansion, it suggested.



In addition, the fund could issue thematic instruments, such as infrastructure, green, and Diaspora bonds to mobilise long-term domestic and international savings.

Once macroeconomic buffers are adequate, a calibrated allocation of a small portion of India's foreign exchange reserves could also be considered for overseas strategic acquisitions in areas like critical minerals and energy, CII stressed.

Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, said the time has come for India to build its own enduring financial engine for development.

"India is entering a decisive window of opportunity. We are already among the world's largest economies, but to reach developed-economy status by 2047, we need

structural, perpetual sources of long-term capital that go beyond the annual budget cycle."

The fund's developmental investment arm would focus on financing long-gestation domestic priorities, such as infrastructure, clean energy, logistics, industrial corridors, MSME scale-up, education and skilling, healthcare and urban infrastructure.

This arm would provide patient equity and blended finance to commercially viable projects that require long-term commitment.

It would act as an anchor investor, crowding in pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, and institutional investors from India and abroad.

CII has suggested that India's existing National Investment and Infrastructure

CREDAI Bhubaneswar elects new Managing Committee



Bhubaneswar: The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI), Bhubaneswar Chapter representing over 100 leading developers from the city has announced new Managing Committee for the term 2025-27. The election process was successfully concluded, Nov 8, under the supervision of Returning Officers Madhu Mohanty and Mohammed Moquim. Following a transparent selection process, the newly elected members are

MERGER & ACQUISITIONS

SUZUKI MOTOR GUJARAT, MARUTI SUZUKI MERGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 9: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the scheme of amalgamation, in which Suzuki Motor Gujarat is being merged with its parent entity, Maruti Suzuki India, the country's largest carmaker.

A two-member bench of the Delhi-based Principal bench of NCLT has approved the joint petition filed by Suzuki Motor Gujarat Pvt Ltd (Transferor Company) and Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (Transferee Company) and proposed the appointed date for the scheme of amalgamation, April 1, 2025.

Noting that the scheme is in the interest of both petitioner companies, their sharehold-

ers, creditors, employees, and all concerned, the tribunal said there appears to be no impediment in sanctioning the present scheme. It further observed that the Income Tax Department (IT), which includes their Northern Region and Northwestern Region and the Official Liquidator, Ahmedabad, have filed their no further objections before this tribunal pertaining to the scheme being considered.

In light of the foregoing facts and discussion, particularly the positions taken by the relevant authorities, and upon considering the approval granted by the members and creditors of all the petitioner companies to the proposed scheme, there appears to be no impediment to sanctioning the scheme, subject to the con-

ditions stipulated hereinbelow.

"Accordingly, the Scheme of Merger by Amalgamation proposed by the Petitioner Companies under Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013, is hereby sanctioned," said the order.

It further said the sanctioned Scheme of 'Merger by Amalgamation' shall be binding on the transferor and transferee companies and their respective shareholders and creditors.

The NCLT order said upon the coming into effect of this scheme, the transferor company (Suzuki Motor Gujarat), "shall stand dissolved without the necessity of following the winding-up process, upon filing a certified copy of this tribunal's order with the Registrar of Companies."

Inflation data, Q2 earnings; global trends to drive markets



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 9: Inflation data, quarterly earnings and global trends will be the major driving factors for stock markets this week, analysts said.

Moreover, the trading activity of foreign investors would also influence the equity market trends.

"This week will be crucial, with several key macroeconomic data releases scheduled. On the domestic front, focus will be on India's CPI inflation and WPI inflation data, which will provide insights into the inflation trajectory and policy outlook."

"On the earnings front, quarterly results from prominent companies such as ONGC, Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints, Tata Steel and Oil India will be closely tracked for sectoral cues," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

The rupee-dollar trend and movement of Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, would also be crucial in driving in-

FPIs resume selling after October hiatus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 9: After a brief pause in October, foreign portfolio investors have resumed selling, pulling out a net ₹12,569 crore from Indian equities so far in November amid weak global cues and risk-off sentiment.

This follows a net inflow of ₹14,610 crore in October, which had come after consecutive months of outflows -- ₹23,885 crore in September, ₹34,990 crore in August, and ₹17,700 crore in July, according to data from depositories.

