



Shruti's cryptic post

Shruti Haasan leaves fans intrigued with her latest social media post, sparking curiosity about a possible collaboration

LEISURE | P2



Hamas non-committal

Hamas says it wants to reach a deal to end the war in Gaza but it still has a set of demands

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Rupee slides

The rupee falls 3 paise to close at 88.77 against the US dollar, Tuesday

BUSINESS | P11



Anand-Kasparov meet

Former world champions Viswanathan Anand and Garry Kasparov will face off in the Clutch Chess from today

SPORTS | P12

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Modi enters 25th yr as head of a govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday began his 25th year as the head of a government, asserting that improving the lives of people and contributing to the progress of this great nation have been his constant endeavour.

He noted in a series of posts on X that he had taken oath on this day in 2001 as Gujarat's chief minister for the first time and emphasised on the changes first his home state and then the country witnessed on his watch.

"Thanks to the continuous blessings of my fellow Indians, I am entering my 25th year of serving as the head of a Government. My gratitude to the people of India," Modi said.

He added, "Through all these years, it has been my constant endeavour to improve the lives of our people and contribute to the progress of this great nation that has nurtured us all."

Modi said India, which was marred by "the worst form of corruption, cronyism and policy paralysis" during the UPA government, is now home to one of the largest healthcare and social security schemes in the world.

FLOOD FURY

Heavy rain in upper catchment areas has caused around 4 ft of floodwater flowing over the Ghungijore bridge between Luturpank and Bhutiapali in Birmaharajpur block of Subarnapur district, disrupting traffic between Birmaharajpur and Amarpali and cutting off over 50 villages, Tuesday

OF PHOTO

3 get Nobel for works on quantum physics

REUTERS

Stockholm, Oct 7: US-based scientists John Clarke, Michel Devoret and John Martinis won the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics for "experiments that revealed quantum physics in action", paving the way for the development of the next generation of digital technologies.

"My feelings are that I'm completely stunned. Of course it had never occurred to me in any way that this might be the basis of a Nobel Prize," Clarke told the Nobel press conference by telephone Tuesday.

Quantum mechanical behaviours are well studied at the level of the incredibly small - atoms and sub-atomic particles - but are often seen as bizarre and unintuitive compared with classical physics and its far larger scale.

The Nobel winners carried out experiments in the mid-1980s with an electronic circuit

built of superconductors and demonstrated that quantum mechanics could also influence everyday objects under certain conditions.

"It is wonderful to be able to celebrate the way that century-old quantum mechanics continually offers new surprises. It is also enormously useful, as quantum mechanics is the foundation of all digital technology," Olle Eriksson, chair of the Nobel Committee for Physics, said.

Quantum technology is already ubiquitous, with transistors in computer microchips an everyday example.

"This year's Nobel Prize in Physics has provided opportunities for developing the next generation of quantum technology, including quantum cryptography, quantum computers, and quantum sensors," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which awards the prize, said in a statement.

SC to EC: Furnish details of 3.66L excluded voters

Despite the Election Commission's assertion that no excluded voter has filed an appeal after Bihar's Special Intensive Revision (SIR), the apex court has ordered the poll panel to disclose full details of the 3.66 lakh deleted names to uphold electoral transparency. The EC must submit all available data on excluded voters by October 9, when the court resumes hearing petitions challenging the SIR exercise. According to the final roll, 21.53 lakh new electors were added, 3.66 lakh names removed, yielding a net increase of 17.87 lakh voters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: The Supreme Court Tuesday asked the Election Commission to provide it with the details of 3.66 lakh excluded voters from the final electoral roll prepared after Bihar's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

The Election Commission informed the apex court that most of the names added are of new voters and that no complaint or appeal has been filed till now by any excluded voter.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joyimalya Bagchi said the poll panel will submit whatever information it gets

on excluded voters by Thursday (October 9), when it will conduct further hearing on the pleas challenging the SIR exercise.

The top court said everyone has the draft electoral roll and the final list has also been published on September 30, so the required data can be furnished through a comparative analysis.

Justice Bagchi told senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the poll panel, that court orders have resulted in more transparency and access to the electoral process.

"You'd agree with us that the degree of transparency and access has improved in the electoral process. It appears from the data that there was a 65 lakh deletion in the draft list which

Curfew lifted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Oct 7: Normalcy returned to the city, which was affected by violence during immersion of Durga idols last week, as the Odisha government withdrew curfew and restored internet services Tuesday, a senior official said.

There was no report of any untoward incident in the last three days. While the prohibitory order was imposed for 36 hours from 10 PM of October 5 till 10 AM on October 7, internet services had been suspended for 48 hours in two phases from 7 PM of Sunday.

The measures had been taken in the wake of the violence and arson in Cuttack that originated during Goddess Durga idol immersion procession in the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. The city witnessed another spell of violence on Sunday evening forcing the administration to impose restrictions like curfew and internet suspension, said Commissioner of Police, S Dev Datta Singh.

There was also no report of violence in any part of the city, even during the 12-hour bandh call given by Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) Monday, he said.

Nine people have so far been

arrested in connection with the violence on Sunday evening.

"The prohibitory order was imposed in 13 of the 20 police station areas of Cuttack city on Sunday after protestors attacked the security personnel leaving 25 people including 8 policemen injured," the police commissioner said.

He said a total of 31 people including 10 police personnel were injured in the clashes Saturday and Sunday and many shops were gutted or damaged.

The Commissioner of Police said that internet service was suspended to prevent "anti-social elements" from misusing the facility to spread rumors and disturb communal harmony.

Though curfew is not further extended and internet service restored, the government has decided to maintain tight security in the city for a few more days.

He said that 50 platoons (1,500 personnel) of police, along with eight companies of central armed force, including Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel are deployed to maintain law and order situation. Singh said the officials are also keeping a close watch on social media which is found to be misused to spread rumour and hate among the communities.

P3

SHORT TAKES

Lawyer murder: CM assures stern action

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has expressed deep grief over the brutal murder of senior advocate and BJP leader Pitabas Panda in Berhampur Monday. Strongly condemning the incident, the CM has issued strict instructions to the police administration to identify and apprehend the culprits and ensure they are given exemplary punishment. Odisha is a peaceful state, and such heinous and inhuman acts will not be tolerated under any circumstances, he said, extending his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members.

P3

Ghasiram Congress' Nuapada candidate

Bhubaneswar: The All India Congress Committee (AICC) Tuesday, has selected Ghasiram Majhi as its party candidate for the upcoming by-election for the Nuapada Assembly constituency. AICC through an official release mentioned, "The Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, has approved the candidature of Ghasiram Majhi as Congress candidate for the ensuing by-election to the legislative Assembly of Odisha from Nuapada Constituency." The announcement came after the ECI declared the polling date for Nuapada seat, which will take place November 11, 2025, along with the second phase of the Bihar Assembly Elections. The ECI also informed that the gazette notification for the by-poll will be published October 13 and the last date for filing nomination papers is October 20.

15 killed as landslide hits bus in Himachal

Shimla: At least 15 passengers were killed as a private bus they were travelling in was struck by a massive landslide in Himachal Pradesh's Bilaspur district Tuesday evening, officials said.

The accident took place in Bhalughat area in Jhandutta Assembly segment, they said, adding the bus carrying 30-35 passengers was on its way from Haryana's Rohtak to Ghumarwin. Police and district administration officials are at the spot and rescue operations are going on in full swing, the officials said.

So far 15 bodies have been recovered from the debris, they added.

P8

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

We arrested him for violence—but the moment he said he was in the ruling party, we let him off with shabashi

Amazon Prime Video restores guns in 007 posters

JAMES BOND FANS DUBBED THE REMOVAL OF THE AGENT'S GUN FROM STILLS AS NOTHING LESS THAN CULTURAL VANDALISM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Los Angeles, Oct 7: Streaming platform Amazon Prime Video has taken down their 'James Bond' artwork after online criticism from fans who noticed the beloved agent's gun had been air-brushed out of every still.

Prime Video UK released posters on its website last week, which featured 007 agent without any guns. In several cases, such as "Dr. No" and "Goldeneye," the iconic Walther PPK had been edited out of his hand, while

in others it had been cropped out. For "A View to a Kill," Roger Moore's arms has been lengthened, cutting his gun from the frame.

Many reacted to the new posters with writer Scott McCrea calling it "nothing less than cultural vandalism" as reported by the entertainment news outlet Deadline.

Author John A Douglas put out a post on X with the artwork and a caption that read, "They photoshopped all the guns out of the James Bond movie thumbnails. Just in case you still had hope for

Amazon being in charge of the franchise."

British actor Rufus Jones joked that the posters now look completely different.

"Amazon have removed the guns from their Bond posters, giving the tantalising impression that Sean Connery and Pierce Brosnan think you're a wanker," he wrote on X.

Post the backlash, which coincided with James Bond Day October 5, the streamer has replaced the controversial artwork with stills from the film and refused to comment on the matter as per the outlet.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
If you are aiming to marry soon, you can start making preparations today. However, before you take the final decision, it would be better to look at both sides of the coin, advises Ganesha. Activities related to such an alliance will dominate today, and by the end of the day you may feel very elated.

TAURUS
This is one of those dreadful days when you could be unduly touchy and short tempered, fears Ganesha. Don't go around getting into fights and quarrels with anyone who seems unfriendly or ill mannered. You will only end up in spoiling some healthy relationships. Your moods are likely change from moment to moment. An ugly row with your spouse cannot be ruled out. Do not endanger your married life. Be firm with yourself and keep your irritability under full control.

GEMINI
It will not be hard for you to complete your tasks successfully and without any delays or obstacles in your path, only if you first seek to fully understand and acquire the learning required to perform it. The fruits of your labour will keep you happy and satisfied, says Ganesha.

CANCER
You are known for your ability to set the ball rolling. Once you set your mind to do something, it is generally considered done by your peers. Today, you are eyeing a few accomplishments on the monetary front. Most part of your day will go in dealing with financial transactions, and importing and exporting goods.

LEO
Today there is a chance that you will meet that special someone that you have been waiting for all your life. You may possibly give your partner a beautiful gift. You will be more inclined towards the arts and will be able to exhibit this new-found appreciation to the max, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
A fear of the unknown will keep lurking in your mind today. The shadow will only grow larger as the day progresses. You may find yourself spending too much on your foreign friends. Ganesha advises you to be cautious in this regard today.

LIBRA
Ganesha says your children will gain achievements that will have you feel proud of them. You will get monetary benefit either by increment in salary or by inheritance. You will be able to gain substantial gains by investing in real estate or buying insurance policies.

SCORPIO
Yet another mundane day in your life, as nothing exciting is on the cards. However, be cheerful and keep trying hard to bring in some spice in life. You never know when the planets change their mood and make an exciting future. Keep the hope alive, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Your leadership qualities are likely to bag compliments today. As you follow law and order and also make others follow it. You leave no stone unturned to get the work done, and that too systematically. However, make sure you also give them space and freedom to express themselves. It would earn you brownie points, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
You are in hot water, but do not lose hope during these turbulent times. Maintain a calm head over your shoulders and deal with the problems, guides Ganesha. Also, do not jump to conclusions or be argumentative with the people around you, as you may end up being at the losing end.

AQUARIUS
You are in for a challenging day today. But, luck is by your side and you will be able to come out of the storm hale and hearty, assures Ganesha. If you are a businessman, you may enter into some major business venture, sign important contracts and take up new projects. It will be an exhausting day, but it will keep you charged up.

PISCES
A day of mixed fortunes awaits you, where taking risks could prove to be your undoing, or provide you with handsome returns, says Ganesha. This is because you could come out on top by treading cautiously, but uncalculated risks will probably throw your calculations out of gear.



SCOTT CALLS PRESENT MOVIES MEDIOCRE

Filmmaker Ridley Scott, known for film like *Alien*, *Gladiator* and *Blade Runner*, says he finds present films mediocre despite the high quantity in which they are being released. The 87-year-old director explained he watches many new films in order to find new talent, but lately it has become a challenge.

LOPEZ SAYS FAMILY KEEPS HER HUMBLE

Jennifer Lopez, 56, credits her family for being her grounding force. The singer-actress shared that her 17-year-old twins, Max and Emme, along with her loved ones, keep her centered amid the chaos of fame. Their unwavering support, she said, helps her stay focused on love, family, and her passion.



Shruti's post sparks buzz

Mumbai: Fans of actress and musician Shruti Haasan are buzzing with curiosity after her recent social media post featuring independent artist Ofro. Sharing a candid picture with the experimental musician, Shruti captioned it cryptically, "the maddest sesh we can never release," leaving fans intrigued about a possible collaboration. The post has sparked intense speculation online, with many wondering if the two creative powerhouses are working on something innovative and boundary-pushing.

Shruti has long been known for her adventurous musical choices and collaborations that transcend genres. Her previous projects include lending her vocals to the British alternative rock band Dinosaur Pile-Up and teaming up with musician Joi Barua in 2017 for a culturally rich fusion track. These ventures showcase her versatility and fearless approach to blending different sounds and artistic styles.

While Shruti's music continues to evolve, her acting career remains equally vibrant. She was last seen in the Tamil action entertainer *Coolie*, co-starring Rajinikanth and Nagarjuna Akkineni, which drew significant buzz. Currently, she has begun shooting for her next film, though she has chosen to keep details tightly under wraps.

Whether in music or cinema, Shruti Haas- continues to surprise fans with her creativity and artistic depth.

AGENCIES



Khushi's source of confidence

Mumbai: Khushi Kapoor may be just a few films old, but she's already making her mark — both as an actress and a style icon. Fresh from her latest *Azorte* campaign, she opens up about her relationship with fashion, calling it her biggest source of confidence. "Personal style is my anchor. On days when I'm nervous or unsure, the right outfit gives me confidence and helps me feel like myself again," she tells in her latest interview.

The campaign resonates with young people navigating the uncertain "in-between" phases of life — something Khushi relates to deeply. "I feel like I'm not at the finish line yet; I'm still learning, growing, and figuring things out. Being in the middle doesn't mean being stuck — it means you're moving," she explains.

Reflecting on her career, The *Archies* actress says she focuses on enjoying the process instead of stressing about the outcome. "Every project, every audition, every day on set feels like another step forward. Embracing the in-between keeps me curious and prevents burnout."

As for what keeps her grounded, Khushi credits her roots and close-knit circle. "Reminding myself why I started keeps me sane. I love storytelling — that's what drives me," she concludes.

AGENCIES

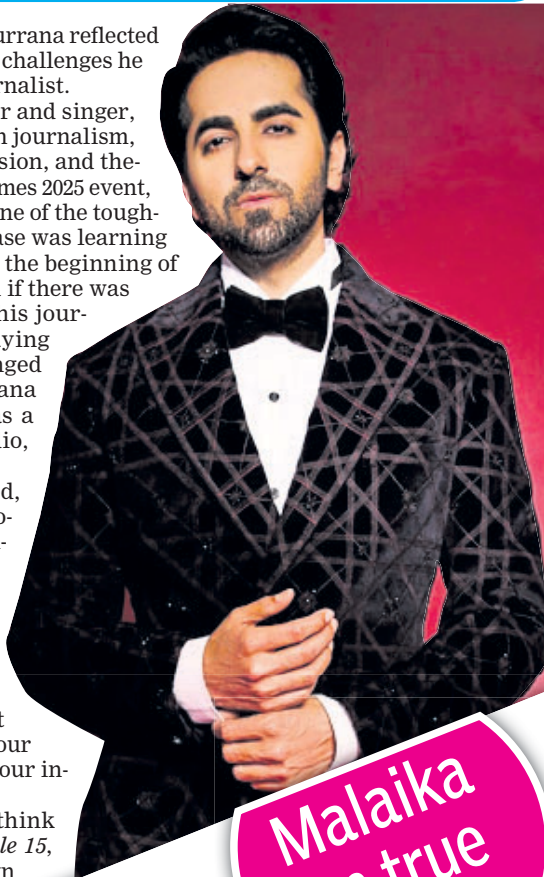
Ayushmann recalls days of journalism

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana reflected on his early career days, recalling the challenges he faced while working as a young journalist.

