



Shehnaaz's advice

Actor-singer Shehnaaz Gill shares heartfelt advice for her younger self and the future woman she aspires to be

LEISURE | P2



Crisis deepens

Japan warns its citizens in China to remain alert amid a deepening dispute between both nations over Taiwan

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Rosy picture

SBI has predicted that India's GDP growth is expected to reach 7.5 per cent or more in the second quarter of the current fiscal

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Double-podium finish

Indian shooters win gold and bronze medals in 10m air rifle mixed team event at 25th Deaflympics

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CHILD DIES AFTER SWALLOWING TOY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Daringbadi, Nov 18: A 4-year-old boy died Tuesday after accidentally swallowing a plastic toy that came inside a packet of snack sticks, police and health officials said.

The child, identified as Bigil Pradhan, son of Ranjit Pradhan of Musumaha Pada near Sikaramaha village under Brahmanigaon police limits. While playing at their maize field, Bigil found a small plastic toy gun inside the packet. He accidentally swallowed the toy, which became lodged in his throat, causing him to choke and struggle to breathe.

His parents rushed him in critical condition to the Daringbadi Community Health Center, about 30 kilometers away where doctors pronounced him dead. The CHC in-charge Dr Jakesh Samantaray, the child had severe internal bleeding and the toy likely entered the airway.

LOOKING INTO EYES: Jay, a Royal Bengal Tiger, inside an enclosure at Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Botanical Udyan and Zoo in Mumbai. Built over 160 years ago during British rule, the facility will complete 163 years November 19 — making it one of India's oldest zoos and heritage gardens

End corruption at all levels: CM

Every village will be provided all-weather roads, electricity and drinking water by 2027, claimed Majhi highlighting the state's flagship Mission Power programme at Collector-SP meet

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday called upon Collectors and Superintendents of Police (SPs) to remain firmly committed to public service and ensure transparent, corruption-free administration across all levels.

Majhi said this while addressing the two-day annual District Collector-SP joint conference here. He issued at least nine instructions to the district collectors with a strong warning on corruption as top of his agenda.

"The state government will certainly provide all support to Collectors, but

will not tolerate corruption, negligence and inefficiencies. I will not tolerate it at all if the government's image is tarnished due to the corrupt practice of officers at whatever level," Majhi warned.

He went on to add, "It is noticed that some young officers and toppers of UPSC and OPSC indulged in corruption, notwithstanding their long career ahead. Our government adopts zero tolerance towards corruption," he said.

The CM noted that the state's anti-corruption Vigilance wing is in "super active" mode and doing its best to eliminate corruption. "Please remain firmly committed to public service

and ensure transparent, corruption-free administration across all levels," Majhi urged.

The CM also asked Collectors to increase field visits, actively engage with citizens, and prioritise grievance redressal at the district level.

He also suggested the district authorities to use technology for efficient administration and wider dissemination of government initiatives through social

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- State's anti-corruption vigilance wing is in "super active" mode
- Courteous and respectful behaviour towards public representatives
- Collectors to increase field visits, actively engage with citizens, and prioritise grievance redressal at the district level
- District authorities to use technology for efficient administration

media. During his address, Majhi also highlighted the state's flagship 'Mission Power' programme, under which

every village in Odisha will be provided all-weather roads, electricity and drinking water by 2027. He urged Collectors to work in "mission mode" to achieve the ambitious target.

In a firm directive to district administrations, Majhi instructed officials to ensure all government files, notices, reports and advertisements at district and block levels are prepared in Odia.

He also emphasised courteous and respectful behaviour towards public representatives visiting government offices.

The conference was also addressed by deputy chief minister Pravati Parida, revenue and disaster management minister Suresh Pujari, chief secretary Manoj Ahuja and development commissioner Anu Garg.

4 MORE TEHSILS

Bhubaneswar: In a move aimed at strengthening governance and improving service delivery at the grassroots level, the state government has announced the creation of four new tehsils. Now, the total number of tehsils will rise from 317 to 321.

The Revenue and Disaster Management department has issued official letters to the Collectors of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, and Sambalpur districts regarding the expansion. Of the four, two will be established in Bhubaneswar, while one each will come up in Cuttack and Sambalpur.

SC raps CBI for role in 'political battles'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: The Supreme Court Tuesday rejected a plea of CBI seeking its nod to initiate a preliminary inquiry into allegations of irregularities in appointments and promotions in Jharkhand Assembly Secretariat, saying why was the Central agency using the machinery in "political battles".

Tuesday, a bench comprising Chief Justice BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran was hearing an interim application of the CBI seeking the nod to initiate a preliminary enquiry.

"Why do you use the machinery for your political battles? ... We have told you so many times," the CJI observed while dismissing the plea of the probe agency.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha Secretariat, said, "It is shocking that when matters come up, the CBI appears in that court beforehand."

"Not in this case", Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the CBI, said. "Not only here, in many cases, in West Bengal, my lords have seen it," Sibal contended.

Earlier, the Justice Gavai-led bench had stayed the High Court verdict, which directed the CBI to enquire into the alleged irregularities in appointments and promotions.

The bench had then agreed to hear the plea filed by the Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha Secretariat and others challenging the September 23, 2024, judgment of the high court. There was no effective hearing in the case after November 14, 2024.

One of the pleas, filed through advocate Tulika Mukherjee, said the high court had erred in directing the CBI to enquire into the issue in the absence of any criminality or cognisable offence, that too in a civil matter which involves complicated and pure questions of law and facts with respect to service jurisprudence and others.

Al Falah group chairman arrested

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate Tuesday arrested Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui, chairman of the Al Falah group, after it conducted simultaneous searches in Delhi-NCR against the trustees and promoters of Faridabad-based Al Falah University, which has been at the centre of the probe into the Red Fort area car blast case, officials said.

Siddiqui has been taken into custody under the criminal provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and is being produced before a competent court for remand, they said. The agency has also seized ₹48 lakh in cash during the searches that began around 5:15 am, according to sources.

Now I know how a politician feels when his teleprompter stops working

Top Naxal commander Madvi Hidma killed

Malkangiri, Nov 18: Top Naxalite commander Madvi Hidma, who had masterminded several attacks over the last two decades, was killed in an encounter in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh Tuesday, a breakthrough Chhattisgarh Police described as the "last nail in the coffin" of the insurgency.

Security forces gunned

down Hidma, his wife Raje, and five other Naxalites in the Maredumilli forest in Alluri Sitaramaraju district of the neighbouring state this morning, a senior police officer in Bastar confirmed.

"We have received information that Maoist leader Hidma is among the cadres killed on the Andhra Pradesh-Chhattisgarh border. It is a very important development," Chhattisgarh

Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma told reporters in Raipur. A native of Puvarti village in Sukma district, Hid-

ma's age and appearance remained mysterious until his photograph surfaced earlier this year.

He headed the Maoists' People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Battalion No. 1, the strongest military formation of the outfit in Dandakaranya, which spans parts of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, and Maharashtra, apart from Bastar, for several years, officials said.

'Parasocial' Cambridge's Word of the Year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: 'Parasocial', defined as involving or relating to a connection that someone feels with a famous person they do not know, has been named the Word of the Year for 2025, the Cambridge Dictionary announced on Tuesday.

According to Cambridge officials, the year was marked by interest in one-sided parasocial relationships that people form with celebrities, influencers and AI chatbots.

When Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce announced their engagement, many fans felt a deep connection to the singer and the American footballer, even though

most had never met them.

Millions of fans related to Taylor Swift's confessional lyrics about dating, heartbreak and desire, leading to what psychologists describe as "parasocial" bonds with stars.

Lily Allen's "breakup album" "West End Girl" leant into parasocial in-

terest in her love life. The spontaneity, imperfection and confessional nature of podcast hosts have been said to replace real friends and to catalyse parasocial relationships.

The emergence of parasocial relationships with AI bots saw people treat ChatGPT as a confidant, friend or even romantic partner. These led to emotionally meaningful — and in some cases troubling — connections for users, and concerns about the consequences.

"Parasocial captures the 2025 zeitgeist. It's a great example of how language changes. What was once a specialist academic term has become mainstream. Millions of people are engaged in parasocial relationships; many more are simply intrigued by their rise. The data reflects that, with the Cambridge Dictionary website seeing spikes in lookups for parasocial," Colin McIntosh of the Cambridge Dictionary said.

"The language around parasocial phenomena is

evolving fast, as technology, society and culture shift and mutate: from celebrities to chatbots, parasocial trends are fascinating for those who are interested in the development of language," he added.

The term parasocial dates back to 1956, when University of Chicago sociologists Donald Horton and Richard Wohl observed television viewers engaged in "parasocial" relationships with on-screen personalities, resembling those they formed with "real" family and friends.

They noted how the rapidly expanding medium of television brought the faces of actors directly into viewers' homes, making them fixtures in people's lives.

DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2025

CLIMATE CHANGE : FINDING SOLUTIONS

RAHGIR

PERFORMANCE

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FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you may set out to please your beloved, and maybe even woo him/her all over again. There may be a bit of dissatisfaction regarding friends and relatives, but you can look forward to partying and new friendships this evening, says Ganesha.

TAURUS
Today, you are likely to pay attention to your health issues and eating habits. Fortune may not favour your efforts. However hard you may try, you may still find yourself back to square one at the end of the day. Try until you taste the sweet fruit of success, suggests Ganesha.

GEMINI
Lady Luck is likely to smile on you, foresees Ganesha. You are generally shy, but today is a different day. You will remain outgoing and will be able to freely express your feelings. This temporary change will do a lot of good to your ego, says Ganesha.

CANCER
Those around you have always thought that there is something different about you, but could never put their finger on what exactly it was. You always knew. You are better than them, and today is the day to make them realise that. How? The best course of action is to do your job in the best possible manner. You will be appreciated and may even be seen as a future leader by some of your colleagues.

LEO
Easy come, easy go – that is the best way to sum up money. Try holding on to it, advises Ganesha, as there is a strong possibility that you shall incur a lot of wasteful expenditures today. Always think twice before you spend your hard-earned money.

VIRGO
Sense and sensibilities will prevail today as you address relationships. On the emotional front, you may be unclear and oscillate between what you feel and what you really expected of you. But in the end, you may well end up following your inner voice than depend on others. Your intuition is invincibly strong, says Ganesha.

LIBRA
The theatrical you comes to the fore. Ganesha expects you to put up a show in all that you do today, be it a display of devotion to your work, or dedication to your family. You may give the best in the business a run for their money as you prove to be the perfect choice for all tasks assigned to you.

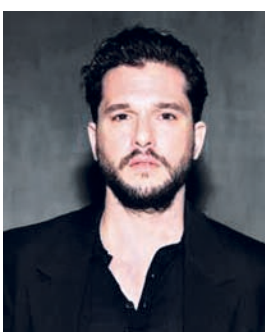
SCORPIO
Signs indicate you may face unexpected expenses today. But this spending is likely to be on family and friends – especially in entertaining them. But keep track of every penny. To be on the safer side, Ganesha advises you not to have any pockets all today.

SAGITTARIUS
Pack your bags today for a long business trip, which will bear rich fruits. Be ready to pick up important business pointers and learn your way into your trade. Ganesha predicts pleasant surprises in store later in the day.

CAPRICORN
It's time to party, whether or not you have no reason for it. Friends and even acquaintances will be invited to take part in the celebrations; you will be all charged up to have a blast of a day, says Ganesha. For those engaged in business, profits may come but it won't be the result of the efforts you put in. Any dealings related to real estate and construction will yield good results. As for professionals, bosses and close associates will extend their full support to whatever work you undertake.

AQUARIUS
You may be sorely disappointed today. With no support from family, and the kids driving you up the wall, you need to keep your cool. Family feuds are highly likely, and neighbours may attempt to interfere. For now, all you need is to remain unruffled, says Ganesha.

PISCES
While you may have a wide circle of acquaintances, it is only a select few who you bless with your munificence. And that is precisely what you will be busy with, as a day filled with socialising and leisure-filled activities beckons, says Ganesha.



HARINGTON BREAKS SILENCE ON 'EMBARRASSING' KISSING SCENE

Kit Harington recalled an “embarrassing” moment on *The Dreadful* set when he had to stand on an apple box to kiss co-star Sophie Turner. The 38-year-old actor said the height difference made the scene awkward, as Turner, who plays Anne, is noticeably taller than his character, Jago

TOM CRUISE RECEIVES HIS HONORARY OSCAR

Hollywood star Tom Cruise, after four Academy Award nominations, wins an honorary Oscar. The award recognises his “unwavering commitment to the filmmaking community,” his “vital support of the theatrical experience,” and his “unmatched body of work”



Shehnaaz's advice to her different versions

MUMBAI: Actress-singer Shehnaaz Gill, who is basking in the success of her maiden production *Ikk Kudi*, has reflected on her long journey, offering advice to the version of herself from ten years ago and to the woman she hopes to become in the next decade.

Looking back at her early struggles, Shehnaaz told this news agency that she would tell her younger self only one thing: “Well done, Shehnaaz Gill. I am proud of you. You are doing so well in life. What I wanted to achieve in life, you are doing that. God bless you always. Keep on growing.”

She also spoke about the road ahead, stressing that she doesn't want success to make her complacent.

“Shehnaaz, don't think that you become something. You still have to do so much hard work in your life. Keep going. Keep working hard. Never stop.”

In a candid warning shaped by her experiences, the actress noted: “Don't get influenced by anyone. Be smart. People can be bad. They will try to suppress you. They will try to spoil your mind.”

Talking about her film *Ikk Kudi*, it tells the tale of a woman from a family of broken hearts who starts doubting her arranged marriage match and embarks on a quest to uncover her fiancé's mysterious past.

IANIS



MUMBAI: Fatima Sana Shaikh, best known for *Dangal*, has opened up about a difficult chapter in her life, revealing that she battled Bulimia for nearly a year. In a candid conversation on Rhea Chakraborty's podcast, the actor described her long-standing “love-hate relationship” with her body and food, admitting she had become “addicted” to a certain version of herself.

Shaikh explained that her struggle began after she gained weight for *Dangal*. While preparing for the role, she trained intensely: three hours for wrestling and another 1.5 hours at the gym, consuming 2,500 to 3,000 calories daily. But when the film ended, her calorie intake remained the same even though her physical activity dropped. This imbalance led her to feel unfit and emotionally overwhelmed. Eating soon became a “comfort zone,” and she found herself bingeing for hours, unable to stop,

Fatima talks about life's tough chapter

which fueled deep self-criticism.

Her pattern quickly turned extreme, shifting between uncontrollable eating and long periods of starvation. The emotional toll was so heavy that she avoided leaving the house. Her *Dangal* co-star Sanya Malhotra was the first to sense something was wrong.

Shaikh said the disorder numbed her feelings, comparing it to doom scrolling, eventually pushing her into Bulimia, an experience she calls “extremely harmful.”

AGENCIES



Huma shares her bond with success, failure

MUMBAI: In a journey spanning over a decade in the Hindi entertainment industry, actress Huma Qureshi, whose latest release is *Maharani 4*, talked about her understanding of success, recognition, and failure, which she says has not dramatically transformed over the years but has steadily grown into something healthier and more grounded.

Huma, who made her debut in 2012 with *Gangs of Wasseypur*, has had her share of hits and misses with films such as *Ek Thi Daayan*, *Dedh Ishqiya*, *Badlapur*, *Jolly LLB 2*, *Kaala*, *Leila*, *Viceroy's House*, *Dobaara*: *See Your Evil*, *Bell Bottom*, *Double XL*, *Tarla*, *Army of the Dead* and *Monica O My Darling* to name a few.

Looking

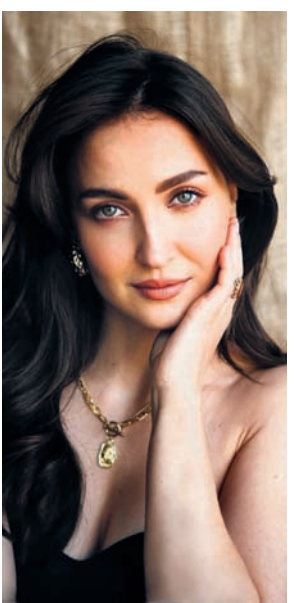
back at her journey, Huma shared that the real shift has been an internal one.

“It's not transformed. I think it's become better. I've connected with myself more as an artist and as a person, as a woman,” Huma told this news agency.

The actress added that she now approaches her work without the emotional baggage that often comes with the industry.

“I think I'm just able to function without any of the baggage. I'm just able to enjoy my work and have fun and really. I mean, I can't complain,” added the actress.

IANIS



Elli on being typecast

MUMBAI: Elli AvrRam, who has featured in diverse films and OTT projects, said that one of her biggest early challenges was breaking free from the industry's fixed perception of her. She shared that people often assumed they already understood her based solely on her appearance, which led to her being typecast despite the range of characters she had portrayed.

