

Sam's resilience

Samantha Ruth Prabhu claps back at a troll for making unsolicited comment on her body

LEISURE | P2



#### **Quake strikes B'desh**

Six people were killed and several injured as an earthquake of magnitude 5.7 jolted Dhaka and parts of the country

INTERNATIONAL | P10



#### **Biz activity slows**

Private sector activity expands at its slowest pace in six months in November as manufacturing growth slips to nine-month low

BUSINESS | P11



#### Pant takes charge

Rishabh Pant faces tough leadership test as India aim to recover against spin-friendly South Africa in second and final Test

SPORTS | P12

**BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 22, 2025** 

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## STATE TO ENACT **NEW LAW TO CURB ILLEGAL MINING**

**VOLUME 15, ISSUE 231 I www.orissapost.com** 

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: In an attempt to bring a more extensive legal network to prevent illegal mining and regulate the lawful trading, storage, and movement of minerals, the state Cabinet led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday nodded the proposal to enact a new rule by repealing the old one framed 18 years back.

For administrative convenience, it has been decided by the government to enact the Odisha Minerals (Prevention of Illegal Mining and Regulation of Trading, Transportation & Storage) Rules, 2025 by repealing the existing Odisha Minerals (Prevention of Theft Smuggling and Illegal Mining and Regulation of Possession and Storage, Trading and Transportation), Rules 2007 for purpose of prevention of

sand on lease in the state, Ahuja said. This new system would expedite the allotment and operationalisation of the minor mineral sources and mitigate the supply-demand gap with reasonable cost of minor minerals, he said.

Enforcement and prevention of illegal mining have also been taken care of. Maximum rate capping provision for minor minerals is made in the rule, the chief secretary said, adding that from now, one can get lease of maximum three minor mineral quarries in a district and five in the entire state.

The government has been empowered under the new rule to take 40 per cent of a minor mineral block and sell it to the public in case of shortage so that no lease holder can have a monopoly in the market, he stated.

The Cabinet also approved a policy aimed to



#### STANDING UP TO BUL

Fatima Bosch Fernandez of Mexico was crowned Miss Universe 2025 Friday, a dramatic victory for a 25-year-old at the centre of the turbulent 74th staging of the popular beauty pageant in Bangkok who stood up to public bullying from one of the hosts

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi chairs the Cabinet meeting

theft, smuggling and illegal mining and to regulate the possession, storage, trading and transportation of minerals in the State.

The Cabinet meeting approved a total of 12 proposals of nine departments, Chief

The state has decided to introduce the e-lottery system for allotment of quarries of minor minerals like stones,

**IRREGULAR** by MANJUL

Nobody writes to the government these days. sir. Teach us how to write to the Opposition

#### position the state as a hub for Global Capability Centres (GCCs) by offering a comprehensive set of in-

The policy aims to attract chaired by the Chief Minister leading multinational corporations to establish and expand their GCCs in the Secretary Manoj Ahuja said. state by offering a robust ecosystem of world-class infrastructure, skilled talent, and progressive incentives, MORE P3

#### **Govt enforces four** new labour codes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 21: In a landmark overhaul of labour laws, the government Friday notified all four Labour Codes, ushering in major reforms, including universal social security coverage for gig workers, mandatory appointment letters for all employees, and statutory minimum wages and timely payment across

# **Dubai Air Show**

Dubai/New Delhi, Nov 21: A Tejas fighter jet of the Indian Air Force crashed in a ball of fire Friday during an aerial display at the Dubai Air Show killing the lone pilot, in the second accident involving the indigenous multi-role Light Combat Aircraft in less than two years.

The pilot was identified as Wg Cdr Namansh Syal, who is in his mid-30s and hails from Himachal Pradesh, according to available accounts.

As the crash inside the grounds of an airfield in Dubai cast a tragic shadow on an otherwise mega spectacle on the last day of the event in the desert city, video footage of the accident showed the jet abruptly dropping height after what looked like a low-altitude manoeuvre and then nosedived into the ground in a matter of seconds before be-

ing engulfed in a ball of fire. Black smoke billowed over the Al Maktoum International Airport at Dubai World Central, as horrified MORE ON PAGE 8 spectators, including wom-



Wg Cdr Namansh Syal

IAF jet crashes in

en and children, assembled in large numbers at a grand stand area behind a fenced airstrip watched in shock.

The single-engine light weight aircraft crashed around 2:10 pm local time (3.40 nm IST) after the nilot had flown across the site of the prestigious air show in Dubai during the demonstration flight. The aerial display of Tejas was sched-

uled to last eight minutes. "An IAF Teias aircraft met

with an accident during an aerial display at Dubai Air Show, today. The pilot sustained fatal injuries in the accident. IAF deeply regrets the loss of life and stands firmly with the bereaved family in this time of grief. A court of inquiry is being constituted, to ascertain the cause of the accident," the IAF said in a brief statement posted on its X handle.

State-run aerospace behemoth Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), the manufacturer of the Light Combat Aircraft(LCA), said it was deeply saddened by the loss of life of the "courageous IAF pilot."

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said he was deeply anguished at the loss of a "brave and courageous IAF pilot".

### Ratna Bhandar inventory by April 2026

Bhubaneswar/Puri, Nov **21:** The authorities of the Jagannath Temple in Puri Friday decided that the inventory of jewellery and valuables stored in the refurbished 'Ratna Bhandar' of the shrine will be completed before April next year, an official said. He said that the authorities will also attempt to bring back silver ingots

were recovered from the Emar mutt, a 1500-year-old monastery located just outside the Jagannath temple, in 2011, and are now kept in the district armoury.

Shree Jagannath Temple Administration and the Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee, held a crucial meeting chaired by Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb during the day.

### Rupee breaches 89 against dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 21: The rupee plunged 98 paise to close at its lifetime low of 89.66 against the US dollar Friday, due to a huge demand for the greenback in the domestic forex market amid widespread selling pressure in local and global equities and trade-related uncertainties. Concerns over a possible bubble building around artificial-intelligence technology stocks also spooked investor sentiments, forex traders said.

Besides, renewed foreign fund outflows added to the gloom, they added. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened almost flat at 88.67 and before turning extremely volatile in the afternoon session. During the day trade, it moved between a high of 88.59 and a low of 89.66.

In the steepest fall in over three years, the domestic currency nosedived 98 paise to finally settle at 89.66 against the American currency. The previous biggest one-day fall was recorded at 99 paise against the dollar February 24, 2022.

On Thursday, the rupee depreciated 20 paise to close at 88.68 against the US dollar.

"The Indian rupee wit nessed a dramatic move on Friday, breaking its all-time high...in a sudden spike that caught the market complete ly off guard. Unlike earlier sessions, where news flow guided the price action, this move was largely demand-driven, triggered by an unexpected wave of dollar buying at a time when supply stayed quiet," CR Forex Advisors said in a note.



## 30% Indian women suffer intimate partner violence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 21: Over a fifth of women in India aged 15-49 were subjected to intimate partner violence in 2023, while nearly 30 per cent have been affected during their lifetime, according to a new global report by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Nearly one in three around the world, or 840 million, have suffered partner or sexual violence during their lifetime -- a figure that has barely changed since 2000, it said.

Estimates also suggest that around the world, 8.4 per cent of women aged 15-49 have been subjected to sexual violence from a

non-partner. In India, about four per cent of women aged 15 and above are estimated to have suffered sexual violence from a non-partner.

"Violence against women is one of humanity's oldest and most pervasive injustices, yet still one of the least acted upon," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreve sus, WHO Director-General.

"No society can call itself fair, safe or healthy while half its population lives in fear. Ending this violence is not only a matter of policy; it is a matter of dignity, equality and human rights. Behind every statistic is a woman or girl whose life has been forever altered," Adhanom

Ghebreyesus said. He also noted that em-



powering women and girls is not optional, it's a prerequisite for peace, development and health. A safer world for women is a better world for everyone. "The estimates presented in this report demonstrate unequivocally that violence against women remains pervasive

across all countries and regions," authors said in the report published ahead of the "International day for the elimination of violence against women and girls' observed November 25.

Progress is too slow and achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030 "remains elusive," they said.

the report is a "comprehensive review of prevalence data from surveys and studies conducted between 2000 and 2023." It updates the 2018 estimates released in 2021.

Looking at 168 countries,

The report also noted a decline in funds allocated for initiatives aimed to globally, affecting women prevent violence against

women, at a time when humanitarian crises and environmental disasters -- such as extreme weather events -- are increasing risks of violence against women.

For instance, in 2022, only 0.2 per cent of the global development aid was allocated to programmes focused on the prevention of violence against women, and funding has further fallen in 2025, it said.

The authors urged the world to accelerate progress and deliver a meaningful change through decisive government action and funding. They called for a scale-up of evidence-based prevention programmes and strengthening of survivor-centred health, legal

and social services.

# eisure



thriller set in 1950s Madras was

hailed for looking to transport

the viewers to an era gone by.

The film, which was jointly

produced by Spirit Media and

Dulquer Salmaan's Wayfarer

Films, has cinematography by

ace cameraman Dani Sanchez

Lopaz and music by Jhanu

Chanthar. Art direction for

the film is by Tha. Rama-

Gonsalves. IANS

lingam and editing is

by Llewellyn Anthony

Just weeks after reconciling, singer Kelsea Ballerini and actor Chase Stokes have split up again. The couple went their separate ways after two years of dating in September but they were revealed to have reconciled earlier this month, only for them to end their romance once again

**BALLERINI, STOKES** 

**SPLIT AGAIN** 

#### ARIANA GRANDE TESTS **COVID-19 POSITIVE**

Ariana Grande has revealed via social media that she's tested positive for COVID-19. The 32-year-old star has been busily promoting Wicked: For Good, her new musical fantasy film, over recent days, but Ariana has now confirmed via social media that she's tested positive for the contagious disease.



accuracy • reliability • trust

You will be very short-tempered today. Your temper is ready to burst at the drop of a hat, but, Ganesha says, it will be of no avail. It would be better to exhaust all that energy in some vigorous swimming or any sort of physical activity. Ganesha suggests that you actually run your way back to home.

#### **TAURUS**

You are likely to have differences with your parents in the early hours of the day. Ganesha urge you not to quarrel or confront them. Do not retaliate in any way. Act decent and discreet, Respect their views, wishes and sentiments. Be careful. You may have health problems later in the day. If vour health does deteriorate, do not take things casually. Don't think twice. Go consult a medical specialist without delay.

#### **GEMINI**

It is possible that your emotional nature is the cause of many of the problems currently plaguing you. Therefore you need to curb your emotions when reacting to family matters today, and spend time with your family. It is a progressive day overall, says Ganesha.

#### **CANCER**

A day of challenges, but you will be ambitious and bold to surmount them. Yet you will not cross limits. Your evocation to God will repel all hurdles and grant you energy. Health will be good. A fabulous time, says Ganesha.

A beneficial day awaits those who are self-employed. You will find new and interesting projects. People working in the creative fields will also be able to make much progress. You will be filled with energy, enthusiasm and hope today, and will make efforts to achieve success, says Ganesha.

#### VIRGO Ganesha warns that there

may be a lot of problems brewing for you today. You will need to put in a lot of extra efforts in order to complete a lot of work that s pending because you have been procrastinating for a long time. You will feel inclined to share your most intimate secrets with your partner.

officials at work will shower you with appreciation and able to get a promotion or a pay rise today. There may be intensive arguments with your enemies. New relationships will get a chance to blossom today. Your competitors will be defeated today as it is a success-filled day for you

#### **SCORPIO**

Your career graph is gradually shooting up because of vour incredible work. Your will power will help you achieve difficult targets. The confidence through which you handle all the unforeseen situations is worth appreciating, feels Ganesha.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

If you see people fainting when you pass by, blame it on that thousand watts, sparkling smile of yours. At work, your colleagues will benefit from your expertise and skills. In the evening, your heart may be thumping faster as your plan a special date with your sweetheart!

### **CAPRICORN**

It is your day today! You'll feel like everything is coming your way, without you making any effort whatsoever. Though sub-consciously, you will want to showcase your talents and achievements to impress people around. And, you will succeed at that, says Ganesha.

**AQUARIUS** What you have been trying to hide in the corner of your heart, may come to the fore today. At work, you will be more patient and calm. Everyone will notice this change in you. Your friends and family members will also be surprised to see a different side of your personality, says Ganesha.

#### **PISCES**

Ganesha advises you not to entertain the desire to remain secluded and to spend time with friends and family. If you manage to do this then you will have a happy and exciting day. You will have memorable moments with closed ones and may even end up organizing a small party for them. Ganesha says this might be a especially good day for artists.

## Hard work takes you places: Bhagyashrii

CHENNAI: Actress Bhagyashrii Borse, whose spectacular performance as Kumari in director Selvamani Selvaraj's recently released period drama, Kaantha has come in for widespread praise, has now disclosed that her biggest takeaway

from working on the film was the realisation of the fact that hard work takes one places. Talking to this

agency exclusively, the actress said, "The amount of hard work I put into Kumari, at one point, had everybody saying, 'I've never seen anybody work this hard.' But for me, just getting that one opportunity, that one platform to prove my skill was like a blessing. So, I think after the film's release, there's so much love that I'm receiving. It only makes me believe that hard work takes you to places. For the unaware, the

film, which features Dulquer Salmaan. Bhagyashrii Borse and Rana Daggubatti, released on November 14 this year to rave reviews from the critics.

Pahariya's love life is always of interest The gripto their fans. From their ping perexotic vacations to red cariod drapet appearances, both of them give major relationship goals ever since they went public with their relationship in July this year.

However, it is their recent video that has caught everyone's attention where Tara refers to Veer as her husband! The video was made during Tara's recent birthday party in Maldives, where she wore a shimmering golden

BAI:

tor-couple Tara

Sutaria and Veer

Ac-

with them. In the entertaining video, Tara

outfit. The viral video also fea-

tures Orry, who is close friends

Tara's announcement in disguise

**MUMBAI**: Actress Nargis Fakhri recently appeared in a comedy video with stand-up comic Anand Raman, leading to a moment that has been making rounds on social media. In the clip, Anand casually asks her, "What do you look for in a man?" Nargis replies, "Not too much. Definitely personality, sense of humour, height.' Anand, who clearly

enjoyed the conversation, immediately quips "all checks," only for Nargis to add, "nice hair, good skin, stuff like **What Nargis** The comedwho is known self-deprecatlooks for humour and

ical content, ly responds calling her in her man demanding" joking, type anyways,' from laughter familiar with his

The video arrives at Nargis has been in the news for her personal life. Reports earlier this year suggested that she married Los Angeles-based businessman Tony Beig in a private ceremony in February 2025 after three years of dating. While the couple has not formally confirmed the marriage, their appearance together at an event in Mumbai in August added to the speculation.

The event marked a collaboration between Visit Qatar and the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre, where Nargis and Tony walked the red carpet alongside filmmaker Farah Khan. In

a widely circulated clip, Farah is heard telling Tony, "Come stand with your wife," and prompting amused reasks. "Have you been sleeping with actions from fans my husband?", and who called the two Orry replied with a nona "cute couple." chalant "Yeah", glancing at Veer standing behind him. Tara then throws a hysterical question, "How do you sleep at night?" and Orry replies, "With

your husband" and Veer signals a

shocking denial! The video ends with

Tara screaming at Orry's audacity! The comment section of the video is both star studded and filled with curious fans who believe that this a big "Yes" to a proposal. Tara wrote, "Ded" and Veer commented with hiding eyes emoticons. Quick to take notice of the video, a follower commented.

"Husband?", while another one wrote, "What ???? Tarasutaria got married ?' Another follower made a hilarious comment about Tara and Jahnvi Kapoor. who is dating Veer's elder brother Shikhar Pahariya. The follower wrote, "Already imagining Tara and Jhanvi as Jethani Devrani.

# **SAM FLEXES STRENGTH**

Ruth Prabhu stood tall, literally, after a troll suggested she looked "too thin," and her powerful response underscored her resilience. The actress, known for her disciplined fitness journey, posted a photo of her sculpted back muscles on Instagram, sharing how far she has come. She ad-

ian,

for his

satir-

"too

my

viewers

comedic style.

drawing

quick-

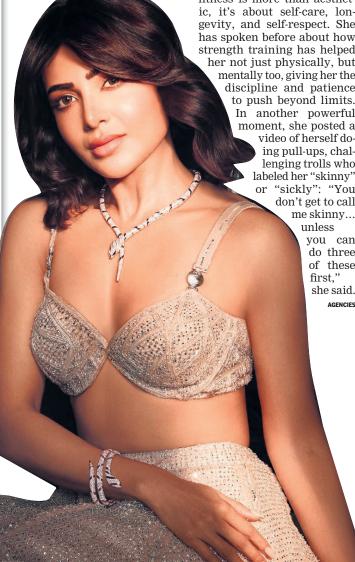
ing

mitted that she once believed she couldn't build strength in her back, but through consistent training, she turned that belief on its head. When a troll commented that

she was exercising "too much" and looked thin, Samantha

hold back. "I'll ask for your advice when I need it," she replied, firm, witty, and unapologetic. Her message wasn't just for that user; it was a reminder to anyone policing her body that strength is not up for de-

bate. Samantha's commitment to fitness is more than aesthetic, it's about self-care, longevity, and self-respect. She has spoken before about how



SUDOKU

3

7

2

9

9

5

4

**SOLUTIONS** 

CROSSWORD

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

5

8

7

8

3

4

5

ODE URGENCY

GOAIIU PROPANE

3

9

B E E

6

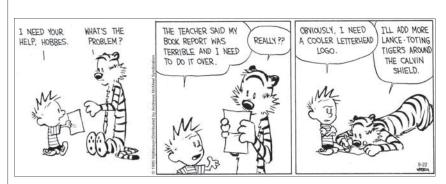
the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

4 6

#### **PEANUTS**



#### CALVIN AND HOBBES

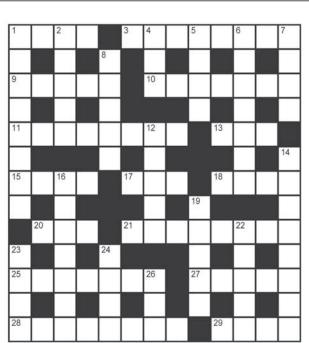


#### BREVITY



## POST

#### **CROSSWORD**



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penguin

28 Disappoints

(4,4)

29 Scheme

27 Unit of petrol

21 Fearless

25 Kind of

Across

1 Weaving

machine

3 Bullfighter

9 Family girl

10 Rotate

11 Canadian

province

13 Outback runner

15 Scruff

17 Flue residue

18 Gateau 20 Physics unit

Down

Pain reliever

2 Classic theatre

4 It fits in a lock 5 Jealousy

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

26 Set-to

24 Desiccated

6 Quandary

8 Bad

7 Casting need

12 Yellowstone

sight

19 Hibachi

23 Bargain

14 Draw (4,4) 16 Protective wall

22 Flower feature

impressions?

SUDOKU



# owntown

## Mahatab's 126th birth anniv observed

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: The 126th state-level birth anniversarv of eminent statesman and Utkal Keshari Dr. Harekrushna Mahatab was celebrated Friday at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, in a programme organised by the Department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture. Chief Minister Mohan Chief Guest and hailed Dr. Mahatab as "a source of inspiration and a guiding philosophy for Odisha's development.'

Speaking at the event, the CM said the foundation of Odisha—including Hirakud Dam, Bhubaneswar city, Rourkela Steel Plant, Utkal University and the Odisha High Court—bear the imprint of Dr. Mahatab's vision. "He was not just a dreamer but a doer who transformed his ideals into action as the first Chief Minister of Odisha after Independence," Majhi said, adding that Dr. Mahatab believed true freedom meant liberation from hunger, poverty, disease and ignorance.

The event featured a photo exhibition on his life and presentation of awards to winners of the Dr. Harekrushna Mahatab Memorial Elocution Competition. The Chief Minister also unveiled several publications,



including Mahatab O Prajantatra Sampadakiya, Mahatab Jayanti Smaraki 2025, and a biography titled Harekrushna Mahatab.

Majhi highlighted several initiatives reflecting Mahatab's ideals—poverty reduction, universal healthcare through Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY and Gopabandhu Jana Arogya Yojana, women's empowerment through Subhadra Yojana, education reforms under the National Education Policy, enhanced irrigation, livelihood

security, and major job creation. He also emphasised Odisha's emerging role in India's technological growth, noting the Prime Minister's approval of the Rs 8,300 crore Capital Region Ring Road project, which he said would accelerate the expansion and economic development of Bhubaneswar

and Cuttack. Odia Language, Literature and Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj said that building a prosperous Odisha and a developed India would be the

"true tribute" to Dr. Mahatab. Ekamra MLA Babu Singh and noted author Dash Benhur also praised Mahatab's contributions to politics, literature and youth engagement, calling him a rare visionary whose writings continue to energise Odia literature.

