

Rashmika's revelation

Actor Rashmika Mandanna admits she once stayed in a relationship where she felt she had no choice

LEISURE | P2



Epstein files

Congress overwhelmingly approves bill compelling public release of Epstein files, advancing measure to President Trump

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Markets rebound

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty bounce back sharply, driven by a rally in IT and financial shares

BUSINESS | P11



Heartbreak for India

Arjun Erigaisi gets knocked out of the FIDE World Cup, losing to Wei Yi of China 1.5-2.5 in the first set of tiebreak games

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12 PAGES | ₹5.00

NITISH TO TAKE OATH AS BIHAR CM TODAY

Patna: JD(U) supremo Nitish

Kumar, who resigned as head of the outgoing NDA government

in the eastern state Wednesday, will take oath as chief minister for a record 10th time at Patna's

historic Gandhi Maidan November

including Prime Minister Narendra

Singh, Union Minister Dharmendra

Modi, Union Home Minister Amit

Shah. Defence Minister Rajnath

Pradhan, and chief ministers of

various states, including Odisha,

OF ANMOL BISHNOI

an accused in the murder of NCP

leader Baba Siddique, to 11 days of NIA custody. The National

produced Anmol, the brother and

close aide of gangster Lawrence

Patiala House Court around 5pm

after the federal agency arrested

him upon his deportation from

the US. Special Judge Prashant

Sharma sent Anmol to 11 days

of NIA custody on the agency's

plea seeking 15-day custodial

Bishnoi, amid tight security in

Investigation Agency (NIA)

New Delhi: A Delhi court Wednesday sent Anmol Bishnoi,

are expected to attend the

ceremony.

20. Several top NDA leaders,

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 229 I www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Over 34.12 lakh farmers receive PM-Kisan money

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: Over 34.12 lakh farmers from Odisha have received the 21st instalment of the PM-Kisan scheme Wednesday, officials said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the assistance of ₹2,000 to farmers from a programme in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore. Nine crore farmers across the country received a cumulative benefit of ₹18,000 crore, they said.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Deputy CM KV Singh Deo joined the programme virtually from Bhu-

Majhi said the Centre has been providing the annual financial assistance of ₹6.000 in three instalments to farmers to purchase seeds, fertilisers and pesticides, among others. The state government is providing an additional ₹4,000 in two instalments to the farmers under the CM-Kisan scheme, he said.

During the current fiscal year, ₹2,991 crore has been provided to 51.54 lakh farmers under the CM-Kisan scheme, he added. Majhi said the children of farmers who benefit from CM-Kisan are being provided with scholarships for higher education.

A total of 13,923 students have been provided scholarships worth ₹53.67 crores in 2024-25 under the scheme, he said. Majhi said the main objective of his government was to empower farmers.

He thanked PM Modi for selecting Kandhamal, Malkangiri, Sundargarh and Nuapada districts for the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY).

Deputy CM Singh Deo, who also holds the Agriculture portfolio, said if the ₹10,000 being provided by the state and Central governments is used properly, Odisha will achieve success in farming and eradicate poverty.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



You're getting US gas now, so if prices rise, please protest... against Trump



THE LOOK IN HER EYES: A displaced Palestinian looks out from a tent, in the central Gaza Strip

TRIBUNALS REFORMS ACT

SC setback to Centre RSP's land issues

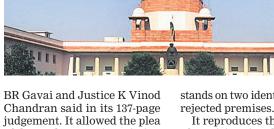
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Nov 19: In a major jolt to the Centre, the Supreme Court Wednesday struck down key provisions of the 2021 Tribunals Reforms law related to appointment, tenure, and service conditions of tribunal members and presiding officers, saying "Parliament cannot simply override judicial decision by reenacting these" with minor tweaks. The top court made scathing

remarks against the Centre for bringing back the same provisions of the ordinance in the law. "We must express our disap-

proval of the manner in which the Union of India has repeatedly chosen to not accept the directions of this court on the very issues that have already been conclusively settled through a series of judgements.

"It is indeed unfortunate that instead of giving effect to the well-established principles laid down by this court on the question of the independence and functioning of tribunals, the legislature has chosen to reenact or re-introduce provisions that reopen the same constitutional debates under different enactments and rules," a bench comprising Chief Justice



of the Madras Bar Association and others against the law and invalidated several contentious provisions including the one which prescribed a minimum age of 50 years for appointments in tribunals.

It also set aside the fixed tenure of four years for chairpersons and members and the mandate for the Search-cum-Selection Committee (SCSC) to recommend a panel of two names for each vacancy, which was seen as giving the executive undue discretion. "Stability of tenure and protection of vested rights are essential components of judicial independence, and the court's earlier directions on this subject cannot be light-

ly departed from," the CJI said. Writing the judgement for the bench, the CJI said the Act stands on two identical, already

It reproduces the substance of provisions invalidated in the earlier litigations without curing the defects, and it rests on constitutional arguments that the court has already expressly disapproved, the verdict said.

Justice Chandran endorsed the views of the CJI and said, "The Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 is a replica of the struck down Ordinance: old wine in a new bottle, the wine whets not the judicial palette, but the bottle merely dazzle."

The CJI said once the court struck down a provision after identifying a constitutional defect. Parliament cannot simply override or contradict that judicial decision by reenacting the very

same measure in a different form. 'What Parliament may legitimately do is to cure the defect identified by the court, whether

by altering the underlying conditions, removing the constitutional infirmity, or restructuring the statutory framework in a manner consistent with the court's reasoning," it said.

The verdict said the judicial system is already burdened with a staggering pendency across all the courts.

On November 11, the bench had reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service)

The Act replaced the earlier Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021, which had drawn similar constitutional challenges.

The top court had struck down the provision of the ordinance that reduced the tenure of Tribunal members and chairpersons to four years, noting that a short term of office could encourage executive influence over the judiciary. The ordinance was promulgated in April 2021.

After the apex court verdict, the government in August introduced and passed the Tribunals Reforms Act with provisions almost identical to those that were struck down.

'123456' remains India's most used password for 2nd yr

Panel to resolve



Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: The state government Wednesday decided to set up a high level committee to resolve the land acquisition issues related to the proposed expansion of the Rourkela Steel plant (RSP) after Union Heavy Industries and Steel Minister HD Kumaraswamv met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi here.

Kumaraswamy, who was on a two-day visit to the state, visited Rourkela and put forth the issues causing a delay in starting the expansion programme of the RSP.

The public sector undertaking under SAIL has planned to double its capacity from 4.5 MT-PA at an estimated investment of over ₹30,000 crore. But land acquisition issues came up.

"The RSP is also undertaking an ₹9,000 crore modernisation work at its plant in Odisha. ensuring that the plant in Ro-

urkela remains globally competitive and future-ready," the Union Minister said. In the meeting, Kumaraswamy sought the state government's cooper ation to resolve the land acqui sition problem and said that the SAIL would provide the best of rehabilitation packages for the affected people. Around 300 families are likely to be affected in the RSP's expansion plan.

The Chief Minister said that RSP's expansion is essential in view of the state's economic development and creation of employment for local youths.

"The problems of the local people will be resolved and land acquisition will be done on a consensual basis. As per the decision of the meeting, a committee will be formed under the chair manship of a senior officer of the rank of additional chief secretary and all the problems will be resolved through discussions with the people," Majhi was quoted in a CMO statement as saying.

Woman raped after couple lured on pretext of shelter

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Nov 19: A married woman was allegedly raped in Rayagada town late Tuesday night, according to a written complaint filed at the Rayagada Town PS by the survivor and her husband.

Police under the supervision of SDPO Gaurahari Sahu launched an investigation and detained a youth for questioning on suspicion of his involvement in the case.

According to the survivor's husband, the couple — residents of Bandhugaon block in Koraput district - had returned from Tamil Nadu by train Tuesday evening after seasonal migrant labour work. They reached Rayagada around 8pm and waited at the bus stand for a bus to Bandhugaon. During this time, a youth pres-

ent at the bus stand approached them and enquired about their destination. He then reportedly told them no buses were available at that hour and offered them shelter at his home.

The accused allegedly first took the woman's husband to a shop and left him there, saying he would bring food. He then returned to the bus stand, took the woman towards a bush near Koilapada and allegedly raped her.

When his wife did not return for a long time, the man began searching for her around the bus stand. He eventually spotted her returning in tears. The woman narrated her ordeal to him, after which the couple went to the Rayagada Town PS and lodged a complaint.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 19: '123456' has once again emerged as India's most common password, topping the list for the second consecutive year, a new report said Wednesday.

The data compiled by password manager NordPass analysed passwords used globally and in 44 countries, with a special focus this year on how different generations choose their passwords. The report shows that Indians continue to rely heavily on extremely weak and predictable passwords.

After '123456', the next most used passwords in India include 'Pass@123' and 'admin'. followed by simple numeric sequences such as '12345678', '12345', and '123456789'.

Despite adding symbols like '@' or capital letters, combinations like 'Admin@123', 'Password@123', and 'Abcd@1234' remain easy to guess.

The research notes that many Indians try to make their passwords appear strong by inserting special characters. but the overall patterns are still very easy for hackers to crack.

Personal elements also influence password choices. Names and patriotic references appear frequently, with passwords such as 'Kumar@123', 'Global123@', and 'India@123' making the country's top list. Experts warn that while such combinations may feel more personal or unique, they follow predictable formats that can be easily tar-



geted by automated attacks.

Globally, the findings are similarly worrying. '123456' is again the world's most common password, followed by 'admin' and '12345678'. Simple numeric patterns like '12345'. '1234567890', and easy combinations such as 'qwerty123'

dominate lists across countries.

Researchers also observed a significant rise in the use of special characters this year -with 32 passwords on the global list containing them, compared to just six last year. However. most of these remain predictable variations of common

words or number patterns. Karolis Arbaciauskas, head of product at NordPass, said that overall improvements in password hygiene remain slow despite years of awareness campaigns. Arbaciauskas added that until passwordless authentication methods like passkevs become widespread, strong

unique passwords are essential "Around 80 per cent of data breaches are caused by weak, reused, or compromised passwords," he noted. The report also found that generational differences are minimal.

In fact, the most popular passwords among 18-year-olds look very similar to those used by 80-year-olds. Numeric se quences like '12345' and '123456 dominate every age bracket.

THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 20, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

eisure



DICAPRIO TO GET TOP HONOUR AT PALM SPRINGS FILM FESTIVAL

Hollywood royalty Leonardo DiCapri is set to receive a top prize at the Palm Springs Film Festival. The actor will be handed the spectacle's Desert Palm Achievement Award at the which will take place January 3, 2026, at the Palm Springs Convention Center, reports Female First UK

POEHLER FINDS IT STRESSFUL WORKING WITH ANIMALS

Amy Poehler started screaming after being grabbed by a chimp who refused to let go of her arm backstage on Saturday Night Live. The Parks and Recreation star was left terrified by the experience and she admitted she finds it stressful working with animals



You are keenly interested in supernatural and occult phenomena, and today you will indulge in this hobby. You may buy a glossy hard-bound book on tantra or oth

er paranormal things. However, Ganesha warns you to use the knowledge that you gain only for peaceful purposes. **TAURUS**

come up. At the professional level you are

A key highlight of the closing ceremony was the signing of a

Bhubaneswar, November 19:

The 10th edition of the Film

Preservation and Restoration

Workshop India (FPRWI) 2025,

organised by the Film Heritage

Foundation (FHF) in collabora-

tion with the International Fed-

together 59 participants from

eration of Film Archives (FIAF). concluded Wednesday at Kalab hoomi-Odisha Crafts Museum. The week-long international workshop, held in partnership with the Odisha Government's Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts and Tourism Departments, began November 19. This year's workshop brought

across India and abroad, who underwent intensive training in film restoration and preserand MLA Akash Das Nayak, actress Anu Choudhury, senior officials, and global faculty members. Certificates were

in the history of Indian cinema." He thanked the Odisha Govwe would come this far.'

efforts, stating,"I thank Shiven-

The workshop concluded with a commitment to scale up film restoration efforts and preserve India's cinematic heritage for future generations.

Rocket Boys, is

ney of 20

Rashmika on her past love



During the film's promotions, the actress revealed that characters like Vikram, Durga and Bhooma from the film exist in real life too. Drawing parallels with her own past, she admitted she once stayed

done that. Today, when I choose to be with a person, I am happy.

The actress also revealed how her partner supported her through the emotional preparation for her role in The Girlfriend. Fans immediately linked her comments to Vijay Deverakonda.

pain he didn't cause. So, for me, as Bhooma, he has helped me heal Like how this film is for me, he has the same equal... I have to give him that applause and thank him for it.

All is not likely to go well during this day says Ganesha. Though you will sail smoothly most of the day, problems are very likely to not likely to face obstacles or difficulties. Your relations with your parents turn awkward and unpleasant

You will be filled with concern and sensitivity towards others, and will bestow your blessings upon many. However, being too emotional is not advisable. Your emotions could get in the way of your progress at the work-front. You need to listen to your head over your heart when it comes to professional matters, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Today, you are likely to experience something life-changing. A small incident, an observation, a tragedy, a disaster, or a simple thought may change the course of your live. You, however, may not be able to take the changes well. It may have a strong bearing on your health

You need to keep your temper in check and guard against being aggressive today. You need to channelise your energies towards some productive pursuits, otherwise you may make someone the target of your anger. The good thing about the day is you will make satisfacto ry progress on work related issues

You are renowned for your

leadership qualities and today they will be much appreciated for the way you manage your team. You will get a long-due promotion, and will come in for some extra cash. Ganesha says you received all this by wisely balancing work and home, so be careful not to slip up on this front.

Ganesha says today will be a wonderful day and bring forth a breakthrough for you. You shall get to know and learn a lot from top most officials and elderly people. The higher ups in your office will give you good support today. Ganesha warns you to stay away from judicial proceedings or pleadings, as today is not a good day for fighting court battles.

SCORPIO

Socially, you enjoy being in limelight as all the eyes are focused on you. However, beware of evil eyes that may not have good intentions towards you. You are a good soul and never hurt anyone. But, at times, it's important to know your foe's weakness to be on the safer side.

SAGITTARIUS Scorpios beware. Tough time

today is on the cards, and you may perhaps find your hands tied up in unpleasant money matters. But put in your best to overcome this situation and strive to be independent economically. The secret, says Ganesha, lies in diligence, optimism and tones of patience.

CAPRICORN

You are beaming with optimism and positive energy. Such strong vibes will penetrate through the day and maintain the energy level right till the end. Not everyone is blessed with such spirit, so will certainly have an upper hand at work, be it your profession or business says Ganesha. You will enjoy a smooth, peaceful and beautiful married life with your spouse, blesses Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

You are an excellent team player and your performance reaches a new high when you are a part of a group. Be an active member of your group, express your opinions, share your knowledge and see how your team becomes the winning team, says Ganesha. Wind up your day by hanging out with friends and family.

PISCES

Today you will feel like sharing you innermost feelings with those that you are close to. You will find yourself communicating better and this will result in attracting intellectual people towards you. You will get an opportunity to work with very educated and well established people. This will result in personal progress at work, says Ganesha.

Curtains down on 10th FPRWI 2025 The Film Heritage Foundation signs MoU with the state government for preservation of

Odia cinema, photographic archives, and the legacies of filmmakers



tiles & Handicrafts department, and FHF founder Shivendra Singh Dungarpur. The MoU marks a formal commitment to preserving Odia cinema, photographic archives, and the legacies of filmmakers.

The valedictory event was graced by Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Minister of State for Cooperation, Handloom & Textiles Pradeep Bal Samanta, actor presented to all 59 participants. Expressing his gratitude,

Dungarpur said, "Odisha is an emotional chapter in my life. Everywhere you look-art, craft, music, architecture—you feel a deep sense of culture. This workshop has been a journey for me. The MoU signed today is a historic moment and sets a new goal

ernment and international faculty, adding,"When I started this mission, I never imagined Singh Deo appreciated FHF's

dra Singh Dungarpur for choosing Odisha for the 10th edition of FPRWI. The restoration of Nirad Mohapatra's classic Maya Miriga is a proud achievement. On behalf of the state, I thank all international dignitaries for being part of this journey. You will take back many memories from Odisha.'

RESHMI YADAV. OP

Mumbai: Actress Regena Cas-

sandrra, who is known for her work in the

Shriya exposes impersonator

Chennai: Well known actress Shriya Saran has now put out a post in Instagram in which she has advised a person looking to impersonate her to stop wasting his/ her time and to "go get a life" Taking to her Instagram page to share

the fake profile of the impersonator, the actress wrote, "Who ever this idiot is. Please stop writing to people and wasting time! Unfortunately this is weird. I feel bad for wasting people time. This is not me! Not my number!" The actress, on a lighter note, added,

... The only good thing is, this crapy person is reaching out to people I admire and would love to work with!

Very strange! Why would you waste vour time to do this? Go get a life, not someone's On the work front, Shriya

Saran was recently seen shaking a leg for a dance number in director Ananda Krishnan's upcoming film Non Violence, featuring Metro Shirish, Bobby Simha and Yogi Babu in the lead. Bankrolled by AK

Pictures Lekha, the film's narrative unfolds in the city of Madurai during the 90s. Sources say the

primarily story revolves around events occurring within a Madurai prison during that era.

The actress made her debut in 2005 with the Tamil film Kanda Naal Mudhal at the age of 14. In her career spanning 20 years and counting,

years in the industry.

period streaming series

looking back at her jour-

Regena sums up her 20-yr journey

the actress has worked across several film industries of India. Recollecting her journey, she told this

journey, "Every set, every role taught me something. Looking back at the journey I've had, I am beyond grateful for every accomplishment and setback regardless. It's almost surreal that twenty years have passed by and it only feels like I'm just getting warmed up to what's to come. This wouldn't have been possible without your

unconditional support and Earlier, the actress had recollected how she got

> her first film. She even remembers the outfit she wore at the time during the audition. The actress has an interesting story behind her getting cast for the film. The film was helmed by V. Priya, who was once an assistant of acclaimed director Mani Ratnam. The film also marked her directorial debut.

in a relationship where she felt she had no choice. She said, "Choose who you want to be with. You shouldn't be in a position where you have no choice but you're with a partner. I have

that person is happy, everyone around is happy. Rashmika also discussed dealing with online trolling and credited her partner for helping her stay grounded. Without naming anyone she shared, "When you are being trolled, you are aware of it. In my

house, my own partner, I'll be like, I'm getting trolled so much. He says, 'there's nothing like that. Why are you overthinking?'

