



Kriti's revelation

Actor Kriti Sanon talks about her most complex and challenging role she has ever played to date

LEISURE | P2



Netanyahu seeks pardon

Israeli PM Netanyahu asks the President for a pardon, saying his corruption trial impedes governing and harms Israel

INTERNATIONAL | P10



FPIs resume selling

After a brief pause in Oct, foreign investors resume selling, pulling out a net ₹3,765 crore from Indian equities in November

BUSINESS | P11



Thumping victory

India beat South Africa by 17 runs in the first ODI at Ranchi, take 1-0 lead in 3-match series

SPORTS | P12



JOYRIDE: People enjoy a water sports ride at Juhu Beach in Mumbai, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

State most attractive MSME hub: Majhi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday said Odisha has become the country's most attractive destination for small industries. He said this while addressing the Odisha Industrial Conclave 2025, organised by Laghu Udyog Bharati at the Railway Auditorium in City. He said the event would play a key role in encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation in the state's fast-growing MSME sector. Reiterating the government's vision of "Viksit Odisha, Viksit Bharat", the CM said that Odisha aims to become the MSME gateway of Eastern India. He also highlighted several reforms undertaken by the govt. **P3**

No promotion sans property list: Govt



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The state government has asked its employees to submit their updated annual property statements for being considered for promotion, officials said. The General Administration (GA) department issued an order in this regard November 27, which came to the fore Sunday, they said. "As per the Odisha Government Servants' Conduct (Amendment) Rules, 2021, up-to-date filing of property statements is a prerequisite for promotion. However, several departments have sought clarification about it at different times. So, a fresh circular was issued with clarification," an official said. "Any government employee who has not submitted the up-to-date property statement before the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) shall be treated as 'not suitable' for promotion," he said. Filling of the vacancy will not be kept on hold for em-

ployees who failed to submit the property statements. The government will fill up the vacancy based on the eligibility of the employees who have complied with the property statement requirements, the official said. As per the circular, if any defaulting employee submits the required property statement after the DPC meeting within a grace period allowed by the government, and is found otherwise suitable for promotion, his promotion may be considered in the subsequent DPC meeting. "He/she can be granted notional promotion from the date on which his/her junior was promoted, and his seniority shall be maintained," it stated.

Filling of the vacancy shall not be kept on hold for employees who failed to submit the property statements, a GA dept notification said

Usually, employees are required to submit the statements in January. The government issued the circular after noticing that a significant number of employees had failed to submit their statements within the deadline, the official said.

Over 320 Indians stranded in Sri Lanka

Colombo: Over 320 Indian nationals stranded at Colombo airport following the extreme weather conditions in cyclone Ditwah-hit Sri Lanka, were sent back home on IAF and commercial airline flights Sunday. The Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka facilitated the evacuation of 323 stranded Indians from Bandaranaike International Airport here in coordination with the Indian Air Force and other relevant officials. "Further evacuation of stranded passengers through commercial airlines is also underway," the Indian High Commission said. **P11**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Sorry, no credit for BLOs - only cash. Who knows if you'll ever return

SIR shadow over Winter Session

The turmoil over Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is all set to make a comeback after the Monsoon Session, a little over three months ago, as the Opposition is gearing up to sharply criticise the Union government and demand a full discussion on the contentious issue. Despite Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju's appeal to the Opposition to let both Houses run smoothly, several members raised serious concerns, pointing to the reported deaths of at least 40 people during the SIR exercise. They accused the Election Commission of using the process as a pretext to disenfranchise voters by deleting names from the rolls

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 30: The Winter Session of Parliament begins Monday under the shadow of SIR with several parties uniting against it and threatening to stall proceedings in both Houses if a discussion is not allowed on it.



At an all-party meeting convened by the government to seek the Opposition's support for smooth functioning of Parliament, several parties raised the demand for a discussion on SIR of electoral rolls together with issues of national security in the wake of the Delhi blast and air pollution in the national capital. Issues like foreign policy, price rise, unemployment, new labour codes and federalism amid charges that Governors sitting on Bills passed by state legislatures and funds of opposition-ruled states being held up were also raised and would come up during the session. At the meeting, Parliament-

ry Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the House must be allowed to function. "This is the Winter Session of Parliament and everyone should think and conduct themselves with a cool mind," he told reporters after the two-hour long meeting. "Parliament should not be stalled and it should function smoothly. The government will keep discussing with all parties to ensure smooth functioning of the House," he said. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh termed the all-party meeting "a mere formality" and this view was repeated by Samajwadi Party's Ramgopal Yadav. Ramesh said the 15-day session will be the shortest in Parliamentary history, as the Narendra Modi government has listed 13 Bills for passage. Trinamool Congress leader Kalyan Banerjee said his party is ready to cooperate in running the House provided treasury benches also cooperate. "The government should allow a discussion on issues such as SIR. Forty persons have lost

EC extends SIR schedule by a wk

The Election Commission (EC) Sunday extended by one week the entire schedule of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in nine states and three Union Territories amid allegations by opposition parties that the "tight timelines" were creating problems for people and ground-level poll officials. In a statement, the poll authority said the enumeration form distribution will now continue till December 11 instead of December 4. The draft electoral rolls will now be published December 16 in place of December 9.

their lives conducting SIR exercise," Banerjee said, alleging that the objective of EC is to delete votes through SIR. Meanwhile, BJD's Sasmit Patra said all parties demanded a discussion on SIR, but his party wants a discussion of the electoral reforms.

Sonepur weaver crafts 14.5-m-long Ikat wall hanging

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, Nov 30: Celebrated weaver Prafulla Meher has created an exceptional wall hanging featuring all 700 verses of Bhagavad Gita's 18 chapters, woven entirely in fine Ikat (Bandha) technique. The work will be unveiled Monday to mark 'Gita Jayanti'. Meher, 63, a passionate weaver of Gokarneswarpada in Sonepur, produced the textile using intricately dyed and bound threads to form miniature Sanskrit lettering. The hanging measures 14.5 metre in length and 30 inch in width. The project, completed Sunday, took more than four-and-a-half years and the support of 27 weavers. The 'bandha' tying alone consumed nearly three-and-a-half years, with eight artisans assisting initially and 12 more later. Dyeing the thread required two weavers working for four months, while untying the 'bandha' knots took another six months. Three weavers manned two looms to complete the final weaving in three months. Meher said he drew inspiration from his late father, Anantarama, a devoted follower of Bhagavad Gita. "This was a labour of love and discipline. It demanded immense patience, but my father's devotion encouraged me throughout," he said. Born into a weaving family in Biramaharajpur region of the district, Meher showed an interest in 'bandha' art since childhood. After completing his studies, he joined the state's Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts department. During his service, he showcased his talent and received the National Merit Certificate in 1992.



DSPL-388

ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ
ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

ଅନୁର୍ଜାତୀୟ
ଭିନ୍ନକ୍ଷମ ଦିବସ-୨୦୨୫
(୧-୩ ଡିସେମ୍ବର ୨୦୨୫)

ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଅତିଥି

ଶ୍ରୀ ନିତ୍ୟାନନ୍ଦ ଗଣ୍ଡୁ
ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଓ ଗଣଶିକ୍ଷା, ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜନଜାତି ଓ ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜାତି ଉନ୍ନୟନ,
ସଂଖ୍ୟାଲଘୁ ସମ୍ପ୍ରଦାୟ ଓ ପଞ୍ଚୁଆ ବର୍ଗ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ଏବଂ ସାମାଜିକ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ଭିନ୍ନକ୍ଷମ ସଶକ୍ତିକରଣ

ଗରିମାମୟ ଉପସ୍ଥିତି

ଶ୍ରୀ ବାବୁ ସିଂ
ବିଧାୟକ, ଏକାମ୍ର, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର

ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ସୁଲୋଚନା ଦାସ
ମେୟର, ବି.ଏମ.ସି. ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର

ପଦଯାତ୍ରା
କଳିଙ୍ଗ ଷ୍ଟୁଡିଓ ଛକରୁ ସୋଆ ଷ୍ଟାଡ଼ିୟମ୍
୧ ଡିସେମ୍ବର ୨୦୨୫ | ସକାଳ ୭:୩୦

ସୋଆ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ କ୍ୟାମ୍ପସ-୨, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର

ସାମାଜିକ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ଭିନ୍ନକ୍ଷମ ସଶକ୍ତିକରଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
Today even if you are alone, you may not really feel lonely. You will desire to listen to your inner self, so that you can express yourself more imaginatively. Ganesha says spend the evening with your beloved who can listen to your voice in your silence also.

TAURUS
Your romantic relationship will be working on an over-drive today, says Ganesha. You will discover answers to the finer aspects of your love life. Overall, you will have a refreshingly creative outlook all through the day. It is a favourable day for those who cherish unrequited love, says Ganesha.

GEMINI
Today, you are likely to rack your brains to get things done. But your modesty will not do you any good. You will have to show that you are the boss, even if you are not. Your extraordinary brilliance will translate into exceptional performance and will save the day. Never forget that your family is the foundation of your success, says Ganesha.

CANCER
Today, you may focus your entire attention on your relationships – your ties with your parents, spouse, children, siblings and even neighbours. However, all that effort and energy may not get its due, and you may get a cold response from one or more of your relatives. Still there is no reason to lose heart. Ganesha feels that they will come around some other day.

LEO
The bourgeoisie feasted on cake, while the masses starved for want of a mere loaf of bread. Ganesha foresees something similar for you today, as you show the propensity to indulge in unwanted expenses. Whether it is impulsive decisions or compulsive buying, they shall not serve as an excuse on a later date when the milk is already spilt. Remember the fable of the Grasshopper and the Ant? Learn to exercise restraint.

VIRGO
You may relieve all the tension and pressure inside you today, a day which will be full of light and relaxing moments. Ganesha foretells a beneficial and progressive day for you. You will receive many invitations to social gatherings and parties.

LIBRA
Today, you will be in a mishmash of emotions and feelings. Also, there are chances of accumulated feelings finding an outlet. Your capacity for emotional display may take people by surprise. However, you will also enjoy the higher responsibilities reposed on you, predicts Ganesha.

SCORPIO
While not the Trot, you shall, however, trot on the lines of radicalism today, predicts Ganesha. Learn to think as you would, and always have, but act as others would have you to, advises Ganesha. Be the maverick that you are only with those who are closest and dearest, cautions Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
The winds of fortune will usher in your dreams and make them come true. Be careful not to go overboard with your foresightedness, lest they be marked delusions, warns Ganesha. You must realise that the only thing permanent is change, and hence, you must overcome any disappointment with strong will and determination.

CAPRICORN
You will be overpowered with nostalgia and may long to get in touch with old pals. And as Ganesha says, chances are that you may take a liking to your ex-lover, while simultaneously strengthening your social standing. All in all, the day will be a productive one.

AQUARIUS
Today, you will iron out any trouble with ease. But you may choose to play martyr and shoulder a bit of blame. That's quite a lot to do for others, even if it is done out of compassion. You may think you are setting standards for others to follow, says Ganesha, but that may not be the case.

PISCES
Major expenses are coming your way, but the good news is a lot of them can be avoided simply by drawing a line between your needs and your wants. Exercising a little restraint now will go a long way in boosting your savings later on, says Ganesha.



HUDGENS WELCOMES SECOND CHILD WITH HUSBAND TUCKER

Actor-singer Vanessa Hudgens and her husband and professional baseball player Cole Tucker, announced the birth of their second child Sunday. Hudgens shared a post on her Instagram handle, which featured her in the labour room. The duo got married in 2023. They welcomed their first child in 2024

TURNER NEW FAVOURITE IN JAMES BOND RACE

Actor Callum Turner is now a big favourite to take over as James Bond. Bookmakers have sharply cut his odds from 5/2 to 7/4, pushing him past Henry Cavill, Theo James and Harris Dickinson, *The Telegraph* reported. Many now see him as the most likely successor to Daniel Craig



Richa on transforming mindset

MUMBAI: Actress Richa Chadha, known for her fearless attitude and always speaking her mind, shared that she was not always like that and has worked on transforming her mindset.

Richa revealed she used to be a pushover in her 20s.

Citing a particular incident, the *Fukrey* actress was heard saying, "The person that you see today, who is 'bindaas' and confident, and bold, all those adjectives that have been added to my name in the public, I wasn't always like this. In my 20s, I was such a pushover that one day I woke up, and I was on a set, and I was like, "When did I sign this movie? What happened? Why am I doing this item song kind of gyration?" This is a typical male gate. The director is telling me I need a

male choreographer, and you need to do like thrusts, and I'm like, who are these dated efforts? What is going on?"

Sharing how one is subjected to constant judgement in the industry, Richa went on to say, "I realised somebody has just came like a manager, telling you what to do and you think okay this is what I should be doing, I should not be doing this, this is what I should be doing, all the while they'll be rating you and they're like you know maybe your lips are or maybe your face is a bit like, what are you doing, you know stop drinking water 3 days before the song, stop having salt." **IAN S**

MUMBAI: With just two weeks remaining for the mini-auction for the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL), West Indies cricketer Andre Russell has announced his retirement from the tournament.

Bollywood star and the owner of the Kolkata Knight Riders, Shah Rukh Khan, shared a heartfelt tribute on social media for the cricketer as he takes on a new role as KKR's power coach.

Andre has become a part of Abhishek Nayar's new coaching setup, along with Shane Watson and Tim Southee.

SRK shared that Andre will be passing on his experience and power game to the younger generation.

Reacting to Andre's video announcing his retirement, King Khan wrote on the micro-blogging site, "Thank you for the wonderful memories, Andre. Our Knight in shining armour!!! Your contribution to @KKRiders is one for the books...(sic)".

Talking about the cricketer switching positions as the power coach in the team, Shah Rukh added, "And here's to another chapter in your fantastic journey as a sportsman... The power coach - passing down the wisdom, the muscle and of course the power down to our boys in purple and gold... And yes, any other jersey would indeed look weird on you my man... Muscle Russell for life! Love u...!!!" **IAN S**



SRK thanks his 'knight in shining armour'

MUMBAI: Singer, actor and host Sophie Choudry recently took center stage as the host of the lavish Udaipur wedding of US billionaire's daughter Netra Mantena, who married Vamsi Gadiraju. She also posted photos with Jennifer Lopez from the event, which sparked trolling online. Some users questioned how she had "survived in Bollywood without work," prompting Sophie to respond with confidence.

Sharing a picture with JLo, Sophie called her an artist she has admired for over two decades. When an X user questioned, "Yaar Sophie, I still don't understand how you have survived in Bollywood bina kaam ke. No films, no web shows, not even songs. We have only seen you in bits and pieces, so how have you survived #Bollywood?"

