

BE PREPARED: ARMY CHIEF TO TROOPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Anupgarh/Jaipur, Oct 3: Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi Friday asked the soldiers to stay prepared. “Keep yourselves fully prepared now, if god wants, the opportunity will come soon,” he said.

In a stern warning to Pakistan, the Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) said that the neighbouring country should stop sponsoring terrorism on its soil if wants to retain its place on the world map.

He also said the restraint shown by New Delhi during Operation Sindoor would not be repeated in case of a future military conflict and urged Indian soldiers to remain poised for action. “India, as a country,

Pak lost at least 12 aircraft during Op Sindoor: IAF chief

New Delhi: At least a dozen Pakistani military aircraft including F-16 jets were destroyed or damaged in Indian strikes during Operation Sindoor, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh said Friday while describing Islamabad's claim of India's losses as “fanciful stories.” P8

is fully prepared this time. And this time, it will not show the restraint that it showed during Operation Sindoor 1.0. This time we will take a step forward and act in a manner that will make Pakistan think whether it wants to remain on the world map or not,” General Dwivedi said in a sternly-worded address to soldiers at Anupgarh in Rajasthan's Sriganganagar district.

He asserted that if Pakistan wants to retain its place on the world map, it will have to stop state-sponsored terrorism.

General Dwivedi said India has given evidence to the world of the presence of terrorist hideouts in Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. Had India not unearthed this evidence, Pakistan would have hidden all of it, he said.

Replying to a question about his appeal to those living near the international border, General Dwivedi said, “We consider the border population not as ordinary civilians but as soldiers. That means they stand shoulder to shoulder with us in the battle. This is crucial because the coming struggle is the nation's struggle, not just the Army's.”

FIGHT FOR RIGHT



Demonstrators and riot police face off during a protest commemorating the anniversary of the 1968 Tlatelolco killings, when soldiers fired on student protesters, in Mexico City

2 prisoners escape from Choudwar jail

AGENCIES

Cuttack, Oct 3: In a major security lapse, two hardcore criminals lodged in the high-security Choudwar Circle Jail in Cuttack district escaped by scaling the high wall of the prison late Thursday night, officials said Friday.

The police announced a reward of ₹50,000 for any information leading to the arrest of the two escapees - Raja Sahani and Madhukanta Kumar, both residents of Bihar.

The hardcore criminals were accused in the armed robbery at a jewellery shop in Panikoil, Jajpur district, January 4, 2025, where they allegedly opened fire during the heist, killing two people, including a shop employee.

Director General (Prisons and Correctional Services) Susanta Kumar Nath has suspended the jail's chief warden and a warden in connection with the incident. He visited the jail Friday and reviewed the circumstances under which the inmates escaped when staff and prisoners were celebrating Dussehra Thursday night.

“On charge of negligence in duty, I have suspended a chief warden and a warden of the jail, and a case has been registered at Choudwar police station. DIG (Central Range) has been entrusted with the investigation,” Nath told reporters.

During the inspection, Nath found that the iron rods of the prisoners' cells had been cut before they scaled the boundary wall.

“They used a blanket as a rope to climb the wall,” a staff member said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

No UPI for me. I deal only in cash. I love Gandhi

Trump sets Sunday deadline for Hamas

Deir Al-Balah: US President Donald Trump said Friday that Hamas must agree to a proposed peace deal by Sunday evening, threatening an even greater military onslaught nearly two years into the war sparked by the October 7 attack into Israel. “An Agreement must be reached with Hamas by Sunday Evening at SIX (6) P.M., Washington, D.C. time,” Trump wrote Friday on social media. “Every Country has signed on! If this LAST CHANCE agreement is not reached, all HELL, like no one has ever seen before, will break out against Hamas. THERE WILL BE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.” P10

Church of England picks 1st female archbishop

REUTERS

Canterbury, Oct 3: The Church of England named Sarah Mullally Friday as the next Archbishop of Canterbury, the first woman to hold the 1,400-year-old office, prompting criticism from conservative Anglicans mainly based in Africa who oppose women bishops.

Mullally will also become the ceremonial head of 85 million Anglicans worldwide and, like her predecessors, faces a tough challenge in bridging the divide



between conservatives - especially in Africa, where homosexuality is outlawed in some

countries - and generally more liberal Christians in the West.

Making her first address in Canterbury Cathedral, the 63-year-old former career nurse condemned the sexual abuse scandals and safeguarding issues that have dogged the Church and also anti-Semitism following an attack on a synagogue in Manchester Thursday which killed two men.

GAFCON, a grouping of conservative Anglican churches globally, immediately criticised Mullally's appointment, saying

it showed that the English arm of the Church had “relinquished its authority to lead.”

Bishop of London since 2018, she has previously championed several liberal causes within the Church, including allowing blessings for same-sex couples in civil partnerships and marriages.

Asked by Reuters in an interview Friday about same-sex relationships, Mullally said: “The Church of England and the Anglican Communion have a long history of having to wrestle with ... difficult issues.”

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ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ-୨୦୨୫ ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ

ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷର ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି । ପ୍ରତିବର୍ଷ ଅକ୍ଟୋବର ୨ ରୁ ୮ ତାରିଖ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ପାଳିତ ହେଉଥିବା ଏହି ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଆମକୁ ପ୍ରକୃତି ଓ ସର୍ବୋପରି ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ପ୍ରତି ଆମର ଦାୟିତ୍ବକୁ ସ୍ପଷ୍ଟ କରାଇଥାଏ । ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଜୈବବିବିଧତାରେ ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ । ଶିମିଳିପାଳର କଳା ମହାବଳ ବାଘଠାରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରି ତିଳିକାର ଲଗାନ୍ତି ଡାକ୍ତରୀ ଯାଏଁ ବହୁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରଜାତିର ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀଙ୍କର ଆଶ୍ରୟସ୍ଥଳ ଭାବେ ପ୍ରକୃତିର ଅପୂର୍ବ ଦାନରେ ଭରପୂର ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟ । ପ୍ରତିବର୍ଷ ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟର ଉପକୂଳରେ ଲକ୍ଷ ଲକ୍ଷ ଅଲିଭି ରିଡ୍‌ଲେ କଇଁଛଙ୍କର ଗଣ ଅଣ୍ଡାଦାନ ଏବଂ ଶୀତଋତୁରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମିରେ ପ୍ରବାସୀ ପକ୍ଷୀଙ୍କର ଉପସ୍ଥିତି ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପ୍ରତିବଦ୍ଧତାକୁ ସ୍ୱୀକୃତି ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିଥାଏ ।

ବିଗତବର୍ଷମାନଙ୍କରେ ଆମ ସରକାର ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ଅନେକ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ସୁରକ୍ଷା, ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀଙ୍କ ଆବାସସ୍ଥଳୀର ଉନ୍ନତିକରଣ ସହ ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ସଚେତନତା ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିବା ଓ ସହଭାଗୀତା ଦ୍ୱାରା ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମକୁ ପ୍ରାଧାନ୍ୟ ଦିଆଯାଉଛି । ସାଧାରଣ ଲୋକଙ୍କୁ ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଉଦ୍ୟମରେ ସାମିଲ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଆୟୋଜିତ କରାଯାଉଛି ।

ଆମର ଜଙ୍ଗଲ, ଜଳ ଏବଂ ଜୀବଜନ୍ତୁମାନଙ୍କ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ, କେବଳ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଦାୟିତ୍ବ ନୁହେଁ, ଏହା ଆମ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ସାମୂହିକ କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ । ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଦିଗରେ ନିଜ ନିଜର କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ସମ୍ପାଦନ କରିବା । ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ଓ ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀଙ୍କୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଦେଇ ଆମେ ଏକ ସୁସ୍ଥ, ସୁନ୍ଦର ଓ ସବୁଜ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଗଠନ କରିବା ।

ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ଶ୍ରୀ ଗଣେଶ ରାମ ସିଂଗୁଣ୍ଡିଆ

ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ (ସ୍ୱାଧୀନ)

ଜଙ୍ଗଲ, ପରିବେଶ, ଏବଂ ଜଳବାୟୁ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ,
ଗ୍ରାମ ଓ କର୍ମଚାରୀ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ-୨୦୨୫ ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ

ମାନ୍ୟବର ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ଓ ପରିବେଶ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ଜାତିର ଜନକ ମହାତ୍ମା ଗାନ୍ଧୀଙ୍କର ଶୁଭ ଜନ୍ମଦିନଠାରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇ ଅକ୍ଟୋବର ୮ ତାରିଖ ଯାଏଁ ହେବାକୁ ଥିବା ୭୧ତମ ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ ଆପଣ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ଆମ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟ ତଥା ଜୈବ ବିବିଧତାର ଏକ ବିଶାଳ ଭଣ୍ଡାର । ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟର ଘଞ୍ଚ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ବାଘ, ହାତୀ, ଭାଲୁ ଇତ୍ୟାଦିଙ୍କର ନିରାପଦ ଆଶ୍ରୟସ୍ଥଳୀ ହୋଇଥିବାବେଳେ, ତିଳିକା ଓ ଭିତରକନିକା ଭଳି ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରଜାତିର ପ୍ରବାସୀପକ୍ଷୀଙ୍କ ସହ ଯଥାକ୍ରମେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଲଗାନ୍ତି ଡାକ୍ତରୀ ଓ ବଉଳା କୁମ୍ଭୀର ଆଦିଙ୍କର ବାସଭୂମି । ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ବିବିଧ ପ୍ରଜାତିର ପଶୁପକ୍ଷୀଙ୍କର ଉପସ୍ଥିତି ଆମ ପରିବେଶକୁ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ କରିଛି ।

କିନ୍ତୁ, ଜଳବାୟୁ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ସହ ଆବାସସ୍ଥଳୀର ସଙ୍କ୍ରାନ୍ତି ଆଦି ଅନେକ କାରଣ ଆମପାଇଁ ଆଜି ବିରାଟ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରୁଛି । ଏହି ସମସ୍ୟାଗୁଡ଼ିକର ସମାଧାନ ପାଇଁ ସରକାର ଅନେକ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନେଉଛନ୍ତି । ନୂତନ ଜାତୀୟ ଉଦ୍ୟାନ ଘୋଷଣା କରିବା ସହ, ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ଦ୍ୱାରା କ୍ଷୟିଷ୍ଟତାଜନିତ ସହାୟତା ରାଶିର ଅଭିବୃଦ୍ଧି, ସେମାନଙ୍କର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣରେ କୃତ୍ରିମ-ବୁଦ୍ଧିମତା ଓ ଅତ୍ୟାଧୁନିକ ଜ୍ଞାନକୌଶଳର ପ୍ରୟୋଗ ହେବା ସହ ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀଙ୍କ ଉପରେ ଉଚିତ ଗବେଷଣାମାନ କରାଯାଉଛି । ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀଙ୍କ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରୁ ଶିକାରୀମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଶୂନ୍ୟ ସହନଶୀଳତା ନୀତି ଅବଲମ୍ବନ କରାଯାଇ ନିୟମ ଅନୁସାରେ କଠୋର ଦଣ୍ଡବିଧାନର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରାଯାଉଛି ।

ଆମେ ସମସ୍ତେ ଶପଥ ନେବା ଯେ, ଆମେ ଆମର ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ତଥା ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ଆବାସସ୍ଥଳୀକୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଦେବା । ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ସମ୍ପେଦନଶୀଳ ହେବା । ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ସଚେତନ ନାଗରିକଙ୍କର ସହଯୋଗ ଓ ସମର୍ଥନ ହିଁ ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଏକ ବୈପ୍ଳବିକ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ଆଣିପାରିବ । ଆସନ୍ତୁ ଏକାଠି ହୋଇ ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟର ଏହି ଅମୂଲ୍ୟ ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ସମ୍ପଦକୁ ରକ୍ଷା କରିବା ।

ଶ୍ରୀ ଗଣେଶ ରାମ ସିଂଗୁଣ୍ଡିଆ

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leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today you will be perplexed by some inexplicable and fantastic event. Either that, or you may experience an unforeseen but favourable incident. It may not be earth-shaking, but it will definitely make you assess things. Besides, you could have difficulties meeting deadlines.

