



LEISURE | P2



INTERNATIONAL | P10



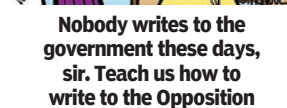
BUSINESS | P11

SPORTS | **P12**

PNN & AGENCIES

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi chairs the Cabinet meeting

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MORE ON PAGE 8

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

He also noted that em-



AP PHOTO

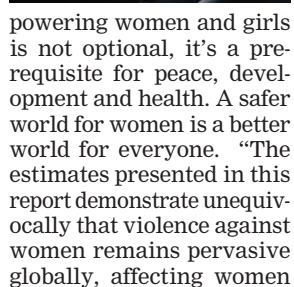
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wq Cdr Namansh Sval

“An IAF Tejas aircraft met

and courageous IAF pilot”.

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.



leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
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 your 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 any situation. You will concentrate on 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.

LEO
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 is pending because you have been procrastinating for a long time. You will feel inclined to share your most intimate secrets with your partner.

LIBRA
Ganesha says higher officials at work will shower you with appreciation and praise for your efforts. You may even be 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 your 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.



BALLERINI, STOKES SPLIT AGAIN

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

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.



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.

The gripping period dramatic

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. Ramalingam and editing is by Llewellyn Anthony Gonsalves. **IANIS**



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 that." The comedian, who is known for his self-deprecating humour and ical content, ly responds calling her demanding" joking, "not type anyways," laughter from familiar with his

The video arrives at a time when 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," prompting amused reactions from fans who called the two a "cute couple."

accuses Orry and asks, "Have you been sleeping with my husband?", and Orry replied with a nonchalant "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???? Tara-sutaria 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."



What Nargis looks for in her man

ian, for his ing satir-quickly by "too and my drawing viewers comedic style.

AGENCIES

SAM FLEXES STRENGTH

MUMBAI: Samantha 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 admitted 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 didn't



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 debate.

Samantha's commitment to fitness is more than aesthetic, it's about self-care, longevity, and self-respect. She has spoken before about how strength training has helped her not just physically, but mentally too, giving her the discipline and patience to push beyond limits.

In another powerful moment, she posted a video of herself doing pull-ups, challenging trolls who labeled her "skinny" or "sickly": "You don't get to call me skinny... unless you can do three of these first," she said.

AGENCIES



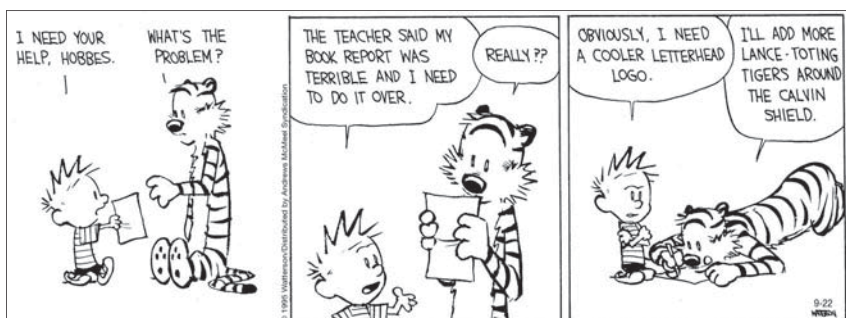
Tara's announcement in disguise



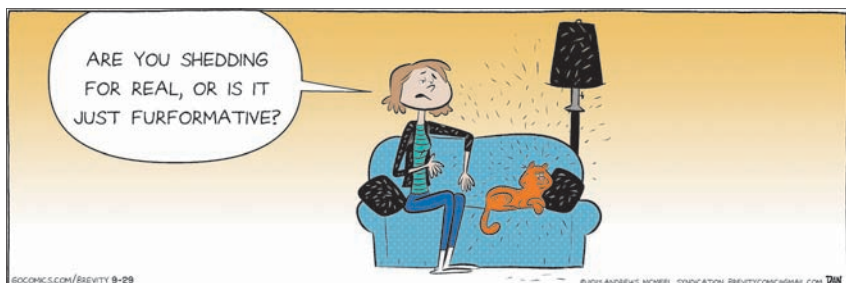
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