Replying to him, Sophie explained that

she has built a strong career in the live show market. For 17 years, she has been one of the busiest performers for corporate and wedding events and is regarded as the top female host for live

shows. She added that just because she isn't seen frequently on screen doesn't mean she lacks work.

Another troll accused her of being a "wannabe" and suggested she begged Jennifer Lopez for a photo. Sophie shut this down, saying she simply requested it as the show's host and Lopez graciously agreed. **AGENCIES**



SOPHIE CLAPS BACK AT TROLLS

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

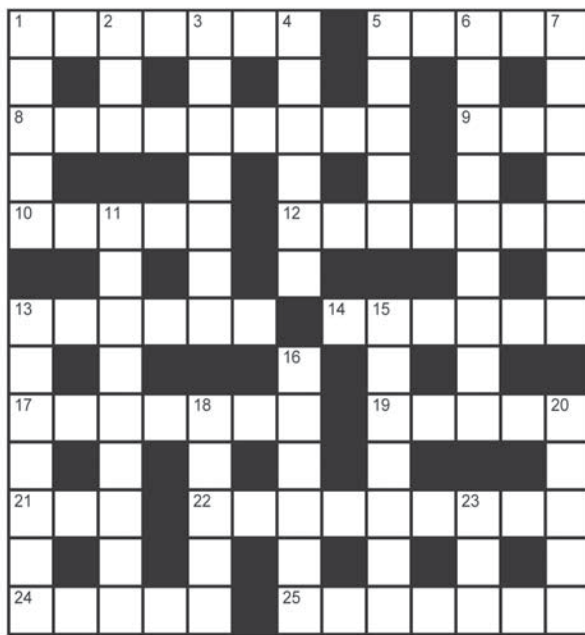


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- Ermines, e.g.
- Unit of length
- Cruise ship accommodations
- Upholstery problem
- Latin dance
- Wrench
- Sales lure
- British automaker
- Environs

Down

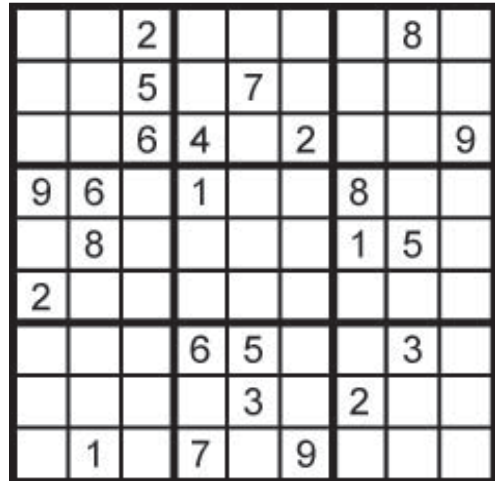
- Some stingers
- Menu words
- Deluxe
- Better half
- Fastener
- Luau souvenir
- Miss the runway?
- Hostile force
- Lots and lots, poetically

5

- African killer
- Wolf spider
- Kind of penguin
- Gigolo
- Drive back
- Charge of wrongdoing
- Cry of satisfaction
- Often-missed humour
- Burger starter
- Possess

SUDOKU

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

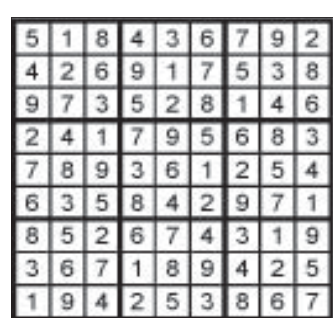


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

ODISHA INDUSTRIAL CONCLAVE 2025

Odisha aims to be Eastern India’s MSME gateway: CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Re-iterating the government’s vision of “Viksit Odisha, Viksit Bharat,” Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday said Odisha aims to become the MSME gateway of Eastern India. He was speaking at the Odisha Industrial Conclave 2025, organised by Laghu Udyog Bharati here at the Railway Auditorium.

Addressing the gathering, the CM said the event would play a crucial role in encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation in the state’s fast-growing MSME sector.

Speaking about Odisha’s progress, CM Majhi said the state has now emerged as India’s most attractive destination for MSMEs, strengthened by the government’s commitment to turning the dreams of 4.5 crore people into reality.

He highlighted several major reforms undertaken by the government in recent years to support industrial development. He noted that under the Go Swift Single Window System, project approvals that once took months are now being granted within a single day. Odisha has also invested 6.1 per cent of its GSDP in infrastructure this year — the highest among all Indian states.



Majhi emphasised Odisha’s strong legacy of craftsmanship, noting that artisans from Pipli, Raghurajpur, Sambalpur and Gopalpur are celebrated across the world. Odisha’s youth, he said, are excelling in IT, animation, fintech and startups, while women-led SHGs are exporting world-class products.

He described the state’s flagship Subhadra Yojana as a transformative initiative that is empowering rural women through small businesses. “This is not just a welfare scheme — it is a mission to make mothers financially self-reliant,” he said. The programme has already helped create 17 lakh ‘Lakhpati Didis’, and he expressed hope that it would cultivate a culture of entrepreneurship among women across the state.

Majhi praised Laghu Udyog Bharati for its contribution to Odisha’s industrial growth,

supporting over 980 industrial units, generating employment and strengthening the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. Globally, he noted, 90 per cent of businesses and nearly 50 per cent of jobs come from the MSME sector. “Small businesses not only contribute to the economy — they enrich it,” he said.

The CM also welcomed Laghu Udyog Bharati’s plan to open a new office in Bhubaneswar, saying it would further boost industry-government cooperation at district and grassroots levels.

Speaking at the event, MSME Minister Gokulananda Mallik said Odisha is rapidly evolving into a major economic force. The government is taking consistent steps to promote local products, strengthen MSMEs, support artisans and reinforce local supply chains — changes he said will transform Odisha’s industrial landscape in the coming years.

MUSICAL CONCERT

Artistes perform classical music in Swarabhishek’s 13th annual festival ‘Ragamanjari’ at Gita Govinda Sadan in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



POLITICKLE by MANJUL



KISS confers honoris causa degrees

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The 5th Annual Convocation of the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) was held Sunday, where Honoris Causa degrees were conferred on Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP and Chairman, Prajatantra Prachar Samity; Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, Founder-Editor of The Sambad and former MP and Jagadananda, Co-founder and Mentor, CYSD.

The event was attended by distinguished international leaders, including Faizal Edavalath Kottikollon, Founder & Chairman of KEF Holdings, UAE, and JM ‘Meenu’



Malhotra DL, Chairman of Malhotra Group PLC and Honorary Consul General of India to Newcastle, UK, as guests of honour.

Chief guest Ganeshi Lal, former Governor of Odisha, praised KIIT and KISS founder Dr. Achyuta Samanta, calling his

work “a monument for the world to see.” He added, “Dr Samanta teaches ‘die before you die’ — the crux of the Gita.” Nobel Laureate Ouided Bouchamaoui of Tunisia lauded KISS and Dr. Samanta for “not only building an institution but building

peace,” stressing that education remains “the most effective tool of peace and tranquility.” Upon receiving the honour, Mahtab described KISS as a “truly special” institution and said its students embody Odisha’s shakti. “KISS brings innocent buds and makes them bloom. I thank Dr. Samanta for bringing these young minds here and giving them the gift of education,” he said. International philanthropist Faizal Kottikollon said, “Education is the only tool that can transform a nation. Dr. Samanta is a testament to what education can do for society.”

Global business leader Malhotra said the honour would motivate him to contribute even more to society.



ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ
ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ



ସଡ଼କ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ନିୟମ ମାନନ୍ତୁ
ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ଭାବେ ଘରକୁ ଫେରନ୍ତୁ



ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଲିକ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

DSPL-391

ବକେୟା ଇ-ଚାଲାନ ବୋର୍ଡରୁ ମିଳିବ ମୁକ୍ତି
ଏକକାଳୀନ ପୌରେ ସରକାର ଦେଉଛନ୍ତି ରିହାତି



୩୧ ଜୁଲାଇ ୨୦୨୫
ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ବକେୟା ଥିବା
ଇ-ଚାଲାନରେ ଲାଗୁ



ବିଜୟ ପ୍ରକାଶର
୬ ମାସ ଯାଏଁ
ଯୋଜନା ଦେଖ



ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ
୨୨ଟି ଧାରାରେ
ନିୟମ ଉଲ୍ଲଙ୍ଘନ କରିଥିଲେ
ମିଳିବ ରିହାତି

ଅନ୍ଲାଇନ୍ରେ ପୌ ପାଇଁ
<https://echallan.parivahan.gov.in>

ମନେରଖନ୍ତୁ

- ଗାଡ଼ିର ଇ-ଚାଲାନ ବକେୟା ଥିଲେ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତରେ ଆପଣ ସମସ୍ତ ପ୍ରକାର ମୋଟରଯାନ ଆଇନ୍ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧୀୟ ସେବାକୁ ବଞ୍ଚିତ ହେବେ
- ଏଥିରୁ ବର୍ତ୍ତବା ପାଇଁ, ଆଜି ହିଁ ନିଜର ବକେୟା ଇ-ଚାଲାନ ପୌ କରନ୍ତୁ

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LABOUR CODES
MADE EFFECTIVE

“The nation is proud of its workforce. Shramev Jayate!”
-Prime Minister, Narendra Modi

MODI GOVERNMENT’S GUARANTEE FOR BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

- Minimum and timely wages for all workers
- Overtime work is now consent based with pay at double the wage rate
- Uniform national safety standards applicable
- Free annual health check-up for workers
- Provision of crèche and canteen based on worker count
- Welfare benefits to migrant workers made portable



Labour Reforms for Aatmanirbhar Bharat

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BJD to raise poll irregularities issue in Parl’s Winter Session



BJD MPS WILL ALSO RAISE ISSUES RELATED TO INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, DEMAND FOR SPECIAL CATEGORY STATE STATUS, AND RISING CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Naveen Patnaik-led BJD Sunday said it will join other opposition parties to demand a detailed discussion on electoral transparency in the Winter Session of the Parliament.

The Winter Session, which will begin Monday, will conclude December 19. This Winter Session has 15 sittings, which the opposition has claimed to be the shortest in Parliamentary history.

“There has to be a detailed discussion in the Parliament on the electoral transparency and silence of the Election Commission on the matter. The BJD will join other political parties and hope that the EC come good on it and such issues are discussed, otherwise it is dangerous for democracy,” senior BJD leader Sasmit Patra told PTI after attending an all-party meeting in New Delhi.

“We have recently seen large-scale electoral irregularities in the Nuapada bypoll. The voter turnout in Nuapada was over 80 per cent, which was outrageous. Such a high turnout was never seen in the past,” he claimed.

Patra said the BJD had approached the EC several times on “electoral discrepancies”, which allegedly happened in the 2024 elections.

“However, the EC has been completely silent on it. We want

Assembly polls that were held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha elections.

The BJD, which is not part of any coalition, has been criticised by other opposition parties for rescuing the BJP on crucial legislation and elections by providing unconditional support at the national level, even as it opposed it in the state.

The party not only lost the Assembly polls, but also failed to win a single Lok Sabha seat last year. It now has seven members in the Rajya Sabha.

Patra also said that the BJD would work towards strengthening federalism in the country. “We are a regional party and have been focusing on federalism. There is a need to strengthen federalism in the country,” he said.

Patra said the BJD MPs will also raise in the House issues related to inflation, unemployment, the demand for special category state status for Odisha, and rising crimes against women and children in the state.

He said cases of corruption in the state, including the sub-inspector recruitment scam, will be raised in the Parliament.

“The party will also demand quick resolution of the Polavaram and Mahanadi disputes, doubling of the MSP on paddy, revision of coal royalty and establishment of AIIMS in Sambalpur, Koraput and Balasore,” he said.

Vocational teachers’ future in peril: Lenka

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Indian Youth Congress national general secretary and former state president of Odisha Pradesh Youth Congress Smruti Ranjan Lenka has raised serious allegations of corruption and favouritism within the Odisha State Education and Promotion Agency (OSEPA), warning that the future of professional vocational teachers in the state is under threat.

In a release, Lenka criticised the allocation of schools to private companies, highlighting that while over 110 companies applied under the expression of interest for new and existing schools, only 21 were awarded. “Companies that performed poorly and were previously blacklisted, received more than 100 schools, while high-performing companies received fewer allocations,” Lenka said, accusing OSEPA officials of accepting money from certain companies to grant them undue favours.

The investigation reportedly revealed that a committee, allegedly biased and influenced by vested interests, had violated rules and facilitated this favouritism. Lenka alleged that even departmental transfers were manipulated to protect officials involved in corruption.

Lenka also raised concerns over the plight of 2,122 vocational teachers who have been serving in state schools since 2016.

Experts push for sustainable tech solutions to achieve SDGs



Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The 26th Odisha Science and Environment (Bigyan ‘O’ Paribesh) Congress and the first International Conference on ‘Sustainable Green Frontiers’, jointly organised by Orissa Environmental Society (OES) and KIIT University, concluded here Sunday after three days of intensive deliberations on science, technology and sustainability.

Delivering the keynote address on ‘SDGs: Science & Technology Innovations’, former secretary to Government of India Arun Kumar Rath stressed the crucial role of scientific research and technological innovation in achieving the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 global targets by 2030.

The plenary sessions witnessed presentations from distinguished experts including IIHR Bengaluru Director Tusarkanti Behera, University of Delhi Botany HoD Dinabandhu Sahoo, former GRIDCO MD Trilochan Panda, Walter Luyten from Katholieke University, Belgium and OUTF VC Bibhuti Bhusan Biswal who addressed

diverse thematic areas of SDGs.

A panel discussion on ‘Science and Technology Innovations – Challenges and Prospects’, chaired by former NIT Rourkela director Sunil Sarangi, featured Subhranshu Bhusan Ray, Binod Chandra Choudhury, Nisith Kumar Mohanty and Gopal Chandra Kundu. Another session on ‘SDGs: Solving Global Challenges’, chaired by former VC Pradeep K Chand, included Sarat Kumar Palita, Dukhabandhu Sahoo and Amit Krishna De.

At the valedictory ceremony, presided over by OES working president Jayakrushna Panigrahi, chief guest and Central University of Tamil Nadu former VC Padma Shri Aditya Prasad Dash highlighted the urgent need to accelerate S&T-based interventions to meet the 2030 SDG deadline. Guest of honour Bibhuti Bhusan Biswal echoed the call for collaborative scientific progress.

