CM meets Nadda, sparks Cabinet expansion buzz Killer cough Syrup



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi meets BJP national president and Union Health Minister JP Nadda in New Delhi, Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi Saturday met BJP national president JP Nadda in Delhi to discuss organisational matters and the current political situation in the state, triggering speculation over a possible expansion of his ministry and selection of the party's candidate for the upcoming Nuapa-

Majhi held the meeting in the presence of Odisha BJP incharge Vijay Pal Singh Tomar. The CM said the discussion

also focused on the roadmap for the party's future initiatives in the state.

"Today in New Delhi, I had the privilege of calling on our party's Hon'ble National President and Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda Ji. We discussed organisational matters, current political scenario, and the roadmap for future initiatives," Majhi said in a social media post.

According to party insiders, Majhi had three key objectives for the visit: selection of the BJP candidate for Nuapada bypoll, expansion of the state Cabinet, and appointments of senior leaders to various staterun corporations and boards.

see which of the three issues is addressed before Diwali," a senior leader said. Though Majhi took oath as

"However, we are waiting to

CM along with 15 ministers June 12, 2024, six Cabinet berths remain vacant. Many senior leaders have been anticipating induction into the ministry, sources said.

Nuapada bypoll is seen as the first major political test for Majhi after the BJP formed its maiden government in Odisha.

In the 2024 Assembly elections, the BJP's performance in the Nuapada segment was dismal. While the seat was won by BJD's Rajendra Dholakia, BJP candidate Abhinandan Panda, son of former MP Basanta Panda, finished third. Party sources said a central

team of the BJP is currently in Nuapada to assess the local political landscape. Discussions are underway on whether to field Panda again or opt for a new face. Panda, meanwhile, has begun informal outreach in the constituency ahead of

> Maihi's visit to Delhi is expected to be followed by a similar trip by state BJP president Manmohan Samal in the coming days, party sources added.

the official announcement.

In another social media post, Majhi said during the visit, he met new Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan.

"Had the opportunity to pay a courtesy call on Hon'ble Vice President Shri @CPR_VP ji in New Delhi today. On this occasion. I shared details of our government's development initiatives, welfare programmes, and future roadmap for the state. I also presented the 'Odisha Vision 2036 | 2047', outlining Odisha's long-term goals. Grateful for his guidance and encouragement,'

Adulterated cough syrups have emerged as a major public health concern in India, following a series of tragic incidents where contaminated formulations caused deaths of children. In the latest case, at least a dozen children have died in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan due to kidney failure allegedly after consumption of cough syrups of a particular brand. Investigations by Central and state drug

An official looks at bottles of the 'Coldrif' cough syrup after a raid by the Drug and Pharmaceuticals Department officials at Kataria Pharmaceuticals in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, Saturday

ble limit, as part of an investigation into the deaths of nine children from kidney failure in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district, the Union Health Ministry said Saturday.

'The samples are found to contain DEG beyond the permissible limit," the Ministry said in a statement. DEG, a toxic solvent used in industrial products, has been linked to fatal poisoning in several countries.

The Madhya Pradesh Food and Drug Administration also analysed three of 13 samples collected, which were found free of contamination, the statement said. However, Tamil Nadu's drug regulator later confirmed DEG contamination in samples taken directly from Sresan Pharma's manufacturing site in Kanchipuram, it said. Authorities have launched inspections of 19 drug manufacturers across

six states to identify quality control lapses and recommend improvements to prevent future incidents, the Ministry said. The MP government Saturday banned the sale of Coldrif syrup following the death of nine children due to suspected kidney infection in Chhindwara district since September 7.

"The deaths of children in Chhindwara due to Coldrif syrup are extremely tragic. The sale of this syrup has been banned across Madhya Pradesh. A ban is also being imposed on other products of the company that manufactures the syrup," Chief Minister Mohan Yadav stated on X.

tuted at the state level to inves tigate the matter, Yadav said, adding that the guilty will not be spared. Apart from the deaths in MP,

A team has also been consti-

media reports claimed that two infants died in Rajasthan.

Kerala Saturday suspended the sale and distribution of Coldrif syrup, while Telangana issued a 'public alert' on the cough syrup. A day earlier, the Tamil Nadu government had banned the sale of the cough syrup.

Gill replaces Rohit as ODI captain

regulators have revealed that the cough syrup contained chemicals

such as diethylene glycol (DEG),

a toxic solvent used in industrial

products that has been linked to

fatal poisoning in several coun-

tries. DEG can cause kidney

failure and death, especially in

children. India has faced scruti-

ny over the quality of its pharma-

ceutical exports after the WHO

linked cough syrups made by

another company to the death of

New Delhi, Oct 4: A specific

cough syrup, Coldrif, has been

found to contain diethylene gly-

col (DEG) beyond the permissi-

70 children in Gambia in 2022.

Ahmedabad: In a significant transition move, opener Shubman Gill was Saturday named captain of the Indian ODI team for the upcoming tour of Australia, replacing senior batter Rohit



Sharma at the helm. Rohit, along with Virat Kohli, has been named in the 15-member squad announced by the BCCI, signalling a gradual shift in leadership without fully sacrificing the experience. Shreyas Iyer has been named vice-captain for the three-match series. Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been rested for the ODI leg of the tour to manage his workload, while promising left-hander Yashasvi Jaiswal has been recalled to the 50-over setup after a string of consistent performances in T20

IDF ordered to halt Gaza campaign fice said Israel was committed

Tel Aviv, Oct 4: Israel's army said Saturday that it would advance preparations for the first phase of US President Donald Trump's plan to end the war in Gaza and return all the remaining hostages.

The army said it was instructed by Israel's leaders to "advance readiness" for the implementation of the plan. An official who was not authorised to speak to the media on the record said that Israel has moved to a defensive-only position in Gaza and will not actively strike.

The announcement came hours after Trump ordered Israel to stop bombing Gaza once Hamas said it had accepted some elements of his plan. Trump welcomed the Hamas statement, saying: "I believe they are ready

Hamas to return hostages

Hamas says it is willing to return all remaining Israeli hostages held in Gaza and the bodies of the dead in accordance with President Donald Trump's peace plan. Under the plan. Hamas would release the remaining 48 hostages - around 20 of them believed to be alive - within three days. It would also give up power and disarm.

for a lasting PEACE."

Trump appears keen to deliver on pledges to end the war and return dozens of hostages ahead of the second anniversary of the attack Tuesday. His proposal unveiled earlier this week has widespread international support and was also endorsed by Israeli Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. On Friday, Netanyahu's ofto ending the war that began when Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023 without ad dressing potential gaps with the militant group.

A senior Egyptian official says talks are underway for the release of hostages, as well as hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention The official, who is involved in the ceasefire negotiations, also said Arab mediators are preparing for a comprehensive dialogue among Palestinians The talks are aimed at unify ing the Palestinian position toward Gaza's future.

On Saturday, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the second most powerful militant group in Gaza, said it accepted Hamas' re sponse to the Trump plan. The group had previously rejected the proposal days earlier. P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Taking back PoK might be risky - it's full of andolanjeevis

Master plan soon to deal with landslides

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: The state government has decided to prepare a comprehensive master plan to prevent loss of human lives due to landslides in hilly areas, Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said here Saturday.

Speaking to mediapersons, Pujari said landslide has emerged as a new disaster in the state.

"Landslides, which are usually seen in north-eastern states of in some parts of Odisha. Gajapati district, which has a lot of hilly ar-

One person was killed due to a landslide in the district, and the death of another person in Gajapati is under investigation, he said.

To mitigate the suffering of the people due to that disaster, the state government is going to prepare a master plan, Pujari said.

The recent heavy rainfall under the impact of a deep depression has caused massive damage in Gaiapati. Rayagada, Kalahandi, Ganjam and other districts, he said.

The minister further said that

provided to the affected people. Pujari said the government will also identify low-lying roads vulnerable to waterlogging and take measures to ensure uninterrupted connectivity. A modern disaster management office will be constructed in Bhubaneswar to bring all related offices under one roof, he said. "This integration will enable seamless coordination and quicker decision-making during

emergencies," Pujari noted. The government has sanctioned Rs 200 crore for the project, which is expected to be completed in two years. The process has begun to identify the place for the modern

our country, have now been seen District Collectors concerned have heen asked to assess the damage and submit reports. After getting eas, is facing landslides," he said. the reports, compensation will be building, he added.

Japan set to get first woman PM

Tokyo, Oct 4: Sanae Takaichi, the newly elected and staunchly conservative head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, is expected to become Japan's first woman prime minister, but that doesn't mean she's a feminist choice, analysts say

Instead the 64-year-old, who won the party's leadership election Saturday, has positioned herself as a hardline leader focused on national defence and economic security.

She saw off competition from generational-change candidate Shinjiro Koizumi, the 44-year-old surfing son of a former premier, and the experienced-if-uncharismatic Yoshimasa Havashi.

Once confirmed by parliament seen as highly likely -- Takaichi will become the country's first woman head of government and Japan's fifth leader in as many years.

Voters have been deserting the long-dominant LDP in droves because of inflation and a recent



slush fund scandal, while the anti-immigration Sanseito party has been gaining ground.

In an effort to claw them back, Takaichi has taken a tough stance on immigration and foreign tourists -- both of which emerged as key

A former economic security minister, she has in the past been a vocal critic of China and its military build-up in the Asia-Pacific.

issues in the LDP leadership race.

She's also been a regular visitor to the Yasukuni Shrine, which honours convicted war criminals

along with 2.5 million war dead, and is seen by Asian nations as a symbol of Japan's militarist past.

However, during the most recent LDP race, she notably softened her rhetoric -- a sharp contrast to the vote last year when she pledged to visit Yasukuni as prime minister, and ultimately lost to outgoing premier Shigeru Ishiba.

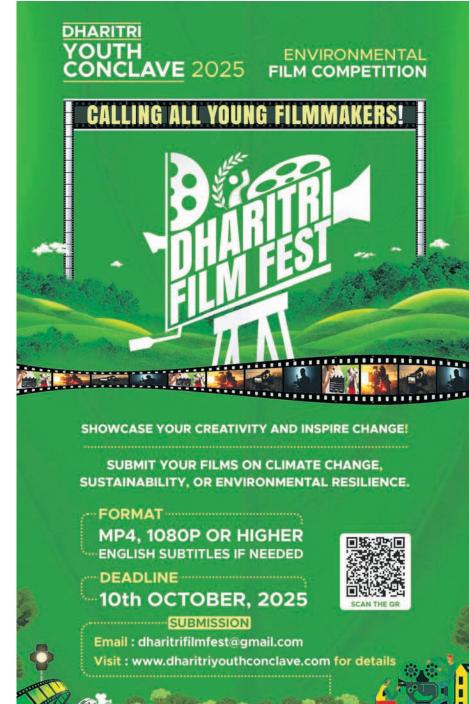
Once a drummer in a college heavy metal band, Takaichi looks to the late British prime minister Margaret Thatcher as her political hero. But although her election "would be a step forward for women's participation in politics", according to Sadafumi Kawato, professor emeritus of the University of Tokyo, she's shown little inclination to fight against patri-

Takaichi's views on gender place her on the right of an already conservative LDP and she opposes revising a 19th-century law requiring married couples to share the same surname, a rule that overwhelmingly results in women taking their husband's name.

The issue "probably won't be resolved during her term", Kawato told AFP.

However, in her campaign speech she vowed to improve the gender balance in her cabinet to "Nordic" levels.

Japan ranked 118 out of 148 in the World Economic Forum's 2025 Gender Gap Report chiefly because of the underrepresentation of women in government, while Iceland, Finland and Norway occupied the top three places.



eisure



WEBSITES' ACCUSATION Australian actress Rebel Wilson has denied an accusation that she ordered the creation of "malicious websites" about *The Deb* producer Amanda Ghost. Rebel, 45, is currently facing a defamation case over the issue brought against her by Char-

lotte MacInnes, 26, lead actress of The Deb.

REBEL DENIES 'MALICIOUS

ROBERT PATTINSON ENJOYS HANGING OUT WITH BABIES

Hollywood star Robert Pattinson, who welcomed a daughter with his fiancee Suki Waterhouse in March 2024, says he is 'surprised' that he has developed a lot more patience and that he genuinely enjoys hanging out with his babies.



Coolie follows the story of

a former coolie union leader.

who investigates the death of

his friend which leads him to

The actress will next

be seen in Salaar

Part 2: Shouryanga

a crime syndicate.

accuracy • reliability • trust

Today, you want to do something for the environment. Ganesha says plant a tree, clean up your neighbourhood, ask for a paper bag. You wish to lead the world into a better place? Do it by all means, but one step at a time.

TAURUS

Anxiety will keep your nerves swollen for most part of the day, feels Ganesha. On the work front, you will face success later in the day. You will be a role model for business efficiency and people will try to follow in your footsteps. Your efforts will be validated with generous profits.

kids

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nificant

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GEMINI

If you are embroiled in a legal dispute, an out-of-court settlement is likely, predicts Ganesha. You are a courageous person and you'll need a lot of it today. Don't back down from your decisions. You may resilience will pay off.

CANCER

Ganesha portends that you will remain invincible and unbeatable throughout the day. Howevful as it gets. It will be just another day at office, and an equally simple day at home. There will not be any low points, but no high points either.

You will leave no stone unturned to satisfy and please your partner today. So your chances of slipping up are very slight. You will be able to impress your partner today. You need to be careful in all your inancial dealings today, says Ganesha

VIRGO

Communication is your best handgun and creativity your best bullet. Ganesha feels you are full of energy, enthusiasm and exuberance. Creativity, though, will be at its best in an atmosphere free of pressure and strain, cautions Ganesha.

LIBRA

It is your friends who prove to be lucky and beneficial for you today, especially if they happen to be walking the corridors of power, says Ganesha. Do not hesitate to start that new joint venture today. See your popularity grow by leaps and bounds as you get due recognition for your abilities and efforts.

SCORPIO

You are likely to get overboard with your ambitions and be loud-mouthed, says Ganesha. But do not to be too forceful or severe lest you end up tarnishing your image. It is best to stay clear of conflicts in the larger scheme of things, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS Wisdom in words and hero in deeds - this may well be your avatar today. Expect

good news at work, especially related to a thicker pay package or an increase in office floor area. Accountants and franchisees - expect to crunch good numbers today!

CAPRICORN

Lack of proper planning is probably the reason for you not being able to get your work done in time. You'll realise this mistake and today, you will spend majority of time drawing a plan on paper says Ganesha. You may hit a jackpot, but think twice before spending the money on anything unnecessary. You may come across some good career opportunities, grab them before it's too late.

AQUARIUS

Some days, you crave to know everything. Today is one such day. You will also prove a worthy opponent. You may upset your adversaries' plans, much to your own advantage. You have it in you to be a scholar. You will also prove the strength of your character, especially when the going gets tough.

•••••

PISCES Your business associates will marvel at your business acumen, and will respect the insights you provide for them to work with. Meanwhile, you will be busy spending quality time with your family and showing them how much they mean to you today, says Ganesha.

'No one wants to hear us out'

MUMBAI: The debate surrounding insidabout their challenges, ers versus outsiders in Bollywood has been Janhvi explained, "No one of the industry's most discussed topics one is interested in lisfor years. While many actors from nonfilm backgrounds have often spoken tening. Because we come openly about the difficulties of from a privileged backbreaking into the industry ground, nobody really without connections, star kids wants to hear us out. And are frequently accused of havthat's fair. I don't think we ing it easier because of their should even complain, beprivileged upbringing. In a cause we are very grateful candid conversation with a for whatever we've got. If we

sit here and say, 'Oh, things movie journal, Janhvi Kapoor admitted that she doesn't like have also been very difficult for us,' well, that's the the division within the industry and case for everyone. acknowledged the She further addunfairness of star ed. "I don't like publicly this insider-outdiscussing their sider division, own struggles, but the kind given the very of struggles different rethey face are alities outvery different siders face. and we will

never truly understand them. comus to plain that gone through a lot as well iust tone-deaf, and honestly, no one wants listen to

MUMBAI: Television actor Abhinav Shukla turned a year older September 27, and leaving no stone unturned to make his day memorable, his better half, actress Rubina Dilaik organised a fun family camping adventure, reflecting the couple's well-known love for the wild.

Taking to her official Insta account, Rubina shared a video revealing what all went behind creating special day for Abhinav.

The clip Rubina trybest to figure put up a tent, eventually doing help of her friends. We

arriving see Abhinav at the venue, visibly elated to receive the kind of birthday his heart desired. Rubina added the Honthon Pe Lamha Lamha

Rubina's

language

showed

out how to

which she

succeeded

with the

family and

could also

ing

her

track from Saiyaara in the backdrop. She captioned the post, "This is my love language," along with a red heart emoji.

Monday, Rubina treated her Insta Fam with a couple of sneak peeks from the birthday celebration. Looking all handsome in a cowboy hat, Abhinav was seen cutting his birthday cake and celebrating his special day in the presence of his better half and twin daughters, Jeeva

At the moment, the lovebirds are seen in the couple reality show, Pati Patni Aur Panga. IANS

SHRUTI **POOKED OUT** Mumbai: It seems actress in the film, which also starred the titans of Indian cinema Shruti Haasan is quite unnerved after watching the like Rajinikanth, Nagarjuna biographical crime drama an-Akkineni, Malayalam actor thology series *Monster: The Ed* Soubin Shahir, and Bollywood Gein Story as she said that she superstar Aamir Khan in a cameo appearance.

would never go on a date with someone who's slightly weird. Taking to her Instagram stor-

ies, Shruti shared the poster of Monster: The Ed Gein Story, which focuses on convicted serial killer Ed Gein, played by Hollywood star Charlie Hun-

nam. She wrote as the caption: "Ok so...No eating no sleeping. turning veg for a week. Never going on a date with someone who's slightly Even. weird. Yeah just NO."

murderer and snatcher Ed Gein, whose crimes served as inspiration for several Hollywood films.

about Shruti, she was last seen in Coo where she essaved the role of Preethi Rajasekar

CROSSWORD

Parvam. The first installment of Salaar: Part 1 Ceasefire re-Also leased in 2023 The epic neo noir action thriller film directed by Prashanth The series explores the life of convicted body Talking

SRK, Anand Pandit, Big B join showbiz's billionaires' club

to that.'

MUMBAI: Like Forbes, which prepares the global list of millionaires and is one of the most trusted sources of its kind, Hurun India 2025 has released its list of Indians who entered the rich list this year. More than just the names, it's interesting to see how these multi-millionaires made their way into this elite circle.

This year, the list in India, topped by Roshni Nadar and this time too, some of the biggest contemporary names from Indian cinema have featured in the list as stalwarts of showbiz.

Among the prominent names is veteran producer Anand Pandit, the man behind one of India's leading production houses, Anand Pandit Motion Pictures. Not just as a producer who understands the pulse of the industry, he has also been

PEANUTS

KIDS AND PARENTS

ARE ALWAYS ARGUING

ABOUT SOMETHING



key position as one of India's leading real estate developers through The Lotus Developers, which has helped him maintain

THEY CAN WEAR THE

PARENTS DOWN



a strong position in the annual ranking of the richest.