The programme concluded with a welcome address by Department Secretary Bijaya Ketan Upadhyay and a vote of thanks by Odisha Sahitya Akademi Secretary Chandrasekhar Hota

## Green Heroes Summit 2025: Uniting climate warriors

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: The fifth edition of Dharitri Youth Conclave will be organised November 24. Ahead of the mega event, 'Green Heroes' from across the state will take part in Green Heroes Summit here November 23.

The 'Green Heroes' include many climate advocacy groups from across the length and breadth of the state who will participate and share their ideas for environment protection in the summit.

This apart, there will be inaugural Dharitri Climate Film Festival at the summit



where short films on the theme of environment will be screened. Around 15 films have been selected by jury

Speaking to OrissaPOST, Snehasis Das said, "Most of the films submitted this year are about various aspects of environment and mostly on the theme of climate change. The area of the subject is vast

which includes tree felling.

plantation, air pollution, in-

members including filmmak-

er Sushant Mishra and Sne-

hasis Das for the screening at

dustry waste etc.

Meanwhile, the conclave November 24 will serve as a platform for the youth to share innovative ideas, engage in meaningful discussions, and collaborate on actionable solutions to combat climate change.

The event will not only allow participants to inspire one another but will also create a foundation for future initiatives that have the potential to shape global environmental policy and

#### Fresh low pressure likely over Bay of Bengal: IMD

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: The IMD Friday forecast the likely formation of a low-pressure area over the South Andaman Sea, which could intensify into a depression over southeast Bay of Bengal around Novem-

"A low-pressure area is likely to form over South Andaman Sea November 22 and thereafter, it is very likely to west-northwestwards and intensify into a depression over southeast Bay of Bengal around November 24," it said in a bulletin. Asked whether the system could take the form of a cyclone. Director of Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre, Manorama Mohanty said the IMD has till now made the forecast of a depression.

We will issue more information after the formation of a low-pressure area November 22," she said.

Meanwhile, anticipating a fresh spell of rain in the state, farmers of coastal Odisha have started harvesting their paddy crop, which has almost turned mature. However, the state's Agriculture department was vet to issue any advisory for farmers, an official said

# Vigilance arrests PACS secy for ₹40.7 lakh fraud

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: Vigilance sleuths Friday arrested Suresh Chandra Sahu, secretary of the Kadopada Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society (PACS) in Deogarh district, for allegedly embezzling public funds amounting to Rs 40,71,644.

The arrest came after investigation revealed that Sahu had systematically siphoned off funds meant for the local farming community by manipulating official financial records. Vigilance officers found that he deliberately tampered with the PACS Day Book—the primary book of original entry-to conceal cash transactions.

A Vigilance statement said that Sahu received loan repayment amounts from farmers in cash but failed to enter these transactions into the official Day Book. By omitting these entries, he allegedly diverted the full amount for personal gain, causing significant financial loss to the cooperative society and directly impacting poor and marginal farmers dependent on PACS services.

# **Dedicated commission for** police recruitment soon

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: The state Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi approved 12 proposals, including establishment of a dedicated recruiting agency - Odisha Uniformed Services Staff Selection Commission (OUSSSC) – to streamline appointments in police and other uniformed services, of nine departments Friday.

The decision comes in the backdrop of large-scale irregularities in the recruitment of sub-inspectors (SIs), leading to The government has decided

to appoint personnel in different ranks in the Odisha Police and other uniformed services under the Home, Excise, Forest, Environment & Climate Change and Commerce & Transport departments through OUSSSC, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja told reporters.

"Recruitment for various ranks in the Odisha Police and other uniformed services is currently being done through different departmental boards. which has resulted in abnormal delays and irregularities in examinations. Hence, in order streamline the recruitment process, it has been proposed to constitute a dedicated recruiting agency namely OUSSSC," an official statement said.

The new agency will also ensure timely, transparent, efficient and merit-based recruitment across all uniformed services in Odisha through a standardised, technology-driven and accountable process, Ahuja said. The state government's decision came after major irregularities in the recruitment to 933 SI posts came to light. The written examinations for the recruitment have been cancelled thrice and a case in this regard has been handed



### GCC POLICY OKAYED

Odisha Global Capability Centre (GCC) Policy, 2025 was also among the 12 proposals which received the state government's approval, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja said.

A GCC is an entity established by a multinational company to centralise and perform key business functions like IT. research and development, and finance.

The policy aims to attract leading multinational corporations to establish and expand their GCCs in the state by offering a robust ecosystem of world-class infrastructure, skilled talent and progressive incentives, he said.

Ahuja said that Odisha, with its strategic location, improved urban infrastructure, and proactive governance, is well-positioned to become a preferred destination for GCCs.

Aligned with the state's longterm development roadmap under 'Viksit Odisha' 2036 and

over to the CBI for a probe.

As many as 126 people, including 114 aspirants for the SI posts in Odisha Police, Fire Services and other uniformed services, have been arrested in connection with the recruittracting over Rs 1,000-crore investment with establishment of at least five state-of-the-art GCC hubs, starting Bhubaneswar, Cuttack-Puri-Paradip and Bargarh-Jharsuguda-Sambalpur economic regions, he stated.

The state expects to generate over 50,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities in the IT sector in coming days, he said.

Further, the Odisha government has decided to enhance the Pre-Matric and Post Matric scholarship amounts provided to ST and SC students under 'Mukhya Mantri Medhabi Chatra Protsahan Yojana'.

The scholarship amounts of SC. ST school students were increased to Rs 16,000 for a boy boarder and Rs 17,000 for a girl boarder per annum (for 10 months), respectively. Now, boys and girls receive Rs 10,500 and Rs 11,000 per year, respectively.

The aspirants have already been released on bail after spending a month in jail while the CBI registered a case and started probe into the matter after state government recommended a high-level

#### Cabinet adopts Act to boost environmental governance

The state Cabinet approved the adoption of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024, marking a significant step towards strengthening environmental governance while enhancing ease of doing business in the state.

The Act, enacted by the Parliament under Article 252 of the Constitution, aims to streamline regulatory processes, promote sustainable development, and modernise pollution-control mechanisms. By adopting the law, Odisha joins other states in ensuring uniformity in environmental regulations across the country. According to the Forest, Environment & Climate Change department. the amended legislation introduces several key changes, in cluding the decriminalisation of minor offences to reduce compliance burdens on industries. This move is expected to encourage better adherence to environmental norms while allowing authorities to focus on serious violations. The Act also clearly out-

lines the procedure for appointing the chairperson of the State Pollution Control Board, thereby strengthening institutional governance and operational efficiency within the state's pollution control framework.

Officials said the adoption of the Act will support Odisha's efforts to balance economic growth with ecological protection. It is expected to improve ease of doing business through decentralised decision-making and foster more effective monitoring of water pollution.

## World Bank team visits urban flagship initiatives

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: A high-level delegation from the World Bank visited Bhubaneswar Friday to observe and understand Odisha's flagship urban initiatives under the Housing & Urban Development Department.

The delegation was received by Housing & Urban Development Department Principal Secretary, Usha Padhee, who presented Odisha's urbanisation and development road map, highlighting progress across water supply, sanitation, urban mobility, affordable housing, and citizen-centric governance.

The visiting team included Johannes Zutt (Regional Vice President), Imad Fakhoury (Director), Keiko Inoue (South Asia Practice Manager, Edu cation), Aparnaa Somanathan (South Asia Practice Manager, Health & Social Protection), Soumya Kapoor Mehta (Senior Economist) and Kritika Singh (Country Management Team).

During the interaction at Kharavel Bhawan, the delegation engaged with senior officers of the Department and acknowledged Odisha's data-driven and outcome-ori ented approach to urban re Following the briefing, the

delegation visited Palasuni to witness sanitation practices on the ground, including the 150-TPD Material Recovery Facility, coconut-waste recycling facility, water treatment plans and community-linked waste management operations. The team interacted with Swachh Karmis and Women Self-Help Groups and appreciated the role of community participation in environmental stewardship and decentralised sanitation models.

They later held a dialogue with beneficiaries of the affordable housing project at Nilamadhab Niwas, who shared their experiences on improved housing, neighbourhood amenities, and livelihood linkages after relocation.

Their visit also included

Drink-From-Tap 24×7 water supply, public transport via CRUT and last-mile connectivity through e-rides like Odisha Yatri, digital urban services delivery through SUJOG, and the GARIMA framework for safety and dignity of sanitation workers.



## BDA holds 151st authority meeting, announces Ekamra Residency project

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: The 151st Authority Meeting of the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) was convened Friday under the chairmanship of Dr. Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, Minister for Housing & Urban Development and Public Enterprises-cum-Chairman

The meeting was attended by BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, Jatni Municipality Chairman

Ananta Behera, Usha Padhi, H&UD Principal Secretary, Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar, RDC (Central Division), Chanchal Rana, BDA Vice Chairman along with several senior officials.

In the meeting, it was decided to launch the Ekamra Residency project, one of the major housing projects under the BDA.

Located in the rapidly developing Subudhipur locality, Ekamra Residency is designed to of-

fer modern, aesthetically pleasing living spaces. Spread across ing B+G+12 floors. 7.36 acres, the project features contemporary architecture and includes 416 two-bedroom and

288 three-bedroom apartments housed across three towers ris-

"The modalities of house allotment will be finalized soon. These projects will fulfill the ambition of people having their own home in the State Capital. The construction of houses in the project has already been completed," said Minister, Dr. Krushna Chandra Mahapatra.

The project includes a community hall, rooftop swimming pool, walking track, commercial areas, children's play zone, fitness centre, solar panel zone, and well-landscaped open spaces. It also includes a 100-ft approach road and ample and visitors. Additionally, several key proposals were discussed and approved during the Authority meeting. These include the development of the CDP road from Shani Temple Niladri Vihar to DAV School Road, Sailashree Vihar, the con struction of a 45-metre CDP road connecting Guru Kelu Charan Park Square to Patia Railway Station, and the CDP road link ing Nuagaon-Kateni Road to the road passing through TP-08.

basement parking for residents

## **Pact inked to conserve** Mahanadi Mahaseer fish



Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: Odisha government Friday signed a pact with the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CI-FA) for independent research on the conservation, protection and increased production of the state fish 'Mahanadi Mahaseer'.

The memorandum of underpresence of Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (F&ARD) Minister Gokulananda Mallik, during the state-level celebrations of World Fisheries Day at OUAT Agriculture Education Hall here Friday.

On this occasion, subsidies were provided to 10 beneficiaries for projects implemented through various schemes. TEDs were distributed for turtle protection. The minister also flagged off an awareness vehicle to promote public awareness

F&ARD Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar Vashistha said, 'The state will provide ₹5 crore to CIFA over the next five years to carry out research on the fish

ON THE OCCASION, **SUBSIDIES WERE PROVIDED TO 10 BENEFICIARIES FOR SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS** 

THROUGH VARIOUS **SCHEMES. THE MINISTER ALSO FLAGGED OFF AN AWARENESS VEHICLE** 

species."

CIFA Director Pramoda Kumar Sahoo said, "Mahanadi Mahaseer, a sports fish found in high-flowing and cold-water habitats, is facing declining populations due to multiple

"CIFA will work to produce breeds of the fish and reintroduce them into their natural habitats for conservation and growth," he added.

ence Friday, Students Against Corruption convenor Bibhuti

Bhushan Mahapatra said that

candidates were facing "severe

mental and financial harass-

ment" due to the government's

repeated mistakes and OSSC's

The recruitment notification

clearly stated that if more than

five times the number of vacan-

cies applied, a preliminary ex-

amination would be conducted

before the main exam. If appli-

cations were fewer, only the

main exam was required, the

However, Mahapatra alleged

that OSSC violated this rule in

multiple categories. Slamming the

commission, Mahapatra said, "If

OSSC cannot conduct examina-

tions even after framing its own

rules, why should it remain in

existence? It should be dissolved."

suffering for over eight months,

enduring uncertainty, stress,

and financial strain. He added

that despite repeated exam mismanagement and confusion, the

government has taken no cor-

rective action, plunging the fu-

ture of thousands of qualified

vouth into uncertainty.

He said candidates have been

arbitrary actions.

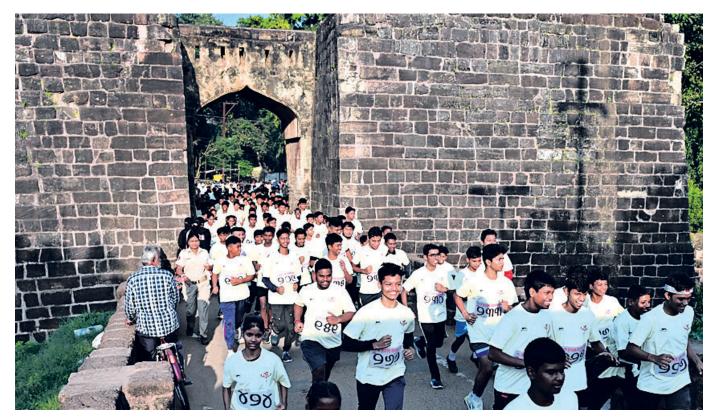
notification stated.

Mallik said Odisha has immense potential in the fisheries sector, which includes the 574.7 km long coastline, 4.18 lakh hectares of brackish water resources, and 7.12 lakh hectares ervoirs, ponds, etc).

On the occasion, Mallik virtually inaugurated six infrastructure projects worth cludes, healthy fish market at Talabania (Lower Mall) in Puri, healthy dry fish market (both retail and wholesale) at Humma in Ganjam district, Fisher ies Training Centre in Angul, and BFO Office at Talachua in Kendrapara district. The Minis ter also laid the foundation stone for the Directorate of Fisheries building at Khapuria in Cuttack. Along with this, the Minister launched 'Odisha Fisheries Web Portal'. Department's 'Annual Activity Report' and 'Fisheries Sector Handbook' were also re leased during the event.

In 2024-25, the state achieved a fish production of 11.92 lakh metric tonnes, securing the 4th position at the national level.

Speaking at the event, OUAT VC Prabhat Kumar Roula stressed the importance of infrastructure development and research. Fisheries Director Mohammad Sadique Alam delivered the welcome address. while Additional Fisheries Director (Technical) Subrat Das proposed the vote of thanks. CIFA Director Pramod Kumar Sahu, APICOL Managing Director Shubhranshu Mishra, Horticulture Director Kalunge Gorakh Vaman, MPEDA Deputy Director Achaman Lahari and several others were present



REMEMBERING STALWART: Youth take part in a marathon organised by Odisha Olympic Association on the occasion of former CM Harekru Mahatab's birth anniversary at Barabati Fort in Cuttack Friday

## Dy CM inaugurates CSR & Sustainability Conclave

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo inaugurated a two-day CSR and Sustainability Conclave 2025 at Odisha State Convention Centre here Friday.

Based on the theme "Driving Inclusive Growth through Technology, Energy & CSR Convergence," the conclave aims to showcase CSR- funded innovations, promote cross-sectoral collaborations, and facilitate MoUs. The initiative is spearheaded by Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Union government, in association with state's department of Energy.



While addressing the stakeholders, policy makers and start-up owners, Singh Deo said, "Today, Odisha is at a moment of transformation in the energy sector. We are powering inclusive Odisha through sustainable technology, CSR led innovations will provide afford

able, adaptable solutions, and designs for Indian realities."

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja said that this conclave is aimed to catalyze social change, foster partnerships, and promote robust monitoring of social impact programmes through technology.

The event brought together representatives from corporates. NGOs, policymakers government officials and social entrepreneurs to focus on using technology for social progress with a particular emphasis on inclusive development and ru ral transformation

### Aspirants allege widespread irregularities in LTR recruitment

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: Serious allegations of irregularities have rocked the Leave Training Teacher (LTR) recruitment process in Odisha, with aspirants accusing the Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) of violating its own rules and creating widespread confusion.

The controversy has pushed thousands of Hindi, Sanskrit, and Physical Education (PET) teacher aspirants to the streets and courtrooms, as recruitment remains stalled for months

Addressing a press confer-

CLASSIFIED

I, SIVA SETHI, Father

**AFFIDAVIT** 

of Suresh Sethi,

resident of Vill/PO-

Pin-756132 Odisha

Nuagan Ichhapur, PS-

Bansada, Dist-Bhadrak,

declare by this affidavit

No.7333, dtd. 15.11.2025

shall be known as SIBA **SETHI** for all future

that now onwards I

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purposes.

## Odisha seeks evacuation of 7.60 lakh MT rice by FCI



**Minister Patra requested Prahallad Joshi for early** release of subsidy claims prioritising settlement of major pending dues of three financial years from 2020 to 2023

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: The state government has requested the Centre for early evacuation of 7.60 lakh metric tons of rice procured by the state within

Union government, an official said Friday. State's Food supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister

the time frame specified by the

Krushna Chandra Patra, who the Union Consumer Welfare, Public Food Distribution Minister Prahallad Joshi recently in New Delhi, also pressed forth the release of 8178.19 cr of pending paddy subsidy claims.

Patra requested Joshi for early release of subsidy claims prioritising settlement of major pending dues of three financial years from 2020 to 2023.

He also requested evacuation of rice from the state for smooth conduct of upcoming procurement cycle. Necessary instructions may be issued to Food Corporation of India (FCI) to expedite the evacuation within the time frame specified.

Minister Patra also demanded enhancement of procurement target of rice for the kharif season.

Joshi assured all possible help to state. On this occasion, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare department Principal Secretary Sanjay Kumar Singh, along with other senior officers were present.

### Bihar verdict endorsement of PM's policies: Pradhan

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Friday said the Bihar Assembly election results were an endorsement of the policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and rejection of the 'negative' politics of the

Pradhan, who hails from the state, made the comments after arriving at the Biju Patnaik International Airport here.

"I thank the people of Bihar for their verdict in the Assembly polls. They have given full recognition to the vision of the Prime Minister and the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar," he said.

The NDA stormed back to power in Bihar, winning 202 seats in the 243-member Assembly, with the BJP bagging 89, JD(U) 85, LJP(RV) 19,

HAM 5 and RLM 4.

of the country are developed, it is incorrect to think of India's progress. The NDA won the Bihar polls despite re maining in power for two de cades. It is a big recognition of the PM's governance, Pradhan asserted.

Criticising the Congress, he said the voters "rejected the party's negative policies of dividing people and the society"

"In the by-poll to Odisha's Nuapada, the people also voted for the BJP. I also congratulate Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and state BJF president Monmohan Sama for the victory in Nuapada," the Union Education Minister said

Pradhan is scheduled to vis it Puri to offer prayers at the Srimandir, and attend programmes at Dhamnagar in Bhadrak district.

ĺ	MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY			COMMODITIES			
I	INDEX VARIATION	INDEX VARIATION	INDEX VARIATION			
ı	DOLLAR <b>89.55 ♦</b> 0.82	SENSEX <b>85231.92 4</b> 00.76	GOLD ₹ <b>'123,740 </b> ↑ ₹1,013			
	EURO <b>103.05 4</b> 0.75	NIFTY <b>26068.15 </b>	SILVER <b>₹152,525 ↑</b> ₹1,622			

## CUO, UNICEF join hands to establish TCC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhairiganjan Nag, S/O: Jibardhan Nag, Bhubaneswar/Koraput, Nov R/O: SARAMUHAN, BHARUAPALI, VTC: Bharuapali, PO: Sarmuhan, Sub District: Belpara, District: Balangir, State: Odisha, PIN Code: 767026 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ranjan Nag. I, hitherto known as CHHOTU SUNA,

S/O: Biranchi Suna, R/O: SARAMUHAN, BHARUAPALI, Bharuapali, PO: Sarmuhan, Dist: Balangir, Odisha, 767026 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vicky Suna.

21: In a landmark step towards strengthening tribal voices and safeguarding Odisha's rich indigenous heritage, the Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput, and UNICEF Odisha have entered into a strategic partnership to establish a Tribal Communication Cell (TCC) at the university campus. The initiative aims to advance socio-economic empowerment, preserve traditional knowledge systems, and ensure greater inclusion of tribal communities in the state's developmental

The Letter of Intent (LoI) was formally signed recently in presence of CUO Vice-Chancellor (I/c) N C Panda and UNICEF Odisha Field Office Chief William Hanlon Junior as the signatories. CUO Finance Officer Duryodhan Sethi, department of Journalism and Mass Communication HoD & Associate Professor Nikhil Kumar Gouda,



UNICEF Odisha SBC Specialist Sugata Roy and CUO Public Relations Officer Phagunath Bhoi.

