



Deepika's take

Actor Deepika Padukone explains why a healthier, more balanced workday is essential, especially for new mothers

LEISURE | **P2**



Lost classrooms

More than 25 million children across Pakistan are currently out of school, with 20 million of them having never attended school

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



Selling spree

Foreign institutional investor selling accelerates in early Nov, as the total selling crosses ₹13,925 crore till weekend

BUSINESS | **P11**



Jadeja's spin web

Ravindra Jadeja grabs four wickets as he demolishes the South African top and middle-order in their second innings

SPORTS | **P12**

SHORT TAKES

‘Quitting politics, disowning family’



Patna: A day after the RJD was drubbed in the Bihar Assembly polls, party president Lalu Prasad's daughter Rohini Acharya Saturday announced that she was quitting politics and severed ties with the family. Acharya, a doctor by qualification, who chose to become a homemaker and settled with her Singapore-based husband, made the announcement in a cryptic post on her X handle. “I am quitting politics and I am disowning my family...This is what Sanjay Yadav and Rameez had asked me to do...and I am taking all the blame,” she wrote in her post.

Food inflation forces Trump to drop tariffs



Washington: President Donald Trump announced Friday that he was scrapping US tariffs on beef, coffee, tropical fruits and a broad swath of other commodities — a dramatic move that comes amid mounting pressure on his administration to better combat high consumer prices. Trump has built his second term around imposing steep levies on goods imported into the US in hopes of encouraging domestic production and lifting the US economy. His abrupt retreat from his signature tariff policy on so many staples key to the American diet is significant, and it comes after voters in off-year elections this month cited economic concerns as their top issue, resulting in big wins for Democrats in Virginia, New Jersey and other key races around the country. **P10**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



‘6-7’ frenzy takes over college basketball games across US

AGENCIES

Norman, Oklahoma (US), Nov 15: Oklahoma coach Jennie Baranczyk hears the popular catchphrase “6-7” all the time at home, possibly more often than please and thank you.

Getting an earful of it at a women’s basketball game, well, that was new for the mother of three. Baranczyk and the sixth-ranked Sooners became the latest college team to send fans into a frenzy when they hit 67 points in an 89-61 victory against North Alabama Friday.

Hundreds of students on a field trip screamed their approval along with the ubiquitous phrase and juggled their hands up and down to mimic a video that went viral earlier

▶ 9 KILLED, 32 INJURED AS SEIZED FARIDABAD EXPLOSIVES DETONATE

J&K PS blast ‘accidental’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar/New Delhi, Nov 15: An “accidental” explosion ripped through the Nowgam police station in Srinagar, killing nine people and injuring 32 others, senior officials said Saturday while underlining that it was not a terror attack.

Director General of J&K Police Nalin Prabhat and MHA Joint Secretary (Kashmir) Prashant Lokhande said the incident occurred while officials were handling samples of the large cache of explosives seized in connection with the Jaish-e-Mohammed ‘white-collar’ terror module case in Haryana’s Faridabad.

Prabhat and Lokhande read out almost identical statements before the media in Srinagar and New Delhi, respectively, dismissing speculation of a terror attack and stressing that it was an unfortunate accident. Neither of the officers took any questions from reporters.



The explosion occurred around 11:20pm Friday when a specialised team was extracting samples from a large and “unstable” cache of explosives confiscated in connection with an ongoing ‘white-collar’ terror module investigation. A bulk of the explosives was stored securely in an open area at the Nowgam police station.

Three personnel from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team, two crime photographers, two Revenue officials (part of the Magistrate’s team), one official from the State Investigation Agency (SIA), and one tailor associated with the team were killed in the blast.

Thirty-two people, including 27 police personnel, two revenue officials, and three civilians from the nearby area, were injured, and hospitalised.

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed deep anguish over the loss of lives and ordered a probe to ascertain the exact cause of the blast.

The J&K government announced an ex gratia of ₹10 lakh for the family of each of the deceased from the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund. Those severely injured will get ₹1 lakh each, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on his official X account.

A top official said the huge cache of explosives was brought from Haryana’s Faridabad in small bags on a pickup truck.

About the reason behind transporting the explosives to Kashmir, the official said the original case was registered at the Nowgam police station, and the explosives were the case property of that police station. Hence, there was a need to transport the explosives, the official added.

10/11 blast: No trail leads to Pakistan

New Delhi: Investigations into the Delhi Red Fort blast in which 12 people were killed and dozens injured November 10, have revealed that the ISI had intentionally kept all operations out of Pakistan and used other nations to plan and execute the attack. During the probe, links to Afghanistan and Turkey have cropped up suggesting very little of Pakistan was used to both set up the Faridabad module and execute the blast. Intelligence Bureau officials say that this play was intentional as Pakistan did not want the trail leading up to it.

MORE P8

Ex-Union min quits BJP after suspension

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Nov 15: Former Union minister Raj Kumar Singh Saturday resigned from the BJP, taking exception to a show-cause notice that said he was being “suspended” for “anti-party activities”.

Singh shared on social media his letter to BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda in which he said he was giving up the primary membership of the party following the letter issued by state headquarters earlier in the day.

He also shared his letter to Arvind Sharma, the in-charge of state BJP headquarters, who had issued the showcause and whom he informed that he has sent his resignation to the national president.

In both letters, Singh claimed his utterances aimed at curbing corruption and criminalisation of politics seem to have made some people uncomfortable.

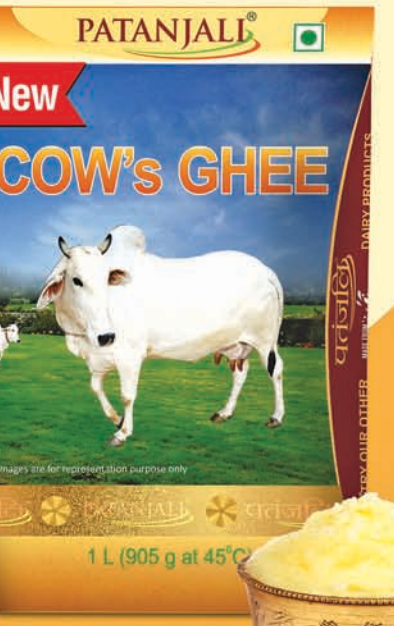


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‘NALCO’s healthcare for displaced a farce’

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Nov 15: Residents displaced directly or indirectly by the NALCO plant in Angul say the company’s promised healthcare services are no more than a formality.

Though NALCO has issued health cards to the affected families and set up an outpatient department (OPD) in the company’s residential colony, many cardholders say they leave the facility disappointed.

Patients said that the OPD centre only provides medicine for basic ailments such as cold, cough and fever. The centre has no arrangement to treat other illnesses, offers no first aid for minor accidents and does not refer seriously ill patients to other hospitals, they alleged.

Several affected residents say NALCO’s health care commitment has been reduced to “a joke”. Tikam

Behera of Kandsar village said doctors at the OPD centre often claim there are no medicines and ask patients to purchase those from outside. “They also don’t behave well. As a result, we are forced to go to the district headquarters hospital for treatment,” he said.

Locals say it has been nearly 44 years since the NALCO plant was established in Banarpal; however the company has failed to meet many of the promises made to displaced families at the time of its establishment. Due to administrative neglect, residents of nearby villages continue to face multiple hardships, they added.

Mantu Barah, the sarpanch of Gotamara, said NALCO has not only ignored health care but also stopped overall development in peripheral areas. “We have repeatedly taken demands to NALCO authorities, but no one pays attention,” he said.



this year. Sports viewers might have seen the motion before, perhaps in six or seven NFL games.

“I did not do it because I was like, ‘Yep,’” said Baranczyk, who has a son and two daughters. “I knew it. But I’m like, ‘Gotta give the people what they want sometimes.’”

Dictionary.com made the viral term “6-7” its word of the year, and it isn’t even really a word. It’s a phrase kids and teen-

agers can’t stop repeating and laughing about while parents and teachers can’t make any sense of it.

The word — if you can call it that — exploded in popularity over the summer. It’s more of an inside joke with an unclear meaning, driven by social media.

Dictionary.com says its annual selection is a linguistic time capsule reflecting social trends and events. But the site admitted it too is a bit confused by “6-7.”

“Don’t worry, because we’re all still trying to figure out exactly what it means,” the site said in its announcement last month.

How did “6-7” become a thing? It all seems to trace back to rapper Skrilka’s song from 2024 called “Doot Doot (6-7).”

That song started appearing in TikTok videos with basketball players, including the NBA’s LaMelo Ball who stands 6-foot-7.

Then a boy, now known as “The 6-7 Kid,” shouted the ubiquitous phrase while another kid next to him juggled his hands in a video that went viral this year. That’s all it took.

So what does “6-7” mean? The real answer is no one knows, but it’s widely regarded as harmless. Unlike some other trends that have come and gone, there’s not believed to be an inappropriate backstory to the craze.

According to Dictionary.com, the phrase could mean “so-so,” or “maybe this, maybe that” when combined with the juggling hands gesture.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES



You will be quite circum-spect throughout the day, predicts Ganesha. Your spir-its will soar high as you will be invited to join parties and socialise a bit. You will find the correct balance between work and having fun.

TAURUS



It is about time that you stopped running from your problems and stand up and face them, suggests Ganesha. Your loved ones will bask in your material generosity today. You will be magnanimous with the wallet to impress members of the opposite sex. Don't forget that time is also money, advises Ganesha.

GEMINI



You will long for some privacy today, says Ganesha. You may end up earning a large amount of money, mostly through some private venture. The day will be a greatly profitable one for cashiers, money lenders and those in retail business. Keep working hard to achieve success.

CANCER



Today, there is a strong possibility that you may face unexpected job changes. You are likely to spend lavishly to please family and friends. You may feel we make money to spend on loved ones. Still it would probably be a good idea to count every penny before using it, says Ganesha.

LEO



Seems today is just one of those days when things simply refuse to go your way. It happens to the best of us, says Ganesha, and there isn't much one can do about it except slog it out and find that hidden reserve of moral support. On a brighter note, Ganesha observes the possibility of you meeting the right person who shall help you rekindle your imagination.

VIRGO



A cocktail of business and pleasure is on the house to-day. Parties will run till dawn. You will also take the correct route to success by making important decisions. People will stand to gain if they involve you in their do, says Ganesha.

LIBRA



Well, today is just not your day. The prospects sure aren't looking too good. However, there's no point in getting anxious over this triviality. Remember, 'not good' does not necessarily mean bad. In any case, if it's a stressful day you have had, be sure to have an equally enjoyable evening. Ganesha guesses that you may want to discuss certain intimate issues with your sweetheart today!

SCORPIO



Add a pinch of innovation and inventiveness to your daily working style. There shall be order in the chaotic way you perform your tasks - though not apparent to others. Revitalise yourself and plunge into work with new-found zest and vigour, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS



Today shall be a rather decisive day, speculates Ganesha. Situations that have pushed you into a corner will force you to make rash decisions. But take stock of the situation and assess the long-term consequences of your actions beforehand, advises Ganesha.

CAPRICORN



The day will be of paramount significance as you are likely to meet someone who will be associated with you for life, says Ganesha. Also, relationships and relatives will keep you busy for major part of the day. You may not find it interesting, but you will not have any options either. A visit to holy places for some peace of mind is also likely.

AQUARIUS



You may rave and rant, but all you'll get from colleagues or juniors are wishy-washy excuses for a job not done. Ganesha advises that you take care to finish your own work before you help others. The stars say that your beloved will smoothen your creased brow.

PISCES



You will have difficulty in interpreting the behaviour of your life partner today. It is better to bring transparency in your relationship rather than to doubt it. Speak freely about your problems and communicate with your spouse. Business relationships will also face rough weather. Those who work will find a measure of success in their office.



CHADWICK TO RECEIVE POSTHUMOUS HOLLYWOOD WALK OF FAME STAR

Late actor Chadwick Boseman will be honoured with a posthumous star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame five years after his demise, reported *People*. The actor passed away at 43. The ceremony will take place November 20.

MILLIE BROWN CLAPS BACK AT PAPARAZZI

Millie Bobby Brown totally owned a photographer at the *Stranger Things* London premiere when he told her to smile. She hilariously retorted, 'Smile? You smile!' This sassy clapback went viral online, with fans loving her confident and witty response to the intrusive request.



Deepika bats for healthier work culture

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone recently reignited discussion around adopting an eight-hour work shift for actors, following her reported exit from *Spirit* and the *Kalki 2898 AD* sequel. In a recent interview, she explained why a healthier, more balanced workday is essential, especially for new mothers.

Deepika shared that motherhood has transformed her perspective, saying every cliché about becoming a mother feels true. She now holds even greater respect for her own mother and believes workplaces must do more to support women returning after childbirth. She emphasised that while one can plan how to balance career and motherhood, the reality often differs, making structural support crucial. Explaining her stance on work hours, Deepika said the industry has normalised overworking and often mistakes burnout for dedication. She believes eight hours of work is sufficient for both physical and mental well-being, adding that healthy professionals deliver better results. At her own office, she follows an eight-hour, five-day work schedule with maternity and paternity policies, and encourages creating child-friendly workplaces.

Deepika welcomed her daughter, Dua Padukone Singh, in September 2024. Ahead, she is gearing up for two major projects — Atlee's sci-fi action film *A422 x A6* with Allu Arjun, and Siddharth Anand's *King*, starring Shah Rukh Khan, slated for a 2026 re-release.



Dubai honour for SRK

New Delhi: Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan penned a lengthy note on his social media Saturday expressing his gratitude for getting a commercial tower in Dubai named after him. The commercial tower is called *Shahrukhz* and is slated to be completed by 2029. It will feature a statue of the actor at the entrance, in his signature pose.

Shah Rukh shared a post on his X handle and said he is humbled to have his name turn into an integral part of the cityscape. It is humbling and deeply touching to have a landmark in Dubai carry my name and to be an integral part of the cityscape forever. Dubai has always been a special place for me - a city that celebrates dreams, ambition, and possibility, he wrote in the caption.



Konkona on her two identities

Mumbai: Konkona Sensharma, who shifts effortlessly between acting and directing, says the filmmaker in her rarely interferes with the performer. In a recent interview, she spoke about her October release *Search: The Naina Murder Case* and reflected on how her two creative identities coexist. She said, "I've been an actor for the majority of my working life, that's my default setting on a set. I've only directed a few projects, so unless I've written or co-written something, or I'm planning to direct it myself, it doesn't even occur to me to think about how I'd do things differently on set."

Konkona added that she sometimes consciously takes a step back. "Sometimes, I do find myself holding back a bit. I remind myself not to overstep my boundaries. I see other actors suggesting things and I think, maybe I could too. But mostly, I'm just happy being an actor, that's where I feel most at home."

In the series, she plays a character inspired by Sarah from the cele-Danish drama *Killing*. Calling rare opportunity, she said, "I feel very lucky. Sarah Lund is such an iconic character, she practically created the modern female detective archetype. To be part of that for the Indian adaptation is a real honour and privilege."



Mumbai: Bollywood couple Rajkummar Rao and Patralekhaa have embraced parenthood for the first time as they welcomed a baby girl. The new parents made the happy announcement on social media with an adorable post that read, "We are over the moon God has blessed us with a Baby girl...Blessed parents Patralekhaa and Rajkumaar(sic)."

Sharing the exciting news in a joint post, Rajkummar and Patralekhaa penned the caption, "(red heart and folded hands emoji) The greatest blessing God has given us on our 4th wedding anniversary. (sic)"

As soon as the post was uploaded, congratulatory messages flooded the comment section.

Actor Varun Dhawan said, "(red heart emoji) welcome to the club guys!(red heart emoji)"

Actress Neha Dhupia shared, "Congratulations you guys (red heart emojis) welcome to the best hood ... parenthood(red heart emoji)."

Actor Ali Fazal also congratulated the new parents saying, "Oh my godddddd!!!! So so happy to hear this. Congratulations you two beautiful people. Mubaarak...(red heart emojis)."

Comedian Bharti Singh added, "Congratulations (Champagne glasses, vvil eye, raised hands emoji) beautiful journey (red heart emojis)".

The little bundle of joy has arrived on the couple's fourth wedding anniversary.

Back in July, Rajkummar and Patralekhaa announced their first pregnancy through a lovely social media post.