The Swedish actor, last seen in *Be Happy*, noted that she had played roles as varied as a Bengali wife and Jessie in *Malang*, along with several Indian characters in her upcoming work, yet she was still stereotyped for years. Many believed she wasn't suitable for certain roles or fluent in Hindi simply because of how she looked.

Elli said it took time for this perception to shift, but the rise of OTT platforms played a key role. Streaming content allowed viewers and filmmakers to see her versatility, helping her break out of the mould she had long been placed in. Today, she feels recognised as the performer she always knew she was, with directors far more open to experimenting with her capabilities. Looking ahead, Elli hopes to explore action-oriented and deeply layered roles, believing there is still much more she can bring to the screen.

AGENCIES

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5
6			7	
8			9	
10	11		12	
		13		
14		15		16
			18	
19		20		21
22			23	

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Across

- 6 Type of net
- 7 King Minos, for one
- 8 Insults
- 9 Not up yet
- 10 Fur source
- 12 Cut off
- 14 Letter carrier
- 16 Hesitate
- 19 Desire

Down

- 20 Legendary
- 22 Guard
- 23 Novelist's need
- 1 Shocked reaction
- 2 Hub
- 3 Harp types
- 4 Watch out!

- 5 Haphazard
- 7 Resting place
- 11 Double-crosser (3-5)
- 13 Garish
- 15 Papeete locale
- 17 Amusement venue
- 18 Colour of honey
- 21 European erupter

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



Odisha shines at sixth Nat’l Water Awards

Delegation from 12 nations visit Assembly



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 18: Odisha shone at the 6th National Water Awards and Jal Sanchay-Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) Awards, with RCCF Berhampur Circle securing the first rank (joint winner) in the ‘Best Institute Other Than School and College Outside Campus’ category. Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agriculture University, Hisar, shared the top position. Since August 2023, the Berhampur Circle has constructed five farm ponds, 24,317 staggered trenches, over 3,000 pits and around 8 km of trenches, reflecting sustained innovation in water conservation and resource management.

President Droupadi Murmu presented the awards at a ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Tuesday. Instituted by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the awards recognise outstanding contributions to sustainable water use across the country.

In addition, Malusanta Government Nodal Higher Secondary School, Damanjodi, was adjudged the third joint winner in the ‘Best School and College’ category.

This apart five Odisha districts — Ganjam, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Cuttack, and Mayurbhanj — received the prestigious JSJB Awards 2025 for their exemplary contributions to water conservation and groundwater recharge under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) campaign. Launched in September 2024, the initiative promotes community participation in water governance and sustainable practices to address growing

sources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the awards recognise outstanding contributions to sustainable water use across the country.

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water stress. The award-winning districts have constructed and rejuvenated key water infrastructure, including rooftop rainwater harvesting systems and borewell recharge units.

Each of these districts will receive ₹25 lakh in financial incentives, along with citations from the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation. The JSA: CTR campaign has already resulted in the construction of 27.6 lakh recharge structures nationwide, surpassing its original target of 10 lakh and highlighting the success of community-driven water management.

At the ceremony, President Murmu stressed the vital importance of water in human civilisation and Indian tradition, noting that rivers, lakes, and other water sources have always been revered. She urged citizens, industries, and governments to adopt sustainable and innovative practices for water conservation, emphasising that water is a precious resource whose efficient use is crucial for India, especially in the face of climate change. She also highlighted the success of the Jal Sanchay-Jan Bhagidari initiative, under which over 35 lakh groundwater recharge structures have been constructed.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: The Odisha Legislative Assembly Tuesday hosted 40 foreign delegates from 12 countries, visiting under a programme organised by the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE), New Delhi. The delegates attended a special session in the Assembly Secretariat’s conference hall to gain insights into the Assembly’s functioning, legislative procedures and traditions.

The event was inaugurated by Assembly Speaker Surama



Padhy, who warmly welcomed the delegates and provided an overview of the Assembly’s rich history and operational procedures. Highlighting recent achievements, she noted that in the first year of the 17th Assembly, a total of 62 working days of sessions were successfully completed.

She also emphasised that all Assembly proceedings have been digitised under the NeVA (New e-Vidhan Application) project, marking a major step toward paperless functioning.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mukesh Mahaling briefed

the delegates on the legislative procedures and administrative functions of the Assembly, and suggested ways to strengthen cultural and parliamentary exchanges between nations.

MP Sujit Kumar highlighted the traditions and functioning of the Indian parliamentary system, offering deeper insight into India’s democratic practices. The programme was attended by Odisha Assembly Secretary Satyabrata Rout, Director of Legislative Research Tribikram Pradhan, PRIDE Director Prashant Mallik and other senior Assembly officials.

Nova IVF Fertility opens 1st centre in Capital city

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: Nova IVF Fertility, India’s fastest-growing fertility chain, has expanded its presence in Odisha with the launch of its first centre in Bhubaneswar. With over 120 centres across 68 cities and more than 1 lakh IVF cycles completed, the chain aims to enhance access to quality fertility care in Tier-2 and Tier-3 regions.

The new centre features advanced Electronic Witnessing Systems (EWS) and AI-enabled embryo selection technology, provided at no additional cost to couples. These systems en-



hance precision and safety in fertility treatments by minimising errors and improving success rates.

“Our expansion into Bhubaneswar reflects our continued focus on making quality fertility care accessible across India,” said Nova IVF Fertility CEO Bishwanath Ganguly. “We follow international protocols

backed by skilled clinicians and embryologists to ensure consistent patient outcomes across all our centres,” he added.

Highlighting the technological enhancements, Rohit Gutgia, Medical Director, Nova IVF Fertility, said, “AI acts as a second set of eyes for embryologists in selecting the best embryo, which can help improve success rates. EWS works like an alarm system that alerts embryologists in case of any mix-ups.”

“Many couples delay consultation, which affects outcomes as age increases the number of cycles required,” said Fertility Specialist Gayatri Satpathy.

CUO hosts food safety regulations workshop



KORAPUT: A five-day workshop-cum-certificate course on “Understanding the Basics of Food Regulations in India” began at the Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput, Monday. The workshop was jointly organised by the Department of Dairy Science, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), and the International Training Centre for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition (ITCFSAN), Mumbai. NC Nanda, Vice-Chancellor (I/C), formally inaugurated the programme in the presence of Nilamani Biswal, Director (I/C), FSSAI Eastern Region Office, Kolkata; Duryodhan Sethi, Finance Officer, CUO; and Sanjay Kumar Pradhan, Head, Department of Dairy Science. Delivering an overview of the course, Muhammad Salman Chukkan, Technical Officer, FSSAI (ITCFSAN), Western Region, Mumbai emphasised the relevance of the workshop for dairy technocrats in the context of India’s evolving food safety ecosystem.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit (70AA057799) sworn before Executive Magistrate, Anandapur, Dated- 14.11.2025, I, KABERI PUHAN, W/o.- BHAGIRATHI ROUT, Address: At- BHATAKARUA, P.O.- AMBAGADIA, P.S.- NANDIPADA, Dist.- Keonjhar, Odisha declare that I have changed the name of my daughter from ELINA ROUT to ALINA ROUT. Henceforth, she shall be known as ALINA ROUT for all purposes. KABERI PUHAN

I, Smruti Samal, S/o- Baishnab Charan Samal, resident of AT-QTR No-5, Kitchen Block Bose Campus Medical College Campus, Cuttack, PIN- 753007, Odisha declare by this affidavit No- 29707, dtd-14.11.2025 that now onwards I shall be known as SMRUTI RANJAN SAMAL for all future purposes.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: In a major crackdown on illegal narcotics trade, the Excise department Tuesday seized 465 grams of brown sugar worth around ₹46 lakh and arrested three persons during a raid near the Satya Nagar overbridge.

The accused have been identified as Rabi Barik (26), Shant Kumar Parida (33) and Hasim Khan (29).

According to sources, the Excise department received intelligence inputs regarding the smuggling of the contraband. Acting on the tip-off, Excise sleuths apprehended the trio red-handed near the Satya Nagar overbridge while they were reportedly distributing the narcotics.



Excise sleuths caught the trio red-handed while they were allegedly dealing with the contraband

The department stated that Rabi Barik is the key distributor, supplying brown sugar to various petty dealers in the City. A Pulsar motorcycle allegedly used by him to trans-

port the contraband was also seized during the operation.

“The Excise department received intelligence regarding brown sugar smuggling in the City. Our Range-I officers traced the smugglers and arrested them. The prime supplier, Rabi Barik, has also been apprehended. We are investigating the other links of the smuggling network,” said Bhubaneswar Excise SP Debashish Patel.

All three accused have been arrested and forwarded to the Court of the District Judge, Bhubaneswar, under Section 21 of the NDPS Act.

It is worth noting that Monday, the police had arrested another youth and seized 400 grams of brown sugar worth around ₹40 lakh.

44TH INDIA INT’L TRADE FAIR

Odisha Pavilion attracts investment opportunities

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: The Odisha Pavilion, inaugurated at the 44th India International Trade Fair being held from November 14 to 27 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, has successfully established commercial connections with major business enterprises from India and abroad.

Reflecting this year’s theme, “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat”, a wide range of Odisha’s products, from agricultural goods to handlooms and handicrafts created through indigenous knowledge and skills, has attracted the attention of large business groups as well as government and private institutions from within the country and overseas.

As an outcome of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s call for “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat” and “Atmanirbhar Bharat”, along with Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi’s “Odisha Vision 2036” focused on industrialisation and investment, the Odisha Pavilion has achieved significant success during the first five days (November 14-18) of the fair’s designated business period.



During this business period, several interactions took place. Under the MSME department, Bargarh-based Goumaya Paints held discussions with the Tripura Industries department, Arihant Paints of Rohtak (Haryana), ALM Enterprises (New Delhi) and RKGD Enterprises (New Delhi). Odisha Rajya Talaguda Samabaya Sangha conducted business talks with Delhi-based Harmit Singh. Similarly, Berhampur’s Elate Crunchies engaged in discussions with the Airports Authority of India, Power Grid Corporation, Ashoka Hotel (New Delhi) and Nut Shake.

Under the Department of Agriculture & Farmers’ Empowerment, the stall of Jashipur Farmers Producers Com-

mittee of Mayurbhanj district held talks with representatives from the state of Kerala. Under ORMAS, the Rayagada-based Prerana self-help group, participating with Tumba crafts, discussed business opportunities with Rudrashil Products of New Delhi.

Additionally, stalls showcasing paddy craft, Saura and Gond tribal paintings, Koraput coffee and products collected-produced-processed by tribal communities—represented by the SC &ST Development department—as well as various attractive items produced by women self-help groups and producer groups supported by ORMAS and Mission Shakti, became major points of attraction for traders from partici-

ating states and countries.

Ministers and senior administrative officials from various states visited the Odisha Pavilion along with their teams and held discussions with stall representatives about production, supply and distribution procedure of the showcased items.

The positive response and high-quality assistance provided by the officials-in-charge of the pavilion have significantly enhanced the perception of Odisha-made products.

November 14, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida inaugurated the pavilion. Yesterday, Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo visited the Odisha Pavilion as well as the pavilions of the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare, presenting a clear picture of Odisha’s achievements and potential in these sectors.

Throughout the business period, notable visitors such as Tripura’s Minister of Industries & Commerce Santana Chakma, and Manipur’s Additional Chief Secretary Anurag Bajpayee visited the pavilion for strengthening commercial prospects with their respective states.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.62 ▼ 0.04	SENSEX	84673.02 ▼ 277.93	GOLD	₹122,317 ▼ ₹610
EURO	102.73 ▼ 0.21	NIFTY	25910.05 ▼ 103.40	SILVER	₹153,758 ▼ ₹1,554

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	29.7°	27.2°	Mainly Clear Sky
Min Temp	14.1°	14.0°	
Humidity	67%	75%	
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 Ramchandani 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.

12-hr bandh cripples life in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 18: Normal life was disrupted in Keonjhar district Tuesday as all government offices, educational institutions and banks remained closed while vehicular traffic came to a grinding halt in many parts of the district during the 12-hour bandh call given by Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) Tuesday in protest against the alleged rape of a tribal and differently-abled minor girl

According to police, the girl was allegedly raped under Banspal block November 15 and is currently undergoing treatment at the district headquarters hospital (DHH). A man from Muslim community in West Bengal has been arrested in connection with the case.

The bandh, aimed at demanding the identification and expulsion of alleged infiltrators and anti-social elements from the district, passed off peacefully Tuesday, said sources. Many shopkeepers voluntarily downed shutters, and markets remained closed in support of the call.

Activists held peaceful demonstrations at locations



including Gandhi Square and the Collectorate, carrying flags and chanting slogans such as “Hindu-Hindu Bhai Bhai” and “Bharat Mata Ki Jay.”

All the shops, markets, schools, colleges, government offices, banks, post offices, except essential services remained shut in the town. Traffic on National Highways 20, 49 and 520 came to a halt.

Senior police officials, including Additional SP Jyotirmaya

Bhukta, SDPO Sudarshan Gangoi, Town Police Station IIC Srikanth Sahu, Barbil police station IIC Ashok Sahu and inspector Bijay Kumar Bihari, monitored the situation across the town.

VHP district president Tusharkant Samant reiterated the demand to identify and remove infiltrators from the district. Senior member Debaraj Acharya said such elements have long been involved in criminal and disruptive ac-

tivities but no action has been taken despite repeated appeals. Under the leadership of district secretary Saptakeswar Sahu, members including Basant Kumar Dani, Kedar Dash, Biswajit Tripathy, Barada Sahu, Niranjana Palei, Saiba Mohanta, Pranab Behera, Mamina Radhus, Subrat Mohanty, Dambaru Mohanta, Babuli Nayak and Ranjan Sahu, along with hundreds of activists from various other outfits, joined the protest.

The bandh also affected Champua, Joda, Barbil, Patana, Ghasipura and Anandapur areas. VHP members picketed at multiple locations as police deployed forces across the district. The Rourkela DIG and other senior officers oversaw security arrangements.

Western Range DIG of police (Rourkela) Brijesh Kumar Rai, who was in Keonjhar to supervise the whole law and order situation during the bandh said, “No untoward incident happened during the bandh. We will look into the demands of the protesters. Police arrested the accused and is working to provide justice to the victim’s family.”

Sushil Meher to be the new Kansa

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Nov 18: Sushil Kumar Meher will play Kansa Maharaj in the Bargarh Dhanu Jatra, which is scheduled to begin December 24 here. Meher is a native of Chichinda village under Bheden block. Artists for major roles were selected and announced Tuesday. The announce-



ment was made by ADM Mahendra Mohapatra, who’s also the vice president of the Dhanu Jatra Mahotsav Committee, at a presser. Similarly, Prabhas Kumar

Cyber fraud gang busted; 10 held



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, Nov 18: Jharsuguda police Tuesday claimed to have busted a 12-member interstate cyber fraud gang, and seized dozens of bank passbooks, ATM cards, mobile phones and vehicles.

Addressing a presser at Town Police Station here, Superintendent of Police Gundala Reddy Raghavendra said that investigators recovered more than 61 passbooks from various banks, 41 ATM cards, 19 mobile phones, a scooter and a car.

The arrested are: Sonu Mandal, 23; Shubham Prasad, 21; Shivam Sahu, 20; Abhay Ghosh, 20; Sameer Suna, 20; Jagadishwar Rao, 19; Naresh Bag, 25; Dheeraj Gadua, 19; Jogeshwar Chand, 24; and Abhiraj Sa, 19. Police also detained two minors.

Authorities said the gang was linked to cyber fraud net-

works in Bihar, Rajasthan, and Jharkhand. The suspects allegedly lured victims by promising money through online gaming. The fraudsters would open dummy bank accounts and issue duplicate SIM cards by using the documents of some innocent people. The documents including Aadhaar card, mobile number, duplicate SIM cards and photos to the cyber fraud branches of the fraudsters in other states, where stolen funds were withdrawn from ATMs in Jharsuguda and re-deposited into prepared accounts before the cash being siphoned off.

Police registered a case (577/2025) at Town Police Station. The accused have been produced in court, including the two minors.

Raghavendra said further arrests are likely as the investigation expands beyond Jharsuguda.

Five of family get life term for murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Nov 18: A local court here Tuesday sentenced five members of a family to life imprisonment after convicting them of killing a man 11 years ago.

The convicts were identified as P Suriya Rao, P Shankar Rao, P Srinu, P Trinath Rao and P Satyam of Budurbalsa area in the town. The victim was identified as K Appalanarayana of the locality.

District and Sessions Judge Satyanarayan Sarangi also slapped a penalty of Rs 10,000 on each convict. In case of non-payment, they will serve an additional one year in jail, the judge observed while



delivering the order.

According to the case records, the accused allegedly launched an organised attack on K Appalanarayana August 9, 2014. When Gauribabu, an eyewitness, attempted to intervene, Suriya Rao allegedly attacked him as well, leaving him injured. As locals rushed to

the spot, the accused fled the scene.