The renewed selling trend, which has continued on every trading day of November so far, has contributed to India's underperformance compared with other major markets this year, said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

He noted that a key feature of FPI activity in 2025 has been the divergence in flows, with hedge funds selling in India while buying in markets perceived as beneficiaries of the AI-driven rally, such as the US, China, South Korea, and Taiwan.

"India is currently being viewed as an AI-underperformer, and that perception is shaping FPI strategy," he explained. However, Vijayakumar add-



ed that AI-linked valuations are now stretched, and the risk of a potential bubble in global tech stocks could limit sustained selling in India.

Echoing a similar view, Vaqarjaved Khan, Senior Fundamental Analyst at Angel One, said FPIs sold Indian equities worth ₹12,569 crore in the first week of November amid a global sell-off in technology stocks across Asia and other major markets.

India Inc's Q2 FY26 results have been marginally better than expected, especially in the midcap segment, but global headwinds may keep foreign investors cautious toward riskier assets in the near term.

So far in 2025, FPIs have withdrawn over ₹1.5 lakh crore.

Meanwhile, in the debt market, FPIs withdrew ₹1,758 crore under the general limit while investing ₹1,416 crore through the voluntary retention route during the period under review.

India to emerge as largest scotch mkt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 9: India is poised to become the largest global scotch whisky market in value and volume terms over the next few years, fuelled by competitive intensity, premiumisation and economic growth, Scotch Whisky Association Chief Executive Mark Kent CMG has said.

Mark Kent also appreciated the rise of India's single malt whisky, saying the Scotch Whisky Association is looking for partnerships with them not only for export to the UK market but also to explore other global markets together.

Noting the emergence of the Indian single malt category, some of which recently won several prestigious international accolades, the chief executive said he is going to speak with the Indian Malt Whiskey Association, as they share the same views on the importance of quality in manufacturing and working together.

This is a significant opportunity for both the Indian and Scottish industries. India is already the biggest market for Scotch in terms of volume, out of 180 markets where it is exported, though in terms of value, it ranks among the top five, he said.

However, it will also depend on certain factors around the world economy, but Mark Kent said he is optimistic that India has a "very educated knowledge of scotch and whiskey" here.

GST 2.0 comes as boon for Indian artisans

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 9: The next-generation GST(goods and service tax) 2.0 rate cuts on several handicraft items from 12 per cent to 5 per cent have come as a major boon for the country's artisans, as demand for their products has gone up, leading to higher earnings and also enabling them to compete with factory-made goods.

The tax cuts have benefited artisans producing items like wood-carved products, terracotta jute handbags, textile items, and leather goods.

The muga silk industry of Assam, operating mainly in Sualkuchi (Kamrup), Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, and Jorhat, along with other sericulture clusters across the state, is a legacy carried by women weavers. The reduced 5 per cent GST

rate on handloom and handicraft items will bring relief to weavers, who can now sell in competitive markets and earn better margins. It will also boost exports, as niche luxury buyers may be more inclined to purchase when prices are marginally lower.

The entire handloom sector in Assam stands to gain from the GST reforms. In a state with more than 12.83 lakh weavers and about 12.46 lakh looms, the impact is far-reaching.

The GST rate cut on handlooms and crafts will also benefit Assam Jaapi, Asharikandi terracotta, Mishing handloom, Pani Meteka, and Bihu dhol, among others.

By lightening the tax load, the reforms will help build stronger markets for traditional handlooms and crafts. This can potentially boost incomes



and ensure that handmade Assamese textiles hold their own in an age of factory-made fabrics.

West Bengal has long been known for traditional crafts and handlooms, from the terracotta temples of Bishnupur to the intricate embroidery of Nakshi Kantha. The GST cut

from 12 per cent to 5 per cent directly benefits this sector by reducing prices and strengthening its competitiveness against machine-embroidered or mass-produced imitations in domestic and foreign markets such as Europe, the US, and Japan.