TAURUS
You will not lose your cool today despite the overwhelming odds, feels Ganesha. Rationale and reason will be the rhyme of your attitude as you diagnose the problems and uproot them successfully. Success beckons and you are ready to reach out and grab it by hook or by crook.

GEMINI
You will tend to be religiously inclined today, feels Ganesha. For this purpose, you may spend some time visiting a temple, mosque or church. You are also likely to go shopping, and chances are that this too is for a religious purpose. May God bless you, says Ganesha.

CANCER
Today, you will put your heart and soul into whatever task you take up. But the results may not be too forthcoming. However, that should not be a reason for you to get dejected or anxious. You will get your due sooner or later. Also, spending some time with your loved ones will be quite gratifying emotionally.

LEO
A mixed bag of fortunes, a bittersweet pill, call it what you will, but today brings with it a lot of things packed within its 24-hour period. Ganesha foresees a hectic morning, and an even more frantic afternoon. So, respite will be a luxury for you today. If this was the bitter end of the pill, then its sweet results will be like a balm on your frayed nerves, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Pay due attention to your innate feelings. A small tour may be in the offing. You will get along famously with people today, says Ganesha. Your loved ones will receive your sincere feelings and emotions. Work your magic to improve relationships more.

LIBRA
When you aim big, it is the small things that somehow manage to irritate you the most. Ganesha foresees you being troubled immensely by minute things today. But do not let this dampen your spirit, because today is also a day when you shall be receptive to new ideas. Allow for things to be absorbed by you today and maintain an even balance.

SCORPIO
A cascade of let-downs will dent your confidence and shake your determination, says Ganesha. But don't let these failures affect you as they are temporary. At work, your subordinates may force you to take drastic measures.

SAGITTARIUS
A day full of cheer and joy is in store. You will probably enrol in a part-time course and sharpen your skills. But for those in police and legal professions, you will be the lions of the jungle! Roar and stamp your authority, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
After running about helter-skelter for getting your work done, you will sit back and spend the day planning the course of future action. Sudden and unexpected profits are on the cards, but you will need to be mindful of how best you utilise it. You can expect a few good opportunities to knock at the door, but open the door before they turn to look for shelter elsewhere.

AQUARIUS
You may find your schedules running haywire today! Your workload may be daunting, especially if you're an administrator. However, Ganesha says your diligence and commitment will tide you through. And you are still ready to party in the evening. What energy!

PISCES
You are human enough to make mistakes, and humble enough to admit them, and it is this honesty that people admire in you. Your affectionate nature will see you excel at tending to the needs of your family members today, says Ganesha.



DOBREV ADDRESSES DATING RUMOURS WITH EFRON

Hollywood actress Nina Dobrev has said something that will douse the fire of speculations around her alleged affair with Zac Efron. The actress has insisted that she and Zac Efron are just friends. The two were rumoured to be dating after they were spotted on vacation together.

MARIAH CAREY OPENS UP ON EMINEM FEUD

Mariah Carey recently addressed her alleged feud with Eminem, vaguely confirming claims he wanted her to play his mother in *8 Mile*. She dismissed the idea as the cause of their long-standing beef, which originated from Eminem's assertion of a past relationship, a claim Carey consistently denies.



Bhumi's larger purpose

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Bhumi Pednekar opened up about the larger purpose behind her work, emphasising how she uses her platform to drive social change. In an exclusive quote to this news agency, the actress shared that beyond entertainment, her work aims to shift mindsets and uplift communities across India. Reflecting on the recent floods in Jammu, Bhumi said the disaster reminded her of her roots and underscored the gratitude artists owe to their audiences.

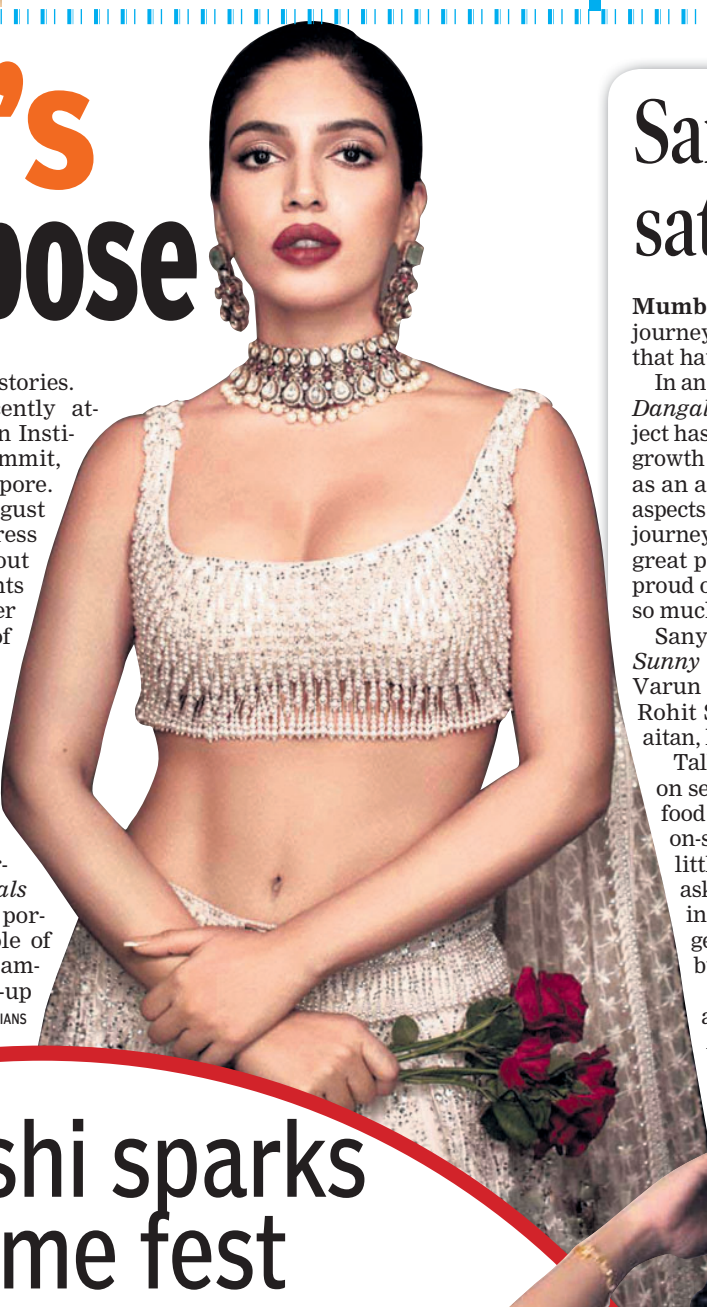
She shared, "I know that my work has more than just entertainment. It's helping in changing a mindset. It's helping in uplifting communities, especially in my country. I really want to do everything in my capacity to make sure that I can help as many as I can in my country."

In her speech, the *Dum Laga Ke Haisha* actress also highlighted that actors, singers, and other public figures often succeed because everyday people support their work — buying tickets, attending shows, and

sharing their stories.

Bhumi recently attended Milken Institute Asia Summit, 2025 in Singapore. Earlier August 15, the actress opened up about how her parents instilled in her a deep sense of patriotism.

On the professional front, the 36-year-old actress was recently seen in the Netflix series *The Royals* where she portrayed the role of Sophia, an ambitious start-up CEO.



IAN S

Urvashi sparks meme fest



Mumbai: Urvashi Rautela has once again become the talk of social media, this time for allegedly imitating global icon Priyanka Chopra Jonas. The actress has been accused of reposting the exact same Instagram stories that Priyanka had shared, sparking a wave of reactions online.

Priyanka, who is among the most active celebrities on social media, recently shared a series of stories. These included tributes to the renowned primatologist Jane Goodall, greetings on Dussehra, and a post marking Gandhi Jayanti. Soon after, Urvashi put up the same subjects on her own account, with screenshots quickly circulating across Reddit

and X.

A Reddit post highlighting the similarity read, "Urvashi Rautela posting the exact same stories as Priyanka. I love her." Others joined in with tongue-in-cheek comments, with one quipping, "Youngest, most beautiful IITIAN beauty queen to post the same stories as PC." Another joked, "Is Urvashi dumb or just acting dumb to stay relevant? Either way, she's hilarious."

While some called her "an unbothered queen," others compared her antics to a guilty-pleasure film—"so bad it's fun." Several even recalled her last release, *Daaku Maharaj*, poking fun at its box office run. Regardless, Urvashi's posts gave netizens plenty of entertainment.

AGENCIES



Basanta Muduli poetry honour for Amarendra Madhab

Balasore: Poet Amarendra Madhab Dash has been selected for the Basanta Muduli Kabita Puraskar -2025, instituted by the Basanta Muduli Smruti Sansad (BMSS) in memory of the late poet.

The award selection meeting, chaired by BMSS President Pabitra Panigrahi, was attended by former President Rajanikant Mohanty, Convener Arun Khilar, Working President Nirakar Das, Vice-President Kishore Panigrahi, Joint Secretary Amitabh Khilar, the poet's son Parthasarathi Muduli and other members.

The panel zeroed in on Amarendra Madhab based on recommendations by 43 senior poets of the state.

Born in 1978, Amarendra, an alumnus of Utkal University, has seven poetry collections to his name. Among them, *Dher Rati Helani*, *Kanda Kanda Manisha*, *Chitra Anku-thiba Pua Sabda*, *Ayodhya*, and *Kabita Dhadi Bahare* have earned him wide readership. He has earlier been conferred with the Yuva Kabi Samman and the Subrat Rath Samman by the Gangadhar Rath Foundation.