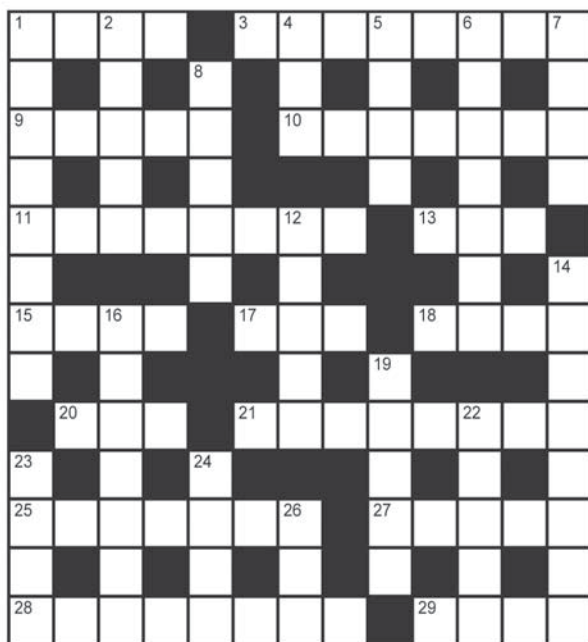


BREVITY



FUN post

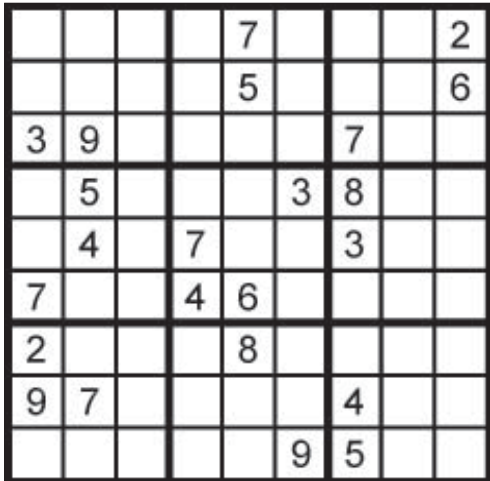
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- Weaving machine
 - Kind of penguin
 - Bullfighter
 - Family girl
 - Rotate
 - Canadian province
 - Outback runner
 - Scruff
 - Flue residue
 - Gateau
 - Physics unit
 - Fearless
 - Kind of penguin
 - Unit of petrol
 - Disappoints (4,4)
 - Scheme
 - Quandary
 - Casting need
 - Bad impressions?
 - Yellowstone sight
 - Draw (4,4)
 - Protective wall
 - Hibachi
 - Flower feature
 - Bargain
 - Desiccated
 - Set-to
- Down**
- Pain reliever
 - Classic theatre
 - It fits in a lock
 - Jealousy

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Pact inked to conserve Mahanadi Mahaseer fish



POST NEWS NETWORK

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

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed in presence 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 factors.”

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

Aspirants allege widespread irregularities in LTR recruitment

POST NEWS NETWORK

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 conference Friday, Students Against Corruption convener Bibhuti Bhushan Mahapatra said that candidates were facing “severe mental and financial harassment” due to the government’s repeated mistakes and OSSC’s arbitrary actions.

The recruitment notification clearly stated that if more than five times the number of vacancies applied, a preliminary examination would be conducted before the main exam. If applications were fewer, only the main exam was required, the notification stated.

However, Mahapatra alleged that OSSC violated this rule in multiple categories. Slamming the commission, Mahapatra said, “If OSSC cannot conduct examinations even after framing its own rules, why should it remain in existence? It should be dissolved.”

He said candidates have been 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 corrective action, plunging the future of thousands of qualified youth into uncertainty.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, SIVA SETHI, Father of Suresh Sethi, resident of Vill/PO- Nuagan Ichhapur, PS- Bansada, Dist- Bhadrak, Pin-756132 Odisha declare by this affidavit No.7333, dtd. 15.11.2025 that now onwards I shall be known as **SIBA SETHI** for all future purposes.

I, hitherto known as Bhairiganjan Nag, S/O: Jibardhan Nag, 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.

Speaking on the occasion, 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 of freshwater area (rivers, reservoirs, ponds, etc).

