

India to buy LPG from US

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 17: As India and US continue negotiations on a bilateral trade agreement, Indian public sector oil companies have finalised a one-year contract to import approximately 2.2 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from the US starting in 2026. The deal is expected to contribute to narrowing India's trade surplus with the US—a key concern for President Donald Trump, who has recently imposed a 50% tariff on Indian exports to America. US officials had earlier alleged that India has indirectly supported Russia's war efforts in Ukraine through ongoing energy purchases. Although President Trump had stated that India agreed to halt Russian oil imports, India has continued to procure discounted Russian crude to meet domestic energy needs. India currently sources the bulk of its LPG of its LPG consumption of 31 million tonnes. It sporadically imported cargos from the US but this is the first time it has entered into a structured contract.

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) will import about 48 very-large gas carriers of LPG in 2026. The supplies will be made by super majors Chevron, Phillips and TotalEnergies Trading SA.

India has offered to raise energy imports from the US as part of the bilateral trade deal that has been under discussions for the past couple of months.

New Delhi buys about 8% of its crude oil - the raw material for making petrol and diesel - from the US. In the first half of 2025, India imported about 2,71,000 barrels per day (bpd) of US crude, up 51 per cent from 1,80,000 bpd in H1 2024.

Union Oil Minister Harddeep Singh Puri took to X to announce the LPG deal.

"A historic first! One of the largest and the world's fastest growing LPG markets opens up to the United States," he said.

India imports about 65% requirements from West Asian suppliers, including Qatar, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia. The new agreement positions the United States as an increasingly important contributor to India's energy mix. Observers note that this move may also reflect a strategic shift aimed at strengthening public sector oil companies, potentially tightening competitive pressures on private-sector players within India's petroleum market.



Union Oil Minister Harddeep Singh Puri took to X to announce the LPG deal.

"A historic first! One of the largest and the world's fastest growing LPG markets opens up to the United States," he said.

India imports about 65%

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Only half-baked democracies sentence their leaders to death. Mature ones keep them in jail or push them to defect

Singer Humane Sagar dies at 34

BHUBANESWAR: Popular singer Humane Sagar died Monday while undergoing treatment at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here, a bulletin issued by the health facility said. He was 34. Sagar was admitted to the premier health facility Friday as he was diagnosed with bilateral pneumonia, acute on chronic liver failure (ACLF), multi-organ dysfunction syndrome and other complications, the bulletin said. He breathed his last at 9:08pm, it said.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed grief over the untimely demise of Sagar. "I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of renowned playback singer Humane Sagar. His demise is an irreparable loss to our music and cinema. I convey my condolences to the bereaved family and pray to God for the peace of the departed soul. Om Shanti," Majhi said. In a condolence message, Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik said Sagar's "soulful music has touched the hearts of countless listeners," and his contributions to Odia music will always remain memorable.

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leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
All eyes may be on you today – for your looks, skills, or even your funky bag! Make hay while the sun shines, and charge your batteries with all that attention. You can get some decent work done with that energy, says Ganesha.

TAURUS
You may have a tendency to feel frustrated when the results are not the way you expected, feels Ganesha. You must still work hard and finish whatever you undertake today. You will discuss some vital issues with a close friend and relive cherished secrets with your life partner.

GEMINI
You will lend your innovative and imaginative spark to your initiatives, which will be quite a few, says Ganesha. Love will bring you immense satisfaction. And you will develop a special bond with your spouse or beloved. You, however, are likely to be dragged into a conflict and will be forced to pick a side.

CANCER
Today, every word coming out of your sweetheart's lips will be music to your ears. Your relationship with your relatives will be harmonious. You may steer clear of your troubles, if you learn to restrain. The best way to deal with criticism is to take them constructively.

LEO
The oath of friendship that you once took as a bunch of raggedy misfits still holds true, and your best buddies are the ones who will stand by your side through hell and high water. Ganesha sees in you the desire to cherish such friends and prove your appreciation by treating them with graceful munificence.

VIRGO
The Scales will balance business and entertainment equally well. The day will be like an endless party, says Ganesha. The emptying of pockets will be proportional to the amount of time you spend doing nothing. But spend prudently, advises Ganesha, and let it not worry you.

LIBRA
Connect and Express – these are the two things you must aim for at work today. You tend to do both things supremely well, be it in a business dialogue on phone, in writing, or in meetings. Getting across to people is not an issue today. But all this work aside, the lingering feeling of wanting to chill out with your sweetheart may become more substantial towards the evening.

SCORPIO
Try adding an entirely new dimension to the way you approach relationships today, advises Ganesha. Being tractable will help iron out the creases in relationships with closed ones. But be wary of complete subjugation, warns Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Confidence-building measures will need to be taken up. Be the herald, and usher in new vigour and confidence in people around you. Your business is set to sky-rocket and a fair share of profits are in the offing, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
Memories of the bygone days will flash through your mind, creating a wave of nostalgia and compelling you to get in touch with old pals. On the other hand, there may be a feeling that your loved ones are demanding more than you can give, says Ganesha. But enjoying some light moments with your beloved in the evening will unburden you and charge you up for the next day.

AQUARIUS
Today will be about pleasure and pain! Plumbing, cleaning, grocery shopping, cooking... you can expect anything to weigh you down. Later, you can relax in a hot soak by candlelight, or unwind with a soothing aromatic massage. Ganesha says you'll be grateful for the pleasures only after the pain.

PISCES
A day filled with socialising awaits you, says Ganesha. You will likely make contact with near and dear ones you haven't met in a while. New associations and friendships could also occur. It is a pleasant and joyous day, so make the most of it.



'HAVING CHILDREN HAS HELPED ME TO GRIEVE'

Social media sensation Lottie Tomlinson says having her two children, Lucky, two, and Flossie Grace, 10 months, has helped her to grieve her late mother Johannah Deakin. Lottie was 18 years old when her mum died from leukaemia in 2016, aged 43.

BILLY BOB THORNTON INJURED DURING LANDMAN SHOOT

Actor Billy Bob Thornton suffered an injury whilst filming a fiery family dinner scene in Landman season two episode Death and a Sunset. The 70-year-old actor's injuries from a few pieces of shrapnel were not life-threatening, reports *Female First UK*.



KRITI REVEALS HER WISH LIST

Mumbai: Kriti Sanon has opened up about her long-standing admiration for filmmaker Anand L. Rai while revealing her wish list.

Speaking at the trailer launch of her film *Tere Ishq Mein*, Kriti revealed her long-time desire to star in a love story directed by him—a dream that has always been on her wish list. Expressing the same, the *Heropanti* actress stated, “See, this journey actually started many years ago. Because, I have met Anand sir so many times. And I was after him for years. Sir, I want to do a love story that is directed by you. I think it has always been on my wish list. I love love stories. And I don't know why.”

“There is less love in the world. What is the problem? That love stories started becoming less. I don't know about you. It is my favorite

genre. And I was always craving to be directed by someone like him. You know. Who reaches to the soul. Whose love stories are not so simple. Very complicated like our normal life. It is very layered. There is love. There is pain. And there is fire too. There are many things. And. One fine day. Finally. That opportunity came. That I got *Mukti*,” Sanon added.

IAN S

Deepika reacts to being called Global Indian

Mumbai: Deepika Padukone continues to be one of India's most influential global ambassadors, representing the country across cinema, fashion, business, and major international stages.

In a recent interview with Harper's Bazaar, Deepika reflected on the title often used for her—“Global Indian”—and what it truly means to her.

She explained that growing up, she often observed how Indians looked outward for validation instead of valuing their own identity. “For the longest time, we as Indians have been so influenced by the rest of the world. I always questioned that. Why are we copying what's happening elsewhere instead of leading?” she said.

Deepika added that she never saw the need to alter herself to “fit” global expectations. “If certain cinemas and talent from other parts of the world are accepted globally, why do we need to dilute ourselves? I see that as a lack of knowledge on the other side, not something wrong with us. So for me, ‘global Indian’ is about being proud of who we are, not apologising for it, and taking that to the world.”

On the professional front, Deepika has a strong slate ahead. She is set to appear with Shah Rukh Khan in the much-anticipated film *King*. She will also be seen in director Atlee's upcoming project.

AGENCIES



Shruti's nostalgic dive

Mumbai: Actress Shruti Haasan, who is also known for her singing prowess, treated the netizens with a candid rendition of her beautiful track *Edge*.

In the video dropped by her on her official IG, Shruti can be seen crooning the track in her soulful voice while playing the piano.

Sharing her performance of *Edge* on social media, Shruti penned, “I would have never shared this song if it wasn't for the lovely evening I had performing sanchari , we have the great fortune of performing for thousands but the silence before that applause is where the art meets the artist (sic).”

She revealed that as she went to record her

track for SS Rajamouli and Mahesh Babu's *Varanasi*, composer Kaala Bhairava told her that he loved her song *Edge*, and it meant a lot to her as an independent musician.

Shruti also added that this was the clip she shot during the lockdown before sharing the track with all the music lovers.

“When I went to record this epic track for Varanasi/globetrotter @kaalabhairava7 said I love your song edge and it meant the world to me as an independent musician - so here's the real deal every time I have a great big flash of fortune I will always remember where I began,” she went on to share.

IAN S



Bhubaneswar: The Odia music industry is in mourning following the heartbreaking news of the untimely demise of renowned playback singer Humane Sagar.

Sagar's musical journey began in 2012 when he rose to fame after winning the *Voice of Odisha Season 2*. His victory in the reality singing competition marked the beginning of an illustrious career, where he captured the hearts of millions with his soulful voice and emotive performances.

His breakthrough came soon after when he lent his voice to the title track of Odia blockbuster

ee earning him a loyal fan base. In addition to his successful career in Odia cinema, the 34-year-old also ventured into Hindi music with his album *Mera Yeh Jahan*. His versatility as an artist and his ability to connect with listeners across genres further contributed to his widespread appeal.

In 2017, Humane Sagar married Shriya Mishra, his fellow contestant from *Voice of Odisha Season 2*. The couple has a daughter together.

His most recent release, the song *Kerkeraa* from the film *Charidham – A Journey Within*, came out in September, making it his final contribution to the music world.

The news of Humane Sagar's passing has sent shockwaves through the Odia film and music industry. Calling the death “an irreparable loss”, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said, “I am deeply saddened by the passing of renowned playback singer Humane Sagar. His demise is a loss that cannot be measured. My condolences to his family and fans.”

Odia Language, Literature, and Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj paid his tribute posting, “The untimely demise of Humane Sagar has left us all grief-stricken. His contributions to Odia music will never be forgotten,” Suraj remarked.

PNN

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

S	O	F	A	R	E	V	A	M	P	E	D
Q	A	B	L	C	R	Y					
U	T	I	L	I	S	E	T	R	A	I	N
I	L	D	C	O	I	N	E				
R	U	S	E	S	T	I	R	F	R	Y	
R		R	S			F	I	S			
E	V	E	N	S	O	A	L	L	E	G	E
L	N		S		A		A				
E	D										
S	L	A	A	B	B	D	O				
T	R	E	N	D	B	R	E	E	D		
O	S	R	L	T	A	S					
P	E	S	T	E	R	E	D	A	X	L	E

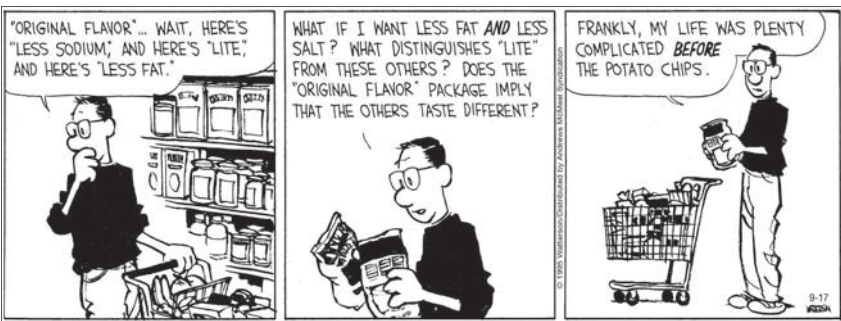
SUDOKU

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

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			8			
9				10		
			12			
11						13
14		15		16	17	
				18		
	19		20		21	
23						22
24				25		26
27					28	

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Across

- Slip away
- Piglets
- Sermon
- Recess
- Eucalyptus eater
- Crown covering
- Necklace dangler
- Blue point
- Fungus
- Periodic event

Down

- Unagi, at a sushi bar
- Après-ski drink
- Peacock's pride
- Redhead's dye
- Antediluvian

- Lawn starter
- Military wear
- Bagpiper's wear
- Liberate
- Checkers type
- Mexican peninsula
- Steal
- Inhabit
- Doctrine
- Diagnostic test
- Roll-call call

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

42 Indians killed in Madinah bus crash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: Forty-two Indian Umrah pilgrims from Telangana were among 44 people killed in a collision involving their bus and a fuel tanker near Madinah in Saudi Arabia in the wee hours of Monday, people familiar with the matter said.

It has been confirmed by local authorities that there is one Indian survivor and he is undergoing medical treatment, they said. It is learnt that two local facilitators on board the bus were also killed in the accident.

The mortal remains of the deceased have been transferred to King Fahad Hospital, King Salman Hospital and Al Miqat Hospital, and officials from the Indian mission in Jeddah are coordinating with the local authorities to handle the situation, the people cited above said.

“The families of the deceased will have an option after mortal remains have been identified for repatriation to India or a local burial at Jannatul Baqi (cemetery in Madinah) as per local customs,” one of the people said. The accident took place nearly 40 km from Madinah at around 11 pm local time, the people said.



LAST JOURNEY: Deadly bus-tanker collision kills 42 Indian Umrah pilgrims near Madinah in Saudi Arabia in the wee hours of Monday

PHOTO: AGENCIES

Dhenkanal bandh hits life

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Nov 17: Normal life came to a halt Monday following 12-hour Dhenkanal bandh in protest against alleged arbitrary actions and exploitation by private power distribution firm Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPCODL).

The bandh was called by the Electricity Consumers Action Committee (ECAC) and supported by the District Bar Association, which spearheaded the agitation.

The shutdown brought normal life to a halt. Roads, including National Highway 55 and several major intersections, were blocked.

Train services were disrupted as protesters staged a rail roko at the Dhenkanal railway station from around 6:30am. Government and private offices, courts, banks, and business establishments remained closed throughout the day.

Protesters set up blockades at several major points along NH-55, including Korian bypass, Tarini Chhak, Kantanali bypass, Mahishapat bypass and Kathagada bypass, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded on the highway. Within the town, several internal roads and lanes—from Bajichowk onward—were also obstructed.



Shops, markets and commercial establishments remained shut, and court proceedings were suspended. Around 10:30am, protesters took out a peaceful rally from Durga Market Court Square, marched through various parts of the town and reached Bajichowk before returning through the areas under the major markets.

Demonstrators raised slogans against TPCODL during the procession.

Houses of suspected B'deshis demolished

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, Nov 17: Authorities in Jagatsinghpur district Monday demolished 10 asbestos-roofed houses at Beherampur after a late-night police raid uncovered a settlement allegedly sheltering suspected Bangladeshi nationals living illegally, officials said at a press briefing held in the conference hall at District Collector's office.

Police raided the site near Dhanipur under Jagatsinghpur police limits late Sunday night after receiving intelligence about foreign nationals residing there, senior officials told reporters. A scuffle broke out during the operation, leaving the Additional SP and two constables injured. Reinforcements later sealed the area.