Amarendra's poetry carries the unspoken voices of the marginalised, their rightful claims, entitlements, and hopes. It celebrates humanism while spreading rays of optimism.

The award will be presented to him at a ceremony scheduled November 2 in Bhubaneswar, according to BMSS Secretary Krushna Kumar Mohanty.

PNN

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

G	H	A	S	T	L	Y	M	I	S	E	R
U	N	E	I	E	N	E					
R	E	V	E	R	I	E	D	R	O	L	L
U	I	R	E	L	A	W	E				
S	A	L	S	A	D	I	L	E	M	M	A
		C	S				A	S			
S	A	L	V	E	S		P	R	I	N	C
U	A		K	E							
R	E	P	L	E	T	E	A	D	Z	E	S
P	T	A	T	L	E	E	T				
L	I	O	N	S	T	H	I	M	B	L	E
U	P	E	L	S	R	E					
S	I	S	A	L		E	M	E	R	A	L

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

FUN post

CROSSWORD

1	2		3	4		5	6	
			7				8	
9					10			
11				12		13		
	14	15			16	17		
18				19			20	
21			22			23	24	
25		26			27			
	28						29	

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Across

- Lumberjacks' tools
- Not counterfeit
- Playground items
- Roughage
- Raw fish dish
- Ill-fated ship
- Slender woodwind
- Taxi driver's question (5,2)
- Refinement

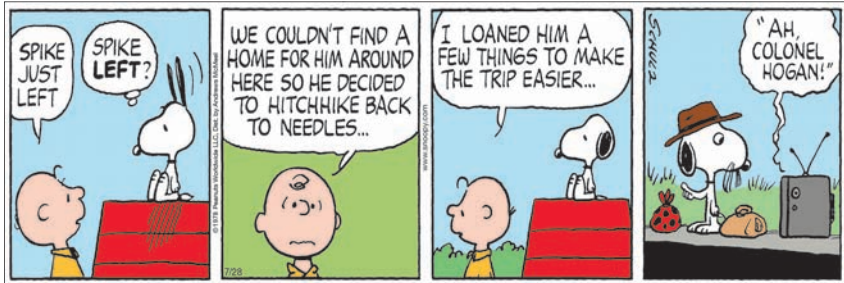
Down

- Help out
- Balances
- Artificial and inferior
- Ill-suited
- Apprehend
- Shishu
- Wedding member (4,3)
- Torment, like a cat with a mouse (3,4)
- Money owed

- American elk
- Summer holiday spot
- Safety device
- Before, in poetry
- Most recent
- Came to
- Cold dessert
- Oil source
- Pasta shape
- English Channel feeder
- Life story, in brief

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



downtown

Durga Puja concludes with grand immersions



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: The annual Durga Puja festivities concluded in the state with thousands of devotees bidding farewell to the goddess in grand immersion processions Friday.

In the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, the processions began around noon and are set to continue till late into the night, transforming major roads into vibrant avenues of lights, firecrackers, music and dance.

A total of 193 community Durga Pujas were organised in Bhubaneswar, and 160 in Cuttack.

In view of the restrictions imposed on loud music systems or DJ boxes, many organisers opted for traditional instruments and cultural performances.

In the state capital, immersion processions were conducted in groups by cultural organisa-



tions, including the Bhubaneswar Bhasani Utsav Committee (Saheed Nagar), Rajdhani Mandir Suraksha Bhasani Committee (Nayapalli), Uttar Bhubaneswar Bhasani Committee (Chandrasekharpur) and Old Town Bhasani Committees, following four designated

routes, police said.

Cuttack also witnessed massive crowds at immersion points such as College Chhak, Ranihat, Mangalabag, Buxibazar, Darghabazar and Choudhury Bazar, with idols being carried to the historic Devigada ghat, where a temporary pond was created for eco-friendly immersion. To ensure smooth conduct of the processions, 122 platoons of police were deployed, with CCTV and drone surveillance, and bomb disposal and anti-terror squads assisting them. Traffic restrictions were also in place for the day.

The administration created multiple temporary ponds to prevent pollution of rivers and water bodies. In Bhubaneswar alone, five ponds were prepared, though two suffered damage from heavy rains.

Each site has been equipped with modern facilities, including lighting systems, JCB machines, arrangements to remove idol remains, and dedicated workers to carry out post-immersion cleaning. Separate control rooms have also been established at each location, with BMC officials, engineers, and employees present to oversee smooth functioning.

Mayor Sulochana Das visited the sites and reviewed preparations. "We have taken special care to ensure safe and organised Bhasani Utsav of Maa Durga. Artificial ponds have been prepared along Kuakhai and Daya river banks to protect natural water bodies from pollution," she said.

For the first time, a special 60-member police team, named CTC 60, was deployed to monitor sound levels and take action against processions exceeding the 60-decibel limit.

Fire services and Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) personnel were also stationed at immersion sites to prevent untoward incidents, officials said.

RSS GETS SUPPORT FROM SECTIONS OF SOCIETY: CM

BHUBANESWAR: CM Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday said the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has received support from various sections of society as the country strengthens its position globally. He greeted the members of RSS on the occasion of its foundation day and the centenary celebration. "I extend my heartfelt greetings and felicitations to all the RSS brothers on the day," Majhi said in a video message. The hundred-year journey of the RSS, which began in 1925, is based on the idea of 'nation building through individual development', he said. "The organisation completed 100 years today due to the continuous support of the people and the lifelong selfless sacrifice and discipline of countless workers," he said. Majhi also praised the role of women in the RSS. "The role of 'Matrushakti' and 'Rashtriya Sevika Samiti' in maintaining the work of the RSS in adverse circumstances is also very inspiring," he said. "On this auspicious occasion, let us all take up a pledge to work in a coordinated manner for the benefit of the nation and work towards realising the dream of a developed Odisha and a developed India in the coming days," he added.

DHARITRI
YOUTH
CONCLAVE 2025

DHARITRI CLIMATE GRANT

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Selected entries will be awarded the Dharitri Climate Grant as encouragement and impetus for their climate action work at Dharitri Youth Conclave 2025 to be held in November at Bhubaneswar.

Chosen entries will also get invited to attend the Conclave along with young climate warriors and experts in the field.

Last Date of Entry
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Government of India Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

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CBC 37101/13/0011/2526

NIELIT centre to open new avenues for learning: CM

Majhi visits puja pandals in twin city

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday said the setting up of a centre of the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) in Balasore will create new opportunities for learning and employment for the Odisha's youth.

The CM's remarks came a day after Union Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated NIELIT Digital University (NDU) platform in New Delhi and virtually launched five NIELIT centres – at Muzaffarpur (Bihar), Balasore (Odisha), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Daman (Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu) and Lunglei (Mizoram).
“On behalf of the people of Odisha, I extend my heartfelt thanks to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi and Hon'ble Union Minister Shri @AshwiniVaishnaw Ji for their support in strengthening digital skilling in the state. The establishment of the NIELIT centre at Balasore is a matter of great pride for Odisha and



will open new avenues of learning and employment for our youth,” Majhi said in post on X.
Majhi said the Balasore facility will enable students to gain expertise in emerging technologies and contribute to the state's growing Information Technology ecosystem. “Odisha is committed to partnering in this transformative journey and building a digitally-empowered future for our youth,” Majhi said.
During the inauguration, Vaishnaw asked NIELIT to partner with the top 500 companies to impart industry-driven training. The NIELIT should teach courses as per industry

requirements, he said.
“The decision to create a digital learning platform was taken three years ago, and now it is ready. For a long time, we have been teaching what we know, whereas we should actually be teaching what industry and students need. The time has come when institutions like NIELIT should take the lead in teaching what is needed in the industry,” Vaishnaw said.
“NIELIT should work with the top 500 companies and design courses that are aligned as per their requirement,” the Union minister said.
According to the Ministry of Electronics and IT, the platform will offer industry-focused programmes in niche technologies such as AI, Cybersecurity, Data Science, Semiconductors, and allied fields. It will provide flexible digital learning modes and virtual labs to equip youth with future-ready skills.
“NIELIT, an autonomous scientific society under the Ministry of Electronics and IT, currently has 56 centres, over 750 accredited institutes and more than 9,000 facilitation centres,” it said.

PNN & AGENCIES

Cuttack/Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi visited several Dussehra pandals in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar on the occasion of ‘Maha Navami’ and ‘Viayadashami’, and sought the blessings of Goddess Durga.

Majhi visited several prominent puja pandals in the Silver City, including those located at Nuapada, Potapokhari and Chauliaganj.
During his visit, the CM was accorded a warm welcome by members of the respective puja committees. The atmosphere was charged with devotion and celebration, as enthusiastic crowds gathered to greet the chief minister.
In a post on X, Majhi said he visited various puja pandals in Cuttack city on the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja and had darshan of Maa Durga, received her blessings, and prayed for the well-being of the people of the state.
“Cuttack is the city of brotherhood. Here, with everyone's cooperation, Durga Puja has become a unique representation of our culture and Odia pride. Participating in Cuttack's Durga Puja is a divine experience. May Maa Durga bless everyone,” he wrote.
The Chief Minister Tuesday



visited several puja pandals in his home district Keonjhar and offered prayers to Maa Durga. He prayed for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of the people of Odisha.

Majhi is scheduled to visit some Puja pandals in Bhubaneswar Thursday, on the occasion of Vijaya Dashami.
On the occasion of Vijayadashami, the Chief Minister

also visited puja pandals at Saheed Nagar and Old Station Bazaar in Bhubaneswar, had darshan of goddess Durga, and prayed for the happiness, prosperity, and well-being of all.”

1,014 kg ganja from Odisha seized in Raj

AGENCIES

Jaipur/Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Rajasthan Police has seized a consignment of 1,014 kg ganja, originating from Odisha and destined for Shekhawati, and arrested two traffickers in connection with the seizure, officials said Friday.

The operation, codenamed Prahar, was launched by the Anti-Gangster Task Force of Rajasthan Police, along with the Jhunjhunu District Special Team, on the basis of a specific intelligence input received by the task force, which tracked the movement the consignment from Odisha and destined for Rajasthan's Shekhawati, they said.
The traffickers were transporting the contraband in a container truck and had concealed it in a specially built chamber behind the driver's seat.
Acting on the tip-off, police set up a blockade in Udaipurwati area of Jhunjhunu district and intercepted the vehicle, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Dinesh MN said.
On searching the vehicle, police recovered neatly packed sacks of ganja weighing 1,014 kg. The consignment was meant for Shekhawati-based drug lords Raju Pachlengi and Gokul, the ADGP said.
Two key members of the trafficking network, identified as Subhash Gurjar and Pramod Gurjar of Sikar, were arrested from the spot, the ADGP said.