On the occasion, Mallik virtually inaugurated six infrastructure projects worth Rs 53.61 crore. The projects include, healthy fish market at Talabania (Lower Mall) in Puri, healthy dry fish market (both retail and wholesale) at Humma in Ganjam district, Fisheries Training Centre in Angul, and BFO Office at Talachua in Kendrapara district. The Minister 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 released 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 Shubhramshu Mishra, Horticulture Director Kalunge Gorakh Vaman, MPEDA Deputy Director Achaman Lahari and several others were present on the occasion.



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

OP PHOTO

Dy CM inaugurates CSR & Sustainability Conclave

POST NEWS NETWORK

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 rural transformation.

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 the time frame specified by the Union government, an official said Friday.

State’s Food supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister

CUO, UNICEF join hands to establish TCC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Koraput, Nov 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 landscape.

The Letter of Intent (LoI) was formally signed recently in presence of CUO Vice-Chancellor (I/c) NC 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 Sourav Gupta proposed vote of thanks.

Bihar verdict endorsement of PM’s policies: Pradhan

AGENCIES

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 Congress.

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.

“Unless the eastern parts of the country are developed, it is incorrect to think of India’s progress. The NDA won the Bihar polls despite remaining in power for two decades. 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 BJP president Monmohan Samal for the victory in Nuapada,” the Union Education Minister said.

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

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	89.55 ▲ 0.82	SENSEX	85231.92 ▼ 400.76	GOLD	₹123,740 ▲ ₹1,013
EURO	103.05 ▲ 0.75	NIFTY	26068.15 ▼ 124.00	SILVER	₹152,525 ▲ ₹1,622

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	32.6°	29.6°	Partly cloudy Sky.
Min Temp	19.2°	17.6°	
Humidity	66%	80%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

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

POST NEWS NETWORK

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 months.

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



and accountability.

According to available information, EY LLP had been engaged as the Project Management Unit (PMU) for Keonjhar 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 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 to the firm 20 days later, April 23, 2025.

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 appropriate action.

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

state

Bhawanipatna MLA gets death threat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Nov 21: Congress MLA from Salabani village in Mahishapatna 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

Das posted on X Friday claiming that 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 to save him.

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.

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

3 KIDS CRITICAL AFTER MISTAKENLY EATING PESTICIDE INSTEAD OF SALT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, Nov 21: Three children from Salabani village in Mahishapatna 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

mud in small pots, one child 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

Sub-Divisional Hospital. Yuvaraj’s condition deteriorated 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 Ghanashyam and Indurekha also worsened, both were shifted to Fakir Mohan Medical College and Hospital in Balasore where Ghanashyam remains in the ICU. Local authorities are monitoring the situation.

Man gets 20 years RI for raping minor

Berhampur: A Special POC SO Court here Friday convicted Krishna Naik, 27, of the Asoka police limits in a minor rape case. Judge Pranati Pattnaik sentenced him to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) and imposed a fine of ₹10,000. In default, he must undergo an additional 11 months of rigorous imprisonment, the judge said while delivering the verdict. The court also directed the secretary of the DLSA to provide ₹10.5 lakh as financial assistance to the survivor. The incident occurred during a wedding fest May 26, 2023. During the celebration, when the victim’s parents were away helping with the arrangements, the 13-year-old girl was alone at home. Taking advantage of the situation, Naik entered the house, intimidated and raped her repeatedly. Police registered a case (314/23) and launched an investigation. Naik, who had fled, was later arrested and produced in court. The court pronounced the verdict after examining statements of 14 witnesses and the police investigation report.

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.

Man electrocuted while plucking flowers; probe on

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, Nov 21: A 35-year-old man 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 a neighbour.

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 and began an investigation. 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.

Kendrapara police detain 16 suspected B’deshis

PNN & AGENCIES

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 citizenship 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.

