

Scam stink in SI exam

Berhampur, Sept 30: A major racket involving police sub-inspector recruitment examination has come to light in this city just days before the scheduled written examination. Authorities allege that a private agency tasked with conducting the test had taken more than 120 job aspirants by three buses from Bhubaneswar to Hyderabad, claiming to provide “special coaching” ahead of the exam.

Acting on a complaint, a team led by Berhampur SP Dr Sarvana Vivek M. intercepted the buses near Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh. Preliminary questioning revealed that each candidate had allegedly paid about ₹20 lakh to the agency. An investigation was on to bust the alleged job racket.

Meanwhile, the written exam was postponed for the third time, according to an official statement issued on Tuesday.

“In view of some unforeseen development, the Board decided to postpone the Written Examination CPSE-2024, which was earlier scheduled to be held on 05.10.2025 & 06.10.2025. Fresh date will be announced later,” it said.



SPIRITUAL FERVOUR: Idol of goddess Durga dazzling in gold and silver on Maha Ashtami at Saheed Nagar in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

OVER 10K FARMERS ENDED LIVES IN 2023

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, Sept 30: More than 10,700 people from the farming sector committed suicide during 2023 and 38.5 per cent of them were from Maharashtra and 22.5 per cent from Karnataka, according to a report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

A total of 66.2 per cent (1,13,416) of the total suicide victims (1,71,418) in 2023 were having an annual income of less than ₹1 lakh.

As many as 10,786 people involved in the farming sector, consisting of 4,690 farmers or cultivators and 6,096 agricultural labourers, committed suicides during 2023, accounting for 6.3 per cent of total suicides victims in the country, the report said. Out of the 4,690 farmer or cultivator suicides, a total of 4,553 were male and 137 were female and out of the 6,096 suicides committed by agricultural labourers during 2023, as many as 5,433 were male and 663 were female.




Majority of suicide victims engaged in the farming sector were reported in Maharashtra (38.5 per cent), Karnataka (22.5), Andhra Pradesh (8.6), Madhya Pradesh (7.2) and Tamil Nadu (5.9 per cent).

However, certain states and union territories namely, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Chandigarh, Delhi and Lakshadweep reported no suicides of farmers or cultivators as well as agricultural labourers.

The NCRB also reported on the economic status of suicide victims. A total of 66.2 per cent (1,13,416) of the total suicide victims (1,71,418) in 2023 were having annual income of less than 1 lakh. As many as 28.3 per cent (48,432) of suicide victims belong to annual income group of 1 lakh to less than 5 lakh.

Among the suicides committed by un-employed persons, 15.4 per cent were in Kerala (2,191 out of 14,234 suicides), 14.5 per cent in Maharashtra (2,070 suicides), 11.2 per cent in Tamil Nadu (1,601 suicides) and 9.1 per cent in Uttar Pradesh (1,295 suicides).


DADLS-52



MESSAGE OF HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF ODISHA ON THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF "GANDHI JAYANTI"

On the auspicious occasion of 'Gandhi Jayanti', I pay heartfelt homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

Let us get inspired by the timeless ideals of Gandhiji and take pledge to dedicate ourselves to building of a Viksit Odisha and Viksit Bharat.



(Hari Babu Kambhampati)



ଗାନ୍ଧୀ ଜୟନ୍ତୀ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା

ଆସନ୍ତା କାଲି ଗାନ୍ଧୀ ଜୟନ୍ତୀ । ଏହି ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ମୁଁ ଜାତିର ଜନକ ମହାତ୍ମା ଗାନ୍ଧୀଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ମୋର ଗଭୀର ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧାଞ୍ଜଳି ଅର୍ପଣ କରୁଛି ।




ମହାତ୍ମା ଗାନ୍ଧୀ ଥିଲେ ସତ୍ୟ, ନ୍ୟାୟ ଓ ଅହିଂସାର ପ୍ରତୀକ, ଯାହାଙ୍କ ଜୀବନ ଦର୍ଶନ ସମଗ୍ର ବିଶ୍ୱକୁ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ କରିଛି । ତାଙ୍କ ସ୍ୱଦେଶୀ ଓ ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛତା ବିଚାର ଆଜି ବି ଆମ ଜୀବନ ଓ ସମାଜ ପାଇଁ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ମହତ୍ତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ । ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ତାଙ୍କ ନୀତି ଓ ଆଦର୍ଶରେ ଅନୁପ୍ରାଣିତ ହୋଇ ଆତ୍ମନିର୍ଭର ଓ ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛ ଭାରତ ଗଠନ ଦିଗରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ସମର୍ପିତ ହୋଇ କାମ କରିବା ।



(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR-15001/13/1201/2526

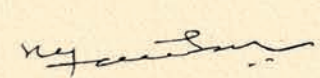
DADLS-53






MESSAGE OF HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF ODISHA ON THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF "VIJAYA DASHAMI - 2025"

On the auspicious occasion of 'Vijaya Dashami', I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to the people of the State.

'Vijaya Dashami' stands as a symbol of the victory of truth over untruth, justice over injustice and peace over disharmony. I call upon everyone to strive with sincerity to nurture truth, justice and peace in their personal lives as well as in the society.



(Hari Babu Kambhampati)

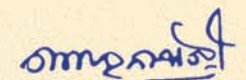


ଦୁର୍ଗାପୂଜା ଅବସରରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା

ଶାରଦୀୟ ଦୁର୍ଗାପୂଜା ଅବସରରେ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ଭାଇ ଓ ଭଉଣୀ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ମା' ଦୁର୍ଗା ଆମ ପାଇଁ ଶକ୍ତି ଓ ସୁରକ୍ଷାର ନିଦର୍ଶନ । ଆମ ସମାଜରେ ଦୁର୍ଗାପୂଜା କେବଳ ଏକ ଧାର୍ମିକ ଉତ୍ସବ ନୁହେଁ, ଏହା ହେଉଛି ଶକ୍ତି, ସାହସ ଓ ନୈତିକ ବିଜୟର ପ୍ରତୀକ । ମା'ଙ୍କ ଧରାବତରଣ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଶୁଭମୟ ହେଉ ।

ଜଗତଜନନୀ ମା' ଦୁର୍ଗାଙ୍କ ଅପାର କରୁଣାରୁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ଜୀବନରେ ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଓ ଆନନ୍ଦ ଭରିଉ, ପାର୍ବଣର ଏହି ଅମୃତ ଲଗ୍ନରେ ମା'ଙ୍କ ନିକଟରେ ଏତିକି ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ।



(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR-15001/13/1204/2526

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

You have decided to give more importance to your inner voice, and Ganesha feels it's a good thing. It supports you to strive for perfection in whatever you do. You will remain your sensible and realistic self. A little adventure will not hurt, says Ganesha.

TAURUS

Touchdown! Ganesha senses a strong possibility that you will achieve an important milestone today. Emotional well-being is important for physical health. You may spend your evening in the company of like-minded people to indulge in some healthy discussions and musings, feels Ganesha.

GEMINI

Unlike the last few days, today will be hectic and demanding. You will need to attend a few social get-togethers and functions. Socializing with friends and relatives is on the cards. However, you need to be careful about your health. Expenses on medicines are indicated, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Today, you are likely to address all problems with a human touch, predicts Ganesha. You are likely to play Agony Aunt to one and all. But for that, you will have to learn to leave your problems at the workplace. In relationships, you need to open up to your near and dear ones.

LEO

Are you sure you did not marry your boss? Well, if you haven't, then you might have some problem with your spouse's bossy attitude. The best thing would be for you to try and sort out the individual differences with your partner. On the work front, the day will be satisfying, as you continue to mystify your opponents with your wits.

VIRGO

There is an indication that you may assume a leadership role and dictate the agenda at work today, predicts Ganesha. You may spend your afternoon window-shopping, looking for a gift that you feel like giving to a loved one. You will spend the evening planning your long-term goals with a close friend or family.

LIBRA

Ganesha says that today you will spend with close friends or beloved people. Your romantic nature will surely please the opposite sex. By evening your imagination will be at its peak. Ganeshi wishes you all the very best and sends you his greetings

SCORPIO

Today, you are likely to make a fine show of your knack of organising things, predicts Ganesha. At the workplace, you will develop a special liking for your job. Later in the day, you may find lasting solutions to pending problems. Take the trouble to research any decisions you make so that you are liable to make well-informed decisions about your future.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha sees you being the good Samaritan, her-aiding better things for a brighter future. Household affairs will remain quiet and sublime. At work, however, expect smoother sailing in the latter part of the day.

CAPRICORN

You will settle for nothing less than excellence in whatever work you choose to take up, says Ganesha. In fact, working extra hours may leave you a little exhausted in the afternoon. Here's the remedy: delegate work to those around you and see that they meet your high standards.

AQUARIUS

Your curiosity will work wonders for you today. You have spent a lot of time and energy for planning your future, be it a business venture or higher studies, and now you will start executing those plans, foresees Ganesha. Keep working hard, you will surely get the rewards for your efforts.

PISCES

You will be ready to lay down your life for your near and dear ones today. Even if you don't do anything so melodramatic, you will end up sacrificing your comfort to benefit someone close to you. It is best to postpone important decisions for a day, or three. Do not indulge in taking risks, for they are unlikely to pay off, says Ganesha.



JK ROWLING SLAMS EMMA WATSON

JK Rowling took to X to address her rift with Emma Watson, saying the actor cannot denounce her publicly while hoping for reconciliation. Calling Watson 'ignorant' due to her 'cushioned' upbringing, the *Harry Potter* author strongly criticised the actress in a lengthy note.

KIDMAN, URBAN PART WAYS AFTER 19 YEARS

Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban have reportedly split after 19 years of marriage, with sources calling the separation 'inevitable.' While Kidman is fighting to save the marriage and holding the family together, Urban has acquired a Nashville residence and is moving out. The couple, married since 2006, shares two daughters.



Saba remains unfazed by trolls

MUMBAI: Actress Saba Azad is no stranger to the spotlight, but she admits that it isn't always her work that garners attention. Despite delivering notable performances and celebrating milestones like her film *Bandar* premiering at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), Saba often finds her personal life dominating headlines. Yet, she refuses to let the noise overshadow her journey as an artist.

"I don't really spend time thinking about what others make of me," she says with quiet confidence. For Saba, learning to block out unnecessary chatter has been essential to sustaining both her sanity and creativity. A single piece of wisdom has guided her through the storm: "Don't take critique from those you wouldn't take advice from." It's a reminder that not all voices deserve space in her mind, especially in a world where judgments are quick and often uninformed.

Instead, she chooses to focus on her craft and the joy of collaboration in cinema. For her, platforms like TIFF are a reminder of why she chose this path in the first place. "Filmmaking is collaborative; no one person is bigger than the story. Festivals like TIFF put the focus back where it belongs—on the art."



AGENCIES

MUMBAI: Bollywood actress Huma Qureshi, known for her versatility and fearless performances, shared that if she had been part of the 1970s Bollywood era, she would have loved to work alongside Shabana Azmi and Smita Patil.

Huma shares her 70s bold cinema dream

In an exclusive conversation with this news agency, Huma shared "It's the 70s. It was such a bold decade. Experimental, political, and stylish, all at once. I would have loved to do a parallel cinema classic with Shabana Azmi or Smita Patil and then also a glamorous masala entertainer in the same year. That versatility excites me."

Huma also shared her experiences at the Toronto International Film Festival this year, where her movie *Bayaan* premiered. She said "Watching my movie with a packed house of people from all over the world was one moment that really stayed with me. Feeling their reactions in real time was ethereal."

Talking about turning producer with *Bayaan*, Huma stated that the experience was extremely enriching. "This film is very close to my heart because I was not just acting in it but also serving as an executive producer, which meant every choice from script to screen carried a deeper responsibility. To see *Bayaan*, travelling from TIFF to BIF, and witness audiences connect with it exactly the way we had dreamed of was extremely overwhelming" added Huma.

DEEPIKA ON HER CAREER CHOICES

MUMBAI: Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone recently made headlines after reportedly exiting director Sandeep Reddy Vanga's *Spirit* over disagreements regarding an eight-hour workday. She also stepped away from *Kalki 2*, citing differences over commitment. While the exits stirred speculation, Deepika addressed the matter indirectly, emphasising her approach to her career.

In a recent interview, she said, "I have never been afraid to ask questions, challenge norms, and push boundaries to redefine the expectations placed on women."

In related news, IMDb's report 25 Years of Indian Cinema (2000-2025) ranked Deepika fourth among actors with the most popular titles, featuring in 10 of 130 films analysed. She trails Shah Rukh Khan with 20 titles and Aamir Khan and Hrithik Roshan with 11 each, placing ahead of actors including Amitabh Bachchan, Ranbir Kapoor, Salman Khan, and Priyanka Chopra.