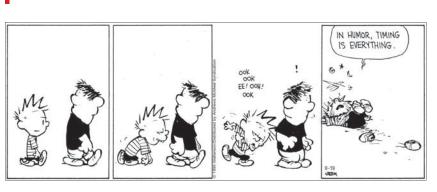
She said, "Luckily, I have a partner who has healed me from a

AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES

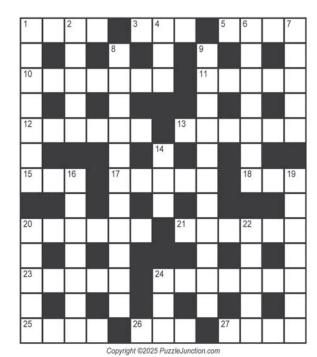


BREVITY





DOST **CROSSWORD**



21 Empty Across

1	Confront	23	Public spat
3	Spending limit	24	Loose-fitting

5 Catcall 10 Staircase part 11 Jingle

12 Docket

13 Chin feature

15 Salad ingredient 17 Blatant

18 Easy mark 20 Sudden

1 Leaves

<u>Down</u>

dress

25 Effortless

26 Maid's cloth

27 Heavy load

19 Oceanic birds

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

20 Seating request

2 Camp craft

22 Little green man 4 Summer mo.

24 Chinese tea

6 Greek mountain

8 Owls and hawks,

e.g. (5,2,4)

9 Riddle (5-6)

peak

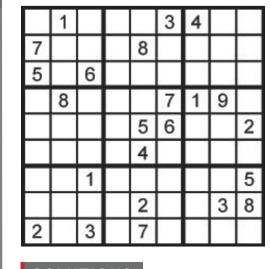
7 Motif

14 Jewel

16 Lofts

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

OTTER SEVERED W T T S

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

SUDOKU

downtown



Use tech to stay ahead: CM to SPs



Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday asked Superintendents of Police (SPs) to leverage technology to stay ahead in crime detection and prevention.

Addressing officers at the closing ceremony of the twoday Joint Conference of District Collectors and SPs at Lok Seva Bhavan here, Majhi urged the SPs to maintain law and order while ensuring public safety and prompt action against criminals.

While emphasising that the government prioritises law enforcement and crime control, he instructed the SPs to formulate independent strategies in order to improve the conviction rate and establish investigation and prosecution wings where necessary.

The CM asked the SPs to ensure proper registration of complaints at police stations and take action against officers failing in their duties.

"Regular police station inspections and coordinated teamwork between Collectors and police officials should also be done. The SPs should ensure zero tolerance towards corruption," he said.

The CM also instructed the SPs to make sure innocent citizens are not harassed and maintain a friendly approach while handling complaints. "The SPs should leverage technology to stay ahead in crime detection and prevention," he said.

The CM highlighted the importance of coordination between Collectors and SPs, stating that development and security must go hand in hand. He called upon officers to maintain an environment of peace and good governance, which is crucial for attracting investment and realising Odisha's development goals.

Looking ahead to 2026, Majhi advised measures to make Prepare devpt plans keeping in mind next 50 yrs: Harichandan

road construction initiatives by

using processed waste as con-

Harichandan, who also holds

the Law and Excise portfolios,

directed Collectors to conduct

regular searches in slum areas

to curb trafficking of drugs and

illegal weapons, stating that

this was essential to maintain-

ing both the dignity and safety

velopment (H&UD) Minister

Krushna Chandra Mohapatra

called for planned and afford-

able housing solutions for slum

dwellers and outlined govern-

ment measures for managing

stray cattle in urban areas.

He reiterated that sustainable

ular monitoring and strict en-

forcement against reckless and

drunk driving. Chief Secretary

of urban neighbourhoods. Housing and Urban De-

struction material.

BHUBANESWAR: Calling urbanisation the engine of Odisha's economic growth, Works Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan Wednesday urged Collectors to prepare development plans keeping in mind the needs of the next 50 years.

Addressing the second day of the two-day Joint Conference of District Collectors (DCs) and Superintendents of Police (SPs), organised by the General Administration and Public Grievance department at Lok Seva Bhavan here, Harichandan said urbanisation is the engine of state's economic growth.

"I urge Collectors to prepare development blueprints that anticipate the needs of the next 50 years," Harichandan said.

He highlighted that both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi have placed strong emphasis on creating modern, sustainable cities. Harichandan said the state is already working on bypass roads, city ring roads, and other large-scale connectivity projects to reduce congestion. Waste management, he stressed, remains a major challenge and should be integrated with future

Odisha free of Naxal influence, curb illegal drug menace, dismantle land mafia operations, strengthen coastal security, and and inclusive growth must remain central to every city development plan. H&UD department Principal

Secretary Usha Padhee delivered a comprehensive presentation on the challenges of urban development across Odisha. She highlighted the integrated development plan for the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Puri-Paradeep economic zone and ur-

ban growth strategies for cities like Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, and Gopalpur. Padhee also highlighted about implementation of the Rurban policy to support peri-urban villages, the Garima scheme ensuring safety and dignity for sanitation workers and the Suyog online service system for hassle-free urban citizen services.

She also informed that the state government aims at making all urban roads pothole-free and pedestrian-friendly by March 2026, urging Collectors to expedite field implementation.

The session also included detailed district-wise reviews. Puri Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida presented a plan for the heritage city's planned development and its unique challenges.

modernisation, institutional strengthening, and human resource development, which has enhanced public safety



Sabha MP Sujeet Kumar, meets a 40-member delegation from 12 countries visiting Odisha as part of 37th Parliamentary Internship Programme, at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

CM to attend swearing-in ceremony of Nitish today

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday said that he would attend the oath-taking ceremony of Nitish Kumar in Patna Thursday.

The JD(U) supremo is set to be sworn-in as Bihar Chief Minister for a record 10th time.

Preparations for the swearing-in ceremony at Patna's historic Gandhi Maidan are in the final stages, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and several top NDA leaders expected to attend the ceremony.

In an informal interaction with reporters here Wednesday, Majhi said, "I will certainly attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new Bihar government in Patna. The Prime Minister, the Union Home Minister and chief ministers and deputy chief min-

⑷ JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar is set to be sworn-in as Bihar Chief Minister for a record 10th time

✓ Preparations for the swearing-in ceremony at Patna's historic Gan-dhi Maidan are in the final stages, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and several top NDA leaders expected to attend the ceremony

≪ Kumar was chosen as the leader of the NDA in Bihar during a meeting of newly-elected MLAs of the alliance partners

← The NDA stormed back to power in Bihar, winning 202 seats in the 243-member Assembly

ly to attend the ceremony. Kumar was chosen as the leader of the NDA in Bihar during a meeting of newly-elect ed MLAs of the alliance partners. The NDA stormed back to power in Bihar, winning 202 seats in the 243-member Assem bly, with BJP bagging 89, JD(U) 85, LJP(RV) 19, HAM five and

4 HELD WITH **BROWN SUGAR**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police and the Laxmisagar police Wednesday arrested four persons in connection with illegal brown sugar trade in different locations of the City

In the first incident, acting on a reliable input, the STF carried out a raid near Dhauli Stupa, leading to the arrest of two drug peddlers – Pradeep Kumar Patra, 38, and Sahanawaz Hussain, 41. During the search, the team recovered 264 grams of brown sugar, three mobile phones, one motorcycle and other incriminating materials from their possession.

Both have been booked under Sections 21(c) and 29 of the NDPS Act, 1985.

In another incident, Laxmisagar police arrested two persons and seized 10 grams of brown sugar from them in Jharpada area here.

The accused were identified as Ayush Das, 26, and Tapas Kumar Majhi, 20.

Acting on reliable input, a police team, led by SI Amit Kumar Senapati, conducted a raid and arrested them.

Excise Supt, ASI held for taking ₹40K bribe



and ASI-cum-OIC of Champua Excise **◆ According to Vigilance officials, ever**

since Pattayat took charge as Excise Superintendent, four months ago, he had been consistently demanding illegal

Facing continuous harassment, the vendor finally approached the anti-corruption officials and lodged a detailed complaint

ruption officials and lodged a detailed

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: Vigilance sleuths Wednesday arrested Superintendent of Excise, Keonjhar district and ASI-cum-OIC of Champua Excise Station, for accepting Rs 40,000 as bribe from a licensed liquor vendor for allowing him to run his business smoothly.

The accused have been identified as Excise Superintendent Sitarani Pattayat and ASI-cum-OIC of Champua Excise department Bijay Kumar Mohanta.

According to Vigilance officials, ever since Pattavat took charge as Excise Superintendent, four months ago, he had been consistently demanding illegal gratification from the vendor. Facing continuous harassment, the

Acting swiftly, a Vigilance team laid a trap and apprehended both officers Wednesday. ASI Mohanta was caught red-handed while accepting the bribe amount of Rs 40,000 on the alleged telephonic instructions of Pattayat. Vigilance confirmed that the entire bribe money has been recovered and seized.

Following the arrests, simultaneous searches were launched at three locations linked to Pattayat and two locations connected to Mohanta to examine disproportionate assets, if any.

Balasore Vigilance Police Station has registered cases against the duo under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. The investigation is underway.

vendor finally approached the anti-cor-We don't mind criticism of judiciary: SC

New Delhi, Nov 19: The Supreme Court Wednesday said it does not mind criticism of the judiciary but there should not be sweeping allegations of any kind.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan and N Kotiswar Singh cautioned a social activist Pardeep Sharma who has made certain allegations against judges of the Punjab and Harvana High Court.

"You have raised several good causes but you can't make sweeping allegations against anyone. We don't mind criticism of the judiciary but it should be in the proper way," the bench told the counsel, appearing for the petitioner.

The counsel informed the bench that the high court, while purging the contempt on Sharma tendering an unconditional apology, has directed for the planting of saplings of trees. Justice Kant remarked that Chandigarh was in serious need of greenery and it is good that the high court ordered so.

It noted in the order, "Counsel for the petitioner informs that in deference to the order dated September 15, 2025, the petitioner had



tendered an unconditional apology as well as an undertaking before the high court. Demonstrating magnanimity, the high court has accepted the unconditional apology and has discharged the petitioner from the contempt proceedings.

The SC disposed of the plea in which Sharma had challenged the high court order.

On September 15, the SC noted the submission of senior advocate Devadatt Kamat that Sharma genuinely repents the mistake committed by him of sending e-mails between 2023-2025 in violation of the undertaking given by his family members before the high court by way of an affidavit.

It noted that the undertaking was duly reproduced by the high court in its order dated May 29, 2023.

Kamat had submitted that the petitioner is ready and willing to tender an unconditional apology by way of an affidavit before the high court as well as this court.

The bench had noted, "Though it is explained that none of the e-mails were posted in the public domain, however, the petitioner wishes to give an undertaking that he shall not do so in future and will further pray before the high court to file/close all the e-mails earlier sent by him.'

It had ordered that subject to Sharma filing undertakings by way of affidavits before the division bench of the high court September 17, 2025 as well as before this court. the high court may forgive the petitioner and take a lenient view with an endeavour to close the suo motu proceedings and not to take any coercive action against him subject to such terms and conditions as it may deem appropriate to be imposed on the petitioner.



ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

EVICTION DRIVE AT SALIA SAHI TO CONSTRUCT ROAD

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: The state government is carrying out a major eviction drive in Salia Sahi, the largest slum in Bhubaneswar, to pave the way for the construction of a road to decongest traffic on the Jaydev Vihar-Nandankanan Road, officials said Wednesday.

Amid protests by a section of slum-dwellers, local activists and political leaders, the joint enforcement team of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) and other departments launched the eviction drive Tuesday in presence of police force, the officials said.

The authorities have identified over 550 unauthorised houses for demolition, and over 80 such houses were razed using excavators on the first day, while the drive is underway for the second day Wednesday, they said.

The eviction drive will help retrieve land for the construction of a nearly 700 metre stretch for the 13-km-long left parallel road between Ekamra



Kanan and Andharua, an offi-

Several slum dwellers strongly opposed the eviction drive. alleging they were not given enough time to vacate the space and demanded a 600 sqft area for the construction of their home. Later, the protestors were dispersed by police personnel.

Some of the evicted families were seen spending the cold night under a polyphone in the

"We are not evicting anyone. We are relocating them to another place and they will be provided ₹1.50 lakh," said BMC Deputy Commissioner (Enforcement) Ajay Mohanty.

ACP Biswaranjan Senapati said the eviction drive is going smoothly and will continue till the demolition of 556 unauthorised houses. All have been given homes, and their belongings are being transported to the place, he said.

State-level meet for dairy FPO-led growth

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: A state-level meeting on 'Strategising Dairy Development in Odisha Through FPO Development' was held Wednesday at Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), bringing together departments, financial institutions, private organisations and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) to advance dairy-based rural entrepreneurship.

Representatives from 21 dairy FPOs across 12 districts participated alongside experts from College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, KVKs, APICOL, NABARD, NAFED, Milk Mantra and other stakeholders in the dairy value chain.

Joining as chief guest, OUAT VC Pravat Kumar Roul stressed the need for innovation-led growth. "Odisha must expand nomadic agriculture, adopt smart dairy farming and develop an Aadhaar-like identification for cattle. We should also pursue GI-tagging of our indigenous cattle products to build a strong dairy identity," he said.

Govt committed to ensure safety, zero casualties: Min



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: State government is always striving to take a people-centered approach to disaster risk man agement, stated Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari while inaugurating a two-day national workshop on gender and social inclusion in disaster risk reduction governance here Wednesday.

Pujari emphasised the need to use the lessons learned from past natural disasters to protect people during crises and ensure zero casualties.

The workshop, organised in collaboration with Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is aimed at ensuring effective governance in disaster risk reduction. Addressing the gathering, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo highlighted Odisha's exceptional success in disaster management, which has earned global recognition.

"Odisha has now become a role model for other states in the field of disaster management. This is a reflection of our government's commitment, integrity, and dedicated approach to ensuring disaster risk reduction and management," he

OSDMA director and partment's additional chief secretary Deoranjan Kumar Singh remarked, "OSDMA is constantly working to improve group coordination and enhance the capacity of volunteers in disaster risk manage

He further stressed the importance of disaster preparedness, timely response, and working closely with the public to ensure their safety.

Participants at the workshop noted the growing severity of climate change-induced disas ters and stressed the need for increased public awareness, collective responsibility, and ac tion to safeguard environment

CLASSIFIED

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Kujang on Dated- 10.11.2025 vide affidavit No.- 2606, I, Binapani Dei, W/o. Late Bimbadhar Das, Village-Samjori, P.O.- M. G. Khamar, P.S.- Marshaghai, Dist.-Kendrapara, Odisha that my former name Binapani Dei Das changed to Binapani Dei. I declare that Binapani Dei Das and Binapani Dei is one and same person for all future purposes.

LOST I, MRS. SHASHI

KALA AGARWAL, aged about 62 years, W/o.- Mr. Santosh Kumar Agarwala, Resident of At-B/1554, Sector-6, Markat Nagar, CDA, VTC:Cuttack Sadar, Dist.- Cuttack (ODISHA), PIN-753014, beg to state that I am the owner of the below mentioned Schedule of Property by purchasing the same from Mr. Surendra Mohanty, S/o.- Late Benudhra Mohanty by virtue of Registered Deed of Sale vide No.- 503, Dtd.-09.03.2010. (Document number: 11091000621 Dtd.- 04.08.2010) And thereafter I mutated the same in my name vide Mutation Case No.- 2038 of 2010. I have lost the Original Settlement RoR in respect of Khata No.- 443 of Mouza-Paribasudeipur in the name of Mr. Surendra Mohanty, S/o.- Late Benudhra Mohanty AND also lost the Mutation & Conversion RoR in respect of Khata No.- 443 of Mouza-Paribasudeipur in my name i.e. Mrs. Shashi Kala Agarwal, W/o.-Mr. Santosh Kumar Agarwala somewhere while I was travelling from Cuttack to Bhubaneswar on Dtd.-11.10.2025 and in spite of my best effort I could not find it out again. If any person find the same kindly call in my Mobile No.- 9438408269.

Odisha aims for 11GW green energy by 2030: Singh Deo



Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: Odisha plans to achieve 11GW of green energy capacity by 2030 and is supporting industries in adopting clean energy, Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo said.

The state is investing heavily in green hydrogen and green ammonia projects, Singh Deo said, addressing the 'Eastern India Clean Energy Summit' with the theme 'Powering Eastern India's Net-Zero Transfor-

Singh Deo, who holds the Energy portfolio, highlighted that the state government recently approved 53 green energy projects totalling around 2,000MW, worth ₹13,422 crore.

On the PM Surya Ghar - Muft Bijli Yojana, Singh Deo stated, "We are providing up to ₹60.000 additional financial assistance per household above the Centre's ₹76,000." It aims to cover three lakh households.

To address land availability challenges, alternative solutions such as rail-top and canal-top solar projects are being explored. Singh Deo stated.

The summit, organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), showcased strong commitments from the Odisha government, emphasising the state's vision to become

a clean energy hub. **Industries Minister Sampad** Chandra Swain said, "Odisha is entering a new era of growth defined by clean energy, responsible industries, and mod-

ern manufacturing." He highlighted benefits under the Odisha Renewable Energy Policy, 2022, including long-term waivers on electricity duty, wheeling charges, cross-subsidy surcharge, and land fees for green hydrogen and ammonia projects.

Currently, 16 major green hydrogen and ammonia projects worth over ₹2 lakh crore have been approved, with more in the pipeline. Key investors include JSW, ReNew, Avaada, Waaree, Ampin, ACME, Welspun, Sembcorp, L&T Energy Greentech, INOX Wind, Himadri, and Quant Solar.

Swain also highlighted the green port initiative, future-ready workforce, and extended an open invitation to industry, investors, academia, and development partners to collaborate in building a greener, prosperous Odisha.

Energy department Principal Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev shared Odisha's vision for enhancing its power transmission backbone. He announced that Odisha will need ₹30,000 crore for transmission capacity enhancement by 2035, with ₹25,000 crore required in the

encroachment of forests and ag-

ricultural land in the name of

industrialisation and develop-

ment. He also pointed out the

growing trend of forced evic-

tions and the need to preserve

traditional livelihoods and cul-

State convenor Gopinath

Majhi and other senior leaders,

including Biranchi Bariha, dis-

cussed the planned actions and

outreach programmes, aimed at

building momentum across the

state. The meeting ended with

a commitment to organise joint

tural heritage.

In a first, KIIT introduces course on tyre technology

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: Registering a significant milestone in India's technical education landscape, KIIT University has become the first in the country to introduce a specialised academic course in tyre technology.

In this regard, a MoU was signed Wednesday between KIIT and Apollo Tyres Ltd. Through this partnership, KIIT will offer a specialised bucket of electives covering tyre science, tyre design, manufacturing, testing, and sustainability — areas that have never before been integrated formally into an engineering

Apollo Tyres will help in syllabus development, preparing study material, and aligning pedagogies with the latest industry trends. Company's subject-matter experts will also deliver lectures, ensuring students gain exposure to real-world practices and cutting-edge technologies

Speaking on the initiative KIIT Vice Chancellor Saranjit Singh said, "This is the first-ofits-kind partnership in India. No engineering institute cur rently offers specialised cours-

es in tyre manufacturing." Product Development (CV TBR), Apollo Tyres head Prashant Kumar S said, "The MoU will significantly enhance the employability quotient of students by giving them deeper industry-aligned skills."

