

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

SPORTS | P12

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BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 13, 2025



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 revellers 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.



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

10/11 accused recceed **Red Fort many times**

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 Ganaie, 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 Khandawa li, police said. When asked if the EcoSport car has been traced, a Faridabad police spokesperson confirmed over the phone, saying, "Yes, it has been

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.

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-intensity 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 LNJP 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.

makes way for him in the line-up 12 PAGES | ₹5.00 'Surabhi' unparalleled

platform for kids: CM

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

(Commerce), and Supriya Sutar (Vocational Education). He also presented awards to outstand ing 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 Vidya lava' to 'PM SHRI', several pro grammes 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 po tential. 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 plat form to highlight students' poten



Gond with a differently-abled student at Surabhi

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 expect ed 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 diagnosis, give treatment and longterm 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 Informa tion Platform) IHIP. A register of individuals identified as being at high risk is to be maintained and details of the high-risk in dividuals may also be shared with the respective blocks for community-based follow-up through ASHA, ANM, and CHO

Survey shows AI music virtually undetectable

staggering 97 per cent of listeners cannot dis-All distances cannot the tinguish between artification of the concepted cial intelligence (AI)-generated and human-composed songs, a Deezer-Ipsos survey showed Wednesday, underscoring growing concerns that AI could upend how music is created, consumed and monetised. The findings of the survey highlight the ethical and economic tension facing the global music industry as AI tools capable of generating songs in seconds raise copyright concerns and threaten the livelihoods of artistes. The issue gained prominence earlier this year when AI band

"The Velvet Sundown" sparked

enough buzz to gain around one



million monthly listeners on Spotify (SPOT.N), opens new tab before people found out about its

synthetic origins. The study, which polled 9,000 people across eight countries including the US, UK, France, Brazil and Canada, showed about 71 per cent of the respondents were surprised by their inability to distinguish between human and machine-produced tracks.

Streaming platform Deezer said more than 50,000 songs uploaded daily on its service are entirely AI-generated, accounting for about a third of all new music submissions.

THE FINDINGS HIGHLIGHT THE ETHICAL AND **ECONOMIC TENSION FACING THE GLOBAL MUSIC INDUSTRY AS AI TOOLS CAPABLE OF GENERATING** SONGS IN SECONDS RAISE **COPYRIGHT CONCERNS**

> The company began tagging AI music earlier this year to

promote transparency 'We believe strongly that creativity is generated by human beings, and they should be protected." CEO Alexis Lanternier told Reuters, urging transparency.

Lanternier also said implement-

ing a differential payout structure for AI music is a complex issue with varying viewpoints, making a "massive change" to remuneration difficult.

Deezer is excluding fake streams from royalty payments.

Another way is for companies to make deals with rights holders, he added, citing Universal Music Group's (UMG. AS), opens new tab settlement of a copyright infringement case with AI company Udio.

While financial terms were undisclosed, UMG will partner with Udio to launch a new AI music creation and streaming platform next year, with the AI tool getting trained on licensed music. REUTERS

Dharmendra discharged

Dharmendra was discharged from Breach Candy hospital Wednesday morning and will continue his recovery at home, his family and doctor said amid intense speculation about his health.

Mumbai, Nov 12: Veteran actor

The 89-year-old actor was discharged from the south Mumbai hospital days after he was admitted there for tests. The family and hospital authorities did not go into any details about the tests or his condition. In a statement the family urged for privacy and asked people to respect the actor, reminding them that "he loves vou", a reference to how Dharmendra signs off many of his Instagram videos to fans.

THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 13, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

Isure

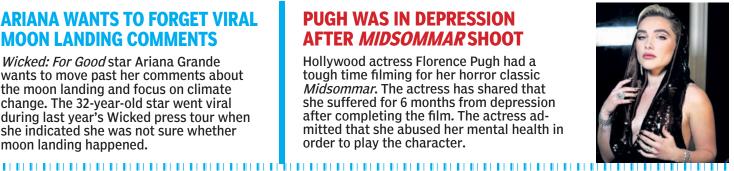


ARIANA WANTS TO FORGET VIRAL MOON LANDING COMMENTS

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.



in collaboration with 5 June

tion, the global entertainment

company founded by Anjula

Acharia. Written by acclaimed

and produced by Max Martin

and Robyn, the song serves as

a playful yet empowering an-

them for girls navigating a world

that often misunderstands and

By combining sustainable

fashion with her powerful stage

presence, Nora continues to

inspire a new generation to

embrace mindful, eco-luxury

style. Her appearance at

UNTOLD Dubai was

more than just a per-

formance it was

a statement. In

a world driv-

underestimates them.

Justin Tranter

songwriter



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.

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.

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 impregnable 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.

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.

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

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 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 vourself swamped by excess of workload in the forenoon. Things, however, will lighten as the afternoon progresses. Expect a funfilled, 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.



FHF's 10th CM: It's our responsibility to preserve state's film heritage



Dignitaries releasing official workshop poster

Kajol debates

marriage expiry

dates, renewal

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,

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,

MUMBAI: In the latest epi-

sode of Two Much With

Kajol and Twinkle, the

hosts debated marriage

During the show, a

lively discussion un-

folded when Kajol, who

is married to Ajay Dev-

gn, shared her belief that

marriages should come

with an expiry date and

During the This or

That segment, Twin-

kle posed the question,

"Should marriage have an

expiry date and a renewal

ing in the red zone, while

Kajol supported the

idea and moved

to the green

marriage, not

a washing ma-

chine," Twin-

kle quipped.

Kajol coun-

tered, "I defin-

itely think so.

What guarantees

that you'll marry

"No.

option?" Kriti, Vicky, and

Twinkle all disagreed, stand-

an option for renewal.

expiry dates.

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.

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

The next statement

in the green zone.

was, "Money can buy hap-

piness." 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 im-

pediment. It numbs you to the

true idea of happiness," Kajol

explained. After some

reflection, Kriti

admitted that

money could

buy happi-

ness at least

to a certain

extent.



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 Patnajk, and Surva Deo for their contribution to film preservation. The evening concluded with a spellbinding Odissi recital choreographed by Padma Shri Ileana Citaristi, dedicated to Odisha's weaving traditions. RESHMI YADAV, OP

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 wave.

glasses. He seemed to be cheerful and in good spirits as he was spotted

was surrounded by a few people, including hospital staff and his acquaintances. In one of the videos, Govber of the paparazzi gathered outside the hospital.

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 pra nayama is the best thing," added the actor. AGENCIES

NORA'S BOLD BEGINNING

DUBAI: Global star Nora Fatehi didn't just own the stage at UNTOLD Dubai, she made a statement. Sporting a stunning recycled patchwork skirt, she showcased how sustainable fashion can be every bit as glamorous, marking the bold beginning of her Pop-girl era. Styled by Dhruv Kapoor with

glam by Marianna Mukuchyan, Nora's ensemble was where creativity met consciousness. The intricate patchwork skirt, crafted from repurposed textiles, wasn't merely a fashion statement, it was a story of reinvention, resourcefulness and fearless self-expression.

As one fan aptly noted, "Her recycled patchwork skirt isn't just a fashion statement; it's a reminder that creativity can transform waste into art.' On stage, performing her empowering new single What Do



a warm smile and a For his first outing after the discharge, Govinda opted for a blazer over a black t-shirt, paired with jeans and dark sun-

smiling at the cameras. In the video, Govinda

inda was also seen greeting and chatting with a mem-Giving an update about his health, Govinda smiled

DOST

Across

1 Taurus

11 Paddle

13 Lacking

12 Take back

15 Obliterates

3 Normally

9 Family girl

10 Abominable

snowmen

companions

19 Editor's chores

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



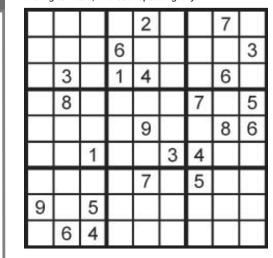
BREVITY



CROSSWORD

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.

SUDOKU



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

E D S E O I L W E L L SHC A|T|T|E|M|P|T|E|D

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

23

21 Quilting party

23 Kind of test

24 Grazing land

1 Port in SW

England

4 One of the

2 Kind of cabinet

Seven Dwarfs

6 Missives

7 Auto mover

8 Calls upon

fiction

16 Withstand

18 Straw hat

19 Flat floater

20 Lilac, e.g.

21 Cheerless

14 Short work of

17 Go on a date (4,3)

22 Untrue

25 Playlet

Down

downtown

of year when mariners from the state set sail to Bali, Sumatra and Java in Indonesia, Borneo and Sri Lanka in ancient times for the expansion of trade and culture. The festival features numerous food stalls, amusement rides and cultural programmes.

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday announced the extension of Bali Yatra in Cuttack by one more day. The annual trade fair, which

began on the occasion of Kartika Purnima November 5 and was supposed to conclude Wednesday (November 12), will now end November 13. Keeping in view the interest of the common people towards the festival and the business of the

traders at the fair, the CM has extended its duration, an official statement said. The festival is organised on the banks of the Mahanadi river every year to mark the time

BALI YATRA EXTENDED BY ONE DAY

NUAPADA: RECORD 83.45% TURNOUT

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Nuapada assembly constituency recorded a huge voter turnout as 83.45 per cent of the total voters exercised their franchise during the by-poll held Tuesday, an official said.

The poll 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 by-election 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. Thanks to all election officials and staff who put in dedicated efforts to create awareness among voters.'

According to officials, the eight polling booths in Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary, considered as Maoist infested, this time recorded more than 70 per cent of polling.

The CEO said that the people in large number cast their votes in the Maoist hit areas because of tight security measures taken much ahead of the polling date November 11.

The Election Commission this time took extra security measures to ensure smooth

3-tier security for counting

Nuapada: A three-tier security arpeaceful and transparent counting of oyelection votes here Friday, District Collector Madhusudan Dash said Wednesday. Dash said, "As per the ECI guideline, Central Armed Police Forces personnel have been deployed roundthe-clock at the innermost cordon at the strongroom, where Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) have been securely stored in the presence of car didates. The entire area is under CCTV been fully prepared for the process. Representatives of various political parties have also been permitted to set up camps outside the strongroom to observe proceedings." According to the Dash, postal ballot paper will be counted first at 8 am, followed by EVM from 8:30 am. Counting will take place in 26 rounds across 14 tables. Each table will be managed by a counting supervisor, an assistant and a microobserver. The Returning Officer will supervise the entire counting process,

polling for nearly 4,000 voters in these eight booths.