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan, with an estimated wealth of Rs 12,490 crores, has become

KIDS HAVE BETTER

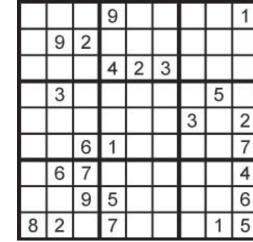
BENCH STRENGTH!

Bollywood's richest-ever star. Anand Pandit's presence, with a net worth of Rs 8,660 crores, clearly shows that success in the industry is no longer limited to those in front of the camera; producers, investors, and visionaries working behind the scenes are now part of the same league. Meanwhile, the legendary Amitabh Bachchan, with Rs 1,630 crores, also continues to hold a strong place on the list, reflecting his enduring legacy in Indian cinema.

From other Bollywood figures who made it to the list are Juhi Chawla and family, co-owners of Knight Riders Sports, with a net wealth of Rs 7,790 crores; Hrithik Roshan, who collaborates with the HRX brand, with Rs 2,160 crores; and Karan Johar of Dharma Productions, with Rs 1,880 crores

SUDOKU

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



CALVIN AND HOBBES

BUT KIDS HAVE

THE ADVANTAGE



BREVITY



Copyright @2025 PuzzleJunction.com 20 Recipe direction 4 Card carrier

6 Gentle breeze 7 Prey

Across

DOST

- 8 Pen pals?
- 9 Swiss canton
- 10 Narrow street
- 11 In good shape
- 13 Mug
- 15 Involuntary twitch
- 17 On target

- 21 Sphere 22 King
- 24 City on the
- Danube 25 Magical drink

- Persian spirit
- 3 In a bad mood
- 2 Carpentry tool

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- - 19 Fizzy drink
 - 23 Harness part

5 Armagnac, etal.

7 Throw in the

towel

16 Salty

12 High spirits

14 Math question

18 Blackcurrant

liqueur

| | | | 9 | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|----|---|---|---|---|
| | 9 | 2 | | | | | | |
| 2 / | | | 4 | 2 | 3 | | | |
| | 3 | | | | | | 5 | |
| | | | | | | 3 | | 2 |
| | | 6 | 1 | | | | | 7 |
| | 6 | 7 | | 52 | | | | 4 |
| - | | 9 | 5 | | | | | 6 |
| 8 | 2 | - 1 | 7 | | | | 1 | 5 |

SOLUTIONS

X E S G E N U I N E IBRE CROSSWORD 4 8 9 3

SUDOKU

Organised racket behind SI exam scam: CB

TOTAL NUMBER OF ARRESTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXAM FRAUD REACHES 118, AS CB APPREHENDS



CM: PM-SETU will make students future-ready

lowntown

workforce will emerge as significantly to the

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: The PM-

SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling

and Employability Transforma-

tion through Upgraded ITIs), a

centrally-sponsored scheme

launched by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi with an invest-

ment of ₹60,000 crore, will equip

students with future-ready

skills and strengthen the na-

tion's skill ecosystem, Chief

Minister Mohan Charan Majhi

PM-SETU envisages the

upgradation of 1,000 govern-

ment industrial training insti-

tutes (ITIs) in a hub-and-spoke

model comprising 200 hub ITIs

Calling it a landmark initia-

tive to modernise and upgrade

ITIs across the country, Majhi

said Saturday.

and 800 spoke ITIs.



200 HUB ITIS AND 800 SPOKE ITIS said the scheme reflects the government's unwavering commitment to empowering youth through skill development and industry-aligned education.

Taking to X, the chief minister expressed his gratitude to the PM for launching the transformative scheme.

Majhi said the initiative aims to integrate ITIs with advanced trades, modern infrastructure and global industry standards, enhancing employability, fostering entrepreneurship, and aligning education with nation-

'The scheme ensures that the youth of Odisha and India are ready to meet evolving global demands and excel on international platforms," Majhi stated.

The chief minister also echoed the PM's observation that India's ITIs are not only premier institutions for industrial education but are also the workshops for building 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

"With upgraded ITIs, Odisha's talent and India's skilled workforce will emerge as strong pillars of growth, contributing significantly to the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat',' Majhi added. The chief minister said the

initiative marks a decisive step towards a brighter and more empowered future for India's

While launching the scheme, Modi said the government is focused on both increasing the number of ITIs and continuously upgrading them. "Until 2014, there were only 10,000 ITIs in the country. But in the past decade, nearly 5,000 new ITIs have been established. The ITI network is being prepared to meet current industry skill requirements and anticipated future demands over the next 10 years," he added.

BISWARANJAN BEHERA OF BIDYADHARPUR UNDER BARANG POLICE LIMITS IN CUTTACK DISTRICT Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: In a major breakthrough, the CID-Crime Branch has unearthed

an organised criminal syndicate that attempted to sabotage the Sub-Inspector (SI) of Police recruitment examination for monetary gain. During the investigation into the suspected leakage of question papers for the SI and

equivalent rank examinations conducted by the Odisha Police Recruitment Board (OPRB), it was found that a well-organised network was operating to subvert the entire process using unfair means.

The Crime Branch has apprehended Biswaranjan Behera, 29, of Bidyadharpur under Barang police limits in Cuttack district. Behera's arrest takes the total number of arrests to 118 as 117 persons, including the examinees, had been arrested and sent to court earlier.

Behera, an active member of the syndicate, allegedly contacted aspiring candidates on the instructions of the group's leader.

According to investigators Behera collected original educational certificates and blank cheques from candidates in exchange for allegedly supplying them with question papers. He later handed



these documents over to his superior in the hierarchy.

The evidence indicates a clear criminal conspiracy executed under the directions of the syndicate's leaders. Following his interrogation and the seizure of incriminating materials, Behera was arrested October 3 and produced before the Judicial Magistrate First Class (R), Berhampur Saturday.

The investigation is continu ing, with multiple teams work ing to apprehend the main con spirator, who remains abscond ing. The SI police examination, scheduled to be held October 5 and 6, has already been postponed by the OPRB.

The matter which was earlier investigated by the Berhampur police has been handed over to the Crime Branch.

Opposition seeks CBI investigation

Launching a scathing attack on the state government for its alleged failure in conducting the police sub-inspector (SI) recruitment exam in a fair manner, Opposition BJD, Congress and CPI(M) Saturday demanded CBI and judicial investigation into the 'examination scam'.

Addressing a presser at Shankha Bhawan here, BJD general secretary Pritiranjan Gharai and Biju Yuva Janata Dal (BYJD) president Chinmay Sahu alleged that the recruitment examination was marred by deep-rooted corruption, facilitated through outsourcing.

Gharai said the Odisha Police Recruitment Board (OPRB) had initially assigned it was later outsourced to two private firms, which lacked the necessary experience. "This outsourcing was not accidental, it was a deliberate move by the state government

to open the door for corrup-

tion," he said.

He added that since officers of the Police department are the accused in the case, the Crime Branch should not investigate it. "An impartial probe can only be ensured if the case is handed over to CBI. The Chief Minister must transfer the investigation immediately if he wishes to prove his government's trans-

parency," Gharai demanded. Similarly, the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) also demanded a CBI probe into what it called

'a massive ₹300 crore recruitment scam'.

Alleging that an interstate racket is behind the exam scam, Congress leader Debasis Nayak, Sonali Sahu, Bibhuti Bhusan Mohapatra and Manisha Das Pattnaik slammed the BJP government of institutionalising corruption, claiming that jobs were sold for ₹25-50 lakh each. The party alleged that despite repeated exam paper leaks including OAS, OTET, and RI & Amin tests, no senior officials or ministers have faced questioning. The party demanded that OPRB chairman Sushant Kumar Nath be brought under investigation and urged compensation and a monthly allowance of ₹ 20,000

for affected candidates.



STELLAR SHOW: Artistes perform during Ballava Festival at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

Dead jellyfish at Astaranga beach spark concern

POST NEWS NETWORK

Astaranga, Oct 4: Hundreds of dead blue iellyfish have washed ashore near Keluni river mouth at Astaranga beach in Puri district, raising concerns among tourists and locals as contact with the carcasses is causing skin irritation and swelling.

Reports said the dead jellyfish appearing in the coast have raised apprehensions that it may deter the tourists from visiting the Astaranga beach. Tourists who accidentally touched the dead creatures reported immediate itching and rash-like swelling on their skin.

Local social activists attributed the mass stranding to a recent low-pressure system in Bay of Bengal, which escalated into a cyclone. Environmentalists, including youth activist Bichitrananda Biswal, noted similar occurrences during past cyclones.

Stating that the larger number this time has heightened alarm, Biswal called for research institutions to conduct lab tests to determine the exact cause of the deaths.

call, contact calls -have been

prepared for making bird

Every melodian call or song

Some calls are also linked to

territorial defence, mobbing

calls, counter singing & social

communication. Birding trail at

Debrigarh with trained natural-

ists will enable every common

man to identify the bird species

is around 400 billion individu-

als - 6 birds for every human.

Birds outnumber the number of

humans on earth, but very few

people know about them, the

Bird watching enhances

stillness and focus in human

beings. Besides, it strengthens

patience & mindfulness. Ob-

serving other living creatures

like birds fosters empathy to

other forms of life.

senior forest official said.

Bird population in the world

and learn more about birds.

which we hear from birds has

identification easy.

a specific meaning.

DCP among others injured in clash during immersion



music being

played in the

with both

groups hurling

stones and

glass bottles at

each other

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Oct 4: Six people, including Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Rishikesh Khillari, were injured after a clash broke out between two groups during a Durga Puja idol immersion procession in the Millennium City here in the early

hours of Saturday, police said. The incident happened near Hatipokhari in Daraghabazar area around 2am, when the procession was heading to

Debigada Ghat on the banks of Kathajodi river, playing loud music, to which locals objected, they

Police Commissioner S Dev Datt Singh said six people have been arrested in connection with the violence.

"Those arrested were involved in stone pelting and identified through CCTV footage," he said.

Locals objected to high-decibel music being played in the procession, leading to a confrontation. It soon escalated with both groups hurling stones and glass bottles at each other, prompting the police to baton charge the crowd to bring the situation under control, officials said.

Fresh tension flared when another procession reached the area. Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) were called in to tackle the situation, and the immersion processions resumed around 6 am amid heavy security, they said.

mained stuck because of the incident for about four hours,

Singh said 120 idols of Goddess Durga were immersed by 10am

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who is in charge of the Home department, is monitoring the situation from Delhi,

officials said. DGP YB Khurania chaired a meeting with senior police officers and reviewed the sit-

uation, they said. Khilari. **Locals objected** was injured in the to high-decibel clashes, is stated to be stable, officials

One person with critical injuries procession that was admitted to SCB Medical Col soon escalated

lege and Hospital, Condemning the incident, Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik said the

police appeared 'completely helpless" in controlling

the situation.

"The pressure on the police

under the BJP government is

disrupting law and order in the state," he alleged. "Such an unpleasant situ-

ation in Cuttack, the city of brotherhood, is quite alarm ing. The incident of throwing stones and bottles during the Bhasani time points to a major sensitive aspect," he said, noting that in a "peaceful state" like Odisha, this atmosphere of unrest is never acceptable.

Patnaik urged the people to maintain cordiality and goodwill.

prevail in society," Patnaik

₹7.01 crore govt aid for Durga **Puja committees**

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: In a first, the state government has decided to provide financial assistance of over ₹7 crore to various Durga Puja committees across Odisha. For the purpose of financial

assistance, the committees have been categorised into three groups - 'A' - Heritage Durga Puja Committees, 'B' -75-year-old Durga Puja Committees and 'C' - 50-year-old Durga Puja Committees.

According to a statement issued by the Odia Language, Literature and Culture department, 1,085 Durga Puja committees across the state will receive ₹7,01,40,000 as financial assistance

While 215 'A' category committees will receive a total of ₹2,17,15,000, 197 'B' category committees will get ₹1,47,75,000.

"A total of 673 'C' category committees will be provided ₹3,36,50,000 as assistance for Durga Puja," it said.

Debrigarh opens for 1st dedicated 'Birding Trail'

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: As part of Wildlife Week 2025 celebrations, the state government Saturday launched its first dedicated 'Birding Trail' at Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Bargarh district, providing nature lovers, students, and birding enthusiasts a unique opportunity to explore avian life up close.

The 2km-long trail meanders through grasslands, dense forest patches, streams, and small nullahs, and also runs along a stretch of Hirakud Wetland, one of India's prominent wintering grounds for migratory birds, said Hirakud Wildlife Division DFO Anshu Pragyan Das.

This unique landscape makes it possible to sight a wide variety of avifauna—from ground and tree-nesting species to winter waders, she added.

A small part of the trail is along the Hirakud Wetland. So waders can also be spotted. Birding Trail – Debrigarh Sanctuary is home to more than 340 species of birds around the year and more than 110 species of birds are



Bird watching enhances stillness and focus in human beings. Besides, it strengthens patience & mindfulness. Observing other living creatures like birds fosters empathy to other forms of life ANSHU PRAGYAN DAS | DFO, HIRAKUD WILDLIFE DIVISION

sighted in Hirakud Wetland

every winter, the DFO said. Forty-two display boards with information on 42 commonly sighted but important birds of Debrigarh have been erected along the trail with details like name, life span, call,

tern, diet and other interesting facts to learn more about birds and for identification.

of individual birds (for identification), with all kinds of calls – mating call, distress

behaviour, habit, nesting pat-A small movie with calls

"Nature has surrounded us with birds; they are present everywhere, in cities, townships, industrial belts, in our backyards, each tree is home to at least 10 varieties of bird species but hardly we know or identify them," Das concluded.

Vehicles with a total of 50 idols of various community Durga Pujas in the city re"Let peace and friendship

BMC cleans all pandals in a single day Krushi Odisha 2025-26 prep meet held in City

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) completed an extensive post-Durga Puja cleanup drive across the City Saturday. Early in the morning, sanitation workers from all three zones conducted intensive cleaning at various puja pandals following a pre-planned

BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, Commissioner Chanchal Rana. Additional Commissioners Ratnakar Sahoo and Kailash Chandra Sahu, along with zonal and assistant commissioners, corporators, engineers, and senior officials, visited multiple pandals to oversee the cleanup drive. The entire operation was coordinated by Deputy Commissioner N. Ganesh Babu.

Members of puja committees and local residents actively participated in the city-wide sanitation drive. To restore normal



BMC teams removed temporary stalls, trolleys, and handcarts from roads and surrounding areas. Additional sanitation workers were deployed to ensure all pandals were cleaned within 24 hours of idol immersion, and two scrap dealers encroaching near the Sahid Nagar puja site were evicted.

BMC directed event management teams dismantling decorative gates and structures to exercise maximum caution to prevent accidents or electrical ed to coordinate with electricity department staff whenever necessary.

The civic body stated that the mass cleanliness drive has grown into a community-led public movement, expressing gratitude to residents and puja committees for their support.

Meanwhile, ponds dug for idol immersion have been cleaned, and control rooms set up near each pond ensured smooth and safe immersion operations.

Three-day conference to be organised from January 22 to 24

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: A preparatory meeting for Krushi Odisha 2025-26 was held in the City to plan the three-day event, scheduled to be celebrated with great enthusiasm from January 22 to 24.

The meeting, chaired by Deputy Chief Minister and Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, was attended by Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee, director of Agriculture Shubham Saxena, director of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management Subrat Kumar Panda, and other senior officials.

During the meeting, officials discussed the ongoing preparations in detail and presented their suggestions for the successful organisation of the event. According to the reports,



from this year onwards, the Krushi Odisha Conference will be held annually on a fixed date in January, with participation from intellectuals, successful farmers, scientists, agricultural producers, and FPOs from

across the state and the country.

The conference will feature over 250 stalls by agricultural entrepreneurs, self-help groups, and Mission Shakti members, and is expected to attract more

Plans also include a special exhibition on farm mechanisation and modern agricultural equipment, while the meeting addressed accommodation and other arrangements for farmers

traveling from distant areas.

distant areas

■The event to

showcase over 250

stalls by agricultural

entrepreneurs, SHGs,

and Mission Shakti

members, attracting

Plans include a special

more than 10,000

exhibition on farm

mechanisation and

modern agricultural

equipment, along

with arrangements

for accommodation

and other facilities for

farmers coming from

farmers

Five NCC cadets feted in Cuttack



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 4: The NCC Group Headquarters, Cuttack, Saturday felicitated five outstanding cadets for their exemplary achievements across diverse fields, celebrating their discipline, courage, and service to the nation. The ceremony was held under the leadership of Group Commander Colonel Satyabrata Swain.

The cadets who brought laurels through their dedication and perseverance include Cdt Bishal Palai of Paradip College (3 NU NCC), who won a Gold Medal in the All India Yachting Regatta (AIYR) 2025: L/Cdt Akash Kumar Sahoo of SJECT, Naharkanta (3 NU NCC), who received the VCOAS Commendation Card for outstanding contribution: Sgt Puspanjali Mohapatra of Rama Devi Women's University (1 Odisha Girls Bn NCC), who bagged Gold Medal in Application Service Shooting at TSC Girls 2025. New Delhi.

and at IDSSC 2024; Ex-Cdt Priyansha Hota of DAV Unit VIII, Bhubaneswar (1 Odisha Girls Bn NCC), who clinched four Gold Medals in the 9th East Zone Shooting Competition 2025 while representing Odisha and was earlier adjudged best cadet of Cuttack Group; and Cdt Rajesh Grahacharya of LN Mahavidyalaya, Korua (1 Bn NCC), who showed exceptional courage and humanity by attempting to rescue a drowning 70-vear-old man at Kalubada Bridge, Korua, exemplifying the true spirit and

values of NCC. Speaking on the occasion, Swain lauded the cadets for their exemplary commitment, resilience, and achievements, noting that they stand as role models for their peers and truly embody the NCC's motto of 'Unity and Discipline." The felicitation ceremony also underscored the vital role of NCC training in nurturing responsible citizens and future leaders

SWASTH NARI SASHAKT PARIVAR ABHIYAAN

Odisha 2nd in health screenings

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: Under the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan (SNSPA), Odisha has positioned itself in the second rank, alongside the highest-screening state Madhya Pradesh (MP), with a total of 1,04,72,912 women availing free health checkups and screenings during the fortnight-long campaign (September 17 to October 2), according to national data portal.

The campaign aims to empower families through women's health and has set benchmarks in participation, screening, and community engagement. Odisha's achievements stand alongside high-performing states like MP, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan. While MP leads in total camps and screenings, Odisha's strengths lay in its gender-sensitive outreach and adolescent health ini-

The state has recorded significant success in cancer screenings and menstrual hygiene counselling, placing it ahead of several larger states. Available data showed that more than 71,132 intensive healthcare and awareness activities were conducted in the state. These camps were organised at Arogya Mandirs, primary health centres (PHCs), and community health centres (CHCs) across rural and urban areas. Odisha ranked fourth nationally in the number of camps

Major tests included 12 lakh hypertension screen-



ver 71.132 intensive healthcare and awareness activities were conducted across the state

ajor tests conducted included 12 lakh hypertension screenings, 12.2 lakh diabetes screenings

ounselling on menstrual hygiene was provided to 6.5 lakh adolescent girls

he campaign collected 32,865 blood units through 523 voluntary blood donation camps across districts

12.2 lakh diabetes screenings, 3.2 lakh oral cancer screenings, 3.3 lakh breast cancer screenings, and 40,000 cervical cancer

Additionally, counselling on menstrual hygiene was provided to 6.5 lakh adolescent girls. The campaign also recorded the collection of 32,865 blood units through 523 voluntary blood donation camps held across districts. Odisha's women-centric approach resulted in the state recording the second-highest

female footfall nationally. Senior health officials credited Odisha's success to decentralised planning, district-level ownership of the campaign, adoption of digital tools for camp tracking and data capture, and active participation of ASHA workers and self-help groups.