Rajkummar, Patralekhaa embrace parenthood

10TH FPRWI - DAY IV

Benegal's *Susman*, American Western film *Dead Man* take centre stage

Bhubaneswar: The fourth day of the Film Preservation and Restoration Workshop India 2025, organised by the Film Heritage Foundation (FHF), was held Saturday at the Odisha Crafts Museum, Kalabhoomi. In the 10th edition of the workshop, 60 students from India and abroad were trained on how to restore old films and revive them in colour. Guest faculty members from different countries provided specialised training on the chemical processes required to restore damaged film reels.

On this occasion, Shyam Benegal's 1987 Hindi film *Susman* was screened at Kalabhoomi. The film portrays the struggles of rural handloom weavers. *Susman* was selected for the Indian Panorama at the 1987 International Film Festival of India and was later invited to several international festivals including the London Film Festival, Chicago Film Festival, Vancouver International Film Festival,



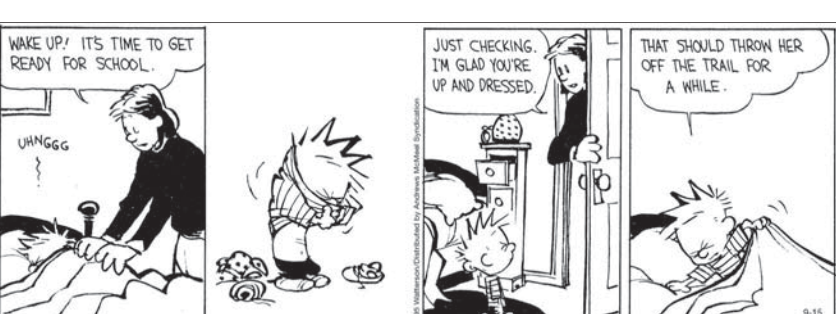
Sydney Film Festival, and Melbourne Film Festival.

Similarly, the 1995 American Western film *Dead Man*, directed by Jim Jarmusch, was screened. The film narrates the story of a humble accountant named William Blake, who is forced to go on the run after killing a man in self-defense. The unfolding layers of mystery surrounding his journey form the core of the storyline.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

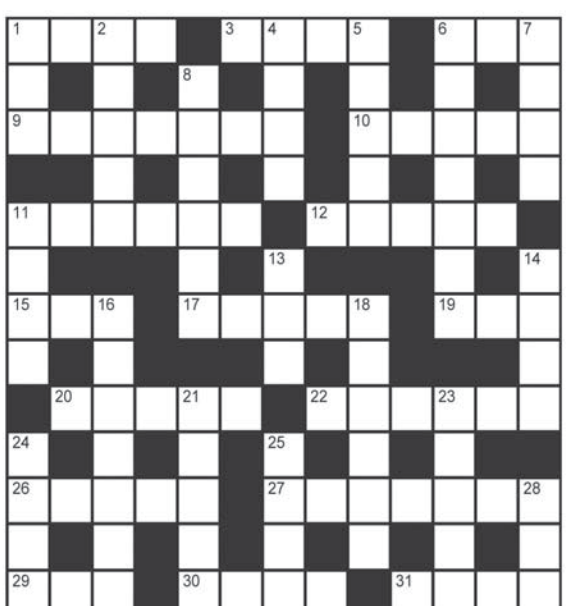


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
1 Heavy load
3 Lyric poet
6 Burgle
9 Kind of crab or musician
10 Camera adjustment
11 Bullfighter
12 Neighbor of Turkey
15 Puppy's bite
17 Wept
19 Pinnacle
20 Give voice to
- Down**
22 Prospector's box
26 Have the throne
27 Reversal of fortune (3-4)
29 Word of possibility
30 Chipping choice
31 Terrarium plant
- Across**
5 Bonkers
6 Proof of purchase
7 Wild party
8 Church figure
11 Prong
13 High spirits
14 Fencing sword
16 Fossilise
18 Erase
21 The blabs
23 Fatuous
24 Streetcar
25 Norse capital
28 Relatives

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

U	M	B	R	I	A		E	L	A	T	E	D
N	U	D	M	A	R	E						
T	A	L	L	O	H	O	R	O	A	S	T	
I	G	L	I	O	V	I	E					
D	W	E	L	L	S	C	A	N	N	E	R	
Y		I	T									
D	I	S	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	D		
S	M		R	B								
H	I	B	A	C	H	I		R	U	L	E	R
E	I	A	S	I	E	I						
A	L	B	U	M		E	N	D	E	M	I	C
T	E	E	R	G	O	K						
H	U	S	T	L	E			T	E	N	N	I

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Police busts major gun racket in City; two held



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: In a major breakthrough against the illegal arms trade, the Special Crime Unit (SCU) of the Commissionerate Police busted an inter-state gun-smuggling racket and arrested two persons from Bihar involved in the operation, police said Saturday. The accused have been identified as Divyanshu Kumar (26) and Chandan Kumar (26), both residents of Bihar. According to police sources, the SCU received a tip-off about

an active illegal gun trade in the area. Acting on the information, officers posed as buyers and set up a trap to engage the smugglers, leading to their arrest. The SCU received specific intelligence about an active illegal gun trade operating within the city limits. Acting on the tip-off, the team devised a plan to intercept the smugglers. Officers posed as prospective buyers and set up a trap to engage the smugglers. After the smugglers agreed to deliver the firearms at a designated location in exchange for cash, the SCU team apprehend-

ed them near the Mali Sahi area. The operation was executed swiftly between midnight of November 14 and the early hours of November 15, resulting in the arrest of the duo. Police seized one carbine rifle with two magazines, five semi-automatic pistols, nine live rounds of ammunition, two mobile phones, and ₹1,170 in cash from their possession. According to officials, the duo had been supplying illegal firearms in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Khurda, and other parts of the state. The police booked them under Sections 109(1)/(3)(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Sections 25(1)(a), 25(1A), 25(1AA), 25(1B), and 29 of the Arms Act, 1959. They are currently being interrogated to identify their supply chain, financiers, and any possible links to larger criminal syndicates. A further probe is underway.

Govt, banks boost rollout of AMA SuVahak scheme

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: The Commerce & Transport department convened a meeting with SLBC member banks to launch the new Atmanirbhar Mahila SuVahak (AMA SuVahak) scheme and ensure coordinated efforts for its smooth and effective implementation. The meeting was chaired by Commerce & Transport department Principal Secretary Usha Padhee, with Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur and senior representatives from leading public and private sector banks in attendance. Padhee said AMA SuVahak is a transformative, empowerment-linked livelihood initiative aimed at bringing gender balance to the driving profession, promoting women's entrepreneurship, and ensuring safe, dignified mobility in Odisha. She urged banks to adopt fast-track loan processing, simplified documentation, and dedicated facilitation desks to support women beneficiaries. Thakur highlighted that the scheme offers interest-free loans for purchasing four-wheelers (LMVs), along with support for licensing, structured driving training, and entrepreneurship opportunities through the Odisha Yatiri platform. He assured full cooperation from the Transport department and district author-



ities to ensure timely onboarding of applicants. Banks expressed strong support and agreed to extend financing through target-based loan sanctions, simplified norms, and concrete measures to ensure timely disbursal and wider outreach. The scheme aims to create 1,100 AMA SuVahaks over four years — 200 in 2025–26, 250 in 2026–27, 300 in 2027–28, and 350 in 2028–29. Eligible women must be 21–40 years old, have an annual family income below ₹3 lakh, and be trained at any of the four Institutes of Driving Training & Research (IDTRs) in Odisha. The government will provide 10 per cent as down payment, pay the interest during the three-month moratorium, cover CGTMSE charges, and bear the annual interest, along with offering handholding support to ensure regular engagement of vehicles.

Spl OTET 2025 results out; 48,153 candidates qualify

BHUBANESWAR: The Board of Secondary Education (BSE) Saturday announced the results of the Special Odisha Teacher Eligibility Test (OTET) 2025. Out of 72,413 candidates who appeared for the exam, a total of 48,153 candidates have successfully cleared it, achieving a pass percentage of 78.35 per cent. In Paper I, 12,988 candidates qualified, while 35,165 candidates passed Paper II. The combined count of successful candidates across both papers stands at 48,153. The Special OTET is a key step for aspirants seeking teaching positions in Odisha. Candidates can access their individual results and detailed scorecards on the official BSE website.

EZIMSCON 2025

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Saturday said that awareness is the first step toward empowerment, and true empowerment brings dignity to every woman. He made the remarks while addressing the East Zone Conference of the Indian Menopause Society (EZIMSCON 2025), hosted by the Odisha Menopause Society in collaboration with the Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Odisha (AOGO) in Bhubaneswar. The Governor said menopause is a natural biological transition experienced by all women, yet it remains a subject often avoided due to stigma, silence, and limited understanding. He appreciated the efforts of doctors, researchers, and



CULTURAL SPECTACLE: Students perform at a cultural programme organised at Stewart School during its Annual Day celebrations in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

Stewart School celebrates 66th Annual Day

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: Stewart School, Bhubaneswar celebrated its 66th Annual Day with vibrant cultural performances, inspiring speeches, and recognition of academic excellence at the school assembly hall Saturday. The event brought together students, parents, alumni, and distinguished guests. The morning session featured students from UKG to Class V presenting colourful dance, music, and drama per-

formances. GST Bhubaneswar Assistant Commissioner Sudha Padma Lenka attended as chief guest and applauded the school's commitment to holistic education. District Audit Officer-cum-Deputy Secretary to the state government Jagatendu Pratap Lenka, who joined as chief speaker, praised the students' creativity and urged them to learn with curiosity and grow with discipline. The session also included a science exhibition and a prize distribution ceremony for academic and

extracurricular achievements. The evening session, featuring students from Class VI to XII, witnessed a grand gathering. Odisha State Police Housing and Welfare Corporation Chairman-cum-Managing Director Sudhanshu Sarangi attended as chief guest and emphasised the need for responsible digital behaviour. Joining as guest of honour, school alumnus and neurologist Amitav Rath shared heartfelt memories of his school days and said, "Stewart is the foun-

ation of my journey. Never compare yourself with other schools. Work hard and believe in your own path." School principal-in-charge Madhuswain Pramanik and chairman Rev Surendra Kumar Nanda were also present on the occasion. The celebration concluded with a cultural programme and the felicitation of ICSE and ISC 2025 achievers who secured 90 per cent and above in various subjects, marking a proud moment for the school community.

Awareness key to women's empowerment: Guv



lar disease, and mental health require attention, he stressed that it is equally important for families, workplaces, and society to recognise and support the emotional needs of women during this stage. Sensitivity and understanding, he added, can make a meaningful difference. Calling for wider awareness,

Kambhampati urged the Indian Menopause Society to lead a nationwide campaign to help every section of society better understand menopause. He said it should not be seen as an end, but as a new phase of life marked by strength, wisdom, and purpose. Congratulating the Odisha Menopause Society, AOGO,

and other organisers, he said the conference theme — Advancing Knowledge and Care in Menopause — is timely and impactful. He also welcomed the focus on digital health, telemedicine, and mental wellness, noting that such innovations can significantly improve healthcare access, especially in rural areas. Among others, Indian Menopause Society president Anita Shah, Odisha Menopause Society president Abhaya Kumar Pattnaik, and Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Odisha president Sujata Mishra also spoke on the occasion. Organising chairperson HP Pattnaik delivered the welcome address, while organising secretary Mrutyunjaya Mohapatra proposed the vote of thanks.

SCSTRTI marks Janajatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI) observed the Janajatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada here Saturday. The event was graced by Laxman Kumar Mallick, Director, Scheduled Castes Welfare, ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare department; Sudhakar Sabaro, Director, SCSTRTI; Santosh Kumar Rath, Deputy Director (Admn), SCSTRTI; Prof Vijaya Upadhyaya, Santali language scholar and eminent educationist; Prof Manmath Kundu, former Principal of Rajdhani College; and Prof Ajay Kumar Tripathy, Principal of Government Science College, Chatrapur, among others. At the event, dignitaries spoke about the life, struggles, and courage of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. Prof Upadhyaya high-

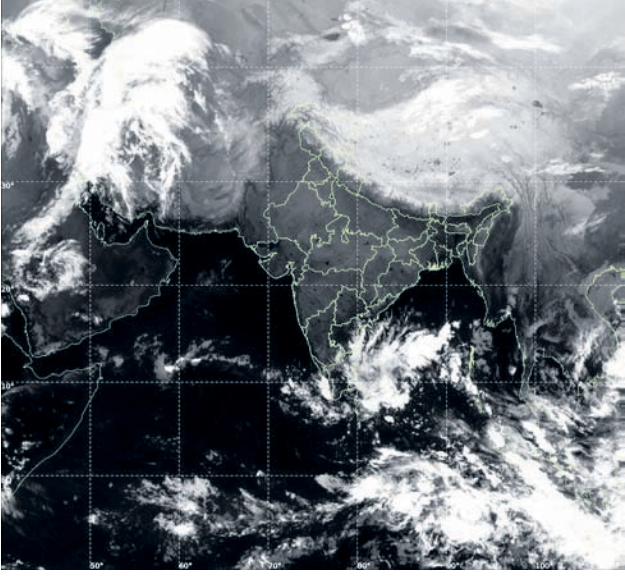


lighted the history of organised tribal revolts across Odisha. Prof Kundu noted that Birsa Munda's movement was not only against colonial rule and zamindari oppression, but also against social and economic injustice. Prof Tripathy presented a vivid account of Birsa Munda's life and contributions. Speaking on the occasion, Sabaro stated that the true es-

sence of celebrating Janajatiya Gaurav Diwas lies in embracing Birsa Munda's ideals in daily life. Mallick described Birsa Munda's uprising against British rule as a reflection of the rich heritage and bravery of India's tribal communities. This year, the celebrations were held nationwide from November 1 to 15 to honour the rich tribal heritage, cul-

ture, and contributions to nation-building. As part of the observance, a tree plantation drive was organised in memory of Birsa Munda. Winners of the state-level drawing competition featuring tribal students from various districts were also felicitated. In addition, SCSTRTI employees — including peons, security guards, gardeners,

electricians, and others — were honoured with Seva Samman as part of the Janajatiya Gaurav Varsh celebrations, recognising their dedicated daily service to the institution. Under the ST, SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare department, SCSTRTI and Odisha State Tribal Museum organised a series of special events including a Bhagwan Birsa Munda pavilion, an art exhibition on his life and struggles, a photo display on the lifestyle and culture of Odisha's tribal communities, a showcase of Kulis tribe weaving, and a painting exhibition. Museum visits were also organised for school and college students to deepen their understanding of Odisha's tribal heritage. The day-long celebration highlighted the rich cultural legacy of tribal communities and reaffirmed their invaluable contribution to the nation.



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	29.8°	27.2°	Mist/Haze in the morning and Mainly clear sky.
Min Temp	14.8°	14.4°	
Humidity	63%	78%	
Rainfall	NII	NII	



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Seed crunch hits potato farmers in Kendrapara

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Nov 15: Potato farmers in this district are facing a severe seed shortage as government supply has yet to reach them even after the start of November. Many have been forced to buy seeds from private markets at high prices, raising concerns about crop success and production costs.

Despite the district consuming over 600 quintals of potatoes daily and cultivating around 700 hectares each year, the Agriculture department has set a target of 1,000 hectares for this season. To meet that target, around 15,000 quintals of seed potatoes are required — but not a single kg of government-supplied seed has reportedly reached farmers so far.

District Farmers' Association secretary Gayadhar Dhal said potato is a staple food item and prices have been surging in recent months. He added that while farmers had completed all preparations for the Rabi crop, they were left waiting for quality seed supply. "The farmers have been running from pillar to post, but seeds are yet to arrive," he said.

Farmers now rely on private suppliers, where seed potatoes cost about ₹60 per kg, compared



Many have criticised the administration, saying even 10 years after the launch of the Potato Mission, basic issues like timely seed supply and cold storage infrastructure remain unresolved

to the government rate of ₹11–Rs 17. Dhal warned that the absence of certified seeds could impact both yield and quality.

Sunakar Raut, a farmer from Kusiapal village in Derabish block, said the soaring market price of potatoes had encouraged many to expand cultivation this year. "I have planned to grow potatoes on 13 acres, but the seed crisis has halted my work," he said, adding that he did not trust the quality of seeds available in local markets.

Farmer leader Bidhu Bhushan Mohapatra criticised the

administration, saying that even 10 years after the launch of the Potato Mission in 2015, basic issues like timely seed supply and cold storage infrastructure remain unresolved. "Without cold storage, it is impossible to preserve the harvest. The administration must act immediately to ensure seed distribution and storage facilities," he said.

Deputy Director of Horticulture Sukumar Dutta confirmed the delay, saying the seed indent had been placed and supplies would reach the district soon.