Before rising to fame as an actor and singer, the *Vicky Donor* actor dabbled in journalism, juggling roles in radio, television, and theatre. Speaking at FICCI Frames 2025 event, Ayushmann shared that one of the toughest lessons from that phase was learning to say 'no' especially at the beginning of his career. When asked if there was a defining moment in his journey — a time when saying 'yes' or 'no' completely changed the course of his life, Khurrana reflected on his early days as a journalist, working across radio, television, and theatre.

The *Badhaai Ho* actor stated, "I think it is these baby steps towards success, being a journalist. I was doing journalism with radio, television, theatre. Saying no is the most difficult part, especially on the onset of your career. When you're young, you just started and saying no to big people is not easy, but that's what makes you. You have to go with your conviction, with your gut, with your intuition."

Ayushmann added, "But I think saying yes to one sort of film, *Article 15*, changed the perception because I was known for very light-hearted social comedies and *Article 15* was a very serious film based on casteism and it did very well, which was an anomaly." IANS



Malaika on true love

Mumbai: Arbaaz Khan and his wife, Sshura Khan, have welcomed their first child together, a baby girl, October 5, 2025. While the couple is yet to issue an official statement, several reports have confirmed the joyful news. The duo, who tied the knot in December 2023, reportedly met on the sets of *Patna Shuklla* and have been inseparable since. Interestingly, on the same day, Arbaaz's ex-wife, actress Malaika Arora, shared a cryptic Instagram Story about "true love."

The actress posted a clip from her upcoming reality show *India's Got Talent*, where she will be seen as a judge alongside Navjot Singh Sidhu and singer Shaan. In the video, Sidhu says, "I guarantee you that true love isn't a bargain," to which Malaika responds, "Paaji, I want to write, what doesn't happen in true love?" Her post, though without a caption, quickly drew attention for its timing.

Arbaaz and Malaika were married in 1998 in both Christian and Muslim ceremonies and share a son, Arhaan Khan, born in 2002. After 18 years together, they announced their separation in 2016, finalising their divorce a year later. Both have since moved forward, focusing on their respective families and careers.

AGENCIES



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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6
7			8		
9			10		
11	12			13	
15		16		17	18
20				21	22
23				24	

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Across

- 7 Baroque
- 8 Take off
- 9 During
- 10 Copies
- 11 Sticks to
- 13 Tooth trouble
- 15 Heroic tales
- 17 Famous rock group
- 20 Garden plant
- 21 Shacks

Down

- 1 Streetcar
- 2 Don't burn it at both ends
- 3 Longed
- 4 Show flexibility

Across

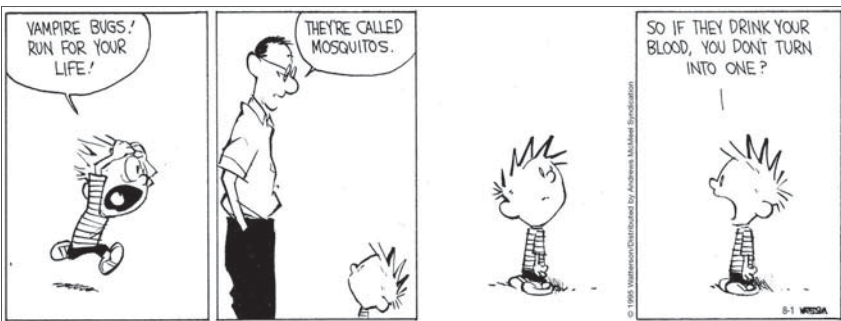
- 5 Fairy tale figure
- 6 Chimpanzee (5,3)
- 12 Circle measurement
- 14 Hard hats
- 16 South American river
- 18 Island in French Polynesia
- 19 Journal
- 22 Kind of spirit

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



Frame rules for pedestrians, non-motorised vehicle: SC

Apex court directs states and UTs to formulate road safety regulations under Sections 138 (1A) and 210D of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: The Supreme Court Tuesday directed all the states and Union Territories (UTs) to frame road safety rules within six months by regulating the movement of non-motorised vehicles and pedestrians in public spaces. A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and KV Viswanathan directed all the states and UTs to frame such rules under Sections 138 (1A) and 210D of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. “We direct all the states and UTs to formulate rules under



Section 138(1A) of the Motor Vehicles Act within a period of six months, if not already framed, for the purpose of regulating activities and access of non-mechanical propelled vehicles and pedestrians to public places and national highways,” the bench said. “We direct all the states and

UTs to formulate and notify rules under Section 210D of the Act within a period of six months, if not already framed, for design, construction and maintenance of standards for roads other than national highways,” it further said. The directions came on a petition filed by Coimbatore-based surgeon S Rajaseekaran, who highlighted the large number of road accidents in India. The plea sought directions to the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to make coordinated efforts to prevent road accidents.

Mahanadi Sansad Oct 13

BHUBANESWAR: The Mahanadi Banchao Andolan Tuesday announced that the ‘Mahanadi Sansad’ will be held in Delhi October 13 to explore amicable solutions to the Odisha-Chhattisgarh water dispute. Leaders, experts, and activists from across India are expected to participate. The group criticised Odisha’s Advocate General for describing the dispute as artificial and called for genuine efforts toward a historic, mediation-based resolution. “If this dispute is resolved through dialogue, it will mark a historic moment for both states and the country,” said the outfit’s spokesperson, Prasana Bisoi.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

SUNAJHARI SABAR, wife of late GABARDHAN SABAR, declare by this affidavit No.- 258, dated- 06.10.2025, before the Executive Magistrate, Gunupur, that now onwards I want to correction my minor daughter’s name from Jageswari Sabar (Old name) to JOSMINE SABAR (New name) bearing Aadhaar card No.- xxxxxxxx6629 as my address as At- Srirampur, P.O.- Bagasala, P.S.-Gunupur, Dist.- Rayagada for all future purposes.

I, Priti Ranjan Das, S/o-Kshirod Prasad Das, resident at Naulo, PO-Arodai, PS-Tirtol, Dist-Jagatsinghpur, PIN-754138 Odisha declare by this affidavit No. 1577, dtd.06/10/2025 that my wrong name in passport is corrected from Pritiranajan Das to Priti Ranjan Das.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar No-34, dated 02.09.25. I, Smruti Rekha Das, W/o-Abhaya Kuanar, D/o-Rabi Narayan Das, resident of At: Dakhinadia, PO:Keradagada, PS-Aul, Dist: Kendrapara, Odisha, PIN-754246 declare that I have changed my name from Smruti Rekha Das to Smruti Rekha Das. Henceforth, I shall be known as Smruti Rekha Das for all purposes.

KIMS docs save 2.7-year-old girl with rare TACE procedure

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: In a first for Odisha, doctors at Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) successfully performed a complex Transarterial Chemoembolisation (TACE) procedure on a 2.7-year-old girl with hepatoblastoma, a rare liver tumor that had spread to her lungs. According to KIMS sources, the procedure required the coordinated efforts of 15 doctors across seven departments, marking it as one of the most challenging multidisciplinary interventions ever at the hospital. The young patient, now fully recovered, can be seen playing joyfully with her friends in the hospital corridors—a testament to her courage, resilience, and the dedication of the medical team. The girl was brought to KIMS after months of worsening abdominal pain, swelling, and loss of appetite, despite multiple consultations across the state. Detailed investigations revealed hepatoblastoma with lung metastasis. Under the care of Paediatric Hemato-Oncologist Palash Das, she was immediately started on chemotherapy. While her condition improved, the liver tumor remained too large for surgical removal. At this critical stage, Interventional Radiologist Swati Das



recommended TACE, a procedure in which chemotherapy is delivered directly into the blood vessel supplying the tumor. The treatment proved highly effective, causing the tumor to shrink sufficiently to allow for surgical removal. Subsequently, an extended liver resection (non-anatomical) was performed by Vedavyas Mohapatra (Surgical Gastroenterology) and Varsha M Totadri (Paediatric Surgery), under the guidance of PK Jena, (HOD of Paediatric Surgery), with crucial support from the anesthesia team. Post-operative care was managed by the Pediatric ICU team and Paediatric Gastroenterologist Jiten Sahoo. This milestone procedure marked the first time such a complex intervention was performed on a child so young in Odisha and positioned KIMS among a select group of hospitals in India capable of providing this rare treatment. KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta congratulated the medical team for their path-breaking work and wished the young patient a long and healthy life.



HOLY KARTIK: Habishyalis enter Srimandir to have a darshan of the sibling deities in Puri, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Poor road conditions trouble Johal residents

MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Despite assurances from the BMC and the state government to repair all city roads before Durga Puja, residents of Paragon City in the Johal area near Pahala, under Ward No. 4, continue to suffer due to deplorable road conditions. Residents complained that the poor road conditions have made commuting extremely difficult. The road remains muddy and riddled with potholes, which worsen during the rains as they fill with water, posing serious risks—especially for two-wheeler riders, they said. Residents also alleged that



ILS Bhub to host startup summit

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: The Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar, under the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC), department of Biotechnology, Government of India, will host the fourth edition of the Life Science Startup Summit – BioE® October 10 and 11. With the theme “Where Biology, Biotech & Business Converge,” the summit will bring together scientists, entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers to promote in-

novation and entrepreneurship in India’s life sciences sector. It will also provide a platform to showcase cutting-edge research, indigenous biotech products, and startup success stories. A press briefing is scheduled on the inaugural day, October 10, at 9:30 am in the ILS conference hall, where key developments and the summit’s vision will be shared with the media. The session will also highlight ILS’s re-brent achievements in trans-lational research and innovation, along with future

initiatives to strengthen the biotechnology and life sciences startup ecosystem. Startups from across India will showcase indigenously developed products and technologies, giving media and attendees a first-hand look at emerging innovations in the life sciences sector. ILS director Debasish Dash said, “This summit is not just about showcasing innovation—it’s about creating sustainable partnerships between academia, industry, and government to accelerate biotech-driven growth,” he said.

Chief Secy reviews CRUT operations

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja Tuesday visited the Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) head office and the Gadakana Electric Bus Depot, where he reviewed the ongoing public transport operations and the growing electric bus network in Bhubaneswar. During the visit, Ahuja interacted with bus crew members, guides, and technical staff to understand their experiences and challenges in ensuring smooth, safe, and reliable public transport services. At the CRUT Command and Control Centre, he reviewed the real-time monitoring system, data analytics, and schedule optimisation processes that help enhance punctuality, efficiency, and commuter satisfaction. Appreciating CRUT’s initiatives, Ahuja lauded the team’s innovative use of digital technology in public transport management.

Telegraph to AI: Real hidden environmental cost

From the telegraph to artificial intelligence, communication technologies have always carried hidden environmental and human costs. When people send a message in a group chat or interact with an AI chatbot, they rarely think about the massive infrastructure and resources behind these systems. While metaphors like “the cloud” or “AI” suggest something intangible, these technologies are deeply material, powered by data centres, undersea cables, and complex networks that consume enormous amounts of energy and water. Historically, the pattern is not new. The first global communication system, the telegraph, enabled near real-time contact between continents, but it came at a steep human and environmental cost. Submarine telegraph cables were insulated with gutta-percha, a rubber-like latex harvested from tropical trees by colonial labourers. Entire forests were felled to grow plantations, and Indigenous communities were exploited to meet the global demand. In Australia, the construction of the Overland Telegraph Line connecting Adelaide to Darwin required vast amounts



of water to power batteries and sustain human operators and animals at repeater stations. This led to environmental degradation, forced displacement of First Nations peoples, and even loss of life — effects that remain part of the region’s legacy today. The telegraph was widely celebrated as a symbol of progress and technological innovation, yet its construction was embedded in a colonial extractive logic. European powers colonised territories not only to gain land but to extract resources for technological and industrial use. The narrative of technological progress often masked these social and environmental costs. Modern communication sys-

tems and AI reflect striking parallels. Today, nearly 99 per cent of global internet traffic travels through undersea fibre-optic cables, retracing many routes of now-obsolete telegraph lines. AI systems rely on massive data centres that produce heat, consume electricity, and require large volumes of water for cooling. By 2027, AI operations may require between 4.2 and 6.6 billion cubic metres of water annually — equivalent to Denmark’s yearly consumption. Manufacturing specialised AI processors also drives deforestation, mining, and toxic waste production. Just as historical accounts framed the telegraph as miraculous while ignoring its material and human costs, AI is often

celebrated as revolutionary without acknowledging the resources, energy, and labour that underpin it. As AI scholar Kate Crawford notes, artificial intelligence is “embodied and material, made from natural resources, fuel, human labour, infrastructures, logistics, histories, and classifications.” The same was true of the telegraph. The lesson from history is clear. Telegraph companies and imperial networks accepted human and environmental exploitation as the cost of technological progress. Today’s tech giants are following a similar trajectory, racing to release ever more powerful AI models while obscuring their environmental impact. Governments and regulators must act decisively: enforcing ethical standards, mandating transparent disclosure of energy and environmental usage, and supporting low-impact innovation. From the “Victorian internet” to modern AI, communication systems have always traded environmental and human well-being for technological advancement. Recognising and addressing these hidden costs is essential to building a more sustainable, responsible technological future. (The Conversation)

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.86 ▼ 0.06	SENSEX	81926.75 ▲ 136.63	GOLD	₹121,035 ▲ ₹786
EURO	103.81 ▼ 0.09	NIFTY	25108.30 ▲ 30.65	SILVER	₹146,447 ▼ ₹1,072

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	32.7°	31.4°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thundershowers.
Min Temp	23.9°	24.5°	
Humidity	92%	92%	
Rainfall	2.2mm	0.8mm	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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.

Housemaid raped in Rourkela; 1 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 7: A woman was allegedly raped near the railway tracks under Raghunathpali police station Monday evening. Police have arrested one person and detained other two in connection with the incident.

The rape of the housemaid in Raghunathpali area is yet another disturbing reminder of how safety of women is at stake in the Steel City.

The arrested has been identified as Kahnucharan Jena, 32, of Koelbank area. He was produced in court Tuesday evening after he underwent a medical examination. The two other suspects are being interrogated, police said.

According to reports, the incident occurred around 9pm Monday when the woman, a housemaid from Panposh area, was returning home after work. Police said Jena, who was known to the woman, lured her near the railway track near Khariabahal slum, where he allegedly raped her. Two other men reportedly attempted to assault her as well, but the woman managed to escape and



went straight to Raghunathpali police station, where she lodged a complaint around 2:45am Tuesday.

Acting swiftly on the complaint filed by the rape survivor, Rourkela Police have arrested one person and detained two others in this connection, according to reports. Based on her statement, police registered a case (564/25) and launched an investigation.

“The survivor’s medical examination was conducted and statement has been recorded before the court Tuesday morning,” said Rashmiranjan Mahapatra, SDPO, Panposh, who confirmed the arrest. “Two others have been detained for questioning. Appropriate action will be taken against the other two if their involvement is established.” The investigation is in progress.

