Priyanka's journey

Priyanka Chopra talks about the uncertainty and constant reinvention that shaped her cross-continental journey

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 238 I www.orissapost.com

LEISURE | P2



Ditwah devastates SL

Cyclone Ditwah sweeps Sri Lanka, killing 80 and leaving 34 missing as severe floods and rains threaten more devastation

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Fiscal deficit

The central government's fiscal deficit touches 52.6 per cent of the full-year target at the end of

BUSINESS | P11



Driving into history

Atiqa Mir qualifies fourth in the COTFA international karting series, the highest finish for a female in the championship's history

SPORTS | P12

BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 29, 2025

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

Q2 GDP grows at **8.2%:** Govt data

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: The Indian economy grew by a higher-than-expected 8.2 per cent -- a six-quarter high -- as increased factory production in anticipation of a consumption boost from the GST rate cut helped offset deceleration in

The growth in the second quarter, which compared to 7.8 per cent in the preceding three months and 5.6 per cent in the year-ago period, was also aided by a good showing by the services sector, which clocked double-digit growth.

The previous high at 8.4 per cent was posted in the fourth quarter (January-March) of fiscal 2023-24.

As per data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the first half of 2025-26 worked out to be at 8 per cent, up from 6.1 per cent in the year-ago period.

ED finds ₹331 crore in bike-taxi rider's account

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: Investigating a trail of more than Rs 331 crore deposited in a bank account over eight months in an illegal betting app-linked money-laundering case, ED officials landed at the doors of a bike-taxi rider working with a well-known cab aggregator to earn two square meals a day. The stunned investigators lost no time to detect that this was a classic case of a "mule" account being used to pump dirty money.

Officials told PTI that the ED stumbled upon the Rapido bike rider while investigating the 1xbet online betting-linked money-laundering case

What further attracted the ED's gaze was that a sum of more than Rs 1 crore, out of the over Rs 331 crore deposits. was used to pay the expenses of a "grand destination wedding" at a plush hotel in Rajasthan's lake city of Udaipur.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Don't use my account - use the neighbour's. I hacked it. Mine is **Aadhaar-linked**

BURNING BUS: Flames and smoke billow from a bus after it caught fire on the National Highway near Ramadevi

intersection, in Kanpur, Friday. No casualties were reported as all the passengers were rescued

CM presents ₹17,440-cr supplementary budget

The state government has tabled a supplementary budget of ₹17,440 crore for the financial year (FY) 2025-26 in addition to the main budget of ₹2.90 lakh crore passed in February this year. Of the total amount, ₹3.389 crore has been allocated for administrative expenditure, while ₹13,716 crore has been earmarked for expenditure on various government programmes and priority sectors. For the last FY (2024-25), the government had passed a supplementary budget of ₹12,155.70 crore. The supplementary budget for FY 2023-24 was ₹28,200 crore, while for the previous FY (2022-23) it was ₹16,800 crore.

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday presented a ₹17,440 crore supplementary budget for the 2025-26 financial year (FY) in the Assembly to support ongoing schemes in food security, health, education and urban infrastructure.

Majhi, who is also in charge of the finance department, said the supplementary budget was placed in the House, keeping in view the needs and expecta tions of the people.

While the main budget for the 2025-26 fiscal has an outlay of ₹2.90 lakh crore, the supplementary budget will fund "ongoing schemes in food security, health, education, social security and urban infrastructure," a



"This budget aims at fulfilling the requirement of funds for public welfare and developmental activities in the state, mainly through reallocation of available resources and receipt of tied-up resources from various sources," Majhi said.

The CM explained that the additional requirement of funds is to complete important ongoing projects.

The allocations of ₹17,440 crore are made under different heads like administrative expenditure (Rs 3,389 cr), programme expenditure (Rs 13,716 cr), disaster response funds (Rs 171 cr) and transfers from state (Rs 164 cr).

The major allocations of ₹4,329 crore were made for food supplies and consumer welfare department, ₹2,000 for school and mass education, ₹1422 crore for finance and ₹1,152 crore for health and family welfare.

Other allocations include ₹900 crore for works department, ₹858 crore for agriculture and farmers' empowerment, ₹807 crore for Mission Shakti. and ₹751 crore for women and

- ₹4,329 crore for food supplies and consumer welfare dept
- ₹2,000 for school and mass education
- ₹1422 crore for finance
- ₹1,152 crore for health and
- family welfare ● ₹900 crore for works
- department ● ₹858 crore for agriculture
- and farmers' empowerment ₹807 crore for Mission
- Shakti -● ₹751 crore for women and child development

"With this supplementary budget, it is projected to main-

tain revenue surplus, contain fiscal deficit around 3 per cent of GSDP and maintain the debt-GSDP ratio at the year-end within the mandated level of 25 per cent," the statement said. Till October 2025, there is a

revenue surplus of 1.3 per cent, the debt to GSDP ratio at 11.9 per cent and the interest payment to revenue receipt ratio at 2.2 per cent.

The capital outlay for the 2025-26 year will exceed 6 per cent of GSDP, including the Supplementary it said, adding that this will help in boosting the economic growth and at the same time enable the state to carry forward different developmental and welfare programmes.

Putin to visit India next week

New Delhi, Nov 28: Russian President Vladimir Putin will make a two-day visit to India from December 4 to hold annual summit talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi that is expected to produce a plethora of significant outcomes, including in the defence sphere, to further solidify the bilateral strategic ties. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), announcing the visit, said Friday that it will set the vision for strengthening the India-Russia 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership'.

It is pertinent to note here that the International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued an arrest warrant against Putin for alleged war crimes in Ukraine. This means if Putin travels to a country that is a member of the ICC, then that country is legally bound to arrest him. However, since India is not a member of the ICC, this visit



to India will not pose any inconvenience to the Russian President. The Kremlin said that both sides are expected to adopt a joint statement and sign a "wide range of interdepartmental and business agreements" following the talks between the leaders.

It is learnt that ways to bolster two-way trade using local currencies, taking forward bilateral energy cooperation notwithstanding Western sanctions against Russia, further enhancing defence ties and the Ukraine conflict are likely to dominate the talks.

The two sides are also likely to focus on deepening cooperation in areas of civil nuclear

Crude bombs hurled near KV-3 in Bhub; NIA probes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Miscreants hurled crude bombs near Kendriya Vidyalaya-3 here Friday morning, triggering panic in the area, police said. However, no one was hurt in the incident. A team from Mancheswar police station reached the spot soon after receiving information and began an investigation.

Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh also visited the site.

"Our scientific team visited the spot and collected samples. Two teams have been formed to conduct the investigation," Singh said, adding that prima facie it appeared to be a normal crude homb likely set off for mischief.

According to police sources. bike-borne assailants hurled



the bombs at the school gate, which usually sees heavy student movement in the morning.

Police are currently examining multiple CCTV camera footage from the area to identify the culprits. A team from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) also visited the spot.

"From preliminary investigation, it was found to be a normal crude bomb with low intensity. The intention can be known after investigation," said an NIA officer.

assistance for surrendering Maoists PNN & AGENCIES

State hikes financial

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: To eradicate left-wing extremism in the state, the Odisha government has launched a revised Maoist surrender and rehabilitation policy with a provision of maximum fi nancial assistance up to ₹1.20 crore and also enhanced reward money for surrendered firearms.

Additional Director General of Police (Anti-Naxal operation), Sanjeeb Panda said: "Top Maoist leaders like central committee members. politburo member or central military commission mem ber if they surrender in Odis ha will get ₹1.20 crore, which includes ₹10 lakh as financial assistance."

Similarly, state committee member/special zonal committee member of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) will get ₹65 lakh, including ₹10 lakh as financial assistance. Re gional committee member ₹33 lakh, divisional committee secretary/commander of military platoon ₹27.50 lakh, di visional committee member/ deputy commander of military platoon/area committee secretary ₹22 lakh and ₹11 lakh for commander, local organising squad/ local guerrilla squad.

As per the provisions of the new surrender policy, a 'deputy commander, local organ ising squad/ local guerrilla squad to get ₹5.50 lakh, while provision of paying ₹2.75 lakh is made for members of special teams like technical team/in telligence team/supply team/ medical team/gana natya sangha and central regional command (CRC).

Even the Dalam members/ cadres/ party members will be entitled to get ₹1.65 lakh, the official said.

Trump vows to freeze migration from all 'third world' countries Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe, TION can fully cure this situsaid have allowed the country ation. Other than that, HAPPY to be impacted by immigration

New York/Washington, Nov 28: US President Donald Trump Friday said he will "permanently pause" migration from all 'third world" countries and deport foreign nationals who are a "security risk" as his administration intensified crackdown on immigration in the wake of the killing of a National Guard

member by an Afghan national. The Trump administration said it will conduct a "rigorous" re-examination of all Green Cards issued to immigrants from "every country of

The new guidance came in the wake of the tragic shooting of US Army Specialist Sarah Beckstrom, 20, and US Air 24 by Afghan national Rahman ullah Lakanwal.

"Even as we have progressed technologically, Immigration Policy has eroded those gains and living conditions for many. I will permanently pause migration from all Third World Countries to allow the US system to fully recover, terminate all of the millions of Biden illegal admissions, including those signed by Sleepy Joe Biden's Autopen, and remove anyone who is not a net asset to the United States, or is incapable of loving our Country," Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

He said he would end all federal benefits and subsidies to noncitizens in the country, "denaturalize migrants who



undermine domestic tranquility, and deport any Foreign National who is a public charge, security risk, or non-compatible with Western Civilization.'

goals will be pursued with the

"aim of achieving a major reduction in illegal and disruptive populations, including those admitted through an unauthorised and illegal Autopen approval process. Trump asserted that these

"Only REVERSE MIGRA-

You won't be here for long!' he said. Trump announced Thursday during a call with service members on Thanksgiving that Beckstrom had died of her injuries. Wolfe remained in critical condition.

THANKSGIVING TO ALL,

except those that hate, steal

murder, and destroy every-

thing that America stands for

Lakanwal, 29, had arrived in the US through a Biden-era immigration programme called 'Operation Allies Welcome' for Afghan nationals fleeing their country after the August 2021 Taliban takeover.

In another post, Trump lashed out at those who he

policies. "A very Happy Thanksgiving salutation to all of our Great

American Citizens and Patriots who have been so nice in allowing our Country to be divided, disrupted, carved up, murdered, beaten, mugged, and laughed at, along with certain other foolish countries throughout the World, for being 'Politically Correct," and just plain STUPID, when it comes to Immigration.'

Trump said the official United States foreign population stands at "53 million people, most of which are on welfare, from failed nations, or from prisons, mental institutions, gangs, or drug cartels.

eisure



DOWN MEMORY LANE

Amber Heard recently shared nostalgic Thanksgiving memories on Instagram, posting photos of festive feasts from past years. Though she didn't specify the exact years, each image featured mouthwatering dishes. In the caption, she wrote, 'Thanksgiving cheers over the years. A look back at all the full hearts and plates I've shared"

KEVIN SPACEY FACES THREE SEXUAL ASSAULT CHARGES

In a startling turn of events, actor Kevin Spacey finds himself confronting three new civil sexual assault claims that reportedly occurred between 2001 and 2013. Despite maintaining his innocence, Spacey is bracing for a provisional trial slated for October 2026



₹ Ganesha Speaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

You may have a wide circle of casual friends, but today, these associations will prove to be beneficial. Your friends will help you chase away the blues. That way, you will also understand the deeper role of friendship, says Ganesha.

TAURUS

Nostalgia will paint your workplace a bright energetic red today, says Ganesha. All the problems that life throws at you will be deflected by your tough exterior and efficient capabilities. Medals and trophies beckon as you taste success and emerge a winner.

GEMINI

You will ponder over religious and social issues and discuss and debate the issue with your family members and make your opinions known to them. This apart, you will probably discuss on issues like law, education, social obligations, and culture with those close to you, says Ganesha.

CANCER

You may have to give more priority to your job. You will swiftly finish the task entrusted to you with concentration. Your zeal for work will be high. You will give so much importance to friends that you will go out of way to meet them.

Be it a job or business, you will face severe competition today. You will need to be extra cautious today. You will need to be more serious about whatever it is that you are doing. You will become more influential in your social circle or amongst your colleagues as a results.

secure the money needed to make your future bright. Matters regarding relationships will be on the top of your priority list today. You may feel inclined towards spirituality, and Ganesha says as such you may try doing meditation or yoga.

LIBRA

who is very influential will

of being adventurous today, feels Ganesha. It's a favourable day for husinessmen as they would make plans that would yield them huge profits. With your great communication and convincing power, you are going to impress your superiors today.

SAGITTARIUS

According to Ganesha, money is likely to slip-off vour hand easily today. Try to wave off unnecessary expenditure. energy with it. You prefer to sit back and

CAPRICORN

pointed as all of your hardwork and planning will go in vain. You will have difference of opinion with others and at times these differences may turn into heated arguments, predicts Ganesha. Such disharmonious environment will add to your anxiety, but don't lose hope. There is light at the end of the tunnel and you'll surely get through these turbulent times.

You have been turning a blind eye towards the pending work you are loaded with But, today you will take up the challenge of getting done with the pile of work. You may clean your desk at work or room, make payments and purchases, and clear the mess.

PISCES

It is important to plan your finances in life, and you will devote your energies towards the same today. You might turn stingy with your money all of a sudden. An unexpected illness in the family will leave vou worried. But it is likely to be a crisis which will blow over soon. Do not let it stress you out, says Ganesha



New Delhi: It's been nearly a decade since Priyanka Chopra Jonas, aka PC or PeeCee, stepped into Hollywood, and the actor one of India's most recognisable global stars,

has talked about the uncertainty and constant reinvention that shaped her cross-continental iourney Priyanka said there

was no roadmap, only trial, error and the willingness to learn as she went along. Asked how she

protected her sense identity while constantly venting herself for global audiences, Priyanka in an exclusive interview with this news don't know if I did".

"I think, I don't know everything. I don't claim to know everything. I am learning by myself. There are very few examples, people who had come before me in navigating international waters from India, whose footprints I followed.

With few Indian predecessors to look up to while stepping into global entertainment, she said much of her growth came from 'trial and error.

"But it was just trial and error and, trying to make... I made mistakes and, some were good, some were bad, and that's what happens when you're, starting all over again, and I think that's okay."

She added: "You have to learn how to forgive yourself for the mistakes, dust yourself, and get up and move on. And that's not easy, and there are times I can do it, and then there are times I can't, and that's also okay."

Tamannaah celebrates life's little moments

has no desire to

return to TV,

feeling that

there is little

left for her

to explore.

She

ex-

her life with a new photo dump, saying she has long stopped trying to organise her posts and added that the collection comes straight from the heart and reflects the different sides of her day-to-day life. Tagging it "my heart in slideshow format," she described the photo-dump as everything from family

moments and her dog to work pictures, pauses

and the small details that fill her routine.

The post also featured her fondness for heart

pendants, which she says she often carries.

"I stopped trying to make sense of my photo dumps. Turns out my heart is the one curating them anyway," Tamannaah wrote. She added: "This is my heart in slideshow format. Pendant hearts. Family hearts. Dog hearts. Work hearts. Tired hearts. Full hearts Double tap if your heart also refuses to pick one aesthetic.

> Work-wise, Tamannaah will soon be seen sharing screen space with Sidharth Malhotra for the first time in Vvan: Force of the Forest. The movie will also see Maniesh Paul and Shweta Tiwari in crucial roles, along with others.

On the OTT front, the actress was seen in Do You Wanna Partner, directed by Archit Kumar and Collin D'Cunha.

Mona on quitting TV

Mumbai: Actress Mona Singh, pressed frustration with the demandbest known for her role in the iconing nature of television, where shows ic TV show Jassi Jaisi Koi Nahin, air continuously throughout the week, has opened up about her decision leaving little room for personal life. to quit television. Despite her early She reflected on how, during her time fame in the medium, in TV, shows would air from Monday shared that she to Thursday, but now they run daily, making her question how TV actors manage to balance work and life.

Mona explained that her departure from TV was a conscious decision, as she felt she had done it all; from daily soaps to reality shows and hosting. She chose to move ahead and patiently waited for roles that suited her.

Currently, she is thriving in movies and OTT projects, which offer more flexibility. She mentioned that web series work best for her, with their rela-

tively calmer timelines and the ability to recharge between projects. Mona has three films lined up for next year and continues to balance both movies and OTT

work.

AGENCIES



Today may prove to be a turning point for you. You will explore the opportunities to

Ganesha says your friend be lucky for you. You will be able to start a new joint venture business with out any obstacles. Your efficiency and hard work

SCORPIO

You reveal your true avatar

The entire day is spent managing funds, while the evening brings a lot of positive

You may feel utterly disap-

AQUARIUS

PEANUTS

Mumbai:

Aamir Khan re-

cently reflected on

his unexpected rise to

stardom, admitting he

never understood how

he became a star. In his

over 30-year career, Aamir said

he broke all the 'rules' of stardom with films

that were often deemed 'impractical' and ex-

perimental. Speaking at the 56th International

Film Festival of India (IFFI), he highlighted

films like Sarfarosh, Lagaan, Ghajini, and

Taare Zameen Par, which were considered

unconventional at the time and not expected

to succeed. Yet, despite doubting the success

of his projects, Aamir expressed gratitude

for the respect and success they garnered.

Aamir also discussed his approach to

filmmaking, emphasising his desire to

surprise both himself and the audience

He doesn't follow trends but chooses films based on personal excitement. He recalled

how *Ghajini* revived the action genre in an

industry where action films were not popular.

The actor shared that his goal is to enter-

tain, not to push social causes. While his

films often carry messages, Aamir clarified

that he's not an activist, but a storyteller. As

he considers his next project, the PK actor stressed that the script, rather than social relevance, is his primary focus.agencies



CALVIN AND HOBBES

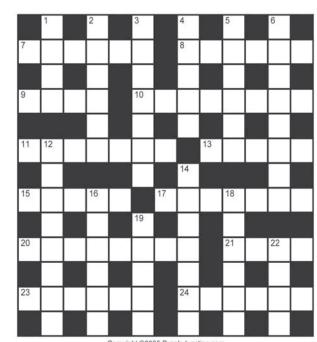


BREVITY



POST

CROSSWORD



Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com 17 Take a hike!

20 Rude

Across

- 7 Baby's bed
- 8 Type of hatch, valve or artist
- 9 Kind of list (2-2)
- 10 Detective's find 11 Crevice
- 13 Large wading bird
- 15 Ceremonial elegance

- <u>Down</u>

3 Fireballs

- core
- 1 Duet plus one

21 Song for a diva

23 Main course

24 Calamitous

- 2 Rotten to the

- 14 Rules out
- 16 On the yacht

4 Casual attire

6 Phantasms

warning

12 Missile attack

5 Receive

- 18 Guanaco relatives
- 19 Femme fatale 22 Rainbow
- goddess

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

	5				6	3		
			1				6	
				5	Ĺ.,			
				7				
	3		8		2	7		
	1						4	
		1					9	4
		2	6					1
8			3		9	6		

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

O N P E T R I D E N T

SUDOKU

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

owntown



CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

Rapes down by 3.3%, Law Min tells House after Oppn furore

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan Friday strongly defended the state government's record on women's safety while replying to an adjournment motion moved in the Assembly regarding the alleged abuse of three minor girls in MV-72 village under Kalimela block of Malkangiri district. The motion was brought by MLAs Ramachandra Kadam, CS Rajen Ekka, Ashok Kumar Das and Mangu Khol, who accused the government of failing to protect women in remote regions.

Responding to the charge, Harichandan informed the House that the incident was promptly acted upon. "On 23 November 2025, at around 4pm, Naren Ray, 45, of the same village allegedly abused three minor girls. Based on a written complaint filed November 25, a case (177/2025) was registered at MV-79 Police Station," he said. The minister confirmed that the accused has already been arrested and will be produced before the court, while further investigation continues

Countering the Opposition's criticism, the Law Minister presented comparative crime data from the last 15 months of the current government (01.07.2024–30.09.2025) with the preceding 15-month period (01.04.2023-30.06.2024).

According to the figures cited, the total number of crimes against women has remained largely unchanged—40,947 cases registered in the recent period



The minister cited examples where heinous crimes were investigated and completed within 37 to 104 days, resulting in rigorous imprisonment ranging from four years to life

compared to 40,771 previously.

The minister highlighted key improvements during BJP's tenure till now saying rape cases are down by 3.3%, molestation is down by 1.9%, public disrobing is down by 22.2%, acid attacks are down by 66.7%, women trafficking is down by 24.1%, dowry related murders down by 20.6% and dowry harassment down by 7.2%. However, he noted that sexual assault has shown a slight increase of 0.7%.

"The government has given top priority to ensuring women's safety with prompt case

registration, quality investigation, fast-track trials, rehabilita-

tion and counselling of victims,

Harichandan said. The minister detailed several specialised policing mechanisms too. Those include Crime Prevention Branch for Women & Children (CAW & CW), 29 Investigative Units on Crime Against Women (IU-CAW) units for sensitive cases, with 1 new unit sanctioned and 5 more proposed, Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU) in all districts, 37 Anti-Human Trafficking Units, 649 police station Women & Children Desks, 71 Child-Friendly Police Stations. Cyber Monitoring Unit for online abuse, Dedicated Missing Persons Monitoring Unit and 24 POCSO fast-track courts.

He cited examples where heinous crimes were investigated and completed within 37 to 104 days, resulting in rigorous imprisonment ranging from four years to life.

The minister also informed the House that Odisha ranks third nationally in victim compensation applications and fourth in compensation provided, as per National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

However, the Opposition BJD and Congress accused the BJP government of being insensitive

to sexual abuses of women in the state, claiming that the administration's policy of "zero tolerance" to rape was not enough, as people wanted 'zero incidents'. "I do not say

that rapes did not happen during the previous regimes. The party in power should

understand that we are in the opposition not for doing justice to victims in the past. You are committing the same mistake and trying to escape without taking responsibility," gress MLA Ashok Das said.