Two women accused of leading the confrontation were arrested and three others were detained for questioning. Police identified them as house owner Sikandar Alam alias Seiko; Abdul Motalif Khan alias Tiki; Badrunisha, daughter of Abdul Jabar Khan; Parvin Bibi, 34, of Paikakul village; and Sawan Ajmi, 39, wife of Mirza Sajuddin Baig of Tendakura in Kendrapara district. Officers seized a country-made pistol, five rounds of ammunition and seven sharp-edged weapons from the settlement.

Police said more than 30 suspected Bangladeshis fled during the raid, and teams have been formed to track them down.

The District Collector, SP, Additional SP, SDPO and other senior officials were present when the illegal structures erected on government land were demolished Monday morning.

Central Range DIG Satyajit Nayak told reporters that the operation is part of a statewide drive ordered by the Chief Minister and the state police chief to identify Bangladeshi and Myanmarese nationals living illegally. He said undocumented foreigners will be removed from the electoral roll before deportation procedures begin.

District Collector J Sonal said many residents of the settlement claimed to be from West Bengal and produced documents accordingly. The administration will write to the West Bengal government to verify those papers.

SP Ankit Kumar Verma said strict action will follow if the detainees fail to produce valid identification documents.

7 houses razed; 15 detained

Meanwhile, police also raided a settlement at Satapura near Behrampur and Nabakrishna Chowdhury College after receiving intelligence on suspected Bangladeshi infiltrators. Officials said the settlement sits on government land, yet about 20 to 22 houses had been built there with access to electricity and roads. Authorities demolished seven illegal houses and detained about 15 residents for questioning.

SHEIKH HASINA GETS DEATH

The deposed Bangladeshi PM dubs the ICT judgement 'biased' and 'politically motivated'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Nov 17: Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina was Monday sentenced to death in absentia by a special tribunal for "crimes against humanity" over her government's brutal crackdown on student-led protests last year.

In its verdict that followed a months-long trial, the country's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) described the 78-year-old Awami League leader as the "mastermind and principal architect" of the violent repression that killed hundreds of protesters.

Hasina has been living in India since she fled Bangladesh August 5 last year in the face of the massive protests. She was earlier declared a fugitive by the court.

In her reaction, Hasina said

the judgement has been made by a "rigged tribunal established and presided over by an unelected government with no democratic mandate."

"They are biased and politically motivated. In their distasteful call for the death penalty, they reveal the brazen and murderous intent of extremist figures within the interim government to remove Bangladesh's last elected prime minister, and to nullify the Awami League as a political force," she said in a statement.

Hasina said she is not afraid to face her "accusers" in a proper tribunal where the evidence can be weighed and tested fairly.

"That is why I have repeatedly challenged the interim government to bring these charges before the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague," she said.



Reading out the judgement before a heavily guarded courtroom in Dhaka, the ICT said the prosecution proved beyond a reasonable doubt that Hasina was behind the deadly crackdown on student-led protests

in July-August last year.

A UN rights office report had earlier estimated that up to 1,400 people were killed during the month-long agitation, known as the July Uprising.

Hasina was handed the death penalty for ordering the use of deadly force against unarmed protesters, making inflammatory statements and authorising operations that led to the killing of several students in Dhaka and surrounding areas.

In recent media interviews, Hasina described the ICT as a "kangaroo court" run by her opponents.

The ICT, originally set up to try hardened collaborators of Pakistani forces during the 1971 Liberation War, was amended by the current administration to bring leaders of the past regime, including Hasina, under its jurisdiction.

IMEI tampering non-bailable offence

New Delhi: Tampering with telecom identifiers, including the 15-digit IMEI number of mobile phones, are non-bailable offences and can lead to imprisonment of up to three years, fines up to ₹50 lakh, or both, the Department of Telecom (DoT) said Monday. In an advisory issued to all manufacturers, brand owners, importers, and sellers, the DoT asked them to comply fully with the laid legal framework. "The Telecommunications Act, 2023 imposes stringent penalties for tampering with telecommunication identifiers, including IMEI numbers... Penalties for violation include imprisonment for up to three years, fines up to ₹50 lakh, or both," the advisory said. Tampering of telecom identifiers or International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) makes it challenging for law-enforcement agencies to track criminals. "To secure telecom networks and prevent counterfeit devices, the Government of India mandates strict regulations on International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) registration and prohibits tampering, under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and the Telecom Cyber Security Rules, 2024," the advisory said.

NIT-Rourkela patents green tech to revive black terracotta craft

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 17: Researchers from National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela have patented an eco-friendly method to produce black terracotta wares, according to officials.

The research team, led by Swadesh Kumar Pratihari, Professor of Ceramic Engineering, along with Shiv Kumar Verma, senior technical assistant, and Rupesh Mandal, a research graduate from NIT-Rourkela, has developed the process, which merges traditional artisan knowledge with modern technology to produce black terracotta sustainably.

The word terracotta comes from Italian and means "baked earth". In India, it has been extensively used for kitchenware, temple sculptures, and roofing tiles. The most common variety is red terracotta, made by firing clay in the presence of air.

According to Pratihari,



the presence of iron in the clay, when exposed to fire, leads to oxidation, resulting in its characteristic red colour. In chemical terms, ferric oxide produces the red colour in the process. On the other hand, black terracotta wares are known for their contrasting shine and mirror finish.

Black pottery is made in India and its neighbouring regions using techniques that are generations old. One such example is the Nizamabad Black Pottery of Uttar Pradesh, where semi-finished wares are coated with a glaze made of clay and organic vegetable

matter native to the area, referred to as "kabiz".

Polishing with mustard oil gives the surface a mirror finish. It is then fired in a sealed iron vessel along with cow dung, straw, and wood chips. Crafting beautiful black ware requires time, effort, constant monitoring, specialised clay, skilled hands, and organic fuel in solid form.

In Tibet's Nixi village, artisans use coarse red clay mixed with white sand and powdered black baked quartz. The wares are covered with wood logs during firing, and once the desired temperature is reached,

the fire is extinguished using sawdust. The smoke produced in this final step turns the pottery black.

"The existing production method typically requires two days to complete the open-pit firing process, which releases smoke containing many toxic gases, such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, sulfur oxides, and nitrogen oxides, that adversely affect the health of associated workers, including breathing difficulties," Pratihari said.

"With the aim of eliminating the major drawbacks of these generation-old processes and focusing on sustainable development, the patented method developed by us reduces the total firing process to less than seven hours without any adverse impact on the health of working associates and the climate," Pratihari said.

The researchers explained that the key to this process is the indirect heating of as-fabricated bodies in an enclosed vacuum (air-depleted) chamber.



ODISHA STATE ENERGY CONSERVATION AWARD-2025

FELICITATION DAY- 14TH DECEMBER 2025

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30/11/2025

ENERGY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (ELECTRICITY)-CUM-PRINCIPAL CHIEF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR (ODISHA)
POWER HOUSE SQUARE, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
TEL. NO.0674-2394873, FAX: 2391255/ 2391024

0674-2394873

eicelectricityodisha.nic.in

eic-epcei@od.gov.in

@aeicpcei

OIPR-

CM: ‘Brahma Kumaris’ will become a global movement



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: ‘Brahma Kumaris’ will take the form of a global movement, spreading the message of world peace from Mount Abu to New York and Nairobi to London, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said while attending the golden jubilee celebrations of the spiritual organisation, at Janata Maidan here, Monday.

Launching the institution’s ‘Prosperous Odisha, Golden Odisha’ campaign, the CM said that this 50-year journey of the ‘Brahma Kumaris’ is not just a journey of time, it is a journey of awakening humanity, spiritual upliftment and divine service.

“Spiritual lifestyle inspires us to be simple and unpretentious. Through this, we use the resources of nature judiciously. Spiritual lifestyle controls our unbalanced desires and Brahmakumari Sister Shivani, as a spiritual teacher, is teaching this lesson to the whole world. Due to her

service spirit, she has taken a prominent place in the spiritual world of the country today,” the CM said.

He said that ‘Brahma Kumaris’ is helping millions of people overcome depression, addiction and other personal problems by focusing on stress management and emotional well-being. It is also working on women empowerment and social values.

“Starting from this golden jubilee celebration, in the coming days, this institution will take the form of a global movement, spreading the message of world peace from Mount Abu to New York and Nairobi to London. ‘Brahma Kumaris’-Bhubaneswar is also marking all efforts in this direction,” Majhi said, adding that the combined efforts of the government and ‘Brahma Kumaris’ will definitely bring about fruitful changes in the society.

He added that the path of

‘Rajyoga’ and meditation teaches discipline and compassion. “This is essential for good governance in administration. When administration moves with compassion, people feel trust and they strengthen the moral fabric of the society. Just like today, as the Brahma Kumaris has started the campaign for a prosperous Odisha, a golden Odisha, we have also set a target to make Odisha a prosperous and developed state by 2036,” the CM pointed out.

On the occasion, Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said that ‘Brahma Kumaris’ is working to reform the society and improve the human being. “For 50 years, this institution has been guiding us all towards peace and friendship,” Harichandan, who also holds the Excise portfolio, said.

Among others, Ekamra-Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh and former minister Arabinda Dhali also attended the event.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, dated- 13.11.2025, I, Anima Panigrahy, W/o.- Chittaranjan Panigrahy, Vill./P.O.- Bipulingi, Dist.- Ganjam, Odisha-761026, declare that I have changed my name from Anima Kumari Behera to Anima Panigrahy. Henceforth, I shall be known as Anima Panigrahy for all purposes. Anima Panigrahy

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Patnagarh, date 11.11.2025, I Vicky Suna, R/o. At.-Bharuapali, P.O.-Sarmuhan, Dist.-Balangir, Odisha-767026 declare that I have changed my name from Chhotu Suna to Vicky Suna. Henceforth I shall be known as Vicky Suna for all purpose. Vicky Suna

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Patnagarh, date 11.11.2025, I Ranjan Nag, R/o. At.-Bharuapali, P.O.-Sarmuhan, Dist.-Balangir, Odisha-767026 declare that I have changed my name from Bhairiganjan Nag to Ranjan Nag. Henceforth, I shall be known as Ranjan Nag for all purpose. Ranjan Nag

Birla Fertility & IVF marks 3rd anniv



RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Birla Fertility & IVF Centre celebrated its 3rd anniversary in Bhubaneswar, highlighting three years of advanced, ethical, and accessible fertility care for couples across Odisha.

Addressing the media, Centre Head Lipsa Mishra said the centre has grown into “a trusted destination for couples seeking world-class fertility solutions,” attracting strong footfall not only from Bhubaneswar but also from Cuttack, Puri, Khurda, and neighbouring districts.

Reflecting on the journey, Mishra said, “By bringing comprehensive fertility services under one roof, we have reduced travel barriers and encouraged early consultations, especially

among young couples who are now more proactive about reproductive health.”

She noted a significant rise in surrogacy-related enquiries, adding that the Bhubaneswar unit is the region’s first and only registered surrogacy service centre. Emphasising clinical leadership, Mishra shared that she brings over 18 years of experience and has managed more than 18,000 fertility cycles, handling complex cases such as recurrent implantation failure, pregnancy loss, azoospermia, genetic issues, and high-risk female infertility. “We use advanced techniques like Micro-TESE, microfluidics, PGT, immunotherapies, and next-gen culture systems to improve embryo quality and success rates,” she said.

Cyber Safety Campaign-2025 concludes in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, Nov 17: The Cyber Safety Awareness Campaign-2025, launched statewide by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi October 18 with the flagging off of Cyber Campaign Vehicles from Bhubaneswar, began in Ganjam district October 19 with a district-level inauguration at the District Police Office (DPO), Chatrapur, and concluded Monday.

SP Ganjam Suvendu Kumar Patra flagged off the campaign vehicle in the presence of media representatives, police personnel, officials of the DPO, the IIC of Chatrapur PS, the SDPO Chatrapur, women SHG members, and local residents. Addressing the gathering, Patra highlighted the alarming rise in cybercrime across Odisha



and explained the various fraud techniques used by cybercriminals. Stressing the importance of public participation, he said, “Awareness is the key. Through extensive campaigning across all police station jurisdictions, we aim to directly reach the public so they can remain safe in the digital space.”

From October 19 to November 5, the Cyber Safety Campaign was conducted across all 26 police station limits of the district.

HARISH CHANDRA BAXIPATRA’S BIRTH ANNIV

Guv calls for courage, humility & public service

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Monday urged citizens to draw inspiration from the life and values of Late Harish Chandra Baxipatra, calling for courage, humility, and unwavering dedication to public service. He was addressing the 92nd birth anniversary observance of the veteran leader at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar.

The Governor said the greatest tribute to Baxipatra would be to “speak the truth with courage, serve without expectation, and work for those who need us the most.” He described Baxipatra as one of Odisha’s most spirited, principled, and people-centric leaders, whose life was devoted to strengthening democracy, defending rights,



and uplifting the vulnerable.

Reflecting on Baxipatra’s political journey, the Governor noted that his leadership was defined not by titles or positions, but by values and actions. Whether in government, opposition, or among the people, Baxipatra consistently stood with farmers, labourers, and marginalised communities whose voices often go unheard.

Speaking about Baxipatra’s youth activism, Kambhampati

highlighted his role in movements for linguistic pride, social justice, and regional identity, which helped ignite a new era of political consciousness. He added that Baxipatra firmly believed silence during moral crises was never acceptable.

Recalling the Emergency period, the Governor said Baxipatra chose imprisonment over compromising democratic ethics. Kambhampati also shared that he himself was jailed for

six months during emergency following the JP Movement, underscoring the importance of safeguarding democratic rights during challenging times.

The Governor further acknowledged Baxipatra’s contributions to journalism, praising his role as founder-editor of the Odia fortnightly Lokaneeti which promoted democratic debate and informed citizenship. He also commended Baxipatra’s dedication to Odisha’s linguistic and cultural identity, stating that development must always progress alongside heritage preservation.

Concluding his address, the Governor said the spirit of Baxipatra’s life could be summed up in one message: “Positions may come and go, but commitment to the people must remain constant.”

Brown sugar worth ₹40 lakh seized; 1 held

Bhubaneswar: In a major crackdown on illegal narcotics trade, the Special Crime Unit (SCU) of the Twin City Commissionerate Police seized 400 grams of brown sugar worth an approximate market value of Rs 40 lakhs and arrested one accused during a targeted operation near Lingaraj Road Railway Station Sunday evening. The arrested accused has been identified as SK Akbar (29) a resident of Balasore district, while another accused, identified as SK Sadik Mohammad (30), is currently on the run. According to police sources, the operation was launched following specific intelligence regarding the movement of drug peddlers in the city. A surveillance team from the SCU tracked the suspects and intercepted them. During the operation, police recovered 400 grams of brown sugar, one mobile phone and Rs 620 in cash from his possession. The accused has been booked under Sections 21(c) and 29 of the NDPS Act.

775 senior citizens go on pilgrimage



AGENCIES

Berhampur, Nov 17: A special pilgrim train carrying 775 senior citizens from five districts of Odisha left Berhampur Monday for Omkareshwar and Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh under the state government’s Baristha Nagarika Tirtha

Yatra Yojana, aimed at facilitating pilgrimages for elderly citizens.

Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida, who also holds the Tourism portfolio, flagged off the train in presence of Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena, Forest, Environment and Cli-

mate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia and several MLAs. The pilgrims will return to Berhampur November 21.

Health check-ups were conducted for all passengers at a special camp near the railway station before departure.

Pilgrims from other districts arrived here Sunday, with the Ganjam district administration providing accommodation and food.

Under the scheme, the government will conduct 10 trips from different stations, including Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Sambalpur, Rayagada and Balasore, during the year.