Andhra holds health camp in Kotia again

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, Nov 15: The neighbouring state of Andhra Pradesh has again entered the Kotia panchayat under Pottangi block in Koraput district, continuing a pattern of repeated incursions. The latest incident occurred Friday, reigniting local resentment over Andhra's ongoing activities inside Odisha's border villages.

According to reports, Andhra authorities have been frequently entering the disputed Kotia region and attempting to influence residents through various government programmes. Despite repeated alerts, Odisha's block administration has allegedly limited its response to preparing reports and forwarding them to district officials, drawing criticism that it is attempting to shift responsibility.

A medical team from the Tonam PHC under Andhra's



Salur Mandal (block), led by Dr Ajay Kumar, entered Tala Ganjeipadar village in Kotia panchayat and organised a health camp Friday. The team conducted health examinations and distributed free medicines to residents.

Upon receiving information, Pottangi BDO Ramakrushna

Nayak reached the village and held discussions with the Andhra medical personnel, instructing them to leave Odisha territory immediately. The Andhra team subsequently vacated Tal Ganjeipadar.

The BDO also addressed local residents, informing them that the primary health centre

located at the Kotia panchayat headquarters under Odisha jurisdiction is well-equipped with quality medicines and staffed with doctors. He assured villagers that they could access timely treatment for any health issues nearby.

Nayak cautioned that using different medicines prescribed by two states for the same ailment could pose health risks and urged villagers to rely on the authorised Odisha facility.

For months, Andhra Pradesh has been undertaking periodic incursions into Kotia, conducting government activities before retreating. Odisha officials, upon receiving alerts, have been stopping these events but have not taken actions that significantly deter future attempts. Intellectuals in the region argue that merely sending Andhra officials back has had no appreciable impact on preventing further intrusions.

Illegal sand mining: Two held, four more sand trucks seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hatadihi, Nov 15: Days after Nandipada police in Keonjhar district seized 18 Hyva trucks and a tractor carrying illegally mined sand, two alleged sand smugglers have been arrested in connection with the case, police said Saturday.

Police had seized the illegally mined sand laden vehicles on November 10 and registered 19 cases in this connection.

Nandipada police inspector-in-charge Dharmendra Shanti said two local sand smugglers have been arrested. The accused were identified as Deepti Ranjan Nayak of Ishala village under Nandipada police limits and Bhupesh Nayak of Apanda village under Bant police station in Bhadrak district.

Meanwhile, in a separate late-night operation Friday, a team led by Keonjhar mining officer Tarini Singh seized four more Hyva trucks from the Habaleshwar panchayat area for allegedly transporting sand illegally.

The mining personnel handed over the vehicles to Nandipada police, Shanti said.

Constable bludgeoned to death with grinding stone



POST NEWS NETWORK

Harbhanga, Nov 15: A police constable was bludgeoned to death by a co-villager at Jajpur village under Purunakatak police limits in Boudh district, police officials said Saturday. The accused, identified as Sanjaya Nayak, has been arrested, they added.

The deceased was identified as Uday Ranjan Pattnaik, 54, a native of Jajpur, Balisahi under Purunakatak police limits. Posted as a constable at Baliguda police station in Kandhamal district, he had returned to the village a few days ago.

The matter came to the fore after foul smell emanated from a garbage pit behind Uday's house. Villagers spotted the decomposed remains and informed the police. Police reached the spot and recovered the body from the pit.

Police officials said he was allegedly beaten to death with a grinding stone.

According to police, Pattnaik had been regularly meeting Sanjaya during his stay in the village. An argument reportedly broke out between them over an undisclosed reason. In a fit of rage, Nayak allegedly fatally struck Pattnaik with a grinding stone, and later buried the body in a low-lying pit behind his house. Police said the murder likely occurred four days earlier.

A scientific team and a dog squad were called to the crime scene for investigation. Police registered a murder case (194/25) at Purunakatak police station and arrested Sanjaya Nayak.

Purunakatak police station IIC Arun Kumar Singh confirmed the arrest and said the investigation is underway.

Tiger estimation exercise begins in Similipal reserve

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Nov 15 : Forest department authorities in Odisha on Saturday launched the All India Tiger Estimation-2026 at the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district, officials said.

The exercise aims to make assessment of the tiger population in the reserve as per protocol. The estimation will be carried out in two phases, said Dr Samrat Gowda, Deputy Director of Similipal Tiger Reserve.

He said the first phase will include a three-day carnivore and mega-herbivore sign survey, followed by a four-day line transects survey and a one-day count of vultures and other bird species.

Phase-I of the exercise began on Saturday in the Similipal South Division, with 103 trained survey teams deployed for the task, Gowda said.

The estimation will continue till November 22. The next phase will include an extensive camera trapping exercise across 1,321 grids of the tiger reserve.

Nearly 1,500 camera traps will be deployed in two cycles of 25 days each, starting December 1, he added.

Ganja smuggling to gift iPhone to girlfriends lands 2 in prison



POST NEWS NETWORK

MV-79, Nov 15: In a bizarre bid to impress their girlfriends with Apple iPhones, two youths from Telangana ended up in police custody after being caught smuggling ganja in Malkangiri district, officials said Saturday.

The accused—T. Trinath Kumar and B. Yuvacharan Aditya, both from Khammam district—were intercepted by an MV-79 police patrol team near Lachhipeta Square while speeding on a Honda Activa. Their suspicious behaviour prompted a search, which led to the recovery of 22 kilograms of ganja stuffed inside the scooter's compartments.

Police estimate the seized contraband to be worth around

1.5 lakh in the local market.

According to investigators, the duo had planned to transport the ganja late at night and sell it at a higher price to fund their "luxury gift" purchase—Apple iPhones for their girlfriends' upcoming birthdays.

"The accused admitted they were trying to raise quick money to buy iPhones," said MV-79 IIC Chandrakant Tandi, adding that the scooter used in the smuggling attempt has also been seized.

A case (168/2025) has been registered, and the pair has been produced before the court.

The youths' romantic plan backfired and instead of unboxing iPhones, the lovers now face music for their misadventure.

Temple founded by Bhanja Dynasty hit by ₹1cr theft

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, Nov 15: Miscreants allegedly decamped with four Radha-Krishna idols made of 'Ashtadhatu' (eight metals) and two idols of dancers, all estimated to be around 300 years old from Narayan Swami temple established by Bhanja royal family at Narayanpatna under Tarasingh police limits in Ganjam district late Friday night.

The stolen items are estimated to be worth more than ₹1 crore. On being informed, Tarasingh police station IIC Shubhalakshmi Pujari, Bhanjanagar police station IIC Jibanananda Jena and SDPO Deepak Mishra rushed to the spot and launched an investigation. Police suspect the involvement of an organised racket. A sniffer dog squad and a scientific team were also pressed into service. The theft has sparked anger and resentment among the residents in the area.

According to historical accounts, rulers of the Bhanja dynasty of Ghumusar had built several temples in Kulad, their capital and in Narayanapatna around 1760. Among them were the Kulada Jagannath Temple and the Narayan Swami Temple. In 1993, all ornaments were stolen from the Kulada Jagannath Temple and have not been traced since.

The idols stolen late Friday night are between 2.5 feet and 4.5 feet length in height. The priest locked the temple and left for home after the nightly rituals were completed by 8:30pm. The theft was discovered Saturday morning when the priest returned to open the temple and subsequently filed a police complaint. Investigators say they have obtained preliminary leads and expect a breakthrough within a week, a police official said. Since the 1993 theft, villagers have been contributing ornaments for the deity's golden attire during the annual Rath Yatra and in other times.

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice

No.C-1473 Bid Identification No. 46/2025-26

1	Name of the work	: 03 No. of work
2	Estimated cost	: 59.15 to 72.67 Lakh
3	Period of completion	: One month
4	Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 A.M. of 17.11.2025 to 5.00 P.M. of 01.12.2025
5	Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 5.00 P.M. of 02.12.2025
6	Name and address of the officer inviting Bid	: Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal in the Website (<http://tendersorissa.gov.in>)

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, L.I. DIVISION, BERHAMPUR

e-mail: eeolicbam@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. 06/2025-26 OLIC (BAM)/Dt.13.11.2025

No. CAD-2302: The Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Division, Berhampur on behalf of OLIC invites percentage rate bids in Single Cover System to be received in Online mode only for the work "Installation and energisation 54 Nos. LIPs in Ganjam district on Turnkey basis" as detailed in the table below. The bid should be submitted by the eligible class of contractors as mentioned below registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent grade/class registered with Central Government/M.E.S./Railways/C.P.W.D. for execution of Civil works and valid Electrical (H.T.) License issued by ELBO, Odisha as a single or having joint venture having proper registration with authorized registering departments, through on line in the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in. The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment with own digital signature certificate. The contractor having similar nature of works are preferred.

1.	Numbers of Package	: 54 Numbers
2.	Estimated Cost	: Rs.14.10 lakhs to 48.03 Lakhs
3.	Tender Cost	: As per DTCN
4.	Class of Contractor	: As per DTCN
5.	Date & time of publication	: Dt.17.11.2025 from 12.00 Noon
6.	Date & time of closing	: Dt.24.11.2025 at 17.00 hrs
7.	Date & time of opening of bid	: Dt.25.11.2025 at 12.00 Noon

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation of tender, if any, can be seen in the said website.

Sd./- Executive Engineer

OIPR-

Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation Ltd.

(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, L.I. DIVISION, BARGARH

E-Procurement Notice - EE/OLIC/BGH-05/2025-26

E-mail : eeolicbgh@gmail.com, Ph : 06646-246126

No.CAD-2303 No.2286/Dated : 11.11.2025

- Name of the tender : Executive Engineer, L.I. Division, Bargarh
- Name of the work : Power supply, Installation of Pump sets and Energisation of 12 Nos. Package (33 Nos. CLIPs) of L.I. Projects in different Block of Bargarh District.
- No. of Packages : 12 Nos.
- Tender Amount : Varies from 73.98 Lakhs to 155.54 Lakhs.
- Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal for on line bidding from 10.00 hrs dated 17.11.2025 to 17.00 hrs dated 27.11.2025.
- Last date and time of receipt of bids in the portal up to 17.00 hrs. Dated-27.11.2025.
- Last date and time of clarification up to 17.00 hrs Dated-26.11.2025.
- Date of opening of bid at 11.00 hrs. Dated-28.11.2025.
- Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in
- Subsequent corrigendum/addendum/cancellation of tender if required shall be available in the above portal.

Sd./- Executive Engineer

OIPR-

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No : Online - 14- OF 2025-26

E-Mail ID : rwd.padampur@yahoo.co.in, Ph. No. - 9437255440

- Name of the work : Building and Road works (As per Annexure - 'A')
- Amount put to Bid Excluding GST : As per Annexure - 'A'
- Class of contractor : "D", "C" & "B"
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : From Dt.18.11.2025 at 10.00 A.M.
- Last date of Time for receipt of bids in the portal : Dt.27.11.2025 up to 05:00 P.M.
- Last date of seeking clarification : Dt.26.11.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.
- Date & Time of technical bid opening : Dt.28.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Padampur, At/Po - Padampur, Dist. - Bargarh, Pin - 768036

(1) Other details can be seen from Dist. - Bargarh available in website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the above website.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Padampur

OIPR-

No.O-1452

A thought is an arrow shot at the truth; it can hit a point, but not cover the whole target. But the archer is too well satisfied with his success to ask anything farther.



SRI AUROBINDO

Downward Drift

Some years ago NITI Aayog said it would prepare a ‘single, informative dashboard for all the twenty-nine (later 32) global indices’ on which India was ranked. This monitoring exercise was ‘not just to improve rankings but to improve systems and drive reforms to attract investments and to shape India’s perception globally’.

This did not happen, for whatever reason, but that should not stop us from doing it ourselves. For one of my books I looked at more than four dozen global indicators to compare where India stood now compared to 2014. I periodically revisit the data and it is instructive to know what the position is. Let’s have a look.

On the Human Development Index, India’s rank in 2014 was 130 and its rank today is unchanged. The UN report says that “inequality reduces India’s HDI by 30.7%, one of the highest losses in the region. While health and education inequality have improved, income and gender disparities remain significant. Female labour force participation and political representation lag”.

The Civicus monitor demoted India’s civic space from ‘Obstructed’ to ‘Repressed’. It said that “there are a total of 49 countries in the world with this rating (of Repressed). This rating is typically given to countries where civic space is heavily contested by power holders, who impose a combination of legal and practical constraints on the full enjoyment of fundamental rights.”

The Lowy Institute Asia Power Index measures hard power. India’s score fell from 41.5 to 39.1, losing its ‘major power’ status. The Institute says that “India exerts less influence in the region than expected given its available resources, as indicated by the country’s negative power gap score. Its negative power gap in 2024 was the largest since the inception of the Asia Power Index.”

Freedom House’s Freedom in the World looks at rule of law, political pluralism and elections, functioning of government, civil liberties and so on. In 2014 India was given a rating of 77 and marked ‘Free’. In 2025 this was reduced to 63 and demoted to ‘Partly Free’. (When this first happened the government was angered but subsequently it has stopped commenting on such reports). Freedom House said that “while India is a multiparty democracy, the government has presided over discriminatory policies and a rise in persecution affecting the Muslim population”.

The World Justice Project publishes a Rule of Law Index that monitors nations’ criminal and civil justice system, fundamental rights, constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, transparent government, order and security and regulatory enforcement. India has fallen from its 2014 ranking of 66 to 86 globally. The United Nations’ Sustainable Development Solutions Network World Happiness Report looks at GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity, perceptions of corruption and dystopia. India has gone from 111 in 2014 to 118.

On Reporters Without Borders’ World Press Freedom Index India fell from 140 in 2014 to 151 today. RSF says that “with violence against journalists, highly concentrated media ownership, and political alignment, press freedom is in crisis in ‘the world’s largest democracy’.” On the Cato Institute’s Human Freedom Index India went from 87 in 2014 to 110. On the World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Index, India went from 114 in 2014 to 131 today.

The reasons given were that ‘female representation in parliament falls from 14.7% to 13.8% in 2025, lowering the indicator score for the second year in a row below 2023 levels. Similarly, the share of women in ministerial roles falls from 6.5% to 5.6%.”

Transparency International Global Corruption Perceptions Index used to be reported on regularly in India’s media but not much anymore. India has gone from 85 in 2014 to 96 in the world today.

The Heritage Foundation Global Economic Freedom Index monitors: Rule of law, government size, regulatory efficiency and open markets. India was at 120 in 2014 and 128 today. The reasons given: “progress with market-oriented reforms has been uneven. The foundations for long-term economic development remain fragile in the absence of an efficiently functioning legal framework. Entrepreneurs continue to face severe challenges. India’s regulatory framework is burdensome” and so on.

The Global Hunger Index monitors hunger, stunting in children, undernourishment. In 2014 India ranked 55 out of 76 nations. Today India ranks 102 out of 123 countries. The report says that “India has a level of hunger that is serious.”

When India began to plummet on the Hunger Index, the government said in Parliament in 2021 that it was not possible that Indians were hungry and that “we should not be sensitive to such reports.”

Over time our position has evolved on these indices. First we assumed that good governance would make a difference. Then it was concluded that these indices had bad data and in any case these institutes were prejudiced against us. Later still, it was decided to just ignore the news though the data kept coming in and still does.

In the absence of general media interest it is left to the individual to figure out what changes have happened, and in what direction New India has been travelling.

When India began to plummet on the Hunger Index, the government said in Parliament in 2021 that it was not possible that Indians were hungry and that “we should not be sensitive to such reports.” Over time our position has evolved on these indices



Aakar Patel



Jennifer Morgan

IN INDIA, RENEWABLES MET 51.5% OF TOTAL ELECTRICITY DEMAND IN JULY THIS YEAR

It is hard to imagine a more appropriate venue for this year’s United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30). Delegations from around the world will gather in the equatorial Brazilian city of Belém, on the edge of the Amazon – one of the front lines of climate vulnerability. Some 40% of the city’s population lives below sea level, and around 82% of residents walk on streets with no shade. Heat and humidity define their daily life, and nature directly sustains their existence.

But as COP30 gets underway, there is no point in pretending that governments are rising to the occasion. The UN Environment Programme’s latest emissions gap report makes clear that without stronger governmental action, we will inevitably see temperature levels at which crops fail, cities overheat, economies falter, and the human toll soars. This is the reality that policymakers will confront in Belém, and they should feel a sense of collective responsibility to confront the alarming gap between what countries have put on the table and what is urgently required. Getting to climate safety will not be easy. But acknowledging how far we have come should inspire hope that we can make it the rest of the way. From 2005-15, oil, gas, and coal power generation met 68% of the growth in global electricity demand. From 2015-25, renewables met 67% of the increase in demand.

