Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu reveals how a single quote transformed her outlook, shifting her entire perspective on life

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 185 I www.orissapost.com

LEISURE | P2



Nature's fury in Nepal

At least 51 people have been killed in different places of eastern Nepal in various incidents caused by landslides and floods

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Bitcoin crosses \$125,000

Bitcoin, the world's largest cryptocurrency by market value, hits a record high, surging nearly 2.7 per cent at \$125,245.57

BUSINESS | P11



Best-ever show

India finish their campaign in the World Para Athletics Championships with a record 22 medals

SPORTS | P12

BHUBANESWAR | MONDAY | OCTOBER 6, 2025

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

Fresh violence rocks Cuttack Landslides leave 20 dead in Darjeeling

■36-hr curfew, 24-hr internet shutdown ■ Majhi, Patnaik appeal for peace



COMMUNAL FIRE: Pushcarts and makeshift shops set on fire in Gourishankar Park area near Dargha Bazar after fresh violence broke out in Cuttack, Sunday

PNN & AGENCIES

Cuttack/Bhubaneswar.

Oct 5: Cuttack remained fresh incidents of violence linked to a group clash two days ago during a Durga idol immersion procession, even as Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and BJD chief Naveen Patnaik urged citizens to maintain communal harmony.

The state government

eas of Cuttack after 25 people were injured in the fresh ep-

Police Commissioner S tense Sunday following Dev Datta Singh said the orders will be effective for 36 hours from 10pm Sunday in the police station areas of Dargha Bazaar, Mangalabag, Cantonment, Purighat, Lalbag, Bidanasi, Markat Nagar, CDA Phase-2, Malgodam, Badambadi, Jagatpur, 42 Mouza and Sadar

Sunday night imposed cur- law and order situation, the few in 13 police station ar- state government suspend- CCTV cameras installed

ed internet services in areas along the route were damisode of violence.

In view of the prevailing

under Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), Cuttack Development Authority (CDA), and the adjoining 42 Mouza region from 7pm

prevent the spread of mis-

information. Majhi and Patnaik's appeal came after the Vishwa ganised a motorcycle rally in the evening defying the dis-

trict administration's order. According to officials,

aged, and shops in Gourishankar Park area were allegedly set on fire after police stopped the procession. The rally, which began at

Sunday to 7pm Monday to Bidyadharpur on the eastern outskirts of the city, moved through key areas, including the Dargha Bazar locality the epicentre of the violence Hindu Parishad (VHP) or- that took place on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday — before ending at Sector 11 of CDA on the city's western fringe.

Participants were heard

chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' as they moved through the city. While appealing for peace, Majhi also said strict action

Majhi, in a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), expressed sorrow over the disturbances and appealed to citizens to maintain communal harmony. "Cuttack is a thousand-year-old city known for its brotherhood. Due to the actions of some miscreants, the peace of the lari Rishikesh Dnyandeo. Accity has been disturbed in cording to police, six persons recent days," he said.

The CM said the government was keeping a close eve on troublemakers and strict action would be taken against them in accordance with the law.

Patnaik also expressed concern over the law and order situation and said Odisha has the reputation of being a peace-loving state.

Barabati-Cuttack MLA Sofia Firdous of Congress said she is "saddened and worried" over the development.

"Our city is a living example of unity and tradition - where Durga Puja has been celebrated for over 500 years. Those who tried to disrupt this unity, identified through CCTV, drone and mobile footage, should be punished as per the law,' Firdous said.

Meanwhile, the VHP has given a 12-hour bandh call in the city October 6 in protest against the group clash during the Durga idol procession. Clashes broke out between

1.30am and 2am Saturday near Haathi Pokhari in Dargha Bazar area when an immersion procession was heading towards Debigada on the banks of the Kathajodi river. According to officials, the

violence erupted after some will be taken against violators. locals objected to high-decibel music being played during the procession.

The arguments soon escalated into a confrontation when a mob started pelting stones and glass bottles from rooftops on the processions, injuring several revellers. including Cuttack DCP Khi-



Darjeeling (WB), Oct 5: At least 20 people, including several children, were killed and scores injured as relentless downpours unleashed massive landslides across the Mirik and Darjeeling hills in West Bengal Sunday, sweeping away homes, severing road links, isolating villages, and leaving hundreds of tourists stranded, officials said.

According to reports compiled by the NDRF and the district administration, fatalities were reported from several locations - Sarsaly, Jasbirgaon, Mirik Basti, Dhar Gaon (Mechi), Nagrakata

and Mirik Lake area. lives is tragic, North Ben- hills to enjoy Durga Puja gal Development Minister Udayan Guha told PTI that the situation is "alarming."s

"As of now the death toll is 20. It is likely to go up. I am on my way to the area," **MORE P3** he said in the evening.

According to the NDRF statement, at least 11 people have died in Mirik, the worst affected area in the landslide and seven injured have been rescued from the area.

In Darjeeling, seven peo ple died and the rescue operations were underway with the help of police, local administration and disaster response teams. 'Seven deaths have been

reported due to a major landslide in Darjeeling subdivision triggered by heavy rainfall since last night The rescue and relief work is on," Darjeeling Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) Richard Lepcha told PTI.

Hundreds of tourists, who Stating that the loss of had flocked to the Darjeeling and post-Puja festivities, have been left stranded as heavy rainfall triggered massive landslides. Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee said she would visit north Bengal October 6. MORE P9

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Not flood relief... it is pre-election relief

RAT deployed on UK-bound AI plane

5: In a major incident involving an Air India plane, Ram Air Turbine (RAT), which is usually used in case of engine failures, got mand from a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft a few minutes before landing at the Birmingham airport Saturday, according to officials. Aviation watchdog DG-

deployed without any com- ic or hydraulic failure, among

from Amritsar to Birming- aircraft in the country. ham October 4. The plane Mumbai/ New Delhi, Oct landed safely, the officials said Sunday.

Generally, RAT gets deployed automatically in the eventuality of a dual engine failure or electrical/electronothers. It uses wind speed to generate emergency power.

The incident has also raised safety concerns, with the Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) urging DGCA to

The deployment of RAT also assumes significance against the backdrop of the crash of an Air India Dreamliner that killed 260 people June 12.

After the fatal accident also, concerns were raised in some quarters about the safety of Dreamliners and some reports had suggested that RAT was deployed prior to the crash, which happened soon after take-off.

In a statement Sunday. CA is probing the incident carry out thorough checks an Air India spokesperson involving aircraft VT-ANO and investigate the electrisaid the operating crew of operating the flight AI117 cal system of all Boeing 787 flight AI117 from Amritsar

to Birmingham October 4 detected deployment of RAT of

the aircraft during its final

approach. "All electrical and hydraulic parameters were found normal, and the aircraft performed a safe landing at Birmingham," the airline said but did not share specific details, including the number of people who were onboard the plane.

A senior DGCA official told PTI that RAT got deployed during landing of the plane at 400 feet but the pilot did not report any related abnormality.

Woman branded by

Jajpur: A 32-year-old woman was allegedly tortured and branded with a hot iron by her in-laws in Bhadrak district, police said Sunday. The incident took place at Kalyani village under Dhamnagar police station limits Saturday, but came to light after the victim's mother filed a complaint with Mangalpur police station in Jajpur district Sunday, officials said.

Killer cough syrup: 2

Betul: Two children from Amla cough syrup, which has been presence of a toxic chemical called diethylene glycol, health officials said Sunday, Amla



Visit: www.dharitriyouthconclave.com for details

Last Date of Entry: 10th October 2025

Arattai hits 7.5 million downloads **ZOHO-BACKED MESSAGING PLATFORM TRENDS ON SOCIAL MEDIA. APP CHARTS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 5: Zoho-backed homegrown messaging platform Arattai has topped 7.5 million overall downloads as on Friday, marking one of the fastest adoption feat for a local app in recent times.

The viral streak comes amid clarion calls by ministers, founders and CEOs to embrace the Made-in-India messaging app, the rapid daily sign-ups that followed, and widespread sharing and invitations circulating on social media platforms, including ironically, various WhatsApp groups.

According to the company, Arattai has touched 7.5 million overall downloads (7.5 million accounts registered overall) as on October 3, 2025, including Google's not allow praise, criticism is our mindset," Vembu, self-reliance in technology.



Vembu in an X post Sunday detailed the homegrown engineering frameworks that In the post, Vembu said he had advised his team to

resolutely stay course, and

or fame to distract.

'This is what I told our of you have worked hard for over 5 years without expecting that the product would ever take off. Allow neither praise nor criticism nor fame to distract you, resolutely stay the course. That and bolster the country's

now chief scientist at Zoho,

He said that while Arattai is a simple product on the surface, it holds a lot of depth inside. Analysts also point

out that the response of deep-pocketed global players, now remains to be seen. Over the last few days, the

homegrown messaging app (Arattai means 'casual chat' in Tamil) has gained ground as secure, user-friendly alternative to WhatsApp, after Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw, Piyush Goyal, and Dharmendra Pradhan publicly endorsed it, bolstering its visibility and credibility.

The surge in popularity aligns with India's ongoing push to promote 'Swadeshi'

hot iron by in-laws

more kids die in MP

block in Madhva Pradesh's Betul district have died allegedly after taking Coldrif banned now as tests showed Block Medical Officer Dr Ashok Narware identified the two children as Kabir (4), and twoand-a-half-vear-old Garmit.

eisure



JASON BATEMAN, TOM HOLLAND TO **COLLABORATE ON THE PARTNER**

Filmmaker Jason Bateman and Hollywood star Tom Holland are in talks to join hands for the upcoming film adaptation of *The* Partner for Universal. The Ozark director will also executive produce the film under his production banner, Aggregate Films, alongside his partner Michael Costigan.

LILY JAMES' UNIQUE RITUAL TO FOCUS

Actress Lily James has revealed her unique ritual to focus, where she creates scents for each of the characters she plays because it focuses her. The 36-year-old actress said "Every day, when I'm getting ready, I spray whatever it is on, and suddenly it takes you to a place and focuses you."



accuracy • reliability • trust

Curl, massage, clip, tweeze, polish, gloss, condition... today, will you attempt to shed your old skin. A dream date may have you in litters but Ganesha suggests that you take it easy. True relationships are not sealed by glossy kisses alone!

TAURUS

This all matters are likely to revolve around the opposite sex. Women are going to feature prominently and significantly in everything that you do. So says Ganesha That is good. But you will be inclined to be lazy and laid back and may thus reduce the effect and impact of efforts

You need to pay more attention to yourself today. Your kind and generous nature means you often think about others rath er than about yourself. Now is the time to pay attention to your own needs. You need to spend more time with your family and friends as well, says Ganesha.

CANCER

You will secure your place with hard work in your job or business. Ties with partners will improve. Closeness with spouse is indicated. Melody and joy will mark domestic bliss. You will spend the evening with your beloved Ganesha's blessings are with you.

The pressure at work will be high. Some person may try to tempt you with lucrative offers to go against your principles. However, you will be able to resist the lure of easy money. Your health may suffer today, so be on guard, says Ganesha

You will stay calm and steady

today, and there is hardly anything that can disturb your peace of mind. Your family and friends will back you fully and motivate you to overcome hurdles. You will work with devotion, says Ganesha. You may ask for work that others may find very

Ganesha says people will try amiable nature and disposition. Small issues will crop up today making your nature a little tensed and enhance your anger too. You will be inspired to take chances in monetary matters.

SCORPIO

Your imagination runs wild today. Though you do not travel geographically, your mind travels beyond boundaries. Think and act according to your will, advises Ganesha. However, practice caution before taking any major step.

SAGITTARIUS

Your will be loaded with responsibilities at work today, fore sees Ganesha. But, you are pro challenges and will take it up sportingly. On personal front, the list of your friends is likely to get longer. All in all, Ganesha sees you in an active avatar today.

CAPRICORN Don't let your emotions play

a spoilsport while deciding about the future. Think practically, otherwise, your expectations and reality will not be on the same boat, guides Ganesha. Friendly and supportive. today you will spread happiness and win the love of one and all.

AQUARIUS

Set any target, take up any activity or accept any challenge; you will succeed in any of them with flying colours, foresees Ganesha. Your well-wishers will shower praises upon your for those hard earned achievements. Friends are like family to you, take them out and have a gala time before another busy day begins.

PISCES

You will be busy with romance throughout the day. While singles are likely to find the person of their dreams, those who are married will establish a new closeness in their relationship. Your attitude towards work will begin to change. You will become more serious about your career, and the fruits of this transformation will be reaped by you shortly in the near future, says Ganesha.



Mumbai: Samantha Ruth Prabhu disclosed the one quote that ended up changing her life perspective to-

The Yashoda actress conducted a fun Q& A session on Instagram Sunday, where one of the users asked her, "What's a quote or line that changed your perspective?'

Replying to the netizen, Samantha was heard saying, "You will find your purpose in the things that bother you, so everything that I am a part of, if you draw a map, will be connected to the things that bother me, and that has simplified my life in many ways and maybe this will help you too, give it a try-you'll find your purpose in the things that both-

During the session, another cybercitizen asked her, "How to focus on health? Being a student it's really hard to find time!! Can u plz give

Saif's fitness mantra

Mumbai: At 55, Saif Ali Khan continues to inspire fans with his

exceptional fitness and discipline. Known as one of Bollywood's fittest actors, the Nawab of Pataudi has found

his balance in yoga, which keeps him strong, flexible, and agile. Unlike many who rely heavily on weight training or cardio, Saif swears by yoga as

the secret to his enduring stamina and physique.

offered fans a glimpse into his routine by sharing

photos of him performing advanced yoga pos-

tures. The images left fans amazed at his core

strength, balance, and control. Rupal revealed

that Saif performed a sequence of handstands,

deep backbends, and forward folds—each targeting

strength, flexibility, and endurance. "This is how

Saif Ali Khan has built his legendary strength and

agility! These flexibility poses are my signature rou-

tine with celebrity clients. Watch as Saif masters

handstands, backbends, and forward folds

this sequence builds a powerful, re-

silient body from the inside

On the professional front,

Saif was last seen in the heist

thriller Jewel Thief, alongside Jaideep Ahlawat, Kun-

al Kapoor, and Nikita Dut-

ta. He will next star in

Privadarshan's remake

of Mohanlal's *Oppam*,

reuniting with Akshay

Kumar after 17 years.

out," she captioned.

October 4, celebrity fitness trainer Rupal Sidh

suggestions? (sic)."

To this, the actress re-"Honestly, it has been a long time since I was a student but I have been hearing a lot about how difficult it is right now for students. The stress is

"But I empathise with you and I really want you to understand that good grades are not everything. I think what I learnt most from being a student and the most important part of being a student was the friendships that I made , respect I had for people around me, and the kindness that I learned from my friends," Samantha



Hina on cancer stigma

Mumbai: Cancer survivor and actor Hina Khan has opened up about her ongoing battle, highlighting the strength and resilience it takes to face life's toughest challenges. In a recent interview, she dismissed the notion

that cancer patients must give up on their lives and careers. "This taboo that a cancer patient has to sit at home and do nothing, and that their life is over, is not true. A few days are difficult, but after that you can get back to work. You should have that will, that strength, and the love of your family. I will always keep doing this (acting); my body should support me," she asserted.

Hina emphasised the importance of mental strength, noting that optimism and family support are vital in fighting back. "Your mental strength is the most important thing. If you think this (cancer) is nothing, it becomes nothing," she added.

Just days ago, she celebrated her birthday in the hospital, sharing a heartfelt Instagram post that touched fans with her unshakable positivity. Hina had revealed her stage three breast cancer diagnosis last June but continues to inspire by returning to work. She is currently seen with husband Rocky Jaiswal on the reality

Panga.

show Pati Patni Aur

Triptii takes trip

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Triptii Dimri, who enchanted the audiences with her hauntingly beautiful performance in the series Bulbbul, took a stroll down memory lane as she rewatched the 2020 period horror-mystery. Taking to her Instagram stories,

Tritpii shared a picture of her television screen with Bulbbul playing on it. "It's that kind of night.. Me.. Bulbbul and a little nostalgia," Triptii wrote as the caption.

She then shared a picture of the moon and wrote: "The after effects of watching Bulbbul."

down memory lane

Bulbbul also stars Avinash Tiwary, Paoli Dam, Rahul Bose, and Parambrata Chattopadhyay. Set against the backdrop of the 1880s Bengal presidency, the film revolves around a child bride and her journey from innocence to The story followed a child bride who grows into an

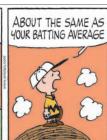
enigmatic woman ruling over her household, hiding her painful past, as supernatural murders of men plague her

Triptii had her first lead role in the romantic drama Laila Majnu in 2018 but gained critical recognition for her performances in Anvita Dutt's films Bulbbul and Qala. She gained popularity with a supporting role in the top-grossing action films Animal, Bad Newz and Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3.

SUDOKU

PEANUTS



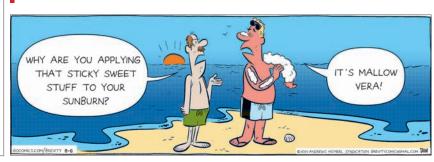




CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



OOST

CROSSWORD

6 Old headwear

to hear (5-2)

13 Cook in oil (4-3)

14 It's against the

19 Ocean motions

21 Quartet member

25 Bakery offering

11 Humour

law

22 Odour

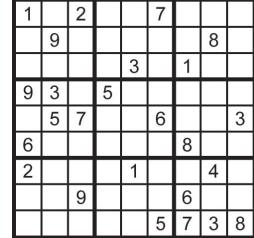
2 French romance 17 Journalist

16 Consume

7 What a fox hates

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any. 8 9

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

23 Ogre

27 Chic

<u>Down</u>

24 Get better

26 They go up and

down (2-3)

1 Pub orders

3 Waikiki wear

4 Stubborn sort

5 Golfer's

leftover

Across

1 Caused a melee

8 Love or hate,

9 Like the flu

10 Chronic nag

12 Erode (3,4)

13 Computer key

18 Unpredictable

20 Roof overhangs

15 Enthusiastic

(4.2)

5 Station

downtown

REGALING SHOW

Artistes perform at 22nd Kumar Utsay organised by Utkal Dance & Research Academy at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



Odisha marks Baji Rout's centenary

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: The quiet village of Neelakanthapur in Bhuban, Dhenkanal, was filled with pride and emotion Saturday as it marked the centenary celebration of Shaheed Baji Rout, India's voungest martyr. The event brought together leaders, villagers, students, and descendants of freedom fighters to honour the 12-year-old boy whose courage became a symbol of India's freedom struggle.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi attended the ceremony and paid floral tribute to Baji Rout. He also inaugurated a sand art and photo exhibition showcasing the young martyr's life and sacrifice.