A similar special train left Berhampur September 19 for Ayodhya and Varanasi.

Manipal Hospitals wins Best Multi-Speciality title

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Manipal Hospitals, Bhubaneswar has once again been named the Best Multi-Speciality Private Hospital in Bhubaneswar in the “The Week-Hansa Research Survey 2025: Best Hospitals in India.” This marks the hospital’s third consecutive year receiving the honour.

The award was presented in New Delhi by Delhi Lok Sabha MP Bansuri Swaraj, in the presence of Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Anupriya Patel. Representing the hospital at the ceremony were Shaktimaya Mohapatra,



Cluster Director-South East; Sunil Dash, Director – Orthopaedics; and Harpreet Kaur, Senior Consultant, Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

Recognised as one of India’s most credible hospital-ranking

systems, the Week-Hansa Research Survey evaluates institutions based on patient satisfaction, transparency, accessibility, innovation, and overall clinical performance.

Chairman of Manipal Hospi-

tals, Sudarshan Ballal, said the recognition reflects the medical expertise and dedication of the hospital team. “This honour is a reflection of the expertise, dedication, and clinical excellence of our doctors. It highlights our commitment to delivering world-class healthcare,” he stated.

Expressing pride in the achievement, Mohapatra said, “Receiving this award for the third consecutive year symbolises the strong trust people place in us. Our success stems from an experienced team of doctors, advanced technologies, and our constant focus on patient care.”

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.65 ▼ 0.10	SENSEX	84950.95 ▲ 388.17	GOLD	₹122,897 ▼ ₹66
EURO	102.907 ▼ 0.19	NIFTY	26013.45 ▲ 103.40	SILVER	₹155,290 ▼ ₹72

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	29.7°	27.2°	Dry weather very likely
Min Temp	12.9°	13.2°	
Humidity	57%	74%	
Rainfall	NII	NII	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

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

SRI AUROBINDO



Hasina’s Death Penalty

A tribunal in Bangladesh has sentenced former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina November 17 to death. The verdict was pronounced after convicting her of crimes against humanity, including murder and ordering the use of lethal weapons against protesters during the student uprising that ultimately ousted her last year. Hasina was doomed to get the harshest punishment from the moment the trial, conducted in absentia as Hasina had fled into exile, had begun. The verdict was only predictable as it was clear, even to the most naïve, that she would be held to account for the killings of hundreds of civilians during the protests, which began peacefully but turned into a violent revolution after security forces ruthlessly suppressed the movement. The brutality of the crackdown was played out before the world on social media as scenes of repression were witnessed with students even jumping to death and injuries when police raided their university campus.

Hasina, of course, denied involvement in any atrocities and criticized the court proceedings against her. Her conviction came alongside her ex-interior minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and former police chief, Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun who was, however, the only defendant present in court when the sentence was read out. He had pleaded guilty in July for his role in last year’s unrest and testified as a state witness.

It is significant that the verdict was in consonance with the promises made by the interim government of Muhammad Yunus, tasked with leading that country out of the brief spell of bloodshed and mayhem into a stable electoral democracy with free and fair elections. During the trial, prosecutors told the court they had uncovered evidence of Hasina’s direct command to use lethal force to suppress the student-led uprising. Trial in absentia is always mired in controversy and doubt is cast on the fairness of the proceedings. There is no guarantee whether the verdict is made with due diligence and Hasina has already pleaded that she is ready to face any trial conducted under an elected government. True, she could not defend herself, but the prosecution is vocal that she did not use the opportunity offered to her to present her case. Predictably, a spokesperson for the interim government of Yunus denied the trial was politically motivated and claimed the court had functioned transparently allowing observers and publishing regular documentation.

Even if the trial proceedings appear suspect, one thing is clear that the crisis in Bangladesh will be further deepened with the elections due in February, 2026. The Opposition Awami League has indicated following the verdict that in all likelihood its supporters will boycott the elections since they do not expect there could be fair polls under the caretaker government.

India is in a tricky situation. It is a foregone conclusion that the Indian government will not extradite Hasina to face the sentence since she is the most pro-Indian politician in Bangladesh. The government of Yunus will certainly try to bring her back to the country. Most people in Bangladesh affected by Hasina’s rule erupted in joy when the verdict was announced. They would not accept India’s refusal to withdraw the asylum given to her. Anti-India waves or protests are likely to continue.

The interim government of Bangladesh will have to proceed cautiously in this regard since the success of its efforts to improve its economy hinges on huge trade and investment by foreign countries. To give his due, Yunus has been able to improve his country’s economy a little. But, foreign investment would come only when there is peace and stability in Bangladesh which appears to be a far cry. With the death sentence slapped on Hasina, things look even gloomier.

Bangladesh should be treated as a textbook case for democratically elected leaders nurturing ambitions of dictatorial actions. Although Hasina won through the ballot and was elected over and over again, there were doubts cast on her last election results as being manipulated. These allegations sound like rumors and can never be proven, similar to allegations of corruption at the top most level. Yet once those seeds are planted, very many plants start growing in the minds of the populace. Restiveness among the common citizen could erupt in violence at the slightest opportunity. Hasina used the police and the para military to suppress her own citizens. When the unarmed people rose up in protest against her, the mightily armed forces ran helter skelter, as could be seen on social media. Ears to the ground and feelings for the people are the best means to govern any nation democratically. Otherwise, it is the top echelon, the leader and her closest cohorts who always get to run away or, if caught, hanged.

WISDOM CORNER

He who has no attachments can really love others, for his love is pure and divine

BHAGVAD GITA

Someone has riches and is unable to enjoy them, it's the same as if he had nothing.

PANCHATANTRA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

CHINESE PROVERB

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1626: Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, which replaced an earlier basilica, was consecrated; it is the second largest religious building in Christendom.

1928: Walt Disney released Steamboat Willie, the first animated film with sound to feature Mickey Mouse; the huge success of the cartoon helped make Mickey an iconic character and led to the Disney Company's dominance in the animated market.

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FINDING A HOUSE

Two police officers saw this old woman staggering down the street, stopping her they can tell she has had far too much to drink and instead of taking her to jail they decide to just drive her home. They loaded her into the police cruiser one of the officers gets in the back with the drunk woman. As they drove through the streets they kept asking the woman where she lived, all she would say as she stroked the officer's arm is "Your Passionate.".They drove a while

longer and asked again,

the same response as she stroked his arm

"Your Passionate." The officers were getting a little upset so they stopped the car and said to the woman, " Look we have driven around this City for two hours and you still haven't told us where you live." She replied I keep trying to tell you: "Your Passin It!"

power post

FOCUS BIHAR ELECTIONS

VICTORY UNDER CLOUD

An election commission that these days is defended only by the BJP, and otherwise stands discredited, is a deeper loss that cannot be washed away by the victory celebrations of the BJP or its allies

both bowing to the mandate of the people and their power to decide the political futures of candidates. They rob the system of its integrity, of its finality in the reading and the enforcing of the will of the people and therefore do injustice not only to the losers but also to the winners and to the political system as a whole. In this reading, the ECI has let all sides down by not keeping itself beyond allegations and suspicions that now cloud its various actions.

In Bihar, too, like has happened in earlier elections in Maharashtra and Haryana for example, the winning side will have to contend with the allegations that they romped home with an umpire whose role remains hotly contested, placing the fairness of the entire electoral process under a cloud.

On the one hand, the plain numbers from the Bihar 2025 Assembly results reiterate the overwhelming dominance of the Narendra Modi-led BJP machinery and its mastery

of alliances, messages and imagery. Apart from its general strengths, a variety of Bihar-specific reasons are also being cited, examples of which are Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's so-called popularity or long service, the Rs.10,000 per woman giveaway to 75 lakh women in Bihar in the thick of election season which almost certainly made a difference, or longer term actions that have reportedly won the hearts of women voters like prohibition and claims of improved law & order across the State.

This standard ex post facto reading, that builds on the lines argued by the incumbents in the election, reflects some ground realities — but can it convincingly explain the landslide that brought 202 of the 243 seats to the NDA alliance?

The counter argument, equally valid, would ask how a nine-time Chief Minister who has been called paltu-Ram for his changing affiliations and criticised for not being in control or for being "hijacked" by

the BJP, can lead a victory of these proportions. Even considering the backbone of BJP's superior strategy and resources in the system, this was an incumbency that has not particularly seen Bihar flourish. The lack of jobs for the youth or lack of investments is the flip side of the coin that buys voter loyalty with gifts and giveaways, even if these will mar long term governance and fiscal management. Outmigration for work remains the bane of Bihar and mirrors the lack of opportunities built in the state to provide decent employment for the masses.

It is equally fair to note that there was some disarray in the ranks of the Opposition, but also energy seen in the rallies led by the Rashtriya Janata Dal's Tejashwi Yadav, the Chief Ministerial candidate of the RJD-Congress-led Mahagathbandhan alliance. The Vote Adhikaar awareness rallies by the Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi were also noted for the good response received at the grassroots.

The growing crescendo on the issue of fairness of the electoral process cannot be dismissed easily. What the winners do not realize is that they may well have won but they too have been robbed of the prize because when the doubts linger, the victory is but pyrrhic. The angst this causes among people and political parties will likely play out in some very complex and challenging ways in the days ahead.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal

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SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

A turning point for clean energy

This year marks a historic milestone: for the first time, global renewable-energy production has surpassed coal. In the first half of 2025, renewables accounted for more than 34% of the world's electricity, while coal's share fell to just above 33%. Notably, these gains were largely driven by emerging economies.

As the world's attention turns to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Brazil (COP30), this milestone serves as a powerful reminder that the clean-energy transition is already underway. Having led investments at the US International Development Finance Corporation and now serving as chief investment officer at the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, I know a promising business opportunity when I see one.

According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), 91% of new renewable-energy projects are now cheaper than their fossil-fuel counterparts. This finding provides clear evidence that, despite the ongoing growth in coal and oil use, renewables are both economically and technically viable throughout much of the world.

We cannot afford to let today's momentum slip away. To reduce climate pollution, promote sustainable economic growth, and strengthen energy resilience where it is needed most, we must build on these

achievements. As we approach the tenth anniversary of the Paris climate agreement, meaningful global climate action is still possible, even in the face of escalating geopolitical tensions and competing national priorities.

Yet such progress is inherently fragile. All too often, clean-energy adoption stalls once the infrastructure is in place. Solar projects, for example, can fail when communities lack the necessary tools and financing to make full use of the electricity they produce.

Providing solar panels is not enough. To lock in the benefits of renewables, governments must invest not only in power generation but also in systems, training, and equipment—such as electric mills and water pumps—that enable communities and countries to harness clean energy for business growth and job creation.

When implemented effectively, such investments deliver benefits across the board. Climate goals advance as renewable replace costly, polluting fuels. Communities gain access to affordable power, enabling them to improve education and healthcare, create jobs, and raise incomes. And with energy companies profiting from rising demand, emerging economies can attract new investment.

The challenge is enormous, but so is the opportunity. The World Bank projects that 1.2 billion young people in developing

economies will reach working age over the next decade, but that only 420 million new jobs will be created by then. Access to clean energy, and the opportunities it brings, offers a way to bridge this gap before it becomes a global crisis.

The World Economic Forum estimates that the renewables industry alone could generate more than 30 million jobs and mobilize \$2.2-2.8 trillion annually. Embedding renewable technologies into other downstream sectors such as industry and agriculture could create a further 500 million new jobs and improve the quality of 700 million existing ones.

To succeed, we must align energy policies with broader development objectives, integrate renewables into local industries, and accelerate investment in the equipment and training needed to use it effectively. Across Africa, this approach is already delivering tangible results. In Nigeria, farmers and traders are increasingly using solar-powered irrigation pumps, cold-storage facilities, and mills. These investments, in turn, have fueled a wave of distributed renewable-energy projects that are rapidly transforming local power systems.

In the Amazon, where COP30 is underway, the government of Brazil is investing \$800 million to expand energy access and transition away from reliance on diesel. My organization is helping to ensure that this new renew-

able energy creates jobs and powers sustainable economic development for thousands of farmers and entrepreneurs.

India offers a useful model for emerging economies seeking to strengthen their power grids and absorb growing renewable capacity. In New Delhi, the country's first commercial, utility-scale battery-energy storage system—the largest in South Asia—now guarantees a reliable supply of clean electricity to 100,000 low-income households and businesses. Meanwhile, solar plants in Rajasthan provide steady daytime power to 40,000 farmers. And in Uttar Pradesh, a women's entrepreneurship program aims to help 500,000 women-owned businesses adopt clean-energy technologies by 2030.

Together, these examples show that the clean-energy transition is within reach.

The choice before us is clear: continue investing in renewables or slide back into fossil-fuel dependence. By making clean energy the foundation for job creation and economic opportunity, we can turn today's milestones into a future where clean power drives growth and ensures prosperity for all.

THE CHOICE BEFORE US IS CLEAR: CONTINUE INVESTING IN RENEWABLES OR SLIDE BACK INTO FOSSIL-FUEL DEPENDENCE

Agnes Dasewicz

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Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgardi Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Nitish makes history

Sir, The combined victory of NDA and JDU as winner and runner up in the Bihar electoral has made the Nitish Kumar, the most victorious CM so far. The RJD, Congress and many other potential independents were unable to unlock their electoral luck this time. The Bihar electoral is another confirmation that Modi magic is still relevant in India, especially among the Gen Z voter group. The oath ceremony is announced for November 20, and this will be a deciding factor that what new in the cabinet formation will be going to be appeared. Meanwhile the duo of NDA with JDU had scripted the history and by emerging highest voter gainer party this time. It is crucial now to look forward, that how would Nitish Kumar revamp the state of Bihar in terms of governance and administration. It's time for celebration for all the Nitish and Modi lovers.

Kirti Wadhawan, KANPUR

Unethical practice

Sir, It is unfortunate that Hwaseung Enterprises, a major South Korean footwear company, has decided to relocate to Andhra Pradesh (AP) after signing an agreement with the Tamil Nadu (TN) government to establish a non-leather footwear manufacturing facility in Tirunelveli district at a cost of Rs 1,720 crore. Andhra Pradesh appears to have lured the Korean investor with free land and higher subsidies for power and other resources. Armed with AP's new term sheet, the firm attempted to pressure the TN government into matching the rival package. Recognizing this unethical attempt to extract further benefits in violation of the existing agreement, the TN government rightly refused. If AP is guilty of poaching an investment already sealed by the Korean company, the firm itself deserves condemnation for breach of trust. The TN government should also claim damages from the investor for breach of trust. Such opportunistic behavior undermines investor credibility and sets a dangerous precedent. TN must now strengthen its legal framework to deter similar incidents and protect future investments.

Tharcus S Fernando, CHENNAI

Breakthroughs at Khangri Glacier

The week-long expedition, conducted from November 8 to 14, aims to deepen scientific understanding of glacier dynamics, climate change impacts and water resource sustainability in the Eastern Himalayas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, Nov 17: The fourth Khangri Glacier scientific expedition has achieved major scientific milestones, including the first-ever reconnaissance of the high-risk Dharkha Tso glacial lake and the discovery of aquatic life at a depth of 20 metres in Rani Lake, in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district.

The week-long expedition, conducted from November 8 to 14, is a joint flagship initiative of the Centre for Earth Sciences and Himalayan Studies (CESHS) here, and the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) under the

Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.

CESHS Director Tana Tage said the mission aims to deepen scientific understanding of glacier dynamics, climate change impacts and water resource sustainability in the Eastern Himalayas.

Since its launch in 2023, the expedition series has focused on long-term glacier monitoring to build robust datasets critical for cryospheric and hydrological research.

