



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

SPORTS | **P12**

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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 Bhubaneswar.

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.



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

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 disapproval 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



BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran said in its 137-page judgement. It allowed the plea 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 lightly departed from," the CJI said.

Writing the judgement for the bench, the CJI said the Act

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) Act, 2021.

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.

Panel to resolve RSP's land issues

Union Steel Min, CM discuss bottlenecks in RSP expansion



PNN & AGENCIES

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 Kumaraswamy 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 cooperation to resolve the land acquisition 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 chairmanship 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 present 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 Koi-lapada 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.

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

IT'S ALSO THE WORLD'S MOST COMMON PASSWORD, FOLLOWED BY 'ADMIN' AND '12345678'

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 passkeys 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 sequences like '12345' and '123456' dominate every age bracket.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
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 other paranormal things. However, Ganesha warns you to use the knowledge that you gain only for peaceful purposes.

TAURUS
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 come up. At the professional level you are not likely to face obstacles or difficulties. Your relations with your parents turn awkward and unpleasant.

GEMINI
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 life. You, however, may not be able to take the changes well. It may have a strong bearing on your health.

LEO
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 satisfactory progress on work related issues.

VIRGO
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.

LIBRA
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.



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



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

Bhubaneswar, November 19: The 10th edition of the Film Preservation and Restoration Workshop India (FPRWI) 2025, organised by the Film Heritage Foundation (FHF) in collaboration with the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF), concluded Wednesday at Kalabhoomi-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 together 59 participants from across India and abroad, who underwent intensive training in film restoration and preservation.

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



MoU between Handlooms, Textiles & 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

and MLA Akash Das Nayak, actress Anu Choudhury, senior officials, and global faculty members. Certificates were 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

in the history of Indian cinema." He thanked the Odisha Government and international faculty, adding, "When I started this mission, I never imagined we would come this far."

Singh Deo appreciated FHF's efforts, stating, "I thank Shivendra 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."

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

RESHMI YADAV, OP

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 !"

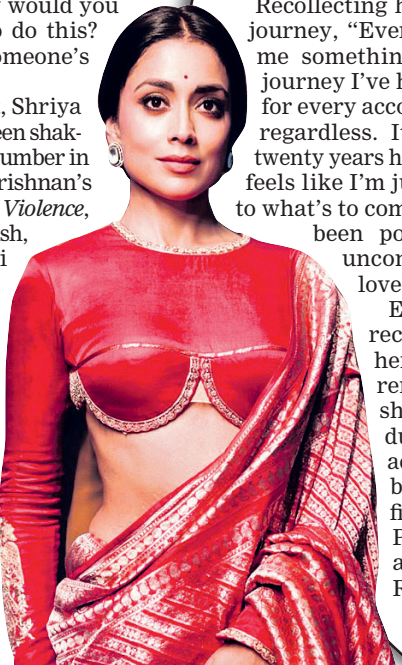
The actress, on a lighter note, added, "... The only good thing is, this crappy person is reaching out to people I admire and would love to work with ! Very strange ! Why would you waste your time to do this? Go get a life, not someone's impersonator."

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

IAN S



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 love".

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.

Mumbai: Actress Regena Casandra, who is known for her work in the period streaming series *Rocket Boys*, is looking back at her journey of 20 years in the industry.

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,



IAN S

Rashmika on her past love



Mumbai: Rashmika Mandanna is currently enjoying the attention around her latest release, *The Girlfriend*, which hit

theatres on November 7.

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

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.