In his address, the Chief Minister recalled how, at just 12 years old, Baji Rout stood fearlessly before British soldiers and was shot dead for refusing to ferry them across the river. "His bravery and sacrifice are not just memories of the past but living inspirations for generations to come," Majhi said.

To commemorate Baii Rout's brayery, the state government announced a series of initiatives in his honour. A new welfare scheme will be launched in his name, and a road in Bhubaneswar will be dedicated to him. Most notably, a ₹120-crore Baji Rout Sports Complex will be established in Dhenkanal, envisioned as a centre for youth



empowerment and sporting ex-

The CM also declared that Neelakanthapur, Baji Rout's birthplace, would be developed as a model village, showcasing how the birthplaces of national heroes should be preserved and promoted.

In a notable policy shift, the CM announced that the anniversaries of Odisha's great personalities will henceforth be celebrated not only in Bhubaneswar but also in their native places—ensuring their legacy remains connected to

Speaking with conviction, CM Maihi said. "Our vouth must follow the ideals of Baji Rout. His life—though short was marked by unparalleled bravery, sacrifice, and devotion to duty. He stands as a symbol

Odisha government to launch a welfare scheme in Baji Rout's

A road in Bhubaneswar to be dedicated to the young martyr

₹120-crore Baji Rout Sports Complex planned in Dhenkanal for youth and sports

Neelakanthapur to be developed as a model village honoring national heroes' birthplaces

Dhenkanal set for industrial growth with ₹50,000 crore projects, including ₹30,000 crore in solar power, creating 26,000+ jobs

of our cultural pride and an inspiration for a prosperous Odisha and a developed India." The Chief Minister also

outlined a bold developmen-

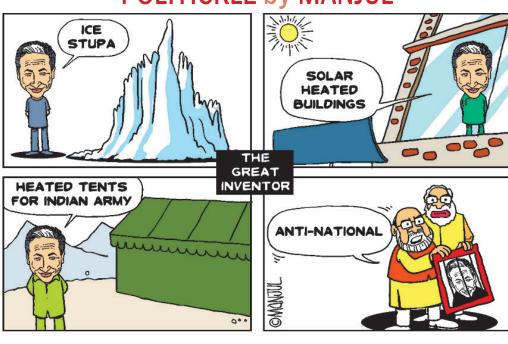
tal roadmap for Dhenkanal and the state. He announced that the region is poised for an industrial transformation, with projects worth over ₹50,000 crore in the pipeline, including ₹30,000 crore in solar power investments. The initiatives are expected to establish Dhenkanal as a solar power hub and create more than 26,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities, enabling local youth to shape their futures within their own homeland.

"Our goal," the Chief Minister said, "is to ensure that no young person has to leave their village in search of work. Our sons and daughters will find employment and dignity in their own land."

He added that by 2036, when Odisha marks its centenary as a separate state, every district should be self-reliant and prosperous. "Strong districts will make a strong Odisha," he

The ceremony also featured the release of the book "The Immortal Martyr Baji Rout of Dhenkanal's People's Movement", published by the Sahitya Akademi, and the unveiling of Baji Rout's portrait. Both will be distributed to schools across the district, aiming to inspire children from a young age with his story and encourage them to dream big and live

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



2 Haryana men held for posing as govt officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: Bhubaneswar police arrested two persons from Haryana for impersonating senior central government officials and preparing forged documents with intent to cheat, an officer said Sunday.

The accused have been identified as Choudhury Rinku Saini and Maninder Singh. They were apprehended from Maitri Vihar police station

Choudhury Saini claimed

to be the 'National Chairman of Social Justice and Women Empowerment Commission,' a position that does not exist, said Bhubaneswar DCP Jagmohan Meena.

Further investigation stated that Saini holds no statutory position in any government commission.

The second accused, Manindra Singh, acted as the personal assistant of Chaudhary.

During investigation, it was found that the accused persons also submitted forged documents claiming to be from Min istry of Home Affairs (MHA), government of India, he said.

"Prima facie, the ID cards and letters produced by him were found to be forged, and discrepancies were noted in the designation. They also sent their tour programmes in a fake letterhead," Meena added.

"By impersonating senior government of India officials and using forged documents, the accused committed forgery with the intention of cheating,







Local vendor's pushcart set on fire near Gouri Shankar Park

Violence in Cuttack



A demonstration near Dargha Bazar police station



Police force deployed at Choudhury Bazar square



Police flag march in Dargha Bazar police station area



Damaged vehicles

NaMo Semiconductor Lab to be set up at IIT-Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: In a major boost to India's semiconductor ecosystem, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has approved the setting up of the NaMo Semiconductor Laboratory at IIT-Bhubaneswar. The advanced facility, to be funded under the MPLAD Scheme, will be established at an estimated cost of ₹4.95 crore.

CM Mohan Charan Majhi expressed gratitude to PM Narendra Modi and Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for approving the 'NaMo Semiconductor Laboratory' at IIT-Bhubaneswar.

He said the move, coming soon after the Odisha Cabinet's approval of the Semiconductor Policy and multiple MoUs with leading firms, will further position the state as a hub for semiconductor research, design, and advanced manufacturing.

The CM said, "I am confident that the 'NaMo Semiconductor Laboratory' will inspire youth, drive innovation, and strengthen Odisha's presence on the national and global semiconductor map, while advancing the 'Make in India' and 'Design in India' missions.

The new lab is expected to play a crucial role in advancing the 'Make in India' and 'Design in India' initiatives by equipping students and researchers with industry-ready skills in semiconductor design, manufacturing, and packaging. Of the total budget, ₹4.6 crore will be allocated for equipment and ₹35 lakh for cutting-edge software tools essential for training and fabrication processes

The selection of IIT-Bhubaneswar as the location for this initiative is no coincidence. Odisha has recently been approved for two major semiconductor projects under the India

Semiconductor Mission—an integrated facility for Silicon Carbide (SiC)-based compound semiconductors and a high-tech 3D glass packaging unit.

IIT-Bhubaneswar already hosts the Silicon Carbide Research and Innovation Centre (SiCRIC) and has well-established clean room facilities. The addition of the NaMo Semiconductor Lab will further enhance its capabilities, transforming the institute into a national hub for semiconductor research, inno-

vation, and skill development. India currently accounts for nearly 20 per cent of the global chip design talent, with students from over 295 universities accessing industry-grade EDA (Electronic Design Automation) tools. Already, 28 student-designed chips from 20 institutes have been taped out at SCL Mohali, signaling a growing academic-industry collaboration.

Govt to revive Bhagabata Tungi in every village: CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday said his government would revive Bhagabata Tungis in every village across the state.

Bhagabata Tungi is a small cottage where villagers gather after the day's hard work to discuss religion, scriptures and culture. These places are considered central to the spiritual, cultural and social fabric of Odisha's rural life. Attending the Srimad Bhagvat Mahotsav here, Majhi said the state government is committed to reviving and establishing "Bhagavad in every Odia home and Bhagabata Tungi in every village."

Stating that youth play a key role in the development of society, the chief minister said learning the Bhagavad Gita is a powerful means to guide them on a spiritual path. "The Srimad Bhagvat Mahotsav strengthens devotion, respect and core values in society. It encourages people to engage in righteous actions and fosters community development," Majhi said.

He noted that the Srimad Bhagavad focuses on five key principles — God, life, nature, time and karma — that guide human conduct and uphold universal order. Listening to the Bhagavat is considered ideal throughout life, he added



'Capital needs to embrace people-centric planning'

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: On the occasion of World Habitat Day 2025 today, observed under the urban experts and environmentalists called for a transformational shift in Bhubaneswar's urban planning approach to meet the growing challenges of urbanisation, climate change, and migration.

Bhubaneswar must break free from car culture'

Piyush Ranjan Rout, an urban planner and city expert, emphasised the urgent need for the Capital to move beyond its car-centric culture and adopt world is moving away from car-centric development towards urban planning which prioritises people and the environment. Bhubaneswar must follow it," said Rout.

"Today, knowingly or unknowingly, the city faces rising congestion, pollution, and climate-related challenges. New urbanism, which emphasises pedestrians, cyclists, community spaces, and public transport,

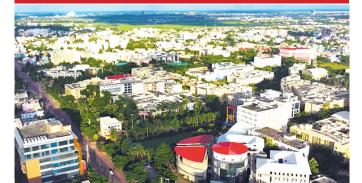
Rout envisions a city where every essential services starting from healthcare to grocer-

10-minute walk, eliminating the need for vehicles and reducing pollution, noise, and accidents. "Imagine vibrant public spaces where people can walk, shop, play, and socialise without the dangers of traffic. That's the Bhubaneswar I dream of-a city that supports a higher quality of life through better planning," he added.

He also stressed that urbanisation must not be seen merely as a technical or economic endeavour, but a human-centered one-especially as Odisha pur-Project (Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Puri-Paradip), aligned with the state's ambitious goal of becoming a \$500 billion economy by 2036 and \$1.5 trillion by

"Sustainable, inclusive & livable cities are the need of the hour"

Echoing the theme of this year's Habitat Day, environmental expert JK Panigrahi said, "The theme 'Urban Crisis Response' is a timely reminder that cities must strive for sustainability, equality and resilience. Bhubaneswar's original design was an architectural masterpiece, but its expansion has unfortunately led to the loss of natural her-



WORLD HABITAT DAY 2025

unsustainable practices.

Panigrahi highlighted that modern urban development should not compromise on the environment or inclusivity. We need to reimagine Bhubaneswar with a focus on green spaces, clean water, affordable housing, and reduced pollution. Let's build cities that nurture both people and the planet,'

"Urban housing crisis in Odisha: Approvals delay and affordability major hurdles"

Gautam Kumar Agarwal, an architect and infrastructure consultant emphasised that

grant workers, emphasised the crucial need to address the influx of migrant workers. "Rap id urban growth will attract thousands of rural migrants seeking employment. But without proper planning, this could lead to overcrowding in slums and new informal settlements.

urged the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) to take a proactive role in ensuring habitat rights for migrant workers through well-planned work er colonies, affordable rental housing, and access to basic amenities.

"Migrant workers are the backbone of city-building. Respecting their dignity through inclusive housing policies will be key to a truly sustainable Bhubaneswar," he added.

As Bhubaneswar positions itself as a smart city of the future. experts agree that addressing its urban crises with bold, human-centered policies is no longer optional—it's essential.

On this World Habitat Day 2025, the message is clear urban development must be reimagined not just for economic growth, but for people, the environment, and a more inclusive tomorrow.

SSB aspirants launch hunger strike in City



Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: Frustrated over a prolonged delay in the State Selection Board (SSB) recruitment process, SSB aspirants have launched hunger strike here at Lower PMG Square Sunday

According to the agitators, around 85,000 aspirants are fighting for justice since last two years. Despite repeated appeals to the authorities, the pleas have gone unheard, they alleged.

The key demands of the aspirants includes, Advocate October 9, 2025 SSB case hearing and bring it to a final conclusion, conduct the pending

2025, conduct future examinations as per the 2016 recruitment policy and continue its implementation, and complete abolishment of the guest facul

"After years of waiting and disappointment, we have no other option left. We are fight ing not just for ourselves but for the future of thousands of deserving candidates, Parameswar Bala, a SSB aspirant who is on the hunger strike said

"If our just demands are accepted, it will serve the interests of Odisha's meritorious youth and bring transparency to the recruitment process

Urgent need to develop, preserve forest corridors: OES experts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: Experts highlighted the growing threat human activities and called for the urgent need to develop and preserve forest corridors in order to ensure survival and well-being of wildlife and ecoof wildlife week by Orissa Environmental Society (OES)

OES organised a seminar on the theme 'Significance of ference hall Sunday, presided over by OES working president Javakrushna Panigrahi. The seminar featured former Forests (Wildlife) Bijay Ketan Patnaik as the chief guest, and Bhubaneswar City Forest Division DFO Biswaraj Panda as the chief speaker.

Patnaik elaborated on the critical ecological functions that forest corridors support such as seed dispersal, pollination, and wildlife movement and lamented the increasing incidents of human-wildlife conflict in Odisha. He called for a fresh survey to reassess and update corridor identification in the state, stressing the need



earmarked by the Forest department in 2010.

Speaking on the occasion, Panda underscored the impact of habitat fragmentation on Odisha's wildlife and advocated for the development of additional corridors and conservation reserves. He also proposed the use of satellite-based tracking to monitor wildlife movement and improve corridor planning.

In his address, Panigrahi highlighted that forest corridors not only benefit wildlife but also provide crucial ecosystem services to humans—like clean air, water and carbon sequestration. Joining virtually, OES president Sundara corridors are essential for preserving biodiversity and supporting ecosystem functions.

Earlier, OES secretary Manoranjan Mishra delivered the welcome address, stressing the importance of protecting and restoring these ecological linkages. The vote of thanks was offered by joint secretary Surabhi Jain.

The seminar saw active participation from OES members, conservationists, and nature enthusiasts. Distinguished attendees included Lala AK Singh, Prakash Chandra Jena, Dillip Ray, Sudhakar Kar, SP Adhikari and Suresh Chandra Maharana.

Meeting to build stronger ties between Raj & Odisha

be taken seriously by the state

government to effectively ad-

dress the challenges. One of

the major issues, he noted, is

the real estate sector. "Accord-

ing to a study, Bhubaneswar

has emerged as one of India's

least affordable capital cities

for housing-even the top 5 per

cent of urban families in Odi-

sha would need over 50 years

of savings to afford a mid-sized

With Bhubaneswar set for

major urban expansion, Saroj

Barik, an activist working for

Managing migration: A key

home," he said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: Odisha Chapter of the Rajasthan successfully convened its first executive members meeting at Terapanth Bhawan here Sunday, president Ajay Agarwal, marking a significant milestone in strengthening the presence of the Rajasthani community in Odisha and deepening connections among Rajasthan-origin families residing outside their home state.

The gathering saw enthusiastic participation from executive members, business leaders, professionals, and representatives of various social organisations.

In his presidential address, Agarwal warmly welcomed all members and reaffirmed the connect, support, and celebrate the Rajasthani diasporas while contributing meaningfully to the development of both Odisha and the nation.

Addressing the members Agarwal said, "Rajasthan Foundation is not just an organisation—it is a family that binds us all by our roots, culture, and shared values. Together, we can contribute to both our motherland Rajasthan and our home

55TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF PRANANATH PATNAIK

Patnaik's ideals continue to inspire generations: Guv



Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: Prananath Patnaik was a visionary, whose ideals and unwavering commitment to justice, equality, and social welfare continue to inspire generations in Odisha and beyond, said Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati on the 55th death anniversary of eminent freedom fighter and stalwart leader here Sunday.

Speaking at the commemorative programme organised by the State Prananath Me

morial Committee at Jaydev Bhavan, the Governor said Patnaik was not only a fearless freedom fighter but also a pioneering socialist, political thinker, social reformer, writer, educationist, and a dedicated servant of the people. "His life reminds us that true freedom lies not only in political independence but also in the empowerment of every individual, particularly the weakest and most vulnerable," he said.

Kambhampati observed

political freedom, challenges such as eradicating poverty reducing inequalities, and ensuring inclusive devel opment remain significant 'In this context, the ideals of Prananath Patnaik serve as a guiding light for our efforts, he added

The Governor also praised Patnaik's simplicity, integ stressing that he considered education as a right for all politics as a duty of service, and leadership as walking alongside people in their struggles. "What set him apart was not only his role in great movements but also the values he steadfastly lived by. Kambhampati said.

Highlighting Patnaik's en during vision of justice, equality, and compassion, the Governor appealed to all citizens to draw inspiration from his life, uphold his values, and work together to build an Odisha and an India that embody justice, compassion, and inclusive progress.

Alumni role in school devpt to be expanded: Ahuja

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: The contribution of alumni to their alma maters is invaluable. Their support and participation play a vital role in the growth and progress of schools, strengthening infrastructure and enhancing the quality of education, said Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja recently. In order to further expand

alumni participation and involvement in school development, a series of new initiatives and programmes will be introduced, said Ahuja, who chaired the first governing body meeting of 'Panchasakha Shiksha Setu'.

The meeting reviewed the progress of various programmes and initiatives undertaken following the first and second executive committee meetings. In the two previous meetings, a total of 1,569 projects worth 26 crore were approved across 25 districts, combining alumni contributions with matching funds allocation by the government.



Appreciating the ongoing activities of the organisation, Ahuja emphasised the importance of alumni-led development initiatives and urged continued collaboration to strengthen the education ecosystem in the state.

During the meeting, it was decided that under the joint initiative of the School and Mass Education (S&ME) department. students from Classes VI to X in

PM SHRI schools will receive training in financial literacy. A MoU between Panchasakha Shiksha Setu and the National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) will soon be signed for this purpose

The governing body also approved the comprehensive development of 51 heritage schools identified under the Aitihya Vidvalava initiative. Additionally, the proposal for the construction of mid-day meal halls in selected schools through CSR funding was approved.

The body also sanctioned the annual budget of the organisation and approved several programme plans and budgetary allocations for the upcoming period.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary vice-chairperson of the organisation Shalini Pandit also

highlighted the importance of strengthening alumni engagement in school development.