Led by senior glaciologist Dr Parmanand Sharma and coordinated by Nyelam Sunil, the 2025 team comprised 11 scientists and engineers from CESHS, NCPOR Goa, Nagaland University and North East Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST) near here.

Despite heavy snowfall preventing access to the glacier for summer mass balance measurements, the team successfully carried out high-resolution aerial surveys of the Khangri Glacier and the Rani Lake using advanced drone platforms equipped with precision sensors, Tage said.



A landmark achievement of this year's expedition was the first scientific scaling and reconnaissance of Dharkha Tso, one of the 29 GLOF-susceptible lakes identified by NDMA in Arunachal Pradesh

A significant breakthrough came from an unmanned sonar-based bathymetric survey of Rani Lake, which revealed aquatic life at 20 metres, an important finding in a high-altitude glacial environment, he said.

Researchers also retrieved critical summer-season data

from the automatic weather station (AWS) and automatic water level recorder (AWRL) installed earlier on the glacier. Additionally, they completed 24-hour stream discharge assessments downstream of Khangri Glacier to analyse meltwater behaviour and hydrological variations.

drological variations.

A landmark achievement of this year's expedition was the first scientific scaling and reconnaissance of Dharkha Tso, one of the 29 GLOF-susceptible lakes identified by NDMA in Arunachal Pradesh.

Dharkha Tso, located at 16,145 ft in Mirathang Valley, has no direct access route and required an arduous ascent of 3.8 km.

The team trekked through more than 3 feet of snow across a 700-metre stretch, navigating low oxygen levels, steep ridges, slippery trails and hazardous gorges. Despite the conditions, the scientists reached the lake and completed aerial drone mapping along with water and sediment sampling for detailed GLOF hazard assessment, Tage added.

CESHS said the successful completion of the fourth expedition marks a significant step forward in India's scientific efforts to study glacier health, meltwater contribution, hydrometeorological patterns and glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) risks in the Eastern Himalayas.

Bombay HC permits capture of wild elephant Omkar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 17: The Kolhapur bench of Bombay High Court has permitted the capture of 'Omkar', a wild elephant that has strayed from its herd, and its temporary translocation to Vantara in Gujarat.

A bench of Justices MS Karnik and Ajit Kadethankar, in the order passed last week, said the capture shall be done with necessary precautions to ensure Omkar is not harmed or traumatized during the operation.

"Vantara shall oversee the welfare and training of Omkar, with minimal human intervention," the HC order said.

The order was passed on a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by one Rohit Kamble raising concerns over the protection and welfare of Omkar, which after straying from its herd had entered human habitation areas.

Kamble challenged the order passed by the state forest department for translocation/rehabilitation of Omkar to Vantara arguing the place would not be suited for a wild elephant.

As per the plea, the elephant had entered Maharashtra from Karnataka as part of natural migration after which it strayed from its herd.

As per the forest department, it was necessary to capture Omkar- who was roaming in Sindhudurg and Kolhapur districts - as the elephant was posing a threat not just to itself but also to human life and property.

The department further said only Radha Krishna Temple Elephant Welfare Trust (Vantara) in Gujarat has expressed willingness to accommodate Omkar and to provide it shelter, training and rehabilitation.

As per the department, this translocation would be temporary and a Supreme Court set up high powered committee would submit its recommendation on the long term plan for Omkar.

Petitioner Kamble, however, opposed this and said shifting the elephant from Maharashtra to Gujarat would result in him losing his natural instincts.

Vantara in Gujarat has expressed willingness to accommodate Omkar and to provide it shelter, training and rehabilitation

As per the forest department, the translocation of Omkar to Vantara would be temporary and that a final decision on its long-term management would be taken based on the recommendation of a high-powered committee

Kamble further submitted that no law in the country permits wildlife to be handed over/transferred to any private entity as proposed by the forest department in Omkar's case.

Kamble contended that Vantara is majorly sheltering captive and bonded elephants and not wild elephants.

The petition sought for the elephant to be rehabilitated at Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary in Kolhapur or any other such natural habitat near Kolhapur.

The court, in its order, noted that there have been several instances of damage caused by Omkar, adding it became aggressive and killed a man in Dodamarg in Sindhudurg district in April.

As per the forest department, Omkar was around 10 years old and, hence, it would not be feasible to release it in the wild since it would not be able to fend for itself.

The court also noted that in November, an "unfortunate and inhuman" incident occurred wherein certain persons hurled powerful fire crackers at Omkar while it was bathing.

Elephants play a crucial ecological role and their activities shape and sustain the environments they inhabit, the HC said. "Elephants are officially classified as endangered in India, reflecting the serious threats they face. Elephant population in India is under constant pressure from habitat loss, fragmentation, and human-elephant conflict. It thus becomes crucial to protect the elephant species to ensure the sustenance and balance of the forest ecology," the HC said.

COSTS SOAR, MECHANISATION LAGS

Maha sees decline in cotton farming

In 2020-21, cotton was cultivated on 45.45 lakh hectares across Maharashtra, with an output of 101.05 lakh bales (each bale weighs 170 kilograms), by 2024-25, the area dropped to 40.86 lakh hectares, and the projected production is 87.63 lakh bales

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Nov 17: Cotton cultivation in Maharashtra has shrunk by nearly 4.59 lakh hectares over four years as high labour costs and lack of mechanisation push farmers towards soybean, a cotton expert said.

In 2020-21, cotton was cultivated on 45.45 lakh hectares across Maharashtra, with an output of 101.05 lakh bales (each bale weighs 170 kilograms).

By 2024-25, the area dropped to 40.86 lakh hectares, and the projected production is 87.63 lakh bales, according to data from the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the Cotton Research Centre, Nanded.



Dr Arvind Pandagale, an agronomist from the Cotton Research Centre, told PTI that cotton cultivation is largely being replaced by soybean.

"Cotton has to be picked by hand. The labour cost for cotton picking is ₹10 per kg. The selling price is not more than ₹70 per kg. Plus, the crop needs spraying of pesticides, and the manpower required for this is a big and costly part," he said.

"The cost of growing cotton is increasing, which is why the area under cotton cultivation in Maharashtra is declining," he added. Another problem is the difficulty in plucking cotton, Pandagale pointed out.

"Cotton plucking should be mechanised to address the labour shortage. But the machines available in India also collect leaves and other unwanted materials along with the cotton. Several industries across the country are working to develop more efficient cotton-plucking machines," he said.

In other countries, cotton is picked by machines, and their plants do not grow taller than 3.5 to 4 feet, Pandagale said.

"In India, the plants can reach up to 7 feet. We are trying to reduce the height of cotton plants with the help of research. In India, farmers use

a 'straight variety' of cotton seeds. In countries like Brazil and Australia, they use hybrid seeds. The straight variety allows for plucking the cotton 2-3 times, which is not possible with hybrid seeds," he added.

Aba Kolhe, a cotton farmer from Ghosla village in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district, also pointed out high labour costs and other problems.

"This year, due to heavy rain during harvest, the cotton balls lost weight. As a result, workers are not willing to pick them even if we pay ₹20 per kg. Except in 2021-22, we haven't got a good price for the crop. So we have reduced the area of cultivation compared to 2019," he said.

Kolhe said that till 2019, he used to grow cotton on all 11 acres of his land. "Now, I grow cotton on only half of that land," he added.

Cotton imports in the country are likely to increase this year compared to the exports, as per the official data.

In 2021-22, India imported 21.13 lakh bales of cotton and exported 42.25 lakh bales.

The expected import for 2024-25 is 25 lakh bales, while the export is likely to drop to 18 lakh bales, as per statistics provided by the Committee on Cotton Production & Consumption.

CNG outage cripples Mumbai

Mumbai's transport limps as pipeline damage hits CNG supply; restoration by Tuesday noon, says MGL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 17: CNG pumps in Mumbai witnessed long queues for refuelling Monday after a major gas pipeline was damaged, disrupting supply and affecting thousands of autorickshaws, taxis and other CNG-run vehicles.

Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) said compressed natural gas supply to pumps in the financial capital will be restored by Tuesday noon. It also said nearly 60 per cent, or 225 of the 389 CNG pumps supplying gas to the megapolis, are operational.

"Due to stoppage of gas supply in CGS Wadala, and thereby the MGL pipeline network, few CNG stations in Mumbai, Thane, and Navi Mumbai are not operational," MGL said in a statement, which came after reports of widespread inconvenience to people in the city.

"The rectification work is in progress and the restoration of gas supply is expected by tomorrow, i.e. by 18th November 2025 noon," it added.

The utility reiterated that piped natural gas supply to homes has been on.



Several CNG pumps in the city have remained shut since morning due to low gas pressure, a representative of a local petrol dealers' body, however, said.

A large number of autorickshaws and taxis, including those operated by aggregators like Ola and Uber, and some buses run by public transport undertakings in the city, rely on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) supplied by MGL.

In a statement issued Sunday night, MGL said the disruption occurred due to third-party damage to GAIL's main gas supply pipeline inside the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers (RCF) compound, affecting flow to its City Gate Station (CGS) at Wadala, a key entry point for gas supply to Mumbai.

Mumbai has 130 to 140 CNG pumps, including MGL's own facilities. Many CNG pumps in the city have been non-functional since morning due to low gas supply pressure, Petrol Dealers Association (Mumbai) president Chetan Modi told PTI.

Arunachal to develop 1962 Walong battlefield as tourist site

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, Nov 17: Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein has stated that the sacrifices of the martyrs of the 1962 Battle of Walong will forever remain engraved in the nation's collective memory, as he pledged to develop Walong into a major historical and tourism destination of the state.

Leading the 63rd commemoration of the historic Battle of Walong in Anjaw district of the state Sunday, Mein recalled how 800 Indian soldiers held their ground for 27 days against nearly 4,000 enemy troops in the harsh terrain of Kibithoo, Namti, and the tri-junction, an official statement said here Monday.

The deputy chief minister stated that the bravery and devotion of the Indian Army remain 'one of the most valiant chapters' in the country's military history. He also acknowledged the unwavering support of the local community, calling their solidarity with the Army pumps, including MGL's own facilities. Many CNG pumps in the city have been non-functional since morning due to low gas supply pressure, Petrol Dealers Association (Mumbai) president Chetan Modi told PTI.

Mein expressed deep gratitude to the families of the soldiers present at the event, honouring their resilience and sacrifice.

He said this year's commem-



oration was the grandest ever and affirmed that the tradition of honouring India's heroes would continue with greater commitment.

Reiterating the government's resolve to promote Walong as a historical and tourism centre, the deputy chief minister highlighted initiatives such as the annual sunrise festival, a war memorial museum, and major enhancements in digital and road connectivity.

He also lauded the Dao Division of the Indian Army for organising treks, expeditions, the Walong half-marathon and vibrant cultural performances by the Monpas, Tai Khamtis, Army personnel of Northeast India and Gatka teams.

After arriving in Walong Saturday, Mein inaugurated a high flag post bearing the National Tricolour and new tourist infrastructure at Bara Kundun under Kibithoo circle in the

border district.

The project, he said, is another step towards boosting border tourism, improving connectivity and creating new opportunities for local communities.

Mein also visited the Helmet Top war memorial at 8,500 feet and offered floral tributes to the soldiers who fought valiantly during the 1962 battle. He interacted with soldiers of 16 Bihar B-Coy stationed

The Battle of Walong at Anjaw District remains one of the proudest chapters of Indian military history - the Indian counterattack during the 1962 Indo-China War

at the post.

During the observance, Mein met honorary Captain (Retd) Karnail Singh, a veteran of the Battle of Walong who fought with the 4 Sikh Regiment at the age of 24 and was held captive by the PLA for six months before being released.

He also interacted with Maj Gen (Retd) Narpat Singh Rajpurohit from Jodhpur, who continues to work for the welfare of ex-servicemen as part of the Akhil Bharatiya Purva Sainik Seva Parishad.

Among those present were state Women and Child Development minister Dasanglu Pul, MLAs Dr Mohesh Chai, Mopi Mihi and Punnoy Apum, Lt Gen Ram Chander Tiwari, GOC-in-C Eastern Command, and Lt Gen A S Pendharkar, GOC 3 Corps, along with senior Army officers and soldiers.

of the day quote

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is dreaming of a split in the Congress and the comments he is making in this regard are absolutely baseless

ASHOK GEHLOT | EX RAJASTHAN CM

India's seed market is among the fastest-growing in the world, currently estimated at around USD 7.8 billion and projected to reach nearly USD 19 billion by 2030. India ranks fifth globally after the US, China, France and Brazil, and more than 95 per cent of seeds used within the country are produced domestically. This directly strengthens the Make in India mission

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA CM

Health care in West Bengal achieves yet another milestone. #Swasthyaingit, a unique GoWB initiative to connect remote areas with higher level health facilities through telemedicine, crossed 7 crores consultations landmark today

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

SHORT TAKES

Govt raises print ad rates by 26%

New Delhi: The government Monday said it has decided to increase print media advertisement rates by 26 per cent. This will yield several significant benefits, both for the government and the media landscape, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said in a statement. "The media rates for print media per sq cm for 1 lakh copies of dailies in the black and white advertisement have been enhanced from ₹47.40 to ₹59.68, an increase of 26 per cent," it said. The government has also agreed to the recommendations of the Rate Structure Committee (RSC) relating to premium rates to be offered for colour advertisements and preferential positioning.

2 bikers killed in hit-and-run case

Mirzapur (UP): Two men were killed Monday after an unidentified vehicle hit the bike they were riding near a village in this Uttar Pradesh district, police said. The victims – Inzam (25) and Israel (22), both from Sadi Bankat village in Mirzapur district – were painters by profession, Padri SHO Ajit Singh said. The duo was killed on the spot after an unidentified vehicle rammed into their motorcycle near Kapsaur village, about 30 km from the district headquarters, the SHO said.

2 dead, many hurt in mine cave-in

Dhanbad (Jharkhand): At least two persons were killed and several others were injured after a portion of an abandoned mine collapsed in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district, Nirsra MLA Arup Chatterjee claimed. Police said they received information about the alleged incident from the local media and have initiated an investigation into it.

Woman trampled to death by elephants

Bokaro (Jharkhand): A 45-year-old woman was trampled to death by a herd of elephants in Jharkhand's Bokaro district, a forest official said Monday. The incident occurred at Kharkanda village, located in a dense forest under Jageshwar Bihar police outpost, Sunday night.



Technology does not take away jobs; it creates new opportunities. It is up to us to harness them effectively

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

FIVE KIDS FALL ILL AFTER EATING SAMOSAS IN SCHOOL CANTEEN

Five children suffered from food poisoning after eating 'samosas' at the canteen of a private school in Mumbai Monday afternoon, a civic official said



DELHI POLLUTION

SC for long-term solution, no ban on polluting activities



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: Batting for a long-term solution for air pollution in Delhi-NCR, the Supreme Court Monday refused to impose year-round restrictions on all activities prohibited under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) -- a set of emergency measures to control pollution.

The top court asked the Punjab and Haryana governments to strictly follow the directions of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on the issue of stubble burning in the two states. "If the CAQM's suggestions to Punjab and Haryana are implemented, then stubble burning can be adequately tackled. Thus, we direct both states to have a combined meeting and ensure that the CAQM's suggestions are scrupulously implemented," a bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gava and Justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria said.

"It is also stated that the Union environment minister held a meeting on November 11 and that within a day, appropriate instructions could be taken to find out appropriate steps to be taken to deal with the menace of pollution," it said.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aishwarya Bhati was asked to apprise the court of the complete plan of action November 19, the next date of hearing, when the court will also issue directions in the case.

