



Priyanka’s journey

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

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 October

BUSINESS | P11



Driving into history

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

SPORTS | P12

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 farm output.

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.

P11

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.

P9

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

PTI PHOTO

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.

PNN & AGENCIES

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 expectations 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 statement said.



“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 child development.

MAJOR ALLOCATIONS

- ₹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 maintain 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 provision, 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.

State hikes financial assistance for surrendering Maoists

PNN & AGENCIES

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 financial 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 member if they surrender in Odisha 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. Regional committee member ₹33 lakh, divisional committee secretary/commander of military platoon ₹27.50 lakh, divisional 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 organising 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/ intelligence 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.

Putin to visit India next week

AGENCIES

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 energy.

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 bomb 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.

Trump vows to freeze migration from all ‘third world’ countries

AGENCIES

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 concern.”

The new guidance came in the wake of the tragic shooting of US Army Specialist Sarah Beckstrom, 20, and US Air

Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe, 24 by Afghan national Rahmanullah 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.”

Trump asserted that these 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.”

“Only REVERSE MIGRA-

TION can fully cure this situation. Other than that, HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL, except those that hate, steal, murder, and destroy everything that America stands for — 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.

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

said have allowed the country to be impacted by immigration 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.”

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST



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ARIES

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.



LEO

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 result, says Ganesha.



VIRGO

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

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



SCORPIO

You reveal your true avatar of being adventurous today, feels Ganesha. It's a favourable day for businessmen 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 your hand easily today. Try to wave off unnecessary expenditure. The entire day is spent managing funds, while the evening brings a lot of positive energy with it. You prefer to sit back and relax.



CAPRICORN

You may feel utterly disappointed as all of your hard-work 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.



AQUARIUS

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 you worried. But it is likely to be a crisis which will blow over soon. Do not let it stress you out, says Ganesha.



HEARD TAKES A TRIP 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



Secret behind PC's Hollywood success

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 journey.

Priyanka said there was no roadmap, only trial, error and the willingness to learn as she went along.

Asked how she protected her sense of identity while constantly reinventing herself for global audiences, Priyanka in an exclusive interview with this news agency, said: "I 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."

IAN S

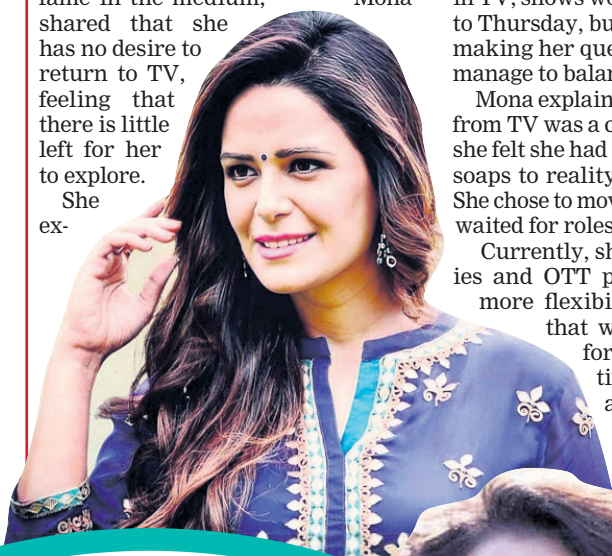
Mona on quitting TV

Mumbai: Actress Mona Singh, best known for her role in the iconic TV show *Jassi Jaisi Koi Nahin*, has opened up about her decision to quit television. Despite her early fame in the medium, Mona shared that she has no desire to return to TV, feeling that there is little left for her to explore. She ex-

pressed frustration with the demanding nature of television, where shows air continuously throughout the week, leaving little room for personal life. She reflected on how, during her time in TV, shows would air from Monday 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 relatively calmer timelines and the ability to re-charge between projects. Mona has three films lined up for next year and continues to balance both movies and OTT work. AGENCIES



Tamannaah celebrates life's little moments

Mumbai: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia gave a glimpse into 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.

