

Nora's statement

Dancer-singer Nora Fatehi, at a global event, showcases how sustainable fashion can be every bit as glamorous

LEISURE | P2



Cheetah pact

India and Botswana announce translocation of eight Cheetahs from Botswana to India during Prez Droupadi Murmu's visit

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Retail inflation at lowest

Retail inflation falls to record low of 0.25% in October following cut in GST rates on nearly 380 items of mass consumption

BUSINESS | P11



Dhruv replaces Nitish

Dhruv Jurel will play the opening Test against SA and Nitish Kumar Reddy is set to be the one who makes way for him in the line-up

SPORTS | P12

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BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 13, 2025

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

COP CHAOS: An Indigenous demonstrator is held by a staff member as protesters force their way into the venue hosting the UN Climate Change Conference (COP30), in Belem, Brazil **PHOTO:** REUTERS

Now, tehsildars can rectify sale deeds

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Tehsildars have now been empowered to carry out corrections to land records or sale deeds as CM Mohan Charan Majhi has approved an amendment to Odisha Survey and Settlement Rules to address long-standing problems faced by land buyers and sellers.

As per the existing provisions, during the settlement operation, Record of Rights (RoR) for lands purchased before the settlement were being recorded in the name of the buyer by the settlement officer.

However, in cases where, for any reason, the buyer's name was not entered in the land record during the settlement, the buyer had to file an appeal before the Board of Revenue or other competent Revision Courts.

Due to the heavy workload on these higher authorities, such appeals often remained pending for years. With the amendment, tehsildars will now be empowered to correct such land records and record the buyer's name in the RoR for lands that were legally purchased prior to the settlement operation.

BALI YATRA BLUES

Cuttack: At least 15 Bali Yatra revelers had a harrowing time Wednesday night, when they got stranded on a swing following a technical snag. Reports said the motor of the swing became dysfunctional owing to which the swing came to an abrupt halt, leaving them stuck around 30-ft high. Fire Services personnel came to the rescue and were evacuating eight of them when the last report came in.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Why would a terrorist risk his life entering this dangerously polluted city just to plant a bomb?

10/11 accused recceeded Red Fort many times

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 12: *Much to the chagrin of police and intelligence departments, the masterminds of November 10, 2025 Delhi blast case had conducted multiple reconnaissances of the Red Fort area in January this year, an analysis of the dump data retrieved from the mobile phone of Dr Muzammil Ganai, who was arrested after police busted a white-collar terror module, revealed.*

Police said they suspect these recesses were part of a larger conspiracy to target the historic monument on Republic Day.

During investigation, it was found that two of the key suspects, Dr Umar, who was driving the Hyundai i20 car that exploded, and Muzammil, had travelled to Turkey. Sources said the investigators have found Turkish immigration stamps in their passports and are examining whether the two met any foreign based handler during their trip. They also said that Umar planned an attack to coincide with the Babri Masjid demolition anniversary December 6.

SUSPICIOUS RED CAR SEIZED

Chandigarh: A red Ford EcoSport car suspected to be linked to the Delhi Red Fort blast case has been traced and seized in Faridabad district's Khandawali, police said. When asked if the EcoSport car has been traced, a Faridabad police spokesperson confirmed over the phone, saying, "Yes, it has been found in Khandawali village."

It's terror attack: Centre

The government Wednesday termed the car explosion outside Red Fort as a "terrorist incident" and directed investigating agencies to deal with the case with "utmost urgency and professionalism" to bring the perpetrators and their sponsors to justice without delay.

P9

Hours after police busted the terror module with links to proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammed and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, and arrested eight people including three doctors, a high-in-

tensity blast ripped through a slow-moving car near Red Fort area, killing 12 people and injuring at least 20 others. A senior police officer said dump data showed Muzammil's repeated presence in and around Red Fort area in the first week of January. The agencies are also analysing mobile dump data from the Red Fort area between 3pm and 6:30pm November 10 to track Umar's movement and communication.

Meanwhile, PM Narendra Modi visited the LNJ Hospital and met the blast survivors. P9

Nuapada logs historic 83.45% voter turnout

Bhubaneswar: Nuapada Assembly constituency has recorded a huge voter turnout as 83.45 per cent of over 2.53 lakh people exercised their franchise during the bypoll held Tuesday, an official said. The byelection percentage is around 8.01 per cent more than the previous general Assembly elections held May 13, 2024, the official said. Taking to X, Chief Electoral Officer RS Gopalan said, "Nuapada byelection witnessed a historic 83.45 per cent voter turnout. This enthusiastic participation in the polls shows the faith and trust of the people of Nuapada in democracy. Our heartfelt gratitude to all the voters who made this festival of democracy a success by voting in large numbers.

P3

Pollution: Fresh advisory for states, UTs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: The Centre has issued an updated advisory to all states and Union Territories (UTs) asking them to ensure chest clinics in government health facilities and medical colleges under its National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH) to tackle air pollution-related diseases.

During the peak air pollution months (usually from September to March), the clinics are expected to function for a fixed duration of at least two hours daily.

Issuing instructions for immediate action, the Union health ministry has sent 33-page guidelines to the states and Union territories stating that cases of respiratory and cardiac diseases tend to rise due to pollution and therefore, hospitals must maintain special preparedness.

These chest clinics can be established at community health centres, district hospitals, and medical colleges in urban areas, covering all such facilities in cities under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) initially.

They will screen the patients for risk factors, confirm diag-

nosis, give treatment and long-term care to patients suffering from respiratory and heart diseases aggravated due to pollution, the advisory said.

The ministry also asked the facilities to maintain records of these patients through state or national level digital tools such as (Integrated Health Information Platform) IHIP. A register of individuals identified as being at high risk is to be maintained, and details of the high-risk individuals may also be shared with the respective blocks for community-based follow-up through ASHA, ANM, and CHO.

CM Mohan Charan Majhi and School & Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond with a differently-abled student at Surabhi **OP PHOTO**

'Surabhi' unparalleled platform for kids: CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: State-level children's festival 'Surabhi' has become an unparalleled platform to highlight students' potential before the public, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Wednesday.

Attending the inaugural ceremony of the three-day festival, organised by School and Mass Education (S&ME) department at Capital High School in Unit-3 area here as chief guest, Majhi said 'Surabhi' is not just a festival for nurturing children's talents but a platform to showcase their dreams, creativity, imagination, and skills.

More than 2,400 students, teachers, and over 1,000 government officials and staff participated in the event. This year, students from Classes I to III joined through 'Nipun Odisha, Nipun Bharat' initiative at school and cluster levels.

At the beginning of the programme, the CM and other dignitaries visited exhibitions prepared by the students.

The CM awarded cash prizes of ₹20,000 each to top performers — Devendra Khamaria (Arts), Sushil Kumar Nayak (Science), Swarnarekha Mantri

(Commerce), and Supriya Sutar (Vocational Education). He also presented awards to outstanding students in various competitions and five students under the Chief Minister's Language Scholarship. Additionally, wheelchairs were distributed to differently-abled students.

The CM stated that the state government is committed to providing quality education from pre-primary to Class XII.

From 'Godabarish Mishra Adarsha Prathamik Vidyalaya' to 'PM SHRI', several programmes are being implemented. The National Education Policy 2020 has been successfully rolled out from the school to the university level. The government has also started 'Shishu Batikas' in 45,000 schools across the state, and 'Shishu Sevikas' will be appointed for early education and care, he said.

"Every child has immense potential. They should identify their inner strengths and never hesitate to dream big. Students play a vital role in nation-building. Our government continues its efforts to ensure quality education and healthcare for them. 'Surabhi' has become an unparalleled platform to highlight students' potential before the public," he added.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you will focus your lens on the one you've taken a fancy to! You are high on energy, but low on commitment to work. It won't be surprising if your bosses are miffed. But still, says Ganesha, it's a day of flowers and love notes.

TAURUS
There ain't no mountain high enough and there ain't no valley deep. Today, you will find yourself on an invincible run. You might be your own worst enemy today if you waste your effort and energy for unproductive purposes. Overall, it is smooth sailing today and Ganesha advises you to stay focussed.

GEMINI
You will be dressed to kill today. People around you may or may not comment, but they will definitely notice you. Your sense of style and taste will bowl everyone over. People would scramble for a glimpse of you. You will be a celebrity. Most probably, your beloved will share the limelight with you.

CANCER
You are at your industrious best today. You will be able to think the unthinkable, achieve the unachievable, and impress an emotionally impenetrable boss. Your confidence level will be sky-high; in fact, it will make over-confidence wallow in self-doubt. Your colleagues will be awestruck, considering themselves lucky to see you in action.

LEO
The thing with skills is that they are not static; they are as dynamic as anything else. It is akin to being on a treadmill – you need to continuously keep moving just to stay in the same place, says Ganesha. So keep refreshing yourself by learning new things in order to sustain your progress. What you need is passion to help you shine in your profession, according to Ganesha.

VIRGO
One scale weighs work and the other weighs personal matters. But you Leos will keep both in check. Revel in stag debauchery and tonnes of merrymaking today. The desire to succeed will be fuelled even more today as you cut yourself loose, says Ganesha.

LIBRA
If one were to put an earnest spirit and a frank attitude together, the result would be a Leo; it's like your hallmark. And with qualities like these in your kitty, don't be surprised if you happen to reach a milestone or two today. So, is it marital bliss or career success? That may be the question to ask; but no matter what, be assured that your societal standing gets a heady boost today, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO
A shadow of foreboding grows large in your mind today. Your senses are at the highest alert, feels Ganesha. Keep your eyes and ears open to avoid troubles both at home and work.

SAGITTARIUS
Your dedication to work is set to shift to the top gear. Find yourself swamped by excess of workload in the forenoon. Things, however, will lighten as the afternoon progresses. Expect a fulfilled, exciting evening.

CAPRICORN
Opportunities are rare, and good opportunities rarer still. Today, you will run to grab an opportunity and will make the most of it, says Ganesha. This move will yield instant results, and place you better in comparison with your opponents. Rivals, in fact, will try to do you down but will fail miserably in their attempt. Your social standing, on the other hand, will grow manifold and all because of your extraordinary traits.

AQUARIUS
You roar with absolute bliss today! Simplicity is your new avatar, and naturally, friends and acquaintances are mystified. You may wish to commune with the higher spirit and will seek solace in a quiet temple. Ganesha approves and predicts peace in plenty.

PISCES
Staying afloat needs about as much effort as swimming. Cryptic as this may sound, what it means is you need to constantly reinvent yourself if you wish to keep going. You will shine in your profession only if it is also your passion, says Ganesha.



ARIANA WANTS TO FORGET VIRAL MOON LANDING COMMENTS

Wicked: For Good star Ariana Grande wants to move past her comments about the moon landing and focus on climate change. The 32-year-old star went viral during last year's *Wicked* press tour when she indicated she was not sure whether moon landing happened.

PUGH WAS IN DEPRESSION AFTER MIDSOMMAR SHOOT

Hollywood actress Florence Pugh had a tough time filming for her horror classic *Midsommar*. The actress has shared that she suffered for 6 months from depression after completing the film. The actress admitted that she abused her mental health in order to play the character.



FHF's 10th FPRWI 2025

CM: It's our responsibility to preserve state's film heritage



Dignitaries releasing official workshop poster

Legendary Hindi film actress Waheeda Rehman hailed Film Heritage Foundation (FHF) for preserving the classic movies for future generations

BHUBANESWAR: Odia cinema has come a long way, and there's a need to preserve this cultural heritage, said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Wednesday.