Residents admitted both Appalanarayana and Gauribabu to the district headquarters hospital in Rayagada. Because of Appalanarayana’s critical condition, he was shifted to a hospital in Vizianagaram, where he succumbed during treatment.

The victim’s brother, A Ravana, stated in his complaint that the attack stemmed from a dispute related to the Majhighariani Puja and an ensuing fair in the locality.

Rayagada police registered a case-161/2014 and arrested all five accused after investigation. Government advocate Bikram Kumar Kundu prosecuted the case.

Basudevpur villagers foil robbery attempt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Basudevpur, Nov 18: Villagers in Palasahi under Sanakrushnapur panchayat in Bhadrak district foiled an armed robbery late Monday night, capturing two suspects and their getaway vehicle after a dramatic chase, police said.

According to police, four men carrying guns and sharp weapons entered the residence of Prafulla Lenka while his wife, Kamini, and daughter were inside. The suspects allegedly tied them up, assaulted Kamini, and struck her head with a weapon before stealing more than 20 grams of gold jewellery.

As the men fled in a Bolero SUV, Lenka returned home and raised the alarm. Villagers chased the vehicle, throwing stones and blocking

it near Lakshmidaspur Square. One suspect was beaten up and restrained, while two others escaped in the darkness. The driver was also detained.

Police from Nayakandih, Kasia Marine, and Chudamani Marine stations responded to the scene. After jurisdictional discussions, the case was transferred to Kasia Marine police. A scientific team from Bhadrak joined the investigation Tuesday morning. The case (154/25) was registered. Two suspects — Ananta Nayak, 30, and Bharat Jena, 35, both from Bhandardipokhari police limits — were arrested. They are produced in court Tuesday afternoon, said Kasia Marine inspector Sabitri Panda.

Police said the investigation is in progress to trace the two absconding suspects.

Manhunt on for fugitive sand mafia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hatadihi, Nov 18: Authorities have intensified crackdown on the sand mafia, with police, Mining and Revenue officials carrying out coordinated raids to curb illegal sand mining and transport in this block of Keonjhar district.

Police said they are in “action mode,” targeting wanted operators and seizing trucks loaded with illegally mined sand. The sustained enforcement drive has disrupted the mafia’s network, forcing several accused to flee.

Last Saturday, Nandipada police arrested two members of the mafia. So far, 19 cases have been registered against nine main accused and several others.

The accused include Don Bullet and Azad of Aapanda village under Bhadrak district’s Banta police station, Bhupesh “Litu”, Manas Ranjan, Badudi alias Manguli of Badarams village, Jagannath of Chhenapadi, Munu, Santoshalias Bapi of Jalkalanga, and Deepti Ranjan of Ishala.

Officials said members of the group recently attempted to fill a trench dug by the administration to block illegal sand transport and even threatened to assault the Hatadihi tehsildar. Sources said nearly 80 sand mining related cases have been registered at Nandipada police station in less than a year.

Despite earlier protests, including a “sand satyagraha,” illegal mining continues day and night at 17 locations across Hatadi-

hi, Ghasipura and Anandapur blocks, violating the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, the Environment (Protection) Act and the Odisha Sand Policy.

Officials estimate the government has lost nearly Rs 2,000 crore worth of revenue.

A complaint filed October 30 sought installation of AI cameras, identification of offenders and assessment of revenue loss. Following this, the DGP’s office and the Chief Minister’s Office ordered inquiries. Anandapur SDPO Prashant Behera said absconding members will be booked under the Organised Crime Section. Mining officer Tarini Singh said more than Rs 50 lakh in penalties has been collected this year.

Koraput takes big step in Eco-Tourism

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput , Nov 18: A new chapter in Koraput’s tourism development began with the inauguration of Putsil Eco Retreat in Semiliguda block. The initiative, launched by the state government, aims to position Koraput as one of the state’s most attractive nature-based tourist destinations.

District Collector Manoj Satyawar Mahajan expressed his satisfaction over the launch and highlighted the government’s commitment to strengthening tourism infrastructure in the region. He stated that Koraput, with its unmatched landscape, rich biodiversity, and pleasant climate, has immense potential to draw national and international travelers.

“The Eco Retreat at Putsil will not only attract tourists but will also give them an opportunity to experience the untouched natural beauty of Koraput.



This initiative marks the beginning of several efforts aimed at promoting sustainable tourism in the district,” the Collector said.

The Putsil area, already popular for its scenic valleys, sunrise points, and hilltop views, is expected to see a significant rise in footfall with the arrival of luxury tent accommodations, guided nature experiences, adventure activities, and curated local cultural events. Officials believe this will create new livelihood opportunities for local communities, especially in hospitality, handicrafts, and transport services.

The Eco Retreat is part of the state’s broader vision to develop eco-friendly tourism hubs across Odisha while preserving the environment. With this launch, Koraput hopes to secure a stronger place on the tourism map and offer visitors a memorable blend of nature, adventure, and cultural heritage.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

No. B-700

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

BHANJANAGAR (R&B) DIVISION, BHANJANAGAR

(Phone/Fax: (06821) 241133 / E-mail: eernbbngr@yahoo.in)

Ltr. No. 11123

Dtd. 12.11.2025

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

E-Procurement Bid Identification No. S.E. - BNU-R&B-15/2025-26

1. Name of Work	: Building Works
2. No. of Works	: 02 Nos. Building Work
3. No. of Covers	: Double Cover
4. Estimated Cost	: Rs.63.38 to 67.81 lakhs
5. Period of Completion	: Six Calendar Months
6. Date of time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 12.00 Noon of dated 19.11.2025 to 5.00 P.M. of dated 03.12.2025
7. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	: Upto 5.00 P.M. of dated 03.12.2025
8. Date of opening of bid documents	: At 11.00 A.M. of dated 04.12.2025
9. Class of Contractor	: "B" Class Contractor
10. Name and address of Officer Inviting Bid	: Superintending Engineer, Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjanagar

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. The Addendum/Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only.

Sd./ Superintending Engineer
Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division

OIPR-

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rajanikanta Barik, S/o Raghav Barik R/o Block A, Flat No. 405, Shri Jagannath Plaza Apartment, Gajapati Nagar, Bhubneshwar, Odisha-751005** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CC No. 7817/2017 U/S 138 NI Act., PS Darya Ganj, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Rajanikanta Barik** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rajanikanta Barik** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Rajanikanta Barik of CC No. 7817/2017 U/S 138 NI Act., PS Darya Ganj, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said case on or before **24.12.2025**.

By Order

Sh. Arvind Tomar

Judicial Magistrate First Class-07, (NI Act.)

Central District, Room No. 507, Extn. Block

Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/15398/CD/2025 (Court Matter)

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-AUCTION OF PAY & USE TOILETS

STATION & LOCATION :

1) Malatipatpur (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), 2) Ganjam (Middle of Platform-1), 3) Jenaapur (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), 4) Kapilash Road (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), 5) Dhammandal (Pre-Fabricated) (Outside Platform-1, at Cutack end), 6) Kendujharghar (on Platform-1 At Naranpur End), 7) Kandarpur (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), 8) Nirkarpur (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), 09) Chhika (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), 10) Charbatia (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), 11) Ichhapuram (middle of Platform - 1), 12) Baitarani Road (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), 13) Khalkot (in Circulating area), 14) Rajsunakhal (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), 15) Bhadrak (on Platform-1 & 2, middle), 16) Jakhapura (Pre-Fabricated) (on Platform - 1, Howrah end), 17) Naraj Marthapur (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), 18) Motari (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), 19) Rambha (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), 20) Harichandampur (Pre-Fabricated) (Near main entry of Platform-1), 21) Sakhiigopal (Pre-Fabricated) (adjacent to 2nd Class Waiting Room), 22) Begunia (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), 23) Bhusandapur (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), 24) Nurgundi (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), 25) Stabini (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), 26) Bataupar (Pre-Fabricated) (on Platform-1 at Visakhapatnam end), 27) Rahama (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), 28) Kaluparghat (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), 29) Badabandha (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area)

Auction Start Date & Time : 27.11.2025 at 1100 Hrs. (for SI. No. 01 to 29).

Auction End Date : 27.11.2025 (for SI. No. 01 to 29) & End Time : at 1130 Hrs. (for SI. No. 01), 1140 Hrs. (for SI. No. 02), 1150 Hrs. (for SI. No. 03), 1200 Hrs. (for SI. No. 04), 1210 Hrs. (for SI. No. 05), 1220 Hrs. (for SI. No. 06), 1230 Hrs. (for SI. No. 07), 1240 Hrs. (for SI. No. 08), 1250 Hrs. (for SI. No. 09), 1300 Hrs. (for SI. No. 10), 1310 Hrs. (for SI. No. 11), 1320 Hrs. (for SI. No. 12), 1330 Hrs. (for SI. No. 13), 1340 Hrs. (for SI. No. 14), 1350 Hrs. (for SI. No. 15), 1400 Hrs. (for SI. No. 16), 1410 Hrs. (for SI. No. 17), 1420 Hrs. (for SI. No. 18), 1430 Hrs. (for SI. No. 19), 1440 Hrs. (for SI. No. 20), 1450 Hrs. (for SI. No. 21), 1500 Hrs. (for SI. No. 22), 1510 Hrs. (for SI. No. 23), 1520 Hrs. (for SI. No. 24), 1530 Hrs. (for SI. No. 25), 1540 Hrs. (for SI. No. 26), 1550 Hrs. (for SI. No. 27), 1600 Hrs. (for SI. No. 28), 1610 Hrs. (for SI. No. 29).

Note : Prospective bidders are advised to visit the website : <https://www.treps.gov.in> and check the upcoming e-auctions/leasing tab to get all required information regarding this e-auction.

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / PR-799/Q/25-26

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS DIVISION, SAMBALPUR

1st Corrigendum to Tender Online-SBPR-09 of 2025-26

No O-1511: The following changes have been made in respect of the Bid Identification No. Tender Online SBPR-09 of 2025-26 due to unavoidable reasons. 1. Date and time have been changed as given below.

DATE & TIME

Sl.No.	Description	Schedule	Re-Schedule
1.	Last date of availability of bid documents in the portal for bidding	10.11.25 11 AM to 24.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.	10.11.25 11 AM to 02.12.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
2.	Date & time of opening of bid	At 11.00 AM of 25.11.2025	At 11.00 AM of 03.12.2025

All other terms and conditions of remain unchanged.

OIPR-

Sd./ Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sambalpur

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION-I, BHADRAK

“e” Procurement Notice for Road Works

Bid Identification No. Online Tender 13 of 2025-26

1. Name of the Work	: Roads
2. Total No. of Works	: 2 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost	: Rs.11.86 lakh to Rs.16.955 lakh
4. Class of Contractor	: "C" & "D" Class
5. Period of Completion	: As per Annexure
6. Type of Tender	: Single Cover
7. Other Details	:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding	Date of seeking of Tender	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
1	2	From To	3 4	5
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-I, Bhadrak	Online - 13 of 2025-26	19.11.25 At 11.00 A.M. 26.11.25 At 4.00 P.M.	26.11.25 At 2.00 P.M.	27.11.25 At 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal “<https://tendersorissa.gov.in>”.

N.B.: Transparency Lottery date will be intimated later. Signed scan copy of Schedule “A”, “E” & “F” Sheet is mandatory. Non submission of the sheet may cause rejection of the bid.

OIPR-

Sd./- Er. Ganesh Chandra Hembram, Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Bhadrak

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Union Bank of India

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REGIONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR

1st Floor, Balaji Midtown, Budharaja, Sambalpur - 768004

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For Immovable Property)

[RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES – 2002]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **Union Bank of India, Concerned Branche** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act. No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers/Mortgagor in loan A/c mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **Union Bank of India** for an amount mentioned below & interest thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**

BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower(s)/Guaranto(s)/Mortgagor(s)	Liabilities Due as per Notice	Demand / Possession Notice Date	Description of Secured Assets
BARGARH - 2 BRANCH / 1) Mr Pratap Sharma, S/o: Girdharilal Sharma, 2) Mrs. Kiran Sharma, W/o: Girdharilal Sharma, 3) Mr. Ashish Sharma, S/o: Girdharilal Sharma, All are residents of Master Tikra, Ward No.: 14, PO/Dist.: Bargarh, Odisha-768028	₹16,05,608.59 as on 16.06.2025 + further interest & expenses thereon	16.06.2025 / 13.11.2025	Land and Building situated at M.S. Khata No.: 2414/6228 (Major Khata No.: 2414/11766), Plot No.: 1695/12202/15904(P), Area: Ac. 0.03 1/4 Dec., Mouza: Bargarh, Ward No.: 14, Master Tikra, P.S./Tahasil: Bargarh, Dist.: Bargarh, Odisha, PIN-768028 in the name of Smt. Kiran Sharma, W/o: Late Girdharilal Sharma, Bounded by North: 10 ft Wide Road, South: Plot No.: 1695 (P), East: Plot No.: 12220, West: Plot No.: 1695

Place: Sambalpur
Date: 18.11.2025

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India

“

Consider the Divine Life as the most important thing to obtain.

THE MOTHER



German Challenge

The first murmurings of rebellion against Germany’s Chancellor Friedrich Merz are now being heard, just six months after he assumed office. When he took over, Europe came to terms with Donald Trump’s return to White House and the financial markets in Paris, Milan and Berlin responded with a surge of optimism as Merz brokered a historic deal which loosened constitutional spending constraints in Germany, EU’s powerhouse nation. The fiscal move, it was hoped, would end a prolonged period of economic stagnation and counter the challenges posed by the US President’s tariff war.

The worries however are back. The Chancellor’s plan included changing Germany’s age-old policy on defence spending, designed to prepare the country for a changed era in which the US was no longer a dependable ally and a huge 500bn investment was needed in infrastructure and the green transition. Last week, the chancellor’s team of economic advisers downgraded growth forecasts for 2026 to below 1%. This is coupled with the fact that there has been a slump in business confidence. When Merz announced the lifting of Germany’s “debt brake”, it was believed that it would not be an instant panacea for longstanding problems. It was rightly suggested then that patience would be required before the full impact of spending on the country’s ailing transport systems is felt. Unfortunately for Merz’s party, the patience of the people appears to be wearing thin. A recent survey has revealed Merz’s popularity rating is dangerously nosediving.

Such disillusionment is a cause for concern not only for the Chancellor, but also for his centre-right-led coalition government and mainstream politics as a whole with the Far-Right Alternative for Germany party topping the polls. To make matters worse, Germany has found itself in a critical situation due to Russia’s war in Ukraine, aggressive Chinese competition and Trump’s trade wars. All these have combined to damage the export-led model that is key to European prosperity. Merz was right with his remedy of a bold and imaginative fiscal policy, but with discontent becoming intense, he is already under pressure from critics to rein in social spending in the hope of increasing the country’s competitiveness.

This would be a great setback for Merz who once earned the reputation of being a fiscal hawk. His Social Democratic coalition partners are also nervous that the Christian Democrat MPs may revolt against a proposed pension package. For Germany – and for Europe as a whole – the need of the hour is to revive a battered and bruised social model as the global economy is shaped to suit a multipolar world. Some feel that Mamdani, the new Mayor of New York City, may have shown that social welfare policies alone can fight against Far-Right politics but his Islamist colour could possibly mar that image sooner than later.

Several European countries, including France, Italy and the Netherlands are coming under the sway of Far-Right parties and their extreme ideologies. The current German Chancellor made the right moves to reverse the trend. He has had a difficult first six months in office. But as the scale of the challenges facing Europe’s most important economy becomes ever clearer, many hope that Germany does not fall prey to Far-Right politics.

WISDOM CORNER

“We cannot teach people anything; we can only help them discover it within themselves.”

GALILEO GALILEI

“I feel it is unnatural and immoral to try to teach science to children in a foreign language They will know facts, but they will miss the spirit.”

C V RAMAN

“I can calculate the motion of heavenly bodies, but not the madness of people.”

ISAAC NEWTON

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1794: During his tenure as the first chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, John Jay negotiated the Jay Treaty with Great Britain, helping mend ties between the Americans and British.

1863: U.S. President Abraham Lincoln delivered the brief but renowned Gettysburg Address at the dedication of the National Cemetery in Pennsylvania during the American Civil War.

1917: Former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the only woman Prime Minister the country ever has, was born.

1962: American actress Jodie Foster, who was best known for her dramatic portrayals of misfit characters set against intimidating challenges, was born.

1969: Brazilian football (soccer) player Pelé scored his 1,000th career goal.

1975: The dramatic film One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest was released in American theatres, and it became the first film since It Happened One Night (1934) to win the Academy Awards for best picture, director (Milos Forman), lead actor (Jack Nicholson), lead actress (Louise Fletcher), and screenplay.

1977: After the Arab-Israeli war of 1973–74, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat began to work toward peace, and on this day in 1977 he began his historic visit to Israel, during which he offered a peace plan to its parliament.

