

## **Busting rumours**

Actor Tamannaah Bhatia responds to Ozempic rumours, addressing speculation about her physical transformation

LEISURE | P2



## **Referendum or election**

Bangladesh Islamist party opposes February polls without July Charter referendum, demands legal basis first

INTERNATIONAL | P10



## **Good days ahead**

The overall hiring intent in India for 2026 stands at 11 per cent, up from 9.75 per cent in 2025

BUSINESS | P11



## Raring to go

The Indian team kicks off the practice session ahead of the two-match Test series against South Africa in Kolkata

SPORTS | P12

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133-159

75-101

PAK ON FIRE: Security officials and rescue workers gather at the site following a suicide bombing outside the gates of a district court in Islamabad leaving 12 killed and 27 hurt, Tuesday (Report P10)

# **Pollsters predict NDA win**

Mahagathbandhan

New Delhi, Nov 11: As polling came to a close in high-stakes Bihar, Exit Polls Tuesday predicted a big victory for the NDA with the Mahagathbandhan coming in a distant second.

They also predicted a disappointing show by Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj in its debut outing, forcasting a range of 0-5 seats for it in the 243-member Assembly

While Dainik Bhaskar predicted 145-160 seats for the NDA, 73-91 for the Mahagathbandhan and 0-3 for the Jan Suraaj, the Matrize Exit Poll forecast the NDA

likely getting get between 147-167 seats, the Mahagathbandhan 70-90, and the Jan Suraaj between 0-2 seats. The majority mark is 122.

The People's Insight predicted 133-148 seats for the NDA, 87-102 for the Mahagathbandhan and 0-2 for Jan

The People's Pulse gave 133-159 seats to the NDA, 75-101 for the Mahagathbandhan and 0-5 for Prashant

Kishore's party. 69 % VOTING IN Exit poll projections are

Matrize

**Exit Poll** 

PATNA: Voter enthusiasm contin ued to mark the second and final nhase of the Bihar Assembly elections, with a historic 69% turnout recorded across the constituencies until 5 pm. Voting for this phase began at 7 am across 122 crucia constituencies in 20 districts and continued until 5 pm. The state's police have intensified security measures by sealing international border with Nepal for 72 hours.

(MCC) by "forcefully cam-

paigning inside five polling

centres and distributing

tiffin to voters at various

booths in the assembly seg-

Briefing reporters, Chief

Electoral Officer (CEO) RS

Gopalan said voting was un-

derway smoothly and peace-

fully across the constituen-

cy, including sensitive and

'Sakhi' booths (managed by

being continuously moni-

tored through CCTV, and

issues are being addressed

promptly from both the dis-

trict and state headquarters

to ensure a free, fair, and

transparent by-election in

Nuapada," he said.

"The polling process is

ment".

all women).

made by election survey

People's

Insight

133-148

87-102

agencies based on interviews of voters as they come out after casting their votes These may vary widely from the actual results. While the NDA is looking to return to power in Bihar, the opposi tion INDIA bloc, is looking to form the government with RJD's Tejashwi Yadav its chief ministerial face.

**Centre seeks report** on tree felling in STR

# to set self on fire

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Nov 11: A contractual worker of Nalco's smelter unit at Banarpal in this district, allegedly attempted self-immolation Tuesday in protest against his contractor's failure to pay his salary for several months.

The survivor was identified as Bishwa Ranjan Samal from the Parjang area in neighbouring Dhenkanal district. He is engaged by a consultancy agency and working in Nalco over last five years. He poured petrol on himself near the Nalco smelter plant gate but security personnel displayed prudence and rescued him before he could set himself

Samal said he has been working under a consultancy agency at Nalco for more than five years. Despite reporting for duty, he claimed the agency authorities has not been assigning him regular work or paying his wages for the past five months.

When he raised the issue, he was allegedly threatened with termination.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

# Nalco worker's bid Delhi blast probe indicates Over 79% turnout in Nuapada 'accidental' detonation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: Findings of the initial probe into the blast near the Red Fort suggest it may have been "accidentally triggered" while a hastily assembled explosive device was being transported, following the busting of an inter-state terror module, officials said

"The suspect was likely spooked after the raid in Faridabad which forced him to relocate hastily, increasing the chance of a mishap. The incident appears to have shifted from a suspected suicide attack to an unintended explosion during transport," a senior police officer said. However, police are probing all angles, including suicide bomber attack,

The officer said that intelligence teams' first assessment suggests the improvised explosive device (IED) was assembled incorrectly, which limited its destructive effect. "The bomb was prema-

ture and not fully developed, thus limiting the impact. The explosion did not create a crater and no shrapnel or projectiles were found," he added. Meanwhile, the Delhi Fo-

rensic Science Laboratory has collected 40 samples from the blast site, which include mangled remains of the vehicle and human body parts, and these will be analysed for chemical traces. The laboratory has constituted a special team for analysis of samples, sources said

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: In the by-election to Nuapada Assembly seat in Odisha, over 79 per cent of the 2.53 lakh voters exercised their franchise till 7 pm Tuesday, an official said. Polling, which began at

7 am, concluded at 5 pm across 311 booths, while voting in 47 sensitive booths ended an hour earlier, officials said. However, voters already

in queues were allowed to cast their votes. A total of 358 booths were set up across the constituency. According to poll officials,

over 79 per cent exercised their franchise till 7 pm. Nuapada recorded 75.44 per cent polling in the 2024 state assembly election. Though there was a tem-

porary disruption in voting



at Mongarapali polling station on Khariar Road due to a technical glitch in the **Electronic Voting Machine** (EVM), it was rectified, an official said, adding that three ballot units (BUs), three control units (CUs) and 1 VVPAT were promptly replaced.

The bypoll was necessitated following the death of sitting BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia on September 8. The regional party has

### **2 POLL OFFICIALS SUSPENDED**

Bhubaneswar: According to the District Election Officer (DEO) Madhusudan Dash, two poll officials have been suspended for failing to maintain voting as Sandeep Kumar Swain, a presiding officer at Government Upgraded High School at Biromal, and Dhananiav Mallick. also a presiding officer posted at Kuliabandh Government

fielded Snehangini Chhuria to retain the seat, while the BJP has nominated Jay Dholakia, son of the late legislator.

The Congress, which has been out of power in the state since 2000, has fielded veteran tribal leader Ghasiram Majhi as its candidate. Majhi was the runner-up in the 2024 assembly polls by

securing over 50,000 votes. Meanwhile, the BJD, in a petition to the CEO, al-

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: leged that the BJP violated the model code of conduct

POST NEWS NETWORK

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has sought an urgent report from the Odisha Forest Department over allegations of unregulated construction, tree felling, borewell digging, and plastic waste dumping within the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhani district.

Ravinder Singh, Assistant Commissioner (Forestry), directed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Odisha, to "examine the matter and take appro priate necessary action" as per existing laws and submit an action taken report to the Ministry and the complainant at the earliest. P3

In a letter issued Tuesday

# Centre approves CBI probe into SI job scam

POST NEWS NETWORK



We're trying to name it, but we can't call it a terror attack- our govt has already eradicated terrorism

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11:

The Central government Tuesday approved a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) investigation into the police Sub-Inspector recruitment scam. This comes after Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi recommended the CBI probe into the scam suspecting inter-state link and spread of corruption in multiple states including West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.

was issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public grievances and Pensions. The notification mentioned that the CBI will probe into every angle into the case and would also investigate if any other offences committed in the scam.

"The consent is also accorded for investigation of attempts, abetments and conspiracies in relation to or in connection with the offences in the said case and any other offences committed in the course of same transac-

The official notification tion arising out of the same facts," the notification read.

Meanwhile, the state Crime Branch (CB), which is currently probing the matter, has arrested key suspects and the alleged mastermind Shankar Prusty and his associate Muna Mohanty.

It may be noted that as many as 114 aspirants of the police SI job were arrested and later released on bail. Besides. Shankar Prusty and Suresh Nayak and other accused are still in custody as the investi-

# orders Koli's release

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 11: Surendra Koli, the only convict in the sensational 2006 Nithari mass killings, is now a free man as the Supreme Court on Tuesday acquitted him of charges in the last such case and ordered his forthwith release if not required in any other matter. This was the

# Nithari killings: SC

13th case in the Nithari killings in which Koli was acquitted. He was already acquitted in the 12 other related cases. The incident came to light with the discovery of the skeletal remains of eight children from a drain behind businessman Moninder

Singh Pandher's house. P9

# COP websites preaching green, coding dirty

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: Websites created for the UN Conference of the Parties (COP) emit up to 10 times more carbon, compared to an average internet page, suggests an analysis of web

Since 2009, pages of the COP website have increasingly used content, including multimedia, that require a higher computing power, researchers from the UK's University of Edinburgh said

The team analysed data from web archives, including the 'Internet Archive', to assess how the carbon footprint of COP websites changed over 30 years.

Findings published in the journal PLOS Climate indi-



year of the first COP, and 2024, average emissions from COP websites have increased by more than 13,000 per cent.

The study comes during this year's ongoing COP30 in Belem, Brazil, scheduled to go on until November 21.

The digital footprint of websites, and how they have grown over time, deserves further scrutiny. In cate that between 1995, the this innovative use of web

measure how websites have expanded, we chose first to look at the COP conferences themselves, given they are the focus of so much discussion on climate change," said author Melissa Terras from the Institute for Design Informatics at Edinburgh

"Our research shows that the carbon cost of digital presence is often over-

College of Art.

looked by even those who care about and are meant to protect the environment. We hope that our recommendations, and our tool, can help institutions identify and tackle this issue," Terras said.

Website views during 1997's COP3, the first year with available data, emitted the equivalent of 0.14 kilograms, roughly the amount of carbon that a mature tree can absorb in two days, the researchers found.

However, 116.85 kilograms of carbon emitted by visits to the COP29 homepage alone would require 10 mature trees a full year to get absorbed, which the researchers said is an increase of more than 83,000 per cent.

The researchers said that while the increase in

emissions is partly a consequence of a huge growth in computing power and internet use -- the internet now accounts for up to three per cent of all emissions -the carbon footprint of COP sites is still significantly higher than the average

The team suggested recommendations for reducing the digital footprint of websites, such as placing strict limits on page sizes, optimising site layouts and hosting websites on servers powered by renewable energy.

The study's approach of using a bespoke computer code that has been made freely available could be used to assess the historical environmental impact of other internet pages too, they added.



# eisure



## **PATAKY TO STAR** IN *THE MARK*

Actor Elsa Pataky, best known for her roles in the Fast & Furious franchise, became the latest addition to the star cast of the upcoming spy thriller, titled *The Mark*. The film is directed by Justin Chadwick and is currently in production in Queensland, Australia. It is written by Ronnie Christensen.

### **ALBA, RAMIREZ GO PUBLIC** WITH THEIR ROMANCE

Jessica Alba and Danny Ramirez have officially confirmed their romance, making their relationship Instagram official at the Baby2Baby Gala. The couple, who had been seen together previously, shared cozy pictures from the event, showcasing their undeniable chemistry.



accuracy • reliability • trust

You have to take care of your health, and at last you realise the importance of diet and exercise. However, today you may wish to eat something new, or try some different cuisine. Ganesha says go out with some old friends whom you have been neglecting of late.

**TAURUS** 

Be prepared for taking instant decisions and acting promptly on them. Today you are likely to meet several such situations Ganesha is pleased to see that you have the acumen and experience to deal with such contingencies. You will have no trouble finding the right solutions and seeing things through. Your exemplary managing skills vill be noticed, appreciated and admired Others are likely to come to you for consultation and advice.

### **GEMINI**

There is a likelihood of some household disturbance cropping up today. Your family members could make a lot of demands from you. You may feel angry because of your inability to meet all their needs and wants. Unexpected expenses are also indicated. You need to control your spending, says Ganesha.

**CANCER** 

Minor ailments like cough and cold may bother you. warns Ganesha. So avoid cold or sweet items. People admire your helpful nature. Take special care of your health, says

You need to curb down on

your expenses. You need to moderate the risks you take on in the share market. It is a good day for financial gains though. You need to understand the value of compromise,

In all likelihood you will

indulge in some writing or artistic work, which will bring about wonderful results. As you are passionate about these things, you may convert them into your hobbies, if you are not involved in them as a professional. Ganesha gives you the green signal to enjoy the clout that you wield over others with your sweet words.

Ganesha says that there are chances that today you might start some long-pending renovation project for your house. You may decorate your home with new paintings and evening that will make you very happy. You may also go out for dinner with your family and friends or, more probably, with your sweetheart.

**SCORPIO** 

The one thing that we neglect the most about ourselves is health. But today you are unable to do that. Your health needs to be paid enough attention as you may be suffering from ailment/s. Try to regularise your routine along with healthy food and regular exercise, advises Ganesha.

**SAGITTARIUS** 

Time to open up that can of confetti at the workplace today. Success never smelled sweeter. But you may bleed on the purchase front, says Ganesha, as in your revelry, you may just unknowingly end up shelling an extra buck or two on ordinary items.

CAPRICORN

Your accomplishments may take you on cloud nine today Success may come easily to you, but don't try your luck too much, advises Ganesha. Make the most of today as tomorrow may not the same as today. You will be popular today, especially in vour social circle as you'll impress everyone with your wit and humour.

AQUARIUS

Today is the day to turn dreams into reality and how! With your talent, wit, and intelligence you will make a great impression on everyone's mind, feels Ganesha. Icing on the cake will be the cash inflow. You know your cards and you play them well to your advantage. There may be a catch though, keep yourself guarded, advises Ganesha.

PISCES

Just as melting ice caps on faraway mountains can swell the oceans, concerted efforts you make now will have far-reaching beneficial consequences, says Ganesha. Do not be disheartened in the face of obstacles and keep soldiering on.



Mummannaah Bhatia recently addressed rumours surrounding her physical

transformation, specific-

ally accusations that she used Ozempic, a weight-loss drug. The actress, who has been in the spotlight since she was 15, opened up about her evolving body and the pressures she faces under constant public scrutiny. "I've been in front of the camera for so long, so there's nothing to hide," she said. While she was once known for her slender frame in her early years, she explained that the body she has now is something she's always had, even if it might be new to some of her Hindi film audience. Tamannaah also acknowledged the chan-

ges in a woman's body over time. "Every five years, we see a different version of ourselves," she shared. Reflecting on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on her body, she admitted to struggling with maintaining her weight during that period. "I love food, and I had to face the camera while being conscious of my body," she said.

She emphasised that women's bodies naturally shift, especially in their 30s, and for her, curves are a part of her Sindhi heritage. 'My curves are not going anywhere," she affirmed, urging women to embrace their natural bodies and reject unrealistic beauty standards. On the work front, Tamannaah has several

films lined up, including O'Romeo, Ranger, and



Mumbai: Shehnaaz Gill, who gained fame through Bigg Boss 13, recently opened up about the profound impact the loss of her close friend, Sidharth Shukla, had on her life. Though the two never confirmed their relationship, Shehnaaz shared how his passing significantly changed her. Speaking to Ranveer Allahbadia, she revealed, "I think he has left me with a lot of maturity. I became mature after everything that happened. Before, I would have been laughing and giggling like I did in Bigg Boss. That girl hadn't seen so much." When asked about her relationship status,

Sidharth's loss sparked

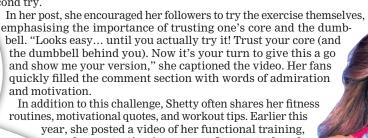
Shehnaaz's growth!

Shehnaaz kept things private, saying, "Let's keep this a secret. You can't give surety to any relationship, even marriage." She also stressed her desire to keep her personal life away from the public eye, adding, "I won't even show the faces of my kids when I have them until they want to appear.' On the topic of marriage, Shehnaaz clarified that she's open to marrying outside her Sikh culture, mentioning, "I don't have the demand to marry a Sikh guy. I want to experience something different." She also expressed her reservations about marrying a Punjabi man, citing potential personality clashes and the controlling nature she perceives in Punjabi men. Laughing, Shehnaaz joked about marrying a cricketer, saying, "It will be interesting, but will he stay loyal?"

Mumbai: Shilpa Shetty, the fitness icon of Bollywood, recently shared an inspiring fitness challenge with her followers on social media.

The 50-year-old actress showcased a challenging dumbbell exercise, where she lifted a dumbbell from behind with one hand while squatting. Although she struggled on the first attempt, Shetty

exemplified the motto of never giving up, successfully completing the move on her second try.



demonstrating jumps on a fitness stool, and highlighted its benefits, including boostthe industry, deliving heart health, burning calories, and toning legs and hips.

Shilpa and her husband Madhuri shared her thoughts on the long-standing issue of gender pay Raj Kundra are also dealing with legal matters. They have requested the dismissal of a Rs 60-crore fraud case filed against them

by Mumbai's economic offenses protection from coercive actions during the legal proceedings AGENCIES

SUDOKU

8

9

2

While promoting fitness, seeking

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

3

8

9

GROTTC

E E R F A B R I C

6

7

6

3

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

5

6

4

8

6

**SOLUTIONS** 

5

ELDTS

AY

Shilpa poses fitness challenge

Madhuri on pay disparity Mumbai: Madhuri Dixit, one of

Bollywood's most iconic actresses, made her debut in 1984 with Abodh and came a dominant force in

films like Sailaab, Hum Aapke ering memorable performances in Hain Koun..! and Devdas. Her timeless appeal and immense talent continue to captivate audiences today. Earlier, in a candid conversation,

She revealed the harsh reality for women in the industry, stating that they often have to work twice as hard to prove their worth and earn paychecks equal to their male counterparts. "For women, we have to prove ourselves time and again. We have to show that we can bring the audience to the theaters, but we have to prove it every single time," she explained. Madhuri acknowledged the ongoing disparity, admitting that progress has been slow but that the fight for equality continues. "It's baby steps. We are still a long way from a time when disparity won't exist. We have to work every day

disparity in Bollywood, a topic that has often been overlooked.

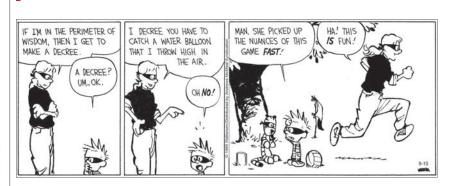
soon be-

toward that," she added. On the professional front, Madhuri was last seen in Bhool Bhulaivaa 3 and is now gearing up for the comedy-drama *Ma Bhen*, directed by Suresh Triveni, which also stars Triptii Dimri and Ravi Kishan.

