



Sam’s approach

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

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

Fresh violence rocks Cuttack

■ 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

OP PHOTO

PNN & AGENCIES

Cuttack/Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: Cuttack remained tense Sunday following 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 Sunday night imposed curfew in 13 police station ar-

reas of Cuttack after 25 people were injured in the fresh episode of violence.

Police Commissioner S 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.

In view of the prevailing law and order situation, the state government suspend-

ed internet services in areas under Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), Cuttack Development Authority (CDA), and the adjoining 42 Mouza region from 7pm Sunday to 7pm Monday to prevent the spread of misinformation.

Majhi and Patnaik’s appeal came after the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) organised a motorcycle rally in the evening defying the district administration’s order.

According to officials, CCTV cameras installed

along the route were damaged, and shops in Gourishankar Park area were allegedly set on fire after police stopped the procession.

The rally, which began at Bidyadharpur on the eastern outskirts of the city, moved through key areas, including the Dargha Bazar locality — the epicentre of the violence 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 will be taken against violators.

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 city has been disturbed in recent days,” he said.

The CM said the government was keeping a close eye 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 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 Khilari Rishikesh Dnyandeo. According to police, six persons were arrested. **MORE P3**

Landslides leave 20 dead in Darjeeling



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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, Jashirgaon, Mirik Basti, Dhar Gaon (Mechi), Nagrakata and Mirik Lake area.

Stating that the loss of lives is tragic, North Bengal Development Minister Udayan Guha told PTI that the situation is “alarming.” “As of now the death toll is 20. It is likely to go up. I am on my way to the area,” 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 people 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 had flocked to the Darjeeling hills to enjoy Durga Puja and post-Puja festivities, have been left stranded as heavy rainfall triggered massive landslides. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee 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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai/ New Delhi, Oct 5: In a major incident involving an Air India plane, Ram Air Turbine (RAT), which is usually used in case of engine failures, got deployed without any command from a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft a few minutes before landing at the Birmingham airport Saturday, according to officials.

Aviation watchdog DGCA is probing the incident involving aircraft VT-ANO operating the flight AI117 from Amritsar to Birmingham October 4. The plane landed safely, the officials said Sunday.

Generally, RAT gets deployed automatically in the eventuality of a dual engine failure or electrical/electronic or hydraulic failure, among others. 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 carry out thorough checks and investigate the electrical system of all Boeing 787 aircraft in the country.

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, an Air India spokesperson said the operating crew of 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 hot iron by in-laws

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. **P5**

Killer cough syrup: 2 more kids die in MP

Betul: Two children from Amla block in Madhya Pradesh’s Betul district have died allegedly after taking Coldrif cough syrup, which has been banned now as tests showed presence of a toxic chemical called diethylene glycol, health officials said Sunday. Amla Block Medical Officer Dr Ashok Narware identified the two children as Kabir (4), and two-and-a-half-year-old Garmit.

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



Play Store and Apple’s App Store.

Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu in an X post Sunday detailed the homegrown engineering frameworks that run Arattai.

In the post, Vembu said he had advised his team to resolutely stay course, and not allow praise, criticism

or fame to distract.

“This is what I told our Arattai team yesterday; all 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 is our mindset,” Vembu,

now chief scientist at Zoho, wrote.

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’ and bolster the country’s self-reliance in technology.

DHARITRI
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leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Curl, massage, clip, tweeze, polish, gloss, condition... today, will you attempt to shed your old skin. A dream date may have you in jitters 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.

GEMINI
You need to pay more attention to yourself today. Your kind and generous nature means you often think about others rather 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.

LEO
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.

VIRGO
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 difficult to do.

LIBRA
Ganesha says people will try to take advantage of your 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 you 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.



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.”



Samantha's perspective

Mumbai: Samantha Ruth Prabhu disclosed the one quote that ended up changing her life perspective towards life. 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 bother you.”

During the session, another cyber-citizen asked her, “How to focus on health? Being a student it’s really hard to find time!! Can u plz give

suggestions? (sic).”

To this, the actress replied, “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 added.



IAN S

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.

October 4, celebrity fitness trainer Rupal Sidh offered fans a glimpse into his routine by sharing photos of him performing advanced yoga postures. 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 routine with celebrity clients. Watch as Saif masters handstands, backbends, and forward folds—this sequence builds a powerful, resilient body from the inside out,” she captioned.

