

Aneet on fame

Actor Aneet Padda reflects on the responsibility that comes with being loved by so many

LEISURE | P2



Hasina's extradition

Bangladesh expects India's reply on Sheikh Hasina's extradition after her conviction, following no previous response

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Rupee regime recast

IMF reclassifies India's forex management regime as 'crawl-like arrangement' from 'stabilised'

BUSINESS | P11



India at its lowest

India succumb to their biggest defeat in terms of runs, losing the second Test to South Africa by a whopping margin of 408

SPORTS | P12

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BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 27, 2025

Police nab murder accused, on run for 23 years, from Guj

PNN & AGENCIES

Berhampur, Nov 26: Odisha Police has arrested a murder accused, who had been on the run for 23 years, from Gujarat's Surat, an officer said Wednesday.

The accused, identified as Sachindra Sahani alias Sachi (50), along with six others, had allegedly killed Lingaraj Patra at Patigada in Ganjam district March 25, 2003 due to previous

Police had registered a murder case at Kabisuryanagar police station after the deceased's wife, Laxmi Patra, lodged a complaint, the officer said.

Patigada was under Kabisuryanagar police station limits at the time of the crime. The village, however, is now under the jurisdiction of Polsara police station, he said.

While the police had arrested six other accused involved in the murder -- identified as Alekh Patra, Mitu Mohanty, Sushant Mohanty, Bapu Dalei, Mitu Routa and Kanhu Routa - Sahani had been giving police

"We tried to nab him several times by raiding different places in Odisha and other states. and finally caught him in Surat," Ganjam Superintendent of Police Subhendu Patra said.

He was working as a mechanic in a power-loom in Surat by using a fake name, he said.

"The accused had been staying in Surat with his family. Two of his sons were studying in colleges and his daughter got married," Kaushik Majhi, Inspector-In-Charge of Polsara police station, said.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team rushed to Surat and arrested him from his residence there. He was brought to Polsara Wednesday.

An arrest warrant, issued by the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Court, Kabisurvanagar, was pending

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The way they're losing their lives under work pressure, he must be a **BLO.** not our party worker

TOWERING INFERNO: A helpless resident breaks down and sobs after a massive fire engulfed multiple high-rise towers of a residential complex in Hong Kong Wednesday, trapping his wife inside one of the buildings. At least 36 people died and hundreds were missing as

firefighters struggled to douse the blaze (Report P10)

In a first, President to address Assembly today

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov Droupadi Murmu will script history Thursday by becoming the first President to address the Odisha Assembly, of which she was earlier a member.

Speaker Surama Padhy, who chaired an all-party meeting Wednesday, said it will be a historic moment for the Assembly and its 147 members.

'The President will address the House from 4pm to 5pm. We are all eagerly waiting to listen to her. Her visit and address as the President are truly historic," she said.

Padhy said Murmu will be the first President to visit and address the Odisha Assembly. She said Murmu was elected to the Odisha Assembly from Rairangpur seat in Mayurbhanj district twice, in 2000 and 2004. She also became a minister in the BJD-BJP coalition government in Odisha.

During her visit, Murmu will also visit room number 11, the chamber in the Assembly from where she functioned as a minister. She served as an MoS with independent charge for Commerce and Transportation from March 6, 2000 to August 6, 2002, and Fisheries and Animal Resources Development from August 6, 2002 to May 16, 2004.

The chamber has been ren-



ovated ahead of her visit, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mukesh Mahaling said. In 2007, Murmu received the

Nilkanth Award for the Best MLA of the Odisha Assembly. Governor Hari Babu Kam-

bhampati and some MPs from the state and eminent personalities are also scheduled to attend the proceedings when the President addresses the Assembly. Keeping in view the President's

visit, the Odisha government has made elaborate security arrangements in Bhubaneswar, including in and around the Assembly. In place of the usual three-tier security for Assembly sessions, there will be four-tier security cover for the President's visit, a senior police officer said. The Winter Session of the As-

sembly will also begin Thursday and is scheduled to continue till December 31.

Gundicha Temple to

reopen Dec 1 after 6

years with ₹10 ticket

CJI mulls virtual-only hearings

Delhiites continue to gasp for breath as toxic air engulfs the national capital, exposing the utter failure of authorities to contain a crisis that now disrupts even the highest institutions such as the Supreme Court. When the Chief Justice of India and senior advocates struggle to appear in court due to hazard ous pollution levels, it signals a breakdown both in public health and governance. Despite years of warnings, Delhi's Air Quality Index regularly plunges into the "very poor" or "severe" categories. When the top court has been forced to consider virtual-only hearings, it's not hard to imagine the inconveniences and health issues faced by the common man. The situation is no better elsewhere. In Angul district, unchecked mining, industrial emissions, and rising vehicular traffic have pushed AQI levels far beyond safe limits for days on end. Piecemeal measures, delayed responses. and weak enforcement continue to endanger millions, while governments struggle, or hesitate, to implement lasting solutions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Nov 26: Chief Justice of India Surva Kant, while considering the possibility of shifting Supreme Court hearings to the virtual-only mode due to the severe air pollution, said he felt unwell when he went for an hour-long walk a day before.

Kant said he would decide after consulting the bar, even as the idea of allowing virtual hearings for lawyers above 60 years



The observations were made by the CJI at the outset of the

Alarming AQI levels in Angul

Angul: Air quality in Angul district has remained above the danger level for the past three days, with pollution rising steadily and making the air increasingly unfit for breathing. Heavy mining activity, industrial emissions and growing ve hicular movement have contributed to the worsening conditions, officials said. According to sources, the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Angul at the beginning of the month was recorded at 60 and 61 - levels considered "satisfactory". Howver, from November 3 onwards, the AQI began to climb sharply. It first rose to 104, then 116 and reached 269 November 11. Pollution levels worsened significantly over the last three days. The AQI touched 322, November 24. It further deteriorated to 353 November 25, and Wednesday, the AQI stood at 337. These figures fall within the "very poor" category. Exposure to air of this quality can trigger respiratory illnesses and poses serious risks for patients with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and heart ailments. In recent days, residents of Angul and nearby areas have reported a hazy, smog-like atmosphere during early mornings and evenings. The sharp increase in particulate matter is the primary cause of the deteriorating air quality, said Ramesh Kumar Eka. Regional Officer of the State Pollution Control Board in Angul

The only exercise I do is walking. But even that is difficult now. Yesterday I walked for 55 minutes, and till morning I had problems JUSTICE SURYA KANT | CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

of age was floated in the court.

hearing on pleas — challenging the Election Commission's decision to conduct Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, and other states when senior lawyer, Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the poll panel, sought exemption from personal presence.

"I have congestion issues... Please allow my colleague to take notes. I want to appear through video conferencing on the next date," Dwivedi said, adding that he is having some issues after he went for a morning walk. "I want your lordships' leave. Permission may be given to appear online, I am not well," he added.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal concurred and said, "At our age, we are breathing this obnoxious air when the Air Quality Index (AQI) is 400-500." The CJI said, "Yesterday, I

went for a walk for an hour. I was not feeling well." Then, the possibility of excluding lawyers aged 60 and above from in-person hearings was mooted. "If I take any decision, then

we will take the bar into confidence first. We will see hardship faced by lawyers and litigants ... if we get a proposal, then we

will do something. I will meet office-bearers in the evening and take some steps," the CJI added. Presently, the top court functions through a hybrid mode where proceedings are conducted through both physical and virtual modes.

The air quality in the national capital was recorded in the "very poor" category Wednesday morning, with an AQI reading of 335.

As per the Central Pollution Control Board, an AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

Puri, Nov 26: The sacred

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gundicha Temple here is set to reopen for devotees December 1 after remaining closed for nearly six years due to repair work, structural concerns, and administrative decisions.

The Shree Jagannath Tem ple Administration (SJTA) has announced a number of new guidelines ahead of the reopening, including the trial introduction of a ticketed dar shan system under which each devotee will be required to pay ₹10 for entry.

Children below five years, senior citizens above 80 years, and Divyang devotees will be allowed free entry.

SJTA Chief Administrator Arabinda Padhee said that extensive preparations are underway to ensure smooth darshan for all visitors

He stated that the temple will remain open daily from 6am to 6pm, although during the winter months of November to February it will close an hour

earlier, at 5pm.

Sky was never the limit: Shukla inspires students It's official! Ahmedabad all set to host 2030 CWG ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Glasgow, Nov 26: The Indian city of Ahmedabad was formally awarded hosting rights of the 2030 Commonwealth Games during Commonwealth Sport's general assembly here Wednesday, paving the way for the multi-sport event's return to the country after two decades.

It was a mere formality for the general assembly of 74 members to put a seal of approval on India's bid after Ahmedabad was recommended as the proposed host of the centenary edition by the Commonwealth Sport's Executive Board last month. India last hosted the CWG in 2010 in Delhi.

The Executive Board's recommendation followed a process overseen by the Commonwealth Sport's Evaluation

"India brings scale, youth, ambition, rich culture, enormous sporting passion and relevance...We start our next century for the Commonwealth Games in good health," said Dr Donald Rukare, President of Commonwealth Sport. The decision also bolstered

India's ambition to be an Olympic host in 2036.

Ahmedabad, the city which is in the race for Olympic hosting rights as well, has upgraded its sports infrastructure on a war footing in the last one decade.

India was facing competition from the Nigerian city of Abuja for the 2030 bid. But Commonwealth Sport decided to instead consider the African nation for the 2034 edition. **MORE P12**

Bhubaneswar, Nov 26: The atmosphere at SAI International School crackled with curiosity and excitement Wednesday as students gathered for SAITED, the school's flagship science and technology festival. But the event soared to an entirely new dimension when ISRO astronaut and Indian Air Force test pilot, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla took the stage to share his extraordinary journey into space.

Shukla described the overwhelming stillness he encountered once he crossed the boundary of Earth's atmosphere. "When you look down at Earth," he said, his voice calm but powerful, "you see no borders, no divisions-just one beautiful, blue planet floating in the infinite darkness. It's



Shubhanshu Shukla during SAI International School's SAITED in City

humbling. In that moment, you realise that the sky was never the limit. Not for me, and certainly not for Bharat. Our potential is limitless, and if we dare to dream beyond the stars,

we can achieve the impossible." This year's theme "Infinite Possibilities, Endless Realities: Science Beyond the Omniverse!" could not have

aligned more perfectly with

his message. While the event itself celebrated innovation, it was Shukla's firsthand account from space that truly ignited the students' imaginations, urging them to push beyond boundaries, both real and perceived.

During the lively Q&A session that followed, students enthusiastically quizzed the astronaut about life in space. One curious pupil asked what microgravity felt like. Shukla laughed warmly before replying, "At first, it's like your body forgets how to behave. Even holding a pen becomes a challenge. But soon you adapt—you learn to move slowly, with intention. And once you get the hang of it, it feels like flying—weightless, effortless, free.'

Another student asked him to describe Earth as seen from space. His expression softened as he recalled the sight. "From out there, Earth is silent," he said. "You don't hear anything—just stillness And when you see that fragile, glowing blue sphere hanging in the vastness of space, it change es you. You understand how connected we truly are."

The event concluded with Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi addressing the students stressing the critical role of sci ence and technology in shaping India's future. "Our students must embrace science to help build a prosperous India," he said, reinforcing the spirit of exploration and innovation that defined the day.

By the time the session ended the young audience wasn't just inspired-they were transformed. Shukla's journey reminded them that dreams don't end at the sky; they begin beyond it.

eisure



SIMU LIU CRITICISES INDUSTRY FOR **LACK OF ASIAN REPRESENTATION**

Actor Simu Liu, known for Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings, criticised Hollywood's lack of Asian representation in cinema. On social media, he expressed frustration, stating, "Put some Asians in literally anything right now," and called out studios for viewing Asian actors as "risky" for lead roles

KIDMAN ON HOW A SINGLE **BREAK CAN ALTER LIVES**

Nicole Kidman expressed her love for the unpredictable nature of the movie business, noting that a single lucky break can change everything. She explained that even after years of auditions, an unexpected opportunity can suddenly transform a career, with life-changing moments often just around the corner





You may be taut with stress at work. But it doesn't stop you from knocking down your opponents. You are considerate but cunning when you need to be. People should know you by now. Ganesha say just march on ahead

TAURUS

sional affairs will be well planned and organized this day, says Ganesha. Everything will run as scheduled. Your outstanding managing abilities, your business acumen will get noticed and appreciated. The home front may, however, not be as bright. The family scene is likely to be cheerless and gloomy

Today, you need to find ways to integrate your feelings with your logical and analytical observations, says Ganesha. In nutshell, it's time you became a bit practical. Otherwise, the afternoon will prove to be too emotional for you. Fortune will favour you if you manage to keep your

CANCER

It is quite likely that the love on you, predicts Ganesha. Financially, you will probably collect certain overdue payments in the afternoon. Later in the day, your wooing may pay rich dividends, says Ganesha.

Old is gold. This adage holds true for you in that you shall be led by conventional wisdom today. Your ability to stay upbeat is peaking just at the right time, and you shall be supremely confident about your chances of a brilliant future. This shall reduce the helping you enjoy warmth and affection later in the evening, says Ganesha.

Learn to weave emotions and cold logic in one fabric of thought, says Ganesha. The afternoon may be an emotional overdose for you. Fortune, however, will favour you in the evening when you set off on an

So, love finally entrans you chuckles Ganesha. There is a high probability that you will begin a long-lasting romantic relationship today. This new factor shall keep you elated throughout the day. Avoid any confrontation with those living around you. All in all, fortune is on your side today

SCORPIO

Children will be drenched in the rain of love and affection you shower on them, says Ganesha. A special treatment awaits you at work. Your spouse will be a permanent source of happiness and abundance. You shall feels whole and complete in the evening, predicts Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Today, most of your time will go in attending to your sweetheart – either in thoughts or in person. Thrills are on the anvil, with a casual conversation with someone special in the afternoon perhaps. You may go on a shopping spree and add more to that wardrobe of yours, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

Certain distasteful events occurring during the day may spoil your mood, but it won't really show in your work, and you will get over that phase sooner than you may have thought, says Ganesha. An unusual day, indeed. You can expect some good news from abroad, something you may have expected long back. Your spouse will be very understanding and supportive of your decisions.

AQUARIUS

You can't tolerate inequality and discrimination. This may cause a furore at your workplace. Don't bite off more than you can chew, cautions Ganesha. Also, remember that the same principles apply in relationships too. Give importance to what your loved ones have to say.

PISCES

Your family will be the cause of annoyance to you in the morning. However, as the day progresses and you find out just how much of an annoyance the workplace can be, your thinking processes ought to shift right back to your heart. There never was a crusader who set foot upon the holy land as gratefully as you will, when you return home.



confession Mumbai: Rakul Preet Singh, who made

her Bollywood debut with Yaariyan in 2014, recently confessed how little she understood about the professional ecosystem surrounding actors when she first entered Hindi cinema. Despite receiving positive reviews for her performance, Rakul admitted she was unaware that visibility, PR support, and consistent industry presence were essential to capitalise on early success. In a conversation with

Siddharth Kannan, Rakul revealed that she only understood the dynamics of the industry years later. "I got to understand this a few years ago," she said, explaining that achieving success required more than just good performances, it also needed strong PR machinery and being visible at various events. While Yaariyan gave her recognition, she confessed, "I wasn't here at that time, I was shooting in Hyderabad. I didn't know how to juice out opportunities during that time."

Rakul had assumed that more offers would follow naturally after her performance was noticed, but soon realised the process was much more layered. "I thought people would see me in the film, like me, and offer more films. I didn't know the whole process at that time, she laughed.

On the work front, Rakul was last seen in De De Pyaar De 2, a sequel to the 2019 comthe young actor who gained overedy-drama. night fame with her role in Saiyaara, has

love, she admitted that it can sometimes feel pressurising. "I'm very sensitive. I feel things deeply," she said in an interview, reflecting on the weight of responsibility that comes with being adored by so many. "The responsibility of love, that weight of wanting to do right by 'With fame the people who support

surising. It's beautiful, but sometimes, it is a lot." Aneet, now 23, has built a loyal fan base, especially after Saiyaara became a global hit. She often ex-

presses her emotions while

you, that can feel pres-

watching fan-made videos featuring her and her co-star Ahaan Panday. "I cry once a week looking at the edits my fans make. The effort, the love, I just hope I can do justice to it."

Mumbai: Aneet Padda,

shared her thoughts on the overwhelming support

comes

responsibility

she has received from fans. While she is grateful for the

Aneet's journey began as a model, working with major brands, before making her acting debut in the 2022 film Salaam Venky. Her big break came with the 2024 Amazon Prime Video show Big Girls Don't Cry, followed by Yuva Sapno Ka Safar. Saiyaara in 2025 marked her breakthrough, and she is now set to star in the horror-comedy Shakti Shalini from Maddock Films. AGENCIES



Mumbai: Actress Kritika Kamra, who has worked in Bambai Meri Jaan, Gyaarah Gyaarah, Bheed, and the upcoming Saare Jahan Se Achha, said that she has never been interested in being part of the rat race or doing projects just to stay visible.

Kritika shared: "I have never been interested in being part of the rat race or doing projects just to stay visible. For me, every role should have purpose and depth. I would rather wait for something that challenges me and allows me to grow as an actor than do something that doesn't add value to my journey.

"Visibility fades, but good work stays with people. I want to be remembered for the choices I

make, not for how frequently I appear on screen," she added.

Known for portraying complex and layered characters, Kritika has steadily transitioned from television to OTT and films. From the gritty realism of Bheed, the period drama intensity of Bambai Meri Jaan, or the mysterv-laced narrative of Gyaarah Gyaarah, reflects her conscious decision to be part of stories that matter.

She said: "I take my time before saying yes to a project. I look for stories that speak to me, roles that have something substantial to offer, and teams that are driven by passion, not pressure."



Chitrangda talks about embracing roles that scare her

Mumbai: Actress Chitrangda Singh says the year has been defined by choosing stories that push her out of her comfort zone, admitting that the year 2025 for her has been about saying yes to projects that "scare" her a "little

and "challenge" her "a lot." Reflecting on playing these range of characters in 2025, Chitrangda said: "I wanted my work to feel honest again, whether it's a big commercial film like *Housefull 5* or an intense character piece like Parikrama to now a crime thriller like Raat Akeli Hai: The Bansal Murders.

"2025 has been about saying yes to stories that scare me a little and challenge me a lot. For Chitrangda, 2025 has been a

'dream year"

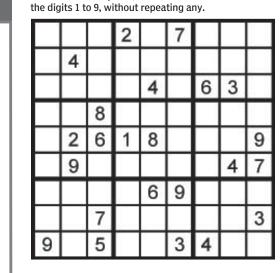
Explaining why, she said: "It feels like a dream year as an actor, especially to be able to work with directors from different schools of cinema. I feel like I'm finally playing to my full strength as an actor, and more importantly, reclaiming the kind of career I always wanted

The actress was seen in Housefull 5, a comedy thriller directed by Tarun Mansukhani. It marks the fifth installment of the Housefull franchise.



SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains



SOLUTIONS

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

PEANUTS









CALVIN AND HOBBES







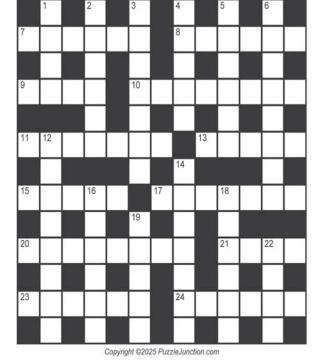


BREVITY



CROSSWORD

POST



Across		
7	Obstacle	

- 8 On the train
- 9 Without help 10 Retreat
- 11 Slippery
- 13 Yataghan, e.g.
- 15 Expression
- 17 Free weight
- 20 Irregular

<u>Down</u>

24 Romance

language

21 Meek

1 Motorcar

23 Classical music

- 2 Detestable

- 3 Busy
- workplace
 - approval
 - 22 Rodents

4 Golfer's helper

5 Area

6 Atrocious

12 Annoyance

14 Barn section

18 Knock about

19 Enthusiastic

16 Jane Eyre, e.g.

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

9 1 7 2 4 8 6 3 5

owntown

MELODIOUS EVENT

Artistes perform during 'Annual Music Festival 2025' organised by Bhubaneswar Music Circle at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



Odisha launches scholarship for SC, ST students to study abroad



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 26: The state government Wednesday launched the 'Videsh Siksha Bruti' scheme, marking a major step towards supporting meritorious Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students aspiring to pursue higher studies abroad

Higher Education (HE) Minister Suryabanshi Suraj formally inaugurated the scheme, which will be implemented from the 2025-26 academic year.