## **PEANUTS**



## CALVIN AND HOBBES



## BREVITY



## DOST **CROSSWORD**

20 Sequoias 10 Medical

24 Gallic goodbye

25 Excavators

27 Amazement

28 Tried

Down

Across 1 Unhurried

6 Faint

8 Money gusher? (3,4)

9 Stair part

10 Heart attack

12 Piña colada ingredient

15 Maid's cloth

17 Tropical Asian

starling

19 Wildebeest

18 Tavern

3 Password's pal 4 Aquatic shocker

7 Insignificant

2 Lazybones

1 Sign before Virgo

5 Tall story 6 Interrupt

11 Dentist's order 13 Car dealer's venue

breakthrough

14 Treaty subject 16 Authentic

21 For all to see 22 Spanish sparkling white

wine 23 Big brass 25 Collector's goal 26 Dejected

CROSSWORD

ACHTS CHAIN ETURNADDRESS V C I E E G U I D E S BARRIO 3 4 8 6 5 7 1 2 9 3 5 7 7 1 6

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# wntown

## **ODISHA 'TOP ACHIEVER' AT UDYOG SAMAGAM 2025**

Bhubaneswar: Odisha has been honoured as a 'Top Achiever' in three key business-centric reform areas — Business Entry, Labour Regulation Enablers, and Sector-Specific Healthcare — at the Udyog Samagam 2025 organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, official sources said Tuesday. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said the recognition reflects Odisha's emergence as one of India's most progressive and business-friendly states, driven by reform-oriented governance and investor-centric policies.Taking to X, Majhi wrote, "We remain steadfast in our commitment to enhancing ease of doing business, promoting transparent governance, and fostering a dynamic environment for sustainable industrial growth and employment generation." The CM extended his heartfelt appreciation to the Industries department and all stakeholders for their dedication and exemplary efforts in advancing Odisha's industrial development and reform-led transformation

## **NUAPADA: BYPOLL EUPHORIA**



no-66 and 120, respectively, in Nuapada





A woman cuddles her child at 'Matru Kakshya' in a polling booth





First-time voters Mahetri Majhi of Sarabang and Khetesh Matari (bottom) of Bagmunda show their inked fingers after exercising their franchise



**Centre seeks state's** report on 'unregulated construction' in STR

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) Tuesday asked the state government to examine the allegations of unregulated construction, tree felling, borewell digging and plastic waste dumping within the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj, take necessary action and submit an action taken report (ATR) in this connection at the earliest

The MoEFCC move came in response to a complaint filed by Santanu Kumar Bhukta of Angul's Youth United for Sustainable Environment November 2, 2025. In his complaint, Bhukta raised serious concerns over alleged unchecked human activity and environmental violations within the ESZ of Similipal, a UNESCO-recognised biosphere reserve known for its rich biodiversity and fragile ecosystem.

Bhukta alleged large-scale resort and commercial construction along the stretch from Pithabata Gate to Lulung, tree felling and borewell digging for new projects, and improper disposal of plastic waste by tourists within the ESZ. He also accused the local forest authorities of failing to enforce ESZ guidelines effectively.

"Despite the draft ESZ notification issued in January 2019, construction and deforestation continue unchecked. The delay in finalising the notification has led to widespread misuse of forestland," the organisation



multiple officers, including the Deputy Director General of For ests (C), the Additional Chief Secretary of Forests, and the Field Director of STR.

The group also cited several Supreme Court rulings, includ ing the Goa Foundation case and directives issued in April 2023, which call for strict compliance with ESZ norms around protected areas.

In its Tuesday's letter, Ravinder Singh, Assistant Commissioner (Forestry), directed Odisha's Principal Chief Conserva tor of Forests (HoFF) to examine the matter, take appropriate necessary action as per existing laws and submit an ATR to the MoEFCC and the complainant at the earliest.

Spread over 2,750-sqkm, STR is one of India's largest tiger habitats and home to elephants, leopards, and hundreds of plant species. Environmentalists have long warned that unregulated tourism and illegal development could threaten its delicate ecological balance.

The MoEFCC's latest move puts the spotlight back on Odi sha's forest administration, as it awaits the state govern ment's official response and the steps to be taken to curb the alleged violations.

# National Water Award for RCCF Berhampur Circle

## Bhubaneswar/Berhampur,

Nuapada locals display their voter identity cards at a polling booth

Nov 11: The Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (RCCF), Berhampur Circle, Odisha, has bagged the first rank (joint winner) in the 'Best Institute Other Than School and College Outside Campus' category at the 6th National Water Awards, officials said Tuesday

The Berhampur Circle shared the top honour with Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agriculture University, Hisar.

The awards, instituted by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, recognise excellence in water conservation and management across the country.

# **Damanjodi school shines nationally**

Damanjodi/Koraput: Damanjodi Higher Secondary School has brought laurels to the state for being recognised in the 6th National Water Awards 2024, announced by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The institution's remarkable efforts in promoting water conservation, rainwater harvesting, and sustainable resource management have earned it distinction among the best schools in the country category. About the achievement, school officials stated that this recognition reflects years of dedicated work by students and teachers toward environmental sustainability and community awareness. The school's innovative practices in rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and student-led awareness drives stood out during the national evaluation process conducted by the Central Water Commission (CWC) and Central Ground Water Board.

Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Paatil announced the list of 46 winners across 10 categories, including joint win-

The winners will receive

a citation, trophy and cash

Murmu will present the hon-

prizes in select categories. The award ceremony is scheduled for November 18. when President Droupadi ours, officials said.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi congratulated the entire team of RCCF Berhampur Circle for the honour.

"This prestigious national recognition by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, is a matter of immense pride for the state, reflecting the team's dedication, innovation, and sustained efforts in the field of water resources conservation and management," Majhi wrote on X.

RCCF Berhampur V Neelannavar said they received official communication about

the award Tuesday. Officials said the circle has constructed five farm ponds, 24,317 staggered trenches, over 3,000 pits, and around 8 km of trenches since

August 2023

# **POLITICKLE by MANJUL** TELL ME...HOW ARE THINGS IN PATNA?

# Coldwave alert for 3 districts



Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: A coldwave alert was issued for three districts of Odisha Tuesday.

A 'yellow' alert, asking people to 'be aware', was issued for Jharsuguda, Kandhamal, and Sundargarh districts for November 12. Dry weather would prevail

over the remaining districts of Odisha, the IMD said.

The minimum temperature is expected to fall by 2-3 degrees Celsius during the next 24 hours, with no large change thereafter, it said.

Daringbadi in Kandhamal district was the coldest place in the state at 9.5 degrees Celsius, followed by Phulbani at 11 degrees Celsius, and Jharsuguda at 11.1 degrees.

# Every other person could be having high blood sugar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: An analysis of four million lab test reports by an online healthcare company in India suggests that every other person could be having high levels of blood sugar.

About half of the men and women who tested were found to have had a high blood sugar or 'hyperglycaemia'.

Further, over 90 per cent of those having a high blood sugar also showed an abnormality in parameters of liver, lipid, heart or thyroid, the 'Diabetes: The Silent Killer Sweeping Across India' report by PharmEasy said.

Findings of the analysis published ahead of World Diabetes Day on November 14 also show a 22 per cent improvement in blood sugar levels among those who retested within six months, highlighting how regular monitoring can be crucial to managing diabetes effectively, the authors said.

Diabetes tests conducted by PharmEasy during the period January 2022 to September

2025 were analysed.

The authors wrote, "One in two people tested shows high blood sugar levels. 51.9 per cent of men and 45.43 per cent of women who tested had high blood sugar." Looking at how high blood sugar varied across age groups, a sharp increase in reports of high blood glucose was seen among those aged 30 and above.

Nearly 60 per cent of the total lab tests -- 64 per cent of men, 54 per cent of women -- also revealed insulin resistance, where the body's cells do not respond to insulin and which is an early sign of one's metabolic risk. One can watch out for insulin resistance through indicators such as dark velvety patches on the back of the neck, armpits or elbows, skin tags on eyelids or elsewhere on the body, or an increase in waist circumference, the authors said.

They also found that one in four people with high blood sugar also have a thyroid problem, most commonly an underactive thyroid or 'hypothyroidism'.

# JSJB Awards for 5 Odisha districts



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: Five Odisha districts will receive the prestigious Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) Awards 2025 from President Droupadi Murmu at a ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi November 18, official sources said Tuesday.

Ganjam, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Cuttack, and Mayurbhani will receive awards under Category 3 for their outstanding contributions to water conservation and groundwater recharge efforts as part of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) campaign.

JSJB initiative, launched in September 2024, encourages community participation in water governance, with a focus on sustainable practices to address the grow-

ing challenges of water stress across the country. Odisha has emerged as a leader in this initiative, with the five districts being recognised for their exceptional contributions to water management.

The initiative has led to the construction and rejuvenation of key water infrastructure such as rooftop rainwater harvesting systems and borewell recharge units. Odisha's award-winning districts have demonstrated remarkable progress in these areas.

The awards will recognise these efforts with financial incentives — each award-winning district will receive Rs 25 lakh. "The top-performing districts in the Category 1 will be awarded Rs 2 crore, while those in Categories 2 and 3 will receive Rs 1 crore and Rs 25 lakh, respectively," it

was learnt. The awards also include a citation, from the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, which will be presented by the President at the national ceremony.

This recognition highlights the success of the JSA: CTR campaign, which has seen the construction of 27.6 lakh recharge structures, surpassing the original target of 10 lakh. Through this initiative, communities across the country have worked together to ensure sustainable water management, particularly in regions facing acute water stress. The initiative underscores the importance of community participation in water conservation, which aligns with the vision of 'Jan Shakti for Jal Shakti' — the belief that the power of the people is essential to achieving water security for all.

The recognition of Odisha's districts is a testament to the state's commitment to tackling water challenges, especially in rural and droughtprone areas.

# NIOS, state govt ink pact

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has inked a pact with the Odisha School Educa tion Programme Authority (OSEPA) to bring the out-ofschool children in the state back to classrooms, officials said Tuesday.

The collaboration aims to provide a second opportunity for education to the drop-out and out-of-school children of Odisha, enabling them to complete their secondary and senior secondary education through a flexible mode, they added.

"The initiative is expected to benefit thousands of de prived learners across the state, helping them rejoin the mainstream of education and empowering them to build a brighter future. The MoU focuses on extend ing educational opportunities to children in districts with high dropout rates by accrediting selected schools for facilitating admissions under the NIOS system. said Akhilesh Mishra, Chairman, NIOS.

# downtown



# **Mission PoWaR to bridge** infra gaps across state



Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Minister Naik sets 2027 deadline for universal drinking water coverage in Odisha

OST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: Power, drinking water, and roads are the three fundamental amenities essential for citizens, whether in rural or urban areas. To address gaps in these sectors and enhance the overall quality of life, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has directed the launch of an integrated implementation framework called Mission Power, Water & Roads (PoWaR).

To realise the Chief Minister's vision and directives, a preparatory meeting was held Гuesday under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo. The meeting was attended by Panchayati Raj & Drinking

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: In a

major move to integrate Arti-

ficial Intelligence (AI) into its

anti-corruption efforts, Odisha

Vigilance Tuesday organised a

one-day workshop on "Artificial

Intelligence (AI) in Anti-Cor-

ruption Work" at the State

Vigilance Academy here. The

hybrid-mode workshop brought together Vigilance investigators

and prosecutors from across the state, both in person and online.

The workshop featured emi-

nent experts, including OCAC

advisor Sanjay Mohapatra, NIC

Bhubaneswar senior director

Sambit Panda, and IIT-Bhu-

baneswar Computer Science

head Debi Prosad Dogra, among

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Water and Rural Development Minister Rabi Narayan Naik, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, and Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg, among others.

As discussed in the meeting. an inter-ministerial committee comprising officials from line departments will be constituted to regularly review the progress of works under Mission PoWaR. District Collectors will be required to submit Panchayat-wise status reports as part of a structured roadmap and timeline.

"Providing power, drinking water, and last-mile road connectivity to every village is the core objective of Mission PoWaR," said Deputy CM Singh Deo. He emphasised that the mission will operate on three key principles — Speed, Scale, and Standard (Quality) - ensuring integrated implementation and timely completion of projects across the state.

Minister Naik emphasised the goal of achieving univer-

The programme was inaugu-

rated by State Vigilance Direc-

tor YK Jethwa, who highlighted

the transformative potential of

Artificial Intelligence in com-

bating corruption. In his inau-

gural address, Jethwa described

corruption as not merely a fi-

nancial crime but a governance

deficit that undermines public

trust, weakens institutions, and deprives citizens of fair access

to opportunities.

Odisha Vig to pioneer Al

use in anti-corruption

- Mission will function on three core principles - Speed, Scale, and Standard (Quality) - to ensure integrated execution and timely completion of projects
- An inter-ministerial committee with officials from line departments will be formed to regularly review the progress of Mission PoWaR
- District Collectors will submit Panchayat-wise status reports following a defined roadmap and

sal drinking water coverage across the state by March 2027. He stated that fluoride-affected areas would be brought under a fluoride removal plan to ensure safe and healthy living conditions. To achieve lastmile connectivity, a saturation drive will be undertaken by all line departments in coordination with District Collectors. ensuring that left-out habitations and hamlets are covered through small or standalone projects.

The meeting was also attended by Principal Secretary, Energy, Vishal Kumar Dev; Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Panchavati Rai & Drinking Water. SN Girish; Director, Drinking Water, Vineet Bhardwaj; Director, Special Projects, Sidhharth Shankar Swain; and senior officers from the Energy, Rural Development, and Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water departments.

Man held for ₹19L

land fraud in City

Commissionerate Police Tuesday

arrested 57-year-old Manoranjan

Pattanaik for allegedly duping a

man of ₹19 lakh in a land fraud

ID Market, Nayapalli, following a

tip-off. Police said he posed as an

agent for a property at Giringaput,

claiming it belonged to his sister,

complainant after a sale agreement

He later failed to transfer the land

or refund the amount, returning

and took ₹19 lakh from the

only ₹4.5 lakh. Investigation

revealed he impersonated the

owner. Pattanaik, with a past criminal record, was booked under

318(4)/338/336(3)/340(2) BNS

Sections 318(4) BNS turned to U/s-

BOITA RACE: The Mahanadi Boita Race, part of the Bali Yatra Water Festival, was held Tuesday at Gadagadia Ghat. The event was organised by the Tourism department in collaboration with the Cuttack District Administration, Dragon Boat India, and the Traditional Sports Federation

# State-level children fest 'MAHAK' kicks off

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: A state-level children's festival 'Mahak' was inaugurated Tuesday at Kalinga Stadium here amid much enthusiasm and colour. The five-day celebration, organised by the departments of Women and Child Development (WCD), Mission Shakti, and the Odisha State Child Protection Society, aims to provide a platform for children to express their talents.

More than 500 children from across Odisha are participating in a range of competitions. including solo singing, group dance, debate, painting, and quiz contests. The festival not only highlights the rich pool of young talent from every corner of the state but also promotes inclusivity and equal opportu-

nity for all children, regardless of background.

On the inaugural day, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, Law, Works and Excise Minister Prithivirai Harichandan, WCD Principal Secretary Shubha Sarma, ICDS Director Monisha Banerjee, and WCD Additional Secretary Krutibas Rout, among others, graced the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the dignitaries emphasised that every child represents the promise of a brighter future for Odisha. They encouraged the young participants to dream big, and use their talents as instruments of positive change

**More than 500** children from across Odisha are participating in a range of competitions, including solo singing, group dance, debate, painting, and quiz contests

in society.

On the occasion, a Coffee Table Book on Mission Vatsalya was unveiled, highlighting Odisha's transformative jour ney and milestones in child pro tection and welfare. A specia video presentation showcasing the success stories and achieve ments of Mission Vatsalya ben eficiaries was also screened.

# Odisha, WFP join hands to boost food security



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra Tuesdav met Elisabeth Faure, Representative and Country Director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), to discuss key priorities and strategies for strengthening food security and nutrition initiatives

across the state.

During the meeting, both sides shared perspectives on strengthening Odisha's nutrition and food security systems. They explored avenues to deepen collaboration between the WFP and the state government to achieve sustainable food security and improved nutritional outcomes for all citizens

The discussions also focused

on positioning Odisha as a potential centre of excellence in food security. Minister Patra highlighted several progressive initiatives launched by the state government to improve food availability and ensure comprehensive coverage of beneficiaries under its food and nutrition security framework.

These initiatives include supplying nutrient-rich food grains through Jana Poshan Kendras (Public Nutrition Centres). strengthening government fair price shops, expanding access to food supplies through grain ATMs to enhance beneficiary convenience, and promoting the adoption of these modern food delivery systems across

Both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to building a stronger, more secure, and nutrition-focused food distribution network in Odisha through continued collaboration and innovation

# BSCL holds 30th board meeting

Bhubaneswar: The 30th Board of Directors meeting of Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) was convened the chairpersonship of Developmen Secretary Anu Garg. The board noted the successful launch of SaharSathi a 24×7 call centre (toll-free number 1929) inaugurated by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on August 31 2025 - now serving all urban local bod ies across Odisha. It also reviewed key installation of 3,000 AI-enabled CCTV cameras, adaptive traffic signals, and a city-wide public address system to boost urban safety, women's security mobility, and real-time monitoring. It was decided that Smart City SPVs will continue to function until and for future operations. The board also make it citizen-friendly, including the replacement of bamboo fencing with MS iron grills from Master Canteen to Vani Vihar with urban planning elements. It was also emphasised that the smart city mission would focus or solar energy adoption, development child-friendly public spaces. Initiatives well-maintained public parks were

# Capital to host Design Carnival & Build Expo

POST NEWS NETWORK

He stressed that Vigilance officers must stay ahead of those who exploit systemic loopholes and noted that Artificial Intelligence can provide that critical edge-if applied "wisely, ethically, and effectively." Jethwa urged officers to embrace AI as a strategic partner across the entire anti-corruption spectrum, from prevention and detection to investigation and prosecution. The experts engaged in interactive sessions with Vigilance officers, discuss-

tion investigations. They also explored potential collaborations between academia and Vigilance to develop intelligent technological solutions for data analysis, corruption detection, and identifying systemic leakages.

ing practical applications of AI

tools to enhance the efficiency

and precision of anti-corrup-

In a forward-looking initiative, Odisha Vigilance has established a dedicated AI Cell at the Vigilance Directorate, along with AI teams at the divisional level. These specialised units will harness technology for AI-driven financial profiling of individuals under investigation, digital footprint analysis, digital forensics, data processing, and documentation standardisation.

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The **Indian Institute of Architects** (IIA), Odisha Chapter is set to host its prestigious annual event Design Carnival & Build Expo 2025 in the Capital from November 14 to 16. The threeday event will explore the intersection of artificial intelligence and architectural design under the theme "AI Architecture Intelligence", showcasing how emerging technologies can revolutionise the design process and contribute to the future of architecture.

The event will be inaugurated by Chief Secretary Manoi Ahuia and attended by senior members of the Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) and the Council of Architecture (COA). This year's Design Carnival promises to be a dynamic platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and creativity, bringing together architects, academicians, students, and industry pro-

fessionals from across Odisha. The opening evening will feature the grand launch of the Build Expo 2025, which will present cutting-edge innovations and products from leading brands in the building and construction industry.



One of the key attractions of the evening will be a Master Class led by renowned architect Nuru Karim, who will delve into the evolving roles of architecture, urbanism, and computational design in

the age of AI. The second day will be packed with interactive student competitions and workshops, aimed at fostering creativity and interdisciplinary collaboration among architecture students across Odisha. A special Master Session by Sahil Tanveer will offer insights into the integration of artificial intelligence with speculative design and urban planning, highlighting the potential of AI as a creative col-

In the evening, a panel discussion titled "Synergy in Architecture: Dialogue between the COA, IIA, Academia, and Practicing Architects" will provide a platform for open dialogue on how different sectors within the architectural community can work together for a more cohesive and sustainable future.

The day will culminate with student cultural performances and a fellowship dinner, celebrating the spirit of camaraderie and collaboration within the architectural profession.

The final day of the event will feature the much-anticipated Street Carnival, held at Janpath in the City, in collaboration with the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC). This public event will showcase vibrant art installations, architectural displays, and performances, offering a glimpse into the creative energy of local architects and students. The Street Carnival will be inaugurated by BMC Commissioner Chanchal Rana.

The Design Carnival & Build Expo 2025 is set to be a landmark event in Odisha's architectural calendar, fostering innovation, creativity, and professional development in the architecture and construction industries.

