



Tamannah's desire

Actor Tamannaah wants to play Sridevi in her biopic to pay 'ultimate' tribute to the legendary actress

LEISURE | P2



Cyclone alert

Low-pressure over Andaman Sea may intensify into cyclone, likely to bring rain to Odisha Nov 25-27

DOWNTOWN | P3



Spectrum battle

US tech majors oppose Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea's demand to allocate spectrum in the 6-GH band for mobile services

BUSINESS | P11



Scripting history

Indian women's blind cricket team win the first-ever Women's T20 World Cup Cricket for the Blind by defeating Nepal

SPORTS | P12

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12 PAGES | ₹5.00



TRADE EXPO: Visitors at the 44th India International Trade Fair (IITF) being organised at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Sunday

Free sand for PMAY houses

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: In a major step to support affordable housing, the state government has decided to provide sand free of cost to beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and other government housing schemes for constructing pucca houses.

Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari announced Sunday that the state government will bear the cost of sand, ensuring smooth construction for beneficiaries under these schemes.

At the same time, the government has imple-



mented a maximum selling price (MSP) for sand to regulate costs and curb the activities of the sand mafia. Mines Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena warned that sand ghat leaseholders selling above the price fixed by the government would face stringent action.

The move follows amendments to Odisha Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016, aimed at preventing sand theft and cracking down on illegal sand mafia.

Radicalisation of docs began in '19

In a chilling exposé on a terror recruitment tool, investigators of the November 10, 2025 Red Fort blast have revealed that the radicalisation of the accused doctors began as early as 2019 on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and YouTube. Pakistani handlers linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed first identified the doctors through their posts and interactions in open discussion groups on X. Once flagged, the suspects were swiftly moved to Telegram channels for indoctrination

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 23: The investigation into the blast near the Red Fort has indicated a concerning shift in cross-border terror strategy, where highly educated professionals were groomed entirely through



digital means by handlers operating from Pakistan and other parts of the world, the officials familiar with the probe said.

The members of the terror cell, which included Dr Muzammil Ganaie, Dr Adeel Rather, Dr Muzaffar Rather and Dr Umar-un-Nabi, who drove the explosive-laden car November 10, were initially spotted by handlers across the border while active on social media platforms like Facebook and discussion spaces on X.

They were immediately shifted to private groups on 'Telegram', they said, adding that actual brainwashing started from here.

While Ganai and Adeel are now in the custody of NIA, Muzaffar escaped to Afghanistan in August this year, and the process to seek his deportation has already been initiated by the Jammu and Kashmir Police. They also used YouTube extensively to learn how to create IEDs for carrying out terror attacks. Digital footprints analysed during the interrogation identified the primary handlers as 'Ukasa', 'Faizan' and 'Hashmi'.

All three have been operating from outside India and their names often crop up in inputs related to the Jaish-e-Mohammed terror network, the officials said.

They said the recruited doctors had initially expressed intent to join terror groups in conflict zones like Syria or Afghanistan, but were later refrained by their handlers who asked them to continue in India and carry out multiple blasts in the hinterland.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Yes, it's your speech. You'll speak against fake news - this is for an international audience, not our party workers

Child labourer dies as tractor overturns

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, Nov 23: Tragedy struck the family of a 10-year-old child labourer, whose father has migrated outside and his family was dependent on him, as a sand-laden tractor overturned on him near Bahuda river islet under Digapahandi block in Ganjam district Sunday. The victim was iden-

tified as Prakash Naik, son of Prafulla Naik of Bhramarapur Dalit Sahi. Prakash, a Class V student, was reportedly working on a tractor owned by a villager for the past several days. Police said Prakash had accompanied other labourers to the riverbank around 6:30am to load sand. After the tractor was filled, it tilted while being raised on its ramp, allegedly due to the

driver's negligence, and overturned. Prakash, who was seated on the vehicle, was trapped underneath and died on the spot.

Fearing police action, an excavator was allegedly brought in hurriedly to lift the overturned tractor and move Prakash's body to his home, villagers said. When the body was examined there, injury marks were found.

Informed, K Nuagaon police reached Bhramarapur, seized the body and sent it to MKCG Medical College and Hospital for postmortem. The body was later handed over to the family. The tractor driver is, however, absconding.

Digapahandi tehsildar Santosh Kumar Sahu provided ₹30,000 to the family from the district Red Cross fund, officials said.



DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE -2025-

CLIMATE CHANGE : FINDING SOLUTIONS



STUDENT SPEAKERS



Satyajit Panda
RAVENSHAW UNIVERSITY
CUTTACK



Alisha Naaz
UTKAL UNIVERSITY
BHUBANESWAR



Pragyan Parimita Jena
RD WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY
BHUBANESWAR



Anindita Ranasingh
PN AUTONOMOUS COLLEGE
KHORDHA



Tapan Kumar Das
FM UNIVERSITY
BALASORE



Saumya Ranjan Dixit
NLUO
CUTTACK



Aditya Mandal
AIMS
BHUBANESWAR



Sanjeevan Bhuyan
KIT
BHUBANESWAR



Aditya Satpathy
QUIAT
BHUBANESWAR



RAHGIR

PERFORMANCE

LIVE STREAM ON

 DharitriLive  DharitriNews

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BHUBANESWAR

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EDITOR, DOWN TO EARTH



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Kartik Shanker
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VC, PARTNERSHIPS & STAKEHOLDERS
CYCN



Dr. Debabrata Swain
FORMER PCCF ODISHA
FOUNDER OF SAVE ELEPHANT
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Arun Krishnamurthy
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST
FOUNDER, EFI



British Deputy High Commission Kolkata



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ARIES
You will be impulsive today, and this may throw up unexpected results. In a rush of enthusiasm, you may finish pending work and even be left with enough time to plan long-term goals. You may also realise and make amends for your past mistakes, says Ganesha.

TAURUS
You are likely to stick to basics instead of letting your imagination run wild today, says Ganesha. At work, you may feel some pressure from your peers to do things differently. Think things out and be certain before you take any decision, advises Ganesha.

GEMINI
It's time you took stock of your personal life. Is there someone you want to propose but are afraid to do so? Ganesha advises you not to let the fear of rejection stop you from making an effort. There are strong indications that you will be accepted if you speak your heart today. So let him/her know how you feel. The time to make your dream come true is now.

CANCER
Ganesha believes that you are likely to have a heightened interest in the study of philosophy and the working of the metaphysical world. This may be mere curiosity or a part of your effort to improve your professional skills. Your ability to read the human mind and understand human nature better than anyone else will help you take charge when needed.

LEO
It's fun, fun and more fun on the horizon! Ganesha foresees you taking time out for some leisure and frolic today. Broaden your horizon with a bit of travel since you are very likely to be going on a small trip to recharge your batteries.

VIRGO
Today you need to carry on with your success without resting on your past laurels. You will also need to stay focused and organised to continue with the same success level that you enjoyed in the past. Pay attention to your relationship matters as they are the quintessential of your success and peace of mind.

LIBRA
It is very likely that you will arouse immense jealousy in others with your success and growth in business. Your business rivals may attempt to dent your credit worthiness in one way or the other. You may prefer to deal with them subtly rather than confront them openly, feels Ganesha.

SCORPIO
You may find yourself at crossroads, wondering which path to take. Crucial decisions regarding your personal life may numb your thoughts. Let this not interfere with your routine or it may lead to complications at work and with loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS
You seem to be on a self-appreciation mode today. Grooming, makeover and attracting attention in on your cards today, you make extra efforts to get that glamorous look for your self. And as Ganesha says, it will surely not go unnoticed as you bag a lot of compliments for it. One of the fortunate days in store for you!

CAPRICORN
You regret spending hefty amount of money on branded items and luxuries, but you'll see a ray of hope today, feels Ganesha. Your bank account is strengthened by some heavy cash flow, and needless to say, it will give you a great relief. Now, you'll understand the value of money and curb on your urge to spend lavishly. Your work place will make you feel more comfortable.

AQUARIUS
Today is your day! Your performance will speak for itself and everyone at work, including bosses, will appreciate your efforts, says Ganesha. Work will not seem burdensome any more, in fact you will enjoy your job like never before. You may wish to contact some old friends and be in touch with them once again.

PISCES
You are likely to feel a lot of tension and stress today. You will feel down owing to some disagreement with someone or due to some unfathomable reason. Even that special someone will be unable to chase away your blues. A little meditation will help you to bounce back and get into your daily routine, says Ganesha.



RYAN ON ADVICE THAT SHAPED HIS CAREER

Ryan Reynolds shared a key lesson he learned from filmmaker Richard Curtis, recalling Curtis telling him that every character must have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Speaking at *The Wall Street Journal's CMO Summit*, Reynolds said the advice stayed with him since he first heard it at 40

SYDNEY SWEENEY TALKS ABOUT HER WEAKNESS

Sydney Sweeney is opening up on her weakness, and it is something she feels a large section of women deal with. The actress has said that women, including herself, find it hard to ask for help as they don't want to be viewed as "weak"



MUMBAI: Actress Girija Oak, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming streaming series *Perfect Family*, is speaking up on the importance of having informed and socially aware parents for a child.

Girija calls for conscious parenting

stars Manoj Pahwa, Seema Pahwa, Neha Dhupia, and Gulshan Devaiah, and builds up on the theme of childhood experiences.

Talking about the same, the actress said in a statement, "It is interesting how childhood trauma is perceived. When you are living it, you do not realise it, you are simply dealing with situations the best you can. I think every set of parents understand what is good and bad for their kid, but we often get stuck in what people will say. If you remove that and think only about your kids, you will know what to allow and what not. That is why the responsibility lies with the adult, who has the foresight and emotional balance to understand how something might impact a child. With more aware and emotionally conscious parents today, far fewer people will need to address childhood trauma through therapy later".

ANS

Kriti concerned over Delhi pollution



MUMBAI: Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon, who hails from Delhi, has voiced serious concern over the alarming rise in air pollution in the national capital. Speaking at a press conference for her upcoming film *Tere Ishk Mein*, she said the situation is worsening every year, adding that urgent action is essential to prevent an environmental crisis.

Kriti noted that if strong measures are not taken, Delhi may soon reach a point "where we won't be able to see each other standing next to us."

Having grown up in the city, she recalled how drastically the air quality has deteriorated over time.

Her comments come at a time when the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has tightened the GRAP guidelines to curb further deterioration. Despite slight fluctuations in the Air Quality Index, Delhi continues to remain in the "very poor" category, recording an average AQI of 359. Several areas, including Noida Sector 125 and Akshardham, remained in the "severe" zone, while a thick layer of smog shrouded landmarks like India Gate and ITO, affecting visibility and daily life.

At the event, Kriti also spoke about *Tere Ishk Mein*, where she stars as Mukti opposite Dhannush. Directed by Aanand L Rai, the film releases November 28. AGENCIES



MUMBAI:

Actor Jaideep Ahlawat is riding high on the acclaim coming his way for his menacing turn in *The Family Man Season 3*, where he locks horns with Manoj Bajpayee. But stepping into the shoes of complex antagonists is not new for him. Recalling his early years, Jaideep shared how his portrayal of Amrit 'AK-74' Kanwal Singh in *Commando* unintentionally boxed him into a corner. The eccentricity of that character led filmmakers to repeatedly offer him similarly strange, negative roles.

He revealed that the industry began approaching him with scripts featuring the same offbeat tone, assuming he would fit those "weird" shades. "Once you do something different, every second script starts looking exactly the same. Why should I repeat myself? Once a character is done, it's done," he said, adding that he had to refuse several such roles to avoid being typecast.

However, the actor believes the scenario has improved significantly over the years. His consistent performances have opened doors to filmmakers and production houses once felt out of reach.

To-day, he feels more accepted and accessible within the industry. Jaideep's impressive body of work spans acclaimed series like *Pataal Lok*, *The Broken News*, and *Bard of Blood*, along with notable films including *Raazi*, *Gangs of Wasseypur*, *Maharaj*, *Jaane Jaan*, and *Action Hero*. AGENCIES

Jaideep breaks typecast trap

Tamannaah's fervent desire

MUMBAI: Tamannaah Bhatia, now a prominent name in Bollywood after years of success in South Indian cinema, continues to express deep admiration for the legendary Sridevi. In a recent interview, when asked which style icon she would most love to portray on screen, she instantly named Sridevi, calling her "super iconic" and someone she has always admired.

This dream is something Tamannaah has spoken about before. Reflecting on her childhood, she said she grew up idolising Sridevi and has long hoped to play her in a biopic, viewing it as the ultimate tribute to the actress who shaped her understanding of stardom and performance.

Sridevi's remarkable

five-decade career spanned Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, Malayalam, and Kannada films. Starting as a child artist at age four in *Kandhan Karunai*, she rose to become one of Indian cinema's most versatile and beloved stars. From the unforgettable *Mr. India* and the cult classic *ChaalBaaz* to the emotionally powerful *Sadma*, Sridevi redefined what a leading lady could be with her blend of comic brilliance, emotional depth, and magnetic screen presence.

While there is no confirmed biopic yet, Tamannaah's heartfelt desire keeps the possibility alive. Meanwhile, she continues her own busy slate with the action film *Ranger* alongside Ajay Devgn and Sanjay Dutt.

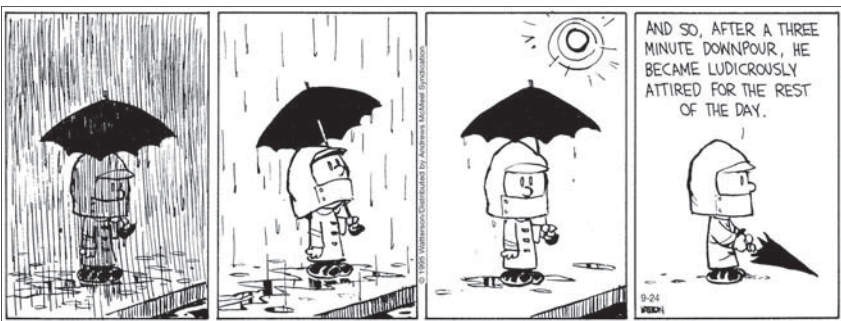
AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