IAN S



Aamir's bewilderment

Mumbai:

Aamir Khan recently 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 experimental. 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 entertain, 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



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

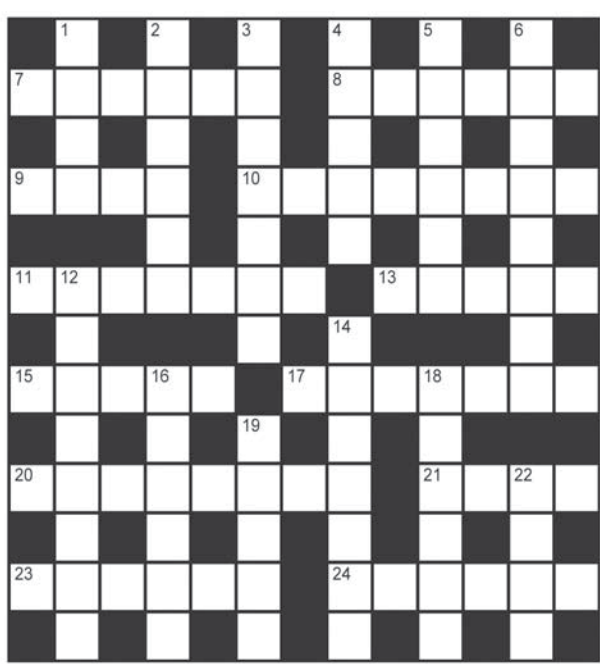


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**

7 Baby's bed (3,4)

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
- 17 Take a hike! (3,4)

20 Rude

21 Song for a diva

23 Main course

24 Calamitous
- Down**

1 Duet plus one

2 Rotten to the core

3 Fireballs
- 4 Casual attire

5 Receive

6 Phantasms

12 Missile attack warning

14 Rules out

16 On the yacht

18 Guanaco relatives

19 Femme fatale

22 Rainbow goddess

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

R	A	U	C	O	U	S		B	E	E	T	S
O	N		P	E		O	M	E				
T	R	I	D	E	N	T		G	A	B	L	E
F	N	T		U		A	R					
M	A	Y	B	E		L	O	S	E	R	S	
E		R	E			G		B				
M	I	M	O	S	A		O	P	P	O	S	E
O		A		Q		L		A				
B		U	R	E	A		A	L	T	E	R	
O		D	E		A	T		I				
R		U	L	E	R		I	C	E	C	A	P
A		I		I		N	A		R	K		
L		U	N	G	E		T	S		U	N	A

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Modern auditing practices key to good governance: Guv



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Friday stressed the need for transforming auditing practices to meet the demands of modern governance. Speaking at the 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 resources. Governor also praised Odisha’s progress in adopting technology-based systems and mentioned initiatives like ‘Samadhan’, 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 delivered the 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 Annual 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 (OWCP) 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 OWCPs collectively handle nearly 13 tonne of organic waste generated daily by BWGs, in-

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 compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. This initiative marks a major leap forward in BMC’s ‘Zero 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 emissions, minimises wealth centre load, supports livelihood-based utilisation models, and operationalises a circular waste ecosystem 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 Usha Padhee, emphasised that 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



POST NEWS NETWORK

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 Saranjit 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 research. 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 management.

BJD leader booked for ‘defamatory’ remarks against PM Modi, Majhi



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: An FIR has been registered against BJD leader Manmath Routray for allegedly making defamatory comments against Prime Minister 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 Bhubaneswar has registered 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 Thursday on the basis of a written complaint lodged by state BJP leader Jayant 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 information report (FIR). The allegations of the complaint amount to “defamation and harming the reputation”, he said.