The officials along with EVMs and other voting materials were airlifted by IAF choppers to the Maoist hit areas and the central armed police forces (CAPF) ensured a peaceful voting Tuesday, he said.

Gopalan said that voting was completed peacefully across the 358 polling stations. However, two presiding officers were placed under suspension during voting on the charge of violation of vote secrecy. The

Jetti Kusum Kumar AICC Odisha secy

ously monitored from the state

headquarters to ensure a free,

fair and transparent election.

The by-election was neces-

sitated in Nuapada due to the

death of sitting BJD MLA and

former minister Rajendra

Dholakia. In the by-poll, Dhola-

kia's son Jay is in the fray as

a BJP candidate while the BJD

has fielded its women's wing

chief Snehangini Chhuria.

Veteran tribal leader Ghasiram

Majhi has been made a candi-

date by the Congress. There are

several other contestants also.

The electoral fate of all 14

candidates are now sealed in

the EVM which will be opened

While asked on the high vot-

er turnout in the by-poll, senior

BJP leader Jaynarayan Mishra

said, "Generally, elections are

held in Odisha in April or May,

when many people, particular-

ly migrant labourers remain

away from their villages. This

time, the polling is held in No-

vember when many people are

in their villages, and this result-

ed in massive voter turnout."

However, BJD leader Prami-

la Mallik said that more women

participated in the by-poll this

time as the party has fielded a

The female voters outnum-

ber male electors in Nuapada.

Of the total 2,53,624 electors,

1,29,495 are female while the

number of male electors is

woman candidate.

for counting November 14.

New Delhi, Nov 12: In a significant organisational overhaul, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has approved the appointment of Jetti Kusum Kumar as the All India Congress Committee (AICC) secretary for Odisha, official sources said Wednesday.

Kharge has also approved appointment of eight other AICC secretaries and the reallocation of five existing ones.

The announcement, made through a press release by AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal, comes as part of the party's ongoing efforts to strengthen state units and streamline coordination ahead of crucial electoral battles.

"The newly-appointed AICC secretaries are:



Srinivas BV for Gujarat, TN Prathapan for Puducherry and Lakshadweep, Sanjana Jatav for MP.

Sachin Sawant for Telangana, Rehana Rayaz Chisti for Maharashtra, Hina Kaware and Suraj Thakur jointly for Punjab, Jetti Kusum Kumar for Odisha, and Nivedith Alva for Tamil Nadu,' according to the press statement issued Tuesday. These leaders will work closely with respective state in-charges and general secretaries to oversee party activities, campaign strategies, and grassroots mobilisation, it added. Simultaneously, the Congress high command has reallocated existing secretaries to optimise operational efficiency.



CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi interacts with students at an exhibition during state-level children's festival Surabhi in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday. (Bottom) Schoolgirls taking a group



Shankar's aide arrested



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Another person was arrested in connection with the sub-inspector recruitment scam in Odisha Wednesday, police said.

The Crime Branch of the state police arrested Sagar Kumar Gouda (22), a close aide of the key accused, Sankar Prusty. He had played a pivotal role in supervising the operations of the 'Balasore module', they said.

With the arrest of Gouda, a total of 126 people, including 114 aspirants, have been held in connection with the case. The aspirants have already been released on bail after spending a month in jail.

Police claimed Gouda coordinated logistical arrangements and ensured execution of the plan on the ground. It has also been established that he visited Digha September 29, where hotel accommodations had been

booked by one Aravinda Das for a group of aspirants, they said.

On the recommendation of the state government, the Centre has accorded permission for a CBI probe into the multicrore recruitment scam. The irregularities were detected after 114 aspirants and three suspected brokers were nabbed on the night of September 29 at the state's border with Andhra Pradesh when they were going to a "special coaching" centre in Vijayanagaram from Bhubaneswar.

The arrested aspirants had paid Rs 10 lakh each to the racket, and were supposed to pay another Rs 25 lakh after securing the job, police said. Later, some more brokers and the mastermind of the scam, Prusty, were arrested

Another 110 candidates were supposed to undergo similar 'coaching' in West Bengal's Digha, located on the Odisha border September 30, but due to police action in Berhampur, it was cancelled, officials said.

Prusty, who owned Panchsoft Technologies -- a company that got a part of the contract to conduct the recruitment test, has claimed that the scam involved irregularities worth Rs 1,000 crore, and he "surrendered" to unmask those involved in the conspiracy.

CM Majhi seeks foolproof security for Barabati T20I



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: In the wake of the recent deadly blast in Delhi in which over 8 people were killed and dozens injured, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi Wednesday emphasised the need for a foolproof security arrangement during the upcoming India-South Africa T-20 International match at Barabati Stadium, Cuttack, December 9.

Majhi gave the instructions during a high-level preparatory meeting held at the Lok Seva Bhawan here Wednesday to review the arrangements for the uncoming T-20 International match.

Referring to the recent blast in Delhi, the CM stressed the need for foolproof security arrangements and directed the police administration to remain on high alert to ensure public safety at every stage.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister also advised the senior officials of the Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) and the state administration to ensure flawless execution of all plans so that the event is conducted in a well-organised and dignified manner.

"Cricket is one of the most popular sports in our country, and this match will draw national and global attention. Therefore, it must be conducted smoothly, reflecting Odisha's efficiency and honour,' the Chief Minister empha-

Majhi also instructed authorities to establish a well-coordinated green corridor for smooth transition of unwell people and others in case of emergency medical needs.

He advised the authorities to ensure proper arrangement for flawless management of crowd, sale of tickets, emergency health services, etc.

OCA secretary, Sanjay

Behera presented a detailed briefing on the preparations, including ticket sales, crowd management, uninterrupted lighting arrangements, stadium infrastructure, fire safety, parking facilities, and traffic regulation.

It is worth noting that the state was left embarrassed earlier this year when a floodlight failure at Barabati Stadium in Cuttack caused a 35-minute disruption during the second ODI between India and England in February.

Subsequently, the Odisha government had sought an explanation from the OCA over the floodlight failure.

Many state PSUs haven't submitted annual account for decades: Guv

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Wednesday held a discussion on the observations and recommendations in the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report for the period ending March 2023 pertaining to the Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs), and emphasised the need for timely preparation of annual accounts.

financial accountability, and the promotion of agri-allied economic activities for livelihood improvement. The meeting,

held in the mini conference hall of Raj Bhavan, was attended by Principal Accountant General (Audit-I) Subu R, Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department, Sanjeeb Kumar Mishra, Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government, ST & SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Department, B. Parameswaran, and Commissioner-cum-Secretary

cials of Raj Bhavan. During the discussion, the Governor sought to know what corrective steps were being taken following the 2023 findings

to the Governor, Roopa Roshan

Sahoo, along with senior offi-

and inquired about the preparation of fresh reports after analysis. He also asked officials about the challenges faced in preparing concurrent audit reports and about the implementation of various livelihood schemes, including whether any of them had convergence with MGNREGS.

Kambhampati stressed the importance of timely preparation and submission of annual

accounts by ITDAs. Expressing concern that some Public Sector Undertakings

(PSUs) have not submitted their accounts for over a decade, he urged officials to ensure greater accountabil ity and adherence to reporting timelines.

Speaking during the meet-Kambhampati also highlighted the importance of entrepreneurial and demand-based livelihood initiatives in tribal regions. He said people engaged in agriculture should also take up allied activities such as dairy, poultry, fisheries, and other rural enterprises to enhance their in come. "There is a lot of scope and opportunity in agricul ture-based entrepreneurship. We should focus on developing and supporting such ventures," the Governor said.

India needs \$52bn/yr for urban climate needs

New Delhi, Nov 12: India needs an estimated \$52 billion (about Rs 4.58 lakh crore) annually to address its urban climate adaptation needs effectively, according to a new

From scorching heatwaves to record-breaking monsoons, rising air pollution to unseasonal cyclones, climate change is manifesting in increasingly dire ways in urban India.

A new report by The Bridgespan Group, in collaboration with United Way of Mumbai and HSBC India, spotlights opportunities to strengthen climate resilience across India's vast informal sector, that forms the backbone of every city's economy and accounts for roughly 40 per cent of India's urban population.



dia's informal workers and settlement dwellers are responding to intensifying climate risks such as heatwaves, flooding, and air pollution.

Based on conversations with communities and experts, the report outlines five practical investment ideas — or "bold bets" — that can drive locally led climate adaptation and attract additional public and

These are climate-smart housing modifications that improve heat resilience and energy efficiency: climate-indexed wage insurance that stabilises income during climate-related disruptions; sustainable urban drainage systems that strengthen water security and reduce flooding: distributed renewable-energy systems that provide reliable, affordable power in informal settlements; and climate-resilient micro-entrepreneurship that expands green, indoor livelihoods and fosters innovation.

"Financing climate resilience in informal urban communities is not just about mitigating risk, it is about unlocking opportunity. The report highlights the important role philanthropy, CSR and venture capital can play in demonstrating solutions to unlock capital public and private," said Aloka Majumdar, MD and Head of Sustainability, HSBC India.

Anant Bhagwati, Bridgespan Partner and report co-author, added that "We hope this report sparks collaborative action, serving as a starting point for funders and investors to build a more equitable and climate-resilient future for everyone who lives and works in our cities".

ODISHA OBSERVES 'PRATHAMASTAMI'

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik wished people on the occasion of 'Prathamastami' Wednesday

In a post on X, the governor said, "Heartfelt greetings and best wishes on the occasion of Prathamastami, the unique festival of Odia culture. May everyone's life be filled with happiness and prosperity through the boundless grace of Mahaprabhu.

Majhi said, "A unique tradition of Odia culture, 'Prathamastami', heartfelt greetings and congratulations to all on this occasion. May everyone's life be filled with happiness and prosperity by the blessings of Mahaprabhu.

BJD president and former

The rituals are also held in the Lord Jagannath **Temple in Puri, where Lord Balabhadra is** worshiped as the firstborn. Similar rituals are also held in the **Shree Lingaraj Temple** in Bhubaneswar

chief minister Naveen Patnaik also wished all on the occasion and said in a social media post, "I am conveying my best wishes to everyone on the sacred occasion of Prathamastami. This tradition of ours, honouring the eldest in a family, is the most unique. I pray for everyone's well-being at the feet of the Great Lord.'