Reacting to this recognition, Deepika reflected on her career journey. "From the very beginning, I was never afraid to ask questions, ruffle feathers, walk a more difficult path, and challenge the status quo," she said. She added that the support of her family, fans, and collaborators has empowered her to make choices that she hopes will reshape the path for those who follow.

Deepika is currently working on Shah Rukh Khan's *King* and will next star opposite Allu Arjun in director Atlee's upcoming action drama, tentatively titled *AA22xA6*.



AGENCIES

MANUSHI'S LIFE LESSONS

MUMBAI: Manushi Chhillar, Miss World and now actress, recently paused her shoot to host an engaging "Ask Me Anything" session on social media, offering fans a candid look into her thoughts and experiences. From witty exchanges to heartfelt reflections, she touched upon topics ranging from failures to fitness, leaving her followers inspired.

Sharing her perspective on setbacks, Manushi emphasised that failure should be seen as a teacher rather than a defeat. "Failure is an important experience to have... it's not failure, it's a learning experience," she explained, adding that her Miss World journey taught her another valuable lesson — "it's not about the destination, it's about the journey."

The actress also opened up about her health struggles after COVID, revealing how she lost significant muscle mass and weight. With her

father, a doctor, guiding her lifestyle changes, she rebuilt her strength. On dealing with stress, her mantra was simple: "A good workout, good sleep, and a hug from Mom."

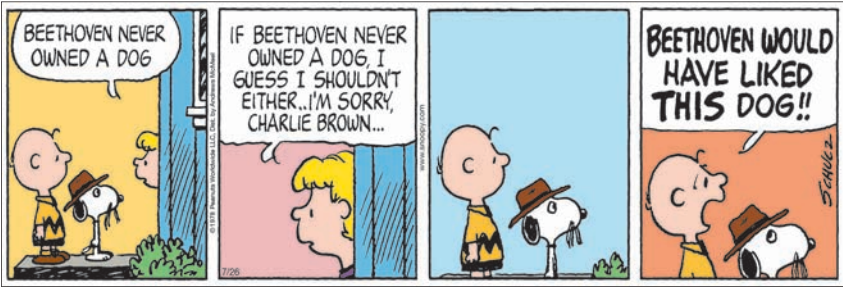
Speaking on motivation, she credited early mornings, daily exercise, and meditation for keeping her focused. If given a superpower, she'd choose teleportation to escape long flights.

When asked about Rajkummar Rao, her *Maalik* co-star, she warmly praised him, calling him one of her favourite co-actors.

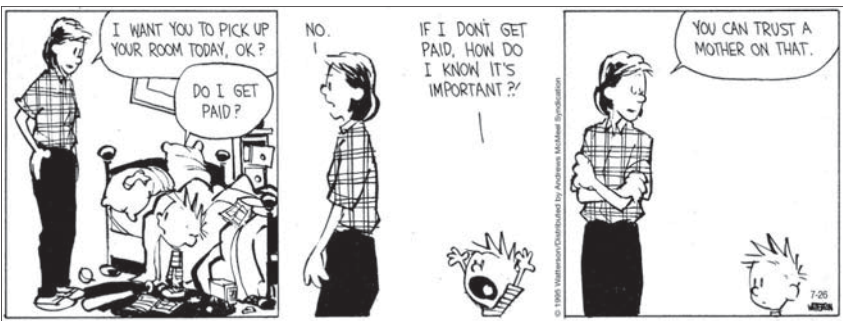


AGENCIES

PEANUTS



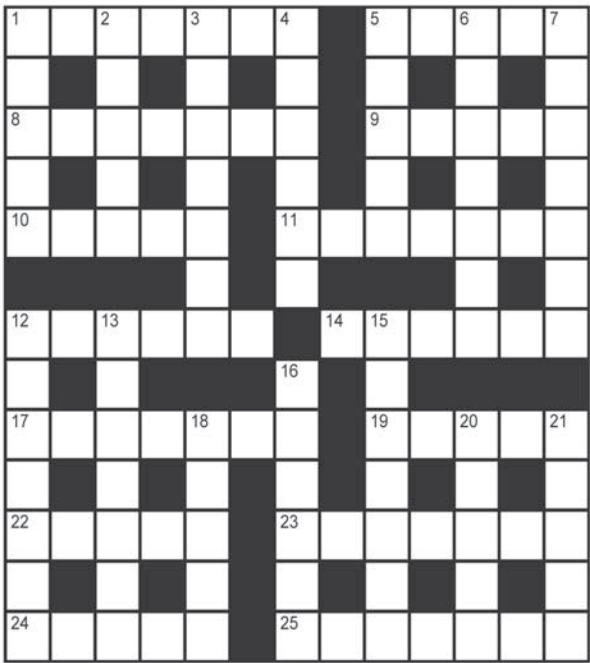
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



- Across**

1 Horrible

5 Scrooge, for one

8 Daydream

9 Whimsical

10 Latin dance

11 Catch-22

12 Ointments

14 Blue blood

17 Full

19 Edge tools
- 22 Zoo members

23 Finger protector

24 Rope fiber

25 Beryl variety
- Down**

1 Wise guys

2 Blacksmith's block

3 Garden seating area

4 Knuckles under
- 5 Award

6 Winter yard decoration

7 Set free

12 Extra amount

13 Some computers

15 Understand

16 Water heater

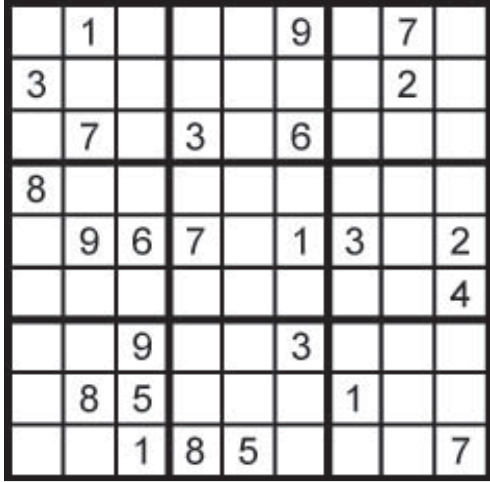
18 Canvas support

20 African grazer

21 Knight's need

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.

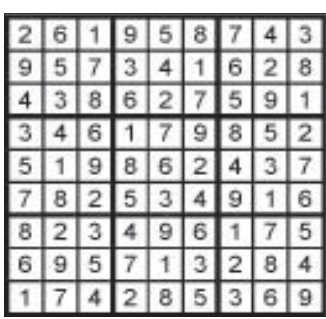


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Heavy showers likely from today



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: A fresh low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal (BoB) could intensify into a depression and cause heavy rainfall across Odisha from Wednesday, coinciding with the Durga Puja festivities, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The low-pressure area formed over west central BoB around 5:30 pm, it said in a bulletin Tuesday evening.

“It is likely to move north-westwards and intensify into a depression over west central and adjoining northwest BoB by morning of October 2 and cross south Odisha-North Andhra Pradesh coasts around morning hours of October 3,” it said.

■ All the 30 districts are likely to experience rainfall October 2

IMD has advised fishermen not to venture into the sea along and off the Odisha coast during October 1 to October 4

The IMD has issued an alert for light to moderate rainfall across 25 districts and isolated rainfall of 7 cm to 11 cm in Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri and Nabarangpur for Wednesday.

October 2, all the 30 districts of Odisha are likely to experience rainfall, the bulletin said.

Moderate rainfall (7 cm to 20 cm) is likely in insulated places of Kandhamal, Gajapati, Rayagada, Koraput and Malkangiri, and 7 cm to 11 cm in the districts of Nayagarh, Khurda, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Balasore, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar, October 2, it said.

The IMD has advised fishermen not to venture into the sea along and off the Odisha coast during October 1 to October 4.

Speaker Padhy joins Swasth Nari campaign at City AIIMS

Bhubaneswar: Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy recently visited AIIMS-Bhubaneswar and took part in the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar campaign, an initiative promoting women's health and empowering families. During her visit, Speaker Padhy underwent health screening for hypertension and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). She also engaged with the beneficiaries and healthcare providers involved in the campaign, gaining first-hand insight into the impact of the programme. Welcoming the Speaker, Institute's executive director Ashutosh Biswas expressed his appreciation, stating, “Her noble gesture of participating in the health screening and interacting with beneficiaries will certainly inspire all stakeholders to make the Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan a grand success.” Padhy lauded the efforts of AIIMS-Bhubaneswar in organising comprehensive health screenings for women as part of the campaign. She also commended the dedication and professionalism of the healthcare providers for their exemplary service. The Speaker was accompanied by senior dignitaries, faculty members, and staff during her visit.



CLASSIFIED LOST

I, Sri Suresh Kumar Choudhury, S/o- Late Krushna Chandra Choudhury, resident of Plot No.- 1888, Budheswari Colony, near Chintamaniswar Temple, Cuttack Road, Bhubaneswar, Dist.- Khurda, Odisha-751006, am the owner of the vacant land at Dist./Tahasil/SRO-Khordha, Mouza-Kuradhamala, Khata No.- 530/636, Plot No.- 1219, Area Ac0.330dec. corresponding to Khata No.- 530/140, Plot No.- 1219 which corresponds to Khata No.- 55, Plot No.- 1219. I have lost the original link document regarding the above mention property vide Registered Sale Deed No.- 88, dated 02.01.2010 at Mastercanteen, Kharvel Nagar. Now I am going to mortgage the said property in SBI, Chandaka IIC, SME Branch, Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar. Therefore, notice is hereby given to general public that if anybody has any claim over the said property on the missing document, he/she may contact the BM of above said Bank or me within 30 days of this publication. Contact details- 9658791135, 7978668704.

AICCTU, AIUTUC slam govt over extended work hours



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: The state units of All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) and All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC) Tuesday slammed the Odisha government's move to extend labourers' working hours, terming it an anti-worker policy favouring corporates.

In its statement, the AICCTU said the state cabinet September 29 approved raising the standard workday from eight

to ten hours and increasing the quarterly overtime cap from 50 to 144 hours, a move officials linked to the government's “Ease of Doing Business” push.

AICCTU leaders condemned the cabinet decision as an assault on workers' rights, alleging it was part of a larger plan to legitimise exploitation. They pointed out that similar provisions were introduced through the BJP government's four Labour Codes during the Covid-19 crisis without par-

liamentary debate, and since nationwide resistance has delayed their full implementation, these measures are now being pushed in BJP-ruled states like Odisha. Odisha AICCTU president Radhakanta Sethy and state secretary Mahendra Parida demanded the decision be rolled back immediately.

AIUTUC's state committee also opposed the cabinet's amendments to the Odisha Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1956, and the Factories Act, 1948, permitting 10-hour workdays, 144 hours of quarterly overtime, and night shifts for women. Calling the decision inhuman and undemocratic, leaders said it would overburden workers and compromise women's safety amid rising crimes. State president Shambhu Nath Nayak and secretary Jayasen Meher urged workers to unite and resist the move, warning the Mohan Majhi-led government of intensified protests if the decision is not withdrawn.

Majhi visits Keonjhar



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 30: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi arrived on a one-day visit to Keonjhar district and landed at Rajsuan Airstrip Tuesday in a special aircraft. At the airstrip, he was given a guard of honour by the district administration.

Party workers, leaders and well-wishers welcomed him with flowers and bouquets. Later he visited Jhumpura by road and participated in the Durga Puja festival in the area by taking part in the rituals and in the ‘Yagnya’ in the puja mandaps.

Later, CM Majhi went to his

native village Raikala where the villagers gave him a grand welcome as he interacted with them and their family members.

From there, he left for Keonjhar and visited the Durga puja pandals at Puruna Bazar, Raspuja Market and Jagannathpur Sahi amid the grand welcome by the puja committees. He also held discussions with the committee members on various issues.

From there, the CM went to the Circuit House and took rest. Later, at night, he joined the “Dandia dance” programme organised by the Gujarati Samaj at the local Gujarat Bhawan.

Puja pandals: Devotion meets selfie obsession

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: Amid Bhubaneswar's vibrant Durga Puja celebrations, with over 172 pandals across the City, a growing cultural trend is drawing attention — the obsession with selfies.

While the grandeur of the decorated pandals and the spiritual fervour draw thousands of devotees, an increasing number of visitors are more focused on capturing the perfect photo than seeking the goddess's blessings. The practice, though seemingly harmless, is raising eyebrows among heritage experts, sociologists, and even pandal organisers.

“Selfies are a modern trend and part of everyday life now,” said Taranisen Patnaik, a City heritage expert. “But inside pandals, especially near the Maa Durga idols, this should be restricted. It disrupts the sanctity of the puja, interferes with rituals, and often troubles other devotees who come with devotion.”

However, not everyone agrees. “I dress up for the occasion, and taking a selfie at the pandal is my way of preserving the moment,” said Shruti Nayak, a college student. “It doesn't



of engaging with culture, but they also reveal our growing need for digital validation. When it begins to interfere with religious rituals or public movement, it becomes more about self-centeredness than celebration.”