BUP protests towing drive, arbitrary penalties

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Bhubaneswar Unnayan 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, Chandrasekharapur, 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

AGENCIES

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 (CTRITI), 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



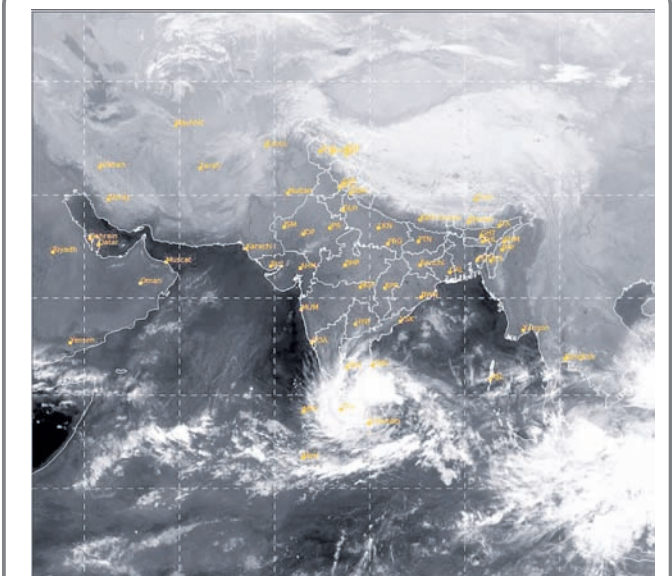
eight assessment criteria. Tata Steel Safety, Health and Sustainability vice president Rajiv Mangal said, “The mid-term assessment review by IUCN not only validates our commitment to nature-based solutions but also establishes a

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 households - 50 engaged in plantation 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.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	89.59 ▲ 0.11	SENSEX	85706.67 ▼ 13.71	GOLD	₹126,400 ▲ ₹896
EURO	103.78 ▲ 0.02	NIFTY	26202.95 ▼ 12.60	SILVER	₹167,902 ▲ ₹5435



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	29.8°	27.2°	Fog/mist in the morning and mainly clear sky later
Min Temp	14.3°	13.6°	
Humidity	65%	76%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