He said this while gracing the opening ceremony of the 10th Film Preservation and Restoration Workshop India (FPRWI) 2025, organised by the Film Heritage Foundation (FHF) in collaboration with the International Federation of Film Archives, which was inaugurated at Kalabhoomi – Odisha Crafts Museum, Bhubaneswar.

The week-long international workshop will run till November 19, marking the first time the prestigious programme is being hosted in Odisha.

The event, held in partnership with the state govt's Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts and Tourism departments, was attended by legendary actress Waheeda Rehman as Guest of Honour and the CM as Chief Guest. Filmmaker and former MP Prashanta Nanda, actor-MLA Sidhant Mohapatra, Ekamra MLA Babu Singh, and other dignitaries from the film fraternity and cultural institutions were also present.

FHF founder Shivendra Singh Dungarpur welcomed the guests and highlighted the importance of preserving India's cinematic heritage. A live message from Amitabh Bachchan, FHF's brand ambassador, added star power to the inauguration. Addressing the gathering, the CM said,



CM felicitating actress Waheeda Rehman

"Odia cinema has come a long way, and it is our responsibility to preserve this cultural heritage. The state government will extend full support to the FHF to ensure our cinematic legacy lives on."

Waheeda said, "I congratulate Shivendra Singh Dungarpur and his team for their incredible work. Even if we are not here tomorrow, these memories will be preserved forever."

The inauguration also saw the release of the official workshop poster and felicitation with Champions of FHF to Robin Bekaert, Sanjay Patnaik, and Surya Deo for their contribution to film preservation. The evening concluded with a spell-binding Odissi recital choreographed by Padma Shri Ileana Citaristi, dedicated to Odisha's weaving traditions. **RESMI YADAV, OP**

MUMBAI: In the latest episode of *Two Much With Kajol and Twinkle*, the hosts debated marriage expiry dates.

During the show, a lively discussion unfolded when Kajol, who is married to Ajay Devgn, shared her belief that marriages should come with an expiry date and an option for renewal.

During the *This or That* segment, Twinkle posed the question, "Should marriage have an expiry date and a renewal option?" Kriti, Vicky, and Twinkle all disagreed, standing in the red zone, while Kajol supported the idea and moved to the green zone.

"No, it's marriage, not a washing machine," Twinkle quipped. Kajol countered, "I definitely think so. What guarantees that you'll marry

Kajol debates marriage expiry dates, renewal



the right person at the right time? A renewal option would make sense and if there's an expiry date, no one has to suffer for too long." She even tried to persuade Twinkle to join her in the green zone.

The next statement was, "Money can buy happiness." This time, Twinkle and Vicky agreed and stepped into the green zone, while Kajol disagreed. "No matter how much money you have, it can actually become an impediment. It numbs you to the true idea of happiness," Kajol explained. After some reflection, Kriti admitted that money could buy happiness at least to a certain extent.

AGENCIES

Govinda discharged from hospital after health scare

MUMBAI: Actor Govinda, who was hospitalised after fainting and feeling disoriented, has now been discharged. The actor greeted photographers stationed outside the hospital in Mumbai and assured them of his well-being with a warm smile and a wave.

For his first outing after the discharge, Govinda opted for a blazer over a black t-shirt, paired with jeans and dark sunglasses. He seemed to be cheerful and in good spirits as he was spotted smiling at the cameras. In the video, Govinda was surrounded by a few people, including hospital staff and his acquaintances. In one of the videos, Govinda was also seen greeting and chatting with a member of the paparazzi gathered outside the hospital.

Giving an update about his health, Govinda smiled and said, "I worked a bit too hard... I'm fine now."

"Doing hard exercises is tough. I am working on developing a better personality. Doing yoga and pranayama is the best thing," added the actor. **AGENCIES**



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

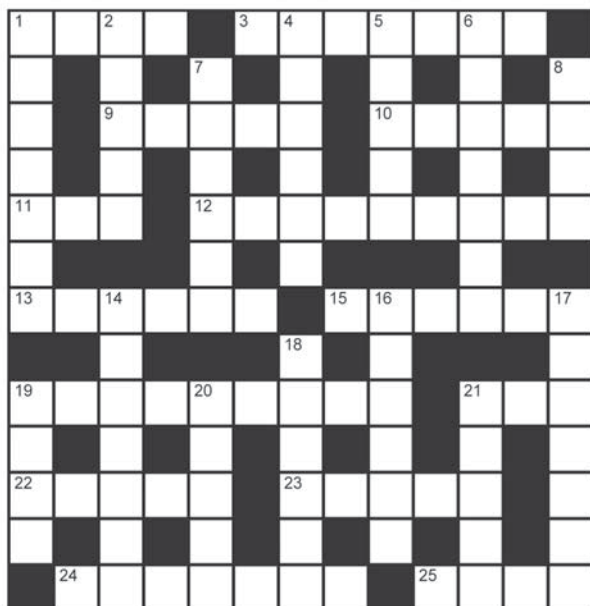


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Across

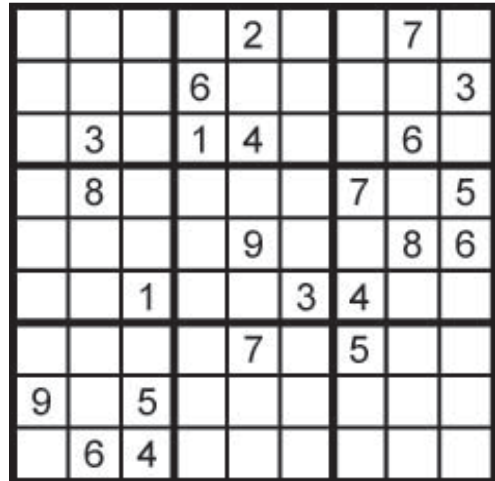
- Taurus
- Normally
- Family girl
- Abominable snowmen
- Paddle
- Take back
- Lacking companions
- Obliterates
- Editor's chores

Down

- Port in SW England
- Kind of cabinet
- One of the Seven Dwarfs
- Quilting party
- Untrue
- Kind of test
- Grazing land
- Playlet
- Chasm
- Missives
- Auto mover
- Calls upon
- Short work of fiction
- Withstand
- Go on a date (4,3)
- Straw hat
- Flat floater
- Lilac, e.g.
- Cheerless

SUDOKU

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

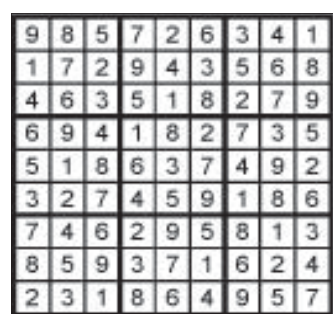


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

25th Int’l Anjali Fest kicks off in Capital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The 25th International Anjali Children and Youth Festival, marking its Golden Jubilee Year, was inaugurated at the Adivasi Exhibition Ground here Wednesday. Organised annually by the voluntary organisation Swabhiman under the leadership of Sruti Mohapatra, the festival aims to empower and inspire confidence among children with disabilities.

The five-day festival (November 12-16) has drawn thousands of children and youth from all 30 districts of Odisha and 18 other Indian states, including Ladakh, Lakshadweep, and Jammu & Kashmir. Participants from Sri Lanka have also joined the celebrations.

In the evening, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida graced the event as the chief guest along with eminent per-

sonalities including Padma Shri Priyambada Mohanty Hejmadi, Padma Shri Sudarshan Pattnaik (renowned sand artist), CYSD founder member Jagadananda, and long-time volunteer Gayatri Kar.

In her address, Parida hailed Mohapatra as a true source of inspiration for bringing together over 700 differently-abled children into one extended family. She remarked, “Swabhiman is not just an organisation—it’s a family. Organising such a large-scale event purely through volunteer efforts is truly commendable.” The dignitaries congratulated the organisers on completing 25 remarkable years of the festival and applauded their unwavering dedication and spirit of inclusion.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohapatra reflected on the festival’s 25-year journey of perseverance and achievement, sharing how a modest initiative had blossomed into a

large and compassionate family through years of collective support and dedication.

At the event, the “Anjali Award for Bravery” was conferred on Suresh Chaudhury, while the “Anjali Student Scholarship” was presented to Sulekha Barai. The dignitaries also unveiled the Anjali Camp Bulletin, marking the milestone celebration.

This year’s theme, “Mythology, Folklore, and Legends,” celebrates timeless tales of gods, heroes, and supernatural events from diverse cultures and traditions, reflecting humanity’s shared heritage and values.

The festival features a vibrant array of workshops and competitions in areas like dance, music, art, crafts, theatre, photography, storytelling, and yoga—providing a platform for children of all abilities to showcase their talents and inspire new perspectives in society.



INSPIRING CONFIDENCE: Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida felicitates Swabhiman founder Sruti Mohapatra during the inaugural ceremony of the 25th International Children and Youth Festival 'Anjali' at the Adivasi Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday. The five-day festival aims to empower and inspire confidence among children with disabilities, drawing thousands of participants from all 30 districts of Odisha and 18 Indian states — including Ladakh, Lakshadweep, and Jammu & Kashmir — and even Sri Lanka.

High-level consultative workshop on draft OMPP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: With an aim to transform Odisha into a globally competitive maritime state, Commerce and Transport (C&T) department Wednesday convened a high-level consultative workshop on preparation of a strategic roadmap— Odisha Maritime Perspective Plan (OMPP).

The workshop, chaired by C&T department Principal Secretary Usha Padhee, brought together senior officials and key stakeholders from multiple departments and agencies to provide critical inputs for finalising the state’s long-term maritime strategy.



OMPP (2025-2050) is being prepared by National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC), IIT-Madras as technical consultant for the project. The plan is strategically aligned with major national initiatives such as Sagarmala, PM Gati Shakti, and the Maritime India Vision 2030, ensuring full integration between state and national maritime development goals.

Experts from NTCPWC presented key features of the draft plan, which lays out a phased and sustainable roadmap to unlock the full potential of Odisha’s 575-km coastline and vast network of rivers. The OMPP is structured around six strategic pillars— enhancing existing port infrastructure and developing new ports to boost maritime trade and logistics, strengthening multimodal connectivity by linking ports and waterways with hinterland logistics, promoting fisheries, aquaculture, among others.

Youth held for iPhone theft

Bhubaneswar: Saheed Nagar Police arrested a 25-year-old man from Chhattisgarh for stealing five Apple iPhones worth several lakhs from an electronics store. The accused, Rakesh Singh, allegedly hid in the basement of the store October 28, broke the glass door the next morning, and escaped with the phones. Acting on a complaint by the store owner, police registered a case under Sections 331(4)/305(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The accused was later traced and arrested, and all five stolen iPhones were recovered from his possession following his confession.

MILLET PROMOTION & PRESERVING AGRI HERITAGE

Union Minister Chouhan lauds state leadership in agriculture

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: In a powerful endorsement of Odisha’s pioneering efforts in promoting sustainable agriculture, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan praised state’s leadership in both preserving agricultural heritage and boosting millet production. Speaking at the international symposium on Shree Anna (Millets) and Women Farmers 2025 recently, Chouhan highlighted Odisha’s unique approach to supporting millets and empowering women farmers.

Chouhan particularly lauded Odisha for being the only state in India to dedicate a specific day to millets, called Mandia Dibasa (Millet Day), underscoring the state’s commitment to celebrating and promoting this ancient crop. He also emphasised Odisha’s role as a model for other states, showcasing its leadership not only in enhancing millet production but also in exporting millets to other regions, helping to address food security and nutrition challenges.