Under the scheme, SC and ST students from families with an annual income of ₹12 lakh or below will be eligible to apply.

"Applicants must have secured admission to postgraduate or PhD programmes in the Top 200 QS-ranked foreign universities or institutions,' the HE Minister said, adding that applications will be invited twice a year — in July–August and December-January.

"Each year, 50 students will be selected for the scholarship. Of these, 10 (four PG and six PhD) will be from engineering

Bhubaneswar, Nov 26: The

Winter Session of the Assembly

commencing Thursday is like-

ly to be stormy, as Opposition

BJD and Congress Wednesday

announced plans to raise issues

like 'crumbling' law and order

situation and 'vote chori' in Nu-

apada to corner the government.

meeting chaired by Leader of

Opposition Naveen Patnaik,

resolved to raise its voice in As-

sembly on the problems of the

people and the 'inefficiency' of

the government. The BJD will

seek answers from the govern-

ment on various issues such as

'crumbling' law and order sit-

uation, harassment of women,

communal agitation, farmers'

problems and employment-re-

lated scams, the party said in

political situation in the state,

Patnaik pointed out that the

law and order has collapsed

While discussing the current

BJD, at its legislature party

THE STATE GOVERNMENT **GRANTED AUTONOMY TO ODISHA** STATE HIGHER EDUCATION

COUNCIL (OSHEC) TO CONDUCT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AUDITS (APA) OF HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. THIS WILL ENABLE OSHEC ASSESS AND ENHANCE ACADEMIC STANDARDS, MAKING **ODISHA THE FIRST STATE IN THE** COUNTRY TO ADOPT

THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ISSUED APPOINTMENT LETTERS TO 34 CANDIDATES IN GROUP C AND D POSTS ACROSS AIDED **COLLEGES UNDER REHABILITATION** ASSISTANCE

SUCH A SYSTEM

(four PG and six PhD) from medical, agriculture, architecture and other technical streams: and 30 (10 PG and 20 PhD) from higher education," he said.

Each selected student will receive a scholarship of up to ₹25 lakh per year to support their studies, the minister said.

Highlighting the government's commitment to educational reforms under Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, the

HE Minister said that the state aims to build a golden future for students by strengthening quality education and developing world-class infrastructure.

He reiterated several major initiatives underway, including implementation of National Education Policy 2020, adoption of Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA). enforcement of Odisha Universities (Amendment) Act, providing 11.25 per cent reservation for SEBC students in higher education, setting up new government colleges in remote districts and intensive skill development and employment-driven programmes.

"These steps reflect the government's long-term vision to empower vouth and transform Odisha's education ecosystem," he added.

In addition to the launch of the scholarship scheme, the HE department also issued appointment letters to 34 candidates in Group C and D posts across aided colleges under rehabilitation

The HE Minister, who presided over the function, congratulated the appointees and urged them to work with sincerity and integrity for the growth of the education sector.

On the occasion, the state government granted autonomy to Odisha State Higher Education Council (OSHEC) to conduct Academic Performance Audits (APA) of higher educational institutions. This will enable OSHEC assess and enhance academic standards. making Odisha the first state in the country to adopt such a system, the HE Minister added.

is known for peace and harmo-

ny. The situation in the state

has deteriorated in the last 18

months, he claimed, citing the

recent riots in Cuttack city

He asserted that the condi-

tion of farmers and women in

the state is the most distressed.

providing fertilizer to the farm-

ers on time, nor is it providing

loan assistance to Mission

Shakti women. The govern-

ment's indifference towards

the farmers and Mission Shakti

women will be strongly opposed

Calling the BJP government

'anti-farmer and anti-women'.

Patnaik claimed that it has not

been able to conduct a single re-

cruitment examination without

error, thus making the youth

After its legislature party

meeting, Congress leader Ra-

ma Chandra Kadam said his

party would raise the issue of

farmers and their miseries in

'We will also raise the issue

the government 'mandis'.

in the House," he said.

frustrated.

'The government is neither

during Durga Puja.



Let's resolve to honour values of Constitution: CM

Bhubaneswar, Nov 26: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday urged people to resolve to honour the values of the Constitution of India, which was adopted on this day in 1949.

Majhi, in a post on X, said, "Today, November 26, on the occasion of Constitution Day, heartfelt congratulations and

in 1949, the Indian Constitution was formally adopted. On this auspicious occasion, let us resolve to honour the values of our Constitution by fulfilling our duties towards nation-building and dedicating ourselves to the service of Mother India."

Leader of Opposition (LoP) Naveen Patnaik said, in a post on X, "On #ConstitutionDay, offer my solemn tributes to the vi-

sionaries who gifted us the Constitution of India, which binds a diverse nation into one destiny. Let us renew our pledge to uphold the ideals enshrined in the Constitution in letter and spirit and discharge the fundamental duties diligently."

The Congress observed 'Save Constitution Day' across the state, said Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Bhakta Charan Das.

The party leaders offered floral tribute at the statue of BR Ambedkar at AG Square and held a rally, creating awareness on the protection of the Constitution.

Constitution Day or Samvidhan Divas commemorates the official adoption of the Indian Constitution November 26, 1949. The government of India declared November 26 as Constitution Day in 2015.

CUO, SEE ink pact

Bhubaneswar/Koraput: In a bid to enhance research, capacity building, and knowledge dissemination in extension education and allied disciplines, the Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput inked a pact with the Society of Extension Education (SEE), Agra, Uttar Pradesh official sources said Wednesday. The pact was formally signed by Prof NC Panda, Vice-Chancellor (I/c), CUO, and Dr Jitendra Kumar Chauhan, Secretary General, SEE in Bhubaneswar. Under the pact, CUO and SEE will jointly conduct national and international seminars, symposia, and webinars; collaborate on journal publication and editorial responsibilities: and facilitate academic resource exchange, it was learnt.

relating to massive 'vote chori

in Nuapada bypoll and law and

The BJP registered a land-

slide victory in Nuapada, and

the BJD finished third after the

The BJP legislature party

meeting held under the chair-

manship of Chief Minister

Mohan Charan Majhi resolved

to face the Opposition and pre-

pared to give all answers on the

Taking to X, Majhi said,

"Attended the meeting of the

BJP Legislature Party held

a day before the Winter Ses-

sion of the Assembly. On this

occasion, there was a detailed

discussion on the strategy and

working methods of the govern-

ment and the ruling party for

will be 'historic' since Pres-

ident Droupadi Murmu will

address the Assembly in this

session. "Therefore, I have in-

structed all the legislators for

mandatory presence and active

participation," Majhi said.

The CM said that this session

the upcoming session.'

order issue," Kadam said.

Congress.

people's issue.

Dy CM flags off 'LRI Rath' in 5 dists

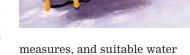
During the awareness drive, farmers will be informed about the usefulness of LRI cards that can help them make informed decisions on crop selection, fertilizer management, soil conservation measures, and water conservation practices POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 26: Depu ty Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo flagged off the Land Resource Inventory (LRI) Rath at Krushi Bhawan Wednes day. Under the REWARD (Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through innovative Development) pilot project, the LRI Yatra was launched across various gram panchayats in five districts-Navagarh, Koraput, Sambalpur, Dhenkanal, and Deogarh. This includes eight panchayats in Deogarh, 14 in Dhenkanal, 16 in Koraput, 19 in Nayagarh, and 22 in Sambalpur - Wednesday. The drive, through the designated LRI vans, will con-

tinue for one month. The primary objective of this initiative is to create awareness among farmers about LRI and scientific watershed manage ment. The LRI database generated through the process has

been used to prepare LRI cards. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister said by using these cards, farmers can understand land suitability, appropriate crops, soil-related issues, and recom-

mended treatments. With the help of these cards. farmers will gain knowledge of physical and chemical properties of their land, enabling them to make informed decisions on crop selection, fertilizer management, soil conservation



conservation practices.

Through this initiative, farmers will be informed about the usefulness of LRI cards, distributed by the Directorate of Soil Conservation & Watershed Development under the Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment department.

In addition, the programme will include the launching of new works under micro- watersheds (Bhoomi pujan), LRI Mahotsav, Shramadan activities, Pani Ki Pathshala, and inauguration of previously completed works. The overarching aim of these efforts is to enhance awareness among farmer groups within the watershed areas

Farmers who have already benefited by using the data provided in LRI cards are planned to be felicitated during this

programme said by Agricul ture Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee. Furthermore, to educate the younger generation on soil conservation and water shed management, quiz competitions will be organised in schools at the panchavat levels

The movement of the LRI Raths engaged in this Yatra will be monitored through the MIS mobile application. Effective utilisation of the LRI card will help increase crop productivity in watershed areas, support soil and water conservation and significantly contribute to the overall development of watershed areas.

Director Soil Conservation & Watershed Management Subrat Kumar Panda, senior officers from Agriculture and Farm ers' Empowerment department, director of Soil Conservation, among others, were present.

and women do not feel safe. The recent incidents of harassment

CRUT gets a new name POST NEWS NETWORK

a statement.

Bhubaneswar, Nov 26: The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) has been renamed as Comprehensive Region Urban Transport (CRUT), reflecting its growing role in providing modern, safe, and reliable urban transport solutions beyond Bhubaneswar to communities across Odisha.

The announcement came during the 51st Board of Directors meeting held under the chairmanship of CRUT Chairperson and Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg.

The name change is part of CRUT's ongoing efforts to enhance the quality of urban mobility services and improve the safety, efficiency, and sustainability of transport systems throughout the state. The organisation's expanded focus aims to address the growing needs of urban populations in various regions of Odisha, aligning with the state's vision for comprehensive urban development,

of women from Chief Minister

Mohan Charan Majhi's constit-

uency Keonjhar Sadar to Bagh-

mari and Cuttack's SCB Medical

College and Hospital are very

painful, Patnaik told the MLAs,

asking them to seek a reply from

have exposed the incompetence

of the government. After so ma-

ny incidents, the government is

yet to wake up," Patnaik said.

Patnaik also said that it is 're-

ally sad' that communal tension

is increasing in Odisha, which

"Such sensitive incidents

the BJP government.

it was learnt. important initiatives were re-

viewed and discussed. CRUT has achieved a significant milestone with 38 per cent adoption of digital ticketing, reflecting a major shift from traditional manual tickets to a more secure, convenient, and tech-savvy system for passengers. This transition is part of a broader push towards modernisation and enhanced commuter experience.

In a bid to improve road safe-

CRUT official said. Bus service.

During the meeting, several

ty, CRUT has begun the implementation of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) and Driver Fatigue Monitoring Systems (DFMS) across its fleet of buses. "The new fleet of 200 buses, approved by the state Cabinet, are already equipped with these systems, designed to minimise accidents and enhance overall road safety,"a

CRUT, under the Housing and Urban Development department, regulates the Ama

Odisha eyes to double milk production in 5 yrs: Mallik

The F&ARD Minister announces financial assistance up to ₹1 crore for setting up cattle farms and milk processing units

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 26: The state government aims at doubling milk production within the next five years through Mukhyamantri Kamadhenu Yojana, Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (F&ARD) Minister Gokulananda Mallik said here Wednesday.

Inaugurating an event at OUAT to mark National Milk Day celebration, Mallik highlighted the state's vision for rapid growth in the dairy sector.

The state is committed to increasing milk consumption and production while improving the welfare of dairy farmers, Mallik said. "Odisha currently produc-

es 72 lakh litres of milk daily, against a per capita requirement of 300 grams per day, while the present availability stands at 160 grams," he added. He stressed the need for ac-



celerated growth and said, "The government aims to double milk production within the next five vears through the Mukhvaman-

tri Kamadhenu Yojana. Under the scheme, up to 70

per cent subsidy is being offered for cattle and buffalo rearing. So far, 4.5 lakh beneficiaries have received financial support totalling ₹200 crore, and dairy farmers have procured more

than 8,000 high-yield cows from outside the state.

Mallik also announced financial assistance up to ₹1 crore for setting up cattle farms and milk processing units.

He said that 314 mobile veterinary units are currently operational to provide healthcare services for livestock, including vaccination, deworming and fodder support.

The event also saw the launch of seven new OMFED products, including A2 milk, curd milk, UHT milk with a 10day shelf life, tetra-pack lassi, chocolate shake, protein yoghurt and packaged drinking water. OMFED also unveiled a ₹1 lakh life insurance facility for each milk producer.

OMFED reported a major growth in business, increasing its turnover from ₹855 crore in 2023–24 to ₹1,028 crore in 2024–25 as it expands markets across Odi-

sha and outside the state. On the occasion, 25 dairy farmers received benefits under the Kamadhenu Yojana and three entrepreneurs received concessional assistance.

The government also pro vided ₹11 crore to 83 registered goshalas and ₹6 crore to 24 municipalities for stray cattle rescue infrastructure.

The minister also inaugurat ed a sex-sorted semen laborato ry at Cuttack, making Odisha the fourth state in India with such a facility. The technology is expected to produce up to 90 per cent female calves, boosting dairy productivity.

OMFED president Kishore Chandra Pradhani and F&ARD department Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar Vashishth also attended the programme, along with around 1,000 dairy farmers

National Milk Day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr Verghese Kurien, who is known as the Father of the White Rev olution in India.

Chandaka youth murder: Five held

Bhubaneswar, Nov 26: Five people have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the murder of a 20-year-old youth at Chandaka on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, police said Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Satrughna Birua, a resident ea in Jajpur district. His body was found near Godibari village under the jurisdiction of Chandaka police station Monday morning.

Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh said that during the investigation, it was found that Birua was murdered and his body was dumped there.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Bahadula Bandra (26), Rupa Pingua



- He fled the area, leaving phone, and other belongings
- When Birua returned at belongings, the accused assaulted and strangled him hitting his face with a stone, resulting in his death

(26), Pitambar Kankel (22), Naba Tiria (25) and Gultu Hembram (19), all residents of Godibari village, police said. Birua was killed after one of the accused came to know that the deceased was having physical relations with his wife, an-

other police officer said. The residents of Godibari caught Birua and the woman in a compromising position near the village November 23, following which he fled the area, leavphone and other belongings on the spot, the officer said.

The woman's husband kept the scooter in his house as bait, he said. When Birua returned to take his belongings at midnight the same day, the accused persons thrashed him and strangulated him and hit his face with a stone, leading to his death. They left the body at the spot and parked the scooter around 100 metres away to mislead the investigation, he added.

conferred the Kabi Samrat Upendra Upayana, and Kabichandra Kalicharan 2023, 2024, and 2025, honouring a artistes from across the state. The Samrat Upendra Bhanja Samman, personalities - Pranab Kishore Pattnaik and Badal Sikdar (2023), Mohini Mohan Pattnaik and Sudhakar Sahu (2024), and Ghanashyam Panda and Bhagahat Pradhan (2025) Fach award carries a cash prize of ₹5 lakh. Award amounts for the other honours included ₹2.5 lakh for the Hindustani Vocal Music Honour, ₹2 lakh for Academy Award recipients. ₹1 lakh for Upayana awardees, and ₹50,000 for youth talent honourees. In total, more than ₹2.5 crore was distributed. Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, who attended as chief guest, praised the contributions of artistes, saying, "Our artistic legends have enriched Odisha's culture through lifelong dedication. They are eternally revered." MLAs Sidhant Mohapatra, Akash Dasnayak and Babu Singh congratulated the awardees and highlighted the vital role of artists in promoting Odisha's cultural heritage. The programme was coordinated by Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi Secretary Chandra

OSNA HONOURS 134 ARTISTES Best Pavilion Award to Odisha preservation of tradition to pa-

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi / Bhubaneswar, **Nov 26:** The Odisha Pavilion has been chosen for the Best Pavilion Award at the 44th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025, held at the India Pavilion complex in New Delhi. This is the fourth consecutive year Odisha has received the honour, having won the award for the past three years. The award ceremony is scheduled

for Thursday.

The theme of this year's trade fair, "One India, Best India", was reflected in the Odisha Pavilion's design, which highlighted the state's rich cultural heritage, traditional sculpture and development vision up to 2036. The pavilion showcased successful implementation of people-centric government schemes, demonstrating Odisha's commitment to inclusive growth, modernisation and the

tional and international visitors

The pavilion features a diverse array of exhibits, including premium agricultural products, handlooms, handicrafts and items crafted by self-help groups. Its design and presentation have garnered attention and appreciation from officials and

dignitaries nationwide. Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida inaugurated the pavilion November 14. During the fair several prominent leaders and guests, including Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo, Science and Technology Minister Krush na Chandra Patra, former crick eter and MP Yusuf Pathan, and Odisha MPs Anita Subhadarshini and Pratap Sarangi, visited the pavilion. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi attended as chief guest for Odisha Day November 22. The Odisha Pavilion is organised by the Department of Information and Public Rela tions, which has effectively man aged the state's presentation at IITF, reinforcing Odisha's image as a hub of heritage, culture and

BMC to set up ODA Courts, tackle traffic congestion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 26: The 36th General Council meeting of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Wednesday saw key decisions aimed at enhancing civic services and urban development in the City.

A major outcome was the approval to establish three Odisha Development Authority (ODA) Courts, one in each of the City's administrative zones. These courts are expected to expedite construction-related case resolutions, easing the burden on the regular judicial system and providing faster legal ac-

Other key measures included approval of a survey to tackle traffic congestion caused by roadside parking, with action planned against violators, including institutions parking outside designated areas. Additionally, to improve city infrastructure and conserve energy, fines will be imposed on agencies that keep streetlights on during daylight hours.

The council also emphasised leveraging technology to enhance civic services. Corporators will be trained to use the BMC "BLUIS App", which enables reporting of illegal encroachments and other civic violations, streamlining issue resolution.

BMC Mayor Sulochana Das highlighted the need to complete major developmental works before the rainy season, with plans to inaugurate finished projects and initiate new ones by December 2025. Discussions were also held on boosting community engagement through road festivals across all three City zones

Finally, the BMC plans to introduce a monthly award system to honour outstanding sanitation workers, recognising their contributions to maintaining the city's cleanliness. Organisers of public events, exhibitions and festivals will now be required to pay user fees to cover post-event cleaning and maintenance.

The meeting was attended by BMC officials, including the Deputy Mayor, senior corporators and state government representatives, with Additional Commissioner Ratnakar Sahoo coordinating the session.



ODISHA VIKASH CONCLAVE

Chief Secy urges partnerships & community-led planning



Bhubaneswar, Nov 26: Odisha's development in the coming decade must be guided by strong partnerships and community-led planning to address emerging climate risks, evolving livelihood patterns and demographic shifts, said Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja while inaugurating the 6th Odisha Vikash Conclave (OVC) 2025 Wednesday.

"Decentralised, community-driven approaches—particularly through SHGs and local institutions—are essential for improving service delivery, generating local livelihoods and reducing distress migration," Ahuja said, calling for greater convergence between government, civil society, academia, markets and commu-

Setting the context, Odisha Development Initiative and CYSD Co-founder Jagadananda said OVC 2025 focuses on 'Balanced Development and Climate Resilience' as central to Odisha's vision for the next decade. "Forests, coasts, wetlands, livelihoods, governance, social protection and technology are interconnected, and Odisha needs holistic solutions that treat last-mile communities as partners, not mere beneficiaries," he

asserted. Speaking on climate transitions, Just Transition and climate change, iFOREST Director Srestha Banerjee emphasised that the recently concluded COP30 has recognised Just Transition as a global priority. "Odisha must pursue a people-centred transition that protects livelihoods in coal-bearing and resource-dependent regions,'

Highlighting demographic shifts, UNFPA Odisha State Head Md. Nadeem Noor noted that the state's total fertility rate has fallen to 1.6, and Odisha is projected to enter a 'net mortality zone' by 2041. "Rising life expectancy, declining birth rates and increasing disability prevalence call for new governance and public health strategies," he said.