In China, President Xi Jinping says he wants to use the upcoming 15th Five-Year Plan to “accelerate” the construction of a new energy system and promote the safe, reliable, and orderly replacement of fossil energy. In India, renewables met 51.5% of total electricity demand in July this year. And in the European Union, GDP grew by about 68% between 1990 and 2023,



Policymakers gathering for the UN Climate Change Conference in Belém this month should feel a sense of collective responsibility to confront the alarming gap between what countries have put on the table and what is urgently required

while net greenhouse-gas emissions decreased by approximately 37%, according to preliminary data.

The falling costs of renewable energy, electric vehicles, and battery storage clear the path for governments, civil society, and regional and municipal leaders to tackle the challenge of climate safety. The alternative, apathy and defeat, is no alternative at all.

So, what needs to happen at COP30? First, governments must reaffirm the Paris agreement and its goal of keeping the global average temperature within 2°C, and preferably within 1.5°C, of the pre-industrial level. With the Trump administration actively working to slow the phase out of fossil fuels, confirming this target will send an important signal to investors and planners around the world.

Second, governments must accelerate implementation of what has already been agreed. The 2023 Global Stocktake in Dubai called on countries to triple renewable energy capacity, double energy efficiency, promote a just transition away from fossil fuels, and halt (and

then reverse) deforestation by 2030. Agreement on these goals was hard-won; now they must be pursued with the necessary speed and scale.

As Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva suggested on the first day of COP30, governments could create a roadmap detailing various pathways to a just transition away from fossil fuels, which would require an agreement on what a just transition must include. They could supplement this with initiatives to overcome barriers to renewables, such as commitments to invest in electric grids and battery storage. And a similar approach could lay out a path to achieving zero deforestation by 2030.

As the host of COP30, the Brazilian government is already calling for the summit to “accelerate the implementation of the Global Stocktake.” We need to turn that catchphrase into concrete progress by adopting a forward-looking gameplan that identifies the pathways, policies, and supporting measures needed to close the gap to the Paris agreement’s 1.5°C target.

But redoubling our efforts is not only about accelerating progress where it is lagging; it is also about taking advantage of the pace of the transformation that is well underway – delivering jobs and economic growth – in many places. The progress made in recent years has been unmistakable: wind and solar power have more than tripled since 2015, and EVs have grown from less than 1% back then to over 20% today.

Third, countries should demonstrate how they intend to align the steps they are taking today with what is needed to reach net-zero emissions. This matters because several countries have recently offered new climate commitments that seem to fall short of meeting their own net-zero goals, whether by 2050 or later.

Of course, access to finance and investment remains essential for developing countries to decarbonize and bolster climate resilience. COP30 can make real progress by securing commitments to mobilize more resources for vulnerable countries to help them adapt to rising sea levels, strong storms, prolonged heat waves, and other consequences of climate change.

The Brazilian hosts have set an ambitious agenda, but the defining test will be whether the world takes steps to close the widening gap to the 1.5°C goal. For Lula, securing a win would solidify his legacy as a champion for the people around the world who stand to suffer the most if we fail.

The writer, a former German state secretary and special envoy for international climate action, is a former international executive director of Greenpeace International.

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SPECTRUM GOLD PRICE

Record highs amid global jitters

Gold has reached the unprecedented price level due to global economic uncertainty, and prices have experienced turbulent sharp rises and falls during the past few years. Investors are now turning to gold as a safe haven, seeking stability amidst fluctuating markets. This surge in demand has led to increased interest in gold mining and exploration activities worldwide. Exploring the historical gold rates in India, it unveils an intriguing story of economic, social, and cultural importance.

If we look back to 1964, gold was just Rs. 63.25 for 10 grams and by 1967, it jumped to around Rs. 102.50. Further the rate was escalated to Rs. 184/- by 1970, but by the year 2000, it was at Rs. 4,400 per 10 grams, which seemed high at that time. But that was just the beginning of a remarkable climb. The rate leaped to Rs. 18,500 in 2010 and as a major milestone, it soared to around Rs. 56,200 in 2020. In the year 2023, it was around Rs. 63,203

and by the 2024, it could touch Rs. 77,913. Beyond everyone’s surprise the value reached Rs. 129,584/- by October 2025.

Unlike paper currencies, gold holds universal appeal and is often seen as a “safe haven” for investment, particularly during periods of financial instability or market volatility. This cultural affinity for gold, combined with its rising value, could lead to a surge in purchases, particularly during festive seasons.

India’s total gold stock, combining government (RBI) reserves, household holdings, and religious institution stock, is estimated to be approximately 30,000 to 34,600 tonnes. Indian house holders have the vast majority of the gold, estimated at approximately 25,000 to 28,000 tonnes. This is the largest private gold holding in the world, largely in the form of jewellery and mainly inherited wealth.

Indian religious institutions, predominantly Hindu temples, are estimated to have collectively possessed

between 3,000 and 4,000 tonnes of gold. Some estimates place this figure even higher or closer to 5,000 tonnes. Padmanabhaswamy Temple (Kerala) believed to have around 1,300 tonnes of gold. Shri Venkateswara Temple (Tirupati) is estimated to hold 250-300 tonnes of gold. Vaishno Devi Temple (Jammu) accumulated approximately 1,800 kg of gold. Shirdi Sai Baba Temple (Maharashtra) possesses around 376 kg of gold and Sri Jagannath Temple (Odisha) has 150 Kg of Gold.

Countries like United States hold more than 8,100 tonnes of gold. Germany holds 3,350 tonnes of gold in their reserves. Italy has close to 2,450 tonnes of gold. France’s holding is roughly 2,435 tonnes. Russia’s gold holdings are over 2,300 tonnes. China has steadily increased its gold reserves and now holds more than 2,200 tonnes. Switzerland, the small country with huge gold holdings, is around 1,040 tonnes. Given its small population, Switzerland’s per

capita gold holding is one of the highest in the world.

As investors flock to safe-haven assets, many experts predict that this volatility may continue for the foreseeable future. Global gold rates have increased due to increased demand for the metal as a safe haven. As a global commodity and a popular safe-haven asset, gold’s price is highly sensitive to various domestic and international market forces.

Many experts agree that a sharp rise in gold prices is often a signal of underlying economic and geopolitical distress or uncertainty. Investors typically flock to gold as a safe-haven asset to protect their wealth, when they lose confidence in traditional investments like stocks and currencies during times of crisis. However, a cautious approach is advised due to potential short-term price swings.

The writer is a retired banker.

WISDOM CORNER

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.

HELEN KELLER

Work gives you meaning and purpose and life is empty without it.

STEPHEN HAWKING

I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1632: Swedish King Gustav II Adolf died during the Battle of Lützen, though his forces were victorious; his cause was skillfully directed by his chief adviser, Axel Oxenstierna.

1776: Sint Eustatius became the first foreign government to recognize the fledgling United States.

1855: British explorer David Livingstone was the first European to see Victoria Falls (Mosi-oa-Tunya).

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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Food for thought

Sir, Senior citizens attending marriage receptions face this problem constantly. While young people are spoilt for choice, seniors, in their sixties plus, have a tough time just because the simple food they cherish is not on the menu. Those organising grand receptions should also cater to people who, owing to their age, or medical conditions, or both, just can’t partake of the lavish food being served. There must be a Senior Citizens counter that serves simple fare, minus the extra sweet/spices that youngsters cherish. Till such time this happens, seniors will have to make do with multiple cups of tea or coffee, and return home on an empty stomach. A little thoughtfulness on the hosts’ part can turn the celebration into a true feast for every generation present.

Avinash Godbole, DEWAS(MP)

Refusal to introspect

Sir, Apropos, “Cong post second worst show in Bihar,(Orissa POST, November 15”. The Congress party’s attempt to pin its Bihar defeat on the Election Commission is a predictable yet deeply irresponsible tactic. Rather than acknowledging the electorate’s clear rejection, it has chosen to float a narrative of alleged collusion between the BJP and the EC to mask its own failures. Rahul Gandhi has repeated these accusations for months without offering evidence, turning serious democratic processes into convenient scapegoats. This refusal to introspect on its shrinking voter base, weak organisation, leadership vacuum, and lack of compelling ideas exposes the party’s political bankruptcy. Congress ignores the fact that voters are gravitating toward leaders who deliver governance, stability, and welfare. By evading accountability and resorting to conspiracy-driven rhetoric, the party demeans institutions and undermines public trust. Its focus on excuses instead of reform only accelerates its decline, signalling that it would rather protect its leadership’s ego than rebuild its credibility. Ultimately, Congress is not losing because of imagined conspiracies—it is losing because it refuses to confront why the people no longer see it as a viable alternative.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Fadnavis: History of tribal heroes purposely ignored



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, Nov 15: In a swipe at erstwhile Congress-led governments, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis Saturday said the role of tribal heroes in the freedom struggle was purposely ignored in the history books.

Addressing a gathering to mark the 150th birth anniversary of tribal rights leader and freedom fighter Birsa Munda on the 'Janajatiya Gaurav Diwas' (Tribal Dignity Day), Fadnavis said the state government is determined to protect water, land, forests, and culture of the Adivasi community.

"Adivasi heroes who contributed to our freedom strug-

gle were purposely kept away from history so that the common people don't know about them", Fadnavis said after inaugurating the Adivasi Sanskrutik Mahotsav.

He said the BJP government has rolled out several welfare schemes for the tribal community and is allotting forest land 'patta' (ownership rights).

He listed the launch of Adivasi Ashram Shalas and a Rs 60,000 aid for tribal students, who do not get admission in tribal hostels, among other welfare initiatives.

"We launched various schemes for tribal students so that they can study in reputed schools and also for empowering Adivasi women. We are

constructing networks of roads in tribal villages and also ensuring the protection of their health through state and Central schemes", the chief minister added.

He hailed the Ashram Shala digitisation and higher education schemes for tribal students, launched by the state tribal development department.

"On the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav, PM Modi had highlighted the Adivasi community's immense contribution to the freedom struggle. However, our adivasi heroes were purposely kept away from history. The prime minister has asked to identify such heroes across the country and highlight their history by writing books, and build statues and memorials", Fadnavis added.

The state government has brought out the history of tribal icons through the books, he said. Addressing the gathering, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari stated that the Central and Maharashtra governments are committed to giving a new direction to the development of water, land, and forests.

He stated that the government is ensuring the progress of tribal communities and hailed the contribution of Bhagwan Birsa Munda to the freedom struggle and development of tribals.



Tourists pose for pictures at Hawah Beach (Eve's Beach), Kovalam, in Thiruvananthapuram, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Maharashtra to launch drive against leprosy

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Nov 15: The Maharashtra government will launch a statewide leprosy case detection campaign from November 17 to December 2, during which health teams will visit households for inspections.

Following the Central government's guidelines, the state is continuing its annual initiative to identify leprosy patients through an extensive door-to-door survey across all districts. This year, a population of 8.66

crore people and 1,73,25,000 households has been selected for screening.

A total of 65,832 teams and 13,166 supervisors have been deployed for the campaign. Each team, comprising one ASHA worker and one male volunteer, will visit 20 houses in rural areas and 25 to 30 houses in urban areas daily to conduct physical examinations.

The teams will survey for 14 consecutive days, said the government release. The decision was taken at a meeting of the

state-level public awareness committee for the leprosy detection campaign Friday.

Suspected patients identified during the survey will be examined, and those diagnosed with leprosy will immediately be started on multi-drug therapy.

The campaign aims to detect hidden or undiagnosed cases, bring patients under treatment to break the chain of transmission, increase public awareness about leprosy, and strengthen efforts toward achieving the goal of 'zero leprosy transmission' by 2027.

KTM cautions against online booking fraud

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Nov 15: Kerala Travel Mart (KTM) society, country's leading tourism and hospitality industry body, Saturday warned travellers visting the state to be cautious of online fraudsters, citing cases involving some leading travel-agency websites, particularly in Kochi and Kumaraokom.

In a statement, KTM President Jose Pradeep urged international tourists and domestic holidayers to be "extremely cautious" while booking online, as the in-bound tourism season gets underway.

According to him, fraudsters have been targeting guests who have already made room reservations, attempting to mislead or extort them through phone calls or text messages, especially in major destinations like Kochi and Kumarakom.

The fraudsters try to coerce the guests into making advance payment. Guests, who refuse or attempt to back out are threatened with booking cancellation or pressured to pay for higher-category rooms immediately, KTM Society noted in the statement.

Scammers typically collect money through QR codes or payment links after gaining trust by sending fake ID cards of hotel employees.

"Several tourists have complained of losing huge sums. This has prompted us (KTM) to issue a message of caution," Jose Pradeep said. Before making any payment, it is ideal to call the official number of the hotel directly to verify the authenticity of the information, he said.

IndiGo to start flights from NMIA in December

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Nov 15: Low-cost airline IndiGo Saturday announced flight operations from the newly-opened Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) starting December 25, connecting the airport to 10 cities across the country.

IndiGo will connect the future-ready airport to 10 cities, including Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, North Goa (Mopa), Jaipur, Nagpur, Cochin, and Mangalore, the airline said in a statement.

The airline said it plans to expand operations at NMIA progressively by adding direct routes to more destinations in due course.

NMIA, the second airport in the Mumbai metropolitan area, is designed to complement Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport and meet growing demand for air travel from India's financial capital.

SABARIMALA SEASON BEGINS MONDAY

Amid brain fever threat, govt issues advisory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pathanamthitta (Kerala), Nov 15: The health department in Kerala Saturday issued an advisory to Sabarimala devotees — with special emphasis on preventing water from entering nose — in the wake of amoebic meningoencephalitis (brain fever) cases reported in the state, as the annual pilgrimage season begins November 17.

The department urged pilgrims under medical treatment to carry their records and medicines, and said regular medications should not be discontinued while preparing for the pilgrimage.

"Devotees bathing in rivers should ensure that no water enters their noses," the advisory said.

Even though the advisory



did not specify the reason for caution about bathing in rivers, a similar directive was issued when Kerala recently witnessed frequent cases of brain fever.

Mild exercise, such as walking, has been recommended in the days leading up to the pilgrimage to avoid exertion-related health issues.

Pilgrims have been advised to climb slowly, take breaks, and seek medical assistance if they experience fatigue, chest pain, breathlessness or weakness. For emergencies, they may contact 04735 203232.

The advisory also instructs devotees to drink only boiled

water, wash their hands before eating, consume washed fruits, and avoid stale or exposed food.

Open defecation has been prohibited, and toilets must be used with proper handwashing afterward. Waste should be disposed of only in designated bins.

In case of snakebite, pilgrims have been asked to seek immediate medical care as anti-venom is available in hospitals, the advisory said.

Health Minister Veena George said in a statement that doctors from medical colleges and trained volunteer health workers have been deployed along the pilgrimage routes.

A 24-hour control centre will function at Pampa.

"Pilgrims experiencing any discomfort while climbing are advised to seek immediate treatment at the nearest health

centre. Awareness materials have been prepared in multiple languages, including Malayalam, English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Kannada," she said.

According to her, comprehensive medical facilities have been arranged in coordination with the Travancore Devaswom Board.

Emergency medical centres have been set up along the route from Pampa to Sannidhanam, and Konni Medical College will serve as the base hospital.

Emergency cardiology services and a cath lab have been made operational at the Pathanamthitta General Hospital.

Ambulances equipped for cardiac emergencies will also be available, along with a special ambulance service between Sannidhanam and Pampa, the minister said.

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"Pilgrims experiencing any discomfort while climbing are advised to seek immediate treatment at the nearest health

Kerala man removes 7 transformers' fuses



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kasaragod (Kerala), Nov 15: A man, allegedly angered by the disconnection of electricity to his house for non-payment of bills, removed the fuses of seven transformers, causing a power outage in parts of Kasaragod town, Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) officials said Saturday.

The disruption occurred around 6.45 pm Friday, affecting Kasaragod town and nearby areas.

"Within minutes, we received numerous calls reporting the outage. But when we checked the lines, there were no issues," a KSEB official told PTI. Later, during an inspection of the transformers, officials found that the fuses had been removed.

"When we searched the area, the fuses were found abandoned near the transformers. Some were damaged, so we had to use spare fuses to restore the

electricity by 8 pm," the official added.

Residents told KSEB staff that they had seen a man removing the fuses.

