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BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY | OCTOBER 4, 2025

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BE PREPARED: ARMY CHIEF TO TROOPS

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

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 Thurs day 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 Panikoili, Jajpur district, January 4, 2025, where they allegedly opened fire during the heist, killing two peo-

ple, including a shop employee. Director General (Prisons and Correctional Services) Susanta Kumar Nath has sus pended the jail's chief warder and a warder 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 warder and a warder 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



I deal only in cash.

No UPI for me. 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, al HELL, like no one has ever seen before, will break out against Hamas, THERE WILL BE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Church of England picks 1st female archbishop

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

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.

it showed that the English arm

of the Church had "relinquished

Bishop of London since 2018,

she has previously championed

several liberal causes within the

Church, including allowing bless-

ings for same-sex couples in civil

its authority to lead."

rope to climb the wall," a staff member said.

DSPL - 289





ଶ୍ରୀ ଗଣେଶ ରାମ ସିଂଖୁଣ୍ଟିଆ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ର ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ (ସ୍ୱାଧୀନ)

ଜଙ୍ଗଲ, ପରିବେଶ, ଏବଂ ଜଳବାସ୍ତ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ, ଶ୍ରମ ଓ କର୍ମଚାରୀ ରାଜ୍ୟବୀମା ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା





ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ସପ୍ପାହ-୨୦୨୫ ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ

ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍ଗ ବାର୍ତ୍ତ।

ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷର ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ସପ୍ନାହ ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଚ୍ଛି । ପ୍ରତିବର୍ଷ ଅକ୍ଟୋବର ୨ ରୁ ୮ ତାରିଖ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ପାଳିତ ହେଉଥିବା ଏହି ସପ୍ତାହ ଆମକୁ ପ୍ରକୃତି ଓ ସର୍ବୋପରି ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ପ୍ରତି ଆମର ଦାୟିତୃକୁ ସୁରଣ କରାଇଥାଏ । ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଜୈବବିବିଧତାରେ ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ । ଶିମିଳିପାଳର କଳା ମହାବଳ ବାଘଠାରୁ ଆର୍ମ୍ଭ କରି ଚିଲିକାର ଇରାୱାଡ଼ି ଡଲଫିନ୍ ଯାଏଁ ବହୁ ବିର୍କ ପ୍ରଜାତିର୍ ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀଙ୍କର ଆଶ୍ରସ୍ପସ୍ଥଳ ଭାବେ ପ୍ରକୃତିର ଅପୂର୍ବ ଦାନରେ ଭରପୂର ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟ । ପ୍ରତିବର୍ଷ ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟର ଉପକୂଳରେ ଲକ୍ଷ ଲକ୍ଷ ଅଲିଭ୍ ରିଡ଼ଲେ କଇଁଚ୍ଛଙ୍ଗର ଗଣ ଅଣ୍ଡାଦାନ ଏବଂ ଶୀତରତୁରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମିରେ ପ୍ରବାସୀ ପକ୍ଷୀଙ୍କର ଉପସ୍ଥିତି ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପ୍ରତିବଦ୍ଧତାକୁ ସ୍ୱୀକୃତି ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିଥାଏ ।

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

ଆମର ଜଙ୍ଗଲ, ଜଳ ଏବଂ ଜୀବଜନ୍ତୁମାନଙ୍କ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ, କେବଳ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ନୁହେଁ, ଏହା ଆମ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍ଗର 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

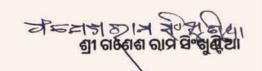
ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ସପ୍ନାହ-୨୦୨୫ ପାଳନ ଅବସର୍ର

ମାନ୍ୟବର୍ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ୍ ଓ ପରିବେଶ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍ଗ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ଜାତିର ଜନକ ମହାତ୍ମା ଗାନ୍ଧୀଙ୍କର ଶୁଭ ଜନ୍ମଦିନଠାରୁ ଆରସ୍ତ ହୋଇ ଅକ୍ଟୋବର ୮ ତାରିଖ ଯାଏଁ ହେବାକୁ ଥିବା ୭୧ତମ ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ସପ୍ତାହ ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ ଆପଣ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଚ୍ଛି । ଆମ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟ ତଥା ଜୈବ ବିବିଧତାର ଏକ ବିଶାଳ ଭଣ୍ଡାର । ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟର ଘଞ୍ଚ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ବାଘ, ହାତୀ, ଭାଲୁ ଇତ୍ୟାଦିଙ୍ଗର ନିରାପଦ ଆଶ୍ରସ୍ପସ୍ଥଳୀ ହୋଇଥିବାବେଳେ, ଚିଲିକା ଓ ଭିତର୍କନିକା ଭଳି ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରଜାତିର ପ୍ରବାସୀପକ୍ଷୀଙ୍କ ସହ ଯଥାକ୍ରମେ ବିରଳ ଇରାୱାଡ଼ି ଡଲଫିନ୍ ଓ ବଉଳା କୁସ୍ତୀର ଆଦିଙ୍କର ବାସଭୂମି । ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ବିବିଧ ପ୍ରଜାତିର ପଶୁପକ୍ଷୀଙ୍କର ଉପସ୍ଥିତି ଆମ ପରିବେଶକୁ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ କରିଛି ।

କିନ୍ଦୁ, ଜଳବାଯୁ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ସହ ଆବାସସ୍ଥଳୀର ସଙ୍ଗୁଚନ ଆଦି ଅନେକ କାରଣ ଆମପାଇଁ ଆଜି ବିରାଟ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରୁଚ୍ଛି । ଏହି ସମସ୍ୟାଗୁଡ଼ିକର ସମାଧାନ ପାଇଁ ସରକାର ଅନେକ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନେଉଚ୍ଛନ୍ତି । ନୂତନ ଜାତୀୟ ଉଦ୍ୟାନ ଘୋଷଣା କରିବା ସହ, ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ଦ୍ୱାରା କ୍ଷଯ୍କ୍ଷତିଜନିତ ସହାୟତା ରାଶିର ଅଭିବୃଦ୍ଧି, ସେମାନଙ୍କର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣରେ କୃତ୍ରିମ-ବୁଦ୍ଧିମତା ଓ ଅତ୍ୟାଧୁନିକ ଜ୍ଞାନକୌଶଳର ପ୍ରୟୋଗ ହେବା ସହ ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀଙ୍କ ଉପରେ ଉଚ୍ଚତର ଗବେଷଣାମାନ କରାଯାଉଚ୍ଛି । ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀଙ୍କ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରୁ ଶିକାରୀମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଶୂନ୍ୟ ସହନଶୀଳତା ନୀତି ଅବଲମ୍ମନ କରାଯାଇ ନିୟମ ଅନୁସାରେ କଠୋର ଦଣ୍ଠବିଧାନର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରାଯାଉଚ୍ଛି ।

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 ବୈପ୍ଲବିକ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ଆଣିପାରିବ । ଆସନ୍ତୁ ଏକାଠି ହୋଇ ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟର ଏହି ଅମୂଲ୍ୟ ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ସମ୍ପଦକୁ ରକ୍ଷା କରିବା ।



OIPR-08141/13/0020/2526

eisure



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.



Basanta Muduli

poetry honour for

Amarendra Madhab

Balasore: Poet Amarendra

Madhab Dash has been select-

ed for the Basanta Muduli

Kabita Puraskar -2025, insti-

tuted by the Basanta Mudu

li Smruti Sansad (BMSS) in

The award selection

meeting, chaired by BMSS

President Pabitra Pani-

grahi, was attended by for-

mer President Rajanikant

Mohanty, Convener Arun

Khilar, Working President

Nirakar Das, Vice-President

memory of the late poet.

accuracy • reliability • trust

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 over-whelming 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 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

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 24hour 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

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.



sharing their stories.

tended Milken Insti-

tute Asia Summit,

2025 in Singapore.

15, the actress

opened up about

how her parents

instilled in her

a deep sense of

the

the

ser-

patriotism.

professional

36-year-old

recently

Netflix

CEO.

actress was

seen in the

ies The Royals

where she por-

trayed the role of

Sophia, an am-

bitious start-up

On

front.

Earlier

Bhumi recently at-

August

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 — buytickets,

attending shows.

ing



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.

Sanya on her most satisfying roles

Mumbai: Actress Sanya Malhotra reflected on her journey in Bollywood. She opened up about the roles that have been most fulfilling for her. In an exclusive interview with this news agency, the

Dangal actress stated that she shared how each project has shaped her as an actor and contributed to her growth in the industry. When asked about her journey as an actress, Sanya reflected on the most fulfilling aspects of her career. She shared, "It's been a beautiful journey so far. I've had the privilege of working with great people and playing incredible characters. I'm proud of everything I've achieved so far. I've learned so much from every project." Sanya, of late, has been busy promoting her film

Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari, which also stars Varun Dhawan, Janhvi Kapoor, Maniesh Paul, and Rohit Saraf. The movie, directed by Shashank Khaitan, locked horns with Kantara Chapter 1 October 2. Talking about the lively and enjoyable atmosphere

on set, Sanya shared, "We had a blast. There were food breaks, fitness sessions, dance routines-both on-screen and off-screen. And we'd have these fun little parties and games between shots." On being asked if any playful pranks were pulled on her during filming, Sanya shared, "I just watched others get pranked. I stayed in my own little world, too busy to get caught up in the madness!.

When asked whether she believes opposites attract, like the characters in her film, the Sam Bahadur actress laughed and said she wasn't so sure. Sanya explained that relationships are about much more than just being opposites or alike. "Sure, opposites can create some exciting clashes, but at

the end of the day, there Kishore Panigrahi, Joint has to be a lot more Secretary Amitabh Khilar to make it work," the poet's son Parthasarathi she added, high-Muduli and other members. lighting the members. deeper dv-The panel zeroed in on Amarendra Madhab based namics that sustain a on recommendations by 43 relationsenior poets of the state. Born in 1978, Amaren ship. IANS

dra, 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 right ful 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

2

6

PEANUTS



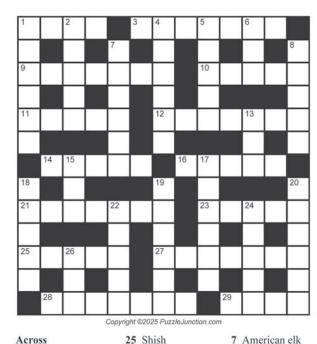
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



POST **CROSSWORD**



Across

- 1 Lumberjacks'
- tools 3 Not counterfeit
- 9 Playground
- items 10 Roughage
- 11 Raw fish dish 12 Ill-fated ship
- 14 Worth

- 16 Slender
 - woodwind
- 21 Taxi driver's question (5,2)
- 23 Refinement

- Down

 - 1 Help out
 - 2 Balances

27 Wedding

member (4,3)

28 Torment, like

a cat with a

mouse (3,4)

29 Money owed

- 4 Artificial and
- inferior
- 5 Ill-suited 6 Apprehend

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- 17 Most recent 18 Came to
 - 19 Cold dessert

7 American elk

holiday spot

13 Safety device

8 Summer

15 Before, in

poetry

- 20 Oil source
- 22 Pasta shape 24 English
- Channel feeder 26 Life story, in
- brief

3 6 2 8 3 6 8 4 2 5 9 8 6 2 9 4 SOLUTIONS

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.