Himachal's famed handloom

products, especially its shawls and woollen textiles, are expected to get a boost as GST on these products has also been slashed from 12 per cent to 5 per cent. In the Kullu valley, over 3,000 weavers involved in self-help groups produce the brightly patterned, GI-tagged Kullu shawls. These weavers are part of an estimated 10,000-12,000 handloom artisans statewide. The Kinnaur district's shawl makers and those who derive their livelihood from these handicrafts will also benefit.

The Chamba rumal is a GI-tagged, miniature hand-embroidered cloth, made primarily by women artisans in the Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh, which will see a higher demand due to the cut in GST to 5 per cent for these handkerchiefs. Traditional leather slippers from Chamba are another GI-

tagged product, produced by hundreds of small cottage craft units. A lower GST will make their pricing more competitive against machine-made footwear and encourage sales of indigenous chappals. This will help artisans improve their margin.

From intricate wooden doors and panels to furniture, carved wooden products are produced in areas like Chamba, Kinnaur, and Kullu. This industry hires thousands of rural artisans in Himachal. The new GST rates put wooden articles in the 5 per cent category, which will stimulate demand for locally made wooden furniture and souvenirs. It will not only make these items more affordable but also support local artisans. Certain parts of Himachal, which produce bamboo products such as baskets and other eco-friendly crafts, will also gain.

Choudhary's storm: Eight sixes, 11-ball fifty stun Ranji arena

Meghalaya's star becomes only the third player ever to hit six sixes in a row in First-Class cricket after the legendary Sir Garfield Sobers of the West Indies and India's Ravi Shastri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Surat, Nov 9: Meghalaya's Akash Kumar Choudhary on Sunday became the first player to hit eight sixes in a row in First-Class cricket while also recording the fastest half-cen-

tury in the format, off only 11 deliveries, during a Ranji Trophy Plate Group match against Arunachal Pradesh here. Batting at No 8, 25-year-old Choudhary achieved the stunning feat on the second day of the match at the CK Pithawala Ground here. He remained not out on 50 off 14 balls, helping Meghalaya declared their first innings at a mammoth 628 for 6. Choudhary broke the previous record of fastest fifty in First-Class cricket, which was set by Leicestershire's Wayne White in 12 deliveries against Essex in 2012. He also became only the third



player ever to hit six sixes in a row in First-Class cricket after the legendary Sir Garfield Sobers of the West Indies and India's Ravi Shastri.

Choudhary recorded the feat with Meghalaya cruising at 576 for six. Having started his innings with a dot and two singles, the right-handed batter hit the next eight deliveries for sixes. He sent each of Limar Dabi's deliveries of the 126th over flying over the ropes. Before Sunday's outing, Choudhary averaged 14.37 with only two fifties in 30 First-Class matches, including this year's Duleep Trophy for the North East Zone. He has also played 28 List-A matches and 20 T20 matches. Sobers was the first to record the feat of six sixes in

an over in August 1968 when he hammered Malcolm Nash during a County match between Nottinghamshire and Glamorgan. Former India all-rounder and head coach Shastri recorded his six consecutive sixes off Tilak Raj while playing for Bombay against Baroda during the Ranji Trophy 1984-85 match at the Wankhede Stadium. In reply to Meghalaya's 628 for 6 declared, Arunachal Pradesh were shot out for a mere 73 in their first innings and were struggling again at 29 for three after following on, trailing by a massive 526 runs.

SHORT TAKES

Jadeja, Brevis for Samson

New Delhi: Five-time champions Chennai Super Kings and inaugural winners Rajasthan Royals are reportedly in advanced stages of negotiations ahead of the 2026 Indian Premier League, with CSK trading Ravindra Jadeja for Sanju Samson. Both Jadeja and Samson are valued at Rs 18 crore each, and the deal may already be nearing completion. However, Rajasthan Royals are reportedly not in favour of a direct player swap. They are said to be demanding the inclusion of an additional player, which could ultimately become a major obstacle in finalising the agreement, as per a Cricbuzz report. The report stated that the Rajasthan Royals are reportedly demanding South African youngster Dewald Brevis, along with Jadeja, as part of the deal.