'UPA didn't act after 26/11 due to foreign pressure'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: BJP MP Sambit Patra Saturday claimed the previous UPA government at the Centre did not take action against Pakistan after the 26/11 attack under foreign pressure.

Addressing a press conference in Bhubaneswar, he said that before 2014, the Indian Armed Forces had the valour, but the country's leadership lacked the political will to act against Pakistan

He alleged that the then UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi might have asked then PM Manmohan Singh, under pressure from US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice, "not to take kinetic action against Pakistan". even as around 160 people were killed in the Mumbai attack.

To back his claims, Patra cited a recent interview of senior Congress leader P Chidambaram.

He quoted Chidambaram as saying in the interview, "The whole world descended on New Delhi to stop the act of physical retributions against Pakistan.

He said Chidambaram's statement cannot be disregard ed as he was the home minister of the country at that time.

"Before 2014, the Indian armed forces had the valour, but the country's leadership lacked the political will. This changed after 2014 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the nation got a strong armed force and a strong political will," he said. Patra also claimed that for

mer foreign minister Natwai Singh, in his autobiography wrote that the UPA government used to pick Cabinet ministers after consulting the US.

INTACH Odisha chapter organises heritage quiz

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: In an attempt to provide exposure to young minds for the conservation of heritage, Odisha state chapter of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), conducted a state-level INTACH heritage quiz here recently.

The intellectually charged competition was conducted by Bhubaneswar chapter convener Anil Dhir. The students displayed an impressive depth of knowledge with a keen understanding of India's and Odisha's rich heritage, Dhir said.

More than 1.500 students

from 25 schools spread all over the state participated in the district rounds. A total of five teams from different schools of Baripada, Bolangir, Balasore and Bhubaneswar participated in the state level round.

The prize winning team of Rehan Ankit and SG Anul Selvan from DN Wisdom Tree Global School Bhubaneswar displayed an outstanding performance.

"The wealth of the treasure that we have in India, the heritage that we have inherited from our ancestors, we should act as custodians to pass it on to the future generation", said INTACH Odisha chapter convener Biswajit Mohanty.

Cultural intelligence in a multicultural world

Thether at school, at work, or during leisure, we regularly interact with people from diverse cultural backgrounds. Cultural intelligence, or CQ, is the ability to understand and adapt to different cultural norms, making it an essential skill for promoting coexistence.

Traditionally, intelligence has often been measured by IQ through logic tests, problem-solving, or memory. However, as early as the 1920s and 1940s, psychologists such as Edward Thorndike, Louis Thurstone, and Raymond Cattell emphasised that intelligence takes multiple forms. In the 1980s, Robert Sternberg proposed that intelligence consists of analytical, creative, and practical dimensions

According to Sternberg, true intelligence lies in achieving life goals by leveraging strengths and compensating for weaknesses within a given

Building on Sternberg's work, the concept of cultural intelligence emerged. Earley and Ang introduced it in 2003 to describe the ability to understand cultural differences, adapt to them, and interact effectively in multicultural environments. Initially, CQ was studied to explain why some expatriates perform better than others during international assignments.

Cultural intelligence includes being aware of one's own cultural biases and adjusting one's thinking and behavior accordingly. For instance, a French manager accustomed to giving direct criticism may recognize that a more indirect approach is required in another cultural context to maintain cooperation.

It also involves knowledge of other cultures' norms and practices, such as Japan's business card etiquette, Germany's strict punctuality, or the role of small talk in American business



meetings. Beyond awareness and knowledge, cultural intelligence requires motivationthe desire and confidence to engage with people from diverse cultures—and the ability to adjust behaviour, such as modulating speech, tone, or physical distance depending on the cultural setting.

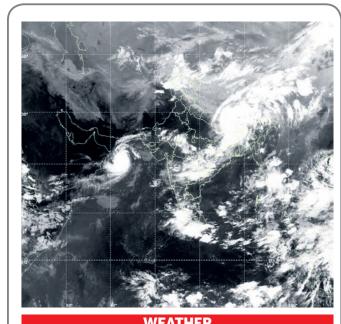
Research has shown that

nificant benefits. It helps expatriates adapt and reduces anxiety, enhances leadership, improves the performance of multicultural teams, and fosters cooperation and innovation. While originally aimed at supporting executives abroad, CQ is now recognised as a vital skill in many contexts, including work, school, and daily life.

cultures meet. Importantly, CQ can be developed. Intercultural training through courses, role-playing, and simulations improves understanding, but immersive experiences, such as international projects or working in multicultural teams, are the most effective in strength ening cultural intelligence over the long term.

A study of engineering students highlights the practical impact of international exposure on cultural intelligence. By assessing students before and after international mobility experiences, researchers found that prolonged contact with another culture significantly improved their CQ, particularly for those with little prior exposure or who were initially less open to other cultures. This "first-time effect" shows that early immersive experiences encourage individuals to revise their assumptions and adapt more effectively.

(The Conversation)



BBSR CTC **FORECAST** Max Temp 33.4° 30.0° Partly cloudy sky with possibility 25.4° Min Temp 94% Humidity 18.6mm 11.2mm Rainfall

cultural intelligence has sigwherever people from different OUR BOOKIN .ASSIFIED AD **ERTISEMENTS** CONTACT

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488

Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816 Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion-Jagmara-9938714347 Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point-9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

3-DAY-OLD GIRL CHILD **SOLD OFF BY FATHER**

Basudevpur, Oct 4: A 3-dayold girl child was allegedly sold off by her father in exchange of money at Badamalliksahi village under Khaira Binayakpur panchayat and this block in Bhadrak district.

Acting on a tip-off, a team from the district child protection unit (DCPU) and Childline launched an investigation into the matter Saturday.

The team members visited the village Saturday after receiving reports about the suspected child sale. However, the infant's father identified as Sanjay Mallik had reportedly fled before the officials' arrival, while her mother escaped to her parental home in Tentulidiha village under Chandbali block in the district. Their absence raised suspicion among the team members.

According to locals, Sanjay,



who already has an elder daughter, allegedly began harassing his wife Banita Das after she delivered another girl at Basudevpur hospital September 30. After being discharged, Sanjay is suspected of illegally handing over the newborn to a man from Pirahat police limits in Tihidi block in exchange of money.

An Anganwadi worker said she visited the house Saturday for a routine postnatal health checkup but found neither the mother nor the child present, raising her suspicion

Acting on the direction of state child protection desk, the DCPU has launched a probe to determine how much money was involved and whether others were complicit. Officials including outreach worker Damayanti Das, case worker Chandrakanta Gochhayat, supervisor Digbijay Mohanty and counsellor Lakshman Kumar Jena inspected the family's residence.

With both parents missing, investigators said the inquiry has slowed down but assured that all angles are being examined.

Bhadrak, Oct 4: A truck driver accused of abducting and raping a mentally challenged woman from Bhadrak before abandoning her on roadside has been arrested, police said

The suspect, identified as Mohammad Saddam Hussein, 24, from the neighboring state of Jharkhand, was apprehended late Friday night at Jhumpura in Keonjhar district, according to Additional Superintendent of Police Arup Abhishek Behera.

Police rescued the woman Saturday morning at Randia near Bhadrak town, nearly 48 hours after she was abducted by the truck driver.

The woman, believed to be mentally challenged, was sent for medical examination after the driver confessed to have committed the crime with the intent to fulfill his sexual de-



Truck driver arrested for abduction,

rape of mentally challenged woman

ed as stable, Behera said adding that her identity was not released to protect her privacy.

According to police, the accused abducted the woman while returning from Dhamara Port. He later abandoned the victim between Barpada and Ganijang villages, Behera told reporters at a news conference held at the Bhadrak Town police station.



The abduction occurred late Wednesday during rainfall, when the woman had taken shelter under a shop's verandah near a highway intersection on National Highway 16.

CCTV camera footage showed the driver forcibly lifting the woman into his vehicle near Charampa reserve police lines in Bhadrak late Thursday night. The footage went viral on social media, triggering public outrage and widespread concern over women's safety in

Bhadrak SP Manoj Rout immediately deployed multiple police teams to trace the

accused. A case (587/25) was filed a the Bhadrak Town police sta tion under relevant sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for kidnapping and rape Led by Inspector-In-Charge Prabhanshu Mishra, a team reviewed footage from tol plazas and coordinated with truck drivers' and owners' as

Police seized the truck along with the clothes he wore at the time of the crime and brought Hussein to Bhadrak for ques-

sociations to trace the vehicle

The victim, who appeared to be in a state of distress, has been placed at the Centre for Rehabilitation and Research in Bhadrak for further care and support.

Heavy rain disrupts life in Bhograi

Bhograi, Oct 4: Continuous heavy to very heavy rainfall since Thursday morning through Saturday night has thrown life out of gear in this block of Balasore district. The incessant rainfall dampened the Dussehra festivities. with many cultural programmes cancelled after water accumulated at several pandals. Devotees who arrived at the last minute were disappointed after failing to get a glimpse of the goddess.

Bhograi block recorded 70 mm of rainfall from Friday till Saturday 8am, while Balasore district's total two-day rainfall was logged

With the Bhograi block seeing seventh wave of floods this year, many roads in several low-lying villages were submerged up to



ankle level, severely disrupting movement. Rainwater entered several houses and kitchens, making cooking difficult. Village lanes turned into streams bringing normal life to a grinding halt.

In Anantapur village, waterlogged roads and flooded houses for four consecutive days made life miserable for the residents with hardly any help arriving for them. Residents called in the fire services to pump out the water, but fresh showers continued to worry locals.

Under the impact of a low-pressure system, winds blowing at 40 to 50 km per hour left the sea turbulent. High waves lashed the coast, crashing against stone embankments. The Fisheries department and district administration

have issued a two-day ban for the fishermen on venturing into the

Meanwhile, 32 panchayats in South Bhograi have been inundated while residents continued to struggle in North Bhograi which is already flood-prone. Cultivation of vegetables such as pumpkin, greens and cucumbers has been destroyed. Fish ponds and enclosures have overflowed, causing heavy losses to farmers.

Bhograi MLA Goutam Buddha Das, residents and local farmer unions have urged the state government to immediate ly implement the long-pending Subarnarekha Drainage Project approved by the previous state government at a cost of ₹99.76 crore. The project is now lying in cold storage and awaiting execution, they said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The project Nilakhamar Decorative Stone Mine over an area of 4.740 Ha.in Village Nilakhamar under Tahasil of Malkanagiri District has been accorded Environmental Clearance vide Identification No EC24C0108OR5497934N and File No - 491249/106 - MINB2/08 - 2024 ,dated

22.09.2025 . The copy of the EC letter is available with the State Pollution Control Board and website of MoEF & CC. (www.parivesh.nic.in)

Tender Paper Cost : Rs. 10,000/-,

BRAHMAPUR

No.14077 XXiX(E.9)9/17 No.C-1200: Sealed Quotation / Tender are invited to be reached by Speed Post / Registered Post / Courier / By hand at Single Window counter of BeMC office for "Providing of Manpower to Brahmapur Municipal Corporation". The detailed terms & conditions are available at our official website <u>www.berhampur.gov.in</u>. The Last date of receipt of Quotation / Tender in this office by 23.10.2025 by 5.00 P.M. and will be opened on Dt.24.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M. in the office

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation / tender without assigning any reason thereof.

chamber of undersigned.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, MALKANGIRI

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

class registered with the State Government and bidders of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government / MES Railways according to the norm of "e" Procurement system in online mode for the works detailed in the table below on turnkey bas 1. Name of the Work: Building Work, 2. No. of Works: **01 No**, 3. Estimated Cost: **Rs.86.01 lakhs**,

Bid Identification No.: RWDSE_MKG_II_ONLINE_06/2025-26
The Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Malkangiri on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites from bidders of el

for Bidding

5. Class of Contractor :

Sd./- Commissioner OIPR-13035/11/0068/2526

RSP achieves new H1 production milestone

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: The Blast Furnaces of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) have set new production records during the first half (H1) of the current financial year

Blast Furnace-1 and Blast Furnace-5 produced 5,55,524 tonnes and 15,93,968 tonnes of hot metal respectively in the first six months, registering their best-ever April-September performance. The state-of-the-art Hot Strip Mill-2 (HSM-2) operated in tandem, rolling 13.05.557 tonnes of HR coils during the same period, its best-ever H1 performance, marking a growth of 3.2 per cent over the corresponding period last year (CPLY).

The Sheet Shearing Line (SSL) also recorded its best H1 performance with a production of 1,52,415 tonnes. The New Plate Mill (NPM) rolled 5,03,933 tonnes of plates, surpassing its previous best of 4,65,198 tonnes achieved during April-September 2023-24. Direct dispatches from the plant reached an all-time high of 15,87,547 tonnes during H1 of 2025-26, exceeding the previous best of 15.81.275 tonnes recorded in the same period last year.

In September 2025, RSP achieved several new milestones by producing 3,46,567 tonnes of saleable steel — its highest-ever for the month of September.

Keonjhar, Oct 4: A limping ba-

by elephant from a 29-member

herd roaming in the Champua

area of Keonihar district has

raised concern among wildlife

lovers and locals over the Forest

for some time due to an injury to

its front left leg. Though the exact

cause of the injury is unknown,

it is suspected the calf hurt itself

while running to keep up with

the herd. Forest officials said the

herd is moving slowly to accom-

modate the injured calf, and they

have urged villagers not to chase

the animals. However, in attempts

The elephant has been limping

department's inaction.

POST NEWS NETWORK

4 drown, one missing in separate incidents

Hemgir/Udala/Chhatrapur, Oct 4: In a tragic series of incidents across Odisha, four people, including two brothers, an elderly woman and a 3-year-old child, died in separate drowning cases within 24 hours, while a teenage boy remains missing after being swept away in

In Sundargarh district, two siblings drowned while bathing in a pond Friday evening at Chitkenadipatha village under Hemgir police limits. The deceased

were identified as Chitta Makar, 40, and Debashis Makar, 20.

According to police, the brothers went missing after going for a bath. When they failed to return home, their family filed a missing persons report. A joint search operation by police and fire services led to the recovery of their bodies around 10pm Friday. The bodies were sent to Hemgir hospital for autopsy. Preliminary investigation confirmed accidental drowning.

In a separate incident in Mayurbhanj district Satur-

day morning, a 3-year-old boy drowned in a pond near his house in Bisipur village under Udala police limits. The child, identified as Himraj Singh, was playing near the pond unsupervised when he accidentally fell in. His mother discovered him floating and rushed him to Udala community health centre, where he was declared dead.

In Ganjam district, a 17-year-old boy, Shubham Pradhan, went missing Saturday morning after reportedly being swept away in the Rushikulya river at Podapalli village under Mundamarai

panchayat. A student of Vedvyas College in Berhampur, Shubham is suspected to have slipped while bathing. Search operations by fire service teams and local officials are ongoing

Additionally, in Chhatrapur, a 65-year-old woman, identified as Manu Das of Arjunapalli village, died after slipping into a pond while bathing Saturday morning. She was rushed to Chhatrapur sub-divisional hospital but was declared dead on arrival. Police have registered a case of unnatural death and launched an investigation.

Man kills wife in front of daughter; arrested

Oupada, Oct 4: A man in Balasore district allegedly battered his wife to death after brutally assaulting her in front of their 3-vear-old daughter following a domestic dispute, Friday night.

The incident took place at Harijan Sahi of Pratappur village under Oupada police limits. The victim was identified as Bishama Mana, wife of the accused Nishakar Mana.

ried Bishama, daughter of Kunu Bag of Purnachandrapur in Mayurbhanj district, five years ago. The couple had a 3-vear-old daughter.

Friday night over an unknown reason. He allegedly picked her out of the house, brutally thrashed her and later battered her on ground.

Hearing her screams, neighbours rushed to the spot and rescued her. She was taken in an unconscious state to Khaira hospital by Nishakar and a rel-

referred to Bhadrak District Headquarters Hospital. However, she died on the way in an ambulance.

Her family members lodged a complaint at Oupada police station late at

Police registered a case (158/25) and ar-

POST NEWS NETWORK

. Critical dates :

According to police, Nishakar had mar-

Nishakar reportedly assaulted his wife

As her condition deteriorated, she was

night, accusing Nishakar of murder.

rested him. The body was seized in the presence of Magistrate Prangya Paramita and sent for post mortem. A scientific team visited the spot for further investigation. Nishakar was produced in court Saturday, police added.

OIPR-25079/11/0030/2526 भारत सरकार कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय त्वरित कॉ्पोरिट सूमापन् प्रसंस्कुरण् केन्द्र (सी-पेस) |आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वीं मंजिल, प्लाट P-6,7,8, से.-5 आई.एम्.टी. मानेसर,

गुडगाँव, हरियाणा – 122050

Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

Period of Completion: 09 (Nine) calendar months



Government of India Ministry of Corporate Affairs Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE), IICA Building, 7th Floor Plot P- 6, 7, 8, Sector-5 IMT Manesar Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050 Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

Technical Bid Financial Bid

Sd./- Superintending Engineer

Rural Works Division-II, Malkangiri

Form No. STK - 6 PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public Notice: ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2025-26/1255 Reference:

Division-II, Malkangiri 2025-26 at 11.00 AM up to 05.30 PM up to 0.30 PM up to 0.30 PM up to 05.30 PM up to 05.

Authority reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof

Subsequent corrigendum if required shall be appeared in the website.

Date: 23/09/2025

In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (12) companies in the state of Odisha under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of: **Work Item Company Name**

| NO. | i | | | | | | |
|-------|--|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 | AB6422186 | U62099OD2023OPC044366 | CHINTAMANI RATH (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED | | | | |
| 2 | AB6258653 | U70200OD2025PTC047758 | BIZDDS SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED | | | | |
| 3 | AB6034532 | U70200OD2024PTC045321 | AUMEERA GLOBAL PRIVATE LIMITED | | | | |
| 4 | AB6055176 | U92490OR2022PTC039759 | FAMENET PLUS PRIVATE LIMITED | | | | |
| 5 | AB6123643 | U08101OD2023PTC043880 | NEELADRI OVERSEAS PRIVATE LIMITED | | | | |
| 6 | AB6219402 | U47739OD2023PTC043960 | ARAVADITYA MULTITRADE PRIVATE LIMITED | | | | |
| 7 | AB6250518 | U70101OR2011PTC013087 | J G HOMES & RESORTS PRIVATE LIMITED | | | | |
| 8 | AB6319631 | U51420OR2011PTC013079 | J G METALS AND MINERALS PRIVATE LIMITED | | | | |
| 9 | AB6495213 | U47912OD2023PTC043864 | NABK BUUKIFFY BOOK TRADING PRIVATE LIMITED | | | | |
| 10 | AB6594372 | U46209OD2023PTC042290 | HYRAL CONSUMER PRIVATE LIMITED | | | | |
| 11 | AB6033709 | U15127OR2019PTC030801 | BOBANZA FOOD & BEVERAGE PRIVATE LIMITED | | | | |
| 12 | AB6094189 | U94120OD2023PTC042323 | PREETECH ADVISORS PRIVATE LIMITED | | | | |
| 2. No | 2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned | | | | | | |

companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name(s) from the registe of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application(s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of sectior 10A/have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies. 3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned

companies from the Register of Companies. 4. Any Person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the

> Raunak Agrawa **Deputy Registrar Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit**

CBC 07123/11/0406/2526

date of publication of this notice.