'Prathamastami', observed on the eighth day of the month of 'Margasir' when special prayers are offered for the well-being of the eldest child of the family. who is also called the 'podhuan'

According to tradition, the maternal uncles present the eldest child of the family with new clothes while mothers pray for their well-being and long life. The firstborn is decorated with vermilion, sandalwood paste and 'doob' grass and sacred rice grains.

The people of Odisha prepare a special rice cake covered with turmeric leaves for the occasion. The cake called 'Enduri Pitha' is offered to Goddess Sasthi Devi. who is considered the protector of children.

The rituals are also held in the Lord Jagannath Temple in Puri, where Lord Balabhadra is worshiped as the firstborn. Similar rituals are also held in the Shree Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar.

25th Int'l Anjali Fest kicks off in Capital

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-

Shri Priyambada Mohanty Hejmadi, Padma Shri Sudarsan 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

ly 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.



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 lavs 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 from his possession following his

MILLET PROMOTION & PRESERVING AGRI HERITAGE

Union Minister Chouhan lauds state leadership in agriculture

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

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

HC cancels July 13 **ASO Main exam**

Fresh test scheduled to be held Dec 7

POST NEWS NETWORK

High Court Wednesday cancelled the Main Written Examination held July 13, 2025, for recruitment to Assistant Section Officer (ASO) posts under Advertisement No. 02/2024.

In a notification issued by the court's examination wing. it was stated that the decision was taken after serious doubts arose over the conduct of the examination by the engaged agency. To uphold fairness and transparency in the recruitment process, the court has decided to hold the main written examination afresh.

The fresh examination will now be conducted December 7 (Sunday) for 7.113 candidates who had qualified in the preliminary examination held May 4, 2025, as per Notice No. 9231 dated May 16, 2025.

The revised examination schedule will include English from 9am to 11am in the first sitting, General Awareness and test of Reasoning from 12 noon to 1pm in the second sitting, and Mathematics from 2:30pm to 4:30pm in the third

sitting. The e-admit cards for the examination will be available for download from 10am November 17 to 5pm December 5.

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.

CURRENCY BOURSES VARIATION **INDEX** VARIATION **INDEX VARIATION** DOLLAR **88.68** • 0.04 SENSEX **84466.51** • 595.19 GOLD ₹125,539 A ₹1604 EURO **102.67** • 0.02 NIFTY **25875.80** • 180.85 SILVER ₹159,731 **↑** ₹4988

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.

lish 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 initiative seeks to estab-

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.

agreement, the Under



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

SSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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

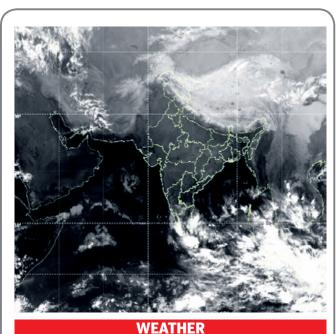
We believe that management education must remain closely linked to real-world practice, and this MoU will empower our students to gain firsthand learning experiences from the retail industry."

RAI CEO Kumar Rajagopal-

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 indus try 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

OUR



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

IIM-Sambalpur will receive acan said, "Retail in India is at a and faculty valuable exposure BOOKING

CONTACT

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488 Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816 Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion-Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point-9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Injured jumbo treated by expert team in Keonjhar



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 biochem-

A physical examination re-

vealed 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,

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 ma-

jor wound on the left foreleg

was dressed with gauze ban-

After treatment, a reversal

injection was administered

to counteract sedation. The

elephant's recovery was mon-

itored through drone surveil-

lance. Within about 30 minutes,

the elephant regained normal

movement and walked back

tion and treatment opera-

tion concluded successfully

around 5:30pm. The elephant

responded well to the treat-

ment 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."

"The entire tranquilisa-

toward the forest.

thoroughly

team

and left hind leg.

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 Navak: 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 tranquilisation.

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 tranquilisation 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 min-

Once sedated, the Rapid Re-

Man kills father over delay in serving food

ing 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.

tified as Taranisen Naik, police said. The accused, Trinath charged with murder.

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 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



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 vil-

lagers residing in the disputed

villages along the border in a

bid to win them over.

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

raja, 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, warn ing 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'

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

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

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 Ganiam 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 BJF 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

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 influence 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 ver-

"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,

2 die of diarrhoea in Koraput village

Kundura, Nov 12: Two women died and 16 others were affected after diarrhoea spreads its tentacles at Kenduguda under this block in Koraput district, health officials said Wednesday. The deceased were identified

as Phulmati Ghasarlia, 35, and Hiradevi Ghasarlia, 51. A medical team from Kundura block visited the village to assess the situation and collected drinking water samples from different locations.

District program manager (DPM) and ASHA manager of Koraput also visited the affected village to review the situation. Officials said several patients, including Jogesh

mia, Jitendra Pujari, Debendra Bhumia Basu Bhumia Rina Pujari, and Phulmati Masia have recovered after treatment

Gorahandia, Ratnabati Bhu

Block medical officer Ganesh Prasad Das said the village is under constant surveillance with medical teams visiting twice daily to monitor the sit uation. Awareness campaigns are being conducted to prevent further spread, and medicines along with oral rehydration salts (ORS) are being distributed.

Das noted that many villag ers initially take patients to lo cal healers instead of hospitals leading to delays in treatment The two deaths were attributed to such late medical intervention, he said.

Open coal transport draws SPCB fiat

ANGUL: The State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) has warned of stringent action regional officer in Angul RA Ekka issued letters to 11 coal mines and washeries. Lingarai. Nandira open cast mines and Danra and Balanda coal washery projects. Reports said air pollution levels in mining regions of this district are on the rise, largely due to excessive vehicular movement and open transportation of coal. The SPCB has warned of strict action against companies that fail to cover coal during transport, in accordance with government guidelines. According to reports, the Union government had issued a notification May 21, 2020, directing all mining co panies to follow specific environmental norms, including the use of covered wagon moved to various depots, plants and railway sidings, often in open wagons. While some operators comply by covering the loads with tarpaulin sheets, many continu to violate the rules, resulting in fine coal dust polluting the air.

Police seize 1.44 qtl ganja worth ₹14 lakh; 3 arrested **SONEPUR:** Subarnapur police have

seized 1.44 guintals of gania worth an estimated ₹14,40,050 and arrested three persons in this connection. The accused have been identified as Sangram Patra, Deben Rajput tip-off, a team from Rampur police station, under the direction of the SP Subarnapur, intercepted a major ganja transportation network late November Acting on reliable intelligence that one Bhagaban Sahu of Sankartikra villane 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 car rying 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.

Engineer/TRD/Chakradharpur for & or behalf of the President of India for the following work. The Manual offers are no allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored Name of the work: Operation of isolators at MCL Sardega siding (RLS) in Chakra-

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 e-tender: Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ viewed at Web site http://www.ireps gov.in The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & mus be registered on IREPS Portal. Only egistered tenderer/bidders can participate

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 12: In a shock-

The deceased has been iden-Naik, has been arrested and

According to police sources,

and was injured critically after

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 Srikanta Sahu, Inspector In-Charge of the Town police station.



Women from UK visit Sambalpuri Bastralaya, buy handloom items



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Nov 12: Eight wom-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

Impressed by the craftsmanship, the visitors expressed keen interest in purchasing Sambalpuri sarees and garments. They were later taken to the mega showroom in Bargarh, where they bought hand-woven apparel and clothes worth several lakhs of rupees. The women praised the artistry and vibrant patterns of the local weavers.

Society chairman Sambit Kumar Acharya welcomed the group and presented them with mementos. Officials said the visit is expected to help promote Sambalpuri handloom products internationally.

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 selling 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.

on e-tendering.

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL

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

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NAC proposes to undertake "Providing Consultancy

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

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

Service for preparation of DPR for different projects'

The completed application as per the instructions in the EO 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 al roposals without assigning any reason whatsoever

Sd./- Executive officer. NAC Boudhgarh

EAST COAST RAILWAY

NOTIFICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF STATION TICKET BOOKING AGENT (STBA)

No. SDCM/KUR/STBA/NSG-6/2025/Phase-8 Applications are invited for selection and appointment of StationTicket Applications are invited for selection and appointment of Station Incket 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

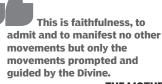
No. of STBAs required: Only one (01) STBA at each station to work Round the

NAME OF THE STATIONS

1. KONASA ROAD (KASR), 2. JAGANNATHPUR (JNP) & 3. HARIDASPUR (HDS) Applications for the above Stations dully 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

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 ou 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. Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / Khurda Road







THE MOTHER

Aid In Freefall

merica'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.



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

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 billionin seven

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 millionkids 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.

IF 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.

FOCUS GOVERNANCE

RTI UNDER SIEGE

mation (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 grassroot 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 is it 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 hardwon democratic tool faces its most serious threat vet. 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 (DP-DP) 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-



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

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

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,

and compelling.

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

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

AI race: The future or a mirage



Sourajeet Pradhani

CHASING
UNPROVEN
AI STARTUPS
PURELY BASED ON
NARRATIVES CAN
LEAD TO PAINFUL
LOSSES IF THE
BUBBLE BURSTS

oday, 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

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 eco-

system — 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

sustainable 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.

drove internet stocks to un-

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

— 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 distin-

guishing genuine innovation from speculative overreach. While leading firms may justify their valuations through earnings 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.

etters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate,
Bhubaneswar-751010

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



TWO STATES





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 acquisition 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 Indian revolutionary activity. It is historically linked

with several nationalist

figures, including Vinay-

ak 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



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

Over 2.17cr citizens mapped

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedahad, 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 Guiarat. 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 tered 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

Booth-level officers are the cornerstone of the entire

They are handling important tasks, including distribution of enumeration forms. helping voters in matching or linking their names or rel atives' 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

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 Enhancement Vehicle (PM E-DRIVE) scheme providing emphasises affordable and environmentally friendly public transportation options for

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-

the masses

tan Region Development

currently **PMPML** 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

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.

Authority.

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

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-



Gujarat CM awards notary

certificates to 1,500 Advocates

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

by notaries receive legal recognition, and their acceptance in courts and other institutions becomes easier, enhancing the 'ease of doing business", he add-

Patel said PM Modi has

click of a button. "The newly-launched system and the economy.

"Documents notarised

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

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

awarded to top perform-

ers, it said. The evalu-

ation criteria include:

Timely 100 per cent Fair

and Remunerative Price

(FRP) payment to farm-

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 pa per and help protect the environment, advancing the concept of paperless governance.