The Conclave features 15 thematic sessions across five pillars-ecosystem protection, just transitions, resilient governance, vulnerability reduction and social leadership. Key outcomes will include an Odisha Climate & Development Policy Brief and a repository of locally led climate-resilient solutions ready for scale-up.

Guv stresses preserving Tribal healing knowledge

Bhubaneswar, Nov 26: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Wednesday stressed the need to properly document traditional tribal healing systems to ensure their preservation, promote scientific research and pass the knowledge to future generations. He was speaking while interacting with tribal healers at Raj Bhavan.

Sharing his delight over the opportunity to engage directly with tribal healers, the Governor said traditional healing systems evolved over centuries, particularly in remote regions. "Our indigenous communities have developed their own medicinal systems rooted in local plants, herbs, and natural resources. This knowledge is invaluable and must be preserved before it fades away,' he said.

Encouraging the healers, Kambhampati urged them to record their healing processes, specific ailments treated

in preparation of herbal remedies. He assured that systematic documentation will also enable smoother coordination with the Forest department to ensure year-round access to es sential medicinal plants, roots leaves and other natural mate rials required for their work The Governor highlighted

tional medicine and mentioned that China earns a large income from exporting medicinal plants and herbal products. He added that India also has huge potential in this field because of its rich biodiversity and strong traditional knowledge. Kambhampati informed

the global importance of tradi

that the Ministry of Ayush has already shown interest in conducting research on tribal healing systems. During the interaction, trib-

al healers shared their experi ences, treatment approaches and the challenges they face in sustaining the traditional system of healing.



NOCCi announces 5th edition of Expo 2025

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 26: The North Odisha Chamber of Commerce & Industry (NOCCi), with support from the Union Ministry of MSME and the Odisha government, has announced the 5th edition of NOCCi Expo 2025, a major exhibition of industrial products, consumer goods and The Expo will be held from

December 19 to 22 at the NOC-Ci Exhibition and Convention Centre in NOCCi Business Park, Balasore.

The four-day Expo is set to bring together the region's leading manufacturers, traders, and service enterprises under one roof-creating a powerful platform for growth, networking, and innovation.

The flagship event has the association and patronage of several leading industry bodies, including CII, UCCIL, OASME, OSIA, AIPMA, PFI, FOSMI, Tamil Nadu Plastic Association and Gujarat State Plastic Association. Response Marketing Services (P) Ltd. is the official event management partner.

NOCCi has also invited stakeholders to the launching ceremony of NOCCi EXPO 2025, scheduled for November 27 here at Raj Darbar, 1st Floor, Hotel Empire, Saheed Nagar.

ORMAS showcases Odisha's skilling success

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 26: OR-MAS marked a significant milestone Wednesday as the DDU-GKY Alumni Meet brought together thousands of young professionals who have moved from classroom training to rewarding careers across India and abroad. Held at the OUAT Assembly Hall, the event showcased inspiring stories of determination and transformation, underscoring how structured skilling, industry partnerships and emerging trades are reshaping livelihoods across The event also highlighted

Odisha's rising leadership in green jobs, digital competencies and future-ready employment avenues, reaffirming the state's commitment to building a globally competitive skilled workforce.

The event was attended by ORMAS CEO Monica Priyadarshini, Additional CEO Sanjeeb Kumar Singh, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) Director (Skill) Santosh Kumar Tiwari, Mission Manager (DDU-GKY) Shashi Kumar Yaday, NIRDPR Assistant Director Jeevan Reddy and NAB-CONS AGM Anamika Panda.



DDU-GKY ALUMNI MEET

Their insights enriched discussions on strengthening rural skilling initiatives and expanding placement-driven interventions across the state.

At the heart of Odisha's skilling transformation is the leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water and Rural Development Minister Rabi Narayan Naik. Though unable to attend in person, their guidance and commitment to youth-centric development continue to drive efforts toward inclusive growth, livelihood security and the expansion of emerging trades.

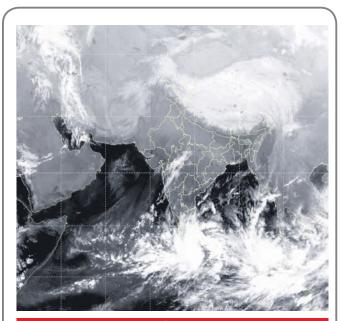
ORMAS, supported by 111 project implementing agencies (PIAs), has played a pivotal role in providing industry-aligned training across all districts. Under the DDU-GKY programme, 2.08 lakh youth have been trained, with 1.19 lakh placed in sectors such as hospitality, retail, healthcare, CNC operations, electronics assembly and sewing machine operation. Trainees are provided free residential accommodation, food, uniforms, study materials and practical training, ensuring a

holistic learning experience. Odisha has been recognised as one of the best-performing states under DDU-GKY during 2016-17 to 2019-20, reflecting its strong implementation framework and focus on quality. For 2025–26, ORMAS plans to train 11,432 more youth, with 13 new PIAs recently onboarded.

With a cumulative investment of ₹1,095 crore from the Government of India and the Odisha government, DDU-GKY continues to advance empowerment, income generation and dignified livelihoods. The rollout of DDU-GKY 2.0 at the national level ushers in a new era of simplified processes, improved placement outcomes and faster project approvals.

The Alumni Meet concluded with a pledge to further strengthen Odisha's leadership in rural skilling. Contributions from alumni, PIAs, industry partners and government bodies were acknowledged as vital to the state's mission. ORMAS reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing a skilled, empowered and future-ready workforce driving Odisha's socio-economic progress.





	WEATHER		
	BBSR	СТС	FOREC
Max Temp	28.7°	26.0°	Fog/mist i
Min Temp	16.0°	14.6°	morning partly clou
Humidity	77%	83%	later
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

CONTRACTOR'S ₹1.15CR DUES

Koraput Collectorate gets warrant of attachment



POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Nov 26: High drama unfolded at Koraput District Collectorate Wednesday morning when a lawyer arrived with a warrant of attachment against the District Collector and the Rural Development executive engineer, following a two-decade-old payment

The lawyer, accompanied by a process server, entered the Collector's office to seize office assets as per court orders. Since the District Collector was absent, the Deputy Collector

Groom's dad dies

after procession

car runs over him

POST NEWS NETWORK

Loisingha/Belpada, Nov 26:

A tragic accident during a wed-

ding procession Tuesday night

in Mandal village under Belpa-

da block of Bolangir district left

the groom's father dead and the

The deceased has been iden-

rified as Chaitanya Bag of Am-

bapali village under Loisingha

block and Bolangir Sadar police limits. According to reports, Chaitanya had accompanied

the wedding party of his son,

Dukhishyama, to Mandal village under Patnagarh block. After dinner, the wedding

procession began with much

joy but it turned tragic within

minutes. Witnesses said the

vehicle carrying the groom's

party was being driven reck-

lessly. The driver allegedly lost

control and the vehicle ran over

Chaitanya, who was walking

ahead of it. He died on the spot.

son was also injured in the in-

cident, sources said.

The bride's maternal aunt's

On receiving information,

Patnagarh police reached the

village, seized the body and sent

it for post-mortem. The injured

was taken to hospital for treat-

ment, and the vehicle involved

in the accident was impounded.

reaved family members shell-

shocked and grief-stricken.

'Wrong injection

claims boy's life'

Jajpur: Family members of a

the minor died Wednesday

after he was administered a

wrong injection by the staff

officials said. The family of

Satyanarayan Mallik, a resident

of Rautara village, brought him

to Binjharpur CHC after he fell

duty prescribed two injections,

sick Tuesday. The doctor on

which were administered

by the nursing staff to the

boy. Shortly after, the boy's

condition worsened and despite

the doctor's efforts he died in

(CHC) in Jajpur district,

in a community health centre

16-year-old boy alleged that

The incident has left the be-

bride's cousin injured.

sought time till 5pm to address the matter. The tense situation drew attention from other staffers and visitors as such enforcement actions in government offices are quite unusual.

The case dates back to 2005, when contractor Pradeep Kumar Mohanty completed road construction work from Digaput to Kundura under Rural Development department. The total work value was ₹73,64,769, which Mohanty did not receive despite completion, forcing him to approach the court in

In 2011, he filed a case (Suit

ment allegedly remained unresponsive. After prolonged hearings, Mohanty received a decree in 2018, with the court ordering payment of the principal amount along with 6 per cent annual interest.

When authorities again failed to make the payment, Mohanty initiated an execution case in 2019 through advocate TN Murthy, seeking the full outstanding amount along with accumulated interest for 14 years. By 2025, the total dues calculated stood at ₹1,15,50,036.

With no compliance from the departments, even after repeated notices, the court issued a warrant of attachment, prompting the lawyer's arrival at both the Collectorate and the Rural Development department office Wednesday.

The incident has sparked discussion across administrative circles, highlighting the consequences of long delays in settling legitimate contractor dues. Further action will depend on the response from district authorities as per the

Pratima Majhi murder: Home guard arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogarh, Nov 26: Police have solved the widely discussed murder mystery of Pratima Maihi. a 32-year-old woman found dead near Laimura village November 22. A home guard, Srikar Sunani, 43, has been arrested in this connection and sent to iudicial custody after his bail plea was rejected.

According to police, Srikar and Pratima were into an illicit relationship for nearly two years. Pratima had left her husband six years ago and lived at her parental home. Srikar had promised to marry her, but later tied the knot with another woman about six months ago, which angered Pratima. Police said apprehending that Pratima would interfere in his married life, Srikar On the night of November 21,

Srikar allegedly called Pratima to a forested area near Laimura. where an argument broke out During the quarrel, he strangled her to death. Pratima's father lodged a complaint after the body was found. A scientific team collected evidence, including a liquor bottle and a tiffin box from the crime scene. Investigation revealed that Srikar was the last person to contact her.

During interrogation, Srikar confessed to the crime and admitted hiding his mobile phone at home, which police later seized. He was produced in court Wednesday and sent to jail.



BITING COLD: As Kandhamal district shivers at 8.6°C, locals in G Udayagiri gather around a bonfire to brave the morning chill Wednesday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Daringbadi, Nov 26: An auxiliary nurse midwife (ANM) posted at the remote Sonapur sub-centre under Daringbadi Community Health Centre in Kandhamal district suffered severe injury to her left eye after being attacked with a slingshot Tuesday night.

CCTV footage shows ANM Bulidei Sahu was locking the gate of her government quarters around 8pm when a youth waiting outside shot a pellet at her. The pellet shattered her spectacles and entered her left eye, severely damaging the organ. She was taken to Daringbadi CHC and later shifted to AIIMS Bhubaneswar, her hus band Sheetikanta Sahu said.

Local residents, after reviewing the CCTV footage, detained the accused and handed him over to Daringbadi police. The youth has been taken into for children, pregnant women

custody for questioning. Police said they are investigating whether the attack was linked to previous enmity or another motive. A case has been registered, said Jakesh Samantaray, in charge of the CHC. The assault sparked wide-

spread protests among health workers. Female staffers from sub-centres across 25 panchayats under Daringbadi block launched a cease-work protest Wednesday, disrupting routine immunisation services

and new mothers.

The agitating workers submitted a memorandum demanding that the govern ment bear Bulidei's medical expenses, ensure her family's welfare, and take strong legal action against the attacker They also called for enhanced safety measures for women health workers. The strike will continue until their demands are met, leaders including Block President Bidheshini

Sexagenarian killed in jumbo attack

Deogarh: An elderly man was killed Wednesday after an elephant attacked him in a forest area under Palsama section of Reamal Forest Range in Deogarh district. The deceased, Hrudananda Behera, 62, a resident of Utunia village, had gone to the forest to collect leaves for his cattle when the elephant trampled him. The incident occurred near the village, and Behera died on the spot. Forest officials, alerted by villagers,

Tribal art form 'Idital' gains global recognition

POST NEWS NETWORK

balpur district.

for postmortem.

allegedly beating his wife to

death over a heated exchange

at Palokhman village under Ja-

mankira police limits in Sam-

Police said they arrested

Srikar Majhi, 57, husband of

deceased Mamata Majhi, 50,

and seized the weapon used in

the crime. Police registered a

case (218/25) and sent the body

According to police, Mama-

ta was reportedly speaking to

someone on phone inside the

house Tuesday night when Sri-

kar, who was outside, asked her

to stop the call and begin cook-

ing immediately. When she

ignored his words, a heated ar-

gument ensued between them.

In a fit of rage, Srikar allegedly

picked up the iron pipe kept near

the stove and struck Mamata on

the head, leaving her dead on

the spot. The incident went un-

noticed through the night, as

neighbours were unaware of

the assault. When villagers did

not see Mamata for an unusual-

ly long time Wednesday morn-

ing, they questioned Srikar, A

team led by IIC Padmalaya Sahu

reached the scene and arrested

Srikar. Police said Mamata and

Srikar lived alone, as their two

Gunupur, Nov 26: The traditional tribal wall painting known as 'Idital', an artistic expression of the Saura community's cultural heritage, has earned global recognition for its unique style and spiritual symbolism. The term 'Idi' means "painting" and 'tal' means "wall," signifying its creation on mud or plastered walls of homes.

One of the most prominent forms of tribal art in Odisha, 'Idital' is drawn using rice paste and thin bamboo sticks. It portrays various deities and ancestral spirits invoked by tribal families during auspicious occasions. Members of Saura tribe offer prayers and sacrifices to these deities. symbolically represented in the paintings, before any ceremony or household rituals. The

art also serves as a medium to pray for recovery from illness and to seek protection from

Art enthusiasts regard 'Idital' as a living expression of ancient tribal beliefs and the community's close connection with nature. The Saura people of Puttasingh in Rayagada district believe that invisible spiritual forces govern the universe. influencing human fortune and wellbeing. When faced with hardship, they create these ritual paintings and offer animal sacrifices, believing it appeases both deities and ancestors.

The paintings often feature symbolic representations of ancestors, who are honoured alongside gods as guiding spirits. According to traditional belief, invoking their presence through art brings prosperity and harmony to the household. While 'Idital' serves as a medium of worship, it rarely depicts deities directly; instead, it portrays elements of daily life animals, plants, and human activities — as metaphors for divine forces.

The priest, known as 'K11danganmar', or a female priest, 'Kudangboi', conducts the ritual and oversees the drawing of 'Idital'. The practice is deeply

ten during the construction of new houses. Despite its cultural impor-

rooted in ritual purity and tim-

ing — paintings are typically

created between the months

of Phalguna and Baisakh, of-

tance, 'Idital' art has become rare in recent decades. It survives mainly in the tribal villages of Puttasingh and Sagada, and to a lesser extent in Jalatar, Tallana, Kulusing, and Chinasari panchavats of Gunupur block.

Each 'Idital' is distinguished by its structure: first, a square or rectangular frame is drawn on the wall, within which figures of trees, animals, and humans are painted in intricate detail. The completed artwork is then consecrated through rituals that include animal sacrifice and offerings of local brew, followed by dance and music.

During harvests or festivals. the first yield of crops or fruits is ceremonially offered to the 'Idital' before being consumed by the family, continuing a centuries-old tradition that connects the Saura people to their ancestors, nature, and the divine.

Das said.

IMPROVEMENT BY REPLACEMENT OF

start date: 27.11.2025, Tender closing

nders even if these are sul letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender website www.ireps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes, corrigenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T)/ /25-26 Khurda Road PR-835/Q/25-26

EAST COAST RAILWAY

ENGG/2025-26, Date: 17.11.2025 (1) e-Tender No. 26-eT-SDENW-SBP-25

Name of the Work: CONSTRUCTION OF 08 NOS. MASONRY HUT/EQUIPMENT BUILDING OF SIZE 14M x 6M AT LEVEL CROSSING NO. RV-28, RV-38, RV-71, RV-105 RV-108, RV-124, RV-137 & RV-158 FOR PROVISION OF KAVACH IN LAKHOLI-TITLAGARH SECTION OF SAMBALPUR

Approx cost of the Work : ₹ 2,14,89,238.12 Bid Security: ₹2,57,500/-. (2) e-Tender No. 55-eT-DENE-SBP-25

Name of the Work | CONSTRUCTION OF 09
NOS. OF MASONRY HUT/EQUIPMENT BUILDING OF SIZE 14 MTR. X 6MTR. FOR PROVISION OF KAVACH IN JHARSUGUDA
JN.-SAMBALPUR CITY-KEREJANGA

Approx cost of the Work : ₹ 2,41,75,392.89, Bid Security: ₹ 2,70,900/-

(3) e-Tender No. 57-eT-DENE-SBP-25 Name of the Work: CONSTRUCTION OF 30 BEDDED RUNNING ROOM AT LAPANGAIN SAMBALPUR DIVISION. Approx cost of the Work : ₹ 3,33,35,621.49

Bid Security: ₹3,16,700/-. Completion period for the work: 08 months

(for Sl. No. 1), **09 months** (for Sl. No. 2) & **10** months (for Sl. No. 3).

Tender closing date & time : at 1500 hrs. of

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or i

person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.ireps.gov.in The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III digita

signature certificate and must be registered or IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/biddel can participate on e-tendering. All relevant pape must have to be uploaded at the time of participating on e-tendering as per instruction. Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg),

Keonjhar coop bank suspension revoked

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar/Hatadihi, Nov 26: The Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS), Odisha, has withdrawn the suspension order issued against the chairman and members of Keonjhar Central Cooperative Bank's managing committee.

The suspension was imposed October 15, 2025 (vide Order No- 20206) following allegations of irregularities in the bank's functioning. The matter later reached the Orissa High Court, which allowed petitioners to file their replies and directed that no coercive action be taken against them until November 15.

Despite the court's direction, the suspension order was is-

22475 Bank3/Dates:20/11/25

sued the next day, prompting two fresh writ petitions WP(C) 29820/2025 and WP(C) 29815/2025. The High Court subsequently stayed the suspension. Acting on the court's orders.

the RCS formally withdrew the suspension through Letter No. 22475 dated November 20, 2025. Another communication, Letter No. 22623 dated November 21 informed the parties that a hearing on the matter will be held at the RCS office Decem-The case stems from an in-

quiry report submitted September 16, 2025 regarding alleged irregularities. A show-cause notice was issued to the board September 22, followed by a scheduled hearing October 14. Petitions challenging the inquiry report were also filed by Debapriya Patra and Golap Naik.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, BALASORE

'e' Procurement Notice Dt.: 24.11.2025

BID IDENTIFICATION No. SEMIDBLS - 07/2025-26 e-mail ID: mibalasore@yahoo.co.in No. A-980: The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Balasore on behalf of th Sovernor of Odisha invites online percentage rate tender through "e" Procurement (Sing Cover) for the works as detailed in the Annexure to this bid notice. Improvement to Check Dams in different block Name of the Work Balasore & Bhadrak District for the year 2025-26.
32 (Thirty-Two) Nos. only
Varies from Rs. 1.22 lakh to Rs. 12.59 lakh (Approximately lo. of Works

ost of Tender Paper Varies from Rs.600/- to Rs.6,000/- (Non-Refundable) As mentioned against work From Dt.29.11.2025, 10.00 A.M. to Dt.08.12.2025 upt sale and receipt through online 5.00 P.M. 08.12.2025 (5.00 P.M.) the portal On Dt.09.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M. in the Office of th ate of opening of Technical B hrough online S.E., M.I. Division, Balasore Mode of Payment of Bid Cost
Digital Signature Certificate The bidder must possess compatible Digital Signatu Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III The detail tender call notice can als be seen in the DOWR website http:/dowrorissa.gov.ii

Superintending Engineer, Minor Balasore, At/P.O./District: Balasore Ph. No./Fax No.: 06762-224461 Email ID: mibalasore@yahoo.co.ir Further details can be seen from the e-market place website www.tendersodisha.gov.i District NIC Portal (baleswar.nic.in) Note: Corrigendum/Addendum/Modifcations/Additions if any can be seen through online onli

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Balasc

the wee hours of Wednesday, officials said. The family of the deceased staged protests on the hospital premises alleging that administration of a wrong injection led to the boy's death The police controlled the situation. "We're waiting for postmortem report to ascertain the actual cause of the death," said a senior police official.



power post





If you can always smile at life, life will always smile at you.