On the occasion, Dash was honoured with the ‘Excellence in Life Sciences Award’ for his significant lifetime contributions to research. Best Paper Presentation awards were also presented to young researchers.

Influencer booked for ‘propaganda’ on Srimandir

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Trouble mounted for social media (SM) influencer Subhankar Mishra after a senior servitor of Srimandir in Puri filed a police complaint Sunday, accusing him of hurting the sentiments of Lord Jagannath’s devotees.

In his complaint, Gourahari Pradhan alleged, “For the past few days, a social media influencer named Shubhankar Mishra is trying to mislead today’s youth by spreading propaganda in the name of Lord Jagannath’s temple, the spiritual centre of crores of Odias.”

Pradhan further alleged that Mishra, in his social media statement regarding the “curse of Maa Radha Rani”, failed to clarify from which Puranas or authentic sources he derived this claim.

“This is cheap publicity. I

strongly oppose such acts of playing with the emotions of millions of Jagannath devotees. It is causing me mental and physical distress. Any attempt to spread slander in the name of Mahaprabhu Jagannath will not be tolerated,” he stated in his complaint.

He urged the police to conduct a thorough investigation into the matter and take strict action against the guilty.

Meanwhile, Puri District Superintendent of Police Prateek Singh told media persons that the FIR has been accepted and a probe will follow.

Singh also stated that all audio and video recordings of Mishra’s statements will be gathered.

Legal advice will be sought, and inputs from the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) will also be obtained as part of a comprehensive investigation.

Rally against Gadakana dump yard Dec 2

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The ‘Save Sainik School, Remove Gadakana Garbage Dump’ campaign has announced an awareness rally December 2, marking National Pollution Control Day.

The rally will be held demanding the immediate shutdown of the long-running garbage dumping yard at Gadakana.

The decision was taken at a crucial meeting of the campaign held Saturday. According to the organisers, residents of the affected areas, social activists, local public representatives, and several prominent citizens will participate in the rally.

The rally will commence from Sainik School Gadakana and proceed to the statue of Veer Surendra Sai, where floral tributes will be offered before concluding. Worthwhile to mention here that during discussions with the campaign representatives, Housing and Urban Development department Principal Secretary, Usha Pad-



REPRESENTING CULTURE: Artistes perform tribal dance at Kalanjali Lokakala Mohatsva 2025 at Bhanjakala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

Dy CM distributes certified seed potato at Athagarh

Cuttack, Nov 30: With an aim to promote quality seed availability, strengthen potato production, and support farmers with improved planting material for the upcoming Rabi season, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo distributed certified seed potato to farmers, under the scheme ‘Development of Potato, Vegetable & Spices’, at Jagamohanpur, Keutapada and Dhurushia in Athagarh Sunday.

Gracing the occasion as chief guest Deputy Chief Minister addressed the gathering, emphasising state’s focus on increasing potato productivity, reducing dependence on



imports and strengthening agricultural supply chain. Singh Deo also reiterated the government’s commitment for supporting farmers through various schemes and interventions. At the outset upon arrival all the guests, officials and participants listened to the ‘Man ki Baat Address’ by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Delivering

the welcome address, Horticulture Director Kalunge Gorakh Waman highlighted the significance of high quality seed distribution in boosting potato production and productivity across the state and ensuring farmers welfare.

Athagarh MLA Ranendra Pratap Swain encouraged farmers to adopt the high yielding

varieties of certified seed potato and improved cultivation practices in order to have enhanced production.

OSSC MD Niti Ranjan Sen addressed the gathering and elaborated on the corporation’s efforts in timely supply of certified seed potato to meet farmer demand across the state.

As of the official record of the department, 1,40,000 quintals of seed potato has been dispatched and 91,633 quintals of seed potato has been distributed among farmers in different districts.

In Cuttack, the government plans to cover 800 hectare for potato cultivation during Rabi season out of which 270 hectare will be covered in Athgarh sub-division.

SAI UNWIND 2025 draws over 25k visitors

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Over 25,000 visitors participated at one of India’s largest student-led cultural festivals UNWIND 2025, organised by SAI International Education Group. The 17th edition, themed ‘Limitless Beyond: Reach the Stars!’, turned the campus into a vibrant space of creativity, energy, and learning, led by the fest’s mascot, Kung Fu Panda, symbolising courage, joy, and determination.

Conceptualised and executed by students of Class XI Commerce and Humanities, UNWIND continues the vision of festival founder Late Bijaya Kumar Sahoo. The event promotes experiential learning, fostering creativity, confidence, entrepreneurship, and emotional intelligence beyond textbooks.

The festival was inaugurated by NALCO Chairman-cum-Managing Director Bijendra Pratap Singh, who praised the students for their leadership and innovation. He urged them to embrace resilience, adaptability, and perseverance, sharing the inspiring story of Tenzing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary as a remind-



er that “failures are stepping stones to success”.

Speaking on the occasion, SAI International chairperson Silpi Sahoo said, “UNWIND 2025 showcases the boundless potential of our students, shaping future-ready leaders rooted in values, empathy, and global excellence.”

As part of the inauguration, chief guest presented the Business & Humanities Model Awards and toured student-led stalls, appreciating their entrepreneurial spirit. UNWIND is also philanthropic, with proceeds supporting the ‘Bijaya Kumar Sahoo 100 Libraries Project’, aimed at building libraries for government and private school students in Bhu-

baneswar and Cuttack.

As part of the ceremony, 30 students from ‘Palli Unnayan Seva Samiti’, a residential school for underprivileged children, were invited to experience the fest and gifted books under the library project.

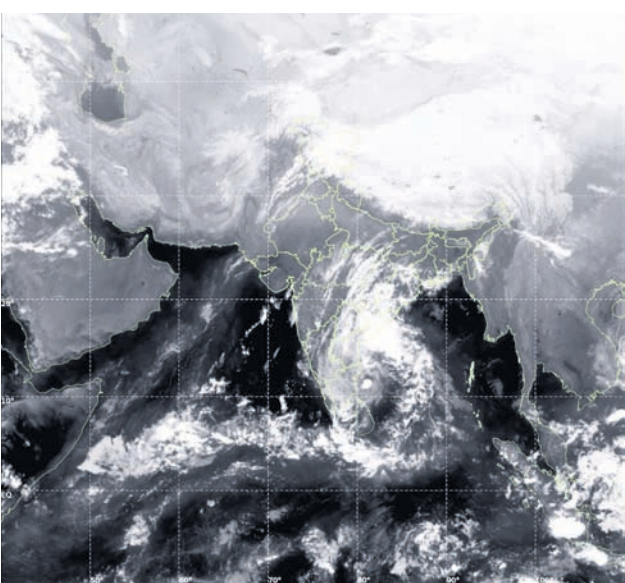
Visitors enjoyed a wide range of activities, including global gourmet experience, E-Sports battle zone, heritage ensemble stage, family play arcade, explorers’ action park, flash mobs, carnival rides, and a celebrity gala evening. The day concluded with high-energy performances by renowned bands ‘Bullet’ and ‘Bohemians’, leaving a lasting impression of creativity, collaboration, and youthful spirit.

ating in densely populated residential areas without proper approval from the Pollution Control Board, campaign members alleged.

Despite being located adjacent to Sainik School, and in close proximity to several educational institutions including universities, RRL, and Kendriya Vidyalaya, the dumping operations have continued unchecked. Residents within a 7-km radius are reportedly suffering from severe health hazards and unbearable living conditions.

Campaign members accused the authorities of overlooking the significant environmental and health risks, calling the Pollution Control Board’s inaction “deeply irresponsible”.

The meeting was attended by Basudev Bhatt, Dilip Dash Sharma, Ashok Paikarar, Prasanna Bisoyi, Bhikshakari Tripathy, Lalat Keshari Jena, Chintamani Barik, Sandipta Dash, Jayasurya Kanungo, Sarada Prasad Dash, Shankarshan Barik, and Satyabrata Mohanty, among others.



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	29.2°	27.0°	Dense fog very likely to occur
Min Temp	18.1°	16.2°	
Humidity	74%	82%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	



Credibility Loss

In its latest annual review, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has assigned a ‘C’ grade to India’s national accounts statistics — a category that includes crucial economic indicators such as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the Gross Value Added (GVA). Grade ‘C’ is the second-lowest rating and signals that the data has shortcomings significant enough to hinder accurate economic assessment. The IMF’s downgrade has revived the debate over whether India’s economic statistics truly reflect the state of the economy or whether structural gaps and methodological issues are distorting the whole picture. Ironically, just days after this IMF review, the National Statistics Office (NSO) came with the quarterly GDP numbers. According to NSO data, the Indian economy grew by a higher-than-expected 8.2 per cent – a six-quarter high – in the second quarter (July to September) of the current financial year.

It is pertinent to note here that over the past decade, India’s GDP numbers have increasingly come under scrutiny from economists, global institutions, and investors, triggering a larger debate about the reliability of official data released by the country. The NSO data on GDP released every quarter has been constantly placing India as the world’s “fastest growing” major economy. Despite this, foreign investors are shunning India. Over the last 21 months, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have pulled out a whopping Rs 3.19 lakh crore from Indian equities, evidencing a sustained trend of foreign capital exit. Also, the high unemployment levels and sluggish private capital investment do not jell with the robust GDP numbers. Indians living in India are surely experiencing the slowest grinding economy the country has ever seen.

According to the IMF’s Article IV assessment, India’s national accounts are published regularly and on time, and they offer a reasonable level of detail. However, the Fund notes the presence of important “methodological weaknesses” that hamper effective surveillance of the economy. The IMF’s concerns extend well beyond GDP estimates. India’s main inflation gauge — the Consumer Price Index (CPI) — has been given a ‘B’ grade. While CPI data is released monthly, and with minimal delay, the IMF argues that the index is based on an outdated structure. The base year, the basket of items, and the expenditure weights have not been updated since 2011–12. This implies that the index may no longer reflect contemporary consumption patterns as a result of which inflation readings may not accurately capture the lived experience of consumers. Perhaps this explains why the government gives inflation figures in single digits even as a majority of the country’s population experiences that the cost of living is unbearably high and increasing on a daily basis. Everything, from essentials to healthcare to recreational activities, has become exorbitantly expensive and beyond reach of common citizens.

India has also delayed its all-important Census by six years. While the last Census was conducted in 2011, the next one was scheduled for 2021. But it has been postponed, initially due to the CoVID-19 pandemic and subsequently because of administrative and technical issues. The government has now scheduled the Census for 2026-27. Such inordinate delay in vital data release could lead to policy paralysis.

Accurate, credible and timely data is critical for any economy, but for a developing economy like India, it is all the more essential. Reliable data is the foundation on which investors, policymakers, businesses, and global institutions make decisions. When data is inaccurate, inconsistent, or lacks transparency, the entire system suffers. Hotmail cofounder Sabeer Bhatia recently said that India is calculating its GDP wrong. “The whole country is lying, our GDP is all wrong,” he remarked, illustrating flaws in calculation calling it basic math.

If India aspires to become a developed economy our government and policymakers must, first of all, understand that credibility is the strongest currency. Political considerations must not be allowed to hamper truth to come to light. Sadly this country today cannot boast of any institution that is independent, impartial and unbiased. Replacing a single individual with another person seems to successfully pervert all the output of any organization. That is making all current data suspect in India of today. A country that is forced to offer 60% of its population free rice and parties in power offer small amounts of money as sops to attract votes shows the real picture about the nation’s economy.

WISDOM CORNER

Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER

It's in responsibility that most people find the meaning that sustains them through life. It's not in happiness. It's not in impulsive pleasure.

JORDAN PETERSON

The more in harmony with yourself you are, the more joyful you are and the more faithful you are. Faith is not to disconnect you from reality - it connects you to reality.

PAULO COELHO

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1761: Marie Tussaud, the founder of Madame Tussaud's museum of wax figures, was born in France.

1825: Russian Emperor Alexander I died unexpectedly in southern Russia.

1913: The world's first moving assembly line debuted, used in manufacturing Model Ts at a Ford factory in Highland Park, Michigan; the innovation was the idea of owner Henry Ford, and it revolutionized the auto industry.

1918: The Kingdom of Iceland was established with the signing of the Act of Union with Denmark. The act recognized Iceland as a sovereign state under a common monarch with Denmark, and the Kingdom lasted until 1944 when a national referendum created the Republic of Iceland.

1925: Germany, France, Belgium, Great Britain, and Italy signed the Pact of Locarno, a series of agreements intended to guarantee peace in western Europe.

1943: Tehran Conference ends. The Tehran Conference between the US, the UK, and the Soviet Union ended with the three countries deciding to open up a second front against Germany in France, and the Soviet Union agreeing to declare war against Japan.

1955: Rosa Parks's refusal to relinquish her bus seat. This day in 1955, in violation of segregation laws in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks refused to surrender her bus seat to a white passenger and was arrested, sparking a 381-day bus boycott led by Martin Luther King, Jr.

1959: The Antarctic Treaty was signed by 12 countries, making the Antarctic continent a demilitarized zone to be preserved for scientific research.

power post

FOCUS FOREIGN AFFAIRS

TRUMP’S CRONY DIPLOMACY

Federico Fubini

IN OMAN, QATAR, AND SAUDI ARABIA, AS WELL AS IN VIETNAM, THE TRUMP ORGANIZATION HAS CUT DEALS WORTH BILLIONS OF DOLLARS WITH SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUNDS AND PRIVATE LOCAL INVESTORS

The most shocking feature of US President Donald Trump’s 28-point peace plan for Ukraine is not its explicit and extreme bias toward Russia, exemplified by the recognition of Russian sovereignty over occupied (and even unoccupied) Ukrainian territory and the diktat to downsize Ukraine’s military radically. Rather, it is that the plan was devised by three operatives – two American, one Russian – whose experience lies in business, not diplomacy, and whose main qualification appears to be their close personal and financial connections to their respective countries’ leaders.

On the US side, the plan’s main author was special envoy Steve Witkoff – a billionaire real-estate developer, cryptocurrency mogul, and longtime Trump crony, who has emerged as the president’s go-to adviser on sensitive global issues. Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner was reportedly also involved in the plan’s creation, albeit to a lesser extent. Despite lacking any formal government authority, Kushner has regularly been enlisted by Trump to work on matters of war and peace.

Russia’s main representative, Kirill Dmitriev, similarly lacks any official foreign-policy authority or diplomatic credentials, but is a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Dmitriev is not your typical Putin crony. The head of Russia’s sovereign wealth fund, he got his start not in the KGB, but as a 14-year-old exchange student in the United States during the hopeful years of Mikhail Gorbachev. He went on to study at Stanford and Harvard, graduating to positions at McKinsey and Goldman Sachs. But his most important “qualification” is not listed on his résumé: his marriage to television presenter Natalia Popova, a close friend and business partner of Putin’s daughter, Katerina Tikhonova.