	REGIONAL OFFICE : BHUBANESWAR 1st Floor, Bivab Gulmohar, Behera sahi, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012	POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)
(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 of 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.		
BHIMATANGI BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers/Co-Borrower/Mortgagors/Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties	Demand/ Possession Notice Date Outstanding Amount
Borrowers: 1) Mr. Dillip Kumar Pradhan, S/o.: Banabihari Pradhan, 2) Mrs. Dipa Pradhan, W/o.: Pradi Kumar Pradhan, Both are At: Kunjar, P.O.: Sanglai Sasan, P.S.: Pipili, Dist.: Puri, Odisha-752104 SRO: Pipili, Tahasil: Pipili, 215, P.S.: Pipili, P.S. No.: 61, Dist.: Puri, Odisha, Kissam: Gharabari, in the name of Mr. Dillip Kumar Pradhan and Mrs. Dipa Pradhan, Bounded by North: Revenue Plot No.: 320, South: Revenue Road, East: Rest Part of the Plot, West: Cada Nala	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Property Mouza: Kunjar, Khata No.: 443/340, Plot No.: 297/1371, Area: Ac.0.640 Dec, Corresponds to Khata No.: 443/237, further Corresponds to Khata No.: 149, Plot No.: 297, comes under	19.07.2025 / 25.11.2025 ₹25,44,728.19 as on 13.09.2025 + interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment
Borrower: Mr. Subhakanta Jena, S/o.: Chandra Sekhar Jena, At: Odataraboli, P.O.: Beraboi, P.S.: Delanga, Dist.: Puri, Odisha-752016 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	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Property Mouza: Nuagaon, Khata No.: 191/241, Plot No.: 545, Area: Ac.0.040 Dec out of Area:	19.09.2025 / 25.11.2025 ₹33,14,032.69 as on 13.09.2025 + interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment
Borrower: Mr. Prafulla Biswal, S/o.: Prasanna Kumar Biswal, At: Khandiagiri, Thana: Pipili, 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)	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Property Mouza: Khandiagiri, Khata No.: 107/110, Plot No.: 314, Area: Ac.0.020 Dec, Corresponds to	19.07.2025 / 25.11.2025 ₹28,86,930.19 as on 19.07.2025 + interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment
Borrower: Mr. Dasarathi Das, S/o.: Bisi Das, At: Kanti Kothabada, PO.: Kanti, P.S.: Pipili, Dist.: Puri, 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: Chakanali, East: Rest Part of the Plot, West: Canal Bandha & Plot No.: 228	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Property Mouza: Kanti Kothabada, Khata No.: 487/249, Plot No.: 310/1352, Area: Ac.0.100 Dec,	19.09.2025 / 25.11.2025 ₹40,09,540.23 as on 13.09.2025 + interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment
Borrower: Mr. Ratikant Ray, S/o.: Bijay Ray, At: Humar, P.O.: Beraboi, P.S.: Delanga, Dist.: Puri, Odisha-752016 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, Tahasil: Pipili, No.: 278, P.S.: Pipili, No.: 134, Dist.: Puri, Odisha, Kissam: Gharabari, in the name of Mr. Ratikanta Ray, Bounded by North: Road, South: Rest Part of the Plot, East: Rest Part of the Plot, West: Rest Part of the Plot	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Property Mouza: Abalapur, Khata No.: 159/268, Plot No.: 272, Area: Ac.0.030 Dec out of Area:	19.09.2025 / 25.11.2025 ₹41,88,323.59 as on 13.09.2025 + interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment
Borrowers: 1) Mr. Jitu Ranjan Bal, S/o.: Mr. Ghanishyam Bal, 2) Mrs. Ranjita Bal, W/o.: Mr. Jitu Ranjan Bal, Both are At: Rencha, Delanga Station Bazar, P.O.: Beroboi, Thana: Delang, Dist.: Puri, Odisha-752016 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 Plot, West: Road	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Property Mouza: Abalapur, Khata No.: 159/199, Plot No.: 40/607, Area: Ac.0.03748 Square Kadi out of Area: Ac.0.07370 Square Kadi, Corresponds to Khata No.: 1, Plot No.: 40,	19.07.2025 / 25.11.2025 ₹31,18,924.84 as on 19.07.2025 + interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment
Borrower: Mrs. Diptimayee Guru, W/o.: Kabindra Guru, At: Bolakana, P.O.: Beraboi, P.S.: Delanga, Dist.: Puri, Odisha-752016 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 Mrs. Diptimayee Guru, Bounded by North: Revenue Plot No.: 272, South: 25 Feet Wide Road, East: Rest Part of the Plot, West: Rest Part of the Plot	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Property Mouza: Abalapur, Khata No.: 159/236, Plot No.: 271, Area: Ac.0.030 Dec, out of Area:	19.09.2025 / 25.11.2025 ₹42,60,014.18 as on 13.09.2025 + interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment
Borrower: Mr. Bapina Nayak, S/o.: Mr. Bijaya Nayak, At/PO.: Khelaur, Pipili, Dist.: Puri, Odisha-752016 Khata No.: 191/241, Plot No.: 545, Area: Ac.0.045 Dec out of Area: Ac.0.420 Dec, Status: Shitibhan, 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	Equitable Mortgage of Immovable Property under Dist.: Puri, Tahasil: Delanga, P.S. No.: 126, under the	



Mini-PMO Experiment

For 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 choreography 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 instinct wins.

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 Khaliur 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, signalling, 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

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

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
- Let us not pray to be sheltered from dangers but to be fearless when facing them.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE
- Don't be seduced into thinking that that which does not make a profit is without value.