OIPR-

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 HS 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.

Government of Odisha 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 lame of the Work :- Road Works- 36 Nos

Estimated Cost

02 to 03 Calendar Months Period of Completion

From 13 11 2025 10 00 AM Date & Time of availability

to 25.11.2025, 5.00 P.M. of Bid documents in the Portal Last date/time for receipt of 25.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M

bids in the portal

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

26.11.2025 at 11.00 AM Date & Time of opening or

Tender/ Bid Name & Address of the Executive Engineer

Officer Inviting Bid 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

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.O-3171

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION. GAJAPATI PARALAKHEMUNDI e-mail:rwd gajapati@yahoo.co.in

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

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

Name of the Work Road Works

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

Rs.9.97 lakhs to **Estimated Cost**

24.92 lakhs 'D' & 'C' Class Contractor Class of Contractor

'C' & 'B' Class Contractor Furnished in Anexure 5. Period of Completion

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

7. Date and Time of Opening of Tender

8. Place of Opening : As per Annexure Further details can be seen from the website www

tenderorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Executive Engineer

21.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

R.W.Division, Gajapati

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-



pacity by identifying and dards, according to a govrewarding factories with ernment resolution (GR). competitive quality stan-Under the scheme, sug-

annually across nine key parameters, with prizes

ers 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 efar mills will be evaluated ficiency, 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 DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PHONE NO.: 0663-2430080

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

4		Τ.	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
		L	the year 2024-25
2	Nos of work	:	1 (One) No.
3	Amount Put to Tender	:	Rs.16.75 Lakhs approximately
4 5	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	:	Date: 13.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to
	Bid document in the portal		Date: 27.11.2025, up to 5:00 P.M.
7	Last date/time for receipt of	:	Date: 27.11.2025, up to 5:00 P.M.
	Bids in the portal		
8	Date of opening of Bid	:	Dt.28.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
9	Last date & time of seeking	:	Dt: 25.11.2025 up to 04.00 P.M.
	tender clarification		
10	Name and Address of the	E	Superintending Engineer,
	Officer inviting Bid		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-pro Additional Spillway Division, Burla

national



What is the reason for terrorist attacks in the country during

SC SETS JAN 21 HEARING IN SHIV SENA SYMBOL ROW

The Supreme Court Wednesday fixed January 21 for hearing pleas filed by the Uddhav Thackeray-led faction of the Shiv Sena against the Election Commission's order allotting the 'bow and arrow' symbol to Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led faction





dodara, Gujarat today along with my friend, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya

Conrad Sangma ji. As the nation celebrates the 150th birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, we will be attending the Bharat Parv function at Kevadia under

the theme 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha

PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL CM

We are looking at self-reliance in all sectors. Entrepreneurship is in the DNA of Goans. We have been traditionally in the fishing business, farming and other activities, but eventually things

PRAMOD SAWANT GOA CM

Exit polls are being done to demoralise us as per an agenda. We have urged our workers to stay alert AKHILESH YADAV SP CHIEF



SHORT **TAKES**

Girl killed in gas cylinder blast

Kolkata: A three-year-old girl was killed and six others were injured in a cooking gas cylinder blast at a house in West Bengal's Murshidabad district Wednesday, police said. The explosion took place around 1.40 pm in the house in Rameswarpur in the jurisdiction of Kandi Police Station.

46 new dengue cases in Kailasahar

Agartala: Forty-six new dengue cases have been reported from Kailasahar town of Tripura's Unakoti district. an official said. Thirteen out of the 46 patients are currently undergoing treatment in hospitals, the official said. Dr Rohan Paul of Kailasahar Sub-Divisional Hospital said. "The situation in Kailasahar is well under control. There is no

Navy Chief begins six-day trip to US

New Delhi: Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi Wednesday embarked on a six-day visit to the US to boost bilateral naval ties with a larger aim to ensure a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific. The Navy Chief's visit to the US comes amid continuing strain in ties between New Delhi and Washington after US President Donald Trump slapped a 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods in August.

Jaishankar holds talks with Rubio in Canada

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Wednesday held talks with his American counterpart Marco Rubio that largely focused on issues relating to trade and supply chains. Jaishankar and Rubio met on the sidelines of a conclave of G7 foreign ministers in Canada's Niagara region.

SI, constable in ACB net for taking bribe

Hyderabad: A Sub-Inspector of Police and a constable were caught by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) while allegedly taking bribe of ₹50,000 in Siddipet district in Telangana The accused officers--SI and his driver/police constable of Mulugu Police Station, Siddipet Commissionerate, were apprehended redhanded within the premises of the police station November 11. The bribe amount was recovered from the possession of the constable.

2 latest exit polls point to NDA win

THE AXIS MY INDIA EXIT POLL PREDICTED THAT THE NDA WOULD BE AHEAD OF THE MAHAGATHBANDHAN IN BIHAR BUT THE RJD WOULD EMERGE AS THE SINGLE-LARGEST PARTY WHEN RESULTS FOR THE ASSEMBLY POLLS ARE ANNOUNCED FRIDAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Two fresh exit polls Wednesday pointed to an NDA victory in Bihar with Axis My India showing a clear edge for the ruling alliance and Today's Chanakya forecasting a big win for it over the Mahagathbandhan.

Both the exit polls forecast a disappointing electoral debut for Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj. The Axis My India Exit Poll predicted that the NDA would be ahead of the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar but the RJD would emerge as the single-largest party when results for the Assembly polls are announced Friday.

Axis My India predicted the NDA to win between 121-141 seats, and the Mahagathband-

PM DEGREE ROW

Delhi HC asks DU to

condonation pleas

New Delhi, Nov 12: The

Delhi High Court Wednes-

day asked the Delhi Univer-

sity to file its objections to

pleas seeking condonation of

delay in filing appeals chal-

lenging an order relating to

disclosure of details of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's

A bench of Chief Justice

Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya

and Justice Tushar Rao Gede-

la granted three weeks to the

varsity to file the reply on

the applications seeking to condone the delay in filing

The bench was informed

"Solicitor General of India

Tushar Mehta appears for the

respondent (Delhi Universi-

ty). Objections to the appli-

cations seeking condonation

of delay may be filed within

three weeks. Response to the

said objection, if any, be filed

by the appellants in two weeks

The court listed the mat-

ter for further hearing Jan-

uary 16, 2026. Four appeals

have been filed challenging

a single judge's order which

had set aside a Central In-

formation Commission (CIC)

decision directing disclosure

of Prime Minister Modi's de-

gree. The division bench was

hearing the appeals filed by

Right to Information activist

Neeraj, Aam Aadmi Party

leader Saniav Singh and ad-

During the hearing, the

counsel for the petitioners

contended that there are fun-

damental errors in the order

Solicitor General Mehta

requested the court not to

issue notice in the appeals at

this stage as he was already

appearing for the varsity and

that he would file a reply to it.

passed by the single judge.

vocate Mohd Irshad.

thereafter," the bench said.

that there was a delay in filing

the appeals challenging the

single judge's August order.

respond to delay

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

bachelor's degree.

han 98-118 seats.

It gave 0-2 seats to the Jan Suraaj. Today's Chanakya forecast that while the BJP and its allies would get 160 seats (with a plus-minus margin of error of 12 seats), the RJD and its allies would bag 77 seats (with a plus-minus margin of error of 12 seats).

It forecast that the BJP and its allies would bag 44 per cent (plus-minus 3 per cent) vote share and the RJD and its allies would get 38 per cent (plus-minus 3 pr cent) votes. The projections come a day

dicted a return of the NDA government in Bihar with a big victory over the Mahagathbandhan.

after all major exit polls pre-

All exit polls have unanimously forecast a poor elector-



Jan Suraaj. In its party-wise break-up, Axis My India predicted that the RJD would be the single-largest party getting between 67-76 seats, followed by the JD(U) at 56-62 seats, BJP 50-56 seats, Congress 17-21 seats, Vikassheel Insaan Party 3-5 seats, and Left parties 10-14

According to the exit poll, the NDA would get a vote share percentage of 43 per cent, Mahagathbandhan 41 per cent, and the Jan Suraaj 4 per cent.

It also claimed that while

The exit poll also gave a gender-wise break-up of vote share. It projected that while the NDA would get 41 per cent male and 45 per cent female votes, the Mahagathbandhan would get 42 per cent male and 40 per cent female votes.

The Bihar polls were conducted in two phases November $6\,\mathrm{and}\,11,$ and the results will be announced November 14.

While the Matrize Exit Poll forecast the NDA likely getting between 147-167 seats, the Mahagathbandhan 70-90, and the Jan Suraaj between 0-2 seats, Dainik Bhaskar predicted 145-160 seats for the NDA and 73-91 for the Mahagathbandhan.

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

ATS raids premises in Thane, Pune over techie's arrest

TERROR LINKS



Mumbai, Nov 12: The Maha rashtra ATS has searched the premises of a teacher in Thane and another person in Pune in connection with the recent arrest of a software engineer for his alleged links with Al Qaeda and other banned outfits, officials said Wednesday.

The Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) clarified that the search es were not linked to Monday's blast in Delhi that claimed 12 lives, but added that as part of the standard procedure, it was examining whether there was a possible Maharashtra link to the incident in the national The teacher's house at Mum-

bra in Thane district was used for one of the meetings by the arrested Pune-based software engineer, Zubair Hangargekar, the officials said.

The ATS nabbed Han gargekar (37) from Pune on October 27 for his alleged links with banned outfits, such as Al Qaeda and Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, and for his suspected involvement in radicalisation activities.

During the investigation, the ATS had found a Pakistani con tact number saved on his old phone. While probing further, the anti-terror agency learned that Hangargekar had visited Mumbra in Thane for one of his Accordingly, the ATS offi-

cials visited the teacher's house on Tuesday and enquired about Hangargekar and his meeting,



34 per cent people want to see RJD's Tejashwi Yadav as the chief minister, 22 per cent want incumbent Nitish Kumar (JD-U) to remain at the helm.

People take a boat ride at the Sangam, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

SC seeks Punjab, Haryana response

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Taking note of stubble burning leading to further worsening of air quality levels in Delhi-NCR. the Supreme Court Wednesday asked the Punjab and Haryana governments to apprise it about the action taken to control the situation.

A bench comprising Chief Justice BR Gavai and justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria also agreed to hear the plea November 17.