Apollo's SMS for early stomach cancer detection



Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: India's leading cancer care network Apollo Cancer Centres (ACCs) Wednesday launched 'Save My Stomach' (SMS), an early detection programme aimed at increasing nationwide awareness on stomach cancer — often called a 'silent killer' due to its late-appearing symptoms.

The programme focuses on identifying high-risk individuals — especially men over 60, those with chronic gastritis, H pylori infection, obesity, smoking habits, pernicious anaemia, or diets high in salted or pickled foods — and offering structured screening that includes diagnostic endoscopy and biopsy.

Apollo Hospitals COO and Medical Services Director Alok Srivastava said that the initiative reinforces ACCs'

Rainfall

commitment to prevention-lea cancer care. "Awareness and timely diagnosis are the foundations of a healthier, cancer-free life," he added.

"Persistent heartburn, indi gestion, or unexplained bloat ing should never be ignored. cautioned ACC Bhubaneswar Surgical Oncologist Prashant Chandra Das and said that a simple endoscopy can detect stomach cancer at a curable

Surgical Oncologist Manindra Nayak added, "Even subtle abnormalities in biopsy samples can signal early disease. Early and accurate diagnosis can completely change a patient's outcome.

Emphasising timely intervention, Medical Oncologist Ganesh Chandra Subudhi said the programme will empower patients and practitioners for faster diagnosis and effective treatment.

SAFEGUARDING LIVELIHOODS

CALL TO INTENSIFY CAMPAIGN FOR LAND, WATER & FOREST RIGHTS

for protecting land, water, and forest rights, along with ensuring livelihood security for marginalised communities, an initiative titled Campaign for Survival and Dignity (CSD) was launched during a key deliberation meeting at Lohia Academy here Wednesday.

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: A call

The meeting brought together members of political, social and human rights organisations, aimed to accelerate the ongoing struggle for the rights of indigenous people, farmers, and forest-dependent communities. Kev issues discussed included the denial of individual and collective forest rights, land acquisition without Gram Sabha approval, forced displacement, and destruction of forests under the guise of development.

Participants highlighted the detrimental impact of corporate activities which threatens food security, health, and traditional livelihoods. The members also condemned the violation of fundamental rights, including



access to food and healthcare, affecting the poorest sections of society. Leaders at the meeting pledged to raise public awareness and intensify grassroots movements to ensure that these rights are upheld.

We are determined to fight for the rights of the people whose voices have been silenced for too long," said Narendra Mahanti, a member of the state convenor's committee, during his opening remarks.

In his address. Mahanti emphasised the urgency of uniting various organisations and

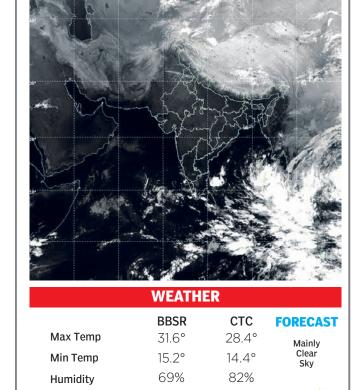
Leaders from several organi sations, including trade unions, farmer groups, and civil rights bodies, expressed their solidarity with the campaign. Among them were Mahendra Parida (AITUC), Shankar (AIKS), researcher Pradyumna Nayak, and human rights activist Gouranga Mahapatra.

protests and public mobilisa-

In a collective statement, the participants vowed to counter the political, legal, and corporate forces that are undermining people's rights through weak policies and exploitative practices. With over 1.44 lakh pending forest rights claims across Odisha, the movement is seen as a critical response to the challenges faced by tribal and rural communities who are continuously fighting for their rights and livelihoods

The event concluded with a call for widespread solidarity and action. "We must unite to protect our resources, our rights, and our dignity," said social worker Dhirendra Panda, reaffirming the campaign's central message.

MARKET WATCH VARIATION VARIATION DOLLAR 88.58 • 0.04 | SENSEX 85186.47 • 513.45 GOLD ₹123,808 ▲ ₹1168 EURO 102.63 \$\rightarrow\$ 0.11 NIFTY 26052.65 \$\rightarrow\$ 142.60 SILVER ₹**157,605** ▲ ₹2961



ITI guest faculty seeks euthanasia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Nov 19: A guest training faculty working at government Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Chhatrapur has pleaded for euthanasia in a letter to President Droupadi Murmu.

The teacher, Arun Kumar Behera, along with the Ganiam district Guest Faculty Association, presented the letter to the Ganjam Collector V Keerthi Vasan through Additional District Magistrate Pramod Kumar Prusty

Arun was working as a guest faculty for 12 years in Chhatrapur ITI. With a hope to get regularised in service working hard for these years, in due course, eventually he was removed from the job rather than being appointed as a permanent employee. He had also approached Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Sampad Chandra Swain and later Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi but to no avail. Arun, the sole bread earner of his family, then preferred to plead for euthanasia before the President.

According to the association, as per government provision, a contractual employee can be regularised by working for 90 days a year. Distressed by non-regularisations, faculties from Berhampur, Chhatrapur and Hinjilicut ITIs met the ADM at Ganiam Collectorate recently to sort out the matter at the earliest.

No.i-382

B Ed student's death sparks outrage

KABI SAMRAT UPENDRABHANJA

COLLEGE OF TEACHER EDUCATION

Bhanjanagar, Nov 19: A 22-vear-old B Ed student of Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja College of Teacher Education in Ganjam district died Monday after her classmates and other students alleged that faculty members failed to ensure her timely transfer to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. The issue drew widespread criticism Wednesday after several students expressed their anger on social media, accusing teachers of indifference and negligence.

One student wrote that the incident taught him a painful lesson: Being a teacher requires responsibility, compassion and timely support, not merely delivering lessons. He added that titles are easy to earn, but understanding true responsibility is far more difficult. He further alleged that despite repeated pleas, negligence cost an innocent life, and those who failed in their duty were now blaming students for supporting their friend.

According to students, the second-year B.Ed student from Balasore district was staying in a rented house at Landei Sahi with friends. She reportedly slipped and fell in the bathroom

Sunday evening. When she did not turn up, juniors checked on her and found her lying unconscious.

She was rushed to Bhanjanagar Hospital in a critical condition. Doctors recorded her blood pressure at 220 and found that her right hand and leg were not functioning properly. They advised an immediate transfer to Berhampur for advanced treatment.

Students said they contacted several faculty members late Sunday night seeking assistance to shift her to Berhampur, but allege that none responded. Her mother had died four months ago and her father could not immediately

travel from Balasore. Her class mates remained at the hospital through the night, trying to arrange care on their own.

On Monday morning, after the matter came to light, local volunteers reached the hospital and helped arrange transportation. The student's father arrived around the same time. She was taken to Berhampur but died later while undergoing treatment.

College principal Dillip Kumar Khuntia said his phone had malfunctioned Sunday night. He said he visited the hospital Monday morning af ter learning of the situation and expressed deep sorrow over the

9-yr-old girl dies after falling in hostel toilet

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 19: A nine-year old tribal girl studying in Class III died after falling inside the bathroom of a government-run school hostel under Telkoi block in this district Wednesday.

The girl, identified as Tejaswini Nayak, was the daughter of Ganeshwar Navak, a resident of Kuladera under Telkoi police limits. She was studying at Government Nodal Primary School at Bhimkand under Telkoi block and staying in the school hostel to continue her studies despite her family's financial constraints. The 110-bed hostel functions under the ST/SC Development department.

According to school author ities, the incident occurred around 6:30am when Tejaswini went to the hostel washroom. She slipped on the wet, tiled floor and sustained head injury.

Other students rescued her and later the school authorities rushed her to Telkoi CHC There the doctors found signs of brain hemorrhage and shifted her to the district headquarters hospital where she was declared dead a short while later, headmaster Akshay Ku mar Patra said. The family has alleged negligence by the school

Suspected cylinder thief killed in Udala mob attack

Udala, Nov 19: A man accused of stealing cooking gas cylinders died after being beaten up by villagers black and blue at Bisipur under this police limits in Mayurbhanj district late Tuesday night, prompting police to detain more than 10 residents for questioning.

According to police, two men – identified as Bapi Kohlara and Kahnu Madhei of Deula village under Khunta police limits — allegedly entered Bisipur to steal gas cylinders from two homes. As they attempted to leave the village with the cylinders, residents confronted them.

The locals questioned the duo about their late-night presence and, upon discovering the alleged theft, assaulted them with sticks and bamboo poles. Both of them sustained serious injuries.

Udala police arrived at the scene after receiving information and took the injured to Udala Hospital, Kohlara succumbed to his injuries shortly after admission. Madhei remains in custody at the police station, where he is being interbody has been sent to the medical college for post-mortem Officers noted multiple injuries on his body and are investigat

ing the exact cause of death

including where and how the

fatal blows were inflicted. Following the death, the vic tim's wife. Parbati Kohlara lodged a police complaint alleg ing that her husband had been beaten to death without any provocation. She stated that her husband worked at a loca gas agency and was engaged in cylinder delivery, claiming he had gone to collect a cylinder

Police have registered a case (441/25) and detained more than 10 villagers for questioning as they probe all aspects of the incident. The investigation is underway.

as part of his duties.

Body found near tracks

KEONJHAR: Body of an unidentified man was found near the railway tracks between Basantpur and Sitabinj stations in Keonjhar district Wednesday. Bhadrak GRP registered an unnatural-death case and sent the body for postmortem.

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, CHAMPUA

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (I.F.B.) e-Procurement Notice E-Bid No.02 Champua (KJR/2025-26)

.t. No. : 6583 1) Panchayat Samiti Champua invites Percentage Rate bid in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the construction of Building works (Civil+EI) as Detailed in the Detailed Tender Call Notice (D.T.C.N) from

the eligible class of contractors

2) No. of Works : 0 01 (One) No.

- Rs.6000/- (Rupees Six thousand) only "D" & "C" Class Cost of Tender Paper Class of Contractor

 - 12.00 Hrs of 27.11.2025 to 17:00 Hrs of

Rs.2.54 lakh

Rs.36.22 lakhs each

: 29.11.2025, 11.00 A.M.

www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

21.11.2025, 10.00 A.M. to

28.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.

- website & receipt online 10.12.2025 11.12.2025 at 12:00 Hrs. Date of opening of Bid
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the State Govt. Portal website https://tendersodisha.gov.in 8) Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website https://

tendersodisha.gov.in only.

Date & Time available in

Sd./- (Smruti Ranjan Sahu, OAS) Block Development Officer, Champu

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS DIVISION, DEOGARH E-mail ld: eerw deogarh@yahoo.co.in

E-Procurement Notice BID IDENTIFICATION No. SERWDGH-Online-08/2025-26

No. of Building Works

- 2. Estimated Cost 3. Mode of Submission of : Tender shall be submitted online in
- Availability of tender for online bidding
- Date and time of opening of tender
- Other details can be seen from the website www tendersodisha.gov.in.

Corrigendum/Addendum if any shall only be published in the

above website. Sd./- Superintending Engineer

R.W. Division, Deogarh

Public Notification Regarding Energisation Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises

situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the South Eastern Railway that the 25000 Volt. 50Hz., ac overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line. SI.No.-1. Section: Newly constructed 3rd line from Balasore to Soro. Km/Chainage- From: Km 229/19A (Ch: 229/407.50). To: Km 263/21A (Ch: 263/565.50). Date of Energisation: 31.12.2025. Sl.No.-2. Section: Newly constructed Khantapara/SSP. Km/Chainage- From: KM 246/26 (Ch: 246/628.50). To: KM 246/28 (Ch: 246/687.00). Date of Energisation: 30.11.2025. Sl.No.-3. Section: Feeder line. Km/Chainage- From: KM 246/26 (Ch: 246/628.50). To: KM 247/32 (Ch: 247/874.50). Date of Energisation: 30.11.2025.

Introduction of AC 25kV Traction "WARNING TO ROAD USERS"

It is notified for information of the Public that in connection with introduction of 25KV AC electric traction over the section in Newly constructed 3rd line from Balasore to Soro section under Kharagpur Division, South Eastern Railway, height gauges have been erected at all the level crossings with clear maximum height 4.78m above road level with a view to prevent loads of excessive height from coming into contact or dangerous proximity to live traction wire (Contact wire), which shall be at a height of minimum 5.5m above the rail level at level crossings. Public are hereby notified to observe that height specified above for the purpose of loading vehicles and to see that the loads carried in road vehicles do not infringe the height gauges under any circumstances. The dangers of a load of excessive height are as follows:- (i) Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the Railway line. (ii) Danger to the materials or equipment carried out or the vehicle itself. (iii) Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the conductors

Divisional Electrical Engineer (Con), Kharagpur



Koraput clad in golden glow as mustard fields bloom POST NEWS NETWORK amid acres of mustard blossoms WINTER swaving in the cool breeze WONDERLAND Koraput, Nov 19: As winter

sets in over the Eastern Ghats, Koraput has stepped into one of its most captivating seasonal displays: vast stretches of blooming mustard fields that bathe the landscape in vibrant yellow. The radiant fields, spread across the outskirts of Koraput town, have become a major draw for travellers seeking tranquility and natural beauty during the chilly season.

A group of tourists from Rayagada, visiting Koraput for a short trip, shared their reactions after witnessing the breathtaking sight. Standing

Trial halt for Samaleswari

Express at Loisingha station

LOISINGHA: In view of long-standing

demand and passengers' convenience, an experimental halt for Howrah-

Jagdalpur-Howrah Samaleswari Express at Loisingha station in Bolangir

district was accomplished by East

Coast Railway (ECoR) Wednesday,

As per the revised schedule, 18005

Howrah-Jagdalpur Samaleswari

Express will arrive at Loisingha at

Howrah Samaleswari Express will

16:02 hrs from Loisingha. A special

function was organised at Loisingha

Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling

jointly flagged off the train, Garima

programme. Railways officials said the ECoR is committed to enhancing

Tiwari, Senior Divisional Commercial

Manager, Sambalpur, coordinated the

passenger convenience and addressing

World University Ranking

improved its position in the QS World

University Rankings: Sustainability

2026, securing 652nd place globally,

up from 664 last year. The institute

is ranked 180th in Asia and 20th in

India, retaining its status as the top-

ranked NIT and the highest-ranked

institution in Odisha. The rankings,

2,002 institutions worldwide, including

released November 18, evaluated

827 in Asia and 103 in India, based

on their environmental and social

impact. Director K Umamaheshwar Rao said the rise reflects structured

planning and the sustained efforts of

students, faculty, and staff. The 2026

by the Ranking and Accreditation Cell

Goals Committee under the guidance

research, support for green start-ups,

and waste management-strengthened the institute's performance. Solar

and improvements in water, energy,

energy use, the carbon-capture unit,

campaigns also contributed. Earlier

this year, NIT Rourkela ranked ninth

the only NIT and the only institution

environmental impact, social impact,

plantation drives and awareness

in the SDG category of NIRF 2025,

from Odisha in the top 10. The QS

Sustainability Rankings measure

and governance.

Sustainability Report was prepared

and the Sustainable Development

of HB Sahu. Sahu said year-round

initiatives-weekly Clean Campus

activities, SDG-linked curriculum

efforts, sustainability-focused

public aspirations through improved

connectivity and services.

NIT-R improves QS

ROURKELA: NIT Rourkela has

station where state Health and Family

and Bolangir MP Sangeeta Singh Deo

arrive at 16:00 hrs and depart at

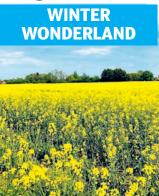
10:41 hrs and depart at 10:43 hrs. In

the return direction, 18006 Jagdalpur-

tourist Aman Parida described the scene as "a golden paradise that refreshes the heart and calms the mind".

Winter has long been a magical season in Koraput, known for its crisp air, clear skies and scenic valleys. But the mustard blooms add a new charm, making the region resemble a canvas brushed with warm tones. The cool weather intensifies the colours, while the surrounding hills provide an ideal backdrop for nature lovers and photographers.

Visitors said walking into the mustard fields feels like stepping



into another world vibrant and comforting. "The moment we entered the field.

we felt an instant sense of calm," one tourist said. "These fields make you forget all stress. For a few minutes, it felt like time had slowed down for us

Another tourist, Reshma Patra, added that Koraput's winter beauty is unmatched, "We have traveled to many places, but the beauty of Koraput during winter is truly unique. The mustard fields elevate that beauty to another level."

Local farmers say this year's bloom is particularly rich due to favourable climatic conditions. The fields not only support the livelihoods of farming families but also serve as natural attractions, drawing visitors from nearby districts including Rayagada, Nabarangpur and Malkangiri.

Tourism enthusiasts say simple natural spots like these create lasting memories and strengthen Koraput's identity as a peaceful destination filled with nature's bounty. Many tourists have called for better signboards, resting spots and eco-friendly measures to help visitors enjoy rural attractions without disturbing the fields.

As mercury plunges, Kora put's golden mustard fields are expected to keep enchanting travellers, offering moments of serenity and escape from the rush of daily life.

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DSPL - 366

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* ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବାଣିଜ୍ୟକର ଏବଂ ଦ୍ରବ୍ୟ ଓ ସେବା କର କମିସନରେଟ GST ଟିଡ଼ିଏସ୍ (TDS) ଓ ଆରସିଏମ୍ (RCM) ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ର ଅନୁପାଳନ ଉପରେ ତୀକ୍ଷଣ ନଜର ରଖିଛନ୍ତି ।

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OIPR:



power post





What men call knowledge, is the reasoned acceptance of false appearances. Wisdom looks behind the veil and sees

SRI AUROBINDO



Aminata Touré &

Democratic

freedoms

empower

citizens,

inclusion.

and boost

economic

growth.

in turn,

Kevin Casas-Zamora

improve social

Development,

strengthens

credibility

and trust in

democratic

governments

Democracy & Development

emocracy is in trouble. For nine consecutive years, more countries have suffered a weakening of democratic institutions than have experienced improvement -- the longest such decline in a half-century. Around the world, citizens are losing faith in democracy, and demagogues have exploited their disillusionment.

One factor driving this growing democratic crisis is the false notion that political rights and socioeconomic welfare are separate or even competing goods. In fact, history suggests the opposite: countries that protect political rights and freedoms are the ones that build lasting prosperity. From our work leading diverse national and international administrations, we know that if democracy and development are to be sustainable, they must be pursued in tandem.

Broad-based development is ultimately about expanding human freedom and agency, so it cannot be achieved without democracy at its core. This is not just a principled approach; it is also practical. It is no accident that democracies account for 27 of the top 30 countries in the United Nations Human Development Index. When people are free to choose their leaders and hold them accountable, sustainable and inclusive growth becomes more likely. The pattern is even clearer when we look at gender equality. Half of all authoritarian regimes perform very poorly on this metric, whereas only

3% of democracies do. No society can thrive if half its population is held back.