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Union Bank of India

Regional Office: Sambalpur

1st Floor, Balaji Midtown, Budharaja

DiCst.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-768004

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform the public that inspite of repeated reminders the following gold loan borrowers have not repaid their loan. If they do not repay their outstanding debts before the auction, their gold ornaments 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 outstanding debt before the auction take place.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Gold Loan Account No.	Outstanding	Net Weight (in Gram)
THELKOLAI BRANCH (68480), AT: THELKOLAI, PO: LAPANGA, DIST.: SAMBALPUR, PIN-768232, MOB. No.: 7504026228			
1.	Subodh Sing, C/o- Dillip Kumar Mallik, Thekloi, PO: Lapanga, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-768212 / 684806530000010	₹ 43,195.00 + interest	12.00
SAMBALPUR BRANCH (36520), AT/PO: GROUND FLOOR, BALAJI BUILDING G.M.COLLEGE ROAD, SAMBALPUR, PIN-768001, MOB. No.: 8336918192			
1.	Janaki Bhoi, C/o- Kapilo Bhoi, Rastrapati Colony, Brooks Hill, PO: Dhanupali, Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-768001 / 3652065300000078	₹ 25,278.58 + interest	6.00
2.	Pratima Majhi, At: Brahangali, PO: Chaurnpur, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-768005 / 3652065300000038	₹ 10,928.00 + interest	3.20
3.	Srikant Badi, S/o- Satyanarayan Badi, At: Gandapada, PO: Dhanupali, Khandual, Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-768005 / 3652065300000094	₹ 25,202.00 + interest	6.00
4.	Ananda Chandra Mohanty, C/o- Narayan Mohanty, At: In Front of G48/1, Raja Colony, PO: Hirakud, Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN-768016 / 3652065400000129	₹ 1,41,752.89 + interest	29.50
5.	Ananda Chandra Mohanty, C/o- Narayan Mohanty, At: In Front of G48/1, Raja Colony, PO: Hirakud, Sambalpur, Orissa, PIN-768016 / 3652065400000138	₹ 1,43,235.00 + interest	29.70

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

- 1) 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.
- 2) After depositing the EMD, person who willing to participate in the auction can inspect the ornaments.
- 3) Auction for another account will begin only after the auction and amount deposit of one account have been completed.
- 4) The Bank is not Bound to accept any auction calls. The Bank may cancel the auction without assigning any reason therefor.
- 5) Union Bank of India will not held responsible in any manner for the quality, weight and purity of the ornaments pledged for auction.
- 6) Bank will forfeit the EMD Deposit Amount if any person does not obey the above rules.
- 7) 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 Bank for any reason whatsoever.
- 8) 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 way of completing the auction.

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

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

Date: 22.11.2025

Applications are invited for following posts on deputation basis:

#	Name of the Post	No. of Posts	Classification	Scale of Pay
1	Joint Secretary (Technical)	3	Group-A	Level-12
2	Deputy Director (Admn. & Accts.)	5	Group-A	Level-11
3	Deputy Director (Statistics)	1	Group-A	Level-11
4	Assistant Director (Admn. & Accts.)	6	Group-A	Level-10
5	Assistant Director (Statistics)	2	Group-A	Level-10

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 advertisement in the Employment News.

CBC:41109/12/0011/2526

Central Silk Board

Bharat Petroleum

Shaping The Future

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

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 - Bausingha, 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 proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Bharatgas

MAK LUBRICANTS

Bharat Petroleum

Aviation Service

Energising Lives, Energising Naya Bharat

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Sr. CDO, Santragachi, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur Division, acting through the President of India invites an open tender, through e-tendering in www.ireps.gov.in 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 mentioned below. No offline tender will be accepted. Please read the tender document uploaded in the document section for details: (1) **Tender Notice No.: C-MECH-OBHS-SHM-11-25, Date: 19.11.2025. Name of the work:** On Board Housekeeping Service (OBHS) in 10 trains and Linen distribution in 9 primary trains maintained at 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 tender document:** ₹ 10,000 (non-refundable). (2) **Tender Notice No.: C-BioT-25R2, Date: 20.11.2025. Name of the work:** Annual Maintenance and Operation Contract (AMOC) of Bio Toilets (DRDE Type) in Coaches of Coaching Depot, Santragachi & Padmapukur for a period of three years. **Tender Value:** ₹ 22,58,20,882.35 (including GST). **EMD:** ₹ 12,79,100. **Closing date of tender:** 18.12.2025 at 12.00 hrs. **Cost of tender document:** ₹ 10,000 (non-refundable). (PR-864)

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Union Bank of India

Regional Office: Sambalpur

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

VEHICLE AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Applications are invited from interested bidders for purchase of following vehicles, seized by the Bank on “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.