At the outset, the bench said that from time to time, several orders have been passed to deal with the high level of air

pollution.

"However, we are of the view, which is agreed by amicus (curiae) and the ASG, that the issue cannot be looked at with a temporary solution and a long-drawn solution needs to be looked at," it said.

Senior advocate and amicus curiae Aprajita Singh said that though Punjab's affidavit said that stubble burning incidents have gone down, there is no reduction in pollution levels.

Noting the submissions of senior advocate Gopal Sankar-narayanan, appearing for one of the parties, the bench said he stated that Delhi has become a gas chamber and that all activities prohibited from GRAP 1 onwards should be prohibited for the entire year.

"The restriction to be imposed on activities in Delhi in (a) graded manner taking into consideration AQI standards has been finalised by the expert(s) in the field on scientific data. We do not possess expertise to deal with the same. We are therefore not inclined to act on the submission of Mr Sankarnarayanan that all activities (prohibited from GRAP 1 onwards) be stopped in Delhi," the CJJ said. "A large chunk of the population depends on various activities for their livelihood in the capital... We agree with the amicus and the ASG that a long-term solution is needed to tackle the menace of pollution in a graded manner. For that, a combined action by the MoEFCC (Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change) along with Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana officials is needed," he said.

16th Finance Comm submits reports to Prez

New Delhi: Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission Arvind Panagariya Monday submitted to President Droupadi Murmu the panel's report, recommending the share of states in the net tax collected by the Centre over five years beginning April 1, 2026. The report will be tabled in Parliament during its upcoming Winter Session. "Members of the 16th Finance Commission, led by its Chairman, Arvind Panagariya, called on President Droupadi Murmu and submitted the Commission's report for 2026-31," Rashtrapati Bhavan said in a post on X. The 16th Finance Commission's recommendations with regard to the formula for sharing taxes for five years, starting from 2026-27 to 2030-31, will be crucial.

Delhi blast: NIA nabs another key aide

A resident of Qazigund in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir, Wani allegedly provided technical support for carrying out terror attacks by modifying drones and attempting to make rockets ahead of the deadly car bomb blast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: The National Investigation Agency has arrested Jasir Bilal Wani in Srinagar, who was an "active co-conspirator" of suicide bomber Umar un Nabi, in connection with the car blast near the Red Fort last week that claimed 15 lives, officials said Monday.

A resident of Qazigund in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir, Wani allegedly provided technical support for carrying out terror attacks by modifying drones and attempting to make rockets ahead of the deadly car bomb blast, the agency said in a statement.

Wani, who also goes by the alias of Danish, was arrested in Srinagar by an NIA team, it said.

"The accused... was an active co-conspirator behind the attack and had worked closely with the terrorist, Umar un Nabi, to plan the terror carnage," the NIA statement said.

The agency is exploring "various angles" to unravel the conspiracy behind the November 10 blast in the national capital. "Several teams of the anti-terror agency are pursuing multiple leads, and are conducting searches across states to identify



NIA: Amir arranged safe house, support for Nabi

NEW DELHI: The National Investigating Agency Monday told a Delhi court that Amir Rashid Ali, a key accused in the Red Fort area car bomb blast case, allegedly arranged a safe house and provided logistical support to Dr Umar Nabi, the suicide bomber" who was driving the explosive-laden car that detonated outside the Red Fort. Ali, a resident of Pampore in South Kashmir, was brought to the court of Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna at the Patiala House courts complex amid tight security.

fy every person involved in the terror attack," it said.

A bachelor in political sciences, Wani was intensely brainwashed by Umar for several months to become a suicide bomber. He had agreed to have met the 'Doctor module' in October last year at a mosque in Kulgam, from where he was taken to a rented accommodation at the Al Falah University

in Haryana's Faridabad.

Wani, who was earlier detained by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, had revealed to his interrogators that while others in the module wanted him to be an over-ground worker (OGW) for the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed, Umar brainwashed him for several months to become a suicide bomber.

The plan, however, col-



A flock of ducks swims through waterflow at Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Morigaon, Assam

PTI PHOTO

EC orders 'Special Revision' of voter list in Assam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: The Election Commission Monday ordered 'Special Revision' of electoral rolls in Assam and the final voter list will be published February 10, 2026.

According to instructions issued by the poll panel for the chief electoral officer of Assam, January 1, 2026 will be the qualifying date for the state to carry out the Special Revision.

According to officials, the Special Revision stands somewhere between the annual special summary revision and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

"It is in a way an upgrade of special summary revision... instead of enumeration forms, booth-level officers will verify electors on a pre-filled register," a senior functionary explained.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma welcomed the Election Commission's decision to undertake Special Revision of the electoral rolls in the state and assured the government's full cooperation.

"The Govt of Assam welcomes the Election Commission of India's decision to undertake a Special Revision of the electoral rolls with 01.01.2026 as the qualifying date," the chief minister posted on X.



"This will help ensure clean, updated and accurate electoral rolls for all eligible citizens. Assam will extend full cooperation to the @ECISVEEP to complete the revision in a transparent and time-bound manner," he added.

According to the schedule, the door-to-door verification will take place from November 22 to December 20.

Being targeted for Red Fort blast: Kashmiri students

Addressing a press conference here, JKSA National Convenor Nasir Khuehami said a "particular community is being targeted after the attack", claiming that Kashmiri students are being harassed in universities and localities in states such as Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) Monday alleged that Kashmiri students across several northern states are facing profiling, eviction and intimidation in the aftermath of the Red Fort blast in Delhi, and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to publicly intervene to "call off the vilification" of the community.

Addressing a press conference here, JKSA National Convenor Nasir Khuehami said a "particular community is being targeted after the attack", claiming that Kashmiri students are being harassed in universities and

localities in states such as Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi.

"Kashmiri students believe in India's democracy and in the mainstream, not in terrorism. But they are being profiled and vilified by authorities and local people across states. Many landlords have asked Kashmiri tenants to vacate their rooms, forcing several students to return home out of fear," Khuehami said.

He added that the association had "no objection to any investigation" into the blast, but demanded that the Centre ensure the safety of Kashmiri students and prevent "collective suspicion".

"We request the Prime Minister to make a public statement.



Kashmiris are as much a part of this country as any other citizen," he said.

The JKSA also condemned the blast outside the Red Fort "in the strongest words" and

sought a fair investigation and strict action against the culprits. The car explosion near Red Fort November 10, which killed 15 people, has triggered a sweeping, multi-agency in-

vestigation involving the Delhi Police Special Cell, NIA and Crime Branch. Three people, including two doctors from Haryana's Al Falah University, have been detained as part of the probe.

Police have also registered two separate FIRs against Al Falah University under cheating and forgery charges following regulatory violations flagged by the UGC and NAAC. A police team visited the university's Okhla office Saturday to gather details of individuals under scrutiny.

Officials said the detained doctors, Mohammad and Mus-takim, were known to Dr Umar Nabi, the driver of the car that exploded, and were allegedly in touch with Dr Muzammil

Ganaie, arrested earlier in a suspected "white-collar terror module" case. Their statements are being examined to assess their possible role in the broader conspiracy.

Investigators are also probing the role of a Faridabad-based man accused of illegally selling fertilisers, as evidence suggests the module pooled around ₹26 lakh to acquire explosive materials, including NPK fertiliser.

Since the blast, police have checked more than 500 people from Jammu and Kashmir in Faridabad alone as part of heightened security measures, according to officials. The NIA is now probing the wider conspiracy after the initial UAPA FIR was transferred to the agency.

of the day

quote

The Election Commission was once known for its commitment to ensuring that not even a single voter is left out, whether in mountains, deserts or border hamlets... Over the years, this institutional strength has eroded

SACHIN PILOT | CONGRESS LEADER

It was only Balasaheb Thackeray who had the courage to tell people to proudly proclaim that they are Hindus. His teachings, self-confidence and determination are the very steps to success. I myself rose from 'shakha pramukh' to Maharashtra chief minister due to the blessings of Balasaheb and Anand Dighe

EKNATH SHINDE | MAHA DY CM

We don't want multiple tie-ups with multiple nations because if you try to tie up with everybody, you will not have a relationship with anybody

CONRAD K SANGMA | MEGHALAYA CM

X

POST

OF THE DAY

People Happily Buy iPhones Worth Lakhs But Procrastinate on Life and Health Insurance Huge Medical Bills

Can Badly Impact Lives India Has a Massive Financial Awareness Problem

@Ravisutanjani

SHORT TAKES

Putin's aide holds talks with Doval

New Delhi: Russian President Vladimir Putin's aide Nikolay Patrushev Monday held talks with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval covering various aspects of bilateral ties. The talks largely focused on President Putin's visit to India early next month, it is learnt. Patrushev also met India's National Maritime Security Coordinator Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta.

TN revenue staff to boycott SIR work

Chennai: The Federation of Associations of Revenue Employees of Tamil Nadu declared Monday that their members will boycott SIR work from November 18, protesting against "excessive workload, insufficient manpower, deadline pressure, and inadequate training and funding". The state-wide move was to seek proper training for all officials, appointment of additional Booth Level Offices and deployment of sufficient strength at the BLO level.

Mother, son get life term

Ballia (UP): A local court Monday sentenced a man and his mother to life imprisonment for killing his wife and their 16-month-old daughter over dowry demands, police said. According to the prosecution, Sarita (27) and her daughter Khushboo were killed June 3, 2024, at Karni village under the Ubhaon police station limits in Ballia district. Sarita's brother, Ram Govind from Duha Bihra village in the district, lodged an FIR accusing Sarita's husband Ram Kewal Verma and mother-in-law Channmuni of killing the mother and daughter over dowry demands.



Our goal is clear - regional strength along with national progress and India's global leadership in every field, which will lead us towards the creation of a great India

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

SIDDARAMAIAH MEETS KHARGE

Amid talks of a reshuffle in the Karnataka government, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge at his residence Monday evening



DIGITAL ARREST CASE

Top court restrains release of accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: In a rare move, the Supreme Court Monday restrained the courts from releasing from jail the accused who had duped a 72-year-old woman advocate of the apex court of Rs 3.29 crore through 'digital arrest' fraud, saying the case warrants "unusual orders".

"We have to deal with these cases sternly so that the right message is sent. An unusual phenomenon needs unusual intervention," a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joy-malya Bagchi said.

Digital arrest is a growing form of cybercrime in which fraudsters pose as law enforcement or court officials or personnel from government agencies to intimidate victims through audio and video calls.

They hold the victims hostage and put pressure on them to pay money.

The bench took on record the intervention application filed by the Supreme Court Advocate on Record Association (SCAORA), which took forward the case of the woman lawyer and sought strict action against the perpetrators of the crime.

SCAORA president Vipin Nair submitted that the elderly woman lawyer lost her savings and the accused, who were arrested following the registra-

Techie loses ₹32 crore

BANGALORE: A case has been registered in connection with a 57-year-old woman allegedly losing about ₹32 crore in a sophisticated 'digital arrest' scam that lasted over six months, which is perhaps the largest cyber fraud of this type in Karnataka, police said Monday. Posing as CBI officers, the fraudsters enforced what is called as "digital arrest" by holding her under constant Skype surveillance. They used threats of arrest to coerce her into sharing all financial details and to make 187 bank transfers. In her complaint, the software engineer of Indiranagar in the city stated that the ordeal lasted for over six months, until she got a 'clearance letter' from the fraudsters.

tion of the FIR in May this year, are about to be released on statutory bail.

The bench, while taking note of the submissions, immediately ordered, "Meanwhile, the suspect Vijay Khanna and other co-accused shall not be released by any court. They can approach this court for any relief." Justice Kant told Nair, "We are not against anyone's life and liberty but this case warrants unusual orders. We have to deal with these cases sternly so that the right message is sent. An unusual phenomenon needs unusual intervention."

India is not scared of blackmailing, Army chief warns Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: India will continue to consider the terrorists and their supporters alike, and it will respond firmly to terrorism, Chief of Army Staff Gen Upendra Dwivedi said Monday, in a firm message to Pakistan.

In an interactive session, the Army Chief also broadly said that there has been improvement in India's relations with China in the last one year following talks between the leadership of the two countries.

On cross-border terrorism from Pakistan, Gen Dwivedi said New Delhi has been following a policy of new normal in dealing with Pakistan, and it will be a challenge for the neighbouring country if it continues to support terror groups targeting India.

"India focuses on progress and prosperity. If someone creates obstacles in our course, then we will have to take some action against them," he said. "We have said that talks and terror can't go together; blood and water cannot follow together. We are for a peaceful process, which we will cooperate with. Until then, we will treat terrorists and their sponsors alike," the Army Chief said.

"Today, India is in a position that it is not scared of any blackmailing," he said, apparently referring to Pakistan's nuclear threat.

42 Indians die in Madina bus mishap

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: Forty-two Indian Umrah pilgrims from Telangana were among 44 people killed in a collision involving their bus and a fuel tanker near Madina in Saudi Arabia in the wee hours of Monday, people familiar with the matter said.

It has been confirmed by local authorities that there is one Indian survivor and he is undergoing medical treatment, they said. It is learnt that two local facilitators on board the bus were also killed in the accident.

The mortal remains of the deceased have been transferred to King Fahad Hospital, King Salman Hospital and Al Miqat Hospital, and officials from the Indian mission in Jeddah are coordinating with the local authorities to handle the situation, the people cited above said.

"The families of the deceased will have an option after mortal remains have been identified for repatriation to India or a local burial at Jannatul Baqi (cemetery in Madinah) as per local customs," one of the people said. The accident took place nearly 40 km from Madina at around 11 pm local time (1:30 am, IST), the people said.

The bus had stopped on the side of a road, and during this stoppage, an oil tanker collided with the bus, resulting in an explosion, they said. Saudi Authorities are currently investigating the circumstances that led to the accident.



A man shows a photograph of his relatives who were killed in the bus accident

PTI PHOTO

The bus was learnt to be on its way from Mecca to Madina.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and other leaders conveyed condolences to the families of the deceased.

"Deeply saddened by the accident in Medinah involving Indian nationals. My thoughts are with the families who have lost their loved ones. I pray for the swift recovery of all those injured," Modi said on 'X'.

"Our Embassy in Riyadh and Consulate in Jeddah are providing all possible assistance. Our officials are also in close

Citing preliminary information, Hyderabad Police Commissioner V C Sajjanar put the toll at 45, saying a total of 54 persons from the city had left for the pilgrimage recently

However, there was no official word from Saudi authorities or the government of India over casualties

contact with Saudi Arabian authorities," he said. Jaishankar, currently on a visit to Russia, expressed deep shock over the accident. "Our Embassy in Riyadh and Consulate in Jeddah are giving the fullest support to Indian nationals and families affected by this accident," he said. "Sincere condolences to the bereaved families. Pray for the speedy recovery of those injured," he said.

The Indian mission in Jeddah has set up a 24x7 control room to coordinate assistance and sent officials to the site of the accident. As soon as the Consulate of India in Jeddah learnt of the accident, a team of officers rushed to the incident site and to hospitals where the accident casualties were taken, the people cited above said.

They have been in regular touch with families and are liaising with local authorities for further action, they said. Officials from the Indian Consulate in Jeddah will continue to remain in touch with the local authorities.

Nitish set to take oath as Bihar CM for 10th time



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Nov 17: The process for formation of the new NDA government in Bihar began Monday after Chief Minister Nitish Kumar met Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and recommended the dissolution of the outgoing Assembly with effect from November 19.