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

AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

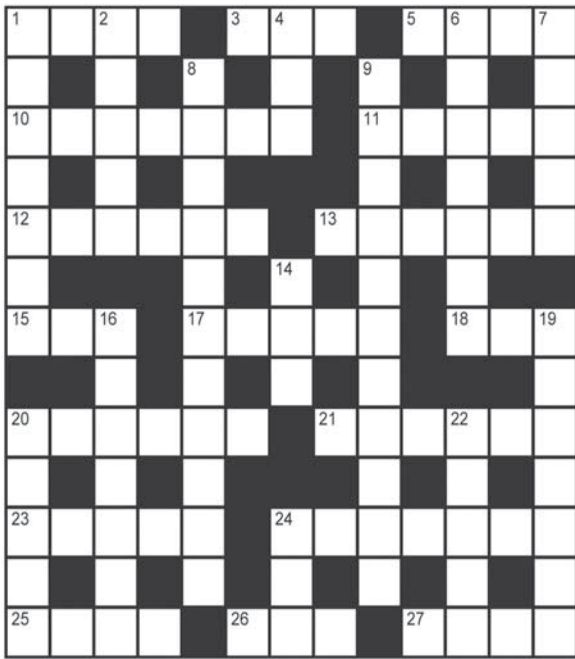


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



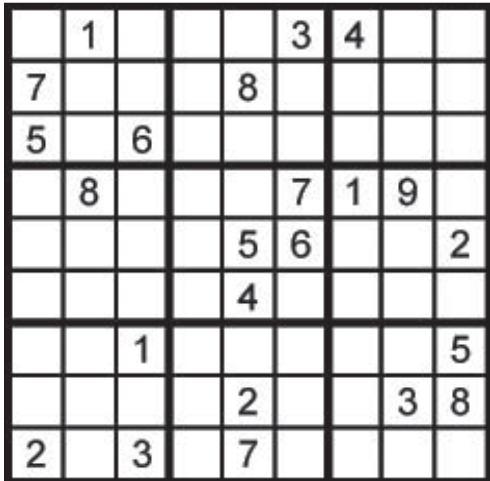
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|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Across | 21 Empty | 6 Greek mountain peak |
| 1 Confront | 23 Public spat | 7 Motif |
| 3 Spending limit | 24 Loose-fitting dress | 8 Owls and hawks, e.g. (5,2,4) |
| 5 Catcall | 25 Effortless | 9 Riddle (5-6) |
| 10 Staircase part | 26 Maid's cloth | 14 Jewel |
| 11 Jingle | 27 Heavy load | 16 Lofts |
| 12 Docket | | 19 Oceanic birds |
| 13 Chin feature | | 20 Seating request |
| 15 Salad ingredient | Down | 22 Little green man |
| 17 Blatant | 1 Leaves | 24 Chinese tea |
| 18 Easy mark | 2 Camp craft | |
| 20 Sudden | 4 Summer mo. | |

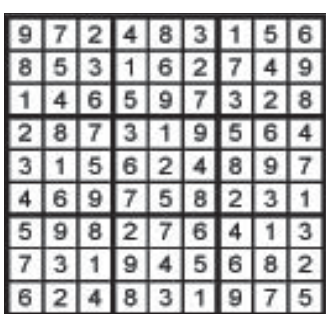
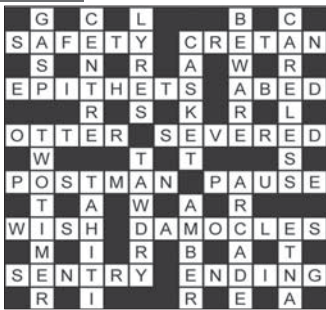
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

EVICITION DRIVE AT SALIA SAHI TO CONSTRUCT ROAD

AGENCIES

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 officer said.

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 locality.

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 management, 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 noted.

OSDMA director and department’s additional chief secretary Deoranjana Kumar Singh remarked, “OSDMA is constantly working to improve group coordination and enhance the capacity of volunteers in disaster risk management.”

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 disasters and stressed the need for increased public awareness, collective responsibility, and action to safeguard environment.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

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 Bimbhadhar 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 Agarwal, 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 Agarwal 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



AGENCIES

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 Transformation’.

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 modern 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 next five years.

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 curriculum.

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-of-its-kind partnership in India. No engineering institute currently offers specialised courses 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



POST NEWS NETWORK

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’

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

“Persistent heartburn, indigestion, or unexplained bloating 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 stage.

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

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: A call 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.

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. Key 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

local communities to resist the encroachment of forests and agricultural land in the name of industrialisation and development. He also pointed out the growing trend of forced evictions and the need to preserve traditional livelihoods and cultural heritage.

State convenor Gopinath Majhi and other senior leaders, including Biranchi Bariha, discussed the planned actions and outreach programmes, aimed at building momentum across the state. The meeting ended with a commitment to ‘organise joint

protests and public mobilisations.

