



Keerthy's insight

Actor Keerthy Suresh exposes the exhausting reality of long film work hours, spotlighting a debate dividing film industry

LEISURE | P2



Nepal 'redraws' borders

Nepal issues ₹100 notes featuring map including Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura disputed by India

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Fresh highs

Sensex and Nifty scale fresh lifetime highs in intra-day trade before paring some gains to close marginally higher Thursday

BUSINESS | P11



India beat NZ

Indian men's hockey team delivers a strong performance, winning 3-2 against New Zealand at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Stadium

SPORTS | P12

In a 1st, Prez addresses Assembly Murmu: MLAs' behaviour should be exemplary

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: President Droupadi Murmu, who made history Thursday as the first President to address the Odisha Assembly, expressed a sense of nostalgia while speaking in the House that had shaped the early years of her political career. She urged the members of the Assembly to conduct themselves in a manner that sets an example for the people they represent.

Murmu, a former member of the Assembly, turned emotional while addressing the members as the President of India.

"I feel nostalgic. It's like homecoming for me. Odisha Assembly has taught me everything. Whatever I am today, it's because of this House, the blessings of the people and Lord Jagannath," Murmu said.

Noting that 'nation is first', she urged the newly-elected MLAs to maintain a balance between the 'Kathni' (words) and 'Karni' (deeds). "The people are watching and following you. You should behave in a proper manner both inside and outside this House so that it sets an example for the people you represent. Work for the poorest of the poor and this is 'Antyodaya' (rise of the last person)," she said. **P3**



MOMENT TO CAPTURE: President Droupadi Murmu, Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Speaker Surama Padhy, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik and others pose for a photo op, on the Assembly premises in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

OP PHOTO

Corruption: Hasina gets 21-yr jail term

AGENCIES

Dhaka, Nov 27: A Bangladesh court Thursday sentenced deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina to 21 years in jail in three corruption cases related to irregularities in allocations of land in a government housing project.

Judge Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun of Dhaka Special Judge Court-5 sentenced 78-year-old former premier to seven years each in three cases of corruption in the Rajuk New Town Project in Purbachal, totalling 21 years. The judge said Hasina would serve them consecutively.

The judge also fined Hasina Taka one lakh in each case, or 18 months more in prison if she failed to submit the amount.

Judge Mamun also sentenced Hasina's son Sajib Wazed Joy and daughter Saima Wazed Putil to five years imprisonment each in the cases filed against them in the housing project near the capital.

"The plot was allotted to Sheikh Hasina without any application and in a manner that exceeded the legally authorised jurisdiction," Judge Mamun said.

HONG KONG TOWER FIRE TOLL REACHES 83

Beijing/Hong Kong: Firefighters battled for a second day Thursday to contain a massive inferno that ripped through seven high-rise residential towers in Hong Kong, as the death toll climbed to 83 and over 280 people remained missing in what officials described as the city's worst disaster in 70 years. Some 76 people were injured, including 15 in critical condition and 28 listed as serious. Many are still trapped in the buildings. Raging flames at four out of the seven blocks have been brought under control, while fires continued to burn on the upper floors of the remaining 31-storey buildings on Thursday evening. **P10**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



At last, a solution for pollution—just rise above it. Only 3.5 crore people left to lift up

HC: No teacher transfer requests by MPs, MLAs

PNN & AGENCIES

Cuttack, Nov 27: In what came as a jolt to the state government, the Orissa High Court Thursday quashed a School and Mass Education (S&ME) department order that allowed MLAs and MPs to recommend the transfer of school teachers, stating that political interference or affinity on campus is not desirable.

The HC held that the S&ME department's order does not state the authority for its issuance, raising doubts about its legal validity.

In a circular issued May 13 this year, the S&ME department had said that MPs and MLAs can recommend up to 15 most deserving cases of transfer of teachers belonging to elementary and secondary schools in their constituencies. This provision is a one-time measure, which is applicable only for the current educational year.

Hearing petitions filed by 24



teachers challenging the order, Justice Dixit Krishna Shripad said, "Political interference or affinity on the campus is not desirable in general and in the matters of transfer of teachers, in particular."

"Impugned letter of the kind, which provides for MPs/MLAs recommending transfer of teachers, has the potential of creating a seamless nexus between the political parties/candidates and the community of teachers. One needs no research to visualise the fruits of poisonous tree that would grow on the soil of such a nexus," observed the HC.

The HC also observed that

the teachers have to maintain a safe distance from political parties and elected representatives.

Citing an essay of political philosopher Hannah Arendt of New York, the HC, in its judgment, mentioned, "Education can play no part in politics, because in politics, we always have to deal with those who are already educated."

While quashing the government order, the HC said the teachers who have already reported for duty at the transferred places will continue till the end of the current academic year, so that the students would not face any hardship.

They will be back to their previous place of posting within one week after completion of the academic year 2025-26, according to the judgment.

However, the verdict will not come in the way of a fresh transfer process being undertaken in terms of the extant transfer guidelines, said the HC.

Courts have no magic wand: SC on pollution

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 27: Noting that courts have no magic wand to deal with worsening air pollution in Delhi-NCR, the Supreme Court Thursday said it's for domain experts and scientists to find solutions to such problems.

"What magic wand can a judicial forum exercise?" a bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi told amicus curiae and senior advocate Aparajita Singh after she mentioned the matter for urgent hearing.

"Alarming situation (of air pollution) in Delhi NCR and it's a health emergency," Singh submitted.

"I know this is hazardous for Delhi NCR... Tell me what can we direct... that we can make some directions and there is clean air immediately? We all know what the problem is.. We need to identify all the reasons. There is no one single reason.. It could be a bona fide mistake to think that... But only domain experts and scientists can look into that," the CJI said.

The bench, however, agreed to take up the matter Monday, December 1. "Let's see what we can do," the CJI said.

State logs 5.4K road fatalities annually

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: As many as 27,167 people were killed in road accidents in Odisha over the past five years with an average of 5,433 fatalities annually, Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena told the Assembly Thursday.

In a written statement, Jena said the state recorded 56,830 accidents between 2020 and 2024, in which 27,167 people died and 50,041 were injured, including 19,850 grievous ones.

Barring 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic year, when 4,738 people died in 9,817 accidents, deaths remained above 5,000 and continued to rise over the next four years, he said.

According to the data, 5,081 people were killed in 2021, 5,467 in 2022 and 5,739 in 2023. The year 2024 witnessed the highest number of deaths, with 6,142 fatalities recorded in 12,375 road accidents, Jena said

while responding to a query of BJP MLA from Jharsuguda, Tankadhar Tripathy.

The minister said the government spent ₹89.73 crore on road safety initiatives over the past five financial years (2020-21 to 2024-25).

In addition, ₹23.17 crore was provided as financial assistance to accident victims under the Solatium Fund Scheme between 2020 and 2024.

Jena said the government has taken several measures to reduce accidents,

including public awareness campaigns on road safety and refresher training for heavy vehicle drivers.

He said a standard operating procedure (SOP) has been issued to prevent accidents during the picnic season, and 23 truck terminals have been set up along national and state highways. The government is also providing free tea to heavy vehicle drivers at roadside dhabas during night, he added.

₹89.73 crore
Spent on road safety initiatives over the past 5 financial years

₹23.17 crore
Provided to accident victims under Solatium Fund Scheme between 2020 & 2024

SHORT TAKES

Cuttack: Salaries of 91 officers withheld

Cuttack/Bhubaneswar: Salaries of 91 senior officers of Cuttack district, including that of the SP (Rural), were withheld for allegedly failing to resolve public grievances lodged with the CM's Grievance Cell (CMGC), according to official documents. The additional district magistrate sent a letter to the district treasury, directing it to withhold the salary of these officers. The letter said grievances lodged through the 'Janasunani' portal were left unresolved despite multiple reminders, persuasion, and review meetings. The CMGC, which monitors grievance disposal weekly, expressed 'utter displeasure' over Cuttack's declining performance, noting that the district's ranking in grievance resolution had worsened, it said. "You are therefore requested to withhold the salary of the defaulting officers as per the list enclosed herewith for November 2025 until further instructions from the Collector," it added. **P3**

World's first single-dose dengue vaccine okayed

Rio de Janeiro (Brazil): Brazilian authorities have approved the world's first single-dose dengue vaccine, which they hailed as a 'historic' achievement as cases of the mosquito-borne disease soar globally due to rising temperatures. Brazil's health regulatory agency ANVISA authorised the use of Butantan-DV, developed by the Butantan Institute in



São Paulo, for people aged 12 to 59. Currently, the only dengue vaccine available worldwide is TAK-003, which requires two doses administered three months apart, according to the WHO. The single dose, developed after eight years of trials across Brazil, will allow for faster and simpler vaccination campaigns. "This is a historic achievement for science and health in Brazil," said Esper Kallas, director of the Butantan Institute.

REUTERS

Washington, Nov 27: NASA's Perseverance rover has obtained evidence that the atmosphere of Mars is electrically active, detecting electrical discharges - what one scientist called 'mini-lightning' - often associated with whirlwinds called dust devils that regularly saunter over the planet's surface.

The six-wheeled rover, exploring Mars since 2021 at a locale called Jezero Crater in its northern hemisphere, captured these electrical discharges in audio and electromagnetic recordings made by its SuperCam remote-sensing instrument, researchers said.

It is the first documentation of electrical activity in the thin Martian atmosphere.

"These discharges represent a major discovery, with direct implications for Martian atmospheric chemistry, climate,

habitability and the future of robotic and human exploration," said planetary scientist Baptiste Chide of the Institute for Research in Astrophysics and Planetology in France, lead author of the study published Wednesday in the journal Nature.

"The electrical charges required for these discharges are likely to influence dust transport on Mars, a process fundamental to the planet's climate and one that remains poorly understood. What's more, these electrostatic discharges could pose a risk to the electronic equipment of current robotic missions - and even a hazard for astronauts who one day will explore the Red Planet," Chide said.

The researchers analysed 28 hours of microphone recordings made by the rover over a span of two Martian years, detecting 55 electrical discharges, usually associated with dust

devils and dust storm fronts.

"We did not detect lightning by the common definition. It was a small spark, perhaps a few millimetres long, not really lightning. It sounded like a spark or whip-crack," said planetary scientist and study co-author Ralph Lorenz of the Johns Hopkins

ture on dry and dusty Mars, with two orbiting

It is the first documentation of electrical activity in the thin Martian atmosphere



NASA's Perseverance rover took this selfie inside Jezero Crater in its northern hemisphere of Mars May 10, 2025

University Applied Physics Laboratory in Maryland.

Sixteen of the electrical discharges were recorded during Perseverance's two close encounters with dust devils.

Another study published in October documented how dust devils are a common fea-

spacecraft detecting wind speeds reaching around 98 miles per hour (158 kph) in these whirlwinds that hoist dust into the atmosphere.

The internal dynamics of dust devils give rise to the electrical discharges.

"I would call it 'mini-light-

ning'," Chide said. "The phenomena are caused by the friction of tiny dust grains rubbing against each other in the air, which builds up electrons and then releases their charge as electrical arcs just a few centimetres long, accompanied by audible shockwaves."

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Are you a science and technology geek? Well, today you may have a chance to use your knowledge and zoom ahead of everyone! Ganesha says even students will excel in their studies. Housewives, try your own new recipe, the oven will not blast!

TAURUS
Today, passionate and possessive are the two words that will define your relationship with the people you love, predicts Ganesha. You may choose to take pains for the sake of others, which seems to be highly fulfilling. Your good spirit will sky-rocket by evening. Make sure to change your disadvantage into your advantage, says Ganesha.

GEMINI
Putting things in order will be your top priority, says Ganesha. You will possibly have a romantic dinner with your sweetheart. Seductive conversations may culminate in sensuous consummation. Your personal feelings will stir up your partner's private thoughts.

CANCER
You will win over people with the gift of the gab. Your rhetoric will prove beneficial to you. You may get into an argument or have friction with someone in the in-laws' side. But keep your cool and face it bravely, so as to stave off mental depression.

LEO
Traders and businessmen will face heightened competition today. Financial losses are possible. It is not a good day for investments and speculations. Avoid heated discussions with people. Be cautious in all your dealings today, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Give people a word of encouragement and motivate them to achieve bigger things, advises Ganesha. Don the thinker's cap and you may find yourself in contemplation. Criticism will hurt you, but be as unflappable as you can and proceed to your target, says Ganesha.

LIBRA
Ganesha says you will try to attain prestige in society today. This prestige will come to you via the field of communication or by your own thought processes. In your free time you will be able to learn about various topics of interest to you. Ganesha wishes you all the very best in life.

SCORPIO
It is high time you diverted all your energies towards your object of love, advises Ganesha. Research-oriented work could well be an option too. Ganesha says you are likely to find someone special to talk about those good old times and have a great time.

SAGITTARIUS
Upholding all that is right and just will be the highpoint today. You will be in the right spirits to fight injustice and discrimination. The day promises to be as splendid as your will. Ganesha advises you to stand up and conquer all today.

CAPRICORN
Lack of confidence may leave you glum in the first half of the day, and to add to it, you will be loaded with work that you may have taken up from company other than the one employing you full time, says Ganesha. The sullen mood will turn jovial by evening, and you can expect to have a good time socialising with friends and relatives.

AQUARIUS
Your plate will be full with plenty of work, and you will have no clue about how to handle all the chaos. Patience and organisational skills, your best qualities will help you sail through these difficult times, assures Ganesha. You will successfully wind up the day at work and geared up to party later in the evening.

PISCES
You would do well to make a to-do list today, if only to gain a realistic perspective of how much you want done and how much you can achieve in the time you have available. Making unreasonable demands from yourself will only lead to further delays, says Ganesha.



JACKMAN, SUTTON FOSTER CONFIRM RELATIONSHIP

Hugh Jackman and Sutton Foster have taken their relationship to social media, confirming their romance on Instagram. The two actors, who first reported a relationship after their Broadway collaboration in *The Music Man*, recently made their red-carpet debut together

MILLIE BOBBY BROWN DENIES FEUD WITH DAVID HARBOUR

Millie Bobby Brown has debunked viral rumours of a feud with *Stranger Things* co-star David Harbour. Appearing together at the season 5 premiere, the actress confirmed their enduring bond, forged over a decade of working together



Rakul issues warning

Mumbai: Actor Rakul Preet Singh recently spoke out after encountering a troubling case of online impersonation, joining fellow actors Shriya Saran and Aditi Rao Hydari in raising awareness about fake accounts. She revealed that the impersonator had reached out to a photographer in Chennai she had worked with. "The photographer messaged my manager saying someone was talking to him like Rakul, but he didn't think it was me and asked if that was my number," Rakul explained. Concerned, she immediately warned her fans on social media and confirmed that she is filing a cybercrime complaint. "Action needs to be taken against whoever is pretending to be me. While I understand fan love, chatting with people in my name is not right," she said. Rakul also highlighted the growing risks posed by AI-generated images and videos. "It is very disturbing... Whoever is making these videos or pictures — I fail to understand how they can be so insensitive. Impersonating someone, even if not a celebrity, is a crime, and cybercrime authorities should act." She urged fans to stay vigilant online and report suspicious activity, emphasising that misuse of personal information and impersonation is a serious concern in today's digital age.



AGENCIES



Aishwarya slams victim-blaming

Mumbai: Actor Aishwarya Rai recently spoke out on the issue of street harassment, stressing that the responsibility should never fall on women, their clothing, lipstick, or personal choices. Addressing the topic as part of L'Oréal Paris' Stand Up training program, a cause she has championed for over a decade, Aishwarya urged women to confront harassment directly. In a video shared on Instagram, she asked, "Street harassment. How do you deal with it?" and advised, "Avoid eye contact? No. Look the problem directly in the eyes. Hold your head high. Feminine and feminist — my body, my worth. Never compromise your worth. Do not doubt yourself. Stand up for your worth. Don't blame your dress or your lipstick. Street harassment is never your fault." Social media users lauded her for addressing a pervasive yet often unspoken issue. Comments highlighted the importance of her words, calling them a "powerful reminder" and praising her courage. Apart from her advocacy, Aishwarya was last seen in Mani Ratnam's 2023 historical action drama *Ponniyin Selvan: Part 2*, starring Vikram, Karthi, Trisha Krishnan, and others. The film earned Rs. 344.63 crores worldwide. Her performance won her the Best Actress in a Leading Role (Critics) award at the South Indian International Movie Awards, with her husband, Abhishek Bachchan, calling it her "best work till date." The couple shares a daughter, Aaradhya.