MCL launches clean-up drive

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has identified nearly six lakh square feet of surface area across 231 locations in the state for a comprehensive clean-up operation. The campaign, which will run for a month until October 31, will clean the identified areas, which include mining sites, workshops, residential colonies, and office premises. The initiative focuses on improving office spaces, ensuring cleanliness and implementing efficient e-waste management and scrap disposal.
According to MCL sources, about 543 metric tonne of scrap have also been earmarked for systematic disposal. The campaign will cover MCL's operational areas in Angul, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Two persons died and as many went missing in rain-related incidents triggered by a depression in Gajapati district, officials said Friday.
The deceased were identified as Trinath Nayak of Bastriaguda gram panchayat and Laxman Nayak of Meripalli gram panchayat, the district administration said.
While Trinath died in a landslide at Bastriaguda under R Udayagiri police station, Laxman drowned in Ludru Nala, an official said.
In a post on X, Gajapati District Collector Madhumita said, “Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has expressed grief over the death of two persons in the rain and landslide. The CM has directed to provide financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased persons from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).”
Meanwhile, the district ad-

ministration, with the help of police and fire services personnel, has launched a search operation to locate a man and his son — Kartika Sabar, 70, and Rajib — who went missing after a landslide near Mohulsahi, Pekata. Personnel from Rayagada police, ODRAF and fire services have joined the operation.
“Apart from six teams of fire services personnel, a dog squad has also been deployed in the search operations. However, there was no trace of the missing duo,” a senior official said.
State Transport and Commerce Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena visited Gajapati district and met the family members of Sabar. It is suspected that they might be trapped under the debris after the landslide.
The minister also inspected the affected areas and expressed concern over the incident.
In its 5:30pm bulletin, the IMD said the depression over interior Odisha moved nearly northwards and lay centered around 20 km south-southeast

of Raigarh (Chhattisgarh), 50 km west-northwest of Sambalpur (Odisha), about 140 km east-southeast of Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) at 2:30pm.
“It is very likely to continue to move nearly northwards across interior Odisha and adjoining north Chhattisgarh and weaken gradually into a well-marked low pressure during the next 12 hours,” the IMD said.
Three days of incessant rain have caused widespread damage in southern Odisha. “More than two dozen villages have been cut off due to landslides, road blockades and damaged bridges in Gajapati and Ganjam districts,” a senior Revenue department official said. Three persons were also injured in wall collapse incidents. The three-day incessant rain in Odisha has left a trail of destructions in many parts of the state, particularly in the southern region. Apart from the death of two persons and another two going missing, three people were injured in a wall collapse, officials said.

While Gajapati district has been worst-hit, other southern districts such as Ganjam, Rayagada, Koraput, Nabarangpur and Malkangiri have also witnessed washing away of roads, rainwater flowing over bridges and uprooting of trees.
“Communication with more than two dozen villages has been cut off from the rest of the state due to the natural calamity,” a senior Revenue department official said.
Train services on Kottavalasa-Kirandul and Koraput-Rayagada routes under the Waltair division were affected after boulders fell on tracks due to incessant rain, an East Coast Railway (ECoR) official said.
According to IMD, Thuamual Rampur in Kalahandi recorded the highest rainfall at 352 mm in the past 24 hours till 8:30am Friday. The IMD has forecast rainfall across Odisha and placed Sundergarh district under an ‘orange’ alert for heavy to very heavy rain with thunderstorms and winds at 30-40 kmph.

Prez calls for preservation, development of Santali

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 3: A delegation, led by monthly Santali newspaper ‘Fagun’ editor Malati Murmu, met President Droupadi Murmu and submitted a detailed memorandum, seeking urgent measures for the preservation and development of the Santali language.
The delegation included Fagun sub-editor Surukuni Murmu, Mission OI Chiki advisor Mangat Murmu, Saonhed Akhanda of secretary Kailash Baskey, retired IISc, Bangalore Professor Ramesh Chandra Hansdah, Santali Wikipedian R Ashwani Banjan Murmu and Sunia Marndi, along with community representatives Jaskand Hembram, Chandra Mohan Hansda, Shakuntala Murmu, Dhanai Baskey and Kaliram Hembram Naikie.
In their submission, the delegates expressed concern that despite Santali being recognised

in the 8th schedule of the Constitution of India, it has not witnessed the desired level of development in education, examinations, media and institutional representation. They urged for the inclusion of Santali in the CBSE curriculum, with education imparted through OI Chiki, use of the script in national competitive examinations such as UPSC and UGC-NET, and its recognition in Central Institute of Indian Languages projects. The memorandum further stressed the need for OI Chiki to be represented on Indian currency notes. The delegation also called for regular news and cultural broadcasts in Santali on Doordarshan and All India Radio and establishment of a Central University in Odisha in the name of Pt Raghunath Murmu. The delegates appealed Murmu to extend her guidance and direct the concerned ministries and departments for appropriate action.

WORLD ANIMAL DAY 2025

Saving animals an act of survival imperative

Odisha must act on poaching, habitat loss before it's too late: Experts

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: As the world celebrates World Animal Day 2025, Odisha stands out as a beacon of biodiversity, sheltering over 114 species of mammals, 537 birds, 131 reptiles, and more across its forests, mangroves, and coastlines. However, this rich biodiversity faces serious threats—habitat loss, poaching, electrocution, and climate change—calling for an urgent need for saving animals which, experts say, is not just an act of compassion but an environmental and survival imperative.

The theme for World Animal Day 2025 – ‘Save Animals, Save the Planet’ – sends a powerful message that the survival of animal species is directly linked to the health of our environment. Animals play vital roles in maintaining ecological balance. As biodiversity declines, ecosystems become weaker, increasing the risk of natural disasters, food insecurity, and disease outbreaks. Thus, saving animals is not just an act of compassion, but an environmental and survival imperative.



Biswajit Mohanty, Secretary of the Wildlife Society of Odisha, pointed out that species like elephants and Olive Ridley turtles are vital to the health of the planet. “Elephants help forests grow through seed dispersal and clearing underbrush, while Olive Riddleys act as scavengers of the ocean,” he said. Mohanty expressed concern over the increasing death of elephants in Odisha, one of the highest in the country. He stressed the need for stricter enforcement of wildlife laws, especially against poaching, electrocution, and habitat encroachment.
Wildlife filmmaker and founder of ‘Voices for Asian El-

ephants’, Sangita Iyer, emphasised the need for recognizing animal sentience. “There is a significant lack of understanding when it comes to animal sentience. Just because humans don't fully comprehend animal language, it doesn't mean animals aren't expressing deep bonds with their families, or experiencing sadness, happiness, pain, and suffering.”
She also said, “When we recognise that animals can think, feel, and grieve and when we begin to treat them like our own brothers and sisters, then we will start to truly love and respect them. So, on this World Animal Day, let us commit to

learning and understanding how animals think, feel, and behave. Let us vow to protect every living being, because we are all part of this magnificent, interconnected, and interdependent web of life”.
Purabi Patra, founder of Animal Welfare Trust Ekamra highlighted how the recent move by the state government to relocate stray dogs to shelters has had unintended ecological consequences, as dogs help control rodent populations and prevent the spread of diseases. She also criticised the state's mining boom, which is leading to deforestation and the displacement of wildlife. “There needs to be a balance between development and conservation. We cannot afford to destroy our natural ecosystems,” she said.
Kusal Biswas of ‘Speak for Animals Trust, Odisha’ emphasised the value of every life. “Both humans and animals have the right to live. Unfortunately, the death of animals—especially strays like dogs—is not taken seriously. FIRs are rarely filed, and the laws meant to protect them are poorly implemented,” he said.

MARKET WATCH

CURRENCY

INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.88 ▲ 0.06
EURO	104.50 ▲ 0.10

BOURSES

INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	81207.17 ▲ 223.86
NIFTY	24894.25 ▲ 57.95

COMMODITIES

INDEX	VARIATION
GOLD	₹117,956 ▲ ₹368
SILVER	₹145,210 ▲ ₹490

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	33.4°	30.0°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thundershowers
Min Temp	25.4°	23.5°	
Humidity	87%	88%	
Rainfall	16.9mm	27.2mm	

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PNN & AGENCIES

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Meanwhile, an expert committee of scientists, engineers and technologists drawn from research institutions, universities and GCCs as well as from abroad, focused only on talent and academic performance, with no bias, should be formed not just to expedite the process but to draw up a plan for the coming three to five years. Moreover, foreign tie-ups in the area of technological expertise should be relentlessly pursued. The sooner, the better.



Train to Kashmir brings new cars

The train, carrying 116 vehicles manufactured at Maruti Suzuki's Manesar plant, reached the Anantnag Goods Shed in south Kashmir Friday morning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 3: Kashmir Friday received its first automobile rake from the Jammu Division of Northern Railway, bringing new vehicles to the Valley directly from manufacturing plants, officials said.

The train, carrying 116 vehicles manufactured at Maruti Suzuki's Manesar plant, reached the Anantnag Goods Shed in south Kashmir Friday morning, officials added.



Emphasising the importance of rail transport to the economy and lives, Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the railway line is a game-changer for the people of Jammu and Kashmir

over 100 Maruti Suzuki vehicles like Brezza, Dzire, WagonR and S-Presso, among others, departed from the recently inaugurated Manesar in-plant railway siding of the company," the spokesperson said.

Emphasising the importance of rail transport to the economy and lives, Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the railway line is a game-changer for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"In recent times, apples from

the Valley have been transported using the Jammu & Kashmir rail link. Now, Maruti Suzuki cars will be transported to Kashmir Valley by rail. Jammu-Srinagar railway line is a game-changer for the people of Jammu & Kashmir," the minister said.

Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director and CEO of Maruti Suzuki India, said railway dispatches were central to their logistics strategy.

"The world's highest railway

arch bridge in Chenab is one... landmark, enabling seamless and efficient connectivity to Kashmir valley and allowing Maruti Suzuki to better serve customers in the region," he said.

Takeuchi said aligned with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, Maruti Suzuki operates two in-plant railway sidings, inside its Manesar, Haryana and Gujarat manufacturing plants.

These enable vehicle movement directly from the company's facilities to different parts of the country, he added.

Hailing the move, the local Maruti dealerships said the step will ease the transportation of vehicles from manufacturing plants to the Valley.

"The condition of the road is not good here, so the train (railway dispatches) is a good thing. The cars used to be driven from Jammu to Kashmir along the highway, but that can be avoided now," said Irfan Ahmad Narwaroo, Managing Director of Jamkash Vehicleleads (Kashmir) Pvt Ltd, the largest Maruti dealership in the Valley.

Narwaroo said the move will benefit customers. Earlier, new cars would already have clocked around 300 km when customers received them. "It will also save time. The availability will not be an issue now."