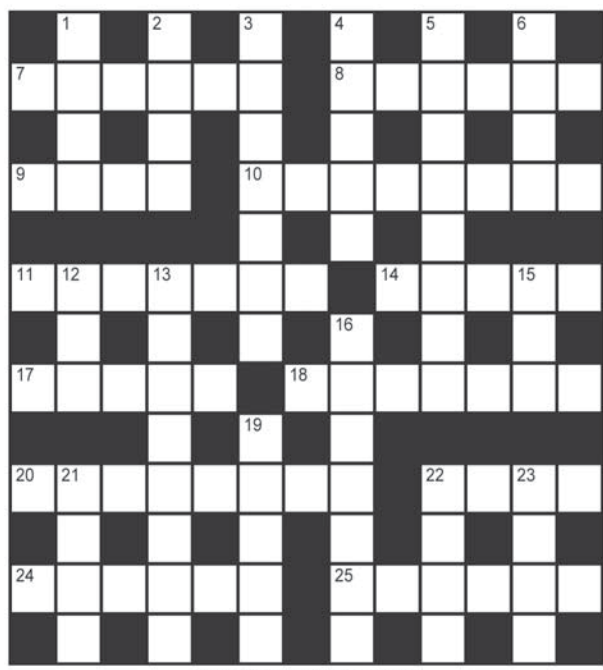


BREVITY



FUN post

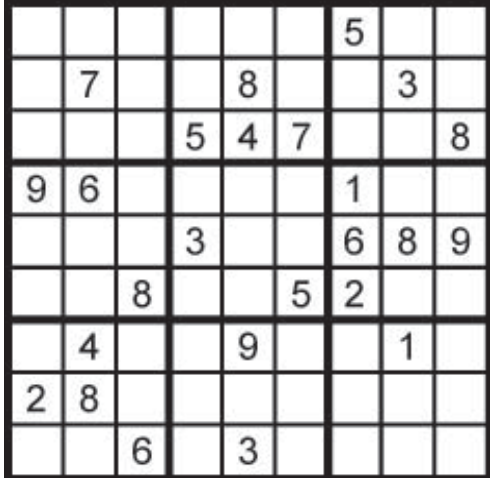
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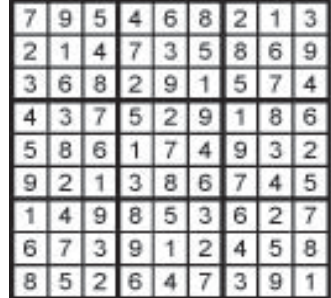
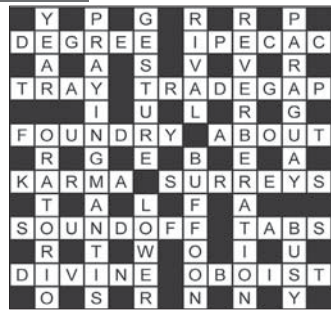
- Across**
- 7 Gully
 - 8 Skeleton's place?
 - 9 Lowly worker
 - 10 Reserved for a rainy day (3-5)
 - 11 Common pet
 - 14 Lollygag
 - 17 Incentive program
 - 18 Equilibrium
 - 20 Small intestine part
 - 22 Minor setback
 - 24 Serbian province
 - 25 Instructed
 - Down**
 - 1 Highlands hillside
 - 2 Flub
 - 3 Gang member
 - 4 Critical
 - 5 Aubergine and ground lamb dish
 - 6 Pinocle move
 - 12 Big deal
 - 13 Naval unit
 - 15 Mythical bird
 - 16 Gigantic
 - 19 Emissary
 - 21 ET rides
 - 22 Insult
 - 23 Distress signal

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



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

GREEN HEROES SUMMIT

Be selfish today to save environment: Tathagata

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: “We have to be selfish today to save the environment so that future generations can live in a safe and healthy world,” *Dharitri* and **Orissa POST** Editor Tathagata Satpathy said Sunday. He was speaking a day before the fifth Dharitri Youth Conclave, where over 100 climate advocates from across Odisha gathered here at the Press Club of Odisha for the Green Heroes Summit — a precursor to the mega event November 24. “More environmental groups and more youths have participated this year than last year, which is very promising as it reflects a rising public consciousness,” the Editor said. He, however, voiced concern over the growing disconnect between today’s youth and nature.

“Whenever I speak to young people, they can name more car models and influencers than they can name birds or varieties of trees. This is unfortunate — it shows we no longer know how to survive,” Tathagata said. Highlighting the ecological damage caused by chemical use, he said, “We have destroyed around 40 per cent of flying insect species due to excessive use of insecticides and pesticides.” Tathagata also stressed that environmental work is not merely voluntary service but a sector that can create meaningful livelihoods. He highlighted the growing pollution crisis, saying, “In many places — such as the national capital, New Delhi — pollution has made the city almost unlivable. Countries like



Dharitri Climate Film Fest

The summit also hosted the inaugural Dharitri Climate Film Fest, showcasing 14 films on climate change and environmental challenges. OrissaPOST and Dharitri Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy said the festival aims to provide a platform for young talent passionate about environmental storytelling. *Suravi* by Itishree Panda won first prize, while *O2 Collapse* by Atasi Atipriya Rout and *Tale of Tree* by Subhransu Satpathy secured second and third places. Panda said their dialogue-free animated film uses silent music to depict how soil erosion forces migration in Kendrapara, crediting her filmmaker husband for support. Actor and MLA Akash Dasnayak, the chief guest, stressed the urgency of climate action, warning that without immediate efforts, “a day may come when we will have to buy pure oxygen like bottled water.” Jury members Snehasis Das and Sushant Misra praised the films, noting that most powerfully portrayed issues such as tree felling, pollution, and industrial waste.



Germany and France are doing their bit, but we are lagging behind.” Chief Executive of *Dharitri*

and **Orissa POST**, Adyasha Satpathy, emphasised unity and shared purpose. “Our goal is not competition, but collabo-

ration — working together for the environment today so that we can empower the next generation. By sharing knowledge, helping one another, and acting as one family, we can create a better future for society and the planet,” she said. The event also felicitated last year’s Climate Grant-Odisha winners, including Jungle Lore Foundation and Anchalika Vikash Parishad in the group category, as well as individual awardees Pupun Sahoo and Trilochan Sahoo, who shared how the grant helped strengthen their initiatives. Environmentalist Soumya Ranjan Biswal of Odisha Parvayan Sanrakshan Abhiyan (OPSA), a 2023 Climate Grant recipient and current jury member, praised the spirit of grassroots activism. “During our field visits, we met inspiring individuals working tirelessly for envi-

ronmental protection. We must collaborate, value each other’s contributions, and keep working — even if recognition takes time,” he said. Jury member and former PCCF Debabrata Swain praised the summit’s efforts to encourage citizens committed to environmental protection. “The most important thing is that people are thinking about action. Participants from across the state uniting for this cause is a deeply positive sign,” he said. He emphasised the urgent need to safeguard Odisha’s vulnerable coastline. “We must do more to protect cyclone-affected regions and manage the changes caused by erosion and embankments. Anyone who harms the environment brings a curse upon us all,” he said. Speakers Meena Das Mohapatra, State Head of the Foundation for Ecological Security, and Omm Priyadarshi, Managing Director of Celsius Foundation, also addressed the gathering. Mohapatra reminded the youth that their voices matter and their actions can inspire others. The ‘Green Heroes’—representing climate advocacy groups from across Odisha—were divided into 10 thematic clusters, each focusing on issues such as Climate & Innovation, Climate Preparedness, Coastal Conservation, Forest & Eastern Ghats Community Protection, Plantation & Conservation, Pollution, Plastic & Industrial Waste, Urban Heat Islands, Waterlogging & Green Cities, Waste Management & Biodiversity, Wildlife Protection & Conservation, and Youth Action for Climate.



2 held in ₹89,699 fake lottery scam



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: The Cyber and Economic Offences Police Sunday arrested two persons for cheating a man of ₹89,699 through a fake lottery scheme in the City. Police seized mobile phones, numerous lottery coupon cards, WhatsApp chat printouts, an iPhone, a Honda Dio scooter, and a prepaid debit card from their possession. The accused have been identified as Nigamananda Kar (30) and Dharmananda Dhal (31). According to the complaint, November 2, 2025, around 9:30 am, an unidentified man visited the complainant’s government quarter in the Unit-II area of the City. Introducing himself as Rajendra Tripathy from Manibaba Electronics, Bapuji Nagar, he persuaded the complainant to purchase a ₹100 scratch coupon. Upon scratching it, the

complainant was told he had won an induction cooker. When given the option to choose a different reward, the complainant opted for a laptop worth ₹52,400. Taking advantage of this, the fraudster convinced him to pay ₹26,200 online immediately, assuring him that the remaining amount could be paid in 12 interest-free installments. The accused then sent a fake credit message to the complainant’s phone, falsely claiming that the full amount had already been credited. Misled by this, the complainant made another payment. The fraudsters continued to pressure him with repeated calls, insisting they had not received the money. In total, the complainant transferred ₹89,699 through five separate transactions to different bank accounts. During the investigation, police seized bank statements, WhatsApp chat records, screenshots of the disputed transactions, scratch coupons, and forged credit messages. Verification of the bank transactions confirmed that ₹89,699 had been fraudulently siphoned off. Police also found that the accused had been visiting residential colonies and specifically targeting senior citizens by selling ₹100 lottery coupons and promising electronic items as prizes. They prepared fake lottery coupons and fabricated banking messages to carry out the fraud. During interrogation, both admitted to their involvement in the crime. They were forwarded to court, and further investigation is underway to trace other members of the racket and identify additional victims.

2 critically injured in Honey Badger attack in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, Nov 23: Two men were critically injured early Sunday after being attacked by a honey badger in Ankura village under the Patana range of Keonjhar district, forest officials said. The attack occurred around 5:30 am when the animal reportedly injured Bijay Nayak, 54, and Jagadish Nayak, 60, inside the village. Patana Range Officer Bana Bihari Sardar said Bijay sustained deep injuries to his leg and head while he was on his way to relieve himself. Jagadish suffered severe leg injuries while threshing paddy in his farm shed. Both victims were taken to the Patana CHC for treatment.

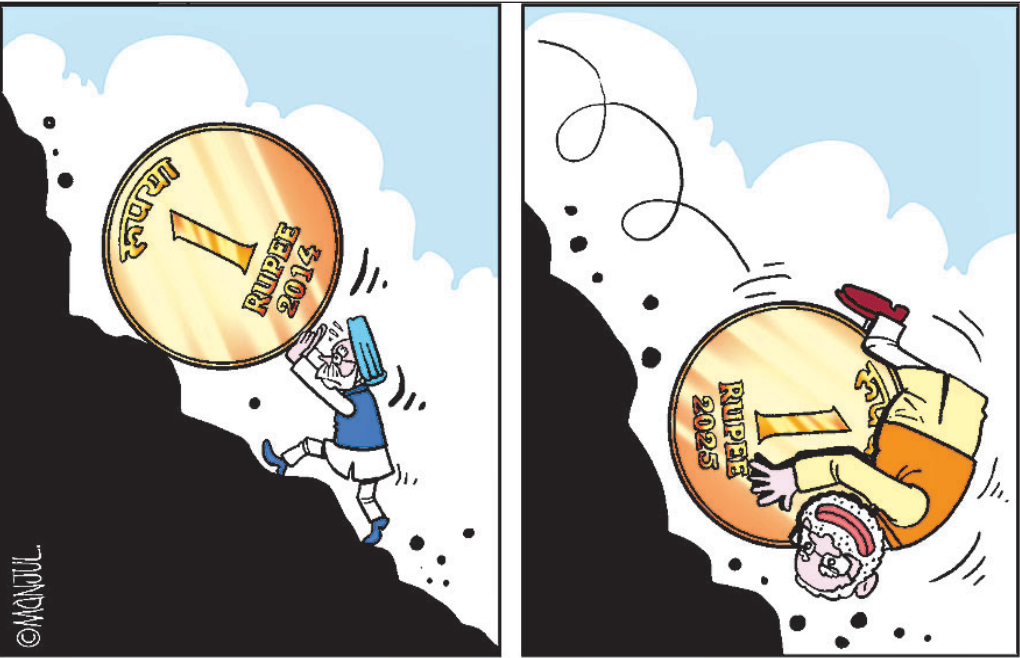


Villagers said they briefly managed to restrain the animal with a rope, but it escaped before forest personnel arrived. Forest officials reached the spot soon after being alerted and have begun an investigation. Efforts are underway to locate the animal and assess any further threat to residents.

Elderly man beaten to death in Kandhamal

BALIGUDA: An elderly man was beaten to death late Saturday night in Jugapadar village under K. Nuagaon police limits in Kandhamal district, police said. The victim, identified as Alekh Nayak, 55, of Kanjamendi village, was allegedly attacked with a wooden plank by Mithun Mallik, 34, of Jugapadar. The motive behind the killing is still unclear. Officers from the K Nuagaon police station reached the spot, detained Mithun, and sent the body for post-mortem. An investigation is underway. According to family members, Alekh had gone to Jugapadar Saturday to visit the home of a relative who had recently died. Late at night, when he stepped outside to relieve himself, Mithun — reportedly intoxicated — allegedly struck him repeatedly with a wooden plank, killing him on the spot.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Odisha on alert as BoB system may intensify into cyclone



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: A low-pressure area over the Strait of Malacca and adjoining South Andaman Sea is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm over southeast Bay of Bengal (BoB) within the next 48 hours, triggering rain in some coastal districts of Odisha between November 25 and 27, the IMD said Sunday. Briefing reporters, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said the state government is on alert and fully prepared to tackle

any situation arising from the possible cyclone. “We have made advance preparedness and additional measures so that the government machinery can easily tackle the system, even in case of further intensification,” he said. Pujari said the system is currently around 1,000 km from the mainland and the route and other details of the possible cyclone would be clear November 24, he said, adding some coastal districts may witness the impact of the weather system during the next three days.

Man attacks girlfriend suspecting affair in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: In a shocking incident, a man attacked and allegedly slit his purported girlfriend’s throat suspecting her affair with another person. The incident took place Sunday morning near Buddha park under Chandrasekharpur police station limits. The accused has been identified as Tinku Gurum, a resident of Darjeeling. The victim also belongs to Darjeeling and the couple was reportedly running a snack food stall in the City. According to sources, Tinku was suspecting the victim was having an affair with another person. Sunday morning, the couple met near Buddha Park and an argument broke out between the two. Soon, Tinku got furious and attacked the victim with a sharp weapon in a fit of rage.

As a result, the victim sustained injury on her neck and collapsed on the spot. The onlookers immediately rushed to the victim’s rescue, restrained Tinku and notified the police. The victim was rushed to a local hospital for treatment where she is currently undergoing treatment in a critical condition. The police reached the spot and arrested Tinku. However, Tinku showed no remorse after the attack and said, “She was cheating me with many men and now she is saying that she is married to another man. I loved her very much”. The Police have registered a suo moto case against Tinku and forwarded him to the court following his arrested and further investigation into the matter is underway.



44TH INDIA INT’L TRADE FAIR

Odisha’s rural products steal the spotlight

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: At the Odisha Pavilion of the 44th India International Trade Fair 2025 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Mission Shakti and the Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) under the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department are representing the Government of Odisha, showcasing a vibrant picture of a self-reliant India in the spirit of ‘Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat’. Over nine days, the participating stalls have recorded sales of over ₹13 lakh and held successful business discussions with government and private institutions from various states and countries. The Odisha Pavilion features six ORMAS stalls and four Mission Shakti stalls, showcasing handicraft products prepared by rural Women SHGs. Live demonstrations of the craft-making process are also being conducted on a dedicated demo platform. At



the six ORMAS stalls, visitors are exploring daily-use and home-decor items made from gourd by the Prerana SHG of Rayagada; dokra craft from the Jai Jagannath SHG of Dhenkanal; lac jewellery crafted by women of the Nilagiri Lacquer PG in Balasore; traditional Odia sweets and chhenapoda made by Krishna Chhenapoda

of Nayagarh; tussar handloom textiles for men and women from the Gopalpur Tussar Handloom PE of Jajpur; and a range of eco-friendly coir-based home-decor items and toys created by Utkal Coir of Puri. Similarly, the four Mission Shakti stalls are offering pat-tachitra paintings made by the Maa Bhuasuni SHG of Raghu-

rajpur in Puri; golden grass and sabai grass products crafted by the Siba Parvati Golden Grass group of Kendrapara; paddy craft by the Dhanalaxmi SHG of Nabarangpur; and paper mache creations produced by the Sri Jagannath SHG of Anandapur in Keonjhar. From November 14–22, the ORMAS stalls at the Odisha Pavilion recorded business of over ₹7 lakh, while the Mission Shakti stalls achieved nearly ₹6 lakh in sales. The combined stalls have emerged as a major attraction for visitors from India and abroad, particularly for their wide range of gourd craft products. The Prerana SHG from Rayagada, which is exhibiting gourd handicrafts, has already held commercial discussions with Rudrashil Products of New Delhi. Senior administrative officials from various states and ministries, along with representatives of business organisations, have interacted with stall officials to explore opportunities for production and marketing of the showcased products.