However, not everyone agrees. “I dress up for the occasion, and taking a selfie at the pandal is my way of preserving the moment,” said Shruti Nayak, a college student. “It doesn't

mean I'm disrespectful — I just want to share my joy with friends online.”

Akhil Das, a local photographer, adds another perspective. “These selfies promote the art and effort behind the beautiful pandals. They help spread awareness and attract more visitors.”

Caught between devotion



and digital expression, puja organisers are treading a delicate line.

“We can't ban selfies altogether,” said Nabakishore Behera, an organiser from the popular Nayapalli Durga Puja Committee. “It's true that people taking selfies disrupt the lines and sometimes the rituals. But banning them is not an easy decision — we need consensus from all stakeholders. We are considering ways to manage this better.”

Some pandals have even introduced ‘selfie zones’, designated areas where visitors can take photos without disturbing the rituals or the crowd flow. Organisers hope this will strike a balance between tradition and modern trends.

As Bhubaneswar continues to celebrate Durga Puja with grandeur, the debate between devotion and digital obsession remains very much alive — reflecting the changing face of culture in a smartphone-driven world.

Cuttack Durga Puja dazzles with silver, green hues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Sept 30: Cuttack has transformed into a spectacle of light, artistry and devotion with the ‘Millennium City’ celebrating Durga Puja at 176 pandals.

Known for its distinctive ‘Chandi Medha’ tradition -- silver filigree backdrops adorning the goddess -- the puja blended age-old heritage with fresh innovations and a touch of social responsibility.

The highlight of 2025 was the Jobra puja committee's first-ever ‘Chandi Medha’, unveiled to mark its 75th year of celebration.

Crafted from 2.5 quintals of pure silver, the decorations showcased intricate peacock motifs, making Jobra the 36th committee in the city to enter this elite club.

Not to be left behind, the Mangalabag puja committee added nearly 12 kg of silver to refurbish the weapons of the deity -- from trishul to bow and arrow -- enhancing both visual splendour and ritual sanctity.

Cuttack's unique blend of faith and food was also witnessed.

The Chandni Chowk puja committee, famous for its ‘fish bhog’, has scaled up preparations to serve fish curry to



DARGHA BAZAR, CUTTACK

nearly 10,000 devotees today on Navami.

This centuries-old practice not only reinforces community bonding but also sustains local fish markets that thrive during the season.

Beyond silver and cuisine, this year's festivities also carried a message of environmental stewardship.

The Khannagar puja committee launched a green initiative, pledging to distribute between 500 and 1,000 fruit and flower-bearing saplings to visitors

on each of the five puja days.

Organisers hope the gesture will inspire households to contribute to a greener city long after the festive lights dim.

Even as the celebrations grow in scale, they remain under watchful regulation. Responding to concerns over noise and safety, the Orissa High Court has restricted the use of firecrackers, loud music, and extravagant gates with light decorations at pandals.

While some committees view these as constraints, many

Chandni Chowk Puja Committee to serve fish curry to nearly 10,000 devotees today on Navami

agree that responsible celebrations are the way forward for a city already grappling with congestion and pollution.

From Balu Bazar, where the first puja is believed to have begun nearly 500 years ago, to today's themed pandals with dazzling silver artistry, Cuttack's Durga Puja has travelled a long journey.

This year's blend of tradition, innovation, and social conscience ensured that the festival continues to embody the city's spirit -- where devotion meets craftsmanship, and celebration embraces responsibility.

The five-day puja festivals that began on Monday will continue till Friday, when the immersion of the idols will be conducted.

Massive colourful processions accompanied by music of all hues will lead the idols to makeshift water bodies prepared by the local administration for bidding farewell to the deities.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.98 ▲ 0.08	SENSEX	80267.62 ▼ 97.32	GOLD	₹116,141 ▲ 7693
EURO	104.59 ▲ 0.21	NIFTY	24611.10 ▼ 23.80	SILVER	₹141,831 ▼ ₹1268

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	35.2°	33.4°	mostly cloudy sky
Min Temp	24.8°	23.6°	
Humidity	79%	88%	
Rainfall	TRACE	Nil	

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Lakhs witness ‘Chhatar Jatra’

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhawanipatna, Sept 30: Nearly five lakh people took part in the famous ‘Chhatar Jatra’ of Goddess Manikeswari celebrated with grandeur in Bhawanipatna city of Kalahandi district Tuesday. Hundreds of goats and hens were slaughtered on the roads here during the rituals, marking the Maha Ashtami celebrations of Durga Puja.

Kalahandi Superintendent of Police Nagaraj Devarakonda said the festival passed off peacefully and no untoward incident was reported.

In order to maintain law and order, 20 platoons (one platoon comprises 30 personnel) of the state police were deployed, as nearly five lakh people took part in the festival, he said.



Despite repeated appeals by the administration to desist from animal sacrifice, thousands are killed every year, a senior official of the district administration said. “We cannot stop the practice unless locals cooperate,” he added.

The official said that Kalahandi

district administration, like every year, had launched an awareness campaign against animal sacrifice this time as well.

“We used local media and social media, and held meetings to persuade people to desist from animal slaughter,” a senior police officer said.

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OAV student drowns in pond

Hatadihi: A Class VIII student of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya (OAV) at Sundarapal under this block in Keonjhar district drowned while bathing in a pond Tuesday. The deceased was identified as 13-year-old Sai Prakash Jena, son of Susanta Jena of Bishnupur. He had been staying in a private hostel at Jalakalanga along Anandapur-Bhadrak State Highway 53, about 10 km from the school. Sai had gone home during the Dussehra holidays, but was returned by his family members to the hostel Tuesday morning. Later in the day, he went to a nearby pond in Jalakalanga with two fellow students to bathe. While in the water, he slipped into the deep water and drowned. On being informed by his two friends, residents alerted Nandipada police and Hatadihi fire brigade. After a prolonged search, firefighters pulled Sai from the water and rushed him to Hatadihi hospital, and later to Anandpur Sub-Divisional Hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead. Nandipada police registered an unnatural death case (13/2025) and handed over the body to the family members after a postmortem, station in-charge Rabintra Patra said, adding that a probe is on.

Pugmarks trigger alarm

POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogarh, Sept 30: Panic gripped Riamal forest region in Deogarh after pugmarks of a tiger were spotted for the first time, confirming suspicions that a big cat has been roaming the area for the past several days.

The pugmarks were found near Jharamunda

forest close to Babaji Math village. Following the discovery, the Forest department collected samples of the pugmarks and sent them for verification by a special expert team.

Although reports of tiger movement in Riamal forests had reached the department earlier, this is the first physical evidence.



To monitor the animal's activities, the department has installed trap cameras at multiple locations. A dedicated team has also been formed, and regular patrolling is being conducted in the affected area.

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Man kills uncle over petty issue

Keonjhar: A man succumbed to injuries he sustained in an attack by his nephew at Dudhaposhi village under Nayakote police limits in Keonjhar district over soil collection. The deceased was identified as Maheswar Mahakud, 55. Police arrested accused Dharanidhar Mahakud, 25, and produced him in court Tuesday. Reports said work was underway on a new concrete road from Dudhaposhi Square to Similisa September 22 when a dispute arose between Maheswar and Dharanidhar over taking soil from the excavation site. In a fit of rage, the latter allegedly attacked Maheswar on the head with a spade, leaving him critically injured. Maheswar was initially rushed to Banspal CHC and later shifted to Keonjhar DHH. However, he was again shifted to a hospital in Cuttack where he died at 10:30pm Monday. A murder case (172/25) has been registered and a probe is in progress.

Paradip Port inks pact with AM/NS Ports

Bhubaneswar: Paradip Port Authority (PPA) and AM/NS Ports have signed a concession agreement for the mechanisation of the CQ-III berth to handle dry bulk cargo. This marks a significant step toward enhancing port infrastructure and operational efficiency, said a PPA official. The project is for a concession period of 30 years. It envisages the shipment of iron ore pellets of AM/NS India through mechanised conveying and a ship loader system equipped with state-of-the-art handling facilities. The pact highlights a strong, long-term commitment to sustainable and efficient cargo handling. The agreement was executed by Himanshu Sekhar Rout, Chief Engineer, PPA, and Subhakar Dash, Authorised Signatory, AM/NS Ports. Suresha G, Chief – Odisha Operations, AM/NS India, said, “This partnership marks a pivotal moment in our journey to modernise port operations and support industrial growth in the region. The mechanisation of CQ-III berth will reinforce our commitment to operational excellence and environmental sustainability.” PPA Chairman PL Haranadh emphasised that the project is an important step towards improving berth productivity and promoting eco-friendly coastal cargo handling operations.

“

Whenever in your life, you meet with a hardship, take it as a boon from the Divine's Grace and it will become so.

THE MOTHER



French Justice

At a time when many people across the globe holding high offices or having money power and political clout are continuing to evade the laws despite their wrongdoings- economic or political-, it does great credit to the French legal system that it could send former President Nicolas Sarkozy to jail for corruption. For the first time in the history of the French Fifth Republic, the Paris criminal court sentenced Sarkozy to serve time in prison for five years. It has found him guilty of the charge of “criminal conspiracy,” with the help of his close associates, to indulge in corruption “at the highest possible level” when he was a candidate in the 2007 presidential election.

The case relates to alleged Libyan funding of his 2007 presidential election campaign. The verdict is apt considering the seriousness of the accusation against him. The ruling brought back memories of Sarkozy’s hobnobbing with Muammar Gaddafi, one of the world’s most infamous dictators. The four months of hearings, during which Sarkozy continually pleaded his innocence and contended that there was no evidence against him, fully exposed the weakness of his testimonies. The prosecution revealed a web of corruption and the modus operandi of the perpetrators of fraudulent transactions between Sarkozy’s men and high-ranking Libyan officials.

According to the court, these “secret meetings” would only make sense “due to the need to obtain funds” for Sarkozy’s campaign. As per French law, mere preparation to commit an offence is sufficient to establish a charge of criminal conspiracy, and it was through this angle that the court brought to light the defendants’ serious conduct that ran counter to principles of morality and national independence.

It has taken over 10 years from the time of the initial suspicions of gross wrongdoing to the final judgement of the court. This is not the proverbial law’s delay. On the contrary, it is proof of the determination that the investigators showed to piece together facts ferreted out by the investigative journalism website Mediapart that could otherwise have remained buried in the heat and dust of an election campaign.

This is a triumph of democracy as justice has finally been done. It is heartening to note that the judiciary could not be manipulated as is being done in many countries and the court has reassuringly sent across the message that no one is above the law. This is all the more important when public trust of politicians has severely eroded. Eruption of violent protests by ordinary citizens and young groups in Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka are glaring instances of how the people can even resort to lawlessness to end corruption and nepotism of those whom they have entrusted with the task of running the government and working for their welfare.

Significantly, the head judge, Nathalie Gavarino, justified the sentence by saying the facts of the case were of an “exceptional gravity” and “likely to undermine citizens’ trust.” The French judiciary has for some time been trying to restore the people’s faith in democratic principles by ensuring that wrongdoers holding high offices are punished with immediate effect. The fact that Judge Gavarino’s sentence was given in the same spirit was a shock to the Far-Right politician Marine Le Pen. After a nine-week trial, Marine Le Pen had been found guilty in March of the embezzlement of European parliamentary funds through a fake jobs scam of an unprecedented scale and duration. She was banned from running for office for five years with immediate effect, which could prevent her from making a fourth bid for the French presidency in 2027.

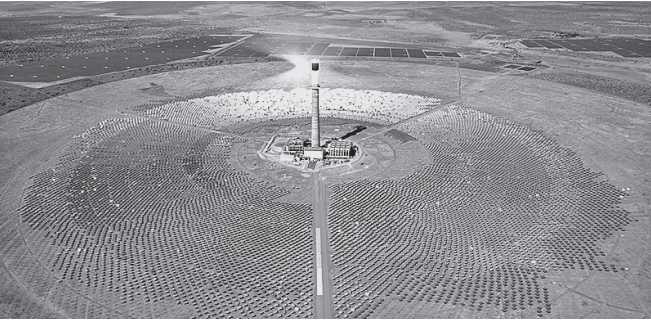
Sarkozy, on the other hand, has already been convicted in two separate cases and stripped of France’s highest distinction, the Legion of Honour.

The wheels of justice appear to be turning so that high dignitaries are not spared for criminal acts. There cannot be one system of justice for the rich and another for the poor.

FOCUS

FINANCE

CHANGING FACE OF FDI



FDI – whether from the West, China, or the Gulf – is profit-driven, and sometimes motivated by rent-seeking. It can deliver significant benefits, but it also carries risks

Although US President Donald Trump’s protectionist trade policies dominate news headlines, they are far from the only forces shaping global production. New investment patterns have been reshaping the global economic landscape since well before Trump’s tariffs.