"Let Punjab and Harvana governments respond on steps taken to control stubble burning," the CJI said.

Earlier, the bench had scheduled the matter for hearing Wednesday. At the outset, senior advocate Gopal Sankarnarayanan said that currently GRAP III is in force.

"Grap IV should be implemented. The AQI (air quality index) has crossed 450 at some places. There is drilling excavation happening outside a court STUBBLE BURNING

"Let Punjab and Haryana on steps taken to control stubble burning," the CJI said

■ The CJI said that action would be taken in regard to the construction activity

here... That shouldn't happen at least within these premises. the senior lawyer said.

The CJI said that action would be taken in regard to the construction activity. The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) is a framework

designed to tackle air pollution

in Delhi-NCR region through a

tiered system of measures based on the severity of air quality.

Toxic air grips Delhi

New Delhi: The national capital

burning in the neighbouring regions

average recorded at 418 at 4 pm. ac

cording to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

contributed most to Delhi's foul

air. Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI)

continued to breathe toxic air

On Tuesday, senior advocate Apraiita Singh, who is assisting the bench as an amicus curiae, said that stubble burning has commenced in a big way with impunity in Punjab and Haryana leading to further worsening the air quality levels in Delhi-NCR.

Singh referred to NASA satellite images to buttress her point that the stubble burning in these two states has commenced and it is contributing to already severe air quality in Delhi-NCR.

J&K Police raids 500 places linked to banned groups

Srinagar, Nov 12: Police Wednesday intensified its crackdown on the terror ecosystem in Kashmir, carrying out raids at around 500 locations linked to terrorist associates, and persons affiliated with banned organisations, includ-

ing Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), in the valley, officials said.

The raids were based on credible intelligence inputs indicating attempts by JeI-linked elements to revive their activities under different fronts, police officials said.

They said the raids were carried out at several locations across the 10 districts of the Kashmir valley -- Srinagar, Ganderbal, Budgam, Baramulla, Bandipora, Kupwara, Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, and Shopian. The searches were carried out at the residences and premises of JeI members and their associates. They add-

ed the crackdown is a part of sustained efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem and its support structure at the grass roots level. Giving details of the massive operation, the officials said in Srinagar, police conducted extensive raids at 150

locations across the city. The searches were carried out at the residences of terrorist as sociates and overground work ers (OGWs) affiliated with proscribed terrorist organizations in connection with ongoing in vestigations under the UAPA

the police officials said The coordinated search operations were conducted across various areas of Srinagar, targeting individuals involved in facilitating, aiding, or abetting terror-related activities, they said. The objective of these operations was to seize incriminating material such as documents, digital devices, and other evidence relevant to ongoing investigations.

Bar body asks SC to probe menstruation proof demand

The Bar body has also sought guidelines to ensure that the right to health, dignity, bodily autonomy and privacy of women and girls are not violated when they are menstruating

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) has filed a plea in the apex court over allegations that female sanitation workers at the Maharashi Davanand University, Haryana, were asked to prove through pictures of their private parts that they were menstruating

The plea has sought directions to the Centre and Harvana to conduct a detailed inquiry in-

to the alleged incident.

The Bar body has also sought guidelines to ensure that the right to health, dignity, bodily autonomy and privacy of women and girls are not violated when they are menstruating.

Three people connected with

Maharishi Davanand University (MDU) here were booked for sexual harassment on October 31 for allegedly asking female sanitation workers to prove through pictures of their private parts that they were having $t\bar{h}$ eir periods, police said. The varsity, in a statement,



said it had suspended two supervisors, who had been hired through Harvana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam Limited on contract, while an internal probe had been ordered into the incident.

The alleged incident took place on October 26, a few hours before Haryana Governor Ashim Kumar Ghosh was scheduled to visit the campus.

Three female sanitation workers, in a complaint to varsity authorities, alleged that the two supervisors first forced them to clean the complex despite being told they were "unwell" and then asked them to

prove they were menstruating. "We told them we could not work faster as we were unwell due to our periods, but they de-

manded we click photos of our

private parts to prove it. When we refused, we were abused and threatened with dismissal," one of the sanitation workers, who claimed to be employed with MDU for 11 years, alleged. The women alleged that the supervisors told them they were following Assistant Registrar Shyam Sunder's orders. Sun der has denied giving any such instruction to the supervisors The PGIMS police station

SHO said an FIR was registered under charges of criminal in timidation, sexual harassment intent to insult the modesty of a woman and assault or use of criminal force on a woman. The accused may also be booked under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Preven tion of Atrocities) Act, he said.

national



If the reports about the involvement of **Kashmiri doctors** turn out to be true, it will be worrying and devastating for our people. Doctors are the cream of our society, and nothing can be more worrying for us if our intelligent people are involved

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

INDIA LOGGED HIGHEST NUMBER OF TB CASES IN 2024: REPORT

India accounted for the highest number of TB cases in 2024, followed by Indonesia, the Philippines, China, and Pakistan, said the WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2025, as it called for increased funding to eradicate the disease





touring after I gave an injection. If you give, why did you go and meet the farmers? You could have taken at least a few packets of biscuits

EKNATH SHINDE | MAHA DY CM

By comparing the RSS's tration to (that of) Hinduism,

you have insulted

millions of Sanatan

Dharma followers. I strongly condemn this statement DIGVIJAVA SINGH | SENIOR CONGLEADER



the BJP's torture and CM Himanta Biswa Sarma's injustice, we all are united. We will contest the 2026 assembly elections together. This was the main decision of today's

AURAY GOGOL ASSAM CONG PRESIDENT





with my wife on the Zirakpur Punjab Police jeeps escorting

sirens blaring. Slowed the vehicle to let the first vehicle pass, the VIP vehicle perhaps took three additional seconds to pass sped off. It was clearly a deliberate act, not only damaging the car, but with no concern of our personal The arrogance and impunity of someone who is supposed to be a guardian of law soils the uniform and reputation of the organisation. Hope @BhagwantMann and @ DGPPunjabPolice take note.

Ambala come from behind with

Hoax bomb threat

SHORT **TAKES**

to Air India Express Varanasi: A bomb threat to an

Air India Express flight from Mumbai to Varanasi that landed at the Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport here Wednesday has turned out to be a hoax, police said. According to Gomti Zone police, the Air Traffic Control (ATC) in Kolkata informed the Varanasi ATC around 3:58 pm about a possible bomb threat to flight IX-1023 coming from Mumbai. Following the alert, security agencies at the Varanasi airport were put on high alert before the flight with 182 passengers on board landed safely at 4:19 pm, officials said

4 get life sentence for 2015 murder

Sonbhadra (UP): A local court Wednesday sentenced four men to life imprisonment for killing a woman over a land dispute more than 10 years ago, an official said. Government counsel Vinod Kumar Pathak said the case was lodged by Ramprasad Gond, a resident of Babhni village under the Ghorawal police station limits. In his complaint filed May 24, 2015, Gond alleged that on the intervening night of May 23-24, his wife Premkali was sleeping in their house when four men - Ramnaresh. Rambadan, Mataprasad and Ramprasad, all from the same village - attacked and killed her with an axe over a

land dispute.

Car blast near Red Fort **"terrorist incident": Govt**

New Delhi. Nov 12: 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.

A Union Cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi upon his return from Bhutan, reaffirmed India's unwavering commitment to a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Observing a two-minute

silence in honour of the innocent lives lost in the terrorist incident, the Cabinet adopted a resolution expressing profound grief over the loss of lives in the terrorist incident and said the situation continues to be "closely monitored" at the highest levels of the government.

The prime minister visited the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital to meet the injured soon after he returned from a two-day visit to Bhutan. He also chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security.

The meeting comes two days after an explosives-laden car detonated outside Red Fort, killing 12 people. On the same day, eight persons, including three doctors were arrested when an inter-state "white-collar" terror module was busted.

"The Cabinet directs that the investigation into the incident be pursued with the utmost urgency and professionalism so that the perpetrators, their collaborators, and their sponsors are identified and brought to justice without delay. The situation continues to be closely monitored at the highest levels of the government," the resolu-



Parliamentary panel refuses discussion

New Delhi: The issue of the blast near Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs Wednesday, but the Chairperson of the panel refused to discuss the matter, a source said. According to a member who was present in the meeting, the issue of the blast near Red Fort, in which 12 persons were killed, was raised by ar MP of the Trinamool Congress. The TMC MP also raised concerns over the alleged intelligence failure.

SNIPPETS

'You're a threat to young girls': SC to Assam

prof held for anti-India, obscene online posts

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Wednesday came down heavily on a profes-

sor at a college in Assam arrested for making anti-India and obscene social media posts, and called him "a threat to young girls" and a "pervert" who

tices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi, which refused to grant interim bail to

Md Joynal Abedin, who was a professor at Gossaigaon College in Kokrajhar district, said that he has a habit of stalking and making obscene remarks to

women online and cannot be released from jail easily. "You are in the habit of harassing women on social media and making obscene remarks. You

are a perverted man and a threat to young girls in college." "What kind of professor are you? You are a shame to the word Professor. You should not

be allowed to enter the college," the bench made scathing remarks against him. Counsel for the petitioner said that he had apologised for the post for

which he was arrested and as soon as he realised that his social media post

Amreli: A sessions court in Gujarat's Amreli city has sentenced three persons to life imprisonment in a cow slaughter case and imposed a hefty fine of ₹18

lakh on them, prosecution said Wednesday. This is the first instance in Gujarat where three persons have been handed life term in a cow slaughter case, it

said. Sessions Court Judge Rizwana Bukhari Tuesday pronounced the three accused -- Kasim Haji Solanki, Sattar Ismail Solanki, and Akram Haji Solanki

guilty under various sections of the Gujarat Animal Preservation (Amendment) Act, 2017, in the Amreli cow slaughter case and sentenced them to life impris-

onment, special public prosecutor (SPP) Chandresh Mehta said. The court also

imposed a fine of ₹18 lakh on the trio, he said. As per the case details, police

received a tip-off regarding certain individuals capturing and slaughtering

cows and selling beef in Amreli city in 2023.

was against the interest of the country, he had deleted it.

Three get life sentence in cow slaughter case

Terming the car explosion as a "senseless act of violence" the Union Cabinet condemned this dastardly and cowardly act, and conveyed its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved

It also prayed for the speedy recovery of all those injured, and appreciated the prompt efforts of the medical personnel and emergency responders, who have been providing care and support to the victims.