Moreover, Chouhan commended state’s innovative pol-



Union Minister Chouhan commended Odisha’s innovative policies such as guidelines for conserving landraces and testing women-centric farm machinery

icies, including introduction of guidelines for conservation of landraces and testing of women-centric agricultural machinery, which have been critical in advancing both sustainability and gender equity in agriculture.

The minister also highlighted the Millet Foundation Guide, a groundbreaking publication by department of Agriculture,

which serves as a comprehensive resource for research and knowledge on millets.

These initiatives, he noted, represent a holistic approach to agricultural sustainability, with a special focus on empowering women farmers, who play a crucial role in the conservation of agricultural biodiversity.

IIM-Sambalpur, RAI ink pact to boost retail edu

MoU to EQUIP STUDENTS WITH PRACTICAL INSIGHTS AND SKILLS FOR THE EVOLVING RETAIL INDUSTRY

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/ Sambalpur, Nov 12: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sambalpur, one of India’s premier B-Schools, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Retailers Association of India (RAI) to strengthen retail education, skill development, and research through enhanced industry-academia collaboration.

The initiative seeks to establish a dynamic learning platform that helps students grasp the evolving retail landscape, gain hands-on experience, and develop skills aligned with current industry needs.

The MoU was signed by IIM Sambalpur director Prof Mahadeo Jaiswal and RAI’s director of Retail Learning & Member Relationship, Lawrence Fernandes, in the presence of faculty members, students, and RAI representatives.

Under the agreement, IIM-Sambalpur will receive ac-



ademic membership from RAI, granting it access to RAI’s extensive industry network and a host of collaborative opportunities. The partnership will also enable the institute to participate in prominent retail forums and events such as the Retail Leadership Summit, ReTech-Con, and the Retail HR Tech Summit, providing students and faculty valuable exposure

to emerging trends, innovations, and best practices in the retail sector.

Additionally, RAI will collaborate with IIM-Sambalpur in organising the institute’s Annual Retail Conclave and extend support in providing international exposure to students and faculty through curated industry visits and interactions with leading global retailers.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Jaiswal said, “This partnership marks the beginning of a new era of the ‘Brand in India’ concept in management education, aimed at nurturing responsible, skilled, and innovation-driven industry leaders.”

We believe that management education must remain closely linked to real-world practice, and this MoU will empower our students to gain firsthand learning experiences from the retail industry.”

RAI CEO Kumar Rajagopalan said, “Retail in India is at a

defining moment — expanding rapidly, embracing technology, and innovating new formats every day. Through this collaboration with IIM-Sambalpur, RAI furthers its mission to bridge the gap between industry and academia, ensuring that future leaders are equipped with the right skills, exposure, and mindset to shape the future of modern retail. This partnership goes beyond education; it is about co-creating pathways that strengthen India’s retail ecosystem and make it truly future-ready.”

The partnership highlights IIM Sambalpur’s commitment to fostering industry-driven learning models and RAI’s dedication to promoting retail excellence through education, training, and skill development. Together, the two institutions aim to nurture future-ready managers capable of leading India’s dynamic retail sector toward sustained growth and global competitiveness.

CSIR to host Cohort Connect from today



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: As India faces a rising burden of cardio-metabolic disorders, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is spearheading a nationwide initiative to decode the country’s unique health profile through its flagship project, Phenome India–CSIR Health Cohort Knowledgebase (PI-CHeCK).

To advance this mission, a two-day National Conclave on Longitudinal Cohort Studies — Cohort Connect 2025 — will be held November 13 and 14 at CSIR-IMMT, Bhubaneswar. Union Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Jitendra Singh, along with leading medical experts and stakeholders, will attend the event.

At a press conference held at CSIR-IMMT Wednesday,

CSIR-IGIB director Souvik Maiti, CSIR-IMMT director Ramanuj Narayan, and CSIR (PI-CHeCK) principal investigator Shantanu Sengupta, among others, shared details about the upcoming programme.

Sengupta said, “Through this initiative, we aim to establish a national biobank and develop India-specific risk models by studying longitudinal cohorts. So far, 37 laboratories across 16 states have been set up to support this research.”

The officials added that the project seeks to build a pan-India longitudinal health cohort comprising CSIR employees, pensioners, and their spouses. Over a five-year period, data will be collected and analysed at three intervals to understand how genetics, lifestyle, diet, and environmental factors influence disease risk across India’s diverse population.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.68 ▲ 0.04	SENSEX	84466.51 ▲ 595.19	GOLD	₹125,539 ▲ ₹1604
EURO	102.67 ▼ 0.02	NIFTY	25875.80 ▲ 180.85	SILVER	₹159,731 ▲ ₹4988

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	29.7°	27.6°	Dry weather very likely
Min Temp	15.5°	15.2°	
Humidity	67%	67%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

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Injured jumbo treated by expert team in Keonjhar



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 12: A makhna (tuskless male) elephant, apparently injured in a fight with other elephants, was treated by a veterinary team Tuesday in the Telkoi forest range area of the Keonjhar forest division, officials said.

According to Forest department sources, a 10-member team was formed to handle the rescue and treatment operation. The team included Sudipta Kumar Panda, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Keonjhar; veterinary assistant surgeons Dr Abhilash Acharya, Dr Brajraj Yadav, Dr Juel, and Dr Abhisek Nayak; along with biologists and other forest staff.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Dhanraj HD said the team reached Udayagiri village at around 8:30am Tuesday, where the injured elephant was located midway up a hill. Forest staff from the Telkoi range worked to guide the elephant down to a suitable location for safe tranquillisation.

At around 2:30pm, the elephant reached the foothill, identified as the ideal site for treatment. Using drone surveillance, the team assessed the surroundings and finalised the tranquillisation point.

The first tranquiliser dart was fired at about 2:53pm, but it did not achieve full sedation. A second dart, with the same drug combination, was administered at 3:25pm. The elephant was fully sedated about 20 minutes later.

Once sedated, the Rapid Re-

sponse Team and forest personnel covered the elephant's head with a blanket to prevent light stimulation and reduce stress. Blood samples were collected for hematological and biochemical analysis.

A physical examination revealed multiple injuries across the elephant's body, believed to be from infighting. The DFO said. The team found a large purulent wound on the left foreleg discharging pus, along with several other wounds on the left flank, right flank, neck, and left hind leg.

"The team thoroughly cleaned the wounds, removed maggots and pus, and dressed them with povidone-iodine and potassium permanganate," DFO Dhanraj said. "Sprays were also applied to repel flies and prevent infection. The major wound on the left foreleg was dressed with gauze bandage."

After treatment, a reversal injection was administered to counteract sedation. The elephant's recovery was monitored through drone surveillance. Within about 30 minutes, the elephant regained normal movement and walked back toward the forest.

"The entire tranquillisation and treatment operation concluded successfully around 5:30pm. The elephant responded well to the treatment and recovered without complications," DFO Dhanraj said. "Its health status will continue to be monitored by the Telkoi forest range staff and the veterinary team."

Man kills father over delay in serving food

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 12: In a shocking incident in Sirispala village under the Town police station Wednesday, a 30-year-old man allegedly killed his 60-year-old father over a trivial dispute.

The deceased has been identified as Taranisen Naik, police said. The accused, Trinath Naik, has been arrested and charged with murder.

According to police sources, the incident occurred around 1:30pm when Trinath asked his parents, who were at home, for food. He became angry when they delayed serving him his meal and allegedly pushed his father in a fit of rage.

Taranisen reportedly fell and was injured critically after hitting the edge of a cot. Police said Trinath then kicked his father on the head, killing him instantly.

After receiving information, police reached the scene, recovered the body and sent it to the district headquarters hospital for an autopsy.

"The accused has been arrested and will be forwarded to court. Further investigation is underway. Trinath is the only son of Taranisen," said Srikantha Sahu, Inspector In-Charge of the Town police station.



Adivasi Mela: Andhra's latest nefarious bid to lure villagers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Nov 12: In a bold and provocative move, Andhra Pradesh has intensified its activities deep inside Odisha's Kotia panchayat, raising serious concerns over territorial intrusion and political manipulation. Under the guise of welfare and cultural programmes, Andhra officials are systematically trying to influence the sentiments of gullible Odia villagers residing in the disputed villages along the border in a bid to win them over.

The latest instance of Andhra's continued interference surfaced when its administration brazenly organised an Adivasi Mela at Neradivalasa village, a location well within Odisha's territory. The event, conducted under the supervision of the ITDA Project Officer of Parvathipuram Manyam district, witnessed active participation from the Salur Girijana Cooperative Corporation, which set up stalls to promote Andhra's welfare schemes and sell Andhra-made products, clearly aiming to extend the



state's influence over local Odia villagers. Locals allege that such programmes are nothing but a deliberate attempt to divert the loyalty of the tribal

community from Odisha. "They come with gifts, promises, and propaganda trying to make us believe that Kotia belongs to Andhra. But we know our roots

lie in Odisha," said Ananta Paraja, a resident of Neradivalasa. Political observers see Andhra's continued presence as a calculated attempt to assert administrative control over the 21 disputed villages under Kotia panchayat, exploiting the lack of regular developmental interventions from Odisha's side. Citizens and local leaders are now demanding a strong and proactive response from the Odisha government, warning that silence and negligence could cost the state its own land and people's faith.

BJP, BJD upbeat about Nuapada win, Congress says 'vote chori'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar/Nuapada, Nov 12: A day after the electoral fate of 14 candidates of Nuapada bypoll was sealed in EVMs, both the main opposition BJD and the ruling BJP Wednesday asserted that the victory will be theirs.

The Congress, on the other hand, alleged massive "vote chori" in Nuapada, though its candidate Ghasiram Majhi claimed that he will win.

The byelection registered a huge voter turnout of 83.45 per cent.

Addressing a press conference in Bhubaneswar, senior women BJD leaders including Opposition Chief Whip Pramila Mallik, the party's Political Affairs Committee member Tukuni Sahu and student wing president Ipsita Sahu claimed that party nominee Snehangini Chhuria will win the polls despite alleged all out efforts by the BJP to mislead the voters.

"We expect that the winning margin will be around 10,000. However, we are not sure because the ruling party had brought a truckload of EVMs from Ganjam district a day before voting. They might have replaced the original EVMs," Mallik claimed.

She said that the party has drawn the attention of the state's Chief Electoral Officer to various violations of the model code of conduct (MCC) allegedly committed by the BJP.



Mallik claimed that the BJP distributed saris and money among women during campaigning, police raided houses of BJD leaders ahead of the polls, and Leader of the Opposition Naveen Patnaik's helicopter was deliberately delayed for three hours.

She also alleged that during the silence period, 48 hours before polling, outside BJD leaders left Nuapada constituency, but those of the BJP stayed and distributed money among voters.

Alleging that the BJP campaigned inside booths while the polling was underway, Mallik said that although a complaint was filed with the authorities with evidence of this violation, no results were obtained.

She claimed that despite all these, the BJP will fail to win as the people of Nuapada have expressed their unwavering support to the BJD.

Tukuni Sahu alleged that the BJP has crossed all limits in terms of violating the election code of conduct and abusing government machinery to influ-

ence the election. The government employees engaged in the election work, were behaving like BJP agents, she claimed.

"There was a complaint that any button pressed during voting on the EVM in booth number 250 would vote for lotus, and there was a commotion there. But that too was suppressed. The claim of free and fair elections in the Nuapada byelection turned into a farce," Sahu said.