Nowhere is this more evident than in flows of foreign direct investment (FDI). According to the latest World Investment Report from United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD), FDI inflows to Europe, South America, and much of Asia declined in 2024. By contrast, FDI flows to Africa surged by 75 per cent, to \$97 billion, while those to Southeast Asia increased by 10 per cent, to \$225 billion.

Behind these trends lies a broader restructuring of multinational supply chains, which are steadily shifting toward Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, and Central America. Consequently, FDI patterns are also changing: while the United States, Japan, and China remain the largest outward investors, the Middle East has emerged as a major source of FDI.

Flush with oil revenue, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries – Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates – invested roughly \$113 billion in Africa in 2022 and 2023, dramatically expanding their economic footprint on the continent. Most of this capital has gone into logistics and infrastructure projects such as ports, airports, and transportation networks, as well as oil and gas.

The centre of gravity, however, is rapidly shifting toward China, especially when it comes to green investment. A new report from the Net Zero Industrial Policy Lab highlights the scope of Chinese outward FDI, showing how China’s push into clean energy is boosting its economic influence.

Drawing on a database of 461 China-backed greentech manufacturing projects announced

between 2011 and mid-2025, the report finds that Chinese firms have invested more than \$220 billion in 387 projects across 54 countries since 2022. These include solar and wind power facilities, large-scale battery plants, new-energy vehicles, charging infrastructure, and even early-stage green-hydrogen startups.

According to the report, Chinese investments are largely driven by firms’ search for market access and reliable supplies of raw materials. While ASEAN countries remain the leading destination for such projects, the Middle East and North Africa’s share rose sharply to over 20 per cent in 2024; Latin America and Central Asia also attracted a significant share of Chinese FDI.

Importantly, this wave of Chinese FDI is not led by state-owned enterprises but by private companies that have relied neither on large loans from state-owned banks nor on subsidies from host governments. As one of the study’s authors observed, “Chinese government officials themselves may not be aware of the full range and aggregated total of these private-sector green investments overseas.”

Taken together, these developments signal a new phase in China’s global economic expansion. Unlike President

Xi Jinping’s state-led Belt and Road Initiative, profit-oriented investments reflect both supply-side pressures – such as industrial overcapacity within China – and demand-side dynamics, with recipient countries increasingly tying market access to value-added processing rather than natural-resource extraction.

Given that the full impact of these projects will become clear only years from now, many observers – particularly in advanced economies – could be caught off guard. While Chinese exports and extractive investments have often been viewed as threats to industrialisation in recipient countries, the current wave of manufacturing FDI has the potential to strengthen domestic production, create jobs, and promote broader development goals. Even limited technology transfers could prove transformative, accelerating the clean-energy transition and reshaping global trade.

To be sure, China is not in the business of philanthropy. FDI – whether from the West, China, or the Gulf – is profit-driven, and sometimes motivated by rent-seeking. It can deliver significant benefits, but it also carries risks: environmental degradation, displacement, labour exploitation, foreign-exchange losses through profit repatriation,

and costly technical fees or royalties. And when expected linkages and spillovers fail to materialise, the benefits remain highly localised.

As always, much depends on the policies adopted by host countries. Encouragingly, some export-oriented developing economies appear to have learned from Indonesia, where the government compelled Chinese firms to generate more domestic value-added production (particularly in nickel processing) as a condition for investment. Inspired by this, several governments are seeking to impose similar requirements on foreign investors, with greater emphasis on local production and knowledge transfer. For example, in Brazil, the consumer-electronics company Lenovo has established a joint research and development department to enhance its local digital intelligent manufacturing capabilities.

That said, even Indonesia’s relative success has not translated into higher real wages and better working conditions. Welcoming FDI is not enough; host countries also need stronger domestic regulation, public intervention, and regional cooperation to ensure that the gains are broadly shared.

A similar demand was at the heart of the 1955 Bandung Conference, hosted by Indonesia, which called for a fairer global economic order and greater cooperation among Asian and African countries. Notably, the resolution is still cited on Chinese government websites.

But fulfilling the Bandung Conference’s call for a fairer international economic order requires more than profit-driven investment. It requires governments that are willing to work together to develop markets that serve societies, not just shareholders.

The writer is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

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IN JEST THIS

There’s help available for phone addiction

Millions of people are addicted to their phones. That’s why the Addictions Center in New York City has a weekly support group for them. About 20 people meet every Friday in a large room on the first floor. The sign on the door just says “PA Support Group,” so the counselor wasn’t surprised on a recent Friday evening when a young woman peeked inside and asked, “Is this the poetry addiction support group?”

“No,” he said. “That’s on the second floor, between shopping and eavesdropping.”

As the woman left, a bearded man named Arjun asked, “Poetry addiction? Is that a thing?”

The counselor nodded. “You’d be surprised how many addictions we help people with. Everyone is addicted to something. That’s what keeps our economy going.”

“That kind of makes me feel better,” said a college student named Julie. “I hate being addicted to my phone. But I just can’t put it down.”

“Me neither,” said a middle-aged man named Malik.

“I look at it more often than I look at my wife. I might as well be married to it.”

The group had been meeting for more than 10 weeks, but everyone was still wearing a nametag, just in case a new member showed up. (The counselor’s nametag said, “Hello, my name is John and I am phone-free.” But nobody could miss the Apple watch on his wrist.)

“Let me ask you a question, Malik,” the counselor said. “How much time do you spend daily talking directly to your wife?”

“Two or three minutes, John. We usually just text each other during the day.”

“When was the last time you told her you loved her?”

“Last week. I sent her a heart emoji.”

“That’s so sweet,” Julie said. “My boyfriend sends me lots of heart emojis. And kiss emojis too.”

“How much time do you spend talking directly to your boyfriend?” John asked.

“Without my iPhone?”

“Yes, without your iPhone.”

“I’ve never met him in person.”

Not a single eyebrow was raised, not a single gasp was uttered. No one seemed surprised that Julie and her boyfriend had a purely iPhonic relationship.

“How did you meet?” John asked.

“He sent me a text. It was just a question: how are you? And soon we were texting, talking and developing a relationship.”

“Do you know his name?”

“Yes, it’s Arthur Isaac.”

“So his initials are A.I.?”

“So what?”

“Are you sure he’s real?”

“Of course, he’s real. Would a fake person be so interested in how I’m feeling each day, what I cook for dinner, and where I deposit my paycheck?”

“Oh no, it sounds like a romance scam,” Arjun said.

“You’re just jealous!” Julie said.

“Yeah, I want to be scammed too.”

“Come on, you two,” John said. “This is supposed to be a support group. We are supposed to support each other and help everyone with their phone addictions. If you have a

strong relationship with your phones, as many of you do, what is the best way to break the relationship?”

A man named Diego raised his hand. “My suggestion is that we all take the elevator to the 15th floor and drop our phones off the balcony. The best way to break up with your phone is to break your phone.”

“That’s murder!” Julie said.

“It’s not murder,” John said. “Murder is for humans.”

Julie smirked. “I’ll murder anyone who murders my phone.”

“Relax, Julie,” John said. “It was just a suggestion. No one’s going to harm your phone. Breaking a phone probably won’t work for most people. They’ll just buy another phone. Their addiction is too strong.”

“What about shock therapy?” Arjun asked.

“That’s too severe,” John said.

“Not for Julie,” Arjun said. “If you don’t give her shock therapy, she’s soon going to be shocked to find her bank account empty.”

WISDOM CORNER

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be.

ANNE FRANK

Peace in the world starts with peace in oneself. If everyone lives mindfully, everyone will be more healthy, feel more fulfilled in their daily lives and there will be more peace.

THICH NHAT HANH

Work is love made visible. And if you cannot work with love but only with distaste, it is better that you should leave your work and sit at the gate of the temple and take alms of those who work with joy.

KAHLIL GIBRAN

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1946:** The verdict was handed down on 22 of the original 24 defendants in the Nürnberg trials, a series of trials held after World War II in which the International Military Tribunal indicted and tried former Nazi leaders as war criminals.
- 1949:** In Beijing, with most of the Chinese mainland held by the communist People's Liberation Army, its dynamic leader, Mao Zedong, proclaimed the establishment of the People's Republic of China on this day in 1949.
- 1960:** Nigeria gained its independence from Britain but remained a member of the Commonwealth.
- 1961:** British Cameroon or Southern Cameroon joined the Republic of Cameroon to form the Federal Republic of Cameroon.
- 1975:** In what is regarded by many as the greatest prizefight of all time (the “Thrilla in Manila”), Muhammad Ali defeated Joe Frazier after the latter’s corner called a halt to the bout after 14 brutal rounds.

L


etters

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

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shore is, and spins towards it." you hit

"Well, what if it into the woods?"

"Easy," says the salesman. "It emits a beeping sound, and you can find it with your eyes closed."

"Okay," says the golfer, impressed.

"But what if your round goes late and it gets dark?"

"No problem, sir, this golf ball glows in the dark! I'm telling you, you can never lose this golf ball!"

The golfer buys it at once. "Just one question," he says to the salesman.

"Where did you get it?"

"I found it."

golfer, playing a round by himself, is about to tee off, and a greasy little salesman runs up to him, and yells, "Wait! Before you tee off, I have something really amazing to show you!"

The golfer, annoyed, says, "What is it?"

"It's a special golf ball," says the salesman. "You can never lose it!"

"Whattaya mean," scoffs the golfer, "you can never lose it? What if you hit it into the water?"

"No problem," says the salesman. "It floats, and it detects where the

Unprecedented move

Coffee connects

Sir, This refers to “Now, Trump imposes 100% tariff on movies,” **Orissa POST**, Sept 30. In a shocking move, US President Donald Trump announced a 100% tariff on all films produced outside the United States, sending shockwaves through the global entertainment industry. The unprecedented decision threatens to disrupt not only Hollywood collaborations but also international streaming platforms like Netflix and the vibrant Indian film sector. India, the world’s largest film-producing nation by volume, stands to incur major losses. Annually, Indian films earn roughly \$100–150 million from the US market, spanning theatrical releases, digital rights, and satellite distribution. Blockbusters in Hindi and Telugu alone can generate \$10 million or more from North American audiences. The move mirrors tariffs on goods, potentially forcing American viewers—particularly the South Asian diaspora—to pay double the current ticket prices and higher subscription fees. Yet, these inflated costs may deter audiences, ultimately reducing revenues. Producers may have to compromise on profits, and the seamless global film ecosystem could face significant strain. The measure underscores growing protectionist tendencies and highlights the vulnerability of international creative industries to political whims.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Sir, Coffee denotes energy; coffee symbolises joy. Above all, it is a celebration of friendship. Though the beverage is confined to some pockets in India, the liveliness and aura surrounding coffee are unbeatable. Old timers say that coffee could connect people and create communities. Amidst more than four hundred million cups of coffee consumed annually, in more than 85 coffee growing countries, coffee growers are in a dilemma. Climate change that has resulted in global warming, and untimely and scarce rainfall, coupled with lack of sufficient shade and moisture, has knocked the living daylight out of the coffee producers. Shortage of skilled labour and unattractive prices have added to the farmers’ woes. In India, there has been a large scale migration of coffee plantation workers from the eastern part to some southern states due to better options. 1 October is celebrated as International Coffee Day.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Tera Vaibhav Amar Rahe Maa...



MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI

The centenary year of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangha will begin this Vijayadashami. 100 years ago, the seed planted at Reshamibag in Nagpur has today grown into a mighty tree. Not only has the Sangha expanded in size, but also in these 100 years, it has also clearly presented the depth of its ideology before the entire world.

Starting with just a handful of boys and youths in a playground by the leadership of Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, the Sangha has today become the world's largest organization. The journey of the Sangha in the last 100 years was full of challenges, but it stood firmly on the foundation of the sacrifices, dedication, and tireless efforts of many uncountable swayamsevaks.

On this centenary as a humble swayamsevak, I extend my heartfelt wishes to all the generations of adhikaris, karyakartas, swayamsevaks, well-wishers, thinkers, intellectuals, and countless others who have carried the Sangha's message to every part of the society.

I pray to Maa Durga that for centuries to come, for eternity, the Sangha, the Sangha Parivar and above all the core foundation of Bharatiya thought and Bharatiyata, continues to inspire and influence the entire humanity. On this sacred occasion, I offer my prayer to Maa Durga, that Bharat sits once again on the seat of Vishwaguru and inspires the entire mankind.

I had started attending the Sangha

Shakha during my school days as a child. When I look back, the memories of my days of higher studies, the struggle for livelihood, and my initial involvement in jana seva and politics to connect with society, I realize that behind me there has always been the invisible guiding hand of the inspiring ideology of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangha.