BJD legislator Goutam Buddha Das also slammed the BJP government and pointed out some cases including one in Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's native Keonjhar district where accused persons were not arrested in the alleged rape and murder of a minor girl.

"The government is making all efforts to cover up its inefficiencies, particularly in rape cases," he alleged. The BJD leader alleged that police were unable to chase the criminals because they are preoccupied with VIP duties.

8 sexual harassments, ragging of girl students in 2 years: Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: The Odisha government received eight complaints relating to ragging, sexual discrimination and harassment from women students of different colleges and universities over a period

of two years, Higher Education minister Suryabanshi Suraj told the state assembly Friday.

Replying to a written question from BJD legislator Arvind Mohapatra, **Higher Education** minister said his department has received the complaints from six colleges and one

university. The government has received two complaints from female students of Government Autonomous College (Rourkela), while other allegations were received from FM Autonomous College (Balasore), G M University (Sambalpur), Abhimanyu Samanta Singhar Degree College (Jajpur), Athamalik College (Angul), Anchal College (Bargarh), and D A V Autonomous College, Titlagarh (Bolangir), he said.

To prevent such sensitive incidents in the future at the level of higher education institutions, the department has issued guidelines to all state public universities and colleges under the department to encourage students to avail the 'Tele-Manas' national mental health helpline (14416), which provides

free, 24x7 tele-counselling support, he said.

In addition, individuals interested in self-assessment tools can also access the Tele-Manas mobile application, he added.

The minister further said that the department has also issued instructions for the implementation of UGC (Redressal of Grievances of Students) Regulations, 2023 to ensure a fair and transparent system for grievance redressal in universities and colleges.

The UGC regulation also asked for establishment of Student Grievance Redressal Committees (SGRCs) at the institutional level and the appointment of ombudspersons at the university level.

The mechanism covers issues like admission irregularities, non-transparent evaluation, delay in scholarships or certificates, discrimination, harassment and infrastructure deficiencies, he further said.

"Each institution shall resolve complaints within prescribed timelines. Protection against victimisation of complainants has also been mandated." Surai said.

Moreover, the state government has launched the "Shaktishree" scheme, a state-wide initiative aimed at ensuring the safety, security and empowerment of women in universities and colleges.

Under the initiative, each institution will establish a 'Shaktishree Empowerment Cell, a female student-centric cell coordinated by a woman faculty member and a female student. the statement said.

Over 37K got govt jobs after BJP came to power: Swain

AGENCIES

Bhuhaneswar, Nov 28: Since the BJP government came to power in June last year, 37,371 educated youths have been offered to join government services across various De partments, Sampad Chandra Swain, Minister of Skill Devel opment and Technical Educa tion Department informed the Assembly Friday.

Replying to a query by BJD MLA Arvind Mohapatra, the minister said, "Through var ious placement drives organ ised by District Skill Development-cum-Employment offices. 26,412 candidates have been shortlisted for placement in different private organisations during the period from April 1, 2024 to September 2025.

A total of 13,09,250 educated youths have registered their names in different District Skill Development-cum-Employment offices till October 31, 2025. The registration portal of

state Directorate of Employment serves as an interface that integrates job seekers and facilitates access to both public and private sector for employ ment opportunities, the minis ter added. It may be noted here that

in the manifesto released in the run-up to the 2024 polls, BJP had promised to fill 1.5 lakh government posts in five years. The government has so far filled 37,371 vacant posts in last 16 months.

"In a relief to those who crossed the 32 age barrier for government jobs, the Mohan Majhi-led BJP government has increased the upper age limit for entry into various government services (non-uniform services) from 32 to 42 years," he added.

BJD's plea to Speaker for paddy procurement

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Opposition BJD member Prasanna Acharya Friday urged Speaker Surama Padhy to direct the government to initiate steps for procurement of Karif paddy at the earliest.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, Acharaya wanted the Speaker to direct the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister and the Cooperation Minister to take action immediately for paddy procurement and "not play with the fate of the farmers".

He said despite the government's announcement to begin paddy procurement November 20 from Bargarh district, the process is yet start.

He said though paddy harvesting is over, farmers' registration for selling paddy has not yet been completed. Over 5,000 farmers in Bargarh district have not yet registered their names to sell their paddy.

There is no place to store



paddy in mandis while godowns are full as the FCI is not lifting paddy.

The farmers also have no space to store paddy in their homes. Unable to sell their produce, the farmers have resorted to distress sale.

Acharya alleged that the government has not yet fixed the quota for the millers to procure

He wanted both the ministers to take the issue seriously, visit the district, assess the situation and intervene in the matter.

5-day training prog for PGTs concludes

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: A five-day training programme organised for Post Graduate Teachers (PGTs) of non-government aided higher secondary schools under Directorate of Higher Secondary Education (DHSE) concluded Friday Altogether 90 PGTs of Political Science and Economics attended the training programme.

DHSE Director Niyati Pattanaik joined the valedictory session and emphasised the need for teachers to enhance their professional skills to ensure the all-round development of students. She advised teachers to focus on creating a fear-free and stress-free learning environment for students.

The training programme focused primarily on the professional development and skill enhancement of the teachers. Sessions covered topics such as career awareness, professional growth of teachers, classroom management, group activities, and the framework of Aspirational Schools. Each day included five sessions, totalling 25 sessions, along with a local field visit.

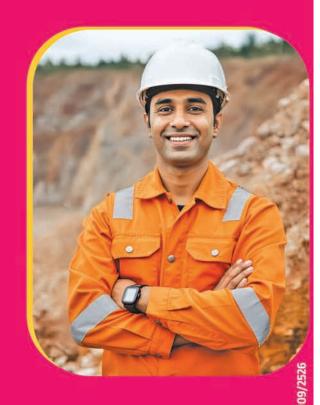
The programme concluded with feedback collection and distribution of certificates. Joint Director Snigdha Mishra conducted the proceedings of the programme. Among other dignitaries present were Joint Director Binita Senapati, Deputy Director Jitendra Nayak and OIC, SAMS Umakanta Sethi.



MODI GOVERNMENT'S GUARANTEE FOR

MINES WORKER

- Mandatory appointment letter for all workers
- Uniform standards of health, safety and welfare
- Mine workers now covered under ESI
- Mandatory free annual health check-up for workers
- Accident compensation also covers travel from home to workplace
- **⊘** Women now permitted to work in night shifts with consent and adequate safety measures



Labour Reforms for Aatmanirbhar Bharat

City to get modern disaster mgmt centre

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: In a significant move to enhance disaster management capabilities, the state government has decided to construct a state-of-the-art disaster management building at a cost of ₹300 crore in the City, the work for which will be completed in two years. This was revealed by Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari at a review meeting Friday.

The new facility will serve as a hub for disaster management operations, bringing various key agencies, including Fire Services, Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF), the Forest department, and other emergency services, under one roof. The building will be equipped with modern technology and advanced resources to handle emergencies efficiently.

"The building will ensure that all disaster management activities, from firefighting to flood control, are coordinated from a single location, offering a more synchronised and rapid response during times of crisis," Pujari said during the review meeting.



In Odisha, common disasters like floods, cyclones, heatwaves, and lightning strikes, as well as emergencies such as fire accidents and snakebites, will now be managed more effectively with a unified control room. The new centre will play a crucial role in coordinating responses to these crises and ensuring quicker and more effective services to the public.

Pujari emphasised that high-rise buildings in the Capital city will also benefit from the latest firefighting technologies and expertise, ensuring comprehensive preparedness for all types of emergencies.

The minister also took part in an extensive review of the Fire and Emergency Services at the State Fire Command Centre, located in the Odisha Fire and Disaster Response Academy (OFDRA) in Bhubaneswar. During the inspection, he provided valuable guidance on how different departments could work in close coordination to manage disasters more efficiently.

Senior officials from the Fire Services department, including Sudhanshu Sarangi, Director General of Fire Services, and Uma Sankar Das, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Fire Services, were present during the meeting. They discussed how agencies like the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA), ODRAF, and Fire Services could work together in a more unified manner to ensure rapid responses to emergencies.

"We must ensure that every department involved in disaster management is ready to act swiftly and efficiently. A unified response is key to saving lives and minimising damage," Pujari added.

Modern auditing practices key to good governance: Guv



Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Friday stressed the need for transforming auditing practices to meet the demands of modthe valedictory ceremony of the 5th Audit Week at Jayadev Bhawan, he said, "Modern auditing must be analytical, technology-driven and future-oriented,

supported by data analysis, risk-based assessments and innovative tools to improve scrutiny of public spending and

financial systems.'

Calling the shift from transactional to systemic auditing 'essential', the governor said the role of audit has expanded far beyond checking accounts. "Today, audit stands at the intersection of governance, technology and public expectations," he said. With digital platforms and increasingly complex public programmes. he said the focus of audit must include anticipating risks, improving controls and enabling informed decision-making.

Reflecting on the history of

India's audit institutions, he said they have been the foundation of public accountability for over 150 years and have helped strengthen trust in governance by ensuring responsible and transparent use of public re-

Governor also praised Odi sha's progress in adopting technology-based systems and madhan', which he described as a model of both efficiency and empathy in grievance handling He appreciated the office of the Accountant General (AG), Odisha for adopting digital audit tools, analytics and skill development, making the state a leader in modern auditing reforms.

"Future of audit will depend on innovation, collaboration and professional excellence, including the use of artificial intelligence and advanced analytics," he said. He also emphasised the need for an anticipatory, integrated and consultative audit framework to strengthen transparency and institutional credibility

While Principal Accountant General (A&E) D Sahu delivthe welcome address, Principal Accountant General (Audit-I) Subu R proposed the vote of thanks on the occasion.

SOULFUL PERFORMANCE: Pandit Rabishankar Pradhan and Budhaditya Pradhan perform Hindustani Sitar Duet Recital on the concluding day of Annua Music Festival 2025, organised by Bhubaneswar Music Circle at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Friday

BMC expands zero-waste initiative with 7 OWCP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: In a major step towards advancing its zero waste and circular economy goals, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has operationalised a structured, decentralised organic waste management system by empanelling seven Organic Waste Collection Partners (OW-CP) including piggery-based utilisation units across the City. These authorised units will directly collect and repurpose organic waste generated by 451 Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs) in Bhubaneswar.

The seven empanelled OW CPs collectively handle nearly 13 tonne of organic waste generated daily by BWGs, in-

BJD leader booked for

'defamatory' remarks

against PM Modi, Majhi

cluding wastage from hotels, restaurants, hostels, markets, and major food establishments across the City. Through the initiative, BMC ensures that this high-volume organic waste stream is diverted away from wealth centres and channelled into productive reuse as animal feed, significantly reducing environmental burden.

All seven identified piggery units executed a direct Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BMC, following which they will operate as authorised organic waste collection partners. They will ensure daily, hygienic lifting of segregated organic waste from allotted BWGs and transport it to approved utilisation sites, in complete com-Management Rules, 2016.

This initiative marks a ma ior leap forward in BMC's 'Ze ro Waste City Strategy', where organic waste is converted into a resource rather than ending up in wealth centres for further management procedures. The systematic diversion of organic waste reduces methane emis sions, minimises wealth centre load, supports livelihood-based utilisation models, and operationalises a circular waste eco system at scale.

Odisha to adopt **Geo-Spatial Logistics Planning Framework**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Commerce and Transport (C&T) department convened an workshop on PM GatiShakti, marking a pivotal milestone in strengthening coordinated and data-driven infrastructure development across the state through the adoption of a Geo-Spatial Logistics Planning Framework.

Speaking at the session, C&T department Principal Secretary geo-spatial intelligence is now central to Odisha's long-term infrastructure roadmap. She underlined that modern planning requires transport, industry, ports, logistics, mining, urban and rural development sectors to work collaboratively—ensuring that project proposals, land assessment, logistics gaps and multimodal connectivity are analysed together on a single digital map, enabling faster clearances and reduced costs.

26th Odisha Science & Environment Congress kicks off; focus on SDGs



Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: The 26th Odisha Science and Environment Congress, jointly organised by Odisha Environment Society (OES) and KIIT University was inaugurated here Friday. The event also marked the inaugural International Conference on science and technology innovation for Sustainable Green Frontiers (SGF).

The environment congress aims to explore the critical role of science and technology in achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Based on the theme Science and Technology Innovation,

it sets the stage for discussions centered on sustainable solutions and advancing green technologies for a sustainable future.

KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta inaugurated the event and announced the establishment of an annual Chemistry Award, sponsored by KIIT. The award, worth Rs 1 lakh will recognise a distinguished chemist each year for their lifetime contribution to the field of Chemistry.

On the occasion, environmentalist Jaya Krushna Panigrahi was honoured for his 15 years of dedicated service as the convener of Odisha Science and Environment Congress. His

tireless work in promoting scientific discourse and environmental awareness has earned him significant recognition.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by several distinguished dignitaries, including former secretary to the Government of India Arun Kumar Rath, DRDO, Bangalore Director General (ECS) T K Bastia, OES coordinator S N Kundu and KIIT Deemed to be University vice chancellor Saraniit Singh, The event attracted more than 450 delegates from across India and beyond, highlighting its growing significance in the fields of science, technology, and environmental

Throughout the conference speakers have emphasised the importance of science and technology in meeting the global sustainability targets set by the SDGs, especially in areas such as clean energy, sustainable agriculture, and waste

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: An FIR has been registered against BJD leader Manmath Routray for allegedly making defamatory comments against Prime Minis ter Narendra Modi and Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi during the recent bypoll to the Nuapada Assembly constituency, police said Friday. The cyber police station in

the case against Routray under various sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Information Technology Act, 2000, an officer said. The case was registered

Bhubaneswar has registered

Thursday on the basis of a written complaint lodged by state BJP leader Javant Kumar Jena November 14. he said.

Routray has allegedly posted content on social media, which are "defamatory, misleading, and derogatory towards the PM and Majhi", the complainant said.

"Upon going through the complaint, it is found that Manmath Routray was seen, in a video clip, using the derogatory, misleading and defamatory words and indicating his finger towards the Prime Minister and Chief Minister of Odisha," the officer said, citing the first in-

formation report (FIR). The allegations of the complaint amount to "defamation and harming the reputation",

STATE-LEVEL CRE PROGRAMME CONCLUDES

Call for cross-sector collaboration to improve rehabilitation process

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Experts emphasised the need for cross-sector collaboration to process and ensure better services for people with disabilities during the concluding day of two-day state-level programme, focused on Continuous Rehabilitation Education (CRE) here Friday

The programme, aimed at enhancing the rehabilitation process for children with disabilities, was organised in collaboration with department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) and State Institute of Education and Research (SI-ER) at Lok Seva Bhavan here.

On the second day, experts engaged in comprehensive discussions on various rehabilitation topics, including family counseling, inclusive education, and integration of differently-abled individuals into society.

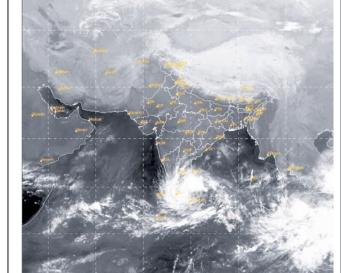
Dhwani Film Festival president and a representative of Aaina Foundation Jitendra Biswal joined the conversation. advocating for raising awareness through multimedia platforms. Among others, notable speakers included audiologist Chandranchud Panigrahi and mental health expert Haresh Chandra Mishra.

On the first day, SSEPD Minister Nityananda Gond stressed the importance of early intervention in managing disabilities and explained that when children receive the right care and treat ment from an early age, their disabilities can be effectively con trolled. This year's programme focused on the theme 'Impor tance of Early Intervention for Multiple Disabilities'.

Minister Gond further high lighted the untapped potential within the differently-abled community and assured that the state government is committed to providing quality services and opportunities for their growth and development.

A leading figure in the field Sruti Mahapatra, attended as special guest at the event and shared her personal experienc es and motivational insights. She also suggested that documentaries and theater performances could serve as powerful tools to increase public awareness about the challenges faced by people with disabilities.

MARKET WATCH VARIATION VARIATION DOLLAR 89.59 ▲ 0.11 SENSEX 85706.67 ♥ 13.71 GOLD ₹126.400 A ₹896 EURO **103.78** ▲ 0.02 NIFTY **26202.95** ♥ 12.60 SILVER ₹167,902 ↑ ₹5435



150	a all	The Tale	
	WEATHE	R	
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	29.8°	27.2°	Fog/mist in the
Min Temp	14.3°	13.6°	morning and mainly clear sky
Humidity	65%	76%	later
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	
			800

BUP protests towing drive, arbitrary penalties

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Bhubaneswar Unnavan Parishad (BUP) has submitted a formal complaint to the Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh, Friday protesting towing of public vehicles from no-parking zones and raising concerns over commercial establishments-such as malls and large complexes-allegedly evading accountability for failing to provide mandatory parking facilities. The forum has threatened to move to the Orissa

High Court and file a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and launch a public awareness drive against arbitrary penalties.

Dated November 24, Commissionerate Police issued a notification declaring no-parking restrictions on several major roads in Bhubaneswar to ease congestion and improve traffic flow. While welcoming the initiative, the forum claimed that the primary cause of roadside parking chaos is due to the severe lack of parking arrangements within malls,

commercial complexes, hospitals, hotels, coaching centres and high-rise apartments.

According to BDA regulations of 2008, every commercial establishment is legally required to ensure adequate parking space. However, the forum alleged that nearly 90 per cent of malls. hospitals and business establishments in Jaydev Vihar, Saheed Nagar, Patia, Chandrasekharpur, Nayapalli and Khandagiri obtained occupancy certificates by showing fake parking layouts. This failure on the part of

BMC and BDA at the approval stage has forced citizens to park on public roads, they said, Outfit president Basudev Bhatt, in a letter to the Police Commissioner, demanded suspension of harsh penalty actions such as towing and fines until appropriate steps are taken. Bhatt called for an expert committee comprising representatives from Police Commissionerate, BDA, BMC, the forum, public representatives and road and traffic experts to inspect conditions within 30 days and identify violators.

Move to revive near-extinct native silkworm species

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: The Sukinda Ecorace Conservation Project, led by Tata Steel Foundation in partnership with the Central Silk Board and Central Tasar Research and Training Institute (CTRTI), is working towards reviving a native silkworm species that was on the brink of extinction.

The mid-term self-assessment test report conducted by Tata Steel has been reviewed by IUCN India and found to be in alignment with internationally accepted IUCN Global Standard on Nature-based Solutions (NbS). The project achieved an assessment score of 60 per cent well above the 25 per cent minimum threshold - and earned an 'Adequate' rating across all



eight assessment criteria.

Tata Steel Safety, Health and Sustainability vice president Rajiv Mangal said, "The midterm assessment review by IUCN not only validates our commitment to nature-based solutions but also establishes a

blueprint for how corporations can contribute meaningfully to biodiversity conservation. This work demonstrates our alignment to the Tata group's 'Aalingana' goals.'

Tata Steel Corporate Services VP D B Sundara Ramam said, "The Sukinda Ecorace Conservation Project showcases the convergence of ecological restoration, community empowerment, and economic viability - the true essence of sustainable development. At Tata Steel, we believe that long-term business success is intrinsically linked to environmental stewardship and community well-being.'

For generations, the Sukinda Ecorace, a trivoltine Tasar silkworm, thrived in the mixed deciduous forests of Sukinda. But the introduction of commercial strains and habitat loss nearly erased this native species, devastating traditional livelihoods in the process. To reverse this decline, over 26 hectares of degraded forest land were replanted with Ar-

jun and Asan trees - the host plants, essential for Tasar silkworms. These restored forests now function as biodiversity corridors, sequestering carbon while rebuilding the ecosystem that once supported thriving silkworm populations.

The real innovation lies in economics. Over 200 house holds - 50 engaged in planta tion activities and 150 in sericulture - now participate in the project. The initiative directly supports India's Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). It aligns with the National Biodiversity Action Plan and demonstrates how conservation and livelihood regeneration can be achieved simultaneously.

MANDIS OPEN, **PROCUREMENT YET TO BEGIN**



curement does not normalise

by Sunday, they will take to

began much later than in

previous years. Tokens were

issued only Thursday night,

and many farmers say their

allotted sale dates fall after

December 10. Despite the de-

lay, thousands of bags have

already been deposited at

mandis across the district,

including 40,000 bags at God-

bhaga, 30,000 at Attabira and

Farmers say the delay has

left them unable to pay labour-

ers involved in harvesting.

Some have reportedly sold

paddy to private traders at

₹1,500-1,600 per quintal to meet

curement process has failed

Farmer leaders say the pro-

20,000 at Kalapani.

urgent expenses.

OF ROAD OVER BRIDGE (ROB) AT

RAILWAY KM 204/29-31 BETWEEN TITLAGARH- KESINGA RAILWAY

STATIONS IN TITLAGARH-SINGAPUR

ROAD JUNCTION SECTIONS OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

<u>Approx. cost</u>: ₹ 7,61,458.38, <u>EMD</u>:
₹ 15,200.00. Completion period:

Tender closing Date & Time: At 1530

To manual offers sent by Post/Courie

Fax or in person shall be accepted agains

uch e-tenders even if these are submitte

on firm's letter head and received in time

All such manual offers shall be considered

Complete information including e-tender

documents of the above e-tender is available

Digital Signature Certificate and must be

registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on

e-tendering. All relevant paper must have

o be uploaded at the time of participatin

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised

to revisit the website fifteen days before the

late of closing of tender to note any

hanges/corrigenda issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)

on e-tendering as per instruction.

without any consideration.

website: www.ireps.gov.in

08 Months.

This year's procurement

the streets from Monday.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Nov 28: Kharif paddy procurement opened in Bargarh district Friday, but not a single bag has been purchased so far, triggering concern

among farmers. Mandis under the Attabira, Bargarh and Padampur regulated market committees (RMCs) opened on schedule, and nearly 77,000 farmers have received procurement tokens as of Thursday night. Farmers have brought their paddy to the mandis, but procurement has not started.