MARKET WATCH				
CURRENCY	BOURSES	COMMODITIES		
INDEX VARIATION	INDEX VARIATION	INDEX VARIATION		
DOLLAR <b>88.64 †</b> 0.15	SENSEX <b>83871.32 3</b> 35.97	GOLD ₹ <b>123,800 </b> ₹170		
EURO <b>102.72  0</b> .09	NIFTY <b>25694.95</b> \$\rightarrow\$ 120.60	SILVER ₹ <b>153,865 </b> ↑ ₹174		



	ALMORPH USER		Market MC
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	BBSR	СТС	FORECAST
Max Temp	30.2°	28.4°	Mainly
Min Temp	16.2°	16.5°	clear sky
Humidity	73%	76%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

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# Class II girl suffers burns in hostel fire CRACKED IN 24 HRS

# The 40-bed government-run facility operates under the care of a cook

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, Nov 11: An eightyear-old girl suffered severe burns after her clothes caught fire while she was warming herself near a hearth at a government-run hostel in Patana block of Keonjhar district Mon-

The victim, identified as Jayanti Munda, a Class II student and daughter of Tutu Munda of Sanagambharia under Turumunga police limits, sustained burn injuries on her chest, back, and abdomen. She was first taken to Patana Community Health Centre (CHC) and later shifted to Keonjhar District Headquarters Hospital (DHH).

According to reports, Jayanti and her friends were sitting near a fire to keep themselves warm when her dress caught



fire. The incident occurred at the 40-bed low-cost hostel attached to Dumuria Nodal Upper Primary School.

School headmaster Ananta Charan Murmu said the hostel cook, Gobardhan Naik, had briefly stepped out for work when the accident took place. "Jayanti went near the fire to warm herself, and her

clothes caught fire. Hearing her screams, the cook rushed in and rescued her. She was immediately taken to the hospital," he said.

Radhamohan Sahu, who is treating the child, said that the patient sustained around 25 per cent burns.

Block Education Officer (BEO) Purna Chandra Amat,

who visited the hospital, confirmed that a "show-cause notice" would be issued to those found negligent. "I have personally inspected the girl's condition. Action will be taken for any dereliction of duty," he said.

The incident has raised serious questions about the safety and supervision at government-run hostels. Locals have criticised the authorities for leaving the 40-bed facility under the care of a single cook without adequate staff or oversight.

District Welfare Officer (DWO) Shipra Rani Mahanta said, "We are ensuring that the girl receives all necessary medical support. Discussions are underway with higher authorities to shift her to a specialised hospital for advanced treatment.

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: Bargarh police have cracked a daring house burglary case, 24 hours after commission of the crime, police said Tuesday.

Two persons - Jaga Meher and a juvenile delinquent had barged into the house of Chanchal Kumar Meher of Jamla village in Bargarh district when the family members were on an outdoor trip on November 9. The duo has been taken into custody for further interrogation.

The valuables stolen by the duo included among other things around 400 grams of gold valued at ₹30 lakh and ₹40,000 in cash.

After commission of the crime, they left the Barpali area and planned to escape to Tamil Nadu when police acting on a tip-off arrested them, said Bargarh Superintendent of Police, Prahlad Sahai Meena

Purnima Dastidar of Rourkela

Dastidar of Koel Nagar in the

wee hours of Tuesday. She was

attacked while collecting flow-

ers with her daughter, who

narrowly escaped. Forest offi-

cials later drove the elephant

across the Koel River toward

Riu. Rourkela Divisional Forest

Officer Yashobanta Sethi said

Dastidar's family would also

receive ₹10 lakh compensation.

Both incidents have reignit-

ed concern over increasing hu-

man-elephant conflicts across

western Odisha, with residents

demanding stronger preventive

**EAST COAST RAILWAY** 

NAME OF WORK: PROVISION OF AUXILIARY TRANSFORMERS (AT) AND OHE MODIFICATION IN CONNECTION

WITH PROVISION OF INTERMEDIATE

BLOCK SIGNALLING (IBS) BETWEEN JAJPUR KEONJHAR ROAD (JJKR) -JAKHAPURA (JKPR) STATION.

Advertised Value (₹): 21,70,505.09 EMD (₹): 43,400.00, Period of Completion

Bidding Start Date: 17.11.2025, Date and Time of Closing of Tender

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete details and Tende

**EAST COAST RAILWAY** 

e-Tender Notice No. ETCECONIBBS 2025053, Dated : 05.11.2025

NAME OF WORK : WELDING OF

60KG/60EI-R260 GRADE RAILS BY

ALUMINO THERMIC PROCESS AS PER

RAILWAY'S SPECIFICATION BY

AT/SKV PROCESS (SINGLE SHOT

LOCATION IN RETWEEN DASPALLA

KHURDA ROAD - BOLANGIR NEW B.G

Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹42.13 Lakh

EMD: ₹84,300.00, Completion Period

Tender Closing Date & Time : At 1200

Fax or in person shall be accepted agains

All such manual offers shall be considered

nvalid and shall be rejected summari

Complete information including e-tende

documents of the above e-tender

available in website : www.ireps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteer

days before the date of closing of tender

note any changes / corrigenda issued fo

this tender. The tenderers/bidders mus

nave Class-III Digital Signature Certificat

and must be registered on IREPS Portal

Only registered tenderer/ bidder ca

The tenderers should read all instructions to

the tenderers carefully and ensure

check lists, para 3.1 (additional check-list) c

Tender form (Second sheet) Annexure-I o

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of Annexure-B duly verified and signed by

Chief Administrative Officer (Con)

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Chartered Accountant

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the Work: 12 (Twelve) Months

without any consideration

hrs. of 27.11.2025.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), 786/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

At 1300 Hrs. of 01.12.2025

http://www.ireps.gov.in

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180 Days.

partment response.

# Youth stabbed to death by younger brother

POST NEWS NETWORK

R Udavagiri, Nov 11: A youth was stabbed to death by his younger sibling following a heated argument over some issue at Rebidi village under R Udayagiri police limits in Gajapati district Monday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Anja Arem Dalabehera, 27 and the killer brother Sudip Dalabehera, 24, sons of Sujay Dalabehera. The matter came to the fore

after R Udayagiri police sent the body for postmortem and launched an investigation over a complaint filed by the father of the deceased Tuesday. The accused has been absconding after the incident.

Police said that Anja, Sudip and the latter's wife lived in the village while their father resides in Gunupur. On Monday, Anja, Sudip and his wife



went to harvest paddy. They returned home and the broth ers went together to take bathe

A dispute erupted between them, over an unspecified matter. Enraged, Sudip grabbed a knife and stabbed Anja in the chest, killing him on the spot, police said. Sudip's wife alerted villagers, who Sujay in Gunupur.

Villagers brought Sujay to the village overnight, and he reported the killing to police Mohana police OIC Basant Sethi, overseeing R Udayagiri police station, said a case was registered in this connection and further investigations

# Prathamashtami: Keonjhar turmeric farmers make hay



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonihar, Nov 11: With everv Odia household all set to celebrate Prathamashtami - a festival celebrating the birth of first progeny - Wednesday, the demand for 'Enduri Pitha' (a steamed pancake made with turmeric as a wrapper) has reached the pinnacle.

The entire Keonjhar market fills with the aroma of turmeric leaves, turning it into a bustling trade hub as these leaves are a key ingredient in making sweet dish. There is a huge demand for these leaves during this period, according to sources. Turmeric leaves are sold

Student found dead in

hostel; probe ordered

Nabarangpur, Nov 11: A 10-year-old student was found dead at a private school hostel in Nabarang-

pur district, prompting a probe that has uncovered

The deceased, identified as Lipsa Kandhapan,

daughter of Babula Kandhapan of Jhadiaguda village

in Koraput district, was a Class II student of Podalu-

guda Upgraded High School and stayed at the Mira-

cle Boarding School hostel in Purnapaniguda village

According to reports, Lipsa had dinner and went

to bed Monday night but did not wake up the next

morning. Hostel director Jerimaya Hial rushed her

to the district headquarters hospital (DHH), where

doctors declared her dead. Hial later said the child

Child Protection Officer Suresh Pattnaik, Nandahan-

di BEO Srikanta Jani, ADEO Keshab Meher, Child

Welfare Committee Chairperson Ajanta Privadarsh-

ini, member Santosh Sarangi, Child Helpline repre-

sentative Chinmayee Nayak, and N. Narayan Bisoi

Preliminary findings revealed that the hostel, run by

the Miracle Charitable Society, was operating without

official permission or registration at its current location.

The society is registered in Taragaon village of Nabarang-

pur but had shifted to Purnapaniguda without notifying

authorities, as required by law. Officials said the facility

lacked basic documentation and infrastructure — no

attendance registers, no health records, and no med-

ical equipment, not even a thermometer. About 60

students — 25 girls and 35 boys — were staying there

without regular medical check-ups or supervision

during their daily 1-km walk to school. The premises

were unfenced and failed to meet basic safety norms.

during the inspection. The inquiry team has submitted

its findings to the district collector, and further admin-

Teachers from Podaluguda High School were present

Following the incident, a team comprising District

had been suffering from fever for two days.

visited the hostel for an inquiry.

istrative action is expected.

under Podalaguda panchavat of Nandahandi block.

serious irregularities in its operation.

everywhere in Keonjhar and nearby markets, with buyers carrying bundles in hand. The steamed snack has become a favorite not only among Odia families but also among other communities for its unique flavour.

With the turmeric harvest approaching, farmers and tribal cultivators earn extra income by selling unused leaves. Each bundle fetches at least ₹20 in local markets, though traders resell them at higher prices in cities and urban areas.

Buyers from other districts arrive in pickup vans to collect leaves and transport them to urban areas. "Before harvesting turmeric, we earn by selling

# the leaves in the local market. Demand is high in urban areas

so we bring them to Keonjhar, said Meena Navak, a tribal woman from Banspal block. "The cake is prepared from the batter of black gram, rice, cheese, jaggery and pepper wrapped in turmeric leaves. It is a light snack and has laxative effect because of the turmeric

leaves that are used to wrap the

pitha. That's why it's also called

haldi pitha. No oil or spices are

used, making it healthy," said

Jyotshsnamayee Mohanty, a

housewife from Keonjhar town. "This cake has the aroma of turmeric leaves, which enhances its taste. It's delicious and eaten plain or with porridge, curries or even meat," said Gulah Ahmed Rayeen.

'It pairs well with meat and other curries," said Anil Shankar of the locality, adding, "On this day, turmeric plants begin to dry, signaling maturity. Before digging up the roots, farmers and forest dwellers pick the leaves to sell it in the local market and earn extra income."

"Traders buy these leaves at lower cost and sell them at a higher price outside," said Ramakant Swain, an educationist.

"Turmeric leaves are used least on other days as no one eats them, not even cattle. But during Prathamastami, they become a big business. Demand can spike, though sometimes it drops, leaving farmers to discard unsold bundles at a throwaway price by the roadside," said Sangram Mallick, a local youth.

# 3 killed in jumbo attacks



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur/Rourkela, Nov 11: Three people, including an elderly woman and two farmers, were trampled to death in separate wild elephant attacks in the state late Monday night and early Tuesday, sparking fear and outrage over growing iumbo incursions into human settlements.

In Sambalpur district, two farmers — Gangaram Patel, 45, and Pradeep Ghatual, 60, of Kutaba village under the Badarama forest range — were killed after being attacked by a herd while guarding their ripening paddy crops around 9pm Monday. Their mutilated bodies were discovered Tuesday morning along a forest path near their fields, with elephant footprints found nearby.

Villagers alleged inaction by the Forest Department, claiming officials had tracked elephant movement in the area but failed to issue timely alerts. Forest Range Officer Giridhari Pradhan said both families would receive ₹10 lakh in ex gratia compensation each, with 10 percent to be released within seven days.

In a separate incident in Rourkela, a lone tusker entered the city's Bandhamunda area and went on a rampage before killing 79-vear-old Purnima

# Ganjam beaches all set for Olive Ridley nesting

Chhatrapur: Podampeta-Gokharkuda sea coast is all set to welcome the Olive Ridley turtles for mass nesting during the 2025-26 season. Much like previous year, lakhs of turtles are expected this season, given the favourable atmospheric conditions. Berhampur Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Sunny Khokhar stated that



the 20km stretch starting from Aryapalli beach to Prayagi beach has been declared as 'no fishing zone'. Fishermen have been strictly barred from entering the nesting sites and violators will face action, the DFO added. The Forest department is said to have put in place all the necessary safety measures for the arrival of the Olive Ridleys. During the last season, Podampeta-Gokharkuda coastline witnessed nesting of a whopping 8,00,000 Olive Ridleys. Early February till mid-March is believed to be their nesting period. The warmth and moisture beneath the sea sand supported by the salty sea breeze helps the eggs to hatch properly.

### EAST COAST RAILWAY **EMPANELMENT OF RAILWAY ADVOCATES**

Notification No.01/2025, Dated 10.11.2025

RAILWAY INVITES APPLICATION FROM ADVOCAT EMPANELMENT OF RAILWAY ADVOCATES FOR CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE PER RAILWAY BOARD'S LETTER NO. 2024/LC/15/1 DATED 06.10.2025. For application, eligibility and other details, please refer to //eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in

The last date for submission of the application is 11.12.2025 N.B.: Please follow the above website for updates, if any.

PR-791/Q/25-26

### **E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR VARIOUS CONTRACTS OVER KHARAGPUR DIVISION**

E-Auction Notice No.: KGP/Catg-MPS/2025 Dtd. 10.11.2025

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur Division South Eastern Railway for and on behalf of the President, Union of India invites e-Auctions for : • Provision of Catering units at Kharagpur (3 Nos.), Haur (1 No.), Andul (1 No.), Kolaghat (1 No.), Abada (1 No.), Dasnagar (1 No.), Giri Maidan (1 No.), Amta (1 No.), Birshibpur (1 No.), Bauria (1 No.), Mourigram (1 No.), Mecheda (1 No.), Uluberia (1 No.), Santragachi (3 Nos.) and Shalimar (6 Nos.) Railway stations over Kharagpur Division for a period of 05 (five) years vide Catalogue No.: CATG-KGP-25-21, Auction Date: 24.11.2025, Auction start/close time: 10.00 hrs. & 14.30 hrs. • Provision of MPS units at Panskura (1 No.), Kharagpur (3 Nos.), Shalimar (7 Nos.), Belda (1 No.), Roopsa (1 No.), Basta (1 No.), Jhargram (1 No.), Jaleswar (5 Nos.), Kanthi (2 Nos.), Digha (2 Nos.) Chakulia (1 No.), Markona (1 No.) and Dantan (1 No.) Railway stations over Kharagpur division for a period of 05 (five) years vide Catalogue No.: KGP-MPS-25-11, Auction Date: 24.11.2025 Auction start/close time 10.00 hrs. & 14.50 hrs. which are notified in the https://www.ireps.gov.in/website. Agency/Catering Contractor to take note of this and go through the website as mentioned above for details and related information about the e-Auction notice. For enquiries/clarifications, if any, please contact the office of the undersigned.

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur South Eastern Railway

# आईआरईएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड



(formerly Indian Rare Earths Limited) Rare Earths Division, Kochi, Kerala, email:purchase-red@irel.co.in CIN:U15100MH1950GOI008187

An ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Company

## <u>TENDER NOTICE</u>

IREL (India) Limited, Rare Earths Division, Udyogamandal invites tender for the following item/ job description:

Item/ Job Description	Availability of Tender in CPP Portal
Fabrication, supply, erection, including all structural & accessories, inspection, testing and commissioning of all specified equipment & accessories related to Process, Mechanical, Civil and Electrical & Instrumentation alongwith integration of existing plant for capacity	11.11.2025

augmentation of HPRE plant. For details visit the following websites: www.irel.co.in / tender-information

https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp

Date:08.11.2025

Any corrigendum/extension to above tenders shall be

hosted in above websites only. Sd./-GM & Head, RED cbc48145/12/0007/2526

# 

Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009

**GOLD AUCTION** NOTICE

The following persons, who have availed loans against pledge of gold ornaments, from CONCERNED BRANCHES of UCO Bank, have not repaid the amount in spite of our demand notice. Therefore please take notice that if the principal, interest and other charges are not paid on or before Dt.27.11.2025, the pledge ornaments will be publicly auctioned on Dt.28.11.2025 at 12.00 Noon a the Respective Branch premises. The Bank reserves the right to cancel/postpone the auction to any other convenient date without assigning any reasons.

, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,					
SI. No.	Name & Address of Borrowers / A/c. No.	Balance Outstanding	Weight in (Grams)		
RANPUR BRANCH, At: Ranpur, PO.: Rajranpur, Dist.: Nayagarh, Name of the Manager: Gangadhar Behera, Mob.: 9230500436					
1.	Rama Chandra Sahoo, At: Ranapur, Dist.: Nayagarh / 04360600500504	₹ 47,400/- + Interest and Charges	31.50		
2.	Prafulla Behera, At: Ranapur, Dist.: Nayagarh / 04360600500520	₹ 66,054/- + Interest and Charges	66.30		
3.	Rabi Behera, At: Ranapur, Dist.: Nayagarh / 04360600500530	₹55,973/- + Interest and Charges	59.20		
4.	Asutosh Sahoo, At: Ranapur, Dist.: Nayagarh / 04360600500510	₹ 76,370/- + Interest and Charges	63.20		
5.	Sarat Kumar Mahapatra, At: Ranapur, Dist.: Nayagarh / 04360600500427	₹22,440/- + Interest and Charges	10.30		
KONARK BRANCH, At: Konark, Dist.: Puri, Name of the Manager: Kishore Chandra Maharana, Mob.: 9778031638					
1.	Prakash Chandra Biswal, At Sarada, Konark, Puri / 20060610039045	₹21,500/- + Interest and Charges	6.48		
NAYAGARH BRANCH, At: Itamati, Dist.: Nayagarh, Name of the Manager: Priyabrata Nayak, Mob.: 7437998151					
1.	Bikash Kumar, At/PO./Dist.: Nayagarh / 18460610028544	₹ 66,000/- + Interest and Charges	22		
<ol> <li>The intending bidders may participate in the auction by fulfilling the following terms:</li> <li>The Bank does not guarantee the weight or purity of the jewellery/coins, either of its gold contents or otherwise.</li> <li>The jewel is available for inspection by the intending bidders during business hours on any working.</li> </ol>					
day in the bank					

day in the bank

3. The intending bidders have to contact the Respective Branch Head for the Reserve Price of each account.

 The intending purchaser shall make an earnest money deposit of 25% of Reserve Price (to be computed as per the balance outstanding).

The jewel to be handed over to the highest bidder on payment of the balance amount within

24 hours or on the next working day of the bank during its business hours.

6. If the successful bidder fails to pay the amount, the earnest money will be forfeited and the jewe may be resold within 30 days from the date of auction. 7. The unsuccessful bidder shall be entitled for the refund of the earnest money immediately after the

auction is over.

8. It shall be lawful for the Bank to stop the auction at any stage without assigning any reason thereto in which case the earnest money shall be returned to whoever makes the deposit.

N.B.: For further details please contact Zonal Office Co-ordinator, Mob: 7873016821

Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 11.11.2025 



True knowledge is not attained by thinking. It is what you are; it is what you become

**SRI AUROBINDO** 



# COP 30 Under A Cloud

N climate talks, known as Conference of Parties or COP, have begun in Brazil from 10 November. With the participation of about 50,000 delegates from almost every country, this marks the 30th edition of the conference known as COP 30. The conference is to continue till November 21. The administration of US President Donald Trump is a notable absentee, though the White House has stated it does intend to send some high-level representatives to the summit.