Limping elephant calf sparks concern over delayed remedy

to protect their crops and property, villagers are reportedly using various methods to drive the elephants away, causing the herd to

scatter and inadvertently injuring more animals.

"The sick calf is gradually falling behind, and if it can't keep up, the herd will eventually abandon it," said an elephant expert. Forest officials maintain that

the elephant cannot be treated until it separates from the herd, fearing that intervention could provoke aggression from the other elephants.

"We are in touch with experts, and the elephant will be treated at the appropriate time," said Keonjhar DFO Dhanraj HD. Wildlife expert Subhendu Mal-

lick criticised the delay, warning that the baby elephant's condition is serious. "If not treated soon, the calf may die. What is the use of a post-mortem after that?" he asked urging immediate rescue and treatment at Nandankanan Zoo.





Be fearless and resolute. all obstacles will melt away before you.





List of Lowlights

t the end of every year, the organisation I represent puts out a report on human rights in India. This is part of Amnesty In-Lternational's global assessment, which focusses on violations mostly, though not exclusively, by states around the world.

I was going through the draft of this year's report, which is updated to September, and thought readers would be interested to know where we stand. This will be a list of highlights, or to be more accurate a list

In January Uttarakhand passed rules enforcing a Uniform Civil Code. It mandates the registration of live-in relationships with the state authorities supposedly to combat religious conversions via fraudulent marriages. The rules were passed without considering the report of a nine-member panel appointed by the government on the rules.

In February, Rajasthan introduced a Bill criminalizing consensual inter-faith marriages that involved conversion and proposed ten years in jail for those Muslims marrying Hindus and vice versa. Maharashtra passed a resolution aimed at blocking inter-faith marriage. Also in the same month, Malvan Municipal Corporation demolished the scrap shop of the father of a minor boy accused of saying something after India's win against Pakistan in the Champions Trophy cricket match.

In March, Maharashtra police filed an FIR against Kunal Kamra in connection with his stand-up show called 'Nava Bharat' (New India). Violence against the venue followed. This was but one of a series of episodes where freedom of expression, a fundamental right, was abused by the state. The previous month, Delhi police detained twelve students of Jamia Milia Islamia university who were protesting against the show cause notices issued to two PhD students for allegedly sloganeering "without permission or intimation to university authorities" in 2024. Also in March, Assam state police arrested journalist Dilwar Hussain Mozumdar for reporting on a protest over alleged financial misconduct at a bank run by the state government. He had consistently reported on financial issues at the bank where the state's chief minister is a

In April, came an FIR against folk singer Neha Singh Rathore in Lucknow for her comment on the militant attacks in Pahalgam that killed 26 people. In May, India cancelled the Overseas Citizenship of India status of British-Kashmiri academic Nitasha Kaul. She has regularly spoken against the rising authoritarianism in India.

Also in May, Nagpur police filed an FIR against three people including Pushpa Sathidar, the wife of late activist Vira Sathidar for reciting the poem Hum Dekhenge by Faiz Ahmed Faiz. Haryana Police registered two FIRs against Ali Khan Mahmudabad, associate professor at Ashoka University over social media posts on "Operation Sindoor".

Nagpur police arrested 26-year-old Rejaz M Siddique for allegedly insulting Operation Sindoor on Instagram. He was subsequently charged with the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Between April 22 to May 8, the Association of Protection of Civil Rights documented at least 184 hate crimes targeting Muslims after the Pahalgam

In June, India withheld the Instagram account of The Savala Vada, a satirical meme page inspired by The Onion. Then Mumbai police detained 19 people who had gathered at Azad Maidan to join a rally in support of Palestinians.

In July, India ordered X (formerly Twitter) to block more than 2,000 accounts, including two belonging to Reuters News.

The same month, came the Maharashtra Special Public Security Act which criminalizes dissent under the guise of public safety

In August, Kashmir banned 25 books written by journalists, historians, feminists and peace scholars accusing them of 'glorifying terrorism and inciting violence'. Also in August, Guwahati Police summoned journalists Siddharth Varadarajan and Karan Thapar in connection for a sedition case without sharing more details.

The next month, a court in Gandhinagar issued notices to journalists Abhisaar Sharma and Raju Parulekar for reporting on the sale of a vast area of land to the Adani group for a small amount in Assam.

Our torture of the vulnerable proceeded apace. In May, 40 Rohingyas were blindfolded and flown to the Andaman and Nicobar Island and then thrown into the sea and made to swim

to an island in Myanmar. And after the Pahalgam attack, at least 300 Muslims were 'pushed back' to Bangladesh from Assam. In May, Assam announced it will provide arms licenses to people, especially those in Muslim-majority districts. In the first half of July some 1800 families were left homeless after Assam carried out an evic-

tion drive in Goalpara. Most of those affected were Muslims. In the second half of July Assam launched a large-scale eviction drive in Uriamghat, largely populated by Muslims, to reclaim over 11,000 bighas of forest land. The drive was halted by the Supreme Court on account of multiple due process violations.

In September, India repealed four earlier laws and now classifies asylum seekers as "illegal migrants".

We are still in October, and more will follow, of course.

Umar Khalid and other Muslim student activists remained in pre-trial detention for their alleged involvement in the February 2020 North East Delhi violence that claimed the lives of 53 people – 38 of them The United Nations' High Commissioner for Human Rights also

puts out a report and he said the following:

"I am concerned by the use of restrictive laws and harassment against human rights defenders and independent journalists resulting in arbitrary detention and a diminished civic space, including in Kashmir. I also call for stepped-up efforts to address violence and displacement in Manipur, based on dialogue, peacebuilding and human rights.

India's response to this concern was to put out a story on Doordarshan whose headline was 'India Slams UN Human Rights For Unfounded And Baseless Comment On Kashmir And Manipur'.

WISDOM CORNER

I put my heart and my soul into my work, and have lost my mind in the process.

VINCENT VAN GOGH

To be truly cosmopolitan is to embrace the stranger

The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion

that it has taken place. GEORGE BERNARD SHAW FOCUS CLIMATE RISKS

COMPLACENT MARKET

ment, and nonprofit leaders debate the future of climate action ahead ofthe United Nations Climate Change Conference(COP30)in Brazil, the global economy remains vulnerable to acute and chronic climate-driven shocks whose impact could be more severe than that of the 2008 global financial crisis. At a time when many governments and businesses continue to underestimate and underprice physical climate risk, we must remember that neither financial markets nor regulators are always right. What if their current complacency about climate risks is catastrophically wrong? The 2008 financial crisis and

its aftermath showed how fast our expectations can be shattered. In the mid-2000s, deregulation and simplification were the norm: balance sheets were run thin, and profits and losses ran high. Financial engineering boomed as risks were packaged, diluted, and obfuscated, and as credit was given where it hadn't been earned.

In the face of all this, expressions of concern were drowned out by the din of transactions. But the signs were there. The fundamentals were not right.

By late 2008, the global economy was teetering on the brink of collapse. In the space of days, longstanding banking giants were swept away. Only government bailouts prevented the entire financial system from melting down.

The post-crisis banking sector looks very different than the one that preceded it. Owing to tougher rules and tighter oversight, good governance and resilience restored trust in the banking sector.Long-term investors - pension funds and insurance companies - pa-



The 2008 financial crisis shocked the world and demonstrated that nothing can be taken for granted. The stakes now are far higher, and there can be no bailouts

tiently endured years of expensive recovery before value was restored and dividends resumed. If the banks had gone, so, too, would those holdings, and most of today's financial system with them.

The post-crisis era was marked by collective humility and acceptance of systemic risk. This was reflected in the Financial Stability Board's recognition in 2015 of climate change as perhaps the greatest systemic threat of all

Ten years later, however, our systems and processes remain ill-equipped to measure and manage the systemic risks posed by climate change. With the focus on climate issues slipping down investors' agendas, this is a dangerous lapse. From broken supply chains and damaged assets to infrastructure shocks, public health crises, and community disruption, many businesses are already feeling the profound impact of climate change.

Nor is the problem confined to headline-grabbing disasters. Subtle, chronic effects are quietly eroding value, often in ways that our systems are illequipped to detect or manage. Once again, the fundamentals are not right.

Data from NASA underscores this point. US satellites show that the intensity of extreme weather events is now double the average recorded in the 2003-20 period.

The global economy is also taking a beating. Research by the World Economic Forum finds that weather-related damage to businesses, infrastructure, and other fixed assets may have almost tripled since 2000. The bill for the last decade topped \$2 trillion, with costs in 2022-23 alone reaching \$451 billion.

Yet rather than take steps to mitigate these risks, many investors, corporations, and governments continue to incentivize activities that compound them. Leading companies must battle to convince their boards and investors to buy into forward-looking strategies. Markets are getting things very wrong once again.

One exception is the insurance industry. Experts at pricing risk, these firms are learning fast. Between 2023-24, climate-related disasters \$143 billion in claims payments. More and more of them are doing the math and concluding that climate coverage simply doesn't add up. They must either hike premiums to exorbitant levels or exit the disaster-risk market altogether.

The latter scenario is all too likely. The parallels to past crises are clear. Again, expressions of concern are being drowned out. This time, though, the stakes are higher, the effects are more widespread, and the consequences will be irreversible. The global economy has a massive blind spot, and unlike in 2008, there is no one on the winning side of the short bet. We all will lose.

Of course, there is a difference between a systemic blind spot and an ordinary one. We know the spot is there, but our financial system cannot address it until it is translated into monetary terms. For this, we need to mobilize executive action across the private sector to improve how we measure, manage, and respond to climate risks. Working with capital providers, standard setters, and policymakers, we need to align actionable information with the need to allocate capital toward climate-change mitigation and adaptation.

The 2008 financial crisis shocked the world and demonstrated that nothing can be taken for granted. The stakes now are far higher, and there can be no bailouts. We must pursue pre-emptive action, and we must do it immediately.

The writer is Vice President of the World **Business Council for** Sustainable Development. © PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM

Fiona Watson

BUSINESSES AND

INVESTORS MUST

CREATE AND

MAINTAIN THE

CAPACITY FOR

RAPID CHANGE

ORGANIZATIONS

AND ACROSS OUR

AND SPHERES OF

Aakar Patel

In August,

Kashmir banned

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accusing them

of 'glorifying

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inciting violence'

historians,

VALUE CHAINS

INFLUENCE

WITHIN OUR

NATION

Student suicides: A collective failure



Bhaskar Nath Biswal

THERE MUST BE A SHIFT IN SOCIETAL PERSPECTIVE, **BEGINNING WITH PARENTS AND EDUCATORS**

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

he future of a nation is often measured by the vibrancy and hope in the eyes of its youth. Yet, in India, a chilling statistic from the NCRB Report 2023 paints a starkly different, terrifying picture: every 38 minutes, the country loses a young student to suicide. This is not just a number; it is a profound national tragedy, a silent epidemic where the very individuals expected to drive India's growth are instead crumbling under an unbearable weight. With 13.892 students taking their own lives in 2023, accounting for a shocking 8.1 per cent of all suicides in the country, the crisis demands an immediate, radical re-evaluation of our education system and societal values.

The most visceral point of failure is undoubtedly academic performance. The NCRB data reveals a distressing spike in students losing their lives over examination failure, with the toll rising from 2,095 in 2022 to 2,415 in 2023, a concerning 15.3 percent increase. This single metric screams volumes about the toxic emphasis we place on marks and ranks, turning education from a pathway to knowledge into a high-stakes, win-or-perish competition. We have created a system where a single exam result is perceived not just as an assessment of learning, but as a final, irreversible verdict on a student's entire worth and future potential.

The problem, however, extends far beyond the syllabus. Our students are trapped in a high-pressure cooker environment fueled by multiple stressors. Parental pressure remains a significant, often unspoken burden, where well-meaning but over-ambitious parents project their unfulfilled dreams onto their children, turning love into a conditional reward based on performance. This is amplified by the hyper-competitive culture of entrance exams like NEET and JEE, which fuels the rise of multi-million dollar coaching industries. These centres, while promising success, often strip away the student's identity, replacing it with a relentless, isolated grind that leaves no room for hobbies, relaxation or emotional development.

Further compounding the issue is the pervasive stigma surrounding mental health. In a society that still views psychological distress as a character flaw or a lack of effort, students are terrified of admitting their struggle. They fear judgment from their peers, disappointment from their families and a lack of understanding from their teachers. This forces them to suffer in isolation, silently battling overwhelming emotions until the despair becomes unmanageable. This silence is often the final, fatal barrier to seeking help.

To stem this tide, India must move beyond mere hand-wringing and enact systemic changes that place well-being on par with academic achievement. First, the education system needs an immediate human touch. Mandatory, high-quality counselling services must be integrated into every school and university, staffed by trained professionals, not just overburdened teachers. These centres must be accessible, non-judgmental spaces, promoted openly to normalize seeking help. Second, there must be a shift in societal perspective, beginning with parents and educators. We must celebrate effort, resilience, and ethical values over purely quantitative results. Educational reforms should focus on holistic assessment, reducing the singular focus on high-stakes final examinations. Third, a massive, sustained national campaign to de-stigmatise mental health is crucial, using public figures and social media to encourage open conversations about stress and emotional struggles. Finally, institutions must foster environments of support, implementing strong anti-bullying and anti-ragging policies and training staff to recognise and respond to warning signs like social withdrawal, drastic changes in behaviour or falling grades.

The NCRB 2023 report serves as a harsh report card on our collective failure to safeguard the psychological health of our youth. The daily loss of 38 young lives is an unsustainable hemorrhage of talent and potential that India cannot afford. The time for pointing fingers is over; the time for systemic, compassionate intervention is now. We owe it to these young souls to reform a system that currently values a rank on a piece of paper more than the life of the person who earns it. The silence of the suffering student must be replaced by a chorus of support, allowing them to finally breathe, thrive and contribute to the nation they are meant to inherit.

The writer is former Principal and Founder of Supporting Shoulders, an Organization for Mental Health of Students, Jeypore, Odisha.

Noisy festivities

Sir, On the last and final day of Navratri, the noise produced by loudspeakers and DJs was just unbearable. As the idols of goddess Durga were taken out in a procession, the high decibel levels broke all records. Cops who were on duty had to stuff cotton into their ears as a protective measure. It was a clear indication that even those who were entrusted with the task of keeping things under control (noise level included, of course) were in a state of abject surrender before an event that had religious overtones. People had to suffer the onslaught of loud music from the puja pandals in their respective colonies -all justified, because it was after all, a "religious" matter. Nobody protested, or even dared to do so. I wonder why all our festivals are so noisy and boisterous? It is obvious that the authorities are in no mood to impose curbs on the deafening noise levels during all and sundry "religious" functions. Or is India on the verge of becoming a banana republic where the authorities are just too scared to do what is expected of them? Vishwaguru (?) Bharat very badly needs to set its own house in order.

Avinash Godboley, DEWAS(MP)

A spoilsport called Pakistan

Sir, The Asia Cup has been the worst tournament when it comes to disrespecting the sport. Time and again, the sport was violated. Missing press conferences, getting a game delayed by an hour, Pakistan did everything possible to push cricket to the brink. Talking about Mohsin Naqvi, here was someone who had posted on X multiple times with the airplane celebration mocking the Indian armed forces. He had justified Pakistan's disrespectful acts time and again. He was persona non grata for the Indians. Stealing the trophy was the cheap behavior in the open. Pakistan's embarrassing and childish behavior at the Asia Cup, including celebrating excessively, and stealing the trophy, highlights their status as a rogue terrorist state.

Jayanthy CK Maniam, COIMBATORE



TWO STATES





ETHNIC VIOLENCE Post back in Manipur's Churachandpur after over 2 years

While the resumption of postal services is a significant milestone, officials acknowledge that the district continues to face challenges in returning to full normalcy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Churachandpur, Oct 4: Postal services resumed in Manipur's van entering the district for the first time since the ethnic violence broke out in Manipur in May 2023, officials said Sat-

The vehicle reached the district headquarters at 11.30 am Friday, unloaded letters, parcels and other consignments, and returned to Imphal around 12.40 pm, they said.

Regular mail delivery had remained suspended in Churachandpur since the onset of the violence, in which over 260 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless. The resumption of service marks a significant step towards restoring normal communication



channels in the region.

Residents and businesses in Churachandpur are expected to benefit immediately, with the return of postal deliveries easing the exchange of information and essential goods. Authorities have expressed hope that the restoration of these services will support broader reconciliation and recovery efforts in

The revival of postal operations is part of a wider initiative to restore essential services and infrastructure in the region. In recent months, improvements in road connectivity and lawand-order management under

President's Rule have paved the way for this development.

While the resumption of postal services is a significant milestone, officials acknowledge that the district continues to face challenges in returning to full normalcy. Monitoring and support efforts are ongoing to ensure safety and stability for the local population.

For the residents of Churachandpur, the return of the postal system is more than a logistical convenience; it represents a tangible sign of hope and progress after a prolonged period of disruption and uncertainty.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Army completes Mount Gorichen expedition

Itanagar, Oct 4: In a remark able display of courage, endur ance, and teamwork, a team of the Indian Army completed the expedition to Mount Gorichen in Arunachal Pradesh show casing the grit, discipline, and adventurous spirit of the soldiers in the challenging terrain of the Eastern Himalayas, offi cials said Friday.

Defence spokesman Lt Co Amit Shukla said that the expedition was flagged off by the GOC, Spear Head Division Lt Gen AS Pendharkar from Lika bali Military station August 20.

He said that the advance party had moved earlier August 13 for reconnaissance, liaison and coordination.

The team, thereafter, moved through Missamari, Tenga, and Senge, carrying out sys tematic acclimatisation and preparatory training up to Senge (9,500 feet).

This phase ensured that the soldiers were physically conditioned and operationally ready for the demanding climb ahead, the spokesman said, adding that commencing the climb from Mago Road Head (12,200 feet) on September 1, the expedition advanced via Merathang Base Camp, Chokarsum, Camp-I, and Summit

Braving harsh weather, icy ridges, and thin air, the team steadily moved upwards, establishing the intermediate camps fixing ropes, and carrying load ferries en-route, the official

On September 19, the soldiers of Spear Corps success fully scaled Mount Gorichen (21,286 feet/6,488 m), unfurling the National Flag at the summit, symbolising indomitable courage and pride.