Witkoff, Kushner, and Dmitriev are what the social anthropologist Janine Wedel calls “transactors”: players who op-

In April, Pakistan’s government signed a controversial investment deal with World Liberty Financial, a cryptocurrency firm majority-owned by the Trump family, whose CEO is Witkoff’s son, Zach

erate on both flanks of the public-private divide and advance, in collusion with players from the opposite side, personal agendas that supersede their countries’ interests or objectives. Their lack of formal credentials is not a bug but a feature, as it allows them to shift roles easily and act in nimble and unconventional ways.

The crony-style machinations behind the Ukraine peace plan are apparent in leaked transcripts of a phone call in which Witkoff appears to be advising a Russian official on how Putin should pitch a deal to Trump. In another call, Dmitriev is heard advising the same official to present “maximum” demands, an approach that is clearly reflected in the 28-point plan Dmitriev later drafted with Witkoff and Kushner in Miami.

For the US, this crony diplomacy is more than a departure from tradition; it is a renunciation of it. The US has highly experienced and meticulously structured diplomatic and intelligence services. Yet, under Trump, entrusting the leader’s family and friends to handle issues of national concern – with no accountability or transparency – has become the norm. The problem with this approach is apparent from the outcomes: never before have US negotiators acquiesced to such brazen demands, with such weighty consequences, as Kushner and

Witkoff have. Of course, previous US presidents have embraced informal diplomacy. In the run-up to World War I, President Woodrow Wilson had his friend Colonel Edward House act as his “agent” in talks with European leaders. In the 1990s, President Bill Clinton’s administration effectively outsourced its economic policy toward Russia to a small group of Harvard economists who enjoyed the trust of then-Treasury Deputy Secretary Larry Summers.

But the shortcomings of this approach were apparent even then. Some of those handpicked Harvard economists violated ethics guidelines by investing in Russian securities while they advised Boris Yeltsin’s government on privatization. (The university later paid a large settlement to the Department of Justice.) In the Trump administration’s case, Secretary of State Marco Rubio had to be called in to reassure Ukrainian and European leaders, who were outraged by the Dmitriev-Witkoff draft “peace” plan.

But Trump is not about to second-guess his embrace of crony diplomacy. Throughout his political career, and especially since his return to the White House in January, Trump has overtly disdained ethics, accountability, and reliability, viewing his office as a tool to expand his personal wealth. While the details of

Trump’s business dealings remain opaque, self-enrichment may well be the through line of Trump’s foreign policy – a pattern that authoritarian leaders around the world have undoubtedly noticed.

In April, Pakistan’s government signed a controversial investment deal with World Liberty Financial, a cryptocurrency firm majority-owned by the Trump family, whose CEO is Witkoff’s son, Zach. Around the same time, Trump introduced his “reciprocal tariffs,” under which Pakistan received better treatment than many others, including India. In July, the Trump administration announced that it had reached a trade agreement with Pakistan.

In Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, as well as in Vietnam, the Trump Organization has cut deals worth billions of dollars with sovereign wealth funds and private local investors. Moreover, Kushner’s Miami-based investment fund received billions of dollars from the Qatari and Saudi sovereign wealth funds, and from a prominent member of Abu Dhabi’s ruling Al-Nahyan family.

It is impossible to know what kinds of business deals Trump and his cronies will strike following a Ukraine peace deal, but the Dmitriev-Witkoff pact – which stipulates that the US will lead “efforts to rebuild and invest in Ukraine” – suggests that they will be lucrative. Trump-linked US firms may already be making deals in Russia. While Trump’s quest for enrichment is undeniable, it would be simplistic to say that this is the only reason he prefers informal operators and unconventional approaches. It is in the nature of personalist regimes to eschew experienced officials and established state institutions, in favour of “outsiders” who are loyal to the leader above all. The longer this goes on, the weaker America’s democratic infrastructure will become, and the more unhinged its foreign policy will become.

The writer is editor-at-large at Corriere della Sera.

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SPECTRUM ECONOMY

Consumption-driven import surge

Shivaji Sarkar

AS LONG AS GOLD IMPORTS CONTINUE UNCHECKED, INDIA’S CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT WILL REMAIN UNDER PRESSURE

India is in a gold loop. Swiss refineries and Indian consumers are weakening the rupee. The country’s import appetite now threatens its macroeconomic stability. India’s external vulnerability widens with gold, gadgets and a slipping rupee. The newly ratified India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement is expected to deepen trade and investment ties with Switzerland. Yet the irony is stark: India’s exports to Switzerland remain negligible. In 2024–25, India exported barely \$1.51 billion worth of goods to Switzerland while importing \$22.4 billion, generating one of its most lopsided bilateral trade deficits. The imbalance is driven almost entirely by gold, which forms the overwhelming bulk of Swiss exports to India. Over the last four years, trade with Switzerland has grown at a modest CAGR of 4.62%, but the structure remains fundamentally skewed, reflecting a high-value, high-dependency import pattern and minimal Indian presence in Swiss markets.

This imbalance feeds into a

much larger macroeconomic problem: India’s persistently large trade deficits and rapidly rising external debt, both of which exert continuous, structural downward pressure on the rupee. As imports surge—especially crude oil, gold, electronics, chemicals, medical devices, and other high-value consumer and industrial goods—the demand for dollars rises, weakening the rupee and widening the current account deficit. The deterioration in the balance of payments is no longer just a statistical challenge; it is actively shaping investor sentiment.

Foreign direct investment, once a bright spot, has been sluggish. Meanwhile, foreign portfolio investors pulled out \$16 billion during the year, further amplifying the rupee’s decline. The depreciation then sets off a reinforcing loop: a weaker rupee makes imports costlier, fuels inflationary pressures, and complicates debt servicing for both the government and corporates holding dollar-denominated loans. Against this backdrop, the unchecked rise in non-essential imports is becoming economically untenable. India

continues to import large volumes of gold, silver, consumer electronics, gadgets, luxury goods, footwear, plastics, furniture, and premium food items—products that do little to enhance productivity or support export competitiveness. Much of this consumption is driven by affluent urban households, yet the macroeconomic burden is borne by the entire economy.

The policy inconsistency on gold is particularly striking. Despite being one of the biggest drains on foreign exchange, gold was conspicuously excluded from the latest round of selective duty hikes—much to the relief of the India Bullion and Jewellers Association. The bullion trade has deep historical roots in the Gujarati business community, with major refiners such as the Gujarat Bullion Refinery playing a central role. Switzerland, the world’s gold-refining hub, remains India’s dominant supplier. As long as gold imports continue unchecked, India’s current account deficit will remain under pressure.

It is time for the government to confront this reality with greater urgency. India needs a clear, assertive policy framework that

links non-essential imports to export performance, ensuring that domestic consumption patterns do not erode macroeconomic stability. A phased strategy to expand export manufacturing, enhance competitiveness, and shift export composition toward high-value sectors is essential.

The broader challenge is structural and longstanding. India’s export base remains narrow and heavily dependent on low-value goods—pharmaceutical generics, textiles, petrochemicals, and agricultural products—while its import appetite, particularly for electronics, gold, and capital goods, continues to outpace domestic production capabilities. Without deliberate, targeted action, this gap will only widen, making the country more dependent on external financing.

India’s growth story remains compelling, but it cannot rest on GDP numbers alone. Unless the country reins in its consumption-driven import surge and realigns its trade strategy with long-term economic priorities, the burden on the rupee, the debt profile, and the country’s external stability will deepen.

INFA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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Fight against HIV

Sir, World AIDS Day, observed every year on 1 December, serves as a reminder of the global commitment to strengthening awareness, prevention, and care related to HIV/AIDS. India’s response in this area has grown remarkably over the decades, supported by expanded testing and treatment services, wider ART (Antiretroviral Therapy) availability, Mission Sampark, Universal Viral Load Monitoring, and the rights-based protections introduced through NACP, NACO, and the HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act of 2017. These measures have helped build a strong public-health foundation that reaches communities across both urban and rural regions. Reflecting the 2025 global theme—“Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response”—India continues to focus on resilient, inclusive strategies to address the evolving needs of people living with or vulnerable to HIV. Community-centred initiatives, digital health platforms, and grassroots partnerships are strengthening the national response, even as challenges like stigma, delayed diagnosis, treatment adherence issues, and vulnerabilities among high-risk and migrant populations require sustained attention. Together, these efforts and realities underscore the progress achieved so far and the continued commitment needed to reach the 2030 goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Choreographed camaraderie

Sir, The ostensible rapprochement between Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar during their choreographed breakfast encounter is merely a transient, optics-driven construct engineered by the Congress high command to pre-empt further public ignominy. Beneath the carefully curated bonhomie persists an unresolved and increasingly combustible contest for supremacy that continues to destabilise the state’s political equilibrium. This tactical interlude serves only to momentarily obscure the deeper leadership disequilibrium roiling the party in Karnataka. Absent a coherent and amicable resolution, the latent rivalry threatens to re-scalate with destabilising consequences for governance in the state. For now, the détente remains brittle, superficial, and inherently unsustainable.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Dharamgarh, Dist-Kalahandi	Nos. of works	At 10.00 A.M.	P.M.	11.30 A.M.
N.B. : Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation to the above notice will be published in the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in				
OIPR-32483/11/0004/2526				Sd/J- Superintending Engineer U.I.L.C.D. No.II, Dharamgarh

of the day **quote**

There was a time when entire communication, sharing, daily business was in Sanskrit. Now, some American professor teaches us Sanskrit, when in reality we should have been teaching it to the world. Many children today do not know some very basic and simple words and often speak at home in a mix of their mother tongue and English

MOHAN BHAGWAT | RSS CHIEF

At booth number 189 in the Narela assembly constituency, in house number 70, where the Madhya Pradesh Shikshak Sangh office is located, 30 people have been shown as residents, even though only one person actually lives there. The remaining 29 names are bogus additions

DIGVIJAYA SINGH | CONG RS MEMBER

India has become the fastest-growing economy in the world. At the same time, there should be unity in the country. Therefore, taking inspiration from Ekta Yatra, the path shown by Sardar Patel - nation first, party next, self last- we all should work keeping these principles in mind, irrespective of caste, creed, religion and region. India is one

M VENKAIASH NAIDU | EX -VICE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Veteran Kannada actor MS Umesh dies at 80

Bangalore: Veteran Kannada actor Mysore Srikantayya Umesh died Sunday following a prolonged illness, family sources said. He was 80. Umesh had been battling cancer for some time and was recently admitted to a hospital, where he breathed his last. His last rites were performed at Banashankari Crematorium. The actor's career spanned over five decades, during which he appeared in more than 350 films.

Ladakh LG's residence renamed 'Lok Niwas'

Leh: Ladakh's Raj Niwas, the official residence and office of Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta, has been renamed 'Lok Niwas'. Gupta emphasised that the renaming of LG's residence strengthens direct engagement with citizens. Terming it a landmark initiative towards inclusive and accessible governance, an official spokesperson said the step follows the Union Home Ministry's November 25 directions that all Raj Bhavans be renamed Lok Bhavan and Raj Niwas be renamed Lok Niwas across the country.

Mercedes hits 3; leaving one dead

New Delhi: A 23-year-old man died, and two others were injured after a Mercedes SUV (G63) allegedly rammed into them near a mall on Nelson Mandela Marg in upscale Delhi's Vasant Kunj area early Sunday, police said. The accident occurred at 2.33 am when a PCR call was received at Vasant Kunj North police station.

4 killed as 2 SUVs collide in Bhopal

Bhopal: Four men were killed and one was injured when two Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) collided head-on in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal district, police said Sunday. The accident occurred late Saturday night under Berasia police station limits, located 60 km from here, they said.



Parliament should not be stalled and it should function smoothly. Government will keep discussing with all parties to ensure smooth functioning of the House

KIREN RIJUJU | PARL. AFFAIRS MINISTER

FLYER ACCUSED OF MISBEHAVING WITH FLIGHT ATTENDANT ARRESTED

A software employee was arrested for allegedly misbehaving with a female flight attendant on board an Air India flight from Dubai to Hyderabad, police said Sunday



MAMKOOTATHIL ROW

Cong continues to keep itself away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 30: The Congress in Kerala Sunday continued to keep itself away from the controversy surrounding its suspended Pakakkad MLA Rahul Mamkootathil, who is facing police action in a rape case lodged by a woman.

The party maintained that it had already taken all possible action against the legislator. AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said the Congress has never tried to run away from the issue, while senior leader K Muralaeddharan said the party has nothing to say about Mamkootathil's activities as he is under suspension.

KPCC president Sunny Joseph and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly

VD Satheesan have already made the party's stand clear on the matter, Venugopal said while talking to reporters in Alappuzha.

"Compared to any other party, the Congress has taken all possible action in this matter. All leaders have unitedly taken the decision earlier," he said. Muralaeddharan, who had been adopting a strong stand against Mamkootathil ever since the allegations surfaced, said the MLA had participated in some party programmes recently in his constituency on his own.

The party has now given instructions to him not to participate in any more programmes, he said here. When reporters pointed out that Mamkootathil had reportedly gone into hiding after the woman lodged a complaint, Muralaeddharan said the party has nothing to say as he is under suspension.

Sharing similar views, Palakkad DCC president A Thankappan said the party leadership has not given any direction for Mamkootathil to take part in the poll campaign of any party candidate contesting in the upcoming civic body polls.

He might have attended a few campaign events, but that was not under the direction of the party, he said.

Woman 'marries' lover's body after family kills him

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nanded, Nov 30: A 21-year-old woman showed how deeply she was in love with her boyfriend, who was allegedly killed by her father and two siblings, by "marrying" his corpse in Maharashtra's Nanded district.

Videos of Aanchal Mamidwar's act at the deceased's home and her call for her kin to be hanged for the killing went viral on social media.

According to police, her boyfriend Saksham Tate (20) was standing with his friends in the old Ganj area Thursday



evening when a fight erupted between him and Aanchal's brother Himesh Mamidwar. Himesh allegedly fired at

Saksham, the bullet piercing his ribs, and then smashed a tile on his head, killing him on the spot, the official said. Himesh, his brother Sahil (25) and their father Gajanan Mamidwar (45) were arrested soon after, he added.