Rejecting the BJD allegations, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said, "BJD leaders are now rehearsing on what to say after the defeat November 14. BJP candidate Jay Dholakia will win the polls with an impressive margin."

BJP state president Manmohan Samal said the BJD should learn to accept the people's verdict.

"They have been rejected by people in the 2024 general elections and now the voters of Nuapada will also take similar action. They are making allegations without any basis," Samal said.

Women from UK visit Sambalpuri Bastralaya, buy handloom items

POST NEWS NETWORK



Bargarh, Nov 12: Eight women from England visited the Sambalpuri Bastralaya in Bargarh Wednesday to explore the rich heritage of traditional handloom weaving.

The visitors toured the dyeing unit, observing the intricate yarn-colouring techniques and watched the weaving of the "Vande Mataram" design fabric. During the visit, the managing director, secretary, and marketing manager briefed the delegation on the unique features and quality of Sambalpuri handloom textiles.

From civil engineer to successful farmer

SETTING AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS TO EMULATE WITH SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATED FARMING ON 20 ACRES, KALAHANDI'S MANMATH SAHU HAS ALSO BECOME AN EMPLOYER FROM AN EMPLOYEE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Nov 12: Once a civil engineer earning a handsome salary at a private firm in Pune, Manmath Sahu's life took a different turn during the Covid-19 lockdown. Returning to his native village in Kalahandi district, he found a new calling in integrated farming, a decision that transformed him from a corporate employee to a successful farmer.

Sahu, a resident of Sinakhunti village under Dundelmal panchayat in Junagarh block, now cultivates a variety of crops on 20 acres of land using integrated farming methods. His initiative has earned him widespread recognition across the district.

Two years ago, former state agriculture minister Ranendra Pratap Swain visited his farm and encouraged him to continue his innovative agricultural practices.

Originally from Bordi village



under Golamunda block, Sahu moved with his family to Sinakhunti about seven years ago. After working for three years as a civil engineer in Pune, he returned home during the lockdown and developed interest in sustainable farming systems.

He later purchased 22 acres of land near the forest area of Sinakhunti village using his savings and proceeds from sell-

ing his ancestral land at Bordi. He then developed 20 acres for integrated farming, which now stands as a model for young aspirants in the region.

At his farm, Manmath now cultivates a wide range of vegetables, including brinjal, tomato, bitter gourd, long beans, chili, okra and banana. He said the farm produces nearly 30 quintals

of vegetables every day.

He also grows paddy and cotton, while native Arhar dal (kandula) and black gram are cultivated as pulses. In addition, he has ventured into goat and poultry farming. His farm currently houses around 50 native goats and 500 country chickens.

He has also set up a small unit that produces high-quality puffed rice (mudhi). While his family members help him in the daily farm work, he has also employed about 25 local youths and women to assist with operations, in turn providing them regular income.

In recognition of his successful agricultural practices, Manmath was felicitated at the 2024 state-level agriculture, fisheries and animal resources fair. He now earns about ₹25 lakh annually. Manmath said with additional government support, he could expand production and create more local employment opportunities.

Police seize 1.44 qtl ganja worth ₹14 lakh; 3 arrested

SONEPUR: Subarnapur police have seized 1.44 quintals of ganja worth an estimated ₹14,40,050 and arrested three persons in this connection. The accused have been identified as Sangram Patra, Deben Rajput and Bhagaban Sahu. Acting on a tip-off, a team from Rampur police station, under the direction of the SP Subarnapur, intercepted a major ganja transportation network late November 10. Acting on reliable intelligence that one Bhagaban Sahu of Sankartikra village was transporting a large quantity of ganja from Boudh district, police launched a well-coordinated operation. At around 9:30pm, the police team detected two vehicles suspected to be carrying contraband. When signaled to stop near Andharibanji village, both vehicles sped away, but were soon tracked down near the residence of Bhagaban Sahu at Sankartikra. On seeing the police, Sahu and his associates attempted to flee but were swiftly nabbed.

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender Notice No. : CKP-D-627-MCL-OPERATION, dated 12.11.2025. e-Tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD/Chakradharpur for & on behalf of the President of India for the following work. The Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Name of the work : Operation of isolators at MCL Sardaga siding (RLS) in Chakradharpur Division on deposit term for one year. Tender value: ₹ 34,56,330.01. EMD: ₹ 69,100/- . Completion period : 12 months. Date and time of closing of tender : 15.30 hrs. of 03.12.2025. Date and time of opening of tender : 15.30 hrs. of 03.12.2025. Place of opening of tender: Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRD/S.E.Railway. The e-tender can be viewed at Web site <http://www.irops.gov.in> The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-tendering. (PR-831)

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, BOUDHGARH

e-mail : boudhgarhnac@yahoo.co.in, Ph. No - 06841-222024
No. : 3688 Date : 06.11.2025

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Boudhgarh NAC proposes to undertake "Providing Consultancy Service for preparation of DPR for different projects"

Proposals are invited to conduct the assignment and submit the deliverables from consulting registered architectural firms that have requisite experience in preparation of DPR for different infrastructure project.

The details of EOI may be accessed and the EOI can be downloaded from the website www.

The completed application as per the instructions in the EOI document, should reach the following address by Speed Post/Registered Post/Courier latest by 3.30 P.M. on dated 21.11.2025.

Boudhgarh NAC reserves the sole right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/- Executive officer, NAC Boudhgarh

OIPR-

EAST COAST RAILWAY

NOTIFICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF STATION TICKET BOOKING AGENT (STBA)

No. SDCM/KUR/STBA/NSG-6/2025/Phase-8 Dt.: 06.11.2025

Applications are invited for selection and appointment of StationTicket Booking Agents (STBAs) for 03 (Three) years on commission basis at 03 (Three) "NSG-6" Category stations over Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway for Issuing of Unreserved Tickets through computerized Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS). Interested persons fulfilling the stipulated conditions may apply in the prescribed format to Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, East Coast Railway, Khurda Road Division.

No. of STBAs required: Only one (01) STBA at each station to work Round the Clock.

NAME OF THE STATIONS

1. KONASA ROAD (KASR), 2. JAGANNATHPUR (JNP) & 3. HARIDASPUR (HDS)

Applications for the above Stations duly filled in should be dropped in the tender box kept in office of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, East Coast Railway, Khurda Road by 1100 Hrs on or before 05.12.2025. If the last day i.e. 05.12.2025 happens to be or is declared to be holiday, applications will be received by the same time on the next working day.

Closing Date of Submission of Applications : 1100 Hrs of 05.12.2025.

Opening Date and Time of Application Box : 1130 Hrs of 05.12.2025.

For Detailed terms and conditions and application format please visit our website www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in & <http://tenders.gov.in> or contact Office of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, East Coast Railway, Khurda Road, PO - Jatni, Dist - Khurda, Pin-752050.

PR-788/Q/25-26 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / Khurda Road

FOCUS GOVERNANCE

RTI UNDER SIEGE



Today, RTI, a hard-won democratic tool, faces its most serious threat yet. There is danger that the right to know will become the right to deny in the hands of authority

India's Right to Information (RTI) Act came into force on 12 October 2005. It is one the strongest transparency laws in the world. It essentially says that if any information cannot be denied to a lawmaker, then it cannot be denied to any citizen of India. It empowered citizens across class, caste, and geography to hold government agencies accountable. No longer was the citizen a passive recipient of State authority, and the State was accountable to the citizen.

RTI was the culmination of nearly two decades of a citizens led grassroots movement for accountability. The movement started with the simple premise that citizens have a right to say, "it is our money, so we want to know how it is spent".

Over the last two decades RTI has exposed corruption, improved the delivery of welfare benefits, enabled public scrutiny over electoral finance, public procurement, pensions, ration systems, and infrastructure spending. It has empowered ordinary citizens to challenge opacity in local administration. For many, it became their only shield against arbitrary power. And because of this power, it has also demanded and extracted a price. At least 100 RTI users have been murdered for seeking information that threatened vested interests.

Today, however, this hard-won democratic tool faces its most serious threat yet. There is danger that the right to know will become the right to deny in the hands of authority. This threat to RTI has come from the passage of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act of 2023. The Section 44(3) of this new law amends the RTI Act itself, amending Section 8 (1) (j). The original text of this section of the RTI Act had a public-interest override, permitting disclosure of personal information if larg-

er public interest justified it. This override was crucial. It recognised that transparency and accountability are the foundation of democratic governance. The DPDP removes this override. Privacy now becomes a near-absolute shield, unless the government chooses otherwise. The amendment to RTI turns a careful balancing test into a default veto, allowing public information officers to refuse disclosure simply by citing privacy.

Moreover, the DPDP expands the definition of "person" to include companies, associations, and even the State, meaning that even corporate-government contracts could theoretically be shielded as personal data. This is not merely a legal technicality. It changes the character of the RTI Act itself. Where once information was presumed open unless specifically exempt, now information is presumed closed unless the State chooses to open it.

The power has shifted from citizens to the State.

The original dent in weakening RTI came not from DPDP legislation, but from the judiciary. In Girish Ramchandra Deshpande v. CIC (2012), the Supreme Court held that information about disciplinary proceedings and service records of a public servant constituted "personal information" and

therefore could be withheld under Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act. The Court treated this as a matter between employee and employer, without acknowledging that the real employer of public servants is the public itself. That Girish Deshpande judgement became a template for routine denial of information. Once anything involving a person could be called "personal," even data related to public duties, such as leave records, caste certificates used for official claims, or expenditure from MP or MLA funds, began to be withheld. The situation worsened after the Puttaswamy judgment (2017), where privacy was recognised as a fundamental right, an important and welcome development in itself. But in the absence of careful balancing, privacy began to override transparency, even where public interest was clear and compelling.

There has also been an otherwise steady institutional erosion of the RTI from its early days. Across 29 Central and State Information Commissions, more than 4 lakh appeals are pending, and many of them for over a year. Several commissions are non-functional, and key posts remain vacant for long periods. Thus, even before the present privacy law change, rising pendency,

appointment delays, and weakened autonomy of commissions had begun to sap RTI's effectiveness. The result is a slow suffocation: more denials, delayed appeals, citizens discouraged from filing, and reduced deterrence against corruption.

We must remember that RTI was not born in Parliament. It was born in village meetings, street protests, hunger strikes, public hearings, and citizen mobilisation. That same collective vigilance will be needed again now.

What is needed to be done is as follows. Firstly, restore the Public-Interest Override and RTI balance must be returned. Privacy does matter, but corruption, abuse of State power, and public finance accountability matter more. Secondly, we must reinstate the proviso that information that cannot be denied to Parliament cannot be denied to any citizen. This principle is the heart of democratic equality. Thirdly all vacancies must be filled urgently. Fourthly, there should be mandatory and proactive disclosure of information, thereby reducing the RTI burden and removing excuses for secrecy. Fifth, we must have stronger protection for RTI users, and the Whistle Blowers Act passed in 2014 must be implemented.

The achievements and the power of RTI cannot be overstated. RTI is not merely a procedural tool or a bureaucratic mechanism. It embodies the idea of citizenship itself, and the idea that the State belongs to the people, not the other way around. If we believe that citizens have the right to govern those who govern them, then the struggle to defend RTI, as with the struggle to create it, must continue with courage, vigilance, and collective voice.