The successful conduct of the Mount Gorichen Expedi tion 2025 reaffirms the adventure ethos of the Indian Army while epitomising physical en durance, mental resilience, and operational excellence in ex treme altitudes and unforgiving terrain, the Defence PRO said.



The capital's excise revenue records 12% growth in first half of FY26



VAT was Rs 3,731.79cr during April-Sept 2024-25. It grew to Rs 4,192.86cr in the first half of FY26

■Excise revenue target was set at Rs 7,000cr in the budget 2025-26 but was later reset to Rs 6,000cr in view of sales related estimates

New Delhi, Oct 4: With rise in liquor sales, the Delhi government has registered over 12 per cent growth in excise revenue collection in the first half of the current financial year as compared to the same period last year, officials said Saturday.

As per official figures, the excise revenue including value added tax (VAT) was Rs 3,731.79 crore during April-September 2024-25. It grew to Rs 4,192.86 crore in the first half of the current financial year.

The excise revenue of the first half of 2025-26 is likely to rise further with updates as VAT figures were available up to September 16 only, said an excise department official.

The rise in sale has led to crossing the half mark of excise revenue target of Rs 6,000 crore in 2025-26. With festival season kicking in, peak in sales around Diwali and New Year will hopefully help crossing the annual target, the official added.

According to data, the cumulative monthly excise receipts

(excluding VAT) in April-September 2024-25 were Rs 279.81 crore. It rose to 517.26 crore, up 84.86 per cent in the current

The revenue excluding VAT in April-September 2024-25 was Rs 2,598.04. In the current year, it rose by over 17 per cent to Rs 3,043.39 crore.

The department has issued instructions to the government corporation run vends to ensure timely orders and keeping the stock ready for the festival season, officials said. The city has over 700 retail liquor outlets that are run by four corporations of the Delhi government. The excise revenue target was set at Rs 7,000 crore in the budget 2025-26 but was later reset to Rs 6,000 crore in view of sales related estimates.

The Delhi government has formed a high-level committee headed by PWD minister Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma, which is framing a new excise policy. The government aims to boost excise revenue through the new policy, which it intends

to be transparent, consumer friendly and socially responsible, officials said.

The committee is likely to come up with a draft of the policy in coming months. In the meetings of the committee in recent past, various issues like stagnant prices, legal age of drinking, and role of private players in retail trade have been discussed with stakeholders including liquor manufacturers as well as retailers, sources said.

The excise tax rate in Delhi has not been revised since 2014 and MRP was last updated three years ago, a source said. Pricing of liquor including fixed margins per bottle are certain issues being deliberated as part of drafting the policy, the source added.

The fixed margins per bottle in Delhi put all kinds of liquor in one segment, encouraging retail vendors to stock cheaper, less popular brands. This also encourages brand pushing and unavailability of more popular brands and high end liquor, the



A fisherman casts a net in the Yamuna river partially covered in toxic foam, in New Delhi, Saturday

Kejriwal's bungalow to become guesthouse

New Delhi, Oct 4: The Delhi government is planning to convert the bungalow, which was renovated for Arvind Kejriwal when he was the chief minister and was at the centre of corruption allegations, into a state guest house featuring a cafeteria, senior government

house a canteen serving traditional cuisines, similar to those in other state Bhawans across the city. The facility would be open

According to a senior gov-

includes building a parking space, a waiting hall and other

'The government is close to finalising a state guest house at this Bungalow No 6, which has been lying unoccupied as the former chief minister's residence. It will have a food outlet, parking space and other amenities,' official said.

Just as in other state guest houses where officials and ministers who visit for meetings and training workshops stay there and pay for the rooms, the same will be done here. The final approval for this plan is yet to be given by higher authorities, the official said.

officials said Saturday. The bungalow at 6, Flagstaff Road in Civil Lines may soon

to the general public, they said.

ernment official, the proposal

Dated: 24.09.2025
The Superintending Engineer, Ganjam [R&B] Division No.II,
Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **percentage rate bid** in Single Cover System to be received in **ONLINE MODE** only for the work as detailed below: Nature of Work No. of Work

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

GANJAM (R&B) DIVISION NO. II. BERHAMPUR

Phone/Fax: 0680-2233996, e-mail: sernb2.ganjam@gmail.com INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]

TENDER CALL NOTICE

Bid Identification No. SC (R&B)-GM-II-16/2025-26

Tender Cost Class of Contractor Rs.6,000/-'B' Class Availability of bid documents

From 06.10.2025 10.00 A.M. to 20.10.2025 4.00 P.M. 22.10.2025 at 11.30 A.M. Date of opening of Bid details can be seen from the website https://tendersorissa.gov.in.

OIPR-34080/11/0034/2526

ପୌର ପରିଷଦ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ : ଭବାନୀପାଟଣା

From hills to homes: Meghalaya crafts new story of tourism

For a state that blends breathtaking landscapes with rich cultural traditions, the push to become a \$16 billion economy by 2032 has tourism at its heart

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shillong, Oct 4: Meghalava's story is no longer just written in its clouds and hills. It lives in the voices of its people, the warmth of its homes, and the traditions that turn the state into a living around 10 heritage.

Nestled in Meghalaya welcomed 16 lakh the misty y 2024, and the trend is expected hills and to climb further with the Umroi vallevs. Airport in Shillong set to become fully Meghaaptly Adding to this momentum are 14 new eco-tourism projects planned called the

across four districts, "abode of projected to generate more clouds" -- is than 1,600 jobs carving out a new identity as both a cultural and

adventure hub. While its rolling tea gardens, waterfalls, and living root bridges have long charmed visitors, the state government is now consciously weaving a tourism story that goes far beyond the scenic beauty.

The focus is on homestays. music festivals, eco-tourism, and even hosting the National

Games in 2027, all integrated into a pipeline of initiatives designed to generate jobs, empower citizens, and transform Meghalaya into a high-value A key part of this strategy

is the homestay initiative, which moves away from the convenlakh visitors in 2022, tional "Games Village" model for the upcoming

> sporting event. Instead, athletes, officials, and visitors will be hosted in homestays across the state ensuring long-

> term benefits for local communities once the games are over.

"Music has a unique power to unite, and here in Meghalaya, where people are naturally musically inclined, the atmosphere is perfect for such experiences," says Vera, who runs Risa Forest Green Homestay. "Hosting events like Bryan Adams and Ed Sheeran has been truly commendable —



our property saw a full house with guests arriving from across India," he said.

Like her, many homestay owners across the state are witnessing the ripple effects of Meghalaya's tourism push from extended guest stays to steady revenue streams that outlast marquee events. The initiative reflects a conscious effort to marry hospitality with sustainability, giving tourists not only quality accommodation but also immersive cultural experiences, from the local cuisine

The state already has more than 820 registered lodging facilities, 300 recognised tourist

to traditional art and music.

sites, and more than 50,000 livelihoods linked to tourism.

The chief minister has repeatedly stressed that the homestay model is a "concrete pillar" of Meghalaya's strategy to enhance accommodation capacity while promoting employment and environmental

responsibility. Known as the "Rock Capital of India," Shillong is now also emerging as the country's music capital, with international concerts and festivals like the Cherry Blossom Festival, Winter Tales, and Shillong Literary Festival drawing lakhs of

visitors. In FY24, these events alone

attracted 3.37 lakh people, creating nearly 5,000 jobs. "Tourists extended their stay post events, leading to additional nights of occupancy and a steady revenue stream," says Farah of Belmont Homestay, underlining the economic impact of concert tourism.

As homestays expand, music and cultural festivals grow, infrastructure strengthens. and global artists continue to arrive, Meghalaya's story is shifting. It is no longer just the "abode of clouds" but a destination where hospitality, heritage, and harmony meet - and where the world is being invited to stay a little longer.

The bidders must submit all the original uploaded documents wi 03 days from opening of the tender. Superintending Engineer Ganjam (R&B) Division No. II

No. - (06670) 230424, Mail - eobptm@yahoo.com **OFFICE ORDER** No.C-1209: Subject: Prohibition and Removal of Unauthorized Hoardings

At/Po - Bhawanipatna, Dist - Kalahandi, Pin - 766001, Odisha, Phone

Whereas, it has been observed that unauthorized advertisement hoardings pamboo-based structures, and boards have been erected within the jurisdiction of Bhawanipatna Municipality, including on public roads, footways, drains

And whereas, under Section 252 of the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950, no person shall erect any fence, structure, obstruction, projection, or encro n or over any public road without the permission of the Municipality

electric poles, statues, and other public places, without any permission from

And whereas, under Section 255 of the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950, no projection or structure over public roads, including hoardings or boards, sha be erected without licence from the Municipality;

And whereas, unauthorized hoardings also amount to nuisance under **Section** 3(18) of the said Act, being injurious to public convenience, safety, and

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 254 of the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950, it is hereby ordered ex parte that

No unauthorized hoardings, bamboo-based hoardings, of advertisement boards shall be erected or displayed in any par

of Bhawanipatna Municipality without prior written permission licence from this Municipality.

No hoardings shall be fixed on electric poles, statues, or similar

public structures under any circumstances All existing unauthorized hoardings and bamboo-based hoardings

If any person/agency claims that a hoarding (other than those fixe on iron-rod established advertisement points duly approved by the Municipality) should not be removed, such representation must be made in writing to the undersigned on or before 02.10.2025. No clai

shall be entertained thereafter. In case of failure to comply, Bhawanipatna Municipality will summarily remove such unauthorized hoardings and recover the cost of remova from the concerned parties, as per provisions of the Act.

Further prosecution may also be initiated as per law for continued

This order shall come into force with immediate effect ssued under my hand and seal on this 26th day of September, 2025.

OIPR-13100/11/0019/2526

Sd./- Executive Officer, Bhawanipatna Municipality

national



All of us have been shaken by the tragedy that unfolded

MODI TO INAUGURATE NAVI MUMBAI INT'L AIRPORT OCT 8

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first phase of the Navi Mumbai International Airport, built at a cost of ₹19,647 crore, on October 8, a senior Maharashtra government official said Saturday





Upon arrival I notice a heavy downpour. On this day, Bihar has also been showered

with gifts. Largesse (saugaat) from the prime minister were spectacular (adbhut) and unprecedented (abhutpurv)

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | UNION MINISTER

Launched September 17 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi the two-weeklong #Swasth-

NariSashaktParivar Abhiyaan concluded 2nd October after achieving historic milestones of screening 6 crore 50 lakh women, through nearly 18 lakh health camps organised across the country

J P NADDA UNION HEALTH MINISTER

As ner the DFS (Department of Financial Services), ₹1,84.000 crore is lying there. It is safe. I



can assure you it is absolutely safe. You come when you want with proper papers. Money will be given to you. The government is the custodian for it. It can be through the bank or through SEBI. It can be through any other agency. But it is lying there in safe custody

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

SHORT **TAKES**

Elephant electrocuted

Ramanagara (Karnataka): A tusker, aged around 40 years, died of electrocution after coming in contact with a live electric wire in a farm at Chennapatna in Bangalore South district, forest officials said Saturday. According to Deputy Conservator of Forests Ramkrishnappa Sagar, the elephant was attempting to feed on the fronds of a coconut palm when it touched an overhead electricity line Friday. "The tusker was electrocuted on the spot," he said. Forest officials rushed to the spot and conducted a preliminary inquiry.

4 killed as goods vehicle overturns

Shillong: Four teenage girls were killed and three others injured after a goods vehicle ran over them in Meghalaya's Ri-Bhoi district and overturned, police said Saturday. The accident happened in Thadrang village near Mawlasnai police outpost Friday, they said. The dumper was heading to Bhoirymbong from Iowai in the West Jaintia Hills district when it hit the pedestrians, they added. Three people died on the spot, while another succumbed to the injuries

Decomposed body of man found

later, police said.

Bangalore: The decomposed body of a man was found at an under-construction building here in the city, police said Saturday. The deceased has not been identified yet, they said. The matter came to light Friday after a labourer who visited the building located in an area that falls under Kothanur Police Station limits spotted the body and alerted the police, they added.

CBI arrests five in **HPZ** crypto fraud

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested five individuals in connection with the HPZ Crypto Currency Token fraud case, in which cyber criminals duped victims of hundreds of crores through loan, job, investment, and cryptocurrency schemes, officials said Saturday.

Zubeen poisoned in S'pore, alleges arrested bandmate

Guwahati, Oct 4: In a startling claim, Zubeen Garg's bandmate Shekhar Jyoti Goswami has alleged that the singer was poisoned in Singapore, which led to his death, according to official documents with the police.

Goswami alleged that Garg was poisoned by his manager Siddharth Sharma and festival organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta in Singapore, according to the 'Detailed Grounds of Arrest' or remand note accessed by PTI. The festival organiser, Garg's

manager and two band members - Goswami and Amritprabha Mahanta - have been arrested in the case and sent to 14 days of police remand.

Garg died under mysterious circumstances in Singapore while swimming in the sea. He had gone to the Southeast Asian nation to attend the 4th edition of the NorthEast India Festi-

val, organised by Shyamkanu Mahanta and his company. "During the critical moments when Shri Zubeen Garg

was gasping for breath, almost drowning, Siddharth Sharma was heard shouting 'Jabo de, jabo de' (let him go, let him go). The witness emphasised that Zubeen Garg was an expert swimmer... and therefore, could not have died due to drowning.' "He (Goswami) alleged that

Shri Sharma and Shri Shyamkanu Mahanta had poisoned the victim and deliberately chosen a foreign venue to conceal their conspiracy. Shri Sharma also instructed him not to share the yacht videos with anyone," stated the note, signed by SIT member and senior SP Rosie Kalita.

A nine-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the CID is currently probing the death of Garg in Singapore. The Assam government has also set up a one-man judicial commission to investigate the case.

Imphal. Oct 4: Security forces

have arrested 10 militants be

longing to various proscribed

outfits in Manipur during sep-

arate operations over the last

Personnel of the Assam

The militants were appre-

"Assam Rifles in a daring

hended October 1 during an

jungle operation codenamed

'Operation Songkot' October

1 apprehended senior com-

mander SS Lt Jamkhogin Guite

KADAM ROW

few days, officials said.

nior commander" of a

banned outfit and five

other militants from

the jungles of Chura-

chandpur district, the

operation, it said.

Saturday

paramilitary force said

Rifles arrested a

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



The festival organiser. Garg's manager and two band members - Goswami and **Amritprabha Mahanta - have** been arrested in the case and sent to 14 days of police remand

Sources in the CID have confirmed the veracity of the remand note.

Shyamkanu Mahanta is the younger brother of former DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, who is presently the chief information commissioner of the Assam State Information Commission. Another brother of the festival organiser is Nani Gopal Mahanta, who was the education advisor to the CM before becoming the vice chancellor of Gauhati University.

"The statement of witness Shri Shekhar Jyoti Goswami... revealed that prior to the death of Zubeen Garg, a conspiracy was formulated to portray his death as accidental. He stated that Shri Siddharth Sharma. who staved with him... in Singapore, had displayed suspicious

The militants were

apprehended October

1 during an operation

ki National Army," it said in a

Five others were also arrest-

ed during the operation, it

said. "The successful

operation has dealt a

crippling setback to

UKNA's networks in

Churachandpur and

Jiribam, reaffirming As-

sam Rifles' relentless com-

mitment to peace and security

in the region," the statement

said. Officials in Manipur said

the UKNA commander was al-

legedly involved in the killing

of four members of the Meitei

community, including a father

and son, in Bishnupur district

statement.

10 MILITANTS HELD FROM

3 DISTRICTS OF MANIPUR

Zubeen's wife returns postmortem report

conduct," the note said. Quoting Goswami, the document also stated that Sharma forcibly took control of the yacht from its sailor, causing it to wobble dangerously in mid-sea, thereby endangering

all passengers. When Garg was frothing by the mouth and nose, Sharma dismissed it as acid reflux and assured others that there was nothing to worry about "instead of providing necessary medical facilities", the remand note said.

"Material evidence collected during investigation, including documentary records, financial transactions, and witness statements, prima facie establishes his (Sharma's) culpability." the 'Detailed Grounds of Arrest'

Amit Shah rules out talks with Naxals

Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh), Oct 4: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Saturday ruled out talks with Naxals and said they will have to lay down weapons and accept the government's 'lucrative surrender rehabilitation policy".

Addressing the 'Bas-Dussehra Lokotsav' 'Swadeshi Mela' in Jagdalpur, the headquarter of Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, he asserted that March 31, 2026 has been set as the deadline to bid farewell to the menace of Naxalism. "I want to tell all my tribal

brothers and sisters to persuade the youth of their villages to lay down their arms. They should shun violence, join the mainstream, and become part of the development of Bastar,' he said.

Security forces, including the CRPF and Chhattisgarh police, will give a befitting reply if ultras disrupt peace in Bastar, Shah warned. Shah said he visited the renowned Maa Danteshwari Temple here and had prayed that security forces get strength to free the entire Bastar region from "red terror" by March 31 next year.

Notably, anti-Naxalite oper ations intensified in Chhattisgarh after the BJP came to power in 2023. Security forces have gunned down over 450 Naxalites in a string of encounters, mostly centred in the Bastar region, since January last year.

'Some people have called for talks (with Naxals). Let me make it clear again that both the Chhattisgarh and Central governments are committed to development across Bastar and all Naxal-affected areas What is there to talk about? A lucrative surrender-and-rehabilitation policy has been put in place. Come forward and lay down your weapons.' Shah said, "Some people in Delhi used to spread misinfor-



mation for years that the birth of Naxalism was for the fight for development. But I have come to tell my tribal brothers that the entire Bastar has been deprived of development. The root cause of this is Naxalism,"

Today, electricity, drinking water, roads, toilets in homes, health insurance of up to ₹5 lakh and 5 kg free rice have reached every village in India but Bastar has been deprived of such development, Shah said. "The Chhattisgarh govern-

ment has made the best surrender policy in the country. More than 500 people have surrendered in a single month. Everyone should surrender. As soon as a village becomes Naxalite-free, the state government will give it ₹1 crore for development. Naxalism will not benefit anyone," he said. "Narendra Modi govt has giv-

en more than ₹4 lakh crore to Chhattisgarh for development works in 10 years. On behalf of the PM, I want to assure you that after March 31, 2026, Naxalites will not be able to stop your development. They will not be able to stop your rights," he said.

Shah described the 75-daylong Dussehra festival as one of the world's longest and culturally significant festivals. honouring the region's tribal heritage.

PM Modi takes 'Jan Nayak' dig at Rahul PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday blamed the "devastated state of education" during the RJD rule as a major reason for the large scale migration from Bihar and lauded the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government for improving the situation and setting the state on a path to progress

Speaking at the inauguration of a host of education and skilling initiatives for the youth including several projects for the poll-bound state, Modi took a veiled swipe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is often lauded by his party members as 'Jan Nayak', an honorific associated with respected OBC leader and former Bihar chief minister Karpoori Thakur.

The people of Bihar should be vigilant to attempts by some to "steal" the honour long associated with Thakur, Modi said without naming Gandhi. Thakur was not bestowed the

title of Jan Nayak by social media trolls, but it is a reflection of people's love for him, he added The Modi government had

honoured the late OBC leader with Bharat Ratna last year.