On the professional front, Saif was last seen in the heist thriller *Jewel Thief*, alongside Jaideep Ahlawat, Kunal Kapoor, and Nikita Dutta. He will next star in Priyadarshan’s remake of Mohanlal’s *Oppam*, reuniting with Akshay Kumar after 17 years.

AGENCIES



AGENCIES

Triptii takes trip down memory lane

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, Triptii 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.”

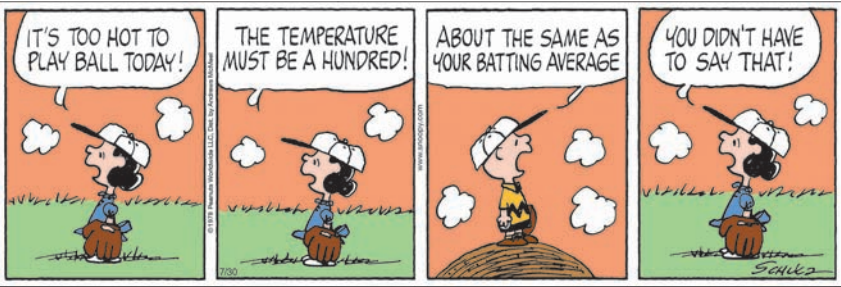
Bulbbul also stars Avinash Tiwary, Paoli Dam, Rahul Bose, and Parambrata Chattopadhyay. Set against the backdrop of the 1880s Bengal presidency, the film revolves around a child bride and her journey from innocence to strength.

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 village.

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*.

IAN S

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

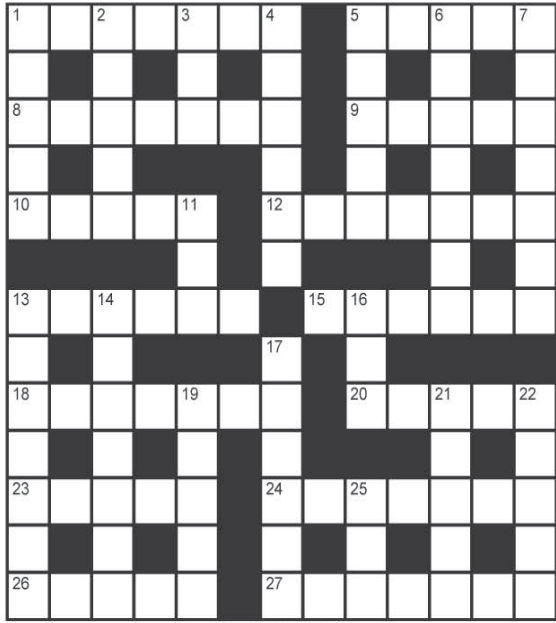


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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- Across**
1 Caused a melee
5 Station
8 Love or hate, e.g.
9 Like the flu
10 Chronic nag
12 Erode (3,4)
13 Computer key
15 Enthusiastic (4,2)
18 Unpredictable
20 Roof overhangs
- Down**
23 Ogre
24 Get better
26 They go up and down (2-3)
27 Chic
1 Pub orders
2 French romance
3 Waikiki wear
4 Stubborn sort
5 Golfer’s leftover
- Across**
6 Old headwear
7 What a fox hates to hear (5-2)
11 Humour
13 Cook in oil (4-3)
14 It’s against the law
16 Consume
17 Journalist
19 Ocean motions
21 Quartet member
22 Odour
25 Bakery offering

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

'Capital needs to embrace people-centric planning'

SSB aspirants launch hunger strike in City

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: On the occasion of World Habitat Day 2025 today, observed under the theme 'Urban Crisis Response', 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 people-centric urbanism. "The 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, offers a feasible solution."