Panchasakha Shiksha Setu member convenor and secretary Ananya Das, special secretary Rajlaxmi Das, elementary education director Balmukund Bhuiyan, secondary education director Birendra Karkara, Higher Secondary Education director Niyati Pattnaik, ST and SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare department joint director Tuku Barik, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department director Vineet Bhardwai, S&ME department additional secretary Durgaprasad Mohapatra, Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities department additional secretary Bhaskar Raito, Kendrapara DM Raghuram Iyer, Sundargarh DM Subhankar Mohapatra Malkangiri additional collector Bedabar Pradhan, and special programme officer Maniprasad Mishra, among others attended



WEATHER			
	BBSR	СТС	FORECAST
Max Temp	29.7°	29.8°	Light to moderate
Min Temp	25.8°	24.6°	rain or Thundershower
Humidity	91%	92%	very likely to occur
Rainfall	0.6mm	Nil	

CONTACT FOR CLASSIFIED **ERTISEMENTS**

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.

Woman branded by hot iron by in-laws; critical

Pranati Das of Dihudi Sahi-Kan-

ikapada in Jajpur district was

married to Jagabandhu Das of

Kalyani village in 2016. Since

the marriage, she has been

subjected to physical and men-

tal torture by her husband and

in-laws, the complaint alleged.

On Saturday, she was al-

legedly tied up and branded

with a hot iron on her thighs.

hands, stomach, back, chest,

and private parts, leaving her

with severe burn injuries and

blisters, police said quoting the



Jajpur, Oct 5: A 32-year-old woman was allegedly tortured and branded with a hot iron by her in-laws in Bhadrak district, police said Sunday.

The incident took place at Kalyani village under Dhamnagar police station limits Saturday, but came to light after the victim's mother filed a complaint with Mangalpur police station in Jajpur district Sunday, officials said.

According to the complaint,

Her in-laws then allegedly took Pranati in an auto-rickshaw and dumped her a few yards away from her parental home in Dihudi Sahi Saturday night. Some villagers spotted Pranati lying on the road and rescued her.

She was initially taken to Mangalpur community health centre for treatment, following which she was shifted to Jajpur District Headquarters Hospital where doctors described her condition as critical, hospital sources said.

"My son-in-law and his family members used to torture my daughter physically and mentally after the marriage. They branded my daughter with a hot iron. The assault was so severe that my daughter is unable to move and speak," the victim's mother stated in her complaint.

Acting on the complaint, Mangalpur police registered a case Sunday and transferred it to Dhamnagar police station for further investigation, said Jajpur Town Sub Divisional Police Officer Prasant Kumar

Man kills brother-in-law to avenge slap in Jajpur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, Oct 5: A man alleged ly killed his brother-in-law over a family feud in Jajpur district, police said Sunday.

The accused, identified as Kanhei Behera, allegedly attacked Mithun Behera, a resident of Raisuan in Keonjhar district, with a sharp weapon, killing him on the spot, they said.

Mithun had come to his elder brother Rasik Behera's house in Panasia village along with his wife and two daughters for Durga Puja. Kanhei, who lived nearby, visited Rasik's house Friday, when an argument broke out between him and Mithun over a petty domestic issue. In a fit of anger, Mithun allegedly slapped Kanhei during the quarrel. To avenge the insult, Kanhei

went to Rasik's house again Saturday and took Mithun out on the pretext of drinking. About 300 metres from the house, he allegedly attacked Mithun with a sharp-edged weapon and fled, leaving him dead in a pool of blood.

Police said they have sent the body for post-mortem examination and launched a search for Kanhei.

The blood-stained weapon has been recovered, they said.

Youth swept away in Gundichaghagi waterfall

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonihar, Oct 5: In a tragic incident, a 26-year-old man went missing Sunday after be ing swept away by strong currents at Gundichaghagi Waterfall near Banachakulia village. under Ghatagaon police limits in Keonjhar district.

The missing individual was identified as Satyaprakash Mahanta, a resident Badashiadimal village under Harichandanpur police limits. He worked as an ambulance driver in Paradip. According to sourc-

es, Mahanta had visited the popular waterfall with friends

earlier in the day. While bathing in the main tank, he reportedly slipped and was swept away by the swirling waters. Heavy rainfall in recent days has increased the water flow, contributing to the dangerous conditions

Despite immediate efforts by locals and a search operation launched by police and fire services personnel, Mahanta remained untraceable as

of the latest reports. Rescue operations continued until evening but were hindered by persistent rain.

This is the second such incident reported at Gundichaghagi Waterfall within a month. A tourist from the Soro area of Balasore district also went

missing after being swept away while bathing September 8. His body has yet to be recovered.

The repeated incidents have raised serious concerns about tourist safety at the site. Locals expressed frustration over the lack of preventive measures despite multiple mishaps. They noted that the waterfall's

fast-flowing current, especially after rain, poses a continuous danger to visitors.

"The search operation is underway, but the youth is yet to be traced," said Ghatagaon IIC Subhranta Kumar Jena.

Locals have urged the administration to install warning signage, deploy safety personnel, and restrict access during high-risk weather conditions to prevent further tragedies.

Locals boycott two families in Ganjam village: probe on

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, Oct 5: Residents of Jarapadar village under Kainchapur panchayat and Ganjam police limits in this district have been accused of socially boycotting two families, prompting a police investigation.

According to a complaint filed a few days ago, villagers allegedly socially boycotted H Ramachandra Reddy and his wife, H Sabitri Reddy, over an unspecified dispute. The villag ers also reportedly demanded a fine from Sabitri. Unable to pay, she lodged a complaint at the Ganjam police station and appealed for help.

Sabitri further alleged that her brother, S. Ashanta, was also ostracized after the villag ers found him speaking to his sister. Police registered case (300/25) and launched an in vestigation. Officers reported ly visited the village Saturday during a community meeting, examined records and took photographs.

Inspector-in-Charge Sumitra Patra said the villagers were scheduled to hold a meeting October 3, but it was postponed due to low-pressure triggered heavy rain and storms.

Two bikers killed, 2 critical in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pandripani, Oct 5: Two motorcyclists were killed and two others critically injured in separate accidents after their bikes rammed into the same unattended breakdown truck on National Highway 326 near Katameta village in Malkangiri district Saturday. The deceased were identified

as Suku Khila and Bhima Khila, both residents of Kankadi village under Sindhrimal panchayat in Malkangiri block. According to police, they were heading to Gobindapalli to attend a local fair Saturday night when their motorcycle crashed into the stationary truck. They



Earlier in the morning, two other youths traveling toward Jevpore were seriously injured after their motorcycle collided with the same truck, which had reportedly been left abandoned on the roadside for two

days following a breakdown. The injured were first taken to the Malkangiri District Headquarters Hospital and later shifted to SLN Medical College and Hospital in Koraput. Their

Angered by the fatalities, family members and local villagers staged a road blockade on the highway from 6am to 10am Sunday, demanding compensation for the victims' families. The protest disrupted traffic for nearly four hours, leaving several vehicles stranded.

Senior officials, including Malkangiri SDPO Dibyaranjan Dalai, police IIC Regan Kindo, and Mathili Tehsildar Manasi Bhoi, reached the protest site and persuaded the agitators to withdraw the blockade. The protest ended peacefully.

Police said the bodies of the deceased were sent for post-mortem and an investiga-

Man hacked to death by stepson in Joda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, Oct 5: In a shocking incident, a 15-year old boy hacked his stepfather to death with the help of his two friends at Hanuman hutting in this town in Keonihar district Sunday. The deceased was identified

as Manoj Kalandi, 45, a resident of Hanuman hutting in this town. The accused stepson and his two associates are absconding after the incident. The incident has once again

brought to light on increasing involvement of minors in offenses like vandalism to serious crimes like murders. Police said the 15-year-old

accused attacked him with an iron rod and later with a



heated dispute. Two of the boy's associates also allegedly joined the assault before all three fled

According to reports, Manoj, despite married, remarried a widow five years back. His second wife had a 15-year old son from earlier relationship. Manoj was not on good terms with his stepson and the two had frequent arguments on various issues.

The incident occurred when Manoj was on his way to the local market on his scooter (OD 09 G 8372) at around 9am Sunday. The boy waylaid him and struck him with an iron rod As Manoj collapsed, he and his two friends launched an organised attack on the former and assaulted him with iron pipes and sharp-edged weapons before absconding the scene.

Local residents rushed Manoj to the Tata Steel Hospital in critical condition, where doctors pronounced him dead.

Joda Police have registered a case (299/2025) and launched a manhunt to trace the accused

Excise department seizes 2,100 liters of illicit brew in Koraput

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput. Oct 5: In a major crackdown on illegal liquor production, the Excise Department conducted a surprise raid at Dengajaniguda, under Koraput Sadar police limits, seizing a large quantity of country-made liquor and raw

Acting on a tip-off, excise officials recovered 2.100 liters of fermented wash - used to distill illicit liquor — and 130 liters of country-made liquor during the operation.

Excise Officer Sudhir Sahu said the seized wash was destroyed on the spot to prevent further illegal distillation. The raid is part of an intensified drive launched by the department to curb the rise of illicit liquor trade in the district's rural areas.

No arrests were made during the raid. However, the department registered two claimless cases and launched an investigation to identify those involved in the illegal brewing network. Officials suspect large-scale production was taking place in hidden locations in forested areas near Dengajaniguda, with the illicit liquor being supplied to nearby markets.

Following reports of increased activity in the country liquor trade after the recent festive season, the excise team has stepped up surveillance in several sensitive zones of Koraput.

Ganjam police seize huge haul of

Chhatrapur, Oct 5: While festivals bring joy and celebration, they also cast a shadow, keeping police on high alert. In Ganjam district, criminals exploited the festive season, challenging law enforcement during the recent Durga Puja.

Ganjam Superintendent of Police Suvendu Kumar Patra ordered district-wide crackdown targeting illegal gambling and firecracker possession. From September 15 to October 3, special teams conducted raids and surprise checks at suspected

Police raided 40 gambling

cash, firecrackers in festival raid dens, seizing ₹7,10,342 in cash, 124 mobile phones, and 26 mo-

> 260 individuals for illegal gambling. Similarly, raids were con-

torcycles. Authorities arrested

ducted by special teams constituting magistrates, SDPOs, IICs and other officers under "Operation Agni" mission launched by the Odisha government to apprehend illegal possession of firecrackers and explosives.

Astonishingly, firecrackers worth ₹52.72 lakhs were seized and destroyed by different police stations, registering 34 cases arresting 2 people. Chatrapur police alone seized more than thirty lakhs rupees worth of firecrackers in 3 cases, while Ganjam, Rambha, Purushottampur, Khallikote, Kodala and Beguniapada police have seized ₹2.01 lakhs in 11 differ-

ent cases. On the other hand, police from Aska, Kabisuryanagar, Polasara, Buguda, Hinjilicut, Bellaguntha, Sheragada, Gangapur and Bhanjanagar successfully seized ₹20.71 lakhs of illegal firecrackers and explosives registering 20 different cases. The department has issued warning

notices to the culprits. Now, with Kumar Purnima and Diwali festivals round the corner, Patra vowed to continue opera tions to curb illegal activities.

GLOBAL WARMING PUTS SUNAPUR BEACH AT RISK



DWARKA PRASAD PATNAIK, OP

Chhatrapur, Oct 5: Sunapur Beach, one of Odisha's prized blue flag beaches along the Bay of Bengal, is facing an alarming threat from rising sea levels and coastal erosion driven by global warming.

Nestled in a secluded corner of Ganjam district, Sunapur Beach earned international recognition in January 2024 when it was awarded the coveted blue flag status by the Foundation for Environmental Education, Denmark. The beach quickly became a popular eco-retreat, drawing tourists year-round with its pristine sands and tranquil waves.

But less than two years later, the beach's future appears precarious

Increasingly larger waves have been eroding the beach's surface sand, carving artificial reefs along the coastline. These formations expose the underlying soil, accelerating erosion despite efforts from native beach morning glory creepers to stabilize the shore. Officials report that the waves have already swallowed 20 to 30 meters of coastal sand, leaving only about 50 meters of coastal plain to sustain the blue flag beach. Scientists warn that if the trend continues, rising seas could push saltwater up to 2 kilometers inland, threat ening human settlements near Sunapur without the need for

"This is a wake-up call," said a local environmentalist. "Global warming is not just a distant problem — it's here, eroding our shores and our livelihoods."

Experts are urging coordinated action on both regional and international levels to protect aquatic life and safeguard the fragile coastal ecosystem.

Without swift intervention, the iconic beauty and ecological significance of Sunapur Beach could soon be lost.

Helmets made mandatory for BeMC employees riding two-wheelers

Berhampur: The Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) in Ganjam district has made wearing of helmets mandatory for all its employees coming to office on two-wheelers. An official order in this regard was issued by BeMC Commissioner Prathamesh Arvind Rajeshir. Action will be taken against those not abiding by the directive, it said. Around 1,000 employees daily visit the BeMC premises. BeMC Mayor Sanghamitra Dalei said it is a significant step towards improving road safety in the city.

Khandapada potters struggle against plastic, poverty

Generations of artisans in Nayagarh forced to abandon ancestral craft as demand declines

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khandapada, Oct 5: The humble potter's wheel, once a symbol of self-reliance and cultural pride, now turns in despair. In villages across Navagarh, the potter community is watching its centuries-old craft crumble as earthenware loses ground to plastic and steel. What was once a dignified livelihood has become a fight for survival for many artisans

For generations, households relied on clay vessels—pitchers for water, urns for rituals, and pots for cooking. Potters (kumbhakaras) shaped earth into life's essentials and were indispensable during festivals, weddings, and even funerals. But in today's age of steel and plastic, the demand for clay pots has fallen drastically, leaving potters struggling to sell even a handful of pots.

The process of preparing earthenware is laborious. Potters first collect suitable clay. soak it in water for a day, and then knead it to remove stones and impurities. The prepared clay is shaped into lumps and placed on the spinning wheel, where artisans carefully mould items. The half-made wares are dried in shade for hours, beaten into proper shape, and then fired in kilns called 'uha'. The firing technique is critical as improper temperature or environment can ruin the entire batch. Depending on the fuel. firing may take three to eight hours, and the colour of the pottery changes accordingly. Once ready, transporting

the fragile wares poses another challenge. Potters usually carry them on their heads, bicycles, or by hand rather than using motor vehicles. Despite their toil, the meagre returns hardly match the effort.

Veteran potters like Pabi Muduli, 50, and Gobardhan Muduli, 68, of Benagadia lament the loss of respect and demand for their products. "In our childhood, we took pride in this profession. Now, in the era of plastic and steel, hardly anyone is interested in clay pots.

Carrying 15 to 20 pots yields so little that it does not even cover our labour." they said.

Some artisans have found partial relief through terracotta work. Potters such as Pavitra Mohan Muduli, 56, and Gobardhan Muduli, 45, who received training from the state Handicrafts Directorate in 1991, now make decorative terracotta

items and sell them at fairs in Cuttack's Bali Jatra, Puri, Bhubaneswar, Dhenkanal, and Angul. These products fetch better prices, though government schemes have fallen short in providing equipment and support to improve quality. In Benagadia, 42 households

belong to the potter community, while Tentuliapalli has

25 and Jogiapalli 20 to 25. Yet only 20 to 25 families across these villages remain active in the craft. For many, pottery has been both livelihood and tradition handed down generations. From cooking pots to ritual vessels and terracotta art, they mould everything by hand.

However, rising costs of firewood, government restrictions on its collection and water scarcity in summer have further strained the profession, "Half the family works in pottery, but the earnings are never enough. Still, we cannot abandon our ancestral craft," said artisans Lingaraj Muduli, 62, Bhobei Muduli, 65, and Maheshwar Muduli, 70. Others such as Kar tik Muduli note that younger generations prefer wage labour outside the village, finding no

future in pottery. Potters argue that unless the government steps in with concrete measures such as affordable raw materials, modern equipment, and market linkages, the centuries-old craft may vanish altogether.



power post



The whole world yearns after freedom, yet each creature is in love with his chains; this is the first paradox and inextricable knot of our nature.



SRI AUROBINDO

Toxic Syrup

rug adulteration is a major scourge in India where an unholy nexus of the all-powerful pharma industry and unscrupulous doctors, who are incentivised to prescribe medicines of specific brands, has been playing havoc with the lives of common people in the absence of little to no regulatory scrutiny. Within few weeks, at least 14 children in Madhya Pradesh and two in Rajasthan have died of renal failure allegedly after the consumption of a particular brand of cough syrup. Investigations by Central and state drug regulators have revealed that the cough syrup 'Coldrif' contained chemicals such as diethylene glycol (DEG), a toxic industrial solvent used in antifreeze and brake fluids. DEG is highly toxic if ingested even in small amounts and has been known to cause kidney failure and death, especially in children. Shockingly, laboratory tests conducted by the Tamil Nadu Food and Drugs Administration revealed that Coldrif contained a whopping 48.6 per cent DEG. Three states - Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala -- have banned the cough syrup, while Telangana has issued a public alert on the product.

The Union Health Ministry has issued an advisory directing that cough and cold medications should not be prescribed or dispensed to children below two years of age. It also circulated directives to Directors of Health Services in all states and Union Territories to ensure compliance. In Madhya Pradesh, authorities arrested Dr. Praveen Soni for prescribing the toxic syrup to several children, while the state government filed a case against Sresan Pharmaceuticals, the Tamil Nadu-based manufacturer of Coldrif. Apart from this, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has begun risk-based inspections of manufacturing units across six states -- Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra -- following collection of 19 samples including that of cough syrups, antipyretics and antibiotics. All these steps were taken only after the loss of lives, whereas a robust regulatory mechanism would have prevented such deaths.