The suspect is a resident under the Nellikuzi section, the KSEB official said.

"The same man had come to the section office earlier and created a scene after his power supply was disconnected for non-payment of bills," the official said.

Based on the information, the police took him into custody for questioning.

According to police officials, the man claimed to have mental health issues and was living with his aged father.

Police said they would decide on registering a case once KSEB files an official complaint. KSEB officials said they would submit the complaint on Saturday, as several fuses were damaged and the incident caused an outage lasting over an hour.

Maha records over 95,000 road deaths since 2019

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 15: A staggering 95,722 people have been killed in road accidents in Maharashtra between January 2019 and September 2025, pointing to a problem that has yet to ease, official data shows.

According to accident statistics sourced from the Maharashtra transport department, the state recorded 26,922 road accidents and 11,532 fatalities in the first three quarters of this calendar year, compared to 26,719 accidents and 11,573 deaths in the corresponding period last year.

In the latest deadly accident, eight persons were killed and 14 others injured after a car got crushed between two large container trucks, with a huge fire engulfing all three vehicles on the Mumbai-Bengaluru highway in Pune Thursday evening.

In the six years leading up to September 30 this year, Maharashtra recorded 2,19,039 road accidents that claimed 95,722 lives, left 1,29,670 people seriously injured, and caused minor injuries to 53,036 others.

While last year saw 15,715 fatalities in 36,118 crashes, the data shows, 11,532 persons have lost their lives in 26,922 accidents till September this year.

At the national level, India lost 1,72,890 lives in road accidents in 2023. Maharashtra ranked third with 15,366 deaths



that year, behind Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, according to figures shared by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Weak enforcement, reckless driving, inadequate training and overloaded vehicles are among the reasons usually cited by experts for India's high road deaths.

In the past six years, the number of accidents and fatalities in the state dipped only in 2020 due to pandemic-related restrictions on vehicular movement. Since then, both figures have risen steadily despite efforts by authorities to curb road deaths.

Between January and September this year, Washim district reported a 37 per cent rise in road accidents compared to the same period last year, followed by Dharashiv (27 per cent), Solapur city (26 per cent) and Sangli (25 per cent).

Road deaths went up by 59 per cent in the Buldhana district in the first nine months of this year, followed by Sangli (54 per cent), Solapur city (50 per cent), Latur (33 per cent),

Bhandara (33 per cent), Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar rural (29 per cent) and Amravati (25 per cent).

Among the state's districts and major cities, Mumbai, the country's financial capital, witnessed the highest 1,878 accidents between January and September this year. Nashik Rural topped the fatality list with 656 road deaths.

The rapid rise in the number of two-wheelers on Indian roads has heightened safety risks, with lax enforcement of helmet rules worsening fatalities, Pune-based NGP Parisar project director Ranjit Gadgil said.

The surge in deaths on national highways is attributed to expanding high-speed corridors, increasing traffic and speeds unsafe for prevailing road conditions, he pointed out.

Gadgil said police are failing to enforce speed limits, seat-belt norms and drunken-driving checks. Pedestrian deaths remain high due to poor road design and lack of safe crossings despite mandatory standards and audit requirements being ignored, he added.

"In the short run, the only effective remedy is strict enforcement - lower speed limits, compulsory helmets and seat-belts, and zero tolerance for drunk driving. Road design and maintenance must improve, but that will take time," Gadgil asserted.

FSAs visit Southern Naval Command

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Nov 15: A delegation of 48 Foreign Service Attaches (FSAs) from various countries accredited to India visited the Southern Naval Command (SNC) here, a Defence official said Saturday.

The visit formed part of the combined Tri-Services FSAs tour, organised by HQ IDS, here from Thursday to Saturday, the official added.

During the visit, the delegation was provided an overview of the Indian Navy's wide spectrum of naval operations, training methodologies, and technical infrastructure, a statement from a Defence spokesperson, said.

"A 'Day at Sea' was organised onboard the indigenously built NOPV INS Sunayna and

the recently commissioned survey vessel INS Ikshak, where the FSAs witnessed a series of naval evolutions and flying operations," the statement added.

The spokesperson said that the team also visited various professional training schools under SNC, where they observed state-of-the-art training facilities and simulator demonstrations.

They were provided detailed briefs on the Command's diverse operational roles, training activities, and maritime engagements in the region, he said.

"The visit served as a valuable opportunity for the FSAs to gain first-hand insight on the Indian Navy's operational capabilities and robust training framework," the statement said.

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TENDER CALL NOTICE
TENDER CALL NOTICE NO.: BHEP/TECH/41/2025-26 Dtd.15.11.2025
No. CAD-2321: The Sealed tenders are invited in single bid basis from the Manufacturer/Reputed firms/Authorised Dealers for the work as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Description of Items	Cost of Tender Paper in Rs.
1	Installation & Commissioning of HYDAC make Pressure Switches with supply of required valves, fittings, shielded cables etc. for BHEP, Balimela	Rs.7080/- inclusive of GST @ 18%

The sale of tender paper will be from : 18.11.2025 to 05.12.2025 (upto 11.00 hrs.)
The last date & time of receipt of tenders : Upto 11.30 Hrs. of 05.12.2025
Date and time of opening of the Bid : At 12.00 hrs. 05.12.2025
For details of tender documents, Terms and Conditions, Eligibility criteria and downloading, please visit our website at www.ohpcitd.com.
OIPR- Sd./J. C&P Head, BHEP, Balimela

There has been a major positive change in corporate investment in Nagaland, which is now focused on equipping the state's youth with advanced skills

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | UNION FINANCE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS MINISTER

Naxalism is breathing its last. Naxal cadres have been surrendering in large numbers. We have introduced an effective surrender and rehabilitation policy, and it is yielding results

VISHNU DEO SAI | CHIEF MINISTER, CHHATTISGARH

The outcome of the Bihar polls was not different from what was predicted by (Chief Minister) Nitish Kumar. Women took the election into their hands. I had earlier felt that a scheme under which Rs 10,000 is deposited in bank accounts of women had generated a favourable effect (for NDA)

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP (SP) PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Fugitive fraudster extradited from Dubai

Dehradun: A fugitive fraudster wanted for allegedly duping people of crores of rupees through fake investment schemes has been extradited from the United Arab Emirates, police said. The Crime Branch-Crime Investigation Department (CB-CID) branch of Uttarakhand Police successfully brought the fraudster, Jagdish Punetha, to India November 13, Additional Director General of Police (Crime and Law and Order) V Murugesan said Friday. Punetha, who carried a reward of Rs 50,000 on his head, has four cases registered against him. According to a police investigation, Punetha and his associates allegedly committed a fraud worth approximately Rs 15.17 crore and illegally acquired movable and immovable assets worth Rs 2.22 crore.

BLOs protest rising workload

Kolkata: Several block-level officers (BLOs) Saturday staged protests in Siliguri and Howrah, alleging that the Election Commission (EC) was subjecting them to intense and unreasonable work pressure, including late-night instructions and sudden orders for digital data entry. The protest at Siliguri's Dinabandhu Mancha training centre turned chaotic as several BLOs walked out of an ongoing digital data-entry training session, shouting slogans. The agitators claimed the poll body had "suddenly" directed them to shift to digital data entry and undergo immediate training, which they said was impossible to manage at such short notice. Many alleged that fresh responsibilities were being added day after day, making the workload unmanageable.

5 of family killed, 5 hurt in fire

Muzaffarpur (Bihar): Five members of a family died and five others suffered serious burns after a fire broke out in their house in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district, officials said Saturday. The deceased include Lalan Shah, his mother, wife and two children. Five injured persons have been admitted to the nearest government hospital. Speaking to reporters, The incident took place in ward number 13 in Motipur locality around midnight.



The major reason for pollution in Delhi is PM10, which is mainly from construction sites, dust on roads and several other factors. We have identified 62 such hotspots where traffic or dust are the main causes, and we are working on them

MANJINDER SINGH SIRSA | ENVIRONMENT MINISTER, DELHI

IAF'S SU-30MKI FIGHTER JETS IN FRANCE

IAF's Su-30MKI jets will operate alongside French multi-role fighters in complex simulated air combat scenarios, as part of a bilateral exercise to be held from November 16-27, officials said Saturday. Air exercise 'Garuda 25' will be held at Mont-de-Marsan, France



RED FORT BLAST

No trail leads to Pak 2 doctors among three detained

ISI ran operation from Afghanistan and other nations to mask its direct role

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 15: Investigations into the Delhi Red Fort blast in which 12 people were killed and dozens injured, have revealed that the ISI had intentionally kept all operations out of Pakistan and used other nations to plan and execute the attack.

During the probe, links to Afghanistan and Turkey have cropped up suggesting very little of Pakistan was used to both set up the Faridabad module and execute the blast.

Intelligence Bureau officials say that this ploy was intentional as Pakistan did not want the trail leading up to it. This is primarily to do with India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack. India had responded with 'Operation Sindoor' and even said that from now onwards all terrorist attacks would be treated as an act of war.

Further, Pakistan is also under scrutiny by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Given its current financial situation, it cannot afford to be in the Grey or Black List of the FATF.

The ISI first picked Maulvi Irfan Ahmed, a resident of Jammu and Kashmir to oversee the setting up of the module. He then was tasked with setting up the module and recruit persons from within India. This led to the setting up of the module at Faridabad.



The ISI was also careful while choosing Ahmed's handlers. A cell of the Jaish-e-Mohammad which was set up in 2021 at Afghanistan was activated and handlers were chosen.

Ahmed and some of the other accused in the blast were in constant touch with handlers who were based out of Afghanistan. The ISI sought to eliminate any trace to Pakistan by involving modules from Afghanistan.

The probe has also revealed a Turkey link to the module as well as the accused.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police has now sought a Red Corner Notice (RCN) against one Dr Muzaffar Rather. Believed to be in Afghanistan now, Rather along with the other accused Dr Muzammil Ahmad Ganaie and Dr Umar Nabi had visited

Turkey in 2021. They stayed there for 20 days and are believed to have been in touch with some ISI assets in that country.

This is an angle which is under probe and there is a strong possibility that the ISI had tasked them to meet with their assets in Turkey and seek their help in setting up the module.

While the Turkey link to the attack is being probed, the country's Directorate of Communications Centre for Countering Disinformation said that its soil is not being used for radicalisation activities linked to such operatives.

However, Pakistan using other countries to direct attacks against India is not new. It has used Afghanistan in the past several times to carry out attacks against India. The current flavour is Bangladesh

where the ISI is actively training terror groups to carry out strikes in West Bengal and the northeastern state.

Officials say that it comes as no surprise that Pakistan has used other countries to carry out attacks in India.

The Faridabad module belonging to the Jaish-e-Mohammad was one of the biggest operations that the ISI has carried out in recent times. This module was not meant to carry out a one off blast, but is part of a larger strategy of Pakistan.

Intelligence Bureau officials say that the ISI had been planning to set up more such modules comprising white collared terrorists in many parts of the country. There are intercepts that clearly suggest that the ISI has been using its assets in other countries to help further this goal.

FIRs registered against Al-Falah University

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: Delhi Police has detained three people, including two doctors from Haryana's Al Falah University, in connection with the blast near the Red Fort, even as two separate FIRs were registered against the institution over alleged irregularities flagged by the UGC and NAAC, officials said Saturday.

The detentions and fresh criminal cases come amid an escalating multi-agency probe into the Red Fort blast that claimed 13 lives and the activities of individuals linked to the university.

The Crime Branch has lodged two FIRs under charges of cheating and forgery following regulatory violations reported by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

The action was taken after both statutory bodies highlighted "major irregularities" in the university's functioning.

A police team also visited the Okhla office of the university Saturday to seek details related to those under scanner.

The police also detained two doctors - Mohammad and Mustakim - from Al-Falah University, who were known to Dr Umar Nabi, the driver of the Hyundai i20 car that exploded near the Red Fort Monday.

The detentions were made during coordinated raids in Dhauj, Nuh and adjoining

areas late Friday by the Special Cell and the NIA, officials said.

Sources said Mohammad and Mustakim were allegedly in touch with Dr Muzammil Ganaie, who has been arrested in connection with the probe into an alleged "white collar terror module". Both were also close associates of Umar.

Initial questioning revealed that one of the doctors was in Delhi on the day of the blast to appear for an interview at AIIMS, they said.

Their statements are being verified to establish the extent of their association with Ganaie and their possible role in the wider conspiracy, officials added.

Another man, identified as Dinesh alias Dabbu, has also been detained for selling fertilisers without a licence.

It has emerged that the members of the terror module had pooled around Rs 26 lakh to buy explosive substances and spent Rs 3 lakh out of it to purchase NPK fertiliser, which is commonly used to make bombs.

It is being probed whether Dinesh sold the fertiliser to the suspects and if his activities extended beyond the illegal trade, officials said.

Police teams have also questioned a tea seller in Wazirpur Industrial Area, where Umar halted for 10-15 minutes before the explosion. The seller told reporters he remembered a masked man sitting briefly at the stall. Investigators have also sought visitor records from a mosque near Ramli-la Maidan on Asaf Ali Road, where Umar was seen in CCTV footage hours before the blast.

Jaishankar reviews India-US bilateral ties



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Nov 15: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar reviewed bilateral ties between Washington and New Delhi and support for diaspora activities at a conference of India's Consuls General in the US convened here.

"Reviewed our bilateral ties and support for diaspora activities. Appreciate the commitment and efforts of our Embassy & Consulates to strengthening the India-US partnership," Jaishankar said in a post on social media. Jaishankar "chaired the Consul Generals Conference" held Friday at the Consulate General of India in New York that was attended by Indian Ambassador to the US Vinay Kwatra, Deputy Chief of Mission in the Indian Embassy in Wash-

ington DC Namgya Khampa as well as all the envoys heading the Indian Consulates in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Seattle.

The Indian Consulate in New York, led by Consul General Binaya Pradhan, said in a post on X that it was "honoured" to welcome Jaishankar at the Consulate premises.

"His vision, guidance & leadership strengthen our commitment to work for the India-USA partnership," the Consulate said. A day earlier, Jaishankar had met United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres in the UN Headquarters. Jaishankar was accompanied by India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador P Harish, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Yo-

Reviewed our bilateral ties and support for diaspora activities. Appreciate the commitment and efforts of our Embassy & Consulates to strengthening the India-US partnership

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

ina Patel and officials from the Permanent Mission of India to the UN.

"Good to meet with UNSG @antonioguterres in New York today. Valued his assessment of the current global order and its implications for multilateralism. Also appreciated his perspectives on various regional hotspots," Jaishankar had said in a post on social media Thursday.

Jaishankar said he thanked Guterres "for clear and consistent support for India's growth and development" and he looks forward to welcoming the UN Chief in India.

Jaishankar was in Canada for the G7 Foreign Ministers Meeting where he had met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and held bilateral meetings with other global counterparts.



Animal lovers take part in a candlelight march against the Supreme court order directing authorities to remove stray dogs from institutional areas such as schools, hospitals, railway stations and bus stands, and shift them to designated shelters, in Prayagraj, Saturday

Scientists discover 'genetic switch' inside womb that leads to pregnancy

The findings, published in the international journal Cell Death Discovery, revealed two genes -- HOXA10 and TWIST2 -- work to open or close a small 'gate' on the wall of the womb at the right time

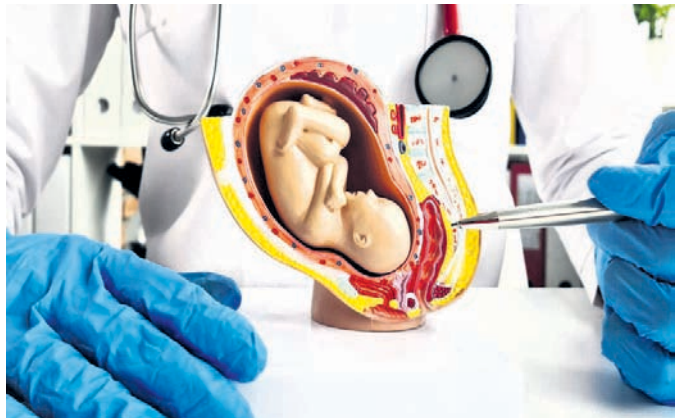
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: A study by the Indian Council of Medical Research seeking to explain how a pregnancy is initiated has led to the discovery of a "genetic switch" that allows an embryo to implant itself on the wall of the womb, leading to conception.

For a pregnancy to begin, the embryo must first attach and embed itself in the wall of the mother's womb. But how this happens has remained a mystery.