THE MOTHER



Brahma Chellaney

Pakistan win

with flattery,

gestures, and

the promise

of personal

enrichment,

putting the

entire region

at risk, much

like America's

Cold War

with their

South Asia

toward

leaders did

Trump is

By letting

him over

symbolic

Dangerous Liaison

S President Donald Trump's first social-media post of 2018, during his initial presidential term, highlighted his mounting frustration with Pakistan. Over the preceding 15 years, he lamented, the United States had "foolishly" handed the country more than \$33 billion in aid, and gotten "nothing but lies and deceit" in return. He subsequently suspended security assistance to Pakistan over its support for terrorists, including its concealment of Osama bin Laden for almost a decade after the September 11, 2001, terrorist

Today, Pakistan continues to provide safe haven, as well as military and intelligence aid, to terrorist groups. It also remains a close ally of China – which, despite reaching a trade truce with the Trump administration earlier this month, remains America's leading rival. Yet, far from admonishing Pakistan, the US is now eagerly pursuing

Trump administration officials have justified this reversal by casting Pakistan as a valuable partner in efforts to contain Iran and rein in terrorist groups that could threaten US interests in the region. But Pakistan has proved time and again that it is not a reliable security partner, and there is no reason to think this has changed. The real explanation for Trump's embrace of Pakistan

probably lies in the convergence of his personal financial interests and his transactional approach to foreign policy.

Consider the controversial investment deal Pakistan signed in April with World Liberty Financial, a cryptocurrency firm majority-owned by the Trump family. The firm's CEO. Zach Witkoff – son of Steve Witkoff. Trump's special envoy to the Middle East leads a company in which both the Trumps and the Witkoff family are the principal beneficiaries. The deal has alarmed ethics watchdogs and former US officials, who warn that Trump's business entanglements are bleeding into US foreign policy (Trump insists that conflict-of-interest rules do not apply to him). It has also reinforced a regional perception that personal enrichment is Trump's top foreign-policy priority, further undermining US credibility.

The romance continued in July, when the US and Pakistan announced that they had reached a trade agreement. While the details have not been fully disclosed, Pakistan has celebrated the reduction in US tariffs and the prospect of increased US investment. Pakistani officials declared that the deal "marks the beginning of a new era of economic collaboration especially in energy, mines and minerals, IT, cryptocurrency, and other sectors." Since then, Pakistan has sought to build

an image as a potential supplier of critical minerals that could help the US reduce its dependence on China's near-monopoly over rare earths. In September, its military-linked Frontier Works Organization signed a \$500 million agreement with the private firm US cynical policies Strategic Metals to develop critical-mineral deposits in Pakistan.

For Pakistan, this was not so much a business deal as a diplomatic coup. When Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan's pow-

erful military leader, Field Marshal Asim Munir, subsequently met with Trump in the Oval Office, they presented him with a polished wooden box containing mineral samples. Soon after, Pakistan dispatched a token shipment of enriched rare earths and other critical minerals to the US - a largely symbolic gesture meant to seal the new alignment.

But it is far from clear that Pakistan will be able to deliver meaningful quantities of rare earths to the US. The country's oft-repeated assertion that it possesses \$6-8 trillion in mineral wealth is based on unverified estimates, and most of the claimed reserves lie in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, where active insurgencies make large-scale extraction highly risky. As one analyst quipped, "Pakistan has long promised gold and delivered gravel.

Trump is particularly susceptible to such grand promises, especially when they are accompanied by personal flattery. It is no accident that Pakistan's leaders have lavished Trump with over-the-top praise, even nominating him for the Nobel Peace Prize he so covets. For a president whose diplomacy often hinges on personal rapport, such gestures can have an outsize impact. It seems that Pakistan has cracked the Trump code. Emboldened, Pakistan's leaders have pushed through a constitutional amendment that elevates the army chief - whom Trump extols as his "favorite field marshal" - to the position of de facto ruler, reducing the elected government to little more than a civilian facade.

For India, the Trump administration's embrace of Pakistan feels like betrayal. The country has spent over two decades cultivating a strategic partnership with the US, grounded in shared democratic values and a mutual desire to counter China. Now, the US is actively working against India's diplomatic and security interests.

The problem extends beyond Trump's deal-making with Pakistan. Last May, after a three-day military clash between India and Pakistan ended in a ceasefire, Trump publicly took credit for stopping the fighting. India flatly denied the claim, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi stating that he had never even spoken to Trump during the conflict. But Trump stuck to his story, crediting his own trade threats, rather than India's targeted airstrikes, for the truce.

This undermined Modi's standing at home and reinforced the view in India that the US cannot be trusted. Modi's refusal to endorse Trump's bid for a Nobel Peace Prize deepened the rift. Soon, the spat spiraled into a trade war, with Trump imposing a 25% tariff – later raised to 50% - on imports from India, supposedly over India's own

trade barriers and continued purchases of Russian oil. In India's view, the tariffs amounted to political retribution an extension of the diplomatic feud over Pakistan. After all, the European Union, Japan, and Turkey have not faced secondary US sanctions over their large Russian energy purchases, and pro-Trump Hungary, which gets some 90% of its energy from Russia, received an explicit sanctions exemption from his administration.

For India, these are more than diplomatic setbacks. They threaten to unravel a hard-won strategic partnership, which successive US administrations have recognised as critical to Indo-Pacific security. By letting Pakistan win him over with flattery, symbolic gestures, and the promise of personal enrichment. Trump is putting the entire region at risk, much like America's Cold War leaders did with their cynical policies toward South Asia.

The writer is Professor Emeritus of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research and Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

FOCUS AGRICULTURE

A NEW SOIL AMENDMENT

griculture continues to be the backbone of India's economy, providing livelihood to around 70% of rural population. Today, the agricultural sector stands at a critical crossroads. On one hand, the country is facing soil degradation, declining fertility, and mounting pressure on groundwater resources. On the other hand, millions of tonnes of crop residues are burnt annually, adding to severe air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and irreversible nutrient loss. Between these overlapping crises lies a largely underexplored yet promising solution - the application of torrefied biomass (biotorr) as a new soil amendment. Torrefaction is essential-

ly a mild thermo-chemical pre-treatment process. It involves heating of biomass at around 200-300°C within a low-oxygen environment, producing a carbon-rich, hydrophobic, and energy-dense material called biotorr. Although biotorr has received attention as a renewable fuel substitute; its value as a soil amendment is only now being recognised. For a country like India, which is struggling to restore soil productivity while managing agricultural waste sustainably, this technology presents an excellent opportunity.

India's scientific ecosystem has already invested heavily into understanding biochar. Biochar, produced at higher temperatures, is widely known for enhancing soil fertility and enabling carbon sequestration. Biotorr, however, offers a complementary set of advantages, namely, lower production costs, easier pelletisation, and suitability for decentralised rural systems. As a partially carbonised material that retains some volatile compounds, it improves soil organic carbon without significantly altering pH or nutrient balance. Importantly,



With the right policy push and market incentives, India can transform the challenge of stubble burning into a pathway for agricultural renewal

biotorr decomposes slowly as compared to raw biomass, allowing soil carbon to persist longer. In a country where soil organic carbon levels have declined to alarming lows across many states, restoring carbon is essential for sustaining agricultural productivity.

The benefits of biotorr extend beyond carbon enrichment. It is now known that biotorr can improve soil structure, enhances moisture retention, and supports beneficial microbial activity. These effects are particularly valuable in semi-arid and drought-prone regions, where soils often suffer from crusting, erosion, and rapid nutrient leaching. As climate change makes rainfall increasingly erratic, strengthening the soil's water holding capacity is essential for crop resilience. Unlike chemical fertilizers, which supply only nutrients; but do little to improve soil physical properties, biotorr helps rebuild the complete soil matrix. When used alongside compost or other organic manures, biotorr can reduce chemical fertilizer dependence as well as cutting input costs for small farm holders while promoting ecological

Air pollution has long been a persistent challenge for India,

so severe that Delhi's iconic Red Fort often appears blackened, a visible marker of a deepening public-health crisis. According to IQAir, pollution levels in the capital routinely reach hazardous levels, consistently placing Delhi at the top of global rankings for poor air quality. Against this backdrop, the recurring issue of stubble burning in northern India further highlights the urgent need for effective techno-

logical interventions. According to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), nearly 14 million tonnes of rice stubble are burned in India each year. Despite subsidies, enforcement efforts, and machinery deployment, residue burning continues largely as existing technical solutions are either too expensive or impractical for mass field deployments. In this regard, torrefaction offers a more decentralised and farmer-friendly alternative. Small and mobile village-scale torrefaction units can process paddy straw, sugarcane trash, cotton stalks, and other agro-residues into torrefied pellets, which farmers can then apply back to their fields or sell it for additional revenue generation. This not only reduces air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; but

economy. Instead of destroying biomass, farmers convert waste into a resource that enhances soil health. For regions such as Punjab, Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh and some parts of Maharashtra, this approach could transform what is currently an environmental liability into an agronomic asset.

Despite its promising properties, biotorr is largely missing from mainstream agricultural discourse. Several challenges hinder its adoption, such as, low awareness among farmers, limited understanding among policymakers, absence of standard guidelines, insufficient R&D on region-specific feedstocks and field trials, and lack of a supporting market ecosystem. Without well coordinated policy support, private-sector engagement, and scientific validation, the technology will remain confined to research circles rather than reaching the farmers who need it most.

India cannot afford to address soil degradation and crop residue burning as isolated problems. Biotorr effectively bridges the two, offering a scalable, climate-friendly, and economically viable solution. It enriches soils, promotes sustainable farming, reduces air pollution, and strengthens rural livelihoods. To unlock its full potential, biotorr must be integrated into national missions such as the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture and ongoing crop residue management programmes. Equally important is the involvement of private enterprises, startups, and self-help groups to build a robust value chain around production, distribution, and field implementation. With the right policy push and market incentives, India can transform the challenge of stubble burning into a pathway for agricultur-

The writer is a scientist.



Dr Sanjib Kumar

INDIA CANNOT

ADDRESS SOIL

DEGRADATION

AFFORD TO

AND CROP

BURNING AS

ISOLATED

PROBLEMS

RESIDUE

Denial, division & diversion



Avilash Roul

OFFENSIVE RESISTANCE FROM MAJOR OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND THEIR POLITICAL **ALLIES HAS SUCCESSFULLY KEPT A ROADMAP AWAY FROM FOSSIL FUELS** IN THE FINAL

AGREEMENT

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

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

suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

climate summit, COP30, delivered as projected at the beginning of the summit? Certainly, the trust in the Paris Agreement has been maintained and partially achieved. Faith in multilateralism has been sustained despite the absence of the second-largest emitter of Greenhouse Gases (GHG), the US. However, the division among the coalition member groups within COP is as stark as ever in 30 years of climate negotiations. But then again, there is neither a financial commitment from developed member countries nor a roadmap for phasing out of fossil fuels, culprits of climate change. As a result. 194 parties (minus the US) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have collectively left the planet under increasing temperatures by slowing down climate actions.

Continuing the faith in the multilateral climate cooperation and maintaining the stature of Brazilian leadership, the outcome of the climate summit is a mixed one, with high disappointment but low ambitions. One can easily find out that the climate change mitigation, enshrined as the main objective of the UNFCCC in Article 2, has gradually and deliberately been put on the back burner. Stabil-

isation of GHG concentrations within a timeframe shall be the primary responsibility of the COPs. More than 80 members of the COP backed Brazil's proposal for a formal roadmap to phase out fossil fuels. However, offensive resistance from major oil-producing countries and their political allies has successfully kept a roadmap away from fossil fuels in the final agreement. Unusually, the final agreement has no direct mention of fossil fuels.

By side-stepping the climate mitigation in COPs, both developed and developing countries are benefiting. Developing countries, especially emerging economies like India and China are opposed to any binding obligation in emission reduction. Likewise, developed countries are at ease as long as there are no legally binding conditions for extending climate finances to developing countries for mitigating emissions.

Similarly, countries agreed voluntarily to set up a two-year programme to enable developing countries to mobilise at least \$1.3 trillion yearly till 2035. A change ing landscape in climate negotiations is emerging where the emerging economies will be substituting traditional leadership. Linking trade to climate

change came as no surprise at COP30. Participants and followers of the COPs are aware of the diversion tactics, like strategies used to shift focus from core issues like phasing out fossil fuels, financial obligations and delaying actions. Trade measures such as carbon adjustments - a tariff imposed on trade in goods that accounts for GHG emissions during their production were deliberately included during all negotiations. However, India and China vehemently opposed such measures as discriminatory. While COP30 calls for aligning trade with climate action, it also stresses the concerns of developing countries to avoid unilateral manipulation of international trade.

For the satisfaction of the most vulnerable countries, COP30 has agreed to a vaguely derived 'tripling' of financial support from developed countries to the adaptation fund. The increase in financial amount has been touted as the most visible outcome of the Belem COP. Developing countries require annually \$365 billion for adaptation costs. Surprisingly, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) reveals that adaptation finance flows to developing countries were \$26 billion and \$28 billion in 2023 and 2022, respectively. Is the tripling adaptation fund

enough for preparing communities and other living beings to be resilient to climate catastrophes?

From the civil society perspective, the Belem COP has provided a sense of climate justice in terms of establishing a just transition mechanism. A just transition is broadly defined as the process of transition to low-carbon and en vironmentally sustainable econo mies and societies no one should be left behind or pushed behind. While countries will submit their views by March 2026, the mech anism's aim is to increase international cooperation, technical assistance, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing as countries transition to sustainability.

Most remarkably, COP30 has witnessed the historical operationalisation of the loss and damage fund, established in COP27 Will the Fund respond rapidly and sufficiently where it is required most in the frontlines of climate emergencies? Frontline climate activists are sceptical While COP30 acknowledged that more climate action and finance are urgently needed, it took backward steps to provide directions on how to get there.

> The writer is an international advisor on climate change risks and transboundary rivers.

Full-blown crisis

Sir, India's worsening air quality has quietly grown into a full-blown public health crisis. When cities and districts across the country consistently record particulate levels far above safe limits, it is clear that pollution has become a daily assault on millions. The contrast between heavily burdened states and those that manage to stay within acceptable standards shows that governance, planning, and political will make all the difference. What we need now is not another round of blame-shifting but a shared national mission. Cleaner transport, stricter enforcement, responsible construction practices, and pollution-free energy must become non-negotiable priorities. Citizens, too, must recognise their role in demanding accountability and embracing cleaner habits. India cannot continue to live — and breathe — on borrowed time. Only sustained, collective action can ensure that future generations inherit air that heals rather than harms.

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

Dominance dissipated

Sir, Until a few years ago for any team touring India for a Test series was considered the toughest challenge in world cricket. Australian cricketers would refer to it as the "Final Frontier," a fortress that was rarely breached. However, the period of such dominance by Team India in a home Test series has dissipated well and truly. Following a humiliating 0-3 whitewash by New Zealand last year in November, the Indian team has now surrendered meekly to South Africa, losing the series 0-2, ironically in the same month. A major reason for this decline is the muddled thinking within the team management, particularly on pitch preparations. For the Kolkata Test, the management opted for a turning track and fielded four spinners, a gamble that backfired spectacularly against the Proteas, who adapted to the conditions better than the hosts. Gautam Gambhir's stint as India's head coach, which began in July 2024, has been marked by turbulence in the longest format. Unlike former coach Rahul Dravid, who meticulously understood which surfaces suited his players, Gambhir seems disconnected from the team's strengths. Whether the two back-toback Test series loss is a temporary phase or a sign of deeper decline is a question the team management will have to confront sooner than later. Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI



TWO STATES





Mamata hails WB's

tourism milestone

The state has ranked second in foreign tourist arrivals after Maharashtra

Mumbai remembers 26/11 martyrs

As many as 166 people lost their lives and more than 300 were injured after 10 terrorists from Pakistan launched simultaneous attacks in several parts of Mumbai November 26, 2008

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai/New Delhi, Nov 26: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis Wednesday paid floral tributes at the police headquarters to those who made the ultimate sacrifice while fighting terrorists during the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

In their messages on the 17th anniversary of the attacks that claimed 166 lives, President Droupadi Murmu asked all citizens to reaffirm their commitment to combat terrorism, while Union Home Minister Amit Shah underlined the Narendra Modi government's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism.

Deputy CM Aiit Pawar and state minister Ashish Shelar also paid tributes at the martyrs' memorial on the premises of the Police Commissioner's Office in south Mumbai. Maharashtra Director General of Police Rashmi Shukla, Mumbai Police Commissioner Deven Bharti and other officials were also present.

Family members of the policemen who lost their lives during the terror attack also paid homage to the fallen heroes on the occasion.

In his message in Hindi on X, Union minister Shah said terrorism is not a curse for just one country, but for the entire human race.

"I pay my respects to the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives while facing the



Mumbai terrorist attacks, and I offer my tributes to all the people who lost their lives in the cowardly attack. The Modi government's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism is clear, and the entire world is appreciating and providing broad support to India's anti-terrorism campaigns," he said.

President Murmu also took to X to remember the martyrs.

"On the anniversary of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, I pay my humble tribute to the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives to protect the people of our country. The nation remembers their supreme sacrifice with gratitude," she said.

"Let us reaffirm our commitment to combat terrorism in all forms. Let us move forward together on the path of progress with a resolve to build a stronger and more prosperous India," the president added.

at "Prerana Sthal", the statue of Assistant Sub Inspector Tukaram Ombale, who fought with terrorists with a lathi and was killed while catching alive terrorist Ajmal Kasab at Girgaon Chowpatty. In the evening, the Nation-

al Security Guard (NSG) has organised a commemorative "Neverever" memorial and pledge gathering at Gateway of India, in which family members of the victims will also participate along with the citizens of Mumbai.

ists. They also paid respects

In a statement posted on X, the US Embassy in India said it honors the memory of the victims and stands in solidarity with the survivors and families.

"The United States has long supported India's efforts to ensure those responsible for these attacks are brought to justice,' it said, noting that the US extradited Tahawwur Hussain Rana to India this year for his role in planning the horrific attack which claimed the lives of six American citizens among others.

"Rana's extradition is a critical step toward seeking justice for the victims who were killed in the heinous attacks and their families. As we remember the victims of 26/11, we reaffirm our determination to continue to fight against acts of terror together with the Government of India to ensure the safety and security of our citizens," the US Embassy said.

Nearly 14 lakh SIR forms identified as 'uncollectable' in WB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 26: Nearly 14 lakh SIR enumeration forms have so far been identified as "uncollectable" in West Bengal, the Election Commission said.

These forms are "uncollectable" since the voters were either absentee, duplicate, dead or permanently shifted, an official said. "As of Tuesday noon, the

number stood at 13.92 lakh.. We expect this figure to continue rising daily as more updates roll in," he said.

The figure was 10.33 lakh Monday evening, he added.

Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have been actively engaged in distributing the forms and gathering necessary details, the official said.

More than 80,600 BLOs, along with around 8,000 supervisors, 3,000 Assistant Electoral Registration Officers and 294 Electoral Registration Officers, have been engaged for the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state, he said.





PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 26: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Wednesday hailed West Bengal's rise to the No 2 position in foreign tourist arrivals in the country, saying the state has emerged as one of India's most preferred international destinations.

In a post on X, Banerjee said the 'India Tourism Data Compendium 2025' of the Union Tourism Ministry has placed the state second nationwide in terms of international tourist

"Proud to share that West Bengal has emerged as one of the most favoured international tourist destinations in the country, and has achieved another great milestone!!" she wrote.

According to the report released in September, the country received 2,948.19 million domestic tourists in 2024, a rise of 17.51 per cent over 2,508.82 million visits in the previous year.

Foreign tourist visits touched 20.94 million in 2024, marking an 8.84 per cent increase from

due to delay in paper publication.

As per Original Tender Call Notice vide dentification No.- S.E.M.I.D.Mbj.No.-20/

MID,MBJ//2025-26 Dated 18.11.2025 Identification No.-S.E.M.I.D.Mbj.No.-20/

MID,MBJ//2025-26 Dated 18.11.2025

19.24 million in 2023. Uttar Pradesh (646.81 million) and Tamil Nadu (306.84 million) topped the list of states in terms of domestic tourist foot fall, while Maharashtra (3.71 million) and West Bengal (3.12 million) recorded the highest number of foreign tourist arriv als among all states and Union Territories, the report added.