Six nabbed for hatching robbery plot

Rourkela: Rourkela police have arrested six men for allegedly planning a robbery behind the Congress office in Sector-21 under Plant Site police limits late Monday night. Several weapons, including iron rods, sticks, and knives, were seized from the suspects, police said. The arrested have been identified as Asaraf Ansari, 26, of Rawani Chowk and Deepak Mahto, 31, of Sindhipada in Rajgangpur, Karma Guala, 38, of Bishra block, Ashutosh Rath, 25, of Timber Colony, Shekhar Mukhi, 20, of Railway Colony, and Langtu Yadav, 24, of Gopabandhupali. Police records reveal that most of the accused have criminal antecedents: Asaraf has seven cases registered against him, Deepak has five, Karma has two, Ashutosh has seven, Shekhar has four, and Langtu has four in different police stations. Police said the suspects had gathered behind the Congress Bhawan to plan robberies at local homes, shops, petrol pumps, and other locations. Acting on the tip-off, officers arrested the six men and lodged case (790/25). They were produced in court Tuesday at 4pm following legal procedures. “This swift action prevented a potential spate of robberies in the area,” said a police official, requesting anonymity. The investigation is ongoing to determine whether the accused had accomplices or further plans.

41-yr-old Anganwadi helper retires due to clerical error

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nandapur, Oct 7: A 41-year-old Anganwadi helper in Nandapur block was mistakenly declared 60 years old and forced into retirement reportedly due to a clerical error in official records. The Koraput district administration has now ordered a correction of the mistake with immediate effect.

Ratnamani Burudi, an Anganwadi helper at Arlabput Anganwadi Centre under Kulabir panchayat in Nandapur block, discovered the error when she received notice of her retirement. Although her age is recorded as 41 in her school certificate, Aadhaar card, and voter ID, official records at Nandapur Child Development Office listed her as being 60 years old.

During the public hearing held in Nandapur Monday, Burudi submitted a written complaint along with supporting documents to acting Koraput Collector (ADM) Tapan Kumar Nayak. She explained that she was appointed as an Anganwadi helper in 2010 at the age of 26, but her date of birth was incorrectly entered as 1964 instead of

1984 by an office employee. The error went unnoticed for years.

“When the office informed me that I had reached the retirement age of 60, I was shocked. I still have 19 years of service left,” Burudi said, requesting immediate correction of the records.

Upon reviewing the complaint, Nayak questioned Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) Minati Bala Pattnaik and directed her to resolve the issue promptly. Pattnaik confirmed that the error, made 16 years ago, would be rectified as per the new departmental rules.

According to the revised procedure, a committee headed by the sub-collector and comprising the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), Social Welfare Officer, and the concerned CDPO as convener will handle such cases. The committee will review Burudi’s service book and correct the discrepancy at the earliest.

Burudi expressed relief following the assurance of correction. Meanwhile, local residents and intellectuals have urged authorities to ensure that such clerical mistakes do not recur in official documentation.

Balasure shops to shut by 10pm till Diwali

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasure, Oct 7: Balasure district administration has imposed restrictions on timing of shops remaining open in the municipality area till Diwali, an official said.

In a letter to the Superintendent of Police (SP), Balasure Collector and District Magistrate Monday said that all shops within the Balasure Municipality area must be closed by 10pm till October 21. “It is seen that most of the shops are open till 1am. There is also gathering of general public, which may lead to a law and order situation in the area,” the letter said.

“To avoid such an untoward situation, you (SP) are requested to take strict patrolling in the town area and issue an order to close all shops by 10 pm from October 6 to October 21 except emergency service,” the letter said. Balasure tehsildar, and executive officer of Balasure Municipality have also been asked to coordinate and ensure full compliance to maintain law and order. The police have, meanwhile, made people and the shop owners aware of the instructions.

As Balasure is a communally sensitive place, the district administration imposed restrictions on late-night gatherings during the festival period, an official said.

state



FESTIVE FERVOUR: Devotees participate in traditional ‘Bagha Nacha’ (tiger dance) as part of rituals at Maa Budhi Thakurani Jatra at Digapahandi in Ganjam district, Tuesday

Cancer hospital in Bargarh to operate in PPP mode

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Oct 7: The long-shuttered cancer hospital in Bargarh is set to resume operations in public private partnership (PPP) mode, local MLA Ashwini Kumar Sarangi announced Sunday.

Speaking at a health camp for anaemia and cancer screening organised by the Agramami Yubak Sangha, Sarangi said the state government has decided to operate the Bargarh Cancer Hospital in collaboration with a private institution under the PPP mode.

A team from a Hyderabad-based organisation visited the facility Sunday, held a 45-minute discussion with the MLA, and later inspected the hospital premises. “If an agreement is reached between the state government and the



organisation as per the prescribed guidelines, the hospital is expected to become fully operational within four to six months,” Sarangi said.

Sarangi stated that he, along with representatives from the Forum for Cancer Hospital at Bargarh and Fighters Group, had recently met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and the health minister to press for the hospital’s activation. Following their meeting, a high-level discussion was held with departmental officials, during which the CM reportedly expressed

strong interest in making the hospital functional.

According to Sarangi, 120 beds and sufficient medicines have already been supplied to Bargarh Cancer Hospital. He further stated that the forum had requested a direct supply of essential drugs to the Bargarh facility instead of routing them through Acharya Harihar Cancer Institute in Cuttack. The health minister has since approved this request.

Speaking at the camp, Sarangi also urged people to remain health-conscious to avoid preventable diseases.

Bargarh district has seen a worrying rise in the number of cancer patients and deaths, leading to growing concern among residents. The district has increasingly been described as a “cancer hub” in public discussions.

Denied phone, girl dies by suicide

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 7: A 10-year-old girl of Gobindpalli under Mathili police limits in Malkangiri district allegedly ended her life after her father refused to buy her a mobile phone, Tuesday.

The deceased, daughter of Arjun Kirsani, was studying in Class V. According to reports, the girl was frustrated over her father not bringing her a cell-phone. Later, while Kirsani was asleep outside, the girl reportedly hanged herself from the door frame of their home using a towel.

Kirsani rushed his daughter to Mathili sub-divisional hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival.

Police have registered an UD case and are investigating the incident. SDPO and local officers visited the site and seized the body. Probe is on.

Wife, paramour held for man’s murder in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, Oct 7: Keonjhar police have cracked the murder mystery of a 40-year-old man, uncovering a chilling tale of extramarital affairs and a premeditated murder. Investigations revealed that a woman, with the help of her lover, had strangled her husband to death in Patana block of Keonjhar district.

The victim, Biranchi Narayan Mahanta, son of Jagannath Mahanta, was a native of Jadibil under Thakurmunda police limits in Mayurbhanj district. Biranchi was found dead near a roadside pond close to Saharpada College September 29. His wife Barsha Rani Mahanta, 30 and her alleged lover Purendra Mahakud, 28, son of Rudra Mahakud of Kamaramara under Patna police limits have been arrested and produced before court, police said at a press conference Tuesday.

According to SDPO Bijay Krushna Mohapatra, Biranchi had married Barsha around 10 years ago, and the couple had a nine-year-old son. While working for a finance company in Karanjia in 2022, the couple



had met Purendra, who developed an illicit relationship with Barsha. In Biranchi’s absence, Purendra frequently visited their home, and the affair eventually came to light, leading to frequent quarrels between the couple.

Biranchi later moved to Bhubaneswar to work at a 5-Star hotel, hoping to distance his wife from the affair. However, Barsha and Purendra allegedly continued their relationship and hatched a plan to eliminate him. As the couple and Purendra were returning home from Bhubaneswar September 28, ahead of Durga Puja, they executed the plan. Police said during an argument near Saharpada College, Purendra overpowered Biranchi, while Barsha held his hands and allegedly helped her lover strangle him.

The duo then fled the scene, disposed of the victim’s phone

SIM card and bloodstained clothes, and returned to their rented house in Karanjia. Acting on call detail records (CDRs) and CCTV footage, police arrested both accused within a week.

Initially registered as an unnatural death case, the matter was later converted into a murder case under Sections 103(1) and 103(5) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

During a presser, the SDPO detailed the entire sequence of events and confirmed that both the accused had confessed to the crime. He was accompanied by investigating officer Patro Oram, Patana IIC Manas Kumar Mahakul, and SI Laxman Majhi, among others.

Biranchi’s family, including his uncle Daktra Mahanta and brother Suresh Mahanta, have demanded stringent punishment for the accused.

13th Odisha Shilpi Mahasangh Fest held in Koraput

Koraput: The 13th Annual Festival of Odisha Shilpi Mahasangh was celebrated with grandeur at Koraput Cultural Council, showcasing Odisha’s vibrant heritage of handicrafts and art. The two-day festival served as a platform for local artisans to display their skills. It also highlighted the Odisha Shilpi Mahasangh’s dedication to preserving traditional craftsmanship. Speaking at the event, Koraput MLA Raghuram Machha said, “Artisans are the soul of Odisha’s cultural legacy. The government recognises their contribution and remains committed to providing support for sustainable livelihoods and preserving traditional crafts. Events like these strengthen our state’s identity and empower artists.” Koraput Municipality Chairman Lalat Ranjan Sethi said, “This festival is a testimony to the dedication of Odisha Shilpi Mahasangh. It brings together artisans and the community, promoting not just art but hope. We stand with them in their mission and will work with the government to ensure they get the recognition they deserve.”

CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
P.B. No. 8066, Sadashivnagar, P.O.: Bengaluru - 560080
Telephone No.: 080-22072271, e-mail purchase@cpri.in
Website: <http://www.cpri.res.in>

NOTICE INVITING TENDER - CPRI/BLR25NIT02 Date: 26.09.2025
Online e-tenders are invited from eligible service providers for the following:
1) Supply of Digital earth tester.
Tender documents with detailed specifications, terms & conditions, instructions and other details be kindly availed/downloaded from CPRI website: <http://www.cpri.res.in> and CPRI e-procurement portal: www.tenderwizard.com/CPRI from 26.09.2025 onwards.
CPRI/ADVT/11/2025

Purchase Authority-CPRI
cbc 34104/12/0009/2526

Spice farms add new flavour to Koraput tourism

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nandapur, Oct 7: Koraput district, long known as a tourism hub for its natural beauty, is now drawing visitors to its farmlands, where spice cultivation is taking root alongside coffee and linseed. Tourists are showing growing interest in ginger, turmeric, black pepper, cinnamon, cardamom, bay leaf, mustard and chillie, often buying produce directly and learning about farming methods, yields and income.

Many visitors, however, have voiced concern over the lack of incentives and market access for farmers. They urged that cultivators receive technical knowledge and proper support so that agriculture and tourism can be linked to benefit the district’s economy.

Agriculture scientists, including Parshuram Sial, Upendra Kumar Saha, Mihir Kumar Jena and Saurav Gupta, said Koraput has the potential to become a research and training hub



for organic spice cultivation. Farmers, they added, could gain from better markets and targeted incentives. According to Sudam Biswal, deputy director of Horticulture, farmers in 14 blocks are cultivating spices on thousands of hectares: 1,550 hectares under black pepper,

61 hectares under cardamom, 4,223 hectares under ginger, 3,373 hectares under turmeric, 35.5 hectares under cinnamon, two hectares under bay leaf and 4,533 hectares under chillie.

Annual production figures include 115.5 tonne black pepper, 0.4 tonne cardamom, 58,119

Researchers and cultivators argue that adding spice farms to the tourism map of Koraput coffee and millets would encourage farmers, promote the crops and strengthen the district’s economy

tonne ginger, 9,020 tonne turmeric, 2.15 tonne cinnamon, two tonne bay leaf and 3,503 tonne chillies. This year, Nandapur block alone reported 120 hectares of black pepper cultivation, three hectares of cardamom, 875 hectares of ginger, 866 hectares of turmeric, one hectare of cinnamon, 597 hectares of chillie and 87 hectares of mustard. Other blocks including Lamtapu, Semiliguda, Potangi, Laxmipur, Narayanpatna, Koraput, Bandhugana, Baipariguda, Borigumma, Jeypore, Kotpad, Kundura and Dasmantpur also recorded

substantial spice cultivation.

Farmers said they are pursuing spice cultivation with limited technical knowledge and minimal incentives. Tourists visiting nearby destinations stop at these farms, speaking with farmers about cultivation, incentives and markets, and often purchasing produce.

Researchers and cultivators argue that adding spice farms to the tourism map, alongside Koraput’s established coffee and millet farms, would encourage farmers, promote the crops and strengthen the district’s economy. The farms could also provide a living laboratory for researchers.

District tourism officer Talina Pradhan said she would consult with Koraput Collector, the Agriculture and Horticulture departments and the Odisha Tourism Development Corporation to showcase spice farming. She added that efforts would be made to include farms and cultivation zones on the state tourism map.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, “e”-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, KHARIAR (R&B) DIVISION, KHARIAR
E-mail : seroads.khr@rediffmail.com
No. 5171 Date : 22.09.2025
No.B-560

Invitation For Bids
Bid Identification No. SER&BKHR-14/2025-26

1	The Superintending Engineer, Khariar (R&B) Division, Khariar on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate Composite (Civil+El+PH) bids in Double Cover system in ONLINE MODE only.	
2	Nature of work	Development of Water Sports at Hariapur in Lower Indra dam/Renewal coat to Gotma Airstrip
3	No. of work	02 Nos. works
4	Tender Paper cost	As specified in the notice for the respective Work, to be remitted online only
5	Class of Contractor	As specified in the notice for the respective Work
6	Availability of Bid documents in the website	10.00 hours of 09.10.2025 to 17.00 hours of 23.10.2025
7	Date of opening of Technical Bid	Dt 24.10.2025 at 11:00 hours
8	EMD/Bid Security	As specified in the notice to be remitted online only
9	The Bidders shall have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.	

OIPR-34062/11/0044/2526

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Khariar (R&B) Division, Khariar

By your stumbling, the world is perfected

SRI AUROBINDO

Military Rhetoric

It is prudent for officials in high positions to speak with care and caution, for their words carry the weight of their position and responsibilities and can make or break any situation. Any loose talk on their part can have far-reaching consequences. This is especially true for high-ranking diplomatic and military officials as their statements are taken into account by leaders in other countries as official statements from the government, no matter if they are foes or friends.

During a visit to troops stationed in Rajasthan on 4 October, Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi issued a stark warning to Pakistan, declaring that India would no longer exercise restraint if Islamabad continued to support terrorism. “India is fully prepared this time... We will go a step further, and Pakistan will have to consider whether it wants to remain on the world map.”

Separately, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh stated that Indian airstrikes during Operation Sindoor destroyed or damaged at least a dozen Pakistani aircraft, including US-supplied F-16 jets. He dismissed Pakistani claims of Indian losses as “fanciful stories.”

On the same day, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, speaking at an event in Hyderabad, reinforced India’s readiness to act decisively across borders if national security is threatened. Singh also warned Pakistan against any misadventure in the Sir Creek sector, a disputed 96-km tidal estuary between Gujarat’s Rann of Kutch and southern Pakistan. He stated that any such move would invite a “decisive response” strong enough to change both “history and geography.”

In response, Pakistan’s Defence Minister Khawaja Asif described these remarks as “delusional, provocative, and jingoistic,” and issued his own threats. Asif warned that India would be “buried under the wreckage of its warplanes” if it provoked Pakistan further. “These statements from Indian political and military leadership are a failed attempt to restore their tarnished reputation,” Asif said. “After a decisive defeat, with a score of 0-6, if they try again, the outcome will be even worse.” Though Asif did not clarify the “0-6” reference, it appears to refer to unverified Pakistani claims of having downed six Indian fighter jets during Operation Sindoor—claims for which Islamabad has offered no evidence.

It is important to note that such rhetoric by senior military officials risks blurring the lines between military professionalism and political positioning. It is inappropriate and dangerous for serving military leaders to make such aggressive public pronouncements which can push the country to yet another military escalation. Ever since the ceasefire between India and Pakistan was reached after four days of military confrontation, high-ranking Indian military officials have often made such public statements. When General Dwivedi says that “India is fully prepared this time” it also sends across a message that the nation’s military was unprepared for the confrontation in May.