"The Cabinet also recorded its appreciation for the statements of solidarity and support from many governments around the world," I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said

reading out the Cabinet resolution. The Cabinet also appreciated the timely and coordinated response of the authorities, security agencies, and citizens

who acted with courage and

compassion in the face of ad-

PM meets survivors

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra

justice. "Went to LNIP Hospital and

Modi visited the LNJP Hospital

of the Red Fort blast, saving the

in Delhi, Praying for everyone's

the conspiracy will be brought to

X. Upon landing from Bhutan, the

hospital to meet those injured after

quick recovery. Those behind

The Cabinet also reaffirmed the government's steadfast resolve to safeguard the lives and well-being of all Indians, consistent with its enduring commitment to national security and the safety of every citizen.

Meanwhile, Turkiye Wednes day rejected as "purely disinformative" the media reports that it was engaged in "radicalisation activities" targeting India and other countries

Cabinet clears ₹45K-cr schemes to boost exports

New Delhi, Nov 12: The government Wednesday approved two schemes worth ₹45.000 crore to help exporters tide over the impact of high tariffs imposed by the US on Indian shipments.

The ₹25,060-crore Export Promotion Mission seeks to strengthen India's export competitiveness, particularly for MSMEs, first-time exporters, and labour-intensive sectors.

The second scheme -- Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (CGSE) -- will ensure up to ₹20,000 crore collateral-free credit support to exporters.

The decisions were taken at the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Mo di The decisions announced by I&B Minister Ashwini Vaish nav, comes in the back drop of President Donald Trump administration imposing a hefty 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods effective from August 27

India and the US are also negotiating a bilateral trade agreement. The Export Promotion Mission (EPM) will be implemented over six years through two sub-schemes Niryat Protsahan (Rs 10,401 crore) and Niryat Disha (Rs 14,659 crore).

It is a very comprehensive mission and it will support the complete export ecosystem, Vaishnay told reporters here. Under the mission, priority support will be extended to sectors impacted by recent global tariff escalations, such as textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, and marine products.

These sectors are facing challenges in the US market. Due to the high import duties. India's merchandise exports to the US declined by 11.93 per cent to \$ 5.46 billion in September.

Under Niryat Protsahan, focus will be given to improve access to affordable trade finance for MSMEs through a range of



instruments such as interest subvention, export factoring, collateral guarantees, credit cards for e-commerce exporters, and credit enhancement support for diversification into new markets. The government, however, did not disclose the rate of subvention.

Similarly under the Niryat Disha, the funds will be used for non-financial enablers such as assistance for international branding, packaging, and participation in trade fairs, export warehousing and logistics, inland transport reimbursements, and trade intelligence and capacity-building initiatives.

The Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (CGSE) for providing 100 per cent credit guarantee will be implemented by the finance ministry through National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) to provide additional credit support by lending institutions to the exporters including MSMEs.

A management Committee formed under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), will oversee the progress and implementation of the scheme.

In a release, the government said the CGSE Scheme is expected to enhance the global competitiveness of Indian exporters and support diversification into new and emerging markets. Enabling collateral-free credit access under CGSE will strengthen liquidity, ensure smooth business operations, reinforce India's progress towards achieving the USD 1 trillion export target, the release said.

Aparajita Sarangi to chair joint panel on Bills to remove PM, CMs PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: BJP leader Aparajita Sarangi was Wednesday appointed as chairperson of the Joint Committee of Parliament to examine bills to remove the prime minister chief ministers and Union/state arrested or detained for 30 days straight on serious charges.

With key opposition parties announcing a boycott of the committee, the 31-member panel has four members from the opposition ranks, 15 from the BJP, 11 from NDA constituents and one nominated member.

NCP-SP leader Supriya Sule Akali Dal's Harsimrat Kau Badal, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi and YSRCP member Niranjan Reddy from the opposi tion parties have been named as members of the Joint Committee on the bills -- The Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025 The Jammu and Kashmir Reor ganisation (Amendment) Bill 2025; and The Government Of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025, according to a Lok Sabha Secretariat statement.

Several opposition parties. such as the Congress and Trinamool Congress, have decided not to be part of the committee The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) who are not part of the opposition INDIA bloc too have stayed away from the panel.

YSRCP, Akali Dal and AIM-IM are not part of the opposition INDIA bloc.

Almost every NDA constituent party has got representa tion on the committee. Sudha Murty, nominated member of the Rajya Sabha, too is the member of the panel.

BIHAR ELECTIONS

No repoll recommended in Phase 2 also, says EC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: The Election Commission Wednesday said no repoll has been recommended in any of the polling booths of 122 Assembly seats in Bihar that went to elections

It said this is for the first time in the recent history of the state that no repoll has been ordered In the first phase too, no repoll took place. "After scrutiny, no discrepancy or malpractice was found at any of the polling station and no repoll was recommended. With this, over the two-phased Bihar elections zero re-poll has been recommended This is a first in the recent his tory of elections in the state,' the EC said in a statement. In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, as many as 96 repolls were held.

Bihar Tuesday recorded its highest-ever voter turnout of 67.14 per cent, provisionally, at close of polling in the second and final phase of the high stakes elections, seen as a veri table referendum on the state's longest-serving chief minister -- Nitish Kumar.



Army artillery guns deployed as soldiers ready for live-fire drills during Exercise Maru Jwala, in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

India, Botswana announce Cheetah translocation pact

Thanking her counterpart President Duma Gideon Boko and the people of one of the world's largest diamond producer countries for the gesture, President Murmu assured that India will take good care of them (Cheetahs)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gaborone (Botswana), Nov 12: India and Botswana Wednesday formally announced to translocate eight Cheetahs from the African nation during the state visit of President Droupadi Murmu.

Thanking her counterpart President Duma Gideon Boko and the people of one of the world's largest diamond producer countries for the gesture, President Murmu assured that India will take good

care of them (Cheetahs).

Botswana will symbolically hand over the big cats to Murmu Thursday. The two heads of state will preside over an event where five of the eight captured Cheetahs will be released into a quarantine facility at the Mokolodi nature reserve, marking the symbolic handing over of the hunting cats to India by Botswana as part of Project Cheetah and under a mutual initiative for wildlife conservation. The Cheetahs have been brought to the nature reserve, 10 kms south of Gaborone, from the



during a meeting, in Botswana

Ghanzi town located in the Kalahari desert. The rest of the Cheetahs will join the quarantine center soon, Boko said.

Botswana is a landlocked nation whose 70 per cent landmass is covered by the Kalahari desert.

pected to reach India in a few months time after undertaking quarantine procedures.

The eight Cheetahs are ex-

"It gives me special pleasure to note that Botswana is to reintroduce Cheetahs into India under Project Cheetah, which tion initiative of the government of India," Murmu said. "I am thankful to the Pres-

is a unique wildlife conserva-

ident and people of Botswana for sending their Cheetahs to India. We will take good care of them," she said during a press briefing held at the President's office here.

Murmu arrived for a threeday state visit to the country Tuesday. This is the first visit by an Indian President to the country located in southern Africa. President Boko added that, as part of a biodiversity cooperation, the move to donate the Cheetahs will work to assist regeneration of the population of the big cat in India.

The Botswana president said he was informed that among the Cheetahs was one who was named Duma, like his name, quipping that this was a name for speed, agility and ability to pounce when required.

We hope that where they are named Duma, you will give the name, where they are not, you will give your name...," he said, leaving the audience in smiles.

The two leaders were addressing the media after the delegation level talks between

the two sides. On September 17, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released eight cheetahs brought from Namibia into a special enclosure at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, marking the world's first intercontinental reloca

India later imported 12 more cheetahs from South Africa in February 2023.

tion of a large wild carnivore

international



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

ANTHONY ALBANESE

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



Pak parl approves more powers for army chief

ance sheet to stabilize the of our great allies in Latin America



SCOTT BESSENT | TREASURY SECRETARY, US



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 I

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

Turkey plane crash kills all 20

Ankara: All 20 personnel on board a military cargo plane that crashed in Georgia were killed. Turkive'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 Sighnaghi 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, staterun Global Times reported. It said that the Hongqi Bridge at the local Shuangjiangkou **Qiang Autonomous Prefecture** collapsed Tuesday afternoon. Videos circulating on social media showed the bridge structure plunging into the

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

Trump defends H-1B visa plan

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 coun-

"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 making also do have to bring batteries very complicatin talent. You don't have certain talents. And ed. It's not an easy thing, and people have to learn very dangerous. DONALD TRUMP A lot of explo-PRESIDENT, US sions, lot of prob-

lems," 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

Cambodia, Thailand's conflict heats up again

BORDER TENSION

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

The Trump administration launched a massive crack-

down 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

armed conflict in late July that

killed dozens of soldiers and ci-

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

crackdown to check abuse in the

argest cohort of H-1B visa

titled 'Restriction on Entry of Certain Nonimmigrant Workers' as an important initial step to reform the H-1B nonimmi grant 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 prac tice 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.

India reaffirms support for Bhutan's 5-year plan

Thimphu: India Wednesday reaffirmed its "unwavering" support to Bhutan's 13th five-year-plan as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with former king Jigme Singye Wangchuck and joined Bhutanese leadership to attend the Kalachakra initiation ceremony, hosted as part of the Global Peace Prayer Festival. Following the meeting, Modi lauded Singye's contribution in further cementing India-Bhutan ties and said the discussions focused on bilateral cooperation in areas of energy, trade, technology and connectivity. "Discussed cooperation in energy, trade, technology and connectivity. Lauded the progress in the Gelephu Mindfulness City Project, which aligns with our Act East Policy,'

Modi said on social media

Islamabad, Nov 12: Pakistan's

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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

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.

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 received 234 votes in favour and four against. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief Nawaz Sharif and Paki stan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari attend ed 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 de

scribed constitutional reform as an "evolutionary process" undertaken with careful delib eration. 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 pro poses that the post of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee will expire November 27

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

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



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

Women in Tehran are Hydropower Station in Barkam taking to motorbikes, County in the Aba Tibetan and breaking old taboos and steering change PRESS TRUST OF INDIA river below, sending up a huge Tehran, Nov 12: When Merat cloud of dust.

heading to the city of Arequipa.

northwestern province of Banteay Meanchey

One civilian was killed

wounded when Thai

troops opened fire on

the area of Prey Chan

civilians residing in

in Cambodia's

and three others

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-

wasn't her main worry.

clerics in Iran.