The 2024 Nobel Prize winners in economics -- Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson -- have shown how democratic governance enhances innovation, safeguards investment, and improves financial accountability and oversight. Democracies don't just safeguard rights. They deliver results.



To be sure, while we firmly believe in democracy's place at the heart of development, we are not blind to its shortcomings. In rich and poor countries alike, the health of democracy is often seen as a distant issue involving abstract processes and political theatre, when what concerns people most is the need to feel safe in their homes, the affordability of food and care for their families, and the knowledge that their children will have a better future than they did. When democracy is seen to be failing to deliver these basics, anger and disillusionment follow.

Such perceptions are not unwarranted in a world where, by some measures, the richest 1% own more wealth than the bottom 95%. Faced with such glaring disparities, it is no wonder that so many people are willing to throw their lot in with the first demagogue who

comes along promising radical change. If we don't confront rampant inequality and the sense of unfairness that it provokes, democracy will continue to suffer.

A democracy rooted in human development must be able to show that it provides just and fair outcomes for the people it serves. That means delivering concrete benefits, from improving health-care access and educational opportunities to safeguarding freedom of expression and labor rights. Fortunately, one can already find this kind of human-centered democracy narrative in initiatives like the Global Democracy Coalition's #KeepDemocracyAlive campaign.

Democracy and development must be reconciled within the multilateral system, too. Owing to the economic, social, and political transformations of the last century, many international organizations are no longer well-suited for current needs or aligned with new global configurations. The emerging powers of the Global South are justified in demanding reforms to the global economic and political order. Fair representation and power-sharing in multilateral institutions like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and -- most importantly -- the UN Security Council are not just overdue; they are essential if we ever want to foster the kind of cooperation that works for everyone.

When democracy and development reinforce each other, the results are transformative. Democratic freedoms empower citizens, improve social inclusion, and boost economic growth. Development, in turn, strengthens credibility and trust in democratic governments. To sustain human progress in an era of radical change and uncertainty, democracy and development must go hand in hand.

Aminata Touré is the High Representative of the Senegalese President and a member of the Club de Madrid while Kevin Casas-Zamora is Secretary-General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

WISDOM CORNER

The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, and wiser people so full

Die to everything of yesterday so that your mind is always fresh, always young, innocent, full of vigor and passion.

If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion. DALAI LAMA

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1910:** Francisco Madero launched a failed revolt that sparked the Mexican Revolution by inspiring hope in such leaders as Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata, who then mobilized their armies against the government of Porfirio Díaz, the president of Mexico.
- **1910:** Russian author Leo Tolstoy, suffering from pneumonia, died of heart failure at the railroad station of Astapovo.
- **1917:** For the first time, tanks were used effectively in warfare, by the British at the Battle of Cambrai.
- **1947:** The future Queen Elizabeth II married Philip Mountbatten at Westminster Abbey.

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

ROAD TO ZERO

he foresight of Nobel laureate George Bernard Shaw is reflected in the quote, "Science has solved no problem without creating ten more. For this reason, one might say that while science successfully remedies a difficult issue or crisis, it simultaneously creates a new crisis. This is like moving from the frying pan into the fire

Still, we should not forget that scientific inventions are born out of human necessity but ignoring their adverse effects would be dangerous.

For example, global warming has emerged as a serious problem due to climate change. Its terrifying impact is reflected in severe heatwaves. To escape this unbearable heat, air conditioning units are seen in several homes. According to a study, one-fifth of the total electricity worldwide is spent on electric fans and ACs to keep places cool. It's predicted that by 2050, twothirds of the world's electricity demand will be in China, India, and Indonesia. The reason for this is the development of industries for economic improvement in these countries. This expansion leads to abundant carbon emissions.

If environmental pollution is not controlled, global warming will continue to rise. Therefore, serious discussions are ongoing among various countries at the international level to solve this problem. According to scientists, the main cause of the current climate change is the increase in carbon dioxide levels in the environment. Behind this alarming crisis lies the use of fossil fuels like mineral oil and coal in various machines and vehicles. The drastic consequences



Without nuclear energy, India will not be able to reach its self-imposed Net-Zero target by 2070, reveals a study conducted by Indian **Institute of Management, Ahmedabad**

of climate change include rising sea levels, glacier melting, more intense heat in summer. excessive cold in winter, and excessive rainfall in the rainy season, even seasonal changes resulting in disturbances in the traditional seasonal cycle like summer heat in winter, droughts, floods, cyclones, sudden heavy rainstorms or cloudbursts. These environmental changes negatively affect living organisms, especially impacting biodiversity.

Therefore, in 2015, 196 countries signed the Paris Agreement and pledged to reduce the world's rising temperature by two degrees Celsius. To achieve this goal, each country will reduce its current carbon emissions to zero within its territory. The name of this goal is 'Carbon Neutrality' or 'Net-Zero Emissions'. India aims to achieve this objective by 2070.

The Paris Agreement is a tough challenge for every country. The real meaning of reducing carbon is to avoid industrial development as much as possible and to regulate the lifestyle of citizens.

We are becoming arrogant and proud due to science. We are trying to present ourselves as omnipotent by challenging God. We look down upon other living beings. But as a result, nature will not hesitate to take revenge. A study by the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research published in the journal 'Science' indicates that indiscriminate use of land, water, and forests, heavy industry, construction of buildings, and the establishment of uncontrolled infrastructure for tourism purposes lead to changes in land use, jeopardizing the balance of nature.

This does not mean that we should avoid industrialization. However, we must control these activities and our behavior so that the increase in carbon is reduced to zero. As a result, global warming will decrease by two degrees.

Achieving Net Zero Emissions seems difficult. The main reason behind this is our unhindered increase in electricity demand. When we realized that the use of petrol in vehicles causes air pollution, we tried to rely on

thermal power generated from mineral resources like coal for the necessary electricity, which is a mistake because it increases the amount of carbon in the environment, taking global warming to a higher level. Therefore, efforts were made for alternative energy. The goal is clean energy.

The Central government entrusted IIM (Ahmedabad) with the task of preparing a report after studying how to achieve the Net Zero 70 target. From the recommendations of this group, it is known that without nuclear energy, India will not be able to reach its self-imposed Net-Zero target by 2070.

Besides the above nuclear power, assistance from other sources is required for Net Zero. From another statistic, it is known that the capacity for solar and wind power harvesting should be 7,700 GW during this period. Furthermore, infrastructure for green hydrogen will have to be developed. (Source: Observer Research Foundation, Raisina Debates, February 23, 2024).

The basis of all these statistics is our future projected electricity demand. However. it is difficult to say what kind of mechanical skills science will invent in the next forty-five years and how much electricity will be needed for them. Nevertheless, it is undeniable that our electricity requirement is likely to be much higher than current expectations. Of course, this is a sign of our progress. But to prevent this progress from turning into disaster, clean or pure energy is necessary.

> The writer is a retired Director of Odisha Text Book Bureau. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM CIVILISATION

Nikhilanand

THE REAL

REDUCING

CARBON IS

INDUSTRIAL

AS MUCH AS

POSSIBLE AND

TO REGULATE

THE LIFESTYLE

OF CITIZENS

DEVELOPMENT

TO AVOID

MEANING OF

Panigrahy

The Golden Bird is healing its feathers



Ashyashree Praharaj

INDIA MUST REGAIN ITS INTELLECTUAL CONFIDENCE, **WHICH ONCE MADE IT A GUIDING LIGHT FOR THE WORLD**

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and

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words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

t is often said that while the world was still learning to walk, Indian civilisation was already running. Before politics, philosophy, or science became formal disciplines globally, the Indian subcontinent was a centre for organised urban growth, artistic endeavours, spiritual discovery, and scholarly cooperation. Cities like Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro showcased sophisticated planning and engineering expertise. The Vedic era gave rise to intellectual and metaphysical ideas that profoundly influenced global philosophy. Universities such as Takshashila and Nalanda drew students from Greece, China, Persia, and Southeast Asia. India represented more than just a land. It embodied a civilisational experience.

For centuries, the world has known India as Sone ki Chidiya, the Golden Bird. Its wealth in gold, precious stones, spices, textiles, and agricultural abundance made it a global economic powerhouse. But more than material riches, India's true wealth lay in its intellectual traditions. Mathematicians like Aryabhatta and Brahmagupta explored the universe and introduced the concept of zero. Physicians such as Charaka and Sushruta wrote medical treatises that have influenced global medical science. Philosophers like Kapila and Krishna, Patanjali and Shankaracharya, examined the nature

of existence, consciousness, discipline, and duty.

Even the greatest civilisations face challenges over time. India's decline was gradual, driven by internal stagnation and external pressures. A key internal issue was political division. Despite shared cultural bonds, India seldom remained a unified political state. The subcontinent was home to numerous kingdoms, each wealthy but often at odds with one another. The absence of coordinated defence made India susceptible to invasions. From the Indo-Greeks and Kushans to waves of Central Asian and Afghan invaders, the region repeatedly changed hands. Some rulers integrated with Indian culture, enriching it, while others destabilised institutions and disrupted education. The destruction of centres like Nalanda, Odantapuri, and Vikramshila was not merely symbolic but also impeded the transmission of knowledge through generations

The most significant disruption, however, took place during British colonial rule. Unlike earlier rulers who often integrated with local culture. the British aimed to extract resources and exploit India's wealth. They systematically dismantled India's prosperous textile and handicraft industries to serve British economic interests. Heavy taxes and revenue policies drained rural

communities, leading to widespread poverty. The colonial administration also overhauled education, with Thomas Macaulay's reforms deliberately designed to disentangle Indians from their cultural and intellectual heritage, creating a class of clerks rather than thinkers. This change caused a form of psychological colonisation, where many Indians began to view their own culture as inferior. Traditional knowledge systems, such as Ayurveda, classical philosophy, Sanskrit scholarship, and indigenous governance, were marginalised and dismissed as outdated or unscientific, despite their rich history and effectiveness.

External forces alone cannot be blamed. Over time, the Varna system, which was initially based on skill and ability, became a rigid caste hierarchy. Social mobility diminished, and intellectual curiosity was replaced by ritualistic orthodoxy. The tradition of debate, once a hallmark of Indian philosophy, waned, and innovation slowed. A civilisation that once challenged everything grew hesitant to question itself. Nonetheless, India retained its identity. Civilisations rooted in deep spiritual and cultural consciousness do not vanish. They recede, adapt, and reappear later. The medieval Bhakti movement revived spiritual inclusivity and emotional devotion. The Indian

Renaissance, led by thinkers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Vivekananda, and Rabindranath Tagore, restored cultural pride. The independence movement driven by Mahatma Gandhi, Subash Chandra Bose, Bal Gangad har Tilak, and others, rekindled the collective Indian spirit. Independent India started its

long journey of rebuilding. It has become a global leader in IT, a spacefaring nation, an emerging economic power, and a cultural influencer in areas like wellness. voga, Avurveda, and spirituality Concepts from the past, such as mindfulness, holistic healing and non-dualistic philosophy are being globally rediscovered The path forward is straightforward: India needs to revitalise its knowledge systems, viewing them as future resources rather than mere relics. Ancient wisdom should be integrated with modern science. Education should foster critical thinking rather than relying on rote learning. Diversity should be embraced without losing unity. Most importantly, India must regain its intellectual confidence, which once made it a guiding light for the world.

> The writer is a Research Scholar, Department of Business Administration. Berhampur University

India's TB burden

Sir, It pains to note that India continues to lead in the global TB burden with 25% of cases according to WHO's Global Tuberculosis Report 2025. This is despite the fact that tuberculosis incidence had the highest decline rate, globally, by 21% based on population metrics. It is perplexing why a vast nation like India, which boasts of having top class medical facilities, is unable to overturn the TB cases, since its diagnosis and treatment methods have been a part of the existing health systems for a long time. While TB can affect people of any class, religion, ethnicity, and socio-economic status, it disproportionately affects the most marginalized in society. TB is not only a health crisis, but also an economic crisis, which costs India billions in losses every year and pushes families and communities into debt and poverty. By adopting a holistic and person-centred approach, India can overcome the barriers that stand in the way of TB control and create a healthier future for all its citizens.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

AI just an aid

Sir, The CEO of Alphabet Inc. Sundar Pichai has issued a global warning that people must not blindly use the Artificial Intelligence based end deliverable output. Instead, they must wisely use the AI tools to generate the desired results. Today, people are considering AI generated results as most accurate and better than what is being produced by the humans. But as Pichai said, "AI too is prone to errors", it is crucial for the people to take this warning seriously. The AI tools must be used as a helping technological tool only, rather it must not be considered superior or accurate for every our problem. We must not forget that, AI is still in the process of evolvement and further development. Over reliance and dependence of AI can be costly affairs for mankind in the end. We need to mind that AI is just an aid not a panacea technology.

Kirti Wadhawan, KANPUR



TWO STATES





Ahmedabad's old city where every faith has a home

In the old city's dense lanes, domes. minarets, shikharas, fire temples, synagogues and church towers rise together, telling a story of a place where diversity has never been a slogan, but a way of life woven into daily rhythms

the Magen Abraham Syna-

gogue quietly preserves the

Jewish footprint in Guja-

rat's history.

James

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ahmedabad, Nov 19: As World Heritage Week begins November 19, Ahmedabad, the first Indian city to be inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage City, stands as a living museum of coexistence. A few urban centres in the world hold centuries of Hindu, Muslim, Jain, Christian, Parsi and even Jewish heritage within a walkable

In the old city's dense lanes, domes, minarets, shikharas, fire temples, synagogues and church towers rise together, telling a story of a place where diversity has never been a slogan, but a way of life woven into daily rhythms.

Founded in 1411 by Sultan Ahmed Shah, the old city was envisioned as a fortified capital along the Sabarmati River, but it quickly evolved into something more remarkable, a shared space where communities lived in pols, interdependent neighbourhoods that balanced cultural distinctiveness with social harmony.

Over time, these pols became microcosms of pluralism. A Jain derasar stands next to a Sufi shrine; a Haveli with Hindu iconography sits a few steps away from a centuries-old mosque; and tucked deep inside Khamasa,

and author of Oriental Memoirs, 1780s) once said, "Ahmedabad stands as a splendid monument of Mahmud Begada's glory... temples, mosques, caravanserais, and palaces rise proudly, speaking of ages of Architectural brilliance

marks the city's earliest monuments, the Jama Masjid, Rani Sipri Mosque, Sidi Saiyyed Mosque with its famous Tree of Life jaali, and the Teen Darwaza, all masterpieces of Indo-Islamic style where Hindu craftsmanship carved Islamic



ples, such as the Hutheesing Jain Temple, known for its marble latticework and towering manastambha. The presence of Swaminarayan temples, including the 19th-century Kalupur Swaminarayan

Mandir, adds yet another layer to the spiri-**THAT STANDS OUT** tual geography,

sect's unique wooden carvings and colourful iconog-

Christianity, which reached Gujarat European through traders and missionaries, left its own imprint in the form of old churches built by the British and Portuguese, particularly in the Cantonment and Raikhad areas. The Parsi Zoroastrian community, whose

to Guiarat dates back over a millennium, also found a home in the old city, with their serene fire temples standing as symbols of one of the world's oldest religions. Even the Jew-

ish Bene Isracommunity has its mark here, the Magen Abraham Synagogue, built in

1934, still holds occasional prayers and protects its ancient Torah scrolls. What makes Ahmedabad extraordinary is not just the presence of these sites, but how they function as part of a shared ecosystem.

The morning 'aartis' blend with the call to prayer, Jain monks walk through lanes where Christian bells ring, and families from every background

frequent each other's shops and festivals.

UNESCO recognised this living heritage, not only for monuments, but for a city where intangible cultural traditions survive alongside architecture. The pol system, craft traditions, stepwells, wood-carved havelis, and neighbourhood shrines together create a heritage that is social as much as it is structural

In an era when global cities struggle with identity and cohesion, Ahmedabad's old city remains a rare, functioning model of pluralism that is centuries old yet vibrantly alive. As World Heritage Week unfolds, the lanes of Manek Chowk, Dariyapur, Khadia, Kalupur and Jamalpur offer more than history; they offer a reminder that coexistence is possible, or-

dinary, and beautiful when a city makes room for all.

Gujarat, tiger now returns to forest

Long extinct in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 19: More than three decades after tigers went extinct in Guiarat. a wandering big cat has made Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary its new home, raising hopes for the revival of the striped ani mal in the state, known as the last abode of Asiatic lions.

The settling of the tiger has prompted State Forest and Environment Minister Arjun Modhwadia to announce that Gujarat has become the abode of three big cats- the lion, leopard, and tiger. Modhwadia said tigers were once found in large numbers in Gujarat; however, they eventually disappeared with the passage of time.

"Now, forest officials have confirmed that a tiger that wandered into Gujarat nearly nine months ago has made Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary in Dahod district its new home" Modhwadia told reporters.

He said the big cat was first captured on the CCTV cameras placed inside the forests of Ratanmahal in February this year. "Since February, forest staff have been keeping a close watch on the tiger's movement During the last nine months this tiger was captured at reg ular intervals on our cameras placed inside the forest, which has established that the big cat has settled in the Ratanmaha forest," the minister said, add ing that the tiger appears to be healthy. The minister stated that has relocated some herbivores in the forest to make sure that the tiger gets enough prey base for its survival.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has been informed about the tiger's presence in Gujarat and its guidance has been sought for further action.

MP govt shelves Mamleshwar Lok project after public protest

Bhopal/Khandwa, Nov 19: In a dramatic reversal, the Madhva Pradesh government has cancelled the controversial Mamleshwar Lok project at its proposed site in the holy city of Omkareshwar following intense public outrage, a two-day bandh, and unified opposition from the Sant Samaj (seer community). The decision came after mar-

kets, shops, and ghats remained

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wednesday.

Vidisha, Nov 19: 'Marich', a

Eurasian Griffon Vulture that

had taken off from Halali Dam

in Madhva Pradesh's Vidisha

district in March this year,

has returned safely to India

The bird travelled

through Pakistan,

Afghanistan, Uz-

bekistan and

Kazakhstan,

and is now

roaming in

Dholpur dis-

trict, Vidisha's

Divisional For-

est Officer (DFO)

Hemant Yaday told

Rajasthan's

Vulture 'Marich' returns to

MP after 15,000-km journey

The bird travelled through Pakistan, Afghanistan,

Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, and is now roaming in

Rajasthan's Dholpur district



shut for two consecutive days, bringing the pilgrim town - one of the tweleve Jyotirlingam of Lord Shiva, to a complete standstill.

tion on vulture migration pat-

at Nagaur village in Satna dis-

dead

monitored, the DFO said.