Modi also unveiled various vouth-focused initiatives worth more than ₹62,000 crore with a special emphasis on Bihar which is likely to go to polls by the end of October or November. Modi launched PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and **Employability Transformation** through Upgraded ITIs), a centrally sponsored scheme with an investment of ₹60,000 crore.

Cyclone Shakhti churns up Arabian Sea off Gujarat coast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: Cyclone Shakhti, the first cyclonic storm of the post-monsoon season in the Arabian Sea. is churning up the sea, packing a wind speed of 100 kmph and gusting, officials said

Saturday. Shakhti, which has intensified into a severe cyclonic

storm, was moving further into the Arabian Sea and lay centred about 420 km away from Dwarka in Gujarat, the weather

office said. It is likely to move west-southwestwards reach the northwest and adjoining west-central Arabian Sea by Sunday, the India Me teorological Department (IMD) said, adding that Shakhti will recurve and move east-north eastwards from Monday morn

ing, weakening gradually. Under the influence of the cyclonic storm, sea conditions are likely to be rough to very rough along and off the Gujarat-North Maharashtra coast and the Pa kistan coast until Sunday.

The weather office has warned fishermen not to ven ture into the northwest Arabian Sea, adjoining areas of the northeast Arabian Sea, central Arabian Sea and along and off the Gujarat-north Maharashtra

Lupho alias Pepsi of United Ku-Artistes perform 'Nati', a traditional folk dance, at the International Dussehra festival in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh PRI PRIOR in January 2024. Uddhav hits back with 'namak haram' barb RAMDAS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Oct 4: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray Saturday dubbed Devendra Fadnavis a "helpless" chief minister who has failed to crack down on "rampant corruption" under his watch.

He termed Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Ramdas Kadam as "gaddar and namak haram" after the latter alleged a purposeful "delay" in formally declaring the death of Bal Thackeray in 2012.

Thackeray addressed gatherings of women and Sena (UBT) workers in Pune. He also spoke on different issues during the media interaction.

Speaking at an interaction organised by the Pune Union of Working Journalists, Thackerav stated the Sena (UBT) did not need a certificate on Hindutva from the Bharatiya Janata Par-

ty, which was "creating walls within the country.

'India is a beautiful country. It has a great culture. However, these people (the BJP) have vitiated the entire atmosphere and made it hell. These people have created walls within the country. I have been working hard to prevent further deterioration.

"I have said time and again that the BJP cannot run governments in the state or at the Centre. The Narendra Modi government has failed to address issues in Kashmir and Manipur," the former Maharashtra chief minister alleged.

The BJP is taking the country on the path of dictatorship, Thackeray added.

Attacking Fadnavis, he said, "I don't consider anybody as an enemy, not even the prime minister. But considering the state's current situation, the



chief minister looks 'hatbal' (helpless) despite (BJP-led Mahayuti) having a brute majority. Despite several instances of corruption, the CM is helpless to act against corrupt individuals," he claimed.

Thackeray alleged the Fadnavis government had failed to help farmers, hit by heavy

rains and floods.

'They have still not been able to give a farm loan waiver. When I was CM, I had given loan waivers to farmers,'

Responding to criticism that he had abandoned the Hindutva fold (after his alliance with the Congress and NCP (SP)

in 2019), the Shiv Sena (UBT) leader claimed it was the BJP that had started 'Saugat-e Modi' campaign to appease Muslims. Thackeray slammed the Centre over the arrest of Ladakh activist Sonam Wangchuk under the National Security Act.

"I do not want to respond to gaddars (traitors) and 'namak harams (disloyal persons)", Thackeray said when asked to comment on Ramdas Kadam's

"When did Shiv Sena pramukh (Bal Thackeray) die? Why was Shiv Sena pramukh's body kept at Matoshree for two days? I slept on a bench at Matoshree for eight days (when Bal Thackeray was seriously ill)", Kadam had said while addressing the Shiv Sena's Dussehra rally Thursday.

Thackeray said Maharashtra knows the value of the Thacker-

ay brand, which was evident during the recent Dussehra congregation held at Shivaji Park in Mumbai. Citing the announcement of various welfare schemes in poll-bound Bi har, he appealed to the Centre to extend financial assistance to women in Maharashtra. Addressing a gathering of

women, Thackeray stated that the state government provided financial assistance to women for two to three months during elections, just to win votes.

Thackeray said the (Central) government acted promptly when Bihar needed financia help. Addressing Sena (UBT) workers, Thackeray called for expanding the party network by setting up "shakhas" or branch offices. Without naming Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. he said the attempt to break the Shiv Sena will never succeed.

national



From the vibrant streets in Colombia's comunas and the classrooms of University of Medellin, to the heartfelt conversations with students in Lima. Peru. this journey through South America has been filled with warmth, joy, and ideas

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

BRITISH PM TO VISIT INDIA FROM NEXT WEEK

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer will undertake a two-day visit to India next week in his first trip to the country since he assumed charge of the top office in July last year. Starmer's visit to India from October 8 to 9 will provide a "valuable opportunity" to reaffirm the shared vision of India and the UK to build a forward-looking partnership, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Saturday





hospitals are poor and middle-class services even to them, my goal is to construct one government medical college and one multi-speciality hospital in every district

SIDDARAMAIAH | K'TAKA CM

government formed through vote chori is also 'zameen chor, munafa khor (profiteer) and bachat chor' (revenue thief) KANHAIYA KUMAR | CONGRESS LEADER



actress Sandhya Shantaram is extremely heartbreaking. Her roles in many Marathi films such as Pinira and Navrang became immense ly popular. She also made her mark

in the Hindi film industry EVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA CM





Paid via Cash: 2x of Toll Amount Govt is Dis-Incentivising Cash Payments at Tolls

@Ravisutanjani

SHORT **TAKES**

Sampede: NCSC chief meets victims' families

New Delhi: The chairpersons of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC). Kishor Makwana, on Friday visited Karur in Tamil Nadu along with senior officials and met the families of 12 SC victims who died in a recent stampede during a rally of actor-politician Vijay's party. The Commission recommended that one eligible member from each bereaved SC family be provided with a government job, considering their poor socio-economic condition. The stampede claimed 41 lives and left over 100 injured after the crowd swelled beyond expectation and surged uncontrollably on the actor's arrival.

Dharmasthala case: **SIT quizzes 2 drivers**

Dharmasthala (Karnataka): The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged case of multiple murders, rapes and burials of bodies in Dharmasthala, issued notices to two ambulance drivers from Belthangady for questioning following which they joined the probe Saturday. The drivers are well-known for their social service in the region, officials said. The SIT has sought information from them regarding the transportation of bodies from Unnatural Death Report (UDR) cases in Dharmasthala to the

Lightning claims life

mortuary, sources said.

Deoghar (Jharkhand): A 55-year-old man was killed after being struck by lightning in Jharkhand's Deoghar district Saturday, police said. Deceased Vakil Thakur was in Malhara village where a large number of villagers had gathered. Around 2.30 pm, a lightning struck the



SP team barred from city; accused's hall demolished



Lucknow/Bareilly Oct 4: Authorities in Bareilly Saturday razed the banquet hall owned by a man arrested in connection with the recent violence in the city, while police stopped a delegation of Samajwadi Party leaders from visiting the city.

The Bareilly Development Authority (BDA) said the portion of 'Raza Palace' that was demolished was built in violation of norms. The banquet hall was owned by Dr Nafees, who is also considered to be a close aide of cleric Tauzeer Raza Khan, and has already been arrested and sent to jail in connection with the recent clashes linked to the 'I love Muhammad' campaign.

Officials asserted the demolitions were carried out as per procedure and no individual was targeted. Alleged encroachments by

15 shops in the Sailani area of the city were removed by the Bareilly municipal corporation on Saturday, its officials said. Bareilly has been tense after

protesters opposing FIRs over "I Love Muhammad" posters clashed with police following Friday prayers, after they were not permitted to hold a demonstration. Several people were injured in the violence.

Police have lodged 10 FIRs and booked hundreds of people, mostly unidentified, in connection with the September 26 violence. More than 70 people, including cleric Taugeer Raza Khan, his aides and some relatives, have been arrested.

UP minister JPS Rathore said normalcy has been re-

"Currently, the situation in Bareilly is completely normal. Markets are open, traffic is normal, and the police are vigilantly monitoring. The administration says that the situation will return to complete calm in the coming days," he said in a

A delegation of 14 Samajwadi Party MPs and MLAs who were scheduled to go to Bareilly on Saturday were allegedly stopped at their homes by police, Leader of the Opposition in UP Assembly Mata Prasad Pandey said.

Pandey, who was to lead the delegation, alleged that police are deployed outside the homes of all SP party workers, he said. The LoP said they have re-

ceived two letters, one from the police and another from the Bareilly district magistrate, saying that the SP delegation will "worsen the atmosphere" in the city. Speaking to PTI Videos at

his residence, LoP Pandey said, "The circle officer and a senior Local Intelligence Unit officer are here. They are telling me not to go there (Bareilly)."

What will happen if we go? This was done in the case of Sambhal and Bahraich. When our delegation goes there, we will establish peace there, because this isn't a communal riot, not a Hindu-Muslim conflict, that our visit will escalate it further." Pandey said.

Referring to protests in the city last week, Pandey claimed that the Muslim community only wanted to give a letter to authorities (on September 26), but police resorted to excessive force against them.

Pandey added that the Yogi Adityanath government was "stopping them to hide its failures". UP minister JPS Rathore, however, said opposition MPs and leaders who want to visit Bareilly are just trying to "vitiate the atmosphere". The government will not allow anyone to disturb the peace and



after the 'Durga Puja' festival, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

'Hold Bihar polls soon after Chhath, in minimal phases'

New Delhi/Patna, Oct 4: Political parties in Bihar told the Election Commission Saturday to hold assembly elections "immediately after" the Chhat festival to ensure increased voter participation and in as few phases as possible, the poll body said.

Chhat, an important festival in Bihar that is celebrated six days after Diwali, will fall October 25-28 this year. Representatives of six national and as many state parties interacted with Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners S S Sandhu and Vivek Joshi in Patna, officials said.

The poll authority is in Patna for two days to take stock of poll preparedness in the state. The term of the 243-member Bihar assembly ends November 22. The first phase of elections is likely to be held at the end of October, soon after Chhat. During Diwali and Chhat, people employed outside Bihar return home for festivities, and it is considered the best time to hold polls to ensure greater voter participation.

"To maximise the participation of voters in the elections, political parties suggested that the elections be scheduled imtival and for the elections to be completed in as few phases as possible," EC said in a state-The parties, EC said,

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग

*Electio*n commission

'thanked" it for successfully completing the "historic" special intensive revision (SIR) exercise and "purifying" the electoral rolls and reiterated their faith and trust in the electoral processes. The parties also appreciated

the move to reduce the number of voters per polling station from 1500 to 1200 as part of rationalisation. This will ensure less crowd-

ed polling stations on voting day. After Bihar, the polling station rationalisation exercise is being held across all

In 2020, the last assembly

ow of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the interaction with political parties, the Commission held a detailed review with administration and police officials on every aspect of election planning, EVM management, seizures, law and order, voter awareness and outreach activities. District officials concerned

three phases under the shad-

were instructed to monitor social media for fake news and to respond swiftly with appropriate legal action, if required, the EC said.

In Patna, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) said it urged the Election Commission to consider holding assembly polls "in a single phase", citing the example of Maharashtra which has a larg-

Europe tour turns tragic as Maharashtra couple die in Italy PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, Oct 4: A Nagpur hotelier and his wife died in a road accident on the last day of their vacation in Italy October 2. while their children were in jured, one of whom is in a critical condition, officials and kir said here Saturday.

Javed Akhtar (57), his wife Nadra, daughters Arzoo (22) and Shifa (18) as well as son Jazel (15), all residents of Civ il Lines here, were on a10-day tour of Italy and France, their kin Iqbal Azmi, also a retired deputy superintendent of police, told PTI.

"Their 9-seater taxi collided with a vehicle in Grosetto (in Tuscany) on the morning of October 2. Javed and Nadra died, while Arzoo is critically injured. She has undergone an operation and is currently in an unconscious state. Shifa and Jazel also sustained injuries, Azmi said.

'We spoke over video call with Shifa. Two of our relatives have left for Italy. The Maharashtra administration and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis are helping us with the needful. The family owns the Gulshan Plaza hotel in Nagpur. It was the last day of their tour," he added. Nagpur collector Vipin

Itankar, confirming the devel opments, said officials are in touch with the Indian Embassy in Italy as part of efforts to get the bodies back.

District officials visited the home of the deceased here, Itankar added.

Hyderabad student dies in US shooting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Oct 4: An Indian student from Hyderabad was killed in the US when unidentified assailants opened fire at him at a gas station, his family said here Saturday.

Pole Chandrashekar was shot dead by the miscreants Friday night in Dallas, they said, urging the government to help in repatriation of his mortal remains.

Chandrashekar, who com pleted his BDS in Hyderabad, had gone to US two years ago

to pursue an MS. He completed the degree six months ago and was looking for a job, his brother Damodar told reporters. To support himself, Chandrashekar was working part time at the gas

station. Expressing grief over the demise of the student, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy conveyed his condolences to

the bereaved family. Assuring support to the family of the deceased, Revanth Reddy said his govern-

ment would extend all cooperation to bring back the body.

Expressing concern over the incident, BRS MLA T Harish Rao said he and other party leaders visited the bereaved family here and offered condolences

CONG SLAMS 'POLITICS OF OPPRESSION' IN Pok

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 4: Amid the violent unrest in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, the Congress Saturday said that PoK is an integral part of India and slammed the "politics of harassment and oppression" being practised in that region. Speaking to reporters in

Anantnag in south Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Tariq Karra said the sympathies of the whole country were with the people of PoK. "Parliament has al-

ready passed a resolution that PoK is a part of India, and our sympathies, the sympathies of the whole country, are with them. The people are being handled there in an undemocratic manner. The Congress is against the politics of harassment and oppression that is being practised there. They are an integral part of J&K and our full sympathy is with them," Karra said.

At least 10 people were killed and many injured in clashes between protesters and security forces in PoK in the last few days. The protesters are de-

Parliament has already passed a resolution that PoK is a part of India, and our sympathies, the sympathies of the whole country. are with them. The people are being handled there in an undemocratic manner

manding basic rights, justice and an end to what they described as systemic oppression. To another question, Karra

said the party has always supported the cause of the people of Palestine. "Indira Gandhi

was the person who championed the Palestinian cause. We have given full-fledged support to the people of Palestine, and we will continue that," he said. Asked about the wife of Ladakh activist Sonam Wanghuk moving the Supreme Court against his detention under the National Security Act, the JKPCC chief said Wanchuk became the victim of the "BJP's 'my way or highway' mindset".

'Everyone has a right to approach any forum. The Congress party's stand is clear. He is the same Wangchuk who the BJP had presented as a nationalist at the time of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A. He was used by the BJP to hail the abrogation and to praise PM Narendra Modi. "His (Wangchuk's) contri-

bution at the environmental, educational and societal level was hailed before, but he is now being termed as anti-national. He has become a victim of the BJP's mindset of my way or highway," Karra said. The Congress leader said the party will raise the issue of the restoration of J-K's statehood in the upcoming session of the J&K Assembly

Fourth, finalizing the answer

key based on the experts' re-

view. "Such finalized answer

key by the aforesaid team of

subject/discipline experts

shall constitute the basis of

the declaration of the results of

Preliminary Examination," the

affidavit stated. Fifth, publish-

ing the final answer key after

the declaration of final results.

said it "desires to start follow-

ing the modalities explained in

the aforesaid decision as expe-

In its affidavit, the UPSC

Will publish provisional answer keys for CSE-Prelims: UPSC to SC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 4: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has informed the Supreme Court that it has "arrived at a conscious and well considered decision" to publish and review the provisional answer keys for the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination.

The decision was placed before the apex court through an affidavit filed by the Joint Secretary (Exams), UPSC, in response to a pending writ petition that raised serious concerns of the student community regarding the opacity, and lack of transparency and accountability on the part of the UPSC in conducting the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination — particularly

in concealing material infor-

mation such as answer keys,

cut-off marks, and candidates' scores

"The Commission has arrived at a conscious and well considered decision," the affidavit said, following "comprehensive deliberation" on various factors, including suggestions made by the amicus curiae appointed by the Supreme Court. As per the UPSC affidavit,

the new procedure involves five steps. First, publishing the Provisional Answer Key after the Preliminary Examination is conducted. Second, inviting represen-

tations/objections from candidates who appeared in the examination. Each objection must be supported by three authoritative sources and "objections which are not so supported should be rejected at the threshold." The UPSC

UPSC Union Public Service Commission ■ The UPSC conducts

examinations, including the prestigious Civil Services ■ In an affidavit filed in the

apex court last month, the Commission said the final answer key shall be published after declaration of the final

a pending petition concerning

the Civil Services Examination

will assess whether the sources produced are authoritative. Third, placing the provisional answer key and objections ■ The affidavit was filed in before a set/team of subject

experts of the concerned dis-

cipline/subject for in-depth

consideration.

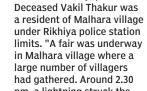
ditiously as possible", terming it "an effective and adequate redressal of the grievances raised in the petition and to enhance the level of transparency in the functioning of the

UPSC and also to further the cause of public interest". The Commission has urged

the Supreme Court to dispose

of the petition in light of its decision. "It is humbly submitted that this Hon'ble Court be pleased to pass the appropriate orders and dispose of the petition in the light of the decision extracted herein above," the affidavit stated. The petition, filed through

advocate Rajeev Kumar Dubey, claimed that despite several litigations in the past, the UPSC has "successfully dodged" accountability and has failed to assign any rea son as to why it is so allergic to the practice of transparency and timely disclosure of an swer keys, cut-off marks, and candidates' marks — a prac tice commonly followed by almost all state public service commissions, as well as High Courts and other prestigious institutions such as the IITs IIMs, and many others.



fair ground killing Thakur on

the spot," Deoghar SDO Ravi

Kumar said.

international



I have once again given instructions to the **Italian Embassy in Tel Aviv to ensure that** the remaining compatriots are treated with respect for their

EGYPT REOPENS AMENHOTEP III'S TOMB

Egypt Saturday opened a tomb of a pharaoh for visitors after more than two decades of renovation in the southern city of Luxor, as it prepares for the official opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum in Cairo



States killed a vessel allegedly carrying illegal drugs just off the



PETE HEGSETH | DEFENSE SECRETARY, US

The new loan (for businesses) will be available ... with a fixed 3% interest rate, free use, and a cap of 150 millior forints (\$454,250)



VIKTOR ORBAN | PRIME MINISTER, HUNGARY

A first measure would be to renew a one-off tax introduced by predecessor Francois Bayrou



SHORT TAKES

| Peter Mutharika sworn in as Malawi president

Blantyre (Malawi): Peter Mutharika was sworn in as Malawi's president Saturday after a political comeback at the age of 85 to win last month's election. Thousands gathered at Kamuzu Stadium in the commercial capital, Blantyre, for Mutharika's inauguration. He previously served as president of the southern African nation from 2014 to 2020. He lost office in 2020, after a 2019 election he won was nullified by a court because of widespread irregularities and ordered to be rerun the following year.