The CM credited the state's performance to a surge in post-pandemic travel and the government's efforts to develop new tourism segments, includ ing festival tourism, religious tourism and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions).

Welcoming travellers from across India and abroad, Banerjee described West Bengal as "the sweetest part of India' and urged visitors to experience its culture, heritage and natural beauty.

She also thanked tourism industry stakeholders for their "relentless work", calling the recognition a proud moment for the state.

Modification in 2nd Corrigendum to

above tender call notice

May be read as the date of sale

Date of receipt of Bids 05.12.2025

upto 5.00 P.M. Date of opening of

Bid 06.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

Political storm after Babri Masjid posters surface in Murshidabad

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

As many as 166 people lost

their lives and more than 300

were injured after 10 terror-

ists from Pakistan launched

simultaneous attacks in sev-

eral parts of Mumbai on No-

Pakistan-based terrorist group

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) entered

the city via the sea and carried

out a series of coordinated at-

tacks at multiple high-profile

locations, including the Taj

Mahal Palace Hotel, Oberoi

Trident Hotel, Chhatrapati Shi-

vaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT)

railway station, and Nariman

House. The attacks prompted

global condemnation and led

to significant changes in India's

On Wednesday, several peo-

ple also paid homage at CSMT,

Cama and Albless Hospital, and

other locations in Mumbai tar-

geted by the Pakistani terror-

counter-terrorism measures.

The armed militants of the

vember 26, 2008.

New Delhi, Nov 26: Posters announcing the construction of a 'Babri Masjid' have surfaced across West Bengal's Murshidabad district, days after Trinamool Congress MLA Humayun Kabir claimed that a foundation stone would be laid December 6 in Beldanga. The development has sparked intense political reactions.

The initiative is being carried out under the supervision of MLA Humayun Kabir.

Speaking to IANS, the BJP's West Bengal President Samik Bhattacharya condemned the move and alleged that the ruling Trinamool Congress is pushing the state towards instability.

"The entire country is watching how Mamata Banerjee has brought West Bengal to the brink of collapse. If anyone dares to suggest rebuilding the Babri Masjid in India, the nation will not stay silent. The whole country will rise against it," Bhattacharya claimed.

Bihar Minister Nitin Nabin also criticised the announcement, stating, "Those who do not respect the authority of the High Court and still believe in living in the era of Babur should understand that such a mindset has come to an end. Those who continue thinking in that direction will receive a fitting

response in due course.' Recently, Humayun Kabir had reiterated his plans and said several Muslim clerics and community leaders were expect-



ed to attend the ceremony.

"We will lay the foundation stone of the Babri Masjid on December 6 in Beldanga, Murshidabad district. The structure will take approximately three years to complete," he had told reporters.

His announcement immediately revived political and social tensions, given the historical and emotional significance attached to the Babri Masjid dispute.

However, the Trinamool Congress moved quickly to distance itself from Kabir's public declaration. Trinamool Congress MLA Nirmal Ghosh clarified that Kabir's statements were made in a personal capacity and not endorsed by the party.

"His speeches have nothing to do with the party. They are his personal views, and the party does not agree with them. He has crossed the line," Ghosh said.

The BJP escalated its criticism, linking the announcement to appeasement politics. Earlier, November 22, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshay Prasad Maurya reacted sharply to Kabir's statement, es-

Western Express Highway is

being constructed between

Borivali and Gorega-

on, while a bridge

Sewri is be-

connect

ing built to

directly to

the Atal

pecially since the proposed date coincides with the anniversary of the demolition of the original structure in Ayodhya

Speaking to IANS, Maurya had said, "On the land of Bharat, if they believe a foreign invader like Babur — who broke the Ram temple and erected a struc ture — should be honoured. they are deeply mistaken.'

'Babri Masjid was demolished on December 6, 1992, by kar sevaks. Now, no such construction will be allowed on the soil of Bharat," he had added.

VHP spokesperson Vinod Bansal also had criticised Kabir for using the name "Babri," calling it "an insult to national sentiment." He had accused Mamata Banerjee of allegedly encouraging the incident to strengthen what he alleged was her "jihadist vote bank."

The foundation-stone event in Beldanga is scheduled on the same day that Mamata Banerjee and Trinamool national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee are set to address a gathering in Kolkata marking the Babri Mosque demolition anniversary.

OFFICE OF THE DEAN & PRINCIPAL PANDIT RAGHUNATH MURMU MEDICAL COLLEGE

& HOSPITAL. BARIPADA

GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA NO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION. MAYURBHANJ

"e" Procurement Notice No.4336 Dated. 26.11.2025 2ND CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER CALL NOTICE

BID IDENTIFICATION NO.-S.E.M.I.D.Mbj. No.-20/MID,MBJ//2025-26

No.A-994: The tender call notice vide Identification No.- S.E.M.I.D.Mbj.No. 20/MID,MBJ//2025-26 Dated 18.11.2025 of Superintending Engineer, Minor

Irrigation Division, Mayurbhanj has been modified as given in the table below

he date of sale start from 21.11.2025 to l A.M. to 05.12.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.

N.B-Other term and condition same as per DTCN.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer

RANGAMATIA, BARIPADA - 757 107, DISTRICT - MAYURBHANJ, ODISHA Telephone: 06792-240400/01, E-mail: prmmchbaripada@gmail.com NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Reference No. 6231/2025-26/PRMMCH, Baripada// Dated. 25/11/2025

No.E-541: The sealed tenders are invited from the registered firms/publishers for supply of Medical Books, quoting the discount on publisher's price which is to be purchased for the central library of PRM Medical College, Baripada during the financial year 2025-26. The tender papers containing the terms & conditions along with list of Books can be downloaded from the College website www.prmmch.nic.in / DMET website www.dmetodisha.gov.in from 27.11.2025. The last date of submission of bid documents is 17.12.2025 by 5.00 P.M.

Sd./- Dean & Principal.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

KALAHANDI SOUTH DIVISION

Dist-Kalahandi, Odisha, Pin Code:766002 Phone & Tele Fax No.06670-295360 (O) Email ID:dfo.kalahandis

NOTIFICATION

No.MM-302:This is for information of all concerned that the following Forest Roads of Kalahandi South Division will remain closed to traffic on the 31st December, 2025 from "0" (Zero) hours to 24 hours in accordance with rule-284 of Forest Departmen

Code 1979. The movement of Traffic on the date and time specified above will be violation of Section 26 of Odisha Forest Act, 1972 and hence will be liable for

Name of the Ranges	Name of the Forest Road	Length in Km		
Karlapat Sanctuary Range	01.Jugsaipatna-Ghatikutru	9.5 Km		
	02.Ghatikutru- Bijepur	3.0 Km		
	03.Ghatikutru- Madanguda	3.0 Km		
	04.Madanguda-Titjhula	2.5 Km		
	05.Sagada- Deodhar	9.5 Km		
	06.Karlapat-Ghatikutru	1.5 Km		
	07.Jakam-Karlapat	9.5 Km		
Junagarh Range	08.Banamalipur-Kiapadar	15.0 Km		
Dharmagarh Range	09.Ampani- Badkutru	21.0 Km		
Jaipatna Range	10.Dhansuli- Benakhamar	5.5 Km		
Th.Rampur South Range	11.Kalampur-Singari	8.5 Km		
Biswanathpur Range	12.Biswanathpur-Bijepur	42.0 Km		
	13.Khiksabhata- Bhurty	14.5 Km		
	14.Kadamguda-Amthapada	9.5 Km		
	15.Bandhapari- Bhatguda	9.5 Km		
	16.Nachniguda- Bankuli	3.7 Km		
	17.Silet- Віјериг	7.4 Km		
	Total	175.10 Km		
Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer				
OIPR-	Kalahandi South Division			

'PATAAL LOK'

Underground tunnels anchor Mumbai's traffic revolution plan to construct a city-wide km per hour, significantly cut-"A new road parallel to the CM said, a tunnel is being

NDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 26: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis recently announced a comprehensive plan to make Mumbai "traffic-free" in the next three years by building a network of underground tunnels and parallel roads

Members of the West Bengal Recognised Un-Aided Madrasah Teachers'

Association take part in a protest rally demanding government aid, in

The Chief Minister described the city's upcoming underground road system as a 'pataal lok' (underworld) during a Bharatiya Janata Party 'Youth Connect' interaction programme, asserting it would permanently ease commuter congestion.

Fadnavis said that the government has a comprehensive

web of tunnels and parallel routes alongside chronically choked roads, relieving pressure on existing arteries. He confirmed that building this system of underground corridors will make Mumbai free of chronic traffic snarls in the coming years.

The Chief Minister pointed out that approximately 60 per cent of Mumbai's traffic load currently runs along the Western Express Highway, and reducing this burden is central to any viable solution.

Parallel roads are being built to address this, with new corridors being designed to permit vehicle speeds up to 80

ting bottlenecks, in contrast to the current average speed of about 20 km per hour which drops to 15 km per hour during the peak hours

in the city, he said. Fadnavis said that an underground tunnel is cur-

rently under construction between Thane and Borivali, with another planned between Mulund and Goregaon to significantly boost east-west connectivity in Mumbai.

from Worli to The ambitious infrastructure project aims to transform **Mumbai's transportation** landscape and provide long-term relief from the city's notorious traffic problems within the next three years

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS CM, MAHARASHTRA port via the coastal road," he noted.

Setu, allowing people from the suburbs to reach Navi Mumbai International Air-

On the eastern side, the

constructed from the point where the Eastern Freeway ends, targeting its completion within three years. "This underground stretch will run up to Girgaum Chowpatty and is expected to substantially ease congestion in south Mumbai,' he added.

Fadnavis further said that another tunnel is being developed from the Bandra-Worli Sea Link toward the Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) to relieve traffic, which will be extended up to the airport. "This extension will reduce travel time from south Mumbai to the airport to a maximum of about 20 min-

utes," he claimed.

national



Federal, unitary, written, non-written **Constitutions are there in** the world. Ours is a written **Constitution. No other** country has as many castes and religions as our country. Therefore, Ambedkar gave a Constitution that is acceptable to this land SIDDARAMAIA | K'TAKA CM

OPERATION KAWACH 11.0

Delhi Police has carried out a citywide crackdown under 'Operation Kawach 11.0', arresting over 2000 persons in several cases, ahead of the MCD bypolls, officials said Wednesday



happiness in everyone's life, I am not keen on lavish celebrations, Instead. I will be satisfied if you hold functions that combine policy work and public service for the

people of Tamil Nadu UDHAYANIDHI | TN DY CM

A self-reliant village will lead to a self-reliant district, state and nation. A self-reliant India will take us closer to the vision of a developed India

YOGI ADITYANATH UTTAR PRADESH CM

India, the world's largest democ-

racy, has been moving forward with faith in the constitution. The

constitution gives every citizen the right to express their views freely and ensures freedom of expression. The rise of ordinary citizens to positions like MLA and MP is a result of the constitution's liberal, inclusive, and democratic system

VISHNU DEO SAI | CHHATTISGARH CM

SHORT **TAKES**

41 Naxals surrender in Ch'garh's Bijapur

Bijapur: Forty one Naxalites. 32 of them collectively carrying a reward of RS 1.19 crore on their heads, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district Wednesday. The cadres. including 12 women, turned themselves in before senior police officials here, citing they were impressed by the government's new surrender and rehabilitation policy and "Poona Margham" (rehabilitation for social reintegration drive of Bastar range police), police said.

Truck crashes into road roller; 4 killed

Sabarkantha (Gujarat): Three workers and an engineer were killed after a speeding truck crashed into overbridge in Gujarat's Sabarkantha district shortly after midnight Wednesday, police said. The accident occurred opposite a hotel near Motipura industrial area, they said. The truck rammed into a road roller engaged in repair work on a national highway, as per the FIR lodged at the A Division police station.

Court issues notice to CBI on Rabri's plea

New Delhi: A Delhi court Wednesday sought a response from the CBI on a plea filed by former Bihar chief minister Rabri Devi seeking transfer of the IRCTC hotel scam case to a different judge. Principal and Sessions Judge Dinesh Bhatt was hearing the plea of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and issued the notice to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

AP: US-based devotee donates ₹9cr to TTD

Tirupati: A US-based devotee donated ₹9 crore to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams Wednesday, temple body chairman B R Naidu said. M Ramalinga Raju contributed the amount for the renovation of the PAC-1, PAC-2, and PAC-3 buildings.

17 girls rescued

Rohtas (Bihar): A total of 17 girls were rescued in Bihar's Rohtas district Wednesday, police said. Acting on a tip-off, police conducted a raid in Bardiha village in Nasriganj police station area, Bikramganj ASP Sanket Kumar told reporters.

Top court raps Haryana govt for cutting trees for BJP office road

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 26: Terming it "pathetic", the Supreme Court pulled up the Haryana government and its urban development body on Wednesday for the uprooting of 40 fully-grown trees to build an accessible road to a newly-constructed BJP office in Karnal, and sought a remedial action plan, warning them of being "taken to task".

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan was hearing a petition filed by a 1971-war veteran, challenging the dismissal of his plea at the high court on May 3 against the arbitrary allocation of a plot in a residential area to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Haryana and later, the construction of an access road for its office by uprooting 40 fully-grown trees situated in a green area.

"It is pathetic that you uprooted fully-grown trees. Why and what happened to these trees? What is your explanation for this? Why can't you get the office of the political party shifted to some other location?" the bench asked Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee, who appeared in the matter for the Haryana government.

Banerjee said the required permissions were taken for allotment and all green norms followed.

Constitution Day: Oppn slams RSS, BJP

New Delhi, Nov 26: The Opposition Wednesday accused the RSS, BJP of attacking and undermining the Constitution, claiming that the Centre is taking forward this agenda by "subverting constitutional principles" and "bulldozing'

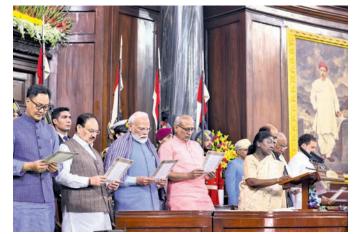
Chief ministers of states ruled by Opposition parties vowed to uphold true federalism and protect the rights of every state.

Attacking the RSS-BJP on Constitution Day, the Congress alleged that the Sangh's role was to attack and undermine it, and that role had been taken forward by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, "who have been subverting constitutional principles in a calculated manner". Congress president Mallikar-

jun Kharge accused the government of damaging institutions and disrespecting the Constitution, claiming their current reverence for it is a mere pretence and sham, as they never made any contribution in its

Asserting that the Constitution is the protective shield of the poor, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi urged people to pledge that "we will not allow any attack" on the Constitution and said he will be the first to stand up against any assault on it.

The Constitution is the pro-



President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President CP Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union Ministers JP Nadda, Kiren Rijiju and others during the Constitution Day celebrations at Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, in New Delhi

tective shield of the poor and the deprived, their strength, and the voice of every citizen, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

In a post in Hindi, Kharge said, "Today, Mr. Modi lectures us on the dangers of colonisation, but these very people belong to the same ideology who, during the freedom struggle and the national movement, never stood with the people of this country for even a minute, but instead they served British subjugation.

Kharge alleged that it is they who burnt copies of the Constitution and now they go and offer flowers at Babasaheb's statue, saying, "this is the greatest victory for India's Constitution and our forebears"

He said Ambedkar and Jawaharlal Nehru, in collaboration with the Constituent Assembly, not only crafted the Constitution but also built an India where democracy reigns supreme.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh alleged that the RSS "had no role whatsoever" in the making of the Constitution.

"In fact, its role after the Constitution was adopted was to attack and undermine it, a role taken forward by the present PM and HM who have been subverting Constitutional principles, provisions,

BASKETBALL TRAGEDY

of states ruled by **Opposition parties** vowed to uphold true federalism and protect the rights of every state

and practices in a calculated manner," the Congress leader charged. At an event on Constitution Day, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee alleged the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was aimed at implementing the NRC "through the backdoor", and creating fear among the ordinary people.

In a post on X earlier in the day, the TMC chief said that when democracy is at stake, secularism is in an "endangered situation", and federalism is "being bulldozed"; people must protect the valuable guidance that the Constitution provides.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK leader M K Stalin assured that he would do everything to uphold true federalism as enshrined in the Constitution and protect the rights of every state.

Karnataka Chief Minister and Congress leader Siddaramaiah urged people to identify 'anti-constitutional Manuwadis' who favour the 'Manusmriti' over the Constitution.

MEA blasts Pak over Ram Mandir remark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 26: India Wednesday strongly rejected Pakistan's criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's participation at a ceremony in Ayodhya's Ram temple and said the neighbouring coun try, with a deeply strained record of repression of minorities, has no moral standing to lecture others.

"We have seen the reported remarks and reject them with the contempt they deserve. As a country with a deeply stained record of bigotry, repression, and systemic mistreatment of its minorities," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"Pakistan has no moral standing to lecture others. Rather than delivering hyp ocritical homilies. Pakistan would do better to turn its gaze inwards and focus on its own abysmal human rights record, he said.

Pakistan had criticised Modi's participation at the flag hoisting ceremony at the Ram temple Tuesday that marked the formal completion of its construction. The Pakistan foreign office

expressed "deep concern" over the ceremony and referred to construction of the temple at the site of the Babri Mosque and alleged that it is a reflection of pressure on religious minorities in India.

NHRC notice to Railways over trains 'only serving halal meat'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 26: The NHRC has issued a notice to the Railways over a complaint that "only halal-processed meat" in served in trains, which creates an "unfair discrimination" and amounts to 'violations of human rights"

The complaint has further alleged that the practice in Indian Railways trains excludes people from Hindu Dalit communities, who traditionally work in the meat trade and therefore harms their livelihood rights and equal opportunities. There was no immediate reaction from the railway authorities.

The National Human Rights Commission, in proceedings related to a case in the matter dated November 24, has said that the allegations made in the complaint prima facie seem to be violations of human rights.

The NHRC said as the practice of selling only halal meat "badly affects" the livelihood of Hindu Scheduled Caste communities and other non-Muslim communities, the railway being a government agency should respect the right to

choice of food of people all religious faith "as per the secular spirit of the Constitution A bench of the NHRC, pre-

sided by its member Priyank Kanoongo, has taken cognisance of the complaint by Sunil Ahirwar from Bhopal under section 12 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

"The registry is directed to issue a notice to the Chairman, Railway Board, New Delhi, with directions to get the allegations made in the complaint inquired into, and to submit an action taken report within two weeks for perusal of the Commission," it said.

According to the proceedings of the case, the complainant has alleged that the "Indian Railways serves only halal-processed meat in non-vegetarian meals, which creates unfair discrimination and causes human-rights violations"

The complainant also alleged that "Hindu and Sikh passengers do not get food options that match their religious beliefs, affecting their freedom of choice and religious rights which violates their rights to equality, non-discrimination, freedom of profession, right to life with dignity and religious freedom under Articles 14, 15, 19(1)(g), 21 and 25 of the Constitution...

He said it is "contrary to the principles laid down in cases of Olga Tellis (1985), Indian Young Lawvers Association (2018), State of Karnataka v. Appa Balu Ingale (1995) and NHRC v. State of Gujarat

2 players killed as iron poles collapse on court

Chandigarh, Nov 26: A junior national level basketball player and another teen died in eeripractice in Haryana after the basketball hoop's iron pole fell on them, the twin tragedies put ting a spotlight on crumbling sports infrastructure in the state, police said Wednesday.

While 16-year-old Hardik Rathi, who had taken part in the national sub-junior bas ketball championship, died in Rohtak Tuesday, Aman, one year younger, breathed his last

The incidents, which came to light Wednesday, led to outrage with Opposition parties slamming the BJP-led state government and anguished family members joining them in blaming the establishment for dilapidated sports infrastructure. Hardik's death was captured in vivid detail on CCTV cameras. The footage showed the youngster reaching for the hoop. As soon as he attempts to hang from it, the pole collapses and crushes him under it.

Khadak Singh, Hardik's elder brother, said the condition of the iron pole had been brought to the notice of the officials on multiple occasions but nothing was done to fix it.