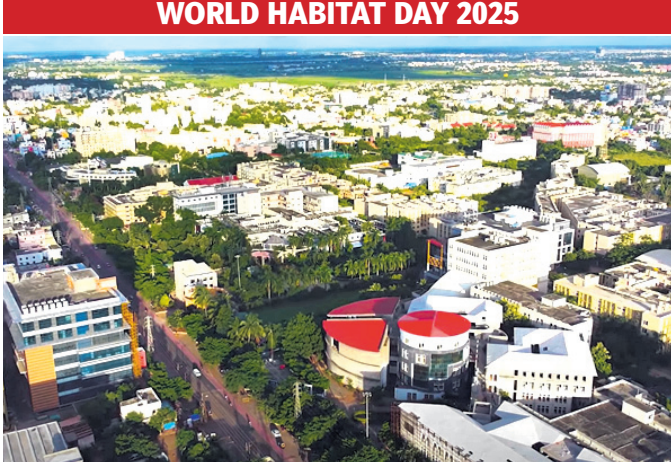
Rout envisions a city where every essential services starting from healthcare to grocer-

ies—is accessible within a 5 to 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 pursues its Quad Cities Corridor 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 2047.

"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-



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," he added.

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

Gautam Kumar Agarwal, an architect and infrastructure consultant emphasised that

be taken seriously by the state government to effectively address the challenges. One of the major issues, he noted, is the real estate sector. "According 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 Odisha would need over 50 years of savings to afford a mid-sized home," he said.

Managing migration: A key urban challenge

With Bhubaneswar set for major urban expansion, Saroj Barik, an activist working for

welfare and protection of migrant workers, emphasised the crucial need to address the influx of migrant workers. "Rapid 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," he said.

Barik urged the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) to take a proactive role in ensuring habitat rights for migrant workers through well-planned worker 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.



POST NEWS NETWORK

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 General's presence during the October 9, 2025 SSB case hearing and bring it to a final conclusion, conduct the pending

SSB examination by December 2025, conduct future examinations as per the 2016 recruitment policy and continue its implementation, and complete abolishment of the guest faculty system.

"After years of waiting and disappointment, we have no other option left. We are fighting 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" he said.

Urgent need to develop, preserve forest corridors: OES experts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: Experts highlighted the growing threat of forest fragmentation due to 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 ecosystems during the observance of wildlife week by Orissa Environmental Society (OES)

OES organised a seminar on the theme 'Significance of Forest Corridors' at its conference hall Sunday, presided over by OES working president Jayakrushna Panigrahi. The seminar featured former Principal Chief Conservator of 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



to implement the 14 corridors 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

Narayan Patro emphasised that 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

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: Odisha Chapter of the Rajasthan Foundation successfully convened its first executive members meeting at Terapanth Bhawan here Sunday, under the leadership of state 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 foundation's core mission—to 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 state Odisha."

55TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF PRANANATH PATNAIK

Patnaik's ideals continue to inspire generations: Guv



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: Pranath 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 Pranath 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

that while India has achieved political freedom, challenges such as eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities, and ensuring inclusive development remain significant. "In this context, the ideals of Pranath Patnaik serve as a guiding light for our efforts, he added.

The Governor also praised Patnaik's simplicity, integrity, and moral courage, 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 enduring 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 Aitihiya Vidyalaya 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.

S&ME Commissioner-cum-Secretary and vice-chairperson of the organisation Shalini Pandit also

highlighted the importance of strengthening alumni engagement in school development.

Panchasakha Shiksha Setu member convener 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 Bhardwaj, 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 the meeting.

WEATHER


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

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Acharya Vihar-DayalAgency-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-Cookiemann-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.

“

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

Drug 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.”

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.”

SOREN KIERKEGAARD

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 Pramoi.

■ **1981:** Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was assassinated by members of the radical fringe of the Muslim opposition.



Hippolyte Fofack

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S REMITTANCE TAX IS ONLY THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF PUNITIVE US MEASURES AIMED AT THE DEVELOPING WORLD



Bhabani Shankar Nayak

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Managerial assault on health & education

Many years ago, a doctor friend who had 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-

ucation institutions. Under the 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

profit-driven dominance of managerial 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.

FOCUS REMITTANCE TAX

TAX ON THE POOR



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.

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

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
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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.

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

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 Friday.

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 revoked.

“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 websites, “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.”

PAHALGAM ATTACK

Man nabbed for helping terrorists met them 4 times



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 5: Mohamad 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.

The NIA has so far arrested two people in connection with the April 22 terror attack for allegedly providing logistical support and shelter to terrorists.