The project envisaged to develop and construct various religious tourism-related facilities

with an investment of Rs 120 crore

and a corridor around the ancient Mamleshwar temple (Lord Shiva temple) in Omkareshwar town in Khandwa district.

Thousands of devotees, locals, and sadhus took to the streets, demanding the project's scrapping, citing threats to livelihoods, forced displacement, and disruption of centuries-old religious traditions.

Issuing the formal order. Khandwa Additional Collector said, "The expansion of Mamleshwar Lok at the current location stands cancelled with immediate effect."

A detailed survey revealed that the project would displace numerous families, render many jobless, and encroach upon several ashrams nestled along the Narmada riverbank.

The potential demolition or relocation of these spiritual centres sparked fierce resentment among saints and resi-

Gujarat cabinet okays extended power supply relief to farmers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gandhinagar, Nov 19: The Guiarat cabinet Wednesday approved extended electricity supply hours for farmers in key districts to support Rabi season cultivation.

Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi announced that beginning Thursday, farmers in 13 talukas across Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Patan, Surendranagar, Vav-Tharad, and Morbi districts will receive 10 hours of power instead of the

current eight hours. Additionally, farmers in Garbada and Dahod talukas of Dahod district will now receive 12 hours of electricity supply daily. The state government estimates that the decision will benefit more than 58,000 farmers.

State Home Minister Sanghavi said the move reflects the Cabinet's commitment to ensuring uninterrupted agricultural activity during the crucial Rabi sowing period.

The announcements came after a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in Gandhinagar

In a parallel update, the Chief Minister also reviewed the status of roads across all districts during the same Cabinet session.

Last week, Patel directed all guardian ministers to conduct district-level review meetings with officials and prepare detailed reports on road conditions based on field inspections.

Deputy Chief Minister and government spokesperson Harsh Sanghavi said that all guardian ministers have completed their on-ground assess ments and review meetings in

their respective districts. The Chief Minister reviewed the progress of this exercise during Wednesday's meeting and instructed that the final consolidated reports be sub mitted by November 30.

Officials have been asked submit district-wise, ground-verified reports by the end of this week, ensuring the government can prioritise road repair and infrastructure improvements ahead of upcoming seasonal and administrative re

quirements. Gujarat has roughly 49 lakh farmers, most of whom cultivate a diverse mix of food grains, cash crops and horticultural produce suited to the state's semi-arid climate.

Major crops include cotton. groundnut, castor, wheat, bajra, maize and rice, while the state is also a leading produc er of fruits and spices such as mango, banana, onion, tomato and cumin.

Together, these farming patterns shape Gujarat's strong agri-economy and support both domestic markets and export-linked industries.

Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary turns into winter paradise for tourists



treated at Mukundpur Zoo after completing a 15,000 km journey, a forest official said and then at Bhopal Van Vihar National Park, Yadav said. After two months, The it was tagged and Eurasian released from Halali **Griffon Vulture** March 29.

is found in the These birds feed mountainous, arid on regions of Europe, animals, prevent the **North Africa** spread and Asia diseases on account of rotting carcasses, and helps

The forest department has recycle nutrients, improvbeen tracking its movement ing soil and water quality, an expert said.

The unique ecosystem of Khijadiya—comprising freshwater lakes, saline reservoirs, and marshlands—makes it an ideal natural breeding ground for migratory birds

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jamnagar, Nov 19: Jamnagar's world-famous Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary has once again come alive, even as thousands of migratory birds have started arriving.

Spread across vast stretches of greenery, the sanctuary is echoing with the chirping and fluttering of birds. This adds to the splendid scenic beauty of the sanctuary.

With this, a spectacular view is all around in the sanctuary,

which draws nature lovers from across India and abroad. Tourists say that even as winter arrives, the beauty of Khijadiya becomes even more enthralling.

According to official information, the sanctuary is home to over 300 species of migratory birds. These birds travel long distances from regions such as Afghanistan, Europe, Africa, Iran-Iraq, and Siberia and reach the sanctuary. These birds choose Khijadiya as a seasonal habitat thanks to its rich biodiversity, favourable climate, and abundant food sources.

Speaking about the sanctuary's significance, Dakshaben Vaghasiya, Range Forest Officer, Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary, said that the winter months mark the peak visiting season, as many migratory species gather here, making it a paradise for bird-

Located just 12 kilometres from Jamnagar, Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary spans nearly 6.5 square kilometres. As the cold season sets in, tourist inflow has already

begun, with visitors arriving to witness the breathtaking sunrise and the playful activities of the birds in their natural habitat. Tourists from different parts of Gujarat expressed their excitement. Mittal Ra-

na from Ahmedabad said that

watching the birds in such a

serene environment was a

refreshing experience. Another visitor, Riddhi, also from Ahmedabad, shared that the sanctuary offered a rare opportunity to closely observe diverse bird species

in a peaceful setting. The unique ecosystem of Khijadiya—comprising freshwater lakes, saline reservoirs, and marshlandsmakes it an ideal natural breeding ground for migratory birds.

Every year, lakhs of tourists visit the sanctuary to experience its mesmerising landscapes and vibrant wildlife. Many leave with unforgettable memories captured through their cameras and hearts.

With its unparalleled ecological diversity and captivating natural beauty, Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary continues to remain one of India's most cherished destinations for nature enthusiasts.

Government of Odisha Office of the Superintending Engineer, **Rural Works Division-II, Dhenkanal** Kamakhyanagar E-Mail: rw.kamakhyanagar@yahoo.co.in

e-procurement Notice No. 19 / Road Work / 2025-26

Name of the work

2 Total No. of Works

3 Tender Cost 4 Class of Contractor

5 Period of Completion

6 Availability of Tender

online for bidding

7 Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification

8 Date & Time of opening

24.11.2025 upto 4.00 P.M. : 25.11.2025 at 05.00 P.M.

Rs. 10.17 to 16.95 lakhs

18.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to

25.11.2025 up to 4.00 P.M.

"D" & "C" equivalent

2 calendar months

Other Details can be seen from the website http://tendersorissa.gov.in.

Sd./- Superintending Enginee Rural Works Division-II, Dkl

OIPR-

Kamakhyanagar

Road Work

02 (Two) Nos

national



I cannot hold the post permanently. It has already been 5.5 years, and in March, it will be six years

PM TO VISIT **JOHANNESBURG**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be visiting Johannesburg from November 21 to 23 to attend the 20th G20 Leaders' Summit hosted by South Africa, the Ministry of External Affairs said Wednesday



stances, perhaps parents will not like to send thei children outside. When we are looked at with suspicious eyes from every side, when attempts are made to defame us for someone else's doing, when attempts are made to bring everyone into the ambit of what few people have done, then it is obvious that it becomes difficult for us to leave for outside

OMAR ABDULLAH J& K CM

The (erstwhile) Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and the Evidence Act, framed by

the British more than a century ago, were not designed to deliver speedy justice, whereas the new laws (BNS, BNSS, and BSA) prioritise justice for victims and ensure strict punishment for offenders

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHA CM





HIMANTA BISWA SARMA

ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT **TAKES**

Ex-WB board chief gets bail in school jobs scam

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court Wednesday granted bail to former West Bengal **Board of Secondary Education** president Kalyanmoy Ganguly in a school jobs scam case of the CBI. His lawyers prayed for bail before the court as he has been in custody in the case for more than three years and all other accused in the case have already secured bail by different courts.

Delhi air quality nears 'severe' mark again

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality inched close to the 'severe' category Wednesday, with the city's average AQI climbing to 392. The forecast savs Delhi's air quality is likely to deteriorate further and slip into the 'severe' category in the coming days. remaining in the 'very poor' to 'severe' range for the next six days, according to Ministry of Farth Sciences' Air Quality Early Warning System. The 24-hour average Air Ouality Index (AOI) settled at 392 in the 'very poor' category for the sixth consecutive day - up from 374 Tuesday and 351 Monday, data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) showed.

Australian FM Wong arrives in Delhi

New Delhi: Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong arrived here Wednesday evening to co-chair the 16th Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue with her Indian counterpart S Jaishankar. Senator Wong said she looked forward to hold discussions with Jaishankar to set the course for an even "more ambitious, future-focused agenda". The Australian foreign minister is scheduled to meet Jaishankar at the Hyderabad

Shital Tejwani statement recorded

House here Thursday.

Pune: The Pune police have recorded the statement of Shital Tejwani, an accused in the alleged illegal sale of government land in Mundhwa to the firm of Parth Pawar, Maharashtra deputy Chief Minister Aiit Pawar's son. Tejwani was questioned Tuesday in the case registered at the Khadak police station, an official said.

Al Falah group chief made ₹415 crore dishonestly: ED

The Enforcement Directorate arrested Siddiqui Tuesday night after conducting day-long searches against the group, linked persons and the Faridabad-based Al Falah University, which is emerging as an epicentre of investigation in the November 10 Delhi blast case that killed 15 persons and injured several others

New Delhi, Nov 19: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has secured a 13-day custodial remand for chairperson of the Al Falah group Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui, accused of generating over Rs 415 crore "dishonestly from students studying in the institutions run by him.

Seeking his custody during a hearing on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, the ED claimed that Siddiqui had "incentives" to flee India as his close family members are settled in the Gulf.

After the court hearing, held at the residence of Additional Sessions Judge Sheetal Chaudhary Pradhan, which ended at 1 am, the designated court sent Siddiqui to ED custody for 13 days.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Siddiqui Tuesday night after conducting day-long searches against the group, linked persons and the Faridabad-based Al Falah University, which is emerging as an epicentre of investigation in the November 10 Delhi blast case that killed 15 persons and injured several others.

The agency informed the court that the university and its controlling trust, under the direction of Siddiqui, generated "proceeds of crime" of at least Rs 415.10 crore by "dishonestly" inducing students and parents



of false accreditation and recognition claims.

The judge said, "After carefuly considering the submission made, I am of the considered view that all the compliances under Section 19 of the PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) have been done. "Considering the gravity of the offence and that the investigation is at a nascent stage I deem it appropriate that the accused is granted ED custody remand for a period of 13 days (till December 1)," the judge ordered. The ED had sought a 14-day custody. The university's role emerged during the probe into a 'white-collar' terror module in which 10 people. including three doctors, have been arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Jammu and Kashmir Police. One of the doctors at the varsity-cum-hospital, Dr Umar-un-Nabi, is alleged to have acted as a suicide bomber while driving the Red Fort, killing 15 people.

The ED took cognisance of two Delhi Police FIRs to register its case November 14 under the anti-money laundering law against the Al Falah group.

Siddiqui's lawyer told the court that his client was falsely implicated in the present matter and the two Delhi Police FIRs were "false and fab-

The ED claimed that Siddiqui's arrest was necessary as there was an apprehension of his absconding and of non-cooperation. "The accused has significant financial resources and influence and has a history of serious economic offences. His close family members are also settled in Gulf countries and he has incentives to flee India."

It said Siddiqui was the founder and managing trustee who was "controlling the mind" of Al Falah charitable trust and exercises de facto influence over Al Falah University and

India launches gene therapy for sickle cell disease

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 19: Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh Wednesday launched India's first indigenous CRIS-PR-based gene therapy for sickle cell disease, which particularly affects the country's tribal population. The therapy, named 'BIRSA 101" is dedicated to freedom fighter Birsa Munda, whose 150th birth anniversary was observed a few days back.

Singh said that the breakthrough, developed at CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), has demonstrated India's capability to produce path-breaking therapies at a fraction of glob al costs, potentially replacing treatments priced at Rs 20-25 crore overseas. A formal technology transfer and collaboration agreement was exchanged between CSIR-IGIB and the Serum Institute of India Pvt Ltd, enabling translation of CRISPR platform into scalable, affordable therapies for sickle cell disease and other critical genetic disorders.

The minister said that India has formally begun its decisive iourney towards becoming a sickle cell disease-free nation. marking a historic turning point in the country's public health and genomic medicine landscape. He underlined that this innovation carries deep national significance, especially for tribal communities in central and eastern India, where the disease burden is the highest. Singh said the technology works like a "precise genetic surgery". capable not only of curing the disease but also transforming treatment pathways for several

SIR ACTION

Illegal Bangladeshis' crossings up: BSF



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 19: The number of illegal Bangladeshi nationals attempting to cross the India-Bangladesh border in South Bengal has risen sharply in recent weeks, a 'reverse exodus' being linked to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, senior BSF officials said Wednesday.

According to officers, the flow of undocumented Bangladeshi immigrants trying to return through unfenced stretches in North 24 Parganas, Murshidabad and Malda districts has seen what one described as a "quantum jump" compared to the last two years.

"Earlier, such detections barely entered double digits. Now the figure is consistently in the three-digit bracket every day," a senior BSF officer told PTI.

He said that although some media reports have cited daily numbers of around 500, the actual figure is "slightly lower but substantial, 100, 150 or more. You can safely report that it is in the three-digit range.'

BSF personnel posted along the border in North 24 Parganas said check posts are witnessing a beeline of people carrying small bags and belongings openly admitting that they are Bangladeshi nationals who had entered India illegally years ago in search of work.

One of them, Ayesha Bibi, who identified herself as a resident of Khulna district, said she came to India "driven by poverty" and had lived with

"I don't have any documents. Now I want to return to Khulna That is what I am waiting for here," she told a news channel

Another Bangladeshi nation al, Amir Mirza of Satkhira, said he had been living in Birati on the outskirts of Kolkata after arriving illegally for employ ment. The sudden spike has increased pressure on the BSF and state police, who must put every inter-

cepted individual through biometric verification, questioning and criminal back ground checks on both sides

EGI raises concern over DPDP Rules

New Delhi, Nov 19: The Editors Guild of India (EGI) has voiced strong concern over the government's newly notified Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, 2025, warning that the lack of clarity in the regulatory framework could place journalists and news organisations at risk of onerous compliance obligations

that may undermine press freedom. In a statement, the Guild said the



Rules fail to resolve long-standing uncertainties arising from the Digital Personal Data Protection Act. 2023, particularly the absence of any explicit exemption for journalistic activities. It noted that while the Act was passed last year with already significant implications for the Right to Information (RTI) Act regime, the Rules notified this week do little to clarify how newsrooms should

operate safely under the law. In July 2025, the Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) held a meeting with press bodies and assured that journalistic work would not fall within the purview of the DPDP Act. The Guild, along with other media organisations, had then urged the Ministry to provide a legally sound clarification or amend the law to explicitly

A comprehensive list of 35 questions and case-based scenarios was also submitted, seeking clarity on matters such as consent, exemptions, data retention, research, and reporting in the public interest. No formal response has been received so far.

an explosive-laden car on No-

The notified Rules do little

gently issue an unequivocal clarification exempting bona fide journalistic activities from the Act's consent and processing obligations. Without such clarity, confusion and excessive compliance pressures will erode press freedom and obstruct the media's vital role in

right to information.



to ease these concerns. Vague provisions on consent could impose heavy

> compliance requirements on journalists and newsrooms, potentially hinder-

ing everyday reporting. In the absence of explicit exemptions or guidance, journalistic work may still be construed as "processing" that requires consent, posing a risk to investigative and accountability journalism.

a democratic society, it said. The Editors' body emphasised that while data protection and privacy are essential goals, they must be carefully balanced with the constitutional right to free speech and the public's

X STUDENT OF A PRIVATE

SCHOOL JUMPED FROM THE

PLATFORM OF RAJENDRA

PLACE METRO STATION IN CENTRAL DELHI AT 2.34 PM

N HIS NOTE, HE NAMED A FEW

TEACHERS AND BLAMED THEM

FOR PROLONGED MENTAL

HARASSMENT.



The EGI urged MeitY to ur-



7 Maoists killed in police encounter in AP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, Nov 19: A day after six Maoists were gunned down at Maredumilli in Andhra Pradesh, seven more died in another exchange of fire in the vi-

cinity Wednesday, police said. Addressing a press conference in Vijayawada, Mahesh Chandra Laddha, ADGP, Inwere among those died today. According to the senior officer, the seven Maoists were killed around 7 am today at

Maredumilli in Alluri Sitaramaraju district. Even as the identification of the slain Maoists is underway. Laddha said one of them was identified as Meturi Jokha

Rao alias Tech Shankar. On Tuesday, six Maoists,

He said they avoided taking

said, adding that the family had

assured the boy that he would

be admitted to a different school

once the exams were over.

exams were approaching.

including top naxalite commander Madvi Hidma, were killed in an encounter with security personnel in the forested area of Maredumilli

Meanwhile, fifty CPI (Maoist) cadres were arrested across five districts in Andhra Pradesh in a coordinated, intelligence-led operations, poliec said Wednesday

wanting to explore theatre and dance more, his father said. Ac-

cording to the father, he and his stronger action as the class 10 wife had travelled to Kolhapur 'His exams were due in one in Maharashtra on November or two months. Twenty marks 18 for his mother's operation, come from the school. I did not while their son went to school want to disturb anything," he as usual Tuesday

The first call informing them about the incident came at 2.45 pm.

A senior police officer said the suicide note found at the spot began with the boy identifying himself and asking the reader to call a number. He wrote that continuous scolding by school staff had pushed him to commit suicide and apologised to his parents and elder brother. He also requested that his organs be donated.

Mamata blames ECI for Jalpaiguri BLO's death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 19: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Wednesday tore into the Election Commission after a booth level officer in Jalpaiguri district was found hanging alleging the "inhuman, unplanned" SIR workload is crushing field staff, even as the BLO's family flagged "unbearable pressure" and the BJP blamed state

officials for the tragedy. The deceased, 48-year-old Shantimuni Orao, an anganwadi worker serving as the BLO for booth number 20/101 under Rangamati gram pancha yat, was found hanging from a tree near her home in the New Glencoe tea garden area early in the morning. Her scarf was tied around her neck, police said. Her family alleged she died by suicide after weeks of mounting stress caused by the SIR drive. Police from Mal police station have recovered the body and sent it to Jalpaiguri Sadar Hospital for post-mortem examination. "An investigation has begun," Superintendent of Police K U Ganpat said.

ly on X, said she was "deeply shocked and saddened" at vet another BLO death during the

'Donate my organs': Schoolboy's final plea before suicide

New Delhi, Nov 19: A 16-yearold Delhi schoolboy who left his home Tuesday morning, excited for another day with his drama club, ended his life by afternoon. He left behind a suicide note, asking that his organs be donated and urging that no child should endure the suffering he did.

Police said the class 10 student of a private school jumped from the platform of Rajendra Place Metro Station in central Delhi at 2.34 pm.

He was taken to BLK Hospital nearby, where he was declared dead. In his note. he named a few teachers and blamed them for prolonged

mental harassment.

His father alleged that his

son had been struggling for

months with how he was treat-

ed in school. "He used to tell

me and my wife that teachers

scolded him for every small thing and emotionally hurt him. We complained verbally many times, but they never

stayed back for his drama club session, and according to his father, something that happened there deeply upset him.