1990: The pop duo Milli Vanilli became the first performers to be stripped of a Grammy Award (for best new artist) after it was revealed that the two men had not sung on the album Girl You Know It’s True (1989). 1977: After the Arab-Israeli war of 1973–74, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat began to work toward peace, and on this day in 1977 he began his historic visit to Israel, during which he offered a peace plan to its parliament.

LOL

KIDS’ VIEWS ON SCHOOL

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. “I’m wasting my time,” she said to her mother. “I can’t read, I can’t write - and they won’t let me talk!” **** On the way home from the first day of school, the father asked his son, “What did you do at school today?” The little boy shrugged his shoulders and said, “Nothing.”. Hoping to draw his son into

conversation, the father persisted and said, “Well, did you learn about any numbers, study certain letters, or maybe a particular colour?” The perplexed child looked at his father and said, “Daddy, didn’t you go to school when you were a little boy?”

FOCUS

PM IN BHUTAN

POWERING TIES



The cultural ties have been a significant component of India-Bhutan bilateral relations. Bhutan has rich Buddhist heritage. Another rich legacy of the Fourth King is the concept of Gross National Happiness (GNH) which is recognised globally as a commendable philosophy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a two-day visit to the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan. This was a short visit with long-term objectives. Bhutan is strategically critical for India as a buffer against China.

The key highlight of the visit was the inauguration of 1020MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydro Electric project. Both countries agreed to resume work on the Punatsangchhu-I and complete it soon. They welcomed the electricity export from Punatsangchhu to India. Bhutan gratefully acknowledged India’s contribution of INR 40b for the energy projects.

Having done the ceremonial parts, Modi, as usual, got down to business. He promised continued support for Bhutan’s economic growth and sustainability. He especially, declared support for Bhutan’s 13th five-year plan with economic stimulus programme that marked India’s commitment to helping Bhutan secure key development priorities and promote sustainable growth across sectors. He also expressed support for King Wangchuk’s noble vision for the Gelephu Mindfulness City.

Modi confirmed that such projects align with India’s Act-East Policy. Modi announced that immigration check post at Hathisar in Assam will be set up to facilitate easy movement of investors and visitors to this promising project at Gelephu. The King appreciated India’s liberal assistance in building Gyalung academics. Bhutan acknowledged the consecration of the Royal Bhutan Temple in Rajgir, Bihar and India’s decision to allocate land in Varanasi for Bhutanese temple and guest house.

According to the Indian delegation, accompanying Modi, the phase-II of UPI will allow Bhutanese travelers to make payments in India by using

local mobile apps by scanning the QR codes. Three MoUs were signed during the visit: First was on cooperation in renewable energy, second cooperation in health and medicine and third, institutional linkages between the Pema Secretariat, Bhutan and National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), India. MoUs for two railway links, one, from Gelephu to Kokrajhar and second, from Samtse, Bhutan to Banarhart, West Bengal signed in September this year were reviewed. Also, cooperation in Fertilizer, STEM, Fintech and Space was also reviewed.

India-Bhutan relations have been marked by historical depth and enduring friendship. It started with the Fourth King Jigme Singye Wangchuk ascending the thrown at the age of 16 in 1972. Following his father’s policy of close ties with India, he planned his country’s economy on the Indian model of Planning Commission. He constituted the Planning Commission for framing Five-Year Plans. With Indian support, he designed the First Five-Year Plan after

taking over the reins of the country. He aligned Bhutan’s currency (Ngultrum) with Indian Rupee in 1974 to facilitate bilateral trade and financial integration.

On diplomatic sector, he aligned his foreign policy with India’s; for all external initiatives he kept India informed. Bhutan joined UN in 1971 and SAARC in 1985 as a Founding Member. Bhutan conducted border dialogues with China in consultant with Indian leadership. This process was followed on the basis of India-Bhutan Treaty (1949) which provided that Bhutan would be ‘guided by India’ in mutual cooperation and sovereign equality. However, this treaty was replaced by India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty (2007). On security, India supported Bhutan in eliminating insurgent camps from Bhutanese soil in a special project called Operation All Clear (2003).

On economic relations, hydropower cooperation has been the backbone of Bhutanese economy. With India’s support consisting of a grant-loan model (60:40), these proj-

ects became the bedrock of Bhutan’s export revenue and India’s clean energy import. In this visit under discussion, Prime Minister deepened the hydropower cooperation. Modi announced 4,000 crore INR on concessional credit line for energy projects. He reaffirmed another 10,000 crore INR assistance for Bhutan’s 13th Five-Year Plan for development across multiple sectors that include infrastructure, agriculture, finance, and healthcare.

The cultural ties have been a significant component of India-Bhutan bilateral relations. Bhutan has rich Buddhist heritage. Another rich legacy of the Fourth King is the concept of Gross National Happiness (GNH) which is recognised globally as a commendable philosophy.

Bhutan visit by Indian Prime Minister holds a critical security dimension. Bhutan buffers India and China. While Bhutan has intimate ties with India, it has territorial disputes with China. In 2017, Doklam’s standoff highlighted the strategic importance of Bhutan as India militarily intervened to prevent China from building a road in a disputed area between China and Bhutan. Bhutan allowed Indian troops to enter its territory to resist Chinese incursions in Doklam.

The Prime Minister’s visit though appears to be a goodwill step, rejuvenated the multi-dimensional India-Bhutan partnership. Cooperation in hydropower, connectivity, innovation, spiritual bonds, constitutes a model of mutual trust, respect and shared prosperity. What is more, Bhutan, for its strategic location is critical for India; hence the importance of maintaining the model.

The writer is Professor of Practice, NIIS Group of Institutions

INFIA

IN JEST THIS

Good neighbours can keep you safe & happy



Melvin Durai

NEIGHBOURS QUARREL ABOUT NOT JUST LOUD MUSIC, BUT PARKING SPOTS ON THE STREET, UNKEMPT YARDS, NOISY DOGS, AND EVEN THE COLOUR OF THEIR HOUSES

If you know the names of your neighbours and have a good relationship with them, consider yourself lucky. My wife, Malathi, and I certainly do. We have such a good relationship with our neighbours that they don’t think twice about coming to our door and asking for a favour. Just the other day, one of them asked, “Can you do us a big favour and turn your stupid music down?”

Actually, we never blast our music, so the neighbours have no reason to complain about it. And even if we played our music loudly, they’re the type of neighbours who would knock on our door merely to compliment our fine taste in music.

Jenna (neighbour): “What kind of music is that?”

Malathi: “Tamil movie songs. Do you like them?”

Jenna: “Yes, I listen to them all the time. In my bedroom, in my living room, in my bathroom.”

Malathi: “Really? Do you use Youtube or Spotify?”

Jenna: “I use a Windows app. Every time I open my windows, your music enters

my home.”

Malathi: “Oh, I’m so sorry. I’ll turn it down.”

Jenna: “Thank you. I really do like the music, but I occasionally want to hear what my husband is saying too.”

Malathi: “Ha ha. I play the music loud so I don’t have to hear what my husband is saying.”

Jenna: “Ha ha. I’d do the same if I were married to him.”

Loud music is a common trigger of neighbourhood disputes, causing some neighbours in America to actually pull a trigger. Thankfully, shootings are rare, but feuds are not. Neighbours quarrel about not just loud music, but parking spots on the street, unkempt yards, noisy dogs, and even the colour of their houses.

Considering everything that can go wrong in neighbourhood relationships, many people are content just living peacefully with their neighbours, even if they never speak to each other. The relationship can be summed up like this: “You mind your business and

I’ll mind mine.”

But it’s far better to be friendly with your neighbours, as French designer Julia Chaigneau would undoubtedly tell you. “For most of my life, I never knew my neighbours’ names,” she shared in a recent post on X. “My parents didn’t either. In Europe, neighbours are just people who exist in the background. You might say hi in the hallway, but that’s it.”

Last year, she moved to Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and was surprised when, on her very first day in her new apartment, someone knocked on her door.

“It was the neighbour from the apartment in front of us, asking if we needed any help or even food while we settled in,” she wrote. “I remember standing there, a little shocked. I had never experienced that before. Since then, we’ve celebrated festivals together, exchanged food, planned safaris, all these small things that somehow make everyday life feel more full.”

I’m not sure what “planned safaris” means, but if Chaigneau is going (or plan-

ning to go) on a safari with her neighbour, they must have really hit it off. The closest I’ve come to taking a trip with my neighbour is walking to the mailbox at the same time.

Having a good relationship with your neighbours can make a big difference in your well-being.

“Living in India completely changed my perspective on neighbours,” Chaigneau wrote. “They’re not just people next door. They’re the ones closest to you. The ones who will notice if something is wrong. The ones who will open their door in case of an emergency. Knowing that they’re there is one of the most comforting feelings. It feels like having a family and a support system you didn’t even expect.”

If you don’t know your neighbours, I’d advise you to make an effort to get to know them. Just knock on their door, smile and say, “Hello. I’m your neighbour. Would you like to go on a safari with me?”

It helps if you speak with a French accent.

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, Rasulgarih Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Melody maestro

Sir, November 19 marks the birth centenary of Melody maestro Sali Chowdhury. His passion for music began in childhood getting inspiration from the music of world Music Masters Bach, Mozart and Beethoven. Though he began his career in Bengali films Saliida’s mesmerising music transcended languages. He composed in around 13 languages of which he carved a niche of his own in Hindi and Malayalam music world. His practice of studying the scene and situation , composing the tune to suit the mood and setting lyrics to it was unique in those days and he was a perfect master in that method. His evergreen Hindi numbers even now remain the most listened to songs. Be it the songs from Do bheega Zameen, Madhumati, Anand and Rajanigandha to name a few has a unique signature style of the great music composer. He entered Malayalam industry in 1965 with Malayalam classic Chemeen and what followed is history. He re-defined Malayalam film music with a list of hits from the movies Rasaleela, Ragam Madanotsavam, Nellu and many others and even today are esteemed as evergreen iconic numbers .

M Pradyu, KANNUR

New Delhi in a fix

Sir, The presence of Sheikh Hasina, who was sentenced to death by a Bangladeshi court, on Indian soil places New Delhi in a sensitive bind. Bangladesh has formally demanded her extradition, yet India’s bilateral treaty allows refusal if offences appear political or if fair-trial concerns exist. Extraditing her risks global criticism and tremendous political fallout if she is executed. Offering asylum, on the other hand, could be viewed by Dhaka as direct interference, weakening bilateral trust and complicating regional stability. India’s most pragmatic path lies between these extremes: avoiding any hasty decision, engaging Dhaka diplomatically, and seeking assurances that due process and humane treatment will be upheld. This calibrated stance allows India to protect its moral credibility, avoid destabilising South Asia, and maintain strategic influence without appearing partisan in Bangladesh’s internal conflict.

RS Narula, PATIALA



IDENTITY DOCUMENTS TURN TO ASHES

Kolkata's fire-ravaged slum residents fear SIR fallout



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 18: Residents of several fire-hit slums in Kolkata, from Topsis's Majdoorpara to the makeshift settlements under New Alipore's Durgapur bridge, are gripped by mounting anxiety as identity documents lost in recent blazes now threaten their exclusion in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Across these pockets, the fear is the same: without Aadhaar, voter cards or PAN cards, many worry they may be marked as "non-existent" on the rolls in this year's verification exercise. For hundreds who have constructed makeshift homes with tarpaulin sheets, tin plates or whatever remained after the fire incidents, the loss of identity documents is proving far harder a hit than that of the homes themselves.

Binapani Mondal sat outside the skeletal frame of her rebuilt hut at Pagladanga, still haunted by the April blaze that tore through their canal-side settlement. Her biggest fear concerns her elder son Rajesh, who works at a grill factory in Gujarat. His Aadhaar, voter ID and PAN

card were all reduced to ashes that night.

"I managed to get back my own papers, but his are gone. What if they say he is not from here? What if they throw him out?" Mondal told a news channel, her voice breaking as BLOs continue to visit the locality with forms, lists and verification sheets.

Swapna spent weeks navigating government offices, returning multiple times for biometrics, photographs and affidavits. But because Rajesh works outside the state, his reapplications remain pending.

"He will come in December, but what if that is too late?" she said. The dread is not confined to just one neighbourhood.

Under the Durgapur bridge in New Alipore, a cluster of families who lost their homes in a fire in December last year have similar worries. Baby Das lives in a makeshift shelter where a tin roof is held down by bricks to prevent it from blowing away in the winds.

"My Aadhaar is reissued. But my voter card is still pending. I am very scared," she said.

Her husband Bikash had managed to save his documents

by rushing inside their burning hut moments before it collapsed, but Baby's documents, kept separately, could not be retrieved.

"What if they separate us? What if they say she has no papers?" he asked, echoing concerns that have now become a daily conversation in these settlements. In Topsis's Majdoorpara, where a fire levelled a row of huts, the situation is similar. Some residents were able to salvage a few documents, while most, caught in the sudden blaze, could not.

"I grabbed one bag, Aadhaar, voter card, PAN, and ran," Ayesha Khatun said.

Standing beside her, another woman said, "She saved hers. But what about those who couldn't?" Many refused to speak openly, wary of the implications as the SIR teams are moving door to door. Even those who have managed partial restorations remain anxious. Tarun Haldar, who has received his reissued Aadhaar and voter cards, now worries for his daughter Minta. Her Aadhaar is still pending, and her voter card application is incomplete.

Calling from Delhi, where she is staying with her young child, Minta said, "My voter card is still not done. I will return in the first week of December. First thing I will do is apply again. I just hope it is not too late."

Local municipal councillor Jiban Saha said compensation for burnt homes is being processed under municipal norms.

"And for those whose Aadhaar or voter cards were destroyed, we are coordinating with officials so that the SIR process does not cause them any hardship," he said.



People take part in country boats rowing competition in the Hooghly river, in Nadia, West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

JAIPUR FOUNDATION DAY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Nov 18: Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma Tuesday extended his heartfelt greetings to the people of the state on the 298th Foundation Day of Jaipur, celebrating the rich legacy, architectural brilliance and cultural grandeur of the Pink City.

"Heartfelt congratulations to all the residents of the state on the Foundation Day of the Pink City Jaipur, world-famous for its cultural heritage enriched with traditions, land of valor, and unique architecture!" he said in his message.

Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari also shared warm wishes, calling Jaipur a shining example of timeless heritage meeting modern growth. "Heartiest greetings on the foundation day of the 'Pink City' Jaipur, a

PINK CITY TURNS 298



wonderful confluence of traditional heritage and modernity, established by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh Ji II," she said.

Jaipur turned 298 this year Tuesday. The city was founded November 18, 1727, by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, who laid its foundation at the Ishaan Kon near Gangapol Gate, following Vaastu principles based on the nine planets. Jaipur was one

of the earliest planned cities in India, designed with precision, security, and an extraordinary understanding of engineering and astronomy.

The walled city is guarded by ten historic gates -- Gangapol, Joravarsingh, Surajpol, Ghatgate, Sanganeri, New Gate, Ajmeri, Chandpol, Samrat Gate, and Galtagate -- each positioned strategically to maintain surveil-

Jaipur was one of the earliest planned cities in India, designed with precision, security, and an extraordinary understanding of engineering and astronomy

lance and regulate entry from all directions. Jaipur's unique identity is often described as a blend of mantra, tantra, and yantra. Known as 'Chhoti Kashi', the old city houses hundreds of temples.

Jaipur's robust urban planning, dating back nearly three centuries, ensures quick drainage and minimal waterlogging even during heavy rainfall.

SSC exam candidates take out rally for 2nd day



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 18: Around 100 teaching job aspirants, who are among those who lost their employment after a Supreme Court order, Tuesday took to the streets near the state education department headquarters for the second day, protesting non-inclusion of their names in the list of interviewees.

The School Service Commission held a recruitment examination September 14 after the Supreme Court invalidated SSC's 2016 panel in April, annulling the jobs of nearly 26,000 teaching and non-teaching staff in state-run and -aided institutions after finding that the selection process was tainted.

The SSC November 15 published a list of 20,500 candidates who would be interviewed to fill up vacancies for classes 11 and 12 in state-run state-aided schools.

One of the protestors, 'Deserving Teachers Rights Forum' spokesperson Chinmoy Mondal, led the rally from Karunamoyee bus stand to the education department headquarters Bikash Bhavan in Salt Lake, where they were stopped and taken away by the police in vehicles.

Mondal, who was among the 'untainted' teachers of the 2016 SSC panel and allowed to sit for the recruitment test, had qualified in the written exam, but his name did not figure in the list of 20,500 candidates called for interview.

'Untainted' candidates are those whose involvement in the irregularities in the 2016 recruitment process was not proved.

"What will we do now? The chief minister had assured the untainted teachers not to lose heart. She had talked about Plan A, B or C for the teachers who got jobs by merit in the 2016 SSC test. She said the government will do the needful. We came to meet the education minister or a senior official of the department. But the police are taking us away," Mondal said.