In early school days, it was not just attending sangha sakha. The ideology of the Sangha has not only shaped my life but also has millions like me. We the swayamsevaks have the highest regard for the sacred saffron flag and consider this as our Guru. The individual is secondary, mortal, and merely a medium. The ideology is eternal and unbroken. The Sangha has not brought any new thought but has reoriented the people towards the fundamental principles of Bharatiya civilization and culture that are timeless and infinite.

For thousands of years, foreign invaders like by Shakas, Huns, Tatars, Mughals, and later the Britishers sought to tarnish the brilliance of civilization and implant disbelief and disrespect for Bharatiyata in the minds of our own people. In the 19th and 20th centuries, it was the Sangha that gave the mantra to counter this conspiracy and live as proud Bharatiya.

The efforts of Sangha Founder Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, has influenced crores of Indians like me across the country. At a time when Indian society, under Mughal and then British rule, was forgetting its glorious history, the Sangha instilled a sense of pride in our belief, culture, tradition, and history throughout the nation. Its resonance has even influenced the entire world.

As a swayamsevak, what I have understood is that the Sangha has been engaged solely and entirely in the work of nation-building through byaktinirmana. The firm belief of the Sangha is that nation-building is possible only through the making of strong individuals.

The individuals nurtured by the Sangha have gone into various spheres of social life and, inspired by the eternal Bharatiya or Hindu



thought that the Sangh propagates, have made tireless efforts to organize and influence society. Till date the struggle continues and will keep continuing for generations to come as civilization itself is eternal and flows without end.

The individuals reared by the Sangha have, in later years, gone on to establish some of the country's largest mass organizations. In the sphere of students, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) has become the largest student organization. In the sphere of religion, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP); in the labor field, the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangha; in the field of education, Vidya Bharati, in the field of tribals Banabasi Kalyan Ashram and many others.

In the political sphere, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) founded by people nurtured by the Sangha has now become the largest political organization in the world.

In post-Independence India, the reins of governance laid with the Congress. But under the influence of leftist ideology, knowingly or unknowingly under the impact of international conspiracies many echoed the spirit. The Government of the country gave free hand to efforts that distanced the Indian mind

from its own Dharma, Civilization, and Culture.

If Doctorji would not have founded the Sangha a hundred years ago, had he not made it a centre of byaktinirmana, and had it not mass organizations and mass movements taking place had we continued Bharat as desired by us?

You must have heard the name of Macaulay, who during British rule in India implemented a new education policy with the larger plan of alienating the new generation of Indians from their own roots. I quote his words, "I have travelled across the length and breadth of India and I have not seen a person who is a beggar, or a thief. Such wealth I have seen in this country, such high moral values, such people of calibre, that I do not think we can ever conquer this country. Unless we break the very backbone of this nation, which is her spiritual and cultural heritage, we will not be able to dominate them. If the Indians think that all that is foreign and English is good and greater than their own, they will lose their self-esteem, their native culture and they will become what we want them to be, a truly dominated nation." This was Lord Macaulay's speech in the British Parliament on

2nd February, 1835.

Perhaps what the Mughal invaders from Babur to Aurangzeb, with their swords and forceful conversions, could not achieve in damaging Indian civilization and culture, Macaulay sought to have achieved through his education policy and to a large extent succeeded by attempting to make India's new generations "Black in skin but English in mind."

But what Macaulay and the British failed to understand was how deep rooted the world's oldest civilization truly was! Its root went into the very depths of the earth. Though its branches and leaves were broken, new life and creation would still emerge from the resilient roots beneath.

The British may have tried very hard to create a generation of "Macaulay's children" through their educational institutions. Yet it was our family system, our Ramayana, Mahabharata, Vedas, Upanishads, and our festivals and rituals and Sanskrit language that preserved and safeguarded our civilization.

In 1925, Doctorji sowed the seeds of a silent revolution in the name of the Sangha. From Nagpur and other parts of Maharashtra, he influenced the young men to become intellectual and organizational warriors. Through the ideologies of the Sangha, the shakhas were established in the playgrounds and across every state of Bharat and demolished the conspiracies of Macaulay and the leftists, firmly rooted the victory of eternal Bharatiya Hindu Sanatani thought.

The shakha functioned like an open university, exposing the youth to the truth and awakening their inner strength. The Congress's support for Macaulay and leftist ideas was exposed in this process.

I have been fortunate to meet and receive guidance from individuals like Baburao Paldhiji, Baburao Deshpandeji, and Aravind Chauthaiwaleji, who hailed from Maharashtra and devoted their lives to establishing the Sangha's presence in our state.

They were pracharaks, who left their families, remained unmarried, faced stiff opposition from sizeable sections of the society, and still

worked tirelessly for the Sangha. For them, the Sangha was only a medium; their true dedication was entirely for the nation. Across the length of our land, from Kanyakumari to the Himalayas, the selfless sacrifices of pracharaks have built a strong foundation of byaktinirmana, paving the way for a resurgence of national pride and self-respect.

Our esteemed Prime Minister, Narendra Modi ji, is one such illustrious figure shaped by the Sangha's byaktinirmana mission. His philosophy can be summed up in two words, "Vikasbhi, Virasatbhi." As the Sangha enters its centenary year, its greatest contribution has been in preserving and protecting the nation's heritage. For us, our motherland is not just a piece of land; but a living Rastra Purush. Where would our nation be today, if the Sangha and other spiritual organizations and likeminded individuals had not fought against the colonial and ideological threats of Mughals, British, leftists, and Congress, protecting them?

Time and again, the Sangha has been the target of conspiracies and even faced bans. Yet, in wars with Pakistan, conflicts with China, or the liberation of Bangladesh, the government of the country turned to the Sangha for cooperation, and the Sangha proved its loyalty and patriotism. In every natural disaster, swayamsevaks have been the first to reach and serve. The enduring dedication of pracharaks and swayamsevaks is what gives substance and significance to their work, and the sadhana they have done.

For us, the individual is nothing the nation is everything. "Tera vaibhav amar rahe maa, hum din char rahen na rahe." This is the essence of the Sangha's spirit of dedication.

May the Bharatiya thought remain eternal! May Bharat once again rise as Vishwaguru! On the occasion of Sangha's centenary, this is my heartfelt prayer to Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath and Maa Durga.

Bharat Mata Ki Jai!

The writer is the Chief Minister of Odisha.

TRUTH WILL COME OUT: VIJAY

TN govt releases videos to allege violation of norms by TVK; NDA panel visits Karur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai/Karur, Sept 30: The Karur stampede at actor-politician Vijay's rally escalated into a DMK vs TVK slugfest Tuesday, with the top star accusing Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin of taking "revenge" on him and asserting that the "truth will come out", and the state government releasing videos to allege violation of norms by his party.

Shortly after Vijay issued a video statement, saying that the DMK government may do anything to him, but should not touch TVK party people, senior state officials held a press conference where they made a presentation on the sequence of events that unfolded in the western Tamil Nadu district before and during the stampede in which 41 people have died and over 60 were injured.

Talking to reporters later, senior DMK leader and Lok Sabha MP Kanimozhi said the wails and tears of the affected persons were unending.

The DMK government immediately stood with the peo-



ple, she said, and faulted Vijay for leaving the place after the stampede. As a political party leader, he should not have done that, she said.

"Leaving the place without even saying comforting words and mindful of his own security--according to me, this is unprecedented," she told reporters.

Meanwhile, a panel of NDA MPs constituted by the BJP, and headed by party MP from Mathura, Hema Malini, visited the stampede site and also

spoke to the injured recuperating in a hospital. The panel questioned the choice of venue allotted to Vijay for the September 27 rally, which he addressed from atop a vehicle.

Although Vijay had responded to the incident Saturday itself, hours after the stampede happened, sympathising with the victims' families and promising compensation, he uploaded a detailed video response on his 'X' page Tuesday.

The 49-year-old top actor said he has never faced such a "pain-

ful situation" in his life.

"I didn't visit Karur as it would lead to an unusual situation. I will meet you (families of victims, the injured) soon," he said in the video message.

His response came following criticism from various quarters for not visiting Karur and meeting the victims' families and the injured.

Vijay said the truth about the incident will come out soon, and that he was ready to face action. "You may do anything to me, but don't touch my party people," he said in the wake of his party colleagues, including senior leaders Bussy N Anand and CTR Nirmal Kumar, facing a police case in connection with the stampede in Karur district, located about 400 km from the state capital Chennai.

Seeking to take on the ruling DMK over the matter, he, referring to Stalin, said, "CM sir, if you have a thought of seeking revenge, you may do anything to me and not touch the party men." Vijay, who launched his party TVK in February 2024, has been highly critical of the ruling DMK and its president, Stalin.

Air India, Airbus set up pilot training facility in Haryana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: Air India and Airbus have established a joint venture training facility in Haryana to train pilots for A320 and A350 family aircraft, with a planned investment of over Rs 1,000 crore for simulators.

The advanced pilot training centre at the Air India Aviation Training Academy will train more than 5,000 new pilots over the next decade, the airline said in a release Tuesday.

The equal joint venture facility, spread over 12,000 square metres, will have 10 full-flight simulators, along with advanced classrooms and briefing rooms. It was inaugurated by Civil Aviation Minister K Ram-mohan Naidu Tuesday.

Currently, it has two full-flight simulators for A320 family aircraft. The remaining six A320 simulators and two A350 simulators will be installed progressively.

Naidu, in a post on X, said the simulators will be installed with an investment of more than Rs 1,000 crore.

13,366 CASES IN 2023

Crime against women highest in Delhi: NCRB

Under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, Delhi again reported the highest number of girl child rape cases at 1,048



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: Crime against women was highest in Delhi with over 13,000 cases registered in 2023 alone, as the national capital recorded the most number of dowry death and rape cases among 19 metropolitan cities, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report.

While Delhi's crime rate per lakh population stood at 14.4 per cent, lower than that of Indore and Jaipur, the city lodged 1,088 cases of rape. Jaipur registered 573 rape cases and Mumbai 196.

Overall, crimes against women in Delhi registered a 5.59 per cent decline in 2023 compared to 2022, when 14,158 cases were reported. In 2021, the figure stood at 13,982.

Kidnapping and abduction of women remained a major concern, with 3,952 cases reported in 2023. The rate of 52.2 per cent placed Delhi second only to Patna with 71.3 per cent. The capital also saw the highest cases of acid attack with six such incidents recorded that year, the reports stated.

Delhi reported the highest number of dowry deaths among other metro cities with 114 cases, though the rate (1.5 per cent) was lower than in six cities, including Jaipur, Kanpur and Ghaziabad.

Cases of cruelty by husband were also the highest in Delhi at 4,219, as were cases of assault with intent to outrage modesty, which stood at 1,791.

Under the Protection of Chil-

dren from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), Delhi again reported the highest number of girl child rape cases at 1,048, the reports stated.

In contrast, cybercrimes against women were relatively lower in Delhi, with 36 cases registered in 2023. Bengaluru (127), Hyderabad (53) and Lucknow (41) reported higher figures. These included offences such as publishing or transmitting sexually explicit material, blackmail, defamation, morphing and creation of fake profiles.

Police officials attributed Delhi's high figures to a 'zero-tolerance policy' towards crimes against women, citing prompt and fair registration of FIRs as a factor.

Personal disputes, petty quarrels behind most murders

Delhi recorded 503 murder cases in 2023, the highest among all metropolitan cities, with most killings linked to personal disputes and petty quarrels, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data. According to the data, the number of murder cases in the national capital has shown a rising trend in the last three years -- from 454 in 2021 to 502 in 2022 and 503 in 2023. Personal disputes accounted for the largest share of the killings. Of the 503 murders reported in 2023, 242 were due to disputes, 115 due to petty quarrels and 59 because of family conflicts. Enmity or personal vendetta led to 89 murders, while property and money-related issues caused 46 killings. It said murders over illicit relationships (28 cases) and love affairs (21 cases) were also reported, while 43 killings took place during robberies or dacoities. Seven murders were committed for gain, 18 over land disputes and one dowry-related case was recorded. Eight cases remained "blind murders", while 64 were listed under other causes. In terms of the victims, the NCRB said 38 children were killed in Delhi till 2023, including four aged below six years and 10 between six and 12 years. The data showed that 15 boys and three girls were killed in the 16-18 age group.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: Veteran BJP leader Vijay Kumar Malhotra, the first president of the party's Delhi unit and a five-time former MP from the city, passed away here Tuesday morning. He was 93.

Malhotra was undergoing treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) for the last few days.

He was one of the prominent faces of the Delhi BJP who served as the leader of opposition in the Assembly and was also projected as the party's chief-ministerial face during the 2008 election, in which the Congress under Sheila Dikshit maintained its winning streak. His mortal remains will be

kept at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) office on Pandit Pant Marg from 12 noon to 2 pm on October 1 for mourners to pay their last respects. The cremation will take place at the Lodhi Road crematorium.

His family includes his wife, Krishna Malhotra, son Ajay Malhotra and daughter Anupama Malik.

President Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, among others, expressed grief over Malhotra's demise. The Delhi government has cancelled several scheduled events.

Murmu, Radhakrishnan, Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Delhi Chief Minister



Rekha Gupta, former president Ram Nath Kovind and BJP chief JP Nadda visited the veteran leader's residence and paid their last respects.

Earlier, Modi lauded Malhotra's contribution to public life and remembered him for strengthening the saffron party in Delhi.

"Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra Ji distinguished himself as an outstanding leader, who had

a very good understanding of people's issues. He played a vital role in strengthening our party in Delhi," the prime minister said in a post on X.

Radhakrishnan expressed anguish over the passing away of the BJP stalwart.

Nadda and Gupta also paid tributes to Malhotra.

The Delhi government has announced a daylong state mourning Wednesday.

Gupta called Malhotra the "guardian of all our (BJP) karyakartas" and said his death is "an extremely painful and irreparable loss".

"From the days of the Jana Sangh to the establishment of the BJP, his life remained a living example of nationalism, organisational skills and disci-

pline," the chief minister said in a post in Hindi on X.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal said the death of the BJP veteran is "extremely heartbreaking".

Incidentally, Malhotra's demise came a day after the Delhi BJP got a permanent office at DDU Marg, which was inaugurated by Modi Monday.


A five-time former MP and two-time former MLA from Delhi, Malhotra defeated Congress candidate Manmohan Singh from the South Delhi constituency in the 1999 Lok Sabha polls. Singh went to become the prime minister in 2004.

Several of the scheduled events of the Delhi government have been cancelled in view of Malhotra's demise.

of the day


quote

Saddened by the demise of senior politician Vijay Kumar Malhotra. He was an effective sports administrator too, and his contributions were significant. I knew him well and had occasions to work with him



MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

During Operation Sindoor, the tri-services synergy produced a unified, real-time operational picture. It empowered commanders to take timely decisions, enhanced situational awareness, and reduced the risk of fratricide



RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

With this new infrastructure, our talented artisans will shine even brighter and reach greater heights



PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL PRADESH CM

SHORT TAKES

Pawan Singh meets top BJP leaders

New Delhi: Bhojpuri actor and singer Pawan Singh Tuesday met senior BJP leaders Amit Shah and party president J P Nadda besides their Bihar ally Upendra Kushwaha, in what is being seen as the ruling alliance's bid to iron out wrinkles in its social alliance ahead of the Bihar assembly elections. He first met Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) president Kushwaha, who had suffered defeat in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls due to Singh's decision to contest as an independent from Karakat. He was accompanied by BJP general secretary Vinod Tawde and party secretary Rituraj Sinha. The meetings marked his return to the NDA fold after the split in the Lok Sabha elections. However, both sides insisted that he has remained in the BJP.

Top court upholds service tax demand

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has said all kinds of services rendered by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in any airport are taxable and liable to service tax as it dismissed the appeal of the airport regulator against the service tax liability between 2003 and 2007. A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and P B Varale upheld the March 1, 2017 order of Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) that approved the service tax demand from the AAI on services, including export cargo, it provides.

Praveer Ranjan takes charge as CISF DG

New Delhi: Praveer Ranjan, a 1993-batch IPS officer, Tuesday took charge as the new director general of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at its headquarters here. He was handed over the ceremonial baton from retiring DG R S Bhatti, a senior officer said. Ranjan, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the AGMUT cadre, was earlier serving in the CISF as the Special DG of the airports sector.

Court reserves order on Darshan's jail facility plea

Bangalore: A court here Tuesday reserved its order for October 9 on a petition concerning the jail facilities provided to actor Darshan, who is currently lodged in Bengaluru prison as an accused in the Renukaswamy murder case. Jail authorities submitted a report to the 57th Sessions court here during the hearing, and the Judge heard extensive arguments from both sides.

Curbs eased for full day in Leh; markets return to life



The curfew was imposed in Leh town on the evening of September 24 following violent protests during a shutdown called by a constituent of the Leh Apex Body, to advance talks with the Centre on the demands for statehood and extension of the Sixth Schedule to Ladakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leh, Sept 30: Authorities relaxed the curfew for almost the entire day Tuesday in the violence-hit Leh town of Ladakh, allowing markets to gradually reopen and providing relief to the people who were reeling under week-long curbs, officials said. Earlier, restrictions were eased for two hours from 4 PM Monday, shortly after completion of the last rites of four people -- including a retired Army personnel -- who lost their lives in the widespread clashes between protesters and security personnel September 24. "Barring the violence last Wednesday, there was no untoward incident reported from anywhere. Police and paramilitary forces are deployed in strength as a precautionary measure in the sensitive areas

and are maintaining strict vigil to maintain law and order," a police official said. The curfew was initially relaxed from 10 AM to 2 PM Tuesday and the period was subsequently extended till 5 PM. With the situation remaining by and large peaceful, the authorities did not go for restrictions after 5 PM, but the shopkeepers downed the shutters of their establishments at the end of the relaxation deadline on their own, the officials said. While the markets were teeming with people and vehicles were also plying on all routes, educational institutions remained closed, they said. Additional District Magistrate in Leh, Ghulam Mohammed, earlier ordered the opening of all grocery stores, essential services, hardware and vegetable shops during the relaxation period. Earlier Saturday, the curfew was relaxed for the first time for two hours each from 1 PM and from 3.30 PM in separate areas. The officials said mobile internet services continued to be suspended in Leh town, and prohibitory orders banning assembly of five or more persons are still in force in other major parts of the Union Territory, including Kargil. Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta has been chairing high-level security review meetings almost

on a daily basis. On Monday, he appealed to the people to maintain peace, calling it "the cornerstone of development". "I urge all sections of society to maintain unity and harmony and not fall prey to the designs of anti-social and anti-national elements. The administration stands firmly with the people and will ensure their safety, dignity and progress," Gupta had said. He also hailed the people for showing remarkable restraint and commitment in challenging circumstances and promised to address their every legitimate issue through dialogue and democratic means. The lieutenant governor also issued clear directions for enhanced intelligence gathering, regular community engagement and swift redressing of public grievances to strengthen trust between the administration and the citizens. The curfew was imposed in Leh town on the evening of September 24 following violent protests during a shutdown called by a constituent of the Leh Apex Body (LAB), to advance talks with the Centre on the demands for statehood and extension of the Sixth Schedule to Ladakh. More than 60 people, including two councillors, were taken into custody following the incident. These included climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, who was detained under the National Security Act September 26 and subsequently lodged at Jodhpur jail in Rajasthan. Meanwhile, the Ladakh BJP called for a thorough investigation into the incident to ensure "accountability and justice". "At the same time, we demand the immediate release of all innocent persons charged with minor offences," the BJP said in a statement, expressing condolences to the families of the deceased.

Chaitanyanand's phone reveals predatory behaviour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: Chaitanyanand Saraswati, accused of sexually harassing 17 students at a private institute here, was found to have secretly clicked photos of women and staff, engaged in lewd chats, and spied on students through a CCTV monitoring app, police said Tuesday. Saraswati, arrested from Agra on Sunday after being on the run for several days, is also being confronted with his three female aides -- sisters who allegedly threatened victims and forced them to delete his lewd messages. One of them served as the Dean of the institute, and the other two were wardens, police said. The seizure of the self-styled godman's phone revealed a disturbing pattern of predatory behaviour.

INDIA IS NEW BUILDER OF WORLD, SAYS ISRAEL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: President Donald Trump's peace plan for Gaza will allow countries like India to carry out reconstruction activities in the region as New Delhi has been playing a positive role for peace in the Middle-East, Israeli ambassador Reuven Azar said Tuesday. The envoy also welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reaction to the 20-point peace plan and said India can contribute significantly to the region. The plan, unveiled after talks between Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, proposes an immediate end to the war in Gaza and release of all the hostages held by Hamas within 72 hours. Hamas has not yet accepted the peace plan. In a post on X, Modi welcomed Trump's



announcement of a comprehensive plan to end the Gaza conflict. "It provides a viable pathway to long term and sustainable peace, security and development for the Palestinian and Israeli people, as also for the larger West Asian region," he said. "We hope that all concerned will come together behind President Trump's initiative and support this effort to end conflict and secure peace," he said. Asked whether India was briefed before the peace plan was firming up, Azar told reporters that he was not aware about it but indicated that several countries were unofficially apprised about the move.

ED QUESTIONS ACTOR URVASHI RAUTELA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday questioned actor and model Urvashi Rautela in a money laundering case linked to an online betting and gaming platform named 1xbet, official sources said. The 31-year-old is the India ambassador of the platform, registered in the Caribbean island of Curacao



People give finishing touch to effigies of 'Ravana' ahead of the 'Dussehra' festival in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh PTI PHOTO

India may get surplus post-monsoon rain; NW to be warmer in October

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: Most parts of India, except some areas in the northwest, are likely to receive above-normal rainfall during the post-monsoon season of October to December, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Tuesday. The four-month southwest monsoon season ended Tuesday with the country recording eight per cent above normal rainfall. At an online press conference, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said most regions are expected to get above-normal rainfall in the October-December period, while parts of northwest India may see normal to below-normal showers.

He said rainfall in October is expected to be 15 per cent higher than normal, following the abundant rains during June-September. "Maximum temperatures are expected to remain below normal in October in the northern plains, central and peninsular India. They will be above normal in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, eastern Uttar Pradesh and the Saurashtra and Kutch regions of Gujarat," Mohapatra said. India received 937.2 mm of rain against the normal of 868.6 mm this monsoon season, a surplus of 8 per cent. East and northeast India recorded 1,089.9 mm rainfall, 20 per cent below the normal of 1,367.3 mm. Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya saw deficient rainfall in three of the four monsoon months. "Rainfall over east and northeast India this season was the second lowest since 1901. The lowest was in 2013 (1,065.7 mm). Studies show rainfall in this region has decreased over the last two decades," Mohapatra said. Northwest India recorded 747.9 mm, 27.3 per cent above normal, the highest since 2001 and the sixth highest since 1901. All districts in the region saw above-normal rain in June, August and September. Punjab witnessed its worst flood-



The four-month southwest monsoon season ended Tuesday with the country recording eight per cent above normal rainfall

ing in decades, while Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir reported cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides that damaged infrastructure and displaced people. The IMD attributed the surplus rain to active monsoon conditions supported by frequent western disturbances that enhanced rainfall over the region. Central India received 1,125.3 mm rainfall, 15.1 per cent above normal, while the southern peninsula recorded 9.9 per cent surplus. India saw 8.9 per cent above-normal rainfall in June, 4.8 per cent in July, 5.2 per cent in August and 15.3 per cent in September. Mohapatra attributed the high September rainfall to neutral ENSO conditions with sea surface temperatures close to La Nina thresholds, which favoured good rainfall activity. Four low-pressure systems formed in September. This year's monsoon saw 18 low-pressure systems and 69 system days, against the average of 13 systems and 55 days. The monsoon set in over Kerala May 24, its earliest arrival since 2009, and covered the entire country by June 29, nine days ahead of the normal July 8. Withdrawal began two days early from northwest India but is expected to be delayed by a week in central, east and northeast India due to new low-pressure systems over the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, the IMD chief said.