COLLAPSE OF DEMOCRACY



Resisting the slide toward authoritarianism should start with examining previous episodes of democratic breakdown, especially during the interwar years and the Weimar Republic

happening in Hitler's Germany. By 1934, the "coordination" process was already far along. First came the erosion of regional autonomy, as Germany's Länder (federal states) were stripped of sovereignty and placed under Nazi control. Then came the silencing of opposition and dissent. Before long, Gleichschaltung spread into the German intellectual sphere, permeating universities and research centers. Callender recounts how easily the Nazis imposed uniformity on cultural institutions—discarding much of modern art as "degenerate"—but hesitated when it came to bringing science under their programme of ideological unification. After all, could there really be a "German" or "Aryan" mathematics? Ultimately, a group of servile mathematicians at the University of Berlin convinced themselves that such a thing could, in fact, exist. The stage was thus set for the German tragedy that followed. Callender concluded his essay by noting that while Gleichschaltung, like other forms of mysticism, may re-

Daniel Treisman recount in their 2022 book *Spin Dictators*, the Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceau escu once told his security chief: "We can find countless ways to get rid of political criminals... We can arrest them as embezzlers or speculators, accuse them of dereliction of professional duties, or whatever else best fits each case." The weakening of democratic institutions is compounded by rising inequality. A recent report by the G20 Extraordinary Committee of Independent Experts on Global Inequality finds that the world's most unequal countries are as much as seven times more likely to experience democratic erosion. Research also shows that in a world dominated by social media, income inequality often translates into voice inequality. Small wonder, then, that the superrich are snapping up social media platforms and television networks to tighten their grip on public discourse. Resisting the slide toward authoritarianism should start with examining previous episodes of democratic breakdown, especially during the interwar years and the Weimar Republic. Just as Adam Smith showed how individual choices shape entire economies, we must study how small, everyday decisions add up to major political shifts. Only by understanding the mechanisms that make Gleichschaltung possible can we design safeguards that can prevent our societies from goose-stepping into the totalitarian abyss.

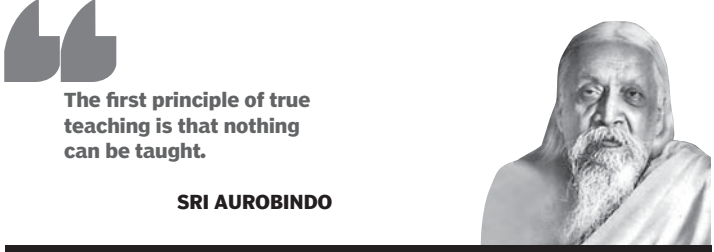
The writer, a former chief economist of the World Bank and chief economic adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University.

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Kaushik Basu

AN ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY CAN GRADUALLY DRIFT TOWARD DICTATORSHIP, STEP BY STEP, UNTIL IT REACHES THE POINT OF NO RETURN



SRI AUROBINDO

COP Compromise

Even after running overtime for more than 18 hours, the COP30 summit at Belém, Brazil, concluded with a compromise agreement that failed to secure a pledge to phase out fossil fuels. In fact the terms "fossil fuels" were absent from the COP30 climate pledge. The final draft agreement, adopted by nearly 200 countries, underscored both the resilience and the limitations of climate multilateralism at a time of heightened geopolitical tension and leadership vacuums. Nevertheless, two weeks of intense negotiations in the Amazon rainforest city challenged the assumption that global climate diplomacy is losing steam. Delegates approved an eight-page document calling for stronger national climate goals and greater financial support to vulnerable nations. Yet, the summit's most contentious issue: how and when to transition away from fossil fuels, once again exposed entrenched divides among major economic powers of the Global North and emerging economies of the Global South. The absence of the United States, the world's largest emitter, loomed large. President Donald Trump declined to send a delegation to the summit, continuing his administration's withdrawal from global climate leadership. On the other hand, China, the world's second largest emitter, maintained a cautious and self-focused posture, offering little indication that it was prepared to fill in the leadership void. The summit's defining tension centred on fossil fuels, the biggest culprit of global warming. More than 80 countries, including Colombia, the UK, Germany and Kenya, backed a proposal for a formal roadmap to phase out oil, gas and coal. But when Brazil released a draft that omitted such language, frustration erupted. COP30 President André Corrêa do Lago pledged to create a separate initiative over the next year focused on a "just transition" away from fossil fuels, earning applause but falling far short of the binding plan many hoped for. The European Union (EU) led the charge for stronger wording, warning that the summit risked failure without a clear fossil-fuel roadmap. Yet the final text only "recalls" the COP28 agreement to transition away from fossil fuels and urges countries to "voluntarily" accelerate climate action. Behind the scenes, EU delegates reported being "isolated," with several emerging economies casting them as villains for pushing language that oil- and coal-dependent nations viewed as economically threatening. Saudi Arabia, Russia, India and others resisted any binding commitments, highlighting the persistent global divide over responsibility and pace of transition. The stalled fossil-fuel debate served as a reminder that while almost 200 countries agreed in theory during COP29 in Dubai to phase out fossil fuels, consensus on practical steps still remains elusive.

The political atmosphere at COP30 contrasted sharply with recent summits held in countries with restricted civil liberties. Tens of thousands marched through Belém demanding stronger climate action, while indigenous activists blocked access to the conference's Blue Zone, insisting on a direct dialogue with Brazilian officials. With COP31 set for Turkey, a country where political freedoms have sharply declined in recent years, such scenes may not recur next year. COP30's compromise deal avoided diplomatic collapse, sparing Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva a political setback. But it also reflected a fractured global landscape where competing national interests, absent leadership, and economic anxieties continue to hamper progress. All these things converge at a time when scientists have already warned that existing national commitments to cut carbon dioxide emissions are not enough to keep world temperatures from breaching 1.5° Celsius above industrial levels, a scenario that could unleash the worst impacts of climate change on the planet and its inhabitants.

WISDOM CORNER

- Truth, like gold, is to be obtained not by its growth, but by washing away from it all that is not gold.

LEO TOLSTOY
- All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER
- To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1642:** Dutch navigator Abel Janszoon Tasman, who sailed from Batavia (Jakarta) to investigate the practicality of a sea passage eastward to Chile and to explore New Guinea, skirted the southern shores of Tasmania this day in 1642.
- 1859:** Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* published. One of the most influential books of all times, *On the Origin of Species*, put forth the theory of evolution and described the process of natural selection.
- 1877:** *Black Beauty* is published. The classic novel about the life of a horse called *Black Beauty* was written by English author Anna Sewell. The book quickly gained popularity and became an important part in the animal rights movement. It was Sewell's only published work.
- 1963:** Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby fatally shot Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of U.S. President John F. Kennedy.
- 1971:** Hijacking of Northwest Orient Airline 305. Considered to be one of the only unsolved hijacking cases in American history, a man named DB Cooper or Dan Cooper hijacked the Seattle, Washington bound plane. After his demands of \$ 200,000 in cash and parachutes were fulfilled at the Seattle airport, he released the passengers, refueled the airplane and asked to be flown to Mexico. On the way, however, he used a parachute to escape from the plane. Cooper has never been identified or caught.

LOL

THE CROWDED STORE

It was the day of the big sale. Rumours of the sale (and some advertising in the local paper) were the main reason for the long line that formed by 8:30, the store's opening time, in front of the store. A small man pushed his way to the front of the line, only to be pushed back, amid loud and colourful curses. On the man's second attempt, he was punched square in the jaw, and knocked



around a bit, and then thrown to the end of the line again. As he got up the second time, he said to the person at the end of the line... "That does it! If they hit me one more time, I won't open the store!"



Shivaji Sarkar

BIHAR IS NOT ALONE IN ADOPTING EXPANSIVE WELFARE PROMISES. ACROSS INDIA, WELFARE SPENDING HAS BECOME CENTRAL TO ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

The Bihar election delivered a clear mandate, but the celebrations mask a harder truth: the state is walking into a period of acute fiscal strain powered by an explosion of welfare promises. The politics worked; the economics now begins to bite. The immediate political gains from targeted benefits and cash transfers are undeniable. They create visible impact, reach millions quickly, and generate electoral goodwill. But the economic price of these commitments is now coming into sharper focus.

It is to be observed how such a massive mandate would impact or reshape Bihar's economy. Early assessments suggest that the NDA's new welfare promises could cost over Rs 40,000 crore in FY26—approximately 4% of Bihar's GDP. Rs 2 lakh crore in five years. For a state already operating with tight fiscal margins, this is not just a budgetary challenge; it signals a structural shift in how development would be financed or get constrained. Bihar's public debt has surged to Rs 4.06 lakh crore, with the state paying or Rs 63 crore in daily interest or Rs 23014 crore for 2025-26. It plans net borrowings of Rs 32,918 crore, pushing its debt-to-GDP ratio to nearly 40%—one of the highest in India. This is despite the state recording strong nominal GDP growth of roughly 11% over the past decade.

Bihar is not alone in adopt-

ing expansive welfare promises. Across India, welfare spending has become central to election campaigns. But Bihar's situation is distinct because of its economic baseline: low per-capita income, limited industrialisation, high dependence on central transfers, and a workforce heavily reliant on migration. In such a context, the political incentive to use welfare as a compensatory mechanism becomes overwhelming.

Over the past decade, Bihar has received far higher central financial support under the NDA government compared to the UPA period. Between 2004 and 2014, Bihar received about Rs 2.8 lakh crore, whereas between 2014-2024 it received roughly Rs 9.23 lakh crore—a threefold increase. The addition of Rs 40,000-plus crore in welfare commitments dramatically narrows fiscal flexibility. To finance these schemes, Bihar must do one of these things: Borrow more, increasing its debt-to-GSDP ratio, cut capital spending, slowing long-term growth, depend even more on central transfers, reducing autonomy. Higher borrowing inflates debt servicing, reduced capex suppresses employment and growth, and heavy dependence on the Centre erodes Bihar's independent policy capacity.

Economists often distinguish between welfare that builds capacity and welfare that buys political loyalty. The former in-

cludes school meals, health investments, education subsidies, and skill-building programmes. The latter tends to involve unconditional cash transfers, consumption subsidies, or politically timed giveaways. Bihar's new welfare package contains some elements of capacity building but is largely tilted toward political consumables. When welfare becomes permanent and productivity remains stagnant, a state risks entering a freebie trap: rising fiscal commitments without corresponding increases in economic output. Bihar's development challenge has always been structural: how to generate jobs within the state so workers don't have to migrate. The NDA's manifesto promise of 10 million jobs is ambitious, but job creation on this scale requires deep reforms—industrial land availability, reliable power, simplified regulations, agro-processing capacity, and public-private partnerships.

Every rupee diverted toward recurring welfare is a rupee not invested in these foundations. Large welfare schemes create an illusion of progress—mask the absence of long-term reforms. This is where the political-economy risk becomes visible. Welfare can secure the next election, but development secures the next generation. When political incentives favour the former over the latter, states stagnate.

Bihar's fiscal stress matters not only for the state but for India's broader economic trajectory. If Bihar's growth slows because of fiscal overextension, national-level effects may follow: greater pressure on central finances, as Bihar seeks more grants and transfers; slower demographic dividend realisation, as a large young workforce remains underemployed.

The Centre faces a difficult balancing act. Too much central support could embolden other states to pursue fiscally unsustainable models. Bihar must rationalise welfare, broaden revenues, and prioritise growth-focused capital investment to avoid fiscal strain and convert election promises into sustainable development. Without clear prioritisation, Bihar risks drowning in its own promises. The Bihar election has reshaped the political landscape, but it has also placed a heavy economic burden on the state's future. Welfare-driven politics may deliver votes, but it may not deliver the development Bihar desperately needs.

The next five years will determine whether Bihar uses its political mandate to break from the freebie trap—or sinks deeper into it. The fiscal path it chooses is no longer just a state issue; it is a national economic variable with implications far beyond Patna.

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
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Panic among flyers

Sir, Among all modes of travel, air-travel provides a unique and thrilling experience due to its incredible speed, breathtaking views and sense of adventure. The raw power of the engines during acceleration and the smooth lifting into the sky can be an exciting feeling. Once the aeroplane takes off and moves into the sky, seeing the world from a bird's-eye view contributes to an exciting and memorable journey. Air travel fosters relationships and creates lasting memories upon arrival. The pleasure of air-travel is often found not just in the journey itself, but in the experiences and connections it makes possible. However, for some people air-travel creates a lot of fear and anxiety due to what is known as "aerophobia," which is triggered by being in a confined space with strangers for hours and flights involving in rare accidents. The recent Ahmedabad air-crash corroborates this fact, as a wave of panic has surged among flyers after this nerve-wracking accident.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Work under pressure

Sir, This refers to the news report "SIR stress kills 3," *Orissa POST*, November 23. I am deeply shocked to note that the death of booth level officers (BLOs) in quick succession makes no impact on the Chief Election Commissioner, who is in no mood to address the problems of varied nature faced by the BLOs. On the contrary, the Election Commission of India is allegedly obsessed with protecting the vested interests of the ruling party at the Centre. The BLOs are told to maintain the deadline during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in various states or else face penal action. Such alleged cruel attitude of the Commission has telling effect upon some BLOs who find it difficult to work under such pressure. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has also expressed her concern in so many words. Will the apex court take cognizance of the matter?

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Half-baked healthcare in new Deogarh DHH



POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogarh, Nov 23: Over five months after the inauguration of the new seven-storey district headquarters hospital (DHH) in Deogarh, major gaps in staffing, equipment use and basic facilities have appeared with residents wondering why the building was inaugurated before it was ready to deliver full-fledged healthcare services.

Despite its grand opening, much of the hospital's equipment remains disorganised and idle. Locals say the facility was inaugurated in haste for political mileage, even though essential arrangements were incomplete. The hospital continues to function with a severe shortage of doctors and support staff. Of the 211 doctors sanctioned for the district, only 69 are currently posted leaving

142 posts vacant. At the new facility, just 15 of the 55 approved doctors are in place, including only eight specialists instead of 34. Nursing staff numbers also fall far short of requirement.

The decision to shift the old district headquarters hospital to a new location about 6 km away from the town has further inconvenienced residents. Several civic groups, including the Deogarh Zilla Yuva Ekata Manch, have submitted memorandums demanding round-the-clock services at the old hospital. Rallies and sit-in demonstrations have also been held. Locals allege that while authorities repeatedly make promises, little progress has been seen on the ground.

Administrative positions remain vacant as well, with no CDMO or ADMO currently posted. With no department heads, a handful of doctors

are reportedly handling multiple responsibilities, leading to more strain and confusion.

A major concern highlighted by residents is the lack of suitable government quarters for medical staff. The few existing quarters near the old hospital are in a dilapidated condition, offering little incentive for new recruits to stay.

Locals also accuse a senior doctor of influencing transfers and obstructing new postings to retain control, by allegedly using local muscle to intimidate newly appointed doctors. Civic groups have demanded the doctor's immediate transfer.

Meanwhile, nearly 90 per cent of pregnant women are reportedly being referred to VIMSAR in Burla. Many of them deliver en route to Burla, often at distances just 8 to 10 km from Deogarh. While the new maternal ward is located on the third floor, questions have been raised over the safety of pregnant women transported via stairs or lift during emergencies.