The writer is a noted economist.
SYNDICATE, THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM INVESTMENT

AI race: The future or a mirage

Today, if you go to a 'pani puri wala' in India, he might even claim to prepare his pani puris using AI. People, especially businesses, are using the term Artificial Intelligence in everything they do."

In recent months, the global financial community has been abuzz with discussions surrounding a potential bubble in Artificial Intelligence (AI) stocks. The enthusiasm around AI has driven US equity markets to record highs. Companies like Nvidia, Microsoft, and Alphabet have witnessed unprecedented market capitalizations, fuelled by expectations that AI will reshape industries, boost productivity, and unlock trillions in value.

However, amid this euphoria, a rising chorus of sceptics—including the famed investor Michael Burry, known for predicting the 2008 financial crisis—warns that this AI-driven rally may not be sustainable. The question, therefore, arises: Are AI companies truly the future, or are we witnessing another financial mirage in the making?

To understand the growing concerns, it's important to look at the mechanics of the AI stock rally. Over the past two years,

valuations of major AI-related companies have surged far beyond traditional metrics. Nvidia, the undisputed leader in AI chip manufacturing, has seen its price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio stretch to levels reminiscent of the dot-com boom. The company's revenue growth has been spectacular, driven by exponential demand for data centres and large language models.

Yet, the broader AI ecosystem—spanning smaller startups to mid-cap tech firms—has also been swept up in speculative frenzy, many without tangible business models or profitability. The optimism hinges on the assumption that AI will become a pervasive technology like electricity or the internet. But as history has shown, revolutions in technology often take longer to mature than markets expect.

Michael Burry's warning of an imminent market crash stems from the belief that investors are overestimating short-term gains while underestimating risks. Drawing parallels to the dot-com bubble of the late 1990s, Burry and other contrarian investors argue that the current AI mania mirrors the irrational exuberance that

drove internet stocks to unsustainable highs before their collapse in 2000. During that period, companies with little more than ".com" in their name commanded multi-billion-dollar valuations despite negligible revenues. Similarly, today, the term "AI" has become a golden ticket for fundraising and stock price surges. The fear is that once earnings fail to justify valuations, the correction could be swift and brutal.

However, comparing the AI boom to the dot-com era is not entirely fair. Unlike the speculative internet startups of the late 1990s, today's leading AI firms are backed by strong balance sheets, established revenue streams, and tangible technological progress. Giants like Microsoft and Google are integrating AI into their core offerings—from cloud computing to office productivity tools—thereby improving efficiency and expanding their addressable markets. The question, therefore, may not be whether AI is the future, but rather how fast that future will materialize.

The challenge lies in distinguishing genuine innovation from speculative overreach. While leading firms may justify their valuations through earn-

ings growth and product adoption, smaller players often trade on hype. For prudent investors, the current environment calls for balance—embracing AI's transformative potential while maintaining realistic expectations. Diversification remains key; allocating selectively to established players with proven profitability and strong research ecosystems can offer exposure to AI's upside while mitigating downside risks.

Conversely, chasing unproven AI startups purely based on narratives can lead to painful losses if the bubble bursts. The focus should be on fundamentals: sustainable earnings growth, competitive advantage, and scalability.

Markets are driven by perceptions and not statistics alone. The growing negative perception towards AI stocks may derail the trust of the VCs in the AI segment. Hence it is important to differentiate reality from the hype, and continue to have faith and belief in the companies, which are actually making a difference.

The writer is the Founder and CEO of fintech startup FinCist.



Ajit Ranade

THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION EMBODIES THE IDEA OF CITIZENSHIP ITSELF, AND THE IDEA THAT THE STATE BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND



David Miliband

HUMANITY HAS MORE RESOURCES TO DO GOOD THAN AT ANY TIME IN ITS HISTORY, SO IT IS UP TO US TO USE THEM WISELY

“

This is faithfulness, to admit and to manifest no other movements but only the movements prompted and guided by the Divine.

THE MOTHER

Aid In Freefall

America's role in international aid has been turned upside down since January, with institutions shuttered, policies upended, and funding slashed. It is now unclear what lies ahead for American policy, the international aid system, or the world's poorest. All we know is that a massive gap needs to be filled.

The situation is urgent. The World Bank recently revised up its estimate of people living in extreme poverty (on less than \$3 per day) to 831 million – about 10% of the global population. Over half of the world's extreme poor now live in fragile, conflict-affected states, and this figure is predicted to rise to two-thirds in the next five years. Nearly 40% of these countries' populations already live on less than \$3 per day, compared to 6% in other developing economies.

In this context, my organization, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), ran the numbers to determine which countries are most in need of aid. We came up with a list of 13, typified by Sudan, home to the world's largest humanitarian crisis. While 29% of the world's extreme poor live in these hardest-hit countries, only 9% of international aid is allocated to them, implying a \$35 billion funding gap.

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Ukraine has become the biggest global aid recipient. Moreover, European countries are increasingly spending funds classified as "overseas aid" on refugee integration at home. These outlays now account for around 14% of the total global aid bill, about the same as is spent on humanitarian aid.

So, even without US funding cuts, there would be a need for fresh thinking about how the aid sector works. First, we should focus grant aid – which accounts for more than 90% of the global aid budget (the rest being concessional loans) – on the poorest people in the poorest places. That means addressing the mismatch between the approximately 50% of the extreme poor who live in fragile and conflict-affected states, and the 25% of the global aid budget that goes to those countries.

Second, we need to devote resources to evidence-based, proven, cost-effective programming, like the community-based vaccine drive the IRC has pioneered in eastern Africa, where we delivered over 20 million doses for \$2 each. We have also proposed a simplified protocol for treating moderate and severe acute malnutrition. In our study involving 27,800 acutely malnourished kids in Mali, we achieved cost savings of around 20%. But scaling up these approaches will require a change of mindset from donors, so that their efforts aggregate results, rather than diluting them.

Third, we need more innovation in programs, finance, and delivery. For example, the IRC is currently using AI to cut the diagnosis time for monkeypox in Africa from two weeks to five minutes, and we have also shown how the technology can help achieve impressive learning outcomes for kids whose education is interrupted by conflict and disaster.

Of course, innovation requires new commitments of capital. Disaster-risk financing, for example parametric insurance that pays out as soon as triggers are hit for rainfall, establishes predictable and fast flows of support. But we also need to bring debt swaps into the humanitarian arena. These approaches have already been used to fund environmental improvement projects worth \$1.7 billion in seven countries.

Fourth, we need accountability for outcomes, rather than for inputs, in order to cut bureaucracy, increase flexibility, promote value for money, and drive innovation. Governments and international institutions should follow the example of Sweden, which holds us accountable for the outcomes we achieve. What matters is educational attainment, not the number of teachers trained, and the number of healthy newborns, not the number of neonatal health consultations.

Fifth, we need to align the aid burden with the composition of the global economy. The United States accounts for 25% of global income, but its share of national income devoted to foreign aid is only 0.22%, a figure set to decrease after the recent cuts. Still, in a February poll, around 89% of Americans said that 1% of the federal budget should go to overseas aid. Since that is close to the actual figure, maintaining such funding could be unifying mission for America and Americans.

Today, 80% of acutely malnourished children in conflict zones are not treated, 60% of maternal deaths in childbirth occur in fragile states, and 85 million kids in these countries are out of school. Effective international aid is the answer to these challenges, not the problem. Humanity has more resources to do good than at any time in its history, so it is up to us to use them wisely. Setting aside 1% of a federal budget is not excessive. The money can be put to good use, and it is in America's own interest to do so. The sooner it happens, the better.

The writer, a former British foreign secretary, is President and CEO of the International Rescue Committee.

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WISDOM CORNER

“

I am like a folk painter. Paint and move ahead.

MF HUSAIN

“

The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls.

PABLO PICASSO

“

Where the spirit does not work with the hand, there is no art.

LEONARDO DA VINCI

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1002: English King Ethelred II launched an attack against Danish settlers in the St. Brice's Day massacre.
- 1850: Robert Louis Stevenson—the Scottish essayist, poet, and author of fiction and travel books who was best known for his novels Treasure Island (1881), Kidnapped (1886), The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1886), and The Master of Ballantrae (1889)—was born.
- 1918: Egyptian patriot Saad Zaghloul formed Al-Wafd al-Misri (Arabic: "Egyptian Delegation"), the nationalist political party that was instrumental in gaining Egyptian independence from Britain.
- 1980: Martin Scorsese's Raging Bull, a biopic about boxer Jake La Motta, had its world premiere and became an American classic, especially known for the Oscar-winning performance of Robert De Niro.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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



Looming crisis

Sir, A recent global study has revealed that fossil fuel projects threaten the health of over two billion people worldwide, with nearly 463 million, including 124 million children, living within one kilometre of active oil, gas, or coal sites. These populations face heightened risks of respiratory diseases, cancer, and water contamination due to toxic emissions. The study mapped over 18,000 fossil-fuel sites across 170 countries and warned that another 3,500 planned projects could endanger an additional 135 million people. In India, around 270 million people live within 5 km of such facilities, exposing them to fine particulate pollution that causes an estimated 330,000 premature deaths annually. Expanding coal and refinery operations in central and eastern India also threaten forests, tribal communities, and agricultural land. Experts urge a swift transition to renewable energy, stricter emission norms, and community health safeguards to avert a looming public health and climate crisis..

RS Narula, PATIALA

Print media more reliable

Sir, With thousands of news channels in today's media world competing with one another to be the first to 'trumpet' scoops, news and views verification, clarification and confirmation of news matters are completely ignored and norms flouted. This often creates confusion, chaos and sometimes ends up in legal issues. Recently, false reports that a veteran Hindi film actor had died caused utter confusion; even prominent figures offered condolences while he remains under medical care. The actor's family had to promptly step in to put the rumours to rest and strongly criticised these media outlets for spreading baseless and misleading information. Earlier too such rumours about popular personalities were circulated, causing wide spread confusion. It is here that the print media, the newspapers succeed and are reliable to the core. As filtering, fact checking and verification are done at various levels, newspapers undoubtedly definitely stand above other media in such matters.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

Maharashtra to acquire India House in London

India House, founded in the early 20th century as a student residence, later became associated with Indian revolutionary activity is historically linked with several nationalist figures, including Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, and others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 12: The Maharashtra government will take over the historical “India House” in London, once the abode of freedom fighters, including VD Savarkar, and preserve it as a memorial, state Cultural Affairs Minister Ashish Shelar said Wednesday.

Shelar said Indian residents in London had drawn the state’s attention to the importance of the property during his trip.

A joint review meeting was held at the ministry Wednesday, attended by Nashik MLA Devyani Farande and officials from the general administration, cultural affairs, and archaeology departments. It was decided to set up a multi-departmental committee to examine the ac-



quisition and preservation of India House.

The committee has been tasked with preparing a comprehensive report which will be presented to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for further action, officials said.

India House, founded in the early 20th century as a student residence, later became associated with In-

dian revolutionary activity. It is historically linked with several nationalist figures, including Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, and others.

Officials said the proposed acquisition will be followed by steps to conserve the property and develop it as a memorial that recognises its role in the anti-colonial movement.

The committee will study legal, financial, and administrative modalities of taking the site under the state control and submit detailed recommendations to the chief minister, officials added.

Earlier this year, the Maharashtra government acquired the famous “Raghuji Sword” of the 18th-century Maratha general Raghuji Bhonsle for Rs 47.15 lakh at an auction in London. The sword was repatriated to Mumbai in August.