Leaders from several organisations, 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.

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 Dharendra Panda, reaffirming the campaign’s central message.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.58 ▼ 0.04	SENSEX	85186.47 ▲ 513.45	GOLD	₹123,808 ▲ ₹1168
EURO	102.63 ▼ 0.11	NIFTY	26052.65 ▲ 142.60	SILVER	₹157,605 ▲ ₹2961

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	31.6°	28.4°	Mainly Clear Sky
Min Temp	15.2°	14.4°	
Humidity	69%	82%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

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 Ganjam 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 Ganjam Collectorate recently to sort out the matter at the earliest.

B Ed student's death sparks outrage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, Nov 19: A 22-year-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 classmates 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 after learning of the situation and expressed deep sorrow over the student's death.

Suspected cylinder thief killed in Udala mob attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

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 inter-



rogated. Police said Kohlara's body has been sent to the medical college for post-mortem. Officers noted multiple injuries on his body and are investigating the exact cause of death, including where and how the fatal blows were inflicted.

Following the death, the victim's wife, Parbati Kohlara, lodged a police complaint alleging that her husband had been beaten to death without any provocation. She stated that her husband worked at a local gas agency and was engaged in cylinder delivery, claiming he had gone to collect a cylinder as part of his duties.

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.

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, CHAMPUA

Gmail : ori-champua@nic.in
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (I.F.B.)
e-Procurement Notice
No.i-382
E-Bid No.02 Champua (KJ/R/2025-26)
Lt. No.: 6583
Date : 17.11.2025
1) Panchayat Samiti Champua invites Percentage Rate bid in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the construction of Building works (Civil+El) as Detailed in the Detailed Tender Call Notice (D.T.C.N) from the eligible class of contractors.
2) No. of Works : 01 (One) No.
3) Cost of Tender Paper : Rs.6000/- (Rupees Six thousand) only
4) Class of Contractor : "D" & "C" Class
5) Date & Time available in website & receipt online : 12.00 Hrs of 27.11.2025 to 17:00 Hrs of 10.12.2025
6) Date of opening of Bid : 11.12.2025 at 12:00 Hrs.
7) 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.
Sd./- (Smruti Ranjan Sahu, OAS)
Block Development Officer, Champua
OIPR-

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, DEOGARH

E-mail Id: eerw_deogarh@yahoo.co.in
No. O-1506
E-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION No. SERWDGH-Online-08/2025-26
1. No. of Building Works : (06 Nos.)
2. Estimated Cost : Approx. Rs.2.54 lakh to Rs.36.22 lakhs each
3. Mode of Submission of tender : Tender shall be submitted online in www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
4. Availability of tender for online bidding : 21.11.2025, 10.00 A.M. to 28.11.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
5. Date and time of opening of tender : 29.11.2025, 11.00 A.M.
6. Other details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
7. Corrigendum/Addendum if any shall only be published in the above website.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
R.W. Division, Deogarh
OIPR:

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. **Sl.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.
(PR-850) **Divisional Electrical Engineer (Con), Kharagpur**

South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

POST NEWS NETWORK

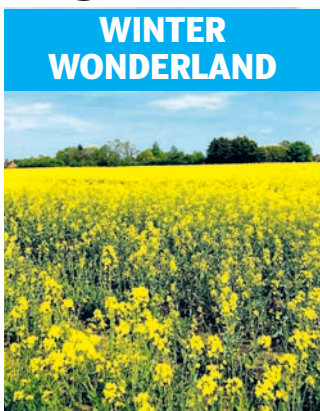
Koraput, Nov 19: As winter sets in over the Eastern Ghats, Koraput has stepped into one of its most captivating seasonal displays: vast stretches of blooming mustard fields that bathe the landscape in vibrant yellow. The radiant fields, spread across the outskirts of Koraput town, have become a major 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

amid acres of mustard blossoms swaying in the cool breeze, 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 — peaceful, 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, Koraput's golden mustard fields are expected to keep enchanting travellers, offering moments of serenity and escape from the rush of daily life.