Messi's 400th assist

Fort Lauderdale: Messi leads Inter Miami to East semifinals with 2-goal, 2-assist. He grabbed his 400th career assist during Inter Miami's 4-0 win against Nashville SC in the Major League Soccer Cup playoffs decider match at the Chase Stadium in Fort Lauderdale, Florida Sunday. The 38-year-old bagged a first-half brace before assisting Tadeo Allende for Miami's fourth goal of the night as it progressed to the semifinal stage. Brace, Nutmegs and double assist for Messi in a single night. With the assist, he became the only active player to reach the 400 mark while just being four away from equalling Ferenc Puskás' all-time record.

Proteas A beat India A

Bangalore: South Africa A's top-order batters ran roughshod over a set of regular Test bowlers in the ranks of India A, etching a memorable five-wicket win on the fourth day of the second four-day match here Sunday. Chasing an improbable-looking 417, South Africa, overnight 25 for no loss, never looked daunted by the size of target, and if anything, were determined to overhaul it. It was the highest run chase in the 'A' matches.

Williams joins camp

New Delhi: Forward Ryan Williams, who has relinquished his Australian passport to become an Indian citizen, has joined the Khalid Jamil-coached national team camp in Bengaluru, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said Sunday. "Forward Ryan Williams, and defender Jay Gupta have joined the senior men's national team camp in Bengaluru," the AIFF posted on X. The camp began in Bangalore Thursday.

RANJI TROPHY

Odisha under pressure against Vidarbha



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nagpur, Nov 9: At the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur, Odisha found themselves in a testing position at the end of Day 2 of their Ranji Trophy clash against Vidarbha here Sunday. After winning the toss and electing to field, Odisha's bowlers initially showed discipline, but Vidarbha's batting resilience, led by Dhruv Shorey's superb century, shift-

ed the momentum. Odisha's bowlers, however, can take heart from their effort on a flat surface. Sambit Baral bowled tirelessly to claim 3 wickets for 69 runs while Tapas Kumar Das supported him brilliantly, picking up 2 for 33 in a disciplined spell. Their combined effort ensured Vidarbha was eventually restricted to 286 all out, preventing what could have been a much larger first-innings lead. Earlier, Odisha's batting lineup had struggled against Vidarbha's consistent attack, ending the first innings at 122/6 in 58.2 overs. Subhranshu Senapati stood out as a pillar of resistance with a gritty 41 off 112 balls, while Gaurav Choudhary contributed 24 off 46, showing flashes of determination.

WTA FINALS

Elena's maiden crown

Aryna Sabalenka will end the 2025 tennis season as world No 1, but it's Elena Rybakina who had the last laugh

REUTERS

Riyadh, Nov 9: Elena Rybakina capped a flawless week at the WTA Finals by stunning world number one Aryna Sabalenka 6-3 7-6(0) in the final Saturday for her first trophy in the season-ending championships and a record \$5.235 million in prize money. The last stop of this season's WTA Tour kicked off with four different Grand Slam champions in the field, but ultimately went to a player who did not even reach the quarter-finals of a major in 2025 and was the last to qualify with a win in Ningbo and a run to the Tokyo semi-finals. Rybakina earned 1,500 points - her biggest haul - after she was denied any for her 2022 Wimbledon win when the ATP and WTA penalised the major for banning Russian and Belarusian players from playing in the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. "It's been an incredible week, I honestly didn't expect any result and to go so far, I mean, it's just incredible," Rybakina said after collecting the Billie Jean



It's been an incredible week, I honestly didn't expect any result and to go so far, I mean, it's just incredible
ELENA RYBAKINA

King trophy, her third title of the season. "Congratulations Aryna for being number one (at the year-end) for the second season in a row, an amazing achievement. Today was such a tough battle, some moments I didn't like here but it's tennis and I hope we're going to play many more finals in big tournaments together." In a rematch of the 2023 Australian Open title clash won by Sabalenka, it was Rybakina who made early inroads with a barrage of powerful winners to shrug off concerns over a sore shoulder and break for a 4-2 lead in the opening set. The ice-cool world number

six rallied from 15-40 down in the seventh game to tighten her hold and secure the set with more bold ball striking from both flanks, leaving 2022 finalist Sabalenka with a mountain to climb. Rybakina ramped up the pressure in the next set as she lost only two points in four service games. She showed her battling qualities for a clutch hold in the 10th game when Sabalenka crashed a forehand into the net. Rybakina cranked up her massive serve two games later and forced a tiebreak, where the Kazakh grabbed the early lead