In a separate announcement, Shelar stated the Maharashtra government has moved forward with plans to build a grand memorial to Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj at Sangameshwar in Ratnagiri district.

The proposed memorial will be developed in phases on a five-acre site for the main monument, with an additional two acres acquired for parking and ancillary facilities, officials said.

Former MLA Pramod Jathar had urged that the memorial be made more imposing and suggested it be modelled on the scale of the Statue of Unity.

Shelar instructed that work on the main monument be prioritised in the first phase, and asked for a detailed report on proposals for visitor services and allied development in the surrounding area.



A pair of otters in a pond at the Sarthana Zoo, in Surat, Gujarat, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

SIR IN GUJARAT

Over 2.17cr citizens mapped

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 12: More than 2.17 crore citizens have been mapped and 3.9 crore enumeration forms distributed as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls which began a week ago across Gujarat, officials said Tuesday.

The enumeration phase of the SIR began November 4 and it will continue till December 4.

During the month-long exercise, over 50,000 BLOs (booth-level officers) will cover nearly 5 crore voters across the state and distribute copies of pre-filled



enumeration forms, said a release by the office of Gujarat Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Hareet Shukla.

“At present, a total of 50,963 booth-level officers are diligently performing their duties in all the districts across the state,” according to the release.

According to the updated electoral rolls, a total of

5.08 crore voters are registered in the state. Of these, mapping of more than 2.17 crore citizens has been completed, while 3.90 crore enumeration forms have been distributed, informed the CEO’s office.

Under the guidance of the Election Commission of India (ECI) and led by Gujarat CEO Shukla, his entire team is continuously in touch with District Election Officers, Deputy DEOs and Voter Registration Officers across the state for the revision exercise, said the release.

Booth-level officers are the cornerstone of the entire

SIR process.

“They are handling important tasks, including distribution of enumeration forms, helping voters in matching or linking their names or relatives’ names and informing new voters about the process to be followed for adding their names,” the CEO’s office said.

Each BLO will visit the houses in their allotted area three times to ensure no one was left out of the electoral rolls’ revision, the release added. Late last month, the ECI announced the launch of the second phase of the SIR of electoral rolls across 12 states and Union Territories, including Gujarat.

Centre approves purchase of 1,000 electric buses for Pune

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Nov 12: The Centre has approved the purchase of 1,000 electric buses for Pune under the PM E-DRIVE scheme, giving a major push to the city’s public transport network, Union Minister Murlidhar Mohol said.

The induction of the new e-buses is expected to bolster Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd’s (PMPML) fleet, ease congestion and help curb vehicular pollution, the BJP MP from Pune said in a statement Tuesday.

The PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) scheme emphasises providing affordable and environmentally friendly public transportation options for the masses.

Mohol said Union Minister for Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy has granted the final approval to the proposal submitted by PMPML, which operates bus services in the city, Pimpri Chinchwad and adjoining areas under the Pune Metropoli-

tan Region Development Authority.

PMPML currently runs around 2,000 buses, of which nearly 750 are owned by the undertaking and the rest are operated through contractors. With the city expanding rapidly, the undertaking requires a fleet of at least 3,000 buses to meet commuter demand, according to officials.

Mohol said he had been following up with both the state and central governments for the addition of new buses. Meetings with Kumaraswamy and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis played a key role in securing the approval, he said.

“To ensure financial preparedness, I had requested Chief Minister Fadnavis to send the necessary communication to the Reserve Bank of India. PMPML later forwarded the proposal to the Union Ministry of Heavy Industries. I met Minister Kumaraswamy in New Delhi about a fortnight ago, after which the approval was expedited,” he said.

Gujarat CM awards notary certificates to 1,500 Advocates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gandhinagar, Nov 12: Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel Wednesday hailed the appointment of more than 1,500 advocates as notaries at the same time as a “historic first” in Gujarat, which would strengthen the commitment to the ‘Justice to All’ principle.

Patel presented certificates to the newly-appointed notaries at a function held at Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) here and launched an e-portal for notaries, an official release said.

“It is a historic day for Gujarat’s legal fraternity. In a first after the formation of Gujarat in 1960, more than 1,500 advocates were appointed as notaries at the same time”, Patel said.

He reiterated the commitment to the ‘Justice to All, Appeasement to None’ principle under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Patel stated that the role of notaries is crucial in es-



tablishing trust, security, and authenticity in legal processes, thereby accelerating development.

According to the chief minister, notaries bear the responsibility of ensuring the authenticity of documents, which is vital for building trust in the legal system and the economy.

“Documents notarised by notaries receive legal recognition, and their acceptance in courts and other institutions becomes easier, enhancing the ‘ease of doing business’”, he added.

Patel said PM Modi has

ushered in a new era of digital transformation in public services, ensuring that government services reach every citizen at the click of a button.

“The newly-launched notary portal in Gujarat represents another step toward realising the Prime Minister’s vision of Digital India. With this new portal, the appointment and application process for notaries will be completely digital. Everyone will receive equal and fair opportunities. Applicants will now be able to upload documents and track the

status of their applications online, saving both time and effort and increasing efficiency,” Patel said.

Through this portal, every legal document will be securely stored and authenticated, with a central record maintained for years, he said.

Patel stated that the gradual digitisation of all notary-related activities will reduce the use of paper and help protect the environment, advancing the concept of paperless governance.

The programme was jointly organised by the Law Department and the Gujarat Bar Council and attended by Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi, Chief Secretary Manoj Das, Joint Secretary H S Verma, Advocate General Kamal Trivedi, Law University Registrar Nitin Malik, and advocates.

Sanghavi stated that for the first time in Gujarat’s history, more than 1,500 lawyers have been appointed as notaries under the guidance of CM Patel.

Maha announces incentive scheme for sugar factories

Under the scheme, sugar mills will be evaluated annually across nine key parameters, with prizes awarded to top performers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 12: The Maharashtra government Wednesday announced an incentive scheme for cooperative and private sugar mills that will help them build financial capacity and encourage quality performance among these factories.

The scheme, which seeks to reward best performing units on quality front, was launched to mark the International Year of Cooperatives and the Diamond Jubilee year of the cooperative sugar industry.

The plan aims to improve the quality of sugar mills, build financial ca-



capacity by identifying and rewarding factories with competitive quality stan-

dards, according to a government resolution (GR).

Under the scheme, sug-

ar mills will be evaluated annually across nine key parameters, with prizes

awarded to top performers, it said. The evaluation criteria include: Timely 100 per cent Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) payment to farmers in last three years (15 points), performance of other departments in the mill (10 points), highest sugar recovery rate (10 points), production per hectare (10 points), use of Artificial Intelligence and maximum area coverage (10 points), low carbon emissions and high carbon credits (10 points), timely repayment of government loans (10 points), cost efficiency, audit, and overall operational efficiency (5 points), employee

strength limits and wage payment (5 points).

The selection process involves a two-tier committee system. Regional joint directors will submit lists of 6 best mills -- three each from cooperative and private sectors -- from their divisions to a scrutiny committee headed by the Sugar Commissioner.

The committee will shortlist six cooperative and as many private mills, from which another panel headed by the state Cooperation Minister will select the final three winners in each category. Details of prizes and other specifics will be announced later, the resolution stated.

Government of Odisha

No.O-1375

e-Procurement Notice

E-mail: rw_boudh@yahoo.co.in

Bid Identification No.Online Tender/05/S.E.R.W. BOUDH/2025-26

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Name of the Work :- Road Works- 36 Nos.

1. Estimated Cost : Rs.5.04 to 44.54 lakh (approximately)

2. Period of Completion : 02 to 03 Calendar Months

3. Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in the Portal : From 13.11.2025, 10.00 AM to 25.11.2025, 5.00 P.M.

4. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : 25.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.

5. Last date/time for seeking of Tender Clarification : 24.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.

6. Date & Time of opening of Tender/ Bid : 26.11.2025 at 11.00 AM

7. Name & Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer R.W. Division, Boudh

Further details, corrigendum(s) etc can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in"

Sd./- Executive Engineer R.W.Division, Boudh

OIPR-

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

No.O-3171

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS DIVISION, GAJAPATI PARALAKHEMUNDI

e-mail:rw_d_gajapati@yahoo.co.in

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Bid Identification No. Online Tender-07/GJP/2025-26

1. Name of the Work : Road Works

2. Total No. of Work : 06 (Six) No. of Road Works

3. Estimated Cost : Rs.9.97 lakhs to 24.92 lakhs

4. Class of Contractor : 'D' & 'C' Class Contractor 'C' & 'B' Class Contractor

5. Period of Completion : Furnished in Annexure

6. Availability of Tender Online for Bidding : 13.11.2025 at 10.00AM to 20.11.2025 upto 5.00 PM

7. Date and Time of Opening of Tender : 21.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

8. Place of Opening : As per Annexure

Further details can be seen from the website www.tenderorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Executive Engineer R.W.Division, Gajapati

OIPR-

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

No.A-894

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

ADDITIONAL SPILLWAY DIVISION, BURLA

PHONE NO. : 0663-2430080

E-mails : eeasdhirakud@gmail.com or seadditionalspillway@gmail.com

Lt. No.-1395 Dt.11.11.2025

e-Procurement Notice No. - ASD-05/2025-26 (Online)

1 Name of Work : Supply, Installation and commissioning of 25 KVA transformer and overhead 11 KV lines near the Lunch Station site for the office building of the Additional Spillway Project of Hirakud Dam for the year 2024-25

2 Nos of work : 1 (One) No.

3 Amount Put to Tender : Rs.16.75 Lakhs approximately

4 Period of Completion : As per D.T.C.N 60 Days

5 E.M.D. : Rs.17,000/-

6 Date and time of availability of Bid document in the portal : Date : 13.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to Date : 27.11.2025, up to 5:00 P.M.

7 Last date/time for receipt of Bids in the portal : Date : 27.11.2025, up to 5:00 P.M.

8 Date of opening of Bid : Dt.28.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

9 Last date & time of seeking tender clarification : Dt : 25.11.2025 up to 04.00 P.M.

10 Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, Additional Spillway Division, Burla At/Po-Burla-768017, Dist-Sambalpur Email : eeasdhirakud@gmail.com / seadditionalspillway@gmail.com

Further detail can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Additional Spillway Division, Burla

OIPR-

of the day

quote

We used our financial balance sheet to stabilize the government, one of our great allies in Latin America, during an election

SCOTT BESSENT | TREASURY SECRETARY, US



Let me be absolutely clear, any attack on any member of my cabinet is completely unacceptable

KEIR STARMER | PRIME MINISTER, UNITED KINGDOM



To our dear friend @narendramodi and to the brave people of India: Sara and I, and the people of Israel, send our deepest condolences to the families of the victims. Israel stands strong with you in sorrow and in strength in this time

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | PRIME MINISTER, ISRAEL



SHORT TAKES

Grameen Bank's branch set on fire

Dhaka: A local branch of Grameen Bank, founded by Muhammad Yunus, was set on fire by unidentified men in eastern Bangladesh early Wednesday, two days after a crude bomb blast outside its headquarters in the national capital. No casualties were reported in the fire at the bank's Chandura branch in Brahmanbaria's Bijoynagar upazila, according to the bank authorities. "The incident took place around 2:00 am when some miscreants poured petrol from outside and set the building on fire," the branch manager, Kalim Uddin, told reporters.