This kind of heated exchange between the two nations’ military and political leaders will only worsen animosity between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. India-Pakistan relations have sharply deteriorated following the Pahalgam terror attack of 22 April when 26 innocent tourists were massacred by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists. In response, New Delhi took several diplomatic steps, including suspending the Indus Waters Treaty that had till then survived three wars. India has also made it clear that any future dialogue with Pakistan will centre solely on the return of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to India. It may be noted that India seemed to have lost the narrative war in convincing world leaders of Pakistan’s complicit role in the terror attacks. Meanwhile, Pakistan has received funds in billions of dollars from the International Monetary Fund and signed a military deal with Saudi Arabia called the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement whereby it will now get all backing from the Saudi nation in the eventuality of a war. With further plans to form a military alliance among various Moslem nations, Pakistan seems focused on strengthening diplomatic relations and forming strategic military partnerships.

India needs to focus on its foreign relations and building diplomatic friendships at the global stage. India’s relations with the US have soured in recent times, especially after Operation Sindoor, and India repeatedly refuting US President Donald Trump’s claims of being the peacemaker and averting a war between the two nuclear armed neighbours.

India and Pakistan have fought three major wars and numerous skirmishes since 1947. Any further escalation in rhetoric, particularly from top officials, risks destabilizing the fragile ceasefire and regional peace, something both nations can ill afford at this stage.

WISDOM CORNER

Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step

LAO TZU

Every man builds his world in his own image. He has the power to choose, but no power to escape the necessity of choice

AVY N RAND

Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today

THICH NHAT HANH

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1856: In Canton (Guangzhou), Chinese officials boarded a British-registered ship, the Arrow, arrested several Chinese crew members (who were later released), and allegedly lowered the British flag; the event contributed to the start of the second Opium War, in which Britain and France battled China.

1871: Great Chicago fire begins. The fire that destroyed most of Chicago's business district began in a barn on the evening of October 8, 1871. A very dry summer and an early autumn fanned the fire, which raged for 2 days. It killed over 300 people and destroyed property worth millions of dollars.

1912: First Balkan war begins. Montenegro started the conflict by declaring war on the Ottoman Empire. A few days later Greece, Bulgaria, and Serbia joined the war and created the Balkan League. The 7-month long war ended with a decisive Balkan League victory. Dissatisfaction over the spoils of the war led to the Second Balkan War a year later.

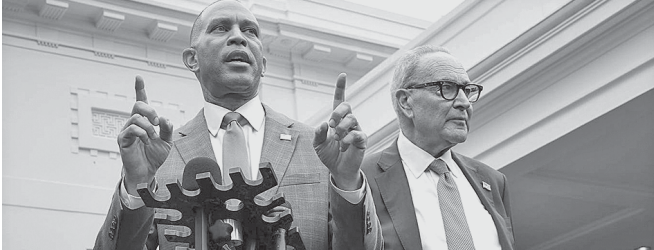
1967: A prominent communist figure in the Cuban Revolution and a South American guerrilla leader, Che Guevara was captured and later shot to death by a Bolivian army.

1982: The Polish legislature dissolved the trade union Solidarity, which subsequently became an underground organization and played a key role in ending communist rule in Poland, with its various leaders, notably Lech Wał sa, later holding important government posts.

power post

FOCUS US GOVT SHUTDOWN

DEMOCRATIC RECESSION



We are confronting what scholars have called “autocratic legalism”: the use of duly enacted laws to undermine constitutional systems and, in particular, to concentrate power

ly “erode norms.” We are confronting what scholars have called “autocratic legalism”: the use of duly enacted laws to undermine constitutional systems and, in particular, to concentrate power. In fact, the situation may even be worse than that. In his second term, Trump no longer bothers maintaining a façade of legality, and simply engages in illegal conduct openly. Even when courts rule against his administration, it usually has already created facts on the ground, signaling its intention to disregard constraints.

In theory, how opposition parties should respond to autocratic legalism or outright lawlessness is straightforward: play “tit-for-tat.” Transgressions from one side must be answered with a matching transgression. As game theory teaches, that is the only way to get back to normal with repeated play. Ideally, the opposition party, in the process, will also explain to the public that it is pursuing such a strategy because a core democratic principle, not just a policy disagreement, is at stake.

But the problem, in practice, is that a governing party bent on autocracy can escalate. Not only has it already proven willing to break the rules, but it also has more power with which to do so. One could see this clearly with Democratic Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer’s attempt to slow the confirmations of Trump’s nominees. In response, Re-

publican Majority Leader John Thune simply went for “the nuclear option,” changing the rules so that whole batches of nominees could be waved through with a simple majority.

Another problem is that politicians beholden to an aspiring autocrat are unlikely to negotiate in good faith, or even to tell the truth to the public. Republicans, for example, are simply lying about the Democrats wanting to give health care to undocumented immigrants. And since aspiring autocrats systematically work to capture media organizations, the space for making the opposition’s case steadily shrinks. Trump-aligned businessmen already control Fox News and now CBS (long seen as the closest a US outlet would come to the BBC).

Still, as Saul Alinsky, the father of community organizing, once put it: “You do what you can with what you have.” A government shutdown concentrates the mind and provides a focal point for sending the right message about an autocratizing government. As important as the Democrats’ arguments about health care are, the stronger justification for accepting a shutdown is that Trump will not respect any compromise they might negotiate. After all, he has already forced congressional Republicans to rescind spending to which they had previously approved.

Democrats therefore can make this an argument



Jan-Werner Mueller

ONE OF THE DEMOCRATS' BIGGEST PROBLEMS IS THAT THEY ARE VERY UNPOPULAR, EVEN WITH THEIR OWN BASE

IN JEST THIS

Survive a heart attack with a lucky crash



Melvin Durai

IMAGINE GERACI'S GOOD LUCK. OF ALL THE PLACES TO CRASH, HE CRASHED NEAR THE CHIEF OF CARDIOLOGY

If you happen to suffer a heart attack while driving your car, don’t crash into just any building. Make sure you crash into a cardiologist’s office. That could be the difference between returning to your loved ones and never seeing them again.

Trust me, you are far more likely to survive your heart attack if you do what Jeff Geraci, a 64-year-old financial planner in Virginia Beach, US, recently did.

The health emergency happened after a routine trip to a fitness club, where Geraci had lifted weights and used a rowing machine and treadmill. When he got to his car, he didn’t feel good and sat for a little while before deciding to drive home. During the drive, he suffered a heart attack and veered off the road, crossing multiple lanes. Fortunately, he didn’t hit any other cars, but instead crashed into a sign near the office of Dr. Deepak Talreja, the chief of cardiology for

Sentara Health, a regional healthcare network. Talreja heard the crash and ran out to help Geraci, while calling 911, the emergency line.

Imagine Geraci’s good luck. Of all the places to crash, he crashed near the chief of cardiology. With my luck, if I suffered a heart attack, I’d crash near a funeral home. The funeral director would run out to offer his services.

Dr Talreja couldn’t assess Geraci’s condition immediately because the airbags had deployed. When he finally did, he realized that the heart attack was severe. How severe? Geraci was virtually dead.

“You weren’t breathing, and you didn’t have a pulse — SCD, sudden cardiac death,” Dr Talreja said, speaking to Geraci during a news feature on a local TV station, WTVR. “And what that means is the heart just isn’t doing the job, and so it’s a form of death. But fortunately, we got things restarted very quickly, and so God was watching out...”

Was it God or was it luck? Geraci certainly believes that God ensured that his heart-attack crash wasn’t fatal. “It’s such a testimony of God’s greatness, of all the things that had to happen to keep me alive,” he told WTVR. “It’s a miracle. God was there, and thank God Dr. Talreja was there.”

Dr Talreja isn’t always at his medical practice, of course. Sometimes he’s at two local hospitals, and other times, he’s at home. It would have taken a longer drive to crash into his home. By then, it might have been too late, as Dr Talreja noted: “So if he’d gone eight minutes or so without CPR and without blood flow, then we can probably resuscitate the heart for another 10 minutes or so, but the brain doesn’t recover, and so [he] wouldn’t be with us today.”

Geraci has a family history of heart attacks. That’s why he made it a point to exercise regularly. “My mother died

about democracy. Not only has a Republican-controlled government shut down, but the Republican-controlled Congress is simply handing power to Trump and letting him get away with the plainly illegal impoundment of funds approved by the legislature. This is not about this or that policy; it is about a chief executive governing according to his whims, with impunity and obvious disregard for the US Constitution. The argument is not difficult to make, nor would it be difficult for the public to understand.

In the same vein, as the political scientist Norman Ornstein has proposed, Democrats could create focal points if they started holding floor debates about impeaching Trump cabinet secretaries who have behaved in a particularly egregious manner. While such efforts have zero chance of succeeding, the point is that the Speaker of the House cannot prevent them, and Democrats can use the proceedings both to create a record of misdeeds and to educate receptive parts of the public about the harm these figures are causing.

In the end, aspiring autocrats also face a challenge. They must portray the opposition either as posing a mortal danger to the country (polarization helps here) or as irrelevant, even pitiful (hence Trump’s recent dismissal of Democrats: “Don’t even bother dealing with them”). By going back and forth between these extremes, Republicans, too, are sending mixed messages.

A well-crafted strategy around the shutdown and impeachments would show that the Democrats can take the initiative and defend their actions in the name of democratic principles. This is the moment for them to demonstrate that they can master the art of opposition.

The writer is Professor of Politics at Princeton University

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Call for caution

Sir, The death of 14 children in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan due to the consumption of Coldrif cough syrup has caused widespread concern across the country. Tests conducted in Tamil Nadu revealed dangerously high levels of the highly toxic chemical diethylene glycol in this syrup. Consequently, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh have completely banned the sale, distribution, and use of this medicine. It is essential for the public to remain vigilant. If Coldrif syrup is stored at home or in pharmacies, it should be immediately disposed of. Administering cough syrup to children without a doctor’s guidance is extremely risky. If any medicine shows changes in smell, colour, or taste, its use should be stopped immediately. Do not believe rumours spreading on social media. Only official government announcements should be trusted. Before using any medicine, carefully check its label, manufacturer, and batch number. If any prohibited or suspicious products are found, report them to the local food safety or drug control authorities. To prevent such tragedies in the future, every family should develop the habit of using medicines strictly under medical advice. Vigilance protects lives — negligence can cost them.

. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Quite architect

Sir, In an era when digital sovereignty often bends to foreign code, Sridhar Vembu stands apart as a visionary — one who redefines what self-reliance truly means. The founder of Zoho Corporation, he has not only built a global tech powerhouse from Indian soil but also nurtured a philosophy — that world-class innovation can thrive from our villages, not just our metros. With Arattai, envisioned as India’s homegrown alternative to WhatsApp, and ULAA, a potential rival to Chrome, Vembu champions a future where our data remains in our hands, our code in our conscience. His mission is not mere competition but liberation — to make India a creator, not just a consumer, in the digital economy. If nurtured well, his ecosystem can spark a renaissance — boosting employment in smaller towns, reviving ethical entrepreneurship, and reshaping India’s global image as a technological sovereign. In Sridhar Vembu’s quiet persistence lies a revolution — coded not in ambition alone, but in national pride.

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI



WINTER IS COMING, SO IS SMOG

Air inside Delhi homes as harmful as outdoors: Study

Long term exposure to high fungal and bacterial concentrations make indoor air in several parts of Delhi almost as harmful as the smog outside

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: As Delhi braces for winters and likely another spell of the late fall smog, a study has found that the air inside city homes are filled with fungal spores 12 times higher than the WHO safety limit, causing skin allergies, respiratory issues as well as anxiety among residents.

The study by Delhi University's Satyawati College, Jamia Millia Islamia and US's South Dakota State University, has also revealed that the bacterial levels were recorded to be 10 fold higher than the World Health Organization (WHO) safety limits.

Long term exposure to high fungal and bacterial concentrations make indoor air in several parts of Delhi almost as harmful as the smog outside, noted the study published in Frontiers in Public Health, 2025.

The study also noted that most fungal particles were smaller than 2.5 microns, small enough to penetrate deep into the lungs and cause lasting respiratory damage.

It observed a clear seasonal pattern. Fungal levels rose steadily from winter and reached their highest concentration at around 6,050 CFU per cubic metre in fall between September and November -- the period just before Delhi's smog sets in.

Bacterial levels increased

from winter to summer, peaking in August, before declining in fall, it said.

About 33 per cent of residents reported frequent headaches, 23 per cent complained of burning or irritated eyes, 22 per cent experienced persistent coughing and breathlessness, and 18 per cent suffered from sneezing and allergic rhinitis, also known as hay fever. Around 15 per cent reported skin irritation and itching, the researchers noted.

"Children and young adults emerged as the most vulnerable groups. The study found that about 28 per cent of children under 12 years and 25 per cent of young adults aged 18 to 30 reported breathing difficulties, coughing, or allergy-related symptoms," they added.

The authors noted that developing lungs, higher activity levels, and longer indoor exposure made children particularly susceptible. Women also reported higher rates of eye and skin irritation, accounting for nearly 60 per cent of all dermatological and eye complaints, likely because they spent longer periods indoors, they added.

The study, titled "Microbial Indoor Air Quality Assessment and Health Correlations in Densely Populated Urban Areas of Delhi, India", found that fungal and bacterial concentrations inside homes in densely populated parts of the national capital were several times higher than safe standards set by the WHO, based on a year-



long survey of households in North Delhi.

Researchers collected air samples from 336 houses across the slum clusters of Ashok Vihar and Azadpur, representing low-income, overcrowded neighbourhoods with poor ventilation and visible dampness.

The survey covered all four seasons to track how microbial levels changed throughout the year.

The findings revealed that fungal concentrations ranged between 1,330 and 6,050 colony-forming units (CFU) per cubic metre, while WHO recommends a limit of 500 CFU per cubic metre, meaning that homes recorded up to twelve times higher fungal levels than what is considered safe.

Bacterial concentrations varied from 730 to 5,300 CFU per

cubic metre, compared with the WHO's reference level of 500 CFU per cubic metre, showing that bacterial counts were also more than 10 times higher than global safety limits.

The researchers linked this seasonal surge to humidity and

temperature, which create ideal conditions for fungal growth and persistence indoors.

The most common airborne microbes identified were Aspergillus, Penicillium, Cladosporium, Staphylococcus, Streptococcus, and Micrococcus. Among them, Aspergillus and Cladosporium were dominant fungi known to trigger asthma, allergies, and chronic lung infections, they said.

While microbial counts were highest during the late monsoon and fall, health complaints among residents were most frequent in winter and fall, suggesting that prolonged indoor exposure in poorly ventilated conditions worsened health outcomes.

A health questionnaire was administered to 509 residents of the sampled homes, using a structured survey approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The results

showed widespread health issues linked to poor indoor air.

The researchers attributed Delhi's poor indoor air to a combination of overcrowding, inadequate ventilation, high humidity, and infiltration of outdoor smog. Many households showed visible mold growth and damp walls, while sunlight exposure was minimal.

Meteorological and outdoor pollution factors also played a crucial role.

The study noted that as humidity levels rose above 60 to 70 per cent, fungal and bacterial counts increased sharply.

The researchers warned that the health risks associated with indoor fungi extend beyond allergies and asthma. Species such as Aspergillus and Penicillium produce mycotoxins, chemical compounds that can cause headaches, fatigue, and immune suppression after prolonged exposure.

Delhi to develop 17 urban forests to boost green cover

The Delhi government is set to transform 15 scattered patches of vacant land across the national capital into dense urban forests, called 'Namo Vans,' to enhance the city's green cover and combat air pollution. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, along with Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa and other key officials, held a meeting in this regard. Officials said that these Namo Vans will cover an area of over 177 acres. And after their development, along with two Miyawaki forests, there will be 17 urban forests in the national capital. The work is likely to commence soon, with the plantation planned from November. "These new forests will not only enhance the beauty of the national capital but also create much-needed green spaces for our residents," Sirsa told PTL. "We are taking every possible step to make Delhi greener and reduce pollution. These dense green zones will serve as natural lungs for the city," he said. Stretching across the North and South Forest Divisions, the Namo Vans will come up in Sathbari and Maidan Garhi in the South, and Shahpur Garhi, Alipur, B4 Narela, Mamurpur, G7 and G8 Narela, Barwala in Sector 32 Rohini, Pehlادpur Bagar in Sector 30 Rohini, Pansali in Sector 32 Rohini, Mahamudpura Mazri A in Rohini, Pansali in Sector 31 Rohini, and Sector 32 Rohini in the North.