On Friday evening, Aanchal arrived at Saksham's house while preparations were on for his final rites. A distraught Aanchal then "married" his body claiming it would make their love "immortal", eyewitnesses said. Later, speaking to reporters, she also sought capital punishment for her father

FIR filed against Sonia, Rahul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: Delhi Police has filed an FIR against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi and other accused in the National Herald case on a complaint by the ED as part of the agency's money laundering probe into the high-profile case that alleges that the first family of the party "abused" their position for personal gains.

Official sources and documents said the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police filed a complaint against the Gandhis and seven others October 3.

The police has pressed charges under sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 403 (dishonest misappropriation of property), 406 (punishment for criminal breach of trust) and 420 (cheating) of the IPC in the FIR that names the Gandhis, Congress leaders Suman Dubey and Sam Pitroda, entities like the Young Indian (YI) and Dotex Merchandise Ltd, Dotex promoter Sunil Bhandari, Associated Journals Ltd. (AJL) and unknown others.

These entities are also named as an accused (except unknown others) in the ED chargesheet filed before a Delhi court in April. The court is yet to take its cognisance with the next date of hearing scheduled for December 16.

Slamming the move to file the FIR, Congress general secretary in-charge communica-



BJP dismisses Cong's allegation

New Delhi: The BJP Sunday dismissed as "baseless" the Congress' allegation of "vendetta politics" against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case, and asked the Congress leaders to give an account of the "loot" they allegedly committed instead of giving speeches. Condemning the action, the opposition party also said the National Herald matter is a "completely bogus case" and justice will ultimately triumph.

tions Jairam Ramesh charged on X, "The Modi-Shah duo is continuing with its mischievous politics of harassment, intimidation, and vendetta against the top leadership of the INC. Those who threaten are themselves insecure and afraid."

"The National Herald matter is a completely bogus case. Justice will ultimately triumph. Satyameva Jayate," he said.

Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi said in a post on X that the FIR was "neither wine new nor bottle new nor glasses new".

"One trick wonder of a case where no money moved, where no immovable property transferred yet money laundering invented..." Singhvi posted.

The ED, according to the sources, used powers available to it under section 66(2) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to get the police FIR registered. This section allows the federal agency to share evidence for registration of a criminal predicate offence by a law enforcement agency so that it can subsequently book a money laundering case to take forward the investigation.



A man dressed as Santa Claus walks along a street ahead of the Christmas festival, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Met office: Cyclone 'Ditwah' weakens into deep depression

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 30: Cyclone Ditwah got weakened into a deep depression and the weather system would be centred over southwest Bay of Bengal within a minimum distance of 20 km from the coasts of North Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry by morning of December 1, the Regional Meteorological Centre said.

In an update, the weather office said the Cyclone Ditwah is located about 80 km east of Cuddalore, 130 km northeast of Karaikal, 90 km east southeast of Pondicherry, 180 km northeast of Vedaranyam and 140 km southeast of Chennai.

"The minimum distance of the centre of the cyclone from north Tamil Nadu- Pondicherry coasts is about 80 km. It is very likely to move nearly northwards parallel to North Tamil Nadu- Pondicherry coasts and weaken into a depression around morning of tomorrow (December 1)" the bulletin issued by the Met office late Sunday night said.

"The cyclone is moving at a speed of 5 kmph and the system would be centred over southwest Bay of Bengal within a minimum distance of 40 km and 20 km from the north Tamil Nadu-Pondicherry coastline by the morning of tomorrow,



December 1", the bulletin said.

The system is being monitored by the Doppler Weather Radars (DWRs) at Karaikal and Chennai, it added.

Private weather bloggers said Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Chennai, Chengalpattu and Ranipet districts may have some rains as the cyclone moves closer to Chennai later at night. Earlier, sharp showers triggered by the Cyclone continued to lash several parts of Tamil Nadu, while three persons have been killed in rain-related deaths, the state government said.

The Indian Air Force Sunday intensified its efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka under Operation Sagar Bandhu, while bringing back more than 400 stranded Indians from Colombo in two transport aircraft.

MCD bypolls see 38.51% voter turnout

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: The by-elections to 12 wards of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi went off peacefully Sunday with a subdued voter turnout of 38.51 per cent being recorded till 5.30 pm.

The 2022 MCD polls had recorded a voter turnout of 50.47 per cent. The polling remained completely peaceful, with no untoward incident or commotion reported at any booth, the State Election Commission said. Polling was not disrupted due to technical issues of EVM malfunctions, officials said.

Civic concerns -- including sanitation, water supply, road maintenance, safety and public lighting -- emerged as the dominant issues shaping voter choices in the bypolls.



For most voters, long-standing problems in their neighbourhoods were reason enough to step out to cast their ballot. At many polling stations, elderly were seen queuing up to exercise their franchise and exhorting the younger population to do so. Meanwhile, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) levelled se-

rious allegations, accusing the BJP of "resorting to foul play". It said that in Dakshinpuri ward, a former station house officer was campaigning for the BJP candidate. Chandni Mahal ward recorded the highest participation with a voter turnout of 55.93 per cent and Greater Kailash the lowest with 26.76 per cent participation, according to the State Election Commission.

Among the 12 wards where polling was held, Mundka registered a turnout of 44.50 per cent, Shalimar Bagh-B 36.53 per cent, Ashok Vihar 33.82 per cent, and Chandni Chowk 35.65 per cent. The voter participation in Dwarka-B was recorded at 29.76 per cent, in Dichaon Kalan 37.20 per cent, Naraina 42.76 per cent, Sangam Vihar-A 44.40 per cent, and in Dakshin Puri 40.23 per cent.

Experts blame construction, traffic for Mumbai's AQI spike

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 30: Experts have attributed the spike in the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Mumbai and its satellite cities to increase in the construction activities fuelled by various infrastructure projects as well as vehicular pollution.

On Sunday, the average AQI of Mumbai was 104, which fell in the 'moderate' category. However, the AQI in some parts like the Bandra Kurla Complex was in the 'severe' range. Over the last week, Mumbai has been witnessing hazy mornings.

There are six AQI categories, which are good (0-50), satisfactory (51-100), moderately polluted (101-200), poor (201-300), very poor (301-400), and severe



(401-500). Angshuman Modak, climate scientist with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, attributed the spike in the AQI level to construction activities and vehicular emission

among the sources of pollution but stressed that meteorological factors also play a role in it. Sea breeze circulation is also a factor. During the day, land gets heated up and clean air

from the sea mixes vertically. It is much weaker in the winter. There is no proper vertical mixing of air and same amount of pollutants stays in the city, Modak said. During the monsoon there are southwesterlies and northeasterlies in winters. The northeasterlies, which flow from north to south, push the pollution towards the ocean but that could be weaker this time, he added. Mumbai and its satellite cities are witnessing an urban transformation -- from

multiple Metro rail lines to road works, bridges and other building activities. Slums, chawls, the last of the mills and industrial units are giving way to skyscrapers.

Sushma Nair, scientist with India Meteorological Department (IMD), Mumbai, also attributed the worsening AQI Index to the infrastructure work in the city. Nair said temperature inversion and north-easterly winds are a characteristic of this time of the season when

there is transition to winter. Conditions become favourable for temperature inversion when clearer skies allow the ground to cool rapidly and wind speeds are low. So a layer of cold air gets trapped below warm air. Cold air being dense subsides which does not allow the pollutants to disburse.

However, for a metropolis like Mumbai, dense and tall urban structures can interfere with the air flow that can aid in dispersing the pollution, Nair explained.

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray targeted the state government for the pollution and called it an outcome of "explosion of corruption" with zero planning aimed at benefiting the contractors.

of the day uote

The Election Commission has given no attention to this logical and practical demand. It seems the commission has become insensitive and is unconcerned about the problems of voters

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

The report is out now, and it is there for everyone to see. I think, the report has been able to satisfy all sections of people

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

It seems the government, under the leadership of the prime minister and the home minister, is looking to finish off India's democracy and parliamentary traditions

GAURAV GOGOI | CONGRESS VP LEADER IN THE LOK SABHA

POST OF THE DAY

Make in India : FAILED
Women Safety : FAILED
Swachh Bharat : FAILED
Namami Gange :

FAILED
Demonetisation: FAILED
Pollution Control: FAILED
Inflation Control : FAILED
100 Smart Cities : FAILED
Corruption Control: FAILED
Black Money Return : FAILED
Bullet Train by 2023 : FAILED
Rupee RS 40 per Dollar : FAILED
2 Core Jobs Every Year : FAILED
Farmers Income Double : FAILED
Reducing Unemployment : FAILED
RS15 Lakh in Every Account : FAILED
\$5 Trillion Economy by 2022: FAILED
Now, Narendra Modi talks only about either 2047 or Nehru.

@mohitlaws

SHORT TAKES

Five killed as truck rams into vehicles

Motihari: Five people were killed and several others injured as a speeding truck rammed into several vehicles in Bihar's East Champaran district Sunday, police said. The accident happened on NH27 in the Kotwa police station area in Motihari, they said.

Over 12L devotees visit Sabarimala in 15 Days

Pathanamthitta (Kerala): Around 12.48 lakh devotees have visited the Sabarimala temple in the first 15 days of the mandala-makaravilakku pilgrimage season, officials said Sunday. A Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) release said 12,47,954 pilgrims have reached the hill shrine since the pilgrimage began November 16.

Under pressure BLO hangs self

Moradabad (UP): A 46-year-old booth-level officer (BLO) hanged himself in the storage room of his home here in Baheri village because of work pressure, police said Sunday. Sarvesh Singh was an assistant teacher and was posted in a school in Bhagatpur Tanda village.

BJP, Sena workers come face to face

Thane: The simmering tensions between the BJP and Shiv Sena spilled on to the streets Sunday when activists of the two allies virtually came to blows in Dombivli in the presence of Maharashtra BJP president Ravindra Chavan.



During these winter days, the Himalayan valleys become a part of an experience that lasts a lifetime. If you are planning a trip this winter, be sure to keep the Himalayan valleys in mind

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

SC TO HEAR PLEAS SEEKING FILLING OF VACANCIES IN CIC, SICS TODAY

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Monday pleas seeking filling of vacancies in Central Information Commission (CIC) and State Information Commissions (SICs) amid rising pendency of cases before them



Govt to introduce 2 Bills in LS to replace GST cess on tobacco

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: The government will introduce two Bills in the Lok Sabha Monday to levy excise duty on tobacco and tobacco products, and a new cess on manufacturing of pan masala.

The Central Excise Amendment Bill, 2025, will replace the GST compensation Cess, which is currently levied on all tobacco products like cigarette, chewing tobacco, cigars, hookahs, zarda, and scented tobacco. The Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025, seeks "to give the government the fiscal space to increase the rate of central excise duty on tobacco and tobacco products so as to protect tax incidence," once the GST compensation Cess ends, according to the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill.

The Health Security se National Security Cess Bill, 2025, seeks to levy Cess on the production of specified goods like pan masala. The Government may notify any other goods on whose manufacturing such a Cess can be levied. Sin goods like tobacco and pan masala currently attract a GST of 28 per cent, plus a compensation Cess which is levied at varied rates. Once the compensation Cess ends, sale of tobacco and related products will attract GST plus excise duty, while pan masala will attract GST plus the Health Security se National Security Cess.

Since the GST rate of 28 per cent has been done away with, such sin goods will be subject to the highest GST slab of 40 per cent. "It is proposed to levy the Health Security se National Security Cess to contribute towards the twin purposes of enabling targeted utilisation for public health, as well as national security," according to the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill. The two bills are listed for introduction by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Monday. At the time of the introduction of the GST July 1, 2017, a compensation cess mechanism was put in place for 5 years till June 30, 2022, to make up for the revenue loss suffered by states on account of GST implementation. The levy of compensation cess was later extended by four years till March 31, 2026, and the collection is being used to repay the loan that the centre took to compensate states for the GST revenue loss during the Covid period. Since that loan repayment is going to be fully repaid sometime in December, the compensation cess will cease to exist. On September 3, 2025, the GST Council had decided to continue with the compensation cess on tobacco and pan masala till the loans taken are repaid.

Rival groups open fire at wedding; two guests killed

Ludhiana: Rival groups opened fire at a wedding ceremony on Pakhowal Road here, leaving two guests dead and another injured, police said Sunday. The two rival groups invited by the groom for the wedding Saturday night had an old enmity. While one group was led by Shubham Motta, the other one was led by Ankur. As they came face to face, an argument broke out over some issue, which soon escalated into a clash. Some guests tried to pacify them, but in vain, police said. As the clash intensified, the members of the rival groups opened fire at each other, with police saying at least 20-25 rounds were fired. During the exchange of fire, bullets hit two guests - Vasu Chopra and Neeru - who died at a hospital, while the accused managed to flee the wedding venue, police said. Police have booked the groom who invited the warring groups, while the management of the marriage palace has also been booked for violating security guidelines, police said. Ludhiana Police Commissioner Swapn Sharma said six persons have been arrested in connection with the case so far. Some of the youths involved in the firing have a history of scuffles and quarrels, the officer said.

EC extends SIR schedule by one week

EC officials said the schedule was tweaked to allow its booth-level officials to share details of dead, duplicate and shifted electors with booth-level agents of parties for greater transparency

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: The Election Commission Sunday extended the entire schedule for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in nine states and three Union territories by one week amid allegations by opposition parties that the "tight timelines" were causing problems for people and ground-level poll officials. Election Commission (EC) officials said the schedule was tweaked to allow its booth-level officials to share details of dead, duplicate and shifted electors with booth-level agents of parties for greater transparency.

In a statement, the poll authority said the enumeration form distribution for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) will now continue till December 11 instead of December 4.



The draft electoral rolls will be published December 16 in place of December 9, while the final voter list will be out February 14, 2026, in place of February 7, 2026. The officials said the Commission took the decision to extend the timeline for all phases of the SIR based on internal discussions with the chief electoral officers of the states and UTs where the exercise is underway. "An additional week is being given for sharing details of absent, shifted, dead and duplicate electors by the BLOs with the BLAs before preparing the draft rolls so as to ensure full transparency," a poll panel functionary said.

Booth-level agents (BLAs) are party workers appointed by political parties to help the booth-level officers (BLOs) update the voter list. Presence of BLAs enhances transparency in the exercise. Alleging that at least 40 BLOs have died during the SIR exercise, largely by suicides due to "stress of meeting tight deadlines", the Opposition parties have questioned the timing of the voter list revision. However, the EC has junked these charges, saying the exercise is going on smoothly. Reacting to the EC's decision to revise the SIR schedule, Congress leader Pramod Tiwari said it was an indication that the poll panel knew the timelines were not "practical".