The findings, published in the international journal Cell Death Discovery, revealed a fundamental biological switch that controls embryo implantation.

The study was a collaboration between the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute for Research in Reproductive and Child Health (ICMR-NIRRH), Mumbai; Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi, and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, and brought together experts in molecular



biology, genomics and mathematical modelling.

It showed that two genes -- HOXA10 and TWIST2 -- work to open or close a small "gate" on the wall of the womb at the right time, said Dr Deepak Modi, ICMR-NIRRH scien-

tist and corresponding author of the study.

The inner lining of the uterus is like the wall of a fort -- strong, protective, and normally closed to prevent anything from entering. For the implantation to succeed, this

wall must briefly open a small gate at the exact spot where the embryo arrives, explained Nancy Ashary, the lead author of the study.

The study discovered that the gene HOXA10 keeps the wall closed and guarded.

"But when an embryo comes in contact with the lining, HOXA10 temporarily switches off at that location. This short 'switch-off' allows another gene, TWIST2, to act. The activation of TWIST2 opens the gate by making the uterine cells soft and flexible, allowing them to move slightly and let the embryo in," said Dr Mohit Jolly of IISc, Bangalore.

This process was studied in mice, hamsters, monkeys and human cells, and found that this HOXA10-TWIST2 switch occurs across species.

This suggests that it is an ancient and essential biological mechanism that nature has conserved during evolution and is essential for reproduction in mammals, Dr Shruti Hansda of BHU underlined.

"Understanding this biological switch will explain why some women face repeated implantation failures or very early pregnancy loss, even with healthy embryos," said Dr Geetanjali Sarchdeva, Director of ICMR-NIRRH.

If the uterine wall opens too little, the embryo cannot implant; if it opens too much, the pregnancy cannot be sustained. Controlling the balance between HOXA10 and TWIST2 could guide new strategies to improve IVF (in vitro fertilisation) success rates in future, Dr Sachdeva said.

of the day

vote

India will need an additional 30,000 pilots once the pending orders for 1,700 aircraft from the Indian carriers are delivered

K RAM MOHAN NAIDU | UNION CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

People are bound to vote once in five years and political parties will seek votes during elections. But the parties should explain their political and economic policies to the people and strive for women's development wholeheartedly

P CHIDAMBARAM | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

From the first outlet at AIIMS in 2015 to 255 outlets across 24 states and four UTs today, AMRIT has benefited 6.85-plus crore patients, offering savings of up to 50 per cent on medicines

JP NADDA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

X

POST

OF THE DAY

- She'll get to sit inside the Parliament
- She'll get Pension all her life
- She'll be flying free of cost
- Train travel will be free for her
- She'll be entitled for a Lavish Bungalow / Apartment
What's her accomplishment:
She Sings Well
What's her Vision:
- To change the name of a City from Alinagar to Sitanagar
That's India of 2025
Well done #Bihar
The promise of Achche Din and Viksit Bharat being fulfilled
#MaithiliThakur #SitaNagar

@sidd_sharma01

SHORT TAKES

28 blackbucks die at Belagavi zoo

Belagavi (Karnataka): Twenty eight blackbucks have died under mysterious circumstances in the Kittur Rani Chennamma Zoo here in the past three days, a zoo official said Saturday. The zoo had 38 blackbucks of which 28 had died, which has alarmed the authorities. Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwra Khandre has ordered a probe into the deaths. He expressed concern over the deaths. According to the Assistant Conservator of Forest Nagaraj Balhasuri, eight blackbucks died two days ago while 20 died Saturday. He said the veterinary doctor at the zoo suspected that they died due to a bacterial infection though actual cause is yet to be ascertained.

Bus driver held for woman's murder

Noida: A 34-year-old bus driver has been arrested for the alleged murder of a woman whose headless and limbless body was found in a drain in Noida November 6, police said Saturday. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Yamuna Prasad said the body was found in a drain under the limits of Sector-39 police station, with toe rings being the only identifiable clue. Nine police teams were formed to trace the woman's identity and the suspect. "More than 5,000 CCTV cameras were scanned and around 1,100 vehicles were checked. Of these, 44 vehicles were shortlisted and their owners and drivers were questioned," Prasad said.

2 British nationals held in Bahraich for entering India illegally

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bahraich (UP), Nov 15: Security forces Saturday detained two British passport holders -- a man and a woman, both doctors -- for allegedly entering India illegally from Nepal at the Rupaideha border in Bahraich district, officials said.

Following preliminary interrogation, the duo was handed over to the police who arrested the foreign nationals after registering a case, they added.

According to officials, personnel of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Uttar Pradesh Police intercepted the duo during intensified checking in the wake of the blast near Delhi's Red Fort.

Ganga Singh Udawat,



Commandant of the SSB's 42nd Battalion, told PTI that around 10 am, two foreigners were stopped for verification after they crossed into India from Nepal.

"During scrutiny of their documents, it was found that both were British nationals and did not possess a valid Indian visa. They failed to provide any satisfactory reason for their entry into India," he said. The detained man was identified as Dr Hassan Amman Saleem (35), son of Mohammad Saleem, of Pakistan origin. His current address is listed as Manchester, United Kingdom.

Indonesia interested in buying BrahMos: Defence Min Rajnath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 15: Indonesia has made a bid to purchase the BrahMos missile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Saturday.

"Indonesia has requested to purchase the BrahMos missile being manufactured in Lucknow," Singh said, addressing the BJP workers here.

Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged off the first batch of BrahMos missiles manufactured at the BrahMos Aerospace unit here October 18.

The manufacturer of the BrahMos supersonic missile system has produced the first batch of missiles at its new integration and test facility in Lucknow.

The state-of-the-art unit, inaugurated May 11, is fully operational now.

India, China driving air traffic growth in Asia Pacific region: AAPA DG

The Association of Asia Pacific Airlines, which represents 18 airlines, including Air India, is optimistic about the region's continued air transport growth in 2026 on the back of resilient economies as well as strong passenger and cargo demand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangkok, Nov 15: India and China are driving air traffic growth in the Asia Pacific region where airlines continue to demonstrate agility in managing supply chain constraints, according to industry grouping AAPA.

The Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA), which represents 18 airlines, including Air India, is optimistic about the region's continued air transport growth in 2026 on the back of resilient economies as well as strong passenger and cargo demand.

AAPA Director General Subhas Menon told PTI here that

Oppn parties question EC's role, blame SIR

BJP SAYS THEIR 'LIES' REJECTED BY VOTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: Stunned by the Bihar election results, Congress and other opposition parties Saturday questioned the Election Commission's role during the poll process and blamed the "hurried" Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls for their poor show.

The BJP claimed that the massive mandate for NDA reflected the people's approval of SIR and they have "punished" the opposition alliance for defaming the country and creating divisions on the lines of castes and religion. The ruling party claimed that the electoral verdict will pave the way for NDA victory in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Congress leaders cannot explain the poll rout to its allies and even to their workers, so they have "found an easy way out by blaming the EVMs (Electronic Voting Machines), the Election Commission and electoral rolls revision".

Heaping generous praise on Modi, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and key NDA partner N Chandrababu Naidu credited the prime minister for the coalition's thumping majority in Bihar, saying it proved that "right governance is right politics".

"Narendra Modi's leadership (has) produced a new model -- empowerment through welfare, development and good governance," Naidu told PTI in an interview.

The Congress' top leaders, including Rahul Gandhi

Everybody can now see the impact of the removal of fake voters through the SIR. That's why the parties including the CPI (M) and the Congress in Kerala are opposing the SIR and trying to block it

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR | BJP KERALA CHIEF



and party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, went into a huddle in Delhi to discuss the poll outcome. The party won only six of the 61 seats it contested, its second-worst show in the state after 2010, when it won only four seats.

Gandhi did not speak to the media persons after the meeting. Asked about the Bihar poll outcome, AICC general secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal said the Congress, its alliance partners and the people of Bihar "cannot believe it".

"This result that has come from Bihar is unbelievable for all of us," he said. Venugopal sought to put the entire blame on the Election Commission, alleging that the poll process is questionable. The party would soon analyse the result and would come out with concrete proof in the next few weeks, he told reporters.

"The Election Commission is totally one-sided. Whatever they are doing, there is no transparency at all, and therefore, this process is questionable," he said. The Congress has claimed that the election results in Bihar without doubt

reflect "vote chori on a gigantic scale".

Speaking in the same vein, the Shiv Sena (UBT) claimed that Bihar elections were a "scam" facilitated by the EC and accused the ruling BJP-led NDA of winning through vote theft.

CPI(M) Kerala state secretary M V Govindan said that, though the primary reason for the defeat of Mahagathabandhan was the "targeted deletion" of votes by the Election Commission through a hurried process of SIR, the Congress and other secular parties should analyse the other factors behind the poor show and take due course correction.

In Patna, former poll strategist Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party, which failed to open its account in the Bihar assembly, claimed that a section of its voters ended up siding with the BJP-led NDA "out of fear of return of jungle raj under the RJD".

After the RJD's dismal performance, party president Lalu Prasad's daughter Rohini Acharya announced that she

CREMATORIUM FOR PETS OPENED IN THANE

A gas-fired crematorium for pets was inaugurated in Majiwada area here Saturday, the Thane Municipal Corporation said. City MLA and Maharashtra minister Pratap Sarnaik inaugurated the facility. "A separate crematorium for pets was needed in the city," he said in a release



NDA leaders meet Nitish over Bihar govt formation

PATNA: With a landslide victory in Bihar assembly polls placing the NDA firmly in the saddle, leaders of the alliance Saturday appeared to have got down to the brass tacks of forming a new government in the state. Coalition partners made a beeline at 1, Anne Marg, the official residence of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the longest-serving incumbent, who heads the JD(U). Notable visitors included Union minister Chirag Paswan, who is excited at the prospects of his Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) sharing power in the state as well. "I have congratulated Nitish Kumar ji on the victory. The NDA's win puts paid to the opposition's false narrative that there has been a rift between the two of us. Even during the campaign, the CM canvassed in seats where our candidate was contesting. We reciprocated the gesture and supported the JD(U) candidate

in Alauli, which has been our home turf," Paswan told reporters. Situated in his native Khagaria district, Alauli, a reserved seat, was represented by the Union minister's late father Ram Vilas Paswan in the 1970s, and, after he became the MP from Hajipur, uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras - now estranged from the family - represented the constituency several times. JD(U)'s Ram Chandra Sada, a former MLA, wrested the seat from sitting RJD MLA Ram Vriksh Sada, while Yash Raj, the son of Paras, who was making his debut from his father's party Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party, finished third. Paswan ducked queries as to whether the LJP(RV) was hoping to have one of its MLAs as the deputy CM, saying "CM and his deputy are decided jointly by all the legislators". He, however, added "personally, I feel that Nitish Kumar ji should continue to lead the government".



was "quitting politics" and severing ties with the family.

The RJD's seat tally slipped to 24 from 75.

Lab manufacturing Mephedrone busted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: The Narcotics Control Bureau and Rajasthan Police have busted a clandestine lab at a remote village in Sirohi district of the state believed to be used to manufacture Mephedrone, a synthetic stimulant and psychotropic drug, officials said. Chemicals weighing hundreds of kilograms have been seized, which were sufficient to manufacture about 100 kg of Mephedrone, with an estimated market value of Rs 40 crore, an official release said.

The alleged mastermind of the racket and four others have been arrested, it said. Mephedrone is being increasingly used as a psychotropic drug in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, the officials said.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the government of India is taking ruthless action against narcotics cartels to create a 'drug-free Bharat', the statement said.

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has been using the



mechanism of district-level monthly NCORD meetings to sensitise the district police, especially in Rajasthan.

The police were sensitised about the issue and directed to report the presence of drums containing chemicals and lab equipment at unusual locations to the local office of the NCB, as such places could be used as a clandestine facility for manufacturing synthetic drugs such as Mephedrone.

Red flag indicators about the presence of clandestine labs were also shared by the NCB with the district police across the country.



According to AAPA, the overall air traffic growth in the Asia Pacific region stood

at 10 per cent in the first nine months of this year.

About Air India, Menon

said the airline is a very important part of AAPA representing a very large market.

"You have to look at Air India in a historical perspective. It is a huge entity. And they are trying to get their act together. So, you have to give them some time to get there," he said while speaking after the conclusion of the grouping's 69th Assembly of Presidents in Bangkok Saturday.

Asia Pacific airlines continue to demonstrate agility in managing supply chain constraints with capacity growth keeping pace with demand.

However, further escalations of tariffs could exacer-

bate the bottlenecks, Menon said in a release.

The Assembly passed resolutions related to four areas -- aviation sustainability, supply chain challenges, carriage of lithium batteries onboard flights, and on taxes and charges.

It has pitched for targeted investment incentives and regulatory harmonisation to enhance regional MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) and manufacturing capabilities.

AAPA has suggested adoption of "circular economy principles, including recycling and reuse of serviceable aircraft materials".

of the day

quote

It seems to me that corruption scandals are emerging, involving the Ukrainian government, so I would not want the money of Italian workers and pensioners to be used to fuel further corruption

MATTEO SALVINI | ITALY'S DEPUTY PM

I'm looking at that. Saudis asked me to look at it. They want to buy a lot of '35' - but they want to buy actually more than that, fighter jets

DONALD TRUMP | US PRESIDENT

Our nation has a lot at stake when it comes to climate change but every effort we make now will help avert the worst impacts

CHRIS BOWEN | AUSTRALIA'S MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

SHORT TAKES

Trump hell-bent on suing BBC

London: US President Donald Trump has declared that he intends to proceed with legal action against the BBC despite the British public service broadcaster apologising to him for the way his speech was edited for one of its news documentaries aired last year. "We'll sue them. We'll sue them for anywhere between a billion and 5 billion dollars, probably sometime next week," Trump told reporters on Air Force One overnight Saturday. "We have to do it, they've even admitted that they cheated. Not that they couldn't have not done that. They cheated. They changed the words coming out of my mouth," he said. The row follows an intense period for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), resulting in the resignation of top officials and an apology for an "error of judgment" from its Indian-origin chair, Samir Shah. Trump had threatened to sue the broadcaster for USD 1 billion in damages unless the corporation issued a retraction, apology and paid him compensation. However, he has now said he intends to proceed with the legal action despite the apology.

Inflation forces Trump to cut tariffs

US PRESIDENT'S SUDDEN TARIFF RETREAT FOLLOWS VOTER ECONOMIC CONCERNS THAT FUELED MAJOR DEMOCRATIC WINS IN RECENT OFF-YEAR ELECTIONS

REUTERS

Washington, Nov 15: US President Donald Trump on Friday rolled back tariffs on more than 200 food products, including such staples as coffee, beef, bananas and orange juice, in the face of growing angst among American consumers about the high cost of groceries. "They may in some cases" raise prices, Trump said of his tariffs when asked about the move aboard Air Force One Friday evening. But he insisted that overall, the US has "virtually no inflation."

Trump also told reporters aboard Air Force One that he would move forward with a \$2,000 payment to lower- and middle-income Americans that would be funded by tariff revenues next year sometime. "The tariffs allow us to give a dividend if we want to do that. Now we're going to do a dividend and we're also reducing debt," he said.

The Trump administration announced framework trade deals Thursday that, once finalized, will eliminate tariffs on certain foods and other imports from Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala and El Salvador, with US officials eyeing additional agreements before year's end.

Friday's list includes products US consumers routinely purchase to feed their families at home, many of which have



TARIFF ROLLBACK INCLUDES BEEF, TOMATOES, BANANAS AMID INFLATION CONCERNS

TRADE DEALS WITH ARGENTINA, ECUADOR, GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR TO ELIMINATE TARIFFS

DEMOCRATS CRITICIZE TRUMP FOR INFLATION LINKED TO TARIFFS

seen double-digit year-over-year price increases. It includes over 200 items ranging from oranges, acai berries and paprika to cocoa, chemicals used in food production, fertilizers and even communion wafers.

The White House, in a fact sheet on the order, said it came on the heels of "significant progress the President has made in securing more reciprocal terms for our bilateral trade relationships."

It said Trump decided certain food items could be exempted since they were not grown or processed in the United States, and given the conclusion of nine framework deals,

two final agreements on reciprocal trade, and two investment deals. Ground beef, as of the latest available data for September, was nearly 13% more expensive, according to Consumer Price Index data, and steaks cost almost 17% more than a year ago. Increases for both were the largest in more than three years, dating back to when inflation was nearing its peak under Trump's predecessor, Democrat Joe Biden.