ARTHUR MILLER

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 Cheyenne 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.

power post

FOCUS COP 30

FRAGILE CONSENSUS

Brazilian President 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 example 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



Chandra Bhusan

THE WORLD NEEDS A NEW MULTILATERAL ARCHITECTURE FOR A NEW PHASE OF CLIMATE ACTION



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 UNFCCC 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 UNFCCC 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

Asserting Africa’s aspirations

The 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



DK Giri

SOUTH AFRICA BRINGING CRITICAL MINERALS TO THE CENTRE-STAGE SHOULD FEED INTO TRUMP’S G-20 AT DORAL, FLORIDA NEXT YEAR

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

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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



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 situation 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



@Akshat World

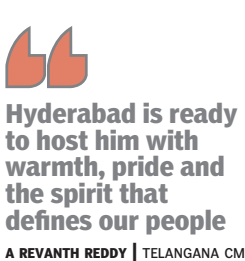
Former Union minister Sriprakash Jaiswal dies

Former Union minister Sriprakash Jaiswal dies

Kanpur/ New Delhi: Former Union minister and veteran Congress leader Sriprakash Jaiswal died in Kanpur Friday following a cardiac arrest. He was 81. Jaiswal was first taken to a local nursing home in Kidwai Nagar this evening after this condition worsened and then shifted to the Cardiology Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Jaiswal married Maya Rani Jaiswal in 1967 and survived by two sons, one daughter and two grandchildren. His family was with him during his final hours. He held significant portfolios in the UPA government led by Manmohan Singh.

Chaibasa: A woman was killed and two others were injured in an IED blast in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district Friday evening, police said. The improvised explosive device (IED) exploded in the Saranda forest under the 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 Uttarakhnad, 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 Ash Nokh Nagar police station, they said.



New Delhi: Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister M Veerappa Moily Friday said the current Congress 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 unexpected but a result of prolonged negligence by senior party leaders. Moily asserted 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 that the party failed to put in place mechanisms to address emerging disagreements, allowing them to grow into a full-blown impasse.

Top court dismisses Byju's plea against NCLAT order

New Delhi, Nov 28: The Supreme Court Friday dismissed a plea of Byju Ravendran, the promoter of Think and Learn Private Limited that operates ed-Tech firm Byju, challenging an NCLAT order which has mandated that the settlement of the BCCI's claim be placed before the Committee of Creditors.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan dismissed the appeal against the April 17 order of the Chennai bench of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) and asked senior counsel Navin Pawha, representing Ravendran in the matter, to proceed further.

In its April 17 order, the NCLAT said the approval of the Committee of Creditors (CoC) was necessary for the application filed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to withdraw the insolvency proceedings against Byju's.

The top court noted that in July, it dismissed the appeals filed by the BCCI and Riju Raveendran, the younger brother of Byju Raveendran and co-founder of Byju, against the same NCLAT order.

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 constituted during the pendency

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,

of the proceedings and had allowed the parties to seek remedies relating to the withdrawal and settlement of claims “in compliance with the legal framework governing the withdrawal of the CIRP”.

Pahwa contended that the earlier petition in the apex court was filed at the pre-CoC stage and the panel was formed during the pendency of that matter. The bench, however, disagreed with his contentions, saying, “The moment we accept your argument, we frustrate the entire process.” Pahwa said the petitioner has paid the BCCI from his own pocket but now, the whole complexion of the dispute has changed.

The insolvency dispute revolves around a settlement between Think and Learn Private Limited and the BCCI, which had initiated the insolvency process over unpaid sponsorship dues July 16, 2024.

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 just four months into their marriage.

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



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

ED finds ₹331 crore in Rapido driver's account



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 trag-

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

"The phenomenon of dowry deaths represents one of the most abhorrent manifestations of this social malaise, where the life of a young woman is extinguished within 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.

25 recent hotels in Thailand, adding that it would work to rescue the remaining 300 still caught up in flood zones.

of the day

quote

We have all seen trade being weaponised. We have all seen the importance of having trusted partners 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 sector

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

PIROISHA GODREJ | EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON, GODREJ PROPERTIES

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 announcement Friday, Meesho said the maiden public offering will close December 5, with anchor investors set to receive 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 total issue size to ₹ 5,421 crore.