The incident has once again put India's pharmaceutical industry under global scrutiny. In 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) had linked Indian-made cough syrups to the deaths of 70 children in Gambia, a claim disputed by New Delhi. In December 2022, Nepal black-listed 16 Indian pharmaceutical companies after authorities alleged that these firms had failed to meet WHO prescribed standards for good manufacturing practices. The following year, WHO warned against two more India-made syrups after Uzbekistan reported 18 children deaths. Within ten months, another global alert was issued when toxic contaminants were detected in medicines from India found in Iraq, raising serious concerns about the country's drug manufacturing and quality control standards, despite its reputation as the "pharmacy of the world."

India's pharmaceutical industry supplies about 20 per cent of the world's medicines and 60 per cent of its vaccines, making it a global leader in affordable healthcare solutions. Its greatest achievement lies in the production and export of generic drugs — medicines that contain the same active ingredients as branded versions but are sold at significantly lower prices once the original patent expires. These cost-effective generics have boosted access to essential medicines worldwide and remain the backbone of India's pharma exports, contributing nearly 70 per cent of the country's total pharmaceutical export revenue.

It is important to note here that while other countries, where such wrongdoing by Indian drugmakers has been noticed, have taken swift punitive measures, the same kind of response is lacking in India. But this is asking for too much in a country where the value of human life is scant and corruption thrives with impunity.

Given India's high disease burden, among the top in the world, drug adulteration could lead to a public health emergency if urgent measures are not initiated. However, it would be unjust to blame the Government alone for 'regulatory' failures. The Government whether at the Union level or the State, does not possess qualified and dedicated human resource who would take the assigned work seriously. No one can dispute that production quality of medicines should be considered at the top most level and must be impeccable. While considering this aspect, it would be wise to take into account facts such as the angle of the owners of these drug manufacturing units and their desire to make more profit, they could very well be tipping doctors at all levels to prescribe particular medication. Apart from the marketing team keen on achieving sales targets, the production side also could be cutting corners by sourcing low quality or DEG type of ingredients. Then there are the sub standard factory level workers who could not care less as to the exact proportion of chemicals that are being mixed to prepare a particular formulation. Closer inspection of all products is essential but then which authority is capable to remain above greed, corruption and inefficiency and for how long is probably the eternal question that Indians need to be asking themselves before they blame anyone.

WISDOM CORNER

All significant truths are private truths. As they become public they cease to become truths; they become facts, or at best, part of the public character; or at worst, catchwords.

ras. TS ELIOT

As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being.

CARL JUNG

People demand freedom of speech as a compensation for the freedom of thought which they seldom use.

OREN KIERKEGAARD

JOHEN MEMBERAL

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1892: The English poet widely regarded as the chief representative of the Victorian Age in poetry, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, died at age 83.
- 1908: Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria-Hungary declared the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which had been nominally under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. The takeover raised tensions within the Balkan region in Europe and threatened to end in a war.
- 1960: The American adventure film Spartacus, directed by Stanley Kubrick and starring Kirk Douglas, had its world premiere; it won several Academy Awards, including best supporting actor for Peter Ustinov.
- 1973: On this day in 1973, on the Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur, Egypt and Syria attacked Israel, which suffered heavy casualties, but Israeli forces successfully fought back, and the war eventually ended inconclusively.
- 1976: Coup in Thailand. Admiral Sangad Chaloryu staged a coup ousting the civilian government of Seni Pramoj.
- 1981: Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was assassinated by members of the radical fringe of the Muslim opposition.

FOCUS REMITTANCE TAX

TAX ON THE POOR

Trump seems intent on filling America's coffers at the expense of other countries and the world's most vulnerable people. In addition to foreign-aid cuts and steep tariff increases, the administration's One Big Beautiful Bill Act has introduced a new 1% tax on remittances from the United States that are funded by physical instruments such as cash, checks, and money orders. This "tax on the poor," as Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum refers to it, will impose severe economic and social costs on developing countries.

The amount of money sent by migrant workers to family and friends in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) has increased more than 17-fold over the last three decades, reaching \$685 billion in 2024 - more than official development assistance and foreign direct investment combined. Remittances now comprise at least 3% of GDP in more than 77 countries and far exceed the World Bank Group's annual lending to developing countries (\$128 billion) and the IMF's total outstanding loans (around \$145 billion).

This immense growth signifies a fundamental shift: remittances are now the most direct and dynamic link between migration and development, serving as both a source of foreign-exchange reserves and as a macroeconomic stabilizing force in LMICs. Trump's new 1% tax threatens to undermine these global gains and further increase the opportunity cost of brain drain.

The justification for Trump's remittance tax mirrors that for his trade war. Just as America's imports have grown faster than its exports, widening the trade deficit, remittance outflows from the US have increased more rapidly than inflows. For example, while around \$200 billion was transferred out of the US in the form of remittances in 2021, only



Just as America's imports have grown faster than its exports, widening the trade deficit, remittance outflows from the US have increased more rapidly than inflows

\$7 billion was sent to the US from other countries – a 34% increase in net outflows from 2017. America is now the world's top remittance-sending country, with at least 134 recipient countries in 2021 (the most recent year with reliable bilateral data).

Trump's new tax will have far-reaching consequences. In the US, it is expected to discourage immigration, deter unauthorized employment, and reduce net resource outflows. Preliminary estimates suggest that the levy – which applies to all remittance senders, regardless of immigration or citizenship status - will generate just under \$10 billion in revenue over the next decade. And those who share Trump's zero-sum thinking - that money sent abroad is money not spent on US goods and services - even argue it could boost domestic consumption and growth.

But the global implications are more worrying. Research has shown that transaction cost is a significant predictor of formal remittance volumes, implying that Trump's tax would reduce these outflows. A decline in remittances, coupled with cuts to international aid, could cause currency depreciation in LMICs, fueling inflation and exacerbating macroeconomic in-

stability. These risks would be particularly acute for countries with high debt burdens, leaving them even more exposed to trade or capital shocks. In the most vulnerable LMICs, remittances also play an important role at the microeconomic level. These funds allow households to smooth consumption, manage economic shocks, and invest in health and education, all of which are crucial for reducing poverty and improving welfare.

poverty and improving welfare. Evidence from Asian developing economies shows that a one-percentage-point increase in international remittances as a share of GDP can reduce the poverty gap ratio by 22.6%. Similarly, a study of 122 developing countries between 1990 and 2015 found that a 10% increase in per capita remittances lowered malnutrition and child mortality rates.

Not only does Trump's remittance tax threaten to erode these benefits. It also runs counter to the international community's commitment, as part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, to reduce transfer costs of migrant remittances – which averaged 6.4% at the end of 2023 – to less than 3% by 2030. The higher fees will steer migrants toward informal channels, such

as cryptocurrency and hawala, and may even expand the black market for such services, which carries substantial risks.

If there is a silver lining, it is that Trump's new tax has highlighted the dangers for LMICs of relying on remittances to support economic development and finance essential items such as food, education, health care, and housing. Although steady remittance inflows have lowered the opportunity cost of brain drain, they do not

address its underlying causes.

Achieving this will require LMICs to devise economic strategies that support broad-based growth, increase employment opportunities, close technological gaps, and boost productivity. To climb the global value chain and build lasting prosperity, these countries will still need their diasporas - but for their technical knowledge and scientific expertise, not just their money. By contributing to "brain circulation" and technology transfer, migrants would promote development in their home and host countries.

This win-win arrangement depends on improving the investment climate for private enterprise and deepening regional integration, which would enable LMICs to leverage economies of scale for robust economic growth and long-term sustainability.

The Trump administration's remittance tax is only the latest in a series of punitive US measures aimed at the developing world. More are surely to come. LMICs should recognize that it is in their own interest to break the cycle of dependency and create a virtuous circle of technology-led growth that builds economic resilience while also boosting shared prosperity and mitigating migration pressures.

The writer is a former chief economist at the African Export-Import Bank.

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SPECTRUM

Hippolyte Fofack

ADMINISTRATION'S

THE TRUMP

REMITTANCE

TAX IS ONLY THE

OF PUNITIVE US

WORLD

MEASURES AIMED

AT THE DEVELOPING

LATEST IN A SERIES

SOCIETY

Managerial assault on health & education Tany years ago, a doc- office spaces that were previous attion institutions. Under the profit-driven dominance of



Bhabani Shankar Nayak

THE
PRIVATISATION
OF HEALTHCARE
HAS TURNED
ILLNESS INTO A
BUSINESS

any years ago, a doctor friend who had **V** been working in the NHS for decades shared his frustration about the growing managerialism in his workplace. He said that "the NHS is hiring highly paid managers who have nothing to do with either health systems or medical science. These over-glorified managers have been brought in to run the health service despite having not an iota of knowledge or training in healthcare or human welfare. Ironically, they have joined to make the NHS more efficient in its structure and functioning." My friend said this after a long pause.

The same friend retired last week, and I was speaking with him about his post-retirement plans for life after leaving the NHS. During our conversation, I asked if he was considering returning part-time as a consultant. He replied, "I am glad to be out of the NHS, where managers have replaced the medical and health fraternity and relegated them to a small common room. Managers have taken over the space that was once used by doctors to learn and practise patient care. Doctors are now squeezed into a tiny room like sardines in a tin, while managers occupy entire floors and

office spaces that were previously used by doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers. These managers have ruined the NHS and its purpose. They squeeze every penny from the system to increase their own salaries."My friend had always loved the NHS and his work treating patients, so hearing such disappointment from him not only surprised me but also highlighted the deeply entrenched perils of managerialism in healthcare.

The privatisation of healthcare has turned illness into a business; business of sickness. While it generates massive profits for private medical corporations, pharmaceutical companies, and health insurance providers, it does so at the expense of people's health and well-being. Managerialism in healthcare has not improved the efficiency of medical care delivery for those in need; instead, it has bureaucratised patient care and delayed treatment under the guise of creating multiple layers of appointments, investigations, reporting, and treatment processes.

In the same way, the privatisation of education — much like healthcare — has opened the doors for managerialism in universities and higher ed-

banner of industry-academia collaboration, a class of individuals has entered universities who have little or nothing to contribute to the growth of the teaching and learning environment. Many of them have never taught a class or written a single page of research, yet they shape policies on the quality of teaching and research.

University managers have begun awarding themselves professorial titles without making any meaningful contribution to the production or dissemination of knowledge, either within or beyond university structures. A colleague — a teacher and researcher who has worked in higher education for a long time shared her frustration with the increasingly managerial nature of universities and the rise of a clientelist culture, where managers not only receive undeserved academic promotions but also grant promotions based on personal networks and client relationships. As she put it, "The idealism, hope, optimism, and creative desires that drew me into academia no longer exist within these manager-led universities in the UK.'

Such trends of managerial overreach are not confined to universities in the UK. The

agerial culture across universities and institutions of higher learning represents one of the greatest threats to the learning environment necessary for skill development and knowledge transfer. Managers increasingly view the curriculum as a product, teachers as sellers, and students as consumers, a perspective that fundamentally erodes the very idea and purpose of higher education.

Managerial bureaucracy
— with its hierarchical mechanisms of control and its compliance culture in the name of efficiency and masquerading as "quality control" — is a myth. In reality, it serves to undermine the role of higher education as a tool for the radical transformation of society.

The managerial assault on health and education is deliberately designed to produce weak and compliant bodies and minds — individuals who cannot question the powers that domesticate their lives, dominate their labour, and control their creativity to sustain an unjust and exploitative rent-seeking system known as capitalism.

The writer teaches at the London Metropolitan University.

etters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact

words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Peace in store

Sir, The prolonged Gaza hostage crisis appears close to resolution, with Hamas agreeing in principle to release all remaining Israeli captives—alive or dead within days under a US-brokered peace plan. Of the 251 people abducted during Hamas' October 2023 assault, about 48 remain unaccounted for, and only half are believed alive. The deal, mediated by the US, Egypt, and Qatar, could pave the way for a long-awaited ceasefire and humanitarian relief in war-torn Gaza. However, uncertainties persist over Hamas' disarmament and Israel's political divisions, which may delay implementation. Globally, the release could restore a measure of regional stability and reduce energy market tensions. For India, which maintains balanced ties with both Israel and the Arab world, peace in the region ensures energy security, protects its diaspora, and enhances its diplomatic standing as a voice for reconciliation and international humanitarian law.

tional humanitarian law.

RS Narula, PATIALA**

Bumpy road ahead

Sir, Actor-politician Vijay and his party, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), face a formidable challenge following the deadly stampede at Karur, Tamil Nadu. The tragedy has sparked widespread criticism, multiple legal cases, and intense scrutiny from the public, political rivals, and the judiciary, casting serious doubt on Vijay's political prospects. The Madras High Court has been particularly scathing in its assessment of Vijay and the TVK's handling of the disaster. The court has rightly condemned the "irresponsible attitude" of the party, noting that it showed no remorse or took responsibility for the catastrophe. The 'man-made' tragedy has highlighted TVK's lack of experience in managing large political events, poor planning, inadequacy of crowd control, and a massive turnout far exceeding police estimates that contributed to the deaths. The path forward for Vijay is difficult, as he faces legal challenges, severe political opposition, and a potentially disillusioned public. He may be immensely popular as an actor, but it hardly guarantees that he can effectively govern or translate support into votes. No exaggeration, the Karur tragedy has cast a big question mark on his political career.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI



TWO STATES





J&K teachers warned against criticising govt policies online

The circular on social media posts allows for punishments for violations, including censure, fine not exceeding one month's pay, withholding increments and/or promotion, demotion, recovery from pay of the whole or part of any pecuniary loss caused to government by negligence or breach of orders, premature retirement and removal from the services of the state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 5: The chief education officer (CEO) of Baramulla in Jammu and Kashmir directed teaching and non-teaching staff employed under the department to refrain from criticising government policies on social media, warning them of punitive action, including dismissal from service.

In a circular Saturday, he directed all the employees of School Education Department of the district to strictly adhere to the guidelines and refrain from "indulging in unwarranted debates and discussions and avoid sharing commenting or posting inappropriate content on social media platforms".

Pulwama MLA and PDP leader Waheed Para slammed the order, saying it stops people from "raising their voices". The Baramulla CEO said various



instances of misuse of social media platforms by teaching and non-teaching staff were discussed at a meeting chaired by the education department administrative secretary

He said such acts as interference in the policy matters of the department. "The activities are purely violation of circular instructions issued by the government" in 2023, the CEO said.

The CEO said the administrative secretary directed all chief education officers to bring to the notice of the administration any such violation without fail in order to fix responsibly.

The circular on social media posts allows for punishments for violations, including censure, fine not exceeding one month's pay, withholding increments and/or promotion, demotion, recovery from pay of the whole or part of any pecuniary loss caused to government by negligence or breach of orders, premature retirement and removal from the services of the state.

The circular, however, mentioned that the employees are not barred from using social media and they can use these platforms for "positive and

constructive purposes". PDP leader Waheed Para has hit out at the government for issuing

the order, and said it should be

"In an already numb Jammu and Kashmir, this order by the J&K govt's education dept warning teachers and govt staff against raising their voices, is deeply concerning. A govt that came to power on the promise of giving people a voice is now contributing to silencing the few remaining ones in Jammu and Kashmir," Para said in a post on X. He also posted a copy of the circular on his handle.

He said the J-K government

had earlier informed the Assembly that it is drafting a new media policy aimed at regulating digital platforms, including social media and news web sites, "following the much-criticised 2020 New Media Policy formulated by the BJP". It was approved under by the administration of the Lt Governor, a central government nominee. It was widely condemned by journalists, civil society groups and political leaders for its authoritarian undertones, said Para, the MLA from Pulwama. "This order must be immediately revoked," he added.

Kurgaon declared most beautiful village in Palghar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Palghar, Oct 5: Kurgaon has been declared as the most beautiful village in Maharashtra's Palghar district, earning a total cash prize of ₹50 lakh, officials said Sunday.

Eight villages in the district have been selected for the Beautiful Village Award' under the R R (Aaba) Patil Beautiful Village Award Scheme implemented by the state rural development department for the 2023-24 financial year, they said.

Among them, Kurgaon gram panchayat has been declared the most beautiful and honoured with ₹40 lakh as the district-level winner and an additional ₹10 lakh as the taluka-level winner, taking the total to ₹50 lakh, a release from the Palghar Zilla Parishad said.

The awards were presented Saturday during the closing ceremony of the Employment Fair and Service Fortnight, organised under the chief minister's 150-day action programme, it



said. The taluka-level winners, each receiving ₹10 lakh are: Palghar-Kurgaon, Talasari-Amgaon-Achchad, Wada-Hamrapur, Vikramgad-Vasuri, Mokhada-Khodala, Vasai-Khanivade, Jawhar-Jhap, and Dahanu-Gholwad, the release said.

State Forest Minister and Palghar Guardian Minister Ganesh Naik, who felicitated the winning gram panchayats, said, "This initiative will inspire positive competition among villages, encouraging cleanliness, environmental conservation, sustainable development, and public participation."

Man nabbed for helping terrorists met them 4 times

PAHALGAM ATTACK



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 5: Mohammad Yousuf Katari, an Over Ground Worker (OGW) arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, had met the terrorists involved in the April 22 Pahalgam attack four times and handed them an Android phone charger, a key evidence which ultimately led to his capture, officials here said Sunday.

Katari, 26, was arrested in the last week of September for allegedly providing crucial logistical support to Sulieman alias Asif, Jibran, and Hamza Afghani, the three terrorists who gunned down 26 people, mostly tourists, in the resort town of Pahalgam.

Katari is alleged to have told the police during the interrogation that he had met the three on four occasions in the Zabarwan hills outside Srinagar city, officials said. His arrest came on the back

of weeks of investigation.

The breakthrough came following an in-depth forensic analysis of material recovered from the site of Operation Mahadev, a counter-terror operation launched in July, which resulted in the killing of three terrorists involved in the Pahalgam massacre, in the foothills of the Zabarwan Range on the outskirts of Srinagar.

Police zeroed in on Katari after examining a partially destroyed Android mobile phone charger, one of the several items recovered during the operation.