Turkey plane crash kills all 20

Ankara: All 20 personnel on board a military cargo plane that crashed in Georgia were killed, Turkiye's defence minister announced Wednesday. The C-130 plane had taken off from Ganja, Azerbaijan and was on its way back to Turkiye when it crashed Tuesday in Georgia's Signaghi municipality, close to the Azerbaijani border. The cause of the crash is being investigated. A Turkish accident investigation team reached the crash site early Wednesday and was inspecting the wreckage of the plane, in coordination with the Georgian authorities, the National Defence Ministry said.

China's bridge collapses

Beijing: A bridge at a hydropower station in Aba Tibetan Qiang Autonomous Prefecture of China collapsed Tuesday, Chinese official media reported. No casualties were reported so far, state-run Global Times reported. It said that the Hongqi Bridge at the local Shuangjiangkou Hydropower Station in Barkam County in the Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture collapsed Tuesday afternoon. Videos circulating on social media showed the bridge structure plunging into the river below, sending up a huge cloud of dust.

Bus accident kills at least 37 in Peru

Lima: At least 37 people were killed and dozens injured after a bus plunged into a ravine in the Arequipa region of southern Peru, local authorities said Wednesday. The fatalities included 36 people who died on site, and another person who died in hospital, said Walther Oporto, Arequipa's regional health chief, citing firefighters at the scene of the accident. The bus had departed from the city of Chala, a mining area also in southern Peru, and was heading to the city of Arequipa.



Australia and Indonesia have agreed on a new security treaty that commits them to consult each other if either country is threatened

ANTHONY ALBANESE | PRIME MINISTER, AUSTRALIA

B'DESH SUMMONS INDIAN ENVOY

Bangladesh's Foreign Ministry Wednesday summoned India's deputy high commissioner in Dhaka and expressed "serious concern" over deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's interaction with mainstream Indian media. In the last few days, Hasina has given interviews to some prominent international and Indian media outlets



Trump defends H-1B visa plan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Nov 12: US President Donald Trump appeared to defend the H-1B visa programme, saying America has to bring in talent from around the world as it does not have "certain talents" in the country.

"I agree but you also do have to bring in talent," Trump said, responding to a question in an interview with Laura Ingraham on Fox News on whether the H-1B visa issue will not be a big priority for his administration and if one wants to raise wages for American workers, the country cannot be flooded with hundreds of thousands of foreign workers.

When Ingraham noted that "we have plenty of talent", Trump said, "No, you don't, no you don't. You don't have certain talents. And people have to learn."

"You can't take people off an unemployment line, and say, 'I'm going to put you into a factory, we're going to make missiles'," Trump added.

"In Georgia, they raided because they wanted illegal immigrants. They had people from South Korea that made batteries all their lives. You



I agree but you also do have to bring in talent. You don't have certain talents. And people have to learn

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

know, making batteries (is) very complicated. It's not an easy thing, and very dangerous. A lot of explosions, lot of problems," he said.

"They had, like 500-600 people, early stages to make batteries and to teach people how to do it. Well, they wanted them to get out of the country. You're going to need that...I mean, I know you and I disagree on this. You can't just say a country is coming in, going to invest \$10 billion to build a plant and going to take people off an unemployment line who haven't worked

in five years, and they're going to start making missiles. It doesn't work that way," the president said.

The Trump administration has launched a massive crackdown to check abuse in the H-1B visa programme which is used by companies, particularly technology companies, to employ foreign workers in the US. Indian professionals, including technology workers and physicians, are among the largest cohort of H-1B visa holders.

In September this year, Trump issued a Proclamation

The Trump administration has launched a massive crackdown to check abuse in the H-1B visa programme which is used by companies, particularly technology companies, to employ foreign workers in the US

Indian professionals, including technology workers and physicians, are among the largest cohort of H-1B visa holders

itled 'Restriction on Entry of Certain Nonimmigrant Workers' as an important initial step to reform the H-1B nonimmigrant visa programme.

Under the Proclamation, certain H-1B petitions filed after September 21, 2025 must be accompanied by an additional \$100,000 payment as a condition of eligibility.

Last week, the Trump administration launched about 175 investigations into H-1B visa abuse, including lapses such as low wages, work sites that didn't exist and the practice of "benching" employees.

"As part of our mission to protect American Jobs, we've launched 175 investigations into H-1B abuse," the US Department of Labour had said in a post on X.

Cambodia, Thailand's conflict heats up again

BORDER TENSION



One civilian was killed and three others wounded when Thai troops opened fire on civilians residing in the area of Prey Chan in Cambodia's northwestern province of Banteay Meanchey

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Phnom Penh (Cambodia), Nov 12: Cambodia's prime minister said a villager was killed when shooting broke out Wednesday along the volatile border with Thailand, as the ceasefire partly brokered by US President Donald Trump that ended five days of combat be-

tween the two nations appeared to be breaking down.

The reported death occurred two days after a Thai soldier lost a foot to a land mine while patrolling another area of the border. Thailand blamed Cambodia for the blast and announced it was suspending honouring the terms of the ceasefire, which was originally agreed to July 28.

Trump had threatened to withhold trade privileges from the two countries unless they stopped fighting. The pact was reaffirmed in greater detail last month when Trump attended an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit meeting in Malaysia.

Territorial disputes over exactly where the border lies between the Southeast Asian neighbours led to five days of

armed conflict in late July that killed dozens of soldiers and civilians.

Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul on Tuesday went to the border to visit front-line troops and told reporters that Thailand had consistently sought to honour the ceasefire agreement, but that Cambodia had tried to delay progress, so Thailand would also not carry out its terms.

"Today, we consider that the deal that we made in order to bring peace is now over," he said. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nikorndej Balankura later clarified that Thailand has not officially withdrawn from the agreement but has only paused its implementation.

According to a statement posted on the Telegram social media platform by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, one civilian was killed and three others wounded when Thai troops opened fire on civilians residing in the area of Prey Chan in Cambodia's north-western province of Banteay Meanchey.

The same village was the site of a violent but not lethal confrontation in September between Thai security personnel and Cambodian villagers.

"It should be noted that this attack occurred after the Thai forces engaged in numerous provocative actions for many days with the objective of instigating confrontations," Hun Manet wrote, adding that Cambodia still accepted the ceasefire terms.

Tehran's women challenge traditions on two wheels

Women in Tehran are taking to motorbikes, breaking old taboos and steering change

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tehran, Nov 12: When Merat Behnam first gathered enough courage to ride her yellow scooter through the gridlocked streets of Iran's capital to the coffee shop she runs, traffic wasn't her main worry.

She instead girded herself for disapproving looks, verbal abuse, and even being stopped by the police for being a woman riding a motorbike in Tehran, something long frowned upon by hard-liners and conservative clerics in Iran.

But Behnam, 38, found herself broadly accepted on the road — and part of a wider re-consideration by women about societal expectations in Iran.

It's not all encompassing, particularly as hard-line poli-

ticians call for laws on the hijab or headscarf to be enforced as Iran cracks down on intellectuals in the wake of the 12-day Iran-Israel war in June — but it does represent a change.

"It was a big deal for me," Behnam told The Associated Press after riding up to her cafe on a recent day. "I didn't really know how to go about it. In the beginning, I was quite stressed, but gradually the way people treated me and their reactions encouraged me a lot."

Exposed to the wind Two things in the past prevented women from driving motorbikes or scooters. First of all, police regulations in Iran's Farsi language specifically refer to only "mardan" or "men" being able to obtain motorcycle licenses. It's a very gender-specific wording in Farsi, which is broadly a gender-neutral language grammatically.

"This issue is not a violation but a crime, and my colleagues will deal with these individu-



als, since none of these women currently has a driver's license and we cannot act against the law," Gen Abulfazl Mousavipoor, Tehran's traffic police chief, said in a report carried by the semiofficial ISNA news agency in September.

Then there's the cultural

aspect. While women can now hold jobs, political office and a car license, since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the country has imposed a strictly conservative, Shiite Islam understanding of conduct by women. That includes Iran's mandatory hijab law, which sparked mass

Pak parl approves more powers for army chief



The National Assembly Wednesday approved all 59 clauses of the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill amid opposition's boycott, completing the clause-by-clause voting process

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Nov 12: Pakistan's National Assembly Wednesday passed the controversial 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill with a two-thirds majority during a ruckus-marred session, aiming to create a new position of the Chief of Defence Forces and set up a constitutional court.

The bill, which had stirred controversy for weeks, was presented in the National Assembly by Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar Tuesday, a day after the Senate approved the key legislation.

The National Assembly Wednesday approved all 59 clauses of the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill amid opposition's boycott, completing the clause-by-clause voting process. Jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party members tore up copies of the bill and threw them towards the PM's chair.

National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq said the bill re-

ceived 234 votes in favour and four against. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari attended the lower house session.

The amendment was passed following a two-day-long debate. However, Opposition led by Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf boycotted the proceedings.

Law Minister Tarar described constitutional reform as an "evolutionary process" undertaken with careful deliberation. He said the draft had been thoroughly reviewed and discussed with bar councils and bar associations across the country.

The bill now needs the assent of President Asif Ali Zardari to become effective, which is expected to be granted later tonight.

Under the amendment bill, the President will appoint the Army Chief and the Chief of Defence Force on the advice of the Prime Minister. It also proposes that the post of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee will expire November 27, 2025.

The Chief of Army Staff, who will also be the Chief of Defence Forces, will appoint the head of the National Strategic Command in consultation with the Prime Minister, and the head of the National Strategic Command will be from the Pakistan Army.

The government will be able to promote individuals from the armed forces to the ranks of Field Marshal, Marshal of the Air Force and Admiral of the Fleet. The rank and privileges of Field Marshal will be for life, meaning that Field Marshals will remain Field Marshals for life.

Army chief Asim Munir, who was promoted to the rank of Field Marshal just days after four-day conflict with India, is only the second military officer in the country's history to be elevated to the position, after Field Marshal Ayub Khan in the 1960s.



People stand near a wrecked part of the Baler-Casiguran road a day after Typhoon Fung-wong made landfall in Dipaculao, Aurora, Philippines

REUTERS

INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA TEST

Jurel replaces Nitish



The 24-year-old, who has played seven Tests so far, has struck four centuries in his last five first-class matches, including twin hundreds against South Africa 'A' in Bangalore last week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 12: In-form wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel will play the opening Test against South Africa here and all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy is set to be the one who makes way for him in the line-up, India's assistant coach Ryan Ten Doeschate said Wednesday. The 24-year-old Jurel, who has played seven Tests so far, has struck four centuries in his last five first-class matches, in-

cluding twin hundreds against South Africa 'A' in Bangalore last week. With first-choice wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant back after recovering from a foot fracture he suffered during the fourth Test against England in Manchester in July, there were questions over whether the management would find room for Jurel. But Ten Doeschate said they were "clear" about their combination ahead of the opening Test at the Eden Gardens beginning Friday. "I think we've got a pretty good idea of the combination, and I don't think you can leave them (Jurel and Pant) out for this Test -- that's the short answer," Ten Doeschate told reporters at a media interaction here. "I would be very surprised if you don't see Dhruv and Rishabh playing in this Test this week," he added.