4

SUDOKU

1

2

5

CROSSWORD

14												
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SUDOKU

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.

downtown

Durga Puja concludes with grand immersions



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.



Government of India Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Vehicle owners are urged to ensure that their mobile number is updated in the Vahan and Sarathi portal. This will help them in ensuring that the details are complete, accurate, and up to date. Online facility has been provided to update mobile number in the portal without visiting RTOs.



Concerned may view the details on Parivahan Website- https://parivahan.gov.in/

For more clarifications, please email - id helpdesk-vahan[at]gov[dot]in and helpdesk-sarathi[at]gov[dot]in

OrissaPOST

NIELIT centre to open new avenues for learning: CM

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi 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," Maihi 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

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,

"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.

Cuttack/Bhubaneswar,

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

Majhi visited several prominent puja pandals in the Silver City, including those located at Nuapada, Potapokhari and Chauliagani.

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

people of Odisha.

his home district Keonjhar and offered prayers to Maa Durga. He prayed for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of the

Majhi visits puja pandals in twin city

some Puja pandals in Bhubaneswar Thursday, on the occasion of Vijaya Dashami.

Majhi is scheduled to visit

On the occasion of Vijayadashami, the Chief Minister

also visited puja pandals a Saheed Nagar and Old Station Bazaar in Bhubaneswar, had darshan of goddess Durga, and prayed for the happiness, pros perity, and well-being of all."

1,014 kg ganja from Odisha seized in Raj

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 Jhunihunu 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 cleanup 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.

Rain mayhem: 2 dead, as many missing ministration, with the help of of Raigarh (Chhattisgarh), 50

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 identi-

fied 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 Maihi 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-

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 Bhusan 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

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 wellmarked 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.

than two dozen villages has been cut off from the rest of the state due to the natural calam ity," a senior Revenue department official said. Train services on Kottavala-

'Communication with more

sa-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 Fa-

gun sub-editor Surukuni Murmu. Mission Ol Chiki advisor Mangat Murmu, Saonhed Akhda ol secretary Kailash Baskey, retired IISc, Bangalore Professor Ramesh Chandra Hansdah, Santali Wikipedian R Ashwani Banjan Murmu and Sunja Marndi, along with community representatives Jaskand Hembram, Chandra Mohan Hansda, Shakuntala Murmu, Dhanai Baskey and Kaliram Hembram Naike.

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 devel opment in education, examina tions, media and institutional representation. They urged for the inclusion of Santali in the CBSE curriculum, with educa tion imparted through Ol Chi ki, 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 Ol 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 min istries and departments for ap

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.





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 Ridleys 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-





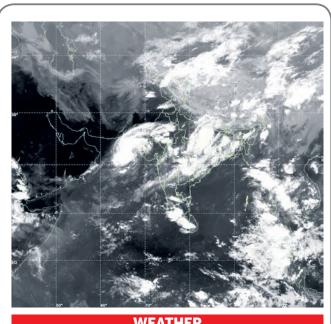
ephants', Sangita Iver, emphasised the need for recognizing animal sentience. "There is a significant lack of understanding when it comes to animal sentience. Just because humans don't fully comprehend animal language, it doesn't mean animals aren't expressing deep bonds with their families, or experiencing 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.

propriate action. BOURSES CURRENCY INDEX VARIATION INDEX VARIATION VARIATION DOLLAR 88.88 \$ 0.06 | SENSEX 81207.17 \$ 223.86 GOLD ₹117,956 **↑** ₹368 EURO **104.50** • 0.10 NIFTY **24894.25** • 57.95 SILVER ₹145,210 **↑** ₹490



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

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Class X student found hanging; two detained

PARJANG: The body of a Class X student was found hanging from a tree in Gandateilasahi village, barely a kilometre from Parjang police station in Dhenkanal district, Friday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Chandan Khatua. Police said his body was recovered from a cashew orchard around 1pm. While his family members have alleged murder, police have registered an unnatural death case (21/2025) and said the cause of death will be confirmed after a scientific investigation. Chandan's father, Dinabandhu Khatua, alleged that his son was murdered due to previous enmity. He claimed that their neighbour Ranjan Khatua had brutally assaulted Chandan over a minor guarrel six months ago, for which Ranjan was arrested and jailed. After his release, Ranjan allegedly continued to issue threats. Ranjan's brother-in-law, Panchu Behera, reportedly came to Chandan's house Friday morning and took him along. Later, around noon, Chandan's uncle Kartik found the boy's body hanging with a towel from a cashew tree near the village road. Dinabandhu alleged that Ranjan and Panchu killed his son and staged it as a suicide by hanging the body.

ABDO on the run after hacking wife to death

Keonjhar/Hatadihi, Oct 3: An additional block development officer (ABDO) has been absconding after allegedly hacking his wife to death with an axe in Keonjhar district, police said Friday.

The accused identified as Debi Prasad Jena, who is currently posted at Banta block office in Bhadrak district, allegedly attacked his wife, Sudeshna, 42, at their native village Danra under Hatadihi block.

According Inspector-In-Charge Rabindra Patra, the victim's son Satya Prakash lodged a complaint against his father, following which a case (294/2025) under Section 103(1) of BNS was registered at Nandipada police station.

Police said a heated argument broke out between the couple, during which Jena, in

In his statement to the media,

Man killed in his sleep

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 3: A 55-yearold man was axed to death in his sleep on the verandah of his house at Medinipur village under Ghatagaon police station limits in Keonjhar late Thursday night, police said.

The deceased was identified as Bhadru Mahakud. His bloodied body was discovered by villagers early Friday, who then alerted police.

Ghatagaon Sub-Divisional Police Officer Bijay Krushna Mohapatra, along with other officers and a scientific team, visited the spot and began an investigation. Police suspect the murder may be linked to an illicit relationship.

"It is believed that the murder took place between 3am and 4am. One person has been detained and the investigation is ongoing. The exact motive will be known soon. The murder weapon is yet to be recovered," SDPO Mohapatra said.

Sources said Mahakud was alone in the house at the time of the incident. His wife had died earlier, his daughter is married, and his son is working abroad.

Padma Shri awardee artiste **Gopinath Swain passes away**

Berhampur, Oct 3: Noted artiste of popular folk dance 'Krishna Leela' and Padma Shri awardee Gopinath Swain died Thursday in Ganjam district, family sources said. He was 107 years old.

Swain died at his home in Gobindpur. He was suffering from old-age-related ailments, they said. He was conferred with the Padma Shri in 2024 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 2023.

Swain was well known as Guru (master) in the locality as he had trained several of his students about the Krishna Leela.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik, state Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena and several political leaders and artists expressed grief at Swain's death.

"With the death of Swain. Odisha has lost a noted folk artiste," said the Chief Minister.

Born in 1918, Swain started learning Krishna Leela at the age of 10 from his father's elder

brother. Initially, he was singing classical songs and playing the role of Krishna. With age, he played some other roles in the folk art and then became the main singer-cum-director of the folk dance.

Swain established an Akhada (traditional dance school) in the village where he imparted training to several young people in the rural areas.

Despite his old age, he used to go to Akhada and practice the songs regularly with traditional instrumental music, said Amit Swain, his grandson. Minister Jena, Ganjam Collector Keerthi Vasan V, Ganjam SP Subhendu Patra and several others visited Swain's house to pay homage to the departed artiste.

Shri Narendra Modi

NCPCR concern over lack of dining halls in schools

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nandapur, Oct 3: The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has expressed serious concern over the lack of dining halls in 190 educational institutions and 63 student hostels in Nandapur block of Koraput district.

NCPCR Registrar Rajesh Kumar Singh has directed the Koraput District Collector and the state Education secretary to take urgent steps to address the issue. The commission invoked provisions of the CPCR Act, 2005, the Right to Education Act, 2009, POCSO Act, 2012, and Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, emphasising the need for safe and hygienic dining spaces for students.

According to reports, students have been forced to eat midday meals and other nutritional supplements in corridors, verandas, and even in the open, holding umbrellas during rains due to the absence of proper dining facilities.

The matter came to light following a report published in the Orissa POST daily July 8 this year. Local social worker and lawyer Anup Patra subsequently filed a formal complaint to the NCPCR,

highlighting the unsafe and undignified conditions under which students consume their meals.

Taking cognisance, the NCPCR issued directives under Section 13 and 14 of the CPCR Act, asking for immediate construction of dining halls in all affected institutions — including 190 schools under the Education department, 18 under the ST & SC Development department, and 45 student hostels in Nandapur block.

Following the notice, Nandapur block Welfare Extension Officer Nagen Tripathy confirmed that a dining hall has already been constructed with support from ITDA at Marada Sevashram School within seven days of the media report. Tripathy also stated that a resolution to build dining halls in all remaining institutions has been passed in the recent District PLC (Project Level Committee) meeting.

Local residents, parents, educationists, and activists have lauded the initiative and the timely intervention by both the NCPCR and Anup Patra, calling it a critical step towards improving student welfare and upholding children's rights in tribal region.

Search on for mentally-challenged woman kidnapped by truck driver

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Oct 3: A massive search is underway for a mentally-challenged woman who was allegedly kidnapped by a truck driver from the roadside in Bhadrak district, with the entire incident being caught on CCTV, police said Friday.

The woman had taken shelter at the verandah of a shop near the police outpost at Charampa along NH-16 Thursday night, as it was raining heavily, they said.

The passing truck driver picked her up, took her into his vehicle, and drove away. The entire incident was captured on CCTV cameras installed in the area, and the clips went viral, triggering widespread outrage. Assistant SP of Bhadrak Abhisek Apurba Behera said a search is underway for the woman and the truck driver. "We have also sought the help of the Truck Drivers' Association and the

NHAI," he said.