Traditional bonesetting popular in Kashmir, but doctors advise caution

Many patients believe bonesetters possess a spiritual, healing touch and are more effective than modern medicine, although mainstream medical experts say it can be risky and has limitations

REUTERS



Srinagar, Oct 3: After hospital doctors told Ghulam Mohammad Mir, 60, that surgery on his injured leg following a road accident was too risky, he turned to a more traditional treatment in India's Jammu and Kashmir territory - bonesetting.

Mir suffered multiple leg fractures in the accident a year ago and doctors at the hospital in the region's main city of Srinagar advised against surgery due to underlying medical conditions.

So he chose a centuries-old practice that typically involves massaging the affected area, wrapping it with cloth or medical tape, and reciting holy verses.

"After four months of treatment here, I started walking on crutches and now I am doing well," Mir said.

Many patients believe bonesetters possess a spiritual, healing touch and are more effective than modern medicine,

although mainstream medical experts say it can be risky and has limitations.

Noor Mohammad, a third-generation bonesetter who has been practising for 35 years, sees scores of patients daily and agrees bonesetting doesn't have all the answers.

"We handle minor fractures and muscle sprains here and refer others to an orthopaedist for treatment," he said.

The practice is also popular in other parts of India and some developing countries, and relies heavily on ancestral skills. By placing their thumb on the broken bone, the bonesetter assesses the intensity of the injury through touch.

"It is a God-given ability. Now we use modern technology like X-rays to assess the gravity of the injury," Mohammad said, adding that the treatment is cheaper and

takes less time.

Mohammad's children and brothers are also involved in the practice.

His niece, Nargis, is pursuing a medical degree to become an orthopaedist, aiming to merge modern techniques with the family's legacy.

"My focus would be the treatment of women and to carry forward the legacy," she said.

However, medical experts such as Dr Altaf Kawoosa, head of the Orthopaedics department at the Bone and Joints Hospital in Srinagar, caution against reliance on traditional methods.

"We have seen instances where the damage was so severe that amputation was necessary. In these situations, people should at least seek help from those with basic knowledge... patients must consult professionals," he said.



An effigy of the demon king 'Ravana' set ablaze, marking the end of 'Dussehra' festival, in Jammu

Pol-blood drive: A lifeline for thousands in need

One of the key aims of Pol-Blood is to eliminate exploitation of patients and families by agents who charge hefty sums for arranging donors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Kochi, Oct 3: What began as a small initiative by the Kerala Police to support blood banks has become a big success story, offering a crucial lifeline to thousands of patients and their families.

The "Pol-Blood" drive has now collected a remarkable 1,13,000 units of blood, ensuring assistance in moments of critical need—from emergency surgeries to treatment of chronic conditions.

Started in April 2021 as the first-of-its-kind project in the country, Pol-Blood operates through the Kerala Police's Pol-App. "People in need of blood can download the app and register on Pol-Blood. Our operation centre then coordinates with

registered donors and arranges blood through banks," a police officer said.

According to official data, till August this year, 60,790 people registered for blood through the initiative. A total requirement of 97,788 units was placed, of which 49,641 units were arranged through Pol-Blood.

"In cases where blood is not available in banks, we mobilise donors, including police personnel, for emergency donations. A control room manages the operations, supported by the Kerala AIDS Control Society," the officer added.

Under the initiative, police regularly organise blood do-

nation camps within the force and in other government and private institutions.

Similar drives are also conducted in educational institutions in association with the National Service Scheme (NSS) and in IT parks.

Police are now planning to expand the initiative through blood collection camps in partnership with Kudumbashree,

the Local Self-Government Department, and private companies, the police said.

According to police, over the previous four years, 63,623 units of blood have been collected through donation camps bringing the total units of blood collected under the initiative to 1,13,264 units. Officials said that many police personnel and citizens regularly donate blood.

One of the key aims of Pol-Blood is to eliminate exploitation of patients and families by agents who charge hefty sums for arranging donors, they said.

"With more people joining us, we can completely end such practices," the officer said.

Additionally, awareness campaigns are conducted in private companies and educational institutions to promote donations.

Muslim girl makes historic dance debut

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thrissur (Kerala), Oct 3: When 16 year-old Sabri performed her 'arangetam' Thursday on the Kerala Kalamandalam stage, she not only realised her "long-cherished dream," but also scripted a new page in the history of the state's near century-old famous arts institution by becoming the first Muslim woman to perform 'Kathakali'.



■ Kerala Kalamandalam, the state's premier centre for classical arts, has nurtured generations of Kathakali, Mohiniyattam and Koodiyattam artists

■ Founded in 1930 by famous poet Vallathol Narayana Menon, along with Mukundaraja, to preserve and promote Kerala's performing arts, it remains a living symbol of the state's cultural soul

message that it was a "joyous occasion" for their family as his daughter "successfully achieved her long-cherished dream" to perform Kathakali on stage at the Kerala Kalamandalam, a deemed university.

Kerala Kalamandalam, the state's premier centre for classical arts, has nurtured generations of Kathakali, Mohiniyattam and Koodiyattam artists. Founded in 1930 by famous poet Vallathol Narayana Menon, along with Mukundaraja, to preserve and promote Kerala's performing arts,

it remains a living symbol of the state's cultural soul. Sabri got admitted to the institution due to the insistence of Kalamandalam Gopi, a famed dance instructor there, that a girl from a Muslim community should be taught there.

While Gopi taught her the first 'mudras', she subsequently studied under Kalamandalam Anil Kumar for three years till her debut Thursday.

Anil Kumar said that Sabri shows a lot of interest in the dance form and is "attentive and diligent in following the instruc-

tions" of her teachers.

Anil Kumar further said that Sabri still has a lot to learn, as she has only completed the initial phase of her instruction, and going forward she will be studying much more difficult dance routines.

Sabri is part of the third batch of female students admitted by the institution since it opened its doors to girls in 2021.

While she is the first person from the Muslim community to join the institute to learn Kathakali, Sabri, however, is not the first student from a minority

community who studied dance at the Kerala Kalamandalam.

Well-known Kathakali dancer Kalamandalam John, who is from the Christian community, also studied at the institute, Anil Kumar said.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender No. MCSW-TOLLET-UPG-25-26-20
Name of the Work: UPGRADEMENT OF COACH TOILETS IN LHB AC COACHES AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR.
Advertised Value: ₹ 84,38,12,200.80, EMD: ₹ 43,69,100/-, Period of Completion: 36 Months.
Bidding start date: 10.10.2025, **Tender closing date & time** at 1500 hrs. of 24.10.2025.
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Complete details & tender documents will be available at website www.reps.gov.in
By: Chief Mechanical Engineer (POH-II)/PR-650/Q/25-26 Mancheswar

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION, BHUBANESWAR
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
BID No.03/2025-26
No.O-939: Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites request for proposal (RFP) in sealed single covers for Engagement of 4 Nos. of Security Guard through manpower service provider on outsourcing basis under the jurisdiction of RWS&S Division, Bhubaneswar from registered and established private manpower service provider under EPF & ESI Act.

1	Nature of Assignment	Deployment of security guard 4 nos at Government Quarter No. SGO-4, Type-VIII, Unit-VI, Bhubaneswar of Hon'ble Minister, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water, Odisha through provider on outsourcing basis.
2	No. of Item	01 (One)
3	Period of Contract	324 Days
4	Cost of Tender Paper	Rs 4000.00
5	Availability of RFP	4.10.2025 to 13.10.2025 upto 3 PM
6	Last date & time for submission of RFP	13.10.2025 upto 3 PM
7	Last date & time for seeking clarification	10.10.2025 upto 5.00 PM
8	Mode of Submission of RFP	Online
9	Date & Time of opening of RFP	Dt.14.10.2025 at 11.30 AM in Office of the Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the website <https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-25011/11/0036/2526

Appointment of Stenographer in the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority, New Delhi
The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi invites applications for One (01) Post of Stenographer (Level - 04) on deputation basis, in the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority, a statutory body established under Section 125 of the Companies Act, 2013. The post is based at Delhi.
2. This is an open vacancy circular. Once sufficient number of applications from the eligible candidates are received in the Authority, the same shall be considered for interview/selection. Applications in the prescribed format, duly completed, must be submitted to the **Deputy General Manager (Admin)**, IEPF Authority, Ground Floor, Jeevan Vihar Building, 3, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001.
3. For application format, eligibility conditions, requisite qualifications, other details and terms & conditions for service, please log on to Ministry of Corporate Affairs' website www.mca.gov.in or www.iepf.gov.in.
*The number of vacancies indicated above are tentative. It may vary at the time of appointment.
CBC 07110/12/0008/2526

No. 12/114/2025 [E. 269221]
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
HSM Division
Sub: Advertisement for hiring of Four Consultants on Contractual Basis in the Hazardous Substances Management Division, MoEF&CC.
Applications are invited for 04 Posts in the category of Scientific Consultant i.e. 01 Post of Young Professional, 02 Posts of Scientific Consultant Grade - I and 1 Post of Scientific Consultant Grade - II in the Hazardous Substances Management (HSM) Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi on payment of Consolidated monthly fee of Rs.70,000/- for Young Professional and Rs.90,000/- for Scientific Consultant Grade - I and Rs.1,20,000/- for Scientific Consultant Grade - II. Full details of the vacancy circular are available on Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change website www.moef.nic.in under the link 'Recruitment'.
The last date of receipt of application is 21 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.
cbc 13101/11/0016/2526

of the day

quote

Railway projects costing Rs 45,000 crore are currently underway in Chhattisgarh, with Rs 7000 crore being earmarked in the 2025-26 state budget for expanding and modernizing rail services

VISHNU DEO SAI | CHHATTISGARH CM

The Education Ministry has a new idea of nation building-classrooms as propaganda theatres. Students are being forced to watch a film glorifying the PM's childhood under the pre-text of 'character & responsibility'

K C VENUGOPAL | CONG GENERAL SECY

Institutions like ATI are the crucibles where such officers are shaped

PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL CM

X

POST

OF THE DAY

Every Bollywoodiya who wished RSS yesterday has a criminal case on them which is under trial.

Arjun Rampal has a 2019 Tax evasion case on him, recently a non bailable arrest warrant was issued for him

He also has a 2020 Narcotics case

@RoshanKrRaii

SHORT TAKES

Truck overturns near school; one dead

New Delhi: A 20-year-old man died and more than a dozen people were injured, after a truck overturned near a school in Delhi's Rohini Friday morning while returning from idol immersion, police said, adding that one of the injured is in a critical condition. The driver was allegedly driving the vehicle in a rash and negligent manner. Preliminary inquiry has further indicated that he was under the influence of alcohol at the time, they said. The deceased has been identified as Anmol.