This was not the first time his son had felt cornered, he said. The boy had recently participated in a dance competition and had spoken about

On Tuesday, the boy had

Banerjee, reacting strongrevision exercise.

national



happened near the Red Fort and its connections with other parts of the country. In all these days there is not a single clear statement that has come from the government, saying two things: how did this intelligence failure happen and what are its implications particularly in light of what it has been saying in the past SALMAN KHURSHID | SENIOR CONG LEADER

We are startled about what has

ISRO TESTS BOOT-STRAP START FOR CE20 ENGINE

The ISRO Wednesday announced that it has successfully demonstrated the boot-strap mode start test of the CE20 Cryogenic engine, which powers the upper stage of the Launch Vehicle Mark -3 (LVM3)





ted to farmers' welfare. Under the san Samman Nidhi.



Madhya Pradesh has witnessed an increase of 526 per cent in the tourist footfall, with 13.41 crore people (tourists) visiting the state last year MOHAN YADAV | MP CM



Police personnel, the governor has preempted any conspiracy to discredit Raj Bhavan, which is doing the right job by supporting the SIR initiative and flagging misdeeds by the ruling TMC

SUVENDU ADHIKARI | LEADER OF OPPN IN WB





Sonowal.

Sarma has become CM by removing Scheduled Tribe leader Sarbananda

-Gauray Gogoi He will eat entire BJP in Assam in 2026 without any crumb left @Politicx2029

SHORT **TAKES**

HC orders upgrade of **Sabarimala facilities**

Kochi: The Kerala High Court Wednesday sharply criticised the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) for what it called "grossly inadequate" facilities at the Sabarimala Sannidhanam and has ordered sweeping improvements in accommodation, sanitation, drinking water and crowd management. The directions were issued while disposing of two Devaswom Board petitions that detailed long queues, lack of basic amenities and the absence of drinking water along the Sannidhanam flyover.

Setback for Ghulam **Nabi Azad's party**

Jammu: Two former Jammu and Kashmir ministers - Jugal Kishore Sharma and Abdul Majid Wani - along with hundreds of their supporters Thursday returned to the Congress here, in a setback for Ghulam Nabi Azad's Democratic Progressive Azad Party. Former Member of Legislative Council (MLC) Subash Gupta and another prominent DPAP leader Brij Mohan Sharma also rejoined Congress at a function organised to mark the 108th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Student ends life

Jaipur: A 14-year-old Class 9 student has ended life after he was allegedly harassed by two teachers and the school administrator in a village in Raiasthan's Karauli district. police said Wednesday. The deceased has been identified as Ankit Guriar, a resident of Dhangad Ka Pura village and a student of Kamla Bhartiva Shikshan Sansthan, Todabhim Deputy Superintendent of Police Murarilal Meena said that a case has been registered based on a complaint filed by Ankit's father, Madan Singh, at Nadauti police station.

Bishnoi sent to 11 days of NIA custody

New Delhi, Nov 19: Anmol Bishnoi, the younger brother of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and wanted in several sensational cases, was arrested by the NIA upon his deportation from the US Wednesday in a case related to nexus between criminal gangs and terror groups.

Immediately upon landing here along with 200 deportees from the United States, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) placed Anmol, a proclaimed offender and carrying a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh, under arrest.

After completing the formalities, Anmol, against whom the NIA had filed a chargesheet in 2023, was taken for medical examination and later to the designated court at Patiala House.

Surrounded by heavy security, including Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel, Anmol was produced before Additional Sessions Judge Prashant Sharma around 5 pm and the proceedings were held in-camera.

The court after hearing both sides remanded Anmol to the custody of the federal agency for an 11-day period.

Talking to reporters after the court proceedings, Special Public Prosecutor Rahul Tyagi said that he would be produced again before the court November 29.

"Eleven days of remand has been given. He has to be produced again on the 29th of November. He is a very important member of the terror-gangster syndicate." Tyagi said, and asserted that his questioning may



Anmol, absconding since 2022. is wanted in connection with other major crimes, including the killing of Baba **Siddique in October 2024,** firing incident outside actor Salman Khan's residence in April 2024 and murder of Puniabi singer Sidhu Moosewala in 2022

help in unearthing what activities he has been undertaking. He said the probe is focused on Anmol's escape and his al-

leged extremist ties. To a question whether the role of Khalistani elements was being investigated, Tyagi said "Yes, that is the basic chargesheet. He is an absconder. He was part of the BKI and

the gangster syndicate. That is

why he has been arrested." Anmol, absconding since 2022, is wanted in connection with other major crimes, including the killing of NCP leader and former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique in October 2024, firing incident outside actor Salman Khan's residence in April 2024 and murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala in 2022.

In its 12-page order, the court said that the NIA has moved an application saying that Anmol was part of a conspiracy hatched by members of a criminal syndicate based in India and abroad with banned Babbar Khalsa International terror group and its operatives for raising funds and recruitment of youth for carrying out terror activities in the national capital and other parts of the country.

The NIA alleged that Anmol was part of the syndicate which was involved in executing and planning to execute a heinous crime. Anmol, who was declared

a proclaimed offender by the NIA in January this year, denied all the allegations levelled against him. The court, while granting the

custody, directed the NIA to allow lawyers of the accused to meet him in person or through video conference every alter-

According to NIA officials, Anmol was "removed" from the United States Tuesday, where he had been detained since November last year. He is the 19th accused to be apprehended for involvement in the Lawrence Bishnoi-led

Men posing as govt officials stop cash van; rob ₹7cr PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 19: Unidentified men allegedly posing as Income Tax officials intercepted a ATM cash van here and fled with about Rs 7 crore Wednesday, in what is said to be a first of its kind daylight robbery in recent time, police said.

The incident occurred near Ashoka Pillar when the vehicle was transporting cash from a bank branch in JP Nagar.

Preliminary investigation revealed that a group of men arrived in a car carrying a Government of India sticker and stopped the cash vehicle, claiming that they wanted to verify documents.

The suspects then forced the van's staff into their car along with cash. They allegedly drove towards Dairy Circle where they dropped the staff and sped away with the cash which is estimated to be about Rs seven crores, they said.

Over 50 CCTV camera footag es are being examined to trace the route taken by the vehicle and identify those involved.

State Home Minister G Parameshwara assured that the culprits will be nabbed at the earliest. Speaking to media. Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh said the incident occurred this afternoon under the Siddapura police station limits.

'There is nakabandi in the entire city, we are making our efforts. We have formed various teams, our teams have spread out across the city. Our teams are physically on the ground. as well as in the control room under various technical wings. We will try to detect the case at the earliest. Two DCPs and a Joint Commissioners are working on the case.'

Nitish to take oath as Bihar CM today



Patna. Nov 19: JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar is set to be sworn-in as Bihar chief minister for a record 10th time Thursday, days after the NDA secured a landslide victory in the Assembly elections.

Preparations for the swearing-in ceremony at Patna's historic Gandhi Maidan are in the final stages, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and several top NDA leaders expected to attend. Apart from the main stage,

several pandals have also been erected to accommodate VIPs. Elaborate security arrange-

ments have been put in place, and over three lakh people are anticipated at the event, a senior BJP leader said. Kumar submitted his resignation as the outgoing CM to Governor Arif Mohammad Khan Wednesday.

He was accompanied by Union minister Chirag Paswan, RLM chief Upendra Kushwaha and Uttar Pradesh Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya. State BJP chief Dilip Jaiswal told reporters that the governor accepted his resignation and asked him to continue as caretaker CM till a new government

Kumar was elected leader of the NDA legislature party following meetings of newly elected MLAs, where senior leader Samrat Choudhary was chosen as the BJP legislature party leader and Vijay Kumar Sinha as the deputy leader.

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Mau rya, who was appointed as the central observer for the election of the legislature party leader in Bihar by the BJP, was present at the meeting.

Besides, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and former Union Minister Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti, who were made co-observers for the election process of the legislature party leader, were also present.

Meanwhile, lobbying among NDA allies to finalise cabinet berths continued throughout the day.

The new Bihar Cabinet is expected to include 16 ministers from the BJP and 14 from JD(U), including the party chief.

Sources said consensus has been reached among NDA partners to appoint BJP's Prem Kumar as the Assembly Speaker. The Deputy Speaker's post is likely to go to JD(U).

নিয়েগে প্রক্রিয়া, ভয়মুক্ত শিক্ষাঙ্গন গডাসহ MBLY MARCH

Members of Students Islamic Organisation of India take part in a protest march towards the West Bengal Assembly demanding restoration of the OBC reservation policy among other issues, in Kolkata, West Bengal РТІ РНОТО

SNIPPETS

Gurugram realty fraud: ED: Raids conducted at high-security Kot arrests Lalu's family 'aide':

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate Wednesday said it has arrested Amit Katyal, a real estate husinessman considered close to RJD chief Lalu Prasad's family, in a money laundering case linked to alleged cheating of homebuyers in Gurugram. Katyal was taken into custody by the Gurugram zonal office of the agency on Monday under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), Later, a special court in Gurugram sent him to six-day ED custody. Katyal was arrested by the ED in 2023 too in a separate money laundering case related to the railways' alleged land-for-jobs scam involving Lalu Prasad, his wife Rabri Devi, and other family members. He later obtained bail in the said case.

Bhalwal jail in Jammu, district jail in Poonch Jammu: The Counter-Intelligence Unit of the Jammu and

Kashmir Police Wednesday conducted searches in the high-security Kot Bhalwal iail in Jammu and the district iail in the border district of Poonch, officials said. A raid was conducted at the central iail Kot Bhalwal, which houses hardcore Pakistani and local terrorists, besides notorious criminals, in the morning, followed by a search operation at the Poonch iail later in the afternoon, they said. Officials said the iail authorities extended full cooperation during the searches, which were conducted as part of an operation to look for terror networks reportedly being operated from inside the prisons. The operation comes in the backdrop of a major crackdown in the Kashmir valley following the recent unearthing of a "white-collar" terror network run by a group of doctors and the subsequent blast in a car in Delhi's Red Fort area.

UP STF arrests Noida man posing as RAW, Army officer

Noida: A 37-year-old man has been arrested by the Noida unit of the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF) for allegedly posing as an officer of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), Army Major and Colonel, officials said Wednesday. The accused, Suneet Kumar, was held Tuesday evening, and multiple fake identity documents, including a forged RAW officer and Army ID carrying his photograph, were recovered from him, they said. Additional Superintendent of Police (STF Noida) Raj Kumar Mishra told PTI that Kumar, originally from Ajoi village in Vaishali district of Bihar, was currently living in Paramount Golf Forest under the Surajpur police station area of Greater Noida.

SC urges Hindu women to make wills to avoid disputes

New Delhi, Nov 19: The Supreme Court Wednesday made an appeal to all women without sons, daughters or husbands to make a will to avoid potential litigation disputes between their parents and in-Referring to the Hindu Suc-

cession Act, 1956, the top court said Parliament at that time may have assumed that women would not have self-acquired property, but the progress of women in these decades cannot be underestimated.

"Education, employment and entrepreneurship of women in this country including Hindu women has led to their acquiring self-acquired property."

"If such self-acquired properties are to be succeeded only by the heirs of the husband if a female Hindu dies intestate in the absence of having sons. daughters and husband, pos-

sibly it may cause heartburn

so far as the maternal family is concerned. We do not make any observation in this regard also," the apex court said.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan suggested while disposing of a PIL filed by a woman advocate challenging Section 15(1)(b) of the Hindu Succession Act,

According to Section 15(1)(b) of the Act, when a Hindu woman dies intestate, her property devolves to her husband's heirs first before her own parents. The plea filed by advocate

Snidha Mehra argued that the provision was arbitrary and violative of Articles 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution and needs to be struck down. She argued that if a female

Hindu dies intestate, in the absence of sons, daughters and husband.

husband, her properties would devolve only on the heirs of the "We appeal to all women



women in this country in gen eral but female Hindus in parage who are likely to be in poticular so as to avoid any fursition of Section 15(1) of the ther litigation in this regard," Hindu Succession Act, 1956 to the bench said. Additional Solicitor General take immediate steps to make a testament or will bequeath-K M Nataraj, appearing for the ing their properties including Centre, opposed the PIL saying their self-acquired properties these are questions which have

petitioner. Nataraj said the provision Indian Succession Act. "We say so in order to safedates back to 1956 and Par-

APEX COURT TO EXAMINE VALIDITY OF TALAQ PRACTICES

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Wednesday agreed to hear a batch of pleas challenging certain forms of talaq prevalent among Muslims, which are allegedly discriminatory towards wives. After having heard arguments from two petitioners, a bench led by Justice Surya Kant listed the matter to be heard November 26, Wednesday. The Court was hearing arguments in the case of journalist Benazeer Heena, who is one among a batch of petitioners. Benazeer has alleged that her husband attempted to divorce her through a talagnama sent by his lawyer, without pronouncing talag himself.

guard the interest of not only liament would not have contemplated the situation that a female Hindu would have self-acquired property The top court also directed

that if a Hindu woman dies without a will and her parents or their heirs claim her property, the parties must first go through pre-litigation mediation before filing any case in court. Any settlement reached in mediation must be treated as a decree of the court, the

FIR against Bengal Guv

TMC MP files counter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 19: The face-off between TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee and West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose intensified further Wednesday after the politician lodged a counter-complaint against the state's Constitutional head at the Hare Street Police Station within 24 hours of the latter having filed an FIR against the former at the same PS.

Seeking to provide information under section 173 (1) of the BNSS. Baneriee, in his complaint, which he filed through his lawyers, sought police action against the governor under multiple sections of the BNS The politician's move came a day after Bose, in his FIR, slapped him with several sections of the BNS including those pertaining to crime to assault or wrongfully re strain the President or a state gov ernor with the intent to compe them from exercising their lawful powers, acts that endanger India's sovereignty, unity, and integrity.

and particularly all Hindu

in accordance with section 30

of the Hindu Succession Act

read with the provisions of the

to be raised by affected parties

and cannot be assailed by the

bench said.

international



most powerful

people in the

the president

of the United

States, in order

to make this vote

added Greene, a

Georgia Republican and

even

today,'

world,

happen

The bill's passage would be a

pivotal moment in a yearslong

push by the survivors for ac-

countability for Epstein's abuse

and reckoning over how law

enforcement officials failed to

act under multiple presidential

A separate investigation

conducted by the House Over-

sight Committee has released

thousands of pages of emails

and other documents from

Epstein's estate, showing his

connections to global leaders,

Wall Street powerbrokers, in-

fluential political figures and

Trump himself. In the United

administrations.

longtime Trump loyalist.

I have told Trump on every occasion that we can collaborate. that they can help us with information they have, but that we operate in our territory, that we do not accept any United States military intervention in

LOUVRE ADDS 100 CAMERAS

France's Louvre Museum will install 100 external cameras by the end of 2026 as part of measures to tighten security after last month's spectacular heist, its director said Wednesday





with, Putin. I'm a little surprised at longer than I thought, but we stopped India and Pakistan. Wish I could go through the list. You know

the list better than I do DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

The Lithuanian government decided Wednesday to reopen the country's two border crossings



this: 'We see you. you're doing'. And if the Yantar travels south this week, we are ready OHN HEALEY DEFENCE SECRETARY, UK



Poland to shut last Russian consulate

Warsaw: Poland's foreign minister said Wednesday that he will order the closure of the last Russian consulate still operating in the country after authorities said two Ukrainian citizens working for Moscow are suspected of blowing up a railway line in Poland Radek Sikorski said he had repeatedly warned Russia that its diplomatic and consular presence would be reduced further if it didn't cease hostile actions against Poland, Polish news agency PAP reported.

Pregnant Indian techie, unborn baby killed

Melbourne: An Indian-origin techie who was eight months pregnant has died along with her unborn baby after she was hit by a car in Australia's Sydney city. Samanvitha Dhareshwar, 33, was walking with her husband and their three-year-old son along George St in Hornsby shortly after 8 pm local time Friday last week when a Kia car slowed at the entrance of a carpark to let the family pass. Moments later, the Kia was rear-ended by a BMW, causing it to surge forward and hit the woman, according to a report by 7news.com, quoting police. She was rushed to Westmead Hospital in a critical and unstable condition, where she and her unborn baby died a short time later, police said.

Nigeria's president postpones G20 trip

Sokoto(Nigeria): Nigeria's president postponed his trip to this weekend's Group of 20 summit after promising to intensify efforts to rescue 24 schoolairls who were abducted by gunmen earlier this week in a northwestern region of the country. Civil society leaders have accused security forces of inaction. President Bola Tinubu had been set to leave for South Africa Wednesday, days before the summit of the world's leading rich and developing nations was due to begin.

India opens 2 new consulates in Russia

Moscow: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Wednesday inaugurated two new Indian consulates in Russia, saying their establishment will act as a "catalyst" in increasing bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030. Expanding its diplomatic footprint in Russia, India opened the new Consulates General in the major regional capitals of Yekaterinburg and Kazan. Till now, Indian consulates were in St Petersburg and Vladivostok, according to the website of the Indian Embassy in Russia.

Epstein file awaits Trump's nod B'desh HC orders pause on Adani's S'pore arbitration

Congress passes bill to force release Epstein files, sending bill to Trump

Washington, Nov 19: Both the House and Senate acted decisively Tuesday to pass a bill to force the Justice Department to publicly release its files on the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, a remarkable display of approval for an effort that had struggled for months to overcome opposition from President Donald Trump and Republican leadership.

When a small, bipartisan group of House lawmakers introduced a petition in July to maneuver around House Speaker Mike Johnson's control of which bills reach the House floor, it appeared a longshot - especially as Trump urged his supporters to dismiss the matter as a "hoax."

But both Trump and Johnson failed in their efforts to prevent the vote. Now the president has tum behind the bill and even said he will sign it. Just hours after the House passed the bill, the Senate agreed to pass the bill with unanimous consent once it is sent to the Senate.

The bill passed the House 427-1, with the only no vote coming from Rep. Clay Higgins, a Louisiana Republican who is a fervent supporter of Trump. He said in a statement that he opposed the bill because it could release information on innocent people mentioned in



Congress defy Trump

White House aides were

hoping to amend the

bill in the Senate

Trump will sign bill as soon as it arrives the federal investigation.

In rare display, Republicans in The decisive, bipartisan work Congress Tuesday further showed the pressure mounting on lawmakers and the

Trump administration to meet long-held demands that the Justice Department release its case files on Epstein, a well-connected financier who killed himself in a Manhattan jail while awaiting trial in 2019 on charges he sexually abused and trafficked underage girls.

"These women have fought the most horrific fight that no woman should have to fight. And they did it by banding together and never giving up,' said Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene as she stood with some of the abuse survivors outside the Capitol Tuesday morning.