AGENCIES



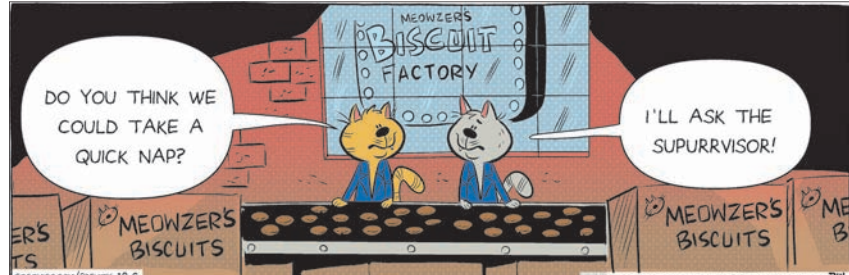
Priyanka all praise for Indian women athletes

Mumbai: Global icon Priyanka Chopra took a moment to celebrate the remarkable achievements of 'Bharat Ki Betiyaan' in the world of sports. The actress applauded the young women athletes for their dedication, hard work, and inspiring performances that continue to make the nation proud. Taking to her Instagram handle, Priyanka posted a video highlighting the achievements of the country's women in sports. The video showcases various sports along with the remarkable accomplishments of female athletes, shining a spotlight on their contributions and the pride they bring to the nation. For the caption, the Baywatch actress wrote, "Bharat Ki Betiyaan. Keep planting new dreams in the minds of millions of young girls watching you. Congratulations and well played girls." The

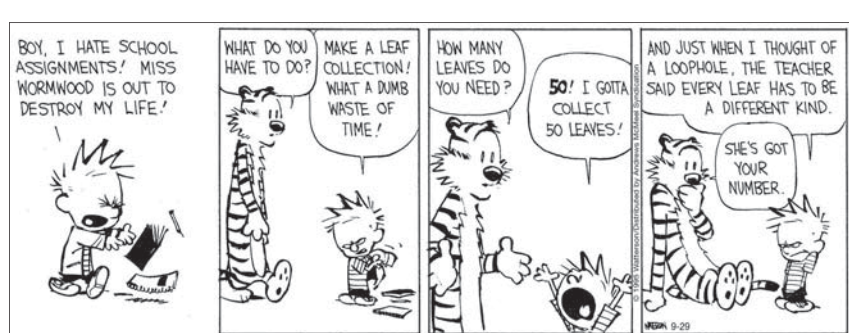
video lights up several remarkable achievements of Indian women in sports. It features the Indian Blind Women's Cricket Team clinching the inaugural Blind Women's T20 World Cup, the Indian Women's Kabaddi Team triumphing at the Women's Kabaddi World Cup, Nikhat Zareen being crowned the 51kg World Boxing Champion, and Sheetal Devi winning at the World Para Championships. It also celebrates the Indian Women's Cricket Team's victory at the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup and Anupama Ramachandran becoming the first Indian woman to win the World Snooker crown, among other inspiring accomplishments.

IAN S

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

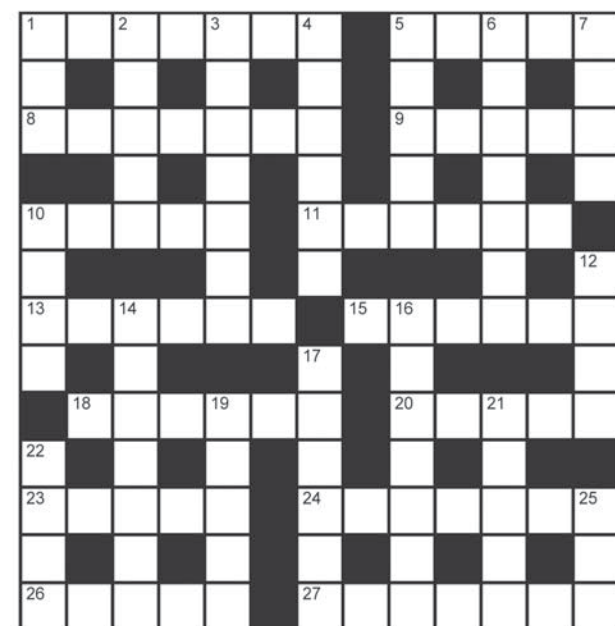


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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- Across**

 - 1 Cacophonous
 - 5 Root veggies
 - 8 Three-pronged spear
 - 9 Bit of Gothic architecture
 - 10 Noncommittal response
 - 11 Also-rans
 - 13 Champagne and orange juice cocktail
 - 15 Be against
- 18** News office

20 Modify

23 Sovereign

24 Glaciers

26 Fencing move

27 Salt shaker?
- 5** Fake

6 Trade stoppage

7 Clairvoyant

10 Staff note

12 Grizzly

14 Overly emotional

16 Tableland

17 Olde worlde

19 Spine-chilling

21 Coronet

22 Like some vaccines

25 Hit the slopes

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

A	O	B	C	D	D
H	U	R	D	L	E
T	O	I	E	D	M
S	L	O	H	I	D
E	V	A	S	I	V
E	E	H	E	U	
A	X	I	O	M	B
A	R	E	Y	A	
A	T	I	P	I	C
I	H	L	O	T	I
S	O	N	A	T	A
N	N	T	T	R	E

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

91 Cuttack officials’ Nov salary withheld

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack/Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: Salaries of 91 senior Cuttack district officers, including the SP (Rural), have been withheld for November for allegedly failing to resolve public grievances filed with the CM’s Grievance Cell (CMGC), according to official documents.

The Additional District Magistrate sent a letter to the district treasury, directing it to withhold the salary of these officers.

The letter said grievances lodged through the ‘Janasunani’ portal were left unresolved despite multiple reminders, persuasion, and review meetings. The CMGC, which monitors grievance disposal weekly, expressed “utter displeasure” over Cuttack’s declining performance, noting that the district’s ranking in grievance resolution had worsened across the state, it said.

“You are therefore requested to withhold the salary of the defaulting officers as per the list enclosed herewith for November 2025 until further instructions from the Collector,” it added.

Apart from the SP (Rural), officers whose salaries were



Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde, DM, Cuttack

withheld include sub-collectors, BDOs, tehsildars, the chief district medical officer, and the vice chairman of the Cuttack Development Authority.

The action is intended to enforce accountability and expedite pending grievance disposal, particularly those reviewed every Monday by the CMGC, an official said. The opposition BJD alleged that the action showed the public grievance redressal system in the state has become completely stagnant.

“The BJP’s claim that CM Mohan Charan Majhi is directly resolving the grievances of the people by hearing the grievances himself is far from the truth,” said BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty.

Guv, CM praise Prez Murmu’s historic address

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: In a momentous occasion for the people of Odisha, President Droupadi Murmu Thursday addressed the Odisha Legislative Assembly (OLA) for the first time in history, marking a new chapter in the state’s democratic journey. The historic address by the President was preceded by heartfelt speeches from Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati.

The Chief Minister, in his address, extended a warm welcome to the President, emphasizing the significance of her visit to the OLA, a place where she had once served as a legislator. CM Majhi praised the President’s remarkable journey, from her



humble roots in a tribal village in Odisha to occupying the highest constitutional office of the country. He described her rise as a beacon of inspiration for millions, especially for the youth, women, and tribal communities, highlighting how her leadership has become a symbol of integrity, service, and perseverance.

“For the first time since its establishment, the Odisha Leg-

islative Assembly has been addressed by the President of India. This is a moment of immense pride and honour for the people of Odisha, and your visit reminds us all of the values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity that the Constitution upholds,” CM Majhi said.

The CM also acknowledged the significant progress that Odisha has made in sectors such as infrastructure, education, social welfare, and governance reforms, underlining the importance of continued cooperation between the Legislature and the Executive to ensure the effective implementation of these initiatives. In his speech, Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati also echoed similar sentiments.

Prez inaugurates 'Kalinga Atithi Nivas' at Raj Bhavan

Bhubaneswar: President Droupadi Murmu Thursday inaugurated the ‘Kalinga Atithi Nivas’ on the Raj Bhavan premises here during her two-day visit to Odisha. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, First Lady Jayashree Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Jual Oram, Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy, Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan, along with several other dignitaries. The ‘Kalinga Atithi Nivas’ will provide accommodation to visiting VVIPs, and its design reflects Odisha’s ancient art, culture and tradition, an official said. Nestled amid the tranquil greenery of Raj Bhavan, Kalinga Atithi Nivas stands as a tribute to Odisha’s rich cultural heritage and traditional architecture. The structure seamlessly blends modern amenities with the timeless artistic spirit of the state. Its exterior and interiors feature intricate motifs, sculptures, and design elements inspired by classical Odia craftsmanship. Each room has been carefully designed to reflect Odisha’s identity, spirit, and cultural legacy.



Odisha, Bangalore hold urban policy meet

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: In a significant move towards strengthening urban governance and fostering sustainable growth, Usha Padhee, Principal Secretary of the Housing & Urban Development Department of Odisha, held a strategic meeting with Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), during the Urban Policy Dialogues 2025 in Bangalore Thursday.

The high-level discussion, which focused on building cities that are resilient, economically vibrant, and inclusive, marked an important step in fostering collaboration between Odisha and Bangalore. The meeting emphasised the need for robust governance structures and institutional strengthening to support fast-growing metropolitan regions.

During the meeting, Padhee highlighted Odisha’s ongoing urban reforms that prioritise technology-driven solutions and community-based development models. “Our vision is to create cities that are not only future-ready and climate-resilient but

also socially inclusive,” she remarked. “In Odisha, we are working to ensure that every citizen, regardless of background, has access to dignity, opportunity, and a sustainable urban future.”

The discussion also explored ways to integrate innovation and economic development into urban planning. Padhee emphasised that Odisha is committed to building cities that empower people by addressing the dual challenges of rapid urbanisation and climate change. “Urban planning today requires us to think ahead, integrating environmental considerations with social needs. Our cities must be living ecosystems that adapt and evolve with the changing times,” she added. On the other hand, Rao shared insights from Bangalore’s own urban growth experience, underlining the importance of governance reforms, digital transformation, and collaborative governance models for metropolitan areas. “Bangalore, being a major economic engine for India, faces unique challenges related to infrastructure and urban mobility,” he said.

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सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

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ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

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ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

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ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ସଫଳ ଯୋଜନାର
୨୫ତମ ଶତାବ୍ଦୀର ବର୍ଷ

25
Years
of Rural
Connectivity

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

LABOUR
CODES

MADE EFFECTIVE

MODI GOVERNMENT’S GUARANTEE FOR
IT SECTOR

✓ Fixed-term employees to receive benefits at par with permanent employees; gratuity just after one year of service

✓ Provision of annual paid leave after 180 days of work in the calendar year

✓ Mandatory appointment letter for all workers

✓ Mandatory payment of Salary by the 7th of every month

✓ Women are permitted to work in night shifts with consent

✓ Provision for work from home

✓ Crèche facilities, free annual health check-up and faster grievance redressal ensured

Labour Reforms for
Aatmanirbhar Bharat

“The nation is proud of its workforce.
Shramav Jayate!”

-Prime Minister, Narendra Modi

Action against habitual traffic violators: 241 RCs suspended



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack/Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: In a major crackdown to curb rising road accidents and promote safe driving, Commerce and Transport (C&T) department has suspended the Registration Certificates (RCs) of 241 vehicles across the state for repeatedly violating traffic rules. The decision comes as part of the state's ongoing 'Zero Casualty' campaign aimed at reducing road accident deaths.

Acting on the direction of C&T Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena, enforcement drives have been intensified across the state under the leadership of Princi-

pal Secretary Usha Padhee and Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur, in close coordination with police authorities.

A detailed list of vehicles that have persistently ignored road safety rules and endangered public lives has been compiled. Many of these vehicles have been found to breach the Motor Vehicles Act over 50 times, while some have crossed 100 violations, officials said.

These vehicles will remain off-road for the entire suspension period, and further legal action has been initiated as per the rules. The department has warned that such strict action will continue against reckless

DISTRICT-WISE SUSPENSION COUNT	
Sambalpur – 57	
Sundargarh – 52	
Bhubaneswar RTO-1 – 27	
Jagatsinghpur – 22	
Cuttack – 22	
Bargarh – 9	
Balasore – 9	
Bhubaneswar RTO-2 – 6	
Jharsuguda – 6	
Chandikhol – 5	
Kendrapara – 5	
Bhadrak – 4	
Rourkela – 4	
Jaipur – 2	
Keonjhar – 2	
Rairangpur – 2	
Badabil – 2	
Dhenkanal – 2	
Koraput – 2	
Nayagarh – 2	
Talcher – 1	

and habitual offenders.

The government has set an ambitious target to significantly reduce road accidents, giving equal priority to enforcement and awareness measures. The 'Zero Casualty' campaign will continue until November 30, with further expansion planned to ensure safer roads across the state.

Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat Abhiyan launched

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: Humara Bachpan Trust (HBT), in partnership with Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF) launched 'Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat Abhiyan', a 100-day national campaign to eliminate child marriage, with major district-level events held in Keonjhar and Kandhamal. The initiative is a part of the ongoing 'Just Rights for Children Project', being implemented in Keonjhar since June 2023 and in Kandhamal since June 2024.

A stakeholders meeting was organised at the Collectorate hall, Keonjhar, bringing together 110 participants including CMPOs, CDPOs, police representatives, officials from Labour and Education departments, DLSA, CWC, NGOs and frontline workers.

Chaired by Keonjhar Additional District Magistrate (ADM), the programme focused on strengthening institutional response mechanisms, improving reporting systems, and challenging community silence and social acceptance surrounding early marriage. District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Secretary Sasmita Nandini Tripathy highlighted legal frameworks and procedural challenges in enforcing the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.

District welfare officer (DsWO) Jayanta Samantasingha, Assistant Labour Officer Suchismita Panigrahi and SWO Bharati Sahu emphasised the need for stronger inter-departmental coordination for success of the mission.

CLASSIFIED

LOST

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Notary Public, Sonapur, I, Rajesh Narayan Sahu, S/o- Basudev Sahu, At-Panimura, PO-Badbhainro, Ps-Tarbha, Dist. Sonapur, Odisha, declare by this affidavit No.- 58AA486021, Dt.27.11.25 that my original RoR Vide Kh. No.166/22 & Sale deed vide No-93/1994 has been Lost somewhere else in Village Panimura on dt.26.11.25 & in spite of my best effort. I couldn't trace it out. The purpose of this affidavit is to be present before the my Adv. Aswini Depta for information & necessary action. Sd./- Aswini Depta Mob-9437158519

Utkal varsity celebrates 83rd Foundation Day



RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: One of Odisha's oldest and most revered institution of higher education—Utkal University (UU) celebrated its 83rd Foundation Day with grandeur, intellectual energy and a renewed commitment to academic transformation.

The ceremony began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by the welcome address by UU Vice-Chancellor (V/C) Professor Jagdishwar Dandapat, who highlighted the institution's role in shaping Odisha's academic landscape.

"Our legacy is not measured in years but in the thousands of minds we have shaped, the research we have inspired and the values we continue to uphold," he said.

He also urged the university community to embrace digital innovation, multidisciplinary learning, and global standards of research, envisioning Utkal University as "a heritage institution and a dream destination for learners worldwide."

Varsity Registrar Swati Mishra presented the annual report, noting that the university ranked 48th nationally and first in Odisha according to the NIDF rankings. It also secured the 32nd position in the OUT-LOOK-ICARE Rankings 2025. She highlighted achievements in sustainability, research, governance and industry linkages. Mishra specially applauded Pratisha from Sociology department, who has won multiple medals in Khelo India events and received the Ekalavya Award.

The Foundation Day lecture was delivered by distinguished scientist and alumnus Bedagadas Mohanty, who encouraged students to nurture curiosity. "Indian universities have immense potential to achieve global excellence through innovation and inclusivity," he said.

Joining the occasion as chief guest, Pondicherry University VC P Prakash Babu praised the University for its sustained academic contributions which continue to shape generations of thinkers and leaders.

ECoR appeals for public cooperation to prevent stone pelting on trains

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: East Coast Railway (ECoR) has issued a strong appeal to the public to help put an end to the dangerous and unlawful practice of stone pelting on trains as it is a recurring threat to passenger safety and railway assets, read a statement from ECoR. "Such acts not only endanger travelers and onboard staff but also result in damage to coaches, operational delays, and widespread fear and discomfort during travel," it read.