KARUR STAMPEDE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai / Karur, Oct 7: Actor-politician Vijay began reaching out to the families of the Karur stampede victims through WhatsApp video calls and assured them of his support.

The Tamilaga Vетtri Kazhagam party chief, who has been facing flak from certain sections for not visiting the affected families in person, had made the video calls October 6 evening, one of the affected families said.

"He made the call to my son-in-law and expressed his heartfelt condolences. He conveyed his regret over the incident and said it should not have happened. Also, he assured the family of his support," he told reporters in Karur.

Speaking to another family, Vijay consoled the woman say-



ing, "I am like your son."

A source in TVK said it was not clear if Vijay would visit Karur. "But he has asked the party members to reach out to the affected families," he said.

5 BUSES BROKE DOWN EVERY HOUR ANNUALLY IN DELHI: OFFICIAL DATA

NEW DELHI: Over 112 DTC buses broke down on average every day in Delhi over the last two years, with more than 81,000 breakdowns reported by different depots of the public transporter, according to data obtained through an RTI query by PTL. According to the data, 81,869 cases of bus breakdowns were reported over a span of two years between 2023 and 2024 -- an average of nearly five buses breaking down every hour and every day for two years. Between January and July this year, 21,123 complaints of buses breaking down on roads were received by the DTC control room, the data showed. According to details divulged through the RTI, 8,598 buses operated by various depots falling under the North region broke down this year. The Rohini Depot 4 under the North region recorded 1,008 cases of bus breakdowns this year between January and July, declining from 1,824 in 2023 and 1,249 in 2024 during the same time period. The Rohini Sector 37 depot showed a surge in numbers. Between January 1 and July 28 this year, 3,014 bus breakdowns were recorded. The figures in 2023 and 2024 between January 4 and July 28 stood at 686 and 1,007 respectively.

Though the TVK is yet to make an official statement on his WhatsApp video calls, at least three families have confirmed that his empathetic talk since October 6 night continued today, as well.

A young woman, with whom Vijay spoke, was a sister of a victim who was among 41 persons who died in the stampede September 27 at a political rally addressed by the TVK chief at Velusampyuram.

She said she could not blame the actor for the tragedy.

"My brother had gone to see Vijay, and he didn't return. The authorities could have deployed more police force to regulate the swelling crowd," she told media in Karur.

"He consoled me. He said he was like a brother to me. Vijay said he could not come due to the court case and that

Kejriwal gets Lutyens' Delhi bungalow, likely to shift around Diwali

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal is expected to move to his new accommodation, 95, Lodhi Estate bungalow, around Diwali, provided the renovation is completed by then, party sources said Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, the party said that he has accepted the central allotment and will soon shift with his family, more than a year after he resigned as the Delhi chief minister.

Kejriwal is entitled to a central government bungalow since he is the chief of a national party.

"After nearly a year, Kejriwal has been allotted an official bungalow by the Centre. The Delhi High Court rapped the central government over the matter. He was entitled to a bungalow since he is the convener of a national party," AAP national media in-charge Anurag Dhanda told PTL.

According to an official in the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), the bungalow will be handed over to the allottee once renovation is finished.

Kejriwal will be Congress MP Shashi Tharoor's neighbour at his new lodging, earlier occupied by a former IPS officer.

Last month, the Delhi High Court pulled up the Centre for delaying in allotting a residential accommodation to Kejriwal in the national capital.

Tamil Nadu's wild elephant count rises to 3,170 in 2025

In Tamil Nadu, the survey covered 26 forest divisions, including tiger reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, territorial forest divisions, and a national park

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 7: Tamil Nadu is now home to an estimated 3,170 wild elephants, an increase of 107 from the previous count of 3,063, said R S Raja Kannapan, State Minister for Forests and Khadi, Tuesday.

Kannapan was releasing the Third Synchronised Elephant Population Estimation (2025) report as part of the Wildlife Week celebrations at the Secretariat.

"This steady growth in Tamil Nadu's elephant population reflects the state's commitment to science-based wildlife management and community-driven conservation," said the minister.

Highlighting the importance of evidence-based and collaborative conservation, Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government, Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, said the state is focusing on habitat restoration, removal of invasive species, improvement of fodder and water availability, and use of technology to monitor movements.

"Elephants are an integral



part of our forests and our cultural identity. The steady increase in their population is a strong indicator that our policies are working," she added.

According to her, the state has declared the Agasthyamalai Elephant Reserve, notified the Thanthai Periyar and Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuaries, and expanded protection across more than 2.8 lakh hectares of elephant habitat under Tamil Nadu's Elephant Conservation Schemes.

The synchronised estimation was conducted from May 23 to 25 in coordination with Karna-

taka to ensure consistent data across shared elephant landscapes, said a press release issued by the Forest Department.

In Tamil Nadu, the survey covered 26 forest divisions, including tiger reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, territorial forest divisions, and a national park, it added.

In the latest survey, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve recorded the highest density at 1.35 per km² (estimated 325 elephants), followed by Gudalur Forest Division and Anamalai Tiger Reserve, according to the press release.

Vandalur zoo to go fully carbon-neutral: Tamil Nadu

PRESS TRUSRT OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 7: The Tamil Nadu government Tuesday said efforts were underway to achieve complete carbon neutrality at the Vandalur zoo here, in order to make it the first-of-its-kind in the country's zoo network.

Popularly known as Vandalur zoo, the Arignar Anna Zoological Park already meets 80 per cent of its power requirements through solar energy.

"Efforts are underway to achieve complete carbon neutrality, making it a first-of-its-kind in the country's zoo network," the government said.

A decision to this effect was made at a meeting of the Zoo Authority of Tamil Nadu, chaired by Chief Minister MK Stalin at the Secretariat here October 6.

It was decided to allocate Rs 35 crore for the comprehensive development of four zoos across the state.

The meeting also resolved to advance Tamil Nadu's vision of sustainable, inclusive, and carbon-neutral zoos where conservation, climate consciousness, and community connect come together.

Carbon neutrality is the state of balancing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere by achieving net-zero carbon emissions.

The chief minister, who presided over the 22nd Governing Board Meeting of the Tamil Nadu Zoo Authority, reviewed ongoing initiatives and new proposals to strengthen infrastructure, enhance animal welfare, and improve visitor experience.

"Over the last four years, Tamil Nadu's zoos have witnessed a quiet but remarkable transformation, embracing accessibility, digital innovation, and climate resilience," a press release said.

The Vandalur zoo, equipped



with a 180 KW solar power plant, will soon see the revamping of the birds' aviary and the nocturnal animal house. It will have enhanced accessibility with ramps, anti-skid tiles, and improved facilities for differently-abled visitors.

"Over 90 per cent digital ticketing adoption through UPI, online, and WhatsApp

scaped pathways, and thatched-roof animal shelters.

Funds have been sanctioned for continued upgradation at the Kurumbapatti zoo in Salem and the Amirthi zoo in Vellore to improve animal habitats and public facilities.

The chief minister underscored the pivotal role of zoos as living classrooms and conservation centres, bridging the gap between people and nature.

He reiterated the government's commitment to elevate the standards of zoo management, ensuring the well-being of animals and enriching public engagement through innovative learning and outreach.

Forests Minister R S Rajakannappan, Chief Secretary N Muruganandam, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, Supriya Sahu, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Srinivas R Reddy, and senior officials participated.

ticketing is being followed at the Vandalur zoo, where new battery vehicles are being operated for eco-friendly transport within the premises," it said.

The Guindy Children's Nature Park will undergo comprehensive remodelling as per international standards at Rs 20 crore. Other plans include revamping the zoo cafe, land-

Delhi govt preschools outshine private peers in overall quality: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: In contrast to popular belief, preschools in Delhi run by the government have outperformed their private counterparts in most of the six components including physical infrastructure, WASH practices, child-friendly environment, curriculum implementation, classroom process and safety, according to a study by Jamia Millia Islamia.

When all six parameters were combined, the government preschools performed best overall, with more than half rated "good". The private preschools followed closely, while Anganwadis mostly remained in the "average" category, with one rated "poor", the 2025 study said.

Researchers from Jamia's Department of Education studied 45 preschools across the capital, 15 each from the government, private and Anganwadi setups in 2023.

The findings of the study, named 'A quantitative study on quality of physical infrastructure, WASH practices, preschool education and safety in Anganwadi centers, government preschools and private preschools in Delhi', were published in Discover Education (2025).

According to the study, preschools were assessed on six components -- physical infrastructure; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices; child-friendly environment, curriculum implementation, classroom process and safety.

The researchers used the Anganwadi Assessment Scale, a standard tool for evaluating early childhood programmes, and the scores obtained were subsequently split into three categories -- "poor", "average" and "good".

As far as physical infrastructure is concerned, the study found that 13 of the 15 government preschools had "good" infrastructure, compared to eight private schools and four Anganwadi centres. Ten Anganwadis were rated "average" and one "poor".

The paper attributed this gap largely to the fact that most Anganwadis function from rented or standalone buildings with limited indoor and outdoor space, ventilation and facilities.

The government preschools, often attached to Sarvodaya schools, shared better infrastructure and resources, it read.

When it came to WASH, none of the government preschools achieved a "good" score. All 15 were rated "average", the study highlighted.

With Rs 23,000 crore in investments in the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor, advanced UAV systems, frontier aerospace research and strong integration into global supply chains, Tamil Nadu is taking flight as India's aerospace, space and defence innovation hub



M K STALIN | TN CM

I have come here to assess the damage due to rainfall and floods. On behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, I will meet the affected families and those who lost their loved ones. I will report to the PM after assessing the damage



KIRAN RIJU | UNION MINISTER

From now on, sanitation and contractual workers will not be paid through outsourcing agencies. The payment will be made directly by a government corporation into their bank accounts



YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

SHORT TAKES

Deve Gowda hospitalised

Bangalore: Former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda was Tuesday hospitalized following infection. In a bulletin, the Manipal Hospital said, "Honourable Former PM Mr H D Deve Gowda was admitted to Manipal Hospital at Old Airport Road with an infection. He is currently undergoing medical management for the same and his progress is being monitored by a team of medical experts."

Nepali gang leader shot dead

New Delhi: A wanted gangster carrying a reward of Rs 50,000 was shot dead by a joint team of Delhi Police's Special Staff and Gurugram Crime Branch during an encounter near the Astha Kunj Park in southeast Delhi, an official said Tuesday. Bhim Mahabhadur Jora (39), a native of Nepal, was wanted for the murder of 63-year-old general physician Yogesh Chander Paul during a robbery at his residence in Jangpura in May 2024.

Assam expands 'Orunodoi' scheme

Guwahati: The Assam government Tuesday expanded its flagship financial support scheme for women, rolling out 'Orunodoi 3.0', making it the largest such programme in the state, in which 38 lakh families will get Rs 1,250 each a month. Announcing this, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said a "special surprise" will come in February. "Rs 1,250 to over 38 lakh women instantly. Assam today expanded its flagship financial support scheme, #Orunodoi3 to become the largest ever anti-poverty scheme in the state," Sarma said in a post on X.

Jaipur hospital fire: Repair work begins

Jaipur: A day after a massive fire ripped through SMS Hospital's trauma centre here and claimed six lives, work to repair the damaged neuro ICU began Tuesday. The Rajasthan Human Rights Commission (RSHRC) took cognisance of the incident and sought a detailed report from the hospital authorities and others, while a high-level committee formed by the state government to probe the incident launched its investigation.



Our armed forces demonstrated the strength of jointness and strategic foresight during Operation Sindoor. The calibrated, tri-service response resulted in effective synergy

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

AIR INDIA FLIGHT GETS SUSPECTED BIRD HIT

Suspected bird strike Tuesday caused an "impact" on the engine blade of an Air India flight being operated between Chennai and Colombo. The work is on to ascertain the exact cause of the damage, officials said



Leaders condemn attack on CJI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Cutting across party lines and for the second consecutive day, leaders from west to east and south to north Tuesday strongly condemned the bid to attack Chief Justice of India B R Gavai during court proceedings, calling it an "assault" on democracy and the Constitution.

In a shocking breach of decorum Monday, Rakesh Kishore, a 71-year-old lawyer, allegedly tried to hurl a shoe at the CJI during court proceedings, but was stopped by alert security personnel.

Police sources said a note, containing the slogan "Sanatan dharma ka apmaan nahi sahega Hindustan" (India will not tolerate insults to Sanatan Dharma), was found in the lawyer's possession. The Bar Council of India (BCI) has suspended his licence with immediate effect. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Justice Gavai Monday and said the attack on him has angered every Indian. "There is no place for such reprehensible acts in our society. It is utterly condemnable," Modi said, appreciating the calm displayed by



the CJI. Condemnations were made and protests were held in CJI Gavai's home state of Maharashtra Tuesday. Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar called CJI Gavai the "pride of Maharashtra" and said the lawyer's attempt to attack him is condemnable.

The Opposition NCP (SP) protested in Mumbai and other parts of Maharashtra Tuesday. A similar protest was held by the Opposition party in Baramati, led by the party's national working president Supriya Sule. Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren condemned the attack and termed the incident as an "assault on the soul of democracy". He

also said the attack was "like raising a hand against the nation's Constitution". In neighbouring Bihar, which goes to polls next month, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav accused the ruling BJP at the Centre of "maintaining silence" over the incident. In the south, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy strongly condemned the attack on CJI Gavai in his courtroom during the proceedings.

In Tamil Nadu, AIADMK general secretary and former chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami condemned the attack and said such violence was unacceptable and must be condemned in the strongest terms. In the north, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) protested in East Delhi's Mayur Vihar. Carrying portraits of Ambedkar, party workers led by AAP Delhi unit president Saurabh Bharadwaj and MLA Kuldeep Kumar raised slogans of "Jai Bhim". On Tuesday, CJI Gavai expressed concern over oral remarks made by judges during court proceedings being misrepresented on social media.

POLITICAL STORM IN FLOOD-HIT BENGAL

Mamata meets injured BJP MP; party alleges 'jihadi' link

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Siliguri/ New Delhi, Oct 7: The political row over the attack on two BJP leaders in flood and landslide-hit north Bengal flared up Tuesday, as the Centre sought answers from the TMC government and the saffron camp alleged that "jihadi elements" were behind the assault, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee met injured BJP MP Khagen Murmu in hospital.

In a surprise visit, Banerjee met Murmu at a private hospital in Siliguri, where the Malda Uttar MP is undergoing treatment for serious facial injuries sustained in Monday's mob assault at Nagrakata in Jalpaiguri district and enquired about his health. The hospital visit came hours after the Lok Sabha Secretariat sought a factual note within three days from the Union Home Ministry on the attack. Parliament officials said the Secretariat has written to the Ministry of Home Affairs to obtain a "factual note" from the West Bengal government within three days. Television visuals showed Banerjee entering the hospital and speaking softly to the injured parliamentarian and his family. "Do you have diabetes? Are you taking insulin and medicines regularly?" she was heard asking Murmu, before consulting doctors and assuring that the government would extend all necessary help.

"If you need any assistance or further treatment elsewhere, please let me know," Banerjee told the family. However, she did not meet Siliguri MLA Sanskar Ghosh, who was also injured



in the attack and shares a frosty relationship with the chief minister following repeated assembly clashes. While the BJP welcomed Banerjee's visit as a "political courtesy", it questioned the "inaction" of the police.