Kumar, the JD(U) supremo, will again meet the governor Wednesday and tender his resignation along with a letter of support from all other constituents of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

JD(U) sources said that Kumar would be elected legislature party leader November 19, a day before taking oath as Bihar CM for a record 10th time at a programme at Gandhi Maidan in Patna. Other ministers of the new cabinet are also expected to be sworn in during the programme.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several top NDA leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and Dharmendra Prad-

han, are expected to attend the swearing-in ceremony. Meanwhile, hectic lobbying is underway among NDA partners to finalise the allocation of cabinet berths, the JD(U) sources said.

The new cabinet is likely to include five to six fresh faces from the BJP and JD(U), they said. Umesh Singh Kushwaha, JD(U) state chief and Mahnar seat winner, is likely to be inducted into the new cabinet.

Along with the JD(U) and the BJP, Union minister Chirag Paswan's LJP (RV), Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM-S, and Upendra Kushwaha's RLM will also be part of the new cabinet, the sources said. "The LJP (RV) is likely to get three berths, while HAM-S and RLM may get one berth each. A maximum of 16 ministers from the BJP and 14 from JD(U), along with Nitish Kumar, are likely to take oath November 20," one of the sources said. The ruling NDA decimated the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar with its tally crossing 200 seats of the 243-member Assembly. The CM met the governor immediately after the last Cabinet meeting of the outgoing government and apprised him of the decision recommending dissolution of the Assembly from November 19.

In the Opposition camp, newly elected RJD MLAs held a meeting and named Tejashwi Yadav as the legislature party leader, its spokesperson Shakti Singh said.



A man carries 'kangri', a traditional portable Kashmiri heating pot, as residents brace for the onset of winters

PTI PHOTO

Bacterial infection kills 31 blackbucks at Karnataka zoo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Belagavi (Karnataka), Nov 17: Thirty-one blackbucks have died at a zoo here in just four days due to a bacterial infection, Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre said Monday.

The devastating toll, which reduced Kittur Rani Chennamma Zoo's blackbuck population to seven, has prompted a high-level investigation from the government. According to sources at the zoo, eight antelopes died Thursday, followed

by 20 more deaths Saturday.

Three more blackbucks died at the facility in the last two days. Minister Khandre reached Belagavi and held a meeting with the zoo officials.

Later speaking to reporters, Khandre expressed "deep pain" over the deaths and ordered an inquiry to determine the source and spread of the disease among the animals.

"Prima facie, it is found that these blackbucks died due to bacterial infection. Our officers and veterinary doctors are giving treatment to them," he said.

The Minister said all precautionary measures are being taken to ensure that the disease does not spread to other zoos.

"I have ordered a high-level probe to find out how this disease spread among blackbucks. We have sent experts from Bannerghatta Biological Park in Bengaluru. Our officials are in touch with experts in this field," Khandre said.

Noting that he has given directions to save the remaining blackbucks, he said he has ordered that such incidents should not occur in future.

Apex court flags liquor tetra packs as 'dangerous'

The court made the observations upon being shown tetra packs containing whiskey for sale during the hearing of a trademark dispute case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: What is this -- a juice packet? Should liquor in tetra packs be permitted at all? the Supreme Court wondered Monday, noting that such packaging was "dangerous" and "deceiving, as it heard a trademark dispute between two liquor giants of the country.

After a counsel produced the tetra packs of both companies, pointing out the similarities in branding of their products,

a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joy-malya Bagchi expressed surprise that the government had allowed liquor to be sold in such packets and said it was a "serious issue".

The bench was hearing a trademark dispute between John Distilleries Pvt Ltd, which sells the product 'Original Choice' whisky, and Allied Blenders and Distilleries Pvt Ltd, which produces product 'Officers Choice' whisky.

The top court appointed former apex court judge L



Nageswara Rao as mediator to settle the dispute amicably between both the liquor firms, which command a major share in the country's whisky market.

When senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for John Distilleries Pvt Ltd, produced the tetra packs of both the

companies to the bench, Justice Kant said, "What is this packet? Juice." Rohatgi said that these are tetra packs of whisky, which are one of the highest-selling products in Karnataka. The bench said, "Should this at all be permitted. We think this is very danger-

ous. It can be taken to schools or colleges by the students in their bags. Parents can be easily deceived."

Justice Kant said this was the first time in his life he was seeing liquor in tetra packs and remarked, "How did the governments permit these kinds of packets. If someone files public interest litigation, we would like to examine."

Rohatgi and senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Allied Blenders and Distilleries Pvt Ltd, said that there are other brands also in the market and governments are only interested in earning revenue from the sale of these products.

Justice Bagchi said the governments are trading on the health of the people.

"Just understand how much tons are wasted on health because of earning revenue... trading on the health of the people," Justice Bagchi said.

Rohatgi said, "This is how it is. Your lordships may look at this issue later, I have no difficulty."

The bench, while requesting Justice (retd) Rao to act as mediator, said that having regard to the nature of urgency involved, the mediator may take up the matter on a priority basis and make an endeavour to conclude a settlement process at the earliest.

international

of the day quote

The South Korean military formally proposes to hold military talks with North Korea to discuss setting a baseline for the military demarcation line to prevent accidental clashes between the two Koreas and ease military tensions

KIM HONG-CHUL | DEPUTY DEFENCE MINISTER, SOUTH KOREA

If there is a change in the strategic purpose of the South Korea-US alliance, China's perspective toward the alliance would also change

MAO NING | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

President Trump has decided not to come, and he's pulled out all the US representatives. But we have said that boycott politics never work

CYRIL RAMAPHOSA | PRESIDENT, SOUTH AFRICA

SHORT TAKES

Deadly landslide strikes Vietnam

Hanoi: A landslide buried a passenger bus on a treacherous mountain pass in Vietnam, killing six people and injuring 19 others, as more heavy rain was forecast into the week. The earth and rocks collapsed onto the bus late Sunday as it was travelling through the Khanh Le pass in the central highlands, state media reported. The winding, 33-kilometre stretch carved into steep mountainsides is scenic and popular with tourists but prone to landslides in the rainy season. The landslide crushed the front of the bus, trapping many passengers. Rescuers struggled for hours to reach the scene as heavy rain had also caused landslides on both sides of the pass, cutting off access.

Overcrowded bridge collapsed in Congo

Bukavu: A bridge at a mine in southeastern Congo collapsed due to overcrowding, killing at least 32 people, a regional government official said Sunday. The bridge at the Kalando mine in Mulondo in Lualaba province fell Saturday, Roy Kaumba Mayonde, the province's interior minister, said during a press conference "Despite the strict prohibition on accessing the site due to heavy rainfall and the risk of landslides, illegal diggers forced their way into the quarry," Mayonde said. A report by the Congo's Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Support and Guidance Service, or SAEMAPE, government official on Sunday said the gunfire from soldiers at the site sparked panic among the miners who rushed to the bridge resulting in the fall that left them "piled on top of each other causing the deaths and injuries."

Emirates unveils Boeing deal

Dubai: The biennial Dubai Air Show opened Monday with hometown airline Emirates ordering 65 Boeing 777-9 aircraft, as the carrier looks to increase its fleets off record earnings and unending demand for flights through this East-West travel hub. The airline did not immediately give a value for the deal with Boeing and GE Engines. The air show will also see renewed interest in flying taxis, something the sheikhdom long has promised and now hopes to deliver on next year. Military sales as well remain a focus, with Russia again taking part despite facing Western sanctions over its grinding, yearslong war on Ukraine.

SHEIKH HASINA

Rise, reign, ruin of Bangladesh's 'Iron Lady'

Hasina, four-time prime minister and political heir of Bangladesh's founding leader, was sentenced to death Monday For her deadly crackdown on student protesters last year

AGENCIES

Dhaka, Nov 17: For nearly two decades, Sheikh Hasina's name moved with the pulse of Bangladesh, sometimes steady, sometimes storm-tossed.

To her supporters, she is the architect of a modern, developing Bangladesh; to her critics, she was an autocrat whose appetite for power blinded her to the cries of the streets.

Few, however, could have imagined that the very tribunal the 77-year-old deposed prime minister once created to try hardened war collaborators would one day place her in the dock.

When the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) pronounced the death sentence against Hasina in absentia Monday, it marked the most dramatic turn yet in the story of the world's longest-serving female head of government.

Hasina was born September 28, 1947, in Tungipara in the then East Pakistan, into a family that would come to define Bangladesh's identity. Her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, led Bangladesh to independence with India's help in 1971 and became its founding father.

She studied at the University of Dhaka, earning a master's degree in Bengali literature, and became deeply engaged in student politics.

In 1968, Hasina married nuclear scientist MA Wazed Miha, whose low-profile, scholarly life stood in contrast to the turbulence of Bangladeshi politics.

Wazed remained a steady presence in Hasina's life until he died in 2009 at the age of 67. They have a son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy and a daughter, Saima Wazed Putul.

Hasina's political destiny

- Hasina sentenced to death in absentia over 2024 crackdown
- In public eye since 1975 assassination of her father
- Fought for democracy before long rule as prime minister
- Accused of autocracy, extrajudicial killings
- Hasina says verdict biased and politically motivated

hardened after the August 1975 military coup, in which her father, mother, three brothers, and several other family members were assassinated. She and her younger sister Rehana survived only because they were abroad.

India, under then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, granted her asylum. After six years, in May 1981, Hasina returned to Bangladesh, where she was elected in absentia as the general secretary of the Awami League.

When Hasina returned in 1981 to lead the Awami League, she found her rival already waiting: Khaleda Zia, widow of slain president Ziaur Rahman.

The 'Battling Begums', as they came to be known, fought electoral and ideological wars that defined Bangladesh's politics for more than three decades.

Hasina first became prime minister in 1996, defeating Zia in a fiercely contested election. She lost power in 2001 but returned with a landslide in 2008, beginning, what her critics say, a long stretch of dominance.

Under her leadership, the Awami League swept the 2008 general election; the 2014 election, which was boycotted by Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP); and the 2018 election, giving Hasina one of the world's longest tenures for a



The blowing up of the railway track on the War-saw-Lublin route is an unprecedented act of sabotage aimed at the security of the Polish state and its citizens

DONALD TUSK | PRIME MINISTER, POLAND

ZELENSKY SEEMS RAFALE DEAL

Ukraine signed a letter of intent to buy up to 100 Rafale warplanes from France, the Ukrainian Embassy and the French president's office said. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and French President Emmanuel Macron signed the document Monday stating that Ukraine is considering the possibility of buying French defence equipment, including Rafale jet fighters



female leader.

During her premiership, Bangladesh saw rapid economic growth, major infrastructure achievements like the Padma Bridge, and advances in poverty reduction.

The country also became a global garment powerhouse under her watch.

But the accolades came alongside accusations of clampdowns on dissent, curbs on the media, arrests of opposition leaders and the expansion of state security powers.

In 2024, student-led demonstrations, which initially erupted in protest over quotas in government jobs for children of independence war veterans, later exploded into a nationwide uprising against Hasina's regime.

The crackdown that followed unleashed spirals of violence, ultimately ousting Hasina from power and forcing her to flee to India.

Following Hasina's ouster, the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus reconstituted the ICT, once her instrument for prosecuting war criminals, to bring charges of crimes against

humanity related to the 2024 crackdown against her.

A UN rights office report estimated that up to 1,400 people were killed during last year's student protest between July 15 and August 15 during what came to be known as the July Uprising, as her government ordered a sweeping security crackdown.

After months of proceedings she never attended, the tribunal handed down the unthinkable: Hasina, four-time prime minister and political heir of Bangladesh's founding leader, was sentenced to death Monday.

Now, in exile in India, Hasina, often dubbed the 'Iron Lady' of Bangladesh, watches from across the border as the nation she helped build, and often ruled with a firm hand, grapples with the legacy her rise and fall has left behind.

Hasina, from her exile in India, has denied the allegations against her, saying the verdict was "biased and politically motivated".

"I am not afraid to face my accusers in a proper tribunal where evidence can be weighed and tested fairly," Hasina said in a statement after the verdict.

SAUDI PRINCE MEETS TRUMP

US-Saudi talks deepen cooperation

REUTERS

Riyadh/Washington, Nov 17: A visit by Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler to the White House for talks Tuesday with US President Donald Trump aims to deepen decades-old cooperation on oil and security while broadening ties in commerce, technology and potentially even nuclear energy.

It will be the first trip by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to the US since the 2018 killing of Saudi critic Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents in Istanbul, which caused a global uproar. US intelligence concluded that MBS approved the capture or killing of Khashoggi, a prominent critic.

The crown prince, widely known by his initials MBS, denied ordering the operation but acknowledged responsibility as the kingdom's de facto ruler.

More than seven years later, the world's largest economy and the world's top oil producer want to move forward.

Trump is seeking to cash in on a \$600 billion Saudi investment pledge made during Trump's visit to the kingdom



in May. He steered clear of mentioning human rights concerns during that trip and is expected to do so again.

The Saudi leader is seeking security guarantees amid regional turmoil and wants access to artificial intelligence technology and progress toward a deal on a civilian nuclear programme.

FOCUS ON DEFENCE DEAL

The United States and Saudi Arabia have long had an arrangement for the kingdom to sell oil at favorable prices and for the superpower to provide security in exchange. That equation was shaken by Washington's failure to act when Iran struck oil installations in

the kingdom in 2019. Concerns resurfaced in September, when Israel struck Doha, Qatar, in an attack it said targeted members of Palestinian militant group Hamas.

In the aftermath, Trump signed a defence pact with Qatar via executive order. Many analysts, diplomats and regional officials believe the Saudis will get something similar.

Saudi Arabia has sought a defence pact ratified by the US Congress in recent negotiations. But Washington has made that contingent on the kingdom normalizing ties with Israel.

Riyadh has in turn linked that to a commitment from Israel's government, the most right-wing in its history, to Palestinian statehood. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who agreed to a Trump-brokered ceasefire with Hamas in Gaza last month after two years of war, Sunday reaffirmed his staunch opposition to Palestinian independence.

Chile's hard-right Kast to runoff against leftist Jara

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Santiago (Chile), Nov 17: Far-right candidate Jose Antonio Kast is favored to clinch a runoff victory next month despite lagging slightly behind governing coalition candidate Jeannette Jara in Chile's first-round presidential vote Sunday.

With nearly all ballots tallied, Jara, the first Communist Party member to be a finalist for the Chilean presidency, was holding 27% of the vote versus 24% for Kast, a tight margin that underscored deep political divisions.

An eventual win for Kast would put in place an administration that is further to the right than any other since the Pinochet dictatorship. A December 14 runoff will pit those two ideological extremes against each other, as many voters signaled that they were prioritizing crime and immigration over the progressive reforms that defined the last election. "Change will come," Kast told supporters Sunday evening.

COP30 delegates dig into toughest issues

REUTERS

Belem, Brazil, Nov 17: Government ministers from around the world were preparing for a final few fraught days of talks at the UN climate summit as they bid to secure a deal that demonstrates global resolve amid increasing assertiveness from developing nations.

The job will not be easy. Countries are now digging into some of the toughest issues - many of which have been left off the formal agenda to ensure the talks keep moving even if one issue gets hung up.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is also expected to arrive Wednesday to help rally consensus among parties at the summit in the Amazon



city of Belem ahead of Friday's final scheduled session.

DEVELOPING NATIONS FLEX MORE MUSCLE

New dynamics in climate diplomacy have seen China, India and other developing nations flex more muscle this year, while the European Union is hobbled by weakening support back home and the once-dominant United States has skipped

out altogether.

Asked if there was any one issue dominating the talks, COP30 President Andre Correa Do Lago replied, "Everything, everything. It's very complicated."