Describing the initiative as a milestone for the university, Panda said, "The establishment of Tribal Communication Cell is a moment of pride. It will empower both students and tribal communities, fostering inclusive communication and

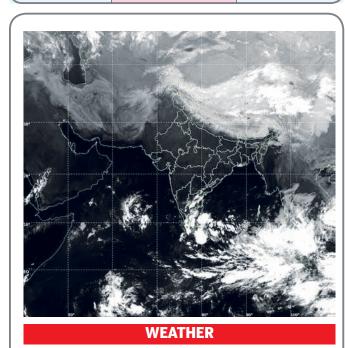
contributing to sustainable development across tribal-dominated regions.

Reflecting on the significance of the collaboration, Hanlon remarked that this partnership underlines our shared vision to place tribal perspectives at the heart of development, "The Tribal Communication Cell will play a transformative role in

generating evidence, nurturing capacities, and creating spaces for meaningful dialogue. It will ultimately strengthen the rights and well-being of children and families in tribal regions of Odisha," he added.

Highlighting the objectives of TCC, Gouda said that the cell, to be managed by the department, will serve as a dynamic centre for research, documentation, capacity building, and community engagement. "With UNICEF extending technical expertise and continuous support, the cell aims to develop culturally rooted communication models that genuinely reflect the lived experiences of tribal communities," he added.

The signing ceremony was also attended by key academic and administrative officials including Pradosh Kumar Rath, Gourav Ranjan, Sumit Kumar Behera, Sony Parhi and Talat Jahan Begam. Department's Associate Professor Souray Gupta proposed vote of thanks.



sor some some some some some some some some				
WEATHER				
	BBSR	CTC	<b>FORECAST</b>	
Max Temp	32.6°	29.6°	Partly	
Min Temp	19.2°	17.6°	cloudy Sky.	
Humidity	66%	80%		
Rainfall	Nil	Nil		
			1	

# **Dual reports on single complaint put Keonjhar DMF in a tight spot**

Keonjhar/Hatadihi, Nov 21: A written complaint regarding Keonjhar DMF (District Mineral Foundation) affairs, filed May 7, 2025, has led to a serious controversy after two different reports were issued on the same allegation within a span of four

Following the filing of the complaint, the administration had sought a fact-based report. However, despite the complaint being the same, the Keonjhar DMF released two separate and differing reports. The first report was issued by the DMF CEO through Letter No. 1955 dated June 20, 2025. The second report on the same complaint was issued by the same CEO through Letter No. 2866 dated November 6, 2025.

The issuance of two contradictory reports on a single written complaint has raised serious concerns over procedural transparency

Man gets 20 years

RI for raping minor

Court here Friday convicted Krishna

Naik, 27, of the Aska police limits in a minor rape case. Judge Pranati

of rigorous imprisonment (RI) and

he must undergo an additional 11

the judge said while delivering the

verdict. The court also directed the

₹10.5 lakh as financial assistance to

the survivor. The incident occurred

at home. Taking advantage of

the situation, Naik entered the

case (314/23) and launched an

of 14 witnesses and the police

investigation. Naik, who had fled,

was later arrested and produced

verdict after examining statements

house, intimidated and raped her

secretary of the DLSA to provide

Berhampur: A Special POCSO



and accountability.

According to available information, EY LLP had been engaged as the Project Management Unit (PMU) for Keonihar DMF. The firm had entered into a three-year agreement with DMF April 7, 2022. The agreement, however, had not been approved by the Trust Board meeting, nor had the required budget been sanctioned for it. The contract price for the agreement was approximately ₹17 crore.

The agreement period was to the firm 20 days later, April 23, 2025.

propriate action.

As the matter unfolds, the issuance of two distinct reports on the same complaint continues to draw public attention

#### set to expire April 6, 2025. Yet, before its expiry, the Executive Committee meeting held March 29, 2025 extended the contract of the PMU for an additional three months — from April 6 to July 6 2025. The decision to extend the contract was communicated

However, under Rule 6 of the Odisha DMF Rules, 2015, the Executive Committee does not possess the authority to extend any agreement period. Citing this procedural violation, a formal complaint was submitted May 7, 2025 to the Chief Minister of Odisha, the Chief Secretary, the Principal Secretary of Planning and Convergence, and the Keonjhar District Collector, seeking investigation and ap-

### Vedanta Lanjigarh facilitates NCC induction at DAV Vedanta School



Lanjigarh: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has taken a pioneering step in empowering youth by facilitating the induction of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) programme at DAV Vedanta International School in Lanjigarh. This milestone makes the school the first and only institution across the three key blocks of Lanjigarh, Muniguda, and Ambodala to offer the prestigious NCC programme, opening new avenues for leadership and discipline among students. Under this initiative, 50 NCC seats have been allotted to the school, with 25 cadets to be inducted in 2025 and another 25 in 2026. From 2026 onwards, 50 cadets from Classes VIII to X will join annually, enduring a sustained culture of leadership, teamwork, and civic responsibility. Speaking on the occasion, Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, CEO, Vedanta Alumina Business, said, "Empowering young minds is foundational to the socio-economic progress of a region. By enabling the NCC program at DAV Vedanta International School, we are opening new avenues for students to develop essential life skills and pursue wider academic and career opportunities. This is a significant milestone in our journey to build a confident and future-ready generation in Kalahandi.' The induction ceremony was attended by Lieutenant Commander Darshan, Commanding Officer of the Odisha Naval NCC Battalion, Bhawanipatna, along with other officials who interacted with students and inspired them to imbibe the NCC values of discipline and service.

## Kendrapara police detain 16 suspected B'deshis

investigation report.

Kendrapara, Nov 21: Sixteen suspected Bangladeshi nationals have been detained for allegedly living illegally in Kendrapara after they failed to produce valid citizenship documents, Kendrapara Superintendent of Police Siddharth Kataria said Friday

Further action will be taken against those who are unable to submit authentic Indian cit-

izenship proof, he added. Law enforcement authorities in Kendrapara district have begun a district-wide verification drive to identify suspected Bangladeshi immigrants.

Police are currently verifying Aadhaar cards and residential certificates submitted by the detained individuals.

As per government directives, the state's law enforcement agencies have launched an intensive identity and document verification campaign in multiple districts to detect illegal immigrants.

District Collector Raghuram

R Iyer stated that illegal immigrants identified during the

process will be deported. Meanwhile, police teams are conducting checks at key locations across the district, verifying documents, inspecting luggage carriers in buses and other vehicles, and monitoring transit points. Personnel at all three marine police stations in the district are also verifying identities at ferry ghats and fishing harbours to prevent illegal entry via the sea route.

## Bhawanipatna MLA

Bhawanipatna, Nov 21: Congress MLA from Bhawanipatna, Sagar Charan Das, Friday alleged that he received a death threat, prompting a formal police complaint and an



four unidentified men threatened Zonal President Debanand Joshi of Udepur village at gunpoint Thursday night, demanding personal information about the MLA. According to Das, the men warned Joshi that refusing to provide the details would cost him his life, and also issued a death threat directed at the legislator.

The MLA questioned public safety in the state, saying that if an elected representative is not secure, ordinary citizens cannot feel safe. He alleged that the threat was politically motivated.

Later, Joshi filed a written complaint at the Bhawanipatna Sadar police station Friday afternoon. He stated that four masked men approached him and demanded the MLA's personal details Thursday at about 9:30pm, while he was near his fish farm in Depur. When he refused, one of them allegedly pointed a gun at him and threatened abduction, saying even the MLA would not be able

Joshi said two of the men spoke in the local dialect and wore masks, while the other two, who spoke in the dialect used in Berhampur, were unmasked. He claimed both his life and the MLA's life were in danger if police protection was not provided.

## plucking flowers; probe on

POST NEWS NETWORK

died Friday morning while plucking flowers from a plant in Sanaata village under Nilagiri NAC of Balasore district.

The incident triggered tension in the area after the family members of the deceased alleged that the live wire on the flower plant was intentionally set up by

The deceased, Tapas Das, son of late Purushottam Das, had reportedly gone to neighbour Dilip Kumar Rout's house to pluck flowers when he came in contact with a live wire allegedly placed around the flower plants and received a fatal electric shock. Villagers discovered his body and alerted his family, who then informed Nilagiri police. The incident drew a large crowd at the spot Nilagiri IIC Gobardhan Nayak reached the scene, sent the body for post-mortem

Tapas's mother, Sandhya Das, filed a complaint alleging that the house owner had illegally connected electric wires around the plants to prevent others from plucking flowers, which led to her son's death. Police have registered an unnatural death case (48/25). Whether the case amounts to homicide or is an accidental death will depend on the post-mortem report and the findings of the investigation, officers said

### gets death threat POST NEWS NETWORK



investigation into the matter.

Das posted on X Friday claiming that

A case (552/25) has been registered, and an investigation is underway, Bhawanipatna SDPO Naresh Padhan said.

## Man electrocuted while

Nilagiri, Nov 21: A 35-year-old man

and began an investigation.

## **3 KIDS CRITICAL AFTER MISTAKENLY** EATING PESTICIDE INSTEAD OF SALT

Nilagiri, Nov 21: Three children from Salabani village in Mahishapata panchayat of Nilagiri block were hospitalised Thursday after accidentally consuming 'Thimet', a toxic pesticide, mistaking it for common salt.

According to local sources family members of the children were away harvesting paddy when the three, aged eight, five and four years, were playing together. While pretending to cook food with

reportedly brought the pesticide 'Thimet' from his home believing it to be salt, mixed it with onions and shared it with the others

The affected children have been identified as Yuvaraj, 8, son of Babula Singh; Indurekha, 5, daughter of Akshaya Singh; and Ghanashyam, 4, son of Ramesh Singh. When family members returned home later in the afternoon, they found the children seriously ill and rushed them to the Nilagiri

Yuvaraj's condition de teriorated Thursday night, prompting his transfer first to the Balasore District Headquarters Hospital and later to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. As the conditions of Ghanashy am and Indurekha also wors ened, both were shifted to Fa kir Mohan Medical College and Hospital in Balasore, where Ghanashyam remains in the ICU.

Local authorities are mon itoring the situation.

ENGG/2025-26, Date: 17.11.2025 e-Tender No. 56-eT-DENC-SBP-25

Verneof the Work MAINTENANCE OF 11 NOS. DF NON-INTERLOCKED LEVEL CROSSINGS I.E., JT-27, JT-34, JT-41, JT-42, JT-43, JT-44, JT-45, JT-77, JT-85, JT-87, & JT-96) FOR SAFETY FEATURES BY PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL LAYER IN SAMBALPUR (IN)-DEOGAN ROAD (IN)SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

ecurity: ₹ 84,300/-, Completion period for the ork: 06 months.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in berson shall be accepted against such betenders even if these are submitted on firm's etter head and received in time. All such manua offers shall be considered invalid and shall be ejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender ocuments of the above e-tender is available in

ebsite www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender Divisional Railway Manager (Engg),

#### EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) Tender No: ELOP-T-11-2025 LOBBY AND RUNNING ROOM AT BHUBANESWAR (BBS) INCLUDING PROVISION OF SUBSIDIZED MEALS FOR A PERIOD OF 02 YEARS.

Advertised Value : ₹ 1,82,90,767.34, EMD: (2) Tender No: EL OP-T-12-2025

LOBBY AND RUNNING ROOM AT PURI SUBSIDIZED MEALS FOR A PERIOD OF 02

₹2,85,700/-, Tender document cost: ₹11,800/-.
Period of Completion: 730 Days (for both

hrs. of 06.12.2025 (for both tenders). tender and any such manual offer received shall

Complete details & tender documents will be available at website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (OP),

Dated: 18.11.2025

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** 

OFFICE OF THE

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, REDHAKHOL FOREST DIVISION

E-mail id - dfo.redhakhol@odisha.gov.in

BID IDENTIFICATION No. F&E/RKL/01(Online)/2025-26

**E-Procurement Notice** 

No. MM-293: The Divisional Forest Officer, Redhakhol Forest Division

on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in Single

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further

details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov

in only. Any Corrigendum/Addendum/Cancellation of tender will b

CORRIGENDUM NO.06 to Tender Notice No. EPC-CECONIIBBS2025039, Dtd.: 08.09.2025

SI. No. 1: Tender closing date & time: As

SI. No. 2: Physical submission of all documen

sted in clause no. 2.11.2 of RFP document: As ublished vide Corrigendum No. 5 - at 1800 hrs SI. No. 3: Opening of technical bids at venue a

entioned in clause no. 2.11.4 (I) of RFF ocument: As published vide Corrigendum No as: at 1200 hrs. of 09.12.2025. advised to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in.

Chief Administrative Officer (Con).

me of the Work: PROVISION OF CYBEI SECURITY IMPLEMENTATION IN EXISTING SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM (SCADA) IN SAMBALPUR-ANGUL SECTION OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION. Approx cost: ₹ 1,45,03,110/-, EMD

person shall be accepted against suce-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available i website www.ireps.gov.in

The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III digital signature certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering All relevant paper must have to be uploaded a the time of participating on e-tendering as per Note: The prospective tenderers are advised t

revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD),

displayed in the website said only

Cover System in ONLINE MODE.

Availability of bid document in

Date of Opening of Tenders

Nature of Work

Tender Cost

the website

Class of Contractor

Sr. CDO, Santragachi, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur Division, acting through through e-tendering in www.ireps.gov.ir website as per details mentioned below Eligible tenderers are requested to apply for the same through online only in www.ireps.gov.in website as per details entioned below. No offline tender will I accepted. Please read the tender docume uploaded in the document section for details (1) Tender Notice No.: C-MECH-OBHS-SHM-11-25, Date: 19.11.2025, Name o the work: On Board Housekeeping Service (OBHS) in 10 trains and Linen distribution in 9 primary trains maintained a Padmapukur and Shalimar for a period of 03 years. Tender Value: ₹31,09,62,421.89 EMD: ₹17,04,800. Closing date of tender 18.12.2025 at 12.00 hrs. Cost of tende focument: ₹ 10,000 (non-refundable) 2) Tender Notice No.: C-BioT-25R2, Date 20.11.2025. Name of the work: Annua Maintenance and Operation Contrac (AMOC) of Bio Toilets (DRDE Type) in oaches of Coaching Depot, Santragac & Padmapukur for a period of three years Tender Value: ₹ 22.58.20.882.35 (including GST), EMD: ₹ 12,79,100, Closing date o ender: 18.12.2025 at 12.00 hrs. Cost of tender document: ₹ 10,000 (non



Construction of Forest Guard

Quarters, Ministerial Quarter, ACI

"B", "C" & "D" Class Contractor

11.30 hours on Dt.05.12.2025

18.00 hours of 18.11.2025 to 13.30

Quarter and Staff Barrack

Rs.6,000/- & Rs.10,000/-

hours of 02.12.2025

Sd./- Divisional Foest Officer

Redhakhol Forest Division





**KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION** सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार /

Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India राज्य कार्यालय, भुवनेश्वर / State Office, Bhubaneswar

No.SO/KVIC/Legal/PA/2025-26/ Date: 21.11.2025

#### RE ADVERTISMENT FOR THE ENGAGEMENT OF PANEL OF ADVOCATE

The Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India, State Office, Bhubaneswar, invites applications from Advocates with a minimum of 10 years of practice in Civil, Criminal, and Labour/Services matters for inclusion in the panel to render legal opinions and contest cases in various Courts/Tribunals, Complete applications in Form-I (obtainable from the State Office or website www.kvic gov.in) along with supporting documents must reach to the State Director, KVIC, Plot No.J-16, Bhimpur, Gandamumda Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar-751030, on or before 31.12.2025 Selection is via a Screening Committee, whose decision is final, the Commission also reserves the right to accept or reject any application without reason. Previous applicants from the notification dated 13.11.2024 need not re-apply.

Sd./- State Director

#### यूनियन बैंक 🕼 Union Bank This is to inform the public that inspite of repeated reminders the following gold loan borrowers have not repaid thier loan. If they do not repay their outstanding debts before the auction, their gold ornaments

No.

outstanding debt before the auction take place.

THELKOLOI BRANCH (68480), AT: THELKOLOI

Odisha, PIN-768005 / **365206530000038** 

365206530000094

have been completed

assigning any reason therefor

ornaments pledged for auction.

for any reason whatsoever.

way of completing the auction

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 21.11.2025

768016 **/ 365206540000129** 

Name & Address of the Borrower(s)

Gold Loan Account No.

Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-768212 / 684806530000010

Subodh Sing, C/o- Dillip Kumar Mallik, Thelkoloi, PO: Lapanga

Janaki Bhoi, C/o- Kapilo Bhoi, Rastrapati Colony, Brooks Hill, PO

Pratima Majhi, At: Brahangali, PO: Chaunrpur, Dist.: Sambalpur,

Srikant Badi, S/o- Satyanarayan Badi, At: Gandapada, PO:

Dhanupali, Khandual, Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-768005 /

Ananda Chandra Mohanty, C/o- Narayan Mohanty, At: In Front of G48/1, Raja Colony, PO: Hirakud, Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-

Ananda Chandra Mohanty, C/o- Narayan Mohanty, At: In Front of G48/1, Raja Colony, PO: Hirakud, Sambalpur, Orissa, PIN-

Dhanupali, Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-768001 / 365206530000078

SAMBALPUR BRANCH (36520), AT/PO: GROUND FLOOR, BALAJI BUILDI

#### Regional Office: Sambalpur 1st Floor, Balaji Midtown, Budharaja DiCst.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-768004

will be auctioned at the premises of our Concerned Branches on 29.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. The Bank

will not be liable for any inconvenience or loss to the borrowers and the Bank will take legal action

against them if the Bank loses where necessary. Borrowers can take their Jewellery by repaying the

SAMBALPUR, PIN-768001, MOB. NO.: 8336918192

Person willing to participate in the auction should obey the following rules:

Person willing to participate in the auction must deposit ₹1,000/- in the form of Earnest Money

Deposit (EMD) two hours before the scheduled auction time.

After depositing the EMD, person who willing to participate in the auction can inspect the ornaments

Auction for another account will begin only after the auction and amount deposit of one account

The Bank is not Bound to accept any auction calls. The Bank may cancel the auction without

Union Bank of India will not held responsible in any manner for the quality, weight and purety of the

The successful bidder shall pay the entire bid amount at once and take delivery of the ornaments at

his/her absolute risk and responsibility and the said bidder shall not have any recourse to our Banl

If the successful bidder does not clear the bid amount and/or does anything which may give rise to

a necessity of adjourning/postponing/holding fresh auction sale, he/she shall be liable to indemnify the Bank to the extent of loss, if any, caused on account of his/her lapses which may come in the

Bank will forfiet the EMD Deposit Amount if any person does not obey the above rules.

Outstanding

interest

interest

₹10,928.00 +

interest

₹25,202.00 +

₹1,41,752.89 +

interest

₹1,43,235.00 +

interest

Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

NG G.M.COLLEGE ROAD.

O: LAPANGA. DIST.: SAMBALPUR. PIN-768232.

NOTICE

(in Gram)

12.00

6.00

3.20

6.00

29.50

29.70

**CENTRAL SILK BOARD** (Ministry of Textiles - Govt. of India) BTM Layout, Madiwala, Bengaluru - 560 068, Karnataka Phone: +91 80 26282699 Fax: +91 80 26681511 E-Mail: estab.csb@nic.in

Advt.No.CSB/02/ 2025 RECRUITMENT NOTICE Applications are invited for following posts on deputation basis: Scale of Pay Name of the Post Classification Level-12 Joint Secretary (Technical) Group-A Deputy Director (Admn. & Accts.) Level-11 3 Deputy Director (Statistics)

Assistant Director (Statistics) For details, refer CSB website: www.csb.gov.in Hard copy of the application for the above post should be submitted in the prescribed format along with all relevant documents through Proper Channel to the Member Secretary, Central Silk Board, Bengaluru. Last date for receipt of applications: 60 days from the date of publication of advertisemen

Central Silk Board CBC:41109/12/0011/2526





Assistant Director (Admn. & Accts.)