Inland port to be developed at Jalore



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Nov 18: An inland port will be developed in Rajasthan's Jalore district that will link the state directly with the Arabian Sea via Kandla Port in Gujarat, Rajasthan Water Resources Minister Suresh Rawat said Tuesday.

The project, which will be developed by the Centre with support of the Rajasthan government, is expected to boost trade, industrial development, and logistics connectivity in the state.

The inland port will be developed along a 262-kilometre waterway, connecting Jalore with the Gulf of Kutch. The initiative involves dredging costs of over ₹10,000 crore and aims to facilitate cargo movement while

reducing pressure on roads and railways.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has submitted the draft of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the inland port.

The report is being studied by Rajasthan government officials. Following field visits, the state will provide comments on the draft, after which a final DPR will be prepared. Based on the final report, the project will move forward.

Rajasthan is expected to provide about 14 km of land for the development of the port.

"The inland port will open new avenues for industries in Jalore, Barmer, and surrounding regions, including textiles, stone,

agricultural products, oilseeds, guar, pulses, and millet," Rawat said.

He said the ongoing HPCL-Rajasthan oil refinery projects in Pachpadra (Balotra) will also benefit from faster and cost-effective transport.

The inland port will link the Jawai-Luni-Run of Kutch river system, which has already been declared National Waterway-48 by the Government of India.

An official said after the project is completed, the port will be operated by the state government.

The connectivity is expected to encourage the establishment of new industries, warehouses, cold storage facilities and industrial clusters in the state.

A pre-feasibility report indicates that the project could generate over 50,000 employment opportunities in Rajasthan, Gujarat and nearby areas.

Direct maritime connectivity is expected to attract investors and further industrial development.

An MoU was signed in Mumbai between the Rajasthan River Basin and Water Resources Planning Authority and the Inland Waterways Authority of India last month.

Ranthambore tightens curbs on loudspeakers, DJs

The directive follows authorities trying to minimise disturbances in and around the Ranthambore reserve, one of India's most important tiger habitats, where conservationists have repeatedly raised concerns about rising noise pollution from tourism and commercial activities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Nov 18: Citing serious concerns over noise pollution affecting wildlife, the Sawai Madhopur district administration in Rajasthan has imposed strict curbs on the use of loudspeakers, DJ systems and laser lights around the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.

Issuing a formal order in this regard, District Magistrate Kana Ram said excessive sound generated during weddings, parties,

and other events in villages and commercial establishments near the national park was "adversely impacting wildlife living in the forest area", violating the prescribed silence-zone limit.

According to the order issued earlier this month, the use of loudspeakers, DJs and sound-amplifying devices has been completely prohibited within a 1 km radius of the tiger reserve between 10 pm and 6 am. Between 6 am and 10 pm, such equipment may only be used



within the permissible noise limits. The administration has also banned the use of laser lights in the 1 km zone without prior permission.

"Ranthambore is home to

several rare species. To protect their existence, it is necessary to keep this area safe. Loud sound from DJ systems and amplifiers in nearby villages and hotels is harmful to wildlife," Kana Ram

said in the order.

The district administration invoked powers under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, and the Rajasthan Noise Control Act, 1963, to enforce the restrictions.

The order warns that violations will lead to seizure of sound systems or laser equipment and legal action against venue owners and operators.

Police and sub-divisional magistrates have been directed to ensure strict compliance.

The directive follows authorities trying to minimise disturbances in and around the Ranthambore reserve, one of India's most important tiger habitats, where conservationists have repeatedly raised concerns about rising noise pollution from tourism and commercial activities.

ODISHA COOPERATIVE TASAR & SILK FEDERATION (SERIFED) LTD.

Sahid Nagar, Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751007, Tel: 2545586/2545852 email: serifedodisha@gmail.com, website: www.serifedodisha.in

INVITATION FOR BIDS (e-Procurement)

Bid Identification No.: VI-09(09)/SERIFED/2025-26/ 2035/Dt.18.11.2025 No.CAD-2364: The MANAGING DIRECTOR (SERIFED), Odisha, Bhubaneswar invites Item Rate Tenders in single cover system in ONLINE MODE only, from the registered contractors for the work 01 (One) no. of work in Cuttack district. The bid documents such as DTCN/BOQ etc. can be seen/downloaded from the government website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in. during the period dt.21.11.2025 to 17.00 hours upto dt.29.11.2025. Online bids shall be received till 17.00 hours dt.29.11.2025 & shall be opened at 11.30 AM on Dt.01.12.2025. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

OIPR-

Sd./- Managing Director



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ROURKELA FOREST DIVISION, ROURKELA, SUNDARGARH, ODISHA

Phone No.0661-2664637, Fax No.0661-2664638, email: dfo.rourkela@odisha.gov.in

AUCTION CALL NOTICE

No.269/6F/2025

Dated, Rourkela, the 17th November, 2025

No.MM-288:Interested individual/firms are requested to participate in the auction sale of 4462 nos. of Iron Gabion of Rourkela Forest Division "As is where is basis". The auction call documents can be obtained from Section Officer, O/o the Divisional Forest Officer, Rourkela Forest Division from Date 17.11.2025 on working hour from 10.00 AM to 5.30 P.M. on payment of Rs.500/- (Rupees Five Hundred) only or can be downloaded from the website www.odishaforest.in/www.dforourkela.in/ www.sundargarh.odisha.gov.in. Those who will download the auction call documents shall have to pay the paper cost of Rs.500/- (Rupees Five Hundred) only by way of a non-refundable demand draft of any nationalised bank drawn in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer, Rourkela Forest Division payable at Rourkela.

Sd./- (Auction Calling Authority)
Divisional Forest Officer, Rourkela Forest Division

OIPR-

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resources No.A-926 Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar

Email Address: cemech.eicwr.od@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No.CEM/MDB-05/2025-26

- Name of the Work : Mechanical Gate Works
- No. of Works : 01 (One)
- Category of executors : SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation Shutters/ Hydro mechanical gates.
- Bid Identification No. : CEM/MDB-05/2025-26
- Estimated Cost : Rs.64,65,718.00/-
- Period of Completion : 03 (Three) Calendar Months
- Date & Time of availability of bid documents in the Portal : From Dt.21.11.2025 (10.00 AM) to dt.03.12.2025 (5.30 PM)
- Last date/time for receipt of bid in the Portal : dt.03.12.2025 (upto 5.30 PM)
- Date and Place of Opening of Technical Bid : Dt.04.12.2025 (12.00 Noon onwards in the O/o the Undersigned)
- Date and Place of Opening of Financial Bid : To be intimated to the qualified Bidders after evaluation of Technical Bid
- Name of the Officer Inviting Bid : Chief Engineer, Mechanical O/o the E.I.C. Water Resources Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any further issue of Addenda/Corrigenda/Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only.

Chief Engineer, Mechanical
O/o-Engineer-in-Chief
Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-

of the day **quote**

Threats to national unity may arise from both external and internal forces, and it is the duty of every citizen to uphold the integrity of the country

CH VIJAYASHANKAR | MEGHALAYA GUV

On this very day, the Hon'ble Union Home Minister Sri @ AmitShah Ji has granted the re-quired sanction under Section 208 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) to proceed against the accused linked to Zubeen's death in Singapore

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

The problem of space missions is that there is no one right answer. You can do it in 10 different ways. What I can do is verify the robustness of what we are doing. That activity is happening

SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA | ASTRONAUT

SHORT TAKES

EC summons Punjab DGP

New Delhi: The Election Commission has summoned Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav here November 25 over complaints against Tarn Taran SSP during the recent assembly bypoll, officials said Tuesday. The EC had ordered the suspension of Senior Superintendent of Police Ravjot Kaur Grewal, following complaints by opposition Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal.

Toll in stone quarry collapse mounts to 7

Sonbhadra (UP): The death toll in the stone quarry collapse in Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra district has climbed to seven with another body being recovered from the rubble, officials said Tuesday. The rescue operations are now over, they said. According to the district administration, the seventh body has been identified as that of Gulab Kharwar (32), a resident of Obra police station area of Sonbhadra.

Fire breaks out at Visva Bharati campus

Kolkata: A fire broke out at the Bhasa Bhavan building on the Visva Bharati campus in Santiniketan Tuesday, fire brigade sources said. There was no report of any injury in the fire, they said. A spokesperson of the central university said sparks were detected in one AC machine installed in the external part of the building on the first floor "long before the classes began and was attended immediately by the trained security personnel in a few minutes."

Pollution: Residents, students stage protest

New Delhi: Hundreds of Delhiites, including students from JNU, Delhi University and Jamia Millia Islamia, staged a protest at Jantar Mantar Tuesday demanding immediate action to improve the national capital's air quality.

Mizoram announces 4 per cent hike in DA

Aizawl: The Mizoram government has decided to enhance the dearness allowance (DA) for government employees by 4 per cent with effect from November 1, a senior official said Tuesday. The decision was taken at a meeting of the council of ministers, chaired by Chief Minister Lalduhoma, he said.

Tamil Nadu has recorded a bumper harvest this year and in view of the Northeast Monsoon, I am making the following urgent requests to you. I hope you will consider them favourably ahead of your visit to Coimbatore (Nov 19)

M K STALIN | TAMIL NADU CM

UIDAI MULLS AADHAAR WITH PHOTO, QR CODE

The Unique Identification Authority of India is mulling issuing an Aadhaar card with the holder's photo and a QR code to prevent misuse of individuals' data and discourage offline verification practices, which are in contravention of the present law, a top official said Tuesday



Bomber's video reveals 'martyrdom operations'

The critical evidence was unearthed after the detention and subsequent interrogation of Zahoor Illahi, brother of Umar who was driving the explosive-laden car that blasted outside Red Fort November 10 killing 15 people

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: Jammu and Kashmir Police have recovered a mobile phone of the Red Fort suicide bomber, Dr Umar-un-Nabi, and the extracted data has provided chilling evidence to show that he had prepared a video justifying the suicide attack as a 'martyrdom operation'.

The critical evidence was unearthed after the detention and subsequent interrogation of Zahoor Illahi, brother of Umar who was driving the explosive-laden car that blasted outside Red Fort November 10 killing 15 people, officials said Tuesday.

Illahi was picked up by a special team formed by Senior Superintendent of Police (Srinagar) G V Sundee Chakravarthy as the entire white-collar terror module conspiracy began to unravel.

Initially feigning ignorance, Illahi eventually cracked under sustained questioning and told his interrogators that Umar, who was in the Kashmir valley between October 26 and 29, had handed him the mobile phone with explicit instructions to "dump it in water" if any news about him surfaced,

RED FORT BLAST



the officials said. Illahi subsequently led the police team to the dumping spot. Though the handset was damaged, forensic experts managed to extract the vital data, which strongly indicates Umar's deep radicalisation through exposure to violent extremist content that included watching radical videos pertaining to suicide bombings by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and Al-Qaeda.

Umar had also made various videos of himself talking about the suicide attack and claimed that such acts were one of the most praised acts in the religion. The videos were shot in April this year with Umar, the 28-year-old doctor from Pulwama in Kashmir, speaking in a heavy accented voice. He described suicide bombings as "martyrdom operations" and asserted that such actions are not only permissible but are regarded as commendable within the context of jihad, they said.

A nearly two-minute-long video of Umar also made rounds on social media. It shows Umar struggling to articulate his thoughts clearly, often faltering throughout the recording, before abruptly concluding it. This video is part of a larger collection in which Umar

J&K doctor, wife held on charges of radicalising women

Srinagar: The counter intelligence wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police Tuesday detained a government doctor and his wife for allegedly misusing their positions to mask unlawful activities including radicalising local women, officials said. The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) conducted coordinated searches at four locations across the districts of Srinagar, Kulgam and Anantnag Tuesday. The searches were part of an ongoing crackdown against social media abusers operating in connivance with handlers across the border, who have been deliberately engaged in furthering terrorist, secessionist, and separatist agendas, the officials said. By leveraging their professional status and societal standing, the involved individuals were allegedly using social media platforms to spread disinformation, radicalize youth, incite violence and disturb public order, posing a serious threat to the peace and sovereignty of the Union of India, they added.

is apparently rehearsing his statements.

The phone was handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for further analysis, officials said, adding the NIA will take custody of the brother soon.

Umar is believed to have been the most radicalised and key operative in the network, which spanned Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Multiple courts, two CRPF schools hit by hoax bomb threats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: Multiple courts in Delhi — Saket, Dwarka and Patiala House — along with two CRPF-run schools, received bomb threats Tuesday morning, prompting large-scale security checks across the national capital, officials said.

Police said an email sent in the name of a terror module claimed that explosives had been planted on court premises early morning. Several teams of bomb disposal squad, dog squad, and officers from the local police station were deployed to sweep the district court complexes.

"So far, nothing suspicious was found during the checks," said a police source, adding that the email from which the message was received is under surveillance to determine its origin. Around the same time, an unidentified man called the Police Control Room (PCR), claiming that bombs had been placed inside CRPF schools in Prashant Vihar and Dwarka and he needed help from police.

The threat triggered a similar response in this case, too, and teams were dispatched to the locations and schools were evacuated. "We thoroughly inspected the schools, and nothing suspicious was found. The threat was declared a hoax," a Delhi Fire Services official said. There was an annual function scheduled in the evening at the Prashant Vihar school.

A police officer said the caller's phone switched off soon after the threat call and no one was found at his address. Efforts are underway to trace him. Earlier, Dhir Singh Kasana, former secretary of the Saket Court Bar Association, said that court proceedings had stopped for about two hours but resumed after lunch.

Those who say filthy kidney, debate me: Lalu's daughter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Nov 18: RJD president Lalu Prasad's daughter Rohini Acharya Tuesday slammed those who accused her of giving a "filthy kidney" to her ailing father and challenged them to an open debate with her on the issue.

Acharya also asked these people to donate their kidneys to millions of patients needing the organ "in the name of Lalu ji". Following the RJD's poll debacle, Acharya Sunday alleged that she has been "sworn at" and accused of extracting "crores of rupees and a party ticket" in exchange for a "filthy kidney" that she gave to her ailing father. She has also claimed that she had been "driven out" of her parents' home by the cohorts of her younger brother Tejashwi Yadav. "Those people who want to do something in the name of Lalu Ji should stop pretending to show false sympathy. They should come

TOP MAOIST HIDMA KILLED IN ENCOUNTER

Last nail in the coffin of insurgency: Police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Maredumilli (Andhra Pradesh)/Raipur, Nov 18: Top Naxal commander Madvi Hidma and his wife were among the six Maoists killed in an encounter with security personnel in Andhra Pradesh's Alluri Sitaramaraju district Tuesday, police said, describing the development as "the last nail in the coffin" of insurgency.

Hidma, who joined the organisation in the late 1990s as a ground-level organiser, masterminded several attacks over the last two decades and became one of the most wanted Maoists after the Tadmetla (Dantewada) attack in which 76 security personnel were killed in 2010. He had then assisted another top Maoist commander, Papa Rao, in executing the strike.

An expert in guerrilla warfare, Hidma was known to carry an AK-47 rifle, while members of his huge unit moved with sophisticated weapons. His four-layered security ring inside the forests reportedly made him untraceable for years. He had over Rs 1 crore bounty on his head at the time of his death. A native of Puvarti village in Sukma district in Chhattisgarh, Hidma's age and appearance remained mysterious until his photograph surfaced earlier this year. He was elevated to the Maoists' Central Committee last year.

Hidma, 51, also headed the Maoists' Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Battalion No. 1, the strongest military formation of the outfit in Dandakaranya and parts of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, and Maharashtra, apart from Bastar, for several years, Chhattisgarh officials

said. Alluri Sitaramaraju district superintendent of police (SP) Amit Bardar said the encounter happened between 6.30 am and 7 am in the forested area of Maredumilli mandal.

"This morning, between 6.30 AM and 7.00 AM, an exchange of fire (EOF) occurred between Maoists and the police party in the Maredumilli Mandal area. During the encounter, six Maoists were neutralised," Bardar said in an official press release.

Two women and four men were killed in the exchange of fire, it said, and added that based on reliable sources and field verification, police confirmed that Hidma, his wife Madakam Rajee, Deve, Lakmal (Chaitu), Malla (Mallalu), and Kamlu (Kamlesh) died. Intelligence inputs over the past few weeks had indicated increased Maoist movement along the Andhra Pradesh-Chhattisgarh-Odisha border, leading to intensified combing operations, the release said.

Following the encounter, police seized two AK-47 rifles, one pistol, one revolver, and a single-barreled weapon, a number of electrical and non-electrical detonators, fuse wire, seven kit bags, and others. "Combing operations are continuing in the surrounding areas to ensure complete sanitisation and prevent further Maoist activity," the press release added. According to the SP, it was a joint operation carried out by various wings of the police department.

Addressing a press conference, Andhra Pradesh Intelligence ADGP Mahesh Chandra Laddha said Maoists from a few battalions were planning to shift to Andhra Pradesh due to continuous pressure in Chhattisgarh.