Adding to the concerns, security guards have allegedly been seen administering salines to patients — a task strictly meant for trained medical staff. Residents have demanded a probe into such malpractice.

With mismanagement compounding operational challenges, citizens say an urgent intervention by the administration is needed to restore trust and ensure the hospital can deliver the services it was built to provide.

Police seize 25 minor mineral-laden vehicles

PNN & AGENCIES

Berhampur, Nov 23: Police have seized 25 vehicles transporting minor minerals illegally from various places in Ganjam district, an officer said Sunday.

"We have conducted a crackdown on illegally transported minerals Saturday night across the district. At least 25 minor mineral-laden vehicles, including trucks and tractors, were seized," said SP Ganjam, Subhendu Patra.

The seized vehicles were illegally transporting minor minerals like sand and murram from various places like banks of different rivers, including Rushikulya, Badanadi, Ghodahada, Dhanei and the nearby hill areas, he said. The crackdown was conducted in different police station areas. However, no arrest was made during the raids. Police are verifying the vehicle documents. Notices, however, have been served to the vehicle owners, the SP said.

During the verification, the drivers of the vehicles could not produce the valid transport permission (TP) and other relevant documents for transportation of the minor minerals in the vehicles. The SP said such enforcement drives would continue in various places of the district for the next few days.

Crackdown on the illegal mining and transportation of minor minerals followed as Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at the recently held Collectors' and SPs' conference had directed District Collectors and Superintendents of Police to prevent illegal mining of minor minerals, and to launch a crackdown on illicit liquor trade.

8 interstate criminals arrested



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: Rourkela Police Sunday arrested eight members of an interstate dacoity gang following gunfights at two locations under Lahunipada and Chandiposh police limits, in which three members of the gang including the mastermind Chanda Nayak, aka Chande, of Jharkhand sustained bullet injuries.

The police received credible intelligence regarding the movement of the interstate gang in Bonai following which IICs of all police stations and SDPOs were asked to stay alert.

Early Sunday morning, the gang members, travelling in

4 morning walkers injured as bus hits them in Jajpur

Jajpur: Four people were injured after a bus hit them from behind in Jajpur district Sunday, triggering a protest by locals, police said. The accident occurred near Kujhala Chhak on the Bari-Kuakhia road under Jajpur Sadar police station limits when the passenger vehicle hit the four morning walkers, a senior officer said. The injured, identified as Mantu Jena, Badal Jena, Chintu Jena and Rakesh Kumar Jena, hail from Kujhala village and are aged between 20 and 22, he said. All four were admitted to the district headquarters hospital in Jajpur, the officer said. Of the four injured, three were shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack after their condition deteriorated, family sources said. Locals staged a protest, burnt tyres and blocked the road, demanding strict action against the bus driver and adequate compensation to the injured. Vehicular movement on the road was disrupted for three hours following the road blockade. The road blockade was withdrawn after the police assured the protesters of action against the errant bus driver and compensation to the injured youths. "We have seized the bus and detained the driver in connection with the accident. We have assured the protesters to make arrangements for compensation for all the injured persons after discussion with the bus owner," said Jajpur SDPO Prasant Kumar Majhi.

a four-wheeler and two motorcycles towards Koida area, attempted to flee. A gunfight then ensued between them and the police teams. "The accused were warned and asked to surrender.

They did not heed the warning of the police team. The team retaliated in a controlled manner and injured one of the accused namely Paras Ram, while others managed to flee towards Chandiposh," said police sources. Other gang members engaged in another gunfight with a team of Chandiposh PS and Gurundia PS near Kucheita, during which two accused - Chanda and Rajesh Singh - sustained bullet injuries.



BUDDING TALENTS: Students present their projects to guests at a science and mathematics exhibition held in Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya at Patharchepa on the outskirts of Bolangir town, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Epsilon Carbon faces NGT case over forest land grab

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, Nov 23: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken up a case against Epsilon Carbon Ashoka Pvt. Ltd. for allegedly encroaching on village forest land in Sripura under Sadar block in Jharsuguda district. The tribunal admitted the petition, filed by social worker Saroj Patra, October 31 for hearing.

According to the complaint, the company illegally used gramya jungle (village forest) land to construct a road to its under-construction industrial facility without the necessary authorisation. The disputed land, listed under Khata No. 178 and Plot Nos. 374, 427, 428, 434, and 435 of Sripura Mouza, is officially recorded as forest land in the Jharsuguda tehsil records.

Local residents had earlier raised objections, alleging



that the company cleared areas where the Forest department had planted hundreds of saplings under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' plantation drive. The villagers claimed that the Jharsuguda tehsildar later removed the saplings and barricades along the road leading to the company site, intensifying local resentment.

Sripura villagers later submitted a memorandum October 7, to Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari, demanding immediate action against the encroachment. They also held protests outside the Epsilon Carbon Ashoka Pvt. Ltd. facility and the Jharsuguda Collector's office, alleging administrative

inaction despite repeated complaints.

The NGT case, filed by Saroj Patra and represented by advocates Shankar Prasad Pani and Ashutosh Padhi, argues that the company's actions violated the Gram Sabha's authority. The Sripura panchayat had previously resolved that no SC, ST, gochar, or forest land within its jurisdiction would be allotted to private companies without the consent of the Gram Sabha.

When contacted, Jharsuguda Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Ashok Manu Bhatt said the department has not yet received any formal notice from the NGT. "We will initiate an inquiry once an official notice is received," Bhatt said.

The case will be heard by Justice Arun Tyagi, who has directed the Jharsuguda District Collector and Epsilon Carbon Ashoka Pvt. Ltd. to file their responses before the tribunal.

Intoxicated man beats wife to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Morada, Nov 23: An inebriated man allegedly beat his wife to death with a bamboo stick late Saturday night in a village under Morada police limits in Mayurbhanj district, police said Sunday.

According to investigators, Shankarshan Dhanik of Panchagochia village returned home drunk and entered into a heated argument with his wife, Raibari Dhanik. The confrontation escalated, Shankarshan allegedly struck her on the head several times with a bamboo pole, causing fatal injuries.

Raibari died at the scene shortly afterwards. Police said the accused neither sought help nor informed neighbours, remaining inside the house through the night. The incident came to light Sunday morning when villagers noticed the woman lying unresponsive and alerted Morada police. Officers reached the site, detained Shankarshan and registered a case (413/25) at Morada police station. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination, and further investigation is under way. Residents of Panchagochia alleged that illicit country liquor has been sold in the area for years, claiming excise officials have failed to take meaningful action despite repeated complaints.

BeMC to adopt Indore's cleanliness model

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 23: The Berhmapur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) will adopt Indore's acclaimed sanitation model in an effort to improve cleanliness in the city, sources said Thursday.

BeMC Commissioner Prathamesh Arvind Rajeshirke, City Engineer Manoj Kumar Patra and other officials recently visited Indore and Bhopal to study their waste management systems.

According to the City Engineer, BeMC plans to implement Indore's "capsule transportation" method (special tankers), which uses sealed tanker vehicles to transport garbage.

Currently, household waste is collected across Berhampur and is dumped at three waste transit points. The waste is then processed using pressure machines before being sent by trucks to the Mahuda waste treatment plant. However, residents have complained that garbage often spills from trucks and tractors during transport, littering roads and causing foul smell due to leaking waste water. To address these issues and ensure cleaner surroundings, BeMC will shift to a sealed tanker system similar to the one used in Indore.



Tanker vehicles will be stationed at the existing transit points in Dhanmera Sahi, Mango Market and Gosani Nuagan. Waste will be loaded directly into these tankers and transported to the Mahuda waste treatment plant, preventing leakage and odour. Commissioner Rajeshirke has discussed the plan with the state officials, and procurement of the tankers will begin after funds are approved, City Engineer Patra said.

BeMC will also install GPS devices on all 35 garbage collection vehicles. A dedicated command and control system will monitor their movement, with designated staff tracking operations in real time. The corporation also aims to strengthen segregation of dry and wet waste during door-to-door collection, following the Indore model. Plans are underway to purchase fully enclosed garbage collection vehicles and intensify public awareness on waste disposal.

Rooms of three families gutted

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gunupur, Nov 23: Properties worth several lakhs were reduced to ashes in a major blaze that destroyed nine rooms of three families at Bebarti Depa Sahi area of this town in Rayagada district, officials said.

The fire reportedly began at the home of Lalita Bauri under unclear circumstances. The house was completely destroyed before the flames spread to the adjacent homes of Santoshi Bauri and Mangama, residents said. All the affected residents earn their living by working as casual labourers.

Locals alerted the Fire Services personnel and attempted to douse the flames. Firefighters arrived and brought the situation under control.

Councillor Purnachandra Bauri, former councillor Muna Pani, fire service personnel, local revenue inspector and a municipal assistant engineer were present at the scene to help extinguish the fire and arrange temporary shelter and food for the affected families.



Modern dried fish market building opens at Humma

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, Nov 23: A modern dried fish market has opened at Humma Hata Padia in this district. Fisheries Minister Gokulananda Mallik launched the facility through video conference, while Chhatrapur Sub-Collector Sibasish Baral formally inaugurated the building Friday on the occasion of World Fisheries Day.

The project was first proposed in 2018 during the previous government, with an estimated cost of ₹7 crore for the construction of the market building and the

boundary wall. Bridge and Roof Company handled the construction work.

Officials said both phases of construction have now been completed. Senior managers of Bridge and Roof — Santosh Kumar Mohanty, Venkata Rao and Ashwini Kumar Sahu — were present at the inauguration ceremony.

The new facility will provide improved amenities for dried fish traders visiting the market, including night stay provisions, necessary sanitation facilities and other basic infrastructure.

VSSUT students build formula racing car

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 23: Students of Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) in Burla have drawn national attention after building a formula racing car that won top honours in the lightweight category and secured the all-India second position at the Imperial-2025 competition.

The vehicle, named 'Ares', was developed by the 'Veer Racers Electric' team which comprises 60 students from various departments. The

project, which took about seven months of research and fabrication, showcased the team's skill in design, welding, safety engineering and chassis balance.

According to team mentor Dr Debasish Tripathy, the students handled every stage of the car's development — from design to welding on their own. He said the university consistently encourages innovation and hands-on learning.

Team captain Saishankar Pattnayak said the national-level event, hosted at the



Coast High Performance Centre in Coimbatore from October 30 to November 3, featured top engineering colleges from across the country. VSSUT was the only institution from Odisha to participate.

The car performed strongly in acceleration, autocross, endurance and track-based tests, earning praise for its stability, control and weight distribution. The team also won the award for best female participation, which went to Darshana Puhan. Students Adyasha Dev and Amritanshu Tripathy were recognised for

their business presentation.

While racing car construction in India typically costs ₹13-15 lakh, the VSSUT team developed 'Ares' for just ₹6.5 lakh.

Students credited their success to guidance from faculty members Prof Debasish Tripathy, Prof Truptiranjana Mohapatra, Punyapriya and Prof RR Dash.

Pattnayak said the team will now conduct further research to identify areas for improvement and refine the vehicle for future competitions.



Dharitri and Orissa POST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy and Editor Tathagata Satpathy



PLEDGE FOR PLANET

Climate change is no longer a distant threat—it is a global crisis unfolding before our eyes. To raise awareness and encourage meaningful dialogue, leading Odia daily **Dharitri** has been highlighting this critical issue for the past four years through the **Dharitri Youth Conclave**. On the first day of the fifth edition of this flagship initiative, prominent climate activists from across the country converged at the Press Club of Odisha in Bhubaneswar. Together, they pledged to take concrete actions to help heal the planet and create a better future for all



Foundation for Ecological Security State Head Meena Das Mohapatra and *Celsius Foundation MD Omm Priyadarshi Chhotaray



Dharitri Climate Grant jury members Debabrata Swain, Arun Krishnamurthy and Soumya Ranjan Biswal



Anchor Manasi Mishra with Dharitri Youth Conclave 2024 awardees Pupun Sahu, Akash Ranjan Rath, Sagar Kumar Patro and Trilochan Sahoo



A 'Green Hero' putting his message



GREEN HEROES SUMMIT



'Green Heroes' present solutions to round table topics

DHARITRI CLIMATE FILM FEST



Dharitri Climate Film Fest chief guest Korei MLA Akash Dasnayak speaks at the event



Jury members Susant Misra and Snehasis Das addressing the gathering



Suravi by Itishree Panda bags first prize



Atasi Atipriya Rout's O2 Collapse wins second position



Tale of Tree by Subhansu Satpathy stands third



Satyabrata Samal, Sattvic Soul Foundation



Siddharth Pradhan, Sathvee Parivar



Truptimayee Pradhan, Aahwan Foundation

of the day quote

We are here because the Gita has to be lived, not just recited. Its 700 slokas must be read, contemplated and applied in our daily lives



MOHAN BHAGWAT | RSS CHIEF

During the Bihar elections, with Rahul Gandhi diving in and dragging Tejashwi Yadav along, the fate of the Mahagathbandhan was sealed



KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA | UP DY CM

On November 25, 2025, the name of Shri Ayodhya Dham will once again be inscribed in golden letters on the pages of history



YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

SHORT TAKES

Jackals escape Delhi zoo; probe launched

New Delhi: Delhi zoo authorities launched a search operation to locate a few jackals who may have escaped from their enclosures into the forested belt behind the animal exhibits, officials said Sunday. Three to four jackals were spotted in the bushy forested area Saturday morning near the off-display jackal holding zone close to Azimganj Sarai in Beat No. 10 of the National Zoological Park, they said.

74 rare turtles recovered

Mainpuri (UP): Two suspected wildlife traffickers have been arrested and 74 rare species of turtles recovered from their possession in the Dumila border area here, officials said Sunday. The accused were transporting the turtles to Udham Singh Nagar in neighbouring Uttarakhand.

Five Naxals, two supporters held

Bijapur: Five Naxalites and two supporters of the outlawed Maoist movement were arrested with explosives in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, a police official said Sunday. The five were identified as Kamlu Oyam (33), Laxman Ursa (30), Lekam Aytu (34), Lachhu Oyam (39) and Pandru Ursa (31), he said, adding a tiffin bomb, cordex wire and other materials were seized from them.

Couple, two children found dead at home

Dumka: A man, his wife and their two children were found dead at a house in Jharkhand's Dumka district Sunday morning, police said. The incident occurred at Bardahi village in Hansdiha police station area. The deceased have been identified as Virendra Manjhi (30), his wife Aarti Kumari (26), their daughter Ruhi Kumari (4), and son Viraj Kumar (2). SP Pitambar Singh Kherwar told PTI that the investigation has pointed to a dispute between the man and his wife over certain issues.

Toddler among four killed in road mishap

Seraikela: Four persons, including a toddler, died when stone chips-laden dumpers fell on them in two incidents in Jharkhand Sunday, police said. In Seraikela-Kharswan district, a 30-year-old man and his child were crushed to death when a dumper carrying stone chips fell on their house after the driver lost control, in Kandra police station area early Sunday, a police officer said.



Sri Sathya Sai Baba's compassion-driven service brought enduring social change across many spheres of public life

MK STALIN | TN CM

6 AADHAAR CARDS RECOVERED FROM ROADSIDE AMID SIR ROW

Six Aadhaar cards were found lying on the side of a road in Salt Lake satellite township Sunday, prompting police to initiate an investigation, a senior officer said



Wing Commander Namansh cremated

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Nov 23: Sobbing inconsolably, the IAF officer wife of Wing Commander Namansh Syal, killed in the Tejas crash at the Dubai Air show, managed a farewell salute with their six-year-old daughter clinging to her as his mortal remains were consigned to flames in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district Sunday.