**Bharat Petroleum** Corporation Limited (A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Group-A

Group-A

Level-11

REQUIRED RESIDENTIAL FLATS ON LEASE IN BARGARH

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking, seeks to lease 14 residential flats (Ten 2BHK and Four 3BHK) in Bargarh, Odisha for a period of 5 years within the municipal limits of Bargarh, Odisha. The tender enquiry document will be available on BPCL website www.bharatpetroleum.in from 22.11.2025. Interested parties shall submit their proposal / bid at the premise of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. as per address below by 1500 hrs on 12.12.2025 :

DGM Admin (HRS), East

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Bio-Ethanol Plant, Village - Baulsingha, Tehsil - Bhatli, Bargarh district, Odisha-768030 Further corrigendum on the above subject, if any, shall be published in our website www.bharatpetroleum.in and not in Press.

Note: BPCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the proposa without assigning any reason whatsoever











Regional Office: Sambalpur 1st Floor, Balaji Midtown, Budharaja, Sambalpur- 768004, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha

VEHICLE AUCTION

applications are invited from interested bidders for purchase of following vehicles, seized by the Bank o "As is where is basis" as per terms and conditions listed below. This public notice will be treated as a notice to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors of the loans. They are hereby advised to be present at the auction venue on the auction date and are free to liquidate their entire dues before the auction date, failing which the vehicles will be auctioned and balance dues, if any will be recovered from them with interest and cost.

verilloide will be additioned and balance adds, if any will be recovered from their with interest and cost.						
SI No.	Branch/ Contact Number	Name of Borrower	Vehicle No.		Month / Year of Manufacturing	
1.	9430330321	Mr. Vikas Agrawal	OD 14 AD 9099	KIA CARENES D 1.5 IMT LUXURY PLUS 7	08/2023	₹10,40,000/-
2.	BARAIPALI / 7488700609	Mr. Ramesh Chandra Sunani	DO THE STREET STORES	RAIAIMAYIMA	manages 1	₹1,04,000/-
Auction Date & Time : 02.12.2025, 11.30 A.M. to 12.30 P.M., Auction Venue: At the Concerned Branch as stated above, EMD is 10% of the Reserve Price mentioned above.						

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1) Applications accompanied by ID/address proof copy (originals to be verifi and EMD as applicable for each vehicle in shape of Banker's cheque/Draft drawn in favour of **Union Bank o**f India, payable at Concerned Branch should reach on or before 01.12.2025 upto 11.00 A.M. 2) However the ban reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the auction process of any/all vehicles at its own discretion at any poin of time without assigning any reason whatsoever. 3) Bid amount does not include any statutory tax pending and applicable RTA fees. All these cost are additional and must be borne by the successfull bidder. 4) Dispute pertain ng to year of manufacture, documents, condition of vehicle/assets, etc. will not be consider after successful bid 5) Entry to the event is strictly restricted to the registered bidder only. 6) The refund of EMD will be made imme didately after the closure of the bidding process to the unsuccessful bidders. 7) Successful Highest bidder has to deposit a minimum amount of 25% of the bid amount inclusive EMD on the same day, failing which the bid taker will not be considered as EMD amount will be forfeited without further intimation. 8) The balance should be paid by the successful bidder within next **15 days** from the date of auction. **9)** Delayed interest @18%p.a. will be charged against any amount due and payable by the successful bidder beyond 15 days from the date of the event, subject to a maximum waiting period of 22 days from the date of auction. 10) Default in payment beyond the stipulated 22 days, will lead to deal cancellation and forfeiture of EMD paid and the vehicle/equipment machinery will be resold without further information. Acceptance of payment on later date will be sole discretion o Bank. 11) Successful Bidders are fully responsible for taking delivery of all vehicles or equipment from Stockyard after full payment is made. 12) Successful bidders must remove the vehicles/equipments within 7 days from the date of release order along with RC Transfer in to their name.

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 21.11.2025 Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India









## power post





By your stumbling, the world

**SRI AUROBINDO** 



## Lightning Ascent

here are fast moves in babudom bureaucracy, and then there is the Sujit Kumar story, which has impressed many in service circles. In just 51 days, Kumar went from Principal Commissioner in Delhi to BJP MLA from Gaura Bauram in Darbhanga, Bihar. Normally, such transitions take months of paperwork, clearances, and political negotiation. In this case, the timeline has raised more than a few eyebrows.

The sequence speaks for itself. On September 13, CBDT issued a promotion list that unusually included 20 IRS-IT officers of the 2001 batch at a level many of their IAS counterparts are still waiting to reach. Kumar was among them. Ten days later, he and others were given postings at their upgraded grade. On September 25, he applied for voluntary retirement. Instead of the standard three-month wait, Rashtrapati Bhavan cleared it in just 15 days. He joined the BJP on October 13, was named a candidate within 24 hours, filed his nomination the next day, went to the polls on November 6, and won on November 14.

What makes the speed more striking is the contrast with others who entered politics the hard way. Former IAS officer RK Singh, once a Union minister, was recently dismissed from the BJP for speaking out of turn. No such turbulence for Sujit Kumar, hopefully. His trajectory suggests not just careful planning, but powerful patrons ensuring the gears turned smoothly.

None of this means Kumar lacks merit. He is regarded as bright, ambitious, and politically aware. But few believe this chain of empanelment, VRS clearance, ticket allocation and electoral victory would have aligned without strong backing from Delhi.

#### Hints of a bigger reshuffle

Fresh off a decisive Bihar victory, the Modi government has signalled a sharp bureaucratic reset, one that goes far beyond routine reshuffling. The most telling move is the appointment of V. Srinivas as Rajasthan's new Chief Secretary. A 1989-batch IAS

officer with deep Central exposure, Srinivas wasn't merely repatriated but strategically placed. His tenure as Union Secretary in Administrative Reforms, Pensions, and Grievances gave him a ringside view of the



Centre's governance playbook. Now he's expected to bring that mindset into Jaipur's secretariat.

What makes this move more intriguing is the timing and the tenure. Srinivas is due to retire in September 2026, which means he gets less than a year and a half in the hot seat unless the government grants an extension. That short runway strongly suggests a targeted mission: push through major administrative alignments, tighten state-Centre coordination, and ensure that Rajasthan's bureaucracy operates in sync with national priorities. In other words: he's not here for the scenery. Meanwhile, his predecessor Sudhansh Pant has been pulled back to Delhi, parked briefly as Officer on Special Duty in the Cabinet Secretariat, before taking over as Secretary,

Social Justice and Empowerment next year. But beyond Jaipur, observers expect stirring happenings at the Centre. Several senior posts, including Petroleum & Natural Gas, Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, remain vacant. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is clearly keeping key slots open while

rebalancing the administration in line with political priorities. So, this is a prelude. The real action, many in Delhi believe, is coming at the political level. With key Secretary posts at the Centre lying vacant and senior officers being quietly repositioned, the groundwork is being laid for something bigger. The chatter in power corridors is unmistakable: a Union Cabinet reshuffle may also not be far off. A few non-performing ministers could be shown the door, fresh faces may enter, and portfolios could see major

#### The IPS era in CAPFs is ending

For decades, India's Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) have lived with what many CAPF officers call, not entirely jokingly, the "IPS occupation". The Supreme Court has now told them the withdrawal date (reported by this column). With the Court dismissing the Centre's review plea, the May 2025 judgment ordering a phased reduction of IPS deputations has become irreversible. There's even a timer: two years for the transition. No extensions, no polite ambiguity.

Today, half of all IG posts and one-fifth of DIG posts in CAPFs are reserved for IPS officers. That pipeline has shaped careers, morale, and internal hierarchies for decades. Countless CAPF officers have waited 30 years for a shot at an IG rank, only to watch a youngish IPS officer fly in, collect stars, and fly out.

Naturally, the IPS brotherhood is worried. Their argument, which the Home Ministry echoes, is that IPS leadership ensures 'functional necessity, lateral talent infusion and national security coordination". Fair enough. But that line rings hollow when CAPF officers themselves run modern counter-insurgency grids, manage lakhs of personnel in remote borders, and command units that look more like light infantry than civil police.

The Supreme Court wasn't buying the security-doom argument either. It pointed out something obvious. Stagnation kills morale, and morale matters in forces tasked with guarding everything from Maoist belts to the Pakistan border. The judgment also did something quietly revolutionary. It said CAPFs must be treated as full Organised Group A Services for cadre matters. That's babu code for "stop treating them like borrowed labour."

One amusing data point in the government's defence: IPS officers make up only 1.4% of the CAPF Group A executive cadre, but it's this tiny segment sitting in the corner office that decides who gets promoted.

Will this dismantle IPS' influence overnight? Unlikely. The turf war will now move into cadre review committees, service rule tinkering, and the bureaucratic trenches of North Block. But something big has shifted.

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#### WISDOM CORNER

evading it today.

Looking back on my past life I feel inclined to think that I should not have neglected sports.

You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by

SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very

## ILLIBERAL WORLD ORDER

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

speak of a "liberal international order." Even if the accompanying institutional arrangements were not always entirely liberal, international, or orderly, the label had its uses. After all, the purpose of an ideal is not to describe reality, but to guide behavior, and for many decades, most countries aspired to be part of the liberal order and to contribute to its development (even if some preferred to free ride or game the system).

Those days are clearly gone. We have entered a new era of global disorder. Obviously, the steady rise of China and other emerging economies was always going to pose a challenge to arrangements that were created by the Western powers after World War II. But the decisive factor in the demise of the liberal international order is that its chief architect, the United States. has abandoned it. No longer do American leaders echo John F. Kennedy's commitment to "pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the

success of liberty." True, the US wasn't always consistent in upholding international law or supporting the United Nations and its multilateral networks of cooperation. But there is little doubt that without American support, this entire edifice would have crumbled, as seems to be happening now. Under President Donald Trump's second administration, the US has become explicit in denouncing the old liberal order, with Secretary of State Marco Rubio arguing that it is "not just obsolete; it is now a weapon being used against us.'

By definition, an interna-



From Greenland to the Panama Canal, the **US has become an engine of international** disorder, joining the likes of Russia, with its delusional war of aggression against Ukraine and mushrooming shadow war on the **European Union** 

tional order entails some common rules. But the Trump administration is openly hostile to any such constraints. It is explicitly pursuing a policy of putting its own self-defined interests above everything else, and it has proven willing - and even eager - to brutalize friends and allies in the process

Trump's punitive tariffs are only part of the story. He has thrown out the entire rulebook, including by imposing import tariffs for reasons that have nothing to do with trade. While it is still early days, there is no doubt that the global economy will pay a heavy price for Trump's reign of destruction - with the US economy perhaps suffering the most in the long term.

The very concept of international law has been all but expunged from US foreign and economic policymaking. The long-held view of geopolitics as a contest between democratic and authoritarian regimes now looks utterly irrelevant. Trump and his appointees speak of human rights only selectively, such as when issuing false claims about a genocide being committed against white farmers in South Africa (meanwhile, the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank merit barely any mention).

There has been an understandable backlash in the US against the "forever wars" in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as a belated recognition that foreign countries cannot simply be reordered by US diktat. The "unipolar" moment of unrivaled US power between the fall of the Berlin Wall and China's emergence as a technological superpower – undoubtedly lent itself to American hubris.

But now the pendulum has swung all the way in the other direction. From Greenland to the Panama Canal, the US has become an engine of international disorder, joining the likes of Russia, with its delusional war of aggression against Ukraine and mush-

rooming shadow war on the European Union. Meanwhile, vast regions, from the Horn of Africa to Sudan and through the Sahel, are descending into conflict and chaos, and no one seems to care. In fact, the US is busy with its own new little "war of choice" against Nicolás Maduro's regime in Venezuela.

Despite its industrial might and expanding naval resources, China is unlikely to fill the void left by the US. So far, the Chinese have been treading cautiously, strongly resisting what they see as US bullying, but refraining from intervening in various conflicts around the world. China explicitly wants a new global order, not a continuation of the US-led liberal order that prevailed for eight decades after WWII.

But there is no new order on the horizon. We have entered a period of global disorder, with illiberal regimes gaining ground and the old structures of international breaking down. These trends would be dangerous enough in isolation; they are even more so in the face of climate change, pandemic risks, and potentially disruptive technol-

ogies like AI. The cooperation needed to manage these threats is not in the offing. If there is any hope in this age of global disarray, it will lie in plurilateral coalitions focused on specific issues - trade rules, global health, and the energy transition, among others. Countries that recognize the dangers we face will have to find new ways to come together on their own.

The writer is a former prime minister and foreign minister of Sweden.

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#### SPECTRUM UKRAINE-RUSSIA WAR

Carl Bildt

**NAVAL** 

**CHINA IS** 

**DESPITE ITS** 

**INDUSTRIAL** 

**MIGHT AND** 

**EXPANDING** 

RESOURCES,

**UNLIKELY TO** 

**FILL THE VOID** 

**LEFT BY THE US** 

## Delhi, Warsaw face similar security concerns



DKGiri

**INDIA-POLAND TIES ARE CRITICAL FOR BOTH COUNTRIES IN MUTUAL INTEREST AND LEARNING** 

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

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

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

t's been three years, eight months and three weeks since Russia invaded the country of Ukraine, and to date, Russia has failed to agree on a ceasefire. Earlier this week, Ukraine faced its fiercest battle in months as Russia attacked Ukraine's eastern town of Pokrovsk.

While Russia stated that it has no plans to attack NATO, Russia's pressing on more Ukrainian territories has made the surrounding nations double up their defence spending. Poland, one of the biggest suppliers of military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, also prepares for war with Russia if it decides to invade the Baltic states. Poland's President vows to spend 4.7% GDP on defence by this year, and on the defence manufacturing side, Poland is scaling up artillery production, especially 155 mm howitzer shells, to support both its own defence and

Ukraine's war needs. In the midst of this, there is a rising shift in public sentiment. Security polling shows growing war fatigue, and according to a peace-security survey, only about half of Poles now support continued aid to Ukraine, and just 15% support sending Polish troops. Another survey (CBOS) found 55% of Poles believe the

war should end even if Ukraine has to cede territory or independence. However, despite these doubts, Poland's leadership still claims a strong role.

Poland's geographical position renders it highly sensitive to spillover risks from the conflict. Incidents involving Russian drones entering Polish airspace, and the subsequent scramble of NATO aircraft, have heightened awareness of escalation pathways and underscored Poland's vulnerability as a bordering state.

In response, Polish policymakers have advocated for strengthened NATO deterrence measures and have reopened debates on enhanced airspace protection for Ukraine, including proposals for a NATO-backed air-defence shield or a limited no-fly enforcement mechanism.

For an outside observer, Poland's contributions reflect both principled support for Ukrainian sovereignty and pragmatic awareness of the strategic risks posed by Russian revisionism. As the conflict continues, Poland's decisions will remain pivotal in determining not only Ukraine's prospects but the broader stability of Europe's eastern frontier.

India on the other hand, still appears to be neutral which

implies support to Russian position on the war. Such a stance is causing considerable concern in European countries including Poland and the United States. Poland and Europe would want India to distance itself from Russia on Ukraine war or give a hand in bringing about a ceasefire.

Talking about India-Poland ties, they were taken to new heights as a strategic partnership was signed during Indian Prime Minister's visit to the country in 2024 after a long gap, en route to Kiev. A Five-Year Action Plan was initiated for 2024-28. This laid out priority areas for deepening cooperation.

Both India and Poland are fastest-growing economies, Poland among the European countries and India in Asia. Both countries are seeking to enhance their respective roles in international affairs. Given the similarity in security concerns vis-à-vis Russia and China bordering both countries, and common national interest. it is in order that the ties should be deepened. The elephant in the room is the Ukrainian war.

India-Poland ties are critical for both countries in mutual interest and learning. India borders a big belligerent power. China that has taken Indian territories in 1962 war and is claiming more within India's sovereign land.

Likewise, or worse, Warsaw faces another authoritarian country Russia which had in the past invaded and occupied Poland, which borders Russia as well as Ukraine and therefore, is highly vulnerable to Russian expansion and the spill-over of the current war. Both New Delhi and Warsaw have similar se curity risks. Although Warsaw is not making this an issue in expanding bilateral relations, New Delhi should be sensitive to Poland's precarious position. The Polish embassy in New Delhi is organising discourses with several think tanks and geo-political strategists. Polish institutions working on international affairs are sensitising Indian public, particularly the media on Ukrainian war. New Delhi should reciprocate with similar activities in Poland. That should certainly clear the air and align both countries' foreign policies on various issues

> The writer is a Professor of Practice, NIIS Group of Institutions.

including Ukrainian war.

### Bill delays

Sir, India's recent debate over delays in granting assent to State Bills highlights the need for a practical, democratic solution that respects both federalism and constitutional balance. Courts cannot impose rigid timelines on the President or Governors, but endless inaction is equally harmful. A middle path, inspired by practices in mature democracies, offers the most viable way forward. Countries like the UK, Canada and Australia follow flexible but well-established conventions that ensure decisions are taken within a reasonable period. India can adopt similar non-binding guidelines requiring action within a broadly accepted timeframe, while allowing extra time for complex Bills. If the President and the Governors give written reasons for withholding assent and return Bills promptly the misuse can be prevented. Legislatures must retain the power to reconsider and override delays through democratic means. An independent constitutional advisory mechanism can further speed up decisions. Together, these measures can safeguard federalism without disturbing separation of powers

RS Narula, PATIALA

#### World Hello Day

Sir, World Hello Day was begun in response to the conflict between Egypt and Israel in the Fall of 1973. Since then, World Hello Day has been observed by people in 180 countries. People around the world use the occasion as an opportunity to express their concern for world peace. Beginning with a simple greeting on World Hello Day, their activities send a message to leaders, encouraging them to use communication rather than force to settle conflicts. Thomas Edison is credited with popularizing hullo as a telephone greeting. In previous decades, hullo had been used as an exclamation of surprise (used early on by Charles Dickens in 1850) and halloo was shouted at ferry boat operators by people who wanted to catch a ride. Hello is the sweetest way to start a conversation that can change all the equations and provide cheers among the callers.

Jayanthi Subramaniam, EAST MUMBAI



## TWO STATES





**RED FORT BLAST AFTERMATH** 

# Kashmiris face profiling, threats nationwide

Many sellers claim they are not being allowed to move freely without prior verification from the panchayat and local police, creating an atmosphere of fear and restriction

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 21: As the investigation into the Delhi Red Fort blast deepens with several key points now coming into the public domain, several reports along with pictures and visuals are now emerging from several parts of the country where Kashmiris are facing continuous 'harassment' and 'strict profiling.'

According to a new video coming from Himachal Pradesh, two Kashmiri shawl sellers are seen facing flak from a local who is using harsh language against the Kashmiri shawl sellers and is questioning and asking them who has permitted them to visit the state.

The local from Himachal who is recording the video himself could be seen threatening the local Kashmiris and is threatening them that if they ever dare to enter their panchayat, he would confiscate their items.

Accusing the Kashmiris, the man is seen threatening the shawl sellers and adds that 'some major accident may



happen...these people should not be allowed to enter without police verification.'

This is not an isolated incident, as several Kashmiris are facing continuous harassment and profiling, while several Kashmiri vendors are alleging that local people and individuals are forcibly checking their bags under the suspicion that they might be carrying weapons or explosives.

Many sellers claim they are not being allowed to move freely without prior verification from the panchayat and local police, creating an atmosphere of fear and restriction.

Notably, the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) Wednesday issued an urgent advisory for Kashmiri students across the country after receiving multiple reports of profiling, harassment and

sudden eviction from hostels and rented accommodations.

The Association, while expressing deep grief over the loss of lives in the attack, reiterated that Kashmiris have always stood firmly against terrorism and extended solidarity to the victims' families.

However, the JKSA warned that several Kashmiri students were experiencing aggressive verification drives, intimidating questioning and disturbances in hostels following the

In some cases, students were allegedly asked to vacate their rooms without notice, creating widespread anxiety among those studying far from home.

National Convenor Nasir Khuehami urged students to remain extremely cautious during the current sensitive

## BORDER LG launches housing project in Rajouri

Rajouri/Jammu, Nov 21: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant launched a housing project in Rajouri district for families whose homes were destroyed in cross-border shelling by Pakistan during Operation Sindoor.

According to officials, 388 prefabricated houses will be built under the first phase of the project. Each unit will consist of three rooms and will come with free insurance cover, free maintenance for five years, and regular medical checkups for the occupants.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony in Saryah Jhangar village situated on the Line of Control (LoC) in Nowshera



initiative was part of the government's continued effort to rehabilitate affected families.

The project is supported by HRDS India, an NGO headed by Shrimath Swami Atma Nambi

"We had requested an NGO that builds houses across the

people, to also make arrangements for constructing homes here," Sinha said.