Murmu, who is in the ICU with a fractured bone below his eye, is stable but under close monitoring, and doctors said he may need surgery. The assault on Murmu and Ghosh came amid torrential rains that triggered deadly floods and landslides across north Bengal. It has now snowballed into a full-fledged confrontation between the Centre and the state, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday night calling the incident "outright appalling" and "reflective of the pathetic law and order situation in Bengal." Banerjee shot back, accusing Modi of "politicising a natural disaster instead of standing by the people." Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Kiran Rijju, who visited the affected areas along with Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari, said Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has sought a report from the state government on the attack and warned that any delay could invite action under the Privilege Motion.



A student gets his face painted for a competition as part of Wildlife Week 2025 celebrations, in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

Senior Haryana police officer found dead in home, suicide suspected

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 7: Senior Haryana police officer Y Puran Kumar allegedly shot himself dead at his Chandigarh home Tuesday, officials said.

The 52-year-old 2001 batch officer, known for his interventions in matters related to the rights of officers and seniority and other issues, had recently been posted as inspector general, Police Training Centre (PTC), in Sunaria, Rohtak.

His wife Amneet P Kumar, an IAS officer and commissioner and secretary of the Department of Foreign Cooperation, Haryana government, is in Japan as part of a delegation led by Chief Minister Nayab Saini.

Police rushed to the Kumars' home in upscale Sector 11 after receiving information about the incident around 1.30 pm.

Details of the alleged suicide of the officer, who was found dead with a gunshot wound, were sketchy.

"The SHO, Sector 11, and his team inspected the scene. A reported suicide had taken place... The body was identified as that of Y Puran Kumar, IPS officer," Chandigarh Senior Superintendent of Police Kanwardeep Kaur told reporters.

Asked if there was any suicide note, she said, "A team of the CFSL (Central Forensic Science Laboratory) is inspecting the spot and investigations are on." Those present in the house at the time are being questioned, the SSP said.

Kumar was earlier posted as Rohtak Range IG and had recently been transferred as IG, PTC, Sunaria.

In recent years, the officer had been vocal about issues related to the representation of scheduled caste in police ranks.

During the parliamentary elections last year, Kumar had complained to the Haryana chief electoral officer on IAS and IPS officers holding multiple charges. He had also approached the state government alleging discriminatory and selective allotment of official vehicles to IPS officers in the state.

15 killed as landslide hits bus in Himachal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Oct 7: At least 15 passengers were killed when a private bus was struck by a massive landslide in Himachal Pradesh's Bilaspur district Tuesday evening, officials said.

The accident took place in Bhalughat area in Jhandutta assembly segment around 6:30 pm, they said, adding the bus carrying 25-30 passengers was on its way from Marotan to Ghumarwin.

Several people are believed to be trapped under the debris while three have been rescued, the officials said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) to the next of kin of each deceased while the injured would be given ₹50,000.

"Saddened by the loss of lives due to a mishap in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh. My thoughts are with the affected people and their families during this difficult time. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured," Modi wrote on X.

Intermittent rains have been lashing the area since Monday. So far 15 people including the driver and the conductor of the bus have died while three rescued alive were sent to hospital, BJP MLA from Jhandutta J R Katwal, who was on the spot, told PTI over the phone.

Police and district administration officials are at the spot and rescue operations are going on in full swing, said Bilaspur Superintendent of Police Sandeep Dhalwal, maintaining that 15 bodies have been recovered from the rubble.

Whole mountain came crashing down on the bus, said an eyewitness engaged in the rescue operations.



Rescue operation underway

PTI PHOTO

Union health minister J P Nadda, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and Deputy CM Mukesh Agnihotri have expressed grief over the accident. CM Sukhu directed the officials to expedite the rescue operations, an official statement said.

President Droupadi Murmu condoled the loss of lives and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured. "The news of the deaths of several people in a bus accident caused by a landslide in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh, is extremely tragic. I express my condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones and pray for the speedy recovery of those who have been injured," Murmu said in a post on X in Hindi. Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah expressed "deep sadness" over the bus accident. In a post on X in Hindi, Congress president Kharge said the tragic bus accident in Bilaspur district, which resulted in the death of several people, is deeply saddening and unfortunate. "The state government is continuing its rescue operation on a war footing. The chief minister is personally overseeing the relief and rescue efforts, and the government is providing all possible assistance to the victims," Kharge said.

'Doctor said, I will not treat a Muslim woman'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaunpur (UP), Oct 7: A controversy erupted in Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur after a Muslim woman alleged that a doctor at the district hospital refused to treat her on religious grounds, an accusation denied by hospital authorities, officials said.

According to Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS) Dr Mahendra Gupta, the woman, Shama Parveen, a Biribari village resident, was brought to the district women's hospital at around 9.30 pm September 30 for delivery.

A woman doctor on duty that night had examined her, he said.

On October 1, a video surfaced on social media purportedly showing Shama Parveen alleging that the doctor on duty told her, "I will not treat a Muslim woman. I will not conduct

your delivery," and directed the nurse not to take her to the operation theatre, asking her family to take her elsewhere.

The CMS said he was surprised by the allegations and sought an explanation from the doctor concerned.

"The doctor denied making any such remark based on religion. An inquiry has been conducted into the matter, and the higher authorities have been informed," he said.

Police, meanwhile, have registered an FIR against two local journalists -- Mayank Srivastava and Mohammad Usman -- who allegedly circulated the video on social media.

The complaint was filed by the CMS at the Kotwali police station, alleging that the two journalists forcibly entered the labour room, filmed videos, and caused damage to hospital property.



The incident has sparked sharp political reactions. Samajwadi Party MLA from Machhlisahr, Ragini Sonkar, termed the case "shameful", saying, "It is the result of the communal tension spread

across the state. No woman in labour pain would lie about being denied treatment."

She said registering a case against journalists instead of acting against the accused doctor shows that the gov-

ernment "cannot accept the truth".

The MLA added that she would meet the district magistrate and, if needed, raise

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the matter in the Assembly.

Meanwhile, Congress leader Vikesh Upadhyay Vikki also condemned the incident, saying, "It is extremely shameful that a doctor, who has taken an oath to serve all sections of society, refused treatment on religious grounds. The victim has no caste or religion in such situations. Strict action should be taken."

BJP spokesperson Avnish Tyagi, however, rubbished the opposition claims as baseless and aimed at fragmenting the society.

"Public welfare schemes have been doled out to all sections of society on the lines of government's 'Sabka saath sabka vikas' motto, be it homes, health care, ration distribution, and other schemes there is no discrimination in the Yogi Adityanath-led government," Tyagi told

of the day
QUOTE

If Kurubas are included in the ST list, the ST reservation quota must be increased accordingly. I support and agree with that

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

The visionary leadership of PM Modi has made this ambitious project possible. Under the 'double-engine government,' Chhattisgarh is rapidly progressing on the track of development. This decision is not just a milestone for the state's growth, but it will also inject new energy into the central Indian economy

VISHNU DEO SAI | CH'GARH CM

October 7 will always be etched as a special day for India as Adarniya Shri @narendramodi ji took oath as Gujarat's CM for the first time in 2001 and since then has been serving continuously as a Head of Govt

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

POST OF THE DAY

A shoe hurled at Chief Justice B R Gavai offers a chilling picture of what BJP's Viksit Bharat will look like by 2047.

The attacker acted with brazen confidence knowing well that there would be no real consequences for his deplorable act

@mehboobamufti

SHORT TAKES

Woman gangraped in moving car in UP

Jhansi/Banda (UP): Two persons were arrested Tuesday for allegedly raping an 18-year-old woman in a moving car in Uttar Pradesh's Lalitpur district, police said. Preliminary investigation revealed that the main accused, Nitin Thakur (22), was known to the woman, they said. According to Additional Superintendent of Police Kalu Singh, an 18-year-old student filed a complaint Monday alleging that October 4 afternoon, she was returning home on foot from Bansi town after filling out an online scholarship form when she got into the car of an acquaintance near Kharkhari check dam and was raped by Nitin in the moving car

Kejriwal gets Lutyens' Delhi bungalow

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal is expected to move to his new accommodation, 95, Lodhi Estate bungalow, around Diwali, provided the renovation is completed by then, party sources said Tuesday. Earlier in the day, the party said that he has accepted the central allotment and will soon shift with his family, more than a year after he resigned as the Delhi chief minister. Kejriwal is entitled to a central government bungalow since he is the chief of a national party.

UP court sentences man to death for rape

Ghazipur (UP): A special court in Ghazipur district Tuesday sentenced a man to death for raping and murdering an eight-year-old boy, a case lawyer said. Judge Ram Avtar Prasad of the district's Special POC SO Act Court sentenced Sanjay Prasad Nat to death, finding him guilty of raping, murdering and hiding the body in his own home, Prosecution lawyer Prabhu Narayan Singh said.



Cabinet approval for four key multi-tracking projects of the Indian Railways worth over Rs 24,000 crore across Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh will benefit thousands of villages, strengthen rail connectivity, ease congestion and enhance logistics efficiency under PM Gati Shakti

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

ED SEARCHES IN DELHI-NCR 'FAKE' CALL CENTRE CASE

The Enforcement Directorate Tuesday conducted searches at multiple locations in Delhi-NCR as part of a money laundering probe against operatives of some "fake" call centres which allegedly duped numerous foreigners to the tune of millions of US dollars, officials said



Cabinet nod to railway projects worth ₹24K-cr

The projects will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 894 km and help in providing seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods and services



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved four multi-tracking railway projects covering 18 districts in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh with a cost of approximately Rs 24,634 crore.

The projects will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 894 km and help in providing seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods and services, an official statement said.

These projects are 3rd and 4th line between Wardha and Bhusawal covering 314 km in Maharashtra; an 84 km 4th line between Gondia and Dongargarh in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh; 259 km 3rd and 4th line between Vadodara - Ratlam in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh; and 4th line covering 84 km distance of Itarsi-Bhopal-Bina in Madhya Pradesh.

"The approved multi-tracking project will enhance connectivity to approximately 3,633 villages, which have a population of about 85.84 lakh and two Aspirational Districts (Vidisha and Rajnandgaon)," the statement said.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, while briefing the

media persons, said that the increased line capacity will significantly enhance mobility, resulting in improved operational efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways.

He said that these multi-tracking proposals are poised to streamline operations and alleviate congestion.

"The projects are in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji's vision of a New India which will make the people of the region 'Aatmanirbhar' by way of comprehensive development in the area that will enhance their employment/ self-employment opportunities," the statement said.

"The projects are planned on the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan with a focus on enhancing multi-modal connectivity and logistic efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations. These projects will provide seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods, and services," it said.

Highlighting their benefits for the tourism sector, Vaishnaw said that these upcoming projects will provide connectivity to prominent destinations such as Sanchi, Satpura Tiger Reserve, Rock shelter of Bhimbetka, Hazara falls and Nawegaon National Park, attracting tourists from across the country.

AI CRASH PROBE

No dirty business or manipulation: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Civil Aviation Minister K Rammo-han Naidu Tuesday said there is "no manipulation or dirty business" happening in the investigation into the Air India plane crash that killed 260 people June 12.

His assertion comes against the backdrop of concerns expressed in certain quarters about the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) probe into the fatal crash.

Naidu said everyone has to wait for the final AAIB's final probe report to know what exactly happened.

"There is no manipulation, or there is no dirty business, hap-pening in the investigation. It is a very clean and very thorough process that we are doing ac-cording to the rules...", he said.

The minister also said it will take some time for the fi-nal AAIB report into the crash and added, "We don't want to pressure them into coming up with some history report".

He was speaking on the side-lines of a book launch function in the national capital.

In one of the worst aircraft accidents in India, a total of 260 people, including 241 pas-sengers, died after Air India's Boeing 787-8 aircraft operating flight AI171 to London Gatwick crashed soon after take off from Ahmedabad June 12.

AAIB, in its preliminary re-port released July 12, had said the fuel supply to both engines of the plane was cut off within a gap of one second, causing confusion in the cockpit soon after takeoff.

"In the cockpit voice record-ing, one of the pilots is heard asking the other why did he cut



IN ONE OF THE WORST AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS IN INDIA, A TOTAL OF 260 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 241 PASSENGERS, DIED AFTER AIR INDIA'S BOEING 787-8 AIRCRAFT OPERATING FLIGHT AI171 TO LONDON GATWICK CRASHED SOON AFTER TAKE OFF FROM AHMEDABAD JUNE 12

was contemplating committing suicide.

"These innuendos have very adversely affected my health and mental setup, and the reputation of Captain Su-meet Sabharwal. They tarnish Captain Sabharwal's reputa-tion, which is a fundamental right guaranteed to a citizen of India under Article 21 of the Constitution of India," he had said in the letter.

Pushkaraj has demanded that the central government order a formal enquiry into the accident under Rule 12 of the Aircraft (Investigation of Acci-dents and Incidents) Rules, 2017. The Supreme Court, September 22, termed as "unfortunate and irresponsible" the selective pub-lication of a preliminary report on the June 12 Air India crash, which outlined lapses on the part of pilots and paved the way for a "media narrative".

Meanwhile, Naidu Tues-day launched the book 'Above And Beyond - Exploring the Amazing World of Aviation', authored by Shiv Kumar Mo-hanka, DIG, CISF and Chief Airport Security Officer, ASG (Aviation Security Group) Hyderabad.

off. The other pilot responded that he did not do so," it had said. On September 22, the Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) urged the government to order a judicial probe into the Air India Dreamliner crash, al-leging that the ongoing inves-tigation is "compromised" and should be halted.

FIP represents around 5,500 pilots. On August 29, Pushkaraj Sabharwal, father of Captain Sumeet Sabharwal, who was one of the pilots of the ill-fated Air India Dreamliner, demand-ed a 'formal investigation' by the central government.

In a letter to the civil aviation secretary and AAIB Director General, 91-year-old Pushkaraj said that selective leaks about the accident have led to spec-ulation that Sumeet (56) was under tremendous psycholog-ical pressure and, therefore,



A Blue-throated barbet feeds its chick, in Nadia, West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

Punjab bans Coldrif cough syrup sale

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal/Chandigarh, Oct 7: The Punjab Government has banned the sale and use of Coldrif cough syrup, the move coming in the wake of deaths of 14 children in Madhya Pradesh, linked to consumption of the medicine.

Punjab has become the lat-est state after Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand to impose curbs on the distribu-tion of the syrup.

A PIL was filed in the Su-preme Court seeking inquiry and systemic reform in drug safety mechanisms in the wake of deaths of children in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan alleged-ly due to consumption of toxic cough syrups.

The Indian Medical Associ-ation came out in defence of a doctor arrested in connection with cough syrup deaths in



Madhya Pradesh, saying the approval of the syrup and mon-itoring its quality squarely fall within the ambit of the drugs regulatory system.

The Madhya Pradesh Gov-ernment will bear the cost of treatment of children suffer-ing from kidney infections after taking the contaminated cough syrup in Chhindwara and Betul districts, an official said Tuesday.

The Congress Tuesday de-manded a judicial probe into the deaths, strict action against

those responsible and compen-sation for the families of the deceased.

An order issued by the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) of Punjab Monday said Coldrif syrup was declared as not of standard quality by the Madhya Pradesh government analyst, drugs testing laborato-ry and FDA.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Min-ister Mohan Yadav Tuesday di-rected the authorities to ensure that the administration bears the entire cost of treatment of

the affected children, an official said.

To ensure proper treatment, a joint team of executive mag-istrates and doctors has been deployed at various hospitals in Nagpur and is in touch with the affected families and hospitals to ensure proper arrangements for the children's treatment, the official said. A PIL was filed in the Supreme Court, seeking in-quiry and systemic reform in drug safety mechanisms in the wake of the deaths.