The Srinagar police at length tracked down the original owner of the charger, who confirmed selling the phone to a dealer, a piece of information that, by and by, led police to Katari. Officials said that Katari, who reportedly taught nomadic students in the higher reaches, had been a key resource for the terror group. His assistance is believed to

have included providing the charger and guiding the attackers through the difficult terrain.

The terrorists Sulieman alias Asif (mastermind of the Pahalgam attack), Jibran (linked to the October 2024 Sonamarg Tunnel attack), and Hamza Afghani were killed July 29 in an encounter under Operation Mahadev.

While officials declined to give further details, citing the ongoing investigation, the arrest is seen as a significant step in dismantling the terror support network functioning in the Kashmir valley.

They indicated that the case may ultimately be transferred to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is already probing the larger conspiracy of the Pahalgam attack.

two people in connection with the April 22 terror attack for allegedly providing logistical support and shelter to terrorists.

The NIA has so far arrested

Thackeray cousins meet again amid alliance buzz

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 5: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) head Raj Thackeray met again Sunday, this time for a personal event, amid speculation about the cousins allying for the upcoming local body polls.

The Thackeray cousins attended the naming ceremony of Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut's grandchild in Mumbai. Videos of Raj, Uddhav and his MLA son Aaditya Thackeray, along with Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders Anil Desai and Milind Narvekar chatting in a playful mood surfaced on social media.

The meetings between Raj and Uddhav have become more frequent after their July 5 "victory" rally to celebrate the Maharashtra government's rollback of its contentious orders on three-language formula for students of classes 1 to 5 amid charges of imposition of Hindi in the state dominated by Marathi speakers.

Last month, former state chief minister Uddhav Thackeray visited the MNS president's residence 'Shivtirth'in Dadar area here to meet the latter's mother, Kunda 'mavshi' (mother's sister). Both Raj and Uddhav are maternal as well as paternal cousins.

Uddhav visited 'Shivtirth' in August also on the occasion of the Ganesh festival.

In July-end, Raj visited Matoshree', the residence of Uddhav Thackeray in Mumbai's The Thackeray cousins attended the naming ceremony of Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut's grandchild in Mumhai

Videos of Raj, Uddhav and his MLA son Aaditya Thackeray, along with Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders Anil Desai and Milind Narvekar chatting in a playful mood surfaced on social media

Bandra area, to wish the latter on his birthday.

Although Raj quit the undivided Shiv Sena in 2005, blaming Uddhav for his exit, the drubbing of their parties in the 2024 Assembly polls appears to have pushed the rivals to improve ties.

Both parties have dropped enough hints of forging an alliance for the upcoming polls to local bodies, including the cash-rich Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), but have not yet announced a formal tie-up.

If the alliance happens, the BJP, a fierce critic of the Shiv Sena (UBT), will be its main rival.

The Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress, and Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) are partners in the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA).

Amid the buzz over their pan-Maharashtra alliance, the Sena (UBT) and MNS faced a setback in August in the election to the BEST Employees Cooperative Credit Society Ltd, where the panel backed by the two parties lost all 21 seats up for grabs





A leopard after it was rescued by forest officials from Ashpora area, at Handwara in Kupwara district, Jammu and Kashmir

Beed govt hospital sees surge in twin births

According to doctors, factors such as assisted reproductive technology (ART), including in-vitro fertilisation IVF, and family history are driving the surge in twin births

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beed, Oct 5: The birth of twins, earlier considered a rare occurrence, has become quite frequent at the civil hospital in Maharashtra's Beed district, which has witnessed 42 sets of twins born at the facility in the last nine months.

The extraordinary count has become a source of pride for the hospital and the district,



and the deliveries, which were a mix of both caesareans and natural births, were successfully handled by the staff at the maternity ward

maternity ward.
According to doctors, factors such as assisted reproductive technology (ART), including in-vitro fertilisation IVF, and

family history are driving the surge in twin births.

Experts also note a slight increase in the probability of having twins among women over the age of 30. The arrival of multiple newborns often necessitates specialised care, as twins frequently tend to be

premature (born before their due date).

Dr L.R. Tandale, the resident medical officer (RMO) at Beed Civil Hospital, confirmed that the facility is fully equipped to manage this increased workload. "The rate of twin and triplet births has definitely risen over the past few years, and we have had 42 sets of twins born in the last nine months. Our neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) is completely prepared

to meet this demand," he said.
Dr Tandale said the hospital
has a special medical team dedicated to providing comprehensive care for the mothers and
infants during and after the
deliveries."

The hospital staff emphasised the critical need to protect these newborns from infections, ensure proper breastfeeding, and provide adequate warmth and nutrition during their crucial initial days.

Srinagar to host KLF Oct 11-12

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 5: Srinagar will host the two-day Kashmir Literature Festival-2025 October 11-12 to celebrate words, culture and heritage, the organisers said.

The much-awaited Kashmir Literature Festival (KLF), a flagship initiative of the Srikula Foundation, will be held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre here, bringing together noted authors, poets, journalists, thinkers, and artists to celebrate literature, ideas, and dialogue, they said at a press conference.

With thought-provoking sessions, panel discussions, book launches, poetry readings, and cultural performances, KLF-2025 promises to be a vibrant confluence of creativity and inspiration, the organisers said.

national



The state government must make use of central government's Purvodava scheme to develop agriculture and allied sectors

COMMERCIAL COAL MINING **BEGINS IN ARUNACHAL**

The government will launch commercial coal mining in Arunachal Pradesh Monday, putting an end to exploitation and wastage of resources. "Arunachal Pradesh is set to witness a historic day October 6, 2025 with the launch of its first commercial coal mine at the Namchik-Namphuk coal block, marking a new chapter of growth, energy security, and local prosperity," the coal ministry said



objection, it (survey) has to be done. Court has said that the

tary and people can answer what they want and not bother if they don't want to answer any question

DK SHIVAKUMAR K'TAKA DY CM

I am surprised that the Maharashtra government decided to charge an extra levy



from sugarcane cultivators to provide financial assistance to Marathwada farmers hit by floods. I request the government to reconsider its decision SHARAD PAWAR | NCP (SP) CHIE

There are around 200 mills in the state. One mill may have to con tribute about ₹25

lakh to the CMRF. We are seeking funds from the

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA CM

SHORT **TAKES**

India and UK begin mega wargame

New Delhi: The navies of India and the UK kickstarted an eight-day mega wargame in the Western Indian Ocean in line with their focus to boost overall military ties. The UK's Carrier Strike Group (CSG), led by HMS Prince of Wales aircraft carrier, has been deployed for the Exercise Konkan. The exercise is a reaffirmation of the shared commitment to ensuring secure, open and free seas and will exemplify the "comprehensive strategic partnership" outlined in the India-UK Vision 2035, the Indian Navy said.

Two minor girls found dead in well

Kolar (Karnataka): The bodies of two minor girls missing were found in a well in this district, police said Sunday. The deceased have been identified as Dhanya Bai and Chaitra Bai. both Class 7 students of the **Government Higher Primary** School in Yalachepalli village of Mulbagal town, they said. The girls, both aged 13, went missing Thursday while playing in front of one of their houses, police said.

1,700 kg firecrackers seized in multiple raids

New Delhi: Delhi Police seized over 1,700 kg of banned firecrackers and arrested seven men in multiple operations across the national capital ahead of Diwali this month, an official said Sunday. The crackdown conducted by the crime branch of the Delhi police in Dwarka, Rohini, Uttam Nagar, Shastri Nagar, Mukundpur and Shahdara, Deputy Commissioner of Police Pankaj Kumar said. The operations were carried out in line with the recent Supreme Court's directions to curb the storage and sale of firecrackers to tackle air pollution and ensure public safety, he said.

Four dead in road mishap

Patan (Gujarat): Four persons died and 15 were injured Sunday after a pickup van collided with a truck and a couple of two-wheelers near Radhanpur in Gujarat's Patan district, a police official said. The accident occurred on the national highway near Moti Pipli village around 10am, Superintendent of Police Vasant Nayi said.

CEC says Bihar's voter list 'purified' after 22 years

Patna, Oct 5: Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Sunday asserted that the special intensive revision in Bihar "purified" the voters' list after 22 years, and said many new initiatives were being undertaken for the upcoming assembly polls, which would be replicated across the country in due course. Kumar, who was accompa-

nied by Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, addressed a crowded press conference before winding up a two-day tour of the state, where he received feedback from representatives of political parties and discussed poll preparedness with officials. "With the successful completion of SIR, the voters' list in Bihar has been purified. It is after a gap of 22 years that such a cleansing has taken place. The exercise will now be conducted across the country," Kumar said.

The CEC also spoke of a number of "initiatives" that were being introduced in polls to the 243-strong Bihar assembly, which had "38 constituencies reserved for Scheduled Castes and another two for Scheduled Tribes". These initiatives. "which will be replicated across the country in due course", include a new standard operating procedure to ensure that EPIC cards are delivered to voters within 15 days of registration, and a mobile deposit facility at polling booths.

"In order to prevent over-



Cong alleges targeted removal of Dalit, Muslim women's names from voter list

New Delhi: The Congress Sunday claimed that the names of nearly 23 lakh women have been removed from the voter list in Bihar under the SIR with the bulk of them being from 59 Assembly seats where a "close contest" was witnessed in the 2020 elections. Reiterating its "vote chori" claims, the opposition party also alleged that the Election Commission of India "targeted" Dalit and Muslim women voters whose names were dropped from the list as part of a "wellplanned conspiracy" during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state. The Congress asked when these women had cast their votes in the Lok Sabha elections last year, were these votes "fraudulent" and whether MPs elected on "fake votes" helped form the government.

crowding of polling stations, it has been decided that no booth shall have more than 1,200 voters. To make the voting exercise easier for the electors, mobile deposit facility is being introduced at booths," Kumar said. "Other new features include 100 per cent webcasting at all polling booths and mandatory verification of VVPAT slips in case of complaints of mismatch in EVM data," he said. Kumar began his address with a few

sentences in local dialects Maithili and Bhojpuri, and noted the submission by most parties that polls be held immediately after 'Chhath', the state's most popular festival, later this month.

"We have also been urging political parties to ensure that they appoint polling agents, at all booths, as well as counting agents so that all are satisfied that elections have been held in a transparent manner,' the CEC said.

14 CHILDREN DEAD IN MP

Doc held; FIR against him, cough syrup manufacturer

Chhindwara (MP), Oct 5: Police have arrested a doctor for alleged negligence and registered a case against the manufacturer of a 'toxic' cough syrup after the death of 14 children in Chhindwara due to suspected renal failure, officials said Sunday.

The Madhya Pradesh government has banned the sale of Coldrif cough syrup, with officials stating the drug samples have been found to contain a highly toxic substance.

Of the children who died, 11 were from Parasia sub-division, two from Chhindwara city and one from Chaurai tehsil.

The Coldrif cough syrup, manufactured by Sresan Pharmaceutical, Kancheepuram (Tamil Nadu), has been blamed for the

area of Chhindwara district, Superintendent of Police Ajay Pandey

death of 11 chil-

dren in Parasia

told reporters. case has been registered at Parasia police station against the company and Dr Praveen Soni, who, despite being a government doctor

syrup, he said. A special team from Kotwali police arrested Dr Soni from Rajpal Chowk in Chhindwara late Saturday night after the FIR was registered against him, the SP said.

here, was practising at a pri-

vate clinic and prescribed the

The doctor has been booked



for negligence and prescribing the medicine even after its adverse effects on children for nearly a month. The manufacturer had been charged as it was supplying contaminated syrup, as per the test report, Pandey told PTI.

The government Sunday also suspended Dr Soni from service. He

Madhya Pradesh has been atgovernment has banned tached to the the sale of Coldrif cough health desyrup, with officials stating the partment drug samples have been found to regional contain a highly toxic substance officer in Of the children who died, Jabalpur,

11 were from Parasia as per an sub-division, two from order. **Chhindwara city and one** MP Chief from Chaurai tehsil Minister Mohan Yadav Sat-

urday said strict action will be taken against those responsible. The doctor and the compa-

ny have been charged under sections 276 (adulteration of drugs - punishable with up to one year in jail) and 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder - carrying a maximum punishment of 10 years) of the Bharatiya Nyaya

India, Australia to ink 3 pacts during Rajnath's visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 5: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will undertake a two-day visit to Australia beginning Thursday to explore "new and meaningful" initiatives to further expand bilateral defence and strategic ties

The two sides are set to ink three agreements during Singh's visit that will provide for further boosting cooperation in the areas of information sharing, expanding maritime security ties and joint activities.

India and Australia are also expected to carry out a detailed review of the current situation in the Indo-Pacific amid growing global concerns over China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the region

Singh's trip to Australia will mark the first-ever visit of a defence minister to Australia under the Modi government since 2014

"The visit comes at a historic moment when India and Australia commemorate five years of establishment of India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)," the defence ministry said.

"The visit will provide an important opportunity for both sides to explore new and meaningful initiatives to further strengthen the bilateral relationship and the defence partnership," the ministry said in a statement.

Rajinder Gupta: AAP's candidate for RS bypoll



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 5: The ruling Aam Aadmi Party on Sunday announced prominent industrialist Rajinder Gupta as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha bypoll in Puniab, scheduled to be held October 24.

The bypoll is being held to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of AAP's Sanjeev Arora, who stepped down from the Upper House following his election to the state Assembly

Arora, whose term was to end April 9, 2028, is presently serving as a minister in the Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

"The political affairs committee announces to nominate Rajinder Gupta as a candidate for election to the Council of States (Raiva Sabha) by the elected members of the legislative assembly of Punjab," said the party in a statement.

Gupta, the chairman emeritus of the Trident Group, recently resigned as the vice-chairman of the State Economic Policy and Planning Board and as chairperson of the Kali Devi temple advisory committee, fuelling speculation that the AAP could field him for

Tejashwi Yadav questions Nitish's 'mental health'



Patna, Oct 5: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav Sunday alleged that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's "erratic" behaviour at a function of Prime Minister Narendra Modi a day ago has given rise to fresh suspicions about his "mental health" and "the ability to run the government".

Yadav, a former Deputy CM who is now the leader of the opposition, shared on his X handle a video of the function, held at New Delhi, which the chief minister has attended virtually from his residence.

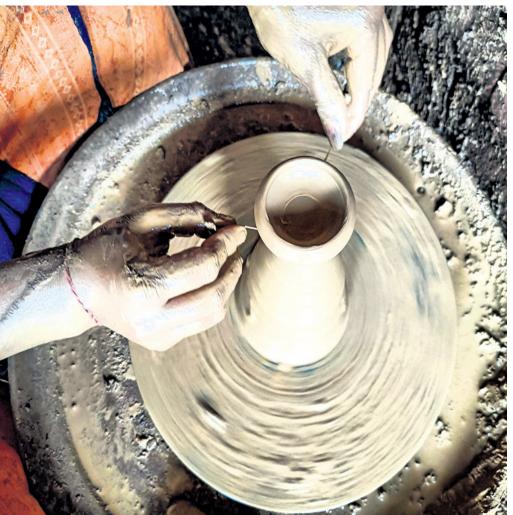
"Can this mental state of the CM be blamed on his close aides who may be spiking his food at the instance of alliance partner BJP?", Yadav asked in his social media post. Later, talking to reporters, the young leader said, "For quite some time,

the CM has been behaving in a manner that shows he is not in the proper state of mind. He has made crude remarks about my mother Rabri Devi, a former CM herself, besides women in general. Once, he was caught on camera fooling around while the national anthem was being played in the background".

"Yesterday we saw another example of his erratic be havior", said the RJD leader, referring to the video footage in which Kumar can be seen staring with folded hands, at his computer screen even as senior BJP leader and Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary read out his speech.

Yadav said, "Clearly the CM no longer has the ability to run his government. A syndicate is calling the shots and it will be exposed soon'

Reacting sharply to the Opposition leader's charge, Neeraj Kumar, MLC and spokesman of JD(U), headed by the chief minister, said "Nitish Kumar is the one who has restored the political, social and economic health of Bihar. Tejashwi Yadav would do well to worry about his own ailing father Lalu Prasad, the RJD president".



A potter makes an earthen lamp at a workshop ahead of 'Diwali' festival, in Bastar, Chhattisgarh

Travel, tourism to support 9 crore new jobs by 2035: WTTC

Demographic and structural shifts could create a workforce shortfall of more than 4.3 crore people if left unaddressed, says the report, 'Future of the Travel and Tourism Workforce', which focused on 20 economies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 5: The international travel and tourism sector will support 9.1 crore new jobs in the next 10 years, accounting for one in every three jobs created globally, according to a report by the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC). Demographic and structural

shifts could create a workforce shortfall of more than 4.3 crore people if left unaddressed,

says the report, 'Future of the Travel and Tourism Workforce', which focused on 20 economies. The Council works with governments on issues of the travel and tourism industry, and is the global authority

on the economic and social contribution of the sector. The report, released at the

25th WTTC Global Summit in Rome recently, is based on extensive global research, including a large-scale survey of business leaders and in-depth interviews with the tourism body's members and other key stakeholders, a release said.

Over the next decade, the sector is projected to generate 9.1 crore new roles, accounting for one in every three net new jobs created globally, the report said. By 2035, global demand for workers in travel and tourism will outpace supply by more than 4.3 crore people, leaving labour availability 16 per cent



below required levels, it said.

The report said labour challenges will affect all the 20 major economies analysed, with the largest absolute shortfalls forecast in China (1.69 crore), India (1.1 crore), and the Euro-

pean Union (64 lakh). Europe remains at the fore-

front of international tourism, with five of the world's top 10 most powerful travel and tourism markets by GDP, it said.

The Middle East remains one of the fastest-growing regions in the sector, with Saudi Arabia continuing to stand out, with inbound visitor spend surging and

infrastructure investment reaching record levels, the report said.

In her keynote at the summit opening ceremony, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni highlighted her government's investment in tourism infrastructure and her conviction that the sector is "an extraordinary generator of wealth and well-being.'