DSPL - 366



ସ୍କ୍ରାପ୍(Scrap) ବ୍ୟବସାୟ କରୁଥିବା ସମସ୍ତ ପଞ୍ଜିକୃତ ଓ ଅଣ- ପଞ୍ଜିକୃତ ଟିକସ ଦାତା ଦୟାକରି ଧ୍ୟାନ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ



ଦ୍ରବ୍ୟ ଓ ସେବା କର (GST) ଆଇନ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ TDS (Tax Deduction at Source) ଓ RCM (Reverse Charge Mechanism) ଅନୁପାଳନ ସମ୍ପର୍କିତ ନିୟମ ଅଧୀନରେ

କୌଣସି ଅଣ-ପଞ୍ଜିକୃତ ବ୍ୟବସାୟୀଙ୍କ ଠାରୁ କ୍ରୟ କରାଗଲେ RCM ଅଧୀନରେ ୧୮ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ହାରରେ GST ଦେବାକୁ ହେବ ।

[କେନ୍ଦ୍ରୀୟ ଟିକସ (ଟିକସ ହାର) ବିଜ୍ଞପ୍ତି ନମ୍ବର ୦୭/୨୦୨୪, ଚାରିଖି : ୦୮.୧୦.୨୦୨୪ ଏବଂ ଅନୁରୂପ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଟିକସ ବିଜ୍ଞପ୍ତି ନମ୍ବର ୨୯୭୭୦, ଚାରିଖି : ୨୫.୧୦.୨୦୨୪]

ଯଦି ପଞ୍ଜିକୃତ ଟିକସ ଦାତାଙ୍କ ଠାରୁ କ୍ରୟ କରାଯାଏ , ତେବେ କ୍ରେତା କୁ ଏ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ୨ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ହାରରେ ଟିଡିଏସ୍ କାଟି ଜମା କରିବାକୁ ହେବ ।

[କେନ୍ଦ୍ରୀୟ ଟିକସ ବିଜ୍ଞପ୍ତି ନମ୍ବର ୨୫/୨୦୨୪, ଚାରିଖି: ୦୨.୧୦.୨୦୨୪ ଏବଂ ଅନୁରୂପ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଟିକସ ବିଜ୍ଞପ୍ତି ନମ୍ବର ୨୯୭୭୮, ଚାରିଖି : ୨୫.୧୦.୨୦୨୪]

*** ଓଡିଶା ବାଣିଜ୍ୟକର ଏବଂ ଦ୍ରବ୍ୟ ଓ ସେବା କର କମିଶନରେଟ୍ GST ଟିଡିଏସ୍ (TDS) ଓ ଆରବିଏନ୍ (RCM) ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ଅନୁପାଳନ ଉପରେ ତାଣ୍ଡଣ ନଜର ରଖନ୍ତୁ ।**

**** ଉପରୋକ୍ତ ସୂଚନା କେବଳ ସାଧାରଣ ମାର୍ଗଦର୍ଶନ ପାଇଁ । ଅଧିକ ବିବରଣୀ ପାଇଁ ଅର୍ଥ ବିଭାଗ ୱେବସାଇଟ୍ <https://finance.odisha.gov.in> ଏବଂ www.cbic.gov.in ରେ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ବିଜ୍ଞପ୍ତିକୁ ଦେଖନ୍ତୁ ।**



ବାଣିଜ୍ୟକର ଏବଂ ଦ୍ରବ୍ୟ ଓ ସେବା କର କମିଶନରେଟ୍, ଓଡିଶା



OIPR:

SRI AUROBINDO

BERTRAND RUSSELL

JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

DALAI LAMA

■ **1947:** The future Queen Elizabeth II married Philip Mountbatten at Westminster Abbey.



*Nikhilanand
Panigrahy*



*Aminata Touré &
Kevin Casas-Zamora*

Democratic freedoms empower citizens, improve social inclusion, and boost economic growth. Development, in turn, strengthens credibility and trust in democratic governments



Ashyashree Prahara

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

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

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.

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.*

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 Aryabhata 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

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

External forces alone cannot be blamed. Over time, the Varanasi 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

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, yoga, Ayurveda, 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.*

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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



OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate,
Bhubaneswar-751010

Sir, it pains me 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

Sir, The CEO of Alphabet Inc. Sunda 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



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

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 radius.

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 prosperity."

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 form.