Man murdered in his sleep

POST NEWS NETWORK

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be linked to an illicit relationship. "It is believed that the murder took place between 3am and 4am. One person has been detained and the investigation is ongoing. The exact motive will be known soon. The murder weapon is yet to be recovered," SDPO Mohapatra said.

Sources said Mahakud was alone in the house at the time of the incident. His wife had died earlier. his daughter is married, and his son is working abroad. The murder has created a stir in the village, with locals demanding a swift investigation and arrest of the culprits.



rushed the injured woman to the Shalania community health centre (CHC), from where she was shifted to the Bhadrak district headquarters hospital (DHH) as her condition worsened. She succumbed to her iniuries there.

Shri Nitish Kumar

Satya Prakash alleged that his father had an extramarital affair with another woman from their extended family and had subjected his mother, sister. and him to repeated harassment. "We had complained several times to the block office and the local police, but no action was taken," he said. Keonjhar police said Jena fled

after the incident and remains

absconding. "A scientific team

inspected the crime scene Fri-

day. Search operations are un-

derway at multiple locations to

trace the accused," said Anandapur DSP Prashant Behera. Banta BDO Sitakant Rout told reporters that the officer was absent from office Friday without prior leave application. "We came to know about the incident from media reports. A report in this regard

has been sent to the district collector," Rout said.



Government of India

Hon'ble Prime Minister

Shri Narendra Modi

to felicitate

All India Toppers of ITIs at Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh And

To Launch/Inaugurate/Lay Foundation Stones of/Dedicate to the Nation Youth Development Projects in Education and Skill Development worth ₹62,000 crore

National initatives for youth development

PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs) - Phase 1 of the scheme to lay special emphasis on the proposed Patna and Darbhanga hub and spoke industry clusters

Vocational Skill Labs in 400 Navodaya Vidyalayas and 200 Eklavya Model Residential Schools across India

Along with other major schemes and initiatives for Bihar

New facilities like academic blocks, hostels, research labs and equipments, building renovation under PM-USHA at Patna University, Bhupendra Narayan Mandal University, Madhepura, Jaiprakash University, Chapra and Nalanda Open University

Revamped Mukhya Mantri Nischay Svyam Sahayata Bhatta Yojana for two years benefitting youth with financial assistance for two years

Inaugration of Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Skill University, Patna

Redesigned Credit Card Scheme for students of Bihar

Bihta campus of NIT Patna dedicated to the nation

Yuva Aayog in Bihar to promote education and employment opportunities for youth in Bihar

Scholarship to 25 lakh students of 9th and 10th class through DBT

Appointment Letters to more than 4000 Youth recruited in Bihar

In the august presence of

Shri Nitish Kumar Chief Minister, Bihar

Skill Development & Entrepreneurship;

Union MoS, Education

Shri Jayant Chaudhary Union MoS(I/C),

Shri Jual Oram

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs

Shri Sukanta Majumdar

Union MoS for Education

Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi | October 4, 2025 | 11 am onwards

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By our stumbling the world is perfected.

SRI AUROBINDO



Double Standards

Then the screen at Prime Minister Modi's rally in Banswara went dark for ten minutes, the fallout was swift: Rajasthan's Infotech Secretary Archana Singh lost her job. Ten minutes of blank screen, ten seconds of bureaucratic chopping.

It's hard not to smile wryly at the contrast. For years now, taxpayers and professionals have been battling with portals run by the Finance Ministry, such as Income Tax, GST, and MCA, you name it, where glitches are practically a way of life. Courts have stepped in, professional bodies have protested, and taxpayers have coughed up late fees running into thousands of crores, all because the government's own tech systems stumble at critical hours. Yet, no secretary has been sent packing for those meltdowns.

The irony writes itself. A glitch that inconveniences a Prime Minister for ten minutes is career-ending; glitches that inconvenience millions of citizens for years are just "teething troubles." It's like Trump who recently theatrically spoke about the "escalator" incident at the UN. It made the headlines, but wasn't exactly system-shaking. Meanwhile, ordinary professionals dealing with frozen tax portals probably fantasise about storming out of their offices daily.

Of course, political optics are unforgiving. A rally is theatre, and in theatre, you don't dim the lights on the star. But perhaps the same urgency should apply to the everyday stage where citizens file taxes, businesses comply with regulations, and professionals keep the economy moving. If accountability is the buzzword, then let's spread it evenly. After all, the real "screen going blank" moment is when taxpayers log in at 11:59 pm on deadline day and find themselves staring at a frozen page.

Babus love revenue, not research

When a Union Minister publicly admits that officials treat the

Science Department like the last seat left on a crowded train, you know there's a problem. Jitendra Singh's candid lament that 24 out of 28 states have "reluctant officers" manning science portfolios, reveals what most



in the innovation ecosystem already whisper: science and tech don't excite India's bureaucracy.

It's not hard to see why. For ambitious IAS officers, science departments lack the glamour and clout of Home Affairs or Revenue. Those ministries command headlines, wield power, and offer far more "visibility." Science? It's quietly nurturing start-ups, pushing R&D, and trying to create the next big leap. Less flash, fewer headlines, and apparently, little incentive.

But here's the irony. India's tech and innovation ecosystem is among the fastest growing in the world. We are a global hub for start-ups, AI development, and digital services. Yet, at the state level, the very people meant to shepherd this growth are often indifferent placeholders. It's like asking someone who hates cricket to captain Team India; they'll show up, but don't expect runs on the board.

Singh is right to call it a "mindset problem." Bureaucratic inertia, a lack of risk appetite, and a blind spot for the transformative role of science are holding back momentum. What India needs are senior officers who don't see Science as a punishment posting, but as the portfolio that can redefine the nation's future.

Civil Services exam needs a 21st-century upgrade

The UPSC civil services exam has steadily slipped into becoming a test of memory rather than judgment. What once rewarded depth, analysis, and the ability to argue a case has turned into a sprint through short answers, where the candidate who can reproduce facts at speed is seen as "best prepared." But in a world where search engines and AI tools can churn out information instantly, valuing recall over reasoning looks increasingly misplaced.

Governance today is not about remembering lists or definitions but about making decisions under pressure, weighing competing interests, and showing the moral fibre to say no when necessary. Yet the exam's design makes it fertile ground for coaching factories. privileging formulaic answers and disadvantaging those who think differently or lack the resources to spend years in a training mill. That narrows the pool, not just socially but intellectually, at a time when the country badly needs broader perspectives.

India aspires to be a hub of digital innovation and global leadership, but its most important recruitment gateway still measures success by rote. A system that prizes quick recall over critical thought risks producing administrators better at quoting than at governing. The real test should be of how future officers handle complexity, ambiguity, and accountability, which are qualities the current format struggles to capture.

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WISDOM CORNER

Be a lotus flower. Be in the water, and do not let the water touch you.

Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive.

Waiting is painful. Forgetting is painful. But not knowing which to do is the worse kind of suffering.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1582:** The Gregorian calendar was introduced, and over the following centuries numerous countries adopted it.
- **1853:** The Crimean War began as Ottoman Turks (later joined by England and France) declared war on Russia; the fighting lasted more than two years and ended with Russia's defeat.
- **1957:** The Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite, which orbited Earth until 1958, inaugurated the space age, and heightened Cold War competition between the USSR and the US.
- **1970:** American singer Janis Joplin, who was known for her fierce and uninhibited musical style, died of an accidental overdose of heroin.

FOCUS REAL MONEY GAMING

A TIMELY END

he complete ban imposed by a new law on real money gaming is one clear move in the right direction. There have been many arguments floated since this sudden clampdown on how a new and nascent industry is being killed, how jobs will be lost, how investor confidence will be eroded and how games of skills are different from games of chance. On the other hand, is the trap in which millions of ordinary Indians had already landed, lured by high voltage ads that made deep inroads into homes and pockets of people who in the end had little chance of winning – and yet signed up for this bad bargain on what essentially were misleading if not false promises. Such was the impact that ads began broadcasting in local languages, casting their net deep into the heartland of India and inviting housewives to play rummy, of cash awards that awaited and of bonuses that they could use to make more money while sitting at home. A distressing part of the exercise, all in the name of legitimate business activity, was celebrities and influencers using their popularity to advertise these "games" Give some time, and the modern-day marketing machine of companies with deep pockets could turn a pastime act into a ruinous activity for citizens.

All this has now stopped since the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act 2025 took effect more than a month ago, enforcing a blanket ban on Real Money Gaming (RMG). Most of the top gaming companies have paused all RMG operations. putting on hold their pay-toplay games that were big money spinners.But companies



The Indian legal system was always clear. **Gambling and betting are already restricted** under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and legislations in states across India. The online space, however, remained unregulated **before August**

have taken the issue to court broadly arguing, among other issues, that the law violatesthe fundamental freedom to conduct business, has caused losses and distress, and does not respect the distinction between a game of skill and a game of chance. Several petitions were filed in various High Courts and are now consolidated and slated to be heard before the Supreme Court of India.

The Indian legal system was always clear. Gambling and betting are already restricted under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and legislations in states across India. The online space, however, remained unregulated before August.

Following the Gaming Act companies have complied and closed their RMG operations but others running offshore platforms have reportedly stepped in to let gamers play on so it may need a lot more effort to bring change in what has been an unchecked domain in the news only recently but quietly in play for over two decades. Consider that this space has grown from the early 2000s. moving from internet cafes and LAN gaming centers that provided platforms for multiplayer gaming, to the proliferation that we see today. It would take a lot moreto wean away or if that is not possible, to protect millions of people who may still be drawn to some platform or the other available globally.

According to industry estimates, the number of Indian online gamers has grown from 360 million in 2020 to over 500 million in 2024. Many more people today are using smartphones and have access to the internet. Most Indian players prefer mobile gaming to using laptops, tablets or other smart devices. A report last year by 1Lattice, a technology-enabled market intelligence firm, said that India accounts for around 20% of mobile game downloads across the world, with 9.5 billion games downloads in 2023. The market value of the online games industry has been steadily growing. This has placed India as the most significant global market for

mobile game installs. And as mobile gaming has turned into a top social activity, it has also deepened the problem of real

money gaming in India. With the ban, players who have been engaged in what was already a risk-filled, unstable sphere, are said to be

turning to the darker by-lane

of unsafe offshore gambling.