About 10 years ago, the signing of the Paris Agreement raised high hopes in the fight against climate change. But now the enthusiasm has largely ebbed. One of the agreement's most ambitious goals was to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. But it is on the verge of being exceeded, while 2025 is set to be one of the hottest years in history. The US, the world's second-largest emitter of CO2, is all set to withdraw from the Paris Agreement with its President Donald Trump denigrating, in the worst possible language, the very rationale of the fight against climate change. Barely two months ago, speaking at the United Nations, he called the global initiative to reduce carbon emission and use of fossil fuel as "the greatest con job ever perpetrated on the world." Not content with weakening multilateral climate action, he is now trying to draw other countries into his denial

In such a bleak backdrop the challenge for this COP is to send the message across that despite the virtual backstabbing by Trump, momentum in the fight against climate change will not be decelerated. The summit could try tell the world that the commitments would be realized, funding promises might be honored and the shift from fossil fuels to low-carbon energy sources must finally begin. It is necessary that this effort remains unaltered and does not get derailed just because one temporary politician, although very important, wants to play the role of the disrupter. There are, no doubt, immense difficulties by way of shifting budget priorities toward rearmament due to global tension and the slowing down of climate diplomacy in the absence of global leadership. The European Union's determination is beginning to flag. It still remains the only major bloc to have reduced its CO2 emissions in 2024, but its resolution to implement the anti-climate change agenda is getting weakened under growing populist pressure and the threat posed by Russia and the protracted war it is waging in Ukraine. This is also impacting China's willingness to take over the baton from the US and lead the world in the fight. Beijing's insistence on considering itself a developing country to minimize its responsibilities shows it is no longer willing to position itself as a leader in the energy transition.

In such a situation Brazil - the venue of COP30 - has a vital role to play. The country can use its experience in environmental diplomacy and make willing countries committed to multilateralism and try to bridge the gap between the Global South and North. But Brazil itself is in a dilemma, caught between its climate commitments and growing ambitions in oil extraction. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva called for "planning a just way to undo deforestation, overcome fossil fuels and mobilize the resources needed for those aims." That promise has yet to be fulfilled.

World leaders may need to realise that the fight against climate change is no longer a theoretical proposition, but a grim reality as was shown by the recent deaths and devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica and other Caribbean countries and typhoon Fung Wong in Asia killing about 200 people in the Philippines and Vietnam. Last week's five-day rainfall in Jamaica was made twice as likely by higher temperatures, according to initial findings from studies by experts. Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness estimates that the damage in his country is roughly equivalent to one third of the

It has to be a wake-up call and pretending that there is no imminent danger as is being done by the fossil fuel lobby and its latest champion, the US' President Trump, is nothing but a wish for total destruction.

## WISDOM CORNER

Not only does God play dice, but... he sometimes throws them where they cannot be seen.

STEPHEN HAWKING

Truth is ever to be found in simplicity, and not in the multiplicity and confusion of things.

ISAAC NEWTON

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.

THOMAS A EDISON

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1833:** The great Leonid meteor shower, in which hundreds of thousands of meteors were observed in one night, was seen all over North America, initiating the first serious study of meteor showers.
- **1912:** Spanish Prime Minister José Canalejas was assassinated by the anarchist Manuel Pardiñas.
- 1918: One day after Emperor Charles's abdication, the National Assembly of Austria resolved unanimously that "German Austria is a democratic republic" and "German Austria is a component part of the
- **1930:** The first Round Table Conference, called by the British government to consider the future constitution of India, opened in
- 1970: The Bhola cyclone struck East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), killing hundreds of thousands of people in the densely populated Ganges-Brahmaputra delta; it was perhaps the deadliest tropical cyclone in recorded history and one of the greatest natural disasters.
- **1990:** Japanese Emperor Akihito—according to tradition, the 125th direct descendant of Jimmu, Japan's legendary first emperor-was formally enthroned on this day in 1990, nearly two years after the death of his father, Hirohito.



## **OUT OF FOOD SUPPLIES**

With four daughters and one son always dashing to school activities and part-time iobs, our schedule was hectic. To add to this, we kept running out of household supplies. I instructed them all to let me know when they used the last of any item by writing it down on a note pad on the refrigerator. As

a reminder, I wrote at the top:



"IF WE ARE OUT OF IT, WRITE IT DOWN." When I checked the pad a few days later, to my delight I found the following message: "MOM, YOU MAY BE A BIT OLD-FASHIONED, BUT YOU ARE NOT 'OUT OF IT.'

## FOCUS INDO-EUROPEAN TIES

# **DE-RISKING & REBALANCING**

n the past three years, both the European Union and India have been forced to redefine what "strategic autonomy" actually means.

For Europe, the shock came from the pandemic, Russia's war against Ukraine, and the deep realization that its prosperity had been quietly built on external dependencies — on Russian gas, American tech, and Chinese supply chains.

For India, the shock was geopolitical as well as civilizational: the limits of China's power had become visible, but so had the limits of disengagement.

Today, both Delhi and Brussels are experimenting with new grammars of dependence — not decoupling, but de-risking; not confrontation, but repositioning.

In October 2025, Beijing introduced a fresh round of export controls on technologies linked to the processing of rare earth metals and the production of high-performance magnets. It was a political gesture with measurable economic weight. Once again, China reminded the world that it can govern the time of global supply chains. It doesn't need to raise tariffs or ban exports; a simple delay in licensing or a pause in shipment is enough to make the entire system tremble. This subtle mastery of timing — of making the world wait - has become the new dimension of resource geopolitics. Both India and Europe have learned this lesson. The question is: how to respond without turning protectionism into dogma?

European Union's answer has been to regulate. The Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA), now in force, sets measurable targets for mining, processing, and recycling by 2030. The EU has also launched anti-subsidy measures against Chinese electric vehicles with temporary tariffs reach-



The EU protects the logic of the market; India redraws the geometry of the chain. Europe builds defensive walls of rules; India lays adaptive bridges of cooperation. Yet both face the same paradox: how to remain open in a world that increasingly rewards closure

ing up to 37 percent — and introduced new instruments for screening foreign investments and state aid transparency. An example from an EU member state - Poland - the electric car project Izera (based on Chinese Geely's platform), shows how fragile this balancing act can be: a European ambition wrapped in an Asian supply

For Brussels, the goal is not to exclude China entirely, but to turn interdependence into a calculated risk, not an existential one. The last EU-China Summit, prepared during the Poland's Presidency to the EU Council in the first half of 2025 and held finally in July (under the Danish presidency) was not an easy one. We are committed to deepening our bilateral partnership and pursuing constructive and stable relations, anchored in respect for the rules-based international order, balanced engagement and reciprocitydeclared the President of the European Council Antonio Costa, but in reality the meeting did not bring any concrete results

India, by contrast to the European Union, builds networks rather than regulations. Its Atmanirbhar Bharat and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes have created an ecosystem for domestic manufacturing, while partnerships with Africa and the Quad members help secure access to critical minerals. Delhi's diversification drive has already reshaped global expectations: autonomy is no longer defined by separation,

but by multiplicity. Over the past year, relations between the European Union and India have accelerated — and not by coincidence. The joint Trade and Technology Council (TTC) is already operational, focusing on supply-chain security, semiconductors, and artificial intelligence. In parallel, the 14th round of negotiations on the EU-India Free Trade Agreement is underway, with a political goal of conclusion before the end of 2025. These developments mark a shift in perception: Brussels increasingly sees Delhi not merely as a market, but as a strategic

nese influence across Eurasia.

In this sense, India and Europe meet not in rhetoric but in practice — in their shared understanding that diversification is no longer a slogan, but a language of survival.

India's own policy toward Chinese investment has never been doctrinaire. While the 2020 Press Note 3 restrictions still limit direct investment from China, New Delhi is now considering selective relaxation in low-risk, non-strategic sectors — particularly consumer goods and low-tech manufacturing. This signals a form of conscious balancing: neither isolation nor full openness, but managed interdependence. It is perhaps the emerging model of the post-global era — not cutting ties, but calibrating connection.

The EU protects the logic of the market: India redraws the geometry of the chain. Europe builds defensive walls of rules; India lays adaptive bridges of cooperation. Yet both face the same paradox: how to remain open in a world that increasingly rewards closure.

For Europe, the universality of its solutions — the CRMA's quantifiable targets, the principle of conditional market access, the rhetoric of "de-risking" — may serve as templates, not as transferable laws. India, on the other hand, turns these templates into practice, guided less by

regulation than by intuition. If there is a common denominator, it lies here: Both sides know that China no longer controls the space of globalization — it controls its tempo. And that, for the first time in decades, makes time itself a strategic resource.

> The writer is a Professor, Nicolaus Copernicus

University, Toruń

IN JEST THIS

Maciej Artur Gaca

**TODAY, BOTH** 

**BRUSSELS ARE** 

**EXPERIMENTING** 

**GRAMMARS OF** 

CONFRONTATION.

**REPOSITIONING** 

**DEPENDENCE** 

- NOT

**BUT** 

**DELHI AND** 

**WITH NEW** 

# Annual check-ups can help keep you healthy



Melvin Durai

**DYEING YOUR** HAIR MAY MAKE **YOU LOOK YOUNGER, BUT IT WON'T REDUCE YOUR BLOOD** PRESSURE. TRUST ME, I'VE TRIED

recently had my annual physical, which was really my annual blood analysis. The nurse practitioner who conducted the check-up barely examined me physically. What she mostly did was review the data from a laboratory's analysis of my blood. I had given the lab a sample of my blood and a week later I sat down with the nurse practitioner, hoping to find out that I am the healthiest human alive.

No such luck. Diabetes runs in my family and for the last few years I've had prediabetes. That means that my blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not high enough for a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes. Having prediabetes is like being called to the principal's office, sitting in the waiting room and trying your best to avoid going in.

Because I'm at high risk for diabetes, I try to exercise regularly and step on the scale every time I go to the gym, making sure I keep my weight under control. But what I really need to control is my intake of sugar and carbohydrates. That's much harder to do, because it requires willpower. And though my blood analysis doesn't show it, my willpower level is quite low.

Aside from showing that I'm still prediabetic, my annual physical uncovered another area of concern: prehypertension. The nurse practitioner took my blood pressure and found that it's higher than normal, but not high enough to require medication. What I need to do is make some lifestyle changes, including reducing the amount of salt I consume.

As you can imagine, the idea of reducing both salt and sugar in my diet is not too appealing. Perhaps I can handle some sort of compromise: no salt on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays: no sugar on Tuesdays and Thursdays. "What about weekends?" you may ask. Well, on weekends I will make up for the weekdays. As I noted, I suffer from low willpower.

According to the World Health Organization, 1.4 billion adults aged 30 to 79 worldwide had hypertension in 2024. That represents onethird of the population in that age range. What's particularly concerning is that 600 million adults with hypertension (44%) do not know they have the condition. I didn't know either -- until I had my annual check-up. That's why it's important to have an annual physical, especially if you're like me - old enough to have turned the pages of a dictionary.

Knowing you have something is better than not knowing, especially if you can do something about it. Catching a disease or health condition in its early stages can make a huge difference in your ability to beat it.

The WHO lists several factors that increase the risk of having high blood pressure, including older age, genetics, being overweight, not being physically active, having a high-salt diet, and drinking too much alcohol.

You can't do much about your age or genetics. Dyeing your hair may make you look younger, but it won't reduce your blood pressure. Trust me, I've tried.

However, you can work on the other factors. The WHO suggests several lifestyle changes that can help alleviate high blood pressure. Among them: eating more vegetables and fruits: sitting less; being more physically active; and losing weight if you're overweight or obese. (Please don't lose weight if you're slim. This can be dangerous. There are too many cracks in the payement.)

Perhaps most importantly. the WHO recommends this: "Keep appointments with your health care professional." Indeed, your health care professional can diagnose conditions that you shouldn't ignore. I know this from personal experience. After my check-up, I have no intention to ignore hypertension.

# Quit before it's late

are most welcome to contribute letters requested to send their contact address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to:

Sir, Apropos the report "Blast near Red Fort kills 8" (November 11), I would like to comment that the internal security of the country continues to be fragile and under the circumstances the people start questioning about the professional efficiency of the Union Home minister. The demand of his immediate resignation is quite justified for we cannot continue to experiment with any incapable minister responsible for taking due care of the internal security of the country. It is expected that in the interest of the country, the PM Modi must take cognisance in the matter and direct the Home Minister to step down before it is too late.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

## Save precious lives

Sir, Through your esteemed daily, I wish to draw attention to the alarming rise in road accidents across Odisha. Reckless driving, overspeeding, and poor road maintenance have become major causes of fatalities, especially on highways and urban stretches. The government must enforce strict traffic rules, install speed cameras, and improve road lighting and signage. Awareness campaigns among youth and public transport drivers are also essential to save precious lives.

Sidhartha Kar Mohapatra, BARIPADA

## Betrayal of humanity

Sir, It is deeply distressing that those who once swore to save lives have now turned instruments of destruction. The recent Red Fort blast has exposed a chilling nexus where healers became harbingers of death. Operating under the guise of medical practice, this so-called "White Coat Brigade" had amassed nearly 2,900 kg of explosives, camouflaged by the respectability of their profession. That men and women of science could distort their skills to craft instruments of doom is a betrayal not just of the Hippocratic Oath, but of humanity itself. The government must act decisively—tighten surveillance on radical networks infiltrating professional circles and ensure that the white coat never again becomes a cloak for terror.

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI



TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000



# TWO STATES





# Farmer in debt after son's wrongful NSA detention

Bhopal, Nov 11: In a case of administrative negligence, a farmer was forced into debt and legal struggle to save his son from wrongful detention under the NSA in Madhya Pradesh. while his pregnant daughterin-law endured severe mental distress amid the ordeal.

The Madhya Pradesh High Court recently imposed a fine of Rs 2 lakh on Shahdol Collector Kedar Singh in connection with wrongful action taken under the National Security Act (NSA) against Sushant Bais, who said that he spent one year and five days in jail.

However, a former senior police official and a human rights activist said this does not compensate for agony suffered by the family. Sushant, who was released in September this year, has returned to his village Saman in Shahdol district. He spoke to PTI about the trauma his family faced, including a Rs 2 lakh debt incurred by his father in the fight to save him.



"There were a lot of problems. I didn't have the money to fight the case. So I had to stay in jail for a year. My father somehow managed to arrange the money. We borrowed it from here and there, and some relatives helped," he said. His father owns three acres of land, and the family survives on farming. Sushant, a graduate, said his wrongful detention has ruined his job prospects.

"Now, who will give me a job? So I help my father with farming," the victim said.

He was married in February last year and jailed in Septem-

ber. His wife, pregnant at the time, gave birth to a daughter in March this year while he was still imprisoned.

"My entire family faced problems, and my wife also suffered mental agony. There were also social problems because the action taken against me was related to national security," he said.

Madhya Pradesh's former Director General of Police SC Tripathi called it a case of complete "administrative negligence". The court has now imposed a fine of Rs 2 lakh on the collector, he noted without commenting on it further. But that this does not compensate for the loss suffered by the family, he added.

A former member of the Madhya Pradesh Human Rights Commission also said the victim has lost more than a vear of his life, and Rs 2 lakh cannot compensate for it.

The victim's family should appeal to the National or State Human Rights Commission and seek compensation, he said on condition of anonymity.

# Kalaloka store opened at Bangalore airport

A total of 45 GI-certified products from Karnataka will be showcased and sold at Kalaloka store

Bangalore, Nov 11: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Tuesday inaugurated Kalaloka, a store set up by the Department of Industries at Terminal 2 of Kempegowda International Airport to showcase and sell Karnataka's GI-certified products to domestic and international travellers He inaugurated the store by

painting a symbolic artwork and ringing a ceremonial bell. "This is a moment of joy in the industrial map of Karnataka. The Kempegowda International Airport ranks third in the country in terms of passenger traffic, with tens of thousands of travellers arriving

every day," Siddaramaiah said

in a statement.

"The Kalaloka store has been established to give visitors an immediate glimpse of Karnataka's pride and cultural essence as soon as they arrive. Through this initiative, our State's distinguished products will receive global recognition, branding, and market reach,

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Large and Medium Industries Minister MB



The Kalaloka store has been established to give visitors an immediate glimpse of Karnataka's pride and cultural essence as soon as they arrive. Through this initiative, our State's distinguished products will receive global recognition. SIDDARAMAIAH | CHIEF MINISTER, KARNATAKA branding, and market reach

Patil, and other ministers and officials were present.

Patil said the Kalaloka store features Karnataka's traditional products such as Mysore sandal soap, sandalwood oil, incense sticks, Mysore silk, Channapatna toys, LIDKAR leather goods, coffee, handloom products, Ilkal saris, Lambani garments, sandalwood artefacts, Bidriware and Mysore-style paintings.

A total of 45 GI-certified

Name of the Work

Total No. of Works

Estimated Cost

products from Karnataka wil be showcased and sold, he said

"The objective is to intro duce Karnataka's traditional and geographically distinctive products to global audiences, Patil said.

He added that State-run en terprises such as Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited, Karnataka Handloom Develop ment Corporation, KSIC, Coffee Board and LIDKAR have jointly supported the initiative

# K'taka CM renews push for Mekedatu reservoir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mysuru (Karnataka), Nov 11: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Tuesday renewed his push for the contentious balancing reservoir at Mekedatu in Kanakapura Taluk of Bengaluru South District on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border, saving it won't harm the intersts of the neighbouring state. Noting that the state re-

ceived heavy rains this year, Siddaramaiah said Tamil Nadu received excess water this year. "Tamil Nadu should be given

only 177.25 TMC water but we have given 150 TMC in excess, which means we released double the quota," the CM during a conference in the district headquarter town of Mysuru.

Explaining further, he said, "The balancing reservoir at Mekedatu will not harm Tamil Nadu. We gave them more water this time."

Tamil Nadu has been opposing the project, claiming that



the reservoir would take away its share of cauvery water. Expressing satisfaction over adequate rains this year, Siddaramaiah said all the reservoirs in the state are full.

However, he said that 90 per cent crop loss was reported in certain districts in North Karnataka. "There was a crop loss in 11 lakh hectares across the state.'

According to the Chief Minister, a compensation of Rs 31,000 per hectare is being given to the farmers growing perennial crops and Rs 25,500 to those in the irrigated region. On the cabinet expansion, he Rahul Gandhi during his visit to Delhi for a book launch November 15. Siddaramaiah said, "if Ra-

said he has sought time from

hul Gandhi gives time then he will discuss the cabinet expansion, or else he would return to Bangalore the same night.'

To a question on Delhi car explosion, the Chief Minister said the incident will have a bearing on the Bihar elections and it could go against

Building Works as per DTCN

www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Varies from Rs.1.26 lakhs to

02 (Two) Calendar months

24.11.2025 upto 5.00 PM

25.11.2025 at 11.00 AM

S.E.R.W. Divn., Sambalpur

10.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to

available in the website.

52 (Fifty Two) Nos.

Rs.10.92 lakhs

### **Government of Odisha** Office of the Superintending Engineer **Rural Works Division, Dhenkanal** E-Mail: eerwdivisiondhenkanal@yahoo.co.in

e-Procurement Notice No.12/ Road & Building Works/2025-26

Column-04

tender clarification

Other details can be seen from the website http://tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer R.W.Division, Dhenkanal

# MP school gets steel plates after kids eat on newspapers



Sheopur (MP), Nov 11: A primary school in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district has got steel plates after a viral video showed its students having mid-day meal on a newspaper, drawing severe criticism, including from Congress MP Rahul Gandhi.

BJP leader and former state minister Ramniwas Rawat and Sub-Divisional Magistrate Abhishek Mishra joined the students of the government school in Hullapur under the Vijaypur block and ate mid-day meal with them Saturday. A video posted on social me-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Nov 11: A room

in Zafar Ansari's humble

home in Indore is a gate-

way to the past, housing

prized possessions that

trace India's journey to

independence, including those associated with

'Vande Mataram', the na-

tional song, which com-

pleted 150 years last week.

ed rare items related to

the national song, includ-

ing gramophone records

with 'Vande Mataram'

engraved on them, which

he has sent to President

Droupadi Murmu and

Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi on the 150th an-

niversary of the patriotic

hymn.

historic buttons

Ansari (53) has collect-

spruced up and children enjoying their lunch on brand new stainless

"Today, our entire team visited the spot and inspected the food. It was found that the meal was properly served on plates. I myself, along with public representatives, told reporters Saturday.