India, Bhutan hold talks on bilateral ties, trade

Thimphu: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri held wideranging talks with Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay during which they discussed bilateral ties including trade and connectivity. Misri visited Bhutan Friday, according to the Indian embassy here. His visit came after an intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed earlier this week for the establishment of railway links between India and Bhutan. During his visit, Misri had an audience with Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, and called on Prime Minister Tobgay and Foreign Minister D N Dhungyel.

Pope Leo to release first document Oct 9

Vatican City: Pope Leo will publish the first document of his tenure October 9, the Vatican said Saturday, with a text that is likely to offer hints about the new pontiff's priorities for the 1.4-billionmember Catholic Church. The document, known as an anostolic exhortation, will take the name "Dilexi te" (He loved you), and was formally signed by the pope on Saturday ahead of its publication, the Vatican said. Several Vatican officials told Reuters in recent weeks that Leo's text will focus primarily on the needs of the world's poor.

Munich airport begins slow reopening

Munich: Munich airport said Saturday it was gradually resuming flights from 7 am, with delays expected through the day, hours after both runways were closed for the second time in less than 24 hours due to a drone sighting. The airport advised travellers to check with their airlines as it prepared for the restart, two hours later than originally scheduled, after the Friday

Pak pitches port on Arabian Sea to US Arabian Sea to US

from Iran and 112km from the Pakistani city of Gwadar, which has a China-backed port

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Oct 4: The Pakistan Army is attempting to court US President Donald Trump with an audacious pitch to build and operate a port on the Arabian Sea that could give Washington a foothold in one of the world's most sensitive regions, according to a UK media report Sat-

'The Financial Times' claims to have seen the plan put forward by advisers to Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir, who have approached US administration officials with an offer that will involve American investors developing the seaside fishing town of Pasni as a terminal for access to Pakistan's critical minerals

Pasni is around 160km from Iran and 112km from the Pakistani city of Gwadar, which has a China-backed port.

The newspaper report points out that the initiative is not official policy but indicates how Pakistani officials are exploring ways to capitalise on the geopolitical upheaval in South Asia for its advantage.

The initiative has been float-



ed with some US officials, and was shared with Munir ahead of a meeting with Trump in the White House late last month, two civilian advisers to the Army Chief told the newspaper on condition of anonymity.

However, a senior Trump administration official said the US President and his advisers had not discussed such a proposal.

According to the clandestine plan, the proposed Pasni port is expected to be linked to a new railway to transport minerals from Pakistan's interior, in particular copper and antimony, a vital ingredient in batteries, fire-retardant and missiles.

A blueprint anticipated the port would cost up to \$1.2 billion with a proposed financing model that would be a mix of Pakistani federal and USbacked development finance.

It excludes "direct basing" so as not to serve as a US military installation, but is seen as an effort to rebuild and reframe ties frayed over Pakistan's support for the Taliban during the US-led war in Afghanistan.

A senior Pakistani military official told the newspaper that Munir, "does not have any advisers in an official capacity", adding that the port idea "surfaced in private discussions' with US businesses and had not been "submitted through official channels" and "remains a commercial idea pending appropriate consideration".

The scheme is said to be one of several ideas floated publicly and privately by Pakistani officials to maintain momentum with the Trump administra-

They include engagement with a Trump-backed crypto venture, deepening cooperation against Afghanistan-based militant group ISIS-K, endorsement of his Gaza peace plan and access to critical minerals

Pak govt, protesters sign agreement to end violent protests in PoK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 4: After days of violent unrest in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, the federal government and protesters Saturday signed an agreement to end the ongoing demonstra tions that have left at least 10 people dead and hundreds in-

Violence marred the peace of the region due to a strike, which began September 29 when talks broke down between officials and leaders of the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JK-JAAC), a representative body of

The protestors had issued a charter of 38 points, urging the authorities to accept them or they would take to the roads. which they did eventually, leading to violent clashes with police that killed at least 10 people, including three police personnel. Hundreds of policemen and civilians were injured in the protests

The team, led by former premier Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, engaged in extensive discussions for two consecutive days, which concluded around midnight. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry announced on social media that an agreement had been reached between the two sides.

The copy of the agreement shared by Chaudhry on X showed that a detailed document with 25 points was signed to end the protest, including compensation for those killed

Russian strike hits Ukraine train station

Moscow has stepped up its airstrikes on Ukraine's railway infrastructure, hitting it almost every day over the last two months

REUTERS

Kyiv, Oct 4: Two Russian drones struck trains at a station in Ukraine's northern Sumy region, killing one person and injuring about 30 others, officials said Saturday, with Ukraine's foreign minister accusing Moscow of deliberately hitting passenger trains.

"A brutal Russian drone strike on the railway station in Shostka, Sumy region," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy wrote on Telegram, posting a video of a wrecked, burning passenger carriage and others with their windows blown out.

Ukraine's foreign minister Andrii Sybiha accused Russia of deliberately conducting two strikes on passenger trains.

"This is one of the most brutal Russian tactics — the so-called 'double tap', when the second strike hits rescuers and people being evacuated,' he said in a statement released by his ministry on social media. Sumy region governor Oleh

Hryhorov said eight people had been taken to hospital.

"The Russians could not have been unaware that they were targeting civilians. This is terrorism, which the world



has no right to ignore," Zelens kiy wrote.

Moscow has stepped up its airstrikes on Ukraine's railway infrastructure, hitting it almost every day over the last two months.

In a video interview from a train en route to the strike site, the CEO of Ukraine's state rail company Oleksandr Pertsovskyi told Reuters that the drones had targeted loco motives, also damaging the carriages attached to them.

"In essence, they are hunting for locomotives," he said, adding that Russia was increasing ly deploying this tactic.

He said the trains hit had been a local commuter service and another train headed to the capital, Kyiv. The rail chief added that

there was only civilian traffic at the station, and that he believed this was an attempt to make ar eas like Shostka, which is about 50 kilometres (30 miles) from the Russian border, unsafe for passenger traffic.

Sean 'Diddy' Combs sentenced to more than 4 years in prison

New York, Oct 4: Sean "Diddy" Combs was sentenced Friday to more than four years in prison over his conviction on prostitution-related charges, with the judge rebuking the hip-hop mogul for subjecting two former girlfriends to years of abuse.

Combs, 55, was stoic as US District Judge Arun Subramanian announced the 50-month sentence at the end of a daylong hearing in Manhattan fed eral court. He could be released in less than three years after receiving credit for the time he has already spent locked up at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn since his September 16, 2024 arrest.

Combs had faced a maximum possible sentence of 20 years behind bars over his conviction in July on two counts of arranging for paid male escorts to travel across state lines to take part in drug-fueled sexual performances with Combs' girlfriends while he recorded video and masturbated.

The jury acquitted him on the more serious charges of racketeering and sex trafficking, which could have earned him a life sentence.

Those charges hinged on



udge called Combs' abuse of ex-girlfriends 'subiugation'

Combs apologizes to ex-girlfriends, says he learned his lesson

year sentence

prosecutors' accusation that Combs used violence and threats to coerce two of his girlfriends - the rhythm and blues singer Casandra Ventura, and a woman known in court by the pseudonym Jane - to take part in the performances, sometimes known as "Freak Offs."

Despite his acquittal on those charges, Subramanian said a significant sentence was justified given the harm Combs had caused Ventura and Jane.

"The court rejects the defense's attempt to characterize what happened here as merely intimate, consensual experiences, or just a sex, drugs, and rock-and-roll story," Subramanian said.



Demonstrators hold a banner with writing reading in Catalan "Let's stop the genocide in Palestine, no more arms trade with Israel" during a pro-Palestinian rally in solidarity with the Global Sumud Flotilla after ships were intercepted by the Israeli navy, in Barcelona, Spain

Hamas backs Trump plan, boosts hostage release hopes

REUTERS

Cairo/Gaza, Oct 4: Palestinian Islamic Jihad, a hardline ally of Hamas that also holds hostages, Saturday endorsed the group's response to a US plan to end the war in Gaza - a move that could help pave the way for the release of Israelis still held by both parties.

Hamas, the Palestinian militant group that controls Gaza, Friday accepted certain key parts of US President Donald Trump's plan, including ending the war. Israel's withdrawal and the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian captives.

Hamas's response triggered a chorus of optimistic statements by world leaders urging an immediate cessation of the deadliest conflict involving Israel since its creation in 1948,

and demanding freedom for the Israelis still held in the enclave.

A further possible boost to hopes for peace came with a supportive statement from Iran-backed Islamic Jihad, which is smaller than Hamas but seen as more hardline.

PALESTINIANS LOOK FOR 'RAY OF HOPE' AFTER HAMAS RESPONSE

(reaction) to "Hamas" Trump's plan represents the position of the Palestinian resistance factions, and the Islamic Jihad participated responsibly in the consultations that led to this decision," the group said.

Asked when talks on implementing the US plan would begin, a Hamas official told Reuters "things have yet to be arranged". Hamas' stance, and its backing by Islamic Jihad, may raise the spirit of Gazans,



who had watched one ceasefire effort after another fail as Israeli strikes hit the strip over the past two years, creating a humanitarian crisis and displacing millions.

"May the suffering lift off the people of Gaza, the people of Gaza are among the oppressed of the earth, and any ray of hope for the oppressed people is a victory," said Sharif al-Fakhouri, resident of the occupied West Bank city of Hebron.

Amid the optimism several issues remain unresolved, - Islamic Jihad move could facilitate release of hostages

Israel strikes Gaza after Trump calls for end to bombardment

□ Israel says Gaza City is still a

dangerous combat zone Trump plan and Hamas response lift spirits of

Palestinians

□ Relative of released Israeli hostage calls for end to war

such as whether Hamas will agree to disarm, one of Israel's top demands.

Some Palestinians expressed fear that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who heads Israel's most farright government ever, will ultimately withdraw from any plan to end the war.

WORLDWIDE SUPPORT FOR END TO 'TERRIBLE WAR'

Netanyahu's office said Israel

was preparing for "immediate implementation" of the first stage of Trump's Gaza plan for the release of Israeli hostages following Hamas' response.

Shortly after, Israeli media reported that the country's political echelon had instructed the military to reduce offen sive activity in Gaza. Trump's plan and Hamas' reaction won support around the world, from Australia to India to Canada and European capitals

"An end to this terrible war is within reach," said Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof.

Hamas responded to Trump's 20-point plan after the US pres ident gave the group until Sunday to accept or face grave consequences.

business



Traders should also keep a close watch on global developments, especially US macro data and FOMC minutes, which could influence near-term

AJIT MISHRA | SVP, RESEARCH,

MARUTI SUZUKI REPORTS 26% RISE IN PRODUCTION

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, India's largest carmaker, has informed that its production rose 26 per cent year-on-year in September 2025. The company manufactured 2,01,915 units across its plants during the month, compared with 1,59,743 units in September 2024, according to a regulatory filing Utility vehicles such as the Brezza, Ertiga and Fronx registered a 27 per cent annual growth in production, touching 79,496 units versus 62,752 units a year earlier



IPOs worth ₹28,000cr to hit Indian market

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 4: The investors will have a busy time next week as the initial public offerings (IPOs) of around five companies are set to hit the primary market, to raise a combined amount of over ₹28,000 crore.

Additionally, 29 companies mainboard and SMEs -- will have their debut on domestic exchanges.

Tata Capital, a non-banking financial company of the Tata Group, will float its IPO between October 6 to 8, aiming to raise ₹15,500 crore. Tata Capital's initial share sale is going to be the biggest so far this year. The IPO is a combination of 21 crore fresh shares and 26.58 crore shares as offer for sale (OFS). The Tata Group firms have a fixed price band of ₹310-₹326.

LG Electronics India, the Indian subsidiary of South Korea-based LG, has announced a floating ₹11,607 crore IPO on October 7-9. The IPO is entirely an offer for sale issue wherein the South Korea-based parent company will be offloading 10.18 crore shares at a price band of ₹1,080-₹1,140.

The two companies will contribute the most in terms of raising capital with a combined issue size of ₹27,107 crore. Further, many SMEs' IPOs will also open next week.

As per reports, the numbers are expected to surpass all the records this year.

SHORT **TAKES**

New toll rules for non-FASTag users

New Delhi: With an aim to reduce cash transactions, said that from November 15, vehicles entering a fee plaza on a National Highway without a valid, functional FASTag will be charged 1.25 times of regular toll amount if users opt to pay using UPI. Currently, those without a valid FASTag are required to pay double the toll charges in cash.The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in a statement said in a significant step to incentivise digital payments and eliminate user fee plazas on National Highways for non-FASTag users.

HDFC, Kotak **02 loan report**

New Delhi: Private sector lender HDFC Bank Saturday said it has registered a 9 per cent rise in loans to ₹27.9 lakh crore in the second quarter ended September 30. The credit book of the country's biggest private bank was ₹25.6 lakh crore at the end of the second quarter of the last fiscal. Another private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank reported a credit growth of 15.8 per cent to ₹4.62 lakh crore in the second quarter of FY26 as against ₹3.99 lakh crore at the end of second quarter of the last fiscal.

EEPC lauds RBI rule to support small exporters

Kolkata, Oct 4: EEPC India welcomed the Reserve Bank of India's move to ease the Merchanting Trade Transaction (MTT) rules by extending the time period for outlay of foreign exchange from four to six months and simplifying the process for timely closure of entries in Export Data Processing and Monitoring System (EDPMS) and Import Data Processing and Monitoring System (IDPMS) for transactions up to ₹10 lakh per bill.

The move would significantly improve ease of doing business, especially for small exporters and merchants, EEPC India Chairman Pankaj Chadha said.

"EEPC India welcomes the decision as it will significantly ease compliance burden for small exporters and provide flexibility to merchant traders," he said.

"The reforms introduced by the RBI were long-pending demands of EEPC India. We welcome the decision and the circulars issued in this regard. The move is set to reduce compliance burden for MSME exporters and ensure procedural flexibility for traders," Chadha opined.

The RBI circular extend-

UIDAI makes Aadhaar biometric updates free for children for 1 year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: The Unique Identification Authority of India has waived off all charges for mandatory biometric update of Aadhaar for children, an official statement said Saturday.

The fee waiver has already kicked in effective October 1 and will be in force for a period

"In a pro-people measure, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has waived off all charges for Mandatory Biometric Update (MBU-1), a move that is expected to benefit around 6 crore children," the statement said. A child under the age of five

is enrolled for Aadhaar by providing the photograph, name, date of birth, gender, address and birth certificate.

The fingerprints and iris biometrics of a child are not captured for Aadhaar enrolment below the age of five because these are not mature at that age. As per existing rules, children's fingerprints, iris and photo are mandatorily required to be updated Aadhaar after attaining the age of five years and second update is required to be done between the age of 15-17 years.

These updates are allowed without any fee for children aged 5-7 years and those in the age group of 15-17 years.



lay of foreign exchange to six months under the Merchanting Trade Transactions (MTT) framework has come into effect from October 1, 2025, The other circular regarding closure of entries in EDPMS and IDPMS is also effective immediately.

Under the new rule, entries (including outstanding entries) in EDPMS and IDPMS of value up to ₹10 lakh can be reconciled and closed based on a declaration provided by the concerned exporter that the amount has been realised or by the importer that the amount has been paid.

Any reduction in declared value or invoice value of shipping bills/bills of entry shall also be accepted, based on the declaration by the concerned exporter or importer.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: The gov-

ernment think tank Niti Aayog

Friday suggested the introduc-

tion of a presumptive taxation

scheme for foreign companies to

provide certainty and simplicity.

said the optional presumptive

taxation scheme would help in

resolving disputes concerning

PE (permanent establishment),

simplifying compliance and

taxation scheme is a proactive

and pragmatic solution to a

long-standing problem. It balanc-

es India's sovereign right to tax

with the need to provide certainty

and simplicity to foreign inves-

The paper noted that de-

spite India's inherent appeal

and remarkable FDI growth.

structural impediments such

as ambiguous PE regulations

introduce tax uncertainty and

principles into domestic law.

aligned with global norms,

while avoiding retrospective

tive taxation scheme, India

can transform its tax regime

from a 'minefield' into a 'well-lit

path', significantly improving

its standing in global business

MNRE said all Renewable

Energy Implementing Agen-

cies (REIAs)/PSUs/other gov-

ernment tender issuing agen-

cies are required to strictly

adhere to the rules issued by

the Ministry of Finance and

Central Vigilance Commission

(CVC), time to time, in matters

"...by adopting a presump-

"Codify PE and attribution

dampen investments.

amendments.

tors," the working paper said.

"The proposed presumptive

protecting revenue.

Aayog, in a working paper,

TRAI releases recommendations for Digital Radio Broadcast Policy

Policy recommendations said that digital radio should be commenced in Simulcast mode by new

broadcasters, and the existing analog FM radio broadcasters should also *be permitted to migrate* to simulcast mode on a voluntary basis

New Delhi, Oct 4: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) today released its recommendations on 'Formulating a Digital Radio Broadcast Policy for private Radio broadcasters', an official statement

These are along with terms and conditions and reserve price for commencement of digital radio broadcasting service in four 'A positive' category cities, viz, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai; and nine 'A' category cities, viz, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Surat, Pune, Jaipur, Lucknow, Kanpur, and Nagpur.

These recommendations are sought by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) in April 2024 on formulating a digital radio broadcast policy for private Radio broadcasters.

Policy recommendations said that digital radio should be commenced in Simulcast mode by new broadcasters, and the existing analog FM radio broadcasters should also be permitted to migrate to simul-

The presumptive taxation

scheme works to provide relief

to taxpayers from the tedious

work of maintaining regular

books of account under certain

circumstances. A company opt-

ing for this scheme can declare

income at a prescribed rate; in

lieu of that, it is relieved from maintaining books of accounts

The paper emphasised that

this bold reform would align tax

policy with the larger econom-

ic vision. It suggested that the

presumptive taxation scheme

should have different deemed

profit rates for various sectors.

for certainty. However, it can

also opt out and file a regular re-

turn if its actual profits are low-

er than the presumptive rate,'

It also recommended that tax

the working paper suggested.

authorities should not separate

ly litigate the existence of a $\ensuremath{\mathsf{PE}}$

for that activity, providing a

The paper said the govern-

ment should train tax officers

to apply rules consistently, par-

ticularly on complex digital and

cross-border cases, reducing

critical safe harbour.

subjectivity.

"A foreign company can opt

for audit by tax authorities.



Moreover, the proposed simulcast code will enable them to broadcast one analog, three digital, and one data channel

on the assigned spot frequency, and a single radio technology standard should be adopted in India for the introduction of digital radio broadcasting in VHF Band II. "The Government should

select a suitable Digital Radio Technology for deployment in India either by holding consultations with main stakeholders, that is, the radio broadcasters and the radio receiver manufacturers; or by incorporating selection of technology in the spectrum auction process; or any other method considered suitable by the government." the policy recommendation said.

The government should pre pare the frequency planning in a single technology scenario for each of the four cities of catego ry 'A positive' and nine cities of category 'A', and place it in the public domain.

While the frequency of new channels should be assigned by way of auction in accordance

communication Act 2023.