Woman collapses, dies in Sabarimala darshan queue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pathanamthitta(Kerala), Nov 18: A 58-year-old woman collapsed and died while waiting in queue for darshan at the Lord Ayyappa shrine in Sabarimala Tuesday, sources in the district administration said.

Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) president K Jayakumar told reporters that the woman's body would be transported back to her native place in an ambulance at the TDB's expense.

The deceased woman is from Koyilandy in Kozhikode district, officials said. Meanwhile, a bus carrying around 33 pilgrims, including children, from Karnataka overturned near Erumely in Kottayam district while on the way to Sabarimala, police said.

Three of the passengers suffered minor scrapes and bruises and were discharged after treatment, they said.

The accident occurred as the driver was overtaking another vehicle from the right side on a downward slope and lost control, police said.

Meanwhile, as nearly two lakh devotees arrived at the Lord Ayyappa shrine at Sabarimala here Tuesday within 48 hours of the temple opening for the annual 'mandala-makara-vilakku' pilgrimage season, the TDB and the police struggled to manage the massive flow of pilgrims, including children.

Visuals on TV channels showed a massive crowd of devotees packed like sardines in the small area in front of the 18 steps that have to be climbed to reach the main doors of the shrine.

Large crowds of devotees packed the pilgrimage route from Pamba, the foothills of Sabarimala, to the Sannidhanam, with many facing hours-long delays in climbing the path.

Small children carried on top of their parents' shoulders could be seen crying as the huge crowd of devotees jostled with each other to move forward.

SC flags alarming missing children report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: The Supreme Court Tuesday voiced concern over a news report that claimed that every eight minutes, a child goes missing in the country, and described it as a serious issue.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan said the adoption process in the country is complicated and asked the Centre to streamline the mechanism.

"I have read in a newspaper that every eight minutes, a child goes missing in the country. I don't know if this is true or not. But this is a serious issue," Justice Nagarathna observed orally.

The top court remarked that as the adoption process is rigorous, it is bound to be flouted and people go for illegal means to have children.

During the hearing, Addi-

I have read in a newspaper that every eight minutes, a child goes missing in the country. I don't know if this is true or not. But this is a serious issue

JUSTICE NAGARATHNA

tional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, sought six weeks time for appointing a nodal officer to handle cases of missing children.

The apex court, however, refused to grant six weeks and asked the ASG to complete the process by December 9.

On October 14, the bench had directed the Union government to instruct all States and Union territories to depute a nodal officer to handle cases of missing children and to provide their names and contact details for publication on the Mission Vatsalya portal operated by the



Ministry of Women and Child Development.

It had directed that whenever a complaint regarding a missing child is received on the portal, the information should be simultaneously shared with the respective nodal officers.

The top court had earlier



asked the Centre to create a dedicated online portal under the aegis of the home ministry to trace missing children and investigate such cases.

It had underlined the lack of coordination among police authorities entrusted with the job of tracing missing children in

of the day
QUOTE

Several Shinde group leaders approach Fadnavis, but he does not entertain any of them. Fadnavis will surely teach them a lesson

AADITYA THACKERAY | SENA (UBT) LEADER

Pickle-ball game welcomes people across age groups across backgrounds. Its popularity across the world reflects its universal appeal. Tamil Nadu is a vibrant state in sports development and has conducted several national and international events. I am happy to see this initiative takes place for the first time in Chennai

UDHAYANIDHI STALIN | TN DEPUTY CM

We recognise that technology, innovation, and investment flourish only when the foundations are strong. That's why our government is accelerating infrastructure at unprecedented speed

D K SHIVAKUMAR | KARNATAKA DY CM

POST OF THE DAY

The biggest lesson in Modi's rule: Once you control the minds of people, you don't need to control anything else.

People will vote for you despite unemployment, inflation, pollution, migration, Covid deaths, demonetization... anything!

@PunsterX

SHORT TAKES

Govt cautions TV channels

New Delhi: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Tuesday issued an advisory to all private television channels against telecasting visuals that could aid, abet or promote unlawful activities. The advisory comes in the wake of certain television channels carrying content on making explosives in the aftermath of the recent blast near the Red Fort in Delhi that left several people dead.

Mumbai court frames charges against Malik

Mumbai: A court here Tuesday framed charges against former Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik in a money laundering case linked to the activities of the Dawood Ibrahim gang, paving the way for the trial to start. The NCP leader, who appeared in person before the special court for cases against MPs and MLAs, pleaded not guilty along with other accused. Special judge Satyanarayan Navander then framed and read out the charges against the accused. They will be tried under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Fans remember Zubeen on 53rd birthday

Guwahati: The 53rd birth anniversary of Assam's cultural icon Zubeen Garg, who died September 19 in Singapore, was observed across the state Tuesday, with several groups and political parties organising various programmes, including blood donation camps, in the singer's honour. Garg's fans gathered outside his Kahilipara residence here at midnight to cut a cake and placed it before his photograph, where his wife Garima Saikia Garg and sister Palmee Borthakur were present. The fans sang his popular songs to ring in the celebrations, the first after his death.



Today, women are making the country proud with their contributions in science, sports and policy-making

ANANIBEN PATEL | UP GOVERNOR

DELHI'S AIR QUALITY IN 'VERY POOR' CATEGORY

The air quality in Delhi stayed in the 'very poor' category for the fifth consecutive day Tuesday. The pollution rose from the previous day's level, with air quality recordings in over 10 monitoring stations slipping into the 'severe' category, a level known to pose health risks even to otherwise healthy people.



SCO MEET

EAM's tough message on terror

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moscow, Nov 18: India Tuesday said that the world must display "zero tolerance" towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, asserting that there can be no justification, no looking away and "no whitewashing".

"As India has demonstrated, we have the right to defend our people against terrorism, and will exercise it," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in his address at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting here.

Jaishankar said India believes that the SCO must "adapt to the changing global landscape, develop an expanded agenda, and reform its working methods".

"We will contribute positively and fully to these objectives," he said. The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017. In July 2023, Iran became the new permanent member of the SCO at an India-hosted virtual summit of the grouping.

"We must never forget that the SCO was founded to combat the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism. These threats have become even more serious in the years that have passed," he said.

"It is imperative that the world displays zero tolerance towards terrorism in all its



It is imperative that the world displays zero tolerance towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. There can be no justification, no looking away and no whitewashing

S JAISHANKAR

forms and manifestations. There can be no justification, no looking away and no whitewashing," the EAM said.

Jaishankar also emphasised on the prevailing economic situation globally and the importance of fostering greater cultural ties in the influential bloc.

"We assess the global economic situation to be particularly uncertain and volatile currently. Supply side risks have been aggravated by demand side complexities. There is consequently an urgent requirement to de-risk and diversify. This is best done by as many of us, forging the widest possible economic links,"he said.

For that to happen, it is essential that this process be "fair, transparent and equitable," the EAM said.

"India's endeavours to conclude free trade agreements with many of us here are relevant," Jaishankar said.

And, India's long-standing ties with SCO members make it particularly pertinent, he added.

"As a civilisational state, India strongly believes that people-to-people exchanges lie at the core of any genuine relationship. Facilitating greater interaction between our intellectuals, artists, sports people, and cultural icons will pave the way for greater understanding across the SCO," the external affairs minister said.

He said there is a growing record of collaborative activities with regard to cultural exchanges.

The exposition of sacred Buddhist relics in many of the countries which are SCO members is a "notable example," he said.

Sena ministers skip cabinet meet over BJP's poaching

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 18: Cracks appear to have emerged in the Mahayuti alliance ahead of the Maharashtra civic elections with most of the Shiv Sena ministers Tuesday skipping the weekly cabinet meeting apparently over ally BJP inducting Sena leaders and workers in parts of the state.

While Shiv Sena minister Pratap Sarnaik admitted that there was disgruntlement over inductions made (by the BJP) in Palghar, Thane and other districts, his party colleague Uday Samant claimed there was no discontent, and said the ministers did not boycott the meeting. Sarnaik said Sena ministers led by party head and Deputy Chief Minister later held a meeting with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to discuss the issue, and a "solution" was found with the decision that the Mahayuti allies should refrain from inducting each other's leaders, office-bearers or former corporators.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray slammed the ministers of the rival Sena faction for "boycotting" the cabinet, saying it was a selfish act

and an "insult" to the people.

The development comes just days ahead of the first anniversary of the Fadnavis-headed Mahayuti government.

The ruling Mahayuti alliance comprises the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Shinde's Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). From the Shiv Sena, only Eknath Shinde attended the cabinet meeting held at the Mantralaya (secretariat). The Sena wanted to send a message to the ally BJP that it did not approve of the latter weaning away Sena workers and leaders. The recent defections from Shiv Sena to the BJP in Kalyan-Dombivli (in Thane district) seem to be the trigger point, sources said.

The Sena ministers later met CM Fadnavis in his chamber and expressed their ire over the development in Dombivli, but Fadnavis pointed out that it was the Sena which first admitted BJP members in its fold in neighbouring Ulhasnagar (in Thane district), they added.

The CM reportedly told the Sena leaders that when their party weans away members of other allies, they should not complain when the BJP does the same.

Anmol Bishnoi deported to India in Siddique row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 18: Gangster Anmol Bishnoi, a key accused in the murder case of NCP leader Baba Siddique, is being deported to India from the US, a police official said here Tuesday.

Bishnoi, also a wanted accused in the case related to a firing on Bollywood star Salman Khan's residence in April 2024, is expected to land in Delhi Wednesday, he added.

Mumbai Police had sent two proposals about his extradition, the official said, adding there are multiple cases registered against the gangster across the country, and the Union government will decide to which agency his custody should be given first. He was reportedly carrying a Russian Passport, procured on the basis of a forged document, the official said. NCP leader and Baba Siddique's son Zeeshan Siddique told PTI that he had received an email informing that Anmol Bishnoi had been "removed" from the United States. "This means he is not in the United States and should be brought to India and tried for his crimes," the former MLA added.



All Assam Students' Union (AASU) members stage a protest demanding justice for late singer Zubeen Garg on his 53rd birth anniversary in Guwahati, Assam

PTI PHOTO

Guv Bose likely to file defamation case against TMC MP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 18: A day after conducting search operations at the Raj Bhavan premises for weapons and ammunition, an act prodded by TMC leader Kalyan Banerjee's allegations to that effect, West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose is now mulling filing a defamation case against the TMC MP, a senior official said Tuesday.

WEAPON ALLEGATIONS

"The Governor is set to move the Calcutta High Court to file a defamation case against Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee in connection with his defamatory comments regarding arms and ammunition stacked inside the Governor House at Raj Bhavan here," the official told PTI. The step was taken

after consulting legal options, he said, adding that the MP's offences may invite a maximum punishment of seven years of imprisonment.

On Monday, Governor Bose led a team of security personnel – comprising Kolkata Police officers and central forces, a bomb squad and even a sniffer dog – to find out whether there are arms and ammunition stacked inside the Raj Bhavan.

Govt introduces next-gen e-passport to check fraud

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: In a major upgrade of its passport-related system, the government has introduced a next-generation "e-passport" that combines both paper and electronic elements, a step that also seeks to detect and check forgery, impersonation and other fraudulent acts. A senior official of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Tuesday said old legacy passports, which have not expired, will continue to remain valid till 2035 or until their expiry.

The MEA recently announced the successful rollout of the upgraded version of its flagship Passport Seva Programme (PSP), which includes the Passport Seva Programme

(PSP V2.0), the Global Passport Seva Programme (GPSP V2.0), and the e-Passport, for citizens in India and those who are residing abroad.

The e-passport is a hybrid passport that combines both paper and electronic elements. It features an embedded radio frequency identification (RFID) chip and an antenna, which store and secure the holder's data in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards, the officials said. The passport's critical information is printed on its data page as well as stored in the chip, thus making it harder to forge, they said. Pilot testing of the e-passport began at Regional Passport Offices in Bhubaneswar and Nag-



pur in 2024. After the successful pilot launch and requisite certifications, subsequently, it was rolled out at the remaining Regional Passport Offices across India in a phased manner and completed in May 2025.

"Around 80 lakh e-passports

have been issued in India, till date, since the beginning of the rollout. And around 62,000 e-passports, till date, have been issued through Indian missions and posts abroad since June 2025," another senior MEA official said. The data stored in the embedded chip of

- The e-passport is a hybrid passport that combines both paper and electronic elements
- It features an embedded radio frequency identification (RFID) chip and an antenna, which store and secure the holder's data in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards

this is a "major upgrade" in the entire passport-related system using modern technology, the official said.

The PSP Version 2.0 is designed to create a digitally integrated ecosystem connecting all stakeholders involved in passport services, with a focus on efficiency, transparency, and user convenience. With AI-powered chat and voice bots, citizens can get help while filling out applications or when they have passport-related grievances. The new and improved passport website and mobile app give users a better experience through features like auto-filled forms, simpler document uploads, and easy online payments using UPI or QR codes, according to the MEA.

international

of the day quote

We are preparing to reinvigorate negotiations, and we have developed solutions that we will propose to our partners. Doing everything possible to bring the end of the war closer is Ukraine's top priority.

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

In a time in which the climate debate is so vulnerable, to open a reform process could mean that we could be captured by the climate denialists

MANUEL PULGAR VIDAL | FORMER ENVIRONMENT MINISTER, PERU

It is necessary, using clear tools and in a short time frame, to develop a predictive and adaptive capacity for action aimed at preventing, deterring and absorbing hybrid attacks

GUIDO CROSETTO | DEFENCE MINISTER, ITALY

SHORT TAKES

One escapes captivity of the 25 abducted

Kebbi : One of 25 schoolgirls abducted from a school dormitory in northwestern Nigeria's Kebbi state has escaped captivity and returned home, the school principal told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The girls were abducted when gunmen attacked a high school in northwestern Nigeria before dawn on Monday, taking the 25 girls and killing a staff member at the school. The student who escaped fled forests and arrived home late Monday, hours after the kidnapping at the Government Girls Comprehensive Secondary School, said Musa Rabi Magaji, the school principal. One other student, who was not among the 25 confirmed abducted, also escaped in the minutes that followed the attack, the principal told the AP.

India sets up camp office

Dubai: The Consulate General of India in Jeddah has set up a camp office in Madina to assist the families of Indian Umrah pilgrims who died in a bus accident in Saudi Arabia, the mission said Tuesday. Forty-four Indians, including 42 from Telangana, were killed in a collision involving their bus and a fuel tanker near Madina in the wee hours of Monday. The local authorities had confirmed that there is one Indian survivor, and he is undergoing medical treatment. In a social media post, the Consulate said it has set up the camp office in the Indian Haj Pilgrims Office in Madina to assist the families of Indians who died in the accident. In a separate post, the mission said Consul General Fahad Ahmed Khan Suri met Abdul Shoeb Mohammed, the lone survivor of the accident.

SL secures 300mn for economic stability

Colombo: Sri Lanka Tuesday said it has secured agreements to obtain USD 300 million in financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support economic stability. The funds will be disbursed in three tranches of USD 100 million each for financial sector stability and reform, strengthening macroeconomic resilience and transparency, and a sustainable tourism sector development programme, the finance ministry said in a press release. The financial sector stability and reforms programme is aimed at strengthening the regulatory capacity of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, while the macroeconomic resilience programme will support broader macroeconomic and public financial management reforms, the ministry said.

Bipartisan resolution hails US-India tie

The resolution said it ‘recognises India’s growing energy needs as an essential component of its economic development and applauds India for increasing its purchases of United States energy resources, which enhance mutual energy security, economic prosperity and bilateral cooperation’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York/Washington, Nov 18: Two US lawmakers have introduced a bipartisan resolution recognising the strategic partnership between the US and India, applauding Delhi for increasing its purchases of American energy resources and stressing for continued bilateral cooperation to confront challenges like counterterrorism. Democratic US Representatives Ami Bera from California, the longest-serving Indian American Member of Congress, and Republican Joe Wilson of South Carolina, have introduced the bipartisan resolution “recognising the strategic value of the historical partnership between the United States and India”. The resolution introduced Monday underscores decades of deepening cooperation between two of the world’s largest democracies across critical sectors, including defence, technology, trade, counterterrorism and education.

It also highlights India’s vital role in promoting regional stability, economic growth and a free and open Indo-Pacific. “For more than three decades, it has been the policy of the United States under the administrations of Presidents Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden to strengthen the strategic partnership with India, recognising its importance to regional stability, democratic governance, economic growth and shared regional priorities,” it said. The measure calls for continued cooperation between the US and India to confront 21st-century challenges — from coun-



terterrorism and cyber threats to emerging technologies. It also recognises the enduring people-to-people ties between the two nations, which continue to be strengthened by the Indian American diaspora. The resolution notes the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks that “led to the deaths of 166 individuals, including citizens from both India and the United States” as well as the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed the lives of 26 civilians and injured dozens more and for which The Resistance Front (a proxy of Lashkar-e-Taiba), claimed responsibility.