‘Marriage to minor no shield from rape charges under POCSO’

Justices Urmila Joshi Phalke and Nandesh Deshpande of the HC’s Nagpur bench, in the order passed September 26, refused to accept the man’s contention that he was in a consensual relationship with the 17-year-old girl and had registered the marriage only when she turned 18

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 30: The Bombay High Court has refused to quash a rape case against a 29-year-old man, noting that he cannot be absolved of charges under the POCSO Act merely because he married the minor girl and now they have a child together. Justices Urmila Joshi Phalke and Nandesh Deshpande of the HC's Nagpur bench, in the order passed September 26, refused to accept the man's contention that he was in a consensual relationship with the 17-year-old girl and had registered the marriage only when she turned 18. The court said factual consent in a relationship between

or with minors is immaterial under the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The court rejected the application filed by the man and his family members seeking that the FIR lodged against them in July this year by the Akola police be quashed. They were booked under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, POCSO Act and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act. As per the prosecution, the victim was 17 years old when she got married and gave birth to a child in May this year. The victim was married off to the accused after her family



learned that she had been sexually assaulted by him. The accused claimed he was in a consensual relationship

with the girl and that their marriage was legally registered after she turned 18. He further claimed that if he

is prosecuted and punished, then the victim and their child would suffer, and they wouldn't be accepted in society. The girl also appeared before the court and said she has no objection to the FIR being quashed. The bench in its order said the primary objective of the POCSO Act provisions is to protect all children below the age of 18 from sexual assault, harassment and child pornography and to provide a supportive environment for such victims. "The POCSOA was introduced to protect children," HC said, adding that the question of what should be the age group

for adolescent love is pending before the Supreme Court. In the present case, though the accused and the victim girl say the marriage was performed as per Muslim rites and religion, but the fact remains that she was below 18 years of age at the time, the HC said. The victim was not 18 years old even at the time when she delivered her baby, it noted. The accused was 27 years old when he got married and he ought to have understood that he should wait till the girl attains 18 years of age, the court said. It refused to quash the FIR against the man and his family members, noting that it was not a fit case to do so.

of the day

quote

The era of politically correct, overly sensitive do n't-hurt-anyone s-feelings leadership ends right now at every level



PETE HEGSETH | US DEFENCE SECRETARY

Ukrainian (drone) experience is the most relevant in Europe right now, and it is our experience, our specialists, and our technologies that could become a key element of the future European drone wall — a large-scale project that will guarantee safety in the sky



VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY | UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

Russia always supports and welcomes any efforts by Trump that aim to prevent the tragedy (in Gaza) that is currently unfolding



DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN

SHORT TAKES

Pak test-fires cruise missile

Islamabad: Pakistan Tuesday successfully conducted a training launch of the newly inducted and indigenously developed cruise missile 'Fatah-4' that can strike targets up to 750 kilometres, the army said. The army carried out the launch of the missile with a range of 750 kilometres, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the army's media arm, said in a statement. "Equipped with advanced avionics and state-of-the-art navigational aids, this weapon system is capable of evading enemy's missile defence system due to terrain-hugging features and engaging targets with high precision," the army said. As part of the Army Rocket Force Command, Fatah-4 "will further enhance the reach, lethality and survivability of Pakistan Army's conventional missile systems," it said. The launch was witnessed by the chief of general staff, senior officers from Pakistan's armed forces, scientists and engineers. The president, prime minister, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJSC) and services chiefs congratulated the participating troops, scientists and engineers on the successful conduct of Fatah-4's training fire, the statement added.

UN to Taliban: Restore internet

Islamabad: The United Nations mission in Afghanistan urged the Taliban Tuesday to restore internet and telecommunications access across the country, saying the blackout imposed by the government in Kabul has left the nation almost entirely cut off from the outside world. The outage, reported the previous day, was the first nationwide shutdown since the Taliban returned to power in August 2021 and was part of their professed crackdown on immorality. Earlier this month, several provinces lost their fibre-optic connections after Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada issued a decree banning the service to prevent immorality. The disruption threatened economic stability and deepened one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, said the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. It warned that the blackout is crippling banking and financial systems, isolating women and girls, limiting access to medical care and remittances, and disrupting aviation. The UN said such restrictions further undermine freedom of expression and the right to information. It noted that telecommunications are also crucial during disasters — Afghanistan has recently suffered major earthquakes in the east and is struggling with mass forced returns from neighbouring countries.



The Kremlin has already stated quite clearly that even if Tom-ahawks emerge in Ukraine, this will not change the front-line situation

SERGEY LAVROV | RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

RAY OF HOPE IN YEMEN

Yemen's first large-scale solar plant is helping to alleviate electricity shortages in the southern port city of Aden, bringing some relief to residents and businesses which suffer losses particularly when the intense summer heat hits. Funded by UAE and operational since July 2024, Aden Solar Power Plant marks a significant shift towards RE in a country IEA lists as the Middle East's least electrified.



What is Trump's 20-point Gaza peace plan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, Sept 30: After Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threw his support behind the US peace plan for Gaza, the question now is whether Hamas will agree.

Hamas faces a bitter tradeoff — the proposal demands that the militant group effectively surrender in return for uncertain gains. But if it rejects the deal, the US could give Israel an even freer hand to continue its punishing campaign in the already devastated territory.

Under the proposal, the militant group would have to disarm in return for an end to fighting, humanitarian aid for Palestinians, and the promise of reconstruction in Gaza — all desperately hoped for by its population.

But the proposal has only a vague promise that, one day, perhaps, Palestinian statehood might be possible. For the foreseeable future, Gaza and its more than 2 million Palestinians would be put under international control. An international security force would move in, and a "Board of Peace" headed by Trump and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair would oversee Gaza's administration and reconstruction. The territory would remain surrounded by Israeli troops.

Trump and Netanyahu said they agreed on the plan Monday after talks at the White House.

The proposal includes one provision that Netanyahu and his hard-line government most strongly oppose: It says the Palestinian Authority will eventually govern Gaza. But Netanyahu is likely betting that it will never come to pass. Israel also



rejects a Palestinian state.

The White House issued the text of its 20-point proposal. Here is what to know.

The ceasefire

The plan calls for all hostilities to immediately end. Within 72 hours, Hamas would release all hostages it still holds, living or dead. The militants still hold 48 hostages — 20 of whom are believed by Israel to be alive.

In return, Israel would free 250 Palestinians serving life sentences in its prisons as well as 1,700 people detained from Gaza since the war began, including all women and children. Israel would also hand over the bodies of 15 Palestinians for each body of a hostage

handed over.

Troop withdrawal

The plan calls for an Israeli troop withdrawal. But it would only take place after Hamas disarms and as the international security force deploys to fill in areas that Israeli forces leave.

Israel would also maintain a "security perimeter presence" — a vague phrasing that could mean it would keep a buffer zone inside Gaza.

Those terms could bring pushback from Hamas, which has said it will not release all its hostages unless it receives a "clear declaration" that the war will end and Israel will leave Gaza completely.

The fate of Hamas and post-

war Gaza Hamas would have no part in administering Gaza, and all its military infrastructure — including tunnels — would be dismantled. Members who pledge to live peacefully would be granted amnesty, and those who wish to leave Gaza would be allowed to.

Meanwhile, humanitarian aid would be allowed to flow into Gaza in large amounts and would be run by "neutral international bodies," including the U.N. and the Red Crescent. It is unclear whether the Gaza Humanitarian Fund, a controversial alternative food distribution system backed by Israel and the US, would continue to operate.

UK probes 'racially aggravated' vandalism of Gandhi's statue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 30: Britain's Metropolitan Police said Tuesday that it has begun its investigation into the criminal damage caused to Mahatma Gandhi's statue at Tavistock Square in London, a crime which the force is treating as "racially aggravated".

The police said it was called to the iconic statue on Sunday evening as reports emerged of the plinth being defaced with disturbing graffiti, condemned by the High Commission of India in London as a "violent attack".

"We have begun an investigation into reports of criminal damage to a Mahatma Gandhi statue at Tavistock Square Gardens in Camden," a Metropolitan Police statement said.

"The incident is being treated as racially aggravated and enquiries are ongoing. No arrests have been made at this time," it said, appealing for witnesses to come forward with any information that could assist the investigation.

The local Camden Council authorities, meanwhile, confirmed that their cleaning teams were sent to the site to assess the damage and are involved with the restoration work.

On Monday, the Indian High Commission in the UK strongly condemned the vandalism as an

attack on the legacy of the Mahatma just days before Gandhi Jayanti on Thursday.

"The High Commission of India in London is deeply saddened and strongly condemns the shameful act of vandalism of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Tavistock Square in London," the mission's social media statement reads.

"This is not just vandalism, but a violent attack on the idea of non-violence, three days before the International Day of Non-Violence, and on the legacy of the Mahatma. We have taken this up strongly with local authorities for immediate action, and our team is already on site, coordinating with authorities to restore the statue to its original dignity," it states.

Gandhi Jayanti, designated as International Day of Non-Violence by the United Nations, is commemorated with floral tributes and Gandhiji's favourite bhajans at the monument in London annually on October 2.

The bronze sculpture, created with the backing of the India League, was unveiled in 1968 at the square as a nod to Mahatma Gandhi's days as a law student at the nearby University College London. The sculpture depicts Gandhi in a classic meditative pose, with the inscription on the plinth saying: "Mahatma Gandhi, 1869-1948".

School collapse leaves scores missing

REUTERS

Sidoarjo, Sept 30: Parents were desperately searching for scores of missing teenage boys feared trapped under huge piles of concrete on Tuesday, after an Islamic boarding school collapsed in Indonesia as pupils were praying inside.

Authorities said 91 people were listed as missing, after the Al Khoziny school building collapsed while pupils held late afternoon prayers in a mosque housed on a lower floor of a building whose upper floors were under construction.

The boarding school is in the East Java town of Sidoarjo, about 780 km (480 miles) east of Jakarta.

By late evening on Tuesday, three bodies had been recovered, with the vast majority of presumed victims still trapped under huge slabs of concrete. Ninety-nine children and workers at the school survived.

Holy Abdullah Arif, 49, wept as he held up a picture on his mobile phone of his nephew Rosi, still listed among the missing. He described his frantic search for the boy in the ruins.

"I ran around screaming, 'Rosi! Rosi! If you can hear me and can move, get out!' And then a child was screaming back from the rubble, he was stuck. I thought that was Rosi, so I asked, 'Are you Rosi?' and the



child said, 'God, no, help me!'"

Families clustered around a whiteboard with a list of the known survivors, searching for names of their children.

An excavator and a crane had been deployed to help rescuers shift the rubble, but Nanang Sigit, a local search and rescue official, said authorities would not use heavy

equipment for fear of causing the remaining structure to collapse. "The rescuers are still searching for 91 people," spokesperson of the disaster mitigation agency Abdul Muhari told Reuters, adding that 26 of the injured were still being treated at local hospitals.

The disaster mitigation agency said the building's founda-

tions may not have been able to support the weight of construction on its fourth floor. The Antara state news agency quoted school caretaker Abdus Salam Mujib as saying building work had ended for the day before the prayers but that the foundations could not support the construction that had taken place on the floors above.

Nepal chooses 2-year-old girl as new living goddess

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kathmandu, Sept 30: A two-year-old girl chosen as Nepal's new living goddess was carried by family members from their home in an alley in Kathmandu to a temple palace Tuesday during the country's longest and most significant Hindu festival.

Aryatara Shakya, at 2 years and 8 months, was chosen as the new Kumari or "virgin goddess," replacing the incumbent who is considered by tradition to become a mere mortal upon reaching puberty.

Living goddesses are worshipped by both Hindus and Buddhists. The girls are se-

lected between the ages of 2 and 4 and are required to have unblemished skin, hair, eyes and teeth. They should not be afraid of the dark.

During religious festivals the living goddess is wheeled around on a chariot pulled by devotees. They always wear red, pin up their hair in top-knots and a "third eye" is painted on their forehead.

Family, friends and devotees paraded Shakya through the streets of Kathmandu on Tuesday, before entering the temple palace which will be her home for several years.

Devotees lined up to touch the girls' feet with their foreheads, the highest sign of re-



spect among Hindus in the Himalayan nation, and offered her flowers and money. The

new Kumari will bless devotees including the president on Thursday.

"She was just my daughter yesterday, but today she is a goddess," said her father Ananta Shakya.

He said there were already signs she would be the goddess before her birth. "My wife during pregnancy dreamed that she was a goddess and we knew she was going to be someone very special," he said.

The former Kumari Trishna Shakya, now aged 11 years old, left from a rear entrance on a palanquin carried by her family and supporters. She became the living goddess in 2017.

Tuesday is the eighth day of Dashain, a 15-day celebration of the victory of good over evil. Offices and schools are closed

as people celebrate with their families. Kumaris live a sequestered life. They have few selected playmates and are allowed outside only a few times a year for festivals.

Former Kumaris can face difficulties adjusting to normal life, learning to do chores and attending regular schools. According to Nepalese folklore, men who marry a former Kumari will die young, and so many girls remain unmarried.

Over the past few years, there have been many changes in tradition and the Kumari is now allowed to receive an education from private tutors inside the temple palace and even have a television set.

ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL’S AGM

BCCI raises objection over trophy fiasco

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 30: The BCCI Tuesday raised “strong objection” in the Asian Cricket Council’s AGM over India not being presented the winner’s trophy of the Asia Cup but the body’s chairman Mohsin Naqvi remained defiant by “still not agreeing” to it.

India were not awarded the trophy Sunday after their refusal to take the silverware from Naqvi, who is also a minister in the Pakistan government and chairman of the country’s cricket board. He also has a pronounced anti-India political position.

BCCI vice President Rajeev Shukla and former treasurer Ashish Shelar were the Board representatives in the AGM here.

The Asia Cup trophy remains in the ACC office and it is still not clear when it will duly reach the members of the winning team.

“India raised strong objection in the ACC meeting today on not handing over of the trophy and the drama by ACC chairman (Naqvi) during the post-match award event,” an ACC source told PTI.

However, the source said Naqvi “still hasn’t agreed to give the trophy”.

“Shukla and Shelar categorically said that the trophy should be handed over to the winning team. It is an ACC trophy and doesn’t belong to an individual. Naqvi did not



say no to it, he was passing the buck,” the source added.

“Naqvi insisted that the matter should not be discussed in the AGM and brought up separately at some other time. The single point agenda of the meeting was to elect a vice chairman but even that was deferred.”