Haryana's Minister of State for Sports Gaurav Gautam



16-year-old national-level killed by collapsing iron pole in Rohtak

Outrage grows as 15-year-old boy dies in Bahadurgarh, two days after similar tragedy in Rohtak

told reporters in Ambala that a high-level probe will be held and anyone found responsible for the sad and unfortunate incident will face action

"We have suspended the district sports officer," he said when asked about Hardik's death. On Sunday, Aman went to a basketball court in the premises of a government school for practice. He was critically injured after an iron pole fell on him and died at PGIMS Rohtak during treatment Monday night, SHO (City) Dinkar Yaday said.

'We came to know that the pole was not in good shape and some children had climbed it and it fell," said Jhajjar District Sports Officer Satender He also claimed that Con-

gress MP Deepender Hooda got two grounds built in the village, and in 2023 sanctioned ₹11 lakh from his MPLADS funds but the officials concerned sat over it and did not repair the basketball pole. Those who witnessed Hardik's accident were traumatised. Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda said the Congress demands an impartial, high-level investigation into this matter and strict action against the "culprits".

Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala termed Hardik's death a murder by the system, and not an accident. Haryana is known as India's sporting powerhouse. Its players bring in a rich haul of international tournaments

SC: SIR not held earlier no ground to challenge it

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 26: The Supreme Court Wednesday said the argument that the special intensive revision of electoral rolls was never conducted be fore in the country cannot be used to examine the validity of the Election Commission's deci sions to carry out this exercise

Commencing final hearing on a clutch of petitions challenging the validity of the EC's decisions to carry out the revi sion of electoral rolls in sever al states, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said the poll panel has "inherent power to determine correctness of entry in Form 6"

Form 6 has to be filled up by a person to register himself or herself as a voter. The bench al so reiterated that the Aadhaar card does not "confer absolute proof of citizenship and that is why we said it will be one of the documents among the list of documents... If any one is deleted they will have to be given a notice of deletion". "Aadhaar is a creation of statute for availing benefits. Just because a person was granted Aadhaar for ration, should he be made a voter also? Suppose someone belongs to a neighbouring country and works as a labourer," the CJI said. The bench did not seem in agreement with a particular submission and said. "You are saving the Election Commission is a post office which must accept the Form 6 submitted and include your name.

Country has right to bring back offenders evading law: SC

The Supreme Court refused to stop the extradition of a fugitive facing 153 cases, stating that the country has full authority to bring back offenders hiding abroad. The court made it clear that escaping to foreign nations will not shield criminals from Indian law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 26: The country has a right to bring back offenders who are evading law, the Supreme Court said Wednesday as it refused to entertain a plea by a man seeking withdrawal of a request made to the United Arab Emirates for his extradition.

According to authorities, 153 cases are registered against petitioner Vijay Murlidhar Udhwani, who had travelled to Dubai in July 2022 and is alleged to be involved in organ-

ised illegal activities of bootleg-

ging and other offences.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta was hearing a plea filed by Udhwani, against whom a red corner notice was also issued, challenging an order of the Gujarat High Court. The high court had dismissed his plea, which sought a direction to the authorities to cancel the red corner notice issued against him and also to withdraw the extradition request made to the United Arab Emirates for his extradition.

"There are multiple offences... You come back. You will



be given a red carpet welcome, tion offences were registered the bench told the counsel apagainst the petitioner, but he pearing for the petitioner. The does not know the details of counsel argued that 38 prohibieven one of them.

he has not come back. "The country has a right to bring back offenders who are evading the law," the bench said. It said the petitioner can approach the concerned trial court and apply for certified

When he said the petitioner

had gone to Dubai in July 2022,

the bench said that since then,

copies of documents of cases lodged against him. "It is not rocket science.

There is also a warrant of arrest against you," the bench said. It referred to the records of the high court in the matter

and said some details of the cas-

said, "You want the FIR details to be served to you on a platter

es were mentioned in it.

When the counsel said the

petitioner was not given the

details of these FIRs, the bench

in Dubai? You come here. They will provide you the details with full fanfare". The counsel said the petitioner wants to come back to India, but he does not have his passport with him. "They (authorities) will bring you," the bench said. The counsel claimed that one of the co-accused in the case had died in custody, but the police said it was a natural death.

national



It is unfortunate that **Sardar Patel's role** in nation-building did not receive due recognition after Independence

BHAJANLAL SHARMA | RAJASTHAN CM

KUNAL KAMRA SPARKS ROW

Comedian Kunal Kamra kicked up a fresh controversy after he shared a photo on social media wearing a T-shirt that allegedly mocked the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), inviting strong reaction from the BJP, which Tuesday warned of police action



Nehru-Gandhi family conspired and meted out injustice to great a significant contribution to the Indian freedom struggle, and it worked towards wiping out their legacy. These great men include Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Neta

ji Subhash Chandra Bose MOHAN YADAV | MADHYA PRADESH CM

We will explore permanent solutions to the problems of Kona seema coconut

farmers within 45 days. After Sankranti, we will come forward with an action plan PAWAN KALYAN | ANDHRA DY CM

I urge every citizen, especially our youth, to uphold the ideals of the Constitution in daily life and contribute to a stronger, more

inclusive society

PREM SINGH TAMANG | SIKKIM CHIEF MINISTER



Massive claims by Venezuela Media > A plane loaded of 1825 live animals of 62 different species left Venezuela on

> The export was invoiced to organisations linked with Vantara > By 2024, 5359 wild animals were exported from Venezuela to Vantara

Fun Fact - Venezuela Media is exposing their Govt while Indian Media is completely silent. Why? @mr_mayank

GRAP Stage-3 curbs

revoked in Delhi-NCR

New Delhi: The Commission

for Air Quality Management

restrictions under the Graded

Response Action Plan (GRAP)

quality showed improvement

in the last three days. Delhi's

24-hour average Air Quality

index (AOI) stood at 327

and forecasts by the India

Meteorological Department

(IMD) and Indian Institute of

Tropical Meteorology suggest

that the air will remain in the

Six arrested for raping

minor, stripping friend

"very poor" category.

in Delhi-NCR, after the air

(CAQM) on Wednesday

revoked the Stage-3

SHORT **TAKES**

Cabinet clears ₹7,280cr rare-earth magnet push

New Delhi, Nov 26: The government Wednesday approved a ₹7,280 crore scheme to promote manufacturing of rare earth permanent magnets, a move which would help reduce India's dependence on China.

Rare earth magnets are vital for a number of sectors like electric vehicles, renewable energy, electronics, aerospace, and defence applications. The 'Scheme to Promote

Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMs)' was approved at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra

"The scheme will promote manufacturing of rare earth permanent magnets. The aim is to create capacity of 6,000 MT-PA (metric tonne per annum),' Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters here.

The scheme will support the creation of integrated manufacturing facilities, involving conversion of rare earth oxides to metals, metals to alloys, and alloys to finished magnets.

It envisions allocating the total capacity to five beneficiaries through a global competitive bidding process. Each beneficiary will be allotted up to 1,200 MTPA capacity. The minister said that the detailed guidelines will be released soon.

The total duration of the scheme will be seven years from the date of award, including a 2-year gestation period for setting up an integrated magnets manufacturing facility, and 5 years for incentive disbursement on the sale of the product.

The total financial outlay of the scheme is ₹7,280 crore, comprising a sales-linked incentives of ₹6.450 crore on REPM



Govt clears ₹2.781-cr rail plan for Gui. Maha

NEW DELHI: The government Wednesday approved doubling of the Dwarka-Kanalus rail line in Gujarat and building third and fourth lines between Badlapur and Karjat in Mumbai metropolitan region. A meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the two projects with a total cost of ₹2,781 crore, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters here. The Devbhumi Dwarka (Okha)-Kanalus rail line will improve connectivity to the Dwarkadhish temple, a key pilgrimage site, and transportation of commodities such as coal, salt, container, and cement.

sales for five years and capital subsidy of ₹750 crore for setting up 6,000 MTPA of REPM manufacturing facilities.

Each beneficiary will be allotted up to 1,200 MTPA of capacity.

Driven by the rapidly growing demand from electric vehicles, renewable energy, industrial applications, and consumer electronics, India's consumption of REPMs is expected to double by 2030 from

At present, India's demand

for these goods is met primarily

through imports from countries

including China. "With this initiative, India will establish its first ever integrated REPM manufacturing facilities, generating employment, strengthening self-reliance," an official statement said.

This initiative is a step to ward strengthening the domestic REPM manufacturing ecosystem and enhancing competitiveness in the global markets.

By fostering indigenous capabilities in REPM production, the scheme will secure the REPM supply chain for domestic industries, it added.

The announcement is important as restrictions imposed by China, who is the major supplier of these magnets, has created shortage and impacted manufacturing in sectors such as automobiles and electronics.

China controls over 90 per cent of the global processing capacity for magnets, used across multiple sectors including automobiles, home appliances and clean energy.

The Chinese government has put restrictions, with effect from April 4, mandating special export licences for seven rare earth elements and related magnets.

Trade unions stage protests against new labour codes

New Delhi, Nov 26: Indian trade unions held protests across the country Wednesday as workers staged marches and meetings against four new labour codes, which the government says are the biggest overhaul of workplace rules in decades.

Demonstrations were held in states including Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, and the national capital New Delhi, with unions saying turnout was strong in public-sector units, coal fields. transport and some auto and textile hubs.

Banks and markets operated normally and there was no nationwide shutdown. However, unions said the protests marked the start of a longer campaign to try to block some of the changes

While the rules took effect on Friday, five years after being passed by parliament, the full rollout hinges on how quickly states notify and implement their rules, legal experts said.

Ten trade unions, mostly aligned with opposition parties. have denounced the package as "anti-worker" and "pro-employer", accusing the federal government of pushing it through without proper consultation and weakening job security. collective bargaining and work place protections.

The labour codes merge 29 federal laws covering wages, industrial relations, social security and workplace safety.

They allow companies with up to 300 employees to make redundancies without prior approval and recognise fixedterm contracts, giving employers more flexibility.

The government says the codes will also set a yet-to-be determined national minimum wage, extend social security to gig workers, simplify compliance and attract investment.

NRC real intent behind SIR, alleges Mamata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 26: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday alleged that the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was aimed at implementing the NRC "through the backdoor", and creating fear among the ordinary people.

Speaking to reporters after garlanding the statue of B R Ambedkar in Red Road area on the occasion of Constitution Day, Baneriee alleged that the fundamental rights were under threat. "I am observing with sorrow

that people's voting rights are being taken away, their religious rights are being taken away. Attacks are being made using vile language, and no one is being spared, not even Dalits, minorities or the common Hindu voters," she said, with a copy of the Constitution in her hand.

"NRC (National Register of Citizens) is the real intent behind this. We are shocked and saddened. This is why I take the pledge here today to protect India's democracy," she added.

Interacting with reporters, the CM claimed that people of the state were distressed by the SIR exercise. The CM questioned the role

of the Election Commission. alleging that fear and pressure have been created in the name of SIR, leading to the deaths of several BLOs, not just in West Bengal but across India. On the demonstration by the

BLOs outside the CEO's office, Banerjee said, "BLOs are perishing under work pressure not just in West Bengal but also in states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhva Pradesh. Kerala and Tamil Nadu. I think that the demands of these officers are just and legitimate. Why did they have to sit for 48 hours to get an audience with the CEO? Is there no value in their time?

Maintaining that BLOs are facing server issues that are stopping them from uploading voters' data in a timely manner Banerjee reiterated the need to plan the SIR exercise for a period of three years instead of the current two-month deadline.

"After waiting outside for two days, they first called one rep resentative inside. Upon police request, they later called two more. Why this show of arrogance? Do people have the right to register their complaints or not?" she asked.

On the issue of BLOs' deaths allegedly due to the work pressure, Banerjee said, "We have the records of all the deaths. Who is responsible for the deaths of BLOs in BJP-ruled Gujarat and MP? Why are they rushing the SIR? They are threatening the BLOs, saying their jobs will be taken away Who will save your jobs when you are threatening others?"

On the EC allowing only four members of the TMC for a meeting on November 28 amid protests over SIR in West Bengal, Banerjee said, "They (EC) are not meeting more than four representatives from our end We have said that we will send a 10-member delegation. Will they decide now who they will meet?

PROTEST OVER POOR FOOD, WATER QUALITY

MP: Students torch VIT campus, vehicles



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sehore (MP), Nov 26: Students at VIT in Madhva Pradesh's Sehore district staged a violent protest, vandalising and setting fire to the college campus and vehicles over the alleged "poor" quality of food and water, which they claimed was causing jaundice, officials said Wednesday.

During the arson, which erupted late Tuesday night, a bus, two four-wheelers, an ambulance, hostel window panes, an RO plant, and other parts of the campus were damaged, as per the eyewitnesses and videos circulated on social media.

Nearly 3,000 to 4,000 students protested on the Vellore Institute of Technology's (VIT)

Sehore campus over the quality of food and water, a police official said. After being alerted, the sub-divisional officer of police, Ashta and security personnel from several police stations rushed to the college campus,

The personnel held detailed discussions with the students, listened to their concerns, and assured them of necessary action to resolve the problems. Ashta SDOP Akash Amalkar stated that the situation at the college and on the hostel campus was currently under control.



Sukhoi Su-30 MKI and Rafale aircraft during the 8th edition of the bilateral air exercise 'Garuda 2025' between the

CAG to audit ease of living in 101 cities from 2026-27

Hyderabad, Nov 26: CAG K Sanjay Murthy Wednesday said a specific audit would be conducted across 101 cities. examining ease of living in areas such as housing and water supply, starting with the next annual audit plan in 2026-27.

It will continue progressiveyears, he added.

ic audit focused on 101 cities, which will examine ease of living in different aspects. It could be on mobility, housing, or water supply," Murthy told reporters.

speaking after launching the Centre of Excellence for Financial Audit (Co-EFA) here.

through short studies to ensure a fair assessment of the progress made by cities in developing infrastructure and provid-

"This will roll out from the



The audit will be carried out through short studies to ensure a fair assessment of the progress made by cities in developing infrastructure

ease of living. On the use of digital tools like AI, Murthy said the CAG has

Centre of Excellence in Digital volumes of data.

able there. This functions more

area of financial auditing.

replicated across the department," he said. Murthy noted that under

the Digital India programme,

governments have digitised

most processes, creating a centralised repository of data. "In view of this, it is apt that the CAG leverages the skills and knowledge developed in

revenue audits and ERP audits." he added. To further strengthen its skillsets, the CAG has tied up with IIT Madras to train more than 5,000 officers in AI, data analytics, and cybersecurity, which are critical for the future. The CoEFA will integrate

financial auditing into this

skillset, he said. Murthy said the CoEFA, established under the Director General of the National Academy of Audit and Accounts (NAAA). Shimla, will enhance the academy's capabilities in the crucial

According to a press release, CoEFA has been launched to realise the CAG's vision of creating a knowledge-driven platform to transform financial auditing in the public sector. covering Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs), Autonomous Bodies (ABs), and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

The release added that the vision of CoEFA is "to be recognised as a Centre of Excellence for Financial Audit of PSEs, ABs, and ULBs by effectively combining digital innovation with human expertise and institutional experience evolving into a world-class centre for audit research, analytical insights, and capacity development.

On the occasion, a Framework Agreement was signed between CoEFA and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to foster institutional collaboration in training, research, and joint publications in financial auditing, PSE financial analysis, audits of ABs, and ULB accounts.

Daughter-in-law of pan masala baron dies by suicide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 26: The daughter-in-law of Kamal Kishor Chaurasia, the owner of Kamla Pasand pan masala, allegedly died by suicide at her south Delhi residence, police said Wednesday.

Deepti Chaurasia, 38, was found hanging by her husband at her in-laws house Tuesday, they said.

Police sources said that a diary has been recovered from her room, which allegedly contained multiple references to frequent disputes with her husband. The couple had been living in two separate houses due to ongoing disputes, a po-

lice officer said. Deepti's brother Rishab, while speaking to reporters, has also raised questions about his brother-in-law's conduct.

The family's lawyer, how ever, said reports of marital discord are "baseless" and underscored that there were no allegations in the "suicide

Deepti, a homemaker, got married in 2010. She is survived by two children.

"On November 25, at about 12 pm, information was received at Vasant Vihar Police Station regarding the suicide of one female aged 38 years The Vasant Vihar resident al legedly hanged herself in the dressing room of her house, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) Amit Goel said in an official statement.

She was taken to the hospi tal, where she was declared dead, the officer said, adding that the body was shifted to Safdarjung Hospital's mor-

The crime team inspected the spot and statements were recorded. A post-mortem examination was conducted by the board of doctors and the body was handed over to the family, he added. Inquest proceedings are underway.

Kolkata: Six men were arrested on the charge of sexually assaulting a minor girl, stripping her friend and recording the act on a mobile phone in a place near Kolkata, a senior police officer said Wednesday. The alleged

crimes happened on November 20, and the arrests were made Tuesday. "Two class 8 girls from Narendrapur had gone out together when they met a group of young men known to them. The suspects allegedly took them on motorcycles to several locations, including a garage and an unoccupied house, before moving them to a rented

Orry appears before **Mumbai Police**

accommodation," he said.

Mumbai: Bollywood socialite and influencer Orhan Awatramani alias Orry Wednesday appeared before Mumbai Police to record his statement in a drug seizure case, an official said. Orry arrived at the Ghatkopar unit of the Anti Narcotics Cell (ANC) of police around 1.30 pm, the official said.

ly over the next three to four "We will conduct a specif-

He was

The audit will be carried out

ing services, he said.

next annual audit plans in

2026-27 and will continue progressively over the next three to four years," Murthy added when asked if there is a proposal to assess major cities on

facilities such as the Centre for

Data Management and Analyt-

ics (CDMA) in Delhi and the

Audit of Revenue (CEDAR) in Bengaluru, which analyse large "The entire GST data is avail-

like a concurrent audit that already happens. The analysis is done, the audit is conducted in real time, and feedback is provided. This capability is being

'The centre will focus on delivering faster and more efficient financial audits using technology," he said.

international



Moscow's proposals regarding the New **START** nuclear arms control treaty are designed to prevent negative global scenarios

AMBEDKAR'S BUST UNVEILED AT **UNESCO HEADQUARTERS IN PARIS**

A bust of B R Ambedkar was unveiled at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris on the occasion of Constitution Day Wednesday, a top Indian diplomat said. The bust was unveiled by Vishal V Sharma, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO, in the presence of UNESCO Director General Khaled El-Enany



Israel returns 15

more Palestinian

Khan Younis, Nov 26: Isra-

el handed over the bodies of

15 Palestinians Wednesday, a

day after Hamas returned the remains of an Israeli hostage

This is the latest exchange as

part of a US-brokered ceasefire

reached last month, whose first

The remains of two hostages

phase is coming to an end.

bodies to Gaza

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tionship, the new prime minister and myself, she's very smart, she's

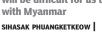


she's going to be a great leader DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, USA

Since pressure remains the only language Russia responds to, we will continue to increase it until there is a genuine willingness to engage



circumstanc es and the fact that the elections will be held when they haven't had the needed inclusive dialogue yet, it will be difficult for us to re-engage



FOREIGN MINISTER, THAILAND

SHORT **TAKES**

Schoolgirls abducted from Kebbi rescued

Lagos: All 24 schoolgirls who were abducted by armed assailants from a school last week in Kebbi in northwestern Nigeria have been rescued, the country's president announced Tuesday. The girls were abducted November 17, and police at the time had said 25 were taken, but a statement Tuesday quoted President Bola Tinubu as saying that all 24 of the students who had been abducted were rescued. No details were released about the rescue mission.

Oz bans social media for kids

Melbourne: The Australian government said young children will be banned from social media next month as scheduled despite a rights advocacy group Wednesday challenging the world-first legislation in court. The Sydney-based Digital Freedom Project said it had filed a constitutional challenge in the High Court Wednesday to a law due to take effect December 10 banning Australian children younger than 16 from holding accounts on specified platforms.

Direct flights between Pak, B'desh from Dec

Lahore: Direct flights between Pakistan and Bangladesh will begin from next month, a significant leap in strengthening connectivity between the two countries, Dhaka's top diplomat said here Wednesday. There has been no direct flight between Pakistan and Bangladesh for the last several years. As relations between the two countries improved this year, two Pakistani private airlines have recently received approval for direct flights. "Mahan Air will start three weekly flights between Dhaka and Karachi from next month," Bangladesh's High Commissioner in Islamabad, Igbal Hussain Khan, told businessmen at Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) here.