Farmers say the delay stems from the absence of agreements between millers and the Supplies Department. The online procurement portal is also yet to be activated, raising doubts

over the system's readiness. Farmers warn that if pro-

Burnt in cooker blast,

Officials face music for non-implementation of **OSWAS** paperless mode

SALARIES OF STAFFERS OF 51 OFFICES WITHHELD

Kendrapara, Nov 28: The Kendrapara District Collector Friday issued directions withholding the November salaries of all employees of 51 government offices for not implementing the OSWAS (Odisha Secretariat Workflow Automation System) mode of paperless work.

Sources said that around 300 employees, many of them in panchayat offices, may be affected. The state government has mandated all offices to operate through the digital workflow system.

Of the 124 government offices in the district, only 73 were found implementing OS-WAS while remaining offices were found operating manually.

"As non-implementation of OSWAS infringed government notification, their salaries for the current month has been held up as a disciplinary measure," District Col-

lector Raghuram R Iyer said in the order. OSWAS is an e-governance initiative by the Odisha government to digitise and automate file management and official workflows in the departments.

The system aims to increase efficiency, transparency, and accountability by moving from a manual, paper-based system to an electronic one, enabling digital processing of files, inter-departmental communication, and real-time tracking

He said the government has many times trained employees of all the departments regarding the use of OSWAS.

tice No. 53/ET/SBP/ENGG/2025-

26, Date: 19.11.2025 (1) e-Tender No. 52-eT-DENS-SBP-25

Name of the Work : SHIFTING OF WATER SUPPLY PIPE LINE IN CONNECTION WITH CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD OVER BRIDGE e-Tender Notice No. ETCECONIIIBBS 2025054, Dtd.: 24.11.2025

Name of works NEW LINE BETWEEN NAYAGARH AND DUBUNA: PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF LAND ACQUISITION PROPOSALS FOR ACQUISITION/ AT RAILWAY KM 204/29-31 BETWEEN TITLAGARH-KESINGA SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

(2) e-Tender No. 50-eT-DENS-SBP-25 Name of the Work: CONDUCTING RAIL STRUCTURE INTERACTIVE ANALYSIS AND SUBMISSION OF REPORTS USING MIDAS RAIL-TRACK MODULE AS PER THE LATEST PROVISION OF UIC 774 3R AND RDSO GUIDELINES FOR RSI AND RECOMMENDATION OF REMEDIAL SOLUTIONS FOR CONTINUATION OF LWR FOR 18 BRIDGES IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION. Approx cost of the Work : ₹ 60,48,000/-, Bid

Tender closing date & time: at 1200 hrs. of 16.12.2025. curity: ₹1,21,000/-, Cost of tender form: ₹5,900/-.
(3) e-Tender No. 42-eT-DENS-SBP-25 No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be me of the Work : CONSTRUCTION OF A DOG KENNEL AT TITLAGARH OF SAMBAL PUR DIVISION

Approx cost of the Work : ₹ 57,50,297.66, Bid Security: ₹ 1,15,100/-.

(4) e-Tender No. 47-eT-DENS-SRP-25 Name of the Work : CONSTRUCTION OF 10 NOS. OF MASONARY HUT/ EQUIPMENT PROVISION OF KAVACH IN DEOGAN ROAD-TITILAGARH JN.-THERUBALI SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Approx cost of the Work : ₹ 2,68,61,547.65,

(Fifteen) days before the date of dosing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered (5) e-Tender No. 45-eT-DENS-SBP-25 Name of the Work I CONSTRUCTION OF 20 BEDDED RUNNING ROOM AT AMBODALA STATION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (additional check list) of Tender form (Second

sheet) Annexure-I of chapter 2 of verified and signed by Chartered Accountant. Bid Security: ₹2,95,700/-. (6) e-Tender No. 49-eT-DENE-SBP-25

me of the Work: PROVISION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY (AIR PUSHING TECHNIQUE) IN LIEU OF MANNED LEVEL CROSSING NO. ST-88 AT KM. 136/9 & MANNED LEVEL CROSSING NO. ST-59 AT KM. 96/5-6 BETWEEN SARAGIPALI-KEREJANGA STATIONS IN SAMBALPUR-ANGUL SECTION AND MANNED LEVEL CROSSING NO. JT- 16 AT KM 543 713 RETWEEN RENGALLSASON

Approx cost of the Work : ₹ 20,13,66,009.91

SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

completion period of the work: 03 months (for SI. No. 1), 06 months (for Sl. No. 2, 3 & 5), 10 months Tender closing date & time : at 1500 hrs. of 15.12.2025 (for all tenders).

o manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's etter head and received in time. All such manua offers shall be considered invalid and shall be ejected summarily without any consideration.

ocuments of the above e-tender is available in rebsite www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to

revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes corrigenda issued for this tender

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg),

No. 2(15)/2025-ABCD

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity). Electronics Niketan, 6-CGO Complex, New Delhi - 110003

General, Education and Research Network of India (ERNET India), an autonomous body under MeitY.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology proposes to fill up the post of Director General, Education and Research Network of India (ERNET India), an autonomous body under MeitY, in the pay scale of Level 15 in the Pay Matrix (Rs.1,82,200 - Rs.2,24,100), through Direct Recruitment/ Deputation (including short term contract) modes. Last date for receipt of application would be the day falling after 45 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News.

2. Detailed advertisement and application proforma can be obtained from websites of MeitY (www.meity.gov.in); ERNET (www.ernet.in); Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) (www.persmin.gov.in); and National Career Services Portal (www.ncs.gov.in).

cbc06101/11/0011/2526

CONTINENTS Slovak woman weds Gajapati man

Gajapati, Nov 28: A young woman from Slovakia travelled across continents and reached Paralakhemundi in 불 Gajapati district to marry her long-time partner, illustrating what many describe as the power of committed love. According to local sources, Anna, a

Slovak national, had been in a long-distance relationship with Rajib, a resident of Paralakhemundi, for several

years after coming to know each other during their stay and work in Singapore. Over time, she developed a deep interest in Indian culture and traditions through her connection with him.

to the union, Anna arrived in Paralakhemundi, where she was warmly welcomed by Rajib's family. The couple tied the knot Friday follow

ing Hindu rituals. As part of embrac-

ing her new life, Anna adopted a new

After both families discussed the relationship and agreed Indian name, Ananya, which was also printed on the wedding invitations.

The ceremony was attended by friends, relatives and well-wishers, and was celebrated with traditional music and festivities.

Locals and community members said Anna's journey from Europe to a remote town in Odisha, and her willingness to marry according to Indian customs, re flects her dedication and affection. Ob servers noted that such cross-cultura unions highlight the growing global interest in Indian culture.

Newborn sold for adoption; rescued

SONEPUR: The Childline unit in Subarnapur district has rescued a baby boy from Pua village under Tarbha police limits after learning that a local couple had allegedly purchased the infant from Bolangir. Officials said the rescued child was underweight and is now receiving

treatment at the paediatric ward of the Subarnapur DHH. According to Childline, Shraddhanjali Singh, a counsellor with Bolangir Childline, alerted Sujit Kumar Mishra, district project coordinator of Subarnapur Childline, Thursday. Mishra and his team went to Pua village, where they found the baby in the custody of Sujata and her husband Rasik Suna, who had allegedly bought the infant in Bolangir. The baby was presented before the Subarnapur Child Welfare Committee (CWC). Committee Chair Shankarshan Panda and members Shantanu Karna and Hemanta Sahu ordered that the child be placed in a Specialised Adoption Agency. Sources said the infant, born November 18 at a Bolangir hospital, was discharged November 27. His parents, Dharmendra Tandi and Sukanti. allegedly sold him because they already had four children and did not wish to raise another. The couple in Pua village, married for eight years and without children, reportedly purchased the baby.

3 die in hit-and-run on NH-55 in Dhenkanal

DHENAKANAL: Three persons in their twenties died in the early hours of Friday after an unidentified speeding vehicle crashed into their scooter from the rear near Gobindpur Chowk on National High way-55 in Dhenkanal district, police said Neither the identity of the deceased nor the vehicle involved in the hit-and-run has yet been established. The fatal accident prompted agitated locals to block the high way, demanding government measures to curb the frequent mishaps on the busy stretch. Later, the locals withdrew the road blockade. An unnatural death case has been registered in this connection.



Regional Office: Bhubaneswar 1st Floor, Bivab Gulmohar, Behera sahi, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Outstanding Amount

₹25,44,728.19 as on

13.09.2025 + intrest thereo

at the contractual rate plus

osts, charges and expense

till date of payment

₹33,14,032.69 as on

13.09.2025 + intrest

thereon at the contractua

rate plus costs, charges

and expenses till date of

payment

₹28,86,930.19 as on

at the contractual rate plus

costs, charges and expenses

till date of payment

₹40,09,540.23 as on

13.09.2025 + intrest

thereon at the contractua

rate plus costs, charges

and expenses till date of

payment

₹41,88,323.59 as on

13.09.2025 + intrest thereor

at the contractual rate plus

₹31.18.924.84 as on

19.07.2025 + intrest thereor

at the contractual rate plus

19.07.2025

25.11.2025

19.09.2025

19.07.2025

25.11.2025

25.11.2025

19.09.2025

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction o Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrowers/Co-Borrower/Mortgagors. Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus all costs charges and expenses till date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Co-Borrower/Mortgagors/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrowers/Co-Borrower Mortgagors/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA, Bhimatangi Branch, for an amount stated herein below plus further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Properties

Equitable Mortgage of Residential Propert

Mouza: Kunjar, Khata No.: 443/340, Plot No. 297/1371, Area: Ac.0.640 Dec, Corresponds

to Khata No.: 443/237, further Corresponds to

No.: 545, Area: Ac.0.040 Dec out of Area

No.: 314, Area: Ac.0.020 Dec, Corresponds

Plot No.: 310/1352, Area: Ac.0.100 Dec

BHIMATANGI BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers/Co-Borrower/Mortgagors/Guarantors Borrowers: 1) Mr. Dillip Kumar Pradhan, S/o.: Banabihari Prádhan, **2) Mrs. Dipa Pradhan,** W/o.: Pradip Kumar Pradhan, Both are At: Kunjar, PO.: Sanglai Sasan, P.S.: Pipili, Dist.: Puri, Odisha-

752104 Khata No.: 149, Plot No.: 297, comes under till date of payment SRO: Pipili, Tahasil: Pipili, 215, P.S.: Pipili, P.S. No.: 61, Dist.: Puri, Odisha, Kissam: Gharabari, in the name of **Mr. Dillip Kumar Pradha**n

and Mrs. Dipa Pradhan, Bounded by North: Revenue Plot No.: 320, South: Revenue Road, East: Rest Part of the Plot, West: Cada Nala Borrower: Mr. Subhakanta Jena, S/o.: Chandra Equitable Mortgage of Residential Property

Sekhar Jena, At: Odataraboi, PO.: Beraboi, P.S.: Mouza: Nuagaon, Khata No.: 191/241, Plo Delanga, Dist.: Puri, Odisha-752016 No.: 545, Area: Ac.0.040 Dec out of Area Ac. 0.420 Dec, comes under SRO: Pipili, Tahasil: Delanga, P.S.: Pipili, No.: 126, Dist.: Puri, Odisha,

Kissam: Gharabari, in the name of Mr. Subhakanta Jena, Bounded by North: Vendor, South Revenue Plot No.: 546, East: Road, West: Vendor

Borrower: Mr. Prafulla Biswal, S/o.: Prasanna Equitable Mortgage of Residential Property Kumar Biswal, At: Khandiagiri, Thana: Pipili, Mouza: Khandiagiri, Khata No.: 107/110, Ploi Dist.: Puri, Odisha-752104

to Khata No.: 107/18, Further Corresponds to Khata No.: 75, Plot No.: 314 and Khata No.: 107/ 111, Plot No.: 313, Area: Ac.0.010 Dec, Corresponds to Khata No.: 74, Plot No.: 313, comes under SRO: Pipili, Tahasil: Pipili, P.S.: Pipili, Dist.: Puri, Odisha, Kissam: Gharabari, in the name of Mr. Prafulla Biswal, Plot No.: 314 is

Bounded by North: Road, South: Revenue Plot No.: 300, East: Revenue Plot No.: 313, West: Revenue Plot No.: 315, Plot No.: 313 is Bounded by North: Road, South: Revenue Plot No.: 301, East: Revenue Plot No.: 312, West: Revenue Plot No.: 314 (Prafulla Biswal) Borrower: Mr. Dasarathi Das, S/o.: Bisi Das, At: Equitable Mortgage of Residential Propert

Kanti Kothabada, PO.: Kanti, P.S.: Pipili, Dist.: Puri, Mouza: Kanti Kothabada, Khata No.: 487/249 Odisha-752104 situated at SRO: Pipili, Tahasil: Pipili, No.: 159, P.S.: Pipili, No.: 03, Dist.: Puri, Odisha, Kissam Gharabari, in the name of Mr. Dasarathi Das, Bounded by North: Canal Bandha, South: Chakanal East: Rest Part of the Plot, West: Canal Bandha & Plot No.: 228

Borrower: Mr. Ratikant Ray, S/o.: Bijay Ray, At: Equitable Mortgage of Residential Property Humar, PO.: Beraboi, P.S.: Delanga, Dist.: Puri, Mouza: Abalapur, Khata No.: 159/268, Plot Odisha-752016

No.: 272, Area: Ac.0.030 Dec out of Area:

Ac.1.118 Dec., 68 Square Kadi marked as Sub Plot No.: 21, Corresponds to Khata No.: 159/250,

further Corresponds to Khata No.: 44, Plot No.: 272, comes under SRO: Pipili, Tahasii: Pipili, No.: till date of payment 278, P.S.: Pipili, No.: 134, Dist.: Puri, Odisha, Kissam: Gharabari, in the name of **Mr. Ratikanta Ray**, Bounded by North: Road, South Part of the Plot, East: Rest Part of the Plot, West: Rest Part of the Plot Borrowers: 1) Mr. Jitu Ranjan Bal, S/o.: Equitable Mortgage of Residential Property

Mr. Ghanshyam Bal, 2) Mrs. Ranjita Bal, W/o.: Mouza: Abalapur, Khata No.: 159/199, Plot Mr. Jitu Ranjan Bal, Both are At: Rencha, Delanga No.: 40/607, Area: Ac.0.03748 Square Kad Station Bazar, PO.: Beroboi, Thana: Delang, Dist.: out of Area: Ac.0.07370 Square Kadi Puri, Odisha-752016

Plot, West: Road

situated at SRO: Pipili, Tahasil: Pipili, Tahasil No.: 278, P.S.: Pipili, P.S.: No.: 134, Dist.: Puri, Odisha, Kissam: Gharabari, in the name of Mrs. Ranjita Bal, W/o.: Mr. Jitu Ranjan Bal, Bounded by North: Village Road, South: Plot of Sarita Panda, East: Rest Part of the

Corresponds to Khata No.: 1. Plot No.: 40.

19.07.2025

costs, charges and expense till date of payment

25.11.2025 costs, charges and expense

Guru, At: Bolakana, PO.: Beraboi, P.S.: Delanga, Dist.: Puri. Odisha-752016

Borrower: Mrs. Diptimayee Guru, W/o.: Kabindra Equitable Mortgage of Residential Property

Mouza: Abalapur, Khata No.: 159/236, Plot No.: 271, Area: Ac.0.030 Dec. out of Area Ac.1.030 Dec, Corresponds to Khata No.: 124, Plot No.: 271, comes under SRO: Pipili, Tahasil: Pipili, No.: 278, P.S.: Pipili, No.: 134, Dist.: Puri, Odisha, Kissam: Gharabari, in the name of

₹42,60,014.18 as on 19.09.2025 at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expense till date of payment

Mrs. Diptimayee Guru, Bounded by North: Revenue Plot No.: 272, South: 25 Feet Wide Road, East: Rest Part of the Plot, West: Rest

Borrower: Mr. Bapina Nayak, S/o.: Mr. Bijaya Equitable Mortgage of Immovable Property Nayak, At/PO.: Khelaur, Pipili, Dist.: Puri, Odisha-under Dist.: Puri, Tahasil: Delanga, P.S. No. 19 07 2025 + intrest thereo 19.07.2025

₹40,81,971.95 as on

126, under the SRO: Pipili, Mouza: Nuagaon at the contractual rate plus 25.11.2025 Khata No.: 191/241, Plot No.: 545, Area: Ac.0.045 Dec out of Area: Ac.0.420 Dec, Status: Sthitibar costs, charges and expense till date of payment Gharabari, Corresponds to Khata No.: 172, Kissam: Gharabari, in the name of Mr. Bapina Nayak Bounded by North: Vendor (Bhimasen Pradhan), South: Revenue Plot No.: 546, East: Vendor (Bhimasen Pradhan), West: Road

₹15,12,970/- as on

Borrowers: 1) Mr. Amiya Sundaray, S/o.: Mr. 1) Equitable Mortgage of Immovable Jayakrushna Sundaray, 2) Mrs. Naliniprava Property under Dist.: Khordha, Tahasil: Sundaray, Wo.: Mr. Amiya Sundaray, Both are Plot Jatani, P.S.: Jatani, P.S. No.: 65, under the No.: 417/2928, Badaraghunathpur, Janla, Jatni, SRO: Jatani, Mouza: Badaraghunathpur

Khata No.: 270/3231, Plot No.: 173/4039

21.08.2025 08.08.2025 + intrest thereo at the contractual rate plus 25.11.2025 costs, charges and expense till date of payment Area: Ac.0.037 Dec, Status: Sthitiban, Corresponds to Khata No.: 270/2362, further Corresponds to Khata No.: 52, Plot No.: 173, in the

name of Mrs. Nalini Prabha Sundaray, Bounded by North: 30 ft Wide Road, South: 20 ft Wide Road, East: Revenue Plot No.: 174 West: 20 ft Wide Road, 2) Equitable Mortgage of Immovable Property under Dist.: Khordha, Tahasil: Jatani, P.S.: Jatani, P.S. No.: 65. under the SRO: Jatani, Mouza: Badaraghunathpur, Khata No.: 270/3231, Plot No.: 172/4038, Area: Ac.0.019 Dec, Status: Sthitiban, Corresponds to Khata No.: 270/2412, further Corresponds to Khata No.: 150, Plot No.: 172/4038, in the name of Mrs. Nalini Prabha Sundaray, Bounded by North: Plot of Nalini Prava Sundaray (Plot No.: 173/4039), South: 20 ft Wide Road, East: Revenue Plot No.: 174, West: 20 ft Wide Road Borrowers: 1) Mrs. Sabita Senapati, W/o.: Equitable Mortgage of Immovable Property ₹40,98,880.87 as on

Mr. Tapan Kumar Senapati, 2) Mr. Tapan Kumar Senapati, S/o.: Purnananda Senapati, Both are At: Measuring an Area: Ac.0.010 Dec. and Plo Bisalyakarani Lane, PO./P.S.: Madhupatana, Near No.: 1055/2729, Measuring an Area: Ac.0.015 Kajidiha Up School, Cuttack Sadar, Dist.: Cuttack, Dec, Total Area: Ac.0.025 Dec, of Sthitiban Odisha-753010

Debaraj Sahoo, Office Addres: Plot No.: 1068.

Samantara Pur, Old Town, Lingaraj Temple,

Debaraj Sahoo, S/o: Ramesh Sahoo, At: Sarakaribada,

Kalyanpur, P.O.: Dhauli, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, PIN-

751002 / Guarantor: Shri Lingaraj Sahoo, S/o: Ramesh

Sahoo, At: Sarakaribada, Kalyanpur, P.O.: Dhauli, Dist.:

Borrowers: 1) Mr. Abhimanyu Naik, S/o: Ishwar

Naik, Both are Address-1: QRS No.: D/322, Sector-

Address-2: At/P.O.: Karachuli, Dist.: Ganjam,

Rourkela-3, Sundargarh, Odisha-759016,

Khurda, Odisha, PIN-751002

Odisha-761143

Place: Bhubaneswar

Khorda, Odisha-752054

Gharabari Land Corresponding to Khata No.: 305/178, Plot No.: 1053/1585 and Plot No.: 1055/1586, situated at Mouza: Poparada, SRO: Cuttack, P.S. No.: 71, P.S.: Cuttack Sadar, Tahasil: Cuttack, Tahasil No.: 244, Dist.: Cuttack, in the name of Mrs. Sabita Senapati, Bounded by North: Road, South: Rest Part of the Vendor, East: Plot No.: 1055, West: Plot No.: 1053

25.11.2025

21.04.2025 + intrest 19.09.2025 thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment

Borrower: M/s. Sriram Medicine Stroe, Prop.: Shri Equitable Mortgage of Immovable Property Land Khata No.: 207/247, Plot NO.: 47/457 Measuring an Area of Ac.0.027 dec. o Bhubaneswar-751002, Residency Address: Shri Gharabari Land Corresponds to Khata No.