He said a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir, Divisional Commissioner of Jammu, and the NGO

some time back, under which 1.500 new houses will be built

"In Rajouri, the foundation stones for 388 houses have beer laid today, and these will be completed within six months, he said. Sinha noted that the average cost of each house is

around Rs 9.80 lakh.

"The Rs 2 lakh assistance provided by the Government of India through SDRF -- wheth er for those affected by shelling during Operation Sindoor or by floods -- is not sufficient for building a house," he said expressing his gratitude to the NGO for deciding to provide shelter to the people affected by crises. The LG also interacted with affected families, assuring them of complete support from the administration.

## HP man returns home after regaining memory

Shimla, Nov 21: Just 16 when he went missing after losing his memory due to a head injury, a 61-year-old has been reunited with his family following another head bump that brought it all back a miracle story from Himachal Pradesh that defies belief and could be straight out of a Bollywood playbook.

Rikhi then and Ravi Chaudhary now returned to Nadi village in Sirmaur district last week with his wife and children. It had been 45 years and the family could scarcely believe he was back in their midst.

There was music, flowers and tears as villagers and family members welcomed their Rikhi. His siblings -- Durga Ram, Chander Mohan, Chandramani, Kaushalya Devi, Kala Devi and Sumitra Devi - broke down to see the brother they had given up for dead alive after all these



vears, said cousin and local Nadi man Rudra Sharma.

"Such instances are rare. There is so much happiness in the family and in the village,' Sharma told PTI.

Rikhi was working at a hotel in Haryana's Yamunanagar when he met with a major road accident during a trip to Ambala in 1980. He sustained such a serious head injury that it led to a complete memory wipeout with Rikhi even forgetting his identity and name, Sharma recounted. Later, his friends named him Ravi Chaudhary.

With no memory of his past Rikhi moved to Mumbai, survived by doing small jobs and settled in Maharashtra's Nanded after he started working in a college. He later got married to Santoshi. They have three children, two daughters and a son, according to Sharma and other locals in Nadi.

A few months back, another head injury changed his life again. Old faded images of a mango tree in his village Nadi, nar row paths and the courtyard of a house in a place called Sataun started appearing in his dreams Soon, Rikhi realised that it was not dreams but memories, Shar ma added. He then sought help from a college student to locate Sataun, and they came across a phone number of a cafe while searching for Nadi village and Sataun on Google.

Rikhi called the number and interacted with a person named Rudra Prakash, a village elder.

As word travelled, one of Rikhi's relatives, MK Chaubey, remembered the distant past and he was finally united with his family members November 15.

"Though nothing is impossi ble, such cases of memory restoration after injury have been rarely documented. The exact cause can be known after medical investigations and brain scans,' mental health Dr Aaditva Sharma told.

### Horticulture dept issues protection tips for fruit growers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hamirpur (HP), Nov 21: With the onset of winter, the horticulture department in Himachal Pradesh has suggested several measures for fruit growers to tackle the impact of fog and dry weather condition on their crops.

Falling temperature in the past few days and lack of rain have increased the likelihood of fog in many areas, said Rajeshwar Parmar, Deputy Director of the Horticulture Department in Hamirpur, one of the major fruit producing districts.

He suggested fruit growers to take special care to protect mango, papaya, litchi, and other plants as



winter fog reduces humidity and low temperature causes plant cells to rupture, which often results in

According to Parmar, fog affects citrus fruit crops as well as evergreen fruit plants such as mango. litchi, papaya, and guava.

In order to prevent the surface temperature from reaching freezing point and check frost damage, Parmar said farmers should regularly irrigate their plants, cover young plants with straw, leaving the southeast side open to allow sunlight exposure.

Also, burning dry leaves and grass in the evening can help increase temperature, he said. and advised mango growers to cover plants with nylon nets (50 per cent shade).

### **ADARSH SCHEME SECTION SCHEME FOR SANSKRIT PROMOTION**

(Central Schemes of Ministry of Education, Government of India)

#### CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY, DELHI

Established by an Act of Parliament

56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058

Advertisement No. 02/2025

NOTIFICATION OF VACANCIES FOR DIRECT RECRUITMENT OF THE TEACHING/OTHER ACADEMIC POSTS IN VARIOUS ADARSH SANSKRIT MAHAVIDYALAYAS (ASMs)/ADARSH SANSKRIT SHODH SANSTHANS (ASSSs) RECOGNIZED UNDER THE CENTRAL SCHEMES FOR SANSKRIT PROMOTION

The Central Sanskrit University, Delhi (CSU) is the nodal agency of the Ministry of Education, Goyt, o

India for implementing the Central Schemes of the Govt. of India for Sanskrit Promotion. Under one of the Central Schemes i.e. "The Scheme for Financial Assistance to Institutions Recognized as Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas (ASMs)/Adarsh Sanskrit Shodh Sansthans (ASSSs) (Revised Adarsh Scheme - 2022)", various institutions have been recognised as ASMs/ASSSs, in different parts of the country, for financial assistance. In this context, under the provisions contained in this Scheme, the Central Sanskrit University, Delhi invites online applications from Indian Nationals for direct recrutiment to the following Teaching/Other Academic Posts in various ASMs/ASSSs recognised under aforesaid Scheme on behalf of these grantee Adarsh Institutions. The number of vacancies & reservation details for teaching/other academic posts as follows:-

recent actaile for teaching earler accade the poots as tenents.						
SI.	Post	Subject		Number of Vacancies		
No.		& reservation de				
	Assistant Professor (58 Posts)	In Traditional Sanskrit subjects of Vyakaran,				
1.	[Academic Pay Level-10	Darshan, Sahitya, Puranetihasa, Jyotish, Boudh	UR - 27,			
	(Rs.57700-182400)]	Darshan, Dharamshastra, Ved-Paurohitya	SC - 09,			
	College Librarian (01 Post)	& Karamkand, Nyaya, Vedanta, Research	ST - 01,	PwBD - 04		
2.	,	(Darshan/Sanskrit, Manuscriptology, Editing &	OBC - 15,			
۷.		Publication) and Modern subjects of English,	EWS - 07			
		Hindi, Tamil, Manipuri & Library Sciences.				
	Total Number of Vacancies 59*					
> :	Starting date of Online Registration/Submission of application: 20.11.2025 (Thursday)					
<b>▶</b>	Last date of Online Registration/Submission of application: 20.12.2025 (Saturday) by 11.30 P.M. (IST) [after					

which the link will be disabled].

Last date of receipt of hard copies: 29.12.2025 (Monday)

SC - Schedule Caste, ST - Schedule Tribe, OBC - Other Backward Class (Non-creamy layer), PwBD - Persons with Benchmark Disability, EWS - Economically Weaker Section,

UR - Unreserved. Note:-1 The above vacancies are based on inputs of the concerned ASMs/ASSSs and combined vacancies of 16 ASMs/ASSSs, located all over India. The details of subject-wise & Institutionwise vacancies and procedure for filing application etc., may be seen in the detailed advertisement available on the website of this University at www.sanskrit.nic.in under "Recruitment/Notification" heads. This advertisement can also be seen on the websites of respective 16 ASMs/ASSSs, however, online application can be filled only on the website of CSU www.sanskrit.nic.in. This advertisement is only a short notification. Interested candidates are strictly advised to go through the detailed advertisement mentioned as above, before filing the application. The date of conduct of examinations and interviews etc. will be intimated in due course only through the website at www.sanskrit.nic.in. Further, candidate

Note:-2 The appointing authority for these posts is the respective Adarsh Institutions only. All applicants may note that "All persons employed on teaching as well as other academic posts in the ASM/ASSS receiving financial assistance under this scheme shall be the employees of that particular ASM/ASSS and not of the Government of India/Central Sanskrit University. The liability of University shall be limited to the extent of providing grants/financial assistance to the ASM/ASSS and administrative control on the issues prescribed in this Revised Adarsh Scheme, 2022. Sd./- REGISTRAR I/c cbc 21212/12/0003/2526

#### OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, **KALAHANDI NORTH DIVISION**

NEAR OLD GOVT. BUS STAND, BHAWANIPATNA, KALAHANDI, ODISHA-766001 F-mail ID: dfo.kalahandinorth@odisha.gov.in, Phone No. 06670-230526

#### **CORRIGENDUM**

No. MM-: With reference to the Tender Bid identification No. BC-DFOKLDN-01/2025-26 No.CAD-2399 Dt.10.10.2025, it is hereby informed to all concerned that due to some technical snag the dates of the following events is changed as mentioned below

	•	•
SI.	Name of the work	Building Works as per DTCN available in
No.		the website www.tenderodisha.gov.in
1	Estimated Cost	Rs.17,17,324/-
2	No.of Works	1 no. of Forest Guard Quarter
3	Period & time of completion	3 (Three) calendar months
4	Date & time of availability of bid	22.11.2025 to 07.12.2025 (Upto 5.00 PM)
	document in the portal	online bidding
5	Last Date/Time for receipt of	Upto 5.00 PM of 07.12.2025
	bids in the portal	Opto 5.00 PW 01 07.12.2025
6	Date & Time of bid opening	11.00 AM on 08.12.2025
7	Name & Address of the officer	Divisional Forest Officer, Kalahandi
	inviting Bid	North Division, At- Bhawanipatna, Dist
	_	Kalahandi, PIN-766001
	AB II / I DO	and the Transfer will be seen in the seed

All other terms and conditions of the Tender will remain unaltered Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer, Kalahandi North Division

Government of Odisha

Department of Panchayatiraj & Drinking Water Office of the Panchavat Samiti. Bhadrak Invitation of Bids (IFB) Bid Identification No.PSB-11/2025-26

No.i-Bid documents consisting of work, estimated amount for put to tender, cost of tender paper, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms & conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen from the office of Panchayat Samiti, Bhadrak

e-mail: ori-bbhadrak@nic.in, Fax/Tel: 06784.

Name of the Work

bids in the office

bhadrak.odisha.gov.in.

Date of Opening of Bids

Name of the Officer Inviting Bids

Period of Completion

As per DTCN Estimated cost for put to tender 06 Calendar Months each Date & time of availability of bid From 21.11.2025 at 10.30 AM Hours to 28.11.2025 at 5.00 PM

As per DTCN

Hours Last date/time for receipt/drop of 28.11.2025 at 5.00 PM

29.11.2025 at 11.00 AM Hours C' & 'D' Class Block Development Officer

Panchayat Samiti, Bhadrak Further details can be seen from the Office of Panchayat Samit Bhadrak on working hours. Any addendum/ corrigendum/cancel lation of tender can also be seen at the office of the undersigned The detailed information is also available on district website "https:

Sd./- Block Development Officer Panchayat Samiti, Bhadrak

#### ST & SC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, BONAI **DIST: SUNDARGARH**

Ph.No:06626-244429, email: itdabni@od.gov.in Govt. of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice Bid Identification No.01/ITDA BNI of 2025-26

No.1342/Dt.17.11.2025

.1		INO. OT VVOIK	Ŀ	14 (Fourteen) Nos.
1	2	Estimated Cost	:	Rs.14.00 Lakhs to Rs.273.50 Lakhs
1	3	Period of Completion	:	Sl.No. 1 to 9 11(Eleven) Calendar Months
1				Sl.No.10 to 12 & 14 6(Six) Calendar
1				Months
ı				Sl.No.13 4(Four) Calendar Months
ı	4	Date & Time of availability	:	19 November 2025 from 5 P.M.
1		of Bid documents in the		
١	ll .	portal		
1	5	Last date/time for receipt of	ŀ	08 December 2025 upto 5 PM
1	Ш	bids in the portal		
1	6	Date of Opening of Bids	ŀ	09 December 2025 at 11.00 AM
1	7	Name and address of the	:	Project Administrator, ITDA, Bonai
1		Officer Inviting Bid		
1	Fu	rther details can be seen from	n	the e-Procurement portal http://tendersodi-

sha.gov.in. Any addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only

Sd./- Project Administrator I.T.D.A., Bonai

No.C-1535 

#### **OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER** P.H. DIVISION, ANGUL

Ph. (06764) 296431, Email- eephangul@yahoo.in **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** 

Bid Identification No. SE PH Division Angul-27/2025-26 dt.17.11.2025 Name of the work 11 (eleven) nos. work Type of Bid Single bid system

₹ 7.64 lakhs to ₹ 36.57 lakhs 01 (one) month to 03 (three) months Period of completion 5. Date & time of availability of From 11.00 AM of 24.11.2025 to 5.00 PM of 03.12.2025 bid document in the portal Last date/time of receipt of 5.00 PM of 03.12.2025

Estimated Cost

bids in the portal Date & time of opening or At 11.00 AM of 04.12.2025 technical bids Addl. Chief Engineer, Name & address of the

Officer inviting Bid. P.H. Division, Angul The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be see in the said website.

Sd./- Addl. Chief Engineer P.H. Division, Angul

is advised to visit website of the University on regular basis to get updates.

# national



**On World Fisheries Day,** my heart is with our fishing communities across India -- from the vast coasts of our seas to the rivers, lakes, and backwaters that flow through our land RAHUL GANDHI CONG LEADER

#### **DELHI HC QUASHES COVID DRUGS CASE AGAINST GAUTAM GAMBHIR**

The Delhi High Court Friday quashed a criminal case against Indian cricket team head coach Gautam Gambhir, his foundation and others for allegedly illegally stocking and distributing COVID-19 drugs during the pandemic



Class IV girl who ended life

sought help, teacher ignored

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 21: A CBSE

enquiry has found that a Class

IV student at Jaipur's Neer-

ja Modi School, who died by

suicide November 1, had been subjected to relentless bully-

ing in her classroom for near-

cause notice to the school after

the committee found serious

lapses in safety, response mech-

anisms and overall handling of

According to the enquiry re-

port, the 9-year-old girl faced

constant harassment, including

classmates using "bad words"

and derogatory comments.

Her parents had complained

multiple times since July

2024, but the school failed to

take preventive or corrective

steps. Despite earlier student

the child's repeated distress.

The board has issued a show-



industrialists, nor the daughters of the market were safe. At that time

(when we came to power), our first priority was security YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

Security Force) is engaged in preventing infiltration at all borders of the country. Stopping

Today, the BSF (Border

infiltration is not only essential for national security but also to protect the democratic system from being polluted AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

The Flection Commission of India is asking for proof. If objections have been raised, it is their

responsibility to provide a response. Why are they demanding proof?

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### **ED raids against** ex-MLA Anvar

Kochi: The Enforcement Directorate Friday raided the premises of former MLA P V Anvar and some others in Kerala as part of an alleged loan 'fraud' linked money laundering investigation, official sources said. The case pertains to alleged fraudulent loans sanctioned by the Kerala Financial Corporation in 2015 leading to a loss of ₹22.31 crore. The ED is examining disproportionate assets, suspected benami holdings, diversion of funds into real-estate projects, and other unaccounted investments to trace the laundering trail, the

#### Delhi's air quality improves marginally

New Delhi: The overall Air Quality Index (AQI) reading in a marginal decline from the previous day, but remained in the 'very poor' category even as 12 monitoring stations recorded air quality in the 'severe' zone. The 24-hour average AOI settled at 364 in the 'very poor' category for the eighth consecutive day. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). the average AQI stood at 391 Thursday, 392 on Wednesday, 374 Tuesday, and 351 Monday,

#### Tremors felt in Bengal, NE

Kolkata: Tremors were felt across West Bengal and parts of the northeast Friday morning, as an earthquake of magnitude 5.7 jolted Bangladesh's Narsingdi, the National Centre for Seismology said. The quake struck 13 km southsouthwest of Narsingdi in the neighbouring country at 10.08 am, and at a depth of 10 km, it said. Several people in West Bengal and the northeast, including Kolkata and Assam's Guwahati, were seen coming out on the streets as a precautionary measure.

#### Smuggled snake venom worth ₹80cr seized

Medininagar: A joint team of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and the Forest Department claimed to have busted a snake venom smuggling racket in Jharkhand's Palamu district. and arrested seven people for their alleged involvement, an official said Friday. The team recovered around 1,200 gm of snake venom valued at ₹80 crore and 2.5 kg of pangolin scales, he said.



so that they can operate under

the radar and are difficult to

identify," he said. According to

the police, the two were tasked

by their Pakistan-based handler

Jasveer alias Choudhary to car-

ry out grenade attacks in the

border state. The module, hav-

ing links with Lawrence Bishnoi

gang, was planning to use hand

grenades to target government

buildings and other sensitive lo-

cations to create tension in the

Ludhiana Commissionerate

Police had earli-

er, in coordina-

tion with Count-

er Intelligence

Unit, busted a

terror module

with the arrest

of its three op-

eratives -- Sham-

sher Singh from

Ferozepur, Ajay

from Haryana

and Harsh Ku-

mar Oiha from

Bihar. With the

arrest of Deep-

ak and Ram Lal,

the police teams

recovered two

Chinese 86P hand grenades, five

sophisticated . 30 bore pistols,

and over 40 live rounds from

the possession of the arrested

accused. Elaborating on the

inter-state network, Commis-

sioner of Police Sharma said

that the first arrest in the case,

Shamsher Singh, led the police

to Harsh Kumar Ojha, a resi-

border state, the CP said.

planned attacks: Cops

### complaints about abusive lantervention followed. ISI-backed terrorists Govt implements 4 Labour Codes

New Delhi, Nov 21: In a landmark move, the government Friday implemented the four Labour Codes, pending since 2020, introducing worker-friendly measures like a timely minimum wage for all and universal social security, including gig and platform workers, while allowing longer work hours, broader fixedterm employment, and employer-friendly retrenchment rules

While the four Labour Codes the Code of Wages (2019, Industrial Relations Code (2020), Code on Social Security (2020) and Occupational Safety. Health and Working Conditions Code (2020), which were passed by Parliament five years back -were notified Friday to replace 29 fragmented laws with a unified and modern framework. rules that will bring them into force with immediate effect will

be issued shortly. Key reforms include mandatory appointment letters to workers to ensure formalisation and job security; universal social security coverage, including to gig, platform, contract, and migrant workers, with PF, ESIC, and insurance benefits; statutory minimum wages and timely payment across all sectors; expanded rights and safety for women, including night-shift work and mandatory grievance committees; and free annual health check-ups for workers aged 40

and above The Codes, however, had earlier come under criticism from trade unions over unclear provisions on retrenchment and possible discretionary behaviour during the implementation by the central or state

governments. They raised the ceiling for mandatory government approval for carrying out closures, layoffs or retrenchment. Against the existing provision of establishments employing 100 or more workmen needing government nod, the new code raises the cap to 300 workmen.

It also increases working hours in factories from 9 to 12

### According to Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, the labour Codes will formalise

employment, strengthen worker protection, and make the labour ecosystem simpler, safer and globally aligned

Critics say linking social benefits to the size of the establishment would leave out millions of informal workers who work in small units or

New labour the way for codes in effect from Friday

**BIG WORKFORCE REFORM** 

for first time (2015-2025) The four codes have 29 labour laws codified in them: four laws in the Wage Code, nine in the Social Security Code, 13 in the Occupational Safety. **Health and Working Conditions** Code, and three in the Industrial **Relations Code** 

guage in class, the class teacher allegedly ignored the girl's

repeated pleas for help on the

day she died, even when she ap-

proached her five times within

The report notes that, on the

day of the incident, the girl had

come to school cheerful but be-

came visibly disturbed after

interactions involving a dig-

ital slate on which some boys

wrote or displayed something

CCTV footage showed her

repeatedly asking the boys to

stop and seeking the teacher's

support, but no meaningful in

the final 45 minutes.

that upset her.

Now, Fixed-Term Employees (FTE) will receive all benefits equal to those of permanent workers, including leave, medical, and social security

#### perform home-based work

hours and in shops and establishments from 9 to 10 hours. The next step is framing the

rules. As labour is a concurrent subject, the Centre and states have to frame laws and rules. The majority of states have already carried out labour laws-related changes over the last few years, except for West Bengal. The social-security coverage

had expanded from 19 per cent in 2015 to over 64 per cent in 2025. The enforcement of the Labour Codes marks the next transformative step -- broadening worker protection, easing business operations and promoting a pro-worker labour ecosystem. These Codes, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said. "will serve as a strong foundation for universal social security, minimum and timely payment of wages, safe workplaces and remunerative opportunities for our people, especially

Nari Shakti and Yuva Shakti... "It will build a future-ready ecosystem that protects the rights of workers and strengthens India's economic growth. These reforms will boost job creation, drive productivity and accelerate our journey to wards a Viksit Bharat.'