“In the wake of the Pahalgam attack, the government of the United States designated The Resistance Front as a foreign terrorist organisation and as a specially designated global terrorist underscoring the alignment of United States and Indian efforts to hold terror groups accountable,” it said. The resolution notes that “enhancing counterterrorism cooperation between the United States and India is essential to protect citizens, strengthen regional stability, disrupt terrorist networks and promote a rules-based international order”. The resolution said it “rec-

US, India trade deal can be worked out 'soon': Trump official

NEW YORK: A senior Trump administration official has said that a trade deal between India and the US can be worked out “soon”. “Yeah, we were for sure very close. I’ve spoken to the ambassador...you know, we’ve had visits,” National Economic Council Director Kevin Hassett said in an interview with CNBC Monday. He was asked about the trade deal with India, and that Washington was “so close so many times” on finalising the deal. India and the US have been negotiating the proposed bilateral trade agreement since March. So far, the two sides have held six rounds of negotiations. Hassett pointed to the “complicated situation” of India’s “interaction” with Russia. “I think that it’s a complicated situation because the interaction between what India does with Russia and with what India does with us, and so I think we’re still quite hopeful. But it got pretty complicated because there are a lot of different variables in the India-American relationship, but they’re good friends and we’re hoping we can work it out soon,” Hassett said. On Tuesday, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said, “You will hear a good news” on the proposed trade pact between India and the US once the deal is fair, equitable and balanced. Speaking at an event in Delhi, Goyal said that India will also protect the interests of farmers and fishermen in the agreement.

After UN vote, Netanyahu calls for Hamas’ expulsion

REUTERS

Tel Aviv/Cairo, Nov 18: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Tuesday called for Hamas to be expelled from the region, a day after the UN Security Council endorsed President Donald Trump’s plan to end the war that offers the Palestinian militant group amnesty. Netanyahu publicly endorsed the plan during a White House visit in late September. However, his latest remarks appear to show that there are differences with the United States on the path forward. Hamas has also objected to parts of the plan. Diplomats say privately that entrenched positions on both the Israeli and Hamas sides have made it difficult to advance the plan, which lacks specific timelines or enforcement mechanisms. Still, it has received strong international backing. Netanyahu Tuesday pub-



lished a series of posts on X in response to the UN vote. In one post, he applauded Trump and in another wrote the Israeli government believes the plan would lead to peace and prosperity because it calls for the “full demilitarization, disarmament, and deradicalization of Gaza”. “Israel extends its hand in peace and prosperity to all of our neighbors” and calls on neighbouring countries to “join us in expelling Hamas and its supporters from the region,” he said. Asked what the prime minister had meant by expelling Hamas, a spokesperson said that it would mean “ensuring

there is no Hamas in Gaza as outlined in the 20-point plan, and Hamas has no ability to govern the Palestinian people inside the Gaza Strip”. **PLAN DOES NOT CALL FOR HAMAS’ EXPULSION** Trump’s 20-point plan includes a clause saying that Hamas members “who commit to peaceful coexistence and to decommission their weapons will be given amnesty” and members who wish to leave will be given safe passage to third countries. Another clause says Hamas will agree to not having any role in Gaza’s governance. There is no clause that explicitly calls for the Islamist militant group to disband or to leave Gaza. The plan says reforms to the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority may ultimately allow conditions “for a credible pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood”.

Cloudflare outage impacts thousands, disrupts transit systems, ChatGPT, X

Cloudflare, based in San Francisco, works behind the scenes to make the internet faster and safer, but when problems flare up ‘it results in massive digital gridlock’ for internet users

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Nov 18: A widely used Internet infrastructure company said that it has largely resolved an issue that led to outages impacting users of everything from ChatGPT and the online game, “League of Legends,” to the New Jersey Transit system early Tuesday. At 10:40 am, Cloudflare said its engineers were still mitigating some lingering issues after they posted a fix for the

outage, but that they were continuing to monitor for any further problems. Others platforms that experienced outages Tuesday included the social media site X, Shopify, Dropbox, Coinbase, and the Moody’s credit ratings service. Moody’s website displayed an Error Code 500 and instructed individuals to visit Cloudflare’s website for more information. New Jersey Transit said parts of its digital services including njtransit.com, may be temporarily unavailable or slow to load. And New York City Emergency Management said there are reports city services being impacted by the outage. The city is continuing to monitor for disruptions. In France, national railway company SNCF’s website has been affected. The company warned customers that “some



information and schedules may not be available or up to date. Our teams are working to restore these services as quickly as possible.”

Cloudflare, based in San Francisco, works behind the scenes to make the internet faster and safer, but when problems flare up “it results

FLYDUBAI EXPANDS BEYOND BOEING

FlyDubai, the lower-cost sister airline to long-haul carrier Emirates, announced an order Tuesday for 150 Airbus A321neo aircraft at the Dubai Air Show - an estimated \$24 billion purchase that will see the carrier for the first time expand its fleet beyond Boeing



CHINA, JAPAN CRISIS DEEPENS



Japanese citizens in China have been warned to be mindful of their safety as a diplomatic spat between the two countries continues

REUTERS

Beijing/Tokyo, Nov 18: Japan has warned its citizens in China to step up safety precautions and avoid crowded places, amid a deepening dispute between Asia’s two largest economies over Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi’s comments on Taiwan. Takaichi sparked the most serious diplomatic clash in years when she told Japanese lawmakers this month that a Chinese attack on Taiwan threatening Japan’s survival could trigger a military response. A senior Japanese official met his counterpart in Beijing Tuesday to try and tamp down the tension, but no breakthrough appeared imminent. China’s foreign ministry said Liu Jinsong, head of the ministry’s Asia affairs department, had pressed at the meeting for Takaichi to retract her remarks. But Japan’s top government spokesperson, Minoru Kihara, suggested Tokyo was in no mood to do so. The comments did “not alter the government’s existing position,” Kihara told a press conference Tuesday, adding that the government hoped issues concerning Taiwan would be resolved peacefully through dialogue. **CHINESE STATE MEDIA TARGET TAKAICHI** Beijing claims democratically governed Taiwan as its own and has not ruled out using force to take control of the island. Taiwan’s government rejects Beijing’s claims. A Chinese diplomat in Japan responded to Takaichi’s remarks by posting a threatening comment aimed at her on social media. That drew a strong rebuke from Tokyo,

though it failed to stem vitriolic commentary against her in Chinese state media. Takaichi was summoning Japan’s “militarist demons”, the official news agency Xinhua said in the latest such attack Tuesday.

In view of the media coverage in China, Japan’s embassy there reminded citizens Monday to respect local customs and take care in interactions with Chinese people. It asked citizens to be aware of their surroundings when outdoors, telling them to not travel alone and urging extra caution when accompanying children. “If you see a person or group that looks even slightly suspicious, do not approach them and leave the area immediately,” the embassy said in its notice. **CHINA URGES AGAINST TRAVEL TO JAPAN** The dispute could deal a blow to Japan’s economy, as Beijing has urged its citizens not to travel there. Chinese form the largest number of all tourists to Japan, accounting for nearly a quarter, official figures show. Tourism-related stocks in Japan plunged on the news. More than 10 Chinese airlines, such as Air China, China Eastern Airlines and China Southern Airlines, have offered refunds on Japan-bound routes until December 31, while Sichuan Airlines has cancelled plans for a Chengdu-Sapporo route until at least March, state media said. Film distributors have also suspended the screening of at least two Japanese films in China, a step state broadcaster CCTV hailed on Monday as a ‘prudent decision’ reflecting souring domestic sentiment.

JAPANESE URGED TO AVOID CROWDS. WATCH FOR ‘SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE’
.....
TOKYO’S ENVOY FLIES TO BEIJING, BUT NO SIGNS OF BREAKTHROUGH
.....
JAPAN BUSINESS LEADERS URGE RESOLUTION AMID ECONOMIC BLOWBACK
.....
JAPANESE FILM SCREENINGS IN CHINA SUSPENDED AS RIFT GROWS

of the day

quote

This licensing arrangement between Singer India and Singer Sourcing Ltd LLC (SVP Worldwide), will enable SINGER India to produce high-quality Auto Zig Zag sewing machines designed to suit Indian consumer needs

RAKESH KHANNA | VICE CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, SINGER INDIA

Can we create a National Financial Grid (NFG) that connects all the critical elements? It will be one unified open access infrastructure layer that can be leveraged across the ecosystem

CS SETTY | SBI CHAIRMAN

It is truly inspiring to see how homegrown solutions are not only addressing real consumer needs but also reinforcing India's growing prominence as a global hub for innovation

Saloni Shah Javeri | Chief Digital and Marketing Officer, L'Oréal India

SHORT TAKES

Bisleri partners Purple Umbrella Festival 2025

New Delhi: Bisleri announced its partnership with the Purple Umbrella Festival 2025 as the official hydration partner. The festival, held at the Bharat Mandapam Convention Centre, brought together theatre, short films, documentaries, youth-startup innovation and climate action under the theme: "Creativity for Climate. Innovation for Impact. Stories for Change". The event witnessed an encouraging footfall of around 700 attendees out of which 600 were children who enthusiastically participated and showcased their commitment towards sustainability and action for climate change. At the event, Bisleri hosted a dedicated "Greener Promise" stall designed to engage festival goers around sustainability, responsible hydration and conservation.

Infosys' ₹18,000Cr share buyback

New Delhi: IT services giant Infosys' largest-ever share buyback programme worth ₹18,000 crore is set to open for subscription Thursday, and will close November 26, according to a regulatory filing. The company aims to buy back 10 crore fully paid-up equity shares of a face value of ₹5 each, representing up to 2.41 per cent of the total paid-up equity share capital, at ₹1,800 per share. "The eligible shareholders can tender their equity shares during the tendering period, i.e. from November 20, 2025, to November 26, 2025. "The buyback is being undertaken by the company after taking into account the strategic and operational cash needs of the company in the medium term and for returning surplus funds to the shareholders," Infosys said.

Sitharaman's pre-Budget consultation

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Tuesday, chaired the fourth pre-Budget consultation with stakeholders from the capital markets in New Delhi, as part of the ongoing process to gather inputs for the union Budget 2026-27. The meeting was attended by union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, and Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India. The consultation is part of a series of meetings being held by the Finance Ministry with various stakeholders, including economists, agriculturists, MSME representatives, and industry associations, to gather suggestions and inputs for the upcoming budget.

India's GDP growth likely to cross 7.5 pc in Q2: SBI report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: In a good news for investors, a research report by the SBI has predicted that India's GDP growth is expected to reach 7.5 per cent or more in the second quarter of the current fiscal, mainly driven by robust festive sales triggered by the GST rate cut in late September.

Growth is being supported by a pick up in investment activities, recovery in rural consumption, and buoyancy in services and manufacturing, underpinned by structural reforms like GST rationalisation, which also helped unleash a festive spirit that decisively showcased the triumph of hope over hype, the report said.

"In the continuum of the good numbers from festive-led sales, the percentage of leading indicators in consumption and demand across agriculture, industry, and services showing acceleration has increased to 83 per cent in Q2 from 70 per cent in Q1. Based on the estimated model, we obtain a nowcast of real GDP growth of about 7.5 per cent in Q2FY26 with the possibility of an upside surprise," said the report by SBI's economic research department.

The government will release the GDP data for the July-September quarter later this month.

The Reserve Bank has projected the economic growth for the second quarter at 7 per cent.



The report further said analysis indicates that gross domestic Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections may come around ₹1.49 lakh crore for November (returns of October but filed in November), recording an annual growth of 6.8 per cent.

Coupled with ₹51,000 crore of IGST and cess on import, the November GST collections thus could cross ₹2 lakh crore, driven by the peak festive season demand led by lower GST rate and increased compliance, while most states experience positive gains, it added.

It also noted that during the last month festive season (September-October), consumption has got a big boost with GST rationalisation, the first indication coming from analysis of credit and debit card spending patterns across the latitude.

In credit cards, merchant categories like auto, grocery stores, electronics, furnishing and travel indicated a huge growth in the e-commerce channel, where about 38 per

cent of spending was on utility and services, followed by 17 per cent on supermarkets and grocery, and travel agents held about 9 per cent share.

City-wise credit card spends reveal that demand has increased across regions, but is growing in mid-tier cities the most, as e-com sales have largely been positive across cities, the report said.

"With GST rationalisation, debit card spends too show growth across all major states in September/October 2025 over September/October 2024," it added.

The report also said India's macroeconomic outlook remains one of cautious optimism, underpinned by robust domestic demand and easing inflationary pressures.

The growth is being supported by strong investment activities, recovery in rural consumption, and buoyancy in services and manufacturing, it said, adding that the GST 2.0 reforms are expected to boost private consumption.



"Eco-friendly cruise tourism on the Yamuna is a major milestone, paving the way for cleaner, greener and more efficient water transport that will boost connectivity and tourism in the heart of Delhi"

SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER

HUB-AND-SPOKE MODEL FOR INDIAN CRAFTS

Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh Tuesday said a hub-and-spoke model was under consideration to boost exports of Indian crafts. Singh said that the global demand for handcrafted products is rising. "We are considering a new hub-and-spoke model to take our artisans' craftsmanship global," he added



Bitcoin at 6-month low, slides 30%



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 18: Bitcoin, the world's largest cryptocurrency, is facing heavy selling pressure, falling to a six-month low and trading close to the \$90,000 mark Tuesday.

The extent of the slump is evident from the fact that Bitcoin has now erased all the gains it made in 2025. From its October peak of \$126,000, the cryptocurrency has plunged nearly 30 per cent.

The sharp decline has dragged Bitcoin's market cap below the \$2 trillion level once again.

Vikram Subburaj, CEO of Giottus.com, said Bitcoin's downtrend has continued relentlessly, wiping out the entire rally of 2025.

According to him, selling pressure is visible across derivatives as well as exchange-traded products (ETFs).

Bitcoin ETF outflows have surged to \$815 million, taking the total outflow this week to almost \$2 billion.

Subburaj added that strong US manufacturing data has reduced the likelihood of a rate cut in December, prompting investors to turn cautious. Even

after the US government shutdown ended, selling pressure in Bitcoin has persisted.

The broader crypto market has mirrored Bitcoin's decline. Ethereum has slipped below the \$3,000 mark, Solana has dropped more than 20 per cent this week, and XRP has fallen 16 per cent.

Overall, the global crypto market cap has fallen nearly 6 per cent on a weekly basis.

Avinash Shekhar, CEO and co-founder of Pi42, said ETF outflows, increased short positions by large investors, and declining liquidity have turned a steady correction into a steep downturn. "ETF outflows, whale-driven short positioning, and thinning liquidity have turned a routine correction into a deeper drawdown," market watchers said.

Apart from Bitcoin, Ethereum has also fallen below its important support level of \$3,000, which shows that it may be entering a bearish phase.

BNB has dropped under \$900, Solana is moving towards \$130, Dogecoin is around \$0.15, and Cardano is near \$0.45. Meanwhile, XRP is still holding strong above \$2.11, and Chainlink is trading above \$13.11.

Steel Min Kumaraswamy visits RSP

Bhubaneswar:

Union Minister of Steel & Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy began his two-day visit to SAIL's Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) Tuesday. He was accompanied by Anitha Kumaraswamy, SAIL Chairman-cum-Managing Director Amarendu Prakash and senior officials of the Ministry of Steel. He was received at Rourkela Airport by Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram, Raghunathpalli MLA Durga Charan Tanti, RSP Director In-Charge Alok Verma, senior police officials, CISF officers and top RSP executives. The CISF unit presented a Guard of Honour to the Minister on arrival. Kumaraswamy, along with Oram and other dignitaries, commenced the plant visit from the Model Room of the Learning & Development department, where he was briefed on the plant's overall functioning. The key highlight of the visit was the inauguration of the state-of-the-art Caster #4 at Steel Melting Shop-2. The Minister keenly reviewed the slab casting operations and praised the RSP team for successfully commissioning the facility. "The Government of India, under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is committed to providing all necessary support for the growth and development of Rourkela Steel Plant," he said. Jual Oram appreciated the workforce for its consistent performance, adding that he holds "fond memories associated with the plant" and assured continued support. SAIL CMD Amarendu Prakash also lauded the dedication of the RSP collective. The Ministers further inspected project sites including the Pellet Plant and Coke Oven Battery-7, concluding their visit at Hot Strip Mill-2. Senior executives including Tarun Misra, ED (HR), B K Giri, ED (Mines Development-CMLO), BiswaranjanPalai, ED (Works), Anil Kumar, ED (MM), M P Singh, ED (Mines-CMLO), Sudip PalChowdhury, ED (Projects) were present during the visit of the visiting dignitaries.