Sl No.	Branch/ Contact Number	Name of Borrower	Vehicle No.	Make & Model	Month / Year of Manufacturing	Reserve Price
1.	ROURKELA MAIN/ 9430330321	Mr. Vikas Agrawal	OD 14 AD 9099	KIA CARENS D 1.5 IMT LUXURY PLUS 7	08/2023	₹10,40,000/-
2.	BARAIPALI/ 7488700609	Mr. Ramesh Chandra Sunani	OD 15 W 0762	BAJAJ MAXIMA DIESEL	01/2023	₹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 verified) and EMD as applicable for each vehicle in shape of Banker’s cheque/Draft drawn in favour of **Union Bank of India**, payable at Concerned Branch should reach on or before **01.12.2025 upto 11.00 A.M. 2)** However the bank reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the auction process of any/all vehicles at its own discretion at any point 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 successful bidder. 4) Dispute pertaining 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 immediately 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 taken 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 sold without further information. Acceptance of payment on later date will be sole discretion of 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**

“

By your stumbling, the world is perfected.

SRI AUROBINDO



Lightning Ascent

There 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 realignment.

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.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- “

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

SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE
- “

You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
- “

To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity.

NELSON MANDELA



Carl Bildt

DESPITE ITS INDUSTRIAL MIGHT AND EXPANDING NAVAL RESOURCES, CHINA IS UNLIKELY TO FILL THE VOID LEFT BY THE US



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

ILLIBERAL WORLD ORDER



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 rule-book, 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 technologies 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

Delhi, Warsaw face similar security concerns



DK Giri

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

It'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 pow-

er, 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 security 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 including Ukrainian war.

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

INFA

Letters TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

of the day

quote

There are certain ideas on the American side, but nothing substantive is currently being discussed. We are 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 by Japan

HE YONGQIAN | SPOKESPERSON OF COMMERCE MINISTRY, CHINA

Recent events leave no room for any illusions: Russia is implementing another phase of hybrid warfare 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 an 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, the Punjab Emergency Services 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 – M15 and M16 – 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 large-scale 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 Dissanayake's administration as it marks one year in office. Opposition parties accuse Dissanayake'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.



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 | PRESIDENT, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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



US warns intel, arms cut for Ukraine

REUTERS

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 said.

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



Two sources say US is putting more pressure on Kyiv than ever

Kremlin says Kyiv should make 'responsible decision' now

White House says plan was hammered out by Rubio, Witkoff

US and Ukraine.

Zeleskiy, 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 said.

'A VERY DANGEROUS MOMENT'

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

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

G20 envoys agree draft leaders' declaration without US at summit



REUTERS

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 contents.

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 several schoolchildren and staff early 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 institution 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 12 and 17.

Earthquake jolts Bangladesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 residents.

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

UML, Gen Z youths come face to face

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 Matitihar 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 youths 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 erupted 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 under 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 headquarters, Rudrabahini, in Pathlaiya, The Rising Nepal reported.



Death toll in Bangladesh earthquake rises to 6

Magnitude 5.7 earthquake hits east of Dhaka

Tremors felt in neighbouring India

tremor hit.

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 seven-storey building looked tilted, though fire officials reported it remained structurally sound.

A fire broke out at a residence in Dhaka's posh Baridhara 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

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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 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.

At the livestreamed sashing ceremony for virtually all 130 contestants on November 4, Thai national director Nawat Itsaragrisil hectorred 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-



ria Kjær Theilvig of Denmark. "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 capital 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 time.

"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 element of rigging to the contest. The allegation was denied.

Separately, Thai police investigated 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.

I am pleased to announce that the air freight corridor on the Kabul-Delhi sector and Kabul-Amritsar 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 AI data centres in India, tapping the rapidly growing AI demand. It will further strengthen our partnership with hyperscalers and AI companies

N CHANDRASEKARAN | CHAIRMAN, TATA SONS

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 its shares more affordable 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 IFSC 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 (OCCRPS), 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.



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

TUHIN KANTA PANDEY | CHAIRMAN, SEBI

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



India, Europe begin payment systems integration

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

REUTERS

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



INTERLINKING AIMS TO EASE INDIA-EUROZONE CROSS-BORDER REMITTANCES

Limited (NIPL) have been engaging with the European



INDIA IS AMONG THE TOP TEN RECIPIENTS OF EURO AREA REMITTANCES

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

the instant payment system operated by the Eurosystem.