The PIL, filed by advo-cate Vishal Tiwari, seeks a court-monitored probe into the incidents and urges the constitution of a National Ju-dicial Commission or Expert Committee headed by a retired Supreme Court judge.

The PIL requests that all pending FIRs and investiga-tions concerning the deaths of children caused by toxic cough syrups across states be trans-ferred to the CBI.

Gift under Mohammedan law valid without proof: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: The Su-preme Court Tuesday said a gift (hiba) under Mohammedan Law does not require a written document to be valid.

The court said there are three essential conditions for an oral gift -- a clear manifestation of the wish to give on the part of the donor, an acceptance of the gift by the donee and the taking of possession of the subject-mat-ter of the gift by the donee, ei-ther actually or constructively.

A bench of Justices Ahsanud-din Amanullah and S V N Bhat-ti said an oral gift that fulfils the three essential requisites is complete and irrevocable.

"A gift under Mohammedan Law does not require a writ-en document to be valid. The mere fact that a gift is reduced

The top court's judgment came on a plea relating to the partition and possession of agricultural land at Kusnoor village in Karnataka's Gulbarga district, which was given under an oral gift (hiba)

to writing does not change its nature or character. A writ-en document recording the gift does not become a formal instrument of gift," the bench said. The court said delivery of possession is a critical and nec-essary element for a valid gift.



"It can be actual or construc-tive. Constructive possession can be demonstrated by overt acts by the donor that show a clear intention to transfer con-trol. For example, the donor applies for the mutation of the donee's name in the revenue records," it said.

The apex court said the evidence of acting under the gift (collecting rent, holding title, mutation) is essential to substantiate the claim of possession.

"While Mohammedan Law allows for a gift to be made oral-ly without a written document,

the validity of such a gift is con-tingent on the demonstration of all three essential elements, particularly the delivery of pos-session.

"The courts will scrutinise 'contemporaneous' and 'con-tinuous' evidence of the donee's actions and control over the property to determine if pos-session was indeed transferred. The lack of evidence (failure to collect rent, donor's continued control, lack of mutation) will lead to proving that a gift was never completed, regardless of any written declaration," the bench said.

The top court's judgment came on a plea relating to the partition and possession of ag-ricultural land at Kusnoor vil-lage in Karnataka's Gulbarga district, which was given under an oral gift (hiba).

Indian man fighting for Russian military surrenders to Ukraine

NEW DELHI: An Indian national fighting alongside the Russian military surrendered to Ukrainian forces, the Ukrainian military said Tuesday. The 63rd Mechanised Brigade of the Ukrainian military, on its Telegram channel, released a video of the Indian national who identified himself as Majoti Sahil Mohamed Hussein from Gujarat. There was no word from Indian officials on the matter. Official sources said the Indian embassy in Kyiv was ascertaining the veracity of the report. The Ukrainian military said 22-year-old Hussein came to Russia to study at a university, The Kyiv Independent newspaper reported. In the video, Hussein said he was sentenced to seven years in a Russian prison on drug-related charges and was offered the opportunity to sign a contract with the Russian military to avoid further punishment.

of the day quote

Together, we must unite to fight against these evils and to build a new society founded on solidarity and mutual respect

ANDRY RAJOELINA | PRESIDENT, MADAGASCAR

This is a historic agreement. The treaty allows as many as 10,000 Papua New Guineans to serve with the Australian Defence Force, under dual arrangements

ANTHONY ALBANESE | PRIME MINISTER, AUSTRALIA

Of course, lately, recent Chinese platforms, they've demonstrated exceptionally well. We are open to all sorts of technology

AHMED SHARIF CHAUDHRY | ARMY SPOKESMAN, PAKISTAN

SHORT TAKES

Mayor stabbed in western Germany

Herdecke, Germany: The newly elected mayor of a town in western Germany was in a critical condition after being found with multiple stab wounds Tuesday, authorities said. Iris Stalzer, 57, dragged herself back into her house after being stabbed around midday, broadcaster WDR reported. Bild newspaper said she had stab wounds to her neck and abdomen. Prosecutors and police said in a joint statement their inquiry was looking into every possibility and said, "Close family involvement cannot be ruled out at the present time." DPA news agency reported that her son and daughter, aged 15 and 17, had been taken in for questioning. Stalzer was airlifted to hospital and was still in intensive care, the authorities' statement said.

Bangladesh ties with Beijing deepen

Dhaka: Bangladesh plans to purchase 20 Chinese-made J-10CE fighter jets at an estimated cost of \$2.2 billion, a media report said Tuesday. The deal will also cover training, maintenance, and other related expenses, The Business Standard newspaper reported, citing the government documents. Bangladesh would receive the fighter jets during 2026 and 2027 to "modernise the Bangladesh Air Force and strengthen national air defence," it added. No official announcement on the deal has been made yet, but the paper said it reviewed official documents related to the procurement that also suggested that payments for the jets would be spread across 10 fiscal years, up to 2036. The reports said the J-10CE is the export variant of China's J-10C, which is already in service with the Chinese air force.

Houthis detain 9 more UN staff

Cairo: Iranian-backed Houthis in Yemen have detained nine employees of the United Nations as part of a long-running crackdown on the organisation, the UN said. The detentions bring the number of detained UN workers in Houthi-held territories in Yemen to 53 since 2021, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement late Monday. No details about the circumstances or timing of the latest detentions were given. Dujarric said the crackdown has impeded "the UN's ability to operate in Yemen and to deliver critical assistance" to the local population in the Arab world's poorest country. He called for "the immediate and unconditional release" of all UN staff as well as workers from other international organisations and diplomatic missions who have been detained by the rebels.

Hamas talks deal, but conditions persist

Hamas says on war anniversary it's serious about a Gaza deal, but conditions remain

REUTERS

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, Oct 7: Hamas said Tuesday it wants to reach a deal to end the war in Gaza based on US President Trump's plan but still has a set of demands, a statement signalling that indirect talks with Israel in Egypt could be difficult and lengthy.

Senior Hamas official Fawzi Barhoum set out Hamas's position on the second anniversary of the Palestinian militant group's attack on Israel that triggered the Gaza war, and one day after the indirect negotiations began in Sharm el-Sheikh.

The talks appear the most promising yet for ending a war that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians and devastated Gaza since the October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, in which 1,200 people were killed and 251 were taken back to Gaza as hostages.

But officials on all sides urged caution over the prospects for a rapid agreement, as Israelis remembered the bloodiest single day for Jews since the Holocaust and Gazans voiced hope for an end to the suffering brought by two years of war. **HAMAS SETS OUT CONDITIONS** "The (Hamas) movement's delegation participating in the current negotiations in Egypt is working to overcome all obstacles to reaching an agreement that meets the aspirations of our people in Gaza," Barhoum said in a televised statement.

He said a deal must ensure an end to the war and a full Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip -conditions that Israel has never accepted. Israel, for its part wants Hamas to disarm, something the group rejects.

Hamas wants a permanent, comprehensive ceasefire, a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and the immediate start of a comprehensive reconstruction process under the supervision of a Palestinian "national technocratic body", he said. Underlining the obstacles lying ahead at talks, an umbrella of Palestinian factions including Hamas issued a statement vowing "resistance stance by all means" and saying "no one has the right to cede the weapons of



TWO YEARS SINCE HAMAS ATTACK

the Palestinian people."

US officials have suggested they want to initially focus talks on a halt to the fighting and the logistics of how the hostages and political prisoners would be released. But Qatar, one of the mediators, said many details had to be worked out, indicating there was unlikely to be an imminent agreement.

In the absence of a ceasefire, Israel has pressed on with its offensive in Gaza, increasing its international isolation and prompting pro-Palestinian protests abroad which were set to continue Tuesday.

HOPES OF A BREAKTHROUGH BY CIVILIANS ON BOTH SIDES

On the anniversary of the 2023 attack, some Israelis visited the places that were hit hardest that day. Orit Baron stood at the site of the Nova music festival in southern Israel beside a photo of her daughter Yuval who was killed with her fiancé Moshe Shuva. They were among 364 people were shot, bludgeoned or burned to death there. "They were supposed to get married February 14th, Valentine's Day. And both of the families decided because actually they were found (dead) together and they brought them to us together (that) the funeral will be together," said Baron. "They are buried next to each other because they were never separated."

Israelis are hoping the talks in Sharm el-Sheikh will soon lead to the release of all the 48 hostages still held in Gaza, 20 of whom are believed to still

Tariffs are very important for the United States. We are a peacekeeper because of tariffs. Not only do we make hundreds of billions of dollars, but we're a peacekeeper because of tariffs

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US



CHINA'S PREMIER TO VISIT NK

China's Premier Li Qiang will go to North Korea this week in the highest-level visit by a Chinese leader since 2019. Li will lead a government delegation from Thursday to Saturday to attend events marking the 80th anniversary of the founding of North Korea's ruling party



Pro-Palestinian protests draw criticism

London: Opponents of Israel's actions in Gaza held protests Tuesday in a number of cities on the second anniversary of the Hamas attacks that triggered the war, despite denunciations by politicians who said such marches risked glorifying violence. Pro-Palestinian rallies were held Tuesday in Sydney and in European cities including London, Paris, Geneva, Athens, Thessaloniki, Istanbul and Stockholm. The protests reflect a shift in global sentiment, with sympathy that initially flowed to Israel after the October 7 attacks now increasingly directed towards Palestinians, leaving Israel more isolated on the world stage. Organisers of pro-Palestinian protests say they are intended to spotlight the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and advocate for Palestinian rights. But politicians in several countries said scheduling such protests on the anniversary of the Hamas attacks, the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust, could be seen as an endorsement of militant violence. "Terrible timing, shockingly insensitive," Chris Minns, the premier of the Australian state of New South Wales, told radio station 2GB of a planned protest in Sydney. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said it was "un-British" to hold the protests "on the anniversary of the atrocities of October 7". In London, several hundred protesters waved Palestinian flags and shouted, "Israel is a terrorist state" outside King's College London. They were expected to march to other universities. In the Netherlands, pro-Palestinian activists splashed red paint on Amsterdam's Royal Palace in protest against a decision by the city mayor to ban a pro-Palestinian rally while permitting a pro-Israeli event. In Turkey, a protest was expected outside an energy company over its exports to Israel. In Sweden, demonstrators were expected to welcome back participants of a Gaza aid flotilla detained by Israel, including climate activist Greta Thunberg. Authorities have banned a pro-Palestinian demonstration in the northern Italian city of Bologna, citing the risk of unrest, after days of protests and clashes with police across Italy.



Gaza babies forced to share oxygen masks as Israel blocks equipment

Israel has repeatedly denied permission to transfer incubators from an evacuated hospital in North Gaza, a UN children's agency official said Tuesday, adding to strain on overcrowded hospitals further south where newborn babies are now sharing oxygen masks. Two years of war between Israel and Hamas has increased stress and malnourishment among pregnant mothers, leading to a rise in premature and underweight babies who the World Health Organization says now account for a fifth of all Gaza newborns. Over the past month an Israeli assault on Gaza City in northern Gaza has shut hospitals in that area, worsening overcrowding in hospitals that remain open in the south. James Elder, UNICEF spokesperson, described mothers and babies lining the corridor floors of Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza, and said that premature babies were being forced to share oxygen masks and beds. Meanwhile, vital equipment is stranded in hospitals that have been shut in the north. "We've been trying to recover incubators from a hospital that was evacuated in the north, and we've had four missions denied simply to get those incubators," he told Reuters by video link from Gaza, referring to supplies now stuck at the damaged Al-Rantissi Children's Hospital in Gaza City.



Macron pressed to end political 'mess'

REUTERS

Paris, Oct 7: France's President Emmanuel Macron faced growing pressure Tuesday to resign or hold a snap parliamentary election to end political chaos that has forced the resignation of five prime ministers in less than two years.

The 47-year-old centrist president has repeatedly said he will see out his second term, which ends in 2027.

But resignation calls, long confined to the fringes, have entered the mainstream during one of the worst political crises

since the 1958 creation of the Fifth Republic, France's current system of government.

As Macron's outgoing Prime Minister Sebastian Lecornu held last-ditch talks to form a new government Tuesday, his first premier in 2017, Edouard Philippe, said it was time for a new president to break the deadlock. Speaking to RTL radio, Philippe said Macron should be "leaving in an orderly manner" to allow a way out of the crisis. **'IT'S A MESS'**

Political turmoil in the euro zone's second largest economy was front page news across Eu-



rope at a time when US President Donald Trump is demanding the continent do more to shore up its own defences and aid Ukraine.

Markets have taken fright, with investors keeping a close eye on France's ability to cut a yawning budget deficit. French stocks fell 1.4% Monday and the

In Bangladesh's flooded plains, schools in boats keep learning afloat

The initiative solar-powered floating schools, launched in 2002 by architect Mohammed Rezwan using \$500 of his scholarship money, has grown into a nationwide model run by the non-profit Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha

REUTERS

Bhangura, Bangladesh, Oct 7: In flood-prone regions of Bangladesh, solar-powered "floating schools" ensure children do not miss class when rising waters cut off roads and villages.

One of them is 10-year-old Safikul Islam.

Each morning, he waits on the edge of his flooded village in Bhangura, western Bangladesh, for the solar-powered classroom that sails right to

his doorstep. His home lies deep in Chalan Beel, a sprawling 26-square-kilometre (10 sq miles) wetland where seasonal floods often cut off roads and submerge entire villages.

But for Islam and hundreds of other children, education floats. The initiative, launched in 2002 by architect Mohammed Rezwan using \$500 of his scholarship money, has grown into a nationwide model run by the non-profit Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha (SSS). Now, more



than 100 boats serve as schools, libraries, and clinics. The project has educated over 22,000 students and won a UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy this year for its work.

In Chalan Beel, around two dozen boats serve as classrooms, visiting riverside villages six days a week.

The school boats are made of local timber and are equipped

with benches, blackboards, and bookshelves. Solar panels power lights and computers.

"Right now, we have 2,240 pupils enrolled in 26 boat schools," said Madhusudan Karmaker, a senior manager at SSS. "Over 22,500 students have graduated so far, and during severe floods, these boats also double as shelters for displaced families."

Other NGOs have adopted similar models for their work in the country's wetland areas.

Classes are run in three shifts a day, lasting about three hours each. Teachers navigate narrow waterways to collect students, conduct lessons in Bengali, maths, and general knowledge.

"We never had the chance to study," said parent Sufia Kha-

tun, waiting on the riverbank for her son Islam to return. "But this boat lets my children dream of a better future."

Teacher Sakhina Khatun, who has been with SSS for over a decade, said similar floating school initiatives have since inspired projects in countries like Nigeria, Cambodia, and the Philippines. "These schools never close — not even during floods," she said. "That's what makes them special."

Founder Rezwan, a World Fellow at Yale University, said, "I haven't had many things during my life and these children don't have much either. But giving them access to schooling, healthcare and seeing that replicated around the world — that gives me motivation."

business

of the day quote

The new generation fraud is no longer about breaching firewalls, it's about hacking trust. Criminals are using AI to mimic voices, clone identities and create life-like videos that can manipulate people

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is making phishing attempts more targeted and the number of cyber-attacks will continue to increase with new technologies coming in

The FTA can open new opportunities for EU and Indian businesses. While some countries are raising tariffs or otherwise closing their markets, we should use the FTA to diversify trade, and strengthen our supply chains

SHORT TAKES

BP CEO India visit

New Delhi: BP CEO Murray Auchincloss will visit India this week for the third time in a year, accompanying UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer on his official trip - underscoring the super major's growing focus on the Indian market. Starmer will lead a delegation of more than 100 British business, academic and cultural leaders on his first official visit to India on October 8-9. The visit also assumes importance as it comes after the two of the world's biggest economies signed a long-awaited free trade agreement. The FTA was finalised during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit in July. Officials said business leaders accompanying the British Prime Minister included Auchincloss. The BP CEO had led the company's entire board on a visit to India in September last year.