Just across the neighbourhoods are some of India's most ornate Jain temples,

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 spiritual geography, showcasing the grandeur of the sect's unique wooden carvings and colourful iconography.

Christianity, which reached Gujarat through European 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 migration

to Gujarat 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.

A HERITAGE THAT STANDS OUT

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

Long extinct in Gujarat, tiger now returns to forest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 19: More than three decades after tigers went extinct in Gujarat, a wandering big cat has made Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary its new home, raising hopes for the revival of the striped animal 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 regular intervals on our cameras placed inside the forest, which has established that the big cat has settled in the Ratanmahal forest," the minister said, adding 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

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal/Khandwa, Nov 19: In a dramatic reversal, the Madhya 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 markets, shops, and ghats remained



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

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 Mam-

leshwar 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 residents alike.

Gujarat cabinet okays extended power supply relief to farmers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gandhinagar, Nov 19: The Gujarat 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 assessments 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 submitted by November 30.

Officials have been asked to 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 requirements.

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 producer 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.

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vidisha, Nov 19: 'Marich', a Eurasian Griffon Vulture that had taken off from Halali Dam in Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha district in March this year, has returned safely to India after completing a 15,000 km journey, a forest official said Wednesday.

The bird travelled through Pakistan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, and is now roaming in Rajasthan's Dholpur district, Vidisha's Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Hemant Yadav told PTL.

The forest department has been tracking its movement with a satellite radio collar.

The Eurasian Griffon Vulture is found in the mountainous, arid regions of Europe, North Africa and Asia

Tracking provides information on vulture migration patterns and conservation, and Marich's every activity is being monitored, the DFO said.

The bird was found injured at Nagaur village in Satna district January 29. It was first treated at Mukundpur Zoo and then at Bhopal Van Vihar National Park, Yadav said.

After two months, it was tagged and released from Halali Dam March 29. These birds feed on dead animals, prevent the spread of diseases on account of rotting carcasses, and helps recycle nutrients, improving soil and water quality, an expert said.



Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary turns into winter paradise for tourists



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-

watchers and photographers.

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 Rana 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 marshlands—makes 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 Kamakhyanager

No.O-1491

E-Mail : rw.kamakhyanager@yahoo.co.in

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

1 Name of the work	: Road Work
2 Total No. of Works	: 02 (Two) Nos.
3 Tender Cost	: Rs.10.17 to 16.95 lakhs
4 Class of Contractor	: "D" & "C" equivalent
5 Period of Completion	: 2 calendar months
6 Availability of Tender	: 18.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to 25.11.2025 up to 4.00 P.M.
7 Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	: 24.11.2025 upto 4.00 P.M.
8 Date & Time of opening of Bid	: 25.11.2025 at 05.00 P.M.
Other Details can be seen from the website http://tendersorissa.gov.in	

OIPR-

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Rural Works Division-II, Dkl
Kamakhyanager

of the day quote

In the prevailing circumstances, perhaps parents will not like to send their 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 (erst-while) 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

The Congress is mainly concerned about 'Miyas', and the people of Assam will not vote for those who support them

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 says 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 Earth Sciences' Air Quality Early Warning System. The 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) 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 House here Thursday.

Shital Tejwani statement recorded

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 Ajit Pawar's son. Tejwani was questioned Tuesday in the case registered at the Khadak police station, an official said.



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

D K SHIVAKUMAR | K'TAKA DY CM

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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



to part with money on the basis of false accreditation and recognition claims.

The judge said, "After carefully 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 an explosive-laden car on No-

vember 10 that blasted outside 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 fabricated".

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 its institutions.

EGI raises concern over DPDP Rules

AGENCIES

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

protect journalistic functions. 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.

The notified Rules do little to ease these concerns. Vague provisions on consent could impose heavy compliance requirements on journalists and newsrooms, potentially hindering 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.

The EGI urged MeitY to urgently 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 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 right to information.



Young artistes perform during the birth centenary celebrations of late spiritual guru Sri Satya Sai Baba, in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh

7 Maoists killed in police encounter in AP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, Nov 19: A day after six Maoists were gunned down at Mareduhilli in Andhra Pradesh, seven more died in another exchange of fire in the vicinity Wednesday, police said.

Addressing a press conference in Vijayawada, Mahesh Chandra Laddha, ADGP, Intelligence said three women

were among those died today.