According to Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviva, the labour Codes will formalise employment, strengthen worker protection, and make the labour ecosystem simpler, safer and globally aligned. The four codes have 29 labour laws codified in them: four laws in the Wage Code, nine in the Social Security Code, 13 in the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, and three in the Industrial Relations Code.

They contain wide-ranging social security provisions, such as a floor wage and a requirement for employers to contribute to social security. It proposes to fix a National Floor Level Minimum Wage, and redefine the break-up of wages to increase the share of the basic pay component - a provision to enable higher provisioning for social security for establishments, especially in the service sector. Similarly, aggregators employing gig workers have to contribute 1-2 per cent of annual turnover for social security, with the total contribution not exceeding 5 per cent of the amount payable by the aggregator. Critics say linking social benefits to the size of the establishment would leave out millions of informal workers who work in small units or perform home-based work.

Systemic reforms in the Codes include a national floor wage, gender-neutral work policies, the Inspector-cum-Facilitator model for supportive compliance, faster dispute resolution through two-member tribunals, and a National

Occupational Safety, Health (OSH) Board to harmonise safety standards. Mandaviya said the codes will guarantee minimum wages for all workers, appointment letters for the youth, equal pay and respect for women, social security for 40 crore workers, gratuity for fixed-term employees after one year of employment, free annual health check-ups for workers above 40 years of age. double wages for overtime, 100 per cent health security for workers in hazardous sectors and social justice for workers

as per international standards The ESIC coverage and benefits are extended Pan-India voluntary for establishments with fewer than 10 employees and mandatory for establish ments with even one employee engaged in hazardous processes. Now, Fixed-Term Employ ees (FTE) will receive all bene fits equal to those of permanent workers, including leave, med-

The Codes have defined 'Gig work'. 'Platform work'. and 'Aggregators' for the first time Aadhaar-linked Universal Ac count Number will make wel fare benefits easy to access, fully portable, and available across states, regardless of migration. Plantation workers will be brought under the OSHWC Code and the Social Security Code.

ical, and social security.

## Wedding in hosp hours after bride hurt in mishap

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

the border state.

in Ludhiana Thurs-

opened fire when

they were inter-

cepted in Ludhiana

following informa-

tion that they were

roaming in the ar-

ea. Two grenades

and five sophisti-

cated pistols were

among the items

seized from them,

a senior officials

Commissioner

of Police Swapan

Sharma Friday

said Deepak and Ram Lal had

travelled from Rajasthan to

Ludhiana. They had been stay-

ing here for two days to coor-

dinate and execute the planned

attack. "This highlights a new

and dangerous trend wherein

Pakistan-based handlers are de-

liberately recruiting and using

criminals from other states to

commit terror acts in Punjab

said Thursday.

day, they said.

The

Ludhiana, Nov 21: A day after

a major ISI-backed multi-state

gangster-terror module was

busted in Ludhiana, the Pun-

iab Police on Friday said the

two arrested operatives were

tasked to carry out grenade at-

tacks in government buildings

and other sensitive locations in

alias Deepu and Ram Lal -- were

injured in an exchange of fire

two had

The two operatives -- Deepak

The module,

having links

with Lawrence

planning to use

**buildings** and

**locations** 

other sensitive

Bishnoi gang, was

hand grenades to

target government

Kochi, Nov 21: In a rare incident, the emergency room of a private hospital turned into a wedding venue after a Thumboli native tied the knot with his bride, who had been injured in a road accident here Friday, hospital authorities said.

The marriage of Avani of Kommadi, Alappuzha and V M Sharon of Thumboli was solemnised at VPS Lakeshore Hospital, Kochi.

According to the hospital, the wedding was scheduled to take place at Thumboli Friday noon. However, Avani sustained injuries while travelling to Kumarakom for bridal make-

up when the car lost control

and rammed into a tree early in the morning. Local residents rushed the injured to Kottayam Medical College.

As Avani had suffered a spinal injury, she was shifted

to the private hospital in Ernakulam around noon for specialised treatment.

Sharon and his family also reached the hospital soon after. With the 'muhurtam' (auspi-

The bride sustained injuries while travelling to Kumarakom for bridal makeup when the car lost control and rammed into a tree early in the

s the bride had suffered Aa spinal injury, she was shifted to the private hospital in Ernakulam around noon for specialised treatment

ith the 'muhurtam' (auspicious time) fixed between 12.15 pm. and 12.30 pm, both families requested that the wedding be conducted at the appointed time

cious time) fixed between 12.15 pm. and 12.30 pm, both families requested that the wedding

be conducted at the appointed time. After consulting doctors, the hospital management arranged for the groom to tie the 'thaali' (sacred yellow thread) in the Emergency Department, ensuring that Avani faced no additional discomfort, a hospital spokesperson said. The hospital authorities arranged the setting after both families expressed their wish to proceed with the

ceremony despite the accident. With doctors, healthcare staff and close relatives as witnesses, Sharon tied the knot with Avani at the auspicious time, the spokesperson said. Dr Sudheesh Karunakaran, Head of Neuro Surgery, said Avani has sustained a spinal injury and will undergo surgery soon.

#### **Srinagar Police** widen inspections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 21: In a series of coordinated operations aimed at bolstering security and ensur ing compliance with regulatory norms, Srinagar police has been conducting extensive inspection drives across medical institutions, chemical and fertiliser shops, and car dealerships over the last two days, an official spokesperson said here Friday.

The move is seen as a precautionary step, with special teams formed by SSP (Srinagar) G V Sundeep Chakravarthy. The Jam mu and Kashmir Police, in coor dination with their counterparts in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana busted the "white collar terror" module and arrested several, in cluding three doctors this month.



# national



The India of 75 or 80 years ago is not the India of today. As India grows more dynamic, international institutions must also become dynamic. Without dvnamism. neither a nation nor an organisation can sustain. Therefore, I believe it is necessary to reorient these institutions

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

#### PM ARRIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday said he was looking forward to "productive discussions" with world leaders on key global issues as he arrived here to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit being hosted by South Africa



given to set up food processing units in MSME parks of all 175 constituencies to provide value addition to agricultural produce

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU I ANDHRA PRADESH CM

Law will take its own course. I have already said I did not do anything wrong. I have said I am ready for a lie detector test



change, one cannot predict when it will rain or when droughts may occur. This year, the rains lasted for about five to six months, and floods in

September destroyed many farmers' crops

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN



Compete with

**Publish Monthly** 

Report Card on

Potholes Fixed

Number of

Each Other



New Public Toilets Installed New Investments

 New Jobs Created Factories Opened/Closed

Lot Can Be Fixed By Govt and Bureaucracy

@Ravisutanjani

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### Mumbai Police summon Shraddha Kapoor's brother

Mumbai: Bollywood actordirector Siddhanth Kapoor has been summoned by Mumbai Police in connection with a drug seizure case, an official said Friday. While Siddhanth, who is the brother of actor Shraddha Kapoor, has been asked to appear November 25 to record his statement, influencer Orhan Awatramani alias Orry has been called November 26 after he failed to remain present Thursday. The Ghatkopar unit of the Anti Narcotics Cell (ANC) summoned the two Bollywood celebrities as their names cropped up in the interrogation of Mohammed Salim Mohammed Suhail Shaikh, a key accused in a Rs 252 crore mephedrone seizure case, the official said.

#### CBI gets sanction to prosecute Rana

Mumbai: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has obtained a sanction to proceed against Yes Bank co-founder Rana Kapoor in a case pertaining to alleged fraudulent transactions between the bank and two Anil Dhirubhai Ambani group companies.

#### Gangster linked to **Mukhtar Ansari held**

New Delhi: A 38-year-old "serial killer," wanted in over 30 cases of murder, robbery, extortion, and other violent crimes, has been apprehended from Kolkata after tracking him across multiple states, police said Friday. The accused, identified as Sohrab alias Sourav, a native of Lucknow, jumped on furlough after his release from Tihar Jail May 19. He had got parole in connection with a 2011 murder case in Delhi's Krishna Nagar, they said, adding that he had the backing of gangsterpolitician Mukhtar Ansari.

## Siddaramaiah asserts full term as CM

The Karnataka Chief Minister's assertion came amidst the intense power struggle in the ruling

Congress, with the Shivakumar camp mounting pressure on the party high command for a leadership change

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 21: Amid the intense power struggle involving his deputy and state Congress chief D K Shivakumar, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Friday asserted that he would continue in office and also present state budgets in the future, prompting an "all the best" wish from the former.

The veteran leader's assertion came amidst the intense power struggle in the ruling Congress, with the Shivakumar camp mounting pressure on the party high command for a leadership

With the squabbling in Congress coming out in open, AICC

**ED** raids coal mafia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

gold, officials said.

in Jharkhand, Bengal

Ranchi/Kolkata, Nov 21:

The Enforcement Directorate

Friday conducted a mega search

operation in Jharkhand and

West Bengal as part of a money

laundering probe against the

coal mafia in the two neighbour-

ing states and seized more than

Rs 10 crore worth of cash and

More than 40 premises were

covered in the raids that were

launched around 6 am, with

almost 100 officials and staff

of the federal probe agency

participating. Cash and gold

worth Rs 8 crore have been

seized from West Bengal, while

cash of about Rs 2.2 crore was

recovered during the searches

in Jharkhand. About 120 land

deeds have also been seized

from the premises covered in

Teams of central security

forces provided security to the

ED teams, which searched res-

idences and offices apart from

toll collection booths and check

posts. The raids were continu-

ing till evening. The action is

being carried out under the provisions of the Prevention of

Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

covering about 18 locations as

part of the investigation related

According to the sources,

the locations of entities named

Anil Goyal, Sanjay Udhyog, L

B Singh, and Amar Mandal are

case involves "significant" coal

pilferage and theft, resulting in

a massive financial loss to the

government worth hundreds of

crores of rupees, officials said.

premises in Durgapur, Purulia,

Howrah and Kolkata districts

are being covered as part of an

investigation into alleged ille-

gal mining, transportation and

storage of coal, they said.

In West Bengal, about 24

The collective scale of the

being covered.

to coal theft and smuggling.

In Jharkhand, the agency is

Jharkhand, officials said.

Karnataka Randeep Singh Suriewala issued a stern warning to party MLAs and leaders against making any public statements on the issue of leadership. At least 15 MLAs and about

a dozen MLCs have camped in New Delhi to push the party leadership to make Shivakumar the next CM, Congress sources said. According to reports, the

demand is based on a purported power-sharing agreement reached in 2023, under which Siddaramaiah was to serve as the CM for two and a half years (till November 2025) before making way for Shivakumar. Responding to a query on

some MLAs and MLCs camping in Delhi, the CM said the Congress high command has to decide on the leadership change, cabinet reshuffle or government restructuring.

"Has High Command spoken on it? We can't help it. Earlier also some people were discussing it, and now they might have gone (to Delhi). Finally, Shivakumar and I have to listen to whatever the high command



says," he added.

To a question whether he would present the next two state budgets, Siddaramaiah retorted, 'Why are you asking this? Yes, I will continue. I will present the budgets in future also.

Reacting to Siddaramaiah's assertion that he would complete his five years' term, Shivakumar wished him "all the best".

"The CM has said he will complete five years. I wish him all the best. We will all work together.'

not believe in factionalism as he is president of all the 140 MLAs in the state. Regarding some MLAs camping in Delhi, Shivakumar said that it was quite natural for those aspiring to become ministers to visit the national capital and hold meetings with leaders there.

According to him, no one has called the MLAs, but they are voluntarily going.

Shivakumar also paid a surprise visit to the Bengaluru Central Jail where he met the jailed Congress MLAs Vinay Kulkarni and K C Veerendra alias Puppy.

According to the information received, Shivakumar spoke to them for some time. Kulkarni is in jail in connec-

tion with a murder case while Puppy is behind the bars in a money laundering case.

It was not known what Shivakumar discussed with the MLAs. While those supporting Shivakumar are largely Vokkaligas, one of the dominant communities in Karnataka to which he belongs to, the 'AHIN DA' MLAs too had a meeting on Thursday night, sources said.

**CYBER FRAUD** 

## 'Probe agencies can't freeze bank accounts'



Mumbai, Nov 21: In a significant ruling, the Bombay High Court has held that probe agencies can not 'debit freeze' a bank account allegedly involved in cyber fraud transactions under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

A probe agency can put the disputed amount on lien, but cannot freeze the entire account, said a bench of Justices Anil Pansare and Raj Wakode at Nagpur in a iudgment passed Thursday. When a lien is put on an

amount, only that particular amount can not be accessed, but the account can remain operational. Often in cyber frauds, a bank account is used for rerouting the proceeds without the account holder being aware of the transactions. The order came on seven pe-

titions filed by persons whose bank accounts were debit freezed under section 106 of the BNSS, as proceeds of alleged cyber frauds were credited to these Under the BNSS provision, an investigating agency has the

power to seize property suspected of being stolen or linked to criminal activity. But the court pointed out that as per section 107 of the BNSS, police must approach a magis-

such property. The law stands well-settled that under section 106, an investigating agency has no power

trate to seek attachment of any

an investigating agency has the power to seize property suspected of being stolen or linked to criminal activity

But the court pointed out that as per section 107 of the BNSS, police must approach a magistrate to seek attachment of any such property

to attach or debit freeze an account," the court said, quashing the orders issued by the police to debit freeze the accounts of the petitioners The bench also noted that the

'Citizen Financial Cyber Frauds Reporting and Management System', published by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre under the Ministry of Home Af fairs, throws light on how banks should deal with reports/communications received from an investigating agency.

"As could be seen from this system, bank/intermediaries can put the disputed amount on lien, but cannot debit freeze the account," the court said in its order. Despite this, some banks, upon receiving communications from an investigating agency which does not even call for debit freezing, proceed to take such action and cause loss to account holders, the HC said.

bank chose to debit freeze the accounts on their own." the HC said, and permitted the petitioners to seek compensation, if they wished, by filing appropriate proceedings.

"It is a mystery as to how the

## Udhayanidhi's 'dead Sanskrit' remark draws BJP criticism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 21: Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin Friday called Sanskrit "a dead language," drawing a sharp response from the BJP, which said leaders must be more responsible while making remarks.

The DMK leader was addressing a book release event, where he criticised the Union government for allotting only Rs 150 crore for Tamil development.

In contrast, Sanskrit, "a dead language", was getting Rs 2,400 crore, he said. Reacting to his comment, BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh, who was in Chennai to attend the review meeting organised by his party, told reporters post the meeting that it has become

fashionable to speak against India's ancient values and culture.

Women in traditional clothing during the inauguration of the 17th BGS Founder's Day 2025, in Bangalore,

"Sanskrit is the oldest language. Tamil is also one of the oldest languages. Both language es are very important for us. It has become a fashion for the leaders of the INDI alliance to always speak against our culture, the Sanskrit language, India's institutions, and India's assets.

"It is unfortunate that they are opposing the rich culture of the country without knowing, without thinking, and without understanding it. This is completely unfortunate," Chugh said.

Tamil Nadu BJP former president K Annamalai said the central government has allocated Rs 2,400 crore to Sanskrit because there are many Sanskrit univer-

#### Cash for query: CBI opposes Moitra's plea

New Delhi: The CBI Friday opposed in the Delhi High Court Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra's plea challenging a Lokpal order granting sanction to the CBI to file a charge sheet against her in the alleged cash for query scam. The CBI contended that Moitra has no right to produce documents in the Lokpal's proceedings and she is only entitled to give comments and not even an oral hearing. "But still the Lokpal went ahead and gave her an oral hearing. The Lokpal can then grant sanction to file a charge sheet, which has been done in this case, Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for CBI, submitted before a bench of justices Anil Kshetarpal and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar.

#### Protest over Sangai festival in Manipur turns violent

Imphal: People demonstrating against the Sangai festival clashed with security forces in Manipur's Imphal East district Friday, amid a 'cease work' called by the Meitei group COCOMI. The Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) has been opposing the tourism festival by the state government, stating that organising such an event amid the crisis being faced by families displaced by the ethnic violence was "highly insensitive". The clash happened at Khurai Lamlong when security forces intercepted demonstrators, including several displaced persons, who were marching towards the

venue of the festival, an official said.

#### HC asks Punjab to decide on Amritpal's parole in a week

Chandigarh: The Punjab and Haryana High Court Friday directed the Punjab government to decide within a week the representation filed by Khadoor Sahib MP and NSA detainee Amritpal Singh seeking temporary release to attend the upcoming winter session of Parliament beginning December 1. According to Singh's counsel, Imaan Singh Khara, a division bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry passed the direction after hearing the MP's petition. Singh sought temporary release under the provisions of Section 15 of the National Security Act, 1980 (pertaining to the temporary release of persons detained), to allow him to attend the Parliament session till December 19.

## Nitish Kumar gives up home portfolio after 20 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Nov 21: The Home portfolio of Bihar, which Chief Minister Nitish Kumar kept with himself all through his nearly 20-year-long tenure, has been given to his deputy, BJP leader Samrat Chowdhury, this time, according to an official notification issued Friday.

On the other hand, the Finance portfolio, which has been held by the BJP whenever it has entered into an alliance with the JD(U), has gone to the Nitish Kumar-led party this time. Senior leader Bijendra Prasad Yadav got the Finance and Commercial Tax

departments. Another Deputy CM Vijay Kumar Sinha got Revenue & Land reforms and Mines &

Geology departments, the no-

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has kept the portfolios of the General Administration Department, Cabinet Secretariat and Vigilance with himself.

While senior JD(U) leader Shrowan Kumar has been given portfolios of Rural Development and Transport departments, his party colleague Ashok Chowdhary got the Rural Works department portfolio. JD(U) leader Vijay Chow-

dhary has been given the portfolios of Building Construction, Water Resources and Parliamentary Affairs, while Madan Sahni of the same party got the Social Welfare department portfolio, the notification



The BJP's Shreyasi Singh has been given portfolios of Sports and Information and Technology, while her party's Arun Shankar Prasad got the

Tourism department. Sanjay Tiger, also of the BJP, has been given the Labour Resources department, it said.

Deepak Prakash of the

Rashtriya Lok Samta Party and HAM(S)'s Santosh Suman have been given the portfolios of Panchayati Raj department and Minor Water Resources department, respectively.

LJP (RV) MLĀs Sanjāy Kumar and Sanjay Kumar Singh became Sugarcane and Public Health Engineering Department ministers.

Other members of the Cabinet included Mangal Pandey (Health and Law), Dilip Jaiswal (Industries), Leshi Singh (Food Consumer and Protection), Nitin Nabin (Road Construction and Urban Development and Housing), Ram Kripal Yadav (Agriculture), Sunil Kumar (Education, and Science, Technology and Technical Education department).

Mohd Zama Khan (Minori-

Along with 74-year-old Ku mar, 26 ministers took the oath of office: 14 from the Bharatiya

ty Affairs), Surendra Mehta

(Animal and Fishery Resourc-

es), Narayan Prasad (Disaster

Management), Rama Nishad

(Backward Class and Extreme-

ly Backward Classes welfare)

Lakhendra Kumar Roshan (SC

and ST Welfare) and Pramod

Kumar (Cooperative) are also

the remaining members of the

Cabinet, the notification said

Nitish Kumar was Thursday

sworn in as the Bihar chief

minister for a record 10th term

here at a grand ceremony.

Janata Party, eight from Jana ta Dal (United), two from Lok Jan Shakti Party (Ram Vilas), and one each from Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM).

# international



You see it when you look at the increasing difficulties the Russian economy has, soaring inflation, soaring interest rates and overheated war economy. Slowly but surely, the figures are showing that the sanctions are biting

URSULA VON DER LEYEN

#### **POLIO ERADICATED IN INDONESIA**

The World Health Organisation has declared Indonesia's polio outbreak officially over, following nearly three years of intensive response efforts, officials said Friday. Indonesia has remained largely polio-free as the highly contagious disease was declared eliminated in the country in 2014



on the American side, but noth ing substantive is currently being

completely open - we maintain our openness to peace negotiations DMITRY PESKOV | SPOKESMAN, RUSSIA

Should the Japanese side persist on its course of action and continue down the wrong path, China will resolutely take the measures required and

all consequences shall be borne HE YONGQIAN | SPOKESPERSON OF COMMERCE

**Recent events** leave no room for any



aimed at destabilising our country

DONALD TUSK | PRIME MINISTER, POLAND

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Pak-Punjab factory blast kills 20

Lahore: At least 20 people were killed and several injured following a explosion in a chemical factory in Pakistan's Punjab province on Friday, officials said. The incident took place in the morning in the Faisalabad district of Punjab, some 130 km from Lahore. A report of the district administration on Friday morning said the incident took place early after a boiler at the factory exploded, causing the collapse of the nearby structures. However, Rescue 1122 and Faisalabad Commissioner Raja Jahangir Anwar later attributed the explosion to a gas leak. According to Anwar, four factories were operating in the Malikpur area of Faisalabad when a fire erupted in one of the factories due to gas leakage and engulfed the other factories as well.