Section 4 (4) of the Telecommunication Act 2023 states that any exemptions previously granted under the Indian Telegraph Act 1885, or the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act 1933, will continue to be valid under the Act unless the central government issues a different notification.

The policy recommendations said that a time limit of six months from the date of conclusion of the auction process should be given to existing broadcasters to exercise the option to migrate to the simulcast code.

Highlighting the migration process, the recommendations said "For migration to simulcast mode, existing FM radio broadcasters will be required to pay an amount equal to the difference of auction auction-determined price for digital radio broadcasting in a city and the proportionate amount of Non-refundable One Time Entry Fee (NOTEF) for the remaining period of the existing permission.

Google Drive Desktop targets ransomware

New Delhi, Oct 4: Google Drive for Desktop is adding AI-powered ransomware de tection to automatically stop file syncing and allow users to easily restore files in a few

'AI-powered ransomware detection' uses artificial in telligence and machine learning to proactively identify and neutralise ransomware threats by analysing file be haviour, network activity and other system activity.

"What we're announcing to day is an entirely new layer of defence. While AV solutions continue their work to stop ransomware from getting in we've built the protections to stop it from being effective once it is, inevitably, through the door," source said.

The AI-powered detection in Drive for Desktop identifies the core signature of a ransomware attack - an at tempt to encrypt or corrupt files en masse – and rapidly intervenes to put a bubble around a user's files by stop ping file syncing to the cloud before the ransomware can spread, the source added.

It will help to stop ransomware from corrupting important files and making them unusable. Moreover, this in-built detection tech nology in Drive, Gmail, and Chrome hampers the spread ing of ransomware.

This type of defence tech nology against viruses will help organisations of different industries, including healthcare, retail, education, and government.

NITI pitches for presumptive Amit Shah inaugurates KVIC projects taxation scheme for FIIs

Haryana: Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated and launched multiple Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) projects worth ₹33.66 crore at the Khadi Karigar Mahotsav held at Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak During the event, he distributed 2,298 machines and toolkits—including electric potter's wheels sewing machines, and repair kits—to artisans from Haryana and honored five veteran Khadi artisans.

Shah also digitally launched 8,310 new units under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) with an investment of ₹741.16 crore and disbursed margin money subsidies of ₹301 crore. Among the projects inaugurated were the modernised Khadi Gramo-



Place (to be developed as a 'Khadi Mall'), a new KVIC office in Gorakhpur, 762 new workshops, and 35 renovated sales outlets nationwide.

Addressing the gathering, Shah highlighted the transformation of the Khadi sector under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, noting that its turnover has surged from ₹33,000 crore to ₹1.7 lakh crore. He urged every Indian

worth ₹5,000 annually to support artisans and promote self-reliance. Haryana Chief Minister

Nayab Saini termed the event a celebration of Swadeshi, KVIC Chairman Manoi Kumar said the initiatives reflected the government's commitment to "Khadi for Nation, Khadi for Fashion, and Khadi for

Malabar Gold & Diamonds unveils solitaire collection



Bhubaneswar: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the world's leading jewellery retailers, has launched its exclusive Solitaire Show at the Saheed Nagar showroom, Bhubaneswar.

The event, which runs from October 4 to October 12, 2025. offers jewellery enthusiasts a chance to explore one of the largest collections of rare and precious solitaires.

The exhibition was inaugurated by esteemed customers and senior management members of Malabar Gold & Diamonds at the brand's Rupali Square outlet. The show features an elegant range of diamond solitaires, each engraved with a unique inscription symbolizing authenticity, rarity, and ethical sourcing.

Expressing his delight, MP Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group, said, "We offer only exceptional diamond jewellery to our customers. It's a testament to the trust and credibility of our brand. Through this exclusive show, we aim to provide an extraordinary jewellery shopping experience to all our customer.

Revised guidelines for RE agencies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: The government, Friday directed renewable energy (RE) agencies to invite fresh bids for clean power projects that were issued in haste to circumvent the ALMM guidelines for cells.

It is observed that recently a few government agencies in renewable energy sector in August issued bids with fewer windows for bid submission, as low as seven days for procurement.

"This seems to have been issued clearly to circumvent the Approved List of Models & Manufacturers (ALMM) for cells mandate," the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy



The ministry further said "any existing bid with short bidding timelines, which have been issued without complying with the existing GFR (General Financial Rules) rules and CVC regulations may be scrapped, if required and new bids may be issued with full compliance to

for maintaining financial propriety and transparency. All agencies must strictly

related to public procurement

comply with existing rules and regulations when issuing bids procurement. The ALMM is a mechanism

to ensure the reliability of a producer, for protecting consumer interests, while ensuring a larger energy security of the country. The government introduced the ALMM order (List I) in 2019 for solar modules to boost the manufacturing and usage of made-in-India solar panels. It was made mandatory to source PV modules from models and manufacturers included in the ALMM List I.

Tata Power-led Odisha Discoms drive inclusive growth

Bhubaneswar: Tata Power-led Odisha Discoms are redefining the role of an energy company by driving inclusive community development beyond electricity supply. Over the past year, their initiatives have empowered women, artisans, and marginalised communities across the state.

baneswar, Balasore, Mayur-

bhanj, and Keonjhar have

Through targeted digital and financial literacy programs, over 12 lakh women have been reached, while 3,500+ women from slums and remote villages in Bhu-



gained vital computer skills, bridging the digital divide.

The Discoms have also revived traditional Odia crafts, empowering 340 artisans in Palm Leaf Carving and Pattachitra Painting, resulting in a 30 to 40 per cent

income rise through e-com-

merce and market linkages. Women-led self-help groups are producing eco-friendly jute products for local and institutional markets, turning sustainability into livelihood. More than 2,000 women

are now engaged in meter reading, billing, and collection, strengthening inclusivity in the power sector. In tribal regions like Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal, and Rayagada, 200 remote villages have been electrified, energizing schools, health centres, and small enterprises.

Future of ODI: Gill takes captaincy reins from Rohit

Rohit has been one of India's finest captains in the white-ball formats, guiding the team to two ICC titles and a runner-up finish at home in the 2023 WC at home while cementing his place as an all-time great

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 4: In a significant transition move, the Indian selectors Saturday removed Rohit Sharma from ODI captaincy and expectedly handed over the reins to young Shubman Gill, keeping the 2027 World Cup in mind.

Rohit is the only skipper apart from Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who led India to three ICC white ball finals, winning ODI World Cup and Champions Trophy titles. He had a runners-up finish at the T20 World Cup.

As an ODI skipper, he won 42 out of the 56 ODIs that he captain with a winning percentage of 76. The selection panel's move also underlines Gill's transition as an all-format leader.

Rohit, though features in the 15-member squad for the upcoming Australia Tour along with other stalwart Virat Kohli as the selection panel chose not to fully sacrifice the experience.

Shreyas Iyer has been named vice-captain for the threematch series

The ODIs are scheduled to be played in Sydney, Adelaide, and Melbourne between October 19 and 25 and will be followed by a five-match T20 series.

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been rested for the ODI leg of the tour to manage his workload, while promising lefthander Yashasyi Jaiswal has been recalled to the 50-over setup



after a string of consistent per-

formances in T20 internationals. Chairman of selectors Aiit Agarkar confirmed that Rohit

has indeed been communicated about the change in captaincy but kept it open-ended when asked if both him and Kohli will play the 2027 ODI World Cup.

Yes. I mean that is the format they are playing at the moment and we (have) picked

the last of the recognised bat-

ters, Alick Athanaze, who bat-

Kuldeep Yadav (2/23) took a

sharp return catch of Jayden

Seales (22) who had struck some

meaty blows to bring an end to

the game shortly after drinks

Jadeja was menacing on a

track offering turn as he ran

through the West Indies top-or-

der. While the left-arm spinner

wrecked havoc in that frail bat-

ting order which fell like a pack

of cards once again, Kuldeep

Yadav (1/15) and Siraj (1/16)

also had their share of contribu-

tions. It all began with India's

declaration, which expedited

the inevitability as only one

result was possible given the

And it did not take long for

WEST INDIES 162 and 146 in 45.1

state of the West Indies team.

ted well for his 38.

in the second session.

It's practically impossible to have three different captains for three formats, just in terms

AJIT AGARKAR | CHAIRMAN OF SELECTORS

them. As far as the 2027 (ODI) World Cup is concerned, I don't think we need to talk about it today, obviously with the captaincy change that's generally the thought," said Agarkar.

Asked how the now former skipper had taken the decision, the former pacer came up with a terse reply: ""I mean that is a conversation between me and Rohit or us (selectors) and Rohit. But like I said, of course, it has been communicated to him." Agarkar also made it clear

that with very few ODIs being played now a days, it is impossible to look at three different captains as it hampers the general planning of the squad. The 2027 World Cup is a huge

part of this committee's plan and Gill needs to be given time to settle down into the role.

"Obviously, at some stage you have got to start looking at where the next World Cup is, it's also a format which is played the least now, so you don't get that many games to actually give the next guy or if there is going to be another guy that much time to prepare

himself or plan." **India's tour of Australia**

ODI squad: Shubman Gill (Captain), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer (VC), Axar Patel, KL Rahul (WK), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohammed Siraj, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Yashasvi Jaiswal. T20I squad: Suryakumar Yadav (Captain), Abhishek Sharma, Shubman Gill (vice-captain), Tilak Varma, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (WK), Varun Chakaravarthy, Jasprit Bumrah,

Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav,

Harshit Rana, Sanju Samson (WK)

Rinku Singh, Washington Sundar.

CHINA OPEN

Ruthless Anisimova outclasses Gauff

The win also gave the 24-year-old American a 2-1 edge in her headto-head record against compatriot Gauff

REUTERS

Beijing, Oct 4: US Open runner-up Amanda Anisimova advanced to her second WTA 1000 final of the year Saturday, outclassing defending champion Coco Gauff 6-1 6-2 in the semi-finals of the China Open.

Seeded third in Beijing, Anisimova continued her stellar season, which includes runner-up finishes at Wimbledon and the US Open. The win also gave the 24-year-old American a 2-1 edge in her head-to-head record against compatriot Gauff.

Anisimova bludgeoned her way to a 5-0 advantage in the opening set before second seed Gauff got on the board to make it 5-1.

The second set unfolded in a similar fashion, with Anisimova building a commanding 5-0 lead. Although Gauff fought back to win the next two games, Anisimova sealed the victory in

"I was just excited to play here in my first semi-final. I was able to put on a really good performance and I knew I was going to have to play really well against Coco if I wanted to get the win. I'm really excited to be

"I've been saying every time I've walked on court and won my match that I love playing here and the crowd support has been so amazing since the first day I got here. I really think that's carried me through this entire tournament. "Hopefully everyone can come out and support me in the final."

in the final," Anisimova said.

Next up for the world num ber four is either American fifth seed Jessica Pegula or

Czech 26th seed Linda Noskova, who play in the second semi-final later Saturday.

Jadeja fashions dominating win

Rampant India crush West Indies to win first Test by innings and 140 runs, take 1-0 lead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 4: Vice-captain Ravindra Jadeja, India's most valuable player in red ball cricket ran displayed his all-round credentials capping his unbeaten hundred with a four wicket haul as the hosts crushed West Indies by an innings and 140 runs inside three days in the first Test to take 1-0 lead. Trailing by a massive 286

runs after India declared on their overnight score of 448 for 5, West Indies performed even worse in their second essay being bowled out for 146 in 45.1 overs. Jadeja was pick of the bowlers with 4 for 54 in the second innings. The second Test will be

played in New Delhi from Oc-

With the outcome of the match and the series tilted heavily in favour of the formidable hosts, India outclassed the struggling West Indies in all facets on a track that behaved differently on all three days. If it was a lively track assist-

ing pacers on Day One exploited to the tilt by Mohammed Siraj (4/40 and 3/31) and Jasprit Bumrah (3/42), the pitch offered a little to bowlers on Day Two

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

neighbours.

cricket.

Colombo, Oct 4: A battle

high on emotional quotient

and less on cricketing acumen

will feature India as over-

whelming favourites against

a dishevelled Pakistan trying

to find balance and rhythm in

a Women's World Cup game

amid continuing geopolitical

tensions between the two bitter

India and Pakistan have

played 27 times in women's

internationals across formats.

India hold a commanding 24-

3 advantage, with Pakistan's

three wins coming only in T20

In ODIs, India have a 100

per cent record, winning all 11

matches between the two sides.

World Cup campaigns in con-

trasting fashion. Hosts India

defeated Sri Lanka by 59 runs.

lapsed against Bangladesh,

losing by seven wickets in a

match where they struggled

India currently occupy the

fourth spot after all teams

have played a game each. The

against both pace and spin.

In contrast, Pakistan, col-

Both teams began their

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Women in Blue to test

squad depth against Pak

After three Sundays of India-Pakistan men's

Asia Cup matches, it's time for the women to

take centrestage, though the record suggests little

suspense about the outcome



Though Jadeja missed out on a five-wicket haul, he did have a memorable Test through an unbeaten 104

as batters made merry

By the end of it, India, who had amassed a lead big enough to impose an innings defeat on the troubled visitors, ensured there was no change to the script for the huge win in the first of their four home Tests

In ODIs, India

have a 100% record.

winning all 11

matches between the

two sides

Harmanpreet Kaur and Co

will head into the fixture high

on confidence. The squad depth

was on full display in the open-

er when despite staring down

the barrel at 124 for 6, the lower

middle order rose to the occa-

sion putting up a 250 plus target

India's batting remains

their biggest strength despite

the blip against Sri Lanka but

better application from batters

is required against teams with

main concern is their batting,

which faltered badly in the

opener. The side lost wickets in

clusters, including a hit-wicket

dismissal, and failed to build

On the other hand, Pakistan's

better bowling units.

in 47 overs.

partnerships

Opener KL Rahul (100) ended his nine-year-long century drought at home, wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel (125) notched his maiden Test ton and Jadeja (104 not out) stretched his purple patch with

tract some assistance early in the morning India declared at their overnight total but it was the Jadeja-led Indian spinners who exploited the grip off the surface and rough patches to ran riot. While Nitish Reddy's ath-

vas the perfect game

for us. Three centuries,

and we fielded really

the bat as India flexed batting

muscle, condemning the West

Indies for the hard grind to take

On Day Three, hoping to ex-

well so no complaints

SHUBMAN GILL | CAPTAIN

leticism handed Siraj the first wicket among pacers, it was Jadeja (4/54) who followed up his unbeaten ton with a three-wicket burst to initiate a swift end to West Indies' plight, reducing them to 66/5 at lunch.

In fact, Jadeja, with his century and a four-for in the second innings, narrowly missed the feat of hitting a ton and taking a five-for in a Test, which he has done twice in the past.

Siraj then produced a two-wicket over post lunch dismissing Justin Greaves (25) and Jomel Warrican (0), shortly after Washington Sundar (1/18) caught-and-bowled

Brief Scores:

the floodgates to open.

overs (Alick Athanaze 38, Justin Greaves 25: Rayindra Jadeia 4-54, Mohammed Siraj 3-31) lost to INDIA 448/5 declared in 128 overs (Dhruy Jurel 125, Rayindra Jadeja 104 not out; Roston Chase 2-90. Javden Seales 1-53) by an innings and 140 runs

Jakarta: Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar carded a one-under 69 to grab a share of the three-way lead with Wade Ormsby (67) of Australia and Scott Vincent (62) of Zimbabwe, going into the final round of the Jakarta International Championship, here Saturday. Bhullar, a five-time winner in Indonesia, was left to rue one costly mistake on ninth hole, when he double bogeyed the hole despite sitting at the middle of the fairway after another perfect drive.

Marsh's first T20 ton

Mount Maunganui: Mitch Marsh posted his first Twenty20 century. carrying Australia past New Zealand in a three-wicket win that clinched the Chappell-Hadlee series 2-0 Saturday. The captain reached a century from 50 balls and held together an innings that faltered dramatically in the middle overs to see his team surpass New Zealand's total of 156-9 with two overs to spare. Marsh carried his bat through the Australian innings and was 103 not out as the visitors finished with 160-7.

World Para Athletics: India's best-ever show

The country added a silver and two bronze, to take their tally to 18 (*6-7-5*), their best performance at the Worlds with a day to go

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: There was a tinge of sadness in Praveen Kumar's walk following his bronze in high jump, while Ekta Bhyan looked at the positive side after failing to retain her title and settling for silver in the club throw event on the penultimate day of World Para Athletics Championships here Saturday.

India added a silver and two bronze, to take their tally to 18 (6-7-5), their best performance at the Worlds with a day to go. Their previous best was in 2024 Kobe, Japan, where they won 17 medals (6-5-6). Brazil continued



to top the charts with 37 medals

India's third medal on the day came in men's shot put F57 category with 42-year-old army man Soman Rana bagging the bronze with a season's best of 14.69m. The Hangzhou Asian Games silver medallist's best throw came in the fourth attempt.

Paris Paralympic gold-medallist Praveen, a favourite for

the top spot in men's T64 high jump, recorded a season's best of 2.00 metres but it was not not good enough on the day as the star Indian para athlete finished behind Uzbekistan's 2018 Asian Para Games gold medallist Temurbek Giyazov who recorded a personal best of 2.03m to take gold.

Bhyan settles for silver

Ekta Bhyan saw the posi-

tive side of it after failing to defend her 2024 Worlds club thrower F51 gold here with her season's best of 19.80m in the sixth and final attempt. The 40-year-old Indian, who has a personal best of 21.66, was outdone by an athlete who has been the undisputed leader for several years, winning three World Championships gold and the top-podium finish at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Soman Rana takes bronze

Army man Soman Rana, who lost his right leg in a mine blast in 2006, won the biggest medal of his international career, securing bronze in men's shot put F57 category with a throw of 14.69m, while the other two Indians Hokato Hotozhe Sema (14.35m) and Shubham Juyal (13.72m) finished sixth and seventh respectively in the event. which has individuals with significant leg length differences or limb deficiencies

SPURS END LEEDS' UNBEATEN HOME RUN

Leeds, Oct 4: Tottenham Hotspur beat Leeds United 2-1 in the Premier League Saturday thanks to a goal and assist from Mohammed Kudus that consigned the home side to a first league defeat at Elland Road in over a year.

Kudus created the opening goal for Mathys Tel for his fourth assist of the Premier League campaign before the 55 million-pound (\$74.13 million) signing scored his first goal for

the club in a rain-soaked second half.

Leeds's unbeaten home run ended at 23 league games as Spurs moved provisionally up to second on 14 points, a point behind Liverpool who visit Chelsea later Saturday. Leeds are 12th with eight points heading into the international break

"I've definitely been waiting (for my first Spurs goal). As an attacker it boosts your confidence when you score." Kudus told TNT Sports.



same focus. This is a big step in the right direction.

In a breathless first half, the sides traded blows in a physical clash but it was Leeds who started brighter, pressing high

and creating chances. Joe Rodon hit the post and Dominic Calvert-Lewin missed a golden opportunity from close range before Spurs broke the deadlock in the 23rd minute.

Tel was released by Kudus down the right channel and the 20-year-old Frenchman's shot deflected past Leeds keeper Karl Darlow.

Women in Blue will eye the opportunity to boost their net run rate, which becomes crucial at the fag end of the tournament.

country and come back with the

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