According to the senior officer, the seven Maoists were killed around 7 am today at Mareduhilli in Alluri Sitar-amaraju 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,

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

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

wanting to explore theatre and dance more, his father said. According to the father, he and his wife had travelled to Kolhapur in Maharashtra on November 18 for his mother's operation, while their son went to school 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.

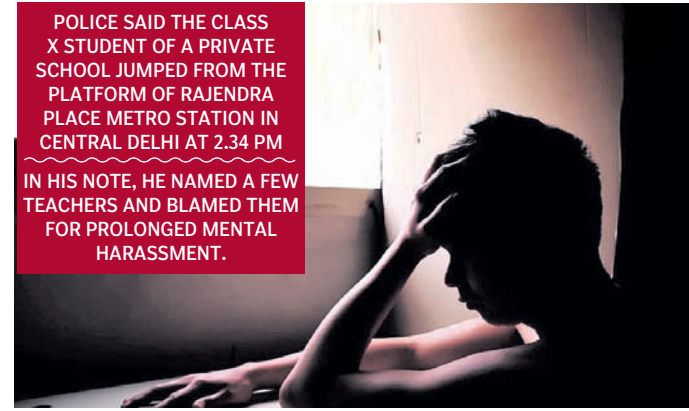
'Donate my organs': Schoolboy's final plea before suicide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 19: A 16-year-old 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 treated 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

stopped," the father told PTI.

He said they avoided taking stronger action as the class 10 exams were approaching.

"His exams were due in one or two months. Twenty marks come from the school. I did not want to disturb anything," he said, adding that the family had assured the boy that he would be admitted to a different school once the exams were over.

On Tuesday, the boy had 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

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



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 without papers.

"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 national, Amir Mirza of Satkhira, said he had been living in Birati on the outskirts of Kolkata after arriving illegally for employment. The sudden spike has increased pressure on the BSF and state police,

who must put every intercepted individual through biometric verification, questioning and criminal background checks on both sides of the border.

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 Rangamatigra panchayat, 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.

Banerjee, reacting strongly on X, said she was "deeply shocked and saddened" at yet another BLO death during the revision exercise.

international

of the day uote

I've stopped actually eight wars.... Have another one to go with, Putin. I'm a little surprised at Putin. It's taken 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 with Belarus

INGA RUGINIENE | PRIME MINISTER, LITHUANIA

My message to Russia and to Putin is this: 'We see you. We know what you're doing'. And if the Yanitar travels south this week, we are ready

JOHN HEALEY | DEFENCE SECRETARY, UK

SHORT TAKES

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 schoolgirls 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

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

AGENCIES

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 effort — 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 bowed to the growing momentum 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



the federal investigation. The decisive, bipartisan work in 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

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 Mexico

CLAUDIA SHEINBAUM | PRESIDENT, MEXICO



Larry Summers resigns from OpenAI board

Former US Treasury Secretary Larry Summers has resigned from the OpenAI board, he said Wednesday, several days after Congress released documents that showed Summers shared a close relationship with the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Summers, also a former president of Harvard University, said Monday he would step back from all public commitments, adding that the move was to allow him "to rebuild trust and repair relationships with the people closest to me." Summers has been under fire after the US House Oversight Committee released documents detailing an ongoing correspondence 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 said in a statement.

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."

most powerful people in the world, even the president of the United States, in order to make this vote happen today," added Greene, a Georgia Republican and longtime Trump loyalist.

The bill's passage would be a pivotal moment in a yearslong push by the survivors for accountability for Epstein's abuse and reckoning over how law enforcement officials failed to act under multiple presidential administrations.

A separate investigation conducted by the House Oversight Committee has released thousands of pages of emails and other documents from Epstein's estate, showing his connections to global leaders, Wall Street powerbrokers, influential political figures and Trump himself. In the United

CLASH BETWEEN GEN Z YOUTHS, CPN-UML CADRES

Curfew imposed in Nepal's Bara district



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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.

REUTERS

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



Lawmakers, 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

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



B'desh HC orders pause on Adani's S'pore arbitration



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 two-judge 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 state-owned 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 per unit.

The High Court order, however, came as the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and Adani are still in negotiations over payment disagreements.