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 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

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

PTI PHOTO

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.

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.



of the day

quote

Look, going forward, people are seeing prices going up when Donald Trump promised to lower prices on Day 1. It's a big, big broken promise from Republicans

SUZAN DELBENE | DEMOCRATIC PARTY POLITICIAN, US

Our nation is in crisis. There is no food, no foreign exchange. This is a man-made crisis. We will fix this country. I don't promise you milk and honey, but hard work

PETER MUTHARIKA | PRESIDENT, MALAWI

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

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

Sidoarjo: 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.

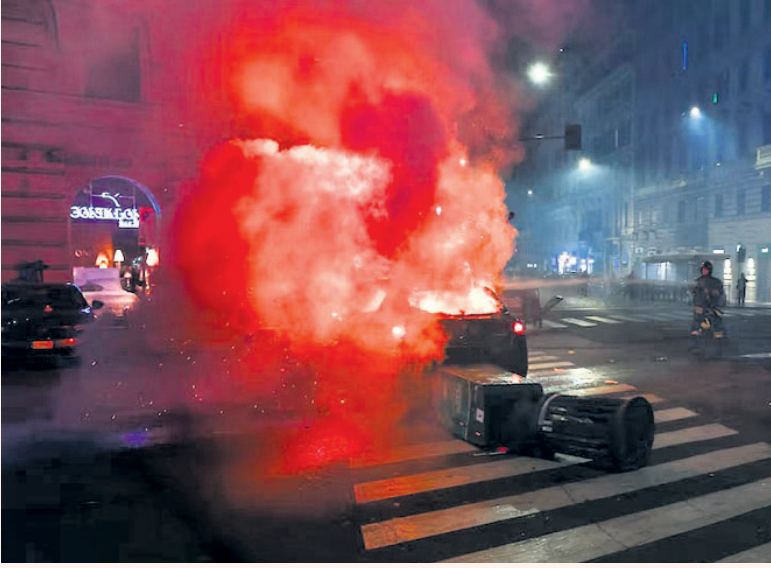
PROTESTS WORLDWIDE



A protester wearing a Georgian flag walks towards police officers blocking the street during an opposition rally on the day of local elections in Tbilisi, Georgia



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

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



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 government 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 previous 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 authority to instruct organisers to hold the event somewhere else, the UK Home Office said.

A breach of such conditions will result in arrest and prosecution. "The right to protest is a fundamental freedom in our country. However, this freedom must be balanced with the freedom of their neighbours to live their lives without fear," said UK Home Secretary Shabana 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 Keir Starmer had called on the organisers of Saturday's pro-Palestinian protest to reconsider out of respect for the British Jewish community in the wake of the terrorist attack on a synagogue in Manchester Thursday.

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



Deadly downpours ravage eastern Nepal



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 Majjogmai municipalities, six each in Ilam municipality and Sandakpur rural municipality, five in Suryodaya municipality, three in Mangsebung and one in Fakfokthum village, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) said in a press release.

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

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

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 Kathmandu.

As a friendly neighbour and first responder, India remains committed to providing any assistance that may be required

NARENDRA 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 NDRRMA.

Asif cautions India against future conflict

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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-

bouring country should stop 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.

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

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-turned-politician 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 News.

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

The snowfall began Friday 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.

business

of the day quote

States need to improve their financial health to achieve faster poverty reduction goals

IQBAL SINGH DHALIWAL | GLOBAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, I-PAL

The figures underscore the energy-centric nature of India's commerce with the Gulf nation, with hydrocarbons making up the bulk of inbound shipments

AJAY SRIVASTAVA | FOUNDER, GTRI

India is witnessing a record surge in festive travel this Diwali, as travellers combine traditional celebrations and family reunions with luxury escapes and spiritual journeys, with online travel platforms reporting strong growth in domestic and international bookings

RAJESH MAGOW | CEO, MAKEMYTRIP

SHORT TAKES

Punjab & Sind Bank loan report

New Delhi: State-owned Punjab & 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 of the bank rose from 73.4 per cent to 77.92 per cent at the end of September 2025, it added.

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 Agarwal-led 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.



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

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



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-

vestors.

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 cryptocurrency.