For years this has been a heady world filled with promises of finding millions behind spinning wheels, under decks of cards or ahead of rolling pairs of dice. Key words like 'instant win" and "no pay" invite visitors to venture in and try their luck. Gaming ventures have been promoted by film stars, cricketers and social media influencers who may

have helped bring in players. All this, when gaming companies have been maximising profits while a large number of players have been driven to debt and financial ruin. Psychiatrists, counsellors and helplines are witnessing a lot more calls from online game players who seem to be mostly under 40 and range from office goers and businessmen to students.

The numbers are shocking but not surprising. Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said that according to an estimate, 45 crore people were negatively affected by online money games and faced a loss of more than Rs. 20,000 crores because of it. Ordinary citizens need protection, and marketing needs some controls in such cases. This was one case where the government action was needed and has been swift and decisive.

> The writer is the Managing Editor of The Billion Press ©THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM R&D

Lekha Rattanani

ACCORDING

ESTIMATES,

TO INDUSTRY

THE NUMBER OF

INDIAN ONLINE

GAMERS HAS

GROWN FROM

360 MILLION IN

2020 TO OVER

500 MILLION

IN 2024

India has to rise to the challenge



Dhurjati Mukherjee

THE **COUNTRY'S START-UP SYSTEM REMAINS ROBUST AND FURTHER BOOST NEEDS TO BE PROVIDED**

TO THE EDITOR

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¶he enhanced H-1B visa structure has repercussions alright. However, if the same talent that goes to the US and sets up innovative firms, stavs at home instead, it will surely help our country. Importantly, the country needs an ecosystem that supports innovation, public infrastructure that can keep professionals in India.

India has begun to move. The government's India Semiconductor Mission has pledged billions in incentives to evolve an Indian ecosystem. Micron is setting up a memory facility in Gujarat while the Tatas has entered fabrication with serious intent. Global majors are investing and domestic startups are experimenting with chip design and AI hardware.

Undeniably, India already wields formidable soft power. The next step is to convert that soft power into smart power and technological innovation. Its vision has rightly been to align IT talent, Global Capability Centres (GCCs) strength and semiconductor initiatives into one coherent strategy. It would cut across silos, blend capital with Research & Development and make India a producer, not just a buyer. Meanwhile, GCCs are presently handling core research in Artificial Intelligence, digitization, R&D and semiconductors.

Here it would be pertinent to cite the example of South Korea, which gained semiconductor leadership through innovation of firms, universities and financers. Also, the case of China and Taiwan may be mentioned, thereby emphasising the need for the government to ensure fundamental shifts in the research and innovation space. Thus, the core focus has to be in research so that Indian made ICT products have guaranteed buyers at scale

However, it needs to be pointed out that an increasing amount of evidence indicates that despite substantial spending in science, we are not getting adequate returns through new innovations.

Experts have observed that current research has been producing a diminishing number of breakthroughs. In sectors such as medicine, agriculture, Information and Technology and semiconductor technology resources necessary to sustain advancement may not be adequate in India

Notably, earlier teams have generated ground-breaking work, possibly due to the fact that they had greater liberty to explore unconventional avenues and there was no pressure in taking classes or being involved in administrative work. The innovation slowdown is not a cause for defor action. A vigorous scientific endeavour must provide greater knowledge and facilitate the environment for audacious. transformational thought. In spite of all this, India

spair but rather a clarion call

has to rise to the challenge. However, the role of the private sector leaves much to be desired as it has not cared to diversity and invest funds in research and innovation. Experts have rightly pointed out that India's reply to the enhanced visas is for the government to act decisively, possibly by establishing a sovereign fund of around Rs 50,000 crore to channel into artificial intelligence, semiconductors, space and defence technologies, synthetic biology, the process of which has already started. It has been seen that slow and unpredictable procurement practices, especially by the US and also sometimes by China had hindered the growth of start-ups and MSMEs. This must change by putting

the emphasis on the innovation dividend. Over the years, there have been claims of making indigenous computers, cell phones and an alternative to Whatsapp in India though the National Computing Mission is working on designing and installing supercomputers of various capacities. Access to these supercomputers is provided through the National Knowledge Network (NKN), another programme of the government that connects academic institutions and R&D labs over a high-speed network. It is an established fact that India has no shortage of talent and entrepreneurial skill. Moreover, the available Indian talent domestically can work on AI, robotics, chip manufacture and super computers.

What is, however, missing is sovereign capital and access to anchor markets. The very companies that built India's reputation as the world's IT service provider have now to focus on design and innovation. With the right policy push & public sector funding, India has the potential to emerge technologically equipped in the coming years to meet the emerging challenge.

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.

Putin's India visit

Sir, Russian President Vladimir Putin's upcoming visit to New Delhi in December, his first since the invasion of Ukraine, comes at a crucial juncture for India's foreign policy. Russia remains central to India's strategic calculus, both as a major energy supplier and as a partner in defence and security. Yet, the partnership also poses challenges, particularly in the context of India-US ties, as Washington and its allies push for tougher curbs on Russian oil exports. While India has benefited from discounted Russian crude, two-way trade remains heavily tilted in Moscow's favour. Indian exporters still face barriers to Russian markets, and the trade basket lacks diversity. New Delhi must use the lead-up to Putin's visit to push for greater access for its goods, new investment flows, and forward-looking cooperation in technology and security. At the same time, India should continue reinforcing its stance on the Ukraine conflict, highlighting its destabilising impact on the Global South. Parallelly, India must strengthen its outreach to other partners, including opportunities at the upcoming ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur. Ultimately, India's challenge is to deepen ties with Russia while sustaining momentum with the US, guided by its principle of strategic autonomy and commitment to a multipolar world..

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Violence in movies

Sir, Viewers go to movies to get entertainment and delight. Watching movies reduces stress and anxiety. It gives us aesthetic pleasure and fun. But, these days films are full of violence and vandalism. Watching violent movies affects our mind and heart. It is detrimental to our overall health. Decades ago there was no violence in films. Such films were also rewarded with national awards. Violence and bloodshed dilute the definition of films. Violent movies increase the crime rate in the society. Such violent movies affect our psychology and mental health. Horror movies shake our emotion. There can be good films without violence and vulgarity and such films may win national awards. It is an erroneous idea that films cannot be made without violence. A change in the mindset is required.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR



TWO STATES





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.

The arrival of the automobile carrier marks a milestone in the transportation of automobiles to Kashmir.

The new vehicles had to be driven mostly to the sales dealerships in the Valley from Jammu in the absence of rail services. The transportation of new vehicles from Jammu often faced difficulties along the nearly 300-km Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, especially during the winter season when the road is frequently closed due to inclement weather and landslides

With the dispatch of the first lot of vehicles to Kashmir Valley via train, the company became the first automobile manufacturer in India to utilise Indian Railways services for dispatching vehicles to the region, a Maruti Suzuki India spokesperson said.

"The maiden train carrying



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 ogistics 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 manu facturing 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 Vehicleades (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

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

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

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

Mohammad, Noor 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

takes less time

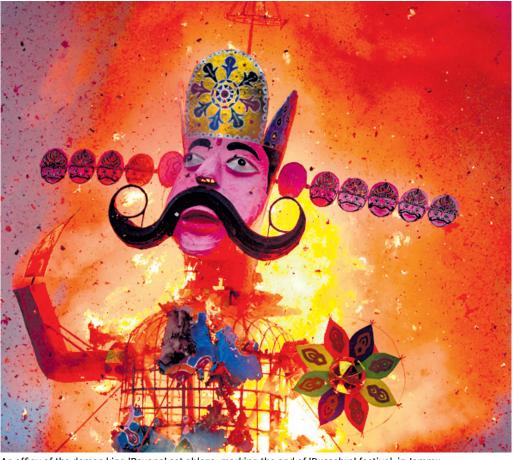
Mohammad's children and brothers are also involved in the practice.

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 treat ment of women and to carry forward the legacy," she said.

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

"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

tute, Anil Kumar said.

9 Date & Time of opening of RF

OIPR-25011/11/0036/2526

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 per sonnel, for emergency donations. A control room manages the operations, supported by the Kerala AIDS Control Societv." the officer added.

Under the initiative, police regularly organise blood donation 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,

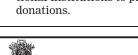
the Local Self-Government Department, and private companies, the police said.

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 cit izens 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



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 or One (01) Post of Stenographer (Level - 04) on deputation basis, i

ne Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority, a statutory body stablished under Section 125 of the Companies Act, 2013. The post i This is an open vacancy circular. Once sufficient number of applications from the eligible candidates are received in the Authority ne same shall be considered for interview/selection. Applications in the

rescribed format, duly completed, must be submitted to the Deputy eneral Manager (Admin), IEPF Authority, Ground Floor, Jeevan ihar Building, 3, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001. 3. For application format, eligibility conditions, requisite qualifications ther details and terms & conditions for service, please log on to Ministry

Corporate Affairs' website www.mca.gov.in or www.iepf.gov.in. The number of vacancies indicated above are tentative. It may vary a

ne time of appointment CBC 07110/12/0008/2526

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA community who studied ■Kerala Kalamandalam, dance at the Kerala Kathe state's premier Thrissur (Kerala), Oct lamandalam. centre for classical Well-known Kathaka-3: When 16 year-old Sabri arts, has nurtured li dancer Kalamandalam performed her 'arangetgenerations John, who is from the of Kathakali. Christian community, **Mohiniyattam and Koodiyattam artistes** also studied at the insti-

tam' 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.' Her maiden rendition was also the culmination of a Kalamandalam guru

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

is "attentive and diligent

in following the instruc-

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

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.

by famous poet

Vallathol Narayana

Menon, along with

preserve and promote

Kerala's performing

living symbol of the

state's cultural soul

Mukundaraja, to

arts, it remains a

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 a minority

Muslim girl makes historic dance debut

Name of the Work: UPGRADATION OF COACH TOILETS IN LHB AC COACHES AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP Advertised Value : ₹ 84,38,12,200.80, EMD 43,69,100/-, Period of Completion: 36

start date: 10.10.2025. Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 24.10.2025. Manual offers are not allowed against thi ender and any such manual offer received shal

Complete details & tender documents will be available at website www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (POH-II)/

Mancheswa PR-650/Q/25-26

of the Superintending Engineer,

RWS&S Division, Bhubaneswar

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bhubaneswar

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

Deployment of security guard 4 nos at Government Quarter No. SGO-4, Type-VIII, Unit-VI, Bhubaneswar of Hon'ble Minister, Rural Development, Nature of Assignment Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water, Odisha through provider on outsourcing basis No. of Item Period of Contract 4 Cost of Tender Paper5 Availability of RFP Rs.4000.00 4.10.2025 to 13.10.2025 upto 3 PM Last date & time for 13.10.2025 upto 3 PM submission of RFP Last date & time for seeking 10.10.2025 upto 5.00 PM clarification 8 Mode of Submission of RFP Ot 14.10.2025 at 11.30 AM in Office