3 arrested for raping woman

Dumka (Jharkhand): Three people have been arrested for allegedly raping a 22-year-old woman in Dumka district of Jharkhand, police said Friday. The incident took place in Hansdiha police station area September 28. "The woman, a resident of Bajinathpur in neighbouring Deoghar district who claimed to be a singer, alleged in her complaint that three men raped her at an isolated place after calling her to perform at a stage show," Hansdiha police station officer-in-charge Tara Chand told PTI.

India rejects B'desh officials claim

New Delhi: India Friday trashed as "false and baseless" a senior Bangladeshi official's claim of its involvement in violent clashes in Bangladesh. Following the clashes at Khagrachhari district in Chittagong Hill Tracts in southwestern Bangladesh last week, de-facto home minister Jahangir Alam Chowdhury alleged that the unrest was being fuelled by India. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India categorically rejects these "false and baseless allegations".

Daughter was asked to send nude photo: Akshay Kumar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 3: Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar Friday said his teen daughter was asked to send her nude photo while playing an online video game on her mobile, but showed presence of mind and shut off the device.

The actor shared the disturbing incident before an audience, which included Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and senior police officials, at a cyber safety awareness programme in Mumbai.

Narrating the incident, the actor said his daughter was playing the online video game a few months ago, when she encountered an unknown person who initially sent friendly and encouraging messages.

The person then abruptly asked his daughter to send her nude picture, the actor said. Showing presence of mind, she immediately switched off the mobile phone, went to her mother and told her about what had happened, Akshay Kumar said. The actor said his daughter's alertness saved her from falling prey to cyber criminals.

Speaking after the inauguration of cyber awareness month at state police headquarters in south Mumbai, the actor requested Fadnavis that students of class 7 to 10 in the state should be taught cyber awareness in their schools. Some time after his daughter began playing the online game, the person from the other side asked her where she was, and she replied that she was from Mumbai, he said.



KARUR STAMPEDE

Madras HC forms SIT, denies pre-arrest bail to TVK leaders



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Madurai/Chennai, Oct 3: The Madras High Court on Friday formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the September 27 stampede at the political rally of actor and TVK founder Vijay, on a day when two senior party leaders' anticipatory bail petitions were rejected by the HC which also found fault with the party and the police over the incident that killed 41 persons and injured over 60.

The principal bench of the HC here also dismissed a BJP leader's plea seeking a CBI probe into the incident, and directed her to approach the Madurai bench.

Chief Minister M K Stalin and the ruling DMK trained their guns against the BJP and Vijay, respectively. While Stalin accused BJP of trying to gain political mileage over the deadly incident, his party DMK slammed Vijay for his alleged "arrogance, hunger for money, publicity mania and the desire for chair."

It said his challenge to the state government to arrest him



For the third time in a row, the people of Haryana have given a mandate to the BJP and the BJP government has left no stones unturned for the state's development

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

for the stampede was aimed at diverting attention away from the deaths of as many as 41 persons.

The HC formed the SIT under senior IPS officer and Inspector General, North Zone, Asra Garg, to probe the matter. It also criticised the TVK organisers of the event, the party leadership and the police over the stampede, which killed children, among others.

The Madurai bench dismissed the anticipatory bail pleas of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) state general secretary Bussy N Anand and deputy general secretary CTR Nirmal Kumar, who have been named in the FIR in connection with the incident.

The TVK functionaries, besides a local leader of the party who has since been arrested, were booked under sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 110 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 125 (endangering life of others), and 223 (disobedience to order), of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Their plea for relief came up for hearing before Justice M Jothiraman. Meanwhile, a

498 ARRESTED FOR DISORDERLY CONDUCT DURING DURGA PUJA

Kolkata Police arrested a total of 498 people for disorderly conduct from different parts of the city in seven days of Durga Puja festivities, an officer said Friday. A total of 348 people have been arrested for disorderly conduct from Chaturthi to Ashtami (September 26 to 30), while another 127 have been arrested on the night of Navami (Wednesday) and 23 on Dashami, he said



LADAKH VIOLENCE

Wangchuk's wife moves top court



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk's wife Gitanjali J Angmo has filed a plea in the Supreme Court challenging his detention under the National Security Act and seeking his immediate release.

Wangchuk was detained under the stringent National Security Act (NSA) September 26, two days after protests demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh left four people dead and 90 injured in the Union territory. He is lodged in Jodhpur jail in Rajasthan. Angmo, in her plea filed through senior lawyer Vivek Tankha and lawyer Sarvam Ritam Khare, has also questioned the decision to invoke the NSA against Wangchuk. Filing the habeas corpus (bring the person) writ, the spouse of the detained activist has sought urgent listing of the petition and a direction to the Ladakh union territory administration to "produce Sonam Wangchuk before this Hon'ble Court forthwith."

It also sought immediate access to the detainee, and quashing of the preventive detention order. The plea, which has made the union Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ladakh UT

administration, Deputy Commissioner of Leh and Jodhpur jail Superintendent as parties, has also sought a direction to them to "allow immediate access of the petitioner to her husband, both telephonic and in person".

The plea alleged that Wangchuk's detention was "illegal, arbitrary, and unconstitutional", violating fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 19, 21 and 22. "Wangchuk, who has been an internationally acclaimed innovator, environmentalist, and social reformer, has always espoused Gandhian and peaceful methods to highlight the ecological and democratic concerns of Ladakh," it said. On September 26, Wangchuk was detained by the Deputy Commissioner of Leh under Section 3(2) of the NSA while recovering from a prolonged fast highlighting Ladakh's demand for constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule.

He was swiftly shifted to Central Jail in Jodhpur without being provided medicines, personal belongings, or access to his family and counsel, the plea said. No grounds of detention have been furnished till date, either to Wangchuk or to his family, the petition submitted.

DELHI COURT SENDS CHAITANYANANDA SARASWATI TO JAIL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: A Delhi court Friday remanded self-styled godman Chaitanyananda Saraswati in 14 days' judicial custody.

The Delhi Police produced him before judicial magistrate Animesh Kumar at the Patiala House Courts on the completion of his five-day police custody.

Police had sought judicial custody for Chaitanyananda, accused of molesting 17 women students at a private management institute here. His counsel moved an application seeking the supply of the seizure memo and the case diaries, which was allowed by the court.

The court sought a response from police on other applications seeking the wearing of monk robes, providing medicines and "sanyasi" food.

The 62-year-old was apprehended from Agra September 28. Earlier, police froze Rs 8 crore, linked to Saraswati, parked in multiple bank accounts and fixed deposits.

According to the FIR, Saraswati, a former chairman of the management institute in southwest Delhi, allegedly forced female students to visit his quarters late at night and sent inappropriate text messages to them at odd hours.

He allegedly kept track of the students' movements through a CCTV monitoring app installed on his phone. During the investigation, it was revealed that the accused allegedly used different names and particulars to operate multiple bank accounts and withdrew over Rs 50 lakh after the FIR was registered against him.

He reportedly submitted documents with varying particulars at the time of account opening. Police also found fake visiting cards from him showing him associated with the United Nations and BRICS.

Assam govt forms judicial panel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Oct 3: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Friday said a judicial commission will be formed to probe the death of the state's cultural icon Zubeen Garg.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Income Tax (I-T) Department are likely to join the Assam Police in investigating alleged organised financial crimes and acquisition of benami properties by event manager Shyamkanu Mahanta, an accused in the death of Garg. Sarma, in a Facebook Live, said that the commission will be headed by Justice Soumitra Saikia of the Gauhati High Court. "We will form the commission tomorrow. Now, we request all the people who have any information or videos related to Zubeen Garg's death

ZUBEEN DEATH



to come forward and depose in front of the commission," he added. Garg died under mysterious circumstances in Singapore September 19 while swimming in the sea.

He had gone to the Southeast Asian nation to attend the fourth edition of the North East India Festival, organised by Shyamkanu Mahanta and his company. The state CID is currently probing the case of Garg's death after more than 60 FIRs have been lodged across the state against Mahanta, the chief organiser

of the Northeast India Festival, where the singer had gone to perform, and almost 10 others. Sarma further said, "Now, those who had shared different information related to Zubeen's death on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, it is their duty to submit affidavits in front of the commission." Already, four people have been arrested in the case and sent to 14 days of police remand each. "Now, the government requests members of the Assam Association of Singapore, who were accompanying the singer on the day of his death, to come forward and give their statement," he said, adding that otherwise, it will have to take action against them. Sarma also said that the government has handed over the report of the post-mortem examination done in Singapore to Zubeen's wife Garima Thursday.

Climate crisis trapping migratory species in habitat gridlock: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: Migratory wildlife, including Himalayan species such as musk deer and snow trout, are facing increasing survival challenges, with rising temperatures forcing cold-adapted species to move higher into smaller, fragmented habitats, according to a new report.

The report released on Friday by the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), based on an international expert workshop held in Edinburgh earlier this year, said climate-driven habitat shifts are compounding existing pressures from human activity.

The researchers also warned that Asian elephants are encountering a "habitat gridlock" with limited movement. "Climate and land-use changes are shifting elephant habitats eastward, but with limited connectivity, most elephants in India and Sri Lanka cannot follow, escalating human-elephant



The report released Friday by the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), based on an international expert workshop held in Edinburgh earlier this year, said climate-driven habitat shifts are compounding existing pressures from human activity

conflicts," the report said.

The Himalayan ecosystem, already vulnerable to rising temperatures, is undergoing rapid changes.

Professor Sathyakumar Sam-

bandam of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), who contributed a case study, reiterated the concern surrounding the shrinking refugia. "We predict that high-altitude protected areas



business

of the day quote

Wars and strategic rivalries are redrawing the boundaries of cooperation and conflict. For India, these dynamics highlight both vulnerability and resilience. Our capacity to absorb shocks is strong, while our economic leverage age is evolving

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

A significant gateway to the North-east, it expands our nationwide warehousing and distribution network to tier-II and tier-III cities, enhancing connectivity in the remotest locations of the region

HEMANT SIKKA | MD & CEO, MAHINDRA LOGISTICS

The Indian Pharmaceutical Industry has been playing a vital role in advancing the industry's vision for patient care and access

SUDARSHAN JAIN | SECRETARY GENERAL, IPA

SHORT TAKES

India allows exports of de-oiled rice bran

New Delhi: India Friday lifted its ban on exports of de-oiled rice bran with immediate effect, ending restrictions that had been in place for more than two years, the government said. Before the ban was imposed in July 2023, India exported 500,000 metric tons of de-oiled rice bran per year, worth about 10 billion rupees, mainly to Vietnam, Thailand, and other Asian countries. The resumption in exports will lead to higher production of both de-oiled rice bran, which is used in the cattle feed industry, and rice bran oil, industry officials said. Prices of de-oiled rice bran have fallen by half since July 2023 to about 10,000 Indian rupees (\$113) per ton, according to the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA).