16, Sub Plot No.: 100, situated at Mouza

21.04.2025

21.04.2025 + intrest thereon at the contractual 26.11.2025 rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment

₹11.43.490.93 as on

Sarakaribada, Kalvanpur, P.S. No.: 43, P.S. Bhubaneswar, Tahasil no.: 148, Dist.: Khordha belonging to Shri Lingaraj Sahoo and Shri Debaraj Sahoo, S/o: Ramesh Sahoo, Bounded by North: Proposed Road, South: Plot No.: 47, East: Plot No.: 47, West: Proposed Road

Equitable Mortgage of Residential Property Naik, 2) Mrs. Durga Kumari Naik, W/o: Abhimanyu Mouza: Gangeswar, Khata No.: 401/760, Plo No.: 593/2539, Area: Ac.0.0482 Dec. Corresponds to Khata No.: 393/81, Plot No. 593/1598, further corresponds to Mul Khata No.: 248, Mul Plot No.: 593, SRO: Barang

26.11.2025

thereon at the contractua rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of

₹37,88,000.68 as on

19.07.2025 + intrest

Tahasil: Barang, P.S.: Cuttack Sadar, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, Kissam: Gharabari belonging to Mrs. Durga Kumari Naik, Bounded by North: Rest of the Plot, South: Plot No.: 592 & 591, East: Rest of the Plot, West: Internal Road

Authorised Officer

Date: 28.11.2025 Bank of Baroda

boy locked in hostel for 9 days; rescued OT-2025-26, Dtd. 24,11,2025 ame of work: TRD RELATED WORK CONNECTION TO THE WORK OF "UTILITY SHIFTING FOR CONSTRUCTION

NABARANGPUR: A Class VII student of Kokodi Semala Ashram School in Kosagumuda block was left with severe facial burns after a pressure cooker exploded in the school kitchen, but was allegedly denied treatment and confined inside the hostel for nine days in an attempt to suppress

the matter. The hostel is overseen by the ST and SC Development department, while the school comes under the School and Mass Education department. Allegations suggest that neither the headmaster no department officials acted with the required urgency, prompting concerns of gross negligence. Senior **BID** leader and former MP Pradeep Majhi said the injured boy, Dhaneswar Bhatra, was hurt when the cooker burst November

20. Instead of seeking treatment, school staff allegedly locked him in the hostel to suppress the matter. "Locking an injured child for nine days without treatment amounts to an attempt to kill," Majhi said, criticising officials for noor oversight of ashram schools. Majhi took the student to the District Collector's residence late at night, demanding swift accountability. The boy reportedly told officials that his father had died and he had received no

headquarters hospital. Cold wave grips **G** Udayagiri

G Udayagiri: G Udayagiri

has recorded the lowest

temperature in the state,

with the mercury dipping

care despite his injuries.

District Collector Mahesh

war Swain has ordered an

inquiry. The student is now

admitted to the district

to a chilly 5.4°C Friday, marking the coldest spell of the season so far. The sharp drop in temperatures, which follows a brief rise due to a lowpressure area over Bay of Bengal, has brought severe cold conditions to the town and surrounding areas over the past four days. Residents are battling biting cold, dense morning fog, and disrupted daily routines, with many relying on fires to stay warm. Foggy conditions in the early hours have also led to reduced visibility and hindered vehicle movement on major roads, further The local Krishi Vigyan Kendra reports that the temperature reached 8.6°C Wednesday, fell to 7.4°C Thursday, and then plunged to its current low Friday. The town's cold wave has left warm cloth ing and firewood in high demand, as locals brace for even colder conditions. Despite the intense cold, tourism has seen a rise, with visitors flocking to scenic spots around G speculate that the drop-

bring frost this year.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

TLHR-521, Dt. 25.11.2025 name of Work: SIGNALLING ZONAL VORK EACH COSTING RS. 5,00,000/- O LESS IN THE SECTION UNDER JURISDICTION OF SSES/TALCHER TLHR) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION

EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR ONE YEAR

Tender Value: ₹ 91,41,421.06, EMD 1,82,800.00, idding Start Date: 03.12.2025 Tender closing Date & Time: At 1100

hrs. of 17.12.2025.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courie Fax or in person shall be accepted again the e-tenders. Complete information including e-tende

documents are available in website www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advised o revisit the website 15 days before the dat

of closing of tender to note any change Corrigenda issued for this tender Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Enginee Khurda Road PR-849/Q/25-26

EAST COAST RAILWAY

ALIENATION/ DIVERSION OF PVT./GOVT./FOREST LAND AS PER PREVAILING ACT/RULES OF THE CONCERNED DEPTTS./MINISTRIES

INCLUDING PROVIDING LAND BOUNDARY

POSTS WITH UNSERVICEABLE PSC SLEEPERS&OTHERALLIEDWORKS.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 36.82 Lakh, EMD: ₹ 73,600/-, Completion period of the work: 12

rejected summarily without any consideration

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.ireps.gov.in. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15

tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.
The tenderers should read all instructions to the

tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of

e-Tender Notice No. SNTPBBSSIG-132025-MLTPURI, Dt. 22.11.2025
ame of the Work: "PROVISION OF BIIRECTIONAL SIGNALLING FOR BOTH UP AND DN LINE IN MALATIPATPUR (MLT) PURI (PURI) SECTION WITH INTERMEDIATE BLOCK SIGNALLING IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY WITH ALTERATION OF ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING AT PURI

Approximate Advertised Value: ₹12,04,26,190.85, EMD: ₹7,52,100/-, Completion period of the work:

Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 15.12.2025. No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in

bsite www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/

corrigenda issued for this tender. Assistant Signal & Telecom Engineer/Proj-II/ Bhubaneswar

Vacancy Circular

Government of India

Subject: Calling Applications for filling up the post of Director



power post





In silence, the consciousness grows. It aspires to know you more and more perfectly.





Mini-PMO Experiment

or three days, Naya Raipur is set to cosplay as a "mini-PMO" complete with the full weight of India's security establishment descending on the city for the 60th National DGP/IGP Conference. Modi, Shah, Doval, DGPs, IGs, and the chiefs of every Central force will be in attendance. It's a rare moment when the entire internal security command structure briefly migrates out of Delhi

The state machinery has gone into overdrive. Government residences have been upgraded to SPG-style standards, so no VVIP has to risk a hotel stay. Over 650 vehicles and more than 2,000 security personnel will ensure everything moves with precision. The theatrics are impressive; the purpose, at least on the surface, is noble.

But the seasoned watcher knows the difference between choreogcaphy and change. When the Prime Minister steps out of Delhi, the bureaucracy instinctively snaps into attention. Once the motorcades leave, the tempo quietly returns to its familiar amble. That's the real test for this conference: whether anything survives beyond the manicured lawns and multiple security rings.

The gathering comes just after the killing of Maoist commander Madvi Hidma and ahead of the Centre's ambitious deadline for ending Left-wing extremism. The message is unmistakable: the state is in control and expects its policing and intelligence arms to match the declared urgency. The conference, then, isn't just an annual review; it's a performance of intent.

Whether that intent leads to better intel-sharing, smoother inter-agency coordination, and smarter policing is the larger question. India has never lacked grand conferences or glossy presentations. What it lacks is durable institutional memory — the kind that prevents

every crisis from triggering another round of reinvention.

Still, Raipur has a window. If the tight security planning, coordination drills and logistical muscle assembled for these three days are translated into long-term systems, the



"mini-PMO" experiment might leave behind more than photo ops. If not, this will simply join the long list of beautifully choreographed weekends that promised transformation but delivered nostalgia.

For now, Raipur will shine. Whether anything glows after the VIP lights dim is up to babus, as always.

Babus' big retirement gamble

The Centre has handed IAS officers an oddly specific November 30 homework deadline: pick your pension scheme and don't come back later saying you weren't warned. OPS, NPS, UPS may sound like alphabet soup, but the implications are huge.

The Old Pension Scheme is the nostalgia pick. It entails guaranteed $\,$ payouts, no market drama, and a comfort blanket big enough to wrap a mid-career officer and their anxieties. The National Pension System, meanwhile, is the "grow up and face the markets" option, where your retirement depends on investment performance rather than a promise. And then there's the newbie on the block, the Unified Pension Scheme, which tries to be all things: a bit of assurance, a bit of market exposure, and a lot of "trust the government, we've thought this through."

What's interesting isn't just the menu of choices, but the urgency. When babus are asked to make a decision quickly, you know something's shifting. This is essentially the government signalling that pension reforms are no longer hypothetical. Fiscal pressure is real, the 8th Pay Commission's shadow is long, and clarity on future liabilities can't wait for committee-after-committee procrastination.

For officers, though, the psychological battle is the real one. Either way, this isn't just a pension choice. It's a referendum on how India's steel frame sees its own future — risk-averse and cushioned, or reform-aligned and willing to adapt. December will tell us which

MEA in overdrive

If anyone thinks Indian diplomacy is cruising on autopilot, they haven't glanced at the MEA's calendar this week. It's less a schedule and more a diplomatic obstacle course

Yes, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent outing was limited to the G20 Leaders' Summit in South Africa, but the real action is what's unfolding around it. Russian President Vladimir Putin is expected in Delhi in December, and that single visit is already generating more geopolitical calculations than a Defence Ministry budget meeting. India's long-standing ties with Moscow remain strategically valuable, but managing them while avoiding the appearance of leaning too far into Russia's embrace, especially with Washington watching like a hawk, is a balancing act that requires the MEA's full finesse.

Meanwhile, the neighbourhood is hardly behaving. Bangladesh, usually India's most predictable partner in South Asia, has plunged into extraordinary turbulence. With Sheikh Hasina handed a death sentence by the interim government and Dhaka demanding her return, the region's political temperature has shot up. Against this backdrop, the quiet arrival of Bangladesh's National Security Advisor Khalilur Rahman in Delhi is no routine check-in. It's a crisis-management moment. India's deep stakes in Bangladesh mean that instability in Dhaka isn't just a neighbour's headache; it's a direct strategic and economic risk

Add to this a foreign policy environment where India must project autonomy, navigate great-power rivalries, reassure partners in the neighbourhood, and keep global forums from collapsing into performative talk-shops, and you begin to see the pressure on Indian diplomats. The MEA isn't just "busy". It's firefighting, bridge-building, signal-

ling, and recalibrating—often all in the same hour. Indian diplomacy has its hands full, and dropping even one ball is not an option.

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

WISDOM CORNER

fearless when facing them.

A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool.

Let us not pray to be sheltered from dangers but to be

RABINDRANATH TAGORE

Don't be seduced into thinking that that which does not

make a profit is without value.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1830:** A Polish secret society of infantry cadets staged an uprising in Warsaw, beginning the November Insurrection.
- **1864:** Colonel John M. Chivington led a surprise attack, known as the Sand Creek Massacre, on a camp of Chevenne and Arapaho people in southeastern Colorado Territory, U.S. troops murdered more than 230 Native people, who were at the site under a white flag of truce.

FRAGILE CONSENSUS

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva had declared the 30th Conference of Parties (COP30) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as the "COP of truth". And truth, indeed, was unmistakable in Belém. The meeting made it clear, how fragmented and fragile the global consensus on climate action has become. Decisions that countries had once celebrated as historic achievements were rejected outright. Commitments that were hailed as breakthroughs only a few years ago suddenly appeared to have evaporated. The most prominent exam-

ple was the decision to "transition away from fossil fuels", which had been agreed at the Dubai COP in 2023. That phrase — hailed then as a diplomatic triumph — did not even appear in the final text at Belém. Countries that had supported it earlier refused to accept it now. A similar retreat occurred on deforestation. At COP26 in Glasgow, over 130 nations pledged to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030. At COP30, a roadmap to achieve this was quietly dropped. The symbolism was striking: a climate summit held at the edge of the Amazon was unwilling to reaffirm the world's most widely supported forest pledge.

The question, then, is what COP30 actually achieved. The honest answer is: very little. Ten years after the Paris Agreement, instead of accelerating climate action, the world found itself postponing decisions and shifting difficult conversations away from the UN climate process. The most contentious issues were not resolved; they were simply moved elsewhere.

Confronted with the deadlock, the Brazilian COP presidency took a significant step. It removed the two most sensitive matters — the phase-out of fossil fuels and the roadmap to



One of the few bright spots at COP30 was the agreement to create a Just Transition Mechanism. Its purpose is to provide support to regions undergoing transitions away from fossil fuels and other carbon-intensive sectors

halt deforestation — from the formal negotiation track. Brazil now intends to craft roadmaps for both issues outside the COP process and present them at the next summit. This marks a profound acknowledgement: the world's central climate negotiation forum no longer has the capacity to broker consensus on the most important questions. The UN-FCCC is signalling that some of the hardest decisions must be made elsewhere.

This pattern extended to other unresolved issues. Climate-related unilateral trade measures, such as the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), were among the most divisive. CBAM will apply a carbon price on imports of carbon-intensive goods like steel, cement and aluminium starting January 2026. Many developing countries see it as protectionist, inequitable and imposed without genuine consultation. But at Belém, countries could not agree on a collective position or a negotiating route. Instead, the final decision merely launched three dialogues involving governments and institutions such as the WTO, stretching until mid-2028 — long after CBAM has begun affecting

global trade flows.

Adaptation — the issue of greatest urgency for the developing world — was no exception. Developing countries had demanded a tripling of adaptation finance from rich nations. The headline outcome seemed to meet this demand. but the substance fell far short. The additional funds are not new; they will be drawn from the US\$300 billion pledge announced last year. Worse, the financing will only be available after 2035, even though developing countries had sought support by 2030. For nations already enduring increasingly destructive floods, cyclones, droughts and sea-level rise, money arriving more than a decade from now will

offer little relief. One of the few bright spots at COP30 was the agreement to create a Just Transition Mechanism. Its purpose is to provide support to regions undergoing transitions away from fossil fuels and other carbon-intensive sectors. If the mechanism becomes operational and well-funded, it could provide substantial benefits to coal regions of India. Yet a mechanism on paper is only the first step. Making it effective — designing its functions, ensuring financing,

defining eligibility, and delivering real outcomes — is the true test. COP30 has created a container, but its contents remain undefined.

The broader truth emerging from COP30 is that the UNF-CCC is struggling to adapt to the current phase of climate action. The UNFCCC is fundamentally a treaty negotiation body. For 33 years it has done what it was built to do: deliver international agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol, the Cancun Agreement, the Paris Agreement and hundreds of smaller decisions.

To move forward, the world must recognise that the next phase of climate action requires specialised implementation platforms that focus on real-world levers of change. For instance, a fossil fuel phase-out roadmap should be negotiated among the largest producers and consumers who regulate fossil energy. Halting deforestation should be discussed at a platform of major forest- and biodiversity-rich countries, along with indigenous groups and forest alliances. Industrial decarbonisation should similarly be pursued at platforms driven by major producing countries. In this new architecture, the COP should evolve into a high-level political stocktake held once every two to three years to assess progress, identify gaps and provide direction. It should remain the moral anchor for global climate action.

The truth revealed at COP30 is uncomfortable but unavoidable: the climate crisis has outgrown the UNFCCC system. It now demands rapid implementation and hard political choices. For this, multiple specialised and implementation-driven platforms are essential. The sooner we build and activate them, the faster we can move from words to action.

The writer is CEO of International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (ifOREST)

SPECTRUM G-20 SUMMIT

Chandra Bhusan

THE WORLD

FOR A NEW

PHASE OF

CLIMATE

ACTION

NEEDS A NEW

MULTILATERAL

ARCHITECTURE

Asserting Africa's aspirations



DK Giri

SOUTH AFRICA BRINGING CRITICAL MINERALS TO THE CENTRE-STAGE SHOULD FEED INTO TRUMP'S G-20 AT DORAL. **FLORIDA NEXT**

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in

their valuable comments, opinion and

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000)

he 20th G-20 meeting in the South African capital was marked by quite a few significant developments as well as a departure from its tradition: that was the leaders' Declaration issued after the Summit. It was overshadowed and was almost at the risk of being defined by the absence of the 'big three' - the US President Donald Trump, Chinese Premier Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The other significant development was the assertive agenda set by South Africa underscoring Africa's problems and aspirations. It is to be noted that G-20 summit was taking place for the first time in the African Continent. However, South Africa managed to secure the desired outcomes despite half-empty seats at the top and the disruptive US interventions. South Africa claimed it, "African moment" reflecting the realities of Global South especially of Africa - shocks of climate changes, unsustainable debt, growing inequality and Africa's continuing desire to shift from mineral exports to securing greater value for their economies.

The Summit on 22 and 23 November 2025 was attended by 17 Heads of Member-States, two representatives of regional bodies - European Union and African Union. Two other member-countries, Argentina and Mexico downgraded their delegations. There were several international organisations including African Continental Free Trade Area (AFTA), African Development Bank (ADB) as Guest Participants.

Reflecting the African realities and aspirations, South Africa articulated the theme of the Summit, Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability. It is being interpreted as solidarity referring to close cooperation across diverse economies, rich and poor, equality referring to promoting equal opportunities and fair practices between and within countries, and sustainability aiming at a long-term development agenda that does not compromise the security of future generations.

The G-20 presidency is basically managed by Sherpa Working Groups. They interact with different departments of the member countries and prepare the Summit agenda. They coordinate with the G-20 president's representatives to conduct the operations. The Sherpa Track in Johannesburg consisted of 15

 $working\ groups-agriculture,$ anti-corruption, culture, development, digital economy, disaster risk-reduction, education, employment, empowerment of women, energy transitions, environment and climate sustainability, health, research and innovation, tourism, trade and investment.

South Africa identified several areas of focus as agenda priorities and high-level priorities. The high-level priorities were Priority 1 - inclusive economic growth, industrialisation, employment and reducing inequality: Priority 2 - food security. the summit sparked optimism for Mzansi agriculture in 2025. Priority 3 - artificial intelligence and innovation for sustainable development.

On artificial intelligence (AI). Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a Global Compact to prevent misuse of AI and emphasised the need for critical technologies to be 'human-centric' instead of finance-centric. He announced that India would be hosting the AI Impact Summit in February 2026 with the theme 'Sarvajanam Hitaya, Sarvajanam Sukhaya' (welfare for all, happiness for all). Invoking India's Vedic scriptures like the one quoted here by the Prime

Minister, he articulated India's message for global welfare, asserting that India stood for development that is sustainable, trade that is trusted, finance that is fair and progress in which everyone prospers. Strategically, South Africa enhanced Africa's centrality in critical minerals as the Continent possess huge share of global reserves of Cobalt, Manganese, Platinum-group metals and rare earth.

Admittedly, South Africa bringing critical minerals to the centre-stage should feed into Trump's G-20 at Doral. Florida next year. But many leaders are wary of Florida deliberations being more about deregulation, fossil fuel driven energy supply and America First framing of trade and investment. Let us conclude that the road from South Africa to Florida will decide whether United States will build on the foundation laid in Johannesburg - solidarity, equality and sustainability – or will bury it under America First which may undermine the value of the forum G-20. Let us hope not.

The writer is Professor of Practice, NIIS Group of Institutions

Before it's too late

Sir, The Supreme Court's candid admission that it can no longer contain Delhi's spiralling air pollution underscores a grim truth: the crisis has outgrown judicial pronouncements. The issue is not the lack of verdicts but the chronic failure of implementation. Instead of attempting to break an entire bundle at once, the authorities must snap the sticks one by one—beginning with the worst offenders. Industries continuously poisoning the air must face uncompromising action to break the very spine of toxic emissions. Only then should the focus shift to firecracker manufacturers and other secondary contributors. With the Court openly conceding its limits, the responsibility now rests squarely with the government. If decisive enforcement does not begin immediately, growing public frustration may slide into vigilante reactions—an outcome no civilised society can afford. Survival leaves no alternative but strict, sequential implementation of the Court's directions before the situa-

tion crosses the point of control.

RS Narula, PATIALA

Motive behind SIR

Sir, Concerns have been raised by residents, political parties, and civil society groups that the SIR process places a significant and potentially exclusionary burden on individual voters to prove their eligibility and citizenship, rather than the state ought to maintain the electoral rolls. Secondly, it has been a massive challenge to locate the old voter lists and booth details of 2002-2005. People are unable to recollect the exact details of the booths from so many years ago, leading to incorrect entries, risking deletion of many voters. The motive of the Centre is very clear. Before the 2026 census, it wants to execute NRC through the SIR process, intending later to combine the census and SIR data to deny citizenship to the poor, Dalits, Adivasis, and minorities. This reflects a neo-liberal social Darwinism implying that the poor, the marginalised, and the uneducated are unfit for citizenship. Indian citizens must, therefore, understand the hidden motives behind the SIR and awake again to build a massive people's movement - as in 2019-20 - to defeat this masked NRC called SIR.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI



TWO STATES





Employees, pensioners warn to intensify protest if demands not met

Ice Age thorny bamboo fossils found in Manipur

such as Europe, the warm and

humid conditions of Northeast

"This research by H Bhatia,

India allowed it to persist.

The fossil shows that while harsh Ice **Age conditions** restricted bamboo's global distribution, **Northeast India** provided a safe refuge where the plant could continue to thrive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, Nov 28: Scientists conducting a field survey in Manipur's Imphal West district have discovered fossil evidence indicating that thorniness in bamboo was already present in Asia during the Ice Age, a government release said.

Researchers from the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), an autonomous body under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), found a bamboo stem with unusual markings in silt-rich deposits along the Chirang River in Imphal Valley.

Their detailed analysis identified these as thorn scars, prompting further investigation into its identity and significance, it said.

The team studied the fossil's morphology — including nodes, buds and thorn scars — in the laboratory and assigned it to the genus Chimonobambusa. Comparisons with living thorny bamboos such as Bambusa bambos and Chimonobambusa callosa helped reconstruct

the plant's defensive traits and

dence that thorniness in bam-

boo-a defence against herbi-

vores-was already present

in Asia during the Ice Age. Its

preservation is particularly sig-

nificant because it comes from

a period of colder and drier

global climates, when bamboo

was wiped out in many other

regions, including Europe. The

fossil shows that while harsh

Ice Age conditions restricted

bamboo's global distribution,

Northeast India provided a

safe refuge where the plant

could continue to thrive," the

the journal Review of Palaeo-

botany and Palynology is re-

markable for capturing fragile

details like thorn scars—fea-

tures that almost never fos-

silise. The finding also high-

lights the Indo-Burma biodi-

versity hotspot as a crucial

refugium during the Ice Age.

The discovery published in

release said.

"This is the first fossil evi-

ecological role.

While colder and drier climates eliminated bamboo from places

P Kumari, NH Singh and G Srivastava adds a new dimension to our understanding of both bamboo evolution and regional climate history. It also emphasises the role of this part of Asia in safeguarding biodiversity during times of global stress, making the discovery not only a botanical milestone but also an important contribution to palaeoclimatic and biogeographic studies, the release

Meanwhile, geologist N Herojit Singh of Geological Survey of India, a member of the team which discovered the fossil, told PTI. "The fossil was discovered back in 2021-22 at the silt-rich deposits of 'quaternary depos its exposed' west of Senjam-Chirang village in Imphal West district. Several samples were collected, some of which mea sured nearly one feet. Findings of the studies stated that the discovery of the "fossil bamboo culm" is from "late Pleistocene sediments in eastern India.