During 2025, ECoR's Railway Protection Force (RPF) team acted swiftly and effectively in detecting and registering such cases. A total of 22 incidents of stone pelting on Vande Bharat rakes were reported, resulting in 22 arrests. Similarly, 59 incidents were recorded on other trains, with 45 persons apprehended.

To counteract the menace, RPF has intensified patrolling in vulnerable stretches, especially in thickly populated trackside areas. Enhanced CCTV coverage, drone surveillance, and coordinated efforts with GRP, district police and local administration are



being used to deter offenders and ensure quick action. RPF teams are also reaching out to local communities, particularly youth and school children to create awareness about the fatal consequences of stone pelting.

Stone pelting is a grave criminal offence under Section 152 of the Railways Act, punishable with imprisonment up to ten years or even lifetime im-



MAGAZINE LAUNCH: Dignitaries including BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, renowned linguist Debi Prasanna Pattanayak, former MLA Prafulla Chandra Ghadei, former Finance Minister Panchanan Kanungo and former IRS officer Sobhan Kar unveil 20th edition of Madhulita—a family magazine at Chandra Mandir hall in Unit IX in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

OP PHOTO

Odisha bags Gold Award in IITF 2025

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi / Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: Odisha received the 'Gold Award' for its outstanding presentation at 44th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025 in New Delhi Thursday. Odisha Pavilion also bagged the 'Best Pavilion' award, marking the state's fourth consecutive win, after receiving the top award in the past three years.

Expressing his happiness on the achievement, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi extended congratulations and thanks to Team Odisha and stated that this is a notable success in enhancing the state's prestige at national and international levels. It is note-



worthy that 31 states and union territories participated in this international trade fair. Odisha achieved excellence in the exhibition of products, which led to this success. For the fourth consecutive time, Odisha has received this award, including two Gold Medals this year.

The pavilion, designed around the theme 'One India, Best India', showcased Odi-

sha's rich cultural heritage, traditional sculptural art, and the state's vision for development, focused on 'Odisha@2036'. It also highlighted the successful implementation of people-centric government schemes, reflecting the state government's commitment to inclusive growth and holistic development.

The exhibition featured pre-

mium agricultural products, exquisite handlooms and handicrafts, and items produced by women self-help groups, drawing appreciation from national and international visitors.

The Odisha Pavilion was inaugurated November 14 by Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida. During the fair, several dignitaries, including Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Ministers Krushna Chandra Patra and Santana Chakma, Manipur's additional chief secretary Anurag Bajpai, former cricketer and MP Yusuf Pathan, MPs Anita Subhadarshini and Pratap Sarangi visited and appreciated the pavilion.

AISF seeks answer on scholarship rejection

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: The state unit of All India Students' Federation (AISF), Thursday, strongly opposed the rejection of scholarship applications submitted by students of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas (OAV) for the current academic year.

In an official statement, AISF mentioned that the scholarship provided by Central Government is meant to support economically weaker students.

In a surprising move, the state Education department has reportedly rejected all applications filed by OAV students. Raising concerns over the decision, AISF state president Sanghamitra Jena alleged that thousands of deserving students have been unfairly deprived of financial assistance.

"Instead of ensuring swift action under the so-called double-engine government, the administration has chosen to discontinue scholarships," she said, exposing what she described as the government's anti-education and anti-student mindset.

AISF also alleged that applications from students studying in other CBSE-affiliated schools were accepted, and only those from OAVs were excluded—reflecting state government's biased approach, according to the student body.

els as per the initiative of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, enabling children with disabilities studying in mainstream schools to receive appropriate support. The government is also providing assistive devices, livelihood support and conducting awareness campaigns to empower individuals with disabilities.

Speaking at the event, SSEPD departmental Director Parul Patwari emphasised the role of speech and occupational therapy for children with autism and multiple disabilities. Early assessment, coordinated planning with medical experts, and family participation are crucial for improved functional abilities.

Odisha Vikash Conclave concludes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: As the state gears up to celebrate its centenary in 2036, the state must accelerate climate-resilient and people-centric planning to safeguard community rights, ecological integrity, gender justice and collaborative governance to ensure long-term resilience, dignified livelihoods and sustainable prosperity, experts noted during the concluding ceremony of Odisha Vikash Conclave here Thursday.

"A state-wide climate action consortium, involving civil society, government, corporate and community institutions was formed to strengthen collaborative, evidence-driven and community-led responses to Odisha's growing climate challenges. Climate action can only move forward when all the stakeholders including the grassroots people work together through a shared, collaborative platform," said CYSD co-founder Jagadananda.

The conclave emphasised that the state should frame Odisha River Policy, promote integrated land and water management and implement basin-level planning that ensures ecological flows and wetland conservation, while addressing distress migration through district-level migration facilitation centres.

MARKET WATCH

CURRENCY

INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	89.99 ▲ 0.49
EURO	97.17 ▲ 0.09

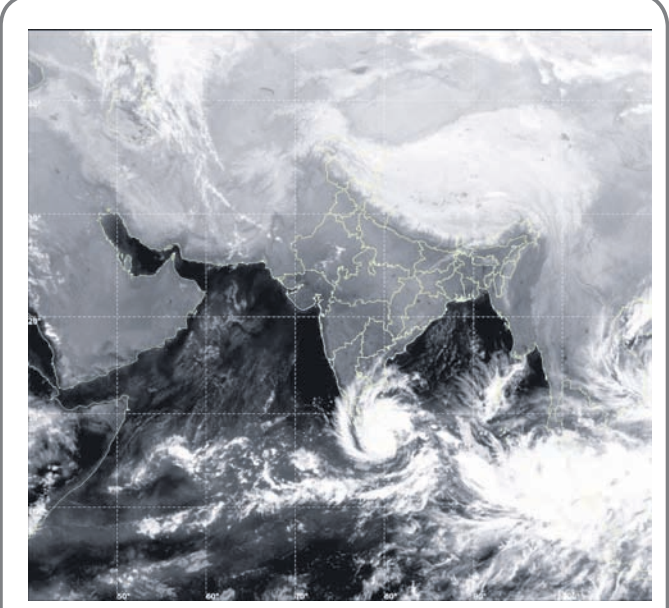
BOURSES

INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	85720.38 ▲ 110.87
NIFTY	26215.55 ▲ 10.25

COMMODITIES

INDEX	VARIATION
GOLD	₹125,541 ▼ ₹390
SILVER	₹161,951 ▲ ₹679





WEATHER				FORECAST
	BBSR	CTC		
Max Temp	28.7°	26.0°		Fog/mist in the morning and partly cloudy sky later
Min Temp	16.0°	14.6°		
Humidity	77%	83%		
Rainfall	Nil	Nil		



Patana villagers gherao police stn

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana/Keonjhar, Nov 27: Hundreds of villagers under Patana tehsil gheraoed Turumunga police station Thursday morning, demanding immediate release of six leaders of Jindal-Posco Pratirodh Manch (JPPM) who were arrested Wednesday night.

The arrested leaders were identified as JPPM secretary Benudhar Sardar, his brother Bhubanananda Sardar, forum's vice-president Saroj Kumar Singh, Rabindra Mohant, senior workers Anam Nayak and Birendra Mahakur. Turumunga police registered a dacoity case (265/25) and produced them in the court Thursday.

Reports said more than 2,000 villagers from the plant affected villages marched in a rally from Hatibari Square and reached Turumunga police station through NH-49. Police detained them near the service road opposite the police station where the agitators staged a sit-in demanding release of all arrested persons and the return of their mobile phones snatched during the arrest Wednesday night.

They also demanded to stop construction of steel plant on farmland, cancellation of MoU with POSCO and thundered to shed blood instead of their land. Finally, they relented at 5pm when zilla parishad CDO-cum-EO Kumar Nagbhusan,



ASP Snehashis Sahu, Patana tehsildar Aswini Nayak, BDO and senior police officials intervened and held talks with them.

In a press release, JPPM president Ghanashyam Mohanta said, "We condemn the police for entering the houses of villagers at midnight and breaking doors and grills. The villagers are fighting for the protection of their homestead and farmland. We demand unconditional release of all of them immediately."

"They have been booked under strong Sections so that it would be difficult get bail. They are protesting peacefully for protection of their lands," he said.

Raghunath Das, advisor and state secretary All India Kru-shak Khet Mazdoor Sangha and advisor of JOOM termed the arrest as undemocratic.

Das said, "In order to spoil

the movement against the acquisition of farmland by Jindal-Posco, the Keonjhar district administration and police, under the direction of the government, broke the window grills of the villagers in the middle of the night and arrested the six by snatching their mobile phones." The police also resorted to baton charge, he added.

Sub Divisional Police Officer, Champua, Rashmi Ranjan Sahoo said, "We are in talks with the protesters. Action will be taken as per law."

As Gram Sabha of the proposed mega steel project in Patana tehsil will start soon, the administration is perhaps taking those steps to prevent any protest and to conduct a peaceful meeting for land acquisition, sources said.

These six people were arrested for attacking and assaulting a man a few days ago, the SDPO claimed.

Bus mows down youth in Bhadrak

POST NEWS NETWORK

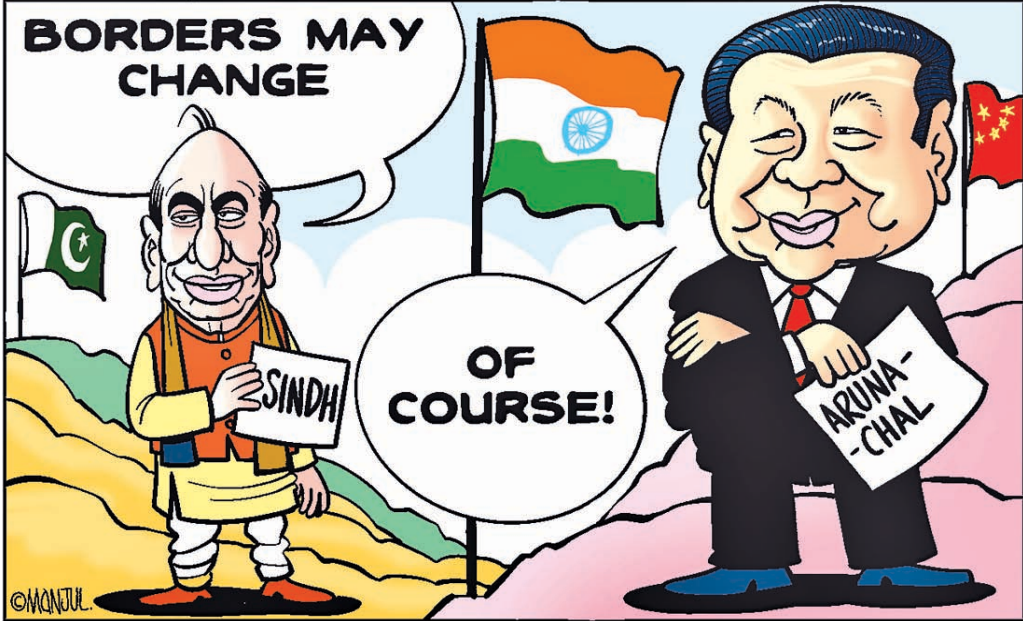
Bant, Nov 27: A youth was killed and another sustained grievous injuries Thursday afternoon when a passenger bus hit their motorcycle on State Highway 53 near Bagada Kashipur Square under this police limits in Bhadrak district.

The deceased was identified as Smruti Ranjan Sahu, 24, son of Padmanabha Sahu of Tilo Malisahi village under Bant police limits. The injured youth, Subrat Baral, 19, is from Tilo Badasahi. He was admitted to the district headquarters hospital (DHH), Bhadrak.

According to police, Smruti Ranjan and Subrat were travelling from Barapada to Bant on a motorcycle when the bus 'Biswanath', heading from Bhadrak to Anandpur, allegedly veered to the right and lost balance near the square. The bus rammmed the motorcycle, causing Smruti Ranjan to fall under the vehicle's wheel. He died on the spot after the wheel ran over his head. Baral riding pillion, sustained critical injuries. Following the accident, locals burned tyres and blocked the highway, demanding action. On being informed, Bant police reached the spot and launched an investigation.

Additional tehsildar Prasanna Kumar Mohanty, IIC Monalisa Kar and representative of the local sarpanch Santosh Kumar Nayak and Khageswar Behera held discussions with the protesters. The blockade was lifted after about two hours. The body was sent to the SHH for postmortem. Traffic movement restored after the agitators relented.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Man stabs uncle-in-law to death, held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Santri Chhak (Angul), Nov 27: A man allegedly killed his uncle-in-law at his in-laws' house in Fulapada village under Banarpal police limits of Angul district Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Biren Das. Police arrested the accused Prabir Behera of Banamalipur under Thakurgarh police limits in the district. According to police, Manini Das, 29, daughter of the late Babuli Das of Fulapada, had married Prabir a few years ago. However, their conjugal life went through rough weathers as Prabir had allegedly been assaulting his wife that followed several rounds of family mediation. The dispute between



ACCUSED PRABIR BEHERA

the couple flared up again after Prabir allegedly assaulted her again Thursday. Manini returned to her parental home with her children. Prabir later arrived there. When Manini's uncle Biren attempted to counsel the couple, Prabir, who had come prepared, became violent and stabbed Biren in the

abdomen with a knife. Biren was rushed to Angul district headquarters hospital, where he succumbed to the injuries.

Following a complaint, Banarpal police registered a case and arrested Prabir.

Biren, a former sarpanch, was well-known in the area. His killing has cast a pall of grief and mourning over Fulapada panchayat. Locals alleged that incidents of theft and violence have been rising in the region but the personnel at Mahidharpur police outpost have been unable to control the situation due to a shortage of adequate number of police personnel.

Residents have urged the administration to deploy more personnel at the outpost to ensure better law enforcement.

Farmer dies of snakebite

POST NEWS NETWORK

Parjang, Nov 27: A farmer died Thursday after he was bitten by a snake while harvesting paddy on a field near Patharkhamba village under this block in Dhenkanal district, police said.

The deceased has been identified as Chhakadi Sahu of Patharkhamba village. According to the villagers, Sahu was harvesting paddy on his farmland, located at a short distance from the village, when the reptile bit him. A pall of grief and mourning descended on the village after reports of his death spread. Other farmers working nearby rushed him home in a critical condition. His family members later admitted him to the Kamakhyanagar sub-divisional hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Kamakhyanagar police registered an unnatural death case and handed over the body to his family members after a post-mortem examination. Further investigation is underway, police said.

Land fraud through forged Aadhaar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Purushottampur, Nov 27: Throwing an open challenge to the government's commitment to transparency and anti-corruption initiatives, a major land scam has surfaced at Purushottampur Sub-Registrar Office where fraudsters allegedly used a forged Aadhaar card and an impersonator to sell someone's land.

According to sources, land mafia members replaced the genuine owner with another individual, created a forged Aadhaar card in his name and submitted it during registration to facilitate the sale. Public suspicion has grown over the possible involvement or negligence of officials and intermediaries.

The disputed land includes two plots under Khata No-390 in the name of Dandapada Bauri Dora of Telugu community from Badabargan village under Rani-gam mouza in Purushottampur tehsil. Plot No-3062 measuring 0.340 decimal and Plot No-3063 measuring 0.453 decimal were



allegedly sold June 6 to Bhagyalata Mohapatra of Birajaganathpur village, with her husband Saroj Kumar Das listed as the purchaser. The transaction was recorded under Registration Document No-10682501285.

The Aadhaar number submitted for the seller — 3392 7210 5438 — bears the date of birth January 1, 1949. However, the same number is officially registered in the name of P Mahendra Dora of Kolasingi village, who also owns land there. This discrepancy strongly suggests that the Aadhaar card used during registration was forged. The registration documents re-

portedly carry the photograph of the impersonator presented as the landowner. Four individuals from Gadasahi in Purushottampur have also been named as sellers in the documents.

Residents have urged Revenue officials and Ganjam Collector to conduct a comprehensive inquiry to uncover the full extent of the fraud.

Purushottampur Sub-Registrar Kaliprasad Dhal said, "The seller produced an Aadhaar card, which was accepted. We have now learnt that the same Aadhaar number belongs to two different individuals. An inquiry will be conducted."

Man held for ₹50cr investment fraud

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sambalpur, Nov 27: Police Thursday arrested a man for allegedly duping investors of around ₹50 crore by promising high returns, officials said.

The accused has been identified as Madhusudan Baral, 36, a native under Khetarajpur police station in Sambalpur.