The wing commander's cousin lit the pyre in the presence of Indian Air Force and civic officials, politicians and locals, who had lined up to pay their last respects to their dear 'Namu'. For the locals, Namansh, who was in his mid-30s, remains an outstanding athlete distinguished by his dedication to the country, "who even set an example in death by diverting the aircraft to save thousands present at the mega air show".



Syal was killed November 21 after the indigenous multi-role Light Combat Aircraft crashed during an aerial display at the air show.

Vijay resumes poll campaign

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 23: Tamilaga Vetti Kazhgam chief Vijay Sunday resumed his xcampaign for the 2026 Assembly election after a break of nearly 2 months and without directly naming the ruling DMK, accused it of a 'loot' of ₹4,730 crore via illegal sand mining.

He also indirectly levelled the allegation of dynasty politics against it and claimed that the ruling party had forgotten its founder CN Annadurai's diktat of 'go to the people'. Addressing party workers, fans and the public at an auditorium in Kancheepuram district, Vijay, avoiding a direct reference, alleged that DMK's ideology was only to loot. "They just talk about ideology, mortgaging all their principles, acting as if they alone have leased all principles. Isn't their ideology is just to loot? Do you think people don't know all this?"

Asserting that Palar River is the lifeline of Kancheepuram region, he said such a life giving river has been degraded and ruined by those merely using the names of social reformer "Periyar" EV Ramasamy and Anna. He said these were not casual remarks and alleged a loot of a "small amount of ₹4,730 crore" by way of illegal sand mining as about 22.70 lakh units of sand was mined by exceeding the permitted level. "They cannot ask for evidence as it is in court and with the Enforcement Directorate... if sand is looted, water bodies will be destroyed, agriculture will be destroyed and if agriculture is destroyed, farmers will be destroyed. In total, all of us will have to be completely destroyed. Have you ever heard of a party forming a syndicate to loot, from top to bottom?"

SIR sparks exodus of illegal migrants

Across the South Bengal border belt, security personnel and local residents say the number of undocumented Bangladeshi nationals attempting to return to their country has risen sharply since early November

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hakimpur, Nov 23: Beside a pitch road that opens into a narrow, dusty mud bylane at the Hakimpur BSF border outpost in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas, a stretch has become an informal departure corridor for "illegal Bangladeshis", who lived in the state for years.

Under a sprawling banyan tree, families with small cloth bags, children clutching plastic bottles, and men waiting on their haunches formed a silent queue Saturday, repeating a single plea before BSF personnel: "Let us go home."

Across the South Bengal border belt, security personnel and local residents say the number of undocumented Bangladeshi nationals attempting to return to their country has risen sharply since early November.

The movement has taken the shape of an unusual reverse migration, which officials and they themselves link directly to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls underway in West Bengal. Shahin Bibi, identifying herself as a resident of Khulna district who worked as a domestic help in New Town near Kolkata, waited with her toddler by the roadside.

"I came because we were poor. I have no proper documents. Now, I want to return to Khulna. That is why I am here," she said. She earned around ₹20,000 a month, lived in a shared room with two women, and sent money home



regularly. Many in the queue admit they procured Aadhaar cards, ration cards or voter IDs through touts and middlemen during their stay in West Bengal. With SIR demanding verification of older documents, several said they preferred leaving rather than risking questioning and possible detention.

"No more staying here," said a young waiter, who lived in Kolkata for eight years. "If they check old papers, we cannot show anything. Better to leave before they ask questions."

The concern is echoed across the queue of men, women and families who arrived from areas such as New Town, Birati, Dhulagori, Bamangachi, Ghursuri and parts of Howrah's industrial belt. A few had been in the state for over a decade; others arrived only a few years ago. Border officials confirm the surge. They say 150-200 people a day are being detained and pushed back after verification. The queues began swelling from November 4, the day the SIR exercise began.

"We cannot assume everyone here is simply returning home," a BSF officer said.

Because of the volume, delays of two to three days are common. People wait outside the outpost gate on plastic sheets, newspapers or under halted trucks. BSF personnel provide meals to those inside the camp, but people waiting outside depend on roadside stalls or occasional food distri-

Cong: SIR not reform but imposed oppression

New Delhi: The Congress Sunday targeted the BJP over the death of some booth-level officers engaged in the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in various states, terming the exercise an "imposed oppression" and a "deliberate play under which citizens are being harassed". The deaths of booth-level officers (BLOs) due to unnecessary pressure are being ignored as "collateral damage", the opposition party alleged.

bution by local youth and shopkeepers. A plate of rice with egg costs ₹40; rice with fish ₹60. The SIR exercise has also sharpened political confrontation in the state ahead of the 2026 assembly elections.

The BJP alleges the ruling TMC allowed "large-scale infiltration for electoral gains", while the state government accuses the Centre of "weaponising" the process to target vulnerable communities and create panic. At Hakimpur, this debate seems distant.

A semi-blind man who came 18 years ago for medical treatment and later earned his living singing in local trains, sat quietly near the fence. "I want to go back and sing again in Bangladesh," he said. "But, I do not know if they will accept us after so long."

Officials said around 1,200 people have returned to Bangladesh after undergoing official procedures in the past six days. Nearly 60 people were still waiting Saturday.

SNIPPETS

Forces set up new camp in Ch'garh's Maoist stronghold

Bijapur: Nearly six months after carrying out a comprehensive anti-Naxal operation in the dense forests of Karregutta Hills along the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border, security forces have set up a new camp in the area, once considered a safe hideout for senior Maoists. The forces set up a 'Suraksha Evam Jan Suvidha Camp' (security and public facility camp) November 4 near Tadpala village under the Usoor police station of Bijapur district, an official said Sunday. In April-May this year, Central and state security forces carried out a 21-day comprehensive operation in the dense forests around Karregutta Hills, during which they eliminated 31 Naxalites.

Maha minister's PA booked for abetting wife's suicide

Mumbai: The wife of a personal assistant of Maharashtra Minister Pankaja Munde allegedly hanged herself in her flat in central Mumbai due to a domestic dispute, prompting police to register an abetment of suicide case against her husband and his two relatives, officials said Sunday. Gauri Palve (28), wife of Anant Garje, was found hanging at her house in Worli area Saturday evening, an official said. Police have registered a case of abetment of suicide against Garje and his two relatives at Worli police station, he said. The couple had tied the knot in February this year.

Cops: Pune gangs sourced weapons from MP village

Pune: Pune police Sunday said gangs operating in the city sourced weapons from Umarti village in Madhya Pradesh, where they busted a major interstate illegal arms manufacturing and trafficking racket. The police launched a crackdown in Umarti village in Barwani district, located around 500 km from Pune, detaining 36 persons and seizing a huge cache of weapons. In the operation, carried out jointly with the MP police, 50 furnaces, where weapons were being manufactured illegally, were destroyed.

ITBP to set up 10 all-women border outposts along LAC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Jammu, Nov 23: The Indo-Tibetan Border Police force, which guards the 3,488 km-long India-China LAC, is establishing 10 all-women border posts along this arduous and icy frontier, the director general of the paramilitary said.

The force, as part of its ambitious "forwardisation" plan, initiated post the 2020 military clash in Ladakh, has also moved its 215 border posts forward along the front on India's north and eastern flank so far.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) DG Praveen Kumar said this during the 64th Rais-

ing Day parade of the force held in Jammu Saturday.

"We have worked on the forwardisation plan and, as a result, the number of forward-deployed BOPs (border outposts) is now 215 as compared to 180."

"The establishment of seven new battalions and a sector headquarters has not only strengthened this plan (forwardisation) but has also enhanced our reach and supervision of the forward areas....," the DG said.

The Centre had sanctioned seven more battalions and a sector office comprising about 9,400 personnel for the ITBP in 2023.



The DG said the force will establish 41 more such forward bases along the India-China

IBSA MEET

UNSC reforms no longer an option, but a necessity: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Johannesburg, Nov 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday said the reform of the UN Security Council was no longer an option, but a necessity and asserted that the India-Brazil-South Africa troika should send a clear message for changes to institutions of global governance.

Addressing the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) leaders summit here, Modi said that at a time when the world appears fragmented and divided, IBSA can provide a message of unity, cooperation, and humanity.

He also proposed institutionalising the IBSA NSA-level meeting to strengthen security cooperation among the three countries.

"In the fight against terrorism, we must move forward in close coordination. There is no place for any double standards on such a serious issue," Modi said at the meeting attended by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Highlighting technology's crucial role in ensuring human-centric development, the Prime Minister also proposed establishing an 'IBSA Digital Innovation Alliance' to facilitate the sharing of Digital Public Infrastructure like UPI, health platforms like CoWIN, cybersecurity frameworks and women-led tech initiatives among the three countries.

Appreciating the IBSA Fund's work in supporting projects across 40 countries in sectors like education, health, women empowerment and solar energy, he proposed the IBSA Fund for Climate Resilient Agriculture to further advance South-South cooperation.

Modi called the IBSA meeting as timely as it coincided with the first G20 Summit on African soil and marked the culmination of four consecutive G20 presidencies by Global South countries, out of which the last three were by the IBSA members. This has resulted in several important initiatives



focused on human-centric development, multilateral reform and sustainable growth, he said.

The Prime Minister said IBSA was not just a group of three countries but an important platform connecting three continents, three major democratic nations, and three major economies.

Modi also invited IBSA leaders to the AI Impact Summit to be held in India next year, even as he emphasised the grouping's potential to contribute to the development of safe, trustworthy and human-centric AI norms.

The Prime Minister said IBSA can complement each other's development and become an example for sustainable growth. He highlighted cooperation opportunities in areas such as millets, natural farming, disaster resilience, green energy, traditional medicines and health security.

Later, in a post on social media, Modi said the IBSA reflects "our enduring commitment to strengthening the voice and aspirations of the Global South. IBSA is no ordinary grouping."

"Ours is a bond that is heartfelt, carrying with it diversity, shared values and shared aspirations. All three IBSA nations have held the G20 Presidency in the last three years and have used this opportunity to further the human-centric agenda," he said. The IBSA grouping focuses on promoting South-South cooperation, pushing for reforms in global governance systems and enhancing collaboration among developing nations.



Nuns of the 'Missionaries of Charity' participate in the 'Annual Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession 2025' in Kolkata, West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

The Centre had sanctioned seven more battalions and a sector office comprising about 9,400 personnel for the ITBP in 2023

dination".

As part of enhancing the role of women combatants, the ITBP is in the process of establishing two all-women BOPs in Ladakh's Lukung and Thangi in Himachal Pradesh.

Eight more all-women BOPs

will be made operational on this front, the DG said.

The ITBP chief said the training institutions of the force have been "reorganised" and five new skilling modules have been launched for the troops, including on subjects like mountain warfare and tactical survival.

The ITBP, with a manpower of more than one lakh personnel, has its border posts ranging between the height of 9,000 feet and over 14,000 feet, affected by inclement weather and low levels of oxygen.

The force, raised in 1962, functions under the command of the Union Home Ministry.

of the day

quote

In the BJP, every worker gets an opportunity to rise. We function like a bouquet - united and committed



BHAJANLAL SHARMA | RAJASTHAN CM

We need to form a organisation/ apex body of farmer producer company for the progress and development of farmers. With farmer producer company, they can utilise agriculture equipment, tractor, harvester and other things and it will make it easy to pay loans



NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

The draft voters' list was officially published and uploaded by the evening of November 20



AADITYA THACKERAY | SENA (UBT) MLA

XPOST

OF THE DAY



Son of India's foreign Minister stays abroad. Son of India's commerce minister stays abroad.

Most children of BJP leaders stay abroad in clean air, pothole free roads and safe environment. These same people teach about Swadeshi values to Indians and even ask them to speak Hindi instead of English. This is how BJP fools you.

@RoshanKrRaii

SHORT TAKES

Speeding bus crushes to death four

Sagar: Two siblings were among four teenagers who died Sunday after a private bus hit them while they were standing along a road in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district, a police official said. The incident took place near Anantpura village, Rahli police station inspector Sunil Sharma told PTI. "Siblings Shivam Pal (17) and Ramcharan Pal (16) as well as Prashant Pal (14) and Umesh Pal (16) had stopped by the roadside while on their way to Simariya Harrakheda from Anantpura village. They were hit by a bus going from Simariya towards Damoh," Sharma said.

Pilot booked in sexual assault case

Hyderabad: A case was registered against the pilot of a chartered flight here for allegedly sexually assaulting a 26-year-old cabin crew member in a hotel in Bangalore, police said Sunday. Though the incident occurred in Bengaluru November 18, she lodged a complaint at Begumpet Police Station in the city, after which a 'Zero FIR' (an FIR registered irrespective of place of crime) was registered under relevant sections of BNS, they said.

CB, Special Cell recovers 328 kg meth

New Delhi: The Narcotics Control Bureau and the Special Cell of Delhi Police have busted a transnational methamphetamine cartel with the recovery of 328 kg of the contraband, worth around ₹262 crore, from a house in Delhi's Chhatarpur, a government statement issued Sunday said. The crackdown, named "Operation Crystal Fortress" -- a coordinated intelligence-based operation targeting high-volume synthetic drug networks -- resulted in the arrest of two individuals, including a woman from Nagaland, November 20, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) statement said.



At a time when society needs peace, harmony and social justice more than ever, the legacy of Guru Tegh Bahadur becomes even more significant

SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | HIMACHAL CM



JUSTICE SURYA KANT TO TAKE OATH AS NEXT CJI TODAY

Justice Surya Kant, who has been part of several landmark verdicts and orders on abrogation of Article 370 removing Jammu and Kashmir's special status, Bihar electoral rolls revision and Pegasus spyware case, will on Monday take oath as the 53rd Chief Justice of India

Preacher pleads with police to collect rent from docs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Srinagar, Nov 23: In a tense police interrogation room in Srinagar, Maulvi Ishtiyaq, a Haryana preacher detained in connection with a white-collar terror module, remains focused on a surprising concern: unpaid rent from two arrested doctors. Ishtiyaq, from Mewat, Haryana, was arrested after 2,500 kg of explosive material, including ammonium nitrate and potassium chlorate, was

found at his rented residence near Al Falah University in Faridabad. The university emerged as the hub of a terror network. His name surfaced during the interrogation of Dr. Muzammil Ganaie, a key member of the module arrested from the university. The white-collar terror module was dismantled on November 10 after extensive investigations by Srinagar police, leading to the arrest of

eight people, including three doctors. One suspect, Dr. Umar-un-Nabi, however, escaped and drove the explosive-laden car that detonated near Red Fort on November 10, killing 15 people. During interrogation, Maulvi Ishtiyaq claimed that Ganaie and Umar had asked him to store what

they called "fertilisers" at his home earlier in the year, agreeing to pay him a monthly fee of ₹2,500. Despite the gravity of his involvement in the terror plot, Ishtiyaq was more concerned about the six months of unpaid rent. Living in poverty with a family to support, he begged investigators to collect the overdue rent from Ganaie and Umar, so he could send the money back home. The stark contrast between the preacher's focus on rent and the scale of the terror-

ist plot briefly lightened the tense atmosphere in the interrogation room. Senior officials remarked that the bizarre situation highlighted the strange lives intertwined with terrorism. Ishtiyaq's account was corroborated by Ganaie during his own questioning. The preacher was transferred to the State Investigation Agency for further action. His arrest came after a joint operation between Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, and

Uttar Pradesh police. Investigations led to the discovery of a large cache of explosives at Al Falah University. The module, linked to banned groups Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, had been active since October 18-19, when posters warning of attacks on security forces were found in Srinagar. The arrests and subsequent investigation unraveled the network, leading to the discovery of the explosive materials.