Dharamshala (HP), Nov 28: Protesting employees and pensioners of Himachal Pradesh Friday warned the state government of intensifying their agitation if their demands are

A large number of state employees and pensioners, led by national senior vice president of the Indian state pensioners federation Ghanshyam Sharma, staged a protest at the Dharamshala Police Ground Friday, voicing sharp criticism of the Sukhu government's pol-

Their demands include immediate decisions on pending Dearness Allowance, salaries, pension payments, medical bill clearance, reinstatement of Himcare benefits, and OPS commitments.

Representatives of various employee and pensioner organisations participated in the demonstration, accusing the government of "failing" to fulfil promises, pushing the state into "financial disorder" and taking decisions detrimental to employees.

Addressing the rally, Sharma said the government had sought the support of employees and pensioners by assur ing the timely disbursal of Old Pension Scheme (OPS) benefits, salaries, pensions, DA and medical reimbursements. "However, even after three years in power, most of these assurances remain unfulfilled and instead of improving, the

situation is deteriorating," he

He further claimed that de spite the state's rising debt burden, instalments of DA, arrears and health-related schemes like Himcare were being cut or de layed, creating serious difficulties for retired employees seeking medical treatment.

Speakers at the rally expressed anger over the gov ernment's alleged neglect of employee-related issues during the ongoing winter session of the state Assembly.

They also criticised the deci sion to shift the protest venue from Zorawar stadium to the Police Ground, calling it a sign of the government's "panic' and "anti-employee attitude.

They also warned that if the government did not take immediate decisions regard ing these issues, the agitation would be intensified, with state-wide programmes to be announced soon.

13 new amphibian species discovered in Northeast

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) said. Of the 13 newly described species, six were found in Arunachal Pradesh, three in Meghalaya, and one each in Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland and Manipur, officials said. The study was carried out between 2019 and 2024 with support from the National Geographic Society and the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board. The species belong to the genus Raorchestes and include R lawngtalaiensis (Mizoram), R barakensis (Assam), R narpuhensis and R boulengeri (Meghalaya), R monolithus (Manipur), R khonoma (Nagaland), and several others from Arunachal Pradesh, such as R eaglenestensis, R magnus and R nasuta. The findings are the result of a major taxonomic study spanning several years, led by Bitupan Boruah, a PhD scholar at WII, along with herpetologist Dr Abhijit Das of WII and Dr Deepak Veerappan of the Natural History Museum, London, and Newcastle University, UK. The study is seen as a major step in documenting the hidden biodiversity of the Northeast, which forms part of two global biodiversity hotspots. It used acoustics, genetics and morphology to identify the new species, they said. According to the researchers, the century-old museum specimens from the India-Burma region that are kept in natural history institutions abroad are also examined, helping clarify long-standing classification gaps. Based on sampling across 81 localities in eight states, including 25 protected areas, the researchers also revised species distributions and synonymised four previously described species. With the latest discoveries, the number of known bush frog species in India has risen from 82 to 95. Published in the latest volume of the journal Vertebrate Zoology, the work helps resolve longstanding taxonomic gaps surrounding the tiny "tik-tik" bush frogs of the region and opens new avenues for understanding their conservation status and ecology, officials said.

₹460cr released for expansion of Kangra Airport: CM Sukhu



Dharamsala, Nov 28: Asserting that expansion of the Kangra airport is underway with an outlay of Rs 460 crore, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Friday held the 'Sarkar Gaon Ke Dwar' programme at the gram panchayat of Tangroti in the Dharamshala Assembly constituency, where he listened to grievances of the people.

During the programme, he announced a grant of Rs 1 lakh each for the local Mahila Mandals, along with funds for the Ramed-Tangroti link road, the tarring of the Tangroti link road and other adjoining roads.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the government has declared Kangra district as the "Tourism Capital of Himachal Pradesh", and several tourism projects are currently being implemented in the region. These initiatives, he said, would substantially enhance the income of local residents in the coming years.

He said Rs 460 crore has been released for the expansion of the Kangra Airport, and work is underway. "Once completed, the airport will increase the value of the land and witness a surge in tourist inflow, strengthening the region's economy," he said. Highlighting that more than 90 per cent of the state's population resides in rural areas, the Chief Minister said the government was making sincere efforts to strengthen the rural economy.

To support cattle rearers, the government has increased the minimum support price (MSP) of cow milk to Rs 51 per litre and buffalo milk to Rs 61 per litre. Giving priority to farmers, the MSP has also been declared for naturally grown crops. The government is procuring wheat at Rs 60 per kg, maize at Rs 40 per kg, and raw turmeric at Rs 90 per kg produced under natural farming. Efforts are also being made to create employment opportunities for the youth near their homes to make them self-reliant, he said.

Assam Assembly clears Bill to allot 'labour line' land to tea workers

Guwahati, Nov 28: The Assam Assembly Friday passed an amendment bill which will enable the government to distribute land in tea estates' labour lines among the workers for housing ownership, amid noisy scenes created by opposition AIUDF demanding land rights in 'char' (riverine) areas inhabited mostly by Bengali-speaking Muslims.

The ruling BJP legislators countered the commotion by raising 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and Chief Minister 'Himanta Biswa Sarma zindabad' slogans, as AIUDF MLAs trooped into the well of the House with posters and slogans demanding land 'patta' in char areas.

Earlier, taking part in the discussion on 'The Assam Fixation of Ceiling of Land Holdings (Amendment) Act, 2025'. Sarma claimed that a historic mistake was being corrected by providing land rights to the workers who have been toiling in tea gardens for the last 200 years, uprooted from their native land and brought here by the British. He said the demand for land rights in char areas will also be looked into by the government and survey of such areas has been started already.



The contribution of the tea garden workers to Assamese society over the last 200 years is immense and we are acknowledging it through this," Sarma said. He maintained that the British had 'enslaved' the workers like in Western countries and these 'shackles' have been freed by this amendment bill which will provide them right over their land.

Under the proposed Act, 'labour lines' (tea garden labour colonies) will be excluded from the definition of ancillary purpose in tea estates in the original law. It will enable the government to identify surplus

land for development and redistributive use, and facilitate integration of tea garden labour housing into mainstream government housing, social welfare and public health programmes.

The extent of land to be allotted per tea garden worker's family will be notified by the government periodically. The bill identifies a tea garden worker as a permanent or temporary labourer and descendants of workers residing within the labour lines areas of a tea estate on the date of commencement of the Act, belonging to Tea tribes and Adivasi communities as notified by the government from time to time.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER **RURAL WORKS DIVISION, DEOGARH** E-mail: eerw_deogarh@yahoo.co.in

1st Corrigendum to TCN No.SERWDGH-Online-08 of 2025-26 dtd.17.11.2025 No.O-1607: In partial modification to this office Tender Call Notice

No.08/2025-26 invited this office letter no.3692, dtd.17.11.2025, the date & time of availability of tender on online for bidding and date & time of opening of tender have been re-scheduled as follows. (1) Period and time of availability of the bid documents dated 30.11.2025 to 09.12.2025 upto 5.00 PM instead of dated 21.11.2025

11.00 AM to 28.11.2025 upto 5.00 PM. (2) Date and Time of Opening of tender on dated 11.12.2025 11.00 AM instead of 29.11.2025 at 11.00 AM

N.B.- Other term & conditions of the TCN are remain unchanged.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer R.W.Division, Deogarh OIPR-25087/11/0022/2526

SECTION -1 INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTERES **OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, PADAMPUR** INVITATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR PREPARATION OF DPF

FOR REJUVENATION OF WATER BODIES PRESENT IN PADAMPUR NAC.

No.C-1601: The Executive Officer, NAC, Padampur, Bargarh (Odisha) on beha of NAC, Padampur invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for "Preparation of DPR fo Rejuvenation of Water Bodies present in Padampur NAC" from Registered and Eligible Firm / Consultant / Architect for tendering their bids through offline mode only.

Intending bidders have to participate through "Off-line" bidding only.

The bid documents will be available at the office of Executive Officer, Padampu

NAC, Padampur from 10.00 AM of 29.11.25 to 1.00 PM of Dt.10.12.25.
The intending tenderer shall procure the tender documents from the office of the undersigned by paying a non-refundable fee of Rs.5,000/- in shape of Demar The Last date and time for receiving Bids is 1.00 PM of Dt.10.12.25.

The tenderer shall submit the bids in 2 sealed Envelopes, 1st for Technica Proposal (Superscribed Technical Proposal) and 2nd for Price Bid (Superscribe Price Bid), both the envelopes would be put together in the third outer envelopes superscribing "Preparation of DPR for Rejuvenation of Water Bodies present in

The envelope should have been sealed with the documents may be submitted by Registered Post / Speed Post / Courier only.

Bids received will be opened in the presence of Bidders and his authorized perso at 11.00 AM on Dt.11.12.25 in the office of the Executive Officer, Padamp NAC.

Sd./- Panchayat Samiti, Rangeilunda

Central Rural Works Circle, Bhub

Meghalaya govt extends VAT exemption on fruit wine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shillong, Nov 28: The Meghalaya government has extended Value Added Tax (VAT) exemption on fruit wine from three years to 10 years, a move that is expected to give a major push to the state's growing wine economy, Excise Commissioner Matsiewdor War said Friday.

The decision was taken recently and is expected to ease the tax burden on small producers and encourage higher standards for those aiming to sell in wider markets.

War, speaking at the two-day Meghalaya Wine Economy Summit 2025 at the State Convention Centre, said the government had also amended Rule 377 of the Excise Act to allow the setting up of 'wine boutiques' that can sell only registered homemade wines in specified premises or as part of stand-alone food establishments.

She said the policy would allow visitors to experience Meghalava's wine culture and encourage entrepreneurs to set up wine boutiques.



The Meghalaya Fruit Wine Makers Association highlighted the long but largely undocumented history of fruit-based wines in the Northeast, noting that traditional fermentation practices date back centuries and once relied on millet, rice and indigenous fruits such as sohiong.

Association president Bryan Dally Kharpran said wine-making in the region was "as old as the hills," recalling that English settlers also produced fruit wines.

He cited the example of Captain Hunt, who in 1947 obtained a licence to manufacture cherry wine and cherry brandy in Mawphlang. The products became popular among Assam tea planters and were even available in Kolkata before the winery collapsed in the 1980s.

Kharpran said the tradition survived in pockets of society, receiving a major boost in 2004 when Michael Sviem, an activist. organised a wine festival in Shillong and advocated for the legitimisation of fruit wines to promote

The North East Food Show in 2019 further showcased the sector's potential, drawing strong interest from consumers and en-

A key breakthrough came in 2020, when the state government amended the Assam Excise Rules to legalise fruit wines as a commercial venture, paving the way for structured production and market expansion.

Kharpran said the recent policy developments reflect growing recognition of fruit wine as both a cultural legacy and an emerging economic opportunity.

He added that the association remains committed to strengthening the sector and supporting local communities involved in wine-making.

PANCHAYAT SAMITI, RANGEILUNDA, KONISI

NIB NO. 6715/ Dated 26.11.2025 LIST OF WORKS PUT TO ON-LINE TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement

	Elot of Worthold				00110110	ouromone	
SI. No.	Name of the Project	Estimate Cost Put to Tender (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit @1% of Tendered Value in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of BID document (Non- Refundable)	Cover Type	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Construction of PACs Office Building at Allipur	10,25,211.00	10252.00	"D&C" Class	Rs.10,000.00	Single Cover	6th Calendar Month
2	Construction of PACs Office Building and Godown at Padmapur	24,48,847.20	24488.00	"B & C" Class	Rs.10,000.00	Single Cover	6th Calendar Month
3	Construction of PACs Office Building and Godown at Palur	24,48,847.20	24488.00	"B & C" Class	Rs.10,000.00	Single Cover	6th Calendar Month
4	Construction of PACs Office Building and Godown at Phulta	24,48,847.20	24488.00	"B & C" Class	Rs.10,000.00	Single Cover	6th Calendar Month
				By the Orc	ler of Block	Developm	ent Officer

OIPR-19424/11/0008/2526

OIPR-25082/11/0021/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR

No.5196/Date.18.11.2025 "e" Procurement Notice for Road Works T.C.N No. Tender-Online-C.C-39 of 2025

1.	Name of the Work	:	Road works under Periodical Renewal work of 5 years Completed PMGSY (POST DLP) roads for the year 2025-26
2.	Total No. of Packages	:	2 Nos. of Package
3.	Estimated Cost of the Package	:	Varies from Rs.31.76 lakhs to Rs.58.83 lakhs
4.	Class of Contractor	:	
	a) Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 lakhs up to Rs.3.00 Crores	:	B Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
5.	Period of completion	:	As mentioned in Column-8 of Annexure
6.	Offered rates by bidder	:	The offered rate by the contractor shall be excluding GST
7.	Other details	;	
	i) Officer inviting tender	:	Chief Construction Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar
	ii) Availability of Tender	:	Dt.27.11.2025 from 11.00 hours to Dt.12.12.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.
	iii) Seeking clarification of tender	:	Dt.11.12.2025 Up to 5.00 P.M.
	iv) Date of opening of Technical Bid	:	Dt.15.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
	v) Date of opening of Financial Bid		To be intimated later on
urt	her details can be seen from the website	е <u>у</u>	www.tendersodisha.gov.in

national



In Delhi and across North India, the air has become deadly. Instead of providing solutions, the government is collecting more taxes from the public

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | FORMER DELHI CM

DDA TO LAUNCH HOT-AIR BALLOON RIDES FOR PUBLIC

Delhiites can experience the hot-air balloon rides from Saturday at Delhi Development Authority's (DDA) Asita Park near the ITO area, officials said. Earlier this week, Lt Governor VK Saxena launched the facility from Banseera Park near Sarai Kale Khan





staff associated with track signal, and relay

meaningful discussion on maintenance procedures and better

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION MINISTER

The terror ism, unrest and anarchy



These aren't the homes of helpless Muslim families in UP or elsewhere where targeting minorities

has become the norm. This is Jammu & Kashmir where Arfaz, a journalist who built a modest home 40 years ago on 3 marlas of land, saw it being crushed to rubble in seconds

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP CHIEF

SHORT **TAKES**

7 of a family killed as truck overturns on car

Saharanpur: Seven members of a family, including a child, were killed after a truck loaded with gravel overturned onto their car in Gagalhedi police station area here Friday, an official said. City Superintendent of Police Vyom Bindal told PTI that the incident took place near Syed Majra village, where a truck carrying gravel suddenly lost control and toppled over on a passing car.

TMC leader shot dead; aide critically injured

Howrah: A TMC gram panchayat member was shot dead and his associate critically injured after unidentified assailants opened fire at them in West Bengal's Howrah late The victim, Debobrata Mondal, alias Babu Mondal, a member of the Sampuipara-Basukathi gram panchavat, was returning home around 11 pm on a motorcycle with his associate Anupam Rana when the attack took place near the Nishchinda Buro Shibtala area under Liluah police station limits, a senior police officer said Friday.

4 killed in UP road accident

Mirzapur: Four people, including two members of a family, were killed after a car crashed into a stationary truck here Friday morning, police said. One person was injured in the accident that occurred near Katka. The driver of the car, which was going from Prayagraj to Varanasi, lost control of the vehicle and hit two pedestrians crossing the road before crashing into a stationary truck on the roadside.

10 Naxals surrender

Jagdalpur: Ten Naxalites, including dreaded senior cadre Chaitu, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district Friday, police said. The cadres, including three women, collectively carried a reward of ₹65 lakh on their heads, an official said. They turned themselves in before senior police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officials in Jagdalpur, the headquarters of Bastar district, under the 'Poona Margem' (from rehabilitation to social reintegration) initiative, said Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj Pattilingam. The 'Poona Margem' initiative of Bastar Police has turned out to be transformative, the IGP said.

TMC claims 40 SIR-related deaths in WB

New Delhi, Nov 28: A Trinamool Congress delegation Friday alleged before the Election Commission top brass that around 40 SIR-related deaths had occurred in West Bengal so far, a charge junked by the poll authority

The TMC delegation, which met the EC top brass, also accused Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar of having "blood on his hands".

The 10-member delegation, led by TMC Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien, met the EC officials amid the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal. EC officials noted that during

the meeting, the TMC leaders were told that the independence of booth-level officers should not be interfered with during the enumeration forms distribution process as part of SIR.

"EC also told the delegation of TMC not to influence or threaten the BLOs regarding dead. shifted and duplicate voters,' an official later said.

The ECI also told the AITC delegation that while political rhetoric is their prerogative, they should refrain from spreading misinformation relating to election procedures.



their O'Brien addressed reporters, saying that the party had raised five questions, but CEC Kumar did not respond to any of them. We started the meeting by stating that the CEC has blood on his hands. We raised five questions. After this, Kalyan Banerjee, Mahua Moitra, and Mamata Thakur spoke and shared whatever they had to in about 40 minutes." O'Brien said.

EC officials said the poll authority gave a point-wise rebuttal to all concerns and "baseless allegations" raised by the TMC delegation. The commission urged them to present their claims and objections after December 9, when the draft list will be shared with them.

"Till then, they should not interfere with the independent

functioning of BLOs, electoral registration officers and district election officers who are state government employees on deputation to election-related works," the official said. Additionally, the Election Commission shot off a letter to DGP West Bengal and Kolkata Police Commissioner to ensure that the BLOs are not pressurised and threatened by political

Moitra mentioned that the delegation provided the CEC with a list of 40 people whose deaths, they alleged, were linked to the SIR exercise. The commission, however, dismissed it as mere allegations, the Lok Sabha MP claimed.

The TMC MPs asked the poll body about the claim that the exercise would weed out

Gujarat: BLO dies of heart attack

Mehsana: A school teacher working as a Booth Level Officer (BLO) for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Guiarat's Mehsana district died of a heart attack during the early hours of Friday, a police official said. While the opposition Congress and teachers' union linked the BLO's death to excessive work pressure and lack of facilities. police denied the allegations.

non-voters, and questioned why the exercise was not being undertaken in the Northeastern states, which also face the risk of infiltration as they share borders with Bangladesh and

They also questioned how the electoral roll, on which the last Lok Sabha election was held, suddenly became "unreli-

The MPs raised the issues of alleged deaths linked to the SIR process, and questioned who would take responsibility for it. Additionally, they expressed worries about the neutrality and effectiveness of the SIR process and noted a recent amendment in the rules by the poll panel that allows for the appointment of external Booth Level Agents (BLAs).

cate Balbir Singh, appearing for the state election commission (SEC), said that 50 per cent ceiling on quota has been breached only in 40 municipal councils and 17 nagar panchayats. He said there are a total 246 municipal councils and 42 nagar panchayats where the poll process has begun and there are "only 40 municipal councils, out of 246, where reservation is exceeding 50 per cent and similarly, there are 17, out of 42 nagar panchyats, where this ceiling is breached".

Taking the statement into consideration, the bench said the SEC can proceed with the election but the results will be dependent on the final outcome of the case. The bench also

LOCAL BODY POLLS

Top court asks Maha SEC to hold elections

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi also said that as many as 27 pleas concerning OBC reservation in local bodies will be taken up for final hearing by a three-judge bench January 21, 2026

New Delhi, Nov 28: The Supreme Court Friday asked the Maharashtra government and its state election commission to conduct local body elections and made it clear that poll results of all bodies, including where 50 per cent ceiling on quota have been breached, will depend on its verdict.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi also said that as many as 27 pleas concerning OBC reservation in local bodies will be taken up for final hearing by a three-judge

bench January 21, 2026.

In May 2025, the bench had directed the Maharashtra government and the SEC to conduct the long-pending elections within four months, and to grant OBC reservation based on the legal framework that existed prior to the Banthia Commission report. At the outset, senior advo-



said the state poll panel may proceed with the elections for other zila parishad, panchayat samiti and nagar parishad where the issue of breach of 50 per cent quota is not there However, the results of these local bodies will also depend on the final verdict in the case the bench said. Earlier, the bench had pulled

up the SEC for non-compliance of its order and directed it to hold local body polls, stalled since 2022, to be completed by January 31, 2026 without further extension.

Earlier November 19, the bench had asked the state gov ernment to consider deferring the process of nomination for local body elections till the issue of grant of 27 per cent reservation for the Other Backward Class (OBC) is adjudicated upon by it

Senior advocate Vikas Singh argued that previous orders including a July 2022 direction by a three-judge bench led by Justice A M Khanwilkar, since retired, approving the Banthia Committee recommendations had created confusion.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state government, had said that state authorities acted under a "bo na fide interpretation" of the

Hemant Soren marks one year; distributes 9K appointment letters

year celebrations. Modi also visited the temple located in the mutt, located in Partagali, South Goa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Nov 28: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren Friday marked one year of his second government by distributing appointment letters among 9,000 youth for recruitment to state departments.

Addressing a function at Morabadi Ground in Ranchi, he claimed that with the distribution of 9,000 appointment letters, his government has provided 16,000 jobs in the state departments in the last one year.

"I extend my hearty welcome and congratulations to all those who have joined various government departments today," he said.

Besides providing 16,000 government jobs in the last one year, the state administration has also linked 8,000 youth to non-government jobs, he claimed. Soren said that during his previous term (2020-2024), the JMM-led government had



Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday unveils a 77-feet tall bronze statue of Lord Ram in Goa, as part of Shree Samsthan Gokarn Jeevottam Mutt's 550th

provided jobs to about 25,000 people in government departments and ensured the employment of over 28,000 youth in the private sector.

"All of you have been selected purely on the basis of merit. From today, your lifelong association with the government begins,' he said. Expressing amazement at the massive turnout, he said. "In a 25-year-old young state, such large-scale appointments have never been seen before.