₹23cr fine on Adani Cement entity ACC

New Delhi: The Income Tax (I-T) department has imposed two separate fines on ACC Ltd, totalling Rs 23.07 crore, which will be contested by the Adani Group firm before the appellate authorities. The I-T department has slapped a penalty of Rs 14.22 crore allegedly "for furnishing of inaccurate particulars of income" for Assessment Year 2015-16. The department has also levied a penalty amounting to Rs 8.85 crore "for under-reporting of income" for Assessment Year 2018-19. "The company will be contesting both orders by filing appeals before the Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals) within the prescribed timelines and, in parallel, will seek a stay on the penalty demands raised under the respective orders," ACC said in regulator filings Thursday.

Forex reserves drop

Mumbai: India's forex reserves dropped by \$2.334 billion to \$700.236 billion during the week ended September 26, according to the RBI data Friday. In the previous reporting week, the kitty had declined by \$396 million to \$702.57 billion. For the week ended September 26, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by \$4.393 billion to \$581.757 billion, the data released by the RBI showed. The gold reserves increased by \$2.238 billion to \$95.017 billion during the week, the central bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF was also down by \$89 million to \$4.673 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.



Gold prices now are showing the kind of movement that oil used to that is acting as a barometer of global uncertainty

SANJAY MALHOTRA | GOVERNOR, RBI

ZOMATO ADDS RETIREMENT PERK

Zomato and HDFC Pension have collaborated to introduce 'NPS Platform Workers Model' for delivery partners of the food delivery platform, in a bid to provide them access to formal retirement benefits. The model was formally launched by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at an event organised by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) October 1



Domestic air traffic falls to 1.29cr in Aug

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: Domestic airlines flew 1.29 crore passengers in August, lower than 1.31 crore people carried by them in the year-ago period, according to the latest official data.

However, the traffic quantum was higher in August compared to July, when it stood at 1.26 crore.

IndiGo's domestic market fell to 64.2 per cent in August against 65.2 per cent in July, while that of Air India Group -- comprising Air India and Air India Express -- rose to 27.3 per cent from 26.2 per cent during the same period.

"Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-August 2025 were 1,107.26 lakhs as against 1054.66 lakhs during the corresponding period of the previous year, thereby registering an annual growth of 4.99 per cent and a monthly growth of -1.40 per cent," DGCA said in its monthly traffic report for August.

In August, the passenger number stood at 1.29 crore, lower than 1.31 crore recorded in the same period a year ago. Meanwhile, the market share of Akasa Air dipped to 5.4 per cent in August from 5.5 per cent in the previous month, and that of SpiceJet remained unchanged at 2 per cent.

In August, government-owned Alliance Air's market share slipped to 0.3 per cent from 0.4 per cent in July. Star Air and Fly91's market share remained unchanged at 0.5 per cent and 0.2 per cent, respectively.

As per the DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) data, a total of 74,381 passengers were affected due to flight delays, and airlines shelled out Rs 1.18 crore towards facilitation in August.

In terms of On-Time Performance in August, IndiGo topped the list with 90.6 per cent, followed by Akasa Air (87 per cent), Air India Group (84.5 per cent), SpiceJet (68.2 per cent) and Alliance Air (55.2 per cent).

Banks, metals boost indices to weekly gains

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 3: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty advanced for the second straight session Friday, powered by buying in metal and telecom stocks following a firm trend in global markets.

After swinging between gains and losses for most of the session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 223.86 points, or 0.28 per cent, to settle at 81,207.17. During the day, the index touched a high of 81,251.99 and a low of 80,649.57, gyrating 602.42 points.

Optimism over a potential Fed rate cut in October, a weakening dollar, and stable base metal prices drove the rally in metal indices

VINOD NAIR | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEOJIT INVESTMENTS

As many as 2,710 stocks advanced while 1,490 declined and 139 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The 50-share NSE Nifty edged higher by 57.95 points, or 0.23 per cent, to 24,894.25.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark climbed 780.71 points or 0.97 per cent, and the Nifty went up by 239.55 points or 0.97 per cent.

"After a period of range-bound trading, the market closed on a positive note, supported by gains in metal and consumer durables stocks. Consumption stocks are on a buzz led by reforms, a good monsoon and moderation in inflation, upsizing demand as disposable income increases," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

From the Sensex firms, Tata Steel climbed the most by 3.40 per cent, followed by Power Grid, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Bharat Electronics and Bharti Airtel.

In contrast, Tech Mahindra,



Sensex climbed 223.86 points, or 0.28%, to settle at 81,207.17

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On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark climbed 780.71 points or 0.97%, and the Nifty went up by 239.55 points or 0.97%

Maruti, UltraTech Cement and Bajaj Finserv were among the major laggards.

"The market's move was largely driven by domestic factors. The RBI's recent monetary policy -- holding rates steady while upgrading the growth outlook and lowering inflation guidance -- continued to boost confidence in rate-sensitive sectors, particularly banking. Additionally, earnings updates ahead of the reporting season reinforced the positive undertone," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

The BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.09 per cent, and the midcap index went up by 0.78 per cent.

The BSE metal index jumped 1.85 per cent, with companies, such as Lloyds Metals and Energy surging 6.18 per cent, National Aluminium Company (3.10 per cent), and Jindal Stainless (2.87 per cent).

Among other sectoral indices, industrials jumped 1.28 per cent, telecommunication (1.16 per cent), consumer durables (1.15 per cent), commodities (1.12 per cent), capital goods (1.02 per cent) and utilities (0.95

per cent).

"Capital goods sector remained under focus on the back of reiteration from the Finance Minister that the government's commitment to increase capital expenditure to support growth remains intact," Siddhartha Khemka - Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

Realty and healthcare were the laggards.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,605.20 crore on Wednesday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth Rs 2,916.14 crore, according to exchange data.

In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index settled sharply higher, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended lower. The stock market in China and South Korea's Kospi were closed for a public holiday. Equity markets in Europe were trading higher in mid-session deals. US markets ended in green Thursday.

Equity markets were closed Thursday for Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti and Dussehra.

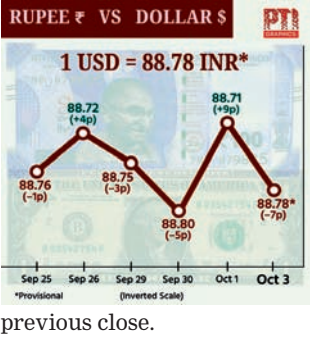
₹ falls 8 paise, hovers near all-time low level

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 3: The rupee depreciated 8 paise to close at 88.79 against the US dollar Friday, near its all-time low level, on dollar demand from importers and persistent foreign fund outflows.

Forex traders said the USD/INR pair is hovering around its all-time low level, weighed down by trade tensions and global uncertainties. Moreover, persistent foreign fund outflows and the ongoing US visa fee hike issue also dragged down the domestic unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.68 against the US dollar and touched an intraday low of 88.85 and finally settled for the day at 88.790, lower by 8 paise from its



previous close.

On Wednesday, the rupee recovered 9 paise from its all-time closing low to settle at 88.71 against US dollar.

On Thursday, equity, forex, bullion and commodity markets were closed on account of Gandhi Jayanti and Dussehra.

On September 30, the rupee had fallen to an all-time low of 88.80 against the US dollar.

STRAINED US TIES

REUTERS

New Delhi, Oct 3: Three cabinet colleagues of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are promoting use of apps by domestic rivals to Google Maps, WhatsApp and Microsoft, in the strongest backing yet for "Made in India" products amid trade tension with the United States. After the United States imposed a 50% tariff on Indian imports in August, Modi has pushed for use of "swadeshi" products, or those made in India. While many industry executives have made public calls to support Indian products, Modi made a direct appeal last month for Indians to scrap daily use of foreign goods. Information technology minister Ashwini Vaishnaw gave a media presentation on highway projects this week he said was

put together employing Zoho, a domestic rival to Microsoft's PowerPoint, and without use of Google Maps.

"The map is from MapmyIndia, not Google Maps," the minister said with a smile, referring to an Indian provider. "It's looking nice, right? Swadeshi."

Last week, Vaishnaw made a video clip testing Zoho software and asked people to adopt indigenous products in a post on X that drew 6.2 million views.

ASPIRATIONAL UPGRADE

American brands are everywhere in India, and they are seen as an aspirational upgrade by millions.

While government and private offices use Microsoft products, many travellers rely on Google Maps to find their way about, and WhatsApp counts India as its biggest market, with



more than 500 million users.

The three US companies did not respond to Reuters requests for comment.

Zoho offers cheaper alternatives to cloud-based software tools made by Microsoft. The Indian firm's billionaire co-founder, Sridhar Vembu, is

RBI allows Vostro-based NRI corp debt buys



"It has now been decided to also permit investment of these balances in non-convertible debentures/bonds and commercial papers issued by an Indian company," the RBI said.

Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) are dedicated accounts to deepen settlement of trade in Indian rupees.

The investments will be subject to the investment limit and stipulations specified for FPI

(foreign portfolio investors) investments under the general route, and there will also be other conditions, the central bank said.

The change in rules to allow the investments in corporate debt is applicable with immediate effect, it added.

Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank has also announced the draft on rationalising regulations pertaining to external

Indian mins push domestic alternatives to Google, Microsoft apps

Strained US ties spur more calls for use of Indian goods

Indian infotech minister shifts to domestic firm Zoho's software

American brands have deep roots among Indian users

History shows hard for Indian brands to replace foreign apps

Goyal and Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. "So proud to be on @Arattai, a #MadeInIndia messaging platform that brings India closer," Goyal said in an X post this week. There were more than 400,000 downloads of the app last month, compared to fewer than 10,000 in August, data from market intelligence firm Sensor Tower shows. Its daily active users crossed 100,000

September 26, an increase of 100% on the day.

TOUGH TO REPLACE GLOBAL BRANDS

Indian companies find it difficult to replace global brands, since they often cannot match their financial clout and reach.

In 2021, Indian ministers promoted X-like social media platform Koo amid compliance-related disagreements with the American platform. But the Indian company shut last year for lack of funding.

"Only state patronage will not be enough," warned Dilip Cherian, a co-founder of Indian public relations firm Perfect Relations. "What brands like Zoho need to succeed is a unique differentiating factor, deep pockets and strong protection against surveillance."

India flatten WI with three tons

Rahul, Jurel and Jadeja's centuries put India in complete command with mammoth lead of 286 runs against West Indies in the first Test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 3: KL Rahul's 11th hundred grounded the West Indies before Dhruv Jurel and Ravindra Jadeja followed the suit with stylish tons as India literally batted the visitors out of the opening Test taking a huge lead of 286 runs at the end of second day's play.

At stumps, India were 448 for 5 and with the



West Indies spinners getting appreciable turn and bounce off the rough, the hosts will like to finish the game by the end of the third day itself and consolidate their position in the World Test Championship points table.