"That's what we did by fighting so hard against the **Larry Summers resigns** from OpenAI board ormer US Treasury Secretary Larry

 Summers has resigned from the OpenAI board, he said Wednesday, several days after Congress released shared a close relationship with the Epstein, Summers, also a former Monday he would step back from all move was to allow him "to rebuild trus ple closest to me." Summers has been Committee released documents detailing an ongoing correspond ence between Summers and Epstein Harvard University, where Summers is still a professor, will open a new probe into Summers' connections with Epstein, the university's newspaper reported Tuesday. "Larry has decided to resign from the OpenAI Board of Directors, and we respect his decision We appreciate his many contributions and the perspective he brought to the Board," OpenAI's board of directors

Kingdom, King Charles III stripped his disgraced brother Prince Andrew of his remaining titles and evicted him from his royal residence after pressure to act over his relationship with Epstein.

The bill forces the release within 30 days of all files and communications related to Epstein, as well as any information about the investigation into his death in federal prison. It would allow the Justice Department to redact information about Epstein's victims or continuing federal investigations, but not information due to "embarrassment, reputational harm, or political sensitivity.

Dhaka, Nov 19: Bangladesh's High Court Thursday ordered India's Adani Group not to proceed with its planned international arbitration in Singapore over the payment dispute with state-run Power Development Board (BPDB) until an investigation into its power supply deal is completed.

The court officials said a twojudge High Court bench issued the order that the arbitration must remain suspended until a committee it appointed to scrutinise the power purchase agreement and investigate potential irregularities submits the findings.

The order came in sequence of a lawyer's petition, seeking the High Court's intervention for review of scrapping BPDB's agreement with Adani, calling it a "one-sided" deal signed during deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's regime.

The petition said Adani's power price is much higher than other regional sources, as electricity from Indian stateowned companies costs 5.5 taka per unit against 8.5 taka per unit by other Indian private companies, and from Nepal, it is 8 taka per unit, while power from Adani costs over 14 taka

ever, came as the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and Adani are still in negotiations over payment dis agreements.

Bangladesh's interim government of Professor Muhammad Yunus, earlier, however, accused Adani of breaching the power purchase agreement by withholding tax benefits that the Godda plant got from India.

Bangladesh paid Adani a tariff of 14.87 taka (\$0.122) per unit during the fiscal year to June 30, 2024, an amount higher than the average of 9.57 taka per unit for power supplied by other Indian companies.

Adani Power, earlier this month, said it has opted for an international arbitration pro cess to resolve disputes over Bangladesh's power supply payments, as it is at loggerheads with BPDB over pending payments for the electricity it supplies as part of the contract signed in 2017.

'There are disagreements in the way certain cost elements are calculated and billed. Hence, both partners have agreed to invoke the dispute resolution process and are confident of a quick, smooth and mutually beneficial resolution," an Adani Group spokesperson said in a statement at that time.

CLASH BETWEEN GEN Z YOUTHS, CPN-UML CADRES

Curfew imposed in Nepal's Bara district



Kathmandu, Nov 19: A curfew was imposed in parts of Nepal's Bara district bordering India Wednesday after Gen Z youths clashed with cadres of CPN-UML, the party of ousted prime minister KP Sharma Oli. officials said.

The Bara district administration office said the curfew would remain in force from 12:30 pm to 8:00 pm within a 500-metre radius of Simara Airport after hundreds of Gen Z youths gathered there shouting slogans against the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist).

The clash erupted when a Buddha Air flight carrying CPN-UML general secretary Shankar Pokharel and party youth leader Mahesh Basnet was to take off from Kathmandu for Simara, where they were scheduled to

address an anti-government rally, police said.

As news of the CPN-UML leaders flying to Simara spread, Gen Z protesters gathered at the airport to oppose their arrival, triggering a clash with local CPN-UML cadres. Authorities subsequently imposed the curfew around the airport area to bring the situation under control. Following the incident, Buddha Airlines cancelled all its domestic flights from Kathmandu to Simara for the day, including the one carrying the two CPN-UML leaders, who returned home after the disruption.

The CPN-UML has been organising protest programmes across Nepal demanding reinstatement of the House of Representatives, which dissolved on September 12 following the Gen Z movement that toppled the Oli-led government.

Gen Z activists have also sought action over the alleged mass killing of protesters September 9 during demonstrations against corruption and a proposed social media ban under the then Oli administration.

Saudi crown prince heads to a friendlier US Congress

Washington, Nov 19: Lawmakers are set to meet with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the US Capitol Wednesday on the second day of a visit to the United States that has aimed to tout stronger-than-ever economic and security ties with Washington while brushing off scrutiny of his human rights record.

President Donald Trump gave bin Salman a lavish welcome at the White House Tuesday and defended him over the 2018 killing of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents, which US intelligence agencies have concluded the crown prince approved.

A handful of Republican members of Congress, including House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jim Risch and House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Brian Mast attended



awmakers, including Rubio, previously denounced Mohammed bin Salman

Crown prince due to meet members of Congress on Wednesday morning

Bin Salman also attending investment conference

a black-tie dinner at the White House for bin Salman Tuesday. according to a White House official. Bin Salman was considered an outcast by Washington in the aftermath of the Khashoggi killing, but his rehabilitation was

rubber-stamped this week. In one example of this, Sec-

retary of State Marco Rubio. who as a US senator in 2019 denounced the crown prince as a "gangster", sat a few steps away during Tuesday's Oval Office meeting. Trump repeatedly said it was "an honor" to be friends with the Saudi leader.

This was in sharp contrast to Washington's view of the Saudi leader during Trump's first term, as members of Congress became angry with Riyadh's role in the civil war in Yemen and its human rights record, fueled by Khashoggi's murder at a Saudi consulate in Turkey.

"He is reckless, he's ruthless, he has a penchant for escalation, for taking high risks, confrontational in his foreign policy approach and I think increasingly willing to test the limits of what he can get away with the United States." Rubio said at the time. There were multiple and persistent calls from members of Congress for accountability.

Semeru erupts ASSOCIATED PRESS Jakarta(Indonesia), Nov 19:

Indonesia's Mount

Indonesia's Mount Semeru, the highest peak on Java island. erupted Wednesday, blanketing several villages with fall ing ash, prompting evacuations and leading authorities to raise the alert to the highest level.

Mount Semeru in East Java province unleashed searing clouds of hot ash and a mixture of rock, lava and gas that travelled up to 7 kilometres down its slopes several times from midday to dusk, while a thick column of hot clouds rose 2 kilometres into the air, Indo nesia's Geology Agency said in a statement. The eruptions that unfolded throughout the day forced authorities to raise the volcano's alert level twice from the third-highest level to the highest, the agency said. No casualties have been reported

More than 300 residents in the three villages most at risk in the district of Lumajang were evacuated to government shelters, said National Disaster Mitigation Agency's spokesperson Abdul Muhari.

India among 7 nations to add over 500mn city residents by 2050

The report said that the growth of the world's city population between now and 2050 will be concentrated in seven countries: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Bangladesh and Ethiopia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Nov 19: India, along with six other countries, "will shape the future growth of the city population" of the world as they are expected to add more than 500 million city residents between 2025 and 2050, the UN said. The 'World Urbanisation

Prospects 2025: Summary of Results', released by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), said that the world is becoming increasingly urban, with cities now home to 45 per cent of the global population of 8.2 billion.

The report said that the growth of the world's city population between now and 2050 will be concentrated in seven countries: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Bangladesh

and Ethiopia. These seven countries,

which host nearly one third (30 per cent) of the global population in 2025, "will shape the future growth of the city population" and are projected to contribute over half of the global growth of city dwellers

Taken together, these seven countries are expected to add more than 500 million city residents between 2025 and 2050, accounting for over half of the projected 986 million increase in the global number of city dwellers over that period.

"The success or failure of urbanisation in these key countries will shape global development outcomes. Their ability to manage city growth sustainably will have profound implications not only for their populations but also for global progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals and climate objectives," the report said.

The report said that the two most populous countries, India



and China, will also have the However, both countries largest populations residing in towns between now and 2050. As of 2025, the proportion of people living in towns has reached 44 per cent in Inmillion in India in 2025). dia and 40 per cent in China. Together, India and China account for more than 1.2 billion

town population, representing

over 40 per cent of the popula-

tion living in towns globally.

also have substantial city populations, with a combined population of nearly 1.2 billion (627 million in China and 589

Between 1950 and 1975, both countries experienced rapid growth in their city populations, but this pace slowed between 1975 and 2000 and in subsequent years, largely

The 'World Urbanisation Prospects 2025: Summary of Results', released by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), said that the world is becoming increasingly urban, with cities now home to 45 per cent of the global population of 8.2 billion

due to declining fertility rates and slower overall population growth.

Despite this deceleration, city population growth has outpaced town population growth, resulting in a decrease in the share of people living in towns. Each country still has more than 200 million people residing in rural areas, a figure that is expected to remain relatively stable through 2050,

The report said that the number of megacities quadrupled from eight in 1975 to 33

it said.

in 2025, with 19 in Asia. Projections indicate that there will be 37 megacities globally by 2050, as the populations of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Dar es Salaam (United Republic of Tanzania), Hajipur (India) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) grow to over 10 million.

Among the 33 megacities with 10 million inhabitants or more in 2025, 19 are in Asia. India alone has five megacities, and China has four.

Worldwide, more than 3,000 cities experienced population decline between 2015 and 2025.

business



Indian husinesses are demonstrating remarkable agility in the face of digital disruption. talent adaptability and geopolitical shifts RISHI MEHRA | CEO, AON

JIO UPS AI APPEAL WITH GEMINI 3

Jio has spruced up its AI offering to now include Google's latest Gemini 3 model as part of Jio Gemini Pro Plan, making it available free for 18 months for the telco's users having unlimited 5G data plan. The Gemini Pro Plan (valued at ₹35,100) will be free for 18 months to every eligible Jio Unlimited 5G customer, expanding beyond the previous youthonly offer, according to the company





Trade Intel-Analytics portal will open up new insights for importers, export ers, startups, and MSMEs of the country



PIYUSH GOYAL COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

We expect the decline in textile and apparel exports to continue and wors en to 15-20 per cent in Novembe and December



ration with Indian Railways marks a transfor mative milestone in building India's next-generation, end-to-end logistics ecosystem...that

combines the scale and sustainability of rail with intelligent first- and last-mile mobility solutions

PAVAN CHAVALI | CEO, ROQIT

SHORT **TAKES**

Adani wins lenders' nod for JAL takeover

New Delhi: Adani group has won majority lenders' vote for takeover of debtladen Jaiprakash Associates (JAL) as its ₹14,535-crore acquisition proposal included a higher upfront payment than rival bidders, sources said. A Committee of Creditors voted on resolution plans (acquisition proposals) submitted by suitors including Adani Group, Vedanta Ltd and Dalmia Cement (Bharat). Adani got the maximum 89 per cent votes from creditors, followed by Dalmia Cement (Bharat) and Vedanta Group, they added. The National **Asset Reconstruction** Company Ltd (NARCL) had the biggest say in the process as it controls about 86 per cent of the Committee of Creditors' (CoC) voting share. A small group of lenders, including State Bank of India and ICICI Bank - who together account for less than 3 per cent of CoC's votes abstained from voting.

Oil India ropes in **France's TotalEnergies**

New Delhi: Oil India Ltd, the nation's second biggest state-owned explorer, has roped in French energy giant TotalEnergies to provide technical assistance in finding oil and natural gas reserves in deep and ultra-deepwater areas. "OIL and TotalEnergies inked a technology service agreement on November 19, 2025 in New Delhi to strengthen strategic collaboration for exploration activities in deep and ultra-deepwater offshore frontiers of Indian sedimentary Basins, including the stratigraphic wells as mandated by the government of India. OIL said in a statement Wednesday.

Bajaj Auto acquires majority stake in KTM

New Delhi: Bajaj Auto Ltd Wednesday announced the completion of acquisition of a majority stake in Austrian bike maker KTM following receipt of necessary approvals from European regulators for its 800-million euro transaction. The company has also changed the name of Pierer Bajaj AG (PBAG) to Bajaj Auto International Holdings AG and PIERER Mobility AG (PMAG) -- the holding company of KTM AG, the shares of which are listed on SIX Swiss Exchange in Zurich and Vienna Stock Exchange -- to Bajaj Mobility AG, Bajaj Auto said in a

regulatory filing.

Sensex reclaims 85K after 14 months

Stock markets rebound on buying in IT, banking shares

BSE SENSEX NOVEMBER 19, 2025



HCL TECH	+4.32 %	TOP GAINERS
INFOSYS	+3.74 %	
TCS	+1.99 %	
HINDUSTAN UNILEVER	+1.54 %	
SUN PHARMA	+1.39 %	

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 19: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty bounced back sharply Wednesday, driven by a rally in IT and financial shares and sustained buying by domestic institutional investors amid growing hopes for an India-US trade deal.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 513.45 points, or 0.61 per cent, to settle at 85,186.47. During the day, the benchmark surged 563.75 points, or 0.66 per cent, to 85,236.77. It closed above the 85,000 mark for the first time in nearly 14 months.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 142.60 points, or 0.55 per cent, to close near the day's high at 26,052.65. The index hit a high of 26,074.65 in the day trade.

From the Sensex pack, HCL Tech, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Hindustan Unilever, Sun Pharma and Titan were among the biggest gainers. In contrast, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Maruti, Adani Ports and Bajaj Finance were among the laggards.

-0.83 %

-0.67 %

Meanwhile, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal Tuesday said "you will hear good news" on the proposed trade pact between India and the US once the deal is fair, equitable and balanced.

Equity benchmarks rebounded on Wednesday after Tuesday's pause, supported largely by strong buying in IT stocks, Gaurav Garg, Research Analyst, Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹728.82 crore Tuesday. However, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth ₹6,156.83 crore, according to exchange data.

FINANCIAL WOES MOUNT

Air India seeks China route

New Delhi, Nov 19: Air India is lobbying the Indian government to convince China to let it use a sensitive military airspace zone in Xinjiang to shorten routes as the financial toll from a ban on Indian carriers flying over Pakistan mounts, a company document shows.

The unusual request comes just weeks after direct India-China flights resumed after a five-year hiatus following a Himalayan border clash between the nations.

Air India has been seeking to rebuild its reputation and international network after a London-bound Boeing 787 Dreamliner crashed in Gujarat in June, killing 260 people and forcing it to briefly cut flights for safety checks.

But that effort is being complicated by the closure of Pakistan airspace to Indian carriers since their diplomatic tensions erupted in late April.

For Air India, the country's only carrier with a major international network, fuel costs have risen by as much as 29% and journey times by up to three hours on some long-haul routes, according to the previously unreported document submitted to Indian officials in late October and reviewed by Reuters.

The Indian government is reviewing Air India's plea to diplomatically ask China to allow an alternative routing and emergency access to airports in case of diversions at Hotan, Kashgar and Urumqi in



lobbies to use airspace over

Air India battles many fiscal

Xinjiang, aiming to reach US. Canada and Europe faster, the document said.

"Air India's long-haul network is under severe operational and financial strain ... Securing Hotan route will be a strategic option," it added.

The airline, owned by Tata Group and Singapore Airlines, estimated the Pakistan airspace closure's impact on its profit before tax at \$455 million annual ly - a significant amount given its fiscal 2024-25 loss stood at \$439 million.

The Chinese foreign ministry said it was not aware of the situation and referred Reuters to the "relevant authorities".

Air India and civil aviation authorities in India, China and Pakistan did not respond to Reuters' queries.

CASH FLOW BURDEN DEEPENS FINANCE WOES

With no signs of airspace ban easing, Air India also wants "temporary subsidy till Pakistan airspace opens", the document said.

resumed after five-year hiatus Air India, which has placed \$70 billion of aircraft orders, is seeking help resolving legacy

India-China flights

India's government indemnified the airline against claims payable before selling it to Tata in 2022, but several notices have been received related to old tax liabilities of \$725 million, raising legal and reputation risks, the document said.

tax issues.

A confidential government notice from March, seen by Reuters, showed tax authorities warned of "coercive steps" - which can include freezing of assets - to recover dues of \$58 million in one case.

Contesting such tax demands has led to "additional cashflow burden ... despite assurances during disinvestment", the airline said.

The Chinese airspace Air India is seeking to access is ringed by some of the world's highest mountains of 20,000 ft (6,100 m) or more, and is avoided by international airlines due to potential safety risks in case of a decompression incident.

Govt turns up heat on ageing motors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 19: Months after the government increased renewal charges for older vehicles, the transport ministry has raised the fitness test fee for all motor vehicles older than 20 vears to discourage people from keeping them.

The Ministry of Road Trans port & Highways (MoRTH), in a latest notification issued November 11, said the higher fee slabs now begin at 10 years for commercial vehicles, instead of 15 years, bringing more vehicles under the updated cost brackets. It has created three clear age groups for fitness testing: 10-15 vears, 15-20 years and above 20 years. According to the notifica tion, the fitness test fee for light motor vehicles (LMVs) older than 20 years has been increased to ₹15,000 from ₹10,000

The notification has made steep revisions to the fitness test fee for heavy trucks and buses older than 20 years. They will now have to pay ₹25,000 for the fitness test, from ₹3,500 earlier Medium commercial vehicles in the same age group will now have to pay ₹20,000, and the fit ness test of light motor vehicles above 20 years will cost ₹15,000 The fitness test fee for two-wheel ers above 20 years has also been increased to ₹2,000 from ₹600 ear lier. The transport ministry, in its earlier notification in August this year, increased renewal charges for older vehicles.

In August, the Supreme Court ordered authorities not to take coercive action against the owners of diesel vehicles that are more than 10 years old and pet rol vehicles older than 15 years in the Delhi-NCR.

CREDAI Bhubaneswar Chapter inducts new leadership team



Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) Bhubaneswar Chapter marked a significant milestone with the formal induction of its newly elected office bearers for the upcoming term at a grand ceremony held in city Hotel Convention. Bhubaneswar recently.

During the ceremony, Sheikh Mairajul Haque was formally sworn in as the new President of CREDAI Bhubaneswar. The dynamic new team pledged to work towards ethical, transparent and sustainable development in Odisha's real estate sector.

The newly elected leadership team comprises Shashi Sekhar Garabadu as Chairman, Sheikh Mairajul Haque as President, and Vice Presidents Sarat Kumar Sahoo

and Manoj Kumar Sahoo. Kalinga Keshari Rath serves as Secretary, while Saubhagya Sundar Raut and Naval Mahajan take on the roles of Joint Secretaries. Manmohan Agrawalla has been appointed as Treasurer.

The Management Committee Members included Abhay Kumar Panda, Aditya Dash, Manas Kumar Behera, Ashwini Kumar Padhi, A Mohan Rao, Ronak Dugar, Debasis Das, and Pradeep Kumar Das.