DJ refuses to play music late at night, father shot dead

Hardoi (UP): The father of a DI was shot dead following a dispute over interruption of music at a wedding function here, police said Friday. According to police, the incident took place late Thursday in Shahpura village under Atrauli police station limits where Tikaram's daughter was to be married to one Vikas. Amit, son of Puttillal, was acting as the DJ (disc jockey) for the ceremonies. Around 12 am. Amit switched off the music. Police said the groom's brother-in-law Akash Gautam and his elder brother. Akhilesh Gautam, asked him to resume the music.

Cyclone 'Ditwah' closes in towards TN coast

Chennai: Cyclone Ditwah was slowly moving closer towards the Tamil Nadu coast and it was likely to bring heavy rainfall, the weather office said Friday, as the state government reviewed its preparedness to face the second such weather system in a month. The weather office forecast heavy rains in the southern and Cauvery delta districts of the state, between November 29 and 30. In a bulletin Friday evening, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the cyclonic storm 'Ditwah' over the coast of Sri Lanka and adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal moved slowly northwards with a speed of 3 kmph during past 6 hours and lay centred at 2.30 hrs of today, November 28 over the same region.

SNIPPETS

'Psycho killer' rapes woman, slashes face before smashing her head with stone; held

New Delhi: A 23-year-old man allegedly raped a mentally challenged woman, slashed her face and head with a sharp object before bludgeoning her to death using a stone here, the Delhi Police said Friday as they called the accused a "psycho killer". The accused, Salman alias Bona, was arrested from Gujarat following an intensive manhunt. The Delhi Police tracked down with the help of CCTV footage and a pair of slippers he had left at the crime spot, an officer said. He added that the accused raped the 52-year-old woman before brutally murdering her. On November 16, police received information that a woman's body was lying in some shrubs behind Adarsh Nagar Railway Station. The deceased, later identified as Seejan, was a rag picker and resident of Metro Vihar in Holambi Kalan, he said.

Police arrest key conspirator in firing at Kapil Sharma's cafe

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested an alleged key conspirator in the firing incident at comedian Kapil Sharma's restaurant, Kap's Cafe, in Canada August 7, an official said Friday. The accused, Bandhu Maan Singh Sekhon (28) -- an India and Canada-based handler for the Goldy Dhillon gang -- was apprehended from Punjab's Ludhiana during a late-night operation November 25, police said. A high-end PX-3 semi-automatic pistol (made in China) and eight live cartridges were recovered from his possession, they added. "Sekhon had been providing logistical support, weapons and strategic assistance to shooters involved in the attacks on Kap's Cafe," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Sanjeev Kumar Yaday said in a statement. The restaurant has been targeted in three separate firing incidents since July this year -- July 10, August 7 and October 16 -- orchestrated by foreign based gangsters as part of an intimidation and extortion bid, the statement noted.

Sky dining goes wrong as tourists stuck up in air

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Munnar, Nov 28: In a dramatic incident at a newly launched sky dining facility in Anachal near Munnar in Kerala's Idukki district, five individuals -- including a four-member tourist family from Kannur and a staff member were stranded mid-air for more than three hours after a technical malfunction halted the crane used to lift the dining platform.

After close to three hours of rescue work, all five who were stranded in the air were brought down safely.

The adventure tourism project, which offers guests a unique experience of dining



trouble Friday evening when the crane reportedly failed to lower the platform due to a sudden mechanical glitch.

Rescue efforts were immediately initiated, and authorities managed to safely bring all in-

After close to three hours of rescue work, all five who were stranded in the air were brought down safely

dividuals down. The children were rescued

first as a precautionary measure, including a two-and-ahalf-year-old toddler. According to officials, trained

staff from the Kerala Fire and Rescue Services, along with local emergency support teams, oversaw the evacuation, ensuring that panic was avoided.

Visuals of the suspended sky dining platform shown on TV channels here drew widespread attention and raised concerns over safety protocols in adventure tourism.

The sky dining concept, introduced recently as part of Kerala's tourism promotion initiatives, allows 15 people at a time to dine while enjoying panoramic aerial views for over 30 minutes. Participants are strapped into seats attached to

a platform lifted by a crane. The experience has quickly become popular among tourists

seeking thrill and novelty. However, Friday's incident has sparked debate over safety standards and regulatory tributed the trouble to a "technical malfunction", tourism department sources indicated that a detailed inspection would be conducted to assess the structural and operational safety of the facility

oversight. While officials at

Though all participants were brought down safely without injury, the incident has raised alarm over the growing trend of high-risk tourism ventures Local authorities have as

sured that strict safety audits will be undertaken to prevent such mishaps in the future, emphasizing that public safety remains paramount even as the State seeks to boost its adventure tourism appeal.

national



Hyderabad is ready to host him with warmth, pride and the spirit that defines our people A REVANTH REDDY | TELANGANA CM

DELHI INFLATION RATE LOWER THAN OTHER METROS: GOVT

A worker carries her child at the brick kiln, in Nadia district of West Benga

UDAIPUR DESTINATION WEDDING LINK

ED finds ₹331 crore in

Rapido driver's account

The inflation rate in Delhi remained substantially lower than in other metro cities and the national average last year, especially in the fuel and light group, according to a government report





Culture and are not two parallel tracks; rable pillars of a single value chain

that memory into experience, enterprise, and economic value

GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT | UNION MINISTER

The Special Revision is being conducted in Assam to bring in voters from outside the state and their names are being inserted in the voter list

I have come to ask for a positive vote ment plank. The BJP and its allies are campaign-

ing with a draft and blueprint for urban development. Those who do not have public welfare programmes to show resort to





Crore used to 5Cr won't feel

But, people don't talk enough about-- that the buying power of money shrinks with time. That's "power of inflation". What matters? is money your growing faster than real inflation? If it doesn't: you get punished by inflation. If it does: you get rewarded through compounding.

@Akshat_World

SHORT TAKES

Srinrakash Jaiswal dies

Kanpur/New Delhi: Former Union minister and veteran Congress leader Sriprakash Jaiswal died in Kanpur Friday following a cardiac arrest. He to a local nursing home in his condition worsened and then shifted to the Cardiology Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Jaiswal married Maya Rani grandchildren. His family was He held significant portfolios in the UPA government led by Manmohan Singh

J'khand: Woman

and two others were injured in police said. The improvised Jeraikela Police Station area, a senior officer said.

New Delhi: A 45-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly killing taxi drivers across Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, dumping their bodies in remote areas and selling their vehicles in Nepal, police said Friday. The accused, identified as Dhiraj Tomar alias Raj Singh, a resident of Sikanderpur Kalan in Uttar Pradesh, had been declared a proclaimed offender in a 2001 murder and robbery case registered at New Ashok Nagar police station, they said.



Sidda invites DKS for breakfast

Moily blames Cong high

command's negligence

Friday said the current Congress

New Delhi: Senior Congress

Minister M Veerappa Moily

leadership should step down,

squarely blaming the party

high command's "prolonged

negligence" for allowing the

crisis in the Karnataka unit

to erupt and intensify into a

full-blown impasse. Speaking

to IANS Friday, Moily said the

crisis was neither sudden nor

prolonged negligence by senior

that the Congress high command

and state-level leadership should

have anticipated the friction that

has been intensifying for "the last

two and a half years". He argued

allowing them to grow into a full-

had called me and him (D K

Shivkumar) and asked us to

of the proceedings and had

allowed the parties to seek

remedies relating to the with-

drawal and settlement of claims

"in compliance with the legal

framework governing the with-

Pahwa contended that the ear-

lier petition in the apex court was

filed at the pre-CoC stage and the

panel was formed during the pen-

dency of that matter. The bench,

however, disagreed with his con-

tentions, saying, "The moment

we accept your argument, we

Pahwa said the petitioner

has paid the BCCI from his

own pocket but now, the whole

complexion of the dispute has

The insolvency dispute re-

volves around a settlement be-

tween Think and Learn Private

Limited and the BCCI, which

had initiated the insolvency

process over unpaid sponsor-

ship dues July 16, 2024.

changed.

frustrate the entire process.'

drawal of the CIRP'

that the party failed to put in

place mechanisms to address

emerging disagreements,

blown impasse.

Top court dismisses Byju's

plea against NCLAT order

party leaders. Moily asserted

unexpected but a result of

leader and former Union



AGENCIES

Bangalore, Nov 28: In indications of attempts at truce amid the intense power struggle in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Friday invited his embattled deputy D K Shiyakumar for a breakfast meeting Saturday, at the behest of the Congress high command to discuss the leadership row.

Siddaramaiah's announcement of the crucial breakfast meeting came on a day when his cabinet colleague and party chief Mallikarjuna Kharge's son, Privank Kharge, said the Congress had the 'sense of timing' to resolve issues. Shivakumar, for his part, said "he was not in a hurry," even as Siddaramaiah asserted there was no change in his stand. The Opposition BJP warned of moving a no-confidence motion should the tussle continue, while also pointing out at the possibility of a 'dark horse' emerging in the midst of the tussle.

"The party high command

New Delhi, Nov 28: The Su-

preme Court Friday dismissed

a plea of Byiu Rayeendran, the

promoter of Think and Learn

Private Limited that operates

ed-Tech firm Byju, challeng-

ing an NCLAT order which

has mandated that the settle-

A bench of Justices J B Par-

dismissed the appeal against

the April 17 order of the Chen-

nai bench of the National Com-

pany Law Appellate Tribunal

(NCLAT) and asked senior

counsel Navin Pahwa, rep-

resenting Rayeendran in the

In its April 17 order, the

NCLAT said the approval of the

Committee of Creditors (CoC)

was necessary for the applica-

tion filed by the Board of Con-

trol for Cricket in India (BCCI)

to withdraw the insolvency pro-

in July, it dismissed the ap-

peals filed by the BCCI and

Riju Raveendran, the vounger

brother Byju Raveendran and

co-founder of Byju, against the

Justice Pardiwala asked

Pahwa what was wrong with

the view taken by the NCLAT

that the apex court's judgment

would apply, in which it was

stated that the CoC was con-

stituted during the pendency

The top court noted that

ceedings against Byju's.

same NCLAT order.

matter, to proceed further.

morrow. We will discuss when he comes," Siddaramaiah told reporters here. "There is no change in my

stand and I have said I will listen to whatever the high command says. Both of us have said that we will obey whatever the party high command says," he added. The chief minister also said that he will go to Delhi if the high command calls him.

have a meeting. Hence, I have

invited him for breakfast to-

Earlier in the day, Shivakumar, the Congress state president replied in the affirmative when asked if he would go to Delhi and meet the party high command, saying "Delhi is our temple."

"I don't want anything. I am not in a hurry. My party will take a decision," he told reporters on the sidelines of a function marking the golden jubilee of the Anganwadi programme, where he shared the stage with the CM. He said he may travel to the national capital in view of the Parliament's winter session starting December 1.

On his visit to the national capital, he said, "I may go to Delhi." "I have a lot of work there. The parliament session is approaching. I have to meet all Karnataka MPs because they need to take up some of our projects," he said.

Asked whether he would meet the party high command, Shivakumar said he would.

"Delhi is our temple. All of us have to go. Without Delhi, nothing can happen. Congress is a party with a long history, and it has always guided us,



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



The case was registered at the Valiyamala Police Station here in the early morning based on the woman's statement recorded late Thursday night.

Meanwhile, Mamkoottathil denied the allegations against him, calling them politically motivated, in an anticipatory bail petition filed in a court Friday. The complainant had approached Chief Minister Pinaravi Vijavan with her grievance Thursday.

Her detailed statement was later recorded by women police officers at the Thiruvananthapuram Rural Police headquarters, sources said. The procedures continued till late at night, after which a decision was taken to register the case.

Mamkoottathil's friend Joby Joseph, a native of Adoor, who allegedly handed over medicine to the complainant for abortion, was also named as an accused. As per the FIR, Mamkoot-

tathil assaulted the complainant and raped her on multiple occasions.

It stated that March 17, the woman's videos were recorded at her apartment, and he allegedly threatened to release them if their relationship became public.

New Delhi, Nov 28: Investigating a trail of more than ₹331 crore deposited in a bank account over eight months in an illegal betting app-linked money-laundering case, ED of-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

a well-known cab aggregator to earn two square meals a day. The stunned investigators lost no time to detect that this was a classic case of a "mule" account being used to pump

ficials landed at the doors of a

bike-taxi driver working with

dirty money. Officials told PTI that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) stumbled upon the Rapido bike driver while investigating the 1xbet online betting-linked

money-laundering case. A response from Rapido on the development is awaited.

It was found that the driver's bank account received deposits worth ₹331.36 crore between August 19, 2024, and April 16, 2025, the officials said.

Alarmed by the "suspicious' multi-crore-rupee transactions in a short period of eight months, the federal agency conducted a raid at the address provided in the driver's bank records.

The sleuths found out that the driver lived in a tworoom shanty in a modest Delhi locality and remained out of his house the entire day as he drove his bike to eke out a living.

What further attracted the ED's gaze was that a sum of more than ₹1 crore, out of the over ₹331 crore deposits, was used to pay the expenses of a

"grand destination wedding" at a plush hotel in Rajasthan's lake city of Udaipur.

According to the officials, the wedding is linked to a young politician from Gujarat who could be summoned for questioning soon. The driver is understood to have told the ED investigators during his questioning that he neither knew anything about the bank transactions nor could he identify the bride, groom or their families whose wedding event in Udaipur was "funded" through his account.

The ED suspects that the driver's bank account was a 'mule" platform.

A mule account is used to funnel illicit funds generated from financial crimes and the actual owner is not its user. Such accounts are created using fake or hired KYC, where someone lends their account in lieu of a commission.

The ED found that the account received "large" deposits from multiple unidentified sources and these were "swiftly" re-routed to other suspicious accounts.

One of the sources of the funds sent into this bank account is linked with illegal betting, the officials said.

The agency is now verifying more sources and destinations of the transactions that took place in this account.

The agency had recently attached assets worth crores of rupees of former cricketers Shikhar Dhawan and Suresh Raina as part of the 1xbet probe, even as it questioned a number of other cricketers and celebrities.

Delhi Police detains 40 foreigners; drugs worth ₹12cr seized

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: Ten alleged drug peddlers, including three foreign nationals, were arrested in Delhi-NCR for running a network that supplied narcotics to Telangana through courier services, police said Friday. detained Police

than 40 foreign nationals in connection with the transnational drug cartel. It was run predominantly by African nationals who would conceal contraband in the collars of the shirts and soles of shoes they couriered, officials said.

The cartel was busted in a joint operation by the Delhi and Telangana Police, in coordina tion with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), in the last 24 hours, Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) Surender Kumar

said at a press conference. Drugs worth ₹12 crore worth drugs were seized during the operation, including cocaine, MDMA, heroin and more than 5,000 MD pills worth ₹7 crore

he said. More than 40 foreign nationals, including 12 women, who were associates of the main accused, were detained

for their role in the cartel and for violating visa norms during The men were shifted to a deportation facility, while the

process for the women is un derway in coordination with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), the officer said.

Three months ago, Telangana Police busted a drug supply module in Hyderabad, uncovering a network that used courier services to transport narcotics

The contraband was concealed in the collars of the shirts and soles of the shoes sent through the courier ser

vices, he added. "During the investigation, it

was found that the drugs were being sourced from Delhi and supplied to Telangana. Multiple raids were carried out across Delhi-NCR, leading to the arrest of the 10 accused," Kumar said

Delhi and Telangana police teams, formed after days of technical and manual surveil lance, carried out 18 raids at several locations, including Mehrauli, Sant Garh, Nilothi Pratap Enclave, Greater Noida, Munirka and Uttam Nagar.

Dowry has reduced marriage to a commercial transaction: SC

New Delhi, Nov 28: Marriage is a sacred and noble institution founded on mutual trust, companionship and respect. but the pious bond has regrettably been reduced to a mere commercial transaction due to the evil of dowry, the Supreme Court remarked Friday.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan said dowry death is not merely an offence against an individual but a crime against the

society at large. "This court cannot lose sight of the fact that marriage, in its true essence, is a sacred and noble institution founded on mutual trust, companionship and respect. However, in recent times, this pious bond has regrettably been reduced to a mere commercial transaction. The evil of dowry, though often sought to be camouflaged as gifts or voluntary offerings, has in reality become a means to display social status and to satiate material greed,"the bench said.

The observations of the bench came while cancelling the bail of a man accused of poisoning his wife for dowry iust four months into their marriage.



The apex court found the high court's order granting bail to the man "perverse and

Groom refuses ₹31L dowry, sets example Muzaffarnagar (UP): A groom won hearts at a wedding here after he refused to accept a dowry of ₹31 lakh from the family of the bride, whose maternal grandfather painstakingly put aside the money after her father died due to COVID-19. Awadhesh Singh (26), who married Aditi Singh (24) November 22 in Shahbuddinpur village in Budhana tehsil here, accepted only Re 1 as 'shagun'. In videos of the wedding doing the rounds on social media, Awadesh is seen refusing a 'thaal' with wads of cash with folded hands. For Aditi's family, especially her grandfather Sukhpal Singh, it was an emotional gesture.

unsustainable" for it ignored the gravity of the offence, the corroborated dying declarations and the statutory presumption of dowry death.

It said the "social evil of dowry" not only corrodes the sanctity of marriage, but also perpetuates systemic oppression and subjugation of women.

"When such demands transgress the bounds of reason and culminate in cruelty or worse, in the untimely death of a young bride -- the offence transcends the private sphere of the family and assumes the character of a grave social crime. It ceases to remain a mere personal tragedy and becomes an affront to the collective conscience of the society." "The phenomenon of dowry

deaths represents one of the most abhorrent manifesta tions of this social malaise where the life of a young woman is extinguished with in her matrimonial home not for any fault of her own, but solely to satisfy the insatiable greed of others," then bench said.

The court said such heinous offences strike at the very root of human dignity and violate the constitutional guarantees of equality and a life with dignity under Articles 14 and 21.



Culture preserves the memory of civilisation, and tourism animates

on this develop-

PAWAN KHERA CONGRESS LEADER

criticising and passing comments

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS I MAHARASHTRA CM



feel a lot. Now, it doesn't. By 2045, enough. By 2055, 10 Cr won't feel enough. Money grows with time:

that's "power of compounding".

ment of the BCCI's claim be placed before the Committee Former Union minister diwala and K V Viswanathan

was 81. Jaiswal was first taken Kidwai Nagar this evening after Jaiswal in 1967 and survived by two sons, one daughter and two with him during his final hours.

killed in IED blast

Chaibasa: A woman was killed an IED blast in Jharkhand's West Singbhum district Friday evening, explosive device (IED) exploded in the Saranda forest under the

Delhi Police nabs man for killing taxi drivers

international



South Africa has demonstrated to the world they are not a country worthy of membership anywhere. Therefore, at my direction, South Africa will NOT be receiving an invitation to the 2026 G20, which will be hosted in the Great City of Miami, Florida next year

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, USA

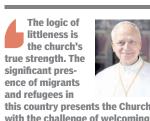
ZUMA'S DAUGHTER QUITS SOUTH AFRICA PARLIAMENT

Duduzile Zuma-Sambudla, a daughter of former South African president Jacob Zuma, has resigned from parliament amid allegations that she lured 17 men to fight for Russia in Ukraine, her party said Friday. Zuma-Sambudla was a lawmaker in the Umkhonto weSizwe (MK) Opposition party led by her father



global business position as a global hub for talent by attracting talent from around the world, while also investing in our local talent pipeline

SHAWN HUANG | SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR MANPOWER, SINGAPORE



and serving some of the most vulnerable

POPE LEO XIV | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER



as EU are effectively preventing

reaching an eventual peace deal BART DE WEVER | PRIME MINISTER, BELGIUM

SHORT **TAKES**

Ex-PM Khaleda Zia 'extremely critical'

Dhaka: Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia's health condition is "extremely critical", a close aide said Friday. The 80-year-old former premier was admitted to a hospital Sunday night when she developed a chest infection that affected both her heart and lungs. "Last night, the doctors said that her physical condition is extremely critical," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was quoted as saying by the state-run BSS news agency.

Israeli forces kill 13 in Syria raid

Damascus: Israeli forces in southern Syria raided a village and opened fire when they were confronted by residents Friday, killing at least 13. Syrian officials said, as Israel fights on a number of fronts while the shaky ceasefire in Gaza moves forward. Syria's Foreign Ministry said in a statement Friday that the attack was "a horrific massacre" and that women and children were among those killed. The Syrian state news agency SANA said Israeli forces entered the village of Beit Jin, aiming to detain local men and opened heavy fire after being confronted by residents. Dozens of families fled the area.

3 Chinese workers killed in drone attack

Beijing: Three Chinese workers were killed in Tajikistan in a drone attack that was carried out from across the border in Afghanistan, official media here reported. The attack targeted a camp housing company employees in Tajikistan's southwestern Khatlon region Wednesday night, state-run Global Times here reported, citing Tajikistan's foreign ministry. "This attack was carried out using an unmanned aerial vehicle" carrying explosives, the ministry was quoted as saying.

Philippine's ex-leader **Duterte loses appeal**

The Hague: The International Criminal Court ruled Friday that the Philippines' 80-yearold former President Rodrigo Duterte must remain detained despite a defence appeal for his release on grounds of age and declining health. Duterte, president from 2016 to 2022, was arrested and taken to The Hague in March over murders during his war on drugs when thousands of alleged narcotics peddlers and users were killed.

HONG KONG TOULL RISES TO 128

Residents had raised concerns about fire hazards posed by ongoing renovation works

Hong Kong, Nov 28: Hong Kong's anti-graft body Friday said it had arrested eight people in connection with a fire that ripped through a high-rise apartment complex killing at least 128 people with 200 still missing in the city's worst fire in nearly 80 years.

Authorities said they had concluded rescue operations at the Wang Fuk Court complex in the northern district of Tai Po, but warned the death toll may still rise.

The Independent Commission Against Corruption also said it had launched a task force to investigate possible corruption in the renovation project at the complex, after police arrested three people Thursday

MORE BODIES MAY BE FOUND

The fire in the Wang Fuk Court development started Wednesday afternoon and rapidly engulfed seven of the eight 32-storey blocks in the complex. "We do not rule out the pos-

sibility that more bodies could be discovered when police enter the building for detailed investigations," Hong Kong Security Chief Chris Tang told a press conference.