"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 declined 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.

Among Sensex firms, Tata Steel, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Bharat Electronics and Eternal were the major laggards.

However, Maruti, Mahindra & 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 US Federal Reserve. Worries about a bubble in AI-related shares also dampened investor sentiment across global markets.

Asian markets ended sharply lower. South Korea's Kospi tanked 3.79 per cent, Shanghai's SSE Composite Index lost 2.45 per cent, Japan's Nikkei 225 index 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&P 500 declined 1.56 per cent, and Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.84 per cent.

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

A total of 2,898 stocks declined while 1,278 advanced and 162 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Manufacturing slump drags biz expansion

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



REUTERS

Bangalore, Nov 21: India's private sector activity expanded at its slowest pace in six months in November as manufacturing growth slipped to a nine-month low, offsetting an uptick in services, according to a private survey Friday.

HSBC's flash India Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, 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.

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.

The flash India Manufacturing 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.

OPTIMISM WEAKENS

PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIVITY EXPANDED AT SLOWEST PACE IN SIX MONTHS

MANUFACTURING GROWTH SLIPPED TO NINE-MONTH LOW IN NOVEMBER

FACTORY PRODUCTION GROWTH WAS THE WEAKEST SINCE MAY

NEW EXPORT ORDERS ROSE AT THE SLOWEST PACE 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 challenges in securing orders due to competitive pricing from rivals in global markets.

"Overall new orders came in soft, indicating that the GST (goods and services tax)-led boost may have peaked," said

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



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."

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

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.

Joyalukkas unveils 'Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Show'

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: Joyalukkas, 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



Show' is our tribute to the enduring allure of diamonds and 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 present 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: Arce-lorMittal 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 hands-on Science Models Activity, cre-

ating 82 STEM models—ranging from magnetic levitation and windmills to electromagnets and Newton's colour disc—to 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, music 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.

Pace battle takes over Ashes

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.

Brook, 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

(12), Carey (26), and Boland (0) in a devastating burst, leaving Nathan Lyon (3 not out) and Doggett (0 not out) at the close.

Doggett and Weatherald received their baggy greens as Australia's 472nd and 473rd men's Test cricketers. England fielded an all-pace attack 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 day in Perth.

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 (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

Veteran 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.

In his 100th Test, Starc's all-round value remains clear as the left-hander 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 apiece.

2ND TEST

Injured Gill out, Pant to lead India



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

(I) don't want to 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 squad
- Rib injury rules out Rabada for 2nd Test

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

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-year-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 Friday.

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



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

who had competed in the ISSF World Championships

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Lakshya in semis, Sat-Chi crash out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 here Friday.

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 Chinese-Taipei's Chou Tien Chen, the second seed in the event.

Chou, ranked No 9 in the world and a 2018 Asian Games silver medallist, overcame Farhan Alwi 13-21, 23-21, 21-16 in a match lasting a marathon 1 hour, 23 minutes.

However, Satwik and Chirag, who had reached the finals of Hong Long Open and China Masters, were shown the door by fifth seeded Indonesian pair of Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri with a 21-19 21-15 win.

Sen, the 2021 World Championship bronze-medallist, who had made it to the Hong Kong Open final but has gone without a title this year.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 21: It was a sweet surprise for Smriti Mandhana when her fiancé, 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 video.

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-

PITCH-PERFECT PROPOSAL

Mandhana gets engaged



The swashbuckling batter confirms engagement with musician Palash Muchhal; 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 Muchhal. Smriti broke the news to her fans and followers on social media through a hilarious reel, featuring her World Cup-winning teammates, Jemimah Rodrigues

FOOTBALL CRISIS

GOVT STEPS IN 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 Joyymalya 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 intervene to ensure that the ISL is held and our players are not put to any disadvantage," he said.

The bench observed that it 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 everything, 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 existing 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 national body and state units.

ITF Men's World Tennis Tour

Odisha's Kabir creates history, enters semis



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: KIIT University's tennis star Kabir 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 Kalinga 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 losing 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 Digvijay Pratap Singh in the semifinal match scheduled 22 November 2025 at the Kalinga Stadium Tennis Centre, Bhubaneswar. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT, KISS & KIMS, congratulated Kabir for becoming 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.