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

But Behnam, 38, found her-

self broadly accepted on the

road - and part of a wider re-

consideration by women about

It's not all encompassing,

particularly as hard-line poli-

societal expectations in Iran.

tween the two nations appeared to be breaking down.

The reported death occurred two days after a Thai solder 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

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

ticians call for laws on the hijab

or headscarf to be enforced as

Iran cracks down on intellec-

tuals in the wake of the 12-day

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 northwestern 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

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 café Behnam first gathered enough on a recent day. "I didn't really know how to go about it. In the courage to ride her yellow scooter through the gridlocked beginning, I was quite stressed, streets of Iran's capital to the but gradually the way people treated me and their reactions coffee shop she runs, traffic

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-

REVVING FOR CHANGE



als, since none of these women currently has a driver's license and we cannot act against the 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 demonstrations in 2022 after the death of Mahsa Amini, who had allegedly been detained over not wearing a headscarf to the liking of authorities.

In the beliefs of some conservative clerics and hard-liners, a woman riding a scooter or a motorbike is "tabarruj," or an excessive flaunting of her beauty prohibited by Islam.

Avoiding congestion charges For many, the motorbike ban runs directly into the reality of Tehran's streets, crowded with an estimated over 4 million cars and another 4 million motorcycles on the road daily. For decades, women in the all-encompassing black chador could be seen riding side-saddle on motorbikes driven by men.

But after women began forgoing the hijab, more women began taking the risk and riding their motorbikes through Tehran as well, avoiding the congestion charges levied on cars that run over 20 million rial (\$ 20) a month. While still a small percentage of the overall traffic their presence on the road has become more common.

Symbol of choice and independence

But for others, it is a political issue. There's been speculation that the administration of reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian, who campaigned on openness to the West before the war, may try to change the regulations to allow women to be licensed. Reformists — those who seek to change Iran's theocracy from within - also have called for the change.

"It's time to move past the invisible walls of cultural judgment and bureaucratic rules, the Shargh newspaper said in September. "For women, riding a motorcycle is not just a way to commute but a symbol of choice, independence and equal presence in society.

Benham says riding her motorbike also gave her the first positive interaction she's had with the police.

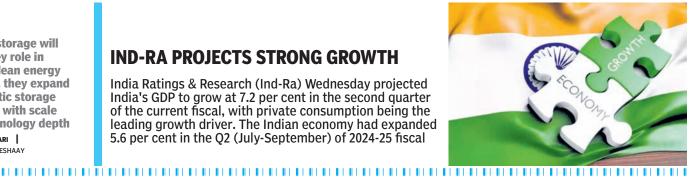
business



Battery storage will play a key role in **India's clean energy** growth... they expand a domestic storage platform with scale and technology depth

IND-RA PROJECTS STRONG GROWTH

India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) Wednesday projected India's GDP to grow at 7.2 per cent in the second guarter of the current fiscal, with private consumption being the leading growth driver. The Indian economy had expanded 5.6 per cent in the Q2 (July-September) of 2024-25 fiscal





looking at the solution which we believe will be best, and government



ABHIJIT KISHORE | CEO, VODAFONE IDEA

Today, our installed non-fossil fuel based power generation capacity has almost touched 260 GW.



SHRIPAD NAIK UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND POWER

H1FY26 has seen incremental credit offtake of Rs 10.1 lakh crore with a sizeable credit expansion taking



place in September 2026, prompting us to revise upwards our full year credit offtake projection

SACHIN SACHDEVA | SECTOR HEAD, ICRA

02 **RESULTS**

SpiceJet loss widens

New Delhi: SpiceJet Wednesday reported widening of net loss to Rs 635.42 crore in September quarter FY26 as multiple factors, including foreign exchange loss, additional expenses related to grounded as well as reinducted aircraft and airspace curbs, hit the budget carrier's bottom line. The airline, which had faced multiple headwinds, had recorded a net loss of Rs 447.54 crore in the year-ago period and expects positive financial performance in the second half of the current financial year. Excluding foreign exchange loss, the carrier had a net loss of Rs 447.70 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal, higher than Rs 424.26 crore reported in the same period a year ago, it said in a release. SpiceJet incurred costs of Rs 120 crore related to the grounded fleet and expenses of Rs 30 crore with respect to aircraft that returned to service.

Reliance Infra net dips

New Delhi: Reliance Infrastructure has reported a 50 per cent dip in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,911.19 crore in the September quarter. impacted by reduced income, and the company also looks to raise \$600 million to fund its growth plans. It had clocked a net profit of Rs 4,082.53 crore in the second quarter a year ago, the company said in an exchange filing Tuesday. The company saw its total income falling to Rs 6,309.48 crore, from Rs 7,345.96 crore in the July-September period of FY25. Reliance Infrastructure trimmed expenses to Rs 5,991.49 crore, from Rs 6,450.38 crore in the year-ago period.

Tata Steel net rises 4X

New Delhi: Tata Steel Wednesday reported an over fourfold jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 3.183.09 crore in the September quarter, mainly supported by revenues from the India business. It had clocked a net profit of Rs 758.84 crore in the July-September period of FY25, the company said in an exchange filing. Tata Steel increased its total income to Rs 59.052.84 crore against Rs 54.503.30 crore in the second quarter a year ago, posting a rise of over 8 per cent year-on-year. The company earned a revenue of around Rs 38.592 crore from India operations. which includes Neelachal Ispat and Nigam Ltd (NINL).

GST RELIEF

Retail inflation cools

OCTOBER CPI-BASED INFLATION WAS LOWEST IN THE CURRENT SERIES (BASE YEAR 2012). WHICH CAPTURES DATA SINCE JANUARY 2014

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Retail inflation fell to a record low of 0.25 per cent in October following cut in GST rates on nearly 380 items of mass consumption coupled with subdued prices of vegetables, fruits and eggs.

October Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation was lowest in the current series (base year 2012), which captures data since January 2014.

The inflation was 1.44 per cent in September and 6.21 per cent in October 2024.

According to the data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), the food inflation declined to (-) 5.02 per cent in October. The decline in headline infla-

tion and food inflation during October 2025 is mainly attributed to full month's impact of decline in GST, favourable base effect and to drop in inflation of oils and fats, vegetables, fruits, egg, footwear, cereals and products, transport and communication, NSO said.

The Reserve Bank, which mainly factors in retail inflation in its monetary policy, has been mandated by the government to ensure CPI remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on the either side.

The reduced rates of Goods and Services Tax (GST) came into effect from September 22. The NSO data showed that in-

flation in the rural area was in negative zone at 0.25 per cent and in urban areas at 0.88 per cent.

The highest inflation was in Kerala (8.56 per cent), followed by Jammu and Kashmir (2.95) per cent), Karnataka (2.34 per cent), Punjab (1.81 per cent) and Tamil Nadu (1.29 per cent).

The inflation was negative in several states, including Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

RETAIL INFLATION DECLINES TO MULTI-YEAR LOW OF 0.25% IN OCTOBER



OCT RETAIL INFLATION AT RECORD LOW OF 0.25% FOOD PRICES FALL A RECORD 5.02% Y/Y **CORE INFLATION AT 4.4% ON HIGHER GOLD PRICES ECONOMISTS EXPECT RATE CUT BY RBI IN DEC REVIEW**

Inflation has decelerated to the lowest level in the current CPI series, reflecting a combined impact of GST reductions, favourable base effects, and broadbased easing across food and transport categories RAJEEV SHARAN | BRICKWORK RATINGS

Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA, said the Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is likely to pare its CPI inflation projection for FY2026 further from 2.6 per cent, driven by the soft sequential momentum in food prices as well as the impact of the GST rate rationalisation on several items in the CPI basket.

'This, along with the dovish tone of the October 2025 policy document, would support a 25bps rate cut in the December 2025 policy review, unless Q2

FY2026 GDP growth surprises on the upside," she said.

Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist, CareEdge Ratings, said that with the GST rate rationalisation rolled out towards the end of September, its positive impact was reflected in October's lower inflation reading.

"From a monetary policy perspective, moderating inflation provide the RBI with greater room to focus on supporting economic growth, in midst of continued external headwinds and uncertainties surrounding the trade negotiations with the US. If growth weakens in H2 FY26, the latest inflation readings could create scope for a rate cut," Sinha added.

The next meeting of the MPC $\,$ is scheduled during December 3 to 5, 2025.

The NSO collects data for CPI from selected 1.181 villages and 1,114 urban markets across the country.

SEBI panel proposes major governance, disclosure reforms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: A Sebi panel has proposed comprehensive reforms to bring in transparency by way of greater dis closure and a "zero-tolerance" culture to address conflict of interest with regard to top officials of the capital market regulator.

The high-level panel in its report to Sebi Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey has also recommended setting up a secure and anonymous whistleblower system for reporting conflict of interest, ban on expensive gifts, a two-year restriction on post-retirement assignments, and creating a post of Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer (CECO).

The Committee on Conflict of Interest, Disclosures and Related Matters said Sebi Chairman, whole time members, and chief general manager rank officers should make public disclosure of their as sets and liabilities.

It further said applicants for the post of chairman and members, and for lateral entry positions, must disclose "actual, potential, and perceived conflict-of-interest risks of financial and non-financial nature" to the appointing authority.

The panel has also given an elaborate classification of conflict of interest, which could be in the nature of financial, rela tional, professional, duty-related or perceived.

"Adoption of these reforms will align Sebi with international best practices, strengthen its reputation, and reinforce its independence and integrity as India's capital market regulation," the committee said in its 98-page report. The move came in the wake

of allegations against former Sebi Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch, who was accused of holding back on investigations against the Adani group because of a conflict

3RD DAY ON THE TROT

Strong global cues push indices higher

BSE SENSEX

NOVEMBER 12, 2025



Mumbai, Nov 12: Stock market benchmarks Sensex and Nifty stayed firm for the third consecutive day and ended with sharp gains Wednesday, buoyed by massive buying in IT and consumer durables shares amid a rally in global equities markets. Traders said optimism over

the anticipated resolution of the US government shutdown and growing expectations of interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve **RALLIES 595.19**

also bolstered the sentiment. 30-share The BSE Sensex rallied

84.466.51. It gained up to 780.69 points or 0.93 per cent to hit an intraday high of 84,652.01.

hit a high of 25,934.55.

momentum throughout the day.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

TO SETTLE AT 84,466,5 NIFTY CLIMBS 180.85 POINTS, OR 0.70%, TO 595.19 points, or 0.71 CLOSE AT 25,875.80 per cent, to settle at

The broader NSE Nifty

239.6 points or 0.93 per cent to 'The Nifty extended its win-

indicating that the National

POINTS, OR 0.71%,

climbed 180.85 points, or 0.70 per cent, to close at 25.875.80. During the session, it jumped

ning streak for the third consecutive session, rising 180 points to close at 25,875, supported by optimism over a potential trade deal with the United States. The index opened with a robust 140-point gap and sustained its upward

"Additionally, exit polls

Democratic Alliance (NDA) is poised to retain power in Bihar further lifted investor senti ment," Nandish Shah - Deputy Vice President, HDFC Securities, said. From the Sensex pack, Asian

Paints, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Bajaj Finserv, Adani Ports, HCL Technologies, Bharti Airtel Infosys, Trent, Reliance Industries IlltraTech Cement Sun Pharmaceuticals, Eternal, Ti tan and Bajaj Finance were the gainers.