He was arrested in connection with a case registered at Sambalpur Sadar police station following a written complaint by an investor, police said.

The complainant along with 47 other people had invested in Baral's agency with expectations of receiving high returns in trading. Prima facie, it was found that Baral has collected ₹50 crore through cheques, cash and online mode. He received the maximum amount in cash, Sambalpur SP Mukesh Kumar Bhamoo said. "During probe, we detected transactions of ₹20 crore," he said.

Police have seized a mobile phone, six computers and other documents from the accused.

Villagers protest for better connectivity

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Nov 27: Residents of five villages staged a protest near Bharatmala project camp in Koraput, demanding urgent repair of the severely damaged road from Machara Square to Odapur village.

The agitation drew significant public attention as villagers refused to disperse without a firm response from authorities. The road has remained in a neglected state for years, causing hardships for patients during medical emergencies, transportation of agricultural produce and schoolchildren. The agitators raised three key demands – repair of Machara-Odapur road, construction of the long-pending Pusing Bridge, and development of a link road connecting their cluster of villages.

Villagers expressed deep frustration over continued administrative apathy towards bad and damaged roads.

"We have been requesting repair of the roads for years, but to no avail," said protester

Suresh Mandal, a resident of Machara.

"During monsoon, the road turns into a mud trench. Patients are carried on shoulders, children miss school, and vehicles get stuck every other day."

Echoing similar concerns, another villager Sabitri Jani said, "We are not demanding anything extraordinary. A proper road and a bridge are our basic rights. Development projects pass through our area, yet our villages remain ignored."

The protest drew support from several local leaders too.

Koraput District Congress president Rupak Turuk, former MLA Nimai Sarkar, and tribal leader Padmanabh Jani reached the spot and assured villagers of raising the issue with the district administration. Turuk criticised the delay in addressing essential infrastructure needs. "These demands are legitimate and long overdue. The administration must act without further delay to ease the suffering of these communities," he stated.

MIGRATORY BIRD WITH TAG NEAR RUSHIKULYA



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Nov 27: An unknown tag attached to a migratory bird was spotted near Rushikulya estuary Thursday morning. The bird identified as greater sand plover was captured by local environmentalist Rabindranath Sahu in his camera. A native of southern Siberia, ranging from Algeria to Mongolia, these birds migrate towards southeast Asia and mostly to Australia during winters.

Rabindranath said, "The tags on legs of these birds are attached to monitor their movements and conduct more research on the type of environment these birds adopt as their habitats,

under extremely adverse conditions." Interestingly, greater sand plover has migrated to Odisha this winter, whereas it was the Siberian sand plover that visited the previous year.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARIPADA
e_mail = rw_mayurbhanj@yahoo.co.in
e_Procurement Tender Call Notice No. Online 10/RWD/BPD/2025-26
No.O-1547/01. Name of the Work : Building Works, 2. Total No. of Works: 27 Nos. 3. Estimated Cost: Approx Estimated Cost Rs.50.73 lakhs & Rs.91.07 lakhs. 4. Class of Contractor: 'B', 5. EMD : EMD @ 1% of Estimated Cost put to tender. 6. Period of Completion : As per Annexure. 7. Other Details.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for Bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/o S.E., Rural Works Division, Baripada	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
S.E., R.W. Division, Baripada	10 (Online)/RWD-BPD of 2025-26	28.11.25 at 11.00 A.M.	08.12.25 upto 5.00 P.M.	08.12.25 upto 3.00 P.M.	08.12.25 at 5.30 A.M.	Intimate later

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
R.W. Division, Baripada



आईआरईएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड
IREL (India) Limited
(A Government of India Undertaking - Department of Atomic Energy)
Manavalakurichi, Tamil Nadu, E-mail: purchase-mk@irel.co.in
An ISO 9001, 14001 & 45001 Unit, Phone: 04651-200402
CIN: U15100MH1950GOI008187

निविदा सूचना / TENDER NOTICE
IREL Manavalakurichi Unit invites tender for the following:

Tender No.	Description
GEM/2025/B/6900269	Transportation of Monazite from Manavalakurichi Unit to OSCOM Unit, Odisha
GEM/2025/B/6900424	Transportation of Mineral Cargo from Manavalakurichi Plant to Tuticorin Port and shipment through Tuticorin port

Bidder may download the tender document from <http://gem.gov.in>, <https://www.irel.co.in> and CPP Portal. Any Corrigendum/Extension to above tender shall be hoisted in above websites only.
CBC-48147/12/0008/2526 CGM & Head, MK/मुख्य महा प्रबंधक एवं प्रधान, एकम



INDIAN OIL CORPORATION LTD.
(Refineries Division)
PARADIP REFINERY



Notification for Engagement of 413 Apprentices in IOCL, Paradip Refinery

Advertisement No: PDR/HR/02/Apprentices-25
Paradip Refinery, one of the Refining Units of Indian Oil Corporation Limited, one of the largest commercial undertakings in India and a Fortune "Global 500" Company, as a measure of Skill Building Initiative for the Nation, invites applications from candidates for engagement as Apprentices under Apprentices Act, 1961/1973 (as amended) in various Trades/ Disciplines at its refinery located at Paradeep, Jagatsinghpur, Odisha.
Age requirement: 18 years to 24 years as on 30-11-2025. Reservation of seats will be as per Presidential Directives/Govt. Guidelines.
Detailed common advertisement along with reservation, prescribed educational qualification requirement and other eligibility criteria/parameters is available on the website www.iocl.com.
HOW TO APPLY : Candidates meeting the prescribed eligibility criteria for a trade/discipline, may visit the website www.iocl.com, go to 'What's New' > go to Engagement of Apprentices under Refineries Division 2025 (II) > Click on "Detailed Advertisement of Pardip Refinery" (to refer to the Advertisement) > Click on "Click here to Register/Apply on NAPS/NATS" (to register/apply against opportunities) > Click on "Click here to Apply Online on IOCL portal" (to fill online application form). Those meeting the prescribed eligibility criteria may submit their applications through the on-line application process only which shall require completion of BOTH STEPS as indicated below:

- STEP I : Registration on NAPS/NATS portal and Application to Opportunities notified on NAPS/NATS portal
- STEP II : Application on iocl website www.ioclrecruit.in

Candidates must have their own valid e-mail id, mobile no. and a valid & active Apprentice Registration/Enrolment Number registered on NAPS/NATS portal.

Important dates to remember

DATE OF OPENING OF ONLINE APPLICATION IN NAPS/NATS PORTAL AND IOCL PORTAL (www.ioclrecruit.in)	28-11-2025 (10.00 Hrs)
LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF ONLINE APPLICATION IN NAPS/NATS PORTAL AND IOCL PORTAL (www.ioclrecruit.in)	18-12-2025 (17.00 Hrs)
TENTATIVE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF LIST OF CANDIDATES CALLED FOR DOCUMENT VERIFICATION	27-12-2025
TENTATIVE DATE OF DOCUMENT VERIFICATION	02-01-2026 to 07-01-2026



“

By your stumbling, the world is perfected.

SRI AUROBINDO



New Jim Crow

Black men and women holding high office in the United States are under attack, together with the country’s most important anti-discrimination laws. The assault – a joint project of US President Donald Trump’s administration and the Supreme Court’s conservative majority – harkens back to a late-19th-century push to reverse the racial equality that the Civil War had promised, and that the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the US Constitution guaranteed. Eleven years after the end of the Civil War, Republican presidential candidate Rutherford B. Hayes pledged that, if elected, he would withdraw federal troops from the defeated South. The promise helped propel him to victory in the 1876 election, and once in office, he fulfilled it. The predictable result was the creation of the Jim Crow regime of racial apartheid throughout the former Confederacy. In 1883, the Supreme Court nearly unanimously struck down the 1875 Civil Rights Act, which banned discrimination on the basis of race in public accommodations. The Act was unconstitutional, Justice Joseph P. Bradley wrote in his majority opinion, because it treated African-Americans as the “special favorite of the laws,” rather than as ordinary citizens.

With these actions, Yale historian C. Vann Woodward later observed, the US “virtually repudiated” its commitment to equality. By 1890, the “courts had rendered the Constitution helpless,” the Republican Party had “forsaken the cause it had sponsored,” and a “tide of racism was mounting in the country unopposed.”

But the Supreme Court was not finished. In its infamous Plessy v. Ferguson decision of 1896, the Court upheld Louisiana’s law segregating railroad passengers by race, establishing the “separate but equal” doctrine to affirm the constitutionality of the discrimination. In his lone dissent, Justice John Marshall Harlan called out the ruling’s hypocrisy, writing that the “thin disguise of ‘equal’ accommodations ... will not mislead anyone, nor atone for the wrong this day done.”

The same can be said of the actions the Supreme Court’s Republican-appointed majority anqlts on anti-discrimination laws began over a decade ago. In 2013, the Supreme Court gutted Section 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which requires jurisdictions with a history of racial discrimination to submit proposed changes to voting procedures for “preclearance” before they take effect. Since Shelby County v. Holder, states have implemented restrictive voter ID laws and other vote-suppressing policies.

But the dismantling of minority protections has lately gained new momentum. Recent oral arguments in the Supreme Court suggest that it is prepared to gut the Voting Rights Act further, by limiting or striking down Section 2, which prohibits electoral maps that dilute the voting power of minority groups. As in the 19th century, the Supreme Court is pretending that laws barring racial discrimination favor Black people, making them unconstitutional.

This was precisely the logic the Supreme Court used in 2023, when it struck down affirmative action in admissions at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina on the grounds that such policies violate the 14th Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause. The ruling effectively eliminated the ability of any US college or university to consider race in its admissions decisions. Just one year later, many elite colleges and universities already experienced a sharp drop in Black enrollment.

Under the Trump administration, such judicial activism has been matched by the obstruction of civil-rights protections. A New York Times report found that administration officials have systematically stymied enforcement of the 1968 Fair Housing Act, which prohibits racial discrimination in the “sale or rental of housing, the financing of housing, or the provision of brokerage services.”

Meanwhile, Trump has purged the government of high-ranking Black officials. Among those who have been fired are Charles Q. Brown, Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Robert E. Primus, Chair of the Surface Transportation Board; and Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress. Black members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the National Labor Relations Board, and the National Transportation Safety Board were also removed. In every case, the replacement was a white man.

Trump also attempted to fire US Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook – the first Black woman to sit on the central bank’s board – though a federal court has stayed that action, for now. Other Black officials who have sued over their firings have received unfavorable rulings from the Supreme Court. Beyond these targeted firings, the Trump administration has laid off huge swaths of the federal workforce, with Black employees bearing the brunt of the cuts and the Supreme Court effectively signing off on the cuts in July. A New York Times tracker found that federal agencies that employed larger shares of racial minorities and women – such as the Department of Education and the Agency for International Development – have faced the largest cuts, with some being eliminated entirely. Between February and July, 319,000 Black women lost their jobs in the public and private sectors – the only major female demographic to experience significant employment losses during this period.

Given Trump’s executive orders targeting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programmes in every area – from hiring to data collection and scientific research – and the Republican-cultivated narrative that virtually all non-white people, down to former Vice President Kamala Harris, owe their jobs to DEI, opportunities for minorities are set to continue to shrink. Add to that diminished public awareness of America’s history of slavery and official racism – an inevitable upshot of Trump’s demands that schools, museums, and even the National Park Service remove mentions of it – and US minorities can expect less fairness and greater hostility.

It was not until the mid-1960s that the US began the arduous task of dismantling the post-Reconstruction racial apartheid that governments and the Supreme Court had created and perpetuated. That task remains incomplete. But far from continuing to advance racial equality, the Supreme Court and the Trump administration are embracing the logic that made Jim Crow possible.

The writer is a former professor of political science and law at the University of Chicago.

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WISDOM CORNER

“The snow goose need not bathe to make itself white. Neither need you do anything but be yourself.”

LAO TZU

“He who learns but does not think, is lost! He who thinks but does not learn is in great danger.”

CONFUCIUS

“If you know the enemy and know yourself you need not fear the results of a hundred battles.”

SUN TZU



Piotr Opalinski

THE
GEOPOLITICAL
MOMENT IS
UNUSUALLY
FAVOURABLE
FOR
STRUCTURED
INDIA-EUROPE
SECURITY
COOPERATION



Gerald N. Rosenberg

Beyond
targeted firings,
the Trump
administration
has laid off
huge swaths
of the federal
workforce, with
Black employees
bearing the
brunt of the cuts
and the Supreme
Court effectively
signing off on
the cuts in July

SPECTRUM POVERTY ERADICATION

Kerala shows the way

On 1 November, Kerala scripted a historic chapter in India’s development narrative by officially declaring itself free from extreme poverty—becoming the first state to do so. Kerala’s declaration of freedom from extreme poverty is both an inspiration and an invitation—to policymakers, scholars, and citizens. It demonstrates that with political will, sound governance, community engagement, and co-ordinated welfare systems, eradicating extreme poverty is achievable even within a middle-income economy. Extreme poverty—defined as the lack of basic human needs such as nutritious food, secure housing, healthcare, and stable livelihood—has remained a stubborn challenge across India despite rapid economic expansion. The World Bank has officially revised its international extreme poverty line to \$3.00 per day, measured in 2021 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms. This is an update from the previous line of \$2.15 per day (2017 PPP). This revision, announced in June 2025, accounts for global inflation and updated national poverty lines, providing a more current and realistic measure of the cost of living in low-income countries.

Before obliterating extreme poverty, Kerala had achieved a

remarkable reduction in its poverty rate, declining from 59.8% in 1973-74 to an exceptionally low 0.55% in 2023, according to NITI Aayog’s multidimensional poverty index. Kerala, home to just 2.8% of India’s population and encompassing 1.2% of the nation’s land area, contributes over 4% to India’s GDP. Renowned for its exceptional human development outcomes, Kerala’s success—often termed the “Kerala phenomenon” or “Kerala model”—is anchored in a robust human development index, comprehensive social welfare programmes, and exemplary achievements in education and healthcare.

This model, initiated by the state’s first Left Democratic Front (LDF) government under EMS Namboodiripad, prioritised land reforms, social upliftment, and active civil society participation, sustained through a social democratic welfare approach. The Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP) 2021-2025 was launched soon after the LDF’s 2021 election victory. EPEP was an ambitious, four-year statewide campaign implemented primarily by Kudumbashree, Kerala’s well-established state poverty eradication mission, in partnership with local self-governments. This programme was unique for

its scale, precision, and multidimensional design. Government welfare initiatives, including direct cash transfers and targeted micro-plans tailored to the unique needs of each household, have significantly reduced poverty rates.

About 400,000 trained workers—including Kudumbashree members, ASHAs, local volunteers, and government officials—conducted door-to-door monitoring. Local committees and gram sabhas validated outcomes, ensuring transparency, accountability, and community consent. Through this, in India’s largest-ever door-to-door survey, 64,006 families comprising over 100,000 individuals were identified as living in extreme poverty across 1,032 local self-government institutions. Rejecting one-size-fits-all welfare, each family received an individualised intervention plan addressing immediate, medium-term, and long-term needs. The programme’s strength lies in its integrated approach, weaving together food security, housing, healthcare, income support, and social protection under one umbrella. This multidimensional focus tackled the complex realities of poverty better than purely income-focused metrics.

EPEP converged numerous state and Central government schemes into a single coordinat-

tempts were facilitated by criminal groups hired for operational tasks. India’s long history with networks operating in the grey space between illicit trade and political subversion provides analytical frameworks Europe could adapt.

The geopolitical moment is unusually favourable for structured India-Europe security cooperation, still lagging behind shared concerns over supply-chain security, emerging technologies, and a stable global order. Collaboration could be particularly fruitful in three areas: intelligence sharing on hybrid threats, critical infrastructure protection, and counter-drone and electronic warfare efforts. The partnership offers tangible benefits for India. It provides access to European technologies, including advanced counter-drone systems, AI-driven surveillance, and next-generation cyber defence. India can also gain operational insights into hybrid tactics emerging on Europe’s eastern flank—scenarios it may face in the future. Finally, closer alignment with Europe’s strategic community strengthens India’s diplomatic and security posture in a rapidly shifting global environment.

The pattern emerging in Brussels, Denmark, Estonia and Poland is not peripheral turbulence. It signals a structural shift in Europe’s security environment. The continent is entering a phase where sabotage, coercive technologies and deniable proxies will become persistent tools of statecraft. India has already lived through this reality. Because it has, it possesses both credibility and practical experience to contribute meaningfully to Europe’s evolving defence posture.