Tang also said fire alarms in the complex had not been working properly. The estate housing more than 4,600 people had been wrapped in bamboo scaffolding and green mesh for the renovations. **WAITING FOR**

TEMPERATURES TO DROP

Rescue efforts had now been concluded and at least 79 people, including 12 firefighters were injured, he said.

"Our aim now is to make sure the temperature decreases in the building and once everything is deemed safe, police will collect evidence and conduct further investigation," he said. On Friday, mourners laid flow-

er tributes in front of the charred and smouldering buildings, while distressed residents surveyed the remains of their homes.

"This is my home. Look over



floor. where my home was. the hills, that's where my home used to be," one resident, identified only as Miss

Yu, said. "I really want to go back home, but my home is probably gone now. They won't let us go back. so when I look in that direction, my heart feels so heavy.'

'THERE IS NO HOPE,' **FRIEND SAYS**

Families meanwhile had the grim task of looking at photographs of the dead taken by rescue workers. Security Chief Tang said only 39 of the 128 dead had been identified. Mirra Wong, whose par-

ents were living in Wang Fuk Court, was looking for news of her father "Just recognise some picture

is maybe (the) body of my dad. It's my dad's body is still missing here," said Wong, 48. Another resident, who did

not want to be identified, said a friend's wife was among those unaccounted for.

"Rationally speaking, it means there's no hope," she said. "But the bodies still have to be found, right? Let me see if they've found them ... It's just

too sorrowful. When it involves people you know, it's

VOLUNTEERS DISTRIBUTE

even more pain-

Hundreds of volunteers have mobilised to help the victims, sorting and distributing items from diapers to hot food.

They formed teams to collect, transport and distribute goods in round-the-clock shifts and have set up a sprawling support camp for displaced residents beside a shopping mall across from the fire-damaged Wang Fuk complex.

The fire is Hong Kong's deadliest since 1948, when 176 people died in a warehouse blaze, and has prompted comparisons to London's Grenfell Tower inferno, which killed 72 people

Residents of the housing complex were told by authorities last year that they faced "relatively low fire risks" after complaining repeatedly about fire hazards posed by ongoing renovation works, the city's Labour Department told Reuters.

The residents had raised concerns over the renovations in September 2024, including about the potential flammability of the protective green mesh contractors had used to cover the bamboo scaffolding erected around the buildings, a department spokesperson said in an email.

ANTI-GRAFT BODY **MAKES MORE ARRESTS**

The Independent Commission Against Corruption said the eight individuals arrested included an engineering consultant, a scaffolding subcontractor, and an intermediary.

Police Thursday arrested two directors and an engineering consultant of Prestige Construction, a firm identified by the government as doing main tenance on Wang Fuk Court for more than a year on suspicion of manslaughter for using unsafe materials, including flammable foam boards blocking windows DOMESTIC WORKERS

AMONG THE MISSING

Dozens of domestic workers from the Philippines had been caught up in the disaster and 19 were still missing, said Edwina Antonio, executive director at migrant women refuge associ ation Bethune House.

Indonesia's consulate said two of the dead were its nationals also working as domestic helpers. Hong Kong has around 368,000 domestic workers, mostly women from low-income Asian countries who live with their employers SAFETY COMPLAINTS IGNORED

BEFORE DEADLY BLAZE People living at Wang Fuk

Court in northern Hong Kong had raised concerns over maintenance activity in September 2024, including about the potential flammability of the protec tive green mesh contractors had used to cover the bamboo scaffolding raised around the buildings, a department spokes person said in an email.

The department subsequently reviewed safety certification for the mesh, which was used as a net for falling debris, and told residents the material's "flame-retardant performance" met standards, said the agency. which helps enforce construction standards set by the Building Department.

Khan's sister files plea against Adiala jail superintendent

The petition referred to the IHC's March 24 order. in which the court had reinstated the twice-aweek meeting schedule for the 73-year-old, who has been languishing in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail since August 2023



Islamabad, Nov 28: Imran Khan's sister Friday filed a contempt of court petition in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the Adiala Jail superintendent and others for not being allowed to meet Pakistan's jailed former prime minister.

Aleema Khan filed the petition in the presence of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi and other leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The petition referred to

the IHC's March 24 order, in which the court had reinstated the twice-a-week meeting schedule for the 73-year-old, who has been languishing in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail since August 2023.

It said Aleema sought the initiation of contempt of court proceedings "on account of the willful non-implementation of the orders passed by this honourable court, particularly with respect to the authorities' failure to allow" her meetings with

It added that despite directions for allowing visits Tuesdays and Thursdays, "the respondents did not comply with or implement the same"

The petition stated that Al eema had "remained deeply concerned about the well-being, legal rights and humane treat ment of her brother during his ongoing incarceration".

Those named in the petition include Adiala Jail Superintendent Abdul Ghafoor Anjum, Saddar Beroni police station SHO Raja Aizaz Azeem, Federal Interior Secretary Capt (retd) Muhammad Khurram Agha and Punjab Home Department Secretary Noorul Amin.

Both Aleema and Afridi were part of the 16-hour long sit-in that began Thursday and end ed early Friday when they were not allowed to meet Khan. Meanwhile, after failing to

meet the chief justice of the IHC. Afridi said that his party would not allow the parliament to hold its session. "We received a message from the chief justice that I cannot meet you, we have decided that

neither the National Assembly nor the Senate will be allowed to hold a session today," he was quoted as saying by Dunya News TV. Local media showed PTI law-

makers raising slogans in the Senate against the continued incarceration of Khan.

Afridi also said that next Tuesday, they will gather outside the high court and Adiala Jail. There were rumours about

the deteriorating health of the former prime minister but authorities rejected the concerns and Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry told the parliament Thursday that Khan was doing well and "en joying facilities like personal chef which are not available to any other prisoner".

Ukraine's top peace negotiator resigns

Kyiv, Nov 28: President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's powerful chief of staff, a close ally of the president who has headed Ukraine's negotiation team at fraught US-backed peace talks. quit Friday, hours after anti-corruption agents searched his home. Zelenskiy said Andriy Yermak had resigned and that he would consider his replacement Saturday.

Yermak's departure comes as a major probe into high-level graft ensnared senior officials, fuelling widespread public anger. "Russia very much wants Ukraine to make mistakes," Zelenskiy said in a video address. "There will be no mistakes on our part. Our work continues.

Yermak, 54, has been a close friend of Zelenskiy since the president's days as a TV comedian, and helped guide Zelenskiy's successful 2019 presidential campaign as a political outsider.

He has not been named a suspect, but opposition lawmakers and some members of Zelenskiy's own party had called for his dismissal as part of Ukraine's worst wartime political crisis.

Earlier Friday, Yermak had confirmed his apartment was being searched and said he was fully cooperating.

The National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine and the Specialised Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office said the searches were "authorized" and linked to an unspecified investigation.

Colombo, Nov 28: Sri Lanka Friday grappled with one of its worst disasters as cyclonic storm Ditwah wreaked havoc, causing floods and landslides that left more than 80 dead, amid a trail of destruction and damage to infrastructure.

India launched 'Operation Sagar Bandhu' to assist Sri Lanka in its hour of crisis, and the first tranche of relief materials was handed over after the consignments were transported by the Indian Navy's aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and frontline ship

INS Udaigiri to the island nation. The relief came as Sri Lankan authorities warned of an "unprecedented disaster situation" in the Western Province



from Friday night due to rising water levels in the Kelani and Attanagalu rivers.

Both Colombo and the next most populous district of Gampaha are under severe threat, prompting officials to urge residents in vulnerable areas to evacuate, they said.

Late Friday, the Disaster

firmed more than 80 people have died, while 34 remain missing in the past three days, as rescue operations intensify, according to news portal NewsFirst.lk.

The DMC said as many as 1.48.603 individuals from 44.192 families were suffering due to widespread flooding, while 5,024 families (approximately 14,000 people) had taken shelter in 195 emergency centres.

Scores of houses were destroyed completely or partially, leaving thousands homeless as Cyclone Ditwah unleashed torrential rainfall, triggering extensive flooding. landslides in central hill regions and major disruptions in other parts that have left several areas inaccessible.

"It is unlikely this situation will change. We expect the Kelani River's water levels to exceed those recorded during the 2016 floods," Director General Ajith Gunasekara told reporters.

He urged residents in vulnerable locations to secure essential items, including ed ucational certificates, vehicle documents and valuables, be fore relocating to safer ground.

The central Matale district recorded the highest rainfall in the 24 hours ending 6 am Thursday, receiving 540 mm, authorities said.

Three major bridges — Moragahakanda Main Bridge, Elahera Bridge, and Kumara Ella Bridge — were washed away cutting off vital transport routes and isolating communities.

Floods ravage Southeast Asia; millions affected

RESCUERS STEP UP RECOVERY OPERATIONS AS SOUTHEAST ASIA FLOOD DEATHS REACH 321

REUTERS

Jakarta/Bangkok, Nov 28: The death toll from floods across large swathes of Southeast Asia rose to at least 321 Friday, with authorities working to rescue stranded citizens, restore power and communications and coordinate recovery efforts as the waters began to recede.

Large parts of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand have been stricken by cyclone-fuelled torrential rain for a week, with a rare tropical storm forming in the Malacca Strait.

'RUNNING OUT OF SUPPLIES AND FOOD'

On Indonesia's badly hit Sumatra island, 174 people were confirmed dead Friday, Suharyanto, the head of Indonesia's disaster mitigation agency, said at a press briefing.

While the rain had stopped,

79 people were still missing and thousands of families have been displaced, he added.

Residents in Sumatra's Padang Pariaman region, where a total of 22 people died. had to cope with water levels at least 1 metre high, and had still not been reached by searchand-rescue personnel Friday. "We're running out of sup-

plies and food," said Muhammad Rais, a 40-year-old resident who was forced to move to the second floor of his home Thursday to escape the rapidly rising waters. In the town of Batang Toru,

in northern Sumatra, residents Friday buried seven unclaimed victims in a mass grave. The decomposing bodies, wrapped in black plastic, were lifted from the back of a truck on to a wide plot of land as onlookers held their noses

Communications remained



down in some parts of the island, and authorities were working to restore power and clear roads that have been blocked by landslide debris, said Abdul Muhari, spokesman for Indonesia's national disaster mitigation agency.

Indonesia would continue to airlift aid and rescue personnel into stricken areas Friday, he

THAILAND DEATH TOLL REACH-**ES 145, TOURISTS EVACUATED**

The Thai government said that 145 people had been killed by floods across eight southern provinces. It said a total of more than 3.5 million people had been affected.

In the southern city of Hat Yai, the hardest-hit part of INDONESIA CONFIRMS 174 DEATHS, RESCUE EFFORTS **CONTINUING**

VICTIMS IN NORTHERN SUMATRA **BURIED IN MASS GRAVE** THAILAND REPORTS 145 DEATHS IN SOUTHERN PROVINCES, 3.5 MILLION AFFECTED

TROPICAL STORM SENYAR **WEAKENS AFTER LANDFALL IN MALAYSIA**

Thailand, the rain had finally stopped Friday, but residents were still ankle-deep in flood waters and many remained without electricity as they assessed the damage done to their property over the last week. One said he had "lost everything". Some residents said they were spared the worst of the floods but were still suffering from their effects

"It affects everything for us,

in every way," said 52-year-old Somporn Petchtae. "My place wasn't flooded, but I was stuck like I was on an island because I couldn't go anywhere.'

In neighbouring Malaysia. where two people have been confirmed dead, tropical storm Senyar made landfall at around midnight and has since weak ened. Meteorological authorities are still bracing themselves for heavy rain and wind, and warned that rough seas could pose risks for small boats.

A total of 30,000 evacuees remain in shelters, down from more than 34,000 Thursday.

Malaysia's foreign ministry said Friday that it had already evacuated 1,459 Malaysian na tionals stranded in more than 25 flood-hit hotels in Thailand, adding that it would work to rescue the remaining 300 still caught up in flood zones.

business



Cipla has long been a pioneer in respiratory care, and with the launch of the first Breathefree Lung **Wellness Center, we** are addressing a critical gap in the diagnostic

ACHIN GUPTA | CHIEF OPERATING

APPLE EXPANDS INDIA PRESENCE

Apple Friday announced it will open its fifth store in India, at Noida, marking another step in the iPhone maker's expanding retail footprint in the country. Apple Noida store, located in DLF Mall of India, will open December 11. "This opening marks another milestone in Apple's ongoing retail expansion in the country, bringing customers in Noida new ways to explore and buy Apple products, and experience Apple's exceptional service in person," the company said



Equity benchmarks

log 3rd monthly gain

Mumbai, Nov 28: India's

stock benchmarks notched

their third straight monthly

gain Friday driven by improv

ing earnings, expectations of

domestic and US rate cuts and

eased valuations, and ended

near record highs ahead of the

The Nifty 50 ended 0.05% low-

Both benchmarks hit all-

time highs Thursday after 14

months. They rose about 2%

each in November, gaining

about 7.3% over three months.

a long consolidation reflects

strengthening earnings, de

mand tailwinds from tax cuts.

supportive monetary policy,

benign inflation and steady

economic growth," said Am-

nish Aggarwal, analyst at PI

logged monthly gains. The in-

formation technology index

rose 4.7%, buoyed by firming

bets, opens new tab of a De

cember rate cut by the Federal

Reserve that could spur client

spending in the US, the sector's

banks, private lenders and

financials,

largest market.

Heavyweight

Eleven of the 16 major sectors

"The recent breakout after

er at 26,202.95 and Sensex lost

economic growth data.

0.02% to 85,706.67.

We have all seen trade being weap onised. We have all seen the importance of having around the world



PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

Over the next decade about 20 per cent of the demand of gold will be furnished

by our own gold mined in India There will be a sense about Indian gold, employment, and foreign investment coming to the mining

SACHIN JAIN | REGIONAL CEO FOR INDIA, WORLD GOLD COUNCIL

Land market has heated up. But, we should do at least ₹30,000 crore GDV (gross development value) this full fiscal year under the



business development PIROJSHA GODREJ | EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON

SHORT **TAKES**

Forex kitty declines

Mumbai: India's forex reserves declined \$4.472 billion to \$688.104 billion during the week ended November 21 due to a steep decrease in the value of gold reserves, the RBI said Friday. The overall reserves had increased by \$5.543 billion to \$692.576 billion in the previous reporting week. For the week ended November 21, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves. decreased by \$1.69 billion to \$560.6 billion, the data released showed. Value of the gold reserves decreased by \$2.675 billion to \$104.182 billion during the week, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) also decreased by \$84 million to \$18.566 billion, the apex bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF also fell by \$23 million to \$4.757 billion in the reporting week, according to the apex bank's data.

RBI imposes ₹91L fine on HDFC Bank

Mumbai: A penalty of ₹91 lakh has been imposed on HDFC Bank for violating certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, the Reserve Bank said Friday. The penalty has been imposed on the private sector lender for deficiencies in statutory and regulatory compliance. including those related to Know Your Customer (KYC). The penalty has been imposed on the private sector lender for contravention of certain provisions of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act and non-compliance with certain directions on 'Interest Rate on Advances', 'Guidelines on Managing Risks and Code of Conduct in Outsourcing of Financial Services by banks' and KYC.

■ IPO: Meesho aims for

\$5.6 billion valuation New Delhi: SoftBank-backed e-commerce firm Meesho is aiming to raise ₹5,421 crore through its Initial Public Offering (IPO), which opens for subscription December 3. The company has fixed a price band of ₹105-111 per share, valuing Meesho at ₹50,096 crore (\$5.6 billion) at the upper end. In its public will close December 5, with their allocations December 2. The Bangalore-based company's maiden public offering will comprise a fresh issue of shares worth ₹4,250 crore, along with an Offer For Sale (OFS) of 10.55 crore shares valued at ₹1,171 crore at the upper band, taking the

Economy outpaces world despite tariffs

India records six-quarter high GDP growth of 8.2% in *Q2* driven by consumer spending, export front-loading

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: India's economy grew at a higher-than-expected 8.2 per cent the fastest pace in six quarters in July-September, front-loading of production ahead of GST rates cut boosted consumption that helped offset the impact of steep US tariffs.

The 8.2 per cent gross domestic product (GDP) growth, which follows a 7.8 per cent expansion in the preceding April-June quarter, helped India retain the title of the world's fastest growing major economy, according to official data released Friday.

The GDP growth came ahead of the festive season consumption boost on the back of the implementation of a significant reduction in the goods and services tax (GST). It, however, does not factor in the full quarter impact of an additional 25 per cent punitive tariff on Indian exports that took the total levy to 50 per cent in August.

The expansion, which was more than China's 4.8 per cent, was driven by higher public investments, services demand, industrial output and firm consumption, besides statistical effects of a low base (the economy India's GDP grows by 8.2% in Q2 FY26 Quarterly GDP Estimates along with YoY Growth Rates from Q1 FY24 to Q2 FY 26 at Constant Prices

- Economy sees 8% growth rate in H1 of current financial year
- Growth may exceed 7%, GDP to cross \$4tn mark in FY26: CEA
- Manufacturing output up 9.1%, private consumption rose 7.9%

grew at a below-average 5.6 per cent in the same quarter last fiscal). A low GDP deflator also lent some buoyancy. Inflation based on both the Consumer Price Index and the Wholesale Price Index was lower in the second quarter compared to the first. Lower food inflation stoked discretionary spending.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed the GDP growth as "very encouraging."

"It reflects the impact of our pro-growth policies and reforms. It also reflects the hard work and enterprise of our people. Our government will and strengthen Ease of Living for every citizen," he said in a post on X.

Private consumer spending which accounts for around 57 per cent of GDP, rose 7.9 per cent in July-September - the second quarter of the current 2025-26 fiscal - compared to a 7 per cent rise a quarter ago, according to data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO).

Manufacturing output rose 9.1 per cent against a growth of 7.7 per cent in the preceding quarter and 7.6 per cent in the year-ago period, while construction expanded 7.2 per cent from 7.6 per cent in the previous quarter. Government spending decelerated, declining 2.7 per cent in Q2, compared to a growth of 7.4 per cent in the previous quarter.

Commenting on the GDP numbers, India's Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said the Indian

IMF rates India's GDP data 'C', the second-lowest grade The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has rated India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and other national accounts data a "C" - the second lowest

in terms of grading. According to the IMF, this grade means the data available "have some shortcomings that somewhat hamper surveillance". The poor rating for key figures such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross Value Added (GVA) was the outcome of "some methodological weaknesses" due to which the "surveillance" gets hampered, the IMF said. The IMF, in its annual Article IV review of India's economic system, said the country publishes national accounts data regularly and with sufficient detail. "National accounts data are available at adequate frequency and timeliness and provide broadly adequate granularity," the report noted. However, the agency pointed out gaps in methodology that affect its ability to fully assess the economy, adding that some methodological weaknesses somewhat hamper surveillance and warrant an overall sectoral rating for the national accounts of C." Overall, across all

WHAT IS WRONG WITH OUR DATA?

 \mathbf{O}_{GDP} ne major issue is that India still uses 2011–12 as the base year for calculating GDP. The IMF said this makes the data less reflective of today's economy. some calculations because the country does not yet have proper Producer Price Indices (PPI), which are more accurate for measuring price changes faced by producers. Another problem is that the two ways of calculating GDP the production approach and the expenditure approach, often show "sizeable discrepancies". According to the IMF, these mismatches "may indicate the need to enhance the coverage of the expenditure approach data and the informal sector." India typically uses the income approach to measure GDP, which adds up the earnings of households, government, and companies. It also publishes numbers using the expenditure approach, which tracks spending, Because these approaches use different data sources, the two estimates don't always match. Economists have often criticised this inconsistency.

ISSUES WITH INFLATION DATA TOO

Regarding India's main inflation measure, the Consumer Price Index, the IMF graded India a 'B', which means the data provided "have some shortcomings but are broadly adequate for surveillance". It said that while the CPI data scores well on its frequency and timeliness, coming as it does once a month and with only a month's lag, the rating of 'B' reflects the outdated CPI base year, items basket, and weights (set in 2011-12), "implying that the CPI basket likely fails to accurately represent current spending habits". It is important to note that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is currently working on updating the GDP and CPI base years and methodology to make them more up to date. The new series of both datasets are expected to be released in early or mid 2026.

economy is expected to cross \$4 trillion in the current fiscal year, given the current rate of growth. India's GDP was \$3.9 trillion in FY25, which ended

As India's economy recorded an 8 per cent growth rate in the first half of the current financial vear, he said, the full-year outlook for GDP growth rate is now 7 per cent, or north of 7 per cent.

state-owned banks climbed between 2.6% and 4% in November, on improving earnings and prospects of an imminent rate cut by the Reserve Bank of In dia, which could ease funding costs and boost credit growth. Autos gained 3.6%, led by a

Capital.

7.8% jump in Mahindra and Mahindra on strong earnings, upbeat demand and new launches.

While benchmarks have scaled fresh record highs, the rally remained constrained due to uncertainty over a trade deal with the United States.

The broader small-caps fell 3% and the mid-caps added 2% in November.

Among stocks, Asian Paints posted its best month since July 2022, rising 14.5% in November, fuelled by higher weightage in a key global index, demand recovery and upbeat results.

Oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries gained 5.5% on an improving earnings outlook across all its core

Centre's fiscal deficit hits 52.6% of full year target

In absolute terms, gap between govt's expenditure and revenue was ₹8,25,144cr in April-Oct period



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: The central government's fiscal deficit touched 52.6 per cent of the fullyear target at the end of October, according to official data released Friday

The fiscal deficit was $46.5\,\mathrm{per}$ cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) of 2024-25 in the first seven months of the previous financial

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit, or gap between the government's expenditure and revenue, was ₹8,25,144 crore in the April-October period of 2025-26.