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



preserve and promote

Kerala's performing arts,

Her father, Nizam Ammas, later said in a video

to see the famous and re-

spected institution train a

Muslim woman perform

Kerala's iconic dance

During Vijayadashami,

Sabri made her debut on

the Kerala Kalamandalam

stage here Thursday, and



national



Even if we want to go to our Mosque, they want to snatch it away. One can say I love Modi, but can't say I love Mohammad. Where are you planning to land

BIHAR GOVT ANNOUNCES DA HIKE

The Nitish Kumar government in Bihar Friday announced an additional 3 per cent dearness allowance for employees and pensioners, with weeks left for the announcement of the assembly elections in the state. Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, who is in charge of the Finance Department, said the "festival gift" from the government would cost the state exchequer an additional Rs 917.78 crore in the current financial year



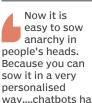


state should withhold money from the Centre. My point is should collect it in a justified

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

The MP

government stands with the families in this hour of grief. Families of the deceased will be given Rs 4 lakh each. Those seriously injured will get Rs 1 lakh each and others with minor injuries will be given Rs 50,000 each. Villagers who assisted in rescue operations will be given a reward of Rs 51,000 each. They will be felicitated during the upcoming Republic Day



MOHAN YADAV | MP CM

personalised way....chatbots have become personal psychologists, they offer you counselling. But at the same time, through all these tools, data of one whole generation can be hacked and experiments can be carried out on them....anarchist ideas can be planted in their heads. We must think about this danger DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA CM

SHORT **TAKES**

Cops hold mock drills in Pune

Pune: Police Friday conducted mock drills involving multiple agencies on roads and key establishments like the airport in Pune to test preparedness for effectively tackling emergency situations such as terrorist attacks, officials said. As part of the exercise on the busy Fergusson College Road in the Deccan Gymkhana area and Mahatma Gandhi Road, two dummy bomb blasts were simulated. Police **Commissioner Amitesh** Kumar said that the mock drills were carried out at multiple places.

Veteran journalist TJS George dies

Bangalore: Renowned journalist and author Thayil Jacob Sony George, popularly known as TJS George, passed away at a private hospital here Friday. He was 97. A Padma Bhushan awardee, George was widely respected for his incisive writings, often marked by satire and sarcasm. He was the Editorial Advisor of The New Indian Express and gained acclaim for his widely read weekly column, Point of View, which he wrote for 25 years until 2022, continuing till the

Two women murdered

age of 94.

Chaibasa/Latehar (Jharkhand): Two women have been allegedly murdered in separate incidents in Latehar and West Singhbhum districts of Jharkhand. police said Friday. A 54-yearold woman was allegedly murdered by her brother-inlaw over a land dispute in West Singhbhum district.

DTC resumes bus service to Nepal

New Delhi: The Delhi-Kathmandu international bus service operated by the **Delhi Transport Corporation** (DTC), which was suspended amid the chaos in the neighbouring nation, has resumed, officials said Friday. According to an official, the services resumed last month after the situation stabilised in Nepal.

Hit at least a dozen Pak jets, including F-16s: IAF chief

The Air Chief Marshal also said that the Indian action damaged a large number of military infrastructure in Pakistan that included hangars in three locations, radars in at least four places, command and control centres in two sites and runways in two air bases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: 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 A P Singh said Friday while describing Islamabad's claim of India's losses as "fanciful stories" (Manohar Ka-

The Air Chief Marshal also said that the Indian action damaged a large number of military infrastructure in Pakistan that included hangars in three locations, radars in at least four places, command and control centres in two sites and runways in two air bases

Air Chief Marshal Singh was addressing a press conference days ahead of the annual Air Force Day.

On reports that various terror groups in Pakistan are relocating their bases to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province following the Operation Sindoor, he said it was expected and that the Indian Air Force have the capability to go deep inside to hit their hideouts with absolutely accurate targeting.

He said the IAF has finalised its plan to expand its combat capabilities under Roadmap 2047 and the force would need 35 to 40 new aircraft including combat jets annually for next two decades to boost its air power.

To questions, he provided details of Pakistan's losses during Operation Sindoor, citing intel-

ligence reports and evidence collected through electronic surveillance.

"What we have gathered from the intelligence report is that because of these strikes, radars at least four places, command and control centres at two places, runways at two places and then three of their hangars in three different stations have been damaged," he said.

In hangars as well as on tarmac, we have signs of one C-130 class of aircraft, one AEW&C (Airborne Early Warning & Control) class of aircraft and at least four to five fighter aircraft, most likely F-16, were hit on the ground, he said.

Sharing details of strikes in the air, the Chief of Air Staff said the IAF has clear evidence of one long-range strike with more than 300 km range hitting an AEW&C or SigNit (Signals intelligence) aircraft, along with five high-tech fighters

between F-16 and JF-17 class. "This is what our system tells us," he said.

While there were reports of damages to Pakistan's F-16 jets in a hangar, it was the first time the IAF confirmed hitting the US-manufactured jet in the air. The JF-17 is a Chinese jet.

The details shared by the

IAF Chief takes the total number of aircraft lost by Pakistan On Pakistan's claim of shoot-

ing down Indian aircraft, the IAF chief called that narrative as "Manohar Kahaniyan".

"Let them be happy, as they need to show something to their audience to protect their reputation. It doesn't matter to me,' he said "If they think they shot down 15 of my jets, let them think about it. I hope they're convinced about it, and they'll cater for 15 less aircraft in my inventory when they come to fight again," he said.

Couple abandons 4th child over fear of losing jobs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chhindwara, Oct 3: A teacher couple from Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district allegedly abandoned their fourth child in a forest, fearing that they would lose their jobs, an official said Friday.

The couple got exposed after a biker heard the cries of the child and alerted the police.

The child, a baby boy, was born September 24, and his parents left him in the Nandanwadi-Tahtori forest under Amarwara tehsil, said Sub Divisional Officer of Police Kalyani Barkade.

After being rescued, the baby was admitted to the district hospital, and the police launched a probe to identify its parents.

The baby's parents, posted in the primary school at Sidhouli in Amarwara tehsil, were eventually tracked down. They told the police that the baby was their fourth child, and they were scared they would lose their government jobs.

However, under Madhya Pradesh civil service rules, a government employee is ineligible for their job if they have a third child born after January 26, 2001.

The couple, Bablu Dandolia (38) and Rajkumari Dandolia (28), were arrested Wednesday. They were produced in a court. which later granted them bail, the official said.

Block Education Officer Virendra Verma said the matter is being investigated.

District Education Officer Gopal Singh Baghel said he has sought records from the school regarding the couple's appointment as teachers. Appropriate steps would be taken after the probe, he added.

11 killed during idol immersion



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore/Khandwa, Oct 3: The joy of Vijayadashmi festivities in tribal-dominated Padalphata village in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district turned into unimaginable grief after a horrific accident during idol immersion killed 11 devotees. many of them children. The cries of pain resonated in the tiny village of 350 residents Friday, just a day after residents were dancing with festive enthusiasm and throwing colours at each other.

Their joy was captured in a video which also featured the tractor trolley that would be at the centre of a cruel twist of fate a few hours later

The tragedy struck Thursday when the tractor trolley carrying devotees overturned in a pond, killing 11 persons in the 8-25 age group, including seven girls.

Padalphata was engulfed in mourning as inconsolable parents wailed while the coffins of their children were being taken from their homes for the final rites.

"Everyone in the village is in shock following the tragedy because children have lost their lives. It feels like our future has been stolen from us," Sawan Dangode, a young

3 of family drown in sea during picnic

MUMBAI: At least three members of a family drowned in the Arabian Sea in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra during their picnic, while four others who entered water with them went missing, police said. A 16-year-old girl, who was part of the group, was rescued, an official said. According to him, the incident occurred around 4 pm off the Shiroda-Velagar beach, located more than 490 km from Mumbai.

man from Padalphata, told PTI during the funeral. While paralysed by sorrow, villagers also expressed anger toward author ities, with Dangode alleging the tragedy was due to administrative negligence.

"People from 25 to 30 villages come to this pond to immerse idols of Goddess Durga. But the administration had not posted any government employee there who would alert the dev otees about the depth of the pond," he said. Khandwa District Magistrate

Rishabh Gupta responded to the allegations late Thursday, saying villagers present at the site had warned the devotees about the pond's depth

Cough syrup not for kids under two: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: The Centre has issued an advisory to all states and Union Territories, directing that cough and cold medications should not be prescribed to children under the age of two vears.

The advisory, issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), comes amid reports of child deaths allegedly linked to contaminated cough syrups in Madhya Pradesh. Meanwhile, the Union Health Ministry noted none of the tested syrup samples in Madhya Pradesh contained Diethvlene Glycol (DEG) or Ethylene Glycol (EG) -- contaminants that are known to cause serious kid-

The DGHS, which comes under the health ministry, said in the advisory that cough syrups are generally not recommended for children below five years. For those older, their use should be based on careful clinical evaluation, close supervision, strict adherence to appropriate dosing, the shortest effective duration, and avoiding multiple drug combinations, it said.

It reiterated judicious and rational prescribing and dispensing of cough syrups for children. "Most acute cough illnesses in children are self-limiting and often resolve without pharmacological intervention. Non-pharmacological measures, including adequate hydration, rest, and supportive measures, should be the first-line approach," it said.

The Tamil Nadu government has banned the sale of cough syrup 'Coldrif' and ordered its removal from the market following suspicions linking it to the death of 11 children in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. With effect from October 1, the sale of the cough syrup manufactured by the city-based firm. has been prohibited across Tamil Nadu, an official of the Food Safety and Drug Administration Department said.



National Security Guard (NSG) personnel during a mock drill, at Varanasi Railway station, in Uttar Pradesh

51L could be at risk of chikungunya every year in long-term: Study

Brazil and Indonesia might be the second and third most affected, with impacts due to the

disease in India and Brazil accounting for 48 per cent of the global impact on healthcare systems and individuals, the findings show

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: India could experience the biggest impacts of chikungunya in the long-term, potentially putting 51 lakh people at risk of the mosquito-borne infection every year, a global modelling study published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Global Health suggests.

Brazil and Indonesia might be the second and third most affected, with impacts due to the disease in India and Brazil accounting for 48 per cent of the global impact on healthcare systems and individuals, the findings show.