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 landscape

ACHIN GUPTA | CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, CIPLA

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



Economy outpaces world despite tariffs

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

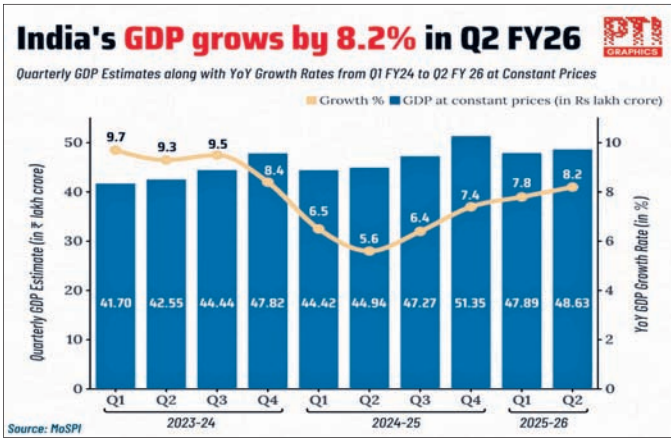
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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



- 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 continue to advance reforms

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

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 full-year target at the end of October, according to official data released Friday.

The fiscal deficit was 46.5 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) of 2024-25 in the first seven months of the previous financial year.

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 lakh crore.

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 subsidies.

Asian Paints inks pact with BCCI

POST NEW NETWORK

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 matches.

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 spirit come alive. At Asian Paints, we have always believed in the power of colour to shape how people live, feel, and express themselves and this association strengthens that belief.

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

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 Municipality, as well as in Salepur and Tangi blocks. The inauguration ceremony was attended by CDOs 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), Sitarang Square (Jatani), and Cantonment Road (Cuttack).



TPCODL bags Odisha CSR Excellence Award



Bhubaneswar: 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

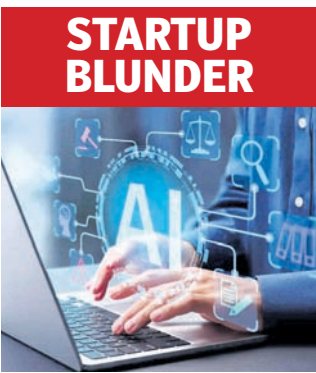
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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



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

NDA's' era."

"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 observed. 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 just want you to think it was a mistake when it wasn't," one user remarked.

DRIVING INTO HISTORY BOOKS

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

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.

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.

The Formula 1 Academy and 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 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



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

ATIQA MIR

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

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 Friday.

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, 11-



4. Srikanth will take on Mithun 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 minutes against Minoru Koga of Japan, who will take on Hong Kong's Jason 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 Amsakaranun 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 Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. The age-group 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. Sooryavanshi, 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. Ajeet Yadav (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 aerial 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.

The Indians continued their attacking game and secured their second penalty corner in the 25th minute and Dilraj scored from

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 BCCI protocols, and timely execu-

tion 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 Lebanon.

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 history.

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

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Under the bright lights of the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee 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

with his exceptional economy 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 victory.

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 (Nov 30 at Lucknow)

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 Angeles Olympics.

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 future 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.

Messi confirms Hyderabad visit

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 Telangana 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



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

GOAT TOUR OF INDIA

cancellation of Argentina's proposed friendly in Kochi, which had been originally announced by Kerala Sports Minister V Abdulrahiman for November 17.

The revised plan ensured that Messi's 'GOAT Tour' would span all the four corners of India -- east (Kolkata), south (Hy-

derabad), west (Mumbai) and north (New Delhi).

Satadru Dutta, the sole organiser 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 International 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 matches, musical events, meet-and-greet sessions, masterclasses for children and felicitation ceremonies across four cities.

Messi will start his tour in Kolkata December 13, followed by Hyderabad the same evening, before travelling to Mumbai December 14 and concluding in New Delhi December 15.