The decision to tweak the SIR schedule comes on the eve of the Winter Session of Parliament beginning Monday.

The last session was a virtual washout amid demands by the Opposition for a debate on the SIR exercise, which was underway in Bihar at the time.

The Opposition leaders,



Workers carry bundles of harvested paddy on their shoulders across a field in Bastar, Chhattisgarh

PTI PHOTO

POLICE BUST PAK-BACKED TERROR MODULE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: The Special Cell of Delhi Police has busted a Pakistan-backed terror module led by gangster-turned-terrorist Shahzad Bhatti, currently based in the neighbouring country, an official said Sunday.

Police have arrested three key operatives of the module - one each from Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh - and seized a semi-automatic pistol, 10 live cartridges, and mobile phones containing incriminating chats and reconnaissance videos from their possession, Additional Commissioner of Police (Special Cell), Pramod Singh Kushwah, said. "The module was involved in the November 25 grenade attack outside the City police station in Punjab's Gurdaspur, which was carried out on Bhatti's instructions. Bhatti has been coordinating operations from Pakistan using encrypted platforms and social media channels," the Additional CP said.

"Those arrested have been identified as Vikas Prajapati alias Betu (19), a resident

naissance videos from their possession, Additional Commissioner of Police (Special Cell), Pramod Singh Kushwah, said. "The module was involved in the November 25 grenade attack outside the City police station in Punjab's Gurdaspur, which was carried out on Bhatti's instructions. Bhatti has been coordinating operations from Pakistan using encrypted platforms and social media channels," the Additional CP said.

"Those arrested have been identified as Vikas Prajapati alias Betu (19), a resident



of Datia in Madhya Pradesh, Hargunpreet Singh alias Gurranganpreet Singh (19) from Firozpur in Punjab, and Asif alias Arish (22) from Bijnaur in Uttar Pradesh," the officer said. He said the breakthrough came after a team started tracking Bhatti's activities,

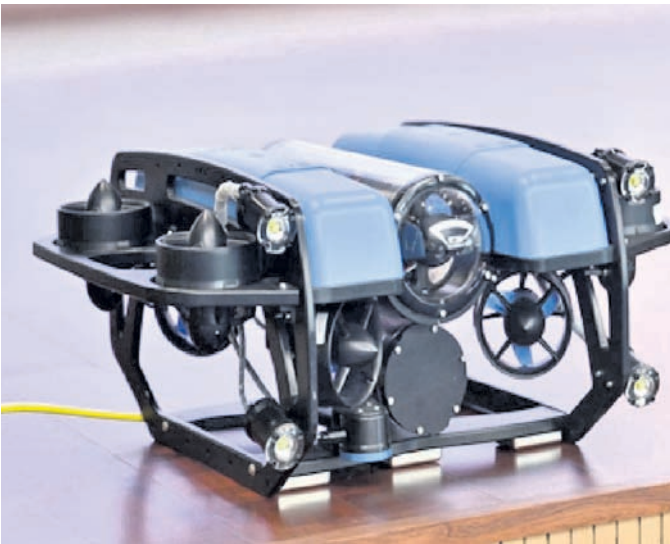
NFR deploys underwater robots for enhanced bridge safety

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Nov 30: The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has successfully conducted extensive underwater and structural inspections of major railway bridges using advanced Remotely Operated Robotic Vehicle (RORV) technology, officials said Sunday. This RORV technology includes critical bridges such as the iconic Saraighat Bridge over the Brahmaputra and several important bridges under the Alipurduar (APDJ) Division in North Bengal.

NFR's Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Kapinjal Kishore Sharma said that the major railway bridges have substructures that remain submerged year-round, making underwater inspection essential

for assessing the condition of foundations, wells and piers. The historic Saraighat Bridge in Assam, India's first rail-cum-road bridge over the Brahmaputra River, spans 1.45 km and connects Pandu and Amingaon. As one of the most vital rail-road lifelines of Northeast India, it was inspected using a combination of RORV surveys, LiDAR, thermal imaging, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and Ultrasonic Pulse Velocity (UPV) tests. The assessments covered pier caps, well foundations, underwater scour zones, superstructure stress points, and deck components. In the APDJ Division, 18 important bridges were inspected thoroughly, with RORV capturing high-resolution visuals of submerged piers, riv-



erbeds and potential defects, the CPRO said.

According to Sharma, across

all these structures, no major underwater defects were detected. During 2024-25, NFR com-

The historic Saraighat Bridge in Assam, India's first rail-cum-road bridge over the Brahmaputra River, spans 1.45 km and connects Pandu and Amingaon

As one of the most vital rail-road lifelines of Northeast India, it was inspected using a combination of RORV surveys, LiDAR, thermal imaging, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and Ultrasonic Pulse Velocity (UPV) tests

pleted underwater inspection of 13 bridges using RORV, and during 2025-26, 34 additional bridges have already been inspected, he stated.

These insights enhance the accuracy of NFR's structural health monitoring and support

the timely planning of preventive maintenance. The official said that the NFR remains committed to utilising modern inspection technologies to ensure the continued safety and longevity of major bridges across the region. The application of RORV, coupled with advanced digital tools, marks a significant step forward in scientific bridge assessment. NFR will continue strengthening its inspection framework to safeguard critical connectivity routes, especially structures like the Saraighat Bridge and key bridges under NFR, which are central to rail operations across the Northeast region. The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) operates in the Northeastern states and in seven districts of West Bengal and five districts of northern Bihar.



of the day

Quote

Starting to-day, Oksana Markarova will continue supporting our state as my Advisor on Rebuilding and Investments



VOLODYMYR ZELENSKIY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

I would be happy to serve as the next chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve if chosen by President Donald Trump



KEVIN HASSETT | WHITE HOUSE ECONOMIC ADVISER

They are demanding real change after being faced with injustice and neglect by almost all parties



ANWAR IBRAHIM | PRIME MINISTER, MALAYSIA

SHORT TAKES

4.4 magnitude quake strikes Nepal province

Kathmandu: Nepal's Bajhang district of Sudur Paschim province was hit by a 4.4 magnitude earthquake Sunday. There were no immediate reports of any damage caused by the earthquake, officials said. The epicentre of the quake that struck at 12:09 pm (local time) was Saipal mountain in Bajhang district, according to the National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre (NEMRC). The tremors were also felt by people living in the neighbouring districts, including Bajura, in the westernmost province, NEMRC said.

Pak, Egypt to boost economic, defence ties

Islamabad: Pakistan and Egypt agreed Sunday to deepen ties in economic, commercial, cultural and defence sectors after years of stagnant relationship. Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, who arrived in Islamabad Saturday on a two-day official visit, held discussions with Pakistani counterpart Ishaq Dar. The two sides held talks on a wide range of issues, including the conflicts in Gaza and Sudan, the dispute over the Iranian nuclear programme and ways to boost economic cooperation.

Nepal EC adds 168 new polling stations

Kathmandu: Nepal's election commission has added 168 new polling stations for the March 5 general election, raising their total number to 10,967, as it also removed 93 outdated or impractical sites, officials said Sunday. According to Election Commission (EC) Spokesperson Narayan Prasad Bhattarai, the nationwide review aimed to improve voter access and address long-standing issues such as inaccurate station names, outdated addresses, and locations that were difficult for voters to access. Some booths were merged or shifted to more suitable sites.

Thousands protest far-right surge

Zagreb (Croatia): Thousands of people Sunday joined protest marches in Croatia against a surging far right following a spate of incidents that have fuelled both ethnic and political tensions in the European Union country. Gatherings dubbed "United against fascism" were organised in four major cities, including the capital, Zagreb. The crowd chanted "we are all antifascists!" as they pledged to counter what they described as a bid by right-wing groups to spread fear and silence opponents.

CORRUPTION TRIAL

Netanyahu seeks pardon

Neither the prime minister, who has been on trial for five years, nor his lawyers made any admission of guilt

REUTERS

Jerusalem, Nov 30: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked the country's president Sunday for a pardon in his long-running corruption trial, arguing that criminal proceedings were hindering his ability to govern and a pardon would be good for Israel.

Netanyahu, the country's longest-serving prime minister, denies the bribery, fraud, and breach of trust charges. His lawyers said in a letter to the president's office that the prime minister still believes the legal proceedings would result in a complete acquittal.

"My lawyers sent a request for pardon to the president of the country today. I expect that anyone who wishes for the good of the country support this step," Netanyahu said in a brief video statement released by his political party, the Likud.

Neither the prime minister, who has been on trial for five years, nor his lawyers made any admission of guilt.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid said Netanyahu should not be pardoned without admitting guilt, expressing remorse, and immediately retiring from political life. Pardons in Israel have typically been granted only after legal proceedings have concluded and the accused has been convicted. Netanyahu's lawyers argued that the president can intervene when public interest is at stake, as in this case, with



- Netanyahu indicted in 2019 on corruption charges
- Israeli leader has long denied charges against him

- Opposition politicians call for Netanyahu to step down
- Trump this month asked Israeli president to grant pardon

a view to healing divisions and strengthening national unity.

President Isaac Herzog's office described the request as "extraordinary" with "significant implications". The president "will responsibly and sincerely consider the request" after receiving relevant opinions, his office said. US President Donald Trump wrote to Herzog this month, urging him to consider granting the prime minister a pardon, saying the case against him was "a political, unjustified prosecution".

Herzog's office said the request would be forwarded to the pardons department in the justice ministry, as is standard practice, to collect opinions, which would be submitted to the president's legal adviser,

Indian student killed in UK stabbing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 30: A 30-year-old man, identified locally as an Indian student, was stabbed during a street attack in central England and later died of the serious injuries in hospital.

West Mercia Police Friday issued an appeal for information from any witnesses to the attack in Worcester earlier in the week.

While the UK police are yet to formally identify the victim, reports from India have named him as Vijay Kumar Sheoran of Haryana's Charkhi Dadri district.

"On Tuesday morning (25 November) around 4:15 am a 30-year-old man was found by officers on Barbourne Road in Worcester with serious injuries," West Mercia Police said in a statement.

"He was taken to hospital but sadly died later that day. Five men were arrested on suspicion of murder and are now on bail as the investigation continues," the statement added.

A sixth man who was also arrested on suspicion of murder has since been released with no

further action.

West Mercia's Detective Chief Inspector Lee Holehouse said the force's thoughts remain with the family and friends of the man who has died, as he appealed for information.

"Over the course of the last few days my team have been conducting extensive lines of enquiries to ascertain what happened on Tuesday morning and what led to a man losing his life," said Holehouse.

"As part of these enquiries, officers will remain on Barbourne Road over the weekend, and I would like to reassure the community that this is to continue gathering evidence and the public should not be alarmed.

"The five men who were arrested on suspicion of murder are now on bail and will continue to help us with our investigation," he said.

"I continue to appeal to anyone who has any information that would help with our enquiries to please come forward, however insignificant you feel it may be; it could be a vital piece of information," he added.

Mourners flock to site as Beijing warns against protests

REUTERS

Hong Kong, Nov 30: More than a thousand people turned out Sunday to pay tribute to the victims of Hong Kong's deadliest fire in more than 75 years, as Beijing warned it would use a national security law to crack down on any "anti-China" protest in the wake of the blaze.

The cause of the blaze at a high-rise apartment complex, remains under investigation, amid public anger over missed fire risk warnings and evidence of unsafe construction practices.

Police said Sunday evening the confirmed death toll had risen to 146 after they completed a sweep of five of the burnt out towers. Some bodies had

been found in stairwells and on rooftops where residents had tried to flee. More than 40 people are still considered to be missing in the fire, police said.

Mourners queued for more than a kilometre along the banks of a canal near the burnt-out Wang Fuk Court housing complex to lay white flowers for those who died. Some attached notes addressed to the victims.

The smell of smoke still hung in the air four full days after the fast-moving blaze fanned across the exterior of seven residential towers under renovation in Hong Kong's northern Tai Po district.

Seven Indonesian domestic workers and one Filipino helper have been confirmed among the dead and dozens

HONG KONG BLAZE



of migrant workers remain missing. An outdoor prayer meeting in central Hong Kong for the city's Filipino community was attended by hundreds Sunday morning.

'National Guard shooting suspect radicalized in US'

REUTERS

Washington, Nov 30: US authorities believe the Afghan immigrant accused of ambushing National Guard members in Washington, DC, was not radicalized until after he came to the United States, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said Sunday.

Speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press" and ABC's "This Week," Noem said authorities think that alleged shooter Rahmanullah Lakanwal was already living in Washington state when he became radicalized. Investigators are seeking more information from family members and others, Noem said.

Authorities identified Lakanwal, 29, as the suspect in a Wednesday shooting that took place just blocks away from the White House and which killed one National Guard member and critically wounded another. After the shooting, US President Donald Trump's administration pointed to a lack of vetting of Afghans and other foreign nationals during the term of former President Joe Biden, although Lakanwal was granted asylum under Trump.

Lakanwal entered the US in 2021 as part of the Biden administration's mass evacuation of Afghans who aided US forces during the two-decade war in Afghanistan as the Taliban took power.

He was granted asylum in April by Trump's administration, a government file reviewed by Reuters showed.

Noem's comments suggest that Lakanwal, who was part of a CIA-backed unit in Afghanistan, may have embraced extremism after arriving in the US.

3.7MN CHINESE APPEAR FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAM

Over 3.7 million Chinese appeared Sunday for the first national civil service examination after an increase in the eligibility age cap beyond 35 years, highlighting a surge in demand for government jobs amid the country's growing unemployment pressures. The exam selects candidates for the positions in the country's central government and its branches



Hasina's extradition issue 'alone' won't deter ties with India: B'desh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Nov 30: Bangladesh Sunday said it expects the extradition of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina from India at the "earliest", but stressed that the "issue alone" would not stand as a barrier in bilateral ties with New Delhi.

The interim government's Foreign Affairs Adviser Mohammad Touhid Hossain made the remarks while talking to diplomatic reporters based in Dhaka.

"I think our (bilateral) relations won't (be) stuck on one issue alone," he said, when asked if better relations with New Delhi could be expected unless India repatriates the disposed Bangladesh premier.

Hossain, however, said that since Hasina was now a declared convict, Bangladesh "expects her repatriation from India at the earliest possible time".

The former premier was sentenced to death in absentia November 17 by a special tribunal for "crimes against humanity" over her government's brutal crackdown on student-led protests last year.

The student-led violent street protest termed the July Uprising toppled Hasina's Awami League regime August 5, 2024, following which she took refuge in India.

She was earlier declared a fugitive by a Bangladeshi court.