The Centre estimates the fiscal deficit during 2025-26 at 4.4 per cent of the GDP, or ₹15.69

According to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the central government received about ₹18 lakh crore or 51.5 per cent of the

corresponding BE 2025-26 of total receipts up to October 2025. This comprised ₹12.74 lakh

crore of tax revenue (net to Centre), ₹4.89 lakh crore of non-tax revenue and ₹37.095 crore of non-debt capital receipts.

Further, ₹8,34,957 crore was transferred to state governments as devolution of share of taxes by the Government of India during April-October, which is ₹1,11,981 crore higher than the previous year.

CGA data showed that total expenditure incurred by the Centre is ₹26.25 lakh crore (51.8 per cent of the corresponding BE 2025-26), out of which ₹20 lakh crore was on revenue account and ₹6.17 lakh crore on capital account.

Of the total revenue expenditure, ₹6.73 lakh crore was on account of interest payments and ₹2.46 lakh crore on major

Asian Paints inks pact with BCC. Our partnership with BCCI

Mumbai, Nov 28: With the spirit of cricket running high across the nation, Asian Paints, India's leading paint and décor brand, is proud to announce its partnership with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) as the Official Colour Partner of India Cricket.

The three-year association will cover all men's, women's, and domestic series played in India, spanning over 110

Speaking on the partnership. Amit Syngle, Managing Director & CEO, Asian Paints Ltd,



said, "Cricket unites a billion hearts, and we are thrilled to partner with the BCCI on a platform that makes that spir it come alive. At Asian Paints, we have always believed in the nower of colour to shape how people live, feel, and express themselves and this association strengthens that belief.

marks an exciting new chapter, one where we bring the world of colour into the heart of the game India loves most. As the Official Colour Partner, we look forward to engaging with fans and customers in meaningful ways, celebrating the spirit and energy of cricket and adding more vibrancy and joy to every moment of the game. At Asian Paints, we believe homes aren't just spaces, they're where 1.4 billion dreams cheer as one. We have multiple interesting integrations that will make this the most "Colourful" association with Cricket.'

SNIPPETS

SBI, Sarbottam Social Organisation inaugurates Smart Anganwadi Centres

Cuttack: In a joint initiative to transform Anganwadi centres into advanced learning hubs, the State Bank of India (SBI) and Sarbottam Social Organisation have inaugurated five Smart Anganwadi Centres in Cuttack district. With an aim to upgrade Anganwadi centres to the level of modern schools, SBI has provided various educational and play materials—including smart TVs, Aquaguard water purifiers books, learning aids, and different types of play equipment—to five Anganwadi centres under Cuttack Municipal ity, as well as in Salepur and Tangi blocks. The inauguration ceremony was attended by CDPOs from various blocks, Anganwadi supervisors, SBI Regional Branch Manager Chaudhary Asim Anupam Praharaj, and SBI Branch Manager Niranjan Mohapatra, among others.



Madhukunj's 'Grand **Discount Sale' returns**

Bhubaneswar: Adding sparkle to the wedding and festive season, Madhukunj Gold & Diamonds has announced the return of its much-awaited 'Grand Discount Sale', offering customers across Odisha a flat 100% off on making charges for gold, diamond and silver jewellery. The sale will be open till December 7. A trusted name in fine jewellery, Madhukunj aims to make premium ornaments more affordable for shoppers preparing for weddings and year-end celebrations. In addition to the flagship offer, the brand has reaffirmed its hallmark customer benefits, including zero deduction on old gold exchange, ensuring full value for customers' existing gold. All jewellery under the offer features 100% BIS Hallmarked 916 Gold, IGI-certified diamonds, and comes with a lifetime buyback guarantee and free lifetime maintenance, further strengthening the

brand's commitment to quality and trust. Customers can avail the offers at Madhukunj showrooms located at IDBI Square, Janpath (Bhubaneswar) Sitaram Square (Jatani), and Canton (Cuttack).



TPCODL bags Odisha CSR Excellence Award



Bhubnaeswar: TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) has been honoured with the Odisha CSR Excellence Award-2025 by the Odisha CSR Forum. The award was presented by SuramaPadhy, Speaker, Odisha Legislative Assembly, in recognition of its highly impactful flagship initiative, "Adhikaar – Access to Government Schemes." Implemented in Nayagarh and Dhenkanal, the Adhikaar program has helped thousands of community members gain improved access to various government welfare schemes, enabling enhanced social security and empowerment at the grassroots level. This recognition reflects TPCODL's continued commitment to community development, inclusive growth and transformative CSR interventions across its operational areas.

AI agent leaks biz secrets to Zoho's Vembu, then apologises

The incident has raised serious questions about the lack of guardrails in current AI implementations. While firms are rushing to deploy AI agents for sales and scheduling, these models often struggle with context, nuance, and the strict confidentiality required in corporate deal-making

New Delhi, Nov 28: Zoho Corp founder Sridhar Vembu Friday shared an amusing account of how a startup's AI agent accidentally spilt sensitive information and later apologised — underscoring the growing, and at times chaotic, role of autonomous AI tools in

high-stake corporate communications

According to Vembu, who took to X to recount the episode, it all began when he received a cold e-mail from a startup founder pitching a potential acquisition.

However, the e-mail contained information typically



STARTUP

BLUNDER

guarded with utmost secrecy during M&A (Mergers and Acquisitions) discussions the name of a competing bidder and the specific price they had offered.

Revealing a competing offer

is considered a high-risk negotiation tactic, but disclosing specific details often breaches confidentiality agreements.

Things took a turn when Vembu received another e-mail — not from the startup founder, but from their "browser AI agent". The automated system reportedly sent a correction, stating: "I am sorry I disclosed confidential information about other discussions, it was my fault as the AI agent.'

Vembu's post quickly went viral, sparking debate among netizens about the dangers of Agentic AI — systems designed to execute tasks autonomously.

One user quipped, "We've officially entered the 'please

ignore my AI, it's still learning

"This is exactly the new kind of chaos AI is introducing into business communication. We've now entered a phase where humans negotiate, AI accidentally spills deal terms, and then AI tries to clean up the mess. It's funny, but also a reminder — AI can assist in communication, but it can also miscommunicate, overshare, or breach confidentiality if not

properly controlled," another user commented. "One slip, and suddenly the 'helper bot' is leaking acquisition terms. We're entering a phase where AI won't just draft emails - it'll accidentally

start negotiations," one user ob-

served. Beyond the humour, in-

dustry watchers see the episode as a warning sign of potential corporate embarrassments to come. "This is going to become a very common failure mode,' one commenter cautioned.

"People will let agents handle 'important emails' and realise only later that they've leaked something that should never have been mentioned.'

However, not everyone was convinced that a rogue algorithm was solely to blame. Sceptics suggested the "AI

apology" might be a modern face-saving tactic, or a calculated bluff. "There was a human behind that AI agent, and they iust want vou to think it was a mistake when it wasn't," one user remarked.

announcement Friday, Meesho said the maiden public offering PRESS TRUST OF INDIA anchor investors set to receive total issue size to ₹ 5,421 crore.

HISTORY BOOKS Trailblazer Atiqa outpaces male drivers

11-year-old Jammu and Kashmir girl seals highest qualifying spot by a female racer in F1 Academy-backed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Al Ain (UAE), Nov 28: Indian racing sensation Atiqa Mir outpaced a battery of world class male drivers to qualify fourth in the COTFA international karting series, the highest finish for a female in the championship's history.

COTFA series

With the series supported by Formula 1 Academy, it was the perfect stage for Atiqa to showcase her rare talent and the 11-year-old did that with an unprecedented fourth place in qualifying of the mini category before finishing in the same position in the final on Day 1.

Akcel GP backed driver missed the podium spot by just 0.07 seconds, a testament to the highly competitive nature of the grid. In the final on Day 2, Atiqa

The Formula 1 Academy and

came up with another impressive effort in qualifying, setting the fifth fastest time.

She was in podium contention for majority of the race. A daring overtake on the last lap put her in fourth place and



with a podium at stake, Atiqa understandably pushed herself to the limit, leading to a loss of three places. She still managed to finish a creditable seventh pace through both days and was able to deliver the results in qualy and the **Finals. Scored good haul Looking forward to the** season finale next week

out of 28 drivers.

"Some tough racing this week with top drivers. I had good pace through both days and was able to deliver the results in qualy and the Finals. Scored good haul of championship points. Looking forward to the season finale next week," said Atiqa, who hails from Jammu and Kashmir. Her father Asif Mir, a former Formula Asia vice-champion, was pleased after a productive weekend.

"Super performance by Atiqa this week. She delivered consistent performances against world's best drivers and beat them as well. It is an encouragement and reward for all the hard work we have put in over the last few months. Will keep working and improving her.'

The season finale of the Champions of the Future Academy (COTFA) series will take place in Al Forsan next week.

SYED MODI INTERNATIONAL

Tanvi continues dream run; Unnati, Srikanth also in semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 28: Tanvi Sharma crushed Hong Kong's Lo Sin Yan Happy in straight games to storm into the semifinals while Unnati Hooda and Kidambi Srikanth also made their way into the final four of the Syed Modi International Super 300, here

In the women's singles, the 16-year-old Tanvi, who had earlier defeated former world champion Nozomi Okuhara from Japan, needed only 38 minutes to brush aside the challenge of Lo Sin 21-13, 21-19.

Tanvi will take on fifth seeded Hina Akechi of Japan, who got the better of third seed Sung Shuo Yun 21-8, 21-15 in the other quarterfinal.

Unnati was made to work hard by compatriot Rakshitha Sree Santosh R in the quarterfinal, before winning 21-15, 13-21, 21-16. Unnati will face off against fourth seed Neslihan Arin in the semifinals, after the Turkish player beat India's Isharani Baruah 21-19, 13-21, 21-15,

In the men's singles, Srikanth made it to the semis after his opponent Priyanshu Rajawat retired at the score of 21-14, 114. Srikanth will take on Mithur Manjunath, who defeated Manraj Singh 21-18, 21-13 in the last eight. Singapore's Jason Teh, the men's top seed, lost 19-21, 21-12 20-22 in an hour and five minute against Minoru Koga of Japan who will take on Hong Kong's Ja-

son Gunawan in the semifinals. In the women's doubles, top seeds Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly defeated fifth seeds Bengisu Ercetin and Nazlican Inci 21-15, 21-16 to enter the semifinals.

Treesa will also feature in the mixed doubles semifinal alongside Hariharan Amsakarunan after the pair defeated Australia's Andika Ramadiansyah and Nozomi Shimizu 21-18, 21-14 in the quarterfinals.

SHORT **TAKES**

India to host Sri Lanka for five women's T20Is

New Delhi: The Indian women's team will take on Sri Lanka in a five-match T20I series in Visakhapatnam and Trivandrum from December 21 to 30, the BCCI said Friday, days after a scheduled rubber against Bangladesh was postponed due to political tensions between the two countries. This will be the first assignment for the 'Women in Blue' after their ODI World Cup-winning campaign earlier this year. As per the original schedule, the Indian women's team was supposed to play a home series against Bangladesh during the same time. India last played a T20I series in July this year, when they registered a historic win in England. India won that series, their first in England, 3-2.

Mhatre to lead India in U19 Asia Cup

New Delhi: Promising batter Ayush

Mhatre was Friday retained as captain of a 15-member Indian team for the upcoming U19 Asia Cup in which the focus will be again on teen batting sensation Vaibhay Sooryayanshi, The agegroup continental tournament will be held in Dubai from December 12-21 in 50-overs format. Mhatre had also led India during a multi-format tour of Australia in September and October, Vihaan Malhotra has been appointed as the vice-captain for the tournament which will serve as a preparatory ground for the U19 World Cup, to be played in Zimbabwe and Namibia in January February next year, Sooryayanshi, the 14-year-old batting sensation, recently shone in the Rising Stars Asia Cup when he hit a 32-ball century for joint third-fastest in men's T20 format, while scoring 144 off only 42 balls against the United Arab Emirates.

Palmer fit for Chelsea vs Arsenal PL showdown

London: Cole Palmer is back for Chelsea's top of the table clash with Arsenal Sunday after making a sooner than expected return from a toe injury. The England forward sustained the injury following what was described as an accident at home. But Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca confirmed he was in contention to start the game against Premier League leader Arsenal at Stamford Bridge. Chelsea is second in the standings and can close the gap on Arsenal to three points with a win. Palmer has been out since September with a groin injury. He was close to a return before hurting his toe, which ruled him out of the wins against Burnley last weekend and Barcelona in the Champions League Tuesday.

FIH JUNIOR WORLD CUP

India's dominant 7-0 start

Rosan, Dilraj fashion **India's thumping** win over Chile in campaign opener

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 28: Rosan Kujur and Dilraj Singh scored a brace each as India thrashed Chile 7-0 to open their FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup campaign on a resounding note here Friday.

After a barren first quarter, Rosan (16th, 21st minutes) scored two field goals, while Dilraj (25th, 34th) also found the net twice. Aieet Yaday (35th). Anmol Ekka (48th) and skipper Rohit (60th) were the other goal scorers for India.

India will take on Oman in their second Pool B match here Saturday. The Indians, ranked second in the Under-21 category, were the dominant side and enjoyed majority of possession in the first quarter but failed to create any clear cut scoring chance.

The Chileans defended stoutly and didn't let Indian forwards to make any impact in the first quarter.

India had a bright chance just before the end of the first

quarter when they earned their first penalty corner but skipper Rohit's flick was defended well by the Chileans.

India finally broke the deadlock a minute into the second quarter through Rosan who slammed home from inside the circle after being set up by Manmeet Singh, who collected an ariel ball from deep in front of the D.

A minute later, Manmeet squandered a golden chance when his reverse hit went inches wide of the Chile goal.

Rosan found the net again in the 21st minute with some fine stick work, dodging past two defenders and Chile goalkeeper Nicolas Troncoso after receiving a pass from Arshdeep Singh to double India's lead. Indians continued their attack-

ing game and secured their second penalty corner in the 25th minute and Dilraj scored from a rebound after the flick was saved by the Chile custodian.

It was complete domination from the Indians in the first half, especially in the second quarter as play was confined mostly inside Chile's half.

India continued their dom ination and extended the lead four minutes after the change of ends when Dilraj scored his second goal of the day after receiving a pass from Ankit Pal.

PUNE GRAND TOUR

National Road Cycling Championship-cumselection trials in Sambalpur from Dec 2–6

New Delhi: The Cycling Federation of India (CFI) has announced selection trials for Indian men's elite riders, with an aim to field two teams, namely 'India A' and 'India B', for the forthcoming Pune Grand Tour - India's first UCI 2.2 category Road Race from January 19-23, 2026. The National Road Cycling Championship-cum-selection trial is scheduled from December 2-6, 2025, at Sambalpur, Odisha. The shortlisted athletes will further be evaluated through a National Road Race in Pune December 28. The presence of two Indian teams - 'India A' and 'India B' - will provide a broader platform for emerging and seasoned cyclists alike to demonstrate their prowess on a national and international stage. The ambitious Pune Grand Tour 2026 is India's flagship event aimed to earn Pune and India's permanent window in the Union Cycliste Internationale's (UCI) global calendar. The inaugural edition will attract elite international cyclists, promising fierce competition and world-class sporting action. The Tour will feature four stages, 437-km challenging routes that will wind through the scenic landscapes of the Pune district, making it one of the most awaited cycling competitions in the country.

OCA holds preparatory meet for India vs SA 1st T20 at Barabati



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 28: A preparatory meeting of various Sub-Committees for the IDFC FIRST Bank Series - 1st T20 International match between India and South Africa, scheduled to be held December 9 at Barabati Stadium, Cuttack, was conducted Friday at Barabati Stadium.

The meeting was presided over by Pankaj Lochan Mohanty, President, Odisha Cricket Association (OCA), and conducted under the leadership of Sanjay Behera, Secretary, OCA, who reviewed the overall preparedness and instructed all committees to ensure seamless coordination, adherence to BC-CI protocols, and timely execution of responsibilities to meet international match standards.

During the meeting, Shri Sanjay Behera, Secretary, OCA, emphasised the establishment of multiple Integrated Control Rooms to oversee security. power supply, medical services, transport, accreditation, hospitality, IT and communication, gate control, ticketing, floodlight operations, net practice arrangements, and overall match-day coordination, ensuring smooth conduct of the international fixture.

The Odisha Cricket Association reaffirmed its commitment to hosting a safe, well-coordinated, and spectator-friendly international match in accordance with BCCI standards.

Lebanon hand India's first defeat of AFC U17 **Asian Cup Qualifiers**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 28: India slipped to a 0-2 loss against an organised and disciplined Lebanon side in their penultimate Group D clash of the AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026 Qualifiers at the EKA Arena here Friday.

Antoine Assaf (26th minute) and Paul Maakaroun (38th) were the goal scorers for Leb-

Despite suffering their first defeat of the Qualifiers, India remain alive in the qualification race, and will face group leaders Iran in a do-or-die match Sunday. Only a victory in that match will secure India's passage to the AFC U17 Asian Cup for the 10th time in

India have four points and are in third spot, but can pip Iran for top spot (on the basis of a better head-to-head record) should they win against them

SYED MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY

Andhra outclass Odisha with dominant all-round display

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Under Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpay ee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow, the second match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2025-26 unfolded like a tale of contrasting fortunes. Odisha. having won the toss and chosen to field, stepped onto the turf with confidence-yet little did they know that Andhra had come prepared to script dominance.

Andhra's innings began with flair. Ricky Bhui, calm yet explosive, crafted a blistering 47 off just 29 balls, peppering the field with elegant fours and towering sixes. At the other end, KS Bharat anchored the innings with a composed 42, ensuring the scoreboard ticked along steadily. Odisha's bowlers tried



to stem the flow-Biplab Samantray struck crucial blows and Rajesh Mohanty displayed resilience—but Andhra still surged to a formidable 184/7 in their 20 overs, a total that carried both weight and confidence.

Chasing 185, Odisha needed a fiery start, and for a brief moment, it seemed possible. Sourav Gouda played with refreshing aggression, smashing 24 off 16 balls, while young Swastik Samal added a spirited 18. But Andhra's bowlers, especially Prithvi Raj Yarra

and early breakthroughs, tightened the screws. Saurabh Kumar's spell further dismantled Odisha's middle order, leaving their chase in tatters

Wickets tumbled, hopes dimmed, and the once-confident Odisha side found themselves bowled out for 118 in just 17.2 overs. The stadium echoed with Andhra's triumph as they claimed a resounding 66-run

BRIEF SCORES

Andhra Pradesh 184/7 in 20 overs (Ricky Bhui 47, KS Bharat 42; Biplab Samantray 3/20, Rajesh Mohanty 2/34) beat Odisha 118 in 17.2 overs (Sourav Gouda 24; Prithvi Raj Yarra 3/4, Saurabh Kumar 3/23) by 66 runs **ELITE GROUP A STANDINGS:** Andhra top (8 points), Odisha 8th (0 point) NEXT MATCH: Odisha vs Vidarbha

LA OLYMPICS

India's new women's boxing coach Nieva aims to break bronze barrier

So far, only three Indian boxers have won Olympic medals -- Vijender Singh (2008), MC Mary Kom (2012) and Lovlina Borgohain (2020) -- and all of them have been bronze. In the last edition at Paris, Indian pugilists returned empty-handed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: Newly-appointed Indian women's boxing head coach Santiago Nieva believes the current squad is brimming with potential, as



he sets sights on creating history by going "beyond a bronze medal" at the 2028 Los Angles

Nieva, who earlier served as India's high-performance director from 2017 to 2022 and worked predominantly with the men's team, returns to the country in a new capacity, to shape the fu-

ture of the women's squad. "The Indian women's team is really strong and I think it's important to win those Olympic medals

that weren't possible to secure in Paris," Nieva told PTI from Australia. "So, I thought that with the potential there is with the women's team and all those excellent boxers, I would like to contribute there so that we can make history in LA and go beyond a single bronze medal", he added.

Nieva is no stranger to breaking new ground. Under his guidance, Amit Panghal won India's first and only silver medal in the men's World Championships, while the country also achieved its highest-ever participation at the Tokyo Olympics.

Indian women boxers have enjoyed a strong run this year, returning with four medals, including two gold from the World Championships

The World Cup-winning captain will be in Hyderabad after the Kolkata leg -- the first

of his tour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, Nov 28: Argentine football superstar Lionel Messi has confirmed the addition of Hyderabad to his much-anticipated 'GOAT Tour to India 2025'

next month, with the Telenga-

na capital becoming his fourth stopover in the country. The World Cup-winning captain will be in Hyderabad after the Kolkata leg -- the first of his tour. He will then proceed to Mumbai and New Delhi where he is expected to meet Prime

Minister Narendra Modi. "Thanks for all the love from India! The GOAT tour kicks off





Messi confirms Hyderabad visit

in a few weeks' time!!! I'm happy to share that Hyderabad has been added to my visits to Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi.

See you soon India!" Messi posted on his social media handle.

The decision to add Hyderabad came in the wake of the cancellation of Argentina's proposed friendly in Kochi, which had been originally announced by Kerala Sports Minister V Abdurahiman for November 17.

The revised plan ensured that Messi's 'GOAT Tour' would span all the four corners of India -- east (Kolkata), south (Hyderabad), west (Mumbai) and north (New Delhi). Satadru Dutta, the sole or

ganiser of the 'GOAT Tour to India 2025', had told PTI that Messi's event in Hyderabad will be held either at Gachibowli or Rajiv Gandhi Inter national Stadium.

According to Dutta, there would be a celebrity match, football clinic, felicitation and musical programme in Hyderabad. The GOAT Tour, conceptualised by Dutta, will feature a mix of celebrity football match es, musical events, meet-and greet sessions, masterclasses for children and felicitation ceremonies across four cities

Messi will start his tour in Kolkata December 13, fol lowed by Hyderabad the same evening, before travelling to Mumbai December 14 and concluding in New Delhi De cember 15.

Printed and published by Adyasha Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: (0674) 2580385 (Advt.), Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ODIENG/2011/37159