"In the same way, we are monitoring this matter to ensure that no such incident happens again.

The video of food served on

also ate the meal there," Mishra

he added.

newspapers went viral Tuesday, following which the authorities

numerous items of na-

tional importance relat-

ed to the legacy of 'Vande

Mataram' from various

places over the last 30

These rare finds include

20 gramophone records of

Vande Mataram in var-

ious languages, including Bengali, Hindi, and

Marathi versions.

Indore collector's rare treasures

trace national song's journey

'Vande Mataram' but-

tons, which were worn by

freedom fighters on khadi

have 'Vande Mataram'

engraved in Hindi along

with the tricolour, and

the spinning wheel. I sent

a set of these buttons to

President Murmu and

PM Modi on the 150th an-

"These metal buttons

jackets.

Friday cancelled the contract of the self-help group responsible for preparing meals and handed over the job to the school management committee, the official said.

While the school in charge, Bhogiram Dhakad, has been suspended, notices have been issued to two other staffers, he said.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, Saturday shared a video on X of the school children having mid-day meal on newspaper and targeted the state and the central

government over it. He alleged that the ruling BJP's "development" is just an illusion and the party's real secret of coming to power is "vyavastha" (the system).

"These are the same innocent children on whose dreams the future of the country rests and they are not even getting a plate of dignity," Gandhi said in his post in Hindi.

"Such a chief minister and prime minister should feel ashamed for nurturing the future of the country's children in this pitiable state," the Congress leader added.

Ansari's precious col-

lection includes a 1937

paper replica of the tric-

olour that freedom fight-

er Madame Bhikaji Cama

hoisted at an event in

Germany in 1907.

Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice e-mail ID- rw\_sambalpur@yahoo.co.in; Phone No. 0663-2401850 No. 4748, dated. 27.10.25

# Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE SBPR-09 OF 2025-26

1. Name of the work

2. Total No. of Work

Estimated Cost

4. Period of Completion 5. Period and time of availability of bid document in the portal for bidding

6. Date and time of opening of Tender 7. Name and address of the officer

Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders,

available in website www.tendersodisha.gov.in Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website <u>tenderodisha.góv.in</u>

Sd./- Superintending Engineer.

Rural Works Division, Sambalpur

'e" Procurement Notice No.3954, Dated 06.11.2025

The Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Mayurbhanj or behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids through e-procurement to be received in online mode only for the works as detailed in the table below.

Name of Works Total No. of Work

Tender Amount 4. Class of Contractor

5. Period of Completion Date & Time of availability of Bid document in the Portal

8. Date/Time of Opening of Technical Bid 9. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting the Bid

22.15 Lakh (Detail of work Annexed) As Mentioned against Work

24.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M. 24.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.

25.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

Superintending Engineer

Sd./- 06.11.2025

No.A-877

M.I. Division, Mayurbhanj 10. Mode of Payment of Bid Cost Online tendersorissa.gov.in".

> Superintending Engineer Minor Irrigation Division, Mayurbhanj

### No.A-87 **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, MAYURBHANJ** Tel.No.(06792) 260788. e-Mail ID:mi.mavurbhani@vahoo.co.in

Identification No.S.E.M.I.D. MBJ. No.17/MID.MBJ/2025-26

Civil Construction works as mentioned in the website

As Mentioned against Work 13.11.2025 at 10.00 AM to Last date/time for receipt of Bids in the Portal

11. Further details can be seen from the "e" Procurement Portal "https:/

### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

e-Procurement Notice No. e-CHID-05/2025-26 1. Type of Work: Road Work., 2. Total No. of Works: 01 (One) No., 3. Amount put to tender: Rs.96.57 Lakh., 4. Period of Completion: 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months. 5. Paper Cost: Rs.10000/-, 6. Class of Contractor: 'B' Class Contractor

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Name of Work	Bid Amount (Rs. in Lakh)	Availability & Submission of Bid On-line		
Superintending Engineer, Chikiti Irrigation Division, Berhampur		Improvement to Dam top Road from RD 0.00 Mtr to 1645.00 mtr of Bagha- lati Irrigation Project of Chikiti Irrigation Division		From 15.11.2025, 10.00 AM to 01.12.2025, 5.00 P.M.		
Date of Opening of the Technical Bid: 02.12.2025 at 11.30 AM.						

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ Corrigendum Cancellation of the tender can be seen in the above website only

### 1. Name of the Work Road Works 06 Nos. Total No. of Works Rs.6.44 to 37.28 Lakh (Approx.) Class Contractor "D" "C" & "B" Class Period of Completion 02 (Two) Months 6. EMD Required As mentioned in the Annexure at

10.11.2025 at 11.30 AM to 20.11.2025 Online for Bidding upto 5.00 PM 19.11.2025 upto 4.00 PM Last Date & Time of seeking:

21.11.2025 at 11.00 AM 9. Date & Time of opening of

# e-Procurement Notice No. O-1381

for Road Works Identification No. 14/SERW/JLS/2025-26 Procurement Officer Superintending Engineer, Rura Works Division, Jaleswar

> Roads 04 Nos. Approx. Estimated Cost Rs.25.42 Lakh to Rs.32.63 Lakh C & B Class

Class of Contractor Three Calendar Months (As per Time of Completion Annexure) Availability of tender Online From 12.11.2025 at 11.00 P.M. to for bidding 24.11.2025 upto 05.00 P.M.

Last date & time of seeking 22.11.2025 upto 05.00 P.M tender clarification Date & time of Opening of Technica Date & time of Opening of tender in the Office of the & Financial bid 25.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. Superintending Engineer.

R.W. Division, Jaleswar urther details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Sd./- Superintending Engineer

R.W. Division, Jaleswar **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** No. C-1381

### OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, **PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, BALANGIR** Email. ID - eephbgr@yahoo.co.in, Ph. No - (06652 - 234647) **NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Bid Identification No. ACEPHBGR 11/2025-26 Dt.30.10.2025

07 No. Rs.8.79 Lakhs to 62.63 Lakhs 01. Name of the Work Estimated Cost
Period of Completion 03 Months From 11.00 AM of dt. 11.11.2025 to 5.00 PM of dt. 25.11.2025 Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal 05. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal 5 PM of dt. 25.11.2025 06. Date & Time of opening At 11.00 AM of dt. 26.11.2025 of bids The Superintending Engineer, Office of The Superintending Engineer, Public Health Division, Balangir, At- Tulasinagar, Po/Dist- Balangir, Pin- 767001, Odisha, Phone:- 06652-234647, E-mail: eephbgr@ 07. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid

Further details can be seen from the website https://tenders.ori.nic.ir or www.tendersodisha.gov.in Sd./-Addl. Chief Engine

Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice e-mail ID- rw\_sambalpur@yahoo.co.in; Phone No. 0663-2401850

# No. 4806, dated. 29.10.25

Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE SBPR-10 OF 2025-26

Road & Building Works as per DTCN 1. Name of the work available in the website.

2. Total No. of Work 15 (Fifteen) Nos. Varies from Rs.4.20 lakhs to Estimated Cost Rs.21.01 lakhs 4. Period of Completion

01 (One) Calendar month to 02 (Two) Calendar months 5. Period and time of availability of bid 10.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to document in the portal for bidding 19.11.2025 upto 5.00 PM Date and time of opening of Tender 20.11.2025 at 11.00 AM

Name and address of the officer S.E.R.W. Divn., Sambalpur inviting bid Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders, available in website <a href="www.tendersodisha.gov.in">www.tendersodisha.gov.in</a>
Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website:

> Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sambalpur

www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Talking to PTI, Ansari Ansari said that his niversary of the national OIPR-Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Chikiti Irrigation Division, Berhampur said that he has collected collection also includes song," he said, beaming

# national



We should be careful about the country's unity, integrity, peace, and terror activities. Whether the blast is in Delhi or elsewhere, we should be careful. In Karnataka, the Home Minister (G Parameshwara) is reviewing (the security measures). The Chief Minister (Siddarmaiah) has also given the order. **Measures should be taken across the** country to ensure peace

D K SHIVAKUMAR | K'TAKA DY CM 

## **GAGANYAAN MISSION: ISRO CONDUCTS IMPORTANT TEST**

ISRO Tuesday said it has successfully conducted an important test on main parachutes for the Gaganyaan Crew Module at the Babina Field Firing Range (BFFR) in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi November 3



Vision India aims to create new paths and new thinking for the making of a new

India', we mean an India that is scientific in its outlook, positive in approach, and progressive in

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

We have faith in our Prime Minister Naren-Amit Shah, and culprits (of Delhi blast) won't



directly or indirectly supporting terrorism. I have already told the DGP to check who these people are, and if

they are from our state, if needed, we will arrest them

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

### SHORT **TAKES**

### Two drown in Mumbai creek

Mumbai: A man and a transgender person drowned after they jumped into the Mahim creek in Mumbai Tuesday, police said. According to the police. Irshad Asif Shaikh (22), alias Zara, a resident of Bandra West and Kalandar Altaf Khan (20) had entered into an argument on the creek bridge between Mahim and Bandra. Shaikh jumped into the creek and Khan followed to rescue him. But both drowned, they said. Fire brigade officials. local police, and a team from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) reached the spot and initiated the rescue efforts, an official said.

### **EAM to visit** Canada today

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will participate in the G7 foreign ministers' meeting, in yet another step to normalise bilateral ties. Jaishankar will join the outreach session of the meeting for G7 partners in Ontario at the invitation of his Canadian counterpart Anita Anand, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said

### Bus rams roundabout. 15 injured; driver held

Gorakhpur (UP): At least 15 passengers were injured after a UPSRTC bus allegedly lost control and rammed into a roundabout near university intersection while heading towards the railway station here, police said Tuesday. The bus driver has been detained. they said. According to the police, the incident occurred at around 12.30 am on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday. The bus was carrying around 45 passengers from the Kaiserbagh depot in Lucknow.

## Sabarimala gold case: **Ex-TDB president held**

Thiruvananthapuram: The SIT probing the missing gold from the Sabarimala temple arrested former TDB president N Vasu Tuesday, sources said here. Vasu, who had also served twice as Commissioner of the Travancore Devaswom Board before being appointed its president in November 2019, was arrested following his questioning, they said. The arrest of Vasu, who is reportedly close to the top leadership of the state government, is one of the high-profile arrests in the case.

# High to moderate voting in bypolls

New Delhi, Nov 11: High to moderate voting was recorded in the bypolls to eight assembly constituencies spread across six states and the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday with Dampa

in Mizoram and Anta in Rajasthan clocking a percentage of Besides Dampa and Anta, the

other seats that went to polls are Budgam and Nagrota in Jammu and Kashmir,

Ghatshila in Jharkhand, Jubilee Hills in Telangana, Nuapada in Odisha and Tarn Taran in Puniab.

While Dampa saw a turnout of 82.34 per cent, it was 80.32 per cent Anta, 79.41 per cent in Nuapada, 75.08 per cent in Nagrota, 74.63 per cent in Ghatshila, 60.95 per cent in Tarn Taran, 50.02 per cent in Budgam at the end of polling and 48.47 in Jubilee Hills.

The figures, however, are likely to increase as a number of voters were in queue even after the official voting hours. Votes will be counted November 14.

The results aren't likely to have any impact on the respective governments even though the contests have become a prestige issue for the parties. Voting passed off peacefully in all the seats. In Odisha, two poll officials were suspended for failing to maintain voting

A voter turnout of 82.34 per cent was recorded at the close of polling in the Dampa Assembly by-election in Mizoram, seen as a key test for the ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) ahead of next year's



Voters wait in a queue to cast their votes at a polling station during the Nagrota Assembly constituency bypoll in Jammu

Soren. Somesh Chandra is the

In Tarn Taran, a voter turn-

out of 60.95 per cent was record-

ed till 5 pm. Polling came to an

end at 6 pm but the turnout fig-

ure may increase once all the

data pertaining to voting comes

in. The seat fell vacant follow-

ing the death of Aam Aadmi

Party (AAP) MLA Kashmir

Despite the early morning

chill, many voters, particularly

elderly individuals and women,

made their way to polling sta-

In Budgam, polling began

amid chilly conditions as the

valley witnessed sub-zero night

temperatures at most places.

The poll percentage of 50.02

was slightly lesser than the last

year's Assembly polls of 52.27

per cent. The contest is seen as

a litmus test of Chief Minister

Omar Abdullah's government

and his party National Confer-

ence. The bypoll was necessitat-

ed after Abdullah vacated the

son of Ramdas Soren.

Singh Sohal in June.

The figures, however, are likely to increase as a number of voters were in queue even after the official voting hours

Votes will be counted November 14

The results aren't likely to have any impact on the respective governments even though the contests have become a prestige issue for the parties

civic polls. The bypoll was necessitated following the death of incumbent MNF legislator Lalrintluanga Sailo in July. Former Jharkhand education minister Ramdas Soren"s death necessitated the bypoll in Ghatshila, where the main contest is between Somesh Chandra Soren of ruling JMM and BJP's Babulal Soren, son of former chief minister Champai

the family bastion of Ganderbal as well in the last year's Assem-Budgam has been a bastion

of the NC with its candidates securing victory from the constituency since 1962, barring once in 1972 when the Congress candidate won from the seat. The contest in Jubilee Hills, which is seen as a popularity test for Telangana's Congress government, was necessitated following the death of BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath in June.

State Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C Sudharshan Reddy told PTI that the polling was peaceful. Asked about the complaints received from the Congress and BRS, he said they were reported to police, who acted on them immediately.

Police cases were booked against MLAs and other leaders for the violation of Model Code of Conduct, he said.

The BRS and Congress submitted complaints to the CEO against each other with allegations of violating MCC

Meanwhile, Bihar Tuesday witnessed a record-breaking turnout of nearly 69 per cent in the second and final phase of assembly polls, wrapping up a nearly month-long exercise that saw the ruling NDA defend its 'sushasan" pitch against the Opposition's onslaught, promising "change"

The results, which will be declared November 14, will decide whether Nitish Kumar, the JD(U) president and the longest serving Chief Minister, secures yet another tenure or his former deputy Tejashwi Yaday. who has likened the 20-year old regime to a "rickety old car" (khataara), takes the wheel.

seat following his election from

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Su-

loading documents. The bench said, "It appears that the case being projected before us is that for the first time, electoral rolls are being prepared. We also know the ground realities. There is a constitutional authority which is doing the exercise and it is mandated to do it. Earlier also, it has been done." Justice Kant

there will be difficulties in up

said the problem is that every body wants "status quo". On the argument that different modalities are being adopted in Tamil Nadu, compared to what was followed in Bihar during the SIR exercise. the bench said it means that the

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing in the court for the EC, sought to file replies to the fresh petitions. Senior advocate Kalyan

EC has rectified its mistakes.

Banerjee, appearing for Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Dola Sen, said they too have filed the petition challenging the SIR in West Bengal.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan appearing in the

matter for NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, questioned various "procedural irregularities" on the EC's part like issuing a machine-readable

# SC seeks EC reply on pleas against SIR in TN, Bengal

preme Court Tuesday sought separate responses of the Election Commission (EC) on pleas filed by DMK, CPI(M), West Bengal Congress and Trinamool Congress leaders challenging the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal respectively.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi asked the poll panel to respond to the fresh petitions in two

The top court asked the Madras and Calcutta high courts to keep in abeyance any proceedings on petitions challenging the SIR exercise in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

It also allowed the listing of an intervention application filed by the AIADMK in support of the SIR in Tamil Nadu. During a brief hearing, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing in the court for the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu, said the exercise is being done hurriedly, without following the due process, and different sets of documents are being sought from voters.

He said the northeast monsoon in Tamil Nadu is always heavy during November-December, and the coastal districts experience heavy to very heavy rains during this season.

Justice Kant said in a country as big as India, some states will always face natural calamities. Sibal said there is very poor connectivity in certain areas of the southern state and

# voter list in Bihar. SC reserves verdict on pleas against 2021

tribunal reforms law PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Supreme Court Tuesday reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Act, 2021.

The 2021 Act abolishes certain appellate tribunals, including the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal, and amends various terms related to the appointment and tenure of judicial and other members of various tribunals.

The pleas challenged the 2021 law as contrary to the previ ous judgments of the top court which held that tribunal mem bers should have at least a five year tenure and lawyers with a minimum 10-vear experience must be considered eligible.

A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran reserved the judgment after Attorney General R Venkataramani concluded his submissions urging the bench that the law has been made by Parliament after a long gestation period and let the statute be allowed

to hold the field. The top court commenced the final hearing in the case October 16 and heard a battery of senior lawyers, including senior advocates Arvind Datar, Gopal Sankarnarayanan, Sachit Jolly and Porus F Kaka

The attorney general said the intention was to bring uniformity in the selection processes.

"Please do not get stuck to the proposition that you are bound by MBA III or IV (earlier judgments). They are only one part, one chapter, in the entire story of how it has evolved..., he said.

Datar, appearing for lead petitioner Madras Bar Association, made the rejoinder submissions and said there were certain provisions of the Act was contrary to previous judgments.

He assailed the minimum age requirement of 50 years to be Tribunal members and the search-cum-selection committee mandating the recommendation of two persons for the post of chairperson.

# **SNIPPETS**

## Partha Chatterjee released on bail after 3 yrs

Kolkata: Former West Bengal education minister Partha Chatterjee, one of the key accused in the cash-for-school jobs scam, was released on bail Tuesday, three years and three months after he was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate July 23, 2022. The Trinamool Congress leader was subsequently arrested by the CBI in multiple cases related to the state School Service Commission recruitment irregularities in schools for teachers in Classes IX-X, XI-XII and non-teaching staff in Groups C and D from the commission's panel for the year 2016. Chatterjee, who had been admitted to a private hospital in the Mukundapur area of south-east Kolkata for the past 203 days, reportedly on account of multiple ailments concerning his kidneys and heart, was released from judicial custody after furnishing his bail bond.

## Mamata flags off 110 'mobile medical units'

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Tuesday flagged off 110 'mobile medical units', which would cater to patients in remote rural areas of the state. Baneriee, who is also the state's health minister. launched the units at a programme organised by the health department at the 'Swasthya Bhawan', after returning from a north Bengal visit. Describing it as a milestone in the state's efforts to expand medical access, she said the move reflects her government's commitment to ensuring that 'Maa, Mati, Manush' receive quality healthcare regardless of geographical or socio-economic barriers.

## **DGCA: Report GPS spoofing in 10 minutes**

Mumbai/ New Delhi: Aviation watchdog DGCA has asked airlines, pilots and air traffic controllers to report GPS spoofing incidents within 10 minutes of the occurrences, amid recent such incidents at the Delhi airport. In recent days, incidents of GPS spoofing and interference has been reported in and around the national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), the country's busiest airport that handles over 1,500 flight movements daily. Against this backdrop, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has decided to put in a place system to ensure real time reporting of GPS interference and spoofing incidents.



Security personnel stand guard beside the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway amid high alert following a blast near the Red Fort Monday, in Jammu

# Six Naxalites killed in encounter with security forces

Bijapur, Nov 11: Six Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district Tuesday, police said.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai lauded the operation, describing it as another step towards eradication of the Maoist menace. The gunfight broke out at around 10 am in the Indravati National Park area when a joint team of

security personnel was out on anti-Naxalite operation based on inputs about the presence of senior Maoist cadres in the region, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Yadav said.

Personnel belonging to police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) from Bijapur and Dantewada districts and Special Task Force (STF) were involved in the operation, he said. Intermittent exchange of fire continued for several hours, the SP said, adding that during the search of the encounter site, the bodies of six Maoists with automatic weapons, including an INSAS rifle, sten guns, a .303 rifle and explosives, were found, the official said.