WHITE COLLAR TERROR MODULE

'No plan to table Chandigarh Bill'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: The Union Home Ministry Sunday said that it has no intention to bring the proposed Bill on Chandigarh that intends to "simplify the law-making" process for the Centre in the upcoming Winter session of Parliament and asserted that the proposal doesn't aim to change traditional arrangements between Chandigarh and Punjab and Haryana.

This comes a day after a bulletin of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha listed the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill 2025 among the provisional list of 10 bills for the upcoming session beginning December 1.

The Bill that proposes to bring Chandigarh under the ambit of Article 240 of the Constitution, which empowers the president to make regulations for the UT and legislate directly, sparked sharp reactions from leaders in Punjab.

"A suitable decision will be taken only after adequate consultations with all stakeholders, keeping in mind the interests of Chandigarh. There is no need for any concern on this matter. The central government has no intention of introducing any Bill to this effect in the upcoming Winter session of Parliament," the ministry said in a statement.

"The proposal only to sim-



First announce, second think: Congress

New Delhi: With the Union Home Ministry stating that it has no intention to bring the proposed bill on Chandigarh in Parliament's Winter session, the Congress Sunday took a swipe at the Modi government, claiming it is yet another example of its "first announce, second think" approach to governance. Congress general secretary in-charge (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said that just yesterday, the Parliament Bulletin for the forthcoming Winter Session had listed for introduction a Constitution Amendment Bill to enable the appointment of a full-time LG for Chandigarh. This was immediately and aggressively opposed by the Congress and other parties in Punjab whose Governor is also the Administrator of Chandigarh, Ramesh said on X. The Union Home Ministry now says that it has no intention to introduce the Bill in the Winter Session, he said.

ply the central government's law-making process for the Union territory of Chandigarh is still under consideration with the central government. No final decision has been taken on this proposal," a spokesperson of the ministry said,

allaying concerns raised on the matter.

The ministry said the proposal in no way seeks to alter Chandigarh's governance or administrative structure, nor does it aim to change "traditional arrangements between Chan-

digarh and the states of Punjab or Haryana". Chandigarh is the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana.

The Bill seeks to include the Union territory of Chandigarh in Article 240, in line with other UTs without legislatures, such as Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, and Puducherry (when its legislative assembly is dissolved or suspended).

Article 240 of the Constitution grants power to the president to make regulations for the peace, progress and effective governance of the Union territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands; Lakshadweep; Dadra & Nagar Haveli; and Daman & Diu and Puducherry.

However, it said that when a body is created under Article 239A to function as a legislature for a Union territory (as is the case in Puducherry), the president shall not make any regulation with effect from the day of the first meeting of the legislature.

It also states that any regulation so made may repeal or amend any Act made by Parliament or any other law, which is for the time being applicable to the Union territory, and, when promulgated by the president, shall have the same force and effect as an Act of Parliament which applies to that territory.

SC to hear plea against Wangchuk's detention today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Monday a plea filed by Sonam Wangchuk's wife which termed the climate activist's detention under the stringent National Security Act as illegal and an arbitrary exercise violating his fundamental rights.

The top court had October 29 sought response of the Centre and the Ladakh administration on the amended plea of Wangchuk's wife Gitanjali J Angmo.

As per the apex court's cause list of November 24, the plea is slated to come up for hearing before a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria.

Wangchuk was detained under the National Security Act (NSA) September 26, two days after violent protests demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh left four people dead and 90 injured in the Union Territory. The government had accused him of inciting the violence. The amended plea has said, "The detention order is founded upon stale FIRs, vague imputations, and speculative assertions, lacks any live or proximate connection to the purported grounds of detention and is thus devoid of any legal or factual justification".

The plea said it is wholly preposterous that after over three decades of being recognized at the state, national, and international levels for his contributions to grassroots education, innovation, and environmental conservation in Ladakh and across India, Wangchuk would suddenly be targeted.

Delhi-NCR chokes as AQI levels cross 400

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 23: Delhi's air quality remains critical as winter smog takes hold. On Sunday, the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) in the national capital hovered around 430 at 7 am, placing it firmly in the "severe" category.

At 7:15 a.m., Jahangirpuri recorded an AQI of 438, falling squarely in the severe category, while Bawana at 431, Anand Vihar at 427, and Ashok Vihar at 421 also reported severe pollution levels. In the NCR region, Noida's air quality hovered just below the severe mark with an AQI of 396. Greater Noida registered 380, categorised as very poor, while Ghaziabad recorded 426, placing it in the severe

category. Amid rising pollution levels, the Commission for Air Quality Management for NCR and adjoining areas on Saturday revised the Graded Response Action Plan.

In a press release, the CAQM said measures earlier reserved for the 'severe' category under GRAP Stage IV would now be enforced at Stage III. The steps include ensuring an uninterrupted power supply to reduce diesel generator use, deploying additional personnel at traffic congestion hotspots, issuing pollution alerts across media platforms, and expanding CNG and electric public transport fleets with increased service frequency, along with differential fares to promote off-peak travel.

Madani's Al Falah remarks trigger row

Madani claimed that while Zohran Mamdani had been elected the mayor of New York and a Khan could become the mayor of London, Muslims in India cannot even become vice chancellors in universities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind chief Maulana Arshad Madani's remarks alleging discrimination against Muslims while citing the example of the Al Falah University, which is under scanner in the Delhi blast probe, triggered a row with the BJP Sunday, saying the "aatanki bachao (save terrorist) jamaat" has become active.

Madani claimed that while Zohran Mamdani had been elected the mayor of New York and a Khan could become the mayor of London, Muslims in

India cannot even become vice chancellors in universities.

"The world thinks that Muslims have been crippled and finished. I don't believe so. Today, a Muslim, Mamdani, can become the mayor of New York, a Khan can become mayor of London; whereas in India, no one can even become a university vice-chancellor," he said at a session at the Jamiat headquarters here Saturday.

"And even if someone does, they will be sent to jail, like Azam Khan. Look at what is happening today with Al Falah. He (the founder) is in jail, and



no one knows how many years he will be in jail," Madani said.

The government is working relentlessly to ensure that Muslims never raise their heads, the chief of one of the two factions of Jamiat alleged.

BJP leaders slammed Madani for the remarks and accused him of giving a communal colour to the Delhi blast probe. The ruling party's spokesper-

son, Shehzad Poonawalla, said, "In the name of vote bank, the 'bhaijann of appeasement' and the 'aatanki bachao jamaat (save terrorists group)' has become active."

"Arshad Madani ji, leave aside this talk of mayor; this country has seen Muslims becoming President, vice president, chief justice, home minister. The biggest artists and businessmen have also come from the Muslim community."

"When a terror act takes place, those people who say terrorism has no religion, start advocating on behalf of terrorists on the basis of religion," he told PTI Videos. Poonawalla also said, "Therefore, I say that behind the doctor of terrorism, there are spin doctors of terrorism. And these spin doctors are not just Arshad Madani but oth-

ers like P Chidambaram ji, who said it is the circumstances that make a terrorist." "Hussain Dalwai says they were the sufferers of injustice. Imran Masood calls them youth gone astray... Mehbooba Mufti and her daughter also play the Islamophobia card," he said. "Whenever a terrorist is caught, they keep 'vote bank neeti' over 'rashtriya neeti' and come to the defence of terrorism," Poonawalla alleged.

Reacting to Madani's remarks, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said, "In India, APJ Abdul Kalam, who became the President, is the icon of Muslims. He always kept his head high. Why make others an icon?"

BJP leader Shahnawaz Hussain slammed Arshad Madani's statement as "very irresponsible".



Tamil Nadu Minister Anbil Mahesh releases fish in the Kaveri river, in Tiruchirappalli

PTI PHOTO

international

of the day quote

We and the Indian side are actively preparing for the visit and hope it will be fruitful in every sense. It will be an extremely grand (visit) because it's even called a state visit

YURI USHAKOV | FOREIGN POLICY AIDE, KREMLIN

State Duma deputies highly value Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's contribution to the development of inter-parliamentary cooperation and the especially privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India, strengthening the friendship between the peoples of our countries

YYACHESLAV VOLODIN | RUSSIAN STATE DUMA CHAIRMAN

We learnt a lot from what Indonesia, India and Brazil did. In many ways, what we see having unfolded here was based on the foundations that those three countries of the Global South put in place

CYRIL RAMAPHOSA | PRESIDENT, SOUTH AFRICA

SHORT TAKES

Pakistanis vote in bypolls

Islamabad: Voting is underway Sunday in Pakistan for by-elections in 13 National Assembly and Punjab Assembly seats amid tight security. Out of the 13 seats, six are for the National Assembly (NA) and seven are for the provincial seats. Polling began at 8:00 am and will continue without a break till 5:00 pm, according to the polling schedule announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Most seats were declared vacant after the disqualification of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers, who were convicted for their alleged involvement in the May 9, 2023, attacks on military and civilian installations protesting the arrest of their party chief, Imran Khan.

50 schoolchildren escape captivity

Abuja (Nigeria): Fifty of the 303 schoolchildren abducted from a Catholic school in north-central Nigeria's Niger state have escaped captivity and are now with their families, the school authority said Sunday, bringing relief to some distraught families after one of the largest school abductions in Nigeria's history. The schoolchildren, aged between 10 and 18, escaped individually between Friday and Saturday, according to the Most Rev. Bulus Dauwa Yohanna, chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria in Niger state and the proprietor of the school. A total of 253 schoolchildren and 12 teachers are still held by the kidnappers, he said in a statement. "We were able to ascertain this when we decided to contact and visit some parents," Yohanna said.

Nepal registers 56 parties

Kathmandu: With 12 more political parties, including the Nepali Congress, registering with the Election Commission (EC) Sunday, the total number of parties registered for participating in the general election scheduled for March 5 next year has reached 56. The deadline for registration for political parties with the EC is till November 26. The total number of political parties registering at the EC for the purpose of participating in the upcoming House of Representatives election has reached 56, as 12 more parties registered themselves with the EC Sunday, said Narayan Prasad Bhattarai, spokesperson of the EC.

Ukraine, Western allies hold Geneva talks

US President Donald Trump, who has championed the 28-point plan, says Ukraine had not been grateful for American efforts over the war, prompting Ukrainian officials to stress their gratitude to the US president for his support

REUTERS

Geneva, Nov 23: Ukrainian, US and European officials met in Geneva Sunday to discuss a draft plan presented by Washington to end the war in Ukraine, after Kyiv and its allies voiced alarm over what they saw as major concessions to the aggressor Russia. US President Donald Trump, who has championed the 28-point plan, said Sunday that Ukraine had not been grateful for American efforts over the war, prompting Ukrainian officials to stress their gratitude to the US president for his support. Trump said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had until Thursday to approve the plan, which calls on Ukraine to cede territory, accept limits on its military and renounce ambitions to join NATO. For many Ukrainians, including soldiers fighting on the front lines, such terms would amount to capitulation after nearly four years of fighting in Europe's deadliest conflict since World War Two. On Saturday, Trump said the current proposal for ending the war is not his final offer. With the US delegation led

US PEACE PLAN



US-backed plan requires Ukraine to cede territory, limit military, renounce NATO ambitions

European leaders seek better deal for Kyiv before Trump's Thursday deadline

Russia's full-scale invasion started nearly four years ago

GERMAN CHANCELLOR SAYS CRAFTING PLAN WILL TAKE TIME

by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the main talks between US and Ukrainian officials got under way in Geneva Sunday afternoon in a stiff atmosphere at the US mission, soon after Trump complained in a Truth Social post that Ukraine's leadership had shown "zero gratitude" to the US for its efforts and Europe continued to buy Russian oil. Rubio interrupted the meeting to speak to reporters, saying that the talks had been probably the best the US had held with Ukraine since Trump returned to power. He said changes would be made to the plan to work towards a solution that both Ukraine and the US were comfortable with. "Obviously this will ultimately have to be signed off with our presidents, although I feel very comfortable about that happening given the progress we've made," said Rubio, who arrived in Geneva with US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff. Andriy Yermak, head of the

Ukrainian delegation, was at pains to thank Trump for his commitment to Kyiv during the brief remarks, before he and Rubio returned to their talks. Minutes later, Zelenskyy himself offered thanks to Trump. Since the US plan was announced, there has been confusion about who was involved in drawing it up. European allies said they had not been consulted. As officials began meeting, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said the goal was to craft a plan acceptable to Ukraine which could be used in a negotiation with Russia.

A PERILOUS MOMENT FOR UKRAINE
The draft US plan, which includes many of Russia's key demands and offers only vague assurances to Ukraine of "robust security guarantees", comes at a perilous moment for Kyiv. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Sunday that Ukraine's

borders cannot be changed by force, its army cannot be left vulnerable to attack and that the European Union must have a central role in a Ukraine peace deal. Russia has been making gains on parts of the front, albeit slowly and, according to Western and Ukrainian officials, the advances have been extremely costly in terms of lives lost. The transportation hub of Pokrovsk has been partially taken by Russian forces and Ukrainian commanders say they do not have enough soldiers to prevent small, persistent incursions.

HANDING THE ADVANTAGE TO RUSSIA?
Zelenskyy welcomed the diplomatic efforts in Geneva, saying that he hoped they would lead to a result. Kyiv had taken heart in recent weeks after the United States tightened sanctions on Russia's oil sector, the main source of funding for the war, while its own long-range drone and missile strikes have caused considerable damage to the industry. But the draft peace plan appears to hand the diplomatic advantage back to Moscow. Ukraine relies heavily on US intelligence and weapons to sustain its war against Russia. European and other Western leaders have said the US peace plan was a basis for talks to end the war but needed more work. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said he would speak to his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin Monday about Ukraine and share the outcome with European and US allies.

CHINA, ITALY TO STRENGTHEN TIES

Chinese Premier Li Qiang said that China welcomes more Italian companies to enter the Chinese market and hopes Italy will provide a fair and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese to invest in the country



Israel kills Hezbollah chief in Beirut strike

REUTERS

Beirut/Jerusalem, Nov 23: Israel killed militant group Hezbollah's top military official in an airstrike on a southern suburb of Beirut Sunday, the Israeli military said, despite a US-brokered truce a year ago. The strike, the first on the outskirts of the Lebanese capital in months, targeted Iran-backed Hezbollah's acting chief of staff, Ali Tabtabai, the military said in a statement. There was no immediate confirmation of his killing from Hezbollah, although senior Hezbollah official Mahmoud Qmati confirmed a central figure from the group had been targeted. Speaking near the bombed-out building in the Haret Hreik suburb, he said Israel's strike crossed a "red line". Qmati said Hezbollah's leadership would decide on whether and how the group would respond.

FIVE DEAD IN STRIKE
The United States imposed sanctions on Tabtabai in 2016, identifying him as a key Hezbollah leader and offering a reward of up to \$5 million for information on him. The Israeli military statement said Tabtabai "commanded most of Hezbollah's units and worked hard to restore them to readiness for war with Israel". Lebanon's health ministry said the strike killed five people and wounded 28 more. It hit a multi-storey building, sending debris crashing into cars on the main road below. Following the strike, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun urged the international community to intervene to halt Israeli attacks.