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

MARKET UPDATE

FPIs offload equities worth ₹23,885 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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-to-date outflow to ₹1.58 lakh crore (\$17.6 billion).

This marks the third consecutive 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 driven 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



Fundamental Analyst at Angel 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-

ment. If these factors improve, 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 yielded better returns, as Indian equities have underperformed most global markets over the past year, with one-year returns in negative territory.

Gold to stay volatile amid global cues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 critical macroeconomic 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

agreement involving the US President Donald Trump's family's World Liberty Financial and military-linked funds in Pakistan, according to Dis-Info Lab.

Bilal bin Saqib, a British-Pakistani 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).

big gains and more in achieving 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 pre-eminent haven amid US political and monetary turbulence. Singh further stated that "Gold's year-to-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 per kg.

Launch of all-new "Victoris"



Legend Cars, Jaypore proudly launched brand-new SUV – "Victoris", a car that truly 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 Atmos 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, Jaypore.

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-

dragon) 8 Gen 5 will get accepted 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 Research, Snapdragon commands 40 per cent market share in smartphones above ₹25,000 segment.

Qualcomm at its annual flagship 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



Ghz and six performance cores 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

in combination with its Spectra ISP (image signal processor) on the new chipset. The latest premium 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 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 eco-

system 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 Extreme 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

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 Stadium Sunday.

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 reviews, kept the pressure on



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 caught-and-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 Sneha 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 boundary.

'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 Khan hole out to long-off.

BRIEF SCORES

India 247 all out in 50 overs (Harleen Deol 46, Richa Ghosh 35 not out; Diana Baig 4-69, Fatima Sana Khan 2-38) beat **Pakistan** 159 all out in 43 overs (Sidra Amin 81, Natalia Pervaiz 33; Kranti Goud 3-20, Deepti Sharma 3-45) by 88 runs

Para glory: India nets record 22 medals



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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Championships with a record 22 medals, here Sunday.

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 athlete, Preethi Pal showed mental

fortitude in ample measure to win silver after a starter pistol malfunction saw her compete twice in stifling conditions.

Paris Paralympics gold medalist 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 the hosts could have easily finished fourth had Navdeep and high jumper Praveen 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 some more reason to celebrate.

Simran takes second medal

Simran was all fired up in the women's 200m T12 event despite the champion athlete running her sixth sprint race in two days.

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 time of 24.46 seconds.

Simran initially finished third behind Venezuela's Alejandra Perez Lopez, and Brazil's Clara Barros de Silva (24.42 seconds), but the former was disqualified leading to the Indian moving up to second spot.

This was Simran's third World Para Athletics medal. She had won the gold T12 200m gold at the 2024 World in Kobe.

Silver 'twice over' for Preethi

Women's 100m T35 sprinter, Preethi Pal had begun her celebrations, draped the tricolour around her, kissed the track and was soaking in the atmosphere when the announcement came that there would be a 're-run' because of the starter pistol malfunction.

Besides the 22 medals, Indian athletes also set three Championship Records, seven Asian Records, and achieved nine 4th place finishes and more than 30 personal best performances in the World Para Athletics Championships hosted by the country for the first time

Navdeep takes silver

Javelin thrower Navdeep's best attempt of 45.46m was only good enough for a silver as Iran's Sadeh 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 and shoulders above the rest of the field, except for Sayah.

Irani Cup: Vidarbha 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 left-arm 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 improbable 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 Yash Thakur 2/47).

Anisimova's 2025 title wait ends

REUTERS

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 sixth seed Jasmine Paolini and



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, claimed her second WTA 1000

title of the season.

World number four Anisimova picked precise angles to bounce the ball near the sidelines and frustrate Noskova, blanking the 20-year-old in just 23 minutes.

Noskova, unfazed by the bagel 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 the American.

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 her fourth career WTA title.

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 champion Marc Marquez crashed out after a crunching collision with Marco Bezzecchi. Gresini Racing rider Aldeguer 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 erase 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, Aldeguer also becomes the second-youngest 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 global attention.

The highly anticipated clash saw both sides create chances, yet 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 beyond the board.

LA LIGA

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 champions since October 2015.

Barcelona, experiencing their first loss of the season, now sit in second place, trailing bitter rivals Real Madrid by two points, following Madrid'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.