In response to another question about Dhaka's ties with New Delhi under the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government, Hossain said, "India needs some time to adjust to



the new realities".

The adviser, however, said he was hopeful the two countries would witness better ties.

"We would like to have better working relations with India based on interest," he said.

Earlier Wednesday, Hossain said India gave "no reply" to Bangladesh's earlier request seeking the extradition of Hasina, but Dhaka now expected a response from New Delhi as the "situation is different now" with the judicial process completed and the former premier convicted.

Bangladesh's foreign office last week had sent an "official letter" to India seeking the extradition of 78-year-old Hasina after the special tribunal sentenced her to death.

Two days later, Hossain told reporters that the government awaited India's reply to the latest request.

Hossain said the formal extradition request was conveyed through the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi following the special tribunal's verdict under the existing extradition treaty between the two countries.

CYCLONE DITWAH: DEATH TOLL CROSSES 330

INDIA HELPS SL IN RESCUE EFFORTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Nov 30: Indian Air Force and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel continued to assist Sri Lankan authorities in rescue and relief efforts Sunday in the aftermath of the devastation caused by Cyclone Ditwah that killed over 330 people.

According to the latest figures released by Sri Lanka's Disaster Management Centre(DMC) at 6 pm Sunday, 334 people have been killed, with 370 missing in catastrophic floods and landslides caused by Ditwah and extreme weather conditions since November 16.

A whopping 11,18,929 people from 3,09,607 families were affected by the extreme weather, DMC said.

The NDRF team carried out rescue operations in Kochikade, Colombo. "Working closely with Sri Lankan authorities, they assisted families affected by severe flooding and helped ensure immediate safety," the Indian High Commission in Sri



Lanka posted on social media.

India sent two urban search and rescue teams comprising 80 NDRF personnel to the Island nation under Operation Sagar Bandhu, reaffirming the spirit of 'Neighbourhood First.'

"@NDRFHQ personnel, in close coordination with local authorities, continue to undertake relief operations in Sri Lanka," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar posted on social media.

In a daring operation, IAF helicopters undertook a hybrid rescue mission to extricate

stranded passengers, including from India, Germany, Slovenia, the UK and South Africa, from a restricted zone.

"A Garud commando was winched down to guide the group through a cross-country route to a pre-briefed helipad at Kotmale, from where 24 passengers — including Indians, foreign nationals and Sri Lankans — were evacuated to Colombo," the IAF posted on social media Sunday.

In a parallel effort, three critical casualties were airlifted to Colombo for immediate medical

attention, it said.

The IAF team also airlifted "five teams of Sri Lankan Army personnel (40 troops)" from Diyathalawa Army Camp to the landslide-affected Kotmale region to support relief operations.

"Together in times of need," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal posted after the IAF operation.

Two Chetak helicopters on board the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant also joined the rescue efforts.

A Bell 212 helicopter belonging to the Sri Lanka Air Force engaged in ongoing disaster relief operations, crashed Sunday in the Lunuwila area of Wennappuwa, the Daily Mirror Online reported.

Several individuals on board the helicopter are reported to have sustained injuries in the accident, it said.

Meanwhile, the IAF has also positioned Mi-17 V5 helicopters in Colombo for swift Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.

Hongkongers genuine, explicit accountability," it said.

The blaze that ripped through seven residential towers near the border with mainland China has stunned Hong Kong and authorities have launched criminal and corruption investigations.

China's national security authorities Saturday warned individuals against using the disaster to "plunge Hong Kong back into the chaos" of 2019, when massive pro-democracy protests challenged Beijing and triggered a political crisis.

"We sternly warn the anti-China disruptors who attempt to 'disrupt Hong Kong through disaster'. No matter what methods you use, you will certainly be held accountable and strictly punished."

of the day

quote

Our focus has been ICE and electric, and we are fairly growing in these areas. In our personal vehicle portfolio, the customers want to have differentiated products; they do not want to be in the mass market

R VELUSAMY | MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA
PRESIDENT - AUTOMOTIVE BUSINESS

You could pick anything, from engineering tech to health tech or fintech to stocks... You think about it, and there's a new way to leverage an AI tool or an AI app...to be able to cater to that demand. So any industry with the new AI toolkit available is a great opportunity now for people to build in India

SAAHIL GOEL | SHIPROCKET CO-FOUNDER AND CEO

We have seen demand growth almost similar across the country, except some states, which have been lower, and some states have been higher. Not to compare region-wise, state wise one can do some comparisons

NEERAJ AKHOURY | SHREE CEMENT MANAGING DIRECTOR

SHORT TAKES

Gold could retest record highs

New Delhi: Gold prices are poised to remain firm and could edge closer to record highs next week as investors await key US data, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's speech and the Reserve Bank of India's policy decision, analysts said. "Gold moves out of the consolidation range as investors focus on the manufacturing and services PMI data from across regions, US jobs data, and consumer sentiments," Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG - Commodity & Currency Research, JM Financial Services Ltd, said. "Adding to that would be Fed chair Jerome Powell's speech on Monday, developments over the Russia-Ukraine peace talks and RBI policy meeting on Friday, all of which will be closely monitored by traders," he added. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for the February 2026 contract climbed by Rs 3,654, or 2.9 per cent, over the past week to close at Rs 1,29,504 per 10 grams on Friday. In the domestic markets, "rupee's weakness and local demand have been a significant contributor to gold price volatility in the Indian markets. Demand from festivals, weddings and continued jewellery purchases continues to support precious metal prices in the domestic markets," Prathamesh Mallya, DVP - Research, Non - Agri Commodities and Currencies, Angel One, said.

Mcap of 7 of top-10 most valued firms climbs

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms climbed Rs 96,200.95 crore last week, with Reliance Industries and Bajaj Finance stealing the show, in tandem with an optimistic trend in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 474.75 points or 0.55 per cent. On Thursday, the Sensex hit a record high of 86,055.86. From the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, Bajaj Finance and Hindustan Unilever were the gainers, while Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) faced erosion from their valuation. Reliance Industries added Rs 28,282.86 crore, taking its market valuation to Rs 21,20,335.47 crore. The valuation of Bajaj Finance climbed Rs 20,347.52 crore to Rs 6,45,676.11 crore. HDFC Bank's valuation jumped Rs 13,611.11 crore to Rs 15,48,743.67 crore, and that of ICICI Bank surged by Rs 13,599.62 crore to Rs 9,92,725.97 crore.



As demand strengthens, we remain focused on expanding our services and elevating the travel experience

RENE DE GROOT | BRITISH AIRWAYS CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

FINANCE, TECH FOR GREEN ECONOMY

Industry body CII has urged the government to set up a dedicated finance institution and tech expo fund to support initiatives related to promoting the green economy, as there are significant gaps in long-term and low-cost capital availability in the country.



FPIs resume selling in Nov, withdraw ₹3,765cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: After a brief pause in October, foreign investors resumed selling, pulling out a net Rs 3,765 crore from Indian equities in November, driven by global risk-off sentiment, volatility in global tech stocks and selective preference for primary markets over secondary markets.

This dip in November came right after a net inflow of Rs 14,610 crore in October, an up-tick that had broken a three-month streak of withdrawals -- Rs 23,885 crore in September, Rs 34,990 crore in August, and Rs 17,700 crore in July, according to depository data.

The flow trend through November was shaped by a combination of global and domestic factors.

On the global front, uncertainty around the US Federal Reserve's rate-cut trajectory, a firm US dollar, and weak risk appetite across emerging markets kept foreign investors cautious. Persistent geopolitical tensions and volatile crude prices further reinforced the risk-off tone, said Himanshu Srivastava, Principal, Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India.

Domestically, this cautiousness was compounded by pockets of stretched valuations and



subdued industrial indicators, which tempered investor conviction despite India's relatively stable macroeconomic backdrop, he added.

Reflecting this sentiment, Vagarjaved Khan, Senior Fundamental Analyst at Angel One, noted that the outflows in November were primarily driven by global risk aversion and volatility in tech stocks. IT services, consumer services, and healthcare were among the sectors that faced the sharpest impact. However, not all indicators point toward a sustained bearish trend.

VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, believes there is still no clear evidence of a trend reversal in FPI flows. He noted that FPIs were buyers on some days and sellers on others, an indication that flows may shift

as conditions evolve.

The recent rally, with both Nifty and Sensex hitting new records on November 27 after a fourteen-month wait, along with improved Q2 corporate earnings and expectations of further growth in Q3 and Q4, has lifted market sentiment, he added.

Looking ahead, Angel One's Khan said that FPI activity in December will likely depend on the US Federal Reserve's rate-cut signals and progress on the trade pact between India and the US.

So far in 2025, FPIs have withdrawn over Rs 1.43 lakh crore from Indian equities. Meanwhile, in the debt market, FPIs invested Rs 8,114 crore under the general limit while withdrawing Rs 5,053 crore through the voluntary retention route during the same period.

IPO PIPELINE SWELLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: The IPO momentum shows no signs of slowing, with another two dozen companies, including ICICI Prudential AMC, Meesho and Juniper Green Energy, preparing to launch their public issues that could collectively raise nearly Rs 40,000 crore over the next two months, merchant bankers said.

Adding to this robust pipeline are prominent names such as artificial intelligence firm Fractal Analytics, home and sleep solutions brand Wakefit Innovations, technology-led security and surveillance firm Innovatiview India, and hospital chain Park Medi World, they added.

This exceptional pipeline not only reflected the confidence of issuers but also highlighted investors' appetite to seize listing-day gains or back companies with strong long-term growth potential.

Moreover, companies across the spectrum -- large, mid- and small-caps -- are gearing up to tap the IPO route in the coming weeks.

Experts attribute this momentum to rising retail participation and resilient domestic inflows, which have been instrumental in sustaining the fundraising surge.

So far this year, 96 companies have debuted on the stock exchanges, raising Rs 1.6 lakh crore. More than 40 of these listings occurred in the last three months alone, highlighting the

9 economic Bills to be taken up in Winter Session

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: The government has listed nine economic Bills, including a bill to amend Insurance Laws and two others to levy tax and cess on sin goods like tobacco and pan masala, for the Winter Session of Parliament beginning Monday.

As per the list of Bills circulated with the members of Parliament for the upcoming session, the government proposes to introduce The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, to raise the FDI limit in the insurance sector to 100 per cent, from 74 per cent, as part of new-generation financial reforms.

Besides, The Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and 'The Health Security se National Security Cess Bill, 2025' are listed for introduction by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha Monday. Besides, the Securities Markets Code Bill 2025, is listed for introduction, which will ensure a unified securities Market code for ease of doing business.

The other economy-related Bills scheduled in the Winter Session are the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025, The Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025, The National Highways (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and The Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

RBI may cut interest rate by 25 bps in Dec

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 30: The RBI may trim the benchmark lending rate by 25 bps in its forthcoming monetary policy meeting, as inflationary pressures are subdued, though some experts believe the central bank is likely to keep the rate unchanged in the backdrop of better-than-expected GDP growth of 8.2 per cent in the second quarter.

The consumer price index (CPI) based headline retail inflation is ruling below the 2 per cent lower band mandated by the government for the last two months.

Some experts, however, believe that the RBI may continue with the pause on interest rates as economic growth has picked up, sustained by fiscal consolidation, targeted public investment, and various reforms, such as the GST rate cut.

The Monetary Policy Committee meeting is scheduled from December 3-5, 2025.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra is scheduled to announce the decision of rate-setting panel December 5. The central bank started its rate-easing cycle in February last year. It has cumulatively reduced the repo rate by 100 basis points in successive policy announcements to 5.5 per cent, before hitting the pause button in August. According to some experts,



the RBI may trim the benchmark lending rate by 25 bps in its forthcoming monetary policy meeting, as inflationary pressures are subdued. The consumer price index (CPI)-based headline retail inflation has been ruling below the 2 per cent lower band mandated by the government for the last two months.

This year, the story has been about growth overshooting and inflation undershooting, said a HDFC Bank report.

"Therefore, the upcoming RBI rate decision remains a close call. But given the lingering risks on growth (in H2) and inflation expected to remain well below 4 per cent until Q3 FY27, we see that there may still be a chance of another 25bps rate cut at the upcoming policy," it said.

A research report from the State Bank of India's economic research department said that with a strong GDP growth and minimal inflation, it is now for the RBI to communicate to the broader markets the rate trajectory in the MPC meeting this week, as well as continuing with the neutral stance.

2 dozen companies line up ₹40,000-cr public offers



This exceptional pipeline not only reflected the confidence of issuers but also highlighted investors' appetite to seize listing-day gains or back companies with strong long-term growth potential

heightened activity in the primary market.

In comparison, 91 public issues collectively mobilised Rs 1.6 lakh crore in 2024, supported by resilient retail participation, strong private capex, and a buoyant economy.

With several IPOs scheduled for December, the total fundraising in 2025 could touch Rs 2 lakh crore, setting a new record for India's primary markets, said Thomas Stephen, Head - Preferred, Anand Rath Share and Stock Brokers.

"This is remarkable given the global volatility and a muted secondary market. Strong domestic liquidity has supported high valuations, and mutual funds, earlier cautious on pre-IPO deals, are now meaning-

fully increasing allocations," Stephen added.

According to him, India's robust consumption story, aided by GST and income-tax rationalisation, has encouraged many consumer-facing businesses to consider listing.

Echoing this sentiment, Shantanu Awasthi, Co-founder & CEO of Mavenark, noted that companies previously hesitant about tapping the public markets now recognise that sustained growth will require substantial capital infusion.

The fundraising wave is expected to help firms finance expansion, capital expenditure, debt repayment, and other corporate purposes.

Among the key players in the upcoming IPO slate, ICICI

Prudential AMC aims to raise Rs 10,000 crore in the second half of December, merchant bankers said.

According to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP), the issue will be entirely an offer for sale (OFS) of 1.76 crore equity shares by its UK-based promoter Prudential Corporation Holdings.

Meanwhile, SoftBank-backed Meesho is planning to raise Rs 5,421 crore through an issue opening on December 3. The IPO comprises a fresh issue worth Rs 4,250 crore and an OFS of 10.55 crore shares valued at Rs 1,171 crore at the upper band. At the same time, Precision component maker Aequs' Rs 922 crore and Vidya Wires' Rs 300 crore public offering would be available for subscription.

Other sizeable offerings planned for December included -- Clean Max Enviro Energy Solutions (Rs 5,200 crore), Fractal Analytics (Rs 4,900 crore) and Juniper Green Energy (Rs 3,000 crore).