Ankura Hosp & AAYU Foundation launch Preemethon 2025

Bhubaneswar:

Ankura Hospitals in association with the AAYU Foundation, announced the Bhubaneswar edition of Preemethon 2025 — a walkathon dedicated to raising awareness on premature births under the national campaign "Born Too Soon, But in the Safest Hands." The Bhubaneswar Preemethon was held 16th November 2025, at Ankura Hospital Bhubaneswar, starting at 6:30 am. The initiative highlighted the medical, emotional, and social challenges surrounding premature births while celebrated the resilience of these tiny fighters and their families. Leading the walk in Bhubaneswar, Ravi Kumar Katulu, Olympian and Arjuna Awardee for weightlifting, joined the movement, reflecting the strength and perseverance that define both sport and survival. "As athletes, we understand the value of resilience and support. Every premature baby's journey is one of courage, care, and community effort. Initiatives like Preemethon by Ankura Hospitals bring much-needed awareness to neonatal health and encourage society to stand together for these tiny warriors. When we walk together, even the smallest lives can achieve the biggest victories." said Mr Ravi Kumar. He emphasized on the need for sports for a better future. Aligned with World Prematurity Day (November 17), the Born Too Soon campaign emphasized the importance of early antenatal care, maternal nutrition, and emotional support for parents of preterm babies. "Every premature baby is a story of hope and medical excellence. Through Preemethon, we aim to unite parents, doctors, and communities to spread awareness that timely neonatal care can make a life-changing difference," said Dr. Krishna Prasad, Neonatologist, Chairman & Managing Director, Ankura Hospitals. The Born Too Soon, But in the Safest Hands campaign, in collaboration with AAYU Foundation, reiterated Ankura's mission to provide every mother and child with expert, compassionate care—from conception to cradle.



Indian AI startups shine in L'Oréal Groupe's beauty tech competition

Bengaluru's 'Sravathi AI' and Pune's 'Without' to receive L'Oréal-funded commercial pilot opportunities and year-long mentorship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 18: Sravathi AI and Without from India are among four startups crowned winners of L'Oréal's 2025 SAPMENA Big Bang Beauty Tech Innovation Program, the biggest open innovation competition of its kind in the South Asia Pacific, Middle East and North Africa (SAPMENA) region.

The winning startups – Sravathi AI (India), Without (India), Halo AI (UAE), and Heatseeker (Australia) – now have the opportunity to collaborate with L'Oréal in a commercial pilot with one of the Group's 37 international brands. They will also gain potential exposure to 35 markets across SAPMENA and embark on a year-long mentorship journey with senior executives from L'Oréal and the programme's partners, namely Accenture, Google and Meta. Wubble AI (Singapore)

also received a special mention.

Hailing from SAPMENA's vast and promising talent pool, these teams highlight the extraordinary creativity and innovation of the region's vibrant startup ecosystem. This ecosystem is driven by dynamic market growth, large populations, a rising middle class and digitally-savvy young consumers. This ecosystem, particularly vibrant in India with successful innovators from the program, underscores the need for continued support and strategic alliances to drive future growth.

Vismay Sharma, President of L'Oréal SAPMENA Zone, said, "SAPMENA is one of the world's most dynamic regions, with millions of young, digitally-savvy consumers fuelling the rapid rise of digital commerce and brand innovation. While Silicon Valley often comes to mind for startups, we believe the centre of gravity for inno-



vation is increasingly diversifying and shifting to regions like SAPMENA where market demand is shaping ideas to impact. The pitches at the Grand Finale are a testament to this and reaffirm the opportunities for open innovation here. By partnering with these next-gen innovators, we can accelerate the pace of beauty tech transformation and amplify the impact

of new ideas across the beauty ecosystem."

Saloni Shah Javeri, Chief Digital and Marketing Officer, L'Oréal India, said, "We are thrilled to celebrate Indian entrepreneurs emerging as winners for the second consecutive year at the Big Bang Beauty Tech Innovation Program Grand Finale. It is truly inspiring to see how homegrown

solutions are not only addressing real consumer needs but also reinforcing India's growing prominence as a global hub for innovation. L'Oréal is proud to champion these innovators who are passionately bringing beauty and technology closer together, showcasing the incredible talent and creativity abundant in India."

The 2025 programme reached over 50,000 startups and drew applications from across the SAPMENA region, including teams from Southeast Asia, India, the Middle East, Australia and New Zealand. Over nine months, the startups competed in a rigorous process, presenting solutions in areas such as consumer experience, content & media, new commerce, tech for good, and science for beauty. The competition culminated in the Grand Finale in Singapore 7 November, where 10 short-

listed startups pitched their bold, scalable and tech-driven ideas to a distinguished judging panel of industry experts from L'Oréal, Google, Meta and Veros Ventures. In 2024, two Bengaluru-based startups - NeuralGarage and Live2.ai emerged among the winners of the inaugural L'Oréal Big Bang Beauty Tech Innovation Program for the SAPMENA region.

L'Oréal is dedicated to fostering a culture of innovation. In 2025, L'Oréal Groupe was named the most innovative company in Europe by Fortune magazine, out of 300 companies, in a ranking spanning 21 countries and 16 industries in Europe. Fast Company named L'Oréal in its Top 50 2024 Best Workplaces for Innovators list and winner of the Beauty and Fashion category, in recognition of its commitment to encourage and develop innovation at all levels.

Air rifle mixed teams' double podium



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, Nov 18: Indian shooters continued their domination at the 25th Deaflympics here Tuesday, securing a double-podium finish by winning both the gold and bronze medals in the 10m air rifle mixed team event.

The pair of Dhanush Srikanth and Mahit Sandhu clinched gold by overcoming the South Korean duo of Jeon Dain and Kim Woorim, while Mohammed Murtaza Vania and Komal Milind Waghmare added a bronze to their individual medals after getting the better of Ukraine's Violeta Lykova and Oleksandr Kostyk.

In the gold medal match, Dhanush and Mahit raced to a 4-0 lead in the beginning and maintained a clear gap with the

TOKYO DEAFLYMPICS

Korean pair, eventually clinching the match 17-7.

This is Dhanush's second gold meal of the Deaflympics, while Mahit added a yellow metal to her silver which she won in the individual event.

The bronze medal match was tighter, with the Ukrainian pair also featuring the women's individual gold medal winner Violeta Lykova.

Both pairs were tied 4-4 after the end of the fourth series and at the end of the sixth series, Ukraine were leading 7-5.

Murtaza Vania and Komal then tied the scores at 7-7, 8-8 and 10-10 after four more rounds. The Indians then won two out of the next four rounds, with the points being shared in the other two. Eventually, they secured the bronze medal, winning 16-12.

The Indian shooters have won a total of nine medals across three days of competition. The air pistol mixed teams will be in action Wednesday as India look to add more medals to their tally in shooting at the Deaflympics.

You cannot win everyday, I'm always cheering for India: Manu

New Delhi: Double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker has taken the failure to live up to her exalted standards in the ISSF World Championships on her chin and acknowledged that she "cannot win everyday" while lauding the performance of her compatriots.

That Bhaker couldn't feature among the 13 Indian medallists in the just-concluded tournament has come as a bit of a surprise to many in the shooting fraternity.

"I was aiming (for medals) at the World Championships. My performance was good, scored decently, couldn't make it to the podium. My teammate

Esha Singh did... in sports you cannot win everyday, sometimes you lose as well," Bhaker said during an event on Tuesday.

The 23-year-old pistol ace was speaking on the sidelines of the launch of ASMITA (Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women) social media handle.

Speaking about specially-abled athletes, Bhaker said they are an inspiration to everyone.

The shooters won India's first medals at the ongoing Tokyo Deaflympics with Dhanush Srikanth defending his men's 10m air rifle title with a new

world record score of 252.2 and Mohammad Vania winning the silver in the same event.

"All the specially abled athletes are an inspiration and motivate us a lot. We learn a lot from them, the fighting spirit they showcase is incredible and we all look up to them. I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to all of them and if they need any kind of help or support we'll be there."

On the ASMITA initiative, Bhaker said it will help in changing the mentality of people in rural areas about women aspiring to make it big in sports.

Indian football team suffers embarrassing loss to B'desh



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Nov 18: India suffered their first defeat against Bangladesh in 22 years, going down 0-1 to the home side in an inconsequential Group C match of the Asian Cup qualifying round match here Tuesday.

Sheikh Morsalin scored the all-important goal for Bangladesh in the 11th minute to the wild cheer of the capacity crowd at the National Stadium here. The match, though, had been rendered inconsequential as both the sides were out of contention of the 2027 continental showpiece.

India got a golden scoring chance in the 31st minute but Lallianzuala Chhangte's right-footed shot from the top of the box after Bangladesh goalkeeper Mitul Marma was completely out of position

was headed away by Hamza Choudhury.

There was an instance of pushing and shoving among some players of the two teams near the touch line in the first half but the referee brought it under control.

India's last defeat against Bangladesh was during the 2003 SAFF Gold Cup, where the latter had prevailed 2-1 at the same venue in Dhaka. Since then, the two sides had faced each other in nine matches before Tuesday, and India had won three times while six were drawn affairs.

India's campaign for the 2027 Asian Cup had effectively ended on October 14, when they squandered a 1-0 lead to lose 1-2 to Singapore in Margao, Goa.

By virtue of the defeat, a winless India remained rooted at the bottom of the four-team

table with just two points from five matches. This was their third loss in the third round of the qualifiers. The other two matches were drawn affairs.

After the win, Bangladesh, who notched their first win in five matches, remained on third with five points.

The first leg match between the two sides had ended in a goal-less draw on March 25 in Shillong.

Singapore, who defeated Hong Kong 2-1 earlier in the day in Hong Kong, sealed the top spot in Group C with 11 points and qualified for the 2027 Asian Cup. Hong Kong are in second place with eight points.

India are currently ranked 136th in the FIFA chart while Bangladesh are at 183rd.

India play their last match of the 2027 Asian Cup qualifiers against Hong Kong at home March 31, 2026.

FIDE WORLD CUP

Arjun draws against Wei Yi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, Nov 18: Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi Tuesday played out another draw with China's Wei Yi and will fight it out in the tiebreaker of the quarterfinals of the World Chess cup here.

Having drawn the first game without shedding any blood, Arjun was surprised early by Wei Yi in the Queen's gambit declined and this time it was the turn of the Chinese to hog the limelight with black pieces as it turned out to be an effortless draw.

For the records, a set of minor piece changed hands early followed by a rook when the players realized there was no point in looking for more. The game was drawn after white's 32nd move.

Alexander Donchenko's



dream run at the world cup finally ended as Uzbek Nodirbek Yakubboev played out a draw after a fine victory in the first game to take the match 1.5-0.5 and also became the first player to qualify for the semifinals. Donchenko tried for quite sometime but could not really come close to equalizing as Yakubboev was at his best in the counter-play and the finale saw a rook and pawns endgame wherein neither side

could make headway.

Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan played out another draw with Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara of Mexico and will also decide his fate in the tiebreaker, while Sam Shankland of United States drew his second straight game with Andrey Esipenko of Russia to set up his tiebreak clash.

Complete results quarterfinals game 1: Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb) drew with Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara (Mex) 1-1 goes to tiebreak; Wei Yi (Chn) drew with Arjun Erigaisi (Ind) 1-1 goes to tiebreak; Sam Shankland (Usa) drew with Andrey Esipenko (Fid) 1-1 goes to tiebreak; Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb) beat Alexander Donchenko (Ger) 1.5-0.5.

Alcaraz withdraws from Davis Cup finals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Madrid, Nov 18: Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz withdrew from playing for Spain in the Davis Cup Finals in Italy because of a hamstring injury Tuesday.

Alcaraz said the decision was recommended by doctors.

"I'm so sorry to announce that I won't be able to play for Spain in the Davis Cup in Bologna," he said on X. "I have an edema in my right hamstring and the medical recommendation is not to compete."

Alcaraz said he was returning home "heartbroken."

"I've always said that playing for Spain is the greatest thing there is, and I was really looking forward to helping us fight for the Davis Cup."

Alcaraz was set to lead Spain in Bologna against the No. 4-seeded Czech Republic in the quarterfinals Thursday to try and win the Davis Cup for the



first time. Last year, Alcaraz and Spain were eliminated in the opening round of the Final 8 at home in Malaga, spoiling the final match of Rafael Nadal's storied career.

The 22-year-old Alcaraz had said he wants "to win the Davis

Asutosh defeats Subrat, seals 6th Billiards title

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: Seven times national champion in Cue Sports (5x Snooker, 2x Billiards) Asutosh Padhy retained his 6th senior Billiards state title after defeating his mentor Subrat Das at 31st All Odisha Billiards and Snooker Championship. Padhy dominated 4 frames to 1 to regain the title at the ongoing snooker state ranking, organised by Billiards and Snooker Association of Odisha (BSAO). In the finals, Padhy went 3 frames up projecting a strong display of break with his mentor, stealing one frame from him right after.



Preeti shocks world champion Huang

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Greater Noida, Nov 18: Rising Indian boxer Preeti Pawar stunned Olympic medallist and three-time world champion Huang Hsiao-Wen of Chinese Taipei, while Arundhati Choudhary and Parveen Hooda marked successful international returns with contrasting wins to enter the gold medal bouts of the World Boxing Cup Finals here Tuesday.

Minakshi Hooda (48kg), Nupur (+80kg), Ankush Phangal (80kg), Abhinash Jamwal (65kg) and Narender Berwal (+90kg) also advanced to the finals in their respective weight categories. The talented Preeti (54kg) refused to let the experienced Huang find rhythm, cutting off angles and denying the reigning world champion any momentum en route to a commanding 4-0 win. "I knew she is a world champion, but to become a world champion, you must beat a world champion. That was my mindset going into the bout — that I have to give my 100 per cent and win in front of the home crowd," Preeti said.

Former world youth champion Arundhati, returning after a one-and-a-half-year international hiatus due to a wrist injury, showed no signs of rust. She registered a resounding third-round RSC win over Leonie Müller in 70kg semifinals.

FROM SUSPENSION TO REDEMPTION

Pramod Bhagat's return to para badminton

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: When Pramod Bhagat's 18-month anti-doping suspension shattered his dreams of defending the Olympic gold at the Paris Games, few could have predicted the extraordinary comeback that would follow.

For a man who has spent his life defying odds, starting with childhood polio contracted from a faulty vaccine, this was simply another mountain to climb.

Following the end of his suspension in September, Bhagat, the Tokyo Paralympic champion, re-entered the world para badminton circuit with renewed focus, winning 10 gold medals across singles, men's doubles and mixed doubles in tournaments held in China, Nigeria, Australia, and Japan.

These victories propelled him back to the top of the men's doubles world rankings and restored his position among the top five singles players globally.

"It was a big mistake, it was very hard for me. I knew that when I come back after one and a half years, it will not be so easy for me to make a comeback," Bhagat told PTI.



"The players who are playing now, their confidence level will be high. Everyone's game will be different, there will be a lot of changes. Technique also matters a lot. I kept all this in mind and prepared myself for the same. "The planning I did was successful and now finally, I've qualified for the World Championships. I told myself that after coming back, I will

do whatever it takes to get back my domination. I was able to do something like that."

Bhagat's ban was the result of three 'whereabouts' failures in a 12-month period, as determined by the CAS Anti-Doping Division. "It was a big shock but the reason of the ban was technical error. I know I missed out on Olympics but I knew I have given my 100 percent. I didn't

get demoralised.

"Look, we have come up in life through a lot of struggles. Now there are lot of facilities but in 2004-05, there were a lot of struggle due to my disability. So I stood up. I was confident that I will come back."

During his suspension, Bhagat undertook a bike expedition to the Himalayas, riding through Spiti and Ladakh. This journey, along with time spent with family, proved cathartic.

As a reminder of the 'whereabouts' error, Bhagat refrained from cutting his hair or shaving until he returned to competition and won gold in Japan, after which he shaved off his hair and beard. Bhagat has now set his sights on claiming a record sixth World Championship gold.

"I hope to achieve the world number one ranking in singles after playing in Egypt in January and then it will be the world championships where my sight is set. My idol is Lin Dan. While I had five World Championships like him, I want to go past him, that would be my real redemption," he signed off.

The BWF Para Badminton World Championships will be held in Bahrain from February 7 to 14 next year.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Satwik-Chirag advances



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Nov 18: Star Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the men's doubles second round with a tough straight-game win over Chinese Taipei's Chang Ko-Chi and Po Li-Wei at the Australian Open Super 500 tournament here Tuesday.

The world No 3 Indian pair, who reached back-to-back finals at the Hong Kong Super 500 and China Masters Super 750, prevailed 25-23, 21-16 in a fighting 48-minute opening-round clash against Ko-Chi and Po Li-Wei.

In women's doubles, however, Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand suffered a 10-21, 14-21 defeat to Indonesia's F Kusu-

ma and M Puspitasari in their opening match.

Satwik and Chirag opened up a 7-4 lead after the change of sides, but two net errors and a strong smash from the Taiwanese allowed them to catch up. The pairs split the next six points before an attempted smash went long, giving the Indians a one-point lead at the interval.

Satwik and Chirag maintained their momentum after the restart, stretching the advantage to 18-15, and closed out the match comfortably with two superb smashes.

India's singles players such as Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, Kidambi Srikanth, Ayush Shetty and others will start their campaign Wednesday.