If Europe and India act together, they can build a framework of resilience that goes far beyond crisis response.

The writer is an expert, Centre for International Relations, Poland.

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Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Daunting tasks

Sir, Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant, will have a term of nearly fifteen months-- not insignificant at all considering the circumstances the judiciary is in. Impending danger to the independence of judiciary from various quarters is an issue the fifty-third CJI may have to tackle with a sense of urgency. The transfer and appointment of top judges of the country has raised everyone’s hackles. “Judges judging judges” is not bad; but the creeping tendency of collegiums to overprotect “brother judges” should be arrested. No doubt, fair and swift disposal of matters are always daunting tasks for a Chief Justice. But if there is no will on the part of the government, there is little that the top most judge can do. .

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

China at it again

Sir, China is at it again. In a disturbing reminder of Beijing’s aggressive and irrational territorial behaviour, Chinese airport authorities detained and harassed an Indian woman from Arunachal Pradesh at the Shanghai airport during a layover while she was travelling to Japan. The woman, who has been working in London for fourteen years, was subjected to needless questioning and intimidation simply because her passport listed Arunachal Pradesh as her birthplace. China’s claim that her Indian passport was “invalid” because Arunachal Pradesh supposedly belongs to China is not just absurd—it is a deliberate act of political bullying. Such conduct violates well-established international norms governing transit passengers and disrespects globally accepted validity of Indian passports. More importantly, it is a direct insult to the dignity and safety of Indian citizens. Beijing’s decision to target an innocent traveller shows how it weaponises its baseless territorial claims even in neutral spaces like airports. This incident is not an isolated lapse but part of a pattern where China extends its coercive attitude beyond borders to intimidate ordinary people. India must treat this seriously. No sovereign nation can allow its citizens to be humiliated under the guise of invented territorial fantasies.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

FROM COMPOSTERS TO RECYCLING UNITS

Delhi Police rolls out green policing project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 27: The Delhi Police Thursday launched a large-scale community policing initiative aimed at promoting sustainable waste management and environmental conservation across police establishments in the West Delhi district, an official said.

The project, launched in collaboration with the Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA), focuses on segregation and recycling of paper, plastic, and kitchen waste generated from police stations and residential colonies.

As part of the drive, 50 composters worth around ₹15 lakh have been arranged through corporate social responsibility (CSR) support for processing kitchen and biodegradable waste.

Additionally, 14 plastic-waste collection bins valued at approximately ₹1.25 lakh have been installed through community partnerships, while a paper-waste recycling system has been set up in collaboration with IPCA, police said.

The equipment, arranged with support from corporate partner Motherson Group, will be deployed across police residential colonies, police stations, district lines and other units in the West district. The system aims to ensure waste segregation at source, scientific disposal and 100 per cent recycling, thereby reducing landfill load and improving cleanliness, they said.

Police said the initiative marks the launch of two themes – ‘Swachh Police, Swachh Parivaran’ and ‘Swachh Police, Swachh Parisar’ – to promote cleaner and environmentally responsible police premises and to strengthen community-police partnership in ecological preservation.

68% sought medical help, 85% faced rising costs

As many as 76.4 per cent of respondents have drastically reduced outdoor time, turning homes into virtual prisons as families hide indoors from the toxic haze

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 27: More than 80 per cent of residents in Delhi-NCR surveyed reported experiencing persistent health issues, including chronic cough, debilitating fatigue, and respiratory irritation due to polluted air, according to a survey.

The SmyttenPulseAI Survey revealed that 68.3 per cent have sought medical assistance in the past year specifically for pollution-related ailments – a healthcare crisis in the making.

As many as 76.4 per cent of respondents have drastically reduced outdoor time, turning homes into virtual prisons as families hide indoors from the toxic haze, the survey claimed.

The comprehensive study of 4,000 residents across Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Ghaziabad, and Faridabad paints a devastating portrait of a city under siege - not from external forces, but from the very air its citizens breathe, the consumer research firm Smytten PulseAI said.

The survey also found that 79.8 per cent are either considering relocation or have already left, with 33.6 per cent seriously planning their departure, 31 per cent actively con-



POLLUTION IN DELHI NCR

sidering it, and 15.2 per cent having already relocated.

As many as 37 per cent have already taken concrete steps-visiting properties in other cities, enquiring with schools, or making family decisions about leaving, it said.

The preferred destinations tell their own story: hilly areas, small towns with fewer factories, anywhere outside Delhi-NCR, places where breathing doesn't require monitoring an app, the survey said.

Pollution has imposed an economic burden on middle-class families as 85.3 per cent reported increased household spending due to pollution, with 41.6 per cent experiencing significant financial strain, it added.

Swagat Sarangi, Co-Founder, Smytten PulseAI, said, “The study shows that prolonged poor air quality is reshaping ev-

eryday life - influencing health behaviour, spending patterns and long-term living decisions. It is no longer just an environmental concern, but a factor impacting lifestyle and quality of life, underscoring the need for sustained, data-backed and collaborative action.”

AQI INCHES UP TO 377

Delhi's air quality remained in the 'very poor' category for the 14th consecutive day Thursday, with the city recording an AQI of 377 and forecasts indicating no relief in the coming week.

The 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) settled at 377 Thursday, compared to 327 Wednesday, 352 Tuesday and 382 Monday, remaining in the 'very poor' category for the 14th consecutive day.

The air quality is likely to remain 'very poor' over the coming week, according to the

forecast by the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi.

Meanwhile, the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) Sameer app, which displays real-time pollution readings from monitoring stations across Delhi, had not updated the data till 5 pm Thursday, just like Wednesday.

The Decision Support System (DSS) of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, estimated that vehicular emissions contributed 19.5 per cent to Delhi's pollution Thursday, followed by neighbouring Ghaziabad at 8.2 per cent and Baghpat at 7.3 per cent. Stubble burning accounted for 0.7 per cent.

For Friday, these contributions are projected at 18.7 per cent for vehicular emissions and 1.5 per cent for stubble burning.

Haryana tycoon snags priciest registration plate at ₹1.17 crore

The Badhra sub-division in Charkhi Dadri district fetched the highest bid amount for vehicle registration number 'HR-88-B-8888'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Nov 27: A businessman has bid a whopping ₹1.17 crore for a fancy vehicle number in Haryana.

The Badhra sub-division in Charkhi Dadri district fetched the highest bid amount for vehicle registration number 'HR-88-B-8888', official sources Wednesday said.

They said the bid, which closed Wednesday, was made during an online bidding process on the designated portal, with ₹1,000 as the participation fee and ₹10,000 as the security deposit.

They said that he has five days to deposit the bid money, after which the number will be allotted if the entire process is completed.

Contacted over the phone Wednesday evening, the busi-

nessman, who is in his late 30s and did not wish to be named, said he hails from a village in Bhiwani district and his family now lives in another Haryana district.

He said that the reserve price or base price for the fancy number was ₹50,000 and he had not expected to go this far and make the highest bid of ₹1.17 crore.

“I had not kept any specific amount in mind and liked the number and just went ahead,” he said, adding he has not yet decided the vehicle for which the number will be used.

Asked if he has purchased the vehicle, he said, “We are figuring that out.”

Responding to a question, he said, “I was not expecting that this bid would generate such a hype.”

“We are in the transport business. We also have a software company and we are into developing a transport-related mobile app for commercial transportation and this business is in its early phase,” he said.

Meanwhile, bidding high amounts for fancy numbers has also been witnessed in Chandigarh over the years.

This year, one of the fancy numbers was sold for over ₹36 lakh.



Khadi products become key attraction for visitors

Government is promoting khadi-based self-employment and providing training and financial support to youth interested in pursuing enterprises connected to the textile

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kuruksheetra, Nov 27: Khadi garments have become a major attraction for visitors at the ongoing International Gita Mahotsav here, where artisans from across the country are showcasing their craft, officials said.

The Khadi stalls set up near the northern banks of the Brahmasarovar lake are witnessing heavy footfall, they said.

The state Khadi and Village Industries Board has displayed a range of products made using the textile, with a 25 per cent dis-



HARYANA GITA MAHOTSAV

count for the public and 30 per cent for government employees, according to Pramod Kumar Paliwal, District Khadi and Village Industries Officer.

The garments displayed are entirely hand-crafted from khadi fabric, he said.

Paliwal said khadi clothes are preferred by tourists due to their comfort, as they remain cool in

summer and warm in winter, adding that other products, such as herbal mehndi, shampoos, and jackets, are also available.

He said the government is promoting khadi-based self-employment and providing training and financial support to youth interested in pursuing enterprises connected to the textile. The stalls feature cotton and khadi gar-

ments, including shawls, sheets, jackets, coats, and kurta-pyjamas, along with natural incense sticks, honey, footwear, soaps, and herbal eye care products.

A special stall on solar energy has also been set up at the mahotsav, officials said. Meanwhile, folk artistes from various states are captivating visitors at the Brahmasarovar ghats, adding vibrant colours of regional culture to the festive atmosphere, they said. The programmes are being presented by the North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC), Patiala.

NZCC officer Bhupender Singh said artistes have been invited from Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Odisha, for performances such as Puja and Ghat dances, Dhamali, Kud, Rumaal dance, Jhoomar, Malwai Gid-dha, Chari, Pandav dance, Gangaur, Panthi, Paika, Sambalpur, among others.

Mann visits deceased player's family in Rohtak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Nov 27: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Thursday said that the Centre should order a thorough inspection of infrastructure in all sports complexes around the country, following the deaths of two youths in the collapse of rusted iron poles in basketball courts this week.

Two basketball players in their teens died in Haryana in a similar accident when iron poles holding hoops in basketball courts collapsed on them. While 16-year-

old Hardik Rath, who had taken part in the national sub-junior basketball championship, died in Rohtak Tuesday, 15-year-old Aman, who was injured in Baha-

BASKETBALL COURT HORROR

durgarh, breathed his last during treatment at PGIMS Rohtak Monday.

Mann, who visited 16-year-old Hardik Rath's family in Rohtak's Lakhna Majra and later also went to the ground where the basketball pole fell,

said the Union sports minister should take cognisance of the incidents. “India's sports minister should take cognisance of these incidents. In the entire country, where infrastructure is unsafe, these should be inspected,” Mann said. The Punjab chief minister, who was accompanied by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Haryana unit chief Sushil Gupta and party leader Anurag Dhand, said the inspection was necessary to ensure the safety and security of players as well as when India has been formally awarded hosting rights of the 2030 Commonwealth Games.

Delhi man ‘so drunk’, dozes off at home after killing partner



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 27: A 44-year-old woman was allegedly murdered in southwest Delhi by her live-in partner, who throttled her with his elbow and was so drunk that he carried the body to the car but couldn't drive, so he left it there while he went home and slept, police said Thursday.

The accused, identified as Virendra (35), was so intoxicated that although he managed to carry the woman's body to his car, allegedly with the intention of disposing of it, he was unable to drive and returned home, they said.

A senior police officer privy to the investigation told PTI that a PCR call was received on the morning of November 26 from a neighbour, who noticed the woman's body lying inside the car while the accused was asleep in the house.

“Virendra, who is married and has

children, had been living with the deceased for the past two years. The woman earlier owned a house in Palam, which they sold, and using that money, Virendra purchased a three-storey house in Chhawla under his own name in August,” the officer said. The officer added that an additional ₹21 lakh from the sale remained with Virendra, which often became a point of contention between the two. On the intervening night of November 25 and 26, both had been allegedly drinking when a fight broke out.

During the altercation, Virendra, who works with a bus company, allegedly pinned the woman to the bed and throttled her with his elbow. After killing her, he called two friends, a man and a woman, who allegedly helped him carry the body down to the car. The friends left soon after, and Virendra attempted to drive away to dispose of the body. However, due to his heavy intoxication, he could not continue beyond around 100 metres and returned home.

Leaving the body in the car, he went back upstairs, resumed drinking and eventually fell asleep. Around 9 am, a neighbour, who believed the couple were married, spotted the woman's body and alerted the police.

A police team reached the scene and arrested Virendra, who was still asleep.

ZILLA SWASTHYA SAMITI, BHADRAK

DISTRICT PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT UNIT,

O/o CDM&PHO, BHADRAK, DIST-BHADRAK

Advt. No.27/2025

Date : 27.11.2025

Corrigendum

No.E-548 : It is to information of all concerned that the last date for submission of bid for Mechanised Laundry services under NIRMAL for the Bhadrak district is hereby extended up to 12.12.2025 (5.00 P.M.) & the opening date of the Technical bid will be 17.12.2025 at 12.00. All other term & conditions for the above advertisement remain unchanged.

Sd./- Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer, Bhadrak

OIPR-

Bhubaneswar Development Authority

Akash Sova Building, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751001

Visit us at : <http://www.bda.gov.in>

'e' Procurement Notice BID IDENTIFICATION NO.633/EE-II/BDA/2025-26

No. : 633/EE-II/BDA/2025-26

Dated : 26.11.2025

No.CAD-2485 : Executive Engineer, Division No.II, BDA on behalf of Bhubaneswar Development Authority invites Percentage Rate bid in **DOUBLE COVER SYSTEM** to be received in online mode only for the work detailed below.

1. Name of the Work	Construction of road in front of Ekamra Residency Housing Project & adjacent to O.H Tank at K-4, Subudhipur, Bhubaneswar
2. Estimated Cost	₹60.45 Lakh
3. Period of Completion	02 (Two) Calendar Months
4. Tender Cost	₹10,000.00 + 18% GST= ₹11,800.00
5. Date and time of availability of Bid	From 29/11/2025 to 5.30 P.M. of 15/12/2025 in the website
6. Class of Contractor	'B' Class

The Bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>

NB : The quoted rate should be all inclusive but excluding GST applicable under works contract.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, Division No-II, BDA, BBSR

OIPR-

ଓଡିଶା ଗୃହ ଓ ନଗର ଉନ୍ନୟନ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

Housing & Urban Development Department, Govt. of Odisha

No.C-1590

ଓଡିଶା ଶୈଳପରିଷଦ, ଜାତନୀ

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL : JATANI

ଭୁବନ - ଓଡ଼ିଶା, ଜିଲ୍ଲା - ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା, ୭୫୧୦୫୦

At/PS - Jatani, Dist. - Khordha (Odisha), PIN - 752050, E-mail : municipalityjatani@gmail.com, Phone No. 0674-2490826

No.6433/Jatani, Date-26.11.2025

2nd Corrigendum Notice

Under unavoidable circumstances, the availability of tender invited vide e-Procurement Notice No.EO/JMC/085/2025-26 of Jatani Municipality is hereby rescheduled as follows.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification Number with Tender ID	Availability of Tender on line for bidding		Date & time of Opening of Tender
		From	To	
1	2	3	4	5
Executive Officer, Jatni Municipality	EO/JMC/085/2025-26	18.10.2025	04.12.2025	05.12.2025
	2025 ORULB 119743 1			11.00 A.M.

All other terms and conditions are remain unchanged.

Sd./- Executive Officer, Jatni Municipality

OIPR-

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS DIVISION, UDALA

e-mail = rw_udala@yahoo.co.in

No.O-1587

e_Procurement Tender Call Notice No. Online 05/RWD/UDALA/2025-26

1. Name of the work : BUILDING works, 2. Total No. of works : 38 Nos., 3. Estimated Cost : Approx Estimated Cost Rs.22.81 to Rs.42.03 Lakhs, 4. Class of Contractor : 'C' & 'B', 5. EMD : EMD@1% of Estimated Cost put to tender, 6. Period of completion : As per Annexure, 7. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for Bidding		Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Udala
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
S.E.R.W	05 (Online)/RWD-	29.11.2025	04.12.2025	04.12.2025	04.12.2025
	Division, Udala	UDALA of 2025-26	at 11.00 A.M. up to 5.00 P.M.	up to 3.00 P.M.	up to 5.30 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer R.W. Division, Udala

OIPR-

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS DIVISION : TITILAGARH

E-Mail : eerw_titilagarh@yahoo.co.in

No.O-1540

e_Procurement Notice

IFB IDENTIFICATION NO.EETIG-online-12/2025-26

1. Name of the Work : Building Works

2. Total Number of Works : 01 (One) No.

3. Approximate Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs.50.14 lakhs

4. Time for Completion : 06 (Six) calendar months

5. Mode of Submission of Tender : Tender should be submitted online in www.tenders.ori.nic.in

6. Other details are as follow : As per TCN No.SETIG-online-12/2025-26

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
		From	To		
Executive Engineer, R.W.Divn., Titilagarh	EETIG-online -12/2025-26	29.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	10.12.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.	09.12.2025 to 11.00 A.M.	11.12.2025 The date will be intimated to the technically qualified bidders

* Further details can be seen from the website www.tenders.ori.nic.in.

* Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.

Sd./- Executive Engineer R.W. Division, Titilagarh

OIPR-

of the day

quote

As an expression of bond between Tamil Nadu and him, the full figure statue of V P Singh that I unveiled on this same day in 2023 now stands tall

M K STALIN | TAMIL NADU CM

The BJP government is subjecting BLOs to inhuman behaviour by giving them impractical targets for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. It is a part of the ruling party's larger electoral manipulation

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

The village of Ransih Kalan is a role model for stubble management. Farmers of the village have abstained from burning stubble for the past six years, resulting in more fertile soil and a 30 per cent reduction in chemical fertiliser use

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Raids conducted across Kashmir

Srinagar: Police Thursday carried out raids at multiple locations across the Kashmir valley as part of its crackdown on the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), officials said. The searches were conducted in the Srinagar, Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam, Budgam, and Kupwara districts, they said.

2 coaches of passenger train derails in J'khand

Dumka: Two coaches of Rampurhat-Jasidih passenger train derailed when it was about to enter Dumka railway station in Jharkhand Thursday, an official said. Two or three passengers suffered minor injuries in the accident, which occurred around 2.10 pm near the station that is under Eastern Railway, the official said.

Shooter of Himanshu Bhau gang detained

New Delhi: A shooter of Himanshu Bhau gang, who carried a bounty of ₹25,000 on him, was arrested by Delhi Police after an encounter Thursday, an official said. The shooter, identified as Ankit (25), a resident of Haryana's Sonipat, opened fire on the police team when they moved in to arrest him at around 8.05 am near Sai Baba Mandir on Urban Extension Road 2, he said.



In the future, I have a dream to see electric trucks and buses running on this road. We will incorporate the world's best technology into the project to reduce logistics costs

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

INDIA, INDONESIA TO BOOST DEFENCE TIES

India and Indonesia Thursday reiterated the importance of maintaining a free, open and peaceful Indo-Pacific, guided by international law and respect for sovereignty, against the backdrop of China's growing assertiveness in the region



Caste groups rally behind Sidda, DKS

An AHINDA (a Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes and Dalit communities) group warned the Congress of implications if Siddaramaiah was forced to make way for his deputy, a Vokkaliga body said no injustice should be meted out to Shivakumar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 27: In a fresh twist to the ongoing power struggle in Karnataka, caste groups backing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar Thursday threw their weight behind them, with one warning Congress against unseating the incumbent CM while the other community strongly battled for Shivakumar's elevation.

As the pressure builds up over the Congress high command to put an end to the tussle, party chief Mallikarjun Kharge said he will have a meeting with select leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and the Siddaramaiah-Shivakumar duo to resolve the matter.

Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra, meanwhile, said there was no reason for his father to quit mid-way through the five year



term as he was delivering good administration without any charges against him, and also enjoyed the support of party MLAs.

Party senior and Home minister G Parameshwara, who is also in the CM race, expressed confidence the party high command will resolve the matter in a week. He, however, assured to serve the people and also live up to Congress ideology if he is en-

trusted with the top post considering his experience and skill.

While an AHINDA (a Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes and Dalit communities) group warned the Congress of implications if Siddaramaiah was forced to make way for his deputy, a Vokkaliga body said no injustice should be meted out to Shivakumar.

Expelled AIADMK leader Sengottaiyan joins TVK



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

- Sengottaiyan and his supporters, including a former MP, joined the fledgling Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam and were welcomed into the party fold by its founder Vijay
- Hours after he joined the TVK, Vijay appointed Sengottaiyan as chief coordinator of the party's executive committee

Venkatachalam, Muthukrishnan and others who joined the TVK. In another release, he welcomed V Saminathan and K A U Assana, former legislators from Puducherry, into the party.

Later, accompanied by TVK leaders, Sengottaiyan paid homage at the memorials of former Chief Ministers C N Annadurai, M G Ramachandran and J Jayalalithaa.

Earlier, the former state minister and senior politician, who was hailed as MGR loyalist, arrived at the TVK headquarters in Panaiyur here, and joined the party along with several of his supporters, including Sathyabama.

Sengottaiyan, who was rarely seen sporting a shawl, was presented with a yellow-red TVK shawl by Vijay, who hailed his 50 years of political experience.

The former minister had joined the AIADMK when its founder, charismatic matinee idol, M G Ramachandran (MGR) founded the party in 1972 after walking out of the DMK following differences with its then chief M Karunanidhi.

TVK insiders feel that Sengottaiyan's presence in the party would help to strengthen the party in the Kongu region, especially the eight Assembly constituencies in Erode district from where he hails.



Rescue personnel during a joint mock drill being conducted by the Railways along with NDRF and SDRF to check emergency preparedness, near Daurai railway station, in Ajmer, Rajasthan

PTI PHOTO

Assam passes Bill to ban polygamy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Nov 27: The Assam Assembly Thursday passed a Bill to ban polygamy, making it an offence which may lead to a maximum of 10 years of imprisonment, barring some exceptions.

It kept people belonging to the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category and areas under the Sixth Schedule out of the purview of the legislation.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) will be implemented in Assam if he becomes the CM again after the Assembly polls next year.

During the passage of the As-



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said a Bill on Uniform Civil Code will be tabled if he retains the post after the 2026 Assembly polls

sam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025, the chief minister who also holds the portfolio of the home and political departments, said the law is "irrespective of religion and not against Islam as being perceived by a section".

"The Hindus are not free from polygamy. That's also our responsibility. This Bill will cover people from Hindu,

Muslim, Christian and all other societies," he added. Despite the CM's request to all Opposition members to withdraw their respective amendments to send a message from the House that the Bill is passed unanimously to empower women, AIUDF and CPI(M) went ahead with their modification suggestions, which were defeated by voice vote.

Drug probe: ED raids India-Myanmar border

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Aizawl, Nov 27: The Enforcement Directorate Thursday conducted maiden searches along the India-Myanmar border in Mizoram apart from some places in Assam and Gujarat in a drugs trafficking linked money laundering case, officials said.

The federal probe agency also seized ₹35 lakh cash apart from some digital devices. Locations across Aizawl and Champhai in Mizoram, Sribhumi (Karimganj) in Assam and Ahmedabad in Gujarat are being searched under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PM-LA), they said.

The probe stems from a Mizoram Police FIR from the seizure of 4.72 kgs of heroin worth ₹1.41 crore from six people.

These are the first searches conducted by the agency along the India-Myanmar border (Champhai), the ED officials said. India shares a 1,643 long front with Myanmar on its eastern side.

The agency undertook a financial analysis of the arrested persons and found "financial linkages" between some firms located in Mizoram and certain Gujarat-based companies.

The Gujarat firms supplied Pseudoephedrine tablets and Caffeine Anhydrous (pre-pre-cursor used in manufacturing of Methamphetamine tablets) to the Mizoram-based firms that allegedly had links to drug smugglers who carry out smuggling and hawala transactions through habitual offenders operating in Champhai, the officials said.

Certain financial transactions of the Mizoram entities were also found with certain Kolkata-based shell (dummy) companies which had procured the said consignment of Caffeine Anhydrous, they said.

Climate-hit areas see 25% more underweight kids: Study

Districts highly vulnerable to climate change consistently underperform on achieving health targets, such as stunting and problems accessing healthcare, compared to less vulnerable districts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 27: Children in India districts that are highly vulnerable to climate change could be 25 per cent more likely to be underweight, compared to those in less vulnerable districts, indicating how climate vulnerability can impact public health outcomes, a study has found.

Districts highly vulnerable to climate change consistently underperform on achieving health targets, such as stunting and problems accessing healthcare, compared to less vulnerable districts, the study published in the journal PLOS one said.

Researchers from Delhi's Institute of Economic Growth

said that with 80 per cent of India's population living in areas highly vulnerable to extreme weather events such as cyclones, floods

and heatwaves, risks due to climate change could undermine the country's progress on several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Member states of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, a blueprint for ensuring peace and prosperity for people and the planet by 2030. Seventeen SDGs have been described which include ending poverty, achieving gender equality and improving access to clean water and sanitation.

Low and middle-income countries are projected to ex-



perience the worst effects of climate change owing to geographical location, such as tropical regions, and a limited capacity to adapt.

The researchers analysed data from the National Fami-

ly Health Survey-Round 5 and 'Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture' (CRIDA), which provides information on a district's climate vulnerability.

The study also found a 38 per cent higher likelihood of

a non-institutional delivery -- birth occurring outside a healthcare facility -- in districts highly vulnerable to climate change.

"The chance of children being underweight and that of

women having non-institutional deliveries, is (25 per cent and 38 per cent) higher, respectively, in districts that are highly vulnerable to climate change than districts that are less vulnerable," the authors wrote.

"Districts that are highly vulnerable to climate change consistently underperform on the studied health targets as compared to districts which are less vulnerable to climate change," they said.

Climate vulnerability was also related with problems accessing healthcare. The team also found a higher chance of six per cent and 14 per cent for wasting -- a low weight for height -- and stunting in highly vulnerable districts.

"Districts which are highly vulnerable in terms of climate, underperform on health metrics including stunting, wasting, being underweight, having non-institutional deliveries and facing problems in accessing health care," the authors said.

of the day

quote

Not only has Japan failed to deeply reflect on its grave crimes of aggression and colonial rule in Taiwan, it has instead, in defiance of world opinion, entertained the delusion of military intervention in the Taiwan Strait

JIANG BIN | SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

The purpose is clear: to strengthen the air and maritime protection ring maintained by our Armed Forces, a decisive reinforcement to prevent the entry of narcotics and to strike a more decisive blow against transnational organised crime

LUIS ABINADER | PRESIDENT, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The inquiry will look into whether government agencies took all practicable steps to protect the safety and welfare of the Phillips children

JUDITH COLLINS | ATTORNEY-GENERAL, NEW ZEALAND

SHORT TAKES

Storm fury strikes Lanka

Colombo: Torrential rains, floods and landslides have left 31 people dead in Sri Lanka with nearly 4000 affected in the last 11 days, as the Island nation grapples with one of its worst weather-related crises. Sri Lanka's Disaster Management Centre said Thursday that 18 deaths were reported from the central hill districts alone due to landslides. Nearly 10 people have sustained injuries, while 14 persons are reported missing, Adaderana news portal reported.

Mass amnesty in Myanmar

Bangkok: Excited families greeted relatives released from Myanmar's Insein Prison Thursday as part of a mass amnesty granted by the country's military rulers ahead of next month's election. At least eight buses carrying prisoners were welcomed outside the gate of the Yangon prison at 11:30 am by relatives and friends who had been waiting since early morning. The military administration granted amnesty to more than 3,000 people locked up for opposing army rule and dropped charges against more than 5,500 others, state-run broadcaster MRTV reported Wednesday

India, US discuss trade

Washington: India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Mohan Kwatra met United States Under Secretary of State Jacob S Helberg here and discussed a mutually beneficial trade deal and technology cooperation. The Indian envoy congratulated Helberg on assuming responsibilities as Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment. The US remained India's largest trading partner for the fourth consecutive year in 2024-25, with bilateral trade valued at \$131.84 billion (\$86.5 billion exports).

Soldiers declare Horta N'Ta leader

Bissau (Guinea-Bissau): Soldiers in Guinea-Bissau Thursday announced a new junta leader for the country, cementing a forceful takeover of power that began after the country's presidential election. The military high command inaugurated Gen. Horta N'Ta as the head of the military government, which will oversee a one-year transition period, according to declaration announced on state television. N'Ta was the army chief of staff until the coup and a close ally of deposed President Umaro Sissoco Embaló.

HONG KONG FIRE

Hong Kong police arrest construction firm bosses over fire

REUTERS

Hong Kong, Nov 27: Hong Kong police arrested the bosses of a construction company on suspicion of manslaughter on Thursday over the city's worst fire in nearly 80 years, which killed at least 83 people with about 300 still listed as missing.

Firefighters had mostly doused the blaze that tore through the Wang Fuk Court housing complex in the northern district of Tai Po, which had been undergoing renovations and was wrapped in bamboo scaffolding and green mesh.

Rescuers battled intense heat and thick smoke for more than a day as they fought to reach residents feared trapped on the upper floors. Video showed firefighters with flashlights searching through the charred remains of the towers Thursday night.

A distraught woman carrying her daughter's graduation photograph searched for her child outside a shelter, one of eight that authorities said are housing 900 residents.

"She and her father are still not out yet," said the 52-year-old, who gave only her surname, Ng, as she sobbed. "They didn't have water to save our building."



Police arrested two directors and an engineering consultant of Prestige Construction, a firm contracted to perform maintenance on the buildings. Police said those arrested were under suspicion of manslaughter for using unsafe materials.

"We have reason to believe that the company's responsible parties were grossly negligent, which led to this accident and caused the fire to spread uncontrollably, resulting in major casualties," police superintendent Eileen Chung said. Prestige did not answer repeated calls for comment. Po-



We must now re-examine every single alien who has entered our country from Afghanistan under Biden

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, USA

Toll rises to 83

- Several residential high-rises engulfed in flames
- Firefighters battle to reach those feared trapped
- Police arrest three construction firm officials
- Renovation contractor faces graft investigation

lion) fund to help residents while companies including automakers Xiaomi, Xpeng and Geely as well as the charity foundation of Alibaba's founder Jack Ma and Tencent announced donations.

The eight blocks of the tightly-packed complex of 2,000 apartments were home to more than 4,600 people in the financial hub, which is struggling to overcome chronic shortages of affordable housing. Police also said they found foam material sealing windows on one unaffected building, installed in year-long maintenance work. China's President Xi Jinping urged an "all-out effort" to extinguish the fire and minimise casualties and losses, state broadcaster CCTV said.

The leadership of both the Hong Kong government and China's Communist Party moved quickly to show they attached utmost importance to a tragedy seen as a potential test of Beijing's grip on the semi-autonomous region.

WORST FIRE SINCE 1948

The confirmed death toll rose to 83 as of midnight in Hong Kong Thursday, the South China Morning Post reported, citing the fire department. That made it Hong Kong's deadliest fire since 1948, when 176 people were killed in a warehouse blaze.

Hong Kong's leader, John Lee, said the government would set up a HK\$300 million (\$39 mil-

Thailand shifts gear in flood evacuation

Indonesia death toll climbs to 61

REUTERS

Thailand/ Malaysia, Nov 27: Flood rescue teams in Thailand readied drones to deliver aid and helicopters dropped supplies to people marooned on rooftops on Thursday, as the death toll from its worst floods in years rose and the number killed by a cyclone in Indonesia climbed to 61.

Thailand's government said 55 people died during severe floods from a week of heavy rain that has devastated nine southern provinces, while on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, rescue teams battled to reach communities cut off by landslides and floods that wreaked chaos in three provinces.

Thailand has pushed relief efforts into high gear after the military brought in an aircraft carrier, 20 helicopters and convoys of trucks to deliver food, medicine and dinghies, and issued a public appeal for boats and jet skis to reach people stranded for days by waters up to 2 metres (7 feet) high.

Floodwaters had receded Thursday in Thailand's worst-hit city of Hat Yai and authorities were optimistic that access could increase and allow basic services to be restored.

"Efforts to assist the public are continuing, but the flooding situation will be a long fight," Thai government spokesperson Siripong Angkasakulkiat said.



Nearly 3 million people have been affected by floods in southern Thailand, with thousands of people huddling in evacuation centres, while in neighbouring Malaysia, similar flooding in seven states killed two people and forced more than 34,000 into shelters.

TROPICAL CYCLONE DEVASTATES INDONESIA ISLAND

On Sumatra, an Indonesian island of 60 million people, a tropical cyclone unleashed deadly floods and landslides, with at least 100 people missing and power outages and damaged infrastructure hampering rescue efforts.

Kompas TV showed images of earth sliding down a hillside to pile up in front of homes, while gushing waters higher than 1 metre (3.5 feet) swept along debris and the branches of trees.

Meteorologists say current extremes of weather in South-

Death toll in southern Thailand floods reaches 55

Indonesia battles to reach victims of floods and landslides, 61 dead

Malaysia issues tropical storm warnings through to weekend

Weather experts say two systems interacted to unleash havoc

east Asia could stem from the interaction of two active systems, Typhoon Koto in the Philippines and the unusual formation of Cyclone Senyar in the Malacca Strait.