Also preparing for the market between December and January are-- Manipal Payment, Kanodia Cement, Corona Remedies, Milky Mist, Amagi Media Labs, Nephrocare Health Services, Veeda Clinical, LCC Projects, Waterways Leisure, KSH International, Skyways Air Services, Ardee Engineering, PNGS Reva Diamond, and CIEL HR Services.

Together, these companies are expected to raise Rs 40,000 crore, the merchant bankers said.

Gender boundaries blurring as women enter high-skill professions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 30: The participation of women in creative and design roles have increased significantly, driven by the rapid adoption of digital-first careers like graphic design, content creation, and visual communication, says a report.

According to a report by blue and grey-collar recruitment platform WorkIndia, Indian women are now entering high-skill, male-dominated professions at a pace never seen before.

WorkIndia's data showed that women's participation in

Creative and Design roles nearly doubled (98 per cent) in 2025 as compared to the previous year.

The momentum continued in technical design, where women's applications jumped by 87 per cent, and employers increased openings by 34 per cent in 2025, compared to the previous year, signalling widespread industry acceptance.

Even in Creative and Design, one of the most balanced categories, men also recorded 81 per cent growth, reflecting a strong cross-gender expansion.

"India is entering a new era where careers are no longer



dictated by gender, but by ambition and skill.

"The rise of women in engineering-aligned creative roles

and law, alongside men moving confidently into HR and beauty, shows that young Indians are rewriting long-held stereotypes.

This shift is not temporary, it marks a permanent transformation in how the country views talent and opportunity," WorkIndia CEO and co-founder Nilesh Dugarwal said.

The report is based on an analysis of data on WorkIndia platform in 2024 and 2025.

According to the report, the most dramatic shift emerged in the legal sector, where women applicants rose by 137 per cent from 2024 to 2025, marking the strongest growth across all industries tracked.

Employers echoed this shift with a 55 per cent rise in legal openings for women, pointing

to a structural change in India's legal talent pipeline, said the report.

According to data, male applicants in Human Resources have climbed by 73 per cent in 2025, as compared to the previous year, supported by a 58 per cent rise in job postings targeting men, clear evidence that companies are actively diversifying talent in recruitment, training, and people operations.

These trends signal a broader redefinition of masculinity in the workplace and a growing acceptance of men in roles traditionally dominated by women, the report added.

Kohli turns back the clock

The star batter smashes 135 as Men in Blue nose ahead in series with win in Ranchi in a nail-biting thriller

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Nov 30: Virat Kohli reaffirmed his enduring value to India's ODI setup with a perfectly paced century that shaped his team's 17-run victory over South Africa in the series-opener, here Sunday.

On a flat JSCA surface, Kohli (135 off 120 balls) controlled the tempo of the innings from the moment he walked in, anchoring India's imposing 349 for eight with an effort that blended classical stroke-play with calculated acceleration.

The value of Kohli's 52nd ODI ton became even clearer during South Africa's chase, which disintegrated at the beginning under sustained Indian pressure.

With Harshit Rana's (3/54) triple strike and support from pacer Arshdeep Singh (2/64) and left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav (4/68), India always got wickets whenever Proteas threatened to get away and finally ended on 332.

Courtesy Marco Jansen's counter-attacking 70 and Matthew Breetzke's composed 72, South Africa kept their fans interested but India had no trouble whatsoever in wrapping up the contest for a 1-0 lead in three-match series. Kuldeep's twin strike in the 34th over actually became decisive after a breezy 97-run stand between Breetzke and Jansen as the wily left-arm wrist spinner removed both within a space of three deliveries.

Dew was also a factor in South Africa getting some easy runs as Indian bowlers struggled to grip the ball under



Kohli breaks Sachin's record

Virat Kohli added another feather to his decorated ODI cap, smashing his 52nd ODI hundred in the first ODI between India and South Africa at Ranchi Sunday. The imperious knock not only anchored the Indian innings but also saw the former captain break new ground, further cementing his status as one of the game's undeniable greats. The century helped Kohli extend his own record for the most hundreds by any player in men's ODI cricket, moving him comfortably clear of the 49 tons amassed by the great Sachin Tendulkar. In the process of reaching his 52nd ODI ton, Kohli went on to break a gigantic record held by the Master Blaster Sachin Tendulkar, becoming the man with the most hundreds in a single format. Tendulkar, with 51 hundreds in Test cricket, held the record jointly with Kohli until the latter reached the triple-digit score in Ranchi.

Rohit Sharma became the undisputed six-hitting king in ODI cricket, taking the No 1 spot from Pakistan's Shahid Afridi in the first ODI against South Africa. Rohit smashed the long-standing record held by former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi (351) by sending a delivery high into the stands to claim his 352nd six



lights.

Nine down, South Africa needed off the last over and Prasidh Krishna ensured the hosts do not suffer a heart-break after all the hard work by dismissing Corbin Bosch (67) with the second delivery.

Earlier Kohli's commanding knock came off 120 balls with seven sixes and 11 fours. His 136-run stand with Rohit Sharma (57 off 51) for the second wicket set up India's big total on a JSCA shirtfront.

With Kohli no longer part of T20Is, and no ODIs scheduled for India after New Zealand series in January, every outing in the format now comes with significance. The 36-year-old responded with trademark

authority, reminding the selectors and team management that he remains India's most bankable batter in the format.

Rohit too had a great platform to assert himself after being dropped at 1 but he could make only 57 before being trapped by Jansen.

Still, their 136-run partnership -- during a much-anticipated 'Ro-Ko' show -- would give confidence not to the two stalwarts but also the team management that they still belong to big stage and can serve India a bit more.

Brief scores: India: 349/8 in 50 overs (Virat Kohli 135, Rohit Sharma 57, KL Rahul 60; Ottneil Baartman 2/60, Nandre Burger 2/65) beat South Africa: 332 all out in 49.2 overs (Matthew Breetzke 72, Marco Jansen 70; Kuldeep Yadav 4/68, Harshit Rana 3/65) by 17 runs.

SYED MODI INTERNATIONAL Treesa-Gayatri defend title; Srikanth suffers heartbreak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 30: The Indian pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand retained the women's doubles crown but Kidambi Srikanth's hopes of snapping an eight-year title drought went up in smoke as he suffered a heart-breaking loss in the final of the Syed Modi International Super 300 here Sunday.

Former winner Srikanth, a 2021 world championships silver medallist, went down 16-21 21-8 20-22 to world No 59 Jason Gunawan of Hong Kong in a 67-minute thriller.

The 32-year-old had last won a title in 2017 at the French Open and had come close earlier this year, finishing runner-up at the Malaysia Masters Super 500. Defending champions Treesa and Gayatri, however, produced an attacking masterclass to rally from a game down and outwit the world No 35 pair of Japan's Kaho Osawa and Mai Tanabe 17-21 21-13 21-15 in a pulsating one hour and 16-minute final. They were playing only their second event since Gayatri's return from a five-month shoulder injury layoff.

Treesa-Gayatri show class

The women's doubles final be-

gan with a breathtaking 49-shot rally, setting the tone for a high-intensity contest as both pairs fought tooth and nail before Osawa and Tanabe edged ahead 6-3.

A couple of sharp smashes from Treesa pulled the Indians level, and an Osawa forehand error helped them move to 8-6.

The Japanese, however, regrouped to take a slender lead at the interval and maintained their hold to stretch it to 18-15. A backhand cross-court return from Tanabe caught Gayatri off guard, and another Indian error handed the Japanese five game points. Treesa and Gayatri saved two, but Tanabe closed out the opener with a smash.

Switching sides brought a momentum shift as the Indians found their rhythm and showed excellent anticipation to surge to 9-2. Though a few shots drifted into the net, they held an 11-5 advantage at the break, bolstered by another booming Treesa smash from the backcourt.

Treesa and Gayatri continued to dictate the rallies, marching to 17-9. Treesa's quick racquet speed and sharp movement allowed her to rain down attacking returns, taking the Indians to 20-11. They squandered two game points before a long lift from the Japanese forced the match into the decider.



I hadn't played a lot in last few months, so this tournament is a big boost for me for the season ahead, so I am very happy

GAYATRI GOPICHAND

When we started playing together, coordination was an issue, but now we are all-round players -- me and Gayatri can play anywhere. Our rotation was good, and it was on display today

TREESA JOLLY

SHORT TAKES

West Ham great Billy Bonds dies



London: Billy Bonds, the former West Ham United player and manager described as one of soccer's "greatest competitors," has died. He was 79. His death was confirmed in a statement by his family via West Ham Sunday. The Premier League club said Bonds "passed away peacefully" Sunday. Former West Ham captain Bonds was the longest-serving player in the club's history, making 799 appearances over a 21-year spell. He won two FA Cups before retiring at the age of 41. He managed West Ham from 1990-94. In 2018, West Ham fans voted Bonds the club's greatest-ever player.

Russell announces retirement from IPL

Kolkata: Swashbuckling all-rounder Andre Russell Sunday announced his retirement from the Indian Premier League ahead



of the mini auction scheduled for December 16, and will join three-time winners Kolkata Knight Riders' coaching staff. The 37-year-old Russell, who has been an integral part of the KKR side since IPL 2014, will join their coaching staff as a "power coach" ahead of the 2026 edition for which an auction will be held in Abu Dhabi. By joining the support staff, Russell has followed the footsteps of another venerable T20 cricketer from the Caribbean, Kieron Pollard, who serves as the batting coach of Mumbai Indians, even though he represents the franchise in other leagues. Russell, who has not missed a season of the IPL since 2012, represented erstwhile Delhi Daredevils in his first two editions.

Gateball Tournament 2025 kicks off in Bhubaneswar



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The Iconic India International Open Gateball Tournament 2025 began with grand celebrations at Kalinga Stadium here Sunday. The event is jointly organized by the Iconic Sports Federation (ISF) and the Indian Gateball Union (IGU).

The opening ceremony was graced by several distinguished guests, including former Governor Ganeshi Lal, Panchayati Raj Minister Rabi Narayan Naok, MP Rabindra Narayan Behera, and others.

A total of 200 Indian athletes from 18 states are competing in the two day tournament, along with teams and officials from Taiwan, Thailand, Japan and

Indonesia. With such international participation, Bhubaneswar once again strengthens its position on the global sports map.

Key ISF leaders—Chidatmika Khatua, Sanjay Choudhury, Sheikh Abdul Samim, Pradepta Mohanty, and Executive Chairman Tarini Prasad Mohanty—were present at the event. Senior IGU officials, including * Umakant Pani, also joined the ceremony.

In an announcement, ISF revealed plans to launch an International Gateball League in Canada soon.

"Our mission is to make India a global icon in sports. This tournament marks the beginning of a new journey," said ISF Director Sanjay Choudhury.

WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

Puligilla-Sherif's podium finish

This marks the first time an Indian driver and co-driver pair claimed a podium spot in any WRC category

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), Nov 30: Indian rally racing touched a historic milestone as Hyderabad's Naveen Puligilla and co-driver Musa Sherif became the first pair from the country to finish on the podium in a World Rally Championship event here.

Competing in the WRC3 category at the Saudi Arabia Rally 2025, Puligilla and Sherif finished second in their class.

According to provisional results, the duo completed the gruelling rally in a time of 4 hours, 28 minutes and 58.7 seconds, finishing 26th overall among 41 cars.

Their Ford Fiesta Rally3, prepared by Africa Eco Sports of Nairobi, Kenya, was just 1 minute 14.2 seconds behind the next WRC3 competitor, giving them a comfortable margin ahead of the rest of their class.

This achievement stood out amid a strong field dominated by cutting-edge Rally 1 and Rally 2 cars from factory teams like Hyundai, Toyota,



and M-Sport Ford.

This marks the first time an Indian driver and co-driver pair claimed a podium spot in any WRC category.

Puligilla and Sherif demonstrated seamless teamwork on some of the rally's most-challenging terrains, which included fast gravel roads, shifting sand dunes, and broken desert tracks over 17 demanding special stages.

For Puligilla, this podium

Sultan Azlan Shah Cup: Belgium edge out India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Malaysia, Nov 30: In an entertaining final, Belgium beat India 1-0 in a closely-fought encounter to lift the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup here Sunday.

India were forced to settle for a silver, thanks to Thibaut Stockbroeck's lone goal of the match in the 34th minute.

This is Belgium's maiden Sultan Azlan Shah title and only their second appearance in the event.

Unfortunately for India, who were coming into this match after a high-scoring 14-3 win against Canada Saturday, they couldn't convert the three penalty corners.

While Jugraj Singh, Amit Rohidas and Sanjay have been successful in the PC attack during this tournament, they could not beat the Belgian defence.

This was India's second defeat in this tournament after losing 2-3 to the European powerhouse in the league stage.

There were intense midfield battles and with experienced stars like Manpreet Singh and Hardik Singh rested for the tournament, the onus was on the younger lot who did well to keep narrow margins.

Inter Miami enter MLS Cup final

Messi creates football history as he surpasses Ferenc Puskas' record by delivering his 405th assist to break the world record for most assists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Fort Lauderdale, Nov 30: Lionel Messi will play for another trophy. Jordi Alba and Sergio Busquets clearly aren't ready to begin their retirements, either.

Tadeo Allende scored three goals — Alba and Busquets, a pair of longtime Messi team-



mates who will retire when this season ends, had the assists on his first two — and Inter Miami topped New York City FC 5-1 on Saturday night for the Eastern

Conference title and a berth in the MLS Cup final.

Mateo Silvetti scored in the 67th minute for Inter Miami, with Messi setting up that goal

— the 405th assist of his career for club and country, which is generally believed to be the most in soccer history. Telasco Segovia scored off a heel pass from Alba in the 83rd minute to turn it into a runaway, and Allende finishing off the hat trick in the 89th minute was the final play.

Tennis star Carlos Alcaraz brought the East trophy onto the field to present to Inter Miami's ownership, before it was handed to Messi. Fireworks, confetti and a ton of happy photos and hugs followed, but it was also clear this wasn't the trophy Inter Miami wants most.

AFC U17 ASIAN CUP

Indomitable India stun Iran



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 30: An indomitable Indian football team staged a remarkable comeback to stun overwhelming favourites Iran 2-1 in their last Group

D qualifying game and seal a place in the 2026 AFC U17 Asian Cup here Sunday.

The Blue Colts had achieved what looked, for long stretches of the match, almost impossible thanks to goals from Dallalmuon Gange (45+1' penalty) and Gunleiba Wangkheirakpam (52') at the EKA Arena.

This was after Amirreza Valipour put the visitors ahead with his 19th minute strike. The next U17 Asian Cup is to be held in Saudi Arabia and it will be India's 10th appearance in the tournament.