Italian Tourism Minister Daniela Santanchè, Saudi Arabia's Tourism Minister Ahmed Al-Khateeb and Malta's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism Ian Borg were present. Gloria Guevara, WTTC Interim CEO, said "Travel and tourism is set to remain one of

the world's biggest job creators. offering opportunities for millions of people worldwide.' At the summit, Manfredi Le

febvre, a global leader in travel and tourism, was named as the new WTTC chair, succeeding Greg O'Hara, who led the organ isation since November 2023.

The summit was hosted in partnership with the Italian Ministry of Tourism, ENIT (the Italian national tourist board) the Municipality of Rome, and the Lazio Region. Every year WTTC produces reports on the economic and employment impact of travel and tourism for 184 countries/economies and 28 geographic or economic regions in the world.

national



All languages of India are national languages. Every citizen should know at least three languages — the local language, the language of the state they live in, and the national language

TN GOVT MOVES SC **AGAINST GUV'S DECISION**

The Tamil Nadu government has moved the Supreme Court against the governor's decision to reserve the Kalaignar University Bill, 2025 for the consideration of the President instead of granting assent to the proposed law as advised by the state Cabinet



(state) share may cent, 13 per cent by the Centre, but still, without central government's approval, we cannot do anything. I will place this proposal before the

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

Losing weight is not the end goal but the beginning of a healthy and energetic life /ASUNDHARA RAJE

RAJASTHAN FORMER CM





IAGAN MOHAN REDDY YSRCP SUPREMO





Applies to business class tickets

Applies to your house. Many would say: oh, by that logic. will never be able to buy a house. Because a house costs crores. Well, not really: when you buy a house, you buy an EMI. So ask the question: whether vou can afford to buy the EMI twice? If yes, you can afford it. You understand half the finance, if you understand what you can truly afford.

SHORT **TAKES**

J'khand: 4 killed in

Medininagar: Four people,

including two women, were

killed in separate incidents in

Jharkhand's Palamu district.

police said Sunday. A man

slitting his throat in Ratanpur

village Saturday night, they

said. A search is on for Amit

Thakur, who has been on the

police said, SDPO (Lesligani)

Manoi Kumar Jha said Surai

Thakur, 25, was sleeping

in his bed when his father

the accused is a mentally

attacked him. He said

challenged person.

Arms, narcotics

module busted

Chandigarh: The Punjab

Police said Sunday it has

and narcotics smuggling module with Pakistan links with two arrests. Director

General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav identified the two arrested as Gurjant Singh and Gurvel Singh, both residents of Tarn Taran.

The police said 2.5 kg of

pistols, along with

heroin and five sophisticated

magazines, were recovered

busted a cross-border arms

run since the incident, the

allegedly killed his son by

@Akshat_World

Tourists stranded as rains, landslides hit Darjeeling hills Once echoing with the

chatter of holidaymakers and the whistle of the toy train, the hill town Sunday resembled a zone of despair — roads buried under mud,

bridges snapped, and frightened families huddled inside hotels and homes, waiting for help

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Darjeeling, Oct 5: A post-Durga Puja holiday turned into a nightmare for hundreds of tourists in the Darjeeling hills as incessant rainfall triggered multiple landslides Sunday, sweeping away homes, blocking highways, and leaving scores stranded across the hill

At least 20 people, including several children, have died and many others injured in landslides across Mirik, Darjeeling and adjoining areas, officials said.

The picturesque Darjeeling, often referred to as the Queen of the Hills and known for its tea, timber and tourism industries, has been brought to its knees by the sheer force of nature. Once echoing with the chatter of holidaymakers and the whistle of the toy train, the hill town Sunday resembled a zone of despair — roads buried under mud, bridges snapped, and frightened families huddled inside hotels and homes, waiting for help.

Major highways like NH 55 and NH 10 remain blocked, paralvsing transport to and from Siliguri and cutting off several remote hamlets

As the situation worsened, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee held a high-level meeting at the state secretariat Nabanna, opened a 24x7 control room, and said she was personally monitoring the developments, "I am deeply worried and concerned that several areas in both North Bengal and South Bengal have been flooded due to sudden huge rains within a few hours last night as well as due to rush of excessive river waters in our State from outside," Banerjee posted on X.

The chief minister, who is scheduled to visit North Bengal Monday, said there was "sudden rainfall exceeding 300 mm in 12 hours in North Bengal,' coupled with "excessive flow of water into the Sankosh river and river waters from Bhutan and Sikkim." For Ananya Das, who travelled from Mumbai with her husband and fiveyear-old daughter, the experience has been terrifying. Local tour operators said hundreds of tourists, who had travelled to the hills during and after Durga Puja, are stuck in hotels and homestays. "This is

Cong urges govt to provide assistance

New Delhi: The Congress Sunday expressed deep concern over the devastating landslides in West Bengal and Sikkim and urged the Centre to immediately provide neces sary assistance to the affected states. At least 18 people, including several children. died as incessant heavy rainfall triggered multiple landslides across the Mirik and Darjeeling hills in the northern part of West Bengal Sunday, sweeping away homes. damaging roads and cutting off several remote hamlets Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi expressed grief over the loss of lives in the incident and urged the Centre to provide relief assistance to the affected states.

the peak tourist season. Many of our guests are stranded in Kalimpong and Mirik. Roads are blocked everywhere. We are coordinating with police and GTA authorities to ensure their safety," said Bikash, a tour operator based in Darjeeling.

The Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) has temporarily closed popular tourist spots such as Tiger Hill, Rock Garden, and Batasia Loop to prevent further mishaps. Toy train services between Darjeeling and Ghum have also been suspended. Several families have lost their homes as landslides swept away dwellings perched on fragile hill slopes.

Rescue and relief teams comprising local administration, police, and disaster response forces have been deployed to Mirik, Darjeeling, and Kalimpong. Helicopter assistance may be sought if weather permits, officials said.

The incessant downpour has also affected tea gardens, with plantation areas reporting flooding and erosion. Several culverts have been washed away, making it difficult for rescuers to reach remote areas. As the tourist town grapples with the worst rain disaster in recent years, thousands remain stranded amid power cuts and disrupted communication.

US has to respect India's 'red lines': Jaishankar *In an interactive session* at an event, Jaishankar acknowledged having issues between India and the

US and that many of them are linked to the inability to firm up the proposed trade deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 5: Any trade has to respect New Delhi's "red lines" and efforts are underway to find a "landing ground" External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Sunday amid strain in ties between the two countries over Washington's policy on tariff. In an interactive session at

an event, Jaishankar acknowledged having issues between India and the US and that many of them are linked to the inability to firm up the proposed trade deal. The external affairs minister said an understanding was necessary as the US is the world's largest market but at the same time noted that India's red lines should be respected. 'We have today issues with the United States. A big part of it is the fact that we have not arrived at a landing ground for our trade discussions, and the



inability so far to reach there has led to a certain tariff being levied on India," he said.

Jaishankar was speaking at the discussion on the theme Shaping Foreign Policy in Turbulent Times' at the Kautilya Economic Enclave. "In addition, there is a second tariff which we have publicly said we regard as very unfair, which has picked on us for sourcing energy from Russia when there are other countries that have

done so, including countries that right now have a far more antagonistic relationship with Russia than we do," he said. The relations between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe stress after Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent including a 25 per cent additional duties for India's purchase of Russian crude oil. India described the US action as "unfair, unjustified and unrea

sonable". "Whatever happens at the end of the day, there has got to be a trade understanding with the US...because it is the world's largest market but also because much of the world has reached those understandings. Jaishankar said. "But it has to bottom lines, our red lines are respected. In any agreement there are things you can nego tiate and there are things you can't," he said. Jaishankar said India is pretty clear about its approach. "I think we are pret ty clear about that. We have to find that landing ground and that's been the conversation which has been going on since March," he said.

India and the US have recently resumed negotiations for the proposed trade deal after a brief hiatus of a few weeks.

The external affairs minister also suggested that the strain in the relations has not been impacting every dimension of the engagement.

Assam CM warns of tough action if Zubeen's firms evade SIT probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Oct 5: The return er Zubeen Garg aboard a yacht in Singapore during his final hours will "depend entirely or them", but harsh measures will be taken if they do not come for the SIT probe within the Octo ber 6 deadline, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Sunday.

'Their return will depend completely on them. The As sam government cannot bring them back from Singapore, but we can talk to their parents so that they can ask them to re turn for the probe', the CM said on the sidelines of a programme

The deadline of October 6 has been already set for all who were in Singapore during Zubeen's last moments in the sea where he died while swimming, he said. 'If they do not come back by Monday, we will have to take harsh steps. We will have

to bring them back through a

particular process', Sarma said

The CM had earlier said inquiry cannot be completed un less people who were with the singer in the vacht do not record their statement before the investigating agency. Meanwhile, a complaint has been lodged at Latasil police station by a doctor alleging involvement of 11 members of the Assam Association of Singapore in Garg's death The police are examining the complaint. The SIT, which is probing the death of the singer, has already issued summons to eight of the 11 members of the Assam Association of Singapore to appear before it by October 6

manyu Talukdar, Debojyoti Hazarika, Rupkamal Kalita, Bhaskar Dutta, Siddhartha Bora, Parikshit Sharma and Wajed Ahmed.

life-saving TB care. "Through

Summons have been issued

to Tanmoy Phukan, Abhi



in Birbhum district, West Bengal

'Continue struggle in Gandhian way'

Wangchuk said that unless there is an independent judicial inquiry into the killing of the four people during the September 24 violence, "I am prepared to stay in jail"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leh, Oct 5: Jailed activist Sonam Wangchuk has appealed to the people of Ladakh to maintain peace and unity and continue with the ongoing struggle for statehood and safeguards under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution in the true Gandhian way of non-violence, his

lawyer said Sunday. Wangchuk conveyed the message through the legal advisor of Leh Apex Body, Haji Mustafa, who along with the activist's elder brother Ka Tsetan Dorjey

Ley, met him at Jodhpur jail in Rajasthan Saturday.

Wangchuk said that unless there is an independent judicial inquiry into the killing of the four people during the September 24 violence, "I am prepared to stay in jail"

He was detained on Septem ber 26 in Leh under the stringent National Security Act (NSA), two days after violent protests demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule status for the Union Territory. Authorities have accused Wangchuk of inciting the violence. The Supreme Court is slated

and scores of others injured in

to hear Monday a plea filed by Wangchuk's wife, Gitanjali J Angmo, challenging the climate activist's detention under the NSA and seeking his immediate release. Mustafa posted Wangchuk's "message" on his personal social media accounts, including X and Facebook, Sunday after meeting the activist.

'I am doing well, both physically and mentally and thank everyone for their concern and prayers. My heartfelt condolences to the families of those people who lost their lives and my prayers with people who are injured and are arrested," Wangchuk said. He said there should be an independent judicial inquiry into the killing of the four people.

Made-in-India TB tests validated by ICMR

New Delhi, Oct 5: In a boost to India's fight against tuberculosis, apex health research body ICMR has validated new indigenously developed tools that could bolster the country's diagnostic capacity and offer a cheaper detection option.

Eliminating tuberculosis (TB) depends crucially on the ability to detect early, accurately, and universally, to initiate patients on treatment and curb community transmission.

Among the recently validated tools is Quantiplus MTB FAST detection kit, developed by Huwel Lifesciences in Telangana, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

said in a note. Quantiplus is the first open system RT-PCR assay validated for the detection of lung TB as it can run on any existing PCR machine and is not limited to proprietary platforms.

"This means, laboratories across India, even those without specialised 'closed' equipment, can now expand rapid molecular TB testing using standard PCR machines," a source explained.

Furthermore, Quantiplus can test as many as 96 samples simultaneously. Detecting TB in adults via sputum samples, this innovation not only enhances capacity but stands to make a dramatic difference in costs and estimates suggest

it could reduce the price of TB testing by as much as one-fifth, the source said.

This new approach empowers public sector laboratories to scale up testing without

incurring heavy investment in new machinery, enabling broader, more affordable access. The second homegrown innovation validated by the ICMR is UniAMP MTB Nucleic

Acid Test Card, also manufactured by Huwel Lifesciences, the ICMR note stated.

This marks a milestone in patient-friendly diagnostics as now patients can be tested using non-invasive tongue swabs instead of sputum samples which are difficult to produce, especially for children and the elderly, an official source said.

Traditionally, TB diagnosis has required invasive or difficult procedures to obtain quality sputum samples but tongue swabs provide a more comfortable, non-invasive alternative, and offer the possibility of doorstep TB diagnosis, supporting large-scale community screening efforts and widening the reach of ICMR's rigorous and streamlined validation process, we are ensuring that innovative TB diagnostics are validated quickly. This effort reflects India's resolve to strengthen indigenous research and innovation, close gaps in early detection and treatment, and ultimately help the country to move closer to eliminating tuberculosis as a public health challenge," Dr Nivedita Gupta Head, Communicable Diseases Division, ICMR, said. These new tools follow up

grades in existing tools, Truenat and PathoDetect, that help decentralise high-precision Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAAT).

Bandhavgarh Reserve Umaria (MP): A tiger was found dead at the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) in Madhya Pradesh's

Tiger found dead in

Umaria district, a forest official said Sunday. Sub-Divisional Officer (Forest) Bhura Gaikwad said a patrolling team Saturday spotted the carcass of a tiger in compartment RF-610 of Salkhania beat in the BTR.

international



In the communities of ancient Christian tradition, such as those of the West, the presence of many brothers and sisters from the world's South should be welcomed as an opportunity, through an exchange that renews the face of the Church

POPE LEO | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

HISTORIC POLLS IN SYRIA

Syria is holding parliamentary elections Sunday for the first time since the fall of the country's longtime autocratic leader, Bashar Assad, who was unseated in a rebel offensive in December. Under the 50-year rule of the Assad dynasty, Syria held regular elections in which all Syrian citizens could vote



SUZAN DELBENE | DEMOCRATIC PARTY POLITICIAN, US

Our nation is in crisis There is no food, no foreign exchange. This is a man-made crisis. country. I don't promise you milk and honey, but hard work PETER MUTHARIKA | PRESIDENT, MALAW

Disconnection from Russian energy in an integrated European market should not be a problem. all conditions are there. It's the intention that is

LÁSZLÓ MIKLÓS | ENERGY INDUSTRY ANALYST

SHORT **TAKES**

Pop star turned militant surrenders

Beirut: A Lebanese pop star turned wanted Islamic militant handed himself over to the country's military intelligence service Saturday 12 years after going on the run, judicial and security officials said. Fadel Shaker, had been on the run since the bloody street clashes between Sunni Muslim militants and the Lebanese army in June 2013 in the coastal city of Sidon. He was tried in absentia and sentenced to 22 years in prison in 2020 for providing support to a "terrorist group." On Saturday night, a Lebanese military intelligence force reached one of the entrances of the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein el-Hilweh near Sidon and took Shaker, who had been hiding inside the camp for more than 12 years, into custody, two security and two judicial officials said.

Indonesia school mishap toll rises

Sidoario: Indonesian rescuers are searching Sunday for missing students after a prayer hall at an Islamic boarding school collapsed almost a week ago. They have recovered 23 bodies over the weekend search, bringing the death toll to 40. Using jackhammers, circular saws and sometimes their bare hands, rescue teams diligently removed rubble in an attempt to find the 26 missing students. The structure fell on top of hundreds of students, mostly boys between the ages of 12 and 19, September 30 at the century-old Al Khoziny school in Sidoarjo on the eastern side of Indonesia's Java island. Police said two levels were added to the two-story building without a permit, leading to structural failure. This has triggered widespread anger over illegal construction in Indonesia.

PROTESTS WORLDWID

Deadly downpours ravage eastern Nepal fallout with US



51 killed in landslides and floods triggered by torrential rains

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Oct 5: At least 51 people have been killed in different places of eastern Nepal till Sunday morning in various incidents caused by landslides and floods triggered by downpour since last night, an official of the Armed Police Force said. As many as 37 people have

been killed in different places of Ilam district in Koshi province due to landslides triggered by heavy rainfall in the past two days, said Kalidas Dhaubaji, spokesperson of the Armed Police Force (APF).

Of the 37, eight people each were killed in Deumai and Maijogmai municipalities, six each in Ilam municipality and Sandakpur rural municipality. five in Survodaya municipality, three in Mangsebung and one in Fakfokthum village, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRR-MA) said in a press release.

Two people died in Udayapur and one in Panchathar due to floods and landslides.

Separately, three people were killed in a lightning strike in Rautahat and two in Khotang

Meanwhile, six people died in an accident in Panchthar district due to the roads being damaged by the downpour.

At least four people went missing after they were swept away by the swollen river in Langtang Conservation Area of Rasuwa district, and one each missing in the incidents of floods in Ilam, Bara and

As a friendly neighbour and first responder, India remains committed to providing any assistance that ARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER, INDIA

Also four people out of 16. who were on a trekking expedition in the Langang area, have gone missing, Dhaubaji said.

Nepal Army, Nepal Police and APF personnel were involved in carrying out rescue operations. The security personnel rescued four people, including a pregnant woman, from Ilam district in helicopters and admitted them to a hospital in Dharan municipality.

Monsoon was active in five of the seven provinces of Nepal, namely Koshi, Madhes, Bagmati, Gandaki and Lumbini.

Offering help to the neighbouring country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a social media post said "India remains committed to providing any assistance". "The loss of lives and damage caused by heavy rains in Nepal is distressing. We stand with the people and Government of Nepal in this difficult time." Modi wrote on X

Meanwhile, the Nepal government has allowed some vehicles to travel to and from Kathmandu in view of the improved weather conditions.

On Sunday, Kathmandu Valley received less rainfall as compared to the past two days and road blockages caused by landslides have been removed from some of the national highways.