Additional teams of DRG, STF, Bastar Fighters, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) were rushed to cordon off the area and nab fleeing Maoist cadres, he added.

# Experts warn of rising cancer, respiratory risks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: Delhi's deteriorating air quality has health experts worried over the far-reaching and long-term health consequences of sustained exposure to polluted air. From increased cancer risk to weakening the body's immunity, the impact of air pollution extends far beyond respiratory ailments, they said.

The State of Global Air 2025 report warns that India recorded over two million deaths linked to toxic air in 2023.

With PM2.5 concentrations in South Asia among the highest worldwide, experts describe it as a deepening environmen-

tal and human crisis. Environment experts and policy-makers are of the view



that India's pollution stems from multiple sources, with residential solid-fuel burning contributing around 30 per cent of the ambient PM2.5, with vehicles, coal-fired power plants, industrial emissions, and agricultural residue burning adding to the load. In dense cities

such as Delhi, traffic congestion

exposure, they said.

'Delhi represents the sharp edge of India's air-pollution emergency," said Dr Rakesh K Chawla, the head of the department of respiratory medicine, sleep and interventional pulmonology at Jaipur Golden Hospital in Rohini.

### **DELHI'S AIR QUALITY DETERIORATES**

The State of Global Air

2025 report warns that India recorded over two million deaths linked to toxic air in 2023 With PM2.5

concentrations in South Asia among the highest worldwide, experts describe it as a deepening environmental and human crisis

He pointed out that each winter, particulate-matter levels soar to nearly 10 times the WHO safe limit. "After Diwali and crop-residue burning, the city sits under a lid of stagnant cold air that traps toxins.'

Dr Chawla added that shortterm interventions have failed to deliver real relief. "From odd-even traffic schemes to cloud-seeding experiments, these are reactive, symbolic measures.'

What Delhi needs is sustained enforcement of emission norms, investment in electric public transport, and strict controls on construction and waste burning, he said, adding that without systemic change, every winter will replay the same public-health disaster.

Dr Charu Jora Goyal, a nuclear medicine physician and the founder and CEO of Scan-4Health, said with the onset of winter and the festive season. air pollution emerges as one of the most potent carcinogens.

# national



Words fall short in condemning such a heinous act of terror. These blasts are not only an assault on the lives of innocent citizens but also on the very spirit of humanity and peace FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NC PRESIDENT

## SCHOOL CINEMA FESTIVAL TO KICK **OFF NOVEMBER 14 ACROSS COUNTRY**

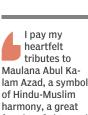
More than 100 curated films from 25 countries including France, Spain, Germany, Kyrgyzstan and the UAE are set to be screened at over 40,000 government and 1,000 private schools across the country during the eighth edition of School Cinema International Film Festival (SCIFF), officials said



the nation proud by winning the Women's Cricket World Cup! Had an energetic interaction in Gandhinagar with Radha Yadav from Vadodara, a key member of the victorious team. Congratulated her and #TeamIndia for their stellar performance and wished them a bright and successful future ahead



BHUPENDRA PATEL | GUJARAT CM



freedom fighter, educationist and

former Union Minister, on his birth anniversary

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM





Many victims who died in #RedFort terror are not on the official list Their families are called to the

hospital, made to identify bodies & asked to carry dead bodies on their own. Is BJP Govt trying to manipulate the official data again? @mr\_mayank

# SHORT **TAKES**

### Container hits pilgrims; 1 dead

Pune: A woman 'warkari' or devotee of Lord Vitthal was killed and 10 other pilgrims were injured after a container truck ploughed into their group near Kamshet on the old Mumbai-Pune Highway Tuesday morning, police said. The accident took place around 6.30 am, an official said

## Weapon smuggling network busted

Chandigarh: Punjab Police Tuesday said it has unearthed a cross-border weapon smuggling network with the arrest of two persons in Ferozepur. Those arrested have been identified as Gurpreet Singh alias Gori, a resident of village Ruhela Hazi of Ferozepur and Vikramjeet Singh alias Vicky, a resident of Jalalabad in Fazilka, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here Tuesday.

## CPI to hold protest Nov 18

New Delhi: The Communist Party of India will hold a nationwide protest November 18 on issues of equality and justice, party General Secretary D Raja said, claiming that atrocities against women, Dalits and

### Heightened security in Kolkata

minorities are increasing.

Kolkata: In the wake of the blast in Delhi, heavy security arrangements have been put in place in and around Kolkata, where the first cricket Test between India and South Africa is set to begin at Eden Gardens this week, a senior police officer said Tuesday. Amid heightened vigilance, Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Verma Tuesday held a virtual meeting with officers at various levels.

# Pulwama doc had links to terror module

The Red Fort car blast probe was handed to the NIA Tuesday as investigators focused on a Pulwama doctor linked

to a "white-collar" inter-state terror module PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Srinagar, Nov 11: The probe into the deadly car blast near the Red Fort was Tuesday handed over to the premier anti-terror agency NIA as investigators zeroed in on a doctor from Pulwama in south Kashmir with suspected links to an inter-state "white collar'

Dr Umar Nabi was driving the i20 car that exploded on Monday evening and is believed to be one of the 12 people killed, officials said. Jammu and Kashmir police took a DNA sample from his mother to match with the parts found at the scene of the blast, an official said in Srinagar.

As the Delhi police filed an FIR calling the explosion "a



bomb blast" and invoked sections relating to conspiracy and punishment for a terror attack under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed that all those responsible will be brought to justice.

"Our agencies will get to the bottom of this conspiracy. The perpetrators behind it will not be spared," Modi said in an address at a public event in Bhutanese capital Thimphu. Officials involved in investigations said they did not rule out the possibility of the explosives in the car getting detonated accidentally as Umar may have panicked. It has emerged during investigations that Umar waited in the Sunehri Masjid parking lot near the Red Fort for nearly three hours while scouring the internet about updates regarding his associates' arrest in Faridabad. The investigators have also managed to establish an 11-hour trail of Umar's vehicle

There was no clarity yet on how many people were in the car during the blast. While initially there were claims that there were three people, another account said only Umar, who was on the run after the busting of the Faridabad terror module, was the lone occupant.

At his review meetings, Shah instructed the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) to match the samples collected from the bod-

# **DELHI CM ANNOUNCES** ₹10 LAKH EX GRATIA

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Tuesday announced an ex gratia of ₹10 lakh for the families of each of those killed in the blast Monday that claimed 12 lives. The chief minister also announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh for those rendered permanently disabled and ₹2 lakh for those who sustained serious injuries in the blast, which took place after a high-intensity explosion ripped through a slow-moving car at a traffic signal near Gate No. 1 of the Red Fort Metro station Monday evening, officials said.

ies in the car, sources said.

The blast occurred hours after eight people, including three doctors, were arrested and 2,900 kg of explosives seized with the uncovering of a "white collar" terror module involving the Jaish-e-Mohammed(JeM) and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind and spanning Kashmir, Harvana and Uttar Pradesh. Among those arrested Monday were Dr Mu zammil Ganaie and Dr Shaheen Sayeed, both connected to the Al Falah university in Faridabad from where 360 kg of ammonium nitrate was recovered.

According to investigators, Shaheen was leading the Jaish-e-Mohammed's women

recruitment wing in India. She headed the Jamaat-ul-Mominat, the group's female wing. Umar, who hailed from Lethpora in Pulwama district, allegedly carried explosives, possibly ammonium nitrate, in the car, officials said.

Muzamil, his sister-in-law, said Umar had been an introvert right from his childhood and focused on his studies and work.

Meanwhile, the blast is ultimately linked to the finding of posters in Srinagar which led to an FIR October 19, according to a senior security source.

The posters were found in an area under the Naugaum police post in the Jammu and Kashmir

# Two temple watchmen murdered; cash looted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu). Nov 11: Two guards at a temple in Rajapalayam in the district were hacked to death and cash from the hundi (offering box) was stolen, police said Tuesday.

The double murder triggered political outrage in the state with parties criticising the police and demanding the immediate arrest of the culprits.

Police had to pacify the victims' relatives, who had gath ered in front of the temple, and assured them of stringent action against the accused.

A senior official said special teams have been formed to trace and arrest the culprits who had also damaged CCTV cameras in the temple and taken away the digital video recorder (DVR).

A guard on the morning shift noticed the bodies of the watchmen—Shankarapandian (65) and Pechimuthu (50)-lying with multiple cut injuries near the flagmast inside the Nachadai Thavirtharuliva Swamy temple at Devadanam and immediately informed temple officials and police.

## **NITHARI KILLINGS**

# SC acquits Surendra Koli



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: Surendra Koli, the only convict in the sensational 2006 Nithari mass killings, is now a free man as the Supreme Court Tuesday acquitted him of charges in the last such case and ordered his forthwith release if not required in any other matter.

This was the 13th case in the Nithari killings in which Koli was acquitted. He was already acquitted in the 12 other related cases. The Nithari killings had come to light with the discovery of the skeletal remains of eight children from a drain behind businessman Moninder Singh Pandher's house at Nithari in Noida December 29, 2006, Koli was the domestic help at Pand-

her's house at that time. Allowing Koli's curative petition challenging his conviction in the case related to the alleged rape and murder of a 15-year-old girl in Nithari, the apex court said criminal law does not permit conviction on conjecture or on a hunch. A curative petition is the last legal recourse available to a party afNithari killings in which Koli was acquitted

■ He was already acquitted in the 12 other related cases

ter exhausting other remedies, including a review petition.

A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justices Surya Kant and Vikram Nath said the offences in Nithari were heinous and the suffering of the families was beyond measure.

"It is a matter of deep regret that despite prolonged investigation, the identity of the actual perpetrator has not been established in a manner that meets the legal standards," the bench said.

It said that suspicion, however grave, cannot replace proof beyond a reasonable doubt, and the courts cannot prefer expe-

diency over legality "The presumption of innocence endures until guilt is proved through admissible and reliable evidence; and when proof fails, the only lawful outcome is to set aside the

conviction even in a case involving horrific crimes," the The top court said it must

remark on the abiding faith in the capacity of police and investigative agencies of the country.

"When investigations are

The bench said it was "genucase, negligence and delay corand foreclosed avenues that might have identified the true

"The scene was not secured before excavation began, the alleged disclosure was not contemporaneously recorded, the remand papers carried contradictory versions, and the petitioner was kept in prolonged police custody without a timely, court-directed medical

alleged events.

It said the probe did not adequately examine obvious witnesses from the household and neighbourhood and did not pursue material leads. including the organ-trade angle flagged by a governmental

"Each lapse weakened the provenance and reliability of evidence and narrowed the path to truth," the bench said.

timely, professional and constitutionally compliant, even the most difficult mysteries can be solved and many crimes can be prevented by early intervention," it said.

inely unfortunate" that in the roded the fact-finding process offender.

examination," it said.

The bench noted that crucial scientific opportunities were lost when post-mortem materials and other forensic outputs were not promptly and properly brought on record and when searches of the house yielded no incriminating traces that could be forensically anchored to the

committee.

# India offers ₹4,000-crore for Bhutan energy projects

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thimphu, Nov 11: India and Bhutan Tuesday inaugurated a 1,020-MW hydropower project built with Indian assistance as Prime Minister Narendra Modi said progress and prosperity of the two countries is closely linked and that there will be greater focus on boosting connectivity.

Modi and King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck inaugurated the Punatsanchchhu-II project following their wide-ranging talks. Electricity generated from the project will be supplied to both countries.

The Indian side also announced a concessional credit line of ₹4.000 crore to fund energy projects in Bhutan.

"Energy cooperation remains a key pillar of the India-Bhutan partnership. Today, we inaugurated the Punatsangchhu-II Hydropower Project, This is an enduring symbol of friendship

between our countries," Modi said on social media.

Health workers under the banner of Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors (MARD) participate in a protest

march demanding improved workplace safety and justice following violent incidents and alleged harassment, ir

The two leaders exchanged views to further enhance and strengthen bilateral ties and held discussions on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

King Jigme Khesar conveyed condolences on the loss of lives in the Delhi blast and his appreciation for India's support for Bhutan's socio-economic development. The two leaders also witnessed the finalisation of three pacts that will provide for cooperation in renewable energy, healthcare and medicine, and mental health services.

Earlier, addressing an event to mark the 70th birth anniversary of Bhutan's former king Jigme Singve Wangchuck, Modi underlined the importance of connectivity and referred to New Delhi's decision to link Gelephu and Samtse in Bhutan to India's rail network.

# **UPES confers PhD on** Acharya Balkrishan

POST NEWS NETWORK

Haridwar, Nov 11: Addressing the 23rd convocation of University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES) in Ut tarakhand Monday, Acharya Balkrishna said that the spirit of service should never dimin ish, "Pataniali's strength lies in its continuous service, and it is expanding its network worldwide under the inspira



tion of Yoga Guru Baba Ram-

dev," he said.

Acharya Balkrishna, who attended the ceremony as the chief guest, was conferred with an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in recognition of his achievements. He added that receiving such an honour for him and his organisation would further motivate them to serve humanity with greater dedication.

UPES Vice-Chancellor Dr Ram Sharma praised Acharya Balkrishna's commitment and contribution to the service of humanity. "Graduating students should draw inspiration from him and begin the next phase of their lives with re newed energy," Sharma said. He also lauded his leadership in establishing the Patanjali model as a leading business model in the country.

On this occasion varsity president, Dr Sunil Roy; Pro-VC, Dr Jaishankar; Registrar, Prof Manish Madaan: Director School of Business, Prof Rahul Nanwal; Dean Research, Dr Ashwani Nangiya; MD, Lalit Aggarwal; academic council and governing body members and students were also present on the occasion expressed gratitude towards Balkrishan.

# Families identify victims through tattoos, torn clothes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: In the chaos that followed the Red Fort blast, tattoos, torn shirts and jackets were all that was left for families to identify the loved ones they lost in the ghastly tragedy that struck the capital city Monday.

On the corridors of the LNJP Hospital, they clung to hope until it broke, when a familiar pattern of ink, a torn sleeve or a blue shirt confirmed their worst fears.

Among the victims was 34-vear-old Amar Kataria, a pharmaceutical businessman from Chandni Chowk.

His body was charred beyond recognition, but his family knew it was him when they saw the tattoos he had inked. each dedicated to his parents and wife. What was once a ges**RED FORT BLAST** 



For many who spent the night outside hospitals and police stations, the fragile traces of the ordinary -- a tattoo, parts of torn clothing -- carried unbearable weight

he blast did not just rip I through metal and glass; it tore through families, leaving them to piece together their loved ones from what little the fire had

ture of love became the only proof of his identity. For some others, even clothing became the last link between the living and the dead. Around 9 pm Monday, Zunman's GPS signal

went silent. "They showed us four bodies, which we couldn't recognise." As the family sat at the Shastri Park police sta-

tion to file a missing report, a

call came, turning their world

body parts were missing, like legs. We recognised Zunman by his blue shirt and jacket,' he said. Zunman was the only earn-

ing member of his family. His wife, who is physically challenged, sat beside his body through the night, unable to move or speak, Idris said. "He had three kids. He was

only thirty-five. He used to drive his rickshaw in Chandni Chowk every day. Now his children have no one," he said. For the family of 30-year-old

Pankaj Sahni, the night began on an anxious note and ended in devastation. His father, Ram Balak

ieans.' Sahni, first saw reports of the blast on TV around 9.30 pm.

The family was called to the

### Pankaj, a cab driver, left home upside down. "The caller said a body had been found, come around 5.30 pm on Monday to drop off a client in the Old Deland identify," Idris said. "Some hi area.

"I started calling him but there was no response," Ram Balak told PTI.

"My friends also tried, but his phone was unreachable. We rushed to the blast site, it was complete chaos.

The family tried to register a missing complaint at the Kotwali police station, but were told to return the next morning.

"We kept searching and calling him, but there was still no response," he said. "Then a call came from police, asking what was my son wearing. I told them -- a shirt and blue

LNJP Hospital soon after.

# international



**Tehran is not seeking** nuclear bombs and... is prepared to assure the world about it. We are very proud of our home-grown nuclear programme

SAEED KHATIBZADEH

## **UK PLEDGES 850 MN POUNDS** FOR GLOBAL DISEASE FIGHT

Britain Tuesday pledged 850 million pounds (\$1.14 billion) to an international initiative to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, in what amounted to a cut of 15% from the previous commitment as the nation struggles with a tighter budget



Saddened by news of the explosion in Delhi last evening. Sri Lanka stands in solidarity with the people of India Our thoughts are with all those

ANURA KUMARA DISSANAYAKE | PRESIDENT. SRI LANKA

**Israel stands** 

with India in its fight against terror GIDEON SA'AR | FOREIGN

MINISTER, ISRAEL



the two countries, especially ensuring the security and safety of civilians

MALY SOCHEATA | DEFENCE MINISTRY

## **SHORT TAKES**

### Antiques stolen

**Damascus:** Thieves broke into the national museum in the Syrian capital and stole several ancient statues dating back to the Roman era. officials said Tuesday. The National Museum of Damascus was temporarily closed after the heist was discovered early Monday. The museum reopened in January as the country is reeling from the 14-year civil war and the fall of the 54-year Assad family rule last year. The museum in central Damascus, the country's largest, houses invaluable antiquities dating

### Drone fragments discovered

back to Syria's long history.

**Bucharest:** Possible drone fragments were found inside Romania's southeastern border region following Russian strikes on Ukrainian Danube River ports overnight, the Romanian Ministry of Defence said Tuesday. Romanian radars detected groups of drones near the NATO country's airspace iust after midnight Tuesda prompting the ministry to issue an alert to residents of the southeastern region. Weather conditions did not allow for fighter jets to be deployed, the defence ministry said, but military teams were able to recover possible drone fragments some 5 kilometres (3 miles) inside Romania's border with Ukraine.

### Houthis stop **Red sea attacks**

**Dubai:** Yemen's Houthi rebels have signalled they've stopped their attacks against Israel and shipping in the Red Sea as a shaky ceasefire holds in the Gaza Strip. In a letter to Hamas' Qassam Brigades published late Monday, the Houthis offered their clearest signal that their attacks have halted. "We are closely monitoring developments and declare that if the enemy resumes its aggression against Gaza, we will return to our military operations deep inside the Zionist entity, and we will reinstate the ban on Israeli navigation in the Red and Arabian Seas," the letter reads.

## Taiwan evacuates 3,000

Taipei: Taiwan evacuated more than 3,000 people Tuesday, issuing a land warning for the arrival of Typhoon Fung-wong, which is expected to dump large volumes of rain on its mountainous east coast, recently lashed by another typhoon. The weakening Fung-wong is forecast to hit land Wednesday on the island's southwestern coast around the major port of Kaohsiung, after it killed 18 people while powering through the Philippines as a much stronger system.

# Pak suicide blast kills 12

While Prime Minister Shehbaz accused groups 'active with Indian support' of being involved in the attack, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that the Afghan *Taliban has sent a message through the bombing* 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Nov 11: A suicide bomber Tuesday detonated his explosives near a police vehicle outside a court in Pakistan's capital, killing at least 12 people and wounding 36 others, officials said.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, who visited the site of the blast, said the attacker wanted to enter the court complex, but on failure, he detonated his explosives near a police vehicle at the gate of the building in the G-11 area of the capital at 12.39 pm.

No group or individual claimed responsibility for the attack, but such strikes are usually carried out by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Naqvi said that 12 people were killed and 27 others iniured, including security personnel and a lawyer, in the blast near the Islamabad District Judicial Complex.

However, the spokesperson for the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Dr Mubahshir Daha, said the number of injured had risen to 36.

Sharing details of the blast, Naqvi said that the attacker stood outside the court for around 12 minutes before he detonated the explosives.