Brazil's top goal for COP30 is to deliver an agreement that reaffirms the 2015 Paris Agreement, while acknowledging its shortcomings by laying out clear plans for future climate ac-

tion. The summit's work is "dry, it's complicated, it's anguished, it's tiring - and it's absolutely necessary," said Britain's energy minister, Ed Miliband.

MIND THE GAPS

Over the last week negotiators had a chance to air their differences on three key issues: climate finance, unilateral trade measures, and planned emissions cuts that don't go nearly far enough.

The Paris treaty's central goal, to prevent warming beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, will be missed. Current emissions trends have the world warming by at least 2.3 degrees Celsius, which Norway's climate minister said parties agreed would need to be addressed.

of the day

QUOTE

Data protection rules will be a major change in the way our citizen's data and privacy is protected by the digital ecosystem. The rules are in a simple language highly focused on implementation, we have considered all inputs from industry and citizen groups

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | IT MINISTER

India's equity markets have grown impressively, but Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) have increasingly become exit vehicles for early investors, rather than mechanisms for raising long-term capital. This undermines the spirit of public markets

V ANANTHA NAGESWARAN | CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR

The convergence of GST 2.0 and targeted customs incentives marks a defining moment for India's automotive sector

SOHRAB BARARIA | PARTNER, GRANT THORNTON BHARAT

SHORT TAKES

Gold surges ₹300 to ₹1,29,700/10g

New Delhi: Gold prices rose Rs 300 to Rs 1,29,700 per 10 grams in the national capital Monday amid firm trends in overseas markets, according to marketmen. The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity also advanced by Rs 300 to Rs 1,29,100, inclusive of all taxes. However, silver prices declined Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,63,800 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) Monday. In the international markets, spot gold was trading flat at \$4,077.35 per ounce while spot silver was quoting 0.66 per cent higher at \$50.89 an ounce. "Spot gold is currently trading steady as a firmer dollar caps the upside while Sino-Japan tension over the latter's remarks over Taiwan cushion the downside," Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities, Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said.

Curbs on certain platinum jewellery

New Delhi: The government Monday imposed import curbs on certain types of platinum jewellery till April next year. In September, the government imposed restrictions on imports of certain silver jewellery till March 31 next year. The move was aimed at curbing imports of silver in the name of unstudded jewellery from Thailand. India has a free trade agreement with Asean (Association of SouthEast Asian nations). Thailand is a member of this 10-nation group. The import policy of platinum jewellery "is revised from Free to Restricted, with immediate effect till April 30, 2026", the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) said in the latest notification. Importers now need a licence from the DGFT to import these goods.

Reliance to bring 'essence' to India

New Delhi: Reliance Retail Monday announced to bring 'essence', Europe's leading cosmetics brand by units sold, to the Indian market, a move which will help the growing beauty business of country's leading retailer. It has entered into an exclusive distribution partnership with cosnova Beauty, the Germany-based global cosmetics company, said a statement from Reliance Retail. It will available on the Reliance Retail's integrated omnichannel ecosystem.



We are looking at double the number of investors. So, that is more than the populations of several countries put together. If we add another 100 million investors

TUHI KANTA PANDEY | CHAIRMAN, SEBI

CYBER THREAT FOR FIRMS RISE

Nearly a quarter of Indian enterprises surveyed reported losses exceeding \$1 million (about ₹8.8 crore) from cyber breaches over the past three years, with the risk particularly high among companies earning \$5 billion or more in annual revenue. Cyber budgets are rising, albeit at a cautious pace, with 87 per cent of organisations in India planning to increase their cybersecurity spending over the next 12 months



₹7,172cr for 17 projts: Boost to electronics component making

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: The government Monday approved 17 projects under Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), entailing an investment of Rs 7,172 crore, signalling India's decisive push in producing high-precision components, and its resolve to secure a firm foothold in global supply chains. These projects are expected to create 11,800 jobs.

The new set of approved applications includes that of Jabil, Aequs, ASUX Safety, AT&S, Ehoome IoT, Hi-Q Electronics, UnoMinda and Zetwerk. Other applicants in the list are Meena Electrotech, MicroPack, Rakon, Sahasra, Secure Meters, Sierra Circuits, Syрма Mobility, and TE Connectivity.

The components to be manufactured would serve key sectors, including smartphones, IT hardware, wearables, telecom, EVs, industrial electronics, defence, medical electronics, and renewable energy - all essential building blocks of the new economy.

Together, these 17 projects will lead to production worth Rs 65,111 crore. These projects include the manufacture of Camera Modules, Multi-layer PCBs, Enclosures for electronic devices, Connectors, Oscillators, and Optical Transceivers.

Spread across 9 states, these manufacturing units, with an estimated cumulative investment of Rs 7,127 crore, will give direct employment to over 11,800 people. In the first tranche announced October 27, 2025, seven applications with a total investment of Rs 5,532 crore and the potential to create 5,000 new jobs.

The applicants included Kaynes, SRF, Syрма SGS, and Ascent Circuits. The 17 projects greenlit in the second tranche bring the total projects approved under the ECMS scheme to 24.

During the five-month application window, from May 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025, the scheme attracted 249 applications, almost doubling the initial estimates of investments, production, and direct jobs.

The investment under the scheme is likely to strengthen India's domestic capabilities in quality manufacturing of electronics components, and catalyse the entire ecosystem, enabling higher value addition and enhanced MSME participation.

It would also strengthen India's position in the global value chains at a time when global trade shocks and geopolitics have nudged international players to proactively seek new destinations for manufacturing.

Trade deficit zooms to peak

US' hefty 50% tariffs on Indian goods hurt exports exponentially

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: India's exports contracted 11.8 per cent to \$34.38 billion in October on account of the impact of high tariffs by the US, while the trade deficit widened to a record high of \$41.68 billion mainly due to a jump in gold imports.

According to government data released Monday, the country's imports jumped 16.63 per cent to \$76.06 billion due to high inbound shipments of the yellow metal, silver, cotton raw/waste, fertiliser, and sulphur.

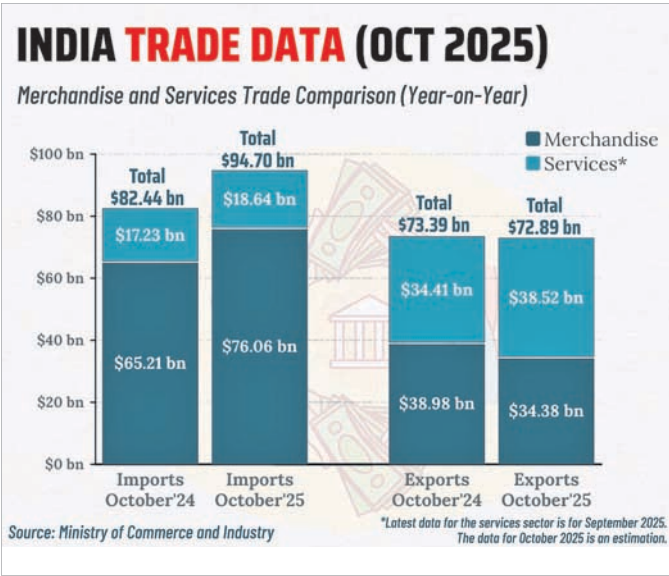
In September also, the trade gap widened to \$31.15 billion, the highest in over a year.

While gold imports rose about 200 per cent to \$14.72 billion, silver rose 528.71 per cent to \$2.71 billion during October.

Crude oil imports dipped to \$14.8 billion in October from \$18.9 billion in the same month last year.

During April-October this fiscal year, exports increased marginally by 0.63 per cent to \$254.25 billion, imports rose 6.37 per cent to \$451.08 billion.

Merchandise trade deficit during April-October 2025 was \$196.82 billion as compared to



- CONCERNING TREND**
- Exports plunge 11.8% to \$34.38bn
 - Imports jump 16.63% to \$76.06bn
 - Deficit widens to record high of \$41.68bn
 - Exports to US dip for 2nd month by 8.58%
 - Gold imports jump 3X to record \$14.72bn

\$171.40 billion in the same month during April-October 2024.

Briefing the media on the data, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said despite global uncertainties, "we are holding our

ground". He also said that fall in exports in the last month can also be attributed to base effect (\$38.98 billion in October 2024).

Key segments such as engineering goods, petroleum products, gems and jewellery, apparels and textiles, organic and inorganic chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and plastic goods witnessed noticeable contraction, weighing down the overall export performance.

Handicrafts, carpet, leather, iron ore, tea, rice, tobacco, spices and oil meals, too, recorded negative growth in exports in October. Petroleum product shipments dipped 10.5 per cent to about \$4 billion, while engineering goods shipments fell

Walkaroo recognised as No 1 PU footwear brand

POST NEWS NETWORK

Coimbatore, Nov 17: Home-grown footwear brand Walkaroo has been officially recognised as the No 1 PU footwear brand in India, based on a recent national survey conducted by globally renowned market research firm Cadence International.

Over the years, Walkaroo has quietly made its way into the hearts of millions of Indians. This recognition reaffirms Walkaroo's strong connection with the Indian consumer, built through a consistent focus on comfort, affordability and quality.

Commenting on this achievement, Naushad, MD, Walkaroo International Limited, said: "Becoming India's No 1 PU footwear brand is not just an achievement; it is a moment of gratitude. This recognition reflects the trust and confidence



we have earned from the millions of Indians who walk with Walkaroo every day. It is also a tribute to our partners, dealers, retailers and employees, whose dedication has made this possible. At Walkaroo, we have always believed that when you put the customer first, leadership naturally follows."

Since its inception in 2012, Walkaroo has built the largest PU footwear operation in India, with a production capacity of 5 lakh pairs per day. Backed by a robust network of over 700 dealers and more than one lakh retail outlets, Walkaroo's distribution capabilities ensure it reaches both urban and rural India.

BoB organises Mega Kisan Mela

Cuttack: The Regional Office of Bank of Baroda (BoB), Cuttack, organised a Mega Kisan Mela at the Pattamundai Municipality Town Hall. The objective of the event was to empower the rural community by connecting farmers with modern agricultural facilities, government schemes, and integrated banking services. The programme was graced by Swpna Bandyopadhyay, General Manager and Zonal Head of Bhubaneswar Zone; Pradeep Kumar Behera, AGM and Regional Head of Cuttack Region; and Gautam Pal, DRAM of Cuttack Region. Employees from various branches such as Kendrapada, Pattamundai, Hatina, Keragada, and Chandi were felicitated during the event. More than 350 farmers and women from various Self-Help Groups (SHGs) actively participated in the mela. During the programme, Bank of Baroda sanctioned and disbursed agricultural loans worth a total of Rs 29.14 crore, out of which Rs 20 crore was disbursed at the event itself. These included Baroda Kisan Credit Cards (BKCC), SHG financial assistance, food and agri-based loans, rural warehouse loans, tractor loans, implement loans, and other agriculture-related credit products. The mela showcased major financial services of the bank for farmers such as Digital Kisan Credit Card, tractor loans, agriculture loans, car loans, dairy loans, food processing loans, agricultural land loans, and digital gold loans. Farmers were also made aware of precautions to avoid online fraud. Guidance was provided on the safe and effective use of digital banking services. Additionally, they were informed about innovative farming methods to increase their income.



BoI holds Vigilance Awareness Program



Bhubaneswar: Bank of India (BoI), Bhubaneswar Zone organised Vigilance Awareness Program at Rajsunakhala in Nayagarh district on the topic of "Vigilance: our shared responsibility". The programme aimed to educate people about safe financial practices, preventing online fraud and promoting honesty and transparency in banking. Bijoy Kumar Malik, Deputy General Manager & Zonal Head: Lohit Nanda, LDM, Nayagarh; Jhunu Mishra, Block Project Manager, Nayagarh; Krushna Chandra Samantaray, Sarpanch, Kasanda; Sunita Mohapatra, Sarpanch, Surkabad; Dibakar Samantaray, Branch Manager, Rajsunakhala, BOI and Sahadev Maharana, Principal, Sanatan Memorial College, Surkabad were present on this occasion. The same programme was also held in Pipili branch where Zonal Head Malik and Vigilance Officer of Bhubaneswar Zone Niraj Kumar Prasad were present. Speaking on the occasion, Malik said if we aim to build a corruption free society, the progress of the country can be achieved. The staff and officers encouraged citizens to practice responsible and secure banking.

Unemployment rate remains steady

The unemployment rate was 5.2% in Sept, 5.1% in August, 5.2% in July and 5.6% in May and June

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: The rate of unemployment for those aged 15 and above remained steady at 5.2 per cent in October, according to a government survey released Monday.

The unemployment rate (UR) was 5.2 per cent in September, 5.1 per cent in August, 5.2 per cent in July and 5.6 per cent in May and June, as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

The UR was 5.1 per cent in April as per the first PLFS bulletin released in May 2025.

"The UR among persons of age 15 years and above remained unchanged at 5.2 per cent between September, 2025 and October, 2025," an official statement said.

According to the statement, a marginal decline in the rural unemployment rate, from 4.6 per cent in September 2025 to 4.4 per cent in October 2025, coupled with a moderate rise in urban UR from 6.8 per cent to 7.0 per cent, resulted in overall stability in the pace of joblessness among persons aged 15 years and above.

It stated that UR among females aged 15 years and



above declined to 5.4 per cent in October 2025 from 5.5 per cent observed during September 2025.

The drop in UR among rural female, from 4.3 per cent in September 2025 to 4.0 per cent in October 2025, mainly contributed towards the decline in overall female joblessness rate.

Among males, the rate of unemployment remained stable at 5.1 per cent in October 2025 as compared to previous month.

A minor decrease in rural male UR, from 4.7 per cent in September 2025 to 4.6 per cent in October 2025, was offset by a slight uptick in urban male UR from 6.0 per cent to 6.1 per cent during the same period, which

contributed to overall stability.

The overall Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in October 2025 was 52.5 per cent, which is consistently rising since June 2025, it stated.

Rise in the female workforce in rural areas has brought about this increase. Overall WPR among females of 15 years and older increased steadily for the fourth month in a row, rising from 30.2 per cent in June 2025 to 32.4 per cent in October 2025, it stated.

The female workforce in rural areas has increased consistently for four months, reaching 36.9 per cent in October 2025 from 33.6 per cent in June 2025.

The overall LFPR (labour

force participation rate) among persons of age 15 years and above continued to increase for the four successive months to 55.4 per cent in October 2025 from 54.2 per cent recorded in June 2025.

LFPR in rural areas also increased steadily from 56.1 per cent observed in June 2025 to 57.8 per cent in October 2025.

Overall LFPR reached a six-month high of 55.4 per cent in October 2025, it stated.

The overall LFPR among female aged 15 years and above reached 34.2 per cent in October 2025, marking the highest since May 2025, driven by the increase in female LFPR in rural areas.

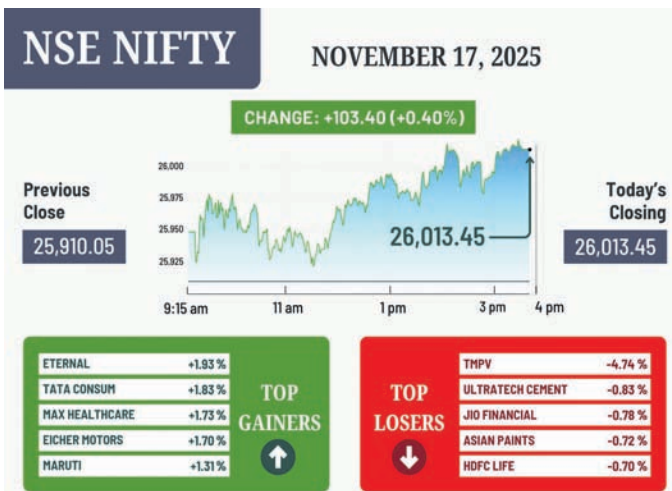
Overall female LFPR showed an increasing trend from 32.0 per cent in June 2025 to 34.2 per cent in October 2025.