Rahul (100 off 197 balls), Jurel (125 off 210 balls) and Jadeja (104 batting off 178 balls) had their own distinct approach to Test match batting and even interesting ways of celebrations.

Rahul's was for his infant daughter while Jurel's gun salute was for the Indian Army while Jadeja's now familiar sword celebration is something people wait for. The West Indies bowling was insipid and there was lack of energy on the field which also enabled India to actually increase their stranglehold on the opposition.

India through 128 overs scored at 3.50 runs per over which is reminiscent of Test cricket from a bygone era but



also hit 45 boundaries and eight sixes – five of them by Jadeja, same shot in the same region.

While Rahul brought an end to his century drought at home by hitting his second century since December 2016, Jurel brought up his maiden

KL Rahul ends century drought at home
Dhruv Jurel scores maiden Test hundred
Jadeja matches Dhoni as he rose in the elite list of Indians with the most number of sixes in Test cricket

Test century in only his sixth Test for India having made his debut last year.

Jadeja, whose purple patch saw the venerable all-rounder notching up his seventh score in last six Tests in excess of 50 including two hundreds since the England tour, brought up his sixth century in format.

Jurel and Jadeja put on 206 runs for the fifth wicket for an impressive fifth-wicket stand, but they also missed breaking the record for highest fifth wicket partnership for India against West Indies, which belonged to VVS Laxman and Sachin Tendulkar who put on 214 runs at Kolkata's Eden Gardens in October 2002.

The partnership ended when Jurel, who smacked 15 fours and three sixes got an inside edge off Khary Pierre late in the day to be caught behind



for the West Indies debutant's maiden wicket in Tests.

On the second day, India opted for a traditional approach with the bat to pile up immense pressure on the West Indies, who, at the best, remained disciplined but

could not put pressure back on the hosts.

Gill and Rahul resumed India's innings at 121 for 2 by drinks first session, the deficit of 41 runs was erased with the two batters going about their jobs with ease.

Gill, who added 98 runs for the third wicket with Rahul, fell immediately after completing his half-century. His innings had five boundaries.

But Rahul carried on to bring up only his second century at home in

nine years and 11th overall. The right-handed batter had scored 199 in the Chennai Test against England in December 2016 and since then a triple-figure score had remained elusive. With only 57 runs ahead and second new ball soon to be available to the West Indies, both Jurel and Jadeja pressed on the accelerator to add 44 runs between overs 70 and 80 but slowed down with the scoring once the visitors gave up the old ball after 97 overs.

Jadeja was more belligerent of the two during the counter-attack as he regularly came down the wicket to get his runs, and with five sixes in the innings he also moved past MS Dhoni in the list to have hit most maximums in Tests for India.

Brief scores:

West Indies first innings: 162 all out

India first innings: 448/5 in 128 overs (KL Rahul 100, Dhruv Jurel 125, Ravindra Jadeja 104 batting; Roston Chase 2/90).

Mirabai lifts third career medal at World C'ships

The 2017 world champion lifts iron twice more than her bodyweight in final attempt to win the silver medal



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Forde (Norway), Oct 3: Star Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu (48kg) clinched a silver medal at the World Championships in the 48kg category here, extending her glittering record in the marquee event where she has been on the podium twice earlier.

The 2017 world champion and 2022 silver-medallist produced a total lift of 199kg (84kg in snatch + 115kg in clean and jerk) to be among the medal winners after moving down from the 49kg division.

Chanu struggled in snatch, failing twice at 87kg, but regained her rhythm in the clean and jerk, successfully executing all three attempts.

A former world record holder in clean and jerk, Chanu completed lifts of 109kg, 112kg and 115kg with ease.

The last time she lifted 115kg was at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 where she won a silver medal.

"I'm happy to finish on the podium, it gives me great confidence for the year ahead, especially after my previous performance at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in August," Chanu said.

"Every competition is part of my preparation towards the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, and the upcoming Commonwealth Games and Asian Games will be crucial milestones on that journey. I'm focused on work-

I'm happy to finish on the podium, it gives me great confidence for the year ahead especially after my previous performance at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in August

MIRABAI CHANU

ing hard, learning from each outing, and giving my best for the country."

Chief coach Vijay Sharma said Chanu's podium finish at the World Championships was a reflection of her consistency and commitment.

"This is just the start of a very important phase in her career, with Commonwealth Games and Asian Games next year serving as key tests before the LA Olympics. The focus now is on fine-tuning her technique, building strength, and ensuring she peaks at the right time," he said.

Sharma had earlier told PTI that the aim of these World Championships was to breach the 200kg mark and also to start lifting weights that Chanu had been heaving in the 49kg.

North Korea's Ri Song Gum won the gold with a commanding 213kg effort (91kg + 122kg), setting new world records in total as well as clean and jerk with her last two lifts of 120kg and 122kg.

Thailand's Thanyathon Sukcharoen settled for bronze with a total of 198kg (88kg + 110kg).

SHORT TAKES

NADA lifts Sahil's provisional suspension

New Delhi: In a temporary yet big relief for Indian volleyball player Sahil Kumar, NADA Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) has lifted his provisional suspension for failing a dope test, saying the "violation in question likely stemmed from the consumption of a contaminated product". Pursuant to the interim order of the ADPP of the National Anti-Doping Agency passed October 1, Kumar could compete for Hyderabad Black Hawks in their Prime Volleyball League Season 4 match against Calicut Heroes Thursday. Kumar's sample taken out of competition on May 14 this year in Bengaluru contained metabolites of GW1516 (also known as Cardarine), metabolic modulators, Oxandrolone (a synthetic anabolic steroid) and its metabolites, among others that come under World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) prohibited list as non-specified substances.

England destroy SA

Guwahati: Relentless spinners, led by Linsey Smith, helped a dominant England outclass South Africa by 10 wickets and make a strong beginning to their ICC Women's World Cup campaign here Friday. Once the Smith-led England bowlers bundled out South Africa for a paltry 69, the match result was hardly ever in doubt. Smith grabbed 3/7 in the rout. England coasted home in just 14.1 overs with openers Amy Jones (40) and Tammy Beaumont (21) doing the job for them without any trouble. As was the case in SA's innings, there was a bit of swing and bite for the bowlers, but England batters were in no mood to enact a horror script of their own. Left-arm spinner Smith led the show with an impressive three-wicket haul as South Africa were bundled out for their second lowest total in the ICC Women's World Cup.

Coaches from Kenya, Japan bitten by stray dog

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: In an embarrassing incident for the organisers, stray dogs bit coaches from Kenya and Japan in separate incidents during the World Para Athletics Championships here Friday.

Both victims, though, are out of danger after being treated at a nearby hospital.

Kenyan coach Dennis Maragia was speaking to one of his athletes outside the competition arena of the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, when a stray dog suddenly came and bit him, according to the official.

Later, the organisers also informed that Japanese coach Meiko Okumatsu was also bitten by a stray dog while she was supervising training of her athletes at the warm-up track

adjacent to the main competition area.

"Our coach Mr Dennis was speaking to an athlete near the call room, and a stray dog came out from nowhere and bit him," Joel Atuti, who accompanied the team as a government of Kenya representative, told PTI.

"The incident happened around 10am. Blood was oozing out of his leg and the medical team stationed at the stadium reached there. He was taken to a hospital and given treatment, including injections," he added.

"He is otherwise fine, no problem as of now. He will take some medicines also." Call room is the area where the players assemble before their respective events. Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium has two call rooms both some meters away from the main competition arena.

Nishad, Simran win gold as India jump to fourth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: Nishad Kumar and Simran Sharma won their maiden World Para Athletics Championships gold in high jump and 100m race respectively, as India clinched four medals to jump to fourth spot on the most productive day here Friday.

Preethi Pal and Pardeep Kumar added a bronze each in the 200m and discus throw respectively, swelling India's tally and pushing the hosts three places up from seventh.

India now have six gold, five silver and four bronze in total. With two more days left in the competition, the hosts are on course to better their best medal haul of 17 achieved in Kobe 2024 (Japan).

Brazil continued to lead the



table with 12 gold, 18 silver and 7 bronze, followed by China (9-16-13) and Poland (8-2-5).

Delhi girl Simran clinched India's first gold of the day, winning the women's 100m T12 final with a personal best time of 11.95 seconds for her maiden title in the

event. For Nishad, it was a double delight as he won the men's high jump T47 event on his 26th birthday. He cleared 2.14m to win the gold with an Asian record. It was also his maiden gold in either Paralympics or world para championships.

TRIONDA: FIFA UNVEILS FUTURISTIC BALL

The official match ball of the 2026 World Cup will use state-of-the-art technology to provide more insight into gameplay and help referees make faster decisions

AGENCIES

Geneva, Oct 3: FIFA unveiled the official match ball for the 2026 World Cup Thursday, incorporating the most advanced technology ever seen in international football.

The design of the ball represents the unity of the three host nations - the United States, Mexico, and Canada. The ball, called Trionda, was designed by German sports manufacturer Adidas, which has been the of-

ficial ball partner for the FIFA World Cup since 1970.

The name combines "Tri" (three) and "Onda" (wave), referencing the three coloured waves - red, green, and blue - that symbolise the dominant colours of the host nations. The design celebrates each country with unique national icons: a star for the United States, a maple leaf for Canada, and an eagle for Mexico.

These symbols are evident in the layered graphics and are embossed across the matte surface of the ball. Golden details pay homage to the FIFA World Cup trophy, reinforcing the idea that this ball was created for football's grandest stage.

Powered by high-tech

The Trionda ball has a four-panel construction aimed at enhancing flight stability and



durability with every touch. Deep seams and strategically placed relief lines allow for consistent movement through the air, while embossed icons improve grip in wet conditions.

The standout feature is the evolution of Adidas' Connected Ball technology. A 500 Hz motion sensor, now embedded within one of the side panels, provides real-time data to the

VAR system, enabling quicker offside calls and even tracking every touch to resolve controversial situations like potential handballs or fouls.

Design for the fans

"Every detail makes an impact. The embossed textures, layered graphics, and bold colors make the ball standout instantly. This is the most vi-

sually fun FIFA World Cup ball we've ever created: a piece of craftsmanship built for the biggest stage," explained Sam Handy, General Manager of Adidas Football.

By blending the colours and cultures of the host nations and applying cutting-edge technology, the Trionda is set to be the cynosure of all eyes at the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

"The Official Match Ball for the FIFA World Cup 26 is here and it's a beauty," said FIFA President Gianni Infantino at the unveiling. "Adidas have created another iconic World Cup ball, embodying the unity and passion of Canada, Mexico and the United States. I can't wait to see this beautiful ball hitting the back of the net." The Trionda follows a long line of Adidas World Cup balls that have become part of football history.