Global warming can bring more frequent extreme events as higher sea surface temperatures supercharge tropical storms.

The most recent floods follow a series of deadly typhoons and heavy monsoon rains that have lashed the Philippines and Vietnam and swelled floods elsewhere.

ROYAL FABERGÉ EGG SET FOR \$26MN

A rare crystal and diamond Fabergé egg crafted for Russia's ruling family before it was toppled by revolution is going up for auction, valued at more than 20 million pounds (\$26.4 million). Christie's auction house says the Winter Egg is just one of seven of the opulent ovoids remaining in private hands



Nepal adds disputed territories to currency

The new note from the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) bears the signature of previous Governor Maha Prasad Adhikari

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Nov 27: Nepal's central bank Thursday issued new ₹100 currency notes featuring a revised map that includes the Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura territories, the regions India maintains belong to it.

The new note from the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) bears the signature of previous Governor Maha Prasad Adhikari. The date of issuance of the bank note is 2081 BS, which denotes the previous year, 2024.

In May 2020, the KP Sharma Oli-led government unveiled a new political map, showing Lipulek, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas as Nepal's territory. Later, it was endorsed by the Parliament.

India reacted sharply to Nepal's move at the time, calling the revised map a "unilateral act" and cautioning Kathmandu that such "artificial enlargement" of territorial claims will not be acceptable to it. India maintains that Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura belong to it. Talking about the updated



version of the map, an NRB spokespersons Thursday said that the map was already in the old ₹100 bank note, and it has been revised as per the government's decision.

Among various denominations of bank notes, such as ₹10, ₹50, ₹500, and ₹1,000, only the ₹100 currency note bears Nepal's map, he clarified.

Nepal's new ₹100 bank note features Mt Everest on its left side, while a watermark of Nepal's national flower, Rhododendron, is on the right.

A faint green colour map of Nepal is in the background at the centre of the bank note. The Ashoka Pillar is printed near the map with the text "Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha."

On the back side of the currency, there is a picture of a horned rhino. The bank note also has a security thread and an embossed black dot, which helps blind people to recognise it. Nepal shares a border of over 1850 km with five Indian states - Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Imran Khan is in completely good health: Adiala jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, Nov 27: Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan is in "completely good health inside Adiala Jail", the jail authorities said Thursday, rejecting rumours on social media about his medical condition.

"The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership has been informed regarding Imran Khan's health. All necessary care is being provided to the PTI chief," the Adiala Jail administration said in a statement issued here Thursday.

Khan, 73, has been in jail since August 2023 in multiple cases.

Several social media accounts on X have shared unverified claims of Imran Khan's death, with some foreign media also reporting on the alleged rumours about his health. The trend 'Where is Imran Khan?' was also trending on X Thursday morning. There is no truth to the rumours being circulated on social media about his medical condition, the statement said.

The development comes as Imran Khan's three sisters have been repeatedly denied a meeting with him for the last six weeks, leading them to question the whereabouts of the ex-prime minister. They also staged sit-ins outside the Adiala jail.

The Adiala Jail administration further clarified that reports about shifting Imran Khan from Adiala Jail are entirely baseless.

SNIPPETS

Macron to unveil French voluntary military service

Paris: President Emmanuel Macron announced thousands of volunteers aged 18 and 19 will start serving in the military next year as he unveiled a new programme meant to bolster France's armed forces to address growing concerns over Russia's threat to European nations beyond the war in Ukraine. Young volunteers will serve in uniform for 10 months in France's mainland and overseas territories only, not in military operations abroad, Macron said in a speech at the Varcis military base, which is located in the French Alps. "A new national service is set to be gradually established, starting from next summer," Macron said. "In this uncertain world where power prevails over law and war is an ever-present reality, our nation has no right to fear, panic, unpreparedness, or division." The programme will start with 3,000 youth to be selected next summer and gradually will increase to 10,000 per year by 2030. France has ambitions to reach up to 50,000 volunteers per year by 2035, a figure that will be adjusted depending on the global context, Macron added. Volunteers will hold military status and receive wages and equipment. After a one-month training, they will be assigned for nine months to a unit in which they will perform the same missions as active military personnel, he detailed.



UAE denying visas to Pakistanis: Interior Official



Islamabad: The UAE is not issuing visas to Pakistanis, a senior interior ministry official told a parliamentary panel Thursday, revealing that the country narrowly escaped a passport ban from the Gulf nation. Additional Interior Secretary Salman Chaudhry made the revelation during a meeting of the Senate

Functional Committee on Human Rights, Dawn newspaper reported. The paper further quoted him as saying that Saudi Arabia and the UAE had "stopped short of imposing a ban on the Pakistani passport". "If a ban is imposed, getting it removed would be difficult," he warned. He said that currently, the UAE was only issuing visas to blue and diplomatic passport holders. A Pakistani blue passport is an official passport issued to government officials and other entitled personnel, as opposed to the common green passport issued to ordinary citizens. Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, who heads the Senate committee on human rights, confirmed the interior ministry official's remarks to the paper. She said the bar was attributed to concerns about people travelling to the UAE and "getting involved in criminal activities".

FROM HUNTERS TO GUARDIANS

Ex-hunter turns protector of Angola's endangered sea turtles

Joaquim Avelino Fragoso, the father of seven, is among around 70 villagers who have been trained in conservation as part of a project to protect the turtles that ply Angola's 1,600 km (1,000 mile) coastline

REUTERS

Hojiua, Angola, Nov 27: Once a sea turtle hunter, Joaquim Avelino Fragoso now patrols Angola's Longa estuary to protect the very creatures he once killed.

"I like to watch the turtles

when they come out to lay their eggs on land, and then go back into the sea," Fragoso told Reuters in Hojiua village, a place of lush mangroves, lagoons and stretches of sand interspersed with bush and forests.

"I no longer have that urge to hunt them," said the 45-year-old, who used to kill sea turtles for their meat.

The father of seven is among around 70 villagers who have been trained in conservation as part of a project to protect the turtles that ply Angola's 1,600 km (1,000 mile) coastline. The local Kitabanga Project covers some 25,000 turtle nests overall. The message: that business as usual will mean there soon won't be any turtles.



"We have to conserve them so that there will be more turtles tomorrow," said Fragoso, whose coastal home is about 220 km (135 miles) south of Ango-

la's capital, Luanda.

All five species of eastern Atlantic sea turtle - which range from vulnerable to critically endangered on the International

Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List - are found in Angolan waters.

Longa's caramel-coloured beaches are the nesting areas for the olive ridley turtle and the jellyfish-munching leatherback.

The conservation project, funded by the private sector and implemented by non-governmental organisation Kissama Foundation and Universidade Agostinho Neto, Angola's oldest university, trains communities to protect the endangered creatures.

Persuading people to stop

hunting requires addressing the poverty that gives rise to it and showing the economic

gains that can come from wildlife protection, says Debora Carvalho, regional coordinator of Kitabanga Project in Cuanza Sul, where Longa is located.

"The normal thing is that people say, no, we don't care, and then we need to talk, teach and show how this can be a very good thing for them," said Carvalho.

Fragoso now earns money from his turtle conservation work.

I like to watch the turtles when they come out to lay their eggs on land, and then go back into the sea. I no longer have that urge to hunt them

JOAQUIM AVELINO FRAGOSO

of the day

quote

The Department of Financial Services is working with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to develop a unified integrated portal...for across all the regulators and to be coordinated by the RBI

M NAGARAJU | SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

If a December rate cut is there, but our house view again is that it would be a shallow rate cut of 0.25 per cent, so it may not have any significant impact on the margins

CS SETTY | CHAIRMAN, SBI

Over the next 5-10 years, we should shift our technologies towards green fuels -- whether electrically operated tractors or machines running on CBG (compressed biogas) available from rural CBG plants

DEVESH CHATURVEDI | AGRICULTURE SECRETARY

SHORT TAKES

House Price Index up 2.2% annually in Q2

Mumbai: The All-India House Price Index (HPI) based on transactions in 18 major cities increased at a slower pace of 2.2 per cent in the second quarter of the current fiscal compared to 7 per cent in the year-ago period, according to Reserve Bank data released Thursday. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles the HPI quarterly based on transaction-level data received from the registration authorities. The central bank released its HPI for Q2:2025-26 with a new base year of 2022-23. The earlier base year was 2010-11. "All India HPI recorded an annual growth (y-o-y) of 2.2 per cent in Q2:2025-26 as compared to 7 per cent registered in the corresponding quarter a year ago. The cities like Nagpur, Ghaziabad, and Chandigarh contributed for the rise in HPI," RBI said.

Apple contests India's antitrust penalty law

New Delhi: Apple is challenging India's new antitrust penalty law under which the US company could potentially face a fine of up to \$38 billion, a court filing at the Delhi High Court, seen by Reuters, shows. The challenge is the first against India's antitrust penalty law that since last year allows the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to use global turnover when calculating the penalties it imposes on companies for abusing their market dominance. Since 2022, Tinder-owner Match and Indian startups have been locked in an antitrust battle with Apple at the CCI, where investigators last year issued a report saying the US smartphone company had engaged in "abusive conduct" on the apps market of its iPhone Operating System, iOS.

PPSL to operate as payment aggregator

New Delhi: Fintech firm One97 Communications said its subsidiary, Paytm Payments Services Limited, has received the RBI permit after a long wait to operate as a payment aggregator. The Reserve Bank of India granted in-principle approval to Paytm Payments Services Limited in August to operate as an online payment aggregator. "...Reserve Bank of India on November 26, 2025, has granted Certificate of Authorization (COA) to Paytm Payments Services Limited (PPSL)...to operate as a Payment Aggregator under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007," One97 Communications said.



We will not take price hikes right now, unless they are driven by a significant raw material price

RAJESH JEJURIKAR | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CEO (AUTO AND FARM SECTORS), M&M

MAHINDRA'S EV PUSH

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd (M&M) unveiled the XEV 9S, its seven-seater Electric SUV, at a starting price of ₹19.95 lakh ex-showroom Thursday. The vehicle has a range of 500 km on a single charge, the company said. To cater to the growing demand of its Electric Origin vehicles, the company has decided to increase production capacity from 4,500 units a month to 8,000 units from April 2026



Economy on stable footing: FinMin

D-St retreats from record highs

Profit-taking by investors in the second half dragged the index from record high levels

GST rate rationalisation boosts consumption; economy to maintain growth momentum, says FinMin report



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 27: The GST rate rationalisation gave a "measurable" boost to consumption, and the Indian economy is on a stable footing to navigate risks and maintain growth momentum through the current fiscal, a finance ministry report said Thursday.

The Finance Ministry's Monthly Economic Review for October said that with inflationary pressures easing and recent tax reforms boosting household disposable incomes, the near-term consumption outlook appears increasingly positive.

Retail inflation has reached an all-time low in the current series, dropping to 0.25 per cent in October 2025, down from 1.44 per cent in September 2025.

The decline can largely be attributed to the complete impact of reduced GST rates, a favourable base effect, and significant falls in food inflation, the ministry said.

"The rationalisation of GST rates has provided a measurable boost to consumption, as reflected in the strengthening of high-frequency indicators, including higher e-way bill generation, record festive-season automobile sales, robust UPI transaction values, and a notable rise in tractor sales," said the October Monthly Economic Review.

It said that these developments point to broad-based improvements in demand conditions across both urban and rural segments.

"The full impact of GST rationalisation on spending behaviour would become more evident over the next two quarters," it added.

Effective September 22, the GST rates on about 375 items were slashed, making mass consumption items cheaper. Also, GST rates of 5, 12, 18, and 28 per cent have been clubbed into two rates of 5 per cent and 18 per cent, resulting in a reduced price of 99 per cent of daily use items.

The finance ministry report said the external environment remains characterised by elevated trade policy uncertainty, though global pressures have moderated relative to earlier peaks.

With regard to growth prospects, it said that various independent economic assessments place real GDP growth for Q2 FY26 in the range of 7-7.5 per cent, indicating continued strength in underlying economic activity.

Overall, the economy enters the second half of FY26 on a stable footing, anchored by well-contained inflation, resilient domestic demand and supportive policy dynamics, even as global uncertainties warrant continued vigilance, it added.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) is scheduled to release the Q2 (July-September) GDP growth data November 28. Economic growth was at a 5-quarter high of 7.8 per cent in Q1.

The finance ministry report further said that global uncertainties — including shifting trade policies, geopolitical frictions, and financial market volatility — pose potential headwinds to exports, capital flows, and investor sentiment.

"Notwithstanding these challenges, the confluence of well-anchored inflation expectations, sustained public capital expenditure, and firming rural and urban demand places the economy on a stable footing, positioning it to navigate emerging risks and preserve its growth momentum through the remainder of FY26," said the Monthly Economic Review.

The report said that corporate performance remained healthy during the month, with sustained profitability and stable balance sheets. Domestic financial markets continue to draw strength from firm institutional participation.

The report called for structural reforms to sustain and accelerate job creation in the economy.

Mumbai, Nov 27: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty scaled fresh lifetime highs in intra-day trade Thursday before paring some gains to close marginally higher amid positive global trends on growing hopes of a US Fed rate cut and foreign fund inflows.

Rising for the second day, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 110.87 points or 0.13 per cent to settle at 85,720.38. During the day, it hit a record high of 86,055.86, reflecting a jump of 446.35 points or 0.52 per cent. The earlier lifetime high of the benchmark was 85,978.25, hit September 27, 2024.

The 50-share NSE Nifty ended marginally higher by 10.25 points or 0.04 per cent at 26,215.55. During the day, the benchmark rallied 105.15 points or 0.40 per cent to hit an all-time high of 26,310.45. The broader index had earlier scaled its record intra-day high of 26,277.35 on September 27, 2024.

Formal job creation plunges again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 27: Formal job creation in India softened further in October, with job postings down by nearly 20 per cent year-on-year and 5.6 per cent compared to the previous month, a report said Thursday.

This marks the second consecutive month of decline in job creation, leaving postings nearly 20 per cent lower than the same month a year ago, according to a report by global job site Indeed.

Over the past three months, job postings declined in almost three-quarters, mainly led by sectors like banking and finance, where postings fell 25.6 per cent, along with legal (22.4 per cent), retail (16.7 per cent) and loading and stocking (15 per cent), said the report.

"Every month, the Indian workforce is gradually transitioning towards more formal work arrangements. As the nation transitions, job creation in the formal sector is expected to outpace overall employment growth nationwide.

"This transition is also why job



Among Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Tech and HDFC Bank were the major gainers.

However, Maruti, Eternal, UltraTech Cement and State Bank of India were among the laggards. "Indian markets steadied after a volatile session where both the Nifty and Sensex briefly touched record highs before profit booking ensued,"

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index settled in positive territory. Equity markets in Europe were trading marginally lower. US markets ended higher Wednesday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities

was still be some strong performers like job postings in cleaning and sanitation rose around 20 per cent over the past three months, ahead of community and social service (17.4 per cent), dental (13.1 per cent), nursing (11.2 per cent) and food preparation and service (10.3 per cent).

Another positive was the posting for human resources, which rose 2.3 per cent, the report added. The report is based on job posting data on the Indeed platform, which tracks real-time hiring activity across India's formal economy.

It further revealed that in October, 9.1 per cent of job postings explicitly mentioned phrases such as 'work from home' or 'work remotely' in their job descriptions, which is 7.6 per cent more than the same month last year. Remote opportunities are most common in IT infrastructure, operations and support, accounting for 18.2 per cent of postings in the October quarter 2025, ahead of community and social service (15.1 per cent) and industrial engineering (14 per cent).