"As per the decision of the Monsoon Counter Command Post, vehicles operating for emergency services and vehicles transporting goods as well as passenger vehicles and short distance vehicles halted in the middle of the national highways will be allowed to move towards their destinations keeping in view the conditions of the roads in coordination with the local authorities, read a statement issued by the **TOMAHAWK MISSILES**

Putin warns of

Tomahawk cruise missiles have a range of 2.500 kilometres (1.550 miles), which means that if Ukraine got the missiles then the Kremlin and all of European Russia would be within target

Moscow, Oct 5: Russian President Vladimir Putin said that if the United States supplied Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine for long-range strikes deep into Russia then it would lead to the destruction of Moscow's relationship with Washington.

Less than two months since US President Donald Trump met Putin at a summit in Alaska, peace looks even further away with Russian forces ad vancing in Ukraine, Russian drones allegedly flying in NA-TO airspace and now Washington talking about direct participation in striking deep into the world's biggest nuclear power.

Trump has said he is disap pointed with Putin for not making peace and has cast Russia as a "paper tiger" for failing to subdue Ukraine. Putin last week hit back, questioning if NATO was not the "paper tiger" for failing to stop Russia's advance.

US Vice President JD Vance said last month that Washington was considering a Ukrainian request to obtain long-range Tomahawks that could strike deep into Russia, including Moscow, though it is unclear if a final de cision has been made.

"This will lead to the destruction of our relations, or at least the positive trends that have emerged in these relations," Putin said in a video clip released Sunday by Russian state television reporter Pavel Zarubin.

The Wall Street Journal reported last week that the United States will provide Ukraine



new, qualitatively new stage of escalation, including in elations between Russia and the

LADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

with intelligence on long-range energy infrastructure targets in Russia, as it weighs whether to send Kyiv missiles that could be used in such strikes. Two officials confirmed the Journal report to Reuters But one US official and three

other sources told Reuters that the Trump Administration's desire to send long-range Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine may not be viable because current inventories are committed to the US Navy and other uses. Putin Thursday said that

it was impossible to use Tomahawks without the direct participation of US military personnel and so any supply of such missiles to Ukraine would trigger a "qualitatively new stage of escalation" He added that Tomahawks

could harm Russia, but that it would simply shoot them down and improve its own air defence. Putin portrays the Ukraine

war as a watershed moment in Moscow's relations with the West, which he says humiliated Russia after the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union by enlarging NA-TO and encroaching on what he considers Moscow's sphere

UK expands police powers on protests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Oct 5: Britain's police forces will be granted new powers to impose restrictions on repeat protests, the UK gov ernment said Sunday - a day after nearly 500 arrests were made at a London march in support of the banned group Palestine Action. The new powers, details of

which will be laid out in the coming weeks, will allow senior officers to consider the "cumulative impact" of previ ous protest activity.

If a protest has taken place at the same site for weeks on end and caused repeated disorder, the police will have the au thority to instruct organisers to hold the event somewhere else, the UK Home Office said

A breach of such conditions will result in arrest and prose cution. "The right to protest is a fundamental freedom in our country. However, this free dom must be balanced with the freedom of their neighbours to live their lives without fear,' said UK Home Secretary Sha bana Mahmood. "These changes mark an

important step in ensuring we protect the right to protest while ensuring all feel safe in this country," she said.



Her move comes after both she and Prime Minister Kein Starmer had called on the organisers of Saturday's pro-Pal estinian protest to reconsider out of respect for the British Jewish community in the wake of the terrorist attack on a syna gogue in Manchester Thursday

Meanwhile, the Crime and Policing Bill going through Parliament includes a range of other measures aimed at strengthening policing powers

Asif cautions India against future conflict

Islamabad, Oct 5: Two days after Indian army chief warned Islamabad that it will be erased from the world map if it continues sponsoring terrorism, Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif Sunday cautioned New Delhi against any future military conflict, saying India would be "buried under the wreckage of its warplanes".

Asif's response came days after India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi cautioned Pakistan against any misadventure.

Asif took to social media to respond sharply to what he called provocative statements from New Delhi's top security establishment. He termed some recent statements by Indian military and political leaders as a "failed attempt" to restore their lost credibility, which in his words was a result of "pressure"



after defeat in the May clashes. "The statements of the Indian military and political leadership are a failed attempt to restore their tarnished reputation. After such a decisive defeat with a score of 0-6, if they try again, the score, God willing, will be far better than before," he wrote. He, however, did not elaborate what he meant by score of 0-6. On Friday, Army Chief Gen

Dwivedi said that the neigh-

sponsoring terrorism on its soil if it wants to retain its place on

the world map. The Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) also said the restraint shown by New Delhi during Operation Sindoor would not be repeated in case of a future military conflict

prepared this time. And this time, it will not show the restraint that it showed during Operation Sindoor 1.0. This time we will take a step forward and act in a manner that will make Pakistan think whether it wants to remain on the world map or not." General Dwivedi said.

IMRAN TURNS 73 IN JAIL; X ACCOUNT BLOCKED

Pakistan government has sought to block Imran Khan's X account for posting "anti-state" material, a minister said Sunday even as the incarcerated former prime minister's party celebrated their leader's 73rd birthday in Lahore and elsewhere. The former cricketer-turnedpolitician has been in jail for over two years in multiple cases. He is currently lodged in the Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi. "We have contacted the X (management) seeking blocking of Imran Khan's account for anti-state, especially anti-army tweets," Federal State Minister on Law Barrister Aqeel Malik said in a TV interview Sunday. "We have also launched a probe to know who is running Khan's X account and making anti-state posts," he said, adding, the government would soon uncover the network behind it. Earlier, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif alleged that India is managing and shaping the narrative of Imran Khan on X.

Almost 1K trapped on Tibetan side of Mt Everest by blizzard



REUTERS

Shanghai, Oct 5: Rescue efforts were underway Sunday to clear access to campsites on Tibet's eastern slope of Mount Everest, where nearly 1,000 people have been trapped by a blizzard that has blocked roads, according to Chinese state media reports.

Hundreds of local villages and rescue teams have been deployed to help remove snow blocking access to the area, which sits at an altitude

above 4,900 metres (16,000 feet). according to a report in Jimu

Some tourists on the mountain have already been brought down the mountain, it added.

The snowfall began Fri day evening and continued throughout Saturday, according to notices on the official WeChat accounts of the local Tingri County Tourism Company, which said ticket sales and entry to the Everest Scenic Area were suspended from late Saturday.

A protester wearing a Georgian flag walks towards police officers blocking the street during an opposition rally on the day of local elec-



A law enforcement officer confronts a demonstrator, as another one is detained, during a standoff with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and federal officers in the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois, US



Firefighters try to extinguish a burning vehicle during a national protest for Gaza, in Rome, Italy. Hundreds of thousands of people marched through central Rome Saturday for the fourth straight day of protests in Italy

business



Russian barrels remain among the most economical feedstock options for Indian refiners, given their high GPW (gross product worth) margins and discounts relative to

SUMIT RITOLIA | LEAD RESEARCH ANALYST (REFINING & MODELLING), KPLER

NSE'S PITCH FOR TATA MEMORIAL CENTRE

Country's largest equity bourse NSE Sunday announced that it will spend ₹380 crore to build a facility to help in cancer treatment at Tata Memorial Hospital. The 11-storey NSE multi-speciality hospital block and bone marrow transplant (BMT) centre will come up at TMC-run ACTREC in the satellite city of Navi Mumbai. Groundbreaking for the facility being constructed by L&T was conducted Sunday, an official statement said



their financial health to achieve faster poverty reduction goals IQBAL SINGH DHALIWAL

GLOBAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, J-PAL



AJAY SRIVASTAVA | FOUNDER, GTRI

India is witnessing a record surge in festive travel this Diwali, as travellers combine traditional celebra-



RAJESH MAGOW | CEO, MAKEMYTRIP

SHORT **TAKES**

Punjab & Sind Bank loan report

New Delhi: State-owned Puniab & Sind Bank has posted a 16.1 per cent growth in loans to ₹1.05 lakh crore in the second quarter of FY26. Gross advances were ₹91.032 crore at the end of September 30, 2024, Punjab & Sind Bank said in a regulatory filing. The Delhi-based lender reported a 9.42 per cent increase in total deposits to ₹1.35 lakh crore against ₹1.24 lakh crore at the end of the second quarter of the previous financial year. The bank's total business rose by 12.2 per cent to ₹2.41 lakh crore from ₹2.15 lakh crore in the year-ago period, Current Account and Savings Account (CASA) of the bank stood at 30.3 per cent of the total deposits compared to 30.4 per cent at the end of the second quarter of the previous fiscal. Credit deposit ratio per cent to 77.92 per cent at the end of September 2025,

UCO Bank loan report

New Delhi: State-owned UCO Bank has reported a 16.6 per cent growth in credit to ₹2.31 lakh crore for the second quarter of FY26. Its total advances were ₹1.98 lakh crore at the end of September 30, 2024, UCO Bank said in a regulatory filing. The Kolkata-based lender reported a 10.8 per cent increase in total deposits to ₹3.06 lakh crore against ₹2.76 lakh crore at the end of the second quarter of the previous financial year. The bank's total business rose by 13.2 per cent to ₹5.37 lakh crore from ₹4.74 lakh crore in the year-ago period.

Vedanta's expansion

New Delhi: Anil Agarwalled Vedanta Ltd plans to pump in ₹13,226 crore to ramp up its aluminium capacity to 3.1 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) by FY28, sources said. The current capacity of the company is 2.4 MTPA. Vedanta Ltd is anchoring aluminium at the centre of its growth strategy, with an expansion plan that will take capacity to 3.1 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) by FY28, sources said. The company is planning to invest ₹13,226 crore over the next few years for this expansion, they said. Vedanta's aluminium capacity will expand to 2.75 MTPA by FY26, and further to 3.1 MTPA by FY28, sources said.

Bitcoin touches record high crossing \$125,000

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 5: Bitcoin, the world's largest cryptocurrency by market value, hit a record high Sunday, and was up nearly 2.7 per cent at \$125,245.57.

As of 2.54 pm, the bitcoin stood at \$124,353.96, up 1.55 per cent in intraday trading. The cryptocurrency experienced its eighth consecutive session of surges Friday, propelled by recent gains in US equities and inflows into Bitcoin exchange-traded funds.

Bitcoin's previous record was \$124,480 in mid-August, buoyed by friendlier regulations from US President Donald Trump's administration and strong demand from institutional in-

The sustained institutional buying and the moves by the Trump administration to ease investment in crypto assets added to the tailwinds. The passage of stablecoin regulations and the US Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) overhaul of regulations to accommodate digital assets have bolstered investor confidence.

In contrast, the US dollar experienced a decline on Friday. resulting in multi-week losses against major currencies. The outlook was clouded by the uncertainty surrounding a US government shutdown, which delayed the release of critical data, such as payrolls, which are essential for determining



the economy's direction.

Analysts said that this bullish trend is consistent with the price performance of Bitcoin following the halving event. Typically, the halving event is seen as a catalyst that triggers

long-term price rallies for BTC, as it involves slashing by half the volume of the cryptocur-

The United States has been warming up with Pakistan, focusing on a cryptocurrency

President Donald Trump's family's World Liberty Financial and military-linked funds in Pakistan, according to Dis-Info Lab Bilal bin Sagib, a British-Pa-

kistani entrepreneur who now serves as CEO of Pakistan's newly formed Crypto Council (PCC) and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Blockchain, also serves as an adviser to WLF, raising conflict-of-interest concerns.

In June 2025, Pakistan signed agreements with Trump-backed crypto venture World Liberty Financial (WLF) and Binance to expand blockchain infrastructure and promote decentralised finance (DeFi).

Festive sales break 10-year record

INDO-ASAIN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 5: The government's Next Gen GST reforms are beginning to show a strong impact on the economy as the ongoing festive season has wit nessed record-breaking sales especially in the automobile sector, experts said Sunday.

Income tax expert Vinod Rawal said that the benefits of the new GST system are clearly visible on the ground.

"You see, the festive season has already begun. In the very first days of Navratri, when 45 per cent of sales are usually made, this time the record of the last 10 years has been bro



"Maruti has delivered 1.65,000 cars. Mahindra's sales have increased by 60 per cent compared to last year, Hyundai has captured a 72 per cent share in the SUV segment, and Tata has sold 50,000 vehicles," Rawal

He added that the purpose of GST was "One Nation, One Tax," and the new format has simplified the system further by abolishing cess and merging rates directly into the tax structure. "When your refund is quick, its impact is visible immediately. This reform is making a big difference in the market," Rawal explained.

"If you look at this, the impact of Next Gen GST is clearly visible. You can't say that this impact will be seen in the future; it is visible right now,' he stated.

Echoing similar views, auto industry expert and former Managing Director of Nissan India Private Limited, Arun Malhotra, said that GST reform has provided a significant boost to the automobile industry.

"Prices of 95 per cent of vehi cles have dropped by 8-10 per cent. Since the beginning of the festive season on the first Navratri, the industry has seen a sharp rise in demand, driven by reduced prices and ongoing festive offers," he said.

Experts believe that the Next Gen GST reforms have not only simplified the tax structure but also strengthened consum er confidence, setting the stage for a robust festive season and a stronger economic outlook.

MARKET UPDATE

FPIs offload equities amid global cues worth ₹23,885 crore

New Delhi, Oct 5: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) remained net sellers of Indian equities in September, withdrawing ₹23,885 crore (around \$2.7 billion) and taking year-todate outflow to ₹1.58 lakh crore (\$17.6 billion). This marks the third con-

secutive month of withdrawals, following heavy outflows of ₹34,990 crore in August and ₹17,700 crore in July, data from depositories showed. The latest selling was driv-

en by multiple factors, like US trade and policy shocks -- steep tariff hikes of up to 50 per cent on Indian goods and a one-time \$100,000 H1B visa fee, which hurt sentiment toward export-oriented sectors, especially IT. Himanshu Srivastava. Principal, Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

The rupee's fall to a record low level also added currency risk, while relatively high valuations of Indian equities prompted rotation to other Asian markets, he added.

Despite the ongoing sell-off, some analysts believe conditions may gradually turn in India's favour.

Vaqarjaved Khan, Senior



One, noted that valuations have now become more reasonable and that factors, such as a cut in GST rates and a pro-growth monetary policy, could help rekindle foreign interest.

"India remains the fastest-growing major economy globally." Khan said, adding that the upcoming earnings season and macroeconomic data will play a key role in determining FPI flows in the near term.

Echoing this, Srivastava pointed out that a sustained FPI turnaround will hinge on tariff clarity, currency stabilisation, earnings visibility, and a supportive global rate environ-

India's strong structural growth story could draw foreign investors back selectively.

Meanwhile, debt markets witnessed net inflow. FPIs invested about ₹1,085 crore under the general limit and ₹1,213 crore through the voluntary retention route in September.

VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, observed that FPIs' strategy of shifting funds from India to other markets has so far vielded better returns, as Indian equities have underperformed most global markets over the past year, with one-year returns

Gold to stay volatile big gains and more in achieving

New Delhi, Oct 5: Gold prices are likely to remain volatile in the coming week, as investors track developments around the US government funding bill, labour market data and Federal Reserve commentary analysts said.

The release of the Federal Open Market Committee meeting minutes Thursday is also likely to influence bullion market sentiment, they added.

"Federal Reserve official commentary will be closely watched with Fed Chair Jerome Powell's speech on Thursday," said Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG - Commodity & Currency Research at JM Financial Services Ltd.

Mer said gold prices added another 3.5-4 per cent to its recent gains last week, buoyed by a weaker US dollar and rising concerns over the partial US government shutdown, which has delayed crucial macroeco nomic data releases

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for December delivery surged ₹3,222, or 2.8 per cent, in the past week. Friday, the yellow metal closed at ₹1,18,113 per 10 grams. near its lifetime peak of ₹1,18,444 per 10 grams recorded earlier in the week.

Jyoti Prakash, Managing Partner, Equity and PMS at AlphaaMoney, said gold prices rose 2.8 per cent last week, noting that its appeal lies less in

them with modest drawdowns Echoing similar sentiments,

Prathamesh Mallya, DVP- Research, Non-Agri Commodities and Currencies, Angel One, said gold prices have touched lifetime highs in domestic markets. "Gold prices in India have climbed sharply in recent weeks, appearing unstoppable." Reflecting robust domestic

demand, India's gold and silver imports nearly doubled in September compared to August, ahead of the festive and wedding season, analysts said. Globally, gold futures for

December delivery rose 1.05 per cent to settle at \$3,908.90 per ounce on Friday, touching a record of \$3,923.30 per ounce Thursday. Riya Singh - Research Analyst, Commodities and Currency at Emkay Global Financial Services, said gold extended its rally to a fresh all-time high last week, marking its fifth consecutive session of gains, and reinforcing its status as the preeminent haven amid US political and monetary turbulence. Singh further stated that "Gold's yearto-date performance has been exceptional, with bullion prices rising more than 46 per cent, the largest annual gain since 1979".

Silver futures also witnessed a strong rally last week. The white metal for December delivery bounced by ₹3,855, or 2.72 per cent. It surged to end at ₹1,45,744 per kilogram Friday, after touching an all-time high of ₹1,46,975

Grokipedia beta version to launch soon

New Delhi, Oct 5: Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk informed Sunday that an early beta of Grokipedia, an xAIbuilt competitor to knowledge platform Wikipedia, will launch in two weeks

Musk retweeted a post by an X user @amXFreeze that called Grokipedia "the world's largest and most accurate knowledge source, for humans and AI, with no limits on use." "Grok is using massive amounts of inference compute to look at, sources like Wikipedia page and asking: What's true, partially true, false, or missing?," the tweet read.

It will analyse sources like Wikipedia, flagging falsehoods, correcting half-truths, and adding missing context in its entries, it said.

The reason why it will be the true knowledge source is because it's built solely for the truth and to navigate to the truth... free from bias or hidden agendas. Elon never does

anything by half measures, he dives straight to the full extent," the tweet said.