Naqvi, it is learnt, did not congratulate the BCCI members for India winning the Asia Cup but was forced by Shelar to formally praise the Suryakumar Yadav-led side’s unbeaten performance.

“When the meeting started, chairperson (Naqvi), in his brief opening remark, congratulated Nepal for winning against the West Indies and Mongolia for becoming an ACC member and concluded.”

“That was when Shelar raised the point that ‘why are you not congratulating India for the Asia Cup title?’ He forced Naqvi to congratulate and the PCB chief agreed and duly congratulated,” the source went on.

The BCCI will take the matter to the ICC which will have its meeting in November.

“Shukla and Shelar argued that the ACC should keep trophy in the office and BCCI would get it collected. They said ‘we want the trophy as legitimate winners.’ Naqvi was passing the buck not saying no at the same time.

“It was made clear that the BCCI will complain to ICC and Shelar briefly left the meeting,” said the source who quoted

Naqvi as saying that the latter felt “like a cartoon” and was embarrassed while waiting for the victorious Indian team at the dais.

The two teams played each other thrice in the tournament with India winning each time, including the final. India maintained a ‘no handshake policy’ with Pakistan players during the event, infuriating the PCB.

The hostilities between the two neighbours are at an all-time high after the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 Indian tourists were gunned down by Pakistan-backed terrorists.

India had subsequently launched military action under ‘Operation Sindoor’ to dismantle terror infrastructure across the border.

ISSF JUNIOR WORLD CUP

Gold & silver for air rifle mixed team; Chandrawat bags bronze

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: Isha Anil Taksale and Himanshu staged a thrilling fightback to win the 10m air rifle mixed team gold against country-mates Sham-bhavi Kshirsagar and Naraen Pranav, while Vinay Pratap Chandrawat bagged a bronze in men’s trap as India maintained its No. 1 spot in the ISSF Junior World Cup with 23 medals, here Tuesday.

On the penultimate day of the event when India took its tally to seven gold, nine silver and seven bronze, the pair of Isha and Himanshu defeated Sham-bhavi and Pranav 17-15 after trailing 9-15 at one stage.

Both pairs showcased high-quality shooting with Sham-bhavi hitting two perfect 10.9s and Isha adding one, while only five of the 64 shots fired in the gold-medal match dipped below 10.

The bronze medal went to Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) Varvara Kardakova and Kamil Nuriakhmetov, who defeated compatriots Mariia Kruglova and Timofei Aleinikov 17-9.

Croatia’s 20-year-old Toni Gudelj delivered a commanding performance in the men’s trap junior final, hitting 44 targets to give his country its first gold medal here.

Spain’s Isaac Hernandez, who topped qualification with 120+6, settled for the silver (41).

Chandrawat claimed bronze



With the rapid-fire stage to be completed Wednesday, the cumulative scores will determine the medal winners

with 34, while his teammate Ar-jun finished fourth on 29.

Czech Republic’s Lea Kucero-va took the women’s trap junior gold with 41 hits, securing her nation’s first medal of the competition. Italy’s Sofia Gori earned silver with 37, while AIN’s Kseniia Samofalova took bronze with 30.

Earlier, Kucero-va and Lucy Myers of the USA had prevailed in a tense qualification shoot-off to secure the final berths

ahead of India’s Sabeera Haris, who finished seventh despite tying on 112 hits.

In women’s 25m pistol precision stage, India’s Tejaswani led the standings with 288, ahead of Italy’s Alessandra Fait (287) and AIN’s Viktoriia Kholodna-ia (286). India’s Naamya Kapoor (284) was fourth, followed by Aleksandra Tikhonova (283) and Riya Shirish Thatte (281).

The rapid fire stage will follow on Wednesday, after which the top-six will move into the final.

In men’s 25m pistol, a non-olympic event, India’s Raghav Verma led with 290 in precision stage. Teammate Mukesh Nelavalli (289) is trailing him closely. AIN’s Georgii Tarasov is placed third on 285.

With the rapid-fire stage to be completed Wednesday, the cumulative scores will determine the medal winners.

SHORT TAKES

Jr women’s hockey team defeats Canberra Chill

Canberra (Australia): Ishika scored a brace as the Indian junior women’s hockey team defeated Canberra Chill 3-1 to notch its second win on the tour of Australia here Tuesday. Ishika scored in the 13th and 39th minutes, while Sonam slotted home a goal in the 27th as the visitors dominated the proceedings after conceding a goal in the 11th minute. For Canberra Chill, Naomi Evans converted a penalty corner. However, that was the only success for the home side as India bounced back two minutes later with Ishika converting a penalty corner. Locked 1-1, India went ahead just before half time as Sonam scored a field goal. Midway through the third quarter, India added a third goal, as Ishika completed her brace and gave her side a 3-1 lead. India, who have won two games and lost two in Australia so far, will play their final tour match against Canberra Chill Thursday.

Rain washes out first unofficial ODI

Kanpur: The first unofficial ODI between India A and Australia A was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to persistent rain here Tuesday. Incessant showers at the Green Park Stadium did not allow even the toss to take place, leaving players and fans frustrated. The drainage system at the Green Park stadium had come under scrutiny last year during India’s Test against Bangladesh, when brief spells of rain resulted in entire days of play being washed out. The second game of the three-match unofficial ODI series is scheduled at the same venue Friday. Earlier, the two-match unofficial Test series between the sides had ended 1-0 in India A’s favour after the hosts won the second match.

Gaurav, Jamal in joint lead at TN Open golf

Coimbatore: Noida-based golfer Gaurav Pratap Singh and Bangladesh’s Jamal Hossain overcame extremely windy condition to emerge joint leaders at three-under 69 on the opening day of the Tamil Nadu Open here Tuesday. Delhi-based Arjun Prasad, currently second on the PGTI Order of Merit, returned a two-under 70 to be placed third at the Coimbatore Golf Club. Manu Gandas of Gurugram, rookie Joysurjo Dey of Kolkata and Ahmedabad’s Anshul Patel were in tied-fourth position with scores of 71. Gaurav, currently 31st in the PGTI Order of Merit, began the week with a bogey on the first hole but rallied with five birdies over the next 14 holes, thanks to some fine chip-putts. He dropped another bogey on the 17th but still ended the day with the joint-best score.

Sumit’s golden hat-trick



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: Sumit Antil became the most successful Indian in the history of World Para Athletics Championships, clinching his third straight javelin title to help the country pocket two gold and as many silver on the most productive day here Tuesday.

Cheered on from the stands by two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra, 27-year-old Sumit Antil claimed the men’s javelin F64 title with a championship-record throw of 71.37m on his fifth attempt, dominating a field he commanded throughout.

He bettered his own championships record of 70.83m set in the 2023 edition, but was nearly 2m away from his world record of 73.29m which he had set while winning the 2023 Asian Para Games gold. No Indian has won three gold in World Para Athletics Championships.

India also won a surprise gold medal through Sandip Sargar in the men’s javelin F44 event with a throw of 62.82m in a 1-2 finish for the hosts. Sandeep won the silver with an effort of 62.67m. Earlier in the morning session, Yogesh Kathuniya won yet another silver medal in the men’s F56 discus throw event with a throw of 42.49m as his quest for a maiden gold at the global level continued.

With the four medals on the day, India moved up to fourth sport with 4 gold, 4 silver and 1 bronze, below Brazil (7-14-6), Poland (6-1-5) and China (5-7-4).

“I wanted to break my own world record. I was trying but I don’t know. The day before yesterday, when I woke up, my hand was not working. I don’t know what happened,” Sumit said after his win.

“I might have slept in the wrong position. I don’t know. But at the end, I am happy that I got the championship record. I treated with my physio for a short period of time, but I was able to warm up a little bit. I was struggling a little bit, but at the end it was good.”

In men’s javelin throw F44 event, Sargar won gold with a throw of 62.82m while Sandeep took silver with 62.67m. Brazil’s Edenilson Roberto was third with an effort of 62.36m.

In the morning session, Kathuniya sent the disc to 42.49m in his second attempt to win the silver. He has been winning a medal in all the four world championships since 2019.

“It is a different feeling since I won a silver on my home ground. My family members are here, very happy to have performed in front of my family. They have always been very supportive, so it’s special,” Kathuniya said.

Lightning Bolt takes over Delhi’s Khari Baoli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: The national capital Tuesday woke up to a burst of speed, colour, and culture as Old Delhi transformed into a playground for the world’s fastest man, Usain Bolt.

Against the backdrop of Khari Baoli, the largest spice market in Asia, history met sporting spectacle in a way India has never witnessed before.

For the first time ever, the heritage terrace of Delhi’s Khari Baoli transformed into a sprint track.

Bolt, joined by India’s Olympic heroes such as PV Sindhu, PR Sreejesh, and Animesh Kujur, turned the centuries-old rooftop, once a stage for spice trading, kite flying, and festi-



vals, into a relay of champions.

Commenting on the occasion, legendary athlete Bolt said, “Running through the spice-scented rooftops of Old Delhi was unlike anything I’ve ever experienced. To share the

Amanjot, Deepti rescue after middle-order collapse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 30: Amanjot Kaur displayed character and grit under pressure in her maiden Women’s World Cup match as she teamed up with veteran Deepti Sharma to lift India from a precarious position and post a challenging 269 for eight against Sri Lanka in the tournament opener here Tuesday.

India were in deep trouble at 124/6, having lost four wickets in two overs, when the 24-year-old from Mohali, Amanjot, walked into the middle. The innings saw multiple rain breaks, reducing the contest to 47 over a side.

Alongside senior partner Deepti Sharma (53 off 53), Amanjot (57 off 56) rebuilt the innings with a 103-run partnership off 99 balls.

From the start, Amanjot

showed remarkable composure, rotating the strike and punishing loose deliveries. She also survived three re-prieves -- dropped on 18, 37, and 50 -- as the inexperienced Sri Lankan fielders struggled to hold onto chances.

She brought up her maiden World Cup half-century off just 45 balls, featuring five fours and a towering six, blending aggression with control to keep India afloat.

Senior batter Deepti anchored the other end and completed her 16th WODI fifty in the process.

Sneh Rana also put on a fine cameo of 28 not out from 15 balls with with two fours and two sixes to prop up the total.

Title favourites and playing at home, India had a terrible start to their tournament campaign, as Sri Lanka caught them by surprise, reducing

them to 124/6 with a devastating spell from left-arm spinner Inoka Ranaweera.

The 39-year-old Inoka ripped through the Indian middle order, snaring three wickets in five balls -- a well-set Harleen Deol (48), Jemimah Rodrigues (0) and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (21) -- to leave India reeling.

Adding to the collapse, Sri Lankan captain Chamari Athapaththu dismissed Richa Ghosh in another shocker, as the Indians looked rusty and short on application, losing four wickets for just four runs.

Following an 80-minute rain delay after the 10th over, Ranaweera had earlier struck in her very first over, removing well-set opener Pratika Rawal, who looked solid but played too many dot balls.

Real Madrid travel 4,000 miles for Champions League match

Madrid will hope to bounce back from a chastening 5-2 loss at city rival Atlético Madrid in La Liga Saturday – the team’s first defeat of the season

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Almaty, Sept 30: Real Madrid takes a long, unprecedented trip to Kazakhstan to face Kairat Almaty in the Champions League Tuesday.

Kazakhstan joined UEFA in 2002 having previously competed in the Asian Football Confederation. The western part of Kazakhstan is geographically

part of Europe, but Madrid – the record 15-time European champion – is traveling to the country’s capital in the east, nearly 4,000 miles (6,500 kilometers) from the Spanish capital.

“You have to adapt, it’s not a question of whether the trip bothers you or not,” Madrid coach Xabi Alonso said. “It’s just another game, and the trip is neither an impediment nor



an excuse.” Madrid, which defeated Marseille 2-1 in its open-

ing game, will hope to bounce back from a chastening 5-2 loss

at city rival Atlético Madrid in La Liga on Saturday – the team’s first defeat of the season.

Kairat loss its tournament debut at Sporting Lisbon 4-1 but has a strong European record at home with just four defeats from its last 30 matches in Almaty.

Bayern Munich visits Pafos in Cyprus for another match against a tournament newcomer.

Atlético is also playing, with Eintracht Frankfurt visiting after nearly throwing away a six-goal lead on Saturday in a 6-4 win over Borussia Mönchengladbach.

Chelsea welcomes José

Mourinho back to Stamford Bridge with Benfica. The Portuguese coach had two spells in charge of Chelsea, where he branded himself as the “Special One.”

Tottenham already went inside the Arctic Circle to face Bodø/Glimt — winning in the Europa League semifinals in May — and returns for the Norwegian champion’s first home game in the main stage of the Champions League.

In other games, Liverpool visits Galatasaray, Marseille hosts Ajax, and Club Brugge visits Atalanta in Italy, where Inter Milan hosts Slavia Prague.