"Our first priority is to identify the attacker...Whenever the attacker is identified, we will share with the media," Naqvi said as he vowed to bring the perpetrators to justice.

"We are linking today's blast with many factors. Things will be clear in the coming hours. There are several messages of it...." he said. "I don't want to say anything at this point, as often the Indians do (start blaming soon after such incidents). We will come with full evidence and details."

Naqvi said Pakistan is clear



Court bomber detonates device outside building

**Interior minister** says whoever is responsible won't be spared

Separate suicide bomb attack at military school kills three

No group has claimed responsibility yet for either attack

that Afghanistan should stop terrorism coming from their soil, "otherwise we will have to take action against them."

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the suicide blast and expressed deep condolences to the bereaved families.

While Prime Minister Shehbaz accused groups "active with Indian support" of being involved in the attack, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that the Afghan Taliban has sent a message through the bombing.

'The rulers of Kabul can stop terrorism in Pakistan, but bringing this war all the way to Islamabad is a message from Kabul, to which - praise be to God - Pakistan has the full strength to respond," Asif said in a message on X to express his reaction to the attack in Islamabad.

"In this environment, it would be futile to hold out greater hope for successful negotiations with the rulers of Kabul," he said.

The attack came days after the third round of talks between Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban failed to reach any agreement to tackle the issue of terrorism emanating from Afghanistan.

Asif warned that Pakistan was in a state of war.

"Anyone who thinks that the Pakistan Army is fighting this war in the Afghan-Pakistan border region and the remote areas of Balochistan should take today's suicide attack at the Islamabad district courts as a wake-up call: this is a war for all of Pakistan, in which the Pakistan Army is giving daily sacrifices and making the people feel secure.'

Meanwhile, security around the Judicial Complex, adjoining courts, and other sensitive buildings in Islamabad has been further tightened.

# **Statue of Maharaja** Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji unveiled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nevatim (Israel), Nov 11: A statue of Maharaja Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji was unveiled in this southern 'Moshav' (community of farmers) in recognition of his efforts to rescue hapless Polish children during World War II, including some Jews.

The Maharaja of Nawanagar, a princely state in India now known as Jamnagar in the state of Gujarat, was honoured by Indian Jewish Heritage Centre (IJHC) and Cochini Jewish Heritage Centre (CJHC) Monday evening for his "exemplary compassion" during the war.

During World War II, when Europe was engulfed in the flames of conflict and persecution, the Maharaja emerged as an unlikely saviour rescuing around a thousand Polish children, some of them Jews.

He adopted these children and built a home for them in 1942 at Balachadi village in Jamnagar, saving them from the horrors of the war.

India's Ambassador to Israel JP Singh, who was present at the ceremony, spoke about the "Good Maharaja's compassion" describing him as a beacon of hope" reminding that humanity rises above all boundaries.

Polish Ambassador to Israel Maciej Hunia also attended the ceremony calling it "a very emotional moment".

Recalling that a part of his family also suffered during WWII, the Polish ambassador said that when asked by the prime minister of his country as to how they can "repay him for this great act", the Mahara ia had said to name a street in liberated Poland in his name in Warsaw. "Today not only is there a square named after him, but also a monument and a tram in the western city was named after him," the Polish envoy said.

# No poll without July Charter referendum: B'desh Islamist party



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Nov 11: Bangladesh's largest Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami Tuesday expressed its strong opposition to the planned national election in February unless its demand for a referendum to give a "legal basis" to a proposed charter is held ahead of the polls.

"The freedom-loving people of this country have one message — a national referendum must be held before the general election." Jamaat chief Shafigur Rahman told a rally iointly organised with its seven Islamist allies in the capital, in an apparent show of strength. He said there was no possi-

bility of holding the national election without establishing the legal foundation of the July Charter drafted by the National Consensus Commission headed by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus after prolonged consultation with selected political parties. Jamaat's stance put it in sharp conflict with former prime minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which has firmly opposed staging the referendum ahead of the national election.

'You (Jamaat) are afraid of elections because you know it would end your existence," BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said at

a party rally in northwestern Thakurgaon Tuesday.

The BNP and Jamaat had signed the charter, containing 84 proposals, at a high-profile ceremony last month. But the process of its implementation has triggered a dispute, with Ja maat insisting that the charter be endorsed through a referendum before the election.

"If we all agreed to sign the charter, then holding the referendum first is the logical step. This will create the legal foundation for the charter, on which the next national election should be held." Rahman said. The BNP, which has emerged as the frontrunner in the absence of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's now disbanded Awami League par ty, had initially rejected the idea of a referendum, saying parliament was the appropriate forum since the Constitution has no such provision. However, it later reluctantly

agreed to the plebiscite proposi tion but insisted it must be held on the day of the national election, before again expressing reservations. BNP policymaking standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chow dhury said last week that the interim government had taken oath to protect the Constitution, while "there is no provision for a referendum in this Constitution'

# David Szalay wins Booker Prize for 'Flesh'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 11: Hungarian British author David Szalay was named the winner of the Booker Prize 2025 for his novel Flesh', beating Indian author Kiran Desai's 'The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny' at a ceremony in London.

Szalay, 51, was presented with 50,000 pounds and a trophy Monday night by last vear's Booker winner Samantha Harvey for his novel about an emotionally detached man who is unravelled by a series of events beyond his grasp.

"Using only the sparest of prose, this hypnotically tense and compelling book becomes an astonishingly moving portrait of a man's life," the Booker Prize judges said of their winning choice.



Desai missed out on becoming only the fifth double winner in Booker Prize's 56-year history, having won the coveted literary prize for fiction back in 2006 for The Inheritance of Loss'.

"I wanted to write a book about global loneliness through the lens of a long, unresolved love story," Desai has said of her new novel.

"I wanted to write a present-day romance with an

old-fashioned beauty. In the past of my parents, and certainly my grandparents, an Indian love story would mostly be rooted in one community, one class, one religion, and often also one place. But a love story in today's globalised world would likely wander in so many different directions," she said.

At 667 pages, 'The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny' was described by the Booker judges as "an epic of love and family, India and America, tradition and modernity" revolving around a pair of young Indians - Sonia and Sunny.

"An intimate and expansive epic about two people finding a pathway to love and each other. Rich in meditations about class, race and nationhood, this book has it all," the judges said of the Indian author's latest work.



Costumed revelers wear watering cans on their heads in the central Heumarkt in Cologne, Germany, as thousands of carnival enthusiasts parade through the streets Tuesday

# Iraqis vote in election they expect to bring little reform

Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani seeks a second term in an exercise that a growing young electorate increasingly views as a vehicle for established parties to divide up the Middle East nation's oil wealth

REUTERS

Baghdad, Nov 11: Iraqis began casting ballots Tuesday in parliamentary elections to choose a new 329-member legislature, state television said, with nationwide polling set to close at

Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani seeks a second term in an exercise that a growing young electorate increasingly views as a vehicle for established parties to divide up the Middle East nation's oil

Sudani's bloc is forecast to win the most seats but fall short of a majority, potentially meaning months of post-election talks among Shi'ite and Sunni Muslim as well as Kurdish parties to divvy up government posts and pick a prime

minister. Elections in Iraq are in-



turnout. Many voters have lost faith in a system which has failed to break a pattern of state capture by powerful parties with armed loyalists, while ordinary Iraqis complain of endemic corruption. poor services and unemploy-

in is projected by analysts and pollsters to slip below a record low of 41% in 2021, thanks partly to general disillusionment and to a boycott by populist Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, who counts hundreds of thousands of voters among his core support base.

**≪** Continued state many disillusioned

Prospects for raft of new candidates are uncertain

← Populist Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr boycotting

← Next government will have to navigate between **US and Iran** 

### **DISILLUSIONMENT WITH THE POLITICAL SYSTEM**

The vote this year features a raft of young candidates hoping to break into politics, but their chances against old patronage networks are uncertain.

'This election will not depend on popularity. It will depend on spending money,"

former prime minister Haider al-Abadi said during a televised interview last month.

Analysts warn that low participation among civilians could further erode confidence in a system critics say benefits the few while neglecting the

"For Iraq's 21 million registered voters, Tuesday's ballot may do little more than endorse a familiar political order," said Baghdad-based political analyst Ahmed Younis.

"The results are not expected to make dramatic changes in the Iraqi political map.

Still, the vote, in which results are expected after several days, comes at a sensitive time for the country.

The next government will need to navigate the delicate balance between US and Iranian influence, and manage dozens of armed groups that are closer to Tehran and answerable more to their own leaders than to the state, all while facing growing pressure from Washington to dismantle those militias.

## **PRESSURE TO DELIVER**

Iraq has so far avoided the worst of the regional upheaval caused by the Gaza war, but will face US and Israeli wrath if it fails to contain militants aligned with Iran.

Those elected will also face domestic pressure to deliver tangible improvements in everyday life and prevent public discontent over corruption from spilling into unrest, as it did during mass demonstrations in 2019 and 2020.

Iraq began voting for its politicians in 2005, after the 2003 U.S. invasion which toppled autocrat Saddam Hussein.

# business



promotions and flexible financing options drove strong mobile phone shipment volumes in the third quarter of 2025

## **INDIAN STOCK MARKET CONTINUES UPWARD TREND**

The domestic equity indices closed at a higher note for the second consecutive day Tuesday amid buying in IT, auto, metal and FMCG sectors. The rally was further sustained by positive global cues as the US Senate passed a bill to end the longest-ever federal shutdown. Sensex ended the session at 83,871.32, up 335.97 points or 0.40 per cent.





growing, especially as the middle in-



ITARU OTANI | YAMAHA MOTOR INDIA GROUP CHAIRMAN

needs big and world class banks, and discussions are on



NIRMALA SITHARAMAN FINANCE MINISTER

**Guided by Prime Minis** ter Narendra Modi's vision of Sabka Saath



UNION LABOUR MINISTER

### SHORT **TAKES**

### Visa on arrival for medical treatment

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal Tuesday said offering visa on arrival facilities for medical treatment can be considered to patients from countries such as the US. The idea was floated in the CIIs annual health summit here in Delhi.

"The idea about visa on arrival is a good idea. We will pursue that...For many countries, we allow visa on arrival, we allow e-visas...both these can be considered let's say for the United States, most of the European countries... not all by the way ...for most of the countries where we have a fair amount of comfort and where detailed investigations or enquiries are not required,' Goyal said. He suggested the CII to work on the idea and share with the government. "Off course one has to look at what will be the certifications and which are the countries for which we can allow that.'

### India's first vanadium redox flow battery system

New Delhi: Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Tuesday inaugurated the country's first MWh-scale vanadium redox flow battery (VRFB) system of 3 MWh capacity, an official statement said. Lal inaugurated the project at NETRA, the R&D centre of NTPC, the Ministry of Power said. "The minister inaugurated India's largest and first MWh-scale Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB) system of 3 MWh capacity. This milestone project marks a major step forward in the nation's journey towards long-duration energy storage (LDES) solutions, enhancing renewable energy integration and grid resilience," it said.

# Welspun Enterprises

**Q2 net profit grows** New Delhi: Welspun Enterprises Tuesday said it has posted a 59 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹98.08 crore in September quarter of FY26, aided by reduced expenses. Total income fell to ₹803.26 crore in the latest second quarter from ₹837.92 crore in July-September FY25. During the reporting quarter, Welspun **Enterprises trimmed expenses** to ₹677.42 crore from ₹736.33 crore in the same period a year ago. "We continue to sustain strong growth momentum, delivering a 17 per cent year-on-year rise in EBITDA and achieving a record-high consolidated EBITDA margin of 23.9 per cent in Q2 FY26. We remain on track to meet our annual revenue guidance of ₹4,000 crore at a consolidated level," **Managing Director Sandeep** Garg said.

# India's job market shows 11% hiring intent for 2026: Report

New Delhi. Nov 11: The overall hiring intent in India for 2026 stands at 11 per cent, up from 9.75 per cent in 2025, signaling a discernible improvement in employment sentiment, a report said Tuesday.

This uptick reflects India Inc's transition from a phase of cautious replacement hiring to active workforce expansion. The optimism is led by the banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector. The sector leads hiring senti-

ment at 20 per cent, followed by core industries such as metal and mining, power, utilities, steel, and cement at 12 per cent, a report by Taggd in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) stated. According to the report, the

year is emerging as the year of experienced professionals, with companies increasingly prioritising mid- and senior-level

Candidates with 6-15 years of experience are projected to make up 55 per cent of total hires, up from 39 per cent last



year, signaling India Inc.'s growing focus on leadership depth and executional agility.

Hiring intent for candidates with 6-10 years of experience is expected to rise to 28 per cent (from 26 per cent), while those with 11-15 years and over 15 years are set to jump to 15 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively, compared to 9 per cent and 4 per cent recorded last

Meanwhile. early-career professionals (0-5 years) will continue to find opportunities, comprising 45 per cent of

projected hires and reflecting steady demand for young tal-

Tier-2 cities strengthen their foothold in India's employment landscape, accounting for 32 per cent of projected jobs in 2026, as organisations, especially GCCs, tap into new regional talent hubs for both cost efficiency and emerging skill sets, the report noted.

Tier-1 cities lead at 53, while tier-3 locations at 15 per cent show early signs of inclusion, reflecting a steady democratisation of India's job market Bengaluru, and Delhi.

"As India enters 2026, the job market is showing clear signs of revival. After a year of muted single-digit growth, hiring intent has returned to double digits at 11 per cent, up from 9.75 per cent last year. This resurgence marks a shift from recovery to reinvention, powered by digital acceleration, formalisation, and regional expansion," Taggd Co-Founder and CEO. Devashish Sharma, said.

According to the report, India's AI talent base is estimated at 23.5 lakh professionals and is growing year-on-year.

Employers are scouting candidates skilled in technologies such as GenAI, cloud computing, and cybersecurity, alongside digital and data specialists, AI/ML engineers, solutions architects, and sustainability specialists.

Together, skills like adaptability, problem-solving, cognitive skills, collaboration, management, engagement. self-efficacy, and ethics continue to remain indispensable, the

# Tata Trusts names Noel Tata's son Neville, Bhaskar Bhat as Trustees

Mumbai, Nov 11: Tata Trusts Tuesday inducted Neville Tata, son of Tata Trusts chairman Noel Tata, and group veteran Bhaskar Bhat, to the board of Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) with effect from November 12 for a period of three years.

The Board of Trustees of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) also decided to appoint Venu Srinivasan as Trustee for a period of three years, with effect from November 12, "in compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, and to designate him as Vice Chairman of SDTT". The Board of Trustees of the

Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) held a meeting today and unanimously approved the induction of Bhaskar Bhat and Neville Tata as Trustees with effect from 12th November 2025 for a period of 3 years," according to a Tata Trusts statement, Neville Tata. 32 and a Bayes Business School graduate, currently serves on the boards of JRD Tata Trust, Tata Social Welfare Trust, and RD Tata Trust, and could also be inducted into Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT), which, together with SDTT, holds more than



51 per cent of Tata Sons. Mean while, Bhat, 71, began his career at Godrej & Boyce in 1978 before joining the Tata Watch Project which later became Titan. As managing director from 2002 to 2019, he expanded Titan's portfolio beyond watches into evewear, jewellery, fragrances accessories, and more.

Established in 1892, the Tata Trusts are India's oldest and amongst Asia's largest philanthropic institutions. They have played a pioneering role in bring ing about an enduring difference in the lives of the communities they serve, advancing equity, re silience, and shared progress. In spired by the vision of the Founder Jamsetji Tata and guided by a legacy of proactive philanthropy the Tata Trusts work to catalyse systemic and sustainable change across diverse areas by building institutions, strengthening pub lic systems, and accelerating socio-economic development in a wide variety of areas.

# Smartphone market at 5-yr high



New Delhi, Nov 11: The smartphone market in India reached a five-year high in the festive third quarter of 2025, growing 4.3 per cent year-over-year (YoY) to 48 million units, according to the International Data Corporation (IDC) data released Tuesday.

Apple recorded its highest-ever quarterly shipments in India in the 2025 (Q3), reaching 5 million units and securing the fourth position in the market for

The iPhone maker achieved a strong 25.6 per cent YoY growth, driven by sustained demand across both new and existing models. The iPhone 16 remained the most-shipped smartphone in India during the quarter, contributing 5 per cent of total market shipments, while the newly launched iPhone 17 series and iPhone Air saw a record-breaking debut, accounting for 16 per cent of Apple's Q3 shipments — the strongest launch-quarter performance for any iPhone since 2021.

The mid-premium segment grew 10.7 per cent YoY, with share rising from 3 per cent to 4 per cent. Samsung climbed to the top position, followed by OP-

PO and OnePlus.

The Galaxy S24 contributed nearly one-quarter of total shipments in this range, driven by steep discounting on e-tailer platforms.

"Aggressive festive promo-

tions and flexible financing options drove strong shipment volumes in Q3 2025. However, consumer demand remained concentrated in the premium segment, leaving the mass market under pressure and resulting in a significant inventory buildup heading into Q4 2025," said Upasana Joshi, senior research manager, Devices Research, IDC Asia Pacific. This surplus has been further exacerbated by rising component costs - particularly in memory — and currency fluctuations, prompting brands to raise prices post-Diwali.

"As a result, IDC forecasts a year-over-year decline in shipments for Q4 2025, leading to an overall annual contraction, with total smartphone shipments expected to fall below 150 million units for the year," Joshi mentioned. Smartphone average selling prices (ASPs) surged to a record \$294 in Q3, growing 13.7 per cent year-over-year (YoY), driven by strong demand for premium and higher-spec models.

# India wants fair & balanced trade deal with US: Goyal

"Won't compromise on the interests of farmers, fishermen, and the dairy sector"

New Delhi, Nov 11: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal Tuesday said India wants a fair, equitable, balanced trade deal with the US and it will not compromise on the interests of farmers, fishermen, and the dairy sector.

He said India and the US are negotiating a good proposed bilateral trade agreement.

"We are working for a good trade deal in the interest of India. At the same time. India is not going to compromise the interests of our farmers, fishermen, workers, labour, and our dairy... We are working on a fair equitable and balanced trade deal." he said here at Udvog Samagam 2025 -- a conference of industries and commerce ministers of states.

"We want a fair, equitable and balanced trade deal (with the US). If that happens, it could happen any day, it could happen tomorrow, it may happen next month, it may happen next year... But as a government, we are preparing for everything,' he said.

He also said India is looking



for the country's fishery sector. which is facing issues due to the steep tariffs in the US.

India and the US are negotiating a bilateral trade agreement. So far, five rounds of talks have been completed. Both sides have announced to finalise the first tranche of the deal by fall of 2025. Meanwhile, an official said another round of negotiations may not be necessary.

"They (US) have to get back to us. India's negotiations have been the most comprehensive, most detailed, WTO-compliant compared to any other country. May be it took time, but we negotiated very cautiously, keeping in view the interests of our sensitive sectors," the official

A team of Indian officials, headed by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, was in Washington last month to hold trade talks with their US counterparts. The three-day talks ended on October 17.

Negotiations for the pact are important, as relations between the two countries have been unPresident Donald Trump administration imposed a steep 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods. It includes a 25 per cent additional import duty for buying Russian crude oil.

The proposed pact aims to more than double the bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030 from the current USD 191 billion.

The US remained India's

largest trading partner for the fourth consecutive year in 2024-25, with bilateral trade valued at USD 131.84 billion (USD 86.5 billion exports). It accounts for about 18 per cent of India's total goods exports, 6.22 per cent in imports, and 10.73 per cent in the country's total merchandise trade. India's merchandise exports to the US declined 11.93 per cent to USD 5.46 billion in September due to the high tariffs imposed by Washington, while imports increased 11.78 per cent to USD 3.98 billion during the month, according to commerce ministry data.