Now a year and a half into his international career, Jurel has shown poise and maturity beyond his experience. "Given the way Dhruv (Jurel) has gone in the last six months, and scoring two hundreds in Bangalore last week, he is certain to play this week," Ten Doeschate added. PTI had reported on November 8 that Jurel would come in as a pure batter with Pant reclaiming the wicketkeeper's gloves, and Ten Doeschate confirmed that Nitish Reddy would be the one to miss out. Asked about Reddy's omission, the former Netherlands cricketer said, "In the West Indies series, Nitish played both Tests and we said it was important to groom him for the future. So yes, we do look at him as a potential player who is playing to learn. "But I also said strategy comes first. The primary thing

DESTRUCTIVE DHURUV: Since mid-September 2025, Dhruv Jurel's first-class form has been remarkable with scores of 140, 56, 125, 44, 132 not out and 127 not out across five matches (including Ranji, Test and 'A' games). His first-class average has surged from 47.34 to 58.00, making it impossible to overlook him

is to set out a strategy to win the game. If you can accommodate giving guys a chance for development, that comes in. Our position certainly hasn't changed on Nitish. He didn't get much game time in Australia. But given the importance of this series and the conditions we think we're going to face, he (Nitish Kumar Reddy) might miss out in this Test this week," Ten Doeschate added. The assistant coach also highlighted India's depth and flexibility in the lower middle order, thanks to their spin-bowling all-rounders. "Again, like what I mentioned about Washi (Washington Sundar), Axar (Patel), and Jaddu (Ravindra Jadeja) -- for me, you've actually got three batters there. So, it does give us a lot of flexibility," he said, hinting that Axar Patel could return to the XI in place of Kuldeep Yadav. The seam-bowling all-rounder had a modest outing in the West Indies series that India swept 2-0, bowling just four overs in the opening Test and going wicket-less. His contribution with the bat was 43 from one innings. In the subsequent ODI series in Australia, he scored 19 not out and 8 in two matches.

BCCI asks Ro-Ko to play domestic cricket



With limited one-day internationals scheduled for now and the focus on the 20-over format as the T20 World Cup approaches quickly, Rohit and Kohli will need game time to stay in contention for a place in the squad for the ODI World Cup scheduled in 2027

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 12: India stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma have reportedly been instructed to participate in domestic matches for their respective state teams to stay in the reckoning for ODI team. The duo is active only in ODIs, having retired from the shortest and longest formats,

that is T20Is and Tests. They will most likely participate in the three-match ODI series against South Africa, scheduled to start from December 3, and will probably only be seen again in India colours in January 2026, when the Men in Blue host New Zealand for ODIs from the 11th of the month. Kohli and Rohit will have a month-long break in between, which is when the Vijay Hazare Trophy is set to be played. "The board and team management have conveyed to both of them that they will have to play domestic cricket if they want to play for India. As they both have retired from two formats, they have to play domestic cricket to be match-fit," BCCI sources were quoted in the report. Kohli and Rohit last played the ODI series in Australia last month, where their unbeaten partnership in the third and final game helped the Men in Blue secure a nine-wicket win. Rohit shone in two of the three

games, including scoring a century in the third, while Kohli recovered from two ducks to score an unbeaten 87 in the final ODI. Rohit has not yet communicated his availability for the Vijay Hazare Trophy, the country's premier 50-over competition, to the Mumbai Cricket Association, set to begin November 26. Kohli is also yet to clear the status of his availability for the domestic one-day tournament. The former India captain has been sharpening his skills at Mumbai's Sharad Pawar Indoor Academy in recent days. Meanwhile, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is also hopeful that Kohli will make a return to domestic cricket. Last season, Rohit and Kohli each played one Ranji Trophy match. In January, Kohli returned to play for Delhi after a 12-year absence, while Rohit appeared for Mumbai after a 10-year hiatus.

SHORT TAKES

India crush Australia

New Delhi: India continued their dominant run, defeating Australia by 209 runs in a Women's Blind T20 World Cup match here Wednesday. Batting first, India posted 292 for 4 with captain Deepika TC (B3) scoring 91 off 58 balls, while Phula Saren (B3) added a rapid-fire 54 not out off 22 balls. Australia also gave away 52 runs in extras and another 26 runs in penalty. Their batting then folded up for 57 in 19.3 overs. Deepika was named 'Player of the Match' for her all-round performance. In another match, Nepal defeated Sri Lanka by nine wickets. Chasing 88, Nepal achieved the target in 5.2 overs..

Nagal suffers visa setback

New Delhi: India's No 1 ranked tennis player, Sumit Nagal, Tuesday urged the Chinese Ambassador to India and the Chinese Embassy in India for assistance after his China visa was rejected. He is set to participate in the Australian Open Asia-Pacific Wildcard Play-off, a qualifying event for the 2026 Australian Open. The tournament is scheduled to be held from November 24 to 29, 2025, in Chengdu, China. By competing in this event, Nagal will have the chance to secure a wildcard entry into the prestigious Australian Open 2026.

Alcaraz eyes No 1 spot

Turin: Carlos Alcaraz kept his bid for a second year-end No 1 ranking alive with a hard-fought comeback win over Taylor Fritz at the ATP Finals in Turin Tuesday. The five-time Grand Slam champion recovered from a set down to defeat last year's runner-up 6-7 (2/7), 7-5, 6-3, making it two wins from two in the Jimmy Connors Group. The victory puts Alcaraz within one win of securing the top spot in the ATP rankings for 2025. He will seal it if he beats Lorenzo Musetti in his final group match Thursday. Alcaraz, who was replaced by Jannik Sinner as world number one following the Paris Masters earlier this month, can reclaim and confirm the top spot with another group-stage win. For Sinner to have any chance of retaining the year-end No 1 ranking, he must defend his Finals title unbeaten.

JAPAN MASTERS

Lakshya cruises into second round; George, Shetty exit

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kumamoto, Nov 12: India's Lakshya Sen started his Japan Masters 2025 campaign strongly, advancing to the second round of the BWF World Tour Super 500 event with a straight-games victory over Japan's Koki Watanabe in Kumamoto City Wednesday. The seventh seed and world No 15 appeared in complete control throughout the 39-minute match, defeating the local favourite and world No 26 Watanabe 21-12, 21-16. Showing sharp court coverage and deft net play, Lakshya hardly allowed his opponent to settle into rhythm. The 23-year-old Indian will next face the winner of the match between Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh and Canada's Victor Lai, a World Champi-



onships bronze medallist, for a place in the quarterfinals. While Lakshya impressed, it was a disappointing day for other Indian shuttlers in the men's singles draw. Kiran George bowed out after losing 20-22, 10-21 to Malaysia's Jing Hong Kok despite a spirited start in the first game. Rising star Ayush Shetty too faced a tough challenge, going down 16-21, 11-21 to fourth-seeded Japanese Kodai Naraoka, who dominated the rallies with superior pace and precision.



India is sending a record III-member contingent to this edition of the Deaflympics

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 12: Jerlin Jayaratchagan, who won three gold medals at the Deaflympics, will be India's flagbearer at the upcoming Summer Games in Tokyo from November 15 to 26. The Indian contingent was given a warm send-off by the Secretary, Sports, Government of India, Hari Ranjan Rao, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Wednesday. The official kit of the Indian contingent was also revealed. The first batch of Indians will leave for Tokyo Thursday (November 13). Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya, in a message to the Indian contingent, said, "India's rapid progress in global events for special athletes is some-

thing to be proud of. As part of our endeavour to promote inclusivity and foster healthy outreach through sports, we are extremely happy to send the biggest-ever Indian squad to the Deaflympics." India will take part in 11 disciplines -- athletics, badminton, golf, judo, karate, shooting, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, wrestling, and tennis. The Deaflympics are conducted by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD). The Deaflympics, under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee, are the second-oldest international multi-sporting event in the world.

Archers assure multiple medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Nov 12: India's medal surge continued at the Asian Archery Championships here Wednesday, with the compound mixed team of Abhishek Verma and Deepshikha storming into the final, while the recurve archers stayed in medal contention after advancing to the bronze playoff. The second-seeded Indian compound duo outclassed Kazakhstan 156-153 in a one-sided semifinal to confirm another medal. They will take on hosts Bangladesh, who stunned South Korea 158-153, in the title clash, eyeing India's second successive compound mixed team gold at the continental meet. The duo of Aditi Swami and Priyansh had won the mixed pair gold in Bangkok 2023 edition. With this, India have assured themselves of



five medals, while remaining in the hunt for seven more. In the recurve section, the new-look mixed pair of Yashdeep Bhogae and Anshika Kumari overcame Bangladesh 5-1 to enter the semifinals before losing 0-6 to Chinese Taipei. They will now face Korea in a tough bronze-medal playoff. Earlier, India had confirmed four medals by reaching both

the compound men's and women's team finals. The recurve men's team has also made the title round. In individual events, India are well-placed for a rich haul -- Ankita Bhakat, Deepika Kumari and Sangeeta have all entered the recurve women's semifinals, ensuring at least one medal and keeping alive hopes of a clean sweep.

Eight SL players set to return home from Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Nov 12: Eight Sri Lankan players, currently touring Pakistan with the national team for a three-match ODI series, are set to return home Thursday after expressing concern over their safety following a deadly bomb blast in Islamabad that left 12 people dead and several injured, a SLC source said Wednesday. The development means the second ODI scheduled in Rawalpindi Thursday will not happen. Pakistan had won the first ODI by six runs at the same venue Tuesday. The Sri Lankan team is also scheduled to play a triangular series, involving the hosts and Zimbabwe, after the three ODIs. Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) sources said replacements will be sent for those returning home. Sources in SLC added that because of the proximity of Rawalpindi, where the ODIs are being played, to Islamabad was the reason the players expressed

SAFETY CONCERNS



the desire to return home. In 2009, the Sri Lankan cricket team bus was attacked by gunmen when it was on its way to the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore for the second Test. Several members of the Sri Lankan team, including Ajantha Mendis, Chaminda Vaas and captain Mahela Jayawardene, were injured while many Pakistani security personnel were killed. Following the deadly attack, all foreign teams refrained from visiting Pakistan for over a decade and the country was compelled to use offshore venues in the Middle East to host its home matches.

ISSF World Championships

Ashi, Anjum and Sift miss 50m rifle 3P finals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cairo, Nov 12: Ashi Chouksey and Olympian Anjum Moudgil missed out on a place in the finals of the women's 50m rifle 3-positions event, finishing 15th and 17th respectively in qualification at the ISSF World Championships, here Wednesday. While Ashi shot 588, the seasoned Anjum managed 587. The third Indian in the fray, Olympian Sift Kaur Samra finished in 48th place with a score of 580. Norway's Jeanette Hegg Duestad, who topped the qualification with a superb 595, went on to become the world champion by shooting 465.8 in the eight-shooter final. Switzerland's 17-year-old Emely Jaeggi won the silver with a score of 465.3 - a junior World record - while Seonaid McIntosh of Great Britain took the bronze medal. India maintained their second position behind China in the medal tally with three gold, five silver and three bronze, while China have eight gold and a total of 15 medals.

Indians head to tiebreak in 4th round of Chess WC

Panjim (Goa): Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi and R Praggnanandhaa played out solid draws while P Harikrishna wriggled out of a difficult situation to head into a tie-break in the fourth round of the Chess World Cup, here Wednesday. Erigaisi accepted a draw after 36 moves against Hungarian GM Peter Leko, Praggnanandhaa split the point after 30 moves against Russian GM Daniil Dubov, while Harikrishna also drew after 38 moves. Mexican GM Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara, who had won with black pieces Tuesday, became the first player to advance to the round of 16 after he went for a threefold repetition and took a draw against GM Alexey Sarana in 20 moves. He will take on the winner of the match between Harikrishna and GM Nils Grandelius of Sweden. Two-time champion GM Levon Aronian also advanced to the next round after drawing the second game in 35 moves with black against GM Radoslaw Wojtaszek.