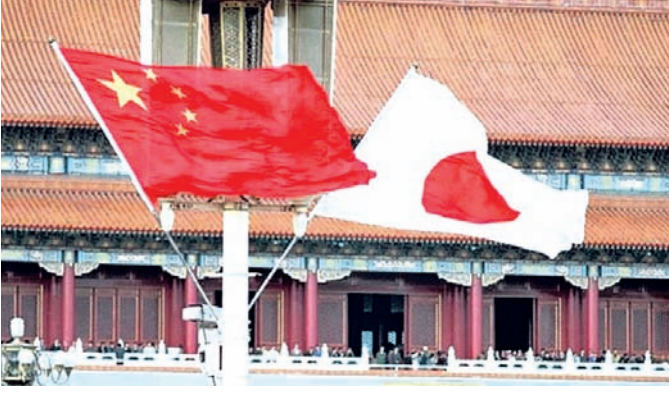


The strike came a week before Pope Leo is set to land in Lebanon on his first foreign trip, with many Lebanese hoping the visit could signal the country was heading towards better days. "We will not allow Hezbollah, the terror organisation, to recover and rebuild its strength and threaten Israel from anywhere inside of Lebanon," Israeli government spokesperson Shosh Bedrosian told reporters after the strike. Asked if Israel had notified the US before carrying out the strike, Bedrosian said Israel makes decisions independently. Israel eliminated much of the group's leadership during the year-long war, including its then-leader Hassan Nasrallah. Israel and Lebanon have traded blame over ceasefire violations since 2024. Lebanon says Israel's continuing strikes and occupation of five southern posts in Lebanese territories are major breaches. Aoun says he is open to negotiations but has not received a positive response from Israeli officials.

Japan sent 'shocking' wrong signal on Taiwan, says China

REUTERS

Hong Kong, Nov 23: China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said it was "shocking" for Japan's leader to openly send a wrong signal concerning Taiwan, according to an official statement Sunday, the latest remarks in a row that has shaken relations for more than two weeks. Wang, the most senior Chinese official to have commented publicly on the issue, said Japan was crossing a red line that must not be touched, according to the statement posted on the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website. He accused Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi of attempting to intervene militarily over Taiwan. Wang was referring to comments November 7 in which she told a questioner in parliament that a hypothetical Chinese attack on democratically governed Taiwan could trigger a military response from Tokyo. The ensuing row, the biggest China-Japan crisis in years, has spread to trade and cultural relations. China raised the issue with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, vowing to defend itself Friday.



China says Japan crossing a red line with Taiwan comments

Japan's PM Takaichi says Japan open to dialogue with China

Taiwan says China sent "rude and unreasonable" letter to UN

Beijing views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory and has not ruled out the use of force to take control of the island. Taiwan's government rejects Beijing's claims and says only the island's people can decide their future. In response to the letter to the UN, Japan's foreign min-

istry Saturday dismissed China's claims as "entirely unacceptable" and said Japan's commitment to peace was unchanged. Speaking to reporters in South Africa after attending the G20 leaders' summit, Takaichi Sunday made no mention of Wang's remarks or the letter, saying only that Japan remained open to dialogue with China. "We are not closing the door. But it's important for Japan to state clearly what needs to be said," she said. She added that she had not spoken with Chinese Premier Li Qiang, who was also in Johannesburg for the meeting.

British Indian spy Noor honoured with new postage stamp in France

The French postal service, La Poste, honoured Noor with a stamp issued to honour the 'Figures of the Resistance' who fought against Nazi Germany

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 23: Noor Inayat Khan, a descendant of the 18th-century Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan, has become the only Indian-origin woman to be honoured with a commemorative postage stamp by France for her role in the French Resistance as an undercover British agent during the Second World War. The French postal service, La Poste, honoured Noor with a stamp issued to honour the "Figures of the Resistance" who fought against Nazi Germany. She is among a dozen war heroes and heroines chosen on the

set of stamps issued this month to mark 80 years since the end of World War II. "I am delighted that France has honoured Noor Inayat Khan with a postage stamp, especially as it comes on this important 80th anniversary of the end of the war," said Shrabani Basu, the London-based author of Noor's biography - 'Spy Princess: The Life of Noor Inayat Khan'. "Noor sacrificed her life in the fight against fascism. She grew up in Paris, joined the war effort in England, and it is wonderful to see her face on a postage stamp which will be posted by ordinary people in



France," she said. Each stamp is in the form of an etching taken from a photograph, with the stamp on Noor showcasing her in her British Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) uniform.

Britain honoured Noor in 2014 to mark the centenary of her birth. She now has a stamp in her honour issued by Britain and France. It is time that India, the country of her ancestors, honours her with a postage stamp too," said Basu. Born Noor-un-Nisa Inayat Khan in Moscow in 1914 to an Indian Sufi saint father and American mother, Noor moved to London at a young age before settling in Paris for her school years. Fol-

lowing the fall of France during the Second World War, the family escaped to England and Noor joined the WAAF. She was recruited into the Special Operations Executive (SOE) February 8, 1943 - a British secret service created to conduct espionage, sabotage, and reconnaissance in occupied territories during the war. She went on to become the first female radio operator infiltrated into occupied France

in June 1943 and was captured by Nazi forces to be deported to Dachau concentration camp, where she was tortured and executed September 13, 1944, aged just 30 years. In recognition of her immense bravery, Noor Inayat Khan was awarded the French Resistance Medal and France's highest civilian honour, the Croix de Guerre, as well as a posthumous George Cross (GC) by Britain in 1949. The latest set of French postage stamps are aimed at celebrating the achievements of figures like her behind the French Resistance during World War II.

of the day

quote

What happened now is that like in most part of the world, the data centre boom has kicked in and is kind of changing the picture of India

GIOVANNI SPADARO | MD, ROLLS-ROYCE SOLUTIONS ASIA

In the financial year, because the first half had seen a decline of 1.6 per cent before the festive period, it should be in the zone of 5 per cent or so

SHAILESH CHANDRA | MD & CEO TATA MOTORS PASSENGER VEHICLES

Globally, investors will continue to monitor US market performance and key economic releases for direction. These indicators are expected to shape near-term risk sentiment and influence foreign flows

AJIT MISHRA | SVP (RESEARCH), RELIGARE BROKING

SHORT TAKES

Realty mkt booms

New Delhi: India's 28 major listed real estate companies sold properties worth nearly Rs 92,500 crore during the first half of this fiscal year, led by Bengaluru-based Prestige Estates, which achieved the highest sales bookings. According to the data compiled from regulatory filings, the total combined sales bookings of 28 major listed realtors stood at Rs 92,437 crore in the first six months of the current financial year. In terms of sales bookings, Prestige Estates Projects Ltd emerged as the leading listed player in the April-September period of the 2025-26 fiscal year with pre-sales of Rs 18,143.7 crore. DLF Ltd, the country's biggest realty firm in terms of market capitalisation, stood at the second position, with pre-sales of Rs 15,757 crore. Notably, these top five developers sold more than Rs 63,000 crore during April-September, nearly 70 per cent of the total pre-sales clocked by these 28 players.

RIL, Airtel gain big

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms surged by Rs 1,28,281.52 crore last week, with Reliance Industries and Bharti Airtel emerging as the biggest gainers, in line with a positive trend in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 669.14 points or 0.79 per cent. While Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), State Bank of India, Infosys and Hindustan Unilever were the gainers, Bajaj Finance, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and ICICI Bank faced erosion in their valuation. Reliance Industries remained the most valued domestic firm, followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, TCS, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever and LIC.

Marico's milestone

New Delhi: Marico's digital brands have crossed the Rs 1,000 crore annual recurring revenue mark, and the FMCG major expects food & premium personal care to contribute 25 per cent of its India revenue, its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Saugata Gupta said. Marico's digital brands -- including Studio X, Pure Sense, Beardo, and True Elements -- have a diversified portfolio, ranging from premium personal care products to food, and are on a high growth momentum and likely to continue their faster pace, he added.



Parallel goals of Sustainable Aviation Fuel include 1 per cent blending for international flights by 2027, further expanding the bioeconomy landscape

GAURAV KEDIA | CHAIRMAN, IBA

INSURANCE MERGER REVIVED

The Finance Ministry is considering an earlier proposal to merge the three state-owned general insurance companies into a single entity, following their improved financial health, to achieve better efficiency and scale. The government infused Rs 17,450 crore between 2019-20 and 2021-22 in three PSU general insurance companies, namely Oriental Insurance, National Insurance and United India Insurance, to bring them out of financial distress



India's Russian oil lifeline at risk

New US sanctions threaten to disrupt India's Russian crude oil supply

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: India's imports of Russian crude oil - the feedstock for fuels like petrol and diesel - are expected to drop sharply in the near term but not halt entirely as new US sanctions on Moscow's top oil exporters take full effect, analysts said.

US sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil, and their majority-owned subsidiaries, took effect November 21, effectively turning crude linked to these firms into a "sanctioned molecule".

India's crude oil imports from Russia, averaging 1.7 million barrels per day (bpd) this year, remained firm ahead of the cutoff, with November arrivals projected at 1.8-1.9 million bpd, as refiners maximise discounted purchases. But flows are expected to drop noticeably in December and January, with analysts estimating near-term declines to around 4,00,000 bpd.

Western sanctions and reduced European demand made Russian oil available at steep discounts. As a result, India's Russian crude imports surged from under 1 per cent to nearly 40 per cent of its total crude oil imports in a short span. In November, Russia continued to be India's top supplier, making up for about a third of all crude oil

imported by the country.

"We expect a noticeable drop in Russian crude flows to India in the near term, particularly through December and January. Loadings have already slowed since October 21, though it is still early for definitive conclusions, given Russia's agility in deploying intermediaries, shadow fleets, and work-around financing," said Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst, Refining & Modeling, Kpler.

The sanctions have resulted in companies like Reliance Industries, HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd halting imports for now. The only exception is Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy, which is majority dependent on Russian crude after supplies from the rest of the world were effectively cut off, following European Union sanctions on it.

"Based on the current understanding, no Indian refiner, other than Nayara's already-sanctioned Vadinar facility, is likely to take the risk of dealing with OFAC-designated entities, and buyers will need time to reconfigure contracts, routing, ownership structures, and payment channels," Ritolia said.

Sanctions announced by the US target specific companies, not all Russian oil or all Russian producers. This means



◀◀ The sanctions have resulted in companies like Reliance Industries, HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd halting imports for now

◀◀ The discounted Russian crude helped Indian refiners - from public sector to private sector Reliance Industries Ltd - post bumper profits in the last two years

◀◀ Traditionally, reliant on Middle Eastern oil, India significantly increased its imports from Russia following the February 2022 Ukraine invasion

that crude supplied by non-designated Russian entities, for example, Surgutneftegaz, Gazprom Neft, or independent traders using non-sanctioned intermediaries, can still be legally purchased by Indian refiners, as long as no sanctioned entity, vessel, bank, or service provider is involved.

"Russian oil itself is not sanctioned; the suppliers are. That is why non-designated producers can legally step in to fill part of the gap created by the restrictions on Rosneft

and Lukoil," he said.

The discounted Russian crude helped Indian refiners - from public sector Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) to private sector Reliance Industries Ltd - post bumper profits in the last two years. It also helped keep retail petrol and diesel prices stable despite volatility in the international market, on which India is 88 per cent dependent to meet its oil needs.

TARIFF TROUBLE

Exports diversify as India's US shipments decline: SBI

Share of the US in India's exports has been declining since July 2025, falling to 15% in Sept

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: Share of India's merchandise exports to other countries increased as shipments to the US declined since July 2025, indicating diversification of export basket across product categories, according to an SBI research report.

India's total merchandise exports during April-September 2025 inched up by 2.9 per cent to \$220 billion compared to \$214 billion in the year-ago period, the report said.

Cumulative exports to the US also registered a growth of 13 per cent to \$45 billion in the April-September period from \$40 billion in the year-ago period, though there could be some front-loading effects to the aftermath, with September figures registering negative year-on-year growth of about 12 per cent, said 'Ecowrap', the SBI's research report.

The report further said the share of the US in India's exports has been declining since July 2025, falling to 15 per cent in September, mainly because of a decline in exports of marine products, precious and semi-precious stones, ready-made cotton garments, and cotton fabrics.

"Interestingly, the share of



India's merchandise exports to other countries during this period has increased significantly, indicating the diversification of our exports basket with the UAE, China, Vietnam, Japan, and Hong Kong, as also Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nigeria being among the top destinations (over FY25) across different product categories," the report said.

"So, could it be that some destinations are exporting more to the USA after procuring from India?" it said.

According to the report, Australia's share in the US imports of pearls, precious, semi-precious stones has increased to 9 per cent YTD in January-August 2025 from 2 per cent during the same period in the previous year.

Now, the newspaper references sources close to the 75-year-old industrialist to claim he has become the latest billionaire to leave the UK ahead of a much-anticipated Budget by Chancellor Rachel Reeves Wednesday.

Mittal already has a mansion in Dubai and has now bought up "tracts of an intriguing development on the nearby Naïa Island" in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the newspaper claims.

The news of Mittal's exit comes ahead of expected tax rises on the wealthy as Reeves tries to address a 20 billion pounds hole in the UK's finances.

In her first Budget tabled last year after Labour's general elec-

US tech giants oppose India's 6GHz plan

Big firms like Apple, Amazon, Cisco, Meta, HP, and Intel Corporation sought the entire 6GHz band to be allocated for wifi services instead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: US tech majors Apple, Amazon, Cisco, Meta, HP, and Intel Corporation have jointly opposed Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea's demand to allocate spectrum in the 6 gigahertz (GHz) band for mobile services.

The tech majors sought the entire 6GHz band to be allocated for wifi services instead.

In a joint response to telecom regulator Trai's consultation paper for the next round of spectrum auction, the US technology giants have said the technical and commercial readiness in the 6 GHz band is not established for mobile services.

"We do not recommend setting timelines for any future auction of the 6425-6725 MHz and 7025-7125 MHz ranges for IMT. TRAÍ, together with the Department of Telecommunications, should review the allocation of the upper 6 GHz band following the outcomes of WRC-27, including Agenda Item 1.7 concerning 7.125-8.4 GHz," the joint submission said.

The tech giants said any up-



per 6 GHz spectrum that would otherwise remain unused should be made available for unlicensed use in the interim.

The government has said 400 MHz of frequencies in 6 GHz are available for auction. 300 Mhz will be available by 2030 and 500 MHz will be delicensed for use by low power applications, meaning wifi services.

Reliance Jio has demanded that the entire 1200 MHz spectrum available in the 6 GHz should be included in the upcoming event even though the government has decided to delicense 500 MHz of lower frequency range in the band for low power or wifi applications.

The newly identified 6425-6725 MHz and 6725-7125 MHz bands form part of the upper 6 GHz band (6425-7125 MHz range).

The government has decided has decided to delicense (make it freely accessible) the lower 6 GHz band (5925-6425 MHz) for low power applications mainly wifi.

Vodafone Idea has demanded putting 400 MHz of spectrum that is available for use for sale in the upcoming auction.

Airtel, too, has sought deferment of the auction of 6 GHz band due to challenges related to ecosystem readiness in the band, in terms of device availability, network equipment, and global harmonisation.

US-based chipset major Qualcomm, however, has echoed views similar to Airtel.

"The upper 6 GHz band is critical for mobile growth in India and it may be noted that several other countries like China, Brazil and European

FII selling moderates this week amid bubble concerns in AI stocks

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 23: Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have net sold shares worth Rs 4,238 crore in November, and the sustained selling trend has reversed with them turning net buyers on the majority of trading sessions this week.

FIIs remain net sellers for the calendar year to the tune of Rs 1,44,148 crore, according to National Securities Depository Limited data.