Although the US is a major beef producer, a persistent shortage of cattle in recent years has kept beef prices high. Banana prices were about 7% higher, while tomatoes were 1% higher. Overall costs

Trump administration is putting out a fire that they started and claiming it as progress

RICHARD NEAL | DEMOCRAT LEADER

A GENERATION LEFT BEHIND

Over 25mn children skip school in Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Nov 15: More than 25 million children across Pakistan are currently out of school, with 20 million of them having never attended school, according to a report.

The Nation newspaper reported Friday that the data was part of a new report by the Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE) - a government organisation.

The report highlights that 1,084 transgender children are also among those not enrolled in any educational institution, raising concerns about inclusivity and access.

A province-wise breakdown shows deep disparities. Punjab accounts for 9.6 million out-of-



school children, including 4.7 million boys and 4.8 million girls. Sindh follows with 7.8 million children not attending school, that is 3.7 million boys and 4 million girls. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 4.9

million children remain out of school, comprising 2 million boys and 2.9 million girls. Balochistan reports 2.9 million out-of-school children, split between 1.4 million boys and 1.5 million girls.

Even the federal capital faces a significant challenge with 89,000 children between the ages of 6 and 16 out of school, that includes 47,849 boys and 41,275 girls.

The PIE report warns that the number of out-of-school children is rising by 20,000 every year, underscoring the urgency for government action. Education experts stress that effective and immediate policy measures are needed to ensure all children have access to formal education.

GIFT TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The Vatican Saturday returned 62 artifacts to Indigenous peoples from Canada as part of the Catholic Church's reckoning with its role in helping suppress Indigenous culture in the Americas. According to a joint statement from the Vatican and Canadian church, the pieces were a gift and a "concrete sign of dialogue, respect and fraternity"



POST-WAR TALKS GRIND ON

Hamas reasserts control on Gaza

In the shadows of conflict, power shifts back to Hamas



REUTERS

Cairo, Nov 15: From regulating the price of chicken to levying fees on cigarettes, Hamas is seeking to widen control over Gaza as US plans for its future slowly take shape, Gazans say, adding to rivals' doubts over whether it will cede authority as promised.

After a ceasefire began last month, Hamas swiftly reestablished its hold over areas from which Israel withdrew, killing dozens of Palestinians it accused of collaborating with Israel, theft or other crimes. Foreign powers demand the group disarm and leave government but have yet to agree who will replace them.

Now, a dozen Gazans say they are increasingly feeling Hamas control in other ways. Authorities monitor everything coming into areas of Gaza held by Hamas, levying fees on some privately imported goods including fuel as well as cigarettes and fining merchants seen to be overcharging for goods, according to 10 of the Gazans, three of them merchants with direct knowledge.

Ismail Al-Thawabta, head of the media office of the Hamas government, said accounts of Hamas taxing cigarettes and fuel were inaccurate, denying the government was raising any taxes.

ANALYST SEES HAMAS ENTRENCHING

The authorities were only carrying out urgent humanitarian and administrative tasks whilst making "strenuous efforts" to control prices, Thawabta said. He reiterated Hamas' readiness to hand over to a new technocratic administration, saying it aimed to avoid chaos in Gaza: "Our goal is for the transition to proceed smoothly".

US President Donald Trump's

Gaza plan secured a ceasefire on October 10 and the release of the last living hostages seized during the Hamas-led October 7, 2023 attacks on Israel.

The plan calls for the establishment of a transitional authority, the deployment of a multinational security force, Hamas' disarmament, and the start of reconstruction.

But Reuters, citing multiple sources, reported this week that Gaza's de facto partition appeared increasingly likely, with Israeli forces still deployed in more than half the territory and efforts to advance the plan faltering.

Nearly all of Gaza's 2 million people live in areas controlled by Hamas, which seized control of the territory from President Mahmoud Abbas' Palestinian Authority (PA) and his Fatah Movement in 2007.

US STATE DEPARTMENT: HAMAS 'WILL NOT GOVERN'

Asked for comment on Gazans' accounts of Hamas levying fees on some goods among other reported activities, a US State Department spokesperson said: "This is why Hamas cannot and will not govern in Gaza".

A new Gaza government can be formed once the United Nations approves Trump's plan, the spokesperson said, adding that progress has been made towards forming the multinational force.

Munther al-Hayek, a Fatah spokesperson in Gaza, said Hamas actions "give a clear indication that Hamas wants to continue to govern".

In the areas held by Israel, small Palestinian groups that oppose Hamas have a foothold, a lingering challenge to it. Gazans continue to endure dire conditions, though more aid has entered since the ceasefire.

WEEK'S BEST PHOTOS



The Northern Lights, also called aurora borealis, illuminate the sky in Sturgis, South Dakota, November 12

REUTERS



Ceverino Macob, 64, wades through the flood as he recovers a roof blown from his house due to strong winds after Typhoon Fung-wong hit Dagupan City, Pangasinan, Philippines, November 10

REUTERS



Cook County Sheriff Police guard protesters outside an ICE processing facility in the Chicago suburb of Broadview, Ill, Friday

AP PHOTO



An Indigenous person sings and dances as they participate in an opening ceremony as part of the People's Summit offsite from the COP30 UN Climate Summit, Wednesday, November 12, in Belem, Brazil

AP PHOTO



Activists, and one dressed in a Pikachu costume, protest Japan's financing of coal and natural gas projects during the COP30 UN Climate Summit, Friday, November 14, 2025, in Belem, Brazil

AP PHOTO

of the day

quote

Trade-related compliance will get strengthened due to this pro-trade development. Indian exporters will get sufficient time in the shipment of goods, on receipt of advance payment

SC RALHAN | FIEO PRESIDENT

Financial inclusion does not only mean access, it also refers to whether people have knowledge about investment and have confidence in market. Hence, it's necessary that we work to bridge the gap between awareness and participation

TUJIN KANTA PANDEY | SEBI CHAIRMAN

India is a market with lowest yields worldwide... if you don't have seat cost that is competitive, then it is very difficult to make it work. With E195-E2 (aircraft) and high density seat configuration, the seat cost is very competitive

RAUL VILLARON | SENIOR VP (HEAD OF REGION FOR ASIA PACIFIC), EMBAER

Q2 RESULTS

Glenmark Pharma net profit surges

New Delhi: Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd Friday reported a 72.2 per cent jump in consolidated profit after tax at Rs 610.43 crore in the second quarter ended September 2025 on the back of its licensing deal with AbbVie for investigational asset 'ISB 2001'. The company had posted a consolidated profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 354.49 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated total revenue from operations was at Rs 6,046.87 crore as against Rs 3,433.8 crore in the same period a year ago, it added. Total expenses in the quarter under review were at Rs 3,894.98 crore as against Rs 3,000.64 crore in the same period last fiscal, the company said.

Dish TV loss widens

New Delhi: Direct-to-home firm Dish TV India Ltd reported a widening of its consolidated net loss to Rs 132.65 crore in the September quarter of FY26 on account of a rise in alternative entertainment options, inflationary pressures, and currency depreciation. The company had reported a net loss of Rs 37.38 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from Dish TV. Its revenue from the operation slipped 27.41 per cent to Rs 291.13 crore in the September quarter. The same was Rs 395.62 crore in the corresponding quarter.

GRM Overseas shines

New Delhi: Leading rice exporter GRM Overseas Ltd Saturday said its net profit has jumped 61 per cent year on year to Rs 14.83 crore in the July-September quarter on higher sales. Total revenue of the company rose by 16 per cent to Rs 372 crore in the second quarter of 2025-26 compared to Rs 330 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal, a company statement said.

Siemens profit drops

New Delhi: Siemens Ltd has reported over 7 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 485 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2025. It had clocked a net profit (or profit after tax) of Rs 523 crore in the July-September period a year ago, the company said.

We would love to lead reforms (at the World Trade Organization). But that reform will be decided in consultation with other developing and less developed countries, so that we can truly work for the welfare of the world and not just the agenda of a few developed nations

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

TATA BRINGS BACK SIERRA

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Saturday unveiled its SUV Sierra in all new avatar. The new Tata Sierra retains its heritage and distinctive design DNA, embodying freedom, individuality, and the spirit of exploration, the Mumbai-based auto major said



US TARIFF HIT

Gems and jewellery exports drop sharply



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 15: India's gems and jewellery exports declined by 30.57 per cent in October to \$2,168.05 million (Rs 19,172.890 crore) compared to the same period of previous year, according to industry body GJEPC.

The overall exports of the sector stood at \$3,122.52 million (Rs 26,237.1 crore) in October 2024, showed the data released by the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC).

"The decline in overall exports in October was mainly due to demand being pushed forward before the US tariff was implemented. Most of the stocking up for the festivals took place before August 27, therefore, in October the demand was down," GJEPC chairman Kirit Bhansali told PTI.

However, he added that in November the exports are expected to pick up again as the Chinese markets are slowly recovering and there will be Christmas demand in other key markets.

Exports of cut and polished diamonds witnessed a decline of 26.97 per cent at \$1,025.99 million (Rs 9,071.41 crore) in October compared to \$1,404.85 million (Rs 11,806.45 crore) re-

The decline in gold and silver exports is triggered by volatile bullion prices

KIRIT BHANSALI | CHAIRMAN, GJEPC

corded in the same period of previous year.

Shipments of polished lab-grown diamonds in October also dipped by 34.90 per cent to \$94.37 million (Rs 834.45 crore) against \$144.96 million (Rs 1,218.25 crore) in the corresponding month of the previous year.

Gold jewellery exports also dropped by 28.4 per cent to \$850.15 million (Rs 7,520.34 crore) compared to \$1,187.34 million (Rs 9,975.17 crore) in the same period of previous year.

Similarly, exports of coloured gemstones during April-October saw a decline of 3.21 per cent to \$250.14 million (in Rs 2,173.08 crore) from \$258.42 million (Rs 2,163.52 crore) of shipments registered in the year-ago period.

Silver jewellery exports during October dipped by 16 per cent to \$121.37 million (Rs 1,072.81 crore) compared to \$145.05 million (Rs 1,219.01 crore) in the same period of 2024, the data showed.

FII fleeing India

Foreign investors are leaving India because of global return gaps, currency pressure and sector preferences

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 15: Foreign institutional investor (FII) selling accelerated in early November, as the total selling crossed Rs 13,925 crore till weekend, NSDL data showed Saturday.

Analysts said that softer earnings in India compared to other markets has accelerated the momentum sell trade in India, which is getting invested in US, China, Taiwan and South Korea, regarded as the beneficiaries of the ongoing AI trade.

However, the AI trade cannot continue for long since there are concerns of a bubble building up in AI stocks, and when the AI trade loses steam, India will attract FII inflows, said Dr VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, adding that the timeline for this prediction cannot be predicted.

The long-term trend of FII buying through the primary market continues with an investment of Rs 7833 crores



Foreign institutional investor selling in Nov crosses Rs 13,925cr	FII investments in India fall to their lowest level in 15 years	For 2025, till now, total FII sell figure through exchanges stood at Rs 2,08,126cr. Meanwhile the total buy figure for the primary market stood at Rs 62,125cr
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so far in November. For 2025, till now, total FII sell figure through exchanges stood at Rs 2,08,126 crores. Meanwhile the total buy figure for the primary market stood at Rs 62,125 crores.

Regarding FPI investing trends, Manoj Purohit, Partner & Leader, Financial Services Tax, Tax and Regulatory Services, BDO India said that inflows have witnessed continuous volatility with some sign of recovery in coming times.

Major factors that contribute to this positive shift are the re-

cord domestic sales during this festive month, sustained corporate earnings growth, ongoing talks on India-US trade deals, he added.

He also cited several reforms and SEBI measures for the positive shift including KYC alignment, simplified account rules and a single-window India Market Access platform.

Meanwhile, the sustained selling has pushed FPI ownership in NSE-listed companies down to 16.9 per cent in the September quarter, marking the lowest level in over 15 years.

Vedanta Aluminium celebrates Children's Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, celebrated Children's Day 2025 with vibrant and inclusive activities across its operations in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh.

The celebrations reached more than 9,000 children through a rich blend of initiatives focused on educational support, cultural engagement, sports, and skill-building, reaffirming Vedanta's commitment to nurturing young minds.



As part of its broader CSR vision, Vedanta Aluminium continues to invest in the holistic development of children

through sustained interventions in education, health, sports, and future-ready skills. Rajiv Kumar, CEO of Vedanta

Tata Power Odisha DISCOMs unite for trekking expedition



BERHAMPUR: TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) has launched OD 2.0 – a two-day trekking expedition at Mahendragiri in Gajapati district, bringing together 45 participants from the four Tata Power Odisha DISCOMs – TPSODL, TPNODL, TPCODL and TPWODL. The event began Saturday and will conclude tomorrow. Participants completed a 5-km trek on Day 1, followed by briefings for rappelling and rock-climbing sessions scheduled for the next day. Designed to promote fitness, endurance, teamwork, situational awareness and cross-company bonding, the expedition leverages Mahendragiri's rugged terrain and serene climate to help participants build resilience and leadership skills.

ICL Fincorp's fresh NCD issue opens November 17

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai, Nov 15: ICL Fincorp is proud to announce the launch of its latest public issue of Secured Redeemable Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs), opening November 17.

With an effective yield of up to 12.62%, this offering presents an attractive and secure investment opportunity for those seeking flexible tenures. The NCD issue will remain open until November 18 and is rated CRISIL BBB- /STABLE. Each NCD carries a face value of Rs 1,000, and the issue offers ten options, with tenures of 13, 24, 36, 60 and 70 months, with monthly, annual and cumulative interest options with interest rates ranging from 10.50%



to 12.62%. The minimum application amount is Rs 10,000, making it accessible to a broad spectrum of investors.

Proceeds from this issue will be strategically deployed to support ICL Fincorp's growth initiatives and further enhance the quality of services offered to our customers and stakeholders across India.

With a legacy of 34 years, ICL Fincorp continues to serve as a trusted financial partner under the visionary leadership of CMD, KG Anilkumar. Its growing presence spans across 10 states – Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Gujarat, West Bengal and Goa, as the firm move steadily towards establishing a pan-India footprint.

LIC showcases digital leap at 44th India International Trade Fair



Mumbai: The LIC pavilion at the 44th India International Trade Fair came alive with activity as JPS Bajaj, Zonal Manager of LIC's Northern Zone, formally inaugurated the stall Friday. Senior officials of the corporation joined him, marking the beginning of a 14-day showcase of LIC's evolving services and citizen-focused initiatives. Visitors to the fair will find detailed information about LIC's wide range of insurance plans, along with insights into career opportunities for those interested in becoming LIC agents. This year, the corporation is placing a strong emphasis on its expanding suite of e-services, reflecting its steady transition toward a paperless, digitally enabled office. In line with this vision, policyholders can now make premium payments through multiple online modes, and easily access policy details through the virtual assistant 'LIC Mitra' on the official website. Information is also available via IVRS (022-68276827) and the dedicated LIC WhatsApp service (8976862090), making support more accessible than ever. As LIC celebrates its 69th anniversary, it continues to reaffirm its place as one of India's most trusted financial institutions. Over the decades, it has introduced innovative products tailored to the needs and changing preferences of millions of Indians.

BoB holds Baroda Kisan Pakhwada

Sambalpur/Angul: Bank of Baroda launched the 8th edition of "Baroda Kisan Pakhwada" across India, with the objective of empowering rural communities by connecting farmers with modern agricultural facilities, government schemes, and integrated banking services. As part of this initiative, Bank of Baroda, Regional Office Sambalpur, organized a Mega Kisan Mela at Shabaghara Ground, Angul, under the Sambalpur Region. The event was honored by the esteemed presence of Shida Pada Nayak, Deputy General Manager (BD), Bhubaneswar Zone, Pratap Pritimaya, ADM, Angul, Debiprasad Mohanty, AGM & Regional Head, Sambalpur Region, Pramod Kumar Panda, Agriculture District Officer, Angul; and Devi Dharitri Kar, BPC, Mission Shakti, Angul Block, along with staff members from various branches of Angul District. More than 400 farmers and women from various Self-Help Groups (SHGs) actively participated in the fair. During the pakhwada, Bank of Baroda sanctioned and disbursed agricultural loans amounting to Rs 20 crore under various schemes and a Total Cheque of Rs 4.5 Crore was distributed at the Mela. These included the Baroda Kisan Credit Card (BKCC), SHG Financing, Food & Agro-Based Loans, Agri Gold Loans, Tractor Loans, and several other agriculture-related credit products. The mela also showcased the bank's key financial services for farmers, such as Kisan Credit Cards, Tractor Loans, Agri Car Loans, Dairy Loans, Food Processing Schemes, Agriculture Infrastructure Loans, and Gold Loans. Farmers were also sensitized about precautions to avoid online fraud and were guided on the safe and effective use of digital banking services.