TPCODL honoured with Premium Gold at Kalinga Safety Excellence National Awards

Bhubaneswar: TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has been awarded the Premium Gold category at the Kalinga Safety Excellence National Awards (KSENA) during the National Safety Conclave 2025 held at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi. The awards, instituted by the Institute of Quality and Environment Management Services (IQEMS), are considered among India's most prestigious recognitions in Occupational Safety, Health and Environment (OSH/SHE). For the 2024 assessment year, organisations were evaluated on safety systems, awareness initiatives and overall safety culture through a rigorous, transparent assessment process. TPCODL's Premium Gold honour acknowledges the company's strong safety leadership and continuous improvement across its operations. The award was received by Dushyant Kumar Tyagi, COO, TPCODL, and presented by dignitaries including Rajbir Singh, Minister of Labour & Employment, Uttar Pradesh, Rabi Narayan Behera, MP, Jajpur, Priyadarshi Mishra, Senior BJP Leader, and Brigadier Alok Jain. In an additional feat, TPCODL Paradeep Electrical Circle was honoured with the Kalinga Safety Excellence National Award (Large Scale Industry - Gold Category) at a parallel conclave held in Bhubaneswar. The award was presented by Smt. Surama Padhy, Speaker, Odisha Legislative Assembly. Celebrating the achievement, Arvind Singh, CEO, TPCODL, said, "This recognition reflects our uncompromising focus on safety and the dedication of our teams who work tirelessly to uphold the highest standards. We remain committed to building a safer, more resilient organisation that prioritises the well-being of our employees, partners and consumers every single day."



India top destination for Russian 'shadow fleet' oil

Think tank says 30 false-flag tankers shipped EUR 2.1bn Russian oil to India in 2025

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 27: India imported 5.4 million tonnes of Russian oil worth EUR 2.1 billion between January and September 2025 aboard 30 vessels sailing under false flags, a European think tank said in a report Thursday.

The shipments formed the single largest national destination for crude moved by Russia's expanding "shadow fleet", according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

After the Kremlin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Western countries imposed sanctions on Russian energy. Moscow is accused of dodging these by us-



ing shadow fleets - aged tankers operating in legal grey areas with obscure ownership, false registration papers, and disabled tracking system - to ship oil to consumers including China, India and Turkey.

Helsinki-based CREA said a total of 113 Russian vessels have flown a false flag in the first nine months of this year,

transporting 13 per cent of all Russian crude oil - 11 million tonnes valued at 4.7 billion euros (USD 5.4 billion).

"As of September 2025, there were 90 Russian 'shadow' vessels operating under false flags - a six-fold increase from December 2024," it said.

The report however, did not give a break-up of the

destinations the shadow fleet had sailed to.

When reached by PTI for false-flagged ships ferrying oil to India, CREA said 30 such vessels shipped crude oil to India during the first nine months of 2025.

"Of the EUR 4.7 billion of Russian oil transported on falsely flagged tankers in the first three quarters of 2025, EUR 2.1 billion (5.4 million tonnes) was transported to India," CREA told PTI.

Traditionally reliant on Middle Eastern oil, India significantly increased its imports from Russia following the February 2022 Ukraine invasion. Western sanctions and reduced European demand

made Russian oil available at steep discounts.

As a result, India's Russian crude imports surged from under 1 per cent to nearly 40 per cent of its total crude oil imports in a short span. In November, Russia continued to be India's top supplier, making up for over a third of all crude oil imported by the country.

All vessels at sea must fly a flag granting them legal jurisdiction. Under the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea, countries can register ships and allow them to fly their flags. Some nations operate open registries, letting foreign-owned ships register for lower costs and lighter regulations - a practice often used

by shippers seeking flexibility. CREA in the report said 96 sanctioned vessels had flown a false flag at least once this year as of the end of September.

A total of 85 vessels registered at least two flag changes six months after being sanctioned by the European Union, the United States Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) or the United Kingdom, the think tank said.

Six flag registries that never flagged a Russian ship since the February 2022 Ukraine invasion each had at least 10 such vessels each in their fleet by September 2025, totalling 162 shadow vessels, according to CREA.

SULTAN AZLAN SHAH CUP

India conquer Black Sticks

Selvam scores winning goal as India outplay New Zealand 3-2

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ipoh (Malaysia) Nov 27: Indian men's hockey team delivered a strong performance, winning 3-2 against New Zealand in a competitive match at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Stadium in Ipoh Thursday.

Amit Rohidas (4'), Sanjay (32'), and Selvam Karthi (54') scored for India, while George Baker scored twice for New Zealand in the 42nd and 48th minutes.

New Zealand initiated the early phase of the match, but India's defence prevented any scoring chances. India created their first significant opportunity via a well-designed play, leading to a penalty corner, and Amit Rohidas (4') successfully converted with a powerful drag-flick to give India the lead. India nearly scored again when the New Zealand goalkeeper saved Abhishek's close-range shot, ending a lively first quarter with a 1-0 advantage.

The Black Sticks started the second quarter by seeking an



equaliser, advancing the ball in search of an opening. They had a chance to level the score with a penalty corner but were thwarted by Indian defenders, allowing India to maintain a narrow halftime lead.

India started the second half strongly and extended their lead early, with Captain Sanjay (32') scoring from a penalty corner. New Zealand sought to reply immediately with a few

penalty corners but struggled to get past the Indian defence. Pawan was outstanding in goal for India, but his efforts were eventually overcome when George Baker (42') scored for New Zealand, making the final quarter an exciting ending.

New Zealand started the fourth quarter looking for their second goal and equalised at 2-2 with a penalty corner, where George Baker scored again

(48'). India responded immediately, as Abhishek's pass was skilfully finished by Selvam Karthi (54'), putting India back ahead. They had a chance to seal the game with a penalty stroke but failed to score. Nonetheless, India maintained their lead in the final moments to secure a 3-2 victory and earn a well-deserved win.

India will next play Canada November 29.

Odisha Masters 2025 set to kick off from December 9

This will be the fourth edition of the prestigious tournament in the state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: Odisha is set to host the Odisha Masters 2025 – BWF Tour Super 100 Tournament from December 9 to 14 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Cuttack.

The international event will be organised jointly by the Badminton World Federation (BWF), Badminton Association of India (BAI), Odisha State Badminton Association and the Sports & Youth Services, Department.

This will be the fourth edition of the prestigious tournament in Odisha. Addressing a press conference at the Kalinga Stadium Thursday, Sports Minister Suryabanshi Suraj shared detailed information about the upcoming championship.

This year, players from 22 countries including India, Finland, Hong Kong China, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Israel, Japan, Spain, Egypt, Indonesia, USA, Australia, England, Thailand, Bulgaria, Chinese Taipei, UAE,



Uganda, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Russia, and Bangladesh—will participate. More than 400 athletes are expected to compete across five categories: Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles. Top-ranked international shuttlers are also expected to take part.

The minister further announced that the 37th Sub-Junior National Badminton Championship will be held at the Kalinga Stadium from December 1 to 6 in the Under-15 and Under-17 categories. About 750 players from various states and Union Territories will participate, including 25 athletes from Odisha. Highlighting Odisha's grow-

ing stature in global sports, the Minister noted that the state has successfully hosted major events such as the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze and the Asian Table Tennis Championship in recent years.

Odisha State Badminton Association President Rajesh Prabhakar Patil expressed pride in Odisha hosting the international tournament, stating that it will inspire budding badminton talents across the state.

Official logo of this prestigious international tournament was unveiled on the occasion. Tournament mascot "Olly" also made a lively appearance, energising sports enthusiasts present on the occasion.

SHORT TAKES

FIH Jr WC: India look to reclaim title after 9 yrs

Chennai: Hosts India, the joint second-most successful team in the tournament's history, will look to reclaim the title on home soil after nine years when they open their campaign against Chile in their opening pool match of the Men's Junior Hockey World Cup here Friday. Two-time champions India, who last won the tournament in 2016 in Lucknow under the guidance of now senior women's coach Harendra Singh, are favourites to progress from Pool B. Besides India and Chile, Oman, who replaced Pakistan after the neighbours refused to travel to the country citing security reasons following Operation Sindoor, and Switzerland are the other teams in Pool B. India have won the title twice -- 2001 at Hobart and 2016 in Lucknow. Germany are the most successful team in the tournament, which started 46 years ago in 1979, with seven titles. In the last edition in Kuala Lumpur in 2023, India finished fourth, losing to Spain 1-3 in the bronze-medal match with Germany lifting the trophy. For the first time, 24 teams will fight it out for the title in Chennai and Madurai, the host cities.

Jemimah skips WBBL to support Mandhana

Brisbane: India's Women's World Cup-winning hero Jemimah Rodrigues will miss the remaining WBBL season in Australia after she decided to stay back in India to support her national teammate Smriti Mandhana whose wedding got postponed. Jemimah had returned a few days back to attend Mandhana's wedding and was scheduled to fly back to complete her Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) assignment for Brisbane Heat. But Mandhana's father took ill on the eve of the wedding and the ceremony got postponed. Jemimah then decided to be by Mandhana's side to support her. "The Brisbane Heat have agreed to a request to release Jemimah Rodrigues from the remainder of the Women's Big Bash League," said Brisbane Heat in a statement.

Sumit Nagal crashes out

Chengdu: India's top singles player Sumit Nagal bowed out of the Australian Open Asia-Pacific wild card play-off tournament after losing to Yunchaokete Bu of China in straight sets in the quarterfinals here Thursday. Nagal, seeded sixth in the tournament, lost 2-6 2-6 to the top-seeded Chinese opponent. The Chengdu event, which runs from November 24-29 at the Sichuan International Tennis Centre, offers the men's and women's singles winners wild card entry into the main draw of the 2026 Australian Open. The Indian's path had been clouded earlier by visa uncertainty. His initial application to enter China was rejected, prompting Nagal to publicly appeal to Chinese officials. The issue was later resolved, and he was cleared to travel.

Gateball Tournament to be held from Nov 30 in Odisha



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: The Iconic Sports Federation, in collaboration with the Indian Gateball Union, has announced that the Iconic India International Open Gateball Tournament (IIIOGT) 2025 will be held from November 30 to December 1, 2025, at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

The prestigious global tournament will feature participation from four international teams — Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, and Taiwan — along with teams from 18 Indian states. More than 400 players, officials, and distinguished delegates will be part of the event, competing in both Classic and Doubles categories.

The announcement event saw the presence of several dignitaries including Tarini Prasad

Mahanty, Chairman, IIIOGT; Chidatmika Khatua, Director, ISF; Dipayan Pattanaik – Director, Asia Pacific Gateball Union; Umakanta Pani, President, IGU; Sanjay Choudhury, Sheikh Abdul Samim, and Sanjay Das, State Secretary, ISF.

The organisers highlighted that the event is being supported by the Government of Odisha and several reputed institutions. They extended an open invitation to sports lovers to witness and enjoy the tournament.

Gateball is a mallet team sport inspired by croquet. It is a fast-paced, non-contact, highly strategic team game, which can be played by anyone regardless of age or gender. Gateball is most popular in China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, with a growing presence in other countries including India.

WPL MEGA AUCTION

DEEPTI COSTLIEST BUY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 27: Star India all-rounder Deepti Sharma emerged as the costliest buy of the 2026 WPL mega auction while other ODI World Cup standouts, Shree Charani and Laura Wolvaardt, also walked away with hefty pay cheques here Thursday.

The seasoned Deepti expectedly fetched the big bucks with UP Warriorz using the Right to Match (RTM) card to retain the India all-rounder for a whopping Rs 3.20 crore. She is now the second-highest-paid Indian player in WPL history, just Rs 20 lakh behind Smriti Mandhana.

Mumbai Indians made one of the day's biggest moves by buying New Zealand all-rounder Amelia Kerr for Rs 3 crore. The 25-year-old was part MI's title winning runs in 2023 and 2025.

UP Warriorz surprisingly shelled out Rs 2.40 crore for the veteran India all-rounder Shikha Pandey, who last played for the national side in 2023.

Left-arm spinner Charani, a key performer in India's triumphant World Cup run, was snapped up by Delhi Capitals for



- Deepti Sharma - UP Warriorz - ₹3.20 crore
- Amelia Kerr - Mumbai Indians - ₹3 crore
- Shikha Pandey - UP Warriorz - ₹2.40 crore

Rs 1.30 crore, almost five times her base price of Rs 30 lakh, after an intense bidding battle with the Warriorz.

Delhi Capitals continued their aggressive approach, outbidding Royal Challengers Bengaluru to land South Africa captain Wolvaardt for Rs 1.10 crore and West Indian batter Chinelle Henry (Rs 1.30 crore) while also adding In-

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ROUNDUP

Unbeaten Gunners stun Bayern Munich to seize top spot



LONDON: Arsenal beat Bayern Munich for the first time in a decade to maintain their 100% record in this season's Champions League with a 3-1 home win sending Mikel Arteta's side clear at the top of the group Wednesday. Jurrien Timber headed Arsenal in front from a corner after 22 minutes only for teenager Lennart Karl to equalise for the six-time European champions before halftime. Arsenal dominated the second half though and displayed their enviable squad depth as substitutes Noni Madueke and Gabriel Martinelli scored the goals to make it five wins from five.

Atletico Madrid break Inter's winning streak



Madrid: Few do suffering and drama in the Champions League like Atletico Madrid and coach Diego Simeone. Even while winning, as they did Wednesday 2-1 over Inter Milan, Simeone showed his wide repertoire of agonized and ecstatic emotions on the sideline dressed in trademark all-black suit, shirt and tie. Atletico ended Inter's perfect record of four straight wins in this Champions League when captain José María Giménez scored with a header late in stoppage time. A game between two teams that combined to lose four of the past 12 Champions League finals was settled by a goal just like the one that denied Atletico an elusive first title in 2014.

Vitinha's perfect hat-trick sinks Spurs

Paris: Midfielder Vitinha showed his shooting prowess with a hat-trick as Paris Saint-Germain twice came from behind to beat Tottenham 5-3 in the Champions League Wednesday. He scored the first with his right foot, the second with his left and then converted a penalty. Fellow midfielder Fabián Ruiz and defender Willian Pacheco also scored as defending champion PSG coped well in attack without its star forwards. Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembélé was on the bench after returning from injury and Désiré Doué, is still recovering from injury.



Mbappé nets 2nd-fastest hat-trick



Piraeus: Real Madrid star Kylian Mbappé scored four goals in a Champions League match for the first time in his career Wednesday, including the second-fastest hat-trick in the competition's history. Mbappé netted three times in just under seven minutes in Real Madrid's 4-3 win at Olympiakos. Mbappé scored the hat trick in the 22nd, 24th and 29th minutes — after Chiquinho had put Olympiakos ahead in the eighth. The France international added his fourth goal in the 60th after Mehdi Taremi had scored for the hosts in the 52nd. Ayoub El Kaabi scored Olympiakos' third goal in the 81st. Mohamed Salah's hat-trick for Liverpool at Rangers in 2022 had broken the record for the quickest ever scored in the Champions League, according to UEFA. It was Mbappé's fifth hat-trick in the Champions League — and second this season. Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo have eight hat-tricks each in the Champions League, while Robert Lewandowski has six.

Liverpool's worst run in more than seven decades

Liverpool: Arne Slot was facing a full-blown crisis at Liverpool Wednesday after the beleaguered English champion lost by a three-goal margin for the third straight game and plunged into its worst run of form in more than 70 years. PSV Eindhoven pulled away for a 4-1 win at Anfield in the Champions League to leave Liverpool with nine defeats in its last 12 games, a scarcely believable streak for a team that cruised to the Premier League title a matter of months ago and then spent \$570 million on new players in the summer transfer window. "This is a shock. This is very, very unexpected," said Slot, whose position is coming under increasing scrutiny. The Dutchman said it was inevitable there would be speculation over his future, given the run of results. The last time Liverpool lost nine games in a 12-game streak in all competitions was in the 1953-54 season, stats company Opta said.



Pant pens apology after SA whitewash



India is not due to play any more Test cricket until next year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 26: India's Test vice-captain Rishabh Pant has apologised for the team's shambolic performance in the 0-2 series loss to South Africa, asserting that the team will "regroup, refocus and reset" to come back stronger.

India were handed a 0-2 drubbing in the series that ended with the second Test in Guwahati Tuesday. Pant led the home

Sorry we couldn't live up to expectations this time, but sport teaches you to learn, adapt and grow - both as a team and as individuals

RISHABH PANT | TEST VICE-CAPTAIN, INDIA

side in this match as regular skipper Shubman Gill was nursing a neck injury.

The team lost the game by a mammoth 408 runs, further denting the aura of invincibility around its home record and making its path to World Test Championship final more difficult.

"There is no shying away from the fact that we didn't play good enough cricket over the last two weeks. As a team and as individuals, we always want to perform at the highest level and bring smiles to billions of Indians," Pant, who is personally drawing flak for his reckless shot selection during the series, said in a post on 'X'.

Pant insisted that representing India is the greatest honour of the players' lives.

The defeat at the hands of a well-prepared South Africa came within a year of the embarrassing 0-3 whitewash inflicted by a lesser fancied New Zealand side. Head coach Gautam Gambhir has faced the maximum scrutiny for the recent failures.