The study, led by researchers at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, suggests chronic health impacts will be the biggest concern, with existing evidence suggesting around 50 per cent of the affected possibly grappling with a long-term disability.

Around the world, more than 1.40 crore people every year could be at risk of chikungunya infection in the long term, the study estimated.

"The potential spread of vectors carrying viruses like chikungunya won't wait for us to carry out years of research, so it's been extremely important



Representational image

to us that the model we're working on is shared and used in real time to help public health professionals manage current cases and prepare for the future," said co-author Sushant Sahastrabuddhe, associate director general of innovation, initiatives, and enterprise de-

velopment at the International

Vaccine Institute, South Korea. Chikungunya is a virus that spreads through bites of the Aedes aegypti' and 'Aedes albopictus' mosquitoes, more commonly known as yellow fever and tiger mosquitoes.

Symptoms can include high fe-

ver and severe joint pain, and about 50 per cent of the patients are said to suffer from long-

term joint pain and disability. While there are no specific treatments for the viral mosquito-borne infection, two preventive vaccines have been approved for use in certain countries, including the US. The study is the first of its kind to predict chikungunya burden by combining existing data on chikungunya infections with factors that may influence the likelihood of infections, the authors said.

Previous estimates that often looked at surveillance and outbreak reports could likely be an underestimate, they added.

Estimates presented in the study could be useful for prioritising regions and targeting vulnerable age groups -children under 10, adults aged 80 and over -- for introducing chikungunya vaccine, the team said. They estimated "global chi-

kungunya burden annually of 14.4 million (1.44 crore) infections" and "India and Brazil accounted for 48 per cent of the global burden".

"The chronic phase accounts for 54 per cent of chikungunya burden, with relatively higher burden among 40-60-year-old population,

with mortality dispropor tionately affecting children under 10 and adults over 80, the team added.

Lead researcher Hyolim Kang, also a research fellow at Nagasaki University, "It's been widely thought that mosquitoes carrying chiku ngunya would be confined to subtropical or tropical continents, but our analysis has found that the risk extends way beyond these regions."

national

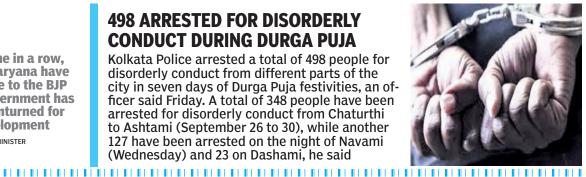


For the third time in a row, the people of Haryana have given a mandate to the BJP and the BJP government has left no stones unturned for the state's development

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

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





Rs 45,000 crore are currently Chhattisgarh, with Rs 7000 crore being earmarked in the 2025-26 state budget for 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 pretext of 'character & responsibility

K C VENUGOPAL | CONG GENERAL SECY

Institutions like ATI are where such officers are shaped







who wished RSS vesterday has a criminal case on them which is under trial. Ariun 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 Baijnathpur 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

India rejects B'desh officials claim

officer-in-charge Tara Chand

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 inau-

guration 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 Wangchuk's wife nre-arrest hail to TVK leaders moves top court pre-arrest bail to TVK leaders



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

for the stampede was aimed at diverting attention away from the deaths of as many as 41 per-

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

single judge bench of the HC on Friday dismissed the anticipatory bail petition of a TVK functionary from Namakkal in connection with an attack on a private hospital in that town during actor Vijay's public meeting there.

TVK's Namakkal (western TN) district secretary Sathish Kumar, fearing arrest, had moved the court.

Political faceoff over the Sep tember 27 incident continued. Chief Minister Stalin accused

the BJP and the government led by it at the Centre, of "showing no genuine concern" over the tragic stampede, and said the saffron party wanted to "capitalise" on the incident in view of next year's Assembly election.

He sought to know why a del egation of NDA MPs was sent to Karur so urgently to look into the cause of the stampede. Teams were not sent to inquire about the Manipur riots, Morbi bridge accident in Gujarat, and the Kumbh Mela stampede in Uttar Pradesh, he said.

"Of course, there's no interest or concern. It is a petty act of seeking political gain in view of the 2026 Assembly election," Stalin said at a government event in Ramanathapuram.

He alleged that the BJP "which is used to riding on the back of others, is a parasite that survives on the blood of others." "It is using the Karur stampede to find out who it can bring under its control. Irrespective of the masks that are worn, how many slaves that are conscripted, or who is enlisted afresh, as I said earlier, Tamil Nadu is out of control for you," Stalin, who is president of the DMK, said.



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 detenue, 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 ac cess 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, environ mentalist, 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 Dep uty Commissioner of Leh under Section 3(2) of the NSA while re covering from a prolonged fast highlighting Ladakh's demand for constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule.

He was swiftly shifted to Cen tral 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

SNIPPETS

Suspected miscreants set ablaze houses in Golaghat

JORHAT (ASSAM): Suspected miscreants from Nagaland allegedly set ablaze around 90 houses in Golaghat district of Assam Friday, a senior official said. They also fired several rounds in the air, creating panic in the Muslim-dominated area, he said. The incident took place at Tengatal of Uriamghat in Sector B in Sarupathar along the interstate border during the early hours, the official said. "The villagers were asleep when suspected miscreants from Nagaland crossed the border and set 90 houses ablaze. There have been reports of severe loss to property," he said. Hearing nunshots the villagers left their homes and fled to nearby bushes As per preliminary reports, nobody was injured or killed in the incident.

CEC arrives in Patna with his team to review poll preparations in Bihar

PATNA: Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar arrived in the Bihar capital late Friday for reviewing, over the next couple of days, preparations for the high-octane assembly polls, which are expected to be announced soon, an official said. The CEC was accompanied by Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi and they are scheduled to hold talks with representatives of various registered political parties Saturday. This would be followed by a meeting with police and administrative officials across all districts of the state for a review of the law and order situation and other requirements for the smooth conduct of the polls. Later in the day. the EC will hold discussions with the state's Chief Secretary, Director General of Police and other top officials.

Assam govt forms judicial panel

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 Director ate (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 prob ing 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 duy 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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, Oct 3: A Delhi court Friday remanded selfstyled godman Chaitanyananda Saraswati in 14 davs' 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 Chaitanyanan da, 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 al

lowed 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 appre hended from Agra September 28. Earlier, police froze Rs 8 crore, linked to Saraswati. parked in multiple bank ac-

counts and fixed deposits. According to the FIR Saraswati, a former chair man of the management in stitute 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

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.

Climate crisis trapping migratory species in habitat gridlock: Report

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



climate-driven habitat shifts are compounding existing pressures from human activity

conflicts," the report said. The Himalayan ecosystem, already vulnerable to rising

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

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

(PAs) may buffer climate impacts, but many areas outside PAs also serve as climate refugia. Conservation efforts must secure movement corridors, habitat islands and refugia to mitigate biodiversity reorganisation under climate change.' he said. As part of one of India's key missions -- the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem -- long-term wildlife monitoring across the longitudinal and elevational gradients of the Himalayas was initiated in 2015.

Its investigations focus on four major river basins Beas (Himachal Pradesh). Bhagirathi standardised

species of mammals, 27 species of birds and two fish species under different Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs), the report said.

done in Singapore to Zubeen's

wife Garima Thursday.

Small mammals in Uttarakhand could lose more than 50 per cent of their range, while the migratory snow trout is expected to shift into higher-altitude rivers, creating what scientists call an "altitude squeeze". Pheasants, too, face increasing habitat fragmentation in the Eastern Himalayas, the report added.

The CMS workshop found that climate change is affecting migratory species worldwide. Shorebirds in the Arctic are hatching out of sync with insect vival rates.

degrees Celsius, the workshop's findings noted.

(Uttarakhand) availability, cutting chick-sur-Teesta (Sikkim) and Kameng (Arunachal Pradesh) -- using Whales, including the crititaxa-specific cally-endangered North Atlansampling to document longtic right whale, are being forced against him. He reportedly submitted term trends in species distribuinto dangerous detours as prey tion and the impact of climate shrinks in the warming seas. bandam of the Wildlife Institute In South America, an Amazon A multi-species, multi-modheatwave in 2023 killed hunel ensemble assessed clidreds of river dolphins when mate-change impacts on 36 water temperatures spiked to 41

temperatures, is undergoing rapid changes. Professor Sathyakumar Sam-

international



The seventh meeting of the **Moscow Format consulta**tions on Afghanistan will be held in Moscow on October 7, bringing together special representatives and senior officials from Afghanistan, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan

MARIA ZAKHAROVA

MONARCH'S HANDOVER

A cheering crowd chanted "Vive!" to welcome Luxembourg's new Grand Duke Guillaume Friday, after his father Henri abdicated, ending nearly 25 years on the throne of the landlocked country





International Day of Non-violence, we honour the life and legacy of Mahatma



truth and dignity for all. Gandhi not only spoke of these ideals, he lived them. And in this time of rising tensions and deepening divisions, his message carries renewed urgency ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY GENERAL

Many other countries have shown interest in entering a defence pact with Pakistan, with many states anproaching Pakistan during the UN General Assembly, then this will become a NATO-like alliance



Israel must stop its attacks for efforts to be successful

TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT, TURKEY

SHORT **TAKES**

Russia targets Ukraine's natural gas facilities

Kyiv: Russia launched its biggest attack of the war overnight against natural gas facilities run by Ukraine's state-owned Naftogaz Group, officials said Friday. Russia fired a total of 381 drones and 35 missiles at Ukraine. according to Ukraine's air force. In what officials were an attempt to wreck the Ukrainian power grid ahead of winter and wear down public appetite for the 3-year-old conflict. "This is deliberate terror against civilian facilities that provide gas extraction and processing for the normal life of people," Serhii Koretskyi, chief executive of Ukraine's state-owned gas company Naftogaz, said in a statement "It has no military purpose. This is vet another act of Russian malice aimed solely at disrupting the heating season and depriving Ukrainians of warmth in winter.'

2 killed, 36 injured in bus accident

Kathmandu: Two people including a child were killed and 36 others injured Friday in a bus accident in Nepal's Madhesh province, police said. The accident occurred in the Bardibas municipality of Mahottari district when the passenger bus was heading towards Kathmandu from Kayarmara. The passengers were returning to Kathmandu after celebrating Vijaya Dashami festival. An octogenarian and 10-yearold child were killed in the accident while 36 others were injured, police said, adding that those injured are undergoing treatment at different hospitals in Bardibas.