#### UK PM to approve China's 'super embassy'

London: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is set to approve plans for a controversial new Chinese "super embassy" in the heart of London ahead of a proposed visit to Beijing in the new year. a UK media report claimed Friday, According to 'The Times', both the Home Office and Foreign Office are unlikely to raise any formal objections to the plan if appropriate "mitigations" are put in place to protect national security after the UK's domestic and foreign security services - MI5 and MI6 - gave their nod to the proposals. Starmer is also expected to travel to China next year as Britain seeks to bolster economic relations with Beijing, despite concerns that it is carrying out largescale espionage against the UK, the newspaper claims.

## Lankan Oppn

protests against govt Colombo: Thousands of opposition activists rallied near Sri Lanka's capital Friday to demand that the government fulfil pledges to ease taxes and restore order, in the first major protest against President Anura Kumara Dissanavake's administration as it marks one year in office. Opposition parties accuse Dissanavake's government of failing to deliver on his promises during last year's election campaign, and say that it has instead politicised law enforcement agencies to stifle the opposition. They say the government has failed to ensure the safety of the public and that crime has spiked in recent months. The government acknowledges there has been a wave of drug gang rivalry but denies that the public has been under any elevated level of danger.

# US warns intel, arms cut for Ukraine come face to face

Kyiv/Washington, Nov 21: The United States has threatened to cut intelligence sharing and weapons supplies for Ukraine to press it into agreeing to the framework of a US-brokered peace deal, two people familiar with the matter

Washington has presented Ukraine with a 28-point plan, which endorses some of Russia's principal demands in the war, including that Kyiv cede additional territory, curb the size of its military and be barred from joining NATO. The sources, speaking on

condition of anonymity, said that Kyiv was under greater pressure from Washington than during any previous peace discussions, and that the US wanted Ukraine to sign a framework

We value the efforts of the **United States. President** Trump, and his team aimed at ending this war. We are working on the document prepared by the American side. This must be a plan that ensures a real and dignified peace

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKIY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

of the deal by next Thursday. A delegation of senior US

military officials met with President Volodymyr Zelenskiy in Kyiv Thursday. The US ambassador in Ukraine and the army public affairs chief travelling with the delegation described the meeting as a success and said Washington sought an "aggressive timeline" for the signature of a document between the



Zelenskiy, who held a phone call Friday with the leaders of allies Britain, Germany and France, appeared careful not to reject the US plan or to offend the Americans.

"We value the efforts of the United States, President Trump, and his team aimed at ending this war. We are working on the document prepared by the American side. This must be a plan that ensures a real and dignified peace," he

#### 'A VERY DANGEROUS MOMENT'

European leaders, who were not consulted on the 28-point plan, expressed their strong

White House says plan was hammered out by Rubio, Witkoff

support for Kyiv.

'We all want this war to end, but how it ends matters. Russia has no legal right whatsoever to any concessions from the country it invaded, ultimately the terms of any agreement are for Ukraine to decide," said the EU foreign policy chief, Kaja

"This is a very dangerous moment for all," she said.

US officials, defending their plan, have said it was drafted after consultations with Rustem Umerov, secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense

Council, a close Zelenskiy ally who served as defence minister until July.

#### **RUSSIA'S DEMANDS SPELLED OUT, KYIV'S LEFT VAGUE**

The plan, a copy of which was reviewed by Reuters, includes terms that Ukrainian officials have previously dismissed as tantamount to surrender after their soldiers fended off a full-scale Russian invasion for nearly four years at huge cost.

It would require Ukraine to withdraw from territory it still controls in eastern provinces that Russia claims to have annexed, while Russia would give up smaller amounts of land it has captured in other regions.

Gen Z organised a protest even as CPN-UML chief Oli announced the formation of the National *Volunteers Force to give* protection to party leaders and cadres

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Nov 21: Nepal's Gen Z groups and the supporters of CPN-UML led by deposed Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli once again came face to face in capital Kathmandu Friday. a couple of days after clashes between them led to curfew in Bara district.

Dozens of injured youths belonging to a Gen Z group Friday staged a sit-in at Maitighar Mandala in Kathmandu to protest against ex-Prime Minister Oli, whom they hold responsible for the September 8 crackdown against the students' protests in which 76 people were killed.

Gen Z organised a protest even as CPN-UML chief Oli announced the formation of the National Volunteers Force to give protection to party leaders and cadres. The programme venues of

UML cadres and Gen Z vouths were close to each other, with the presence of a large number of riot policemen providing security to avoid any clash.

"Arrest the corrupt leaders," "Arrest the murderers,"



"Where is the probe commission?" and "Fulfil the demands of Gen Z group," were written on the placards carried by those Gen Z youths who got injured during September's deadly protests.

A day earlier, tension erupt ed as 10 people were injured after Gen Z youths clashed with members of Oli's party, prompting authorities to impose curfew to contain the situation in Nepal's Bara district bordering India.

However, life has returned to normal in the Bara district Friday as the curfew has been lifted. The situation came un der control after the police arrested three cadres of CPN UML who were involved in beating up Gen Z youths who were staging peaceful protests at Simara Airport Wednesday. Talks have begun between

representatives of Gen-Z and the local administration at the Armed Police Force headquar ters, Rudrabahini, in Pathlaiya, The Rising Nepal reported.

### G20 envoys agree draft leaders' declaration without US at summit



Johannesburg, Nov 21: G20 envoys have agreed on a draft leaders' declaration ahead of this weekend's summit in Johannesburg without US input, four sources familiar with the matter said Friday.

The administration of US President Donald Trump has indicated that it will boycott the summit over disagreements with the host nation, South Africa. While fearing that a loss of participation from its most powerful member would scupper a declaration at the G20, some analysts still saw an opportunity for the South African hosts, determined to set

an agenda for global leaders in the face of Trump's hostility to multilateral diplomacy

None of the sources divulged details of the declaration's

President Cyril Ramaphosa said Thursday that South Africa was in discussions with the United States over its possible participation in the summit after all, although the White

House later denied this. Trump rejected the host nation's agenda for the November 22-23 summit of promoting solidarity and helping developing nations adapt to worse weather disasters, transition to clean energy and cut their excessive debt costs.

#### **Armed men abduct** children, staff at **Catholic school**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abuja, Nov 21: Armed men attacked a Catholic boarding school in a western region of Nigeria and abducted severearly Friday, the latest in a spate of abductions in Africa's most populous country that came just days after 25 schoolgirls were abducted in a neighbouring state.

The attack and abductions took place at St. Mary's School, a Catholic institu tion in Agwara local government's Papiri community, said Abubakar Usman, the secretary to the Niger state government.

He did not disclose the number of students and staff abducted, nor who might be responsible for the attack.

Local media broadcaster Arise TV said 52 schoolchildren were abducted

The Niger State Police Command said the abductions took place in the early hours of Friday and that military and security forces have since been deployed to the community. It described St. Mary's as a secondary school, which in Nigeria would serve children between the ages of in 12 and 17.

# Earthquake jolts Bangladesh

Dhaka, Nov 21: At least six

people were killed and several injured as a massive earthquake of magnitude 5.7 jolted Dhaka and parts of the country Friday, damaging buildings causing fires at several places and sending panic among res idents. Three people were killed in

Dhaka, while the fourth died in the suburban river port town of Narayanganj, officials said, as local media reported injuries to at least 50 people across the country.

The other two deaths were reported from Narsingdi, where the epicentre was located some 10 kilometres beneath the surface.

The epicentre of the quake that struck at 10:38 am (local time) was at Narsigndi on the northeastern outskirts of Dhaka at a depth of 10 kilometres, Bangladesh's meteorology department said. The place is around 13 kilometres east of the seismic centre in Dhaka's Agargaon area.

Dhaka's deputy police commissioner Mallik Ahsan Uddin Sami said, quoting the fire service, that at least three people were killed after a railing, bamboo scaffolding and debris of a five-storey building fell on them at Old Dhaka's Armanitola area.

A bystander was critically

**Death toll in Bangladesh** 

hits east of Dhaka Tremors felt in neighbouring India

wounded at the scene in the crowded neighbourhood, he said. Sami confirmed that one of the deceased was a medical student who was there to buy meat along with his mother. She is critically wounded, requiring an emergency surgery. he added.

Local media reports said one of the three dead was an eight-vear-old who had not been identified.

The fourth death was reported from Narayanganj where a newborn baby on her mother's lap died as they were walking near a wall that collapsed as the In Sutrapur's Swamibagh

area, also located in old Dhaka, an eight-storey building was reported to have leaned against another structure following the earthquake, while at the Kalabagan area, a sev en-storey building looked tilted. though fire officials reported it

remained structurally sound. A fire broke out at a resi dence in Dhaka's posh Baridha ra area soon after the tremor hit, but the firefighters could not immediately confirm if it was linked to the earthquake

Another fire at a residential building was reported from the Gazaria area of suburban Munshiganj, while the fire service responded immediately to douse the blaze.

The Prothom Alo newspaper said the tremor wounded over 50 people in three districts around Dhaka.

## Miss Mexico wins Miss Universe after standing up to bullying host

The bad vibes at this year's event sprang from a sharp-tongued scolding of the Mexican contestant, Bosch, which sparked a controversy marked by a walkout, feminist solidarity and a teary melodramatic apology from the local organiser who set it all off

Bangkok, Nov 21: Fatima Bosch Fernandez of Mexico was crowned Miss Universe 2025 Friday, a dramatic victory for a 25-year-old at the centre of the turbulent 74th staging of the popular beauty pageant in Bangkok who stood up to public bullying from one of the hosts.

The first runner-up was 29-year old Praveenar Singh of Thailand and 25-year-old Stephany Adriana Abasali Nasser of Venezuela placed third.

Rounding up the finishers were Ahtisa Manalo, 28, of the Philippines, and 27-year-old Olivia Yace of Ivory Coast who came fifth.

The bad vibes at this year's

event sprang from a sharptongued scolding of the Mexican contestant, Bosch, which sparked a controversy marked by a walkout, feminist solidarity and a teary melodramatic apology from the local organiser who set it all off. At the livestreamed sashing

ceremony for virtually all 130 contestants on November 4, Thai national director Nawat Itsaragrisil hectored Bosch for allegedly not following his guidelines for taking part in local promotional activities. He called security when she spoke up to defend herself. Bosch walked out of the

room, joined by several others in a show of solidarity, including Miss Universe 2024, Victo-



"What your director did is not respectful: he called me

dumb," an unbowed Bosch told Thai reporters. "If it takes away your dignity, you need to go."

The Miss Universe Organization president, Mexican businessman Raul Rocha Cantu, released a statement condemning Nawat's conduct as "public aggression" and "serious abuse'

Even Mexico's first woman president, Claudia Sheinbaum, piled on, saying at a news conference in her country's cap ital that she wanted to give "recognition" to Miss Mexico for voicing her disagreement in a "dignified" way

"It seems to me that it is an example of how women should raise our voices. Sheinbaum said.

Sheinbaum recalled being told in the past a common phrase that "women look more beautiful when they keep quiet.'

"We women look more beautiful when we raise our voice and participate, because that has to do with the recognition of our rights," she said.

Nawat later made apologies for his actions, appearing both tearful and defiant at the same

"If anyone (was) affected and not comfortable it happened, I am so sorry," he said in front of the contestants. He then turned to them and said "It's passed.

OK? Are you happy?" Bosch's official Miss Universe biography says she studied fashion in Mexico and Italy and has focused on creating sustainable designs and working with discarded materials

It says she has volunteered with sick children, promoted environmental awareness, and engaged in supported migrants and mental health issues.

This year's competition also saw a report that two judges had quit, with one of them suggesting that there was an ele ment of rigging to the contest The allegation was denied.

Separately, Thai police in vestigated the alleged illegal promotion of online casinos as part of the event's publicity, a turn of events that may have been connected with the organisers' feud.

# business



We are not looking to regulate digital gold or e-gold products as it does not fall under our purview TUHIN KANTA PANDEY

#### **BITCOIN CONTINUES TO SLIDE**

Bitcoin, the world's largest cryptocurrency, dropped 7.18% to \$85,966.75 Friday, reaching its lowest level since April. Worries over the US economy sparked a broad selloff in digital assets, erasing all of Bitcoin's 2025 gains. Its market capitalization now stands at \$1.71 trillion, nearly 30% below October's \$126,000 peak, with \$94 billion traded in 24 hours





freight corridor on the Kabul-Del-

Kabul-Amritsaı routes have been activated and cargo flights on these sectors will commence very soon

ANAND PRAKASH | JOINT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

I am delighted to have TPG join us in our journey to build large GW-scale Al data centres in India, tapping the rapidly growing AI demand. It will further strengthen our partnership with hyperscalers

and AI companies

The stainless steel industry has grown at a CAGR of about 9 per cent over the last 5 years and is projected to grow at a similar annual rate over

the next 4-5 years, driven by the growth of key sectors

ABHYUDAY JINDAL | MD. JINDAL STAINLESS

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### Forex reserves jump

Mumbai: India's forex reserves jumped \$5.543 billion to \$692.576 billion during the week ended November 14 due to a steep increase in the value of gold reserves, the RBI said Friday. The overall reserves had dropped by \$2.699 billion to \$687.034 billion in the previous reporting week. For the week ended November 14, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by \$152 million to \$562.29 billion, the data released Friday showed. Value of the gold reserves jumped by \$5.327 billion to \$106.857 billion during the week, the RBI said.

#### Kotak's rare stock split

Mumbai: Kotak Mahindra Bank Friday it will split one share into five, in its first stock split since September 2010. The bank, which completed 40 years of operations this month, said it seeks to make and boost participation from retail investors. Kotak's shares rose about 2% Monday after it announced the proposal, but closed 0.52% lower at Rs 2,087.8 Friday. Larger peer HDFC Bank last announced a stock split in 2019, while ICICI Bank split its shares in 2014, according to exchange data.

#### IndiGo injects \$820mn

Mumbai: Domestic carrier IndiGo Friday said it has approved an investment of \$820 million (about Rs 7,270 crore) in its wholly-owned subsidiary InterGlobe Aviation Financial Services IESC Private Limited for aircraft acquisition. The investment will be made through a combination of equity shares and 0.01 per cent non-cumulative optionally convertible redeemable preference shares (OCRPS), in one or more tranches, the airline said in a statement. IndiGo has 411 aircraft in its fleet as November 21, according to aircraft fleet tracking website planespotter. net, with 365 in operations and the remaining 46 on ground.

#### Adani Group exits AWL

New Delhi: Adani Group has sold its remaining 7 per cent stake in Adani Wilmar Ltd in a block deal that attracted strong institutional demand. Domestic mutual fund houses, including Vanguard, Charles Schwab, ICICI Prudential MF, SBI Mutual Fund, Tata MF, Quant MF, and Bandhan MF, bought the stake, according to people familiar with the transaction. Several international investors from Singapore, the UAE, and other Asian markets also bought into the clean-out block.

## uote 📆 India, Europe begin payment systems integration

#### INTERLINKING OF INDIA'S UPI AND EU'S TIPS ON ANVIL, SAYS RBI

Mumbai, Nov 21: The Reserve Bank on Friday said the process of interlinking UPI with the Eurosystem's TARGET Instant Payment Settlement (TIPS) is progressing, and it will continue to collaborate closely with the European Central Bank to operationalise cross-border remittances.

Reserve Bank of India and NPCI International Payments

Bangalore, Nov 21: India's

private sector activity expand-

ed at its slowest pace in six

months in November as man-

ufacturing growth slipped to a

nine-month low, offsetting an

uptick in services, according

HSBC's flash India Compos-

ite Purchasing Managers' Index

(PMI), compiled by S&P Glob-

al, retreated to 59.9 this month

from October's final reading of

60.4 and slightly lower than a

Reuters median forecast of 60.1.

50-mark separating growth

from contraction, a decline

for three consecutive months

suggests India's economy is

PMI slumped to a nine-month

low of 57.4 in November from 59.2

last month. Factory production

growth was the weakest since

May as firms reported subdued

intakes of new business.

The flash India Manufacturing

comfortably

losing momentum.

While the index remains

above

to a private survey Friday.



Limited (NIPL) have been engaging with the European

**Manufacturing slump** 

While the index remains comfortably above the 50-mark separating growth from contraction,

a decline for three consecutive months suggests India's economy is losing momentum

**OPTIMISM WEAKENS** 

PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIVITY

**EXPANDED AT SLOWEST PACE** 

IN SIX MONTHS

MANUFACTURING GROWTH

**IN NOVEMBER** 

**FACTORY PRODUCTION** 

**GROWTH WAS THE WEAKEST** 

**NEW EXPORT ORDERS ROSE** 

SINCE MARCH

JOB CREATION SLOWED

TO A LOW OF OVER A

YEAR AND HALF

Survey participants said

the slowdown stemmed partly

from "heavy rain" across some

regions of the country and chal-

lenges in securing orders due to

competitive pricing from rivals

soft, indicating that the GST

(goods and services tax)-led

boost may have peaked," said

"Overall new orders came in

in global markets.

INDIA IS AMONG THE TOP TEN RECIPIENTS OF EURO AREA

Central Bank on the initiative to connect UPI with the TIPS.

"Following constructive and sustained engagement, both sides have agreed to start the realisation phase for the UPI–TIPS link," it said in a release.

RBI said the proposed UPI-TIPS interlinkage aims to facilitate cross-border remittances between India and the Euro Area and is expected to benefit users of both jurisdictions.

"Reserve Bank of India and NIPL will continue to collaborate closely with European Central Bank to operationalise the UPI-TIPS link, including technical integration, risk management and settlement arrangements," it added.

RBI has been actively pursuing interlinking of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with fast payment systems of other jurisdictions to promote cross-border payments.

### Waning rate cut hopes snap rally

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 21: Snapping the two-day rally, benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower Friday mainly due to weak global trends and fading hopes of a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve in December.

The 30-share BSE Sensex de clined 400.76 points or 0.47 per cent to settle at 85,231.92. During the day, it tanked 444.84 points or 0.51 per cent to 85,187.84.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 124 points or 0.47 per cent to 26,068.15. The index had rallied over 1 per cent or 282 points to trade above 26,000 in the previous two sessions.

Steel, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Bharat Electronics and Eternal were the major laggards. However, Maruti, Mahindra

Among Sensex firms, Tata

& Mahindra, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and ITC were among the gainers.

Analysts said better-than-expected US non-farm payroll data dampened expectations of a December rate cut by the

Reserve. Wor-**JUMPED 669.14** POINTS OR 0.79%, AND THE NIFTY WENT UP BY 158.1 POINTS OR 0.61%

Asian markets ended sharp ly lower. South Korea's Kospi

Limited, said.

A total of 2,898 stocks declined while 1,278 advanced

### the instant payment system operated by the Eurosystem.

EASE INDIA-EUROZONE

Pranjul Bhandari, chief India

The country's dominant

services industry, however,

provided a buffer as activity

accelerated to 59.5 from 58.9 in

New export orders across the

private sector rose at the slow-

est pace since March, suggest-

ing the 50% punitive US tariffs

on imports from India are af-

fecting international demand.

deficit hit a record high last

month with exports to the US

falling nearly 9% year-on-year.

ment showed the Indian gov-

ernment plans to spend over \$5

billion, including credit guar-

antees and bank loans to help

offset the impact of US tariffs.

Optimism around year-

ahead output slipped to its

lowest level since July 2022.

That affected the pace of job

creation which slowed to a

low of over a year and a half.

cooled in November. While

input costs rose at their

weakest rate in over five

years, output charge infla-

tion hit an eight-month low.

That points to further easing

India's consumer inflation

hit a record low of 0.25% last

month, increasing chances of

monetary policy easing. The

Reserve Bank of India is widely

expected to cut its key repo rate

by a quarter-point next month.

in overall price pressures.

Also, inflationary pressures

A recent cabinet announce-

India's merchandise trade

economist at HSBC.

October.

#### **SILENT EROSION**

## ₹10K-cr leak annually: drags biz expansion Systemic leakages hit insurance sector hard

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 21: Systemic leakages due to fraud, waste. and abuse (FWA) of approximately Rs 10,000 crore each year are silently eroding trust and financial resilience within the insurance ecosystem, according to a report.