US President Donald Trump has said the US is "pretty close" to reaching a "fair trade deal" with India, adding that he will lower the tariffs imposed on Indian goods at "some point".

This is the second time in less than two weeks that the US president held out hope to seal the proposed bilateral trade deal with India.

# 76% of India's influencers violating disclosure norms

Mumbai, Nov 11: The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) Tuesday said 76 per cent of India's top digital stars have been found wanting on disclosure norms while ped dling sponsored content.

The self-regulatory body said digital platforms reported 97 per cent of the violative ads during the April-September 2025 period, with Meta contributing nearly 79 per cent to the violations and Google at under

5 per cent. The half-yearly report said 76 per cent of India's top digital stars, as per the Forbes list. were found in violation of the disclosure norms required by ASCI and the Central Consum-

er Protection Authority. "This sets a poor standard for authenticity and honesty in influencer advertising," it

added.

Offshore or illegal betting personal care, healthcare, food and education emerged as the top sectors breaching ASCI's guidelines, an official statement said. The self-regulatory organisation reviewed 6,841 complaints and investigated 6,117 advertisements, it said, adding that 98 per cent of these required modification.

## India, NZ FTA negotiations almost concluded

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

## Bimalagarh station to be redeveloped under ABSS

Kolkata: Bimalagarh Railway Station, between Rourkela and Barsuan in the Chakradharpur division of Sundargarh district, Odisha, has been selected for upgradation under the flagship Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS), a Railways press release said. The total estimated investment for the redevelopment of the station is pegged at ₹9.84 crore. The Railways hopes it will provide a significant boost to regional infrastructure and passenger convenience. As per the Railways statement, the revamped station will feature a new building with a modern facade, upgraded entry and exit gates, a redesigned circulation area, improved platform surfaces, and a new shelter. Special provisions have been made for Divyangjan passengers, including ramps, toilets, water booths, tactile paths, and Braille signage. Additional amenities such as a spacious waiting hall, enhanced seating arrangements, and local art and cultural motifs will enrich the aesthetic appeal and comfort of the station, it said Noteworthy, Ministry of Railways has launched the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) to modernise railway stations across India, enhancing passenger experience and boosting regional connectivity. The initiative aims to transform stations into cleaner, more accessible and passenger friendly hubs while promoting local tourism and economic growth.



# SBI holds FPO Connect program in City

Bhubaneswar: State Bank of India Bhubaneswar circle, APMAS and CYSD organised a day-long SBI 'FPO CONNECT' program at State Bank Institute for Learning & Development, Bhubaneswar. As per a press release, a total of 49 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO) & 16 representatives of FPO promoters attended the event along with over 20 officials from SBI. The desk



appraisal of 47 FPOs was undertaken and 45 FPOs were given in-principal sanction letters. A brief overview of FPOs in India and how FPOs can be developed into thriving business organisations with FPO financing as the main driver was shared with the participants. For FPOs to effectively utilise financing, they were advised to improve memberownership, their systems of accounting & bookkeeping and their business-readiness with business planning & market linkages. Worthwhile to mention here that the State Bank of India is organising such FPO Connect Programs across India in collaboration with different CBBOs/ NGOs. It was the 14th program in this series.

## Odisha hoteliers' body urges members to tighten security

**BLAST** 

Bhubaneswar: In light of the recent alert issued by the government of Odisha following the tragic car blast in Delhi Monday, Hotel & Restaurant Association of Odisha (HRAO) urged all its member hoteliers to remain extra vigilant and tighten security while admitting guests. In a press release, HRAO said, "There is high concern that anti-socials may target key tourist destinations and vital installations such as Hirakud Dam and other prominent locations. Hotels could be

among the first points of entry and stay for such individuals." The HRAO urged all hotel owners to tighten security measures within their establishments and ensure that security personnel conduct guest screening and frisking in a courteous and professional manner, without annoying them. In case of any suspicious individuals or activities, please seek immediate assistance from local police authorities, the Association stated. Requesting the tourists and guests to cooperate, the hoteliers' body said that It is important that they (Tourists) understand the need for these enhanced security measures and extend full cooperation to hotel staff during screening or verification procedures. Calling upon to work together to ensure the safety and security of the guests, staff, and properties, the HRAO asked its members to uphold the image of Odisha as a safe and welcoming tourist destination.

New Delhi, Nov 11: The negotiations for the proposed free trade agreement between India and New Zealand have almost concluded, a senior government official said Tuesday.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal recently visited Auckland to give an impetus to the trade talks.

"Negotiations are almost completed...may take a few more weeks," the official said, adding that New Zealand Trade Minister Todd McClav will be here on Friday for the trade talks. The FTA negotiations were formally launched March 16, 2025. India's bilateral merchandise trade with New Zealand stood at USD 1.3 billion in 2024-25, registering a growth of nearly 49 per cent over the previous year.

The official also said that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is also keen to negotiate a pact with India.

Bahrain and Qatar have already shown keen interest in a trade deal separately. GCC members are Bahrain,

Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. India has implemented an FTA with the UAE.

# Gill & boys sweat it out at nets Aishwary, Esha-Rana's

Kolkata, Nov 11: Transitioning from shorter formats to the rigours of red-ball cricket takes time, and India captain Shubman Gill spent close to an hour and a half at the nets, fine-tuning his technique ahead of the opening Test against South Africa, starting

The Proteas arrive high on confidence, having secured a hard-earned 1-1 draw in Pakistan last month in challenging conditions. Gill, who struck a fifty and an unbeaten century in the two home Tests against the West Indies last month, has been searching for runs in white-ball cricket.

He managed just one score above fifty -- a 46 at Carrara Oval -- from eight innings across the ODIs and T20Is in Australia.

Now back to leading the Test side, Gill batted with determination at nets and looked keen to regain rhythm after a lean white-ball run. Gill later joined his teammates for slip-fielding drills before padding up alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal for an

### **Spotlight on Sai Sudharsan**

Another batter to spend significant time at the nets was Sai Sudharsan, who managed just 84 runs in two unofficial Tests for India A against South Africa A.

The team management continues to back him for the No. 3 slot, though he is yet to make it his own, with only a 61 against England in Manchester and 87 versus West Indies at home to show so far in Tests. His India A teammates -- KL

Rahul, Jurel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj -- skipped the optional practice after joining the squad only a day earlier after a demanding A series in Bengaluru, which concluded

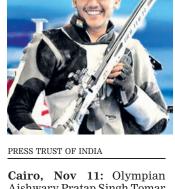
Among pacers, only Jasprit Bumrah turned up, keeping it light with spot bowling at two

been watered for a week now, appeared dry and brown with light grass patches.

Later in the evening, after South Africa wrapped up their session, CAB President Sourav Ganguly along with other officials walked up to the centre strip for a close inspection and held discussions with local curator Sujan Mukherjee.

While the groundsmen watered the adjoining areas of the square, the main pitch was deliberately left dry.

### Special gold toss coin



Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar equalled the qualification world record and then won his first-ever individual World Championship medal by settling for silver in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final here Tuesday.

Newly-crowned air pistol world champion Samrat Rana and defending champion Esha Singh also ended with a silver medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team competition, after they went down 10-16 in the gold medal match to China's Kai Hu and Qianxun Yao.

Before that Aishwary, the two-time Olympian, managed 466.9 in the 45-shot final to finish behind China's reigning Olympic champion Liu Yukun, who ended 0.2 ahead with 467.1.

India continued to hold the second position in the medal tally behind China with three gold, five silver and three bronze in their kitty. China have so far won eight gold in a total of 14 podium finishes.

Aishwary, the reigning Asian champion, shot like a dream throughout the day, scoring an astonishing 200/200 in the kneeling position of the qualification round and followed that up with yet another perfect 200 in the second prone



silver haul at ISSF WC

**India continued to** hold the second position in the medal tally behind China with three gold, five silver and three bronze in their kitty

He lost just three points in the standing position to end up with a tally of 597 and top the 66-strong field. It also matched the men's 3P qualification world record score, hitherto jointly held by Liu and his fellow Chinese Linshu Du.

Niraj Kumar, the second Indian in the field, qualified fifth with a score of 592.

In the eight-man final, Aishwary had a poor start by his standards on the day, an 8.6 for his sixth kneeling shot setting him back early. The recovery began in his favourite prone position and a defining series of 53.3, 52.7 and 52.7 lifted him to second, iust 0.2 behind leader Liu.

Teammate Niraj's fortunes went the other way as after being fourth at the end of the kneeling position, he slipped to sixth going into the final standing position and although he managed to cover some ground, he could only manage a fifthplace finish in his first ever

khar Mohan struck an unbeat-

en 102 as Jharkhand reached

226 for four in their second

innings before agreeing to a

Jharkhand, who bagged three

points for their first-innings

lead, are placed second in the

group with 18 points. Baroda

settled for one to be at fifth spot

Resuming at 10 for one, Mo-

han hit eight fours and two sixes

in his 200-ball unbeaten knock,

while Virat Singh scored a

fluent 64 off 78 balls with nine

draw with Baroda

with a total of 9 points.

boundaries and a six



When the eliminations be gan, the difference between Liu and Tomar was 0.2. The lead alternated between the Indian and the Chinese shooters going into the final shot.

As Liu fired a 10.1, Tomar needed a 10.2 or more to win gold, but a 9.8 meant the Chinese Olympic champion was also crowned the new world champion. Talented Frenchman Romain Aufrere won bronze.

### Esha, Samrat outgunned by top Chinese pair

In the second final of the day -- the 10m air pistol mixed team -- the Indian pair of Esha and Samrat did exceedingly well to top qualifications with a combined effort of 586, with both shooting identical scores of 293

The second Indian duo of Suruchi Singh and Shravan Kumar shot 579 to end in eighth position

Esha and Samrat were up against it as they faced Kai Hu and Qianxun Yao of China in the gold medal match, the world number one and two individually and in-form, having won silver and gold respectively in the individual event Monday.

The race to 16 points lasted for 13 rounds and both pairs were tied at nine points apiece after nine rounds. The Chinese then took the next three rounds and despite India tying the 13th, the match could not be salvaged

## SHORT **TAKES**

### Historic pole, podium for Atiqa Mir in COTFA

Abu Dhabi: Indian racing prodigy Atiga Mir stormed to a historic pole position before finishing third on the podium in the opening round of the Formula 1 Academy backed COTFA UAE karting series here. The 10-year-old is the first Indian to be supported by Formula 1. Already part of the Champions of the Future Academy (COTFA) international series, Atiga last month was picked by Formula 1 Academy for the two-round COTFA UAE cnampionsnip. Sne ciincned the pole position, becoming the first-ever female in the world to achieve this feat in COTFA mini class before adding a Heat win to a successful weekend. She capped off a memorable week by finishing third in the final.

### **All five Indians** play out draws

Panjim: Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi remained in the hunt for a place in the finals as all the five Indians drew their first game of the fourth round of World Chess Cup here Tuesday. Erigaisi did not have to face too many problems against Peter Leko who was happy with a draw with white pieces. Erigaisi employed the Sicilian Taimanov and got a heated opening survey from one of the main lines. Praggnanandhaa was worse when Daniil Dubov decided it was not much to look forward to. It was clear that Dubov was hoping to take his chances. As things turned out. Grandmaster P Harikrishna also did not mind the draw against Nils Grandelius of Swesen. Nils is someone known to be chasing the higher prize fund but for Harikrishna, it does not matter much.

### **Anahat makes winning start;** Abhay, Senthilkumar bow out

New Delhi: India's reigning women's national champion Anahat Singh made a winning start at the China Open in Shanghai Tuesday but compatriots Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar lost in the men's opening round. Delhi teenager Anahat, ranked 38th in the world, beat Egypt's Menna Hamed 11-6, 11-8, 11-3 in their round of 32 contest of the PSA Gold event. Anahat will next meet Egyptian eighth seed and world No. 15 Sana Ibrahim. Abhay lost to Baptiste Masotti, with the French world No. 17 winning by margin of 11-8, 11-7, 11-4.

## WOMEN'S T20 WC - CRICKET FOR THE BLIND 2025

# India beat SL by 10 wickets



New Delhi, Nov 11: India emerged victorious over Sri Lanka by 10 runs after former union sports minister Anurag Thakur Tuesday declared open the first-ever Women's T20 World Cup - Cricket for the Blind 2025 at the Modern School Ground here.

stumps for about 15 minutes,

Overall, only seven players

turned up for the optional prac-

tice session, as the likes of Pant,

Jurel, Rahul, Siraj, Kuldeep,

Akash, Devdutt Padikkal and

After nearly three hours of

Three-tier security cordon

Security arrangements have been strengthened at the Eden Gardens stadium and across Kolkata ahead

of the first Test match between India and South Africa,

following the fatal car explosion near Delhi's Red Fort

confirmed the high alert status, stating that special and

on high alert. Keeping in mind the blast in Delhi, special

additional measures are currently underway. "We are

and additional security arrangements are being made,

the police. Spectators at the venue will also fall within

a Kolkata Police official said, adding that the Special

Task Force (STF) would also be deployed alongside

Monday. Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Verma

training, the team's think tank

targeting the off stump.

Axar Patel skipped.

**Focus on pitch** 

The ceremony commenced with the national anthem, presented in sign language by specially-abled students from the Delhi branch of Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled.

Speaking at the inauguration, Thakur said, "I wish all the teams the best of luck for the World Cup. You may give

We are going to watch you on television.'

-- Gambhir, Kotak, Morkel,

and Gill -- gathered at the

centre wicket for a long pitch

Morkel and Gill checked the

firmness before summoning

curator Sujan Mukherjee for a

15-minute discussion. Judging

by their expressions, the man-

agement did not appear entirely

pleased with the surface

the security zone. Each person is expected to be checked at least twice using metal scanners. Plainclothes

police personnel will be deployed both inside and outside the stadium, and crowd movement will be closely

monitored. Entry with suspicious objects or bags will be strictly prohibited. Furthermore, security has been

reinforced at the city hotels accommodating the Indian and South African cricket teams.

inspection.

Post the inauguration, India locked horns with Sri Lanka and began their campaign on a

Opting to bat first, Sri Lanka were restricted to just 41 runs in 13.3 overs, as India's bowlers and fielders delivered a spectac-

ular performance. India's sharp fielding led to seven run outs, while Deepika TC. Ganga Kadam, and Jamuna Rani Tudu claimed a wicket each. In reply, India chased down the modest target in emphatic fashion, reaching 43 without loss in just three overs.

# Rekhade's five-for powers Vidarbha to win over Odisha

Nagpur, Nov 11: Left-arm spinner Parth Rekhade returned with a five-wicket haul as Vidarbha registered a 100-run win over Odisha to move to the top of Group A in the Ranji Trophy here on Tuesday.

Chasing 345 for victory, Odisha were bowled out for 244 in 84 overs after a promising 100run opening stand between Swastik Samal (65) and Gourav Choudhury (47).

Vidarbha now lead the table with 19 points, while Odisha remain second from bottom with just one point.

Resuming at 44 for no loss, Samal and Choudhury added 56 more runs before Rekhade provided the breakthrough in the 24th over, trapping the latter leg before wicket.

Samal too became his victim soon after, while Sandeep



Pattnaik's painstaking 27 off 105 balls ended when he was trapped in front by Praful

Hinge in the 38th over. Skipper Subhranshu Senapati (28) and Govinda Poddar (46) tried to steady the chase but failed to convert their starts, as Odisha kept losing wickets at regular intervals.

Rekhade (5/80) led the bowling effort with Hinge (3/41) providing able support, while Nachiket Bhute (1/50) also chipped in.

In Vadodara, opener Shi-

**Brief Scores** 

# **King's Baton Relay for Glasgow CWG kicks off**

New Delhi, Nov 11: Union Minister of Youth Affairs, Sports and Labour & Employment, Mansukh Mandaviya, Tuesday unveiled the King's Baton for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games (CWG) at DLF Avenue Saket. The event was graced by the presence of Lindy Cameron, British High Commissioner to the Republic of India, and PT Usha, President, Commonwealth

Games Association of India. The ceremony, hosted by the Commonwealth Games Associa tion of India (CGAI), also saw the presence of various Olympic and CWG medallists, including Yogeshwar Dutt, Achanta Sharath Kamal, and Gagan Narang, along with senior officials from the Ministry of Youth Affairs Sports and the Commonwealth Games Federation and Sports Authority of India. The Baton will remain on public display in Delhi from November 12 to 14 for viewing in DLF Avenue Mall, before travelling to Ahmedabad November 14.

# 'Frustration, anger turned into desperation'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: India's distressed football players issued a joint statement Tuesday pleading with the administrators to get the currently paused Indian Super League (ISL) season underway, saying that their "anger and frustration" has turned into desperation now.

The plea came after the All India Football Federation (AIFF) last week said it did not receive any bids for the commercial rights of the ISL after the Request for Proposal (RFP) October 16, inviting bids for a 15-year contract to monetise the league's commercial and media rights.

"Where we are right now is not a delay anymore, it's a standstill for the coaches, fans, staff members, and players. We have worked too hard, sacrificed too much to let our season vanish in silence," said star defender Sandesh Jhingan in a video posted on his social

media handles. "The entire Indian football



ecosystem are hanging in uncertainty. Dreams are paused. Future being questioned. Everv day we wait. Indian football bleeds. We need action and we need it now," he asserted.

Several national team footballers like Sunil Chhetri and Gurpreet Singh Sandhu shared a text statement expressing similar sentiments.

"We, professional footballers who play in the Indian Super League, are coming together to make a plea, and more importantly to send the message that we stand united in our efforts to get the Indian Super League season underway. To

put it simply, we want to play, and now.

"Our anger, frustration and

distress has now been replaced by desperation. Desperation to play the game we love, in front of people who mean everything to us - our families, our fans, the statement read.

Chhetri also added on Instagram, "We are all standing shoulder to shoulder, willing to do whatever it takes to res urrect the sport we love."

The statement urged the game's administrators to figure a way out of the current crisis which has prompted top clubs like Mohun Bagan to halt training.

"This is a plea to all those involved in running our sport in the country, to do whatever it takes to get the football season underway. India needs its competitive football now more than ever," it said.

The AIFF Bid Evaluation Committee, headed by (retired) Justice Nageswara Rao and appointed on the orders of the Supreme Court, will submit a report on the bid fiasco to the top court, which is monitoring the entire process.

# Deepika, Dhiraj lead in **Asian Archery C'ship**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Nov 11: Star archers Deepika Kumari and Dhirai Bommadevara were back to their best after missing out on the team berths, as India secured at least three individual medals in recurve events of the Asian Archery Championships here Tuesday

Top-ranked Indians Deepika and Dhiraj, who had failed to make the team events after finishing last among their compatriots in qualification round on the opening day, bounced back strongly when the individual eliminations got underway.

Deepika stunned Shanghai World Cup gold medallist Lee Gahyun of Korea 7-3 to storm into the women's recurve semifinals, where she will face

compatriot Ankita Bhakat. Ankita, meanwhile, produced one of the biggest upsets of the day, toppling top seed

and former world champion Jang Minhee of Korea 6-4.

Sangeeta too joined the partv. defeating Iran's Zare Rev hane 7-1 to enter the last-four where she will meet Korea's Nam Suhyeon.

With Deepika, Ankita and Sangeeta all in the semifinals, India stand a strong chance of completing a clean sweep in the women's recurve individ ual category.

In the men's recurve section, Dhiraj made amends for his poor qualification round by defeating Uzbekistan's Amirk hon Sadikov in a shoot-off both shooting 10s before the Indian prevailed with an arrow closer to the centre after being locked 5-5 in four sets.

He will take on Korea's Jang Chaehwan in the semifinal.

Rahul, the 11th seed, also put up a solid show to beat Lin Zih-Siang of Chinese Taipei 6-2 and set up the other semifinal against Korea's Seo Mingi.

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