Lebanon, Cyprus inksea border deal

Beirut: Lebanon and Cyprus signed a long-delayed sea border agreement Wednesday, ending an almost 20-year impasse that had stalled some oil and gas exploration in the Mediterranean Sea, as Europe seeks alternatives to Russian fuel. Lebanese President Joseph Aoun and Cypriot counterpart Nikos Christodoulides signed the agreement at the Baabda presidential palace outside the Lebanese capital, Beirut, finalising an initial deal first inked in 2007.

HASINA EXTRADITION BYDESH AWAITS BYDESH AWAITS INDIA'S REPLY To li rises to 36 HASINA EXTRADITION BYDESH AWAITS INDIA'S REPLY To be a great leader



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hong Kong, Nov 26: Hong Kong's deadliest fire in years blazed late into the night Wednesday as the city's leader confirmed at least 36 people, including a firefighter, had died and another 279 people were reported missing.

Hundreds of residents were evacuated as the blaze spread across seven high-rise apartment buildings in a housing complex in Tai Po district, a suburb in the New Territories. At least 29 others remained hospitalised. "Police and the Fire Services Department have already set up a dedicated investigation team to investigate the cause of the fire," John Lee, Hong Kong's chief executive, said.

He said the fire was "coming under control" shortly past midnight. Chinese leader Xi Jinping Wednesday expressed condolences to the firefighter who died and extended sympathies to the families of the victims, according to state broadcaster CCTV. He also urged efforts to minimise casualties and losses. The housing complex consisted of eight buildings with almost 2,000 apartments housing about 4,800 residents,

including many elderly people. The housing complex was built in the 1980s and has recently been undergoing a major ren-

ovation.

Fire chiefs said high temperatures at the scene made it difficult for crews to mount rescue operations. It was not immediately known how the fire started, but officials said the fire started at the external scaffolding of one of the buildings, a 32-storey tower, and later spread to inside the building and then to nearby buildings, likely aided by windy conditions.

 \boldsymbol{A} column of flames and thick smoke rose as the blaze spread quickly on bamboo scaffolding and construction netting that had been set up around the exterior of the buildings. About 900 people were evacuated to temporary shelters. Multiple buildings close to each other were set ablaze, with bright flames and smoke shooting out of windows as night fell. Authorities said that hundreds of firefighters, police officers and paramedics were deployed. Firefighters aimed water at the intense flames from high up on ladder trucks.

The blaze, which started

■ Fire is deadliest since 1996 Kowloon blaze killed 41

- Several residential high-rise towers engulfed in flames
- Bamboo scaffolding, which is being phased out, fanned fire
- Tragedy could stoke resentment ahead of a city election

mid-afternoon, was upgraded a level 5 alarm - the highest level of severity - as night fell. Authorities said that conditions remained very challenging for firefighters.

The fire department said that it received "numerous" calls requesting assistance. It said some residents remained trapped as of Wednesday night. Firefighters deployed more than 140 fire trucks and more than 60 ambulances to the scene.

The dead included a 37-yearold firefighter, while another received treatment for heat exhaustion, Director of Fire Services Andy Yeung said.

District officials in Tai Po have opened temporary shelters for people left homeless by the fire. Tai Po is a suburban area in the New Territories, in the northern part of Hong Kong and near the border with the mainland Chinese city of Shenzhen. Bamboo scaffolding is a common sight in Hong Kong at building construction and renovation projects, though the government said earlier this year that it would start phasing it out for public projects because of safety concerns.

The fire is the deadliest in Hong Kong in years. In November 1996, 41 people died in a commercial building in Kowloon in a level 5 fire that lasted for around 20 hours



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Nov 26: Bangladesh said India gave "no reply" to its earlier request seeking the extradition of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, but Dhaka now expects a response from New Delhi as the "situation is different now" with the judicial process completed and the former premier convicted, Wednesday.

The interim government led by Muhammad Yunus last week had sent an "official letter" to India seeking the extradition of 78-year-old Hasina after a special tribunal sentenced her to death November 17 for committing "crimes against humanity".

Foreign Affairs Adviser M Touhid Hossain told reporters that the government is awaiting India's reply to its latest request to extradite Hasina.

"I do not expect that they (India) will answer within a week of Dhaka's request, but we expect we will get an answer," he said. Hossain said Bangladesh had earlier requested India to return Hasina but received "no reply" However, he said, "the situa-

tion is different now" as the judicial process is complete and she has been convicted.

Hossain said the formal extradition request was conveyed through the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi fol-

'Examining request'

New Delhi: India Wednesday said it is examining a request by Bangladesh to extradite former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and that it is committed to ensure the best interests of the people of that country. "The request is being examined as part of ongoing judicial and internal legal processes," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. We remain committed to the best interests of the people of Bang-ladesh, including peace, democracy, inclusion and stability in that country and will continue to engage constructively in this regard with all stakeholders," he said.

lowing the verdict delivered by the International Crimes Tribunal-Bangladesh (ICT-BD).

He said the request was made under the existing extradition treaty between the two countries. Bangladesh had earlier sent

a note verbale in December last year seeking Hasina's extradition, to which India acknowledged receipt without further comment. Hossain, a former diplomat,

clarified that Bangladesh was not ruling out a reply from India, but it is simply not expecting it within seven days. Along with Hasina, the ICT-

BD had also sentenced the then home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal after a trial held in absentia. Hasina is currently in India, while Kamal is also believed to be hiding in the country.

one Israeli and a Thai national who were abducted in the October 7, 2023 Hamas-led attack on Israel that ignited the war, are still to be returned.

Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem said Wednesday that the militant group was committed to handing over the remains of the two hostages. Israel has accused the militants of stalling after the last living hostages were released October 13.

Turkish, Qatari and Egyptian mediators met in Cairo Tuesday to discuss the second phase of the ceasefire, reached October 10. That is expected to include deploying an armed In ternational Stabilisation Force or ISF, and developing an international body to govern Gaza and oversee reconstruction.

Kremlin: US envoy to visit Moscow for peace talks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Nov 26: A senior Kremlin official confirmed Wednesday that US special envoy Steve Witkoff is set to visit Moscow next week as efforts to find a consensus on ending the nearly four-year war between Russia and Ukraine pick up speed.

But Yuri Ushakov, Russian President Vladimir Putin's foreign affairs adviser, insisted that Kremlin officials still have not seen a US peace proposal, even though representatives of the United States, Russia and Ukraine held talks in Abu Dha bi earlier this week.

"Contact is ongoing, including via telephone, but no one has yet sat down at a round table and discussed this point-by-point That hasn't happened," Usha kov told Russian state media Ukrainian officials didn't confirm whether US Army Secretary Dan Driscoll, who in recent weeks has played a high-profile role in the peace efforts, would be in Kyiv in the coming days. as Trump indicated Tuesday Trump's plan for ending the war became public last week. setting off a spate of diplomatic manoeuvering. The initial version appeared heavily slanted toward Russian demands for halting its invasion of its neighbour. After weekend talks in Geneva between US and Ukrainian offi-

UK tables tax-raising budget Army officers say they have seized power in Guinea-Bissau

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 26: UK Chancellor Rachel Reeves Wednesday tabled the Labour Party government's second budget in Parliament with a range of tax rises worth around 26 billion pounds, including a surcharge on wealthy properties and a tax on online gambling.

The Autumn Statement kept corporation tax levels for businesses at 25 per cent, with some incentives introduced for entrepreneurs looking to scale-up their operations and a listings relief to attract more businesses going public in the UK.

Reeves was also keen to highlight what she dubbed as



British Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves poses with the red budget box

her "inflation-busting decisions", by cutting 150 pounds off energy bills, freezing rail fares and lifting thousands of children out of poverty by abolishing a two-child benefits cap for families.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bissau, Nov 26: Soldiers in Guinea-Bissau appeared on state television Wednesday saying they have seized power in the country, following reports of gunshots near the presidential palace, three days after national elections. The president told French media he had been deposed and arrested.

It was the latest of several coups in recent years in West Africa. "The High Military Command for the reestablishment of national and public order decides to immediately depose the president of the republic, to suspend, until new orders, all of the institutions of the republic of Guinea-Bissau,"



spokesperson Dinis N'Tchama said in a statement.

He said they acted in response to the "discovery of an ongoing plan" that he said aimed to destabilise the country by attempting to "manipulate electoral results".

The "scheme was set up by some national politicians with the participation of a wellknown drug lord, and domestic and foreign nationals," N'Tchama asserted, and gave no details. The soldiers said they were immediately suspending the

electoral process and the activ-

ities of media outlets, as well as

closing all borders.

Guinea-Bissau has seen four coups and numerous attempted ones since independence, including one reported last month. The country also has emerged as a hub for drug trafficking between

Latin America and Europe.

The presidential and legislative elections were held Sunday. Incumbent President Umaro Sissoco Embalo and opposition candidate Fernando Dias da Costa each claimed victory Tuesday. even though official provisional results were not expected until Thursday.

cials, Ukraine President Volo dymyr Zelenskyy said the plan could be "workable," although key points remain unresolved

Researchers at NewsGuard. a firm that tracks online misinformation. identified several popular accounts — purportedly run by **Americans interested in politics - that instead** were based in Eastern Europe, Asia, or Africa

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Nov 26: They go by names like @TRUMP_AR-MY— or @MAGANationX, and their verified accounts proudly display portraits of President Donald Trump, voter rallies and American flags. And they're constantly posting about US politics to their followers, sounding like diehard fans of the president.

But after a weekend update to the social media platform X, it's now clear that the owners of these accounts, and many others, are located in regions such as South Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe.

Elon Musk's X unveiled a feature Saturday that lets us-

ers see where an account is based. Online sleuths and experts quickly found that many popular accounts, often — but not limited to - posting in support of the MAGA movement to thousands or hundreds of thousands of followers, are based outside the United States raising concerns about foreign influence on US politics. Researchers at NewsGuard,

a firm that tracks online misinformation, identified several popular accounts — purportedly run by Americans interested in politics - that instead were based in Eastern Europe, Asia, or Africa.

The accounts were leading disseminators of some misleading and polarising claims about



X's new feature exposes foreign origin of US political account

US politics, including ones that said Democrats bribed the moderators of a 2024 presidential debate. What is the location feature?

Nikita Bier, X's head of product, announced Saturday that the social media platform is rolling out an "About This Account" tool, which lets users see the country or region where an account is based. To find an account's location, tap or click the signup date displayed on the profile.

"This is an important first step to securing the integrity of the global town square. We plan to provide many more ways for users to verify the authenticity of the content they see on X,' Bier wrote.

In countries with punitive speech restrictions, a privacy tool on X lets account holders only show their region rather than a specific country. So instead of India, for instance, an account can say it is based in South Asia.

Bier said Sunday that after an update to the tool, it would 99.99 per cent accurate, though this could not be independently verified. Accounts, for instance, can use a virtual private network, or VPN, to mask their true location

On some accounts, there's a notice saying the location data may not be accurate, either because the account uses a VPN or because some internet providers use proxies automatically, without action by the user.

Which accounts are causing controversy? Some of the accounts sup-

ported slain conservative activist Charlie Kirk as well as Trump's children. Many of the accounts were adorned with US flags or made comments suggesting they were American.

An account called "@BarronTNews_," for instance, is shown as being located in "Eastern Europe (Non-EU)," even though the display location on its profile says "Mar A Lago." The account, which has more than 580,000 follow-

is a FAN account, 100 % independent, run by one guy who loves this country and supports President Trump with everything I've got." NewsGuard also found evidence that some X users are spreading misinformation about the location feature itself, incorrectly accusing some accounts of being operated from abroad when they're actually used by Americans. Investigators found several in stances where one user created fake screenshots that appear to suggest an account was created overseas.

ers, posted Tuesday that "This

It's not always clear what the motives of the accounts. While some may be state actors, it's likely that many are financially motivated, posting commentary, memes and videos to draw engagement.

Users were divided over the new ability to see an account's location information, with some questioning whether it went too far.

"Isn't this kind of an invasion of privacy?" One X user wrote.

business



confident of achieving its 3 per cent net interest margin guidance even if the **Reserve Bank decides to** cut the repo rate by 0.25 per cent in next week's monetary policy review CS SETTY | CHAIRMAN, SBI

TESLA'S FIRST EXPERIENCE CENTRE IN INDIA

US electric-vehicle maker Tesla opened its first fullscale retail experience centre in India at Gurugram's Orchid Business Park. Unlike earlier experience centres in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex and Delhi's Aerocity, which mainly served as display and brand-familiarisation spaces, the Gurugram centre will offer consultations, bookings, and test-drive support, signalling Tesla's move toward a more structured retail network



rainfall in some areas of the country affected crops, but most areas have benefited significantly

from a good monsoon, leading to overall good crop growth

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER

While minimising the forecast errors is equally important, there is no systematic bias in the forecast. It anv particular wav



POONAM GUPTA DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

It will be an important industry gathering to discuss the critical aspects of the global steel supply chain



SANDEEP POUNDRIK | STEEL SECRETARY

SHORT **TAKES**

LPG imports rise as demand surges

New Delhi: India's liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) market remains heavily import-reliant. with overseas supplies meeting 55-60 per cent of national demand over the past decade despite incremental growth in domestic production, Crisil Intelligence said in a report Wednesday, A new long-term India-US LPG agreement, covering 2.2 million tonnes per annum, marks a significant diversification move, reducing exposure to traditional Middle Eastern suppliers. it said. However, landed costs, particularly freight, will be a key determinant of oil marketing companies' near-term economics, LPG consumption rose to about 31.3 million tonnes in FY25, up from 21.6 million tonnes in FY17. and is expected to reach 33-34 million tonnes in FY26.

L&T rebrands data

New Delhi: Engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Wednesday said it has rebranded its data centre business as Larsen & Toubro-Vyoma, a name inspired by the Sanskrit word for 'sky'. L&T's data centre business, launched in 2024, was previously known as L&T-Cloudfiniti. By integrating advanced AI capabilities, cloud-native architectures and low-carbon operations, Larsen & Toubro-Vyoma offers a platform for resilient digital foundations -- enabling businesses and communities to thrive in an increasingly connected world. In a statement, the company said, "Larsen & Toubro-Vyoma extends L&T's core engineering and manufacturing expertise into the digital economy, with a forward-looking approach to data infrastructure that emphasises scalability, security, sustainability and

Mittal-led ICIL sells **Bharti Airtel's stake**

New Delhi: Telecom czar Sunil Bharti Mittal's family office-owned ICIL Wednesday raised Rs 7,195 crore by selling a 0.56 per cent stake in Bharti Airtel to long-term investors through an open market transaction. Indian Continent Investment Ltd (ICIL) is one of the promoter entities in city-based Bharti Airtel. According to a regulatory filing, "The transaction attracted strong interest, receiving robust orders from marquee domestic and international long-only investors. Both new and existing shareholders of Airtel participated, with the placements majorly allocated to long-only investors".

IMF reclassifies India's FX regime

The Washington-based lender terms India's "de facto" exchange rate regime as a "crawl-like arrangement", two years after it had termed the country's FX management framework as a "stabilised arrangement"

Mumbai, Nov 26: The IMF Wednesday reclassified India's "de facto" exchange rate regime as a "crawl-like arrangement", two years after branding it "stabilised".

The move follows an IMF review earlier this year and could influence how global investors interpret India's foreign exchange framework and its tolerance for volatility

"While the exchange rate has exhibited increasing two-way movement this year, there remains room for additional exchange rate flexibility." the International Monetary Fund said.

The rupee has declined about 4% over the year so far and its volatility has risen under Sanjay Malhotra, who became Reserve Bank of India governor late last year.

The currency hit an all-time low of 89.49 against the US dol-



India's forex reserves remain

Rupee hits all-time low of

So far this year, rupee has

most among Asian peers

dipped about 4% against dollar.

added. While the Indian central

bank continues to intervene

in the FX market to limit out-

sized swings, the rupee's 1-year

realised volatility has jumped

above 5% compared to below

2% before Malhotra became

The RBI's increased toler-

ance for volatility has also

prompted local companies to

more actively manage foreign

89.49 against the US dollar

nearly \$700bn

November 21

RBI governor.

among the world's largest, at

lar November 21, in part due to steep US trade tariffs which have dented trade and inward portfolio flows.

A crawl-like arrangement is when the exchange rate remains within a "narrow margin of 2% relative to a statistically identified trend for six months or more (with the exception of a specified number of outliers), and the exchange rate arrangement cannot be considered as floating", the IMF says.

The IMF moved India to "stabilised" from "floating" for the period between December 2022 and November 2024.

Allowing greater exchange rate flexibility would help absorb external shocks, reduce the need for costly reserve accumulation and encourage

silience to global shocks.

Malhotra has said the RBI does not target a specific rupee level and interventions are meant to curb excessive volatility.

MACRO OUTLOOK

The IMF expects India's economy to grow at 6.6% in 2025-26 and at 6.2% in the next financial year. Recent tax reforms which brought down levies on hundreds of consumer items are expected to cushion the impact of high tariffs on the Indian economy, it said.

The US has imposed tariffs of up to 50% on Indian imports, denting its exports and impacting sectors from textiles to chemicals.

New trade deals and faster implementation of structural reform domestically could boost economy, the fund said, adding that geopolitical fragmentation could be a headwind.

Unpredictable weather events could also hurt the economy by impacting crop yields, rural consumption and reigniting inflationary pressures it said. IMF directors see room for India's central bank to cut rates further since inflation remains low and recommended the federal government's fiscal consolidation plan in the financial year beginning April 1, 2026 be conditional on the impact of tariffs.

Nifty reclaims 26K, nears record high

Mumbai, Nov 26: Snapping the three-day falling streak, benchmark Sensex rebounded by 1,022 points while Nifty reclaimed the 26,000 level Wednesday on acrossthe-board buying aided by a rally in global peers amid growing hopes of a US Fed rate cut and fresh foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,022.50 points or 1.21 per cent to settle at 85,609.51. During the day, it surged 1,057.18 points or 1.24 per cent to 85,644.19. The 50-share NSE Nifty

zoomed 320.50 points or 1.24 per cent to end at 26,205.30, just 10 points shy of its all time closing high. The broader index scaled record intra-day high of 26,277 on September 27, 2024. In intra-day trade, Nifty ral-

lied 330.35 points or 1.27 per cent Increasing optimism sur-

rounding a potential truce between Russia and Ukraine also bolstered the investor sentiment, experts said. Among Sensex firms, Bajaj

Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, Reliance Industries, Sun Pharma. Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Axis Bank and Infosys were among the major gainers. Bharti Airtel and Asian

Paints emerged as the laggards from the pack. Market participation was

Reliance mkt valuation

to Rs 21 lakh crore. The market heavyweight stock went up by 1.99 per cent to settle at Rs 1,569.75 on

hits ₹21L-cr mark

broad-based, with metals, energy and IT leading the gains Mid-cap and small-cap indices also advanced over 1 per cent.

FIRST TIME EVER IN ODISHA

Khimji announces Black Friday sale

Bhubaneswar, Nov 26: Khimji Jewellers, one of Odisha's most trusted and iconic jewellery brands, has announced its special Black Friday offers, bringing unmatched savings for customers across its wide range of gold, diamond, and silver jewellery collections. The exclusive offers will

be available till November 30 across all Khimji Jewellers showrooms. As part of the Black Friday cel-

ebrations, customers can enjoy flat 50% off on making charges of gold jewellery, flat 50% discount on making charges of diamond jewellery and flat 25% off on making charges of silver jewellery weight items and 20% off on silver jewellery MRP products.

Speaking on the occasion, Mitesh Khimji, Managing Director, Khimji Jewellers, said "Black Friday has emerged as one of the most awaited shopping festivals, and we are delighted to bring exceptional value to our customers through these exclusive offers. At Khimii Jewellers, we constantly strive to combine craftsman-



ship with affordability, ensuring every customer enjoys a memorable and rewarding shopping experience.'