Pak's trade deficit soars 46% to \$3.34 bn

Islamabad: Cash-strapped Pakistan's trade deficit ballooned to \$3.34 billion in September, marking a nearly 46 per cent increase from last year, official data showed, as imports surged and exports shrank, increasing pressure on the country's fragile external sector and threatening currency stability. The deficit, up from \$2.29 billion in September last year, was fuelled by a 14 per cent jump in imports to \$5.85 billion, while exports slid 11.7 per cent to \$2.5 billion, The News reported Friday, citing data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Compared with August 2025, the gap widened by 16.3 per cent. For the July-September quarter of the ongoing fiscal year, the trade gap swelled 32.9 per cent year-on-year to \$9.37 billion.

Drone sighting shuts Munich Airport

Drone sightings prompt call for **German police** to gain shootdown powers

Munich/Saarbruecken, Germany, Oct 3: Drone sightings overnight at Germany's Munich airport led to the cancellation and diversion of dozens of flights on the eve of a national holiday, leaving nearly 3,000 passengers stranded and leading politicians to promise tough new measures allowing for drones to be shot down.

The Munich airport disruption was the latest in a series of similar incidents that have rattled European aviation, raising concerns about deniable hybrid attacks on Ukraine's European allies, possibly directed by Russia. The Kremlin has indeed denied any involvement in the incidents.

The airport said several drone sightings late Thursday evening had forced air traffic control to suspend operations, leading to the cancellation of 17 flights and disrupting travel for nearly 3,000 passengers, who were provided with camp beds, blankets and food. Another 15 arriving flights were diverted around the region.

"Our police must get the power to shoot drones down," said Markus Soeder, premier of Bavaria, of which Munich is the 17 flights cancelled after

capital, on social media, promising state-level emergency legislation to allow this. "We need sovereignty over our airspace.

UNKNOWN TYPES

As airport operations resumed early Friday morning, passengers checking in for a flight to Varna in Bulgaria, and the departure board showed only a few flights had been cancelled. A flight from Bangkok was the first of the day to land at around 5:25 am.

Public broadcaster BR said local and national police were investigating the incident. State and federal police had no immediate comment.

The drones were sighted in the late evening above the airport, a police spokesperson told newspaper Bild. But because it was dark, the sizes and types of the drones could not be deterdrone sightings on eve of national holiday

Incident follows similar disruptions in Scandinavia

EU leaders this week backed anti-drone measures to counter threats

Ministers considering police shoot-down powers

The drone incidents follow airspace intrusions last week that temporarily shut airports in Denmark and Norway, which led European Union leaders at a Copenhagen summit to back plans to bolster the bloc's defences with anti-drone

HYBRID WARFARE

In Brussels, the Belgian defence ministry said it had opened an investigation into several drones flying over the military base at Elsenborn, on the German border, overnight, Denmark's intelligence ser-

vice assesses that Russia is conducting hybrid warfare against the West. "Russia is using military means, including in an aggressive way, to put pressure on us without crossing the line into armed conflict in a traditional sense," said Thomas Ahrenkiel, head of Denmark's military intelligence service.

Interior minister Alexander Dobrindt, who already plans legislation letting armed forces help shoot down drones, said he would raise drone defences at a meeting of European interi or ministers on Saturday that had originally been billed as a summit on migration.

AIRSPACE VIOLATED

Russian President Vladimir Putin joked Thursday that he would not fly drones over Denmark anymore, but Moscow has denied responsibility for the incidents. European authorities have accused Russia of brazen violations of the region's airspace, including recent incursions by drones over Poland and fighter jets over Estonia, while Moscow has in turn accused NATO of provocations

The airport disruption in Munich added to a tense week for the city after its popular Oktoberfest was closed temporarily due to a bomb threat and the separate discovery of explosives in a residential building

with protest leaders

Islamabad, Oct 3: A high-level government delegation on Friday held the second round of talks with the protest leaders in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in an effort to convince them to end the demonstrations that have claimed at least nine lives and injured hundreds.

Violence broke out in the region following the call for a strike September 29, forcing Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to send a group of ministers and other leaders to Muzaffarabad to find a negotiated solution to their grievances. At least six civilians and three

police personnel have been killed during the ongoing demonstrations in the region. Nearly 172 police personnel and around 50 civilians sustained injuries during the demonstrations. The delegation led by former

premier Raja Pervaiz Ashraf held the first round of talks with the representatives of the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC). representing traders, local leaders and civil society activists. Parliamentary Affairs Minis-

ter Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said that a second round of negotiations was held in Muzaffarabad. "We fully support the rights of the people of Kashmir," he

said, maintaining that most of

Pak govt team holds second round of talks

Pak must be held accountable: India

New Delhi: India Friday slammed

Pakistan for its crackdown on protesters in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and said the neighbouring country must be held accountable for its "horrific' human rights violations, "We have seen reports on protests in several areas of Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir, including brutalities by Pakistani forces on innocent civilians," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "We believe that it is a natural consequence of Pakistan's oppressive approach and its systemic plundering of resources from these territories. which remain under its forcible and illegal occupation," he said. Jaiswal was responding to a guestion at his weekly media briefing. "Pakistan must be held accountable for its horrific human rights violations," he said. Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh have always been and will remain ar "integral part" of India, Jaiswal said.

their demands, which were in the public interest, had already been accepted.

Large fire erupts in jet

fuel unit at Chevron's

Los Angeles refinery

GAZA DEAL

TRUMP SETS SUNDAY DEADLINE FOR HAMAS

Washington, Oct 3: US President Donald Trump gave Palestinian Hamas militants until Sunday evening to accept his proposal to end the nearly twovear-old war with US ally Israel in the Gaza Strip or "all HELL" would break out.

"An agreement must be reached with Hamas by Sunday Evening at SIX (6) PM. Washington, DC time," Trump posted on social media Friday. "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.

The plan specifies an immediate ceasefire, an exchange of all hostages held by Hamas for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, a staged Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, the disarmament of Hamas and the introduction of a transitional government led by an international body.

Trump first presented, opens new tabhis plan to leaders and officials from Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan, Qatar and the United



raeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared alongside Trump at the White House and endorsed the document, saying it satisfied Israel's war aims.

'INTENSIVE DISCUSSION' UNDER **WAY ON HAMAS RESPONSE**

Hamas was not involved in the negotiations that led to the proposal, which calls on the Islamist militant group to disarm, a demand it has previously rejected.

Asked whether his group

had finalized its response to Trump's Gaza plan, a Hamas official told Reuters late Thursday, "Not yet, intensive discussion is under way." The official said Hamas had held talks with Arab mediators, Turkey and Palestinian factions to shape "the Palestinian response."

In his Truth Social post Friday, Trump made an apparent reference to Israel's offensive in Gaza City. He said remaining Hamas militants in Gaza are trapped and "will be hunted down, and killed" without a deal, and warned "innocent Palestinians' to leave for safer areas of Gaza

SYNAGOGUE ATTACK

UK police accidentally shot victim

Manchester, England, Oct 3: British police said Friday they accidentally shot a victim who died in the attack on a synagogue in Manchester, as well as one of the survivors, as they attempted to stop an attacker who appeared to be wearing an explosive belt.

In Thursday's attack two men, Adrian Daulby, 53, and Melvin Cravitz, 66, were killed after a British man of Syrian descent drove a car into pedestrians and then began stabbing people outside Manchester's Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue during Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar.

The attacker, shot dead by officers at the scene, was not carrying a firearm, said Greater Manchester Police chief constable Steve Watson, though one of those killed suffered a gunshot wound.

"It follows therefore this injury may have been sustained as a tragic and unforeseen consequence of the urgently required action taken by my officers to bring this vicious attack to an end", Watson said in a statement.



Police said attacker did not have a gun

Attacker identified as British man of Syrian descent

Manchester home to largest Jewish community outside

Interior minister criticises pro-

UK VOWS TO CRACK DOWN ON ANTISEMITISM

Watson said another worshipper is believed to have suffered a non life-threatening gunshot wound, and that it is thought both victims were close together behind the synagogue door, as worshippers tried to prevent the attacker from gaining entry. The police complaints watchdog said it was carrying out an investigation into what happened. Police have named the attacker as Jihad al-Shamie, 35, and said they could find no records to show he had been referred to the government's anti-radicalisation programme.

instructed the Russian gov-

ernment to think of proposals

to be made to "Indian friends

and counterparts on the most

promising areas of cooperation

and how Russia can smoothen

the imbalance in trade and oth-

er areas," according to state-

for economic cooperation be-

tween Russia and India but ac-

knowledged the need to resolve

specific issues to fully unlock

trade turnover between Russia

For comparison, he said, the

Putin noted the vast potential

run news agency TASS.

these opportunities

El Segundo, Oct 3: A large fire erupted in a jet fuel production unit at Chevron's El Segundo re-

finery near Los Angeles Thurs day, disrupting supply in Cali fornia's isolated energy market

Chevron's second-biggest re finery in the United States, the El Segundo facility supplies a fifth of all motor vehicle fuels and 40% of the jet fuel con sumed in southern California

No injuries were reported and all workers at the refinery were accounted for, Chevron spokesperson Allison Cook said in an email. Media said the blaze had been contained though it was still burning ear ly Friday. It was not immediate ly clear what caused the explo sion at the facility in the suburb of El Segundo, which supplies jet fuel for Los Angeles Inter national Airport (LAX), located just north of the refinery.

"There is no known impact to LAX at this time," Los Angeles

Mayor Karen Bass said. The fire broke out in the refinery's Isomax 7 unit, which converts mid-distillate fuel oil into jet fuel, two sources said.

It was unclear how it would affect the refinery's ability to produce jet fuel, and whether wider output had been affected

Putin orders govt to soften trade imbalance with India

Putin, who will travel to India in early **December for an** annual summit, lauded India's nationalist government led by **PM Modi, calling him** a 'balanced, wise,' and 'nationally oriented' leader

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moscow, Oct 3: Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered to devise measures, including purchasing more agricultural products and medicines from India, to soften the trade imbalance with New Delhi, which is due to the heavy import of crude by the country.

Speaking at the Valdai plenary session Thursday, Putin also said that he was looking forward to his trip to India in early December and meeting with "my friend and our reliable partner Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi.' Putin, who will travel to In-

dia in early December for an annual summit, lauded India's nationalist government led by PM Modi, calling him a "balanced, wise," and "nationally oriented" leader. Putin said he feels comfortable in their trustworthy interactions. When asked about the US

threat to impose high tariffs and sanctions on Russia's key partners. Putin said the Indian people will not tolerate their country being bullied into making a decision that contradicts their national interests and priorities, RT news channel reported.