> Tata Steel, Tata Mo tors Passenger Vehicles. Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles, Bharat Electron ics, Kotak Mahindra Bank and PowerGrid were the laggards.

On the other hand,

The BSE largecap soared 0.63 per cent. Midcap gauge went up by 0.44 per cent while smallcap closed 0.76 per cent higher. A total of 2.509 stocks ad

vanced while 1,701 declined and 163 remained unchanged on the BSE Foreign Institutional Inves-

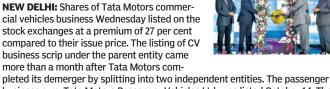
tors (FII) offloaded equities worth Rs 803.22 crore Tuesday while Domestic Institutional Investors bought stocks worth Rs 2,188.47 crore.

On Tuesday, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 335.97 points to settle at 83.871.32, while the NSE Nifty climbed 120.60 points to close at 25,694,95.

MARKET DEBUT

Tata Motors CV shares list strong

cial vehicles business Wednesday listed on the stock exchanges at a premium of 27 per cent compared to their issue price. The listing of CV business scrip under the parent entity came more than a month after Tata Motors com-



business arm, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd, was listed October 14. The scrip of commercial vehicle (CV) business of Tata Motors Ltd began trading at Rs 335, up 28.48 per cent from its discovered price on the NSE. During the session, it rallied 32.31 per cent to Rs 345. Later, it ended at Rs 330, up by 26.56 per cent on the exchange. On the BSE, it listed at Rs 330.25, up 26.09 per cent. In the session, it hit a high of Rs 346.75, up 32.4 per cent. Finally, it ended the day at Rs 327.65, up 25.3 per cent.

Groww shares jump 31%

NEW DELHI: Shares of Billionbrains Garage Ventures, the parent company of stock broking firm Groww, Wednesday made a remarkable debut, closing with a premium of nearly 31 per cent against



the issue price of Rs 100. The stock began trading at Rs 114, up 14 per cent from the issue price on the BSE. Later, it jumped 30.94 per cent to close at Rs 130.94 apiece. On the NSE, the shares listed at Rs 112 apiece, a premium of 12 per cent. Finally, it ended 28.85 per cent higher at Rs 128.85 apiece on the exchange. During the session, the stock appreciated by 34.4 per cent each to Rs 134.40 and Rs 134.34 apiece, on the NSE and BSE, respectively. At the end of the trading session, the company's market valuation stood at Rs 79,546.79 crore on the NSE. In terms of volume, 52.38 crore equity shares were traded on the NSE while 6.24 crore shares exchanged hands on the BSE, during the day.

Union Bank marks 107th Foundation Day





POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack/Berhampur, Nov 12: Union Bank of India celebrated its 107th Foundation Day with great enthusiasm across its Regional Offices at Cuttack and

Berhampur Wednesday. At the Cuttack Regional Office, the celebration was graced by Chief Guest Kharavela Mahanty, Regional Head Bibekananda Sarangi, and oth-

er executives, along with branch staff, retired employees, their families, and valued customers. Sarangi highlighted the bank's various products such as MSME and Retail Advances, Savings and Current Accounts, and emphasised the bank's contribution towards the national goal of 'Viksit Bharat'. A vibrant cultural program marked the occasion. Similarly, the Berhampur Regional Office celebrated the

day at SR Vivanta, Ambagada, under the guidance of Regional Head Rajat Kumar Panda. Deputy Regional Head Meghrai Marndi, Bibhuti Bhusan Mohanty, Chief Manager Ashish Gyanvardhan, Manager Sibo Prasad Nanda, Pratyusha Sahoo, and other staff members, along with customers, participated in the grand celebration. Various cultural performances added to the festive spirit of the event.

BIPF invites applications for Shambhavi Puraskar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The Bansidhar and Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF) is inviting ap plications from individuals groups of individuals, and organizations working in the social sector for the 13th Shambhavi Puraskar. The award includes a cash prize of Rs 5,00,000, a citation, and a trophy, while the Jury Commendation Certification carries a cash award of Rs

1,00,000 along with a citation

The 'Shambhavi Puraskar was instituted by BIPF in 2014 to encourage and inspire champions of social transfor mation who drive impactful change in communities at grassroots. Over the last de cade, through this award BIPF has supported change makers to widen their reach by exposing them to a wider network of social investors and organizations.

This year, BIPF has introduced a new focus on social innovation to encourage startups, entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, CSR professionals. and organisations that have devised unconventional, tech nology-driven solutions to address challenges in education healthcare, livelihoods, water and sanitation, women's em powerment, and advocacy for community well-being.

The selection is based on criteria such as the impact created, sustainability, community participation, scalability, innovation, and the number of beneficiaries

Interested applicants can find details and forms for the Shambhavi Puraskar on the website www.bipf.org. The last date of submission is November 30, 2025



India to emerge as epicentre of global oil flow: IEA Among emerging markets and developing economies, energy demand in India grows the fastest, increasing by 3% each year on average to 2035

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: India, the world's third largest oil importing and consuming nation, will be the new epicentre of oil demand growth over the next decade, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said Wednesday.

In its latest Global Energy Outlook, the Paris-based agency said India will account for the largest increase in global oil consumption through 2035. driven by rapid economic expansion, industrialisation and

of China and Southeast Asia

combined, underscoring its

pivotal role in shaping global

rising vehicle ownership. The country's growing appetite for energy will outpace that



oil markets.

"Oil remains the dominant fuel to 2050 in the CPS (current policies scenario). China accounted for more than 75 per cent of oil demand growth over the past ten years, but this picture is changing, and India becomes the new epicentre of growth in oil demand," IEA said. India leads global oil demand growth over the next ten years,

with almost half of the additional barrels produced globally to 2035 heading in its direction. Its oil use increases from 5.5

million barrels per day (mbpd) in 2024 to 8 mbpd in 2035 as a

result of rapid growth in car ownership, increasing demand for plastics, chemicals and aviation, and a rise in the use of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)

"Oil demand in India increases by 2 mbpd to 2035 - the largest increase in any country and continues to rise through to 2050. The next largest increases to 2035 are in Africa (1.2 mbpd), and Southeast Asia

(1 mbpd)," it said.

With limited domestic production, India's dependence on imports to meet this rising demand will only increase.

IEA projected that import dependency in India rises from 87 per cent in 2024 to 92 per cent in 2035, despite government efforts

to promote domestic production. While India is import dependent for crude oil - the raw material that is processed in

refineries and turned into fuels like petrol and diesel - it is not just self-sufficient in refining capacity but also has exportable surplus Overall, India is seen as the

biggest driver of growth in global energy - oil, gas, coal, electricity and renewables put together - demand. According to IEA, India has become the world's largest driver of energy demand growth, with consumption projected to rise by over 15 exajoules (EJ) by 2035 - nearly matching the combined increase of China and Southeast Asia.



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 Kumart Reddy is set to be the one who makes way for him in the lineup, 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, including twin hundreds against South Africa 'A' in Bangalore

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 DHRUV: 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 Yaday.

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.

Jurel replaces Nitish 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,

Archers assure multiple medals

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

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.

ISSF World Championships

miss 50m rifle 3P finals

Cairo, Nov 12: Ashi Chouksey

and Olympian Anjum Moudg-

il missed out on a place in the

finals of the women's 50m rifle

3-positions event, finishing 15th

and 17th respectively in qualifi

cation at the ISSF World Cham-

While Ashi shot 588, the sea

soned Anjum managed 587. The

third Indian in the fray, Olym

pian Sift Kaur Samra finished

in 48th place with a score of 580

Duestad, who topped the qual

ification with a superb 595,

went on to become the world

champion by shooting 465.8 in

Switzerland's 17-vear-old

Emely Jaeggi won the silver

with a score of 465.3 - a junior

the eight-shooter final.

Norway's Jeanette Hegg

pionships, here Wednesday.

Ashi, Anjum and Sift

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 halls. Australia also gave away 52 runs in extras and another 26 runs in penalty. Their batting then folded up for 57 in 'Player of the Match' for her allround performance. In another match, Nepal defeated Sri Lanka by nine wickets. Chasing 88. Nepal achieved the target in 5.2

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 runnerup 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.

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

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 Privansh 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 Bhoge 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

World record - while Seonaid Mcintosh of Great Britain took the bronze medal. India maintained their sec-

ond position behind China in and a total of 15 medals.

the medal tally with three gold. five silver and three bronze. while China have eight gold

Indians head to tiebreak in 4th round of Chess WC

Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi and

Panjim (Goa): Indian

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 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

DEAFLYMPICS 2025

Shuttler Jerlin to lead contingent

India is sending a record 111-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.

flagbearer is a moment of great pride and

JERLIN JAYARATCHAGAN

Three-time gold medalist Jerlin will be India's flag-bearer at the Deaflympics 2025. Tokyo will be Jerlin's third Deaflympics. The Madurai girl played her first Deaflympics in 2017 when she was 13. Jerlin went on to create history at the 2021 Summer Deaflympics (held in 2022 in Brazil) by winning three gold medals in women's singles, mixed doubles in Badminton, and the team event. Her outstanding achieve ments earned her the prestigious Arjuna Award in 2022, making her the first Indian woman Deaflympian to receive this honour.

In the last Deaflympics 2021 held in Caxias Do Sul, Brazil, in May 2022, India presented 39 male and 26 female athletes. India won a best-ever 16 medals - eight gold, 1 silver, and seven bronze to finish 9th among 77 participating nations.

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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.

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

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.