Archers' bold show against heavyweights SK

Yashdeep leaves Koreans behind, rookie Anshika impresses as India take second spot in recurve in Asian Archery Championships

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Nov 9: Unheralded Yashdeep Bhoge upstaged the fancied Koreans to top the men's recurve qualification, while rookie Anshika Kumari also produced a surprise top-five finish in the women's section as the Asian Archery Championships got underway, here Sunday. The inexperienced duo's splendid performances propelled India to the second spot in the team rankings, placing them in the opposite half of



the draw from their traditional nemesis and heavyweights South Korea, who expectedly topped both men's and women's qualifications. Indian recurve archery has endured a prolonged slump, failing to secure a men's medal

at the 2023 edition where only the women's team salvaged a bronze. But Bhoge and Anshika's breakthrough performances have rekindled hopes of ending that drought this week. Incidentally, the Koreans have fielded a relatively second-string side, especially in the men's recurve section which has lesser-known archers. Meanwhile, there were some major shockers too, as top-ranked Indians Deepika and Dhiraj both missed out on team berths after finishing outside the country's top-three bracket. With the recurve squad still trying to regain the old mojo, it was once again the compound archers who underlined India's strength. The women's team dominated qualification, with all four archers finishing in the top-five.

101ST TITLE

The Serbian wins at Athens, withdraws from ATP finals due to an ongoing injury

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Athens, Nov 9: Novak Djokovic captured his 101st career title in dramatic fashion at the Hellenic Championship, where he overcame Lorenzo Musetti in an absorbing three-hour clash. The 38-year-old Serbian left it all on the court in a gutsy 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 victory in the final, which featured 13 break points and five breaks of serve in the deciding set alone. With his 72nd tour-level title on hard courts, Djokovic also cut his tie with Roger Federer for the most in the Open Era. Both players were pushed to their physical limits across the match, but particularly during the final set. For Musetti, it was



heartbreak as he fell to his sixth consecutive defeat in an ATP Tour final. He captured his first two titles back in 2022 in Hamburg and Naples, ATP reports. "I dedicate this win to the wonderful people of Greece. You support me, you support tennis, and you've made me feel at home. A win that feels even more special with much family here. Huge gratitude al-

so to everyone who made this beautiful new tournament so special. To Musetti, what an epic battle. Congratulations on an incredible performance and tournament. Keep it going, your future is bright," Djokovic shared in an Instagram post. Musetti needed to capture the title to leapfrog Felix Auger-Aliassime into the final qualification spot for the Nitto

GOLDEN TRIO

Bhagat, Nagar, Kadam rule the court in Japan



Winning three golds here means a lot. It's always special to perform in a country that appreciates para badminton so deeply. Each match tested me mentally and physically, and I'm proud of how I handled the pressure
PRAMOD BHAGAT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shizuoka City (Japan), Nov 9: India's para badminton stars Pramod Bhagat, Krishna Nagar and Sukant Kadam dished out commanding performances, clinching more than half a dozen gold medals at the Japan Para Badminton International Sunday.

Odisha-born Bhagat led the charge by winning the singles, doubles and mixed doubles gold, while Tokyo Paralympics champion Krishna Nagar followed with two gold, winning singles and mixed doubles events, and Sukant clinched the top-podium spot in men's doubles along with a silver in singles. Bhagat was the standout performer in SL3 category. He staged a remarkable comeback in the men's singles after losing the opening game to Japan's Daisuke Fujihara 17-21. Facing a 16-19 deficit in the second, Bhagat levelled the match and then dominated the decider with a flawless display to win 17-21, 21-19, 21-10 in a contest that lasted one hour and 33 minutes. In the men's doubles, Bhagat teamed up with Sukant Kadam to defeat compatriots Jagadesh Dilli and Naveen Sivakumar 21-17, 18-21, 21-16. He completed a golden hat-trick by clinching the mixed doubles SL4-SU5 title with Manisha Ramdass, overcoming fellow Indians Nitesh Kumar and Thulasimathi Murugesan 21-19, 21-19 in a 29-minute contest.