"There is no discernible trend in FII activity even though FIIs reduced sustained big selling and even turned buyers on a few days in November," Dr VK Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

The long-term trend of FII buying or investing through the primary market continues with an investment of Rs 11,454 crore in November so far. Total FII sell figure through exchanges stood at Rs 2,09,444 crore year-to-date in CY25. The total FII buy figure for the primary market stood at Rs 65,747 crore.

Analysts said the FII selling is likely to decline due to the fading of the AI trade and the improving prospects for Indian equities.

India's underperformance versus markets tied to the AI trade, such as the US, China, Taiwan and South Korea, led to FII outflows.

countries are considering the entire 700 MHz in this Upper 6 GHz band for 6G. By deferring the auction of the 6425-6725 MHz and 7025-7125 MHz bands until after WRC-27, India safeguards its 6G future, aligns with global standards, and honours its leadership aspirations," Qualcomm said.

Telecom industry body Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), whose members include Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea, etc, has opposed delicensing of the 6 GHz band.

"Delicensing is misleading and counterproductive. Licensed IMT spectrum ensures quality-of-service, predictable performance and nationwide scalability, all of which are vital for Digital Bharat and 6G applications such as connected mobility, automation and industrial networks," COAI said.

It said delicensing even a part of the 6 GHz band will be an irreversible action, permanently foreclosing its use for licensed mobile broadband services and severely limiting India's long-term digital capacity and provision of affordable services.

"Moreover, unlicensed Wi-Fi deployments by global OTT players and device manufacturers could preclude licensed usage in the band, reduce exchequer revenues and give disproportionate advantage to foreign OTT players, creating an inequitable environment for telecom operators," COAI said.

Steel tycoon Mittal quits UK amid super-rich tax threat

The founder of ArcelorMittal steelworks is worth an estimated 15.4 billion pounds as per the 2025 'Sunday Times Rich List', which ranked him the UK's eighth richest man

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 23: Indian-origin steel magnate Lakshmi N Mittal, until now based in Britain and a regular on the country's richest billionaires tally, has decided to quit the UK as the Labour Party-led government's feared tax shake-up for the super-rich nears, according to a UK media report Sunday.

Rajasthan-born Mittal is a resident in Switzerland for tax and will now spend much of his future in Dubai, according to the 'The Sunday Times'.

The founder of ArcelorMittal steelworks is worth an estimated 15.4 billion pounds as per the 2025 'Sunday Times Rich List', which ranked him the UK's eighth richest man.



tion win, there were increases to capital gains tax, a reduction of the tax relief for entrepreneurs selling their ventures and new taxes on the way family companies are passed down

to future generations.

Rumours of further levies in her second Budget as Chancellor next week, including a possible 20 per cent exit tax on those leaving the UK, have

caused much unease among the wealthy.

While death duties are levied at up to 40 per cent in the UK, there is no inheritance tax in Dubai and in Switzerland.

Entrepreneurs' exodus

Reports of Mittal's relocation from the UK follow other entrepreneurs, including India-born tech entrepreneur and investor Herman Narula.

The 37-year-old, who has lived and grown up in England since the age of two, recently revealed his plans to shift to Dubai.

"It's completely insane. I'm being told I'd have to pay a tax if I leave even if I haven't sold the shares," Narula, who founded AI-focussed Improbable, told the newspaper.

Even as it emerged that the government had scrapped plans for a so-called exit tax, for entrepreneurs like Narula it wasn't enough to change their plans.

"I'm still leaving. The thing is, they're clearly thinking about it, right? What if they change their mind? What stops them doing it in the next Budget," he questioned.

The idea of an exit tax appears to have been prompted by the departure of Nik Storonsky, co-founder of the London-based financial services group Revolut, for the UAE.

His exit means he will avoid a potential capital gains tax liability of about 3 billion pounds were he to sell his shares in the hugely successful company.

Mandhana's big day frozen by family crisis

The India star and Palash Muchhal's wedding has been postponed due to the ailing health of the former's father

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sangli (Maharashtra), Nov 23: The wedding of star Indian women's cricketer Smriti Mandhana and music composer Palash Munchal has been postponed indefinitely after her father Shrinivas fell ill in the lead-up to the ceremony,

which was scheduled to take place here Sunday. Mandhana is emotionally attached to her father, who has been a constant source of support in her cricketing journey. Tuhin Mishra, the manager of Mandhana, said the World Cup-winning cricketer's father suffered the health complication early Sunday morning. "Smriti's father, Mr Shrinivas Mandhana was having breakfast this morning, and his health started deteriorating. We waited thinking he would recover soon, but it didn't improve. "So we thought not to take any risk and called an ambu-



lance, and he has been taken to the hospital. He is under observation" said Mishra. Considering her father's

health condition, Mishra said, Mandhana decided to postpone her wedding till he recovers. "Smriti is very close to her

father. So, she has decided to postpone the marriage, which was going to happen today, till her father is fine. The doctor has said he (Mandhana's father) will have to be in the hospital for the time being. We are also in shock and hope that he recovers quickly because it's a big occasion for everyone" he added. "So, Smriti is very clear, she wants her father to be okay first, and later she will get married. I would request you to respect the family's privacy at this time," said Mishra. Mandhana's family doctor Dr Naman Shah said a medical team is monitoring the health

condition of her father. "At around 1.30 pm, Mr Shrinivas Mandhana got left-sided chest pain, we call it 'angina' in medical term. As the symptoms surfaced, his son called me, we sent ambulance, he was shifted to hospital. We found out in ECG, other reports, that cardiac enzymes are elevated, hence we need to keep him in observation," he told PTI. "Blood Pressure is also elevated, efforts are on to lower it. The whole team is monitoring. If situation exacerbates, we will have to do angiography. Smriti and her family is in contact with us, hopefully he will be stable by tomorrow."

SOUTH AFRICA ODI SERIES

Rahul to lead in Gill's absence, Pant returns

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 23: Wicket-keeper-batter KL Rahul will lead the Indian cricket team in the three-match One-Day International (ODI) series starting next Sunday, as regular captain Shubman Gill remains sidelined with a neck injury.



Gill suffered the injury while batting in the first test earlier this month in Kolkata, and was ruled out of the ongoing second test, with Rishabh Pant taking over as captain in his absence. "Rahul's captaincy is one off and should be seen in isolation. Rishabh (Pant) wasn't considered as he has played only one ODI game in the last one year. The selectors expect that Shubman Gill's neck injury will heal and he will be back against New Zealand (3 ODIs in January 2026)," a BCCI source told PTI on condition of anonymity. Pant, a wicketkeeper-batter like Rahul, was also named in the 50-over squad by the Indian cricket board (BCCI) Sunday, and will hope to play his first match in the format since August 2024. Ruturaj Gaikwad has returned to the squad as well, after scoring a hundred and a half-century while playing for India A earlier this month. The 28-year-old has not played an ODI since December 2023. India will play three ODIs against South Africa between November 30 and December 6 before the two teams face off in five Twenty20 matches.

Squad: KL Rahul (C), Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Tilak Varma, Rishabh Pant, Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Harshit Rana, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, Dhruv Jurel

Spinners misfire; SA in command

Muthusamy's maiden Test hundred, Jansen's fiery knock seize control for Proteas as India trail by 480 runs on second day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Nov 23: Senuran Muthusamy and Marco Jansen made Indian finger spinners' look ordinary in good batting conditions with invaluable lower-order contributions as South Africa seized control of the second Test by posting a massive 489 in their first innings here Sunday. Trailing 0-1 in the two-match series, India were nine for no loss in 6.1 overs when stumps were drawn in fading light. Muthusamy, who had scored a match-winning 89 not out against Pakistan in Rawalpindi a month ago, hit his maiden Test hundred, a gutsy 109 off 206 balls while Jansen sent the spinners on a proverbial leather hunt with smashing 91-ball-93.



The last four Proteas batters from Nos 7 to 11 added a whopping 243 runs. Muthusamy and Verreynne adding 88 for the seventh wicket while the centurion added another 97 runs with number nine Jansen. During his belligerent effort, Jansen smashed seven sixes, the highest by an overseas batter on Indian soil, surpassing Viv Richards and Matthew Hayden, both of whom had hit half a dozen maximums. The South African innings lasted for 151.1 overs and the plight of the Indian bowlers could be gauged by the fact that this was also the first time that

The 24-year-old going through a rough phase after finishing fourth at the Paris Olympics emerges Australian Open champion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Nov 23: A fluent Lakshya Sen ended a difficult stretch on the international circuit by clinching his first title of the 2025 season, defeating Japan's Yushi Tanaka in the Australian Open men's singles final, here Sunday. The 24-year-old from Almora, enduring a tough phase after finishing fourth at the Paris Olympics, capped a resurgent week with a commanding 21-15 21-11 win over 26-year-old Tanaka. Emerging champion after a 38-minute final of the \$475,000 Super 500 event, the Indian celebrated the moment by putting his fingers in his ears. "I have seen a lot of ups and downs this season, with a few injuries at the start of the season. But I kept my hard work going throughout the season and I am very happy to end the season on a good note," said Lakshya. "I'm very excited, looking forward to the next season now and I am really happy with the way I played today and this week." Lakshya, a 2021 World Cham-

pionships bronze-medallist, had last won a Super 300 title at the Syed Modi International in Lucknow in 2024. However, a top-tier crown had eluded him since his triumph at the Canada Open the same year, though he came close at the Hong Kong Super 500 in September when he finished runner-up. Facing world No 26

With this victory, the reigning Commonwealth Games champion became only the second Indian to win a BWF World Tour title this season, following Ayush Shetty's maiden Super 300 triumph at the US Open



flank had Lakshya on the floor as Tanaka closed the gap to 7-9, but the Indian carried a three-point cushion into the mid-game interval after the Japanese sprayed another shot to the net. Chants of 'Lakshya! Lakshya!' rang around the arena during the mid-game intervals, with a sizable Indian crowd turning up to support him.

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East Bengal bow out of AFC Women's Champions League

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wuhan (China), Nov 23: East Bengal were Sunday eliminated from the AFC Women's Champions League group stage after suffering a 0-3 thrashing at the hands of PFC Nasaf of Uzbekistan here. Diyorakhon Khabibullaeva (18th and 90+8) struck a brace while Zarina Norboeva found the target in the 52nd minute. East Bengal ended their debut campaign with three points, which will not be enough for them to advance as one of the two best third-placed teams. The Moshal Girls had earlier defeated Bam Khatoon FC of Iran 3-1 and lost 0-2 to Wuhan Jiangda FC of China in Group B.



The win moved the Uzbekistan side to four points, guaranteeing them a spot in the quarter-finals as one of the best third-placed finishers. Nasaf controlled the game from the opening whistle, with Nilufar Kudratova driving into the box in the fifth minute but taking just too long to make up her mind, allowing Anoma Opoku to close her down. The Nasaf captain was more decisive in the 18th minute with the same run into the box, this time picking out Diyorakhon Khabibullaeva for the tap-in.

Deshwal fires record to win gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, Nov 23: Abhinav Deshwal won India's 15th medal in shooting at the Deaflympics, clinching the gold in the 25m pistol event here on Sunday with a record in qualification. He shot a score of 44 in the final to edge out South Korea's Seung Hwa Lee, who finished on a score of 43. Serhii Formin of Ukraine won the bronze while the other Indian shooter, Chetan Hanmant Sapkal, finished in fifth place. Abhinav started the final with five perfect hits, following it up with another four hits in the second series. He hit the next 18 of 20 shots which included two series of perfect fives and two rounds of four hits. He then hit two perfect rounds and followed it up with a round of four hits.



In the 10th and final round, Abhinav hit three, his lowest round in the final but it was enough for the shooter to win gold. Earlier in qualification, Abhinav equalled the World Deaf Qualification record and the Deaflympics record with a score of 575-13x. Chetan qualified for the final in second place with a score of 573-21x.aAbhinav Deshwal wins 25m pistol gold at Deaflympics.

Blind cricketers crowned champions

Unbeaten India win inaugural tournament

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Colombo, Nov 23: The Indian women's blind cricket team scripted history by winning the first-ever Women's T20 World Cup Cricket for the Blind after a dominant seven-wicket victory against Nepal in the final held in Colombo. The success marked a perfect campaign where India remained unbeaten, demonstrating complete dominance throughout the tournament. Opting to field first after winning the toss, India limited Nepal to 114 for 5 in their 20 overs. The chase was nothing short of clinical as India surpassed the target in just 12.1 overs with 47 balls to spare. Khula Sharir emerged as



the standout performer, scoring an unbeaten 44 off 27 balls, including four boundaries, to guide India home comfortably. The victory comes barely three weeks after the Indian women's team defeated South Africa in Navi Mumbai -two landmark wins that highlight

the rising status of women's cricket in the country, both in mainstream and visually impaired categories. The T20 tournament, a six-team event including India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, and the USA, started on November 11 in New Del-

INDIA'S ROAD TO THE TITLE:
Defeated Sri Lanka by 10 wickets
Defeated Australia by 209 runs
Defeated Nepal by 85 runs
Defeated the United States by 10 wickets
Defeated Pakistan by 8 wickets
Semifinal: Defeated Australia by 9 wickets
Final: Defeated Nepal by 7 wickets (Colombo)

hi. Following a few matches in Bengaluru, the knockout stages shifted to Colombo, Sri Lanka. India's emphatic title run not only underscores their consistency but also marks a significant milestone for blind cricket, paving the way for greater recognition and development of the sport in the coming years.

F1 SHOCKER

REUTERS

Las Vegas, Nov 23: Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the Las Vegas Grand Prix Saturday and roared back into the Formula One title battle after the shock disqualification of McLaren's championship leader Lando Norris and teammate Oscar Piastri. Norris, who started on pole and finished second, and fourth-placed Piastri were ruled out for excessive skid plank wear hours after the race had ended and the podium champagne been sprayed. The development left Britain's Norris 24 points clear of four-times world champion Verstappen and Australian Piastri, now tied, with two rounds

to go in Qatar and Abu Dhabi and 58 points available. Stewards ruled out the McLaren drivers after a post-race FIA inspection found the thickness of the plank assembly was below the permitted minimum. The FIA said it strongly believed the breach was unintentional and there was no deliberate attempt to circumvent the rules. "It's frustrating to lose so many points," said Norris in a team statement. "As a team, we're always pushing to find as much performance as we can, and we clearly didn't get that balance right today. Nothing I can do will change that now, instead full focus switches to Qatar, where we'll aim to go out and deliver



the best possible performance in every session." Norris, who finished 20.741 seconds behind Verstappen, can still wrap things up in Qatar next weekend but the reign-

ing champion is within striking distance again and can sniff the chance of a fifth title in a row. McLaren have already clinched the constructors' crown for the second year

Verstappen's 69th career win, sixth of the season
Norris and Piastri disqualified for skid plank breach

in a row. It was the 69th win of Verstappen's career and his sixth of the season, as well as his 125th podium and eighth in a row in the 150th grand prix of Red Bull's partnership with Honda. Hamilton's 'terrible' season Lewis Hamilton had every reason to feel good about the effort he put in, but as a seven-time Formula 1 champion, his bar is too high for moral victories. So even though he quickly moved from the back of the

pack in the Las Vegas Grand Prix, even rising to fifth midway through the 50-lap race, Hamilton took little solace in finishing eighth. It was, no matter how he got there, another loss. "I feel terrible. Terrible," Hamilton said. "It's been the worst season for me ever. No matter how much I try, it just keeps getting worse." He crossed the line in 10th but gained two positions when Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri were disqualified. Hamilton came into the weekend looking for answers after his hyped move from Mercedes to Ferrari fell well short of expectations in the English driver's first season with the team.