Musk has consistently criticised Wikipedia's funding and editorial approach. His proposal to use AI to "navigate to the truth" has generated mixed reactions on X, with some users expressing support for a new competitor, while others caution that Grok's training data may introduce new biases.

Grokipedia, he has stated in earlier announcements, is

intended to be a "massive improvement over Wikipedia' and a step towards xAI's goal of understanding the universe

Oct 2, Elon Musk became the world's first person ever to reach a net worth of \$500 billion, followed by Oracle's Larry Ellison at a distant second

Musk's AI startup xAI was valued at \$75 billion (as of July). xAI was targeting a \$200 billion valuation after a fundraise, although Musk said the company was not raising capital at that time.

Launch of all-new "Victoris"



egend Cars, Jeypore proudly launched brand-new SUV - "Victoris", a car that truly lacksquare Got it All! Built for the new generation, this SUV combines bold design, advanced technology, and exceptional comfort. With features like ambient lighting and Dolby At mos sound, the Victoris is not just stylish and smart—it's a reflection of today's modern lifestyle. Price starts from ₹10.5 Lacs to ₹19.99 Lacs. The car was unveiled by its very first customer Swastik Kumar Muni and Ashok Kumar Agrawal, in the gracious presence of media partners, finance partners, and insurance partners at Legend Cars, Jeypore

Shift towards premium devices to drive smartphone market

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 5: Chipset major Qualcomm expects shift of the Indian market towards the premium device segment will drive adoption of the company's latest and premium smartphone processor Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 in the country.

Qualcomm Technologies Group General Manager, Mobile, Compute, & XR (MCX), Alex Katouzian said that India has become a prime market for the company as it is gaining from the government's push for manufacturing, artificial intelligence and active involvement of home grown companies like

Flipkart, Lenskart etc. "I think the Indian market is turning more and more into a premium tier. So I think (Snap-

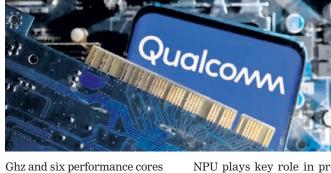
ed quite a bit. The reputation of Snapdragon in India is really good. Recently we got data that we are number one in branding as well," Katouzian said According to CyberMedia Re-

dragon) 8 Gen 5 will get accept-

search, Snapdragon commands 40 per cent market share in smartphones above ₹25,000 seg-Qualcomm at its annual flag-

ship event Snapdragon Summit launched its latest chipset Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 Mobile Platform -- the world's fastest mobile system-on-a-chip with CPU processing speed of up to 4.6 gigahertz in prime cores, GPU (graphics processing unit) speed of 1.2 Ghz per core.

The CPU in the new processor has 8 cores, which include 2 prime cores with top speed of 4.6



of up to 3.6 Ghz.

The chipset has three slots of GPU that can clock the top speed of 1.2 Ghz per core.

The new chipset has a hexagon NPU (neural processing unit) with 37 per cent high performance compared to the previous version of the Snapdragon

8 Elite chipset.

NPU plays key role in processing artificial intelligence (AI) based applications like real

time translation. The company claimed that with 37 per cent improvement in NPU, it will be able to add AI based improvement in every

frame of video like AI-enabled

mobile phone cameras have

been doing for still photographs

mium offering in the Snapdragon 8 Elite series will be featured in flagship devices from global manufacturers and smartphone brands, including Honor, iQOO, Nubia, OnePlus, OPPO, POCO, realme, REDMI, RedMagic, ROG, Samsung, Sony, vivo, Xiaomi and ZTE. Chinese smartphone makers

in combination with its Spectra

ISP (image signal processor) on

the new chipset. The latest pre-

have taken the lead in adopting the new chipsets for their device, with Xiaomi already unveiling Xiaomi 17 Series smartphones based on the Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 Mobile Platform.

Katouzian said that Qualcomm is now gaining a lot in India and engaging more deeply with the growing digital ecosystem in the country driven by government push on electronics manufacturing, artificial intelligence etc.

He said the government push to have local manufacturing has been beneficial for the company

"The government seeing the benefits of AI data centre, automotive growth will benefit us XR becoming more of a norm benefits us. As a consumption region for handsets and PCs benefit us. There are 20,000 Qualcomm employees in India, Katouzian said.

Qualcomm has also unveiled the Snapdragon X2 Elite Ex treme and Snapdragon X2 Elite with peak processing speed of 5 Ghz and neural process unit of 80 TOPS (trillions of operations per second) to step-up its play in the personal computer segment.

Eves extend unbeaten streak Para glory: India nets record 22 medals

INDIA BEAT PAKISTAN BY MAMMOTH 88-RUN MARGIN IN WOMEN'S WORLD CUP 2025, MAKE IT 12-0 IN HEAD-TO-HEAD CLASH

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Colombo, Oct 5: India extended their dominance over Pakistan in women's ODIs with a commanding 88-run win in the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup clash at the R Premadasa Sta-

Defending 247, the Indian bowlers were relentless, with Kranti Gaud (3-20) and Deepti Sharma (3-45) leading the charge to bowl out Pakistan for 159 in 43 overs.

The result also marks India's 12th victory over Pakistan in the format and takes them to the top of the points table in the competition. The tone for India was set by the opening bowlers. Both Renuka Singh Thakur and Kranti Gaud, who maintained a stump-to-stump line, extracted swing and seam movement in both directions, leaving Pakistan's top order searching for answers.

As a result, Pakistan found themselves behind the required rate within the first 15 overs, a deficit they never quite recovered from, despite a gritty 81 off 106 balls from Sidra Amin. She reached her fifty in 82 deliveries and was dropped four times during her innings, but found little support from the rest of the lineup as India's bowlers tightened the screws and ensured their unbeaten record against their arch-rivals remains intact.

Pakistan's chase lacked conviction from the word go, with the batters having no answers to the barrage of inswingers from Renuka and Kranti. India, despite missing three plumb lbw chances and burning both



No handshake policy followed by India Women at toss, continuing the trend set by the men's team during their victorious Asia Cup campaign

- though Richa Ghosh's two missed catches could've made the scorecard leaner.

Muneeba Ali's dismissal was bizarre - initially ruled not out, she was run out by a direct hit from Deepti after lifting her bat after having grounded it first. Sadaf Shamas followed soon after, falling to a tame caughtand-bowled dismissal to Kranti. The young pacer then struck again as Aliya Riaz edged to second slip, with Pakistan's innings continuing to unravel.

After Kranti and Renuka bowled 15 overs combined. Natalia Pervaiz got some power by lofting and sweeping Sneh Rana for two fours, before Sidra lofted against the off-spinner and N Shree Charani for six and four respectively. Natalia then took successive boundaries off Deepti Sharma, even as Richa shelled another chance to give Sidra a reprieve.

Post the duo bringing up the fifty of their partnership. Sidra and Natalia continued to garner runs at a brisk pace against the spinners, especially with some ordinary fielding by India, and Charani being off the field after picking up an injury while diving to save a

Referee goofs up at toss n what looked like a mix up

during the toss proceedings for India's Women's World Cup contest here Sunday, match referee Shandre Fritz mistakenly declared Pakistan skipper Fatima Sana the winner, India captain Harmanpreet Kaur flipped the coin, and Sana called "tails," but Fritz misheard it as "heads." a cue that presenter Mel Jones also followed. The coin landed heads up, and the result went Pakistan's way, allowing the Women in Green to opt for bowling first under overcast conditions. Harmanpreet, who didn't shake hands with Sana, also didn't react and approached Jones for a chat after the Pakistan skipper.

'BUGS BREAK' HALTS PLAY

Unusual scenes unfolded at the R Premadasa Stadium during the high-profile clash between India and Pakistan in the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup as play was halted to allow ground staff to carry out pest control measures. Persistent rain in Colombo over the past few days has led to a surge in bugs across the outfield, causing visible discomfort and distraction for players from both sides during the match. Once 34 overs were done, the match officials decided to temporarily walk off the field so that the ground could be cleared of bugs and make playing conditions better.

But Kranti provided the breakthrough when she forced Natalia to hit the ground, and was caught by backward point to end the 69-run stand. One brought two for India as Deepti had a scratchy Fatima Sana

BRIEF SCORES

India 247 all out in 50 overs (Harleen Deol 46, Richa Ghosh 35 not out; Diana Baig 4-69, Fatima Sana Khan overs (Sidra Amin 81, Natalia Deepti Sharma 3-45) by 88 runs

2-38) beat Pakistan 159 all out in 43

sure to win silver after a starter pistol malfunction saw her compete twice in stifling conditions. Paris Paralympics

India finish 10th as it

secured biggest haul

in any edition of the

World Championships.

The home side claims

six gold, nine silver, and

seven bronze medals

New Delhi, Oct 5: Simran

Sharma battled exhaustion

and a stiff back to turn in an

inspired performance on way

to clinching the women's 200m

T12 silver on a hot and humid

evening as India finished their

World Para Athletics Champi-

onships with a record 22 med-

On a day of high drama,

when India won three silver

and a bronze to finish with

six gold, nine silver and seven

bronze, women's 100m T35 ath-

lete, Preethi Pal showed men-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

als, here Sunday

tal fortitude

in ample mea-

gold medallist in F41 javelin event Navdeep Singh, favourite to win gold on home turf. also settled for silver as India finished 10th on the medals table -- a big disappointment as

high jumper Prayeen Kumar lived up to their top billing. Men's 200m T44 athlete Sandeep then unexpectedly won bronze with a personal best time of 23.60 seconds to give India

ished fourth had Navdeep and

the hosts could have easily fin-

first time

Javelin thrower Navdeen's best attempt of 45.46m was only good enough for a silver as Iran's Sadegh Beit Sayah's massive 48.86m throw fetched him the gold Sunday. The 24-year old Navdeep seemed to be warming up nicely when his third attempt of 45.46m -- his season's best -- put him head

cement supremacy



Dubey, Thakur shine as Vidarbha beat Rest of India by 93 runs, extending their unbeaten run

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, Oct 5: Yash Dhull smashed his way to 92 but Vidarbha bowling unit proved too good for Rest of India as they comfortably won the Irani Cup by 93 runs here on Sunday. Chasing a target of 361, Rest of India were all out for 267 in the second session of the fifth day with leftarm spinner Harsh Dubey (4/73) and pacer Yash Thakur (2/47) doing bulk of the damage.

Vidarbha now have played three Irani Cup games and won all three. Credit would go to Dubey and Thakur -- both of whom had a match-haul of six wickets and did well enough to get majority of the 20 Rest of India wickets across two innings.

Rest had slumped to 133 for six during the first session on the final morning but it was Dhull and Manav Suthar (56), who got Rest of India back in the game with a 104-run stand for the seventh wicket stand.

However it was Thakur who put paid to Rest's hopes of an imorobable win when Dhull tried to slash him but Atharva Taide at deep third man boundary took a well-judged catch inches inside the boundary ropes.

The dismissal was followed by an ugly incident where bowler Thakur and Delhi man Dhull nearly came to exchanging blows after the former had given the batter a rather rude send off.

The two umpires and Vidarbha fielders came between them to calm things but both will get some sort of sanction from the match referee.

Off the very next ball, Thakur cleaned up Akash Deep and before Dubey, last year's highest wicket-taker in Ranji Trophy, ended the game in style.

BRIEF SCORES

Vidarbha: 342 and 232 beat Rest of India: 214 and (target 361): 267 all out in 73.5 overs (Yash Dhull 92, Manav Suthar 56, Harsh Dubey 4/73 and

Irani Cup: Vidarbha Anisimova's 2025 title wait ends

Beijing, Oct 5: Two-time Grand Slam finalist Amanda Anisimova won her second WTA 1000 title of the year Sunday, brushing off a second-set stumble to beat Linda Noskova 6-0 2-6 6-2 in the China Open final.

Czech Noskova, who had prevailed in a two-and-a-half hour battle against Jessica Pegula in Saturday's semi-finals , struggled to keep up with Anisimova's power and speed. "It's been an incredible few

weeks... we had a lot of challenges," said Anisimova, who had to withdraw from last month's Korea Open due to an ankle injury. The 24-year-old also defeated



second seed Coco Gauff on her way to the final.

Anisimova, the runner-up at both the US Open and Wimbledon this year who has risen to No 4 in the world rankings,

the American.

World number four Anisi-

mova picked precise angles to bounce the ball near the sidelines and frustrate Noskova, blanking the 20-year-old in just Noskova, unfazed by the ba-

gel in her first WTA 1000 final, got a break in the first game of the second set, before saving two break points with an ace and powerful backhands to take a decisive 4-2 lead against

However, Anisimova, runner-up at Wimbledon and the US Open this year, imposed her will again in the third set, winning four straight games against an exhausted Noskova to secure

Russell rules the streets of Singapore

McLAREN SECURES CONSTRUCTORS' TITLE IN SINGAPORE GRAND PRIX

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Oct 5: George Russell won the Singapore Grand Prix in dominant style Sunday as McLaren secured the Formula 1 constructors' championship with six races to go.

Russell stayed in control from pole position to take his and Mercedes' second win of the year ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who held off Lando Norris for second place despite struggling with car problems.

It was a personal milestone for Russell, who crashed on the last lap while fighting for the podium places in Singapore in 2023. Norris cut into Piastri's



standings lead for the third race in a row. The Australian now leads Norris by 22 points, with Verstappen 41 further back.

Piastri finished outside the top three in back-to-back races for the first time since the Australian Grand Prix in March. It was the first F1 race to be

Rookie Aldeguer wins Indonesia GP

Mandalika: Rookie Fermin Aldeguer earned the first victory of his fledgling MotoGP career at the Indonesia Grand Prix Sunday, while newly crowned hampion Marc Marquez crashed out after a crunching collision with Marco Bezzecchi. Gresini Racing rider Aldegu surged past KTM's Pedro Acosta to take the lead in the 10th lap, eventually finishing well clear of the competition The win will have helped Aldeguer eras the pain of his second-placed finish in



Saturday's sprint, where he led for most of the 13-lap race before finishing second behind Bezzecchi. "I can't believe it, no. I'm super happy. I have a lot of words to say," said Aldeguer, who became the first rookie to win a race since Jorge Martin in 2021. At 20 years and 183 days old. Aldequer also becomes the second-younges rider to ever win a MotoGP race after Marquez at 20 years and 63 days.

officially declared a "heat hazard" by the governing body,

the FIA, under new rules that came in this season.

CHECKMATE CLASH TURNS CONTROVERSIAL

Nakamura defeats Gukesh, throws king into crowd

The Japan-born American chess star's post-match gesture against world champion D Gukesh stirred a storm of debate across the chess world

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 5: The United States cruised to a commanding 5-0 victory over India in the first leg of the Checkmate event, a live arena chess spectacle held in Arlington. World No 2 Hikaru Nakamura defeated world champion D Gukesh in the headline match, but it was his controversial post-match

celebration that grabbed glob-

al attention. The highly anticipated clash saw both sides create chances, vet the Americans held their composure to deliver a clean sweep. India, playing with the black pieces, faltered under pressure and will look to bounce back in the return leg on home soil.

Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi



was beaten by Fabiano Caruana, while Divya Deshmukh suffered an upset loss to International Master Carissa Yip. International Master Levy Rozman overcame Sagar Shah, and chess prodigy Ethan Vaz fell to Tani Adewumi.

However, Nakamura's actions after his victory over Gukesh caused a stir. Moments after the match ended, he took Gukesh's king piece and threw it towards the crowd — a gesture that divided opinion online. Critics called it disrespectful, while others suggested it was part of the entertainment format encouraged by organisers. Despite the controversy, Gukesh earned widespread praise for his composure. The 19-year-old Indian, currently ranked World No 11, is expected to lead India's response in the second leg of Checkmate to be held in India.

The event, designed to blend sport and spectacle, marked a new experiment in live chess entertainment, but Nakamura's dramatic gesture ensured it ended in headlines bevond the board.

This was Simran's third World Para Athletics medal. She had won the gold T12 200m

Simran takes second medal

in two days.

Simran was all fired up in

the women's 200m T12 event

despite the champion athlete

running her sixth sprint race

The 25-year-old Uttar

Pradesh para athlete, who has

significant visual limitation

and runs with a sighted guide

to assist her during her races

added a silver to the 100m T12

gold she won Friday with an

Asian record and personal best

Simran initially finished

third behind Venezuela's Ale-

jandra Perez Lopez, and Bra-

zil's Clara Barros de Silva (24.42

seconds), but the former was

disqualified leading to the In-

dian moving up to second spot.

time of 24.46 second.

gold at the 2024 World in Kobe Silver 'twice over' for Preethi

Women's 100m T35 sprint er, Preethi Pal had begun her Besides the 22 medals, celebrations, Indian athletes also set draped the trico three Championship lour around her Records, seven kissed the track Asian Records, and achieved nine 4th place and was soaking in the atmofinishes and more

than 30 personal best sphere when the performances in the announcement **World Para Athletics** came that there Championships hosted would be a 'reby the country for the run' because of the starter pistol malfunction.

Navdeep takes silver

and shoulders above the rest

First time in 74 years: Sevilla humiliate Barca

AGENCIES

Madrid. Oct 5: Barcelona suffered a staggering 4-1 defeat at Sevilla Sunday in La Liga Former Barcelona and Arsenal player Alexis Sanchez scored for Sevilla, while Robert Lewandowski missed a penalty for the visitors, as the Los Rojiblancos registered their first win over the Spanish champi ons since October 2015.



It was the first time in 74 years that Sevilla scored four goals against Barça and won, making it their biggest win over them since a 0-4 in 1951. For the latter, it was the worst loss since a 4-1 against Celta Vigo in 2015

Barcelona, experiencing their first loss of the season now sit in second place, trail ing bitter rivals Real Madrid by two points, following Ma drid's win over Villarreal Saturday. Sevilla climbed to fourth place, if temporarily.

The Catalan side was still reeling from their midweek Champions League loss to Paris Saint-Germain.

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