To safeguard integrity, there is a need for collective action from all stakeholders, including insurers, corporates, government, and regulators, the report, titled, Rebuilding Trust: Combating Fraud, Waste, and Abuse in India's Health Insurance Ecosystem, said.

Fraudulent behaviours, process inefficiencies, and policy violations have become embed ded across the value chain, and these practices are now system ic and increasing, it added.

To address this, the report outlined a three-pillar framework of prevention, detection, and deterrence, underpinned by the enablers of standardisation, technology, and data interoperability

The report highlighted how advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Generative AI (GenAI) can transform claims processing from a post-facto policing model into a proactive, real-time fraud prevention system.

The health insurance industry has grown to Rs 1.27 lakh crore as of 2025, reflecting an annualised growth rate of



is to ensure that we forge digital trust and transparency into our health insurance infrastructure, thereby ensuring that care remains accessible, affordable, and accountable for all SATISH GIDUGU | CEO, MEDI ASSIST

around 17 per cent over the past 5 years, the report said. The next 5 years continue

to be promising, with the industry continuing its growth momentum by growing at a similar 16-18 per cent ballpark, reaching approximately Rs 2.6-3 lakh crore by 2030. Future market-shaping developments, such as composite licenses and health value-added services, will be strong enablers of this sustained growth, leading to augmented coverage and redefined services offered by insurers, it added.

Each year, an estimated Rs 8,000-10,000 crore of claim payouts leak through FWA, which erodes insurer margins, inflates customer premiums, and strains public resources, it said.

Joyalukkas unveils 'Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Show'

ON THE WEEKLY FRONT, THE BSE **BENCHMARK** 

ries about a bubble AI-related shares also dampened investor sentiment across global markets.

tanked 3.79 per cent, Shanghai's SSE Composite Index lost 2.45 per cent, Japan's Nikkei 225 in dex dropped 2.40 per cent Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index fell by 2.38 per cent. European markets were

trading in the red. US markets ended in negative territory Thursday. The Nasdaq Composite tanked 2.15 per cent, S&F 500 declined 1.56 per cent, and Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.84 per cent.

"Indian markets turned volatile and settled lower, reflect ing the broader decline seen across Asian equities after better-than-expected US nonfarm payroll data dampened the expectation of a December rate cut," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments

and 162 remained unchanged on the BSE

#### **SNIPPETS**

#### **Galaxy Health Insurance expands footprint in East India**

**BHUBANESWAR:** Galaxy Health Insurance, India's youngest standalone health insurer backed by Venu Srinivasan of the TVS Group and the family of insurance veteran V Jagannathan, has expanded its East India operations with the launch of a regional



office in Bhubaneswar. The move is aimed at deepening health insurance penetration across Odisha by FY26. With a focus on bridging the growing gap between rising healthcare needs and insurance coverage, the company plans to onboard over 1,000 agents across the state within the next two years. The insurer intends to strengthen last-mile distribution and use digital outreach to raise awareness, particularly among informal-sector workers, lower-middle-income families and rural households that remain underinsured. "Odisha represents a key growth market for us, reflecting the strong entrepreneurial energy and growing demand for reliable health insurance services. With our presence in Bhubaneswar, we aim to make health protection simple, affordable, and inclusive. Our goal is to ensure that even families outside formal financial systems can access the care and security they deserve," said G Srinivasan, MD & CEO, Galaxy Health Insurance. "Our expansion in East India reinforces our commitment to building trust and enabling protection-led financial resilience," he added.

#### **Amstrad brings high-capacity, high-performance ACs**



**BHUBANESWAR:** Amstrad Consumer India Private Limited announced the launch of its latest innovation - the Viraat Series Range, a line of Super Heavy Duty Air Conditioners featuring a massive 1260mm Indoor Unit (IDU) and cooling capacity of up to 2.5 tonnes. The launch

event was held in the presence of Nipun Singhal, Chief Mentor, and Dhiraj Saraswat, Head of Operations, Amstrad. Odisha representatives Gautam Nayak, Bibhuti, and Arbindo were also present. In addition to the Viraat Series, Amstrad showcased its complete range of 5-Star and 3-Star Air Conditioners, reaffirming its focus on energy efficiency. The company also unveiled its latest television line-up, comprising Mini QLED, Gaming TVs, QLED, and LED models, along with its Washing Machine series, offering a comprehensive suite of smart and reliable home appliances. Speaking at the event, Nipun Singhal said, "Odisha has always been a key market for Amstrad. With the Viraat Series and our expanded product portfolio, we aim to deliver unmatched value and performance to our customers here."

#### Gold dips ₹600 to ₹1.26 lakh/10g

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 21: Gold prices declined by Rs 600 to Rs 1,26,100 per 10 grams in the national capital Friday, tracking a weak global trend, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity depreciated by Rs 600 to Rs 1,25,500 per 10 grams. In the local bullion, silver prices also tumbled by Rs 2,000 to Rs 1,56,000 per kilogram.

On the global front, spot gold was trading 0.38 per cent lower at \$4061.91 per ounce while silver futures fell by 2.13 per cent to \$49.56 per ounce. In futures trade, gold prices pared losses in the second half of the day due to a sharp fall in the rupee against the US dollar.

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: Joya lukkas, one of India's leading jewellery brands, inaugurated its 'Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Show' Friday at its Saheed Nagar outlet. The exhibition, showcasing an exclusive range of diamond creations, will continue till December 7.

Bringing together craftsmanship, innovation, and contemporary elegance, the show features a curated collection of diamond jewellery — from grand bridal sets to chic, everyday designs. According to the brand, each piece blends timeless tradition with modern aesthetics.

Joy Alukkas, Chairman of Joyalukkas Group, said, "The 'Brilliance Diamond Jewellery



our passion for perfection in jewellery design. Bhubaneswar holds a special place in our journey, and this exhibition during the festive season will offer customers an exclusive opportunity to discover designs that reflect beauty, individuality, and craftsmanship at its finest. To mark the launch, the

brand announced a special

offer-a free gold coin with every diamond jewellery purchase worth Rs1 lakh and above during the exhibition period.

The inauguration saw actress Debjani Deghuria and Cookies Swain; Retail Head, Rajesh Krishnan; Marketing head Anish Varghese and influencers pres ent at the occasion and explored a wide variety of jewellery designs across diamond, gold, silver, and other collections.

## AM/NS employees inspire young minds across state



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) strengthened its community outreach efforts by organising a series of employee volunteering activities to engage and inspire over 200 children across its operational

areas in Odisha. At Paradeep, the programme

began with a cake-cutting ceremony followed by a notebook-making session that encouraged creativity and teamwork among 54 children and employees. The event concluded with a colourful cultural dance performance. Senior officials including Ch

Hariprasad, Head-Paradeep Pellet Plant; Sanjive Singh, Head-Finance & Accounts (Odisha); Prasanta Behera, Head-Finance, AM/NS Ports; and Pradipta Kumar Bhuyan, Secretary, Loknath Sikshyashram, attended the programme. At Thakurani Mine. employees conducted a handson Science Models Activity, creing from magnetic levitation and windmills to electromagnets and Newton's colour discto support practical learning in nearby schools. Mines Manager Indrakant Saha emphasised the importance of experiential learning in strengthening scientific understanding. Additionally, the HR team organised drawing, dance, mu-

ating 82 STEM models-rang-

sic competitions, and games for employees and their children at Paradeep and Barbil. Through these initiatives, AM/NS India reaffirmed its commitment to fostering creativity, education, and community development in the regions where it operates.

After Starc's career-best 7 wickets, Stokes shines with five-wicket haul as England gain first-innings advantage in Ashes opener

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Perth, Nov 21: Nineteen wickets fell on a chaotic opening day of the first Ashes Test at Perth Stadium, where fast bowlers from both sides wreaked havoc on a bouncy surface to leave the match dramatically in the balance.

By stumps, Australia were shellshocked at 123/9, still trailing England by 49 runs, after captain Ben Stokes tore through the middle and lower order with a sensational 5-23 from six overs, building on ferocious bursts from Jofra Archer and Brydon Carse. The collapse mirrored the 2024–25 Border-Gavaskar opener at the same venue, where 17 wickets fell on Day 1.

Earlier Friday, Australian spearhead Mitchell Starc produced a career-best Ashes spell, ripping out England for 172 in 32.5 overs with stunning figures of 7-58. His brutality came before a record crowd of 51.531, while Harry Brook's counterattacking half-century (52) lit up England's innings as they rattled along at 5.24 runs per over. No visiting team has been bowled out quicker in a first innings of a Test in Australia since 1932.

Starc removed Zak Crawley for a sixth-ball duck, then trapped Ben Duckett lbw for 21 before squaring up Joe Root for a seventh-ball duck, leaving England reeling at 39/3.

unbothered, launched a blistering assault — charging Australia's quicks, cracking an 89m six, and adding 55 with Ollie Pope before Cameron Green nailed Pope lbw for 46.

But Starc and debutant Brendan Doggett (2-27) then triggered a collapse of 5-12 in 19 balls, with Brook falling for a 61-ball 52.



19 wickets tumble on opening day as **Australia trail** by 49 runs

England wicketkeeper Jamie Smith clattered 33 off 22 before holing out, becoming Starc's seventh victim.

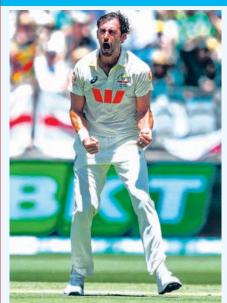
With Usman Khawaja unable to open because of back spasms, Marnus Labuschagne partnered with debutant Jake Weatherald — but the innings imploded immediately.

Archer dismissed Weatherald for a second-ball duck on review, then removed Labuschagne for 9, the ball ricocheting off his elbow into stumps. Carse struck twice, removing Steve Smith (17) and Khawaja (2), before Stokes entered and dismantled the innings.

Stokes dismissed Travis Head (21), Green (24), Starc

#### (Alex Carey 26, Cameron Green 24; Ben Stokes 5-23, Jofra Archer 2-11) by 49 runs

Starc unleashes beast mode



Mitchell Starc completes 100 Ashes wickets, becomes 13th Australian to reach milestone

eteran pacer Mitchell Starc tore through England's top order in the first Test in Perth, snaring three early wickets and becoming just the 21st bowler – and the 13th Australian – to reach 100 Ashes wickets.

He hit the milestone in only 23 Tests, underscoring his dominance in the storied rivalry. Starc also drew level with Curtly Ambrose's 405 Test wickets, and now sits within striking distance of Wasim Akram's 414, the most Test wickets by

a left-arm fast bowler.

(12), Carey (26), and Boland

in a devastating burst,

leaving Nathan Lyon (3 not

out) and Doggett (0 not out)

Doggett and Weatherald re-

ceived their baggy greens as

Australia's 472nd and 473rd

men's Test cricketers. En-

gland fielded an all-pace at-

tack with Shoaib Bashir left

out. The 19 wickets made it

the most dismissals on Day

1 of an Ashes Test since 1909,

setting up a gripping second

**BRIEF SCORES** 

England 172 in 32.5 overs (Harry

Brook 52, Ollie Pope 46; Mitchell

Starc 7-58, Brendan Doggett 2-27)

lead Australia 123/9 in 39 overs

at the close.

In his 100th Test, Starc's all-round value remains clear as the lefthander has amassed 2.322 runs, including 11 fifties, with a highest score of 99.

In the current squads of both teams, only Nathan Lyon (110) and Starc are the two bowlers to hold 100 or more wickets in the Ashes.

For England, captain Ben Stokes and Mark Wood are the most successful bowlers in the series with 41 scalps

# TO RESCUE ISL

AIFF reports no bids received for ISL commercial rights, signaling another setback for the game

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 21: The Centre Friday told the Supreme Court that it will intervene to ensure that the country's top-tier football competition -- the Indian Super League (ISL) -- is held and players are not put to any disadvantage

The All India Football Federation (AIFF), November 7, said it has not received any bid for the commercial rights of the ISL, marking another setback for Indian football as the submission deadline closed.

In a report to the apex court after an unsuccessful tender process to monetise the ISL, the court-appointed committee led by Justice L Nageswara Rao (retired) has recommended striking a balance between preserving the AIFF's authority and keeping in mind prospective bidders' commercial interests.

The committee submitted a report to the top court after the invitation for bids on the tender floated for the ISL's commercial rights found no takers, which left the sport's national federation in a fix.

The matter came up for hearing Friday before a bench of Justices PS Narasimha and Joymalya Bagchi.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the bench that he had a word with the minister concerned, who was fully aware of this issue and had remarked that ISL must be held.

"How it is to be held, what sponsors, who will finance, etc, can be left to the government.

The government would inter vene to ensure that the ISL is held and our players are not put to any disadvantage," he said.

The bench observed that i should not give the impression that the government is interfering. "Absolutely. Otherwise, we have no role," Mehta said.

He informed the court that the minister concerned has said the government will do ev erything, bearing one factor in mind that "anything being done should be in conformity with FI FA regulation so that we may not fall foul of that".

Mehta said the ultimate beneficiary is the players, who should not be put to any disadvantage either because of a lack of sponsors or owners for exist ing clubs. The bench referred to Justice Rao's recommendations and said those could be "very good guiding principles", and the stakeholders could sit down to discuss those. It said the court would reassemble after two weeks to hear the matter.

The AIFF recently convened a Special General Body Meeting November 24 to vote for a clause of its constitution which prohibits its office bearers from holding dual posts in the nation al body and state units.

**ITF Men's World Tennis Tour** 

Odisha's Kabir creates

history, enters semis

#### 2ND TEST

# Injured Gill out, Pant to lead India



'Pitched battle' on cards as India aim to draw level against World Champions South Africa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Nov 21: Rishabh Pant will walk into an immensely challenging leadership exam in the absence of Shubman Gill as India face the uphill task of restoring parity against a well-prepared South Africa on a surface that is expected to offer appreciable turn in the second and final Test starting here Saturday.

An even tougher test looms for head coach Gautam Gambhir, whose often perplexing calls have left the dressing room and think-tank grappling for clarity.

The aura of invincibility while playing at home that accompanied the Indian teams of last three decades has vanished when it comes to the current one, which is looking vulnerable.

For the first time in many years, India are going into a home Test match as underdogs and not favourites. Ask any player worth his salt and he would tell that it is not a happy place to be.

If the New Zealand spin duo of Ajaz Patel and Mitchell Santner tore the perception of invincibility to shreds in 2024, Simon Harmer and his other colleagues are making a young Indian side look even more vulnerable. The lack of a proper

over-think. We had a tough first Test and we need to do whatever is required to win the Test RISHABH PANT

■ Indisposed Gill released from

■ Rib injury rules out Rabada for 2nd Test

technique to handle spinners is apparent and jarring.

Add to it, a massive shift in mindset on tracks that implode, has made matters worse.

While Gambhir, with support of men who matter in the BCCI. is perfectly safe when it comes to his job but a 0-5 home record against two SENA countries will damage his coaching legacy forever and no amount of ICC Trophies would be enough to paper over that aspect.

And in these trying circumstances, Pant will take up leadership in the absence of Gill. He would know quite well that his batting on a red soil Barsapara track will be as important as his

decision-making. Gill was never in contention to play the second Test after suffering from neck spasms was always clear but the Indian team management and the BCCI, true to their nature of avoiding clarity till the last minute, denied the inevitable till it became undeniable. According to reliable sources, the 26-vear-old has left the city to rest and recuperate.

## Silver lining for Shourya in Deaflympics

**India collect 13** medals in shooting, including four gold, six silver and three bronze

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, Nov 21: Young marksman Shourya Saini clinched the men's 50m rifle 3-positions silver medal as India's dominance in the shooting competition of Deaflympics continued here

Following Saini's second-place finish, India have taken their medal tally in shooting to 13, including

**AUSTRALIAN OPEN** 

Lakshya in semis,

Sat-Chi crash out

Sydney, Nov 21: Lakshya Sen

overcame a resolute Ayush

Shetty to secure a place in the

men's singles semifinals but

it was curtains for top seeded

Indian men's doubles pair of

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and

Chirag Shetty at the Australian

Open Super 500 tournament

Lakshya, seeded seventh,

who had beaten the 20-year-old

Shetty at the same stage in the

Hong Kong Open earlier this

year, won 23-21, 21-11 to set up

a last-four clash against Chi-

nese-Taipei's Chou Tien Chen,

and a 2018 Asian Games silver

medallist, overcame Farhan Alwi

13-21, 23-21, 21-16 in a match lasting

However, Satwik and Chirag,

who had reached the finals of

Hong Long Open and China Mas-

ters, were shown the door by fifth

seeded Indonesian pair of Fajar

Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul

Sen, the 2021 World Champi-

onship bronze-medallist, who

had made it to the Hong Kong

Open final but has gone without

Fikri with a 21-19 21-15 win.

a title this year.

a marathon 1 hour, 23 minutes.

Chou, ranked No 9 in the world

the second seed in the event.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

here Friday.

**SHOOTING SPECTACLE** Soff Bank

four gold, six silver and three bronze. The 22-year-old Saini,

who had competed in the ISSF World Championships

also qualified for the finals in the junior category before finishing seventh, aggregated 450.6 in the final on Friday to finish behind Germany's Matthias Erik Hess. Hess set a new deaf world record by scoring 459.8. The other Indian marks-

man in the finals, Kushagra Singh Rajawat, who had earlier event won bronze in 50m rifle prone, finished eighth. A dominant Saini came in-

to the final on the back of a deaf world record qualification score of 584.

He had series of 96, 100, 96, 98, 97, 97 on way to topping the qualification. Rajawat shot 575 to also make the fi-

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: KIIT nals placed sixth.

## University's tennis star Kabir

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hans scripted history by becoming the only player from Odisha to reach the semifinals of the prestigious ITF Men's World Tennis Tour (M15 Bhubaneswar), being held at the Ka linga Stadium Tennis Centre.

The tournament, being held from 17th to 23rd November 2025, carries a prize purse of \$15,000, attracting top national and international talents Kabir displayed remarkable determination and resilience in the single quarterfinal match, where he defeated Russian player Timofei Derepasko in a three-set encounter. After los ing the first set 1-6. Kabir made a strong comeback to win the next two sets 6-4, 6-2, securing his spot in the semifinals.

Kabir will now face India's Digvijav Pratap Singh in the semifinal match scheduled 22 November 2025 at the Kalinga Stadium Tennis Centre, Bhu baneswar. Achyuta Samanta Founder, KIIT, KISS & KIMS, congratulated Kabir for becom ing the first player from Odisha to achieve this milestone. He praised Kabir's hard work and wished him the very best for the semifinal clash.

Expressing his gratitude, Kabir thanked Samanta and KIIT University for their constant support throughout his sporting career, acknowledging that the encouragement and facilities provided by the institution have played a crucial role in his journey.

Kabir's achievement marks a proud moment for Odisha and serves as an inspiration for young tennis players across the state.

## Mandhana gets engaged

**PITCH-PERFECT PROPOSAL** 

New Delhi, Nov 21: It was a sweet surprise for Smriti Mandhana when her fiance, popular singer Palash Muchhal, proposed to her at the DY Patil Stadium — the venue where India won the Women's World Cup final against South Africa earlier this month. In a video shared by Palash, he is seen leading Smriti to the centre of the pitch and giving her the biggest surprise of all by presenting her with a ring.

"She said yes," Palash wrote as he shared the heartwarming

The clip begins with Palash guiding Smriti, who is blindfolded, to the middle of the ground at the DY Patil Stadium in Mumbai. When she finally removes the blindfold, she finds her longtime boyfriend down on one knee, proposing to her.

A delighted and emotional Smriti accepts the proposal. Moments later, friends of both Smriti and Palash rush to the centre of the pitch to celebrate the special occasion with the couple. Palash's sister, Palak Muchhal, also a popular singer, joined them at the venue.

Smriti and Palash are set to tie the knot Sunday, 23 Novem-



**Mucchal**; PM sends good wishes

ber. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent a note congratulating the couple, saying that he expects the grace of Mandhana's cover drive to form a wonderful partnership with "the lilting musical symphony" of Mucchal. Smriti broke the news to her fans and followers on social media through a hilarious reel, featuring her World Cup-winning teammates, Jemimah Rodrigues

and Radha Yadav among others. The left-handed opener flaunted her engagement ring in the video shared on her Instagram Smriti and Palash have

shared a long, steady relationship, keeping their bond mostly private while supporting each other through their respective careers. Palash was seen cheering for Smriti and the India women's team during the World Cup final against South Africa earlier this month.

Smriti has timed her wedding as well as her cover drives. The Indian opener is enjoying one of the best phases of career on the field. She played a key role in India's maiden World Cup triumph.

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