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 process 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.

Indonesia's Mount Semeru erupts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jakarta(Indonesia), Nov 19: Indonesia's Mount Semeru, the highest peak on Java island, erupted Wednesday, blanketing several villages with falling 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, Indonesia'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.

rubber-stamped this week.

In one example this week, Secretary 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.

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 by 2050.

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 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 India 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 population living in towns globally.

However, both countries also have substantial city populations, with a combined population of nearly 1.2 billion (627 million in China and 589 million in India in 2025).

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

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, it said.

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

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.

Legendary Federer inducted into International Tennis Hall of Fame

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

Well, 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

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



- Roger is a proud owner of eight Wimbledon trophies, five straight US Open titles, six Australian Open shields and the 2009 Roland Garros, when he completed the Career Grand Slam
- His career highlights unprecedented 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 titles across 19 countries
- He is one of eight men with a career Grand Slam

I've always valued the history of tennis and the example set by those who came before me. To be recognized in this way by the sport and by my peers is deeply humbling

ROGER FEDERER

style and footwork that made everything seem so effortless, Federer won 103 tournaments and 1,251 matches in singles, to-

tals eclipsed in the men's game only by Jimmy Connors in the Open era, which began in 1968. Federer finished five years at

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

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DEAFLYMPICS 2025

Abhinav, Pranjali shoot down gold



Indian shooters continued their fine run at the 25th Deaflympics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, Nov 19: Abhinav Deshwal and Pranjali Prashant Dhumal clinched the gold medal 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 Wednesday.

The Indian shooters have won a total of 11 medals so far in the competition. Abhinav and Pranjali notched up a dominating 16-6 win over Ya-Ju Kao and Ming-Jui Hsu of Chinese Taipei to finish on top.

In the second event of the day, Kushagra won the bronze with a final score of 224.3.

Ukraine's Dmytro Petrenko won the gold by shooting 251.0, breaking the Deaf World and Olympic Records. Colin Mueller of Germany won the silver medal with a score of 245.4.

Abhinav and Pranjali maintained their commanding position from the start of the gold medal match and never gave their opponents any chance for a comeback. The pair had earlier equalled their own Deaf World and Olympic record in qualification.

They shot a combined score of 569-20x with Abhinav 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.

FIDE WORLD CUP

Heartbreak for India

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

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 Arjun posed stiff resistance in the quest of the Chinese despite being low on material. Eventually Wei Yi fumbled in the ensuing endgame and Arjun 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.

Arjun 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 tie-breaker 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 Esipenko 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.

SHORT TAKES

176: Rinku's career-best



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-innings lead against Tamil Nadu in their Ranji Trophy game here. The Group A clash ended in a draw on the fourth and final day with visiting UP receiving three points after amassing 460 all out in response to Tamil Nadu's 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 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.

Pugilists on glory path



GREATER NOIDA: Reigning World Champion Jaismine Lamboria (57kg) and two-time 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 and Biplab Samantray's 92, Odisha bowled out Nagaland for 161. In the second innings, Swastik Samal's fluent 169 and Subhanshu 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 victory on Day 4.

2026 FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Curacao makes history



Curacao salvaged a 0-0 draw with Jamaica to become the smallest nation by population to qualify for a World Cup and will be joined by CONCACAF sides Panama and Haiti which also booked their spots. Curacao 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. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics in Curacao, 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



Mikel Oyarzabal scored the equalizer in the 62nd minute and Spain drew 2-2 with Turkey at home to extend its unbeaten streak — which began 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.



NATIONAL PARA SWIMMING C'SHIP

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 Wednesday 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

Odisha shines with 39 medals



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

achievements at the national level make the state proud. We are confident they will continue to excel in upcoming national and international competitions," he said.

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 considerably.



"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 continue

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. While he might be clinically

fit, the rigours of five-day cricket could aggravate the issue and result in a longer lay-off.

With the series on line and off-spinner Simon Harmer posing a significant threat after the Kolkata Test, a competent right-hander who can take on spin is a necessity.

Their simple logic is: even though both Sai Sudharsan and Devdutt Padikkal are left-handers, 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 dressing room, missing a Test at this nascent stage of his leadership is the last thing he would want.