At the all-India level, monthly estimates are based on information collected from a total number of 3,74,164 persons surveyed.

The Worker Population Ratio (WPR) defines the proportion of those who are employed among the total population.

The monthly bulletins for the period from April to September 2025 have already been released. The latest bulletin for October 2025 is the seventh in the series.

D-St rallies for 6th straight day



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 17: Stock markets rose for the sixth straight session Monday, with the benchmark Sensex climbing 388 points and Nifty closing above the 26,000 mark following an across-the-board rally and strong quarterly performance by corporates.

Rising for the sixth consecutive day, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 388.17 points, or 0.46 per cent, to close at 84,950.95. During the day, the BSE benchmark surged 425.31 points, or 0.50 per cent, to hit an intraday high of 84,988.09.

The broader NSE Nifty rose by 103.40 points, or 0.40 per cent, to settle at 26,013.45. In the intraday session, the NSE

Nifty advanced 114.15 points, or 0.44 per cent, to hit a high of 26,024.20.

Traders said strong buying by domestic institutional investors fueled the rally.

From the Sensex pack, Eternal, Maruti Suzuki India, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tech Mahindra, Titan, HDFC Bank, PowerGrid, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Technologies, Bajaj Finance and Larsen & Toubro were among the gainers.

Foreign institutional investors bought equities worth Rs 442.17 crore Monday, according to exchange data. On Friday, the BSE Sensex ended 84.11 points higher at 84,562.78, while the NSE Nifty went up 30.90 points to settle at 25,910.05.

DEAFLYMPICS 2025

Anuya's golden b'day, Pranjali clinches silver

INDIA'S MEDAL TALLY IN SHOOTING RISES TO SEVEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: Young Anuya Prasad gave herself a birthday present while Pranjali Prashant Dhumal added to India's joy as the duo completed a 1-2 finish in the women's 10m air pistol event at the Deaflympics, in Tokyo Monday.

Anuya clinched the gold medal in style, breaking the Deaf Final World Record (DFWR) enroute to winning the top-podium spot, while Pranjali broke the Qualification World Record (QWR) on way to securing a place in the finals.

In men's 10m air pistol, Abhinav Deshwal, who equaled the Qualification World Record, won silver to take India's medal tally in shooting to seven after two days of competition.

Sunday, 23-year-old Dhanush Srikanth, who trains at Olympian Gagan Narang's shooting academy in Hyderabad, had won the 10m air rifle gold.

Anuya shot 564 in the qualification round to enter the eight-shooter final placed third, while Pranjali broke the QWR with a brilliant score of 572 to top the preliminary round.

The 19-year-old Anuya was on song in the final as she amassed 241.1 and in the process set a DFWR on way to gold. This is her second major international medal after winning gold at the Deaf World Championships in Hanover last year.

She shot 52.5 in the first series of the final and maintained her lead throughout the competition to win by a healthy 4.3-point ahead of Pranjali who finished with a score of 236.8. Mahla Samiee of Iran won the bronze.

In the men's event, Abhinav Deshwal, gold medallist



- Anuya clinched the gold medal in style, breaking the Deaf Final World Record enroute to winning the top-podium spot
- Pranjali broke the Qualification World Record on way to securing a place in the finals
- Abhinav equals the Qualification World Record, clinches silver

at the 2022 Deaflympics at Caxias do Sul, shot 235.2 to win the silver medal.

Korea's Tae Young Kim won the gold with a score of 238.2 while Croatia's Boris Gramnyak won the bronze medal with a score of 215.3.

The 18-year-old Abhinav also equalled the World and Deaflympics world record in qualification, shooting a score of 576. The other Indian in the fray, Rudar Vinod Kumar finished qualification in 12th place with a score of 549.

The Air Rifle Mixed Team event will be held Tuesday and India will look to add more medals to their tally.

Gurpreet misses gold, India finish third

The Olympian fetches silver in 25m centre fire pistol

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cairo, Nov 17: Olympian Gurpreet Singh came agonisingly close to becoming the world champion in men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol event but eventually got a silver after losing on inner 10s to Ukraine's Pavlo Korostylov at the Olympic Shooting Range here.

This was Gurpreet's second individual medal in the World Championships, the first also being a silver won back in 2018 at Changwon in the 25m Standard Pistol event. Yann Pierre Louis Fridrici of France won the bronze here. India thus ended their World Championship campaign in third place with a total of 13 medals, including three gold, six silver and four

bronze behind China. The Chinese team mustered 12 gold, seven silver and two bronze.

South Korea secured seven gold, three silver and four bronze medals to end second in the overall standings.

Gurpreet shot a total of 584-18x over two days of competition in the precision and rapid stages, while Korostylov shot 29 inner 10s and a perfect score of 100 in the final rapid round to edge away with the gold medal.

The Indian shooter, who was placed ninth after the precision stage with a score of 288-8x (95,97,96), bounced back on the second day to shoot a brilliant score of 296-10x (98,99,99) in the rapid stage to clinch the silver medal. The Ukrainian, who was leading after the precision stage with a score of 291-14x, shot 293-15x in the rapid stage to level Gurpreet's score and win the gold on inner 10s.

Harpreet Singh, who was in contention for a medal after the



precision stage with a score of 291-10x that placed him second, could only manage 286-6x in the rapid stage which saw him eventually finish in ninth place.

The other Indian shooter in fray, Sahil Choudhary, finished 28th with a total score of 561-14x (Precision – 272-4x, Rapid – 289 – 10x). The three shooters also finished outside the team medal places, ending fifth.

Samrat Rana (10m Air Pis-

Indian shooters bag a total of 13 medals, including three gold, six silver and four bronze

tol), Ravinder Singh (50m Standard Pistol and 10m Air Pistol Team) won the gold medals.

Aishwary Pratap Sing Tomar (50m Rifle 3 Positions Men), Anish Bhanwala (25m Rapid Fire Pistol), Gurpreet Singh (25m Centre Fire Pistol), Esha Singh and Samrat Rana (10m Air Pistol Mixed Team, 10m Women's Air Pistol Team and 50m Men's Standard Pistol Team) secured the silver medals.

Esha (25m Sports Pistol), Elavenil Valarivan (10m Air Rifle), Varun Tomar (10m Air Pistol and 10m Women's Air Rifle Team) won bronze medals for India.

CLASH OF THE TITANS

Sinner seals ‘Sincaraz’ finale

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Turin, Nov 17: The final installment of the “Sincaraz” rivalry for 2025 went to Jannik Sinner.

The second-ranked Sinner beat top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz 7-6 (4), 7-5 for the ATP Finals trophy Sunday in the sixth meeting this year between the two players who are dominating men's tennis.

Sinner defended the title before his home Italian fans for only his second victory over Alcaraz this year after also beating the Spaniard in the Wimbledon final.

Sinner and Alcaraz have met in the last three Grand Slam finals. Alcaraz beat Sinner in a fifth-set tiebreaker to win the French Open; Sinner gained a measure of revenge at Wimbledon; then Alcaraz again came out on top at the US Open.



It was an incredible season. To finish it this way, before my Italian fans, is very special for me

JANNIK SINNER

They also clashed this year in the Italian Open final (won by Alcaraz) and the Cincinnati Open final (won by Alcaraz when Sinner retired due to illness).

EPIC RIVALRY

Second-ranked Sinner beats Alcaraz to retain ATP Finals title

Alcaraz had already secured the year-ending No 1 ranking

Alcaraz still leads his career meetings with Sinner, 10-6

Alcaraz has won six majors while Sinner has won four

“I hope you are going to be ready for next year because I will be ready to hopefully play more finals against you,” Alcaraz said during the trophy ceremony.

To which Sinner added that he hopes they have “great, great battles ahead of us.”

Sinner also won the Australian Open — beating Alexander Zverev in the final — so he and Alcaraz each won two majors this year.

FIDE WORLD CUP

ARJUN DRAWS EASY WITH BLACK PIECES



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji (Goa), Nov 17: Seeking to qualify for the Candidates' event, India's top-rated Arjun Erigaisi walked off with an easy draw with his Chinese counterpart Wei Yi in the first game of the quarterfinals here Monday.

On what turned out to be an easy day for Arjun, Alexander Donchenko finally realised about things being rosy every day. The German had been on a dream run which is likely to end now as Nodirbek Yakubboev won an exciting game one with white pieces. If Yakubboev is able to hold the German in the next game to a draw he will be through to the semifinal.

For Arjun the opening was important and it did not pose any issues. The young Indian generation is re-writing the theoretical aspects of the game and Arjun is no exception. As it turned out of a routine Ruy Lopez theory, Arjun equalised with a thematic pawn sacrifice earlier in the middle game.

When Wei Yi returned the favour the position was already dead-equal and the players shook hands to split the point in a mere 31 moves.

Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan played out a draw with Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara of Mexico in a well contested game. The Uzbek was never under real threat and could be seen as a potential semifinalist out of this contest.

In the only other remaining match Samuel Shankland of United States also played out a draw with Russian Andrey Esipenko.

SHORT TAKES

India vs SA T20I in Barabati: Online tickets from Dec 1

Cuttack: The Odisha Cricket Association Monday announced the schedule for the sale of tickets for the upcoming match in Barabati Stadium, with online sales starting on December 1 and offline sales December 5. Offline ticket sales will be done at six stadium counters in Cuttack. To streamline public access to match tickets, a combination of online booking and physical counter distribution was finalised during a meeting at the District Collector's office. Physical ticket sales will commence 5 December, with six dedicated counters set up at Barabati Stadium for hassle-free distribution. "The online sale of tickets for India VS South Africa T20 match will be available from December 1, and on December 3 and 4th, those who are in affiliated unit, they will get the tickets from OCA conference hall and from offline sale of tickets will be available from December 5th," said OCA Secretary Sanjay Behera.

Odisha tighten grip against Nagaland

Bhubaneswar: Odisha tightened their grip on the Ranji Trophy clash against Nagaland after a commanding performance across Day 2 at the KIIT Cricket Stadium, Bhubaneswar. Resuming from their strong overnight total, Odisha rode on Anil Parida's marathon unbeaten 118 and Biplab Samantaray's fluent 92 to post 275 in their first innings, securing a crucial 130-run lead. Earlier, Odisha's bowlers—led by Govinda Poddar, Sambit Baral and Rajesh Mohanty—bundled out Nagaland for 161, with Nischal D's gritty 72 the lone resistance. With a healthy lead and momentum firmly in their favour, Odisha head into Day 3 in complete control of the contest.



Haaland's brace takes Norway to first World Cup since 1998

The 25-year-old is averaging more than a goal a game for club and country this season

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Milan, Nov 17: Norway qualified for their first World Cup since 1998 after Erling Haaland struck again in a 4-1 thumping of Italy Sunday which sealed a spot in next summer's finals in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Haaland scored the decisive brace in the space of seconds at a soaking San Siro for Norway, who completed Group I with a perfect 24 points from their eight qualifying matches.

Norway would have had to lose by nine goals or more in order to be overtaken by Italy for the group's only automatic place for next summer's finals in North America, but Stale Solbakken's side ended their



campaign in glorious fashion in front of 70,000 people.

However, Solbakken was coy as to his powerful team's chances now that a 28-year weight has come to an end. "Let's see the draw first... I haven't even thought about it. For me, it (tonight) was to go from 99 percent to 100 percent and now we have done it in a great way," Solbak-

ken told reporters. "Let's see what the draw brings before we go into those questions."

Haaland's father Alf-Inge was still an international player when Norway last competed in the World Cup 27 years ago, a tournament won by a Zinedine Zidane-inspired France.

And the Manchester City striker, called a "goal machine" by Solbakken, will be one of the players to watch in North America after smashing in 16 goals during qualifying.

The 25-year-old is averaging more than a goal a game for club and country this season and was typically ruthless when presented with his opportunities to both put Norway ahead and then double their lead in the 78th and 79th minutes.

Do Gill, Gambhir think alike on what's an ideal home pitch?

India's defeat is not an isolated collapse. It mirrors tactical confusion, and over-curated pitches, without batting depth to sustain it

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 17: The pitch row triggered by India's embarrassing 30-run loss to South Africa while chasing a modest 124 has also opened up a larger question -- are young skipper Shubman Gill and coach Gautam Gambhir on the same page on what construes ideal home conditions?

The collapse, India's lowest failed chase at home, has left behind deeper fault lines than a dry Eden Gardens wicket can conceal.

Just a month ago, on the eve of the West Indies Test series in Ahmedabad, Gill had been em-

phatic that the team has moved away from the philosophy of preferring "rank turners".

"...we would be looking to play on wickets that offer both to the batsmen and to the bowlers," Gill had said, outlining a vision of balanced surfaces.

Yet India walked into the series against the reigning World Test champions on a pitch that was the exact opposite of what their captain advocated.

The Eden strip was left unwatered for more than a week and was kept under cover in the evening. The result was a dry, flaky surface that disintegrated from session one in a match that lasted barely eight sessions, producing 38 wickets, with spinners taking 22 and pacers 16.

If the team had moved away from rank turners, Eden suggested the opposite. Gambhir was unapologetic and had no qualms declaring that the pitch was exactly what the team management wanted.



GILL DOUBTFUL FOR 2ND TEST

India's Test skipper Shubman Gill has been released from the Kolkata hospital where he was treated for a neck spasm suffered during the opening Test against South Africa

"If you don't play well this is what happens. There were no demons in the

The squad is set to travel to Guwahati Wednesday, but with commercial flights generally discouraged for individuals recovering from neck-related injuries, Gill is unlikely to accompany the team on that day

Should Gill be ruled out of the Guwahati Test, India may look toward left-handers B Sai Sudharsan or Devdutt Padikkal

wicket," he asserted.

Ask Aiden Markram, who was undone by a ball from Jas-

They have completely destroyed Test cricket. RIP Test cricket

HARBHAJAN SINGH

Losing at home cannot be accepted, transition or not

CHETESHWAR PUJARA

prit Bumrah that leapt from the off-stump line in the first hour of the opening day, or KL Rahul, who was bamboozled by a Marco Jansen delivery that reared up sharply in the fourth innings -- and they would disagree.

Gambhir insisted seamers were the ones doing the damage. "Ultimately, if we had won this Test match, you wouldn't even be talking about this pitch," he said in his usual combative style.

The messaging gap, however, is evident. Gill had asked for balance. The coach wanted exactly what transpired. The captain didn't even get to play owing to neck spasms that needed

hospitalisation, putting him in doubt for the second Test in Guwahati from November 22.

Gill took no part beyond day 1 owing to the neck spasm sustained while playing a slogsweep boundary off Simon Harmer. In his absence, Indian batting displayed neither discipline nor adaptability.

India have now lost four of their last six Tests at home -- a trend that has shred the aura of invincibility that the team enjoyed in its backyard.

Under Gambhir, India have eight wins from 18 Tests -- four of them have come against lowly Bangladesh and West Indies.

The script here resembled India's 0-3 humiliation against New Zealand at home last year, a series in which Ajaz Patel (11 in Mumbai), Mitchell Santner (13 in Pune) exposed the side's frailties on turning tracks.

That series derailed India's World Test Championship run, and the Eden defeat now sits in the same bracket.