Founded in 1936, Khimji Jewellers is among Odisha's most respected jewellery houses, known for its legacy of trust, craftsmanship, and customer-first values. With an exquisite range of gold, diamond, silver, and precious gemstone jewellery, Khimji has been a pioneer in bringing contemporary designs while preserving traditional artistry. Over the decades, the brand has grown into a symbol of quality and elegance, serving generations of customers across the state.

Union Bank organises 18th CKYCRR Awareness Programme

Programme was

enhance understanding of the Central KYC Records Registry (CKYCRR) and its

Senior officials of Union Bank of India, along with participants from various bank and operational updates related to CKYCRR. The initiative reflects Union Bank's commitment to promoting transparency, compliance, and improved customer service through effective KYC management. Sunil Kumar, GM-KYC, HO-Union India, Umesh Kumar Singh, MD & CEO, CERSAI, Honey Patodi, Deputy Director, FIU-IND, Goutam Patra, CGM & SLBC Convenor were present on this occasion. HK Das, Zonal Manager, Bhubaneswar, Union Bank of India gave vote of thanks.

Suman Chakraborty new circle head of Canara Bank

Chakraborty has taken charge as the Circle Head of the Bhubaneswar Circle, overseeing the bank's operations across Odisha. With an illustrious career spanning 29 years, Chakraborty brings extensive experience across key domains of banking, including Retail Asset Hub, Regional Head, Treasury Operations, Mid-Corporate Credit, Risk Management and leadership roles in the bank's overseas branches at Hong Kong and Johannesburg. Chakraborty aligned with the bank's focus on customer-centric services, digital transformation, and sustainable



growth. In his new role, he will spearhead initiatives to strengthen business growth across the circle, enhance customer service delivery and operational efficiency and expand the bank's presence across rural, semi-urban,

French company Safran bets big on India

Hyderabad, Nov 26: Boosting its India presence, French major Safran Wednesday said its maintenance, repair and overhaul facility for the LEAP engines will be operational in 2026 and also expects to triple its annual revenue in the country to more than 3 billion euros

Safran, which is into aerospace, defence and space segments, will also be setting up a dedicated MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) facility

the Dassault Aviation Rafale fighter jets. Both facilities will be in Hyderabad.

"The new LEAP engine MRO centre represents a total investment of 200 million euros and will be operational in 2026. The 45,000-square-meter facility will ramp up to a capacity of 300 LEAP shop visits a year and boast a next-generation test bench," the company said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the facility through video conferencing

for the M88 engines powering Wednesday. The facility is the company's largest MRO facility for LEAP engines in the world.

The MRO facility is for LEAP (Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion) engines that power Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 MAX planes. These engines are manufactured by CFM International, an equal joint venture between Safran Aircraft Engines and GE Aerospace. India is CFM's third-largest market, with five Indian carriers operating more than 400 LEAP-powered aircraft and 2,000 engines on order.

TWO-WEEK HIGH

Gold surges to hit ₹1.30 lakh/10 grams

New Delhi: Gold prices surged Rs 1,200 to hit near a two-week high of Rs 1,30,100 per 10 grams in the national capital Wednesday, tracking a rally in the international markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Analysts said the rise was mainly driven by renewed expectations of interest-rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve next month. The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity also advanced by Rs 1,200 to Rs 1,29,500 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) On November 13, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent closed at Rs 1,30,900 and Rs 1,30,300 per 10 gram levels,

Odisha among top 10 states in JCB sales: Shetty

JCB India stands as a shining example of Atmanirbharta, says the MD-cum-CEO

RATAN KUMAR PRADHAN, OP

Bhubaneswar/New Delhi, Nov 26: JCB, India's leading company in the earthmoving and construction equipment segment, is witnessing a booming market in mineral-rich Odisha.

During a recent media interaction with journalists from eastern India at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi, JCB India's Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Deepak Shetty, revealed that Odisha ranks among the top 10 states in the country for JCB machine sales.

Replying to a question on Odisha's exact position in JCB product sales compared to other states, Shetty said, "Let me first highlight the positives. Our products are extensively used as mining equipment in Odisha. Wheel-loading shov-

els and excavators are in high



loaders, which are popular in rural areas, though have dipped slightly. However, we are seeing stronger demand velopment programmes.'

for these machines in western India — Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh largely driven by rural de-When asked how Odisha compares with states like West Bengal and Maharashtra, the

JCB India chief said, "Odisha is

not far behind Bengal or Maha-

rashtra. I would place it around

7th, 8th or 9th position nationally." Asked which machine offers the best daily income opportunity for owners. Shetty strongly recommended the backhoe loader. "The backhoe loader is an excellent choice. It runs on wheels, can be driven home and parked easily, and has multiple applications.'

Looking east On the company's focus on

eastern India, Shetty said, "We have a warehouse in Kolkata that supports customers in Jharkhand and Odisha too. We have offices in Kolkata and Bhubaneswar, and have recently appointed new dealers in Ranchi, Jamshedpur and Bhubaneswar. The entire eastern and north-eastern region has been a major focus for us.' He also praised the improved

road infrastructure that now enables faster movement of machines across the country. Shetty revealed that 70% of

JCB India's machines are sold in rural India. "Anyone with Rs 3 lakh in pocket can take a loan to buy a machine. While a housing loan typically requires



20% down payment, JCB buyers with a good credit history can avail up to 95% financing.

Proudly highlighting the company's long-standing commitment to India, he said, "Our chairman, Lord JC Bamford, invested in India in 1979 when it was not fashionable to do so. Today, JCB India stands as a shining example of Atmanir-

Despite facing 28 competitors - virtually the who's who of the global market — JCB India

has emerged as the market leader. The company now exports its 'Made-in-India' machines to 135 countries, a matter of great pride for both JCB and India.

Green initiatives On sustainability initiatives,

Shetty said, "With support

JCB'S LARGEST PLANT

from former Railway Minister Pivush Goval and the present Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. we are transporting machines by rail across India, including up to Kolkata."

Regarding green technology, he added, "At the last Excon, JCB unveiled Asia's first hydrogen-powered construction machine, which received an overwhelming response. Building on that success, we are now \bar{l} aunching a hydrogen genset as well.'

On women empowerment and gender diversity, Shetty shared, "At our Jaipur factory in Rajasthan, 34% of the workforce comprises women - a remarkable achievement in a traditionally conservative state."

Test cricket faces moment of reckoning

South Africa hand India biggest defeat to clinch historic series win

New Delhi, Nov 26: By the end of a bruising Test series, it wasn't just the scoreboard that told the story; it was the silence of disbelief echoing across Indi-

Time is the only healer may sound comforting, but for the current Indian Test side, time feels more like a ticking clock. A back-to-back series loss,

It is up to BCCI to decide my

In Gambhir's era as coach, India have lost 10 of the 18

Tests, including twin whitewashes against New Zealand

last year and South Africa now, both at home

Under-fire India head coach Gautam Gambhir Wednesday said it was up

to the BCCI to decide his future after the Test series whitewash against

South Africa but also reminded everyone of the success the team has

408-run drubbing at the hands of South Africa in the second Test here

Wednesday, which gave the visitors a 2-0 series sweep. "It is up to the

BCCI to decide my future. But I am the same guy who got you results

the post-match press conference referring to India's title-winning run

in the Champions Trophy and a gruelling 2-2 draw against the English

in their own backyard earlier this year. "The blame lies with everyone

and starts with me," he conceded in his first reactions

after the 0-2 drubbing. "We need to play better. From

95/1 to 122/7 is not acceptable. You don't blame any

individual or any particular shot. Blame lies with

everyone. I never blamed individuals and won't

do it going forward," he added. Gambhir has of

late attracted criticism for frequent changes in

the team and his inclination to focus more

on all-rounders than specialists in the

traditional format. "You don't need

the most flamboyant and talented

we need is tough characters with

limited skills. They make good Test

cricketers," he said.

cricketers to play Test cricket. What

in England and was coach for Champions Trophy," Gambhir said at

achieved in his tenure. Gambhir was speaking after the humiliating

future: Under-fire Gambhir



capped by a humiliating defeat at home, has left nowhere to hide. The wounds are fresh,

the questions louder, and the scrutiny unforgiving.

South Africa's 2-0 sweep was not just historic; it was ruthless. The visitors etched their names into the record books with a 408-run demolition in the second Test, India's heaviest defeat in the format. It marked only the Proteas' second-ever Test series win on Indian soil, and their first since 2000, making

BIGGEST DEFEATS IN TERMS OF RUNS: 408 runs vs South Africa in 2025 333 runs vs Australia in 2017 329 runs vs South Africa in 1996

the result all the more damning for the hosts.

The Guwahati decider became a showcase of South African dominance. What began as a cautious innings turned monumental through Senuran Muthusamy's resolute 109 and Marco Jansen's commanding 93, pushing the total to a formidable 489. Jansen then switched seamlessly, tearing through India's batting with a fiery 6-48 as the home side crumbled to 201.

Refusing to loosen their grip, South Africa extended the ad-

India lose five home Tests in span of seven games This is the first time India have lost five Test matches at home in a

span of seven matches since 1959, when they lost the three-match Test series against Australia 2-0 and the five-match Test series against the West Indies 3-0. Before South Africa's 0-2 whitewash, India beat the West Indies 2-0 after

losing to New Zealand TIME IN 0-3 last year. While India **66 YEARS** series at home in their Test third time they have been have lost a number of career, this is only the

clean swept at home. The first instance came back in 2000 when South Africa beat them 2-0. The second whitewash came at the hands of New Zealand, who beat them 3-0 in 2024, and finally the latest one against South Africa 0-2. Notably, India last endured back-to-back home Test series defeats in successive years more than 40 years ago, against the West Indies in 1983 and England in the 1984/85 season.

It's massive. These are the type of things that we're working towards and dreaming of. It's not every day where you get to think that you can come to India and walk away with a two-nil series win

TEMBA BAVUMA | CAPTAIN, SOUTH AFRICA

They definitely played better cricket, but at the same time, in cricket you can't take anything for granted RISHABH PANT | STAND-IN SKIPPER, INDIA

India's fight was sporadic at best. Sai Sudarshan showed promise, and Ravindra Jadeja's gritty 54 offered brief hope, but the collapse that followed spoke

volumes of a side struggling for

identity and direction. Beyond the boundary, the fallout is intensifying. Critics, former cricketers, and fans alike are questioning selections, strategies, and leadership. Coach Gautam Gambhir now finds himself under the microscope, with BCCI officials expected to seek clear answers

management. The defeat also stings in the larger picture. India's WTC 2025-27 campaign has taken a severe hit, slipping to fifth in the standings with a PCT of 48.15, overtaken even by arch-rivals Pakistan. South

from both him and the team

Africa, meanwhile, surge with confidence, boasting 36 points and a commanding 75 per cent PCT as they tighten their grip near the summit. As the focus shifts to the

upcoming ODI series starting November 30, the narrative remains uneasy. Fans may forgive, but critics will not forget easily. The reasons behind this collapse will unfold in time but for now, one truth stands stark and unshaken.

Indian cricket is at a crossroads, and every decision from here on could define its future.

BRIEF SCORES South Africa: 489 & 260 for 5 declared beat India: 201 & 140 all out in 63.4 overs (Ravindra Jadeja 54, Washington Sundar 16,

SHORT **TAKES**

India beat Malaysia Ipoh: The Indian men's hockey

team eked out a narrow 4-3 victory against hosts Malaysia at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup here Wednesday. Selvam Karthi (7'), Sukhjeet Singh (21'), Amit Rohidas (39') and Sanjay (53') scored for India, while Faizal Saari (13'), Fitri Saari (36'), and Marhan Jalil (45') got on the scoresheet for Malaysia. India started the game on the front foot, forcing the hosts back in their own half as they looked to assert themselves on the opposition. Determined to see the game out, India remained resolute to defend a couple of late penalty corners from Malaysia to prevail in this contest.

Neeru wins 4th gold

Jaipur: Trap shooters Neeru Dhanda and Aditya Bharadwaj powered Guru Nanak Dev University to a clean sweep of all four shotgun medals, while their cyclists clinched both individual road race titles in the Khelo India University Games here Wednesday, Neeru, the reigning Asian Shooting Championships gold medallist, secured her fourth straight individual gold with a final score of 47. Manisha Keer (39) and Nandika Singh (30) took the silver and bronze respectively. The trio also combined to win the team gold with a score of 344 at the Jagatpur Shooting Range

New FIFA WC format

Geneva: The 2026 World Cup draw next week will reward the four highest-ranked teams - Spain, Argentina, France and England - who will be placed in separate sections of a new tennis-style seeded tournament bracket. FIFA said the top four teams in the lates men's rankings will, if they finish top of their respective round-robin groups, avoid each other until the semifinals of the June 11-July 19 tournament being co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico. Defending champion Argentina with Lionel Messi and top-ranked European champion Spain with Lamine Yamal therefore can ensure they do not meet until the final at MetLife Stadium near New York

FIDE WORLD CUP

Sindarov scripts history as youngest-ever champion

Uzbekistan teen's triumph signifies a significant change in the world of chess. After D Gukesh's World Championship victory and Divya Deshmukh's, Sindarov becomes the third teenager to win a major world title in less than a year

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panaji, Nov 26: Uzbekistan's teenage sensation Javokhir Sindarov carved his name into chess history, becoming the youngest player ever to win the Chess World Cup after outlasting China's Wei Yi in a nerve-wracking tiebreak finale in Goa Wednesday.

In an event where favourites were eliminated one after another before the knockout stages, Sindarov started the tournament as the sixteenth



seed. It was anything but simple for him to earn the title. In a close semifinal match against fellow countryman Nodirbek Yakubboev, he only prevailed after reaching the tiebreaks.

Both Wei Yi and Sindarov qualified for the 2026 Candidates Tournament by making it to the championship round. He defeated Wei in a thrilling finish to take home the trophy after winning the second 15' +

Wei Yi used the Petrov Defense in Tuesday's opening match, which once again put Sindarov in a difficult situation as he looked for opportunities to win with White. Wei's plan almost worked. In an attempt to force a result, the Chinese grandmaster moved into a bishop-pawn endgame that was marginally advantageous.

However, Sindarov remained vigilant, accurately defending against every subtle threat and making deep calculations. After 50 moves, with the margins razor-thin, the two agreed to a draw—setting the stage for a tiebreak showdown.

When the fast-paced games Wednesday. on Sindarov's poise was crucial. He decisively defeated Wei Yi in the second 15' + 10" rapid tiebreak, outplaying him with conviction and clarity to win the biggest title of his early career. He pocketed a cheque worth \$120,000 for winning the title in the tournament with a total prize fund of \$2 million.

MILAN CORTINA WINTER GAMES

Mandaviya hails India getting CWG rights

tance on the last day.

New Delhi, Nov 26: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Wednesday said the Commonwealth Sport's decision to award the hosting rights of the 2030 Commonwealth Games to Ahmedabad is a prestigious moment for the country as it strives to become a sporting powerhouse by 2047.

Terrifying test tale

■ India's chances of reaching the

World Test Championship finals

took a major hit as they slipped

to the fifth spot in standings

following their embarrassing

0-2 series whitewash to SA at

home. The team has played nine

Test matches in the current WTC

cycle, winning four, losing four,

After a 3-day triumph against

Kolkata, South Africa secured a

thumping 5-day win in Guwahati.

securing their first series triumph

Shubman Gill's Team India in

in the country since 2000-01

historic milestone for the

the previous best, held by

■ The victory marked another

Proteas, who became the first

team to beat India by over 400

runs in a Test match, surpassing

■ It was also the first time since

vantage. Tristan Stubbs' as-

sured 94 powered them to 2605

declared, setting an impossible

target. Simon Harmer, already

a hero from Kolkata, delivered

the final blow with a magical

637, dismantling India's resis-

the 2000-01 series that South

Africa managed to complete a

2-0 sweep in India

and drawing one game

Ahmedabad was formally awarded hosting rights of the centenary edition during Commonwealth Sport's general as sembly in Glasgow, clearing the decks for the event's return to India after two decades.

"It is a prestigious moment that India will host centenary Commonwealth Games," Mandaviya said here.

"India is capable of hosting major events and will be among top-five sporting nations by 2047," he added.

The general assembly of 74 members put a seal of approval on India's bid after Ahmedabad was recommended as the proposed host by the Commonwealth Sport's Executive Board last month.

2030 Games to feature 15-17 disciplines

Commonwealth Sport also confirmed that 15 to 17 sports



will feature at the 2030 Games. "The Amdavad 2030 team will

work closely with Commonwealth Sport and the International Federation community to shape a dynamic and exciting sport programme with strong local resonance and global appeal," the body stated.

Athletics and Para Athletics, Swimming and Para Swimming, Table Tennis and Para Table Tennis, Bowls and Para Bowls, Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting, Artistic Gymnas tics, Netball and Boxing are the confirmed disciplines

The process to finalise the remainder of the programme will start next month, and the full Centenary Games line-up will be announced next year.

It is a prestigious moment that India will host centenary MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | SPORTS MINISTER

"The sports under consideration are: Archery, Badminton, 3x3 Basketball and 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball, Beach Volleyball, Cricket T20, Cycling, Diving, Hockey, Judo, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Rugby Sevens, Shooting, Squash, Triathlon and Para Triathlon and Wrestling. "The host can also propose up to two new or traditional sports," it added.

The expanded programme stays true to the Indian Olympic Association's commitment The 2026 edition in Glasgow will be a scaled down event with just 10 disciplines on its roster, leaving out sports like shooting, archery, hockey and badminton among others due to cost considerations.

In recent months, Ahmedabad hosted the Common wealth Weightlifting Championships, the Asian Aquatics Championships and football's AFC Under-17 Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers. Next year, it would be hosting the Asian Weight lifting Championship, and Asia Para-Archery Cup. In 2029, the World Police and Fire Games will be held in Ahmedabad Gandhinagar, and Ekta Nagar.

The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave is one of the prime venues that is cur rently under development and apart from the Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium, which has a capacity of over one lakh, it is designed to house an aquatics centre and a football stadium along with two arenas for indoor sports.

An athletes village that can house 3,000 is also set to be built inside this complex.

The first Commonwealth Games, then called the British Empire Games, was held in Hamilton, Canada in 1930.

Under a cloud, Olympic flame begins journey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ancient Olympia (Greece), **Nov 26:** The Olympic flame began its journey Wednesday to the Milan Cortina Winter Games — missing a little of its usual magic.

Bad weather lashing western Greece forced organizers to move the torch-lighting ceremony indoors, from Olympia's ancient stadium and temples to a nearby museum.

The flame is lit by focusing the sun's rays with a concave mirror. But with skies overcast, officials used a backup flame kindled during a brief spell of sunshine at Monday's rehearsal. Greek rower Petros Gaidatzis

launched the torch relay, which,



after reaching Italy, will be carried across the host country by

about 10,000 runners before the Feb. 6-22 competition. The sun

ultimately made an appearance over rain-soaked Olympia Wednesday during the indoor ceremony.

Italy is hosting its third Winter Games, but preparations have been plagued by cost overruns and construction setbacks.

Organizers say there's plenty for fans to look forward to: a program featuring 116 medal events, the debut of ski mountaineering, higher female participation and the return of NHL players to Olympic hockey.

After a short tour of Greece and a handover December 4. the flame will begin a 63-day, 12,000-kilometer relay through all 110 Italian provinces, highlighting cultural sites and host venues before reaching Milan's San Siro Stadium for the open ing ceremony.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Chelsea crush Barca in style

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 26: On a night of changes, blunders and a glorious individual goal by 18-yearold Estevao, defensive lapses cost Manchester City and Barcelona dearly as both teams slumped to notable losses in the Champions League.

In Pep Guardiola's 100th Champions League game as City coach, his team struggled to cope with Bayer Leverkusen's quick transitions in a 2-0 defeat, while Barcelona had an own goal and a red card in its 3-0 loss at Chelsea.

Chelsea comfortably beat 10man Barcelona 3-0 at Stamford Bridge to earn its third leaguephase win and move closer to the top. Jules Koundé's own goal handed Chelsea the lead in the



27th as Barcelona defenders got tangled up in the goalmouth.

The hosts stretched their ad vantage with a fine individual goal by Estevão in the 55th as he held off two defenders, and a close-range shot by Liam Delap in the 73rd.

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