"(India) will never allow itself to be humiliated by anyone.

I know Prime Minister Modi, he will also not make any such decisions," he said.

"The losses faced by India due to punitive US tariffs would be balanced by crude imports from Russia, plus it will gain prestige as a sovereign nation," Putin added

He was referring to the additional 25 per cent tariff imposed by President Donald Trump on New Delhi as a penalty for its

purchases of Russian oil, taking the total levies imposed on India by the US to 50 per cent.

medicines from India to remove the trade imbalance. "More agricultural products may be purchased from India. Certain steps can be undertaken from our side for medicinal products. pharmaceuticals," Putin stated. The president said he had

Putin said Russia may buy more agricultural products and

and India is about \$63 billion, and \$50 billion with Belarus. "At the same time, the population is 1.5 billion in India and 10 million in Belarus. It obviously does not correspond to our potential opportunities," Putin "We need to solve the whole

range of tasks to unlock our opportunities and potential advantages," Putin said, iden-

tifying financing, logistics and payment bottlenecks as key concerns

Putin also underlined that Russia had "never had any problems or interstate tensions with India. Never," and noted that both countries always took actions keeping in view the respective sensitivities

He highlighted the "special' nature of Russia-India relations since the days of the Soviet Union, when India was fighting for its independence. "In India they remember this, they know it, and they value it. We appreciate that India has not forgot ten it," he said.

Putin also recalled that the declaration of a special stra tegic privileged partnership between Russia and India will soon celebrate its 15th anniversary, and asserted, "That's what it really is." He noted that, in their political relations, Rus sia and India almost always co ordinate their actions.

business



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

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



of cooperation

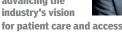
India, these dynamics highlight both vulnerability and resilience. Our capacity to absorb shocks is strong, while our economic leverage is evolving

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

A significant gateway to the Northeast, it expands our nationwide warehousing and distribution network to tier-II and tier-III cities, enhancing connectivity in the







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 deoiled 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.

Banks, metals boost indices to weekly gains

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

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, Geoit 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

In contrast, Tech Mahindra,

BSE SENSEX

OCTOBER 3, 2025





enchmark climbed 780.71 point higher by 57.95 or 0.97%, and the Nifty went up to 24,894.25 by 239.55 points or 0.97%

vices Ltd, said.

the laggards.

exchange data.

green Thursday.

Jayanti and Dussehra.

"Capital goods sector re-

mained under focus on the back

of reiteration from the Finance

Minister that the government's

commitment to increase capi-

tal expenditure to support

growth remains intact," Sid-

dhartha Khemka - Head of Re-

search, Wealth Management,

Motilal Oswal Financial Ser-

Realty and healthcare were

Foreign Institutional Inves-

tors (FIIs) offloaded equities

worth Rs 1,605.20 crore on

Wednesday, while Domestic

Institutional Investors (DI-

Is) bought stocks worth Rs

2.916.14 crore, according to

In Asian markets, Japan's

Nikkei 225 index settled sharp-

ly higher, while Hong Kong's

Hang Seng index ended low-

er. The stock market in China

and South Korea's Kospi were

closed for a public holiday. Eq-

uity markets in Europe were

trading higher in mid-session

deals. US markets ended in

Equity markets were closed

Thursday for Mahatma Gandhi

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

at 81<mark>,207.1</mark>7

"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

falls to 1.29cr in Aug PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Domestic air traffic

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," DG-CA 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.

govern August, ment-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 (Director-

ate General of Civil Aviation) data, a total of 74,381 passengers were affected due to flight de lays, 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

Gold snaps 5-day rally; falls ₹500

The yellow metal stands at Rs 1,20,600/10 g in Delhi



New Delhi, Oct 3: Gold prices fell by Rs 500 to Rs 1,20,600 per 10 grams in the national capital Friday, ending a fiveday record-extending rally, as investors booked profits and a slight recovery in the US dollar weighed on sentiment.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity had rallied Rs 1.100 to hit an all-time high of Rs 1,21,100 per 10 grams Wednesday. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity al-

so retreated from its peak, slipping Rs 500 to Rs 1,20,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had closed at Rs 1.20,500 per 10 grams in the previous trading session. Local bullion markets were closed Thursday on account of Gandhi Jayanti and Dussehra. In tandem with gold, silver

prices also eased by Rs 500 to Rs 1,50,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes). The white metal had traded flat at Rs 1,50,500 per kilogram Wednesday, the association said. "Bullion pulled back from its

record high and traded lower on Friday, weighed down by a slight recovery in the US dollar and profit-taking by traders following a five-day rally that set new records," said Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities.

This rally is supported by persistent demand for safe-haven assets. fuelled by worries about a **US** government shutdown and ongoing geopolitical and economic uncertainties

SAUMIL GANDHI | SENIOR ANALYST OF COMMODITIES, HDFC SECURITIES

In the international market spot gold also witnessed a pull back and slipped to \$3,863.51 per ounce after scaling a re cord high of \$3,897.20 per ounce Thursday. On a weekly basis, gold re-

secutive weeks of gains, its longest winning streak since February 2025, Gandhi noted SILVER OUTPACES GOLD Meanwhile, spot silver in the overseas markets rose nearly 1

mains poised for seven con-

per cent to \$47.34 per ounce after hitting a high of \$48.10 per ounce Thursday.

Silver has outpaced gold with a 19.4 per cent surge in September against a 13 per cent rise in the yellow metal price, driven by robust industrial demand especially from solar and tech nology sectors, and tightening global supply.

Silver prices climbed Rs 24,500 from Rs 1,26,000 per kilogram on September 1 to Rs 1,50,500 per kg on September 30, marking one of the steepest monthly gains in recent years

₹ falls 8 paise, hovers RBI allows Vostro-based NRI corp debt buys near all-time low level

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

UPEE₹ VS DOLLARS 1 USD = 88.78 INR*

previous close.

On Wednesday, the rupee recovered 9 paise from its alltime 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.

Earlier, such entities were only permitted to invest their rupee surplus balance

in accounts in central government securities, including treasury bills

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 3: The Reserve Bank Friday allowed persons residing outside the country to invest in corporate debt securities through Special Rupee Vostro Accounts.

Earlier, such entities were only permitted to invest their rupee surplus balance in accounts in central government securities, including treasury bills



"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

included in the Foreign Exchange Management (Borrowing and Lending) Regulations, 2018. The draft has features like linking the borrowing limits to a borrower's financial strength and proposing raising ECBs at market-determined interest

The end-use restrictions and Minimum Average Maturity re quirements are also proposed to be simplified, it said.

The borrower and lender base eligible for ECB transactions is proposed to be expand ed to enhance opportunities of credit flow, and the reporting requirements are being simpli fied to ease compliance obligations, the central bank added.

The move was announced October 1 after the policy re view, and the public feedback on the draft has to be given by October 24.

US TIES

Indian mins push domestic alternatives to Google, Microsoft apps

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 every-

where 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

famed for an unconventional approach of locating business operations in rural villages. The firm's messaging app,

Arattai, or "chat" in India's southern Tamil language, has gained sudden popularity, thanks to the efforts of Commerce Minister Piyush calls for use of Indian goods

ndian infotech minister shifts to domestic firm Zoho's

merican brands have deep

istory shows hard for Indian brands to replace foreign

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 compli ance-related disagreements with the American platform. But the Indian company shut last year for lack of funding.

"Only state patronage will

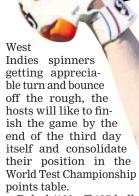
not be enough," warned Dilip Cherian, a co-founder of Indi an public relations firm Perfect Relations. "What brands like Zoho need to succeed is a unique differentiating factor. deep pockets and strong protection against survelliance."

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 Dhruy Jurel and Ravindra Jadeia 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



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 Jadeia'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 drought at home

hruv Jurel scores maiden Test hundred

adeja matches Dhoni as he rose Indians with the most number of sixes in Test cricket

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

> ple 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

Jadeja, whose pur-

Jurel and Jadeput runs for on fifth the wicket for an imposing fifth-wicket stand, but they also narrowly missed breaking the re-

cord 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. smacked 15 fours and got an in-Pierre

off Kharv late in the day to be caught be-

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, pressure back on the hosts. Gill and Raresumed dia's innings at 121 for 2 and by drinks in the first sion, deficit

> 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.

41

runs

was erased

and 11th

overall. The

with the two

batters going

about their jobs

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

right-handed batter had scored 199 in the Chennai 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

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:

old ball after 97 overs.

West Indies first innings: 162 all out

India first innings: 448/5 in 128 overs (KL Rahul 100, Dhruy Jurel 125, Ravindra Jadeia 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 di-

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 con-

fidence 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 and 122kg the upcoming Commonwealth Games and Asian Games will be crucial milestones on that

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

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 PT 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

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

SHORT **TAKES**

NADA lifts Sahil's nrovisional 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 ADDP 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 Wold Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) prohibited list as

England destroy SA

non-specified substances.

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

hit 45

bound-

aries and

eight sixes

-- five of them

by Jadeja, same

shot in the same

brought an end to

his century drought

at home by hitting his

second century since

December 2016, Jurel

brought up his maiden

Rahul

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 competi-

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.

remained disciplined but

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

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.

Ex-Pak captain clarifies **'Azad Kashmir' remark** after heavy backlash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: Former Pakistan captain Sana Mir defended her controversial "Azad Kashmir" remark during the ongoing Women's World Cup, saying it was only aimed at highlighting "the challenges' faced by batter Natalia Pervaiz during her journey from the disputed region to international cricket.

While doing commentary in the Pakistan-Bangladesh match Thursday, she said that Pervaiz comes from "Azad Kashmir" while describing her back ground. The remark was not received well by Indian fans, who pointed out that the correct term is Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), and accused Sana of making a political remark on live TV.

"My comment about a Paki stan player's hometown was only meant to highlight the challenges she faced of coming from a certain region in Pakistan and her incredible journey. It is part of the story telling we do as commentators as where the players come from," Sana said in a statement on 'X', following the backlash.

The Indian fans tagged the ICC and BCCI, demanding her removal from the commentary team for "politicising" sports broadcast.

The controversy comes in the wake of off-field issues between the two nations in the men's Asia Cup in the UAE recently, which India won by beating the arch-rivals in the final, only to be denied the trophy by Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chairman and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mohsin Naqvi as the Indian players refused to accept the silverware from him as a mark of protest for the Pahalgam terror attack earlier this year.

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