2024-25 market year witnesses spike in edible oil imports

Edible oil imports up 22% to Rs 1.61 lakh cr in 2024-25 mkt yr; volume flat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: India imported 16 million tonnes of edible oils for nearly Rs 1.61 lakh crore during the 2024-25 marketing year ended October to meet domestic demand, according to industry body SEA.

In the 2023-24 marketing year (November-October), India's edible oil imports stood at 15.96 million tonnes worth Rs 1.32

lakh crore, as per the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) data released recently.

The increase in edible oil imports in value terms was 22 per cent because of higher global prices.

India imports palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia while the soyabean oil comes from Argentina and Brazil.

"To bridge the gap between supply and demand, India has



resorted to imports since 1990s. In the initial period, the import

volume was very low. However, in the last 20 years (2004-05 to

2024-25), import volume has increased by 2.2 times while cost of import has gone up nearly 15 times," the association said.

In 2024-25, India had to spend nearly Rs 1.61 lakh crore (\$18.3 billion) in 2024-25 for import of 160 lakh tonne (16 million tonne) of edible oils, it added.

In volume terms, the imports of edible oils stood at 16.47 million tonne in 2022-23, 14.03 million tonnes in 2021-22 and 13.13 million tonne in 2020-21 marketing year.

During the 2024-25 oil marketing year, SEA data showed

that 17,37,228 tonne of refined oils were imported compared to 19,31,254 tonne in the preceding year.

However, the imports of crude edible oils rose to 142,73,520 tonne from 140,31,317 tonne in the 2023-24 marketing year.

Soyabean oil import set a new record of 5.47 million tonne in 2024-25, beating the previous high of 42.3 lakh tonne in 2015-16. Palm oil import sharply decreased to 7.58 million tonne from 9 million tonne, the association data showed.

JADEJA'S 4/27 SINKS SOUTH AFRICA TO 93 FOR 7 WITH AN OVERALL LEAD OF 63

India on brink of victory

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata, Nov 15: The nightmare of facing Ravindra Jadeja on an Eden Gardens track, deteriorating deliveries, turned into a reality for the South African batters as India closed in on victory by the end of the second day in the opening Test.

At stumps, Jadeja's 4 for 27 in 13 overs saw South Africa in tatters at 93 for 7 with an overall lead of 63. Skipper Temba Bavuma (29 batting off 78 balls) was waging a lone battle but to even fight on the third day, which will certainly be the last of this game, South Africa will need at least 125 runs which looks improbable at the moment.

Once Jadeja came into the attack, Rishabh Pant, the very vocal and amusing stand-in skipper, who till then was giving instructions to Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav, was heard saying on stump microphone: "Jaddu bhai, aap dekh lena," an ample indication that the master craftsman need not be told what ought to be done.

If Simon Harmer's classical off-spin had brought South Africa back into the contest earlier in the day, Jadeja was always going to be a resident menace on a crumbling surface with his immaculate length and ability to attack the stumps, letting the surface take care of the rest.

Left-arm chinaman Kuldeep Yadav accounted for 2/12, while Axar Patel took 1/30, giving Jadeja the perfect support while India's fourth spinner Washington Sundar has bowled only solitary over in the 90 that hosts have bowled across two innings till now.

Bowling at a stretch in a 13-over nonstop spell from the dreaded Club House End,



Jadeja's relentless accuracy on a two-paced, dust-spewing surface swung the game back India's way in a dramatic finish to a day that saw 15 wickets to tumble (discounting Shubman Gill's retired hurt).

Introduced in the ninth over of the innings -- the second after tea -- Jadeja struck almost immediately.

His very first ball turned sharply past Aiden Markram's outside edge; the next one overpitched on middle, turned away, and Markram's attempted sweep ballooned off a thick top-edge to Dhruv Jurel at short leg.

With Kuldeep Yadav having removed Ryan Rickelton (11) in the previous over with a googly, South Africa lost both openers within minutes of wip-

ing the deficit.

Stand-in captain Rishabh Pant, taking charge after Gill's neck spasm, backed Jadeja in a non-stop spell from the more treacherous end. The move paid off handsomely.

Wiaan Mulder (11) feathered a beauty that kissed the outside edge; two balls later Tony de Zorzi (2) was done in by a hint of turn that grazed the glove, clipped pad and looped to short leg.

Tristan Stubbs (5) misread the line and length altogether, beaten on the inside as Jadeja hit middle to claim his fourth -- also his 250th Test wicket in India, behind only Kumble, Harbhajan and Ashwin.

Axar Patel then chipped in from the High Court End, knocking over Kyle Ver-

reynne the South Africa's last recognised batter as the wicketkeeper-batter misfired a slog-sweep after surviving 15 balls.

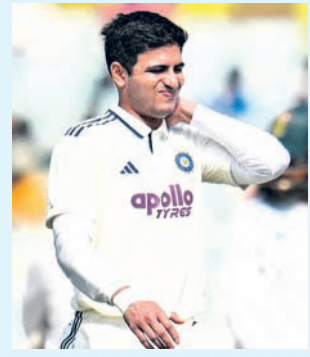
Pitch under spotlight What began as a slightly dry surface Friday transformed into what resembled a fourth-day subcontinental wicket by the second hour of the morning session.

Cracks widened, puffs of dust flew on good-length balls, and bounce became alarmingly variable --conditions former India coach Ravi Shastri termed "ordinary" and ex-England captain Michael Vaughan called "awful".

It is still not clear whether controversial Eden Gardens curator Sujan Mukherjee provided a below par Test track like this on his own volition or was pressurized by any senior member of the support staff.

Neck spasm: Gill likely to miss opening Test

India skipper Shubman Gill's availability for the remainder of the opening Test is in serious doubt after he was stretched into an ambulance with his neck immobilised Saturday evening, hours after retiring hurt during India's first innings on day two at the Eden Gardens. Gill had initially walked off on four clutching the back of his neck Saturday after suffering what appeared to be a whiplash while slog-sweeping Simon Harmer for four. The physio attended to him immediately, and the opener retired hurt on four after facing just three balls. But the situation seemed more concerning later Saturday as he was seen being taken away with his neck secured in a cervical collar, raising further concern about the severity of the injury. South Africa assistant coach Morne Morkel blamed it on bad night's "sleep and not his workload". "Yeah, I think we first need to determine how he got the neck stiffness, maybe just a bad night's sleep. I don't think it's, or we can put it down to the load," Morkel said, when asked if Gill's packed multi-format calendar was a factor.



FIDE WORLD CUP

Arjun upsets Levon, enters quarterfinals



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji (Goa), Nov 15: Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi stormed into the quarterfinals of the FIDE World C up, defeating two-time winner Levon Aronian of United States in the second game of the round of 16 here Saturday.

Arjun was in control throughout, and the fact that his victory came with black pieces speaks volumes about the resilience of the Indian to adapt to different situations in quick time.

Having drawn the first game under classical time control against someone who has been in peak form recently, Arjun was simply at his best in the return game with the black pieces, getting the position to his liking. As far as the opening went, the Indian made it clear that the first drawn game with the slightly favourable colour had little impact on him.

The Italian Opening has been under scrutiny at the World Cup, and Saturday was no exception. The middlegame featured a routine pawn structure, but Arjun was the first to break through in the centre, creating an uneven pawn formation with his knights prowling for kingside damage.

Aronian, generally a cool customer and until recently in fine form, lost his composure for the first time in the event as he found himself saddled with a difficult position to defend. As is often the case in such situations, the Armenian-turned-American ran out of ideas, and his 28th move was testament to that.

Arjun's next move, a pleasing-to-the-eye knight sacrifice, proved to be the final nail, leaving the Indian just three match wins away from annexing the World Cup.

On a day when Grandmaster P Harikrishna played out his second draw on the trot with Jose Eduardo Matinez Alcantara of Mexico, Nodirbek Yakubboev of Uzbekistan cemented his place in the last eight at the expense of Gabriel Sargissian of Armenia. Harikrishna will have to come back for the tiebreaker reserved Sunday to see his fate in the 2 million USD event that also has top three places reserved for the next Candidates tournament.

In other games to end early, Sam Shankland of United States drew with Daniil Dubov of Russia to go to the tiebreaker while the all-Russian duel between Andrey Esipenko and Aleksey Grebnev also will be decided in the shorter format Sunday.

SHORT TAKES

India campaign ends

Kumamoto: Lakshya Sen bowed out in the semifinal of the Japan Masters, a BWF World Tour Super 500 event, losing in three games to hometown favourite Kenta Nishimoto in Kumamoto Saturday. Lakshya started strongly, building an 8-3 lead in the opening game, but Nishimoto turned the momentum with a seven-point burst and edged ahead through steep, well-placed smashes. Although the Indian shuttler fought back to level the scores late in the game, a series of errors at the net allowed Nishimoto to close it out 21-19. Lakshya was the only Indian player alive in the tournament after HS Prannoy bowed out of the tournament following a straight-games defeat in the second round Thursday. Prannoy, who was sixth in the badminton rankings two years ago before injuries and chikungunya halted his progress, lost 21-18, 21-15 against 30th-ranked Rasmus Gemke of Denmark in 46 minutes. India's challenge in the doubles and women's singles events ended Wednesday.

Women's new league

Bangkok: Following the resounding success of the Women's World Cup in India, the ICC Saturday launched a new eight-team global tournament to "promote and expand women's cricket around the world". The inaugural edition, to be held in Bangkok from November 20 till 30, will be called the ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy and will be part of a new three-tier development pathway designed to offer high-performance exposure to upcoming cricketing nations. The eight competing teams are: Thailand, the Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, the United Arab Emirates, Scotland, Namibia, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Argentina beat Angola

Luanda: Lautaro Martinez and Lionel Messi scored and Argentina downed Angola 2-0 in a friendly that closed their 2025 campaign Friday. Angola reportedly paid \$12 million to attract world champion Argentina to the 50th anniversary of the African country's independence from Portugal. More than 50,000 spectators attended and Messi left the field in the final minutes to a standing ovation. Messi set up Martinez in the 44th minute and Martinez repaid the favor in the 82nd. Messi, aiming for his sixth World Cup next year, notched his 115th goal in 196 internationals.

Ryan's journey: From foreign passport to wearing Indian blues

Ryan Williams named in India's squad for AFC Asian Cup 2027 qualifier against Bangladesh

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Banaglore, Nov 15: Indian senior men's team head coach Khalid Jamil Saturday named a 23-member squad that will travel to Dhaka, Bangladesh, for the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Qualifiers Final Round Group C match 18 November.

The Blue Tigers, who had been camping in Bangalore since November 6, will arrive in Dhaka Saturday evening.

While forward Ryan Williams, who recently obtained an Indian passport, will travel to Bangladesh, his inclusion in the matchday squad is subject to the receipt of a No Objection Certificate from Football Australia and the subsequent approvals from FIFA and AFC.

India's hopes of qualifying for the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 have already ended as they slumped to a 1-2 defeat at the hands of Singapore last month after their previous ended in a 1-1 draw.

With the defeat, they are stuck on two points from four matches, and even if they win their remaining games, their maximum tally of eight points will not be enough for them to qualify.

The match between Bangla-



SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Hritthik Tiwari, Sahil.

Defenders: Akash Mishra, Anwar Ali, Bikash Yumnam, Hmingthanmawia Ralte, Jay Gupta, Pramveer, Rahul Bheke, Sandesh Jhingjan.

Midfielders: Brison Fernandes, Lalremtluanga Fanai, Macarton Louis Nickson, Mahesh Singh Naorem, Nikhil Prabhu, Suresh Singh Wangjam.

Forwards: Edmund Lalrindika, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Mohammed Sanan, Rahim Ali, Ryan Williams, Vikram Partap Singh.

desh and India will be played November 18 at 19:30 IST at the National Stadium in Dhaka, and will be streamed live on FanCode.

T20 WORLD CUP

Blind women storm into semis

Maintaining a dominant show, India secure fourth win on the trot defeating the USA by 10 wickets

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 15: India advanced to the semi-finals of the Cricket for the Blind 2025 Women's T20 World Cup with a commanding ten-wicket win over the USA. In only their sixth match of the tournament, India secured their fourth consecutive win, defeating the USA by ten wickets in a contest that was as symbolic as it was one-sided.

For the USA Women's Blind Cricket Team, this was a remarkable occasion. As they made their World Cup debut, the team was assembled from scratch over the past year, shaped through an unprecedented developmental partnership with Indian institutions that identified, trained, and nurtured visually impaired cricketers across the United States.

Opting to bat first, USA fought hard but were limited to 60/8 in 20 overs, owing to India's disciplined bowling and sharp fielding. Tatyana (17 off 41, B2) and Caroline



(12 off 26, B2) demonstrated resilience against a relentless attack, but wickets kept falling as India's bowlers kept tight lines and created pressure throughout.

Simranjeet Kour (B2), Sunita Srathe (B2), Simu Das (B1), and Ganga Kadam (B3) each picked up a wicket, while India's fielders contributed with multiple run-outs — a testament to their coordination across all categories. What followed was an extraordinary display of batting authority. Chasing just 61, India romped home in 3.3 overs with-

out losing a wicket. Player of the Match Simranjeet Kour blasted an unbeaten 31 off 12 balls (B2), while Kavya N.R (B3) complemented her with a swift 21 off 12*, sealing the match in minutes. The gulf in experience showed, yet the spirit displayed by the young USA side reflected the courage and commitment fueling their rise on the global stage.

India now turn their attention to what promises to be one of the marquee fixtures of the tournament: a high-voltage showdown against arch-rivals Pakistan Sunday in Colombo.

IPL mini-auction: KKR, CSK to engage in bidding war

All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and keeper-batter Sanju Samson have been traded to Rajasthan Royals and Chennai Super Kings respectively

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 15: Kolkata Knight Riders and Chennai Super Kings are expected to trigger intense bidding wars with the best purses among the

10 teams at next month's mini IPL auction, to be held in Abu Dhabi December 16.

KKR enter the auction with a purse of Rs 64.30 crore after releasing major non-performing assets in Venkatesh Iyer (Rs 23.75 crore) and Andre Russell (Rs 12 crore), while CSK, despite trading Sanju Samson, have freed up Rs 40 crore by letting go of a host of players.

KKR will be looking to rebuild their squad from scratch, while CSK are likely to revamp their bowling attack and may attempt to buy back Matheesha Pathirana or target Ben Stokes to restore balance, provided he is available after the Ashes.

KKR have also released Quin-



ton de Kock, Moeen Ali and Anrich Nortje, while retaining a core group of players, which includes a blend of exciting young talent and experienced campaigners such as Ajinkya

Rahane, Manish Pandey, Sunil Narine, Varun Chakravarthy, Rinku Singh, Harshit Rana and Angkrish Raghuvanshi.

KKR have 13 slots available, including six overseas slots.

Earlier, charismatic all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and keeper-batter Sanju Samson have been traded to Rajasthan Royals and Chennai Super Kings respectively.

With the deadline for player retention ending later Sunday, CSK stalwart Jadeja has switched base to Rajasthan Royals albeit at a much reduced fee, while Samson, who has led RR for four seasons, will be donning the yellow CSK jersey in IPL 2026.

An IPL media advisory said Saturday that Jadeja's IPL fee had been revised from Rs 18 crore to Rs 14 crore, while Samson will play for CSK at his existing league fee of Rs 18 crore.

One of the most experienced players in the IPL, Samson has played 177 matches in the league with CSK being only his third franchise. He represented RR in all but two seasons — 2016 and 2017 — since making his IPL debut in 2013.

England all-rounder Sam Curran will move from CSK to RR at his existing league fee of Rs 2.4 crore following a successful trade. All the released players will now go into the mini-auction.

PURSE SIZE

- Kolkata Knight Riders (₹64.30 crore)
- Chennai Super Kings (₹43.40 crore)
- Sunrisers Hyderabad (₹25.50 crore)
- Lucknow Super Giants (₹22.95 crore)
- Delhi Capitals (₹21.80 crore)
- Royal Challengers Bengaluru (₹16.40 crore)
- Rajasthan Royals (₹16.05 crore)
- Gujarat Titans (₹12.90 crore)
- Punjab Kings (₹11.50 crore)
- Mumbai Indians (₹2.75 crore)