Nagar once again proved his class by winning the SH6 men's singles and mixed doubles titles. In the singles final, Nagar defeated USA's Miles Krajewski 22-20, 21-13. Teaming up with Nithya Sre in mixed doubles, the pair showcased their agility on the court to clinch the top podium spot. "I had to dig deep, especially in the singles final," said Nagar. Sukant Kadam also had a strong outing, claiming gold alongside Pramod Bhagat in men's doubles (SL3-SL4) and securing a silver in the SL4 singles, where he went down to fellow Indian Naveen Sivakumar in a spirited contest. India's strong campaign also saw several other medal-winning performances. Mandeep Kaur and Neeraj won a silver and a bronze respectively in the women's SL3 category. In women's doubles SL3-SU5, Mansi Joshi and Thulasimathi Murugesan clinched a gold, while Neeraj-Arati and Sanjana Kumari-Shanthiya bagged a bronze. Manasi Joshi and Ruthick Raghupati secured a bronze in mixed doubles (SL3-SU5). Surya Kant won a bronze in men's SL4 while Thulasimathi, Manisha Ramdass, and Shanthiya swept gold, silver, and bronze medals respectively in the women's SU5 category. Hardik Makkar and Ruthick Raghupati won a silver in men's doubles SU5, and Nithya Sre capped off India's medal tally with a gold in women's singles SH6.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Career-best silver for Anish

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cairo, Nov 9: India's Anish Bhanwala endured two nerve-wracking shoot-offs in a high-quality 25m rapid-fire pistol final to clinch the biggest medal in his shooting career, a silver at the ISSF World Championships (Pistol/Rifle) here Sunday. The 23-year-old Haryana marksman more than made up for his 2024 Paris Olympics disappointment with a steady performance that saw him first survive a shoot-off for the third place, and then ward off the challenge from Ukraine's Maksym Horodynets to win the silver medal with a score of 28 in a competition that tested the resolve of all the six finalists. The Sonipat shooter looked



determined Sunday as he first qualified for the finals in second place with a brilliant 585. After shooting 291 in Stage 1 of the qualification Saturday, he came back determined to notch up 294 in Stage 2 Sunday and make it to the first pistol final of the World Championships. Frenchman Clement Bessaguet, who won the gold tallying 31 points, topped the qualification with a score of 589.

World Chess Cup: Gujrathi bows out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panjim, Nov 9: Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi bowed out of the World Chess Cup after a 2.5-3.5 loss to Sam Shankland of United States in the second set of tie-break games of third round here Sunday. On what turned out to be a dramatic day, SL Narayanan also had to concede defeat against Yangyi Yu of China in the first set of tie-break games but V Karthik continued with his dream run and defeated Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania 1.5-0.5. Karthik reached the fourth round which means there are five Indians left in the fray after the first three rounds. The two favourites Arjun Erigaisi and R Praggnanandhaa, and P Harikrishna who shown sublime form here and world junior champion V Pranav, who has proved that he is the next big Indian star in the making, have already qualified by winning the games under classical format itself.



Meanwhile, Gujrathi became the third biggest casualty from Indian perspective in the tournament after the ouster of world champion D Gukesh who lost under classical games against Frederic Svane of Germany, and Aravindh Chithambaram who went down to Karthik as early as in round two.

I dedicate this win to the wonderful people of Greece. You support me, you support tennis, and you've made me feel at home

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

ATP Finals. However, after the Serbian withdrew later Saturday, Musetti will replace Djokovic and therefore compete at the season finale for the first time. "I was really looking forward to competing in Turin and giving my best, but after today's final in Athens, I'm sad to share that I need to withdraw due to an ongoing injury. I'm truly sorry to the fans who were hoping to see me play - your support means so much. I wish all the players an amazing tournament, and I can't wait to be back on the court with you all soon!" Djokovic said in a statement.