Addressing the gathering, Suresh Pujari, Minister, Revenue & Disaster Management. Government of Odisha, stated "When this government came into office, several issues were pending. The government is committed to resolving all such challenges. From December onwards, problems related to apartments and land registration will be re-

On the occasion, Excise, Law and Works Minister Prithivirai Harichandan highlighted the government's development roadmap.

"After our government assumed office, rapid holistic development has begun. Plans include three new ring roads within Bhubaneswar and another peripheral ring road outside the city. These roads will accelerate urban development. Over the next 3–4 years, we plan to create commercial infrastructure of 10 million square meters to boost the IT sector. Additionally, the proposed 20 major roads will make the city

congestion-free," he added. The oath to the new team was administered by Madhu Mohanty, Founder Vice President, CREDAI National, in the presence of Mohammed Moquim, Founder Member, CREDAI Odisha along with senior leaders and dignitaries. Newly elected President Sheikh Mairajul Haque shared his vision and roadmap focusing on government collaboration, strict RERA compliance, and the promotion of affordable and sustainable housing. CREDAI Bhubaneswar is the apex representative body of organised real estate developers in the region and an active chapter of CREDAI Odisha and CREDAI National.

BANKS BUZZ

UCO celebrates Resources, MSME & Agriculture Carnival



Bhubaneswar: UCO Bank, Zonal Office Bhubaneswar celebrated its Resources, MSME & Agriculture Carnival at Hotel Excellency, Bhubaneswar. The event was attended by MSME, Agriculture, Resources customers, Self Help Group Members and Bank Mitras. The occasion was graced by Goutam Patra, Chief General Manager, Business Development & Convenor SLBC, Odisha, Shri Prasenjit Roy, DGM, Agriculture & Rural Business Department, UCO Bank, Head Office, Kolkata. Bhagwat Singh Bhakuni, Deputy General Manager & Zonal Head Bhubaneswar welcomed all the dignitaries and guests at the event. Bhakuni emphasised that SHGs can be developed into social enterprises, cooperatives,

and brands of local products. Bhakuni shared the performance highlights of the Bhubaneshwar zone for the first half of the current financial year. Patra addressed all the participants and highlighted the bank's commitment for upliftment of citizens particularly for women MSME entrepreneurs, financing SHGs to boost confidence, decision-making, and social standing. The carnival also showcased success stories from UCO Bank's MSMEs and SHGs, highlighting the transformative impact of accessible finance and capacity-building programs. During the event, Ramachandra Dash, AGM & Resources Head elaborated about the bank's latest offerings - Special attention was given to the bank's exclusive Pink Basket for women customers, featuring UCO Aparajita, UCO Jayalaxmi, and UCO Sanchayika.

Union Bank holds Financial Inclusion Saturation Drive

Bhubaneswar: Union Bank of India, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, organised a Financial Inclusion Saturation Drive at Khajuria branch. The primary objective of the programme was to connect the marginalised sections of society to formal banking services, increase financial awareness and promote digital payment solutions. The chief guests at the program were GK Sudhakar Rao, Chief General Manager, Central Office, Mumbai; Hare Krishna Das, Zonal Head, Bhubaneswar Zone and Niranjan Barik, Regional Head, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar Self-help groups (SHGs), Bank Mitras (BCs) including 400 participants attended the programme. Experts



provided detailed information on Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Social security schemes, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Pension Yojna, PM SVANidhi Yojana and about Re-KYC of accounts. Attendees from both rural and urban areas appreciated the initiative and called it a significant step towards economic empowerment. Union Bank of India is continuously committed to promoting financial inclusion. The bank's goal is to provide every citizen with access to safe, accessible and transparent banking services.

Delhi's Khan Market India's most expensive retail location

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 19: Khan Market in New Delhi ranks 24th globally, maintaining its position as India's most expensive retail location with rents at \$223 per square foot (psf) per year -- up 3 per cent yearon-year, according to a report Wednesday.

While its global ranking slipped slightly from 23rd to 24th, Khan Market remains India's most expensive high street, reflecting resilience and enduring appeal amid a competitive global landscape, said Cushman & Wakefield's 35th edition of its retail report, 'Main Streets Across the

World.

While its global ranking slipped slightly from 23rd to 24th, Khan Market remains India's most expensive high street

London's New Bond Street has been crowned the orld's most expensive retail destination for the first time

Notably, India's retail sector has outperformed both the global and APAC averages, registering a 6 per cent rental growth (on-year). London's New Bond Street

has been crowned the world's most expensive retail destination for the first time, where rents have risen by 22 per cent in the past year to \$2,231 per

the global rankings, and New square foot per year. New Bond Street has leap-York's iconic Upper Fifth Avefrogged Milan's Via Montenue (\$2,000 psf/year).

napoleone (\$2,179 psf/year), "India's high streets are demonstrating exceptional which last year became the resilience and growing global

prominence. Premium destinations like Khan Market, Connaught Place, and Galleria Market are attracting international and domestic brands, driven by rising affluence and evolving consumer preferences," said Gautam Saraf, Executive Managing Director, Mumbai and New Business, Cushman & Wakefield.

With limited mall supply, these high streets have become

strategic hubs for retailers seeking visibility and engagement. "Year-to-date, high streets have accounted for over half of retail leasing activity, underscoring their critical role

in shaping India's retail evo-

lution. This transformation

reflects a broader trend of pre-

retail, positioning India as one of Asia Pacific's most dynamic markets," Saraf added. India's Tier 1 cities led the

miumisation and experiential

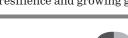
rental growth in APAC region, with Gurgaon's Galleria Market recording a 25 per cent in crease, followed by Connaught Place in New Delhi (14 per cent) and Kemps Corner in Mumbai (10 per cent). This growth was driven

by limited supply and strong demand, underlining the enduring appeal of prime retail locations in India's key urban hubs and broader trend of pre miumisation. Across 16 tracked Indian locations, rental growth averaged 6 per cent year-onyear, the report mentioned.









SHORT **TAKES**

COIMBATORE: Known for

his ability to pull off last-

over miracles in T20s, the

swashbuckling Rinku Singh

Wednesday showed his wares

in the long-form game with a

career-best 176 to help Uttar

Pradesh secure the vital first-

The Group A clash ended in a

innings lead against Tamil Nadu

in their Ranji Trophy game here.

draw on the fourth and final day

with visiting UP receiving three

out in response to Tamil Nadu's

points after amassing 460 all

first-innings total of 455. The

home team got one point from

the game. That UP managed to

take a slender five-run lead was

largely due to Rinku's knock and

176: Rinku's career-best

The achievement feels less like an announcement and more like the crowning chapter of a career that changed tennis forever

DEAFLYMPICS 2025

ell, this will come as no surprise to anyone who's paid any attention over the past quarter-century: Roger Federer was elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, the Rhode Island-based Hall announced Wednesday.

The first man to win 20 Grand Slam singles titles, and part of an era of unprecedented greatness with rivals Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic during what Federer termed "a golden time for tennis" he was the only candidate to receive enough support in the player category for the Hall's class of 2026. The Hall does not reveal voting results.

"I didn't predict I was going to have this many majors," Federer once said in an interview

Indian shooters continued

their fine run at the 25th

Deaflympics

Tokvo. Nov 19: Abhinav Desh-

wal and Pranjali Prashant

Dhumal clinched the gold med-

al in the 10m Air Pistol event,

while Kushagra Singh Rajawat

won bronze in the 50m Rifle

Prone competition as Indian

shooters continued their fine

run at the 25th Deaflympics here

The Indian shooters have

won a total of 11 medals so far

in the competition. Abhinav and

Pranjali notched up a dominat-

ing 16-6 win over Ya-Ju Kao and

Ming-Jui Hsu of Chinese Taipei

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wednesday.

to finish on top.

with The Associated Press. "I was hoping to maybe have one, to be quite honest, at the very beginning of my career.'

Federer's first Slam title came at the All England Club in 2003, and he broke Pete Sampras' then-record for a male of 14 major titles by winning Wimbledon in 2009, defeating Andy Roddick 16-14 in the fifth set of the final. Federer claimed his 20th at the 2018 Australian Open.

"I don't really feel like I'm playing for the records," Federer once told the AP. "I play this game because I love it.

His Grand Slam count eventually was surpassed by Nadal, who got to 22 before retiring last year at age 38, and Djokovic, who has 24 and is still active at 38. With a terrific forehand and serve, an attacking, all-court

ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER



I've always valued the history of tennis and the exam-

in this way by the sport and by my peers is deeply

ple set by those who came before me. To be recognized

US Open titles, six Australian Open shields and the 2009 Roland Garros. when he completed the Career His career highlights unprecedented

Roger is a proud owner of eight

Wimbledon trophies, five straight

237 consecutive world No 1 weeks, the longest streak since the start of the ATP rankings in 1973

The Swiss collected 20 Grand Slams, the first male player to reach the benchmark, and clinched 103 career

He is one of eight men with a

No 1 in the ATP rankings, spent a record 237 consecutive weeks and a total of 310 in the top spot, led Switzerland to the 2014 Davis Cup title and teamed with Stan Wawrinka for a doubles gold medal at the 2008 Olympics.

An ambassador for the game who often answered questions

in English, French and Swiss German at news conferences, Federer played his last match at Wimbledon in 2021. He was a month shy of 40 at the time.

His retirement announcement came the following year; he bid farewell by playing doubles alongside Nadal at the Laver Cup, an event Federer's management company founded.

Along the way, Federer established himself as a model for younger athletes such as Carlos Alcaraz, 22, the current No 1 who owns six Slam trophies.

"The elegance he has shown on court, off the court - how he treated people, everyone; a really humble guy - everything he does, he does with elegance, Alcaraz said. "I appreciate that. He took the game to another level ... that's what I admire the most." Djokovic has called those "results that didn't seem

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIDE WORLD CUP

Abhinav, Pranjali Heartbreak for India shoot down gold

tals eclipsed in the men's game

only by Jimmy Connors in the

Open era, which began in 1968.

Federer finished five years at

India's challenge ends as Arjun loses to Wei Yi in quarters

style and footwork that made

everything seem so effortless,

Federer won 103 tournaments

and 1,251 matches in singles, to-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, Nov 19: Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi was knocked out of the FIDE World Cup, losing to Wei Yi of China 1.5-2.5 in the first set of tiebreak games here Wednesday.

It was a shocker for Arjun who ran out of luck in the rapid tiebreak games wherein the Chinese put pressure in the first game before eventually drawing while in the second Arjun just lost control and will have to go back home.

Having drawn both the games under Classical chess, Arjun was black in the first game of rapid and employed the French defense. It did not turn out to be a great choice however as Arjun was soon on the backfoot losing a rook for a minor piece.

Wei Yi had huge advantage according to the computers but Ariun posed stiff resistance in the quest of the Chinese despite being low on material. Eventually Wei Yi fumbled in the ensuing endgame and Ariun drew.

In the second rapid game the Indian did not have much luck despite playing with white pieces. We Yei got a tangible position in the middle game and had his light squared Bishop firmly post-



Arjun's end of the road means that there can be only one Indian in the Candidates in R Praggnanandhaa who will likely make it to the premier event with his well-rounded performances throughout this year

ed on the sixth rank that eventually caused a lot of problems.

Ariun lost one pawn in the endgame and even though the complications remained, Wei Yi got the technicalities in his favour with some timely pawn advances. Arjun was finally checkmated.

Andrey Esipenko defeated Sam Shankland of United States 4-2 when the latter lost both the games in the second set of tiebreaker after trading a victory each in the first set.

In the other quarterfinal Javokhir Sindarov became the second Uzbek after Nodirbek Yakubboev defeating Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara 3.5-2.5. It finally boiled down to battle of nerves and Sindarov was clearly the superior player. In the semifinals now Esipen-

ko will take on Wei Yi while Yakubboev will meet Sindarov

Results quarterfinals:

Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb) beat Alexander Donchenko (Ger) 1.5-0.5; Arjun Erigaisi (Ind) lost to Wei Yi (Chn) 1.5-2.5; Andrey Esipenko (Fid) beat Sam Shankland (Usa) 4-2: Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb) beat Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara 3.5-2.5.

some useful contributions from the lower-order batters, including Shivam Mavi's 54. Rinku smashed 17 fours and six sixes during

his stay in the middle. He was batting on 98 at stumps on the third evening and faced a total of

247 balls across two days.



GREATER NOIDA: Reigning

World Champion Jaismine Lamboria (57kg) and twotime former World Champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg) led India's most dominant day yet at the World Boxing Cup Finals 2025, powering into the gold-medal bouts as the host nation confirmed a staggering 15 finalists for Thursday's title clashes-the highest of any country in this elite eight-only competition, being played at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex in Greater Noida Wednesday. With 15 Indians storming into the finals, India has also secured a remarkable sweep of 20 medals, ensuring every participating boxer finishes on the podium. Thursday's title bouts will carry a strong India-Uzbekistan flavour.

Odisha crush Nagaland



BHUBANESWAR: Odisha dominated their Ranji Trophy clash against Nagaland at the KIIT Cricket Stadium, winning convincingly by 299 runs. After posting 275 in the first innings, powered by Anil Parida's 118

2026 FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

In the second event of the day,

Ukraine's Dmytro Petrenko

won the gold by shooting 251.0,

breaking the Deaf World and

Olympic Records. Colin Muel-

ler of Germany won the silver

Abhinav and Pranjali main-

tained their commanding position

from the start of the gold medal

match and never gave their oppo-

nents any chance for a comeback.

The pair had earlier equalled their

own Deaf World and Olympic re-

of 569-20x with Abhinay firing

287-12x (97,95,95) and Pranjali

282-8x (95,94,93) to finish on top

in qualification. Both shooters

had also won silver medals in

the individual event Monday.

They shot a combined score

cord in qualification.

medal with a score of 245.4.

Kushagra won the bronze with

a final score of 224.3.

Curacao makes history



Curacao salvaged Jamaica to become by population to qualify for a World Cup and will be joined by CONCACAF sides Panama and Haiti which also booked their spots. Curação finished as the only

undefeated nation in

the tournament and finished atop of Group B with 12 points to advance to the World Cup for the first time in its history Tuesday. Curacao got the historic result it needed despite not having his coach Dick Advocaat on the bench Accord-

ing to the Central Bureau of Statistics in Curação, the country has a population of 156,115 persons as of last January. Iceland, with a population of just over 350,000 was the smallest country to reach the World Cup when it qualified for the tournament in Russia in 2018.

Spain's unbeaten streak



scored the equalizer in the 62nd minute and Spain drew 2-2 with Turkey at home to extend its unbeaten streak - which begar

in a match against Italy in the semifinals of the Nations League in 2023 - to 31 matches in Europe, according to UEFA and Spain's soccer federation. Italy's record came between 2018 and 2021. It ended with a 2-1 loss to Spain in the Nations League final. The only way La Roja would have lost first place was if it was defeated by seven goals or more. Turkey was second in the group.

Scotland, Austria's wait ends

A stunning bicycle kick and two stoppage-time goals sealed Scotland's dramatic return to the World Cup after a 28-year wait. Austria needed a late equalizer to also make it back to soccer's



showcase event for the first time since 1998. Scotland beat 10-man Denmark 4-2 in a winner-take-all match in Group C, with Scott McTominay scoring a superb bicycle kick goal three minutes into the match. sending the Hampden Park crowd into raptures. In another winner-take-all match. Austria held Bosnia and Herzegovina to a draw at home to win Group

H and make it back to the World Cup for the first time since 1998 in France, Michael Gregoritsch scored the equalizer that Austria needed to qualify in the 77th.

First-time entrants

Uzbekistan and Jordan both qualified for their first-ever World Cup appearances in the summer of 2025. By



finishing top two in their group in the third round of AFC qualification, they secured an automatic bid to the competition. Following them shortly after was Cape Verde, as the tiny island nation of just 600,000 people earned their first-ever World Cup spot by winning their group ahead of Cameroon.

ALREADY QUALIFIED TEAMS

Hosts: Canada, Mexico, United Africa: Algeria, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa,

Tunisia

Asia: Australia, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Uzbekistan Europe: Croatia, England. France. Norway, Portugal, Germany, Netherlands, Scotland, Spain,

Switzerland, Austria, Belgium Oceania: New Zealand South America: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay Concacaf: Curacao, Haiti, Panama

NATIONAL PARA SWIMMING C'SHIP Odisha shines with 39 medals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad, Nov 19: Odisha's para swimmers delivered a stellar performance at the National Para Swimming Championship 2025 in Hyderabad, securing a remarkable 39 medals — 8 gold, 18 silver and 13 bronze - reaffirming the state's growing prominence in para sports.

A total of 32 para swimmers represented Odisha at the event. Sports and Youth Services Minister Suryabanshi Suraj met the medal winners Wednes-



day and congratulated them for their hard work and success.

"The outstanding performance of our para swimmers is a source of inspiration for every sportsperson in Odisha. Their

level make the state proud. We are confident they will continue to excel in upcoming national and international competiand Biplab Samantray's 92, Odisha bowled out Nagaland for 161. In the second innings, Swastik Samal's fluent 169 and Subhranshu Senapati's 137 drove Odisha to a strong 350/5 declared, setting a huge target. Nagaland faltered again, reaching only 165 despite resistance from Nischal and Hem. Odisha's bowlers, led by Govinda Poddar and Badal Biswal, sealed a comprehensive

Gill not exactly fit but desperate to play

Indian Test skipper probably needs at least 10 days to fully recover and then complete his rehabilitation to be match-ready. But if he plays the Test match Saturday, the logical step for selectors would be to rest him for the ODI series starting November 30 in Ranchi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Nov 19: Shubman Gill has travelled to Guwahati with the rest of the India squad for the second Test against South Africa, but the neck injury that is on the mend is unlikely to fully heal before the game begins here Saturday.

However, it is understood that the skipper will try his best to prove his fitness during training sessions Thursday and Friday. The squad has landed in the city.

If sources in the Indian team are to be believed, the 26-year-old Gill is far from being 100 per cent fit, with the pain in the nape of his neck still lingering although its intensity has reduced consid-



'Shubman has been responding well to the medical treatment provided and will travel to Guwahati with the team on 19th November, 2025," read a statement from BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia. "He will contin-While he might be clinically

ue to be monitored by the BCCI medical team and a decision on his participation in the 2nd Test will be taken accordingly," he added, continuing the suspense on the batting star's availability.

et could aggravate the issue and result in a longer lay-off. With the series on line and

fit, the rigours of five-day crick-

off-spinner Simon Harmer pos ing a significant threat after the Kolkata Test, a competent righthander who can take on spin is a necessity.

Their simple logic is: even though both Sai Sudharsan and Devdutt Padikkal are lefthanders, bringing in someone from outside would signal a massive lack of trust in the youngsters' ability to handle pressure.

Also, as a new captain still earning his stripes in the dress ing room, missing a Test at this nascent stage of his leadership is the last thing he would want.

Printed and published by Adyasha Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: (0674) 2580385 (Advt.), Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ODIENG/2011/37159