AstraZeneca gets nod

New Delhi: AstraZeneca Pharma Tuesday said it has received approval from the national drug regulator to market a cancer treatment drug in the country. The company has received approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) to import, market, and distribute Trastuzumab Deruxtecan for an additional indication in India, the drug firm said in a statement. With this approval, Trastuzumab Deruxtecan is now indicated for the treatment of adult patients with unresectable or metastatic HER2-positive solid tumours, who have received prior systemic therapy and have no satisfactory alternative treatment options, it added.

Nissan to launch mid-size SUV Tekton

New Delhi: Japanese automaker Nissan will kickstart the resurgence of the brand in India with its entry into the fast-growing but highly competitive mid-size SUV segment next year with its new model Tekton, which will also be exported to other countries, top company officials said Tuesday. The Tekton, which will compete with the likes of market leader Hyundai Creta, Kia Seltos, Maruti Suzuki Grand Vitara and Skoda Kushaq among others, has been designed and developed through a three-way collaboration by Nissan's global teams in Japan, London and India. Nissan, to make a comeback in the Indian market soon.



It is a misfortune that we are in a very difficult geography. Who are the biggest trading partners of the US? Mexico and Canada. It is natural. If you do not have strong neighbourhood trading arrangements, you actually are at a disadvantage...If you are competitive, they will buy your stuff

BVR SUBRAHMANYAM | CEO, NITI AAYOG

WEWORK INDIA IPO FULLY SUBSCRIBED

The initial public offer of co-working space operator WeWork India Management Ltd sailed through on the last day of the share sale Tuesday, getting 1.15 times subscription, led by institutional buyers. The Rs 3,000-crore IPO received bids for 2,92,68,328 shares against 2,54,89,748 shares on offer, according to NSE data. Qualified Institutional Buyers' (QIBs) category fetched 1.79 times subscription, while the quota for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) received 61 per cent subscription. The portion for non-institutional investors got 23 per cent subscription



Facial recognition, Fingerprint to authenticate UPI payments

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 7: The government Tuesday announced several new offerings like UPI (Unified Payment Interface) with on-device biometric authentication for a seamless, secure and user-friendly alternative to PIN-based UPI authentication, Aadhaar-based face authentication in UPI to enable Aadhaar-linked biometric authentication for setting or re-setting UPI PIN, and the addition of a new mode for cash withdrawal through micro-ATMs using UPI at UPI cash points.

The Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, ShM Nagaraju, IAS, today announced the launch of three new digital feature offerings at the Global Fintech Festival (GFF) 2025.

These new offerings are UPI with On-Device Biometric Authentication for a seamless, secure and user-friendly alternative to PIN-based UPI authentication, Aadhaar based Face Authentication in UPI to enable Aadhaar-linked biometric authentication for Setting or Re-setting UPI PIN, and the addition of a new mode for Cash Withdrawal through Micro ATMs using UPI at UPI



Cash Points (Business Correspondent touchpoints).

Launched by DFS Secretary M Nagaraju, the on-device authentication for UPI enables customers to authenticate UPI payments directly through their smartphone's built-in security options such as fingerprint or face unlock as an alternative to manually entering the UPI PIN.

The facility will be made available to customers who choose to opt in, giving them control over their preferred mode of authentication.

It aims to make payments faster and more secure by reducing the need for repeated PIN entries. Each transaction is independently verified by the Issuing bank using robust cryptographic checks, ensuring

the highest level of safety while keeping the experience simple and seamless.

Aadhaar based Face Authentication in UPI offers users a new and secure way to set or reset their UPI PIN directly within UPI apps.

Until now, creating a UPI PIN required entering debit card details or going through Aadhaar OTP verification. With Aadhaar based Face Authentication for UPI PIN, onboarding becomes faster, simpler, and more inclusive, especially for first-time users, senior citizens, and those without easy access to cards.

The solution leverages UID-AI's 'FaceRD App' for Aadhaar-based facial verification, eliminating the need to manage multiple OTPs or card details enhancing both convenience and security. The same shall be extended later for transactions with additional authentication.

The DFS Secretary also introduced UPI as a new mode for making cash withdrawals through Micro ATMs at UPI Cash Points.

This launch marks an important step toward making cash withdrawal process more inclusive and user-friendly by leveraging UPI's versatile digital payment ecosystem.

Vedanta Project Sakhi empowers women

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, is empowering women in Kalahandi, Odisha, through its flagship initiative, Project Sakhi. Since 2015, the project has transformed the lives of over 4,600 women across 444 self-help groups (SHGs), who have collectively mobilised more than Rs 5 crore to build grassroots enterprises.

Project Sakhi focuses on financial literacy, vocational training, and access to credit, encouraging women to pursue both farm and non-farm ventures such as mushroom

cultivation, goat-rearing, food processing, grocery shops, and printing units. This holistic model not only enables women to start businesses but also ensures their sustainability.

In the past year alone, SHGs under Project Sakhi secured Rupees 3.84 crore in institutional finance, benefiting over 1,000 women. So far, more than 1,880 women have launched over 1,300 small enterprises, creating local jobs and strengthening village economies.

"The success of this project is a testament to the transformative power of a focused, grassroots approach," said Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, CEO, Vedanta Alumina Business.



PV retails surge in Navratri period

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Passenger vehicle retail sales shot up 35 per cent year-on-year during the nine-day Navratri period this year, helping the overall registrations last month grow 6 per cent, as offtakes remained muted in the first 21 days of the month and only took off after the roll-out of new GST (Goods and Service Tax) rates September 22, dealer's body FADA said Tuesday.

Overall passenger vehicle retails in the auspicious period stood at 2,17,744 units as compared with 1,61,443 units in the Navratri period last year. The bumper sale led to the passenger vehicle retail sales rise to 2,99,369 units in September, a modest growth of 6 per cent as against 2,82,945 units in the same month last year, as customers eyeing price cuts after new GST rate roll-out post September 22, postponed buys in the first half of the month.

The Navratri period witnessed record-breaking footfalls at dealerships and subsequent deliveries, he noted.

The reduction in GST rates, coupled with festive demand,



led to renewed enquiries and bookings, although limited billing days restricted the full potential of the rebound, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said.

The momentum built in the closing days of September will carry forward into Deepawali, marking a promising end to the 42-days festive period, it added.

Two-wheeler retail sales last month stood at 12,87,735 units, an increase of 7 per cent year-on-year against 12,08,996 units in September 2024. In the Navratri period, sales grew 36 per cent to 8,35,364 units as compared with 6,14,460 units in the same period last year.

Two-wheeler retails were powered by affordability improvements, festive offers, and pent-up demand finally translating into retail joy, FADA stated.

Three-wheeler retail sales last month stood at 98,866 units, a dip of 7 per cent as compared with 1,06,534 units in September last year. Navratri period saw retails of 46,204 units, a jump of 25 per cent as against 37,097 units in the year-ago period.

Commercial vehicle sales rose 3 per cent to 72,124 units last month as against 70,254 units in the same month last year. The segment sales during

Coal exports rise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: India's coal exports rose 23.4 per cent to 1.908 million tonnes in the financial year 2024-25.

The development assumes significance as the government is actively promoting coal exports to capitalise on the growing global demand for fossil fuels.

The figures of 2024-25 are provisional, the government data said. The country's coal exports stood at 1.546 MT in 2023-24, it said.

In value terms, coal exports were worth Rs 1,828.2 crore in FY24 and Rs 1,643.4 crore in FY25, according to the data.

India exports coal to countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, and Bhutan.

A study had earlier said that India has the potential to export 15 million tonnes of coal to its neighbouring countries, including Nepal.

By promoting exports, increasing domestic production, and facilitating import substitution, the country aims to achieve self-reliance, strengthen energy security and support the growth of the coal sector.

It has the capacity to export 8 million tonnes (MT) of coal to Bangladesh, 3 MT to Myanmar, 2 MT to Nepal, and 2 MT to other countries, it said.

The increased coal production and export will lead to economic growth, create jobs and generate revenue for the government.

Gold jumps ₹700 to fresh peak amid global uncertainties

The absence of official US macroeconomic indicators, coupled with rising expectations of two Federal Reserve rate cuts this year, has further strengthened demand for the bullion prices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Gold price jumped Rs 700 to hit a record high of Rs 1,24,000 per 10 grams in the national capital Tuesday as investors weighed the risk of an ongoing US government shutdown and growing bets of additional rate cuts by the Federal Reserve.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 1,23,300 per 10 grams Monday.

In the local bullion market, gold of 99.5 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 700 to hit a lifetime peak of Rs 1,23,400 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) Tuesday. It had settled at Rs 1,22,700 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

However, silver retreated from its all-time high level, and plunged Rs 3,400 to Rs 1,54,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes). The white metal had ended at Rs 1,57,400 per kg Monday.

Stock markets advance on buying in HDFC, ICICI Bank

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 7: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty advanced for the fourth consecutive day Tuesday, helped by a rally in blue-chip bank stocks and buying by domestic institutional investors.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 136.63 points or 0.17 per cent to settle at 81,926.75 after a see-saw trade. After a flat start, the index jumped 519.44 points or 0.63 per cent to hit a high of 82,309.56. However, profit-taking at higher levels dragged the barometer from the day's high levels.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 30.65 points or 0.12 per cent to 25,108.30 in a volatile trade. Among Sensex firms, Bharti Airtel, HCL Tech, UltraTech Cement, Power Grid, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel and ICICI Bank were among the major gainers.

However, Axis Bank, Tata Motors, Trent and Infosys were among the laggards.

The domestic equity mar-



ket started on a positive note, supported by favourable global cues and anticipation surrounding the upcoming earnings season. However, the market ended with flat-tish gains as expectations for Q2 FY26 earnings remain modest.

The BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.45 per cent and small-cap index dipped 0.15 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, telecommunication jumped 2.13 per cent, while realty (1.09 per cent), energy (0.47 per cent), consumer durables (0.28 per

cent), financial services (0.24 per cent) and teck (0.23 per cent) were also among the gainers.

FMCG, commodities, IT, bankex, metal, BSE Focused IT and services were the laggards.

In the past four trading days, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,659.13 points or 2.06 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 497.2 points or 2.02 per cent.

Equity markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note. US markets ended mostly higher. Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.15 per cent to \$65.37 a barrel.

RBI proposes changes in credit risk norms for banks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 7: The Reserve Bank Tuesday proposed to replace the incurred-loss-based provisioning framework with an expected credit loss (ECL) based provisioning to further strengthen credit risk management practices and promote greater comparability across financial institutions.

The proposed guidelines are expected to enhance credit risk management practices and promote better comparability of reported financials across institutions.

The draft RBI (Scheduled Commercial Banks & All India Financial Institutions - Asset Classification, Provisioning and Income Recognition) Directions, 2025 also aims to align regulatory norms with internationally accepted regulatory and accounting standards.

The introduction of staging criteria for asset classification under the ECL approach, while retaining the extant norms for non-performing asset (NPA) classification, is one key element of the proposed framework.

Alignment of the income rec-

ognition norms based on the Effective Interest Rate (EIR) method and broad principles on model risk management for implementing ECL models are other objectives behind changing the extant regulations.

The RBI said that while the proposed directions are estimated to result in an additional one-time provisioning, the overall impact on the minimum regulatory capital requirements of banks is expected to be minimal, with all banks continuing to meet the requirements comfortably.

The proposed five-year glide path will further facilitate the transition in a non-disruptive manner. Under the ECL norms, banks would be required to classify financial assets (primarily loans, including irrevocable loan commitments, and investments classified as held-to-maturity or available-for-sale) into one of the three categories - Stage 1, Stage 2, and Stage 3, depending upon the assessed credit losses on them at the time of initial recognition as well as on each subsequent reporting date and make necessary provisions.

RIVALRY REIGNITED AFTER 30 YEARS

Anand, Kasparov face off

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

St. Louis (USA), Oct 7: Former world champions Viswanathan Anand and Garry Kasparov will reignite their once fierce rivalry after 30 years when they face off in the Clutch Chess: The Legends tournament here from Wednesday.

The 12-game Chess 960 match will carry a total prize pool of USD 144000 and will be held in the upgraded St Louis Chess Club.

Having played a Classical World Championship match in 1995 on the 107th floor of the the World Trade Centre in New York, the two legends of the game will battle it out again in the famous rapid and blitz format that was recently christened Freestyle Chess.

Kasparov dominated that match against Anand and won the 20-games contest 10.5-7.5. After retiring in 2004 Kasparov has played only in exhibitions or blitz events while Anand is semi-retired and plays occasionally in higher events.

While Kasparov runs a world-wide training programme under his name, Anand has limited himself to



mentoring the young generation of Indian players and has been the inspiration behind WACA – Westbridge Anand Chess Academy – that has already produced one world champion in D Gukesh.

The format here is interesting and the stakes will go up each day. There will be four games everyday in the three-

day contest with two rapid and two blitz games. While there will be four points at stake on the first day, on the second day it will double as each win will be worth two points and on the third day, each game will fetch three points for a win.

The winner will take home USD 70000 (approximately Rs 62 lakh) while USD 50000 (approx-

imately Rs 44 lakh) is reserved for the one ending on the losing side of this match.

If the match is tied after 12 games, the prize will be split 50-50, where each player receives USD 60,000 (approximately Rs 53 lakh).

There will be bonus money of USD 24,000 (approximately Rs 21 lakh) for 12 games.

Three Indians nominated for 'ICC Player of the Month'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 7: Charismatic India cricketers Abhishek Sharma and Kuldeep Yadav in men's and Smriti Mandhana in women's section have been nominated for the 'ICC Player of the Month' awards for September.

Left-handed T20 specialist Abhishek was in blazing form in India's Asia Cup-winning campaign in the UAE, being named 'Player of the Tournament' for his 314 runs in seven T20Is, that included three half-centuries with a staggering strike rate of 200.

The 25-year-old also reached the highest batting rating ever recorded in men's T20I history with 931 points.

Wrist spinner Kuldeep enjoyed a dream run in the high-stakes tournament, where India beat arch foes Pakistan thrice, emerging as the leading wicket-taker with 17 scalps at an economy rate of 6.27.

He began the Asia Cup campaign with figures of 4/7 against the UAE and finished with 4/30 in the title win against Pakistan.

Zimbabwe's Brian Bennett is the third men's cricketer nominated for the award for his exceptional batting. He scored

497 runs in nine T20Is at an average of 55.22 and a strike rate of 165.66.

He topped the charts in the series against Sri Lanka and Namibia, before carrying his form into the T20 World Cup Africa Regional Final, scoring 72, 65 and 111 in his first three innings. Thanks to his exploits with the bat, Zimbabwe qualified for the 2026 T20 World Cup.

Star India top-order batter Mandhana, who earned the 'Player of the Series' award against Australia in the closely-contested three-match ODI series last month, has been nominated for the 'ICC Player of the Month' in the women's section.

The left-hander scored 308 runs in four ODIs in September at an average of 77 and a strike rate of 135.68.

She scored 58, 117 and 125 against the Southern Stars. Despite a loss in the first game, her century in the following game helped the hosts level the series. She slammed another century in the decider but India were unlucky to lose the series 1-2.

Pakistan opener Sidra Amin and South Africa's Tazmin Brits are the other two nominees for the award.

SHORT TAKES

Kavin Quintal finishes 4th in Spanish Superbike

Jerez de la Frontera (Spain): Young Indian rider Kavin Samaar Quintal secured a top four finish at the Copa de España de Velocidad Superbike round here. Racing as a wildcard entry supported by Teruel-based Gaman Racing Global Service, 19-year-old from Chennai rode a BMW M1000RR against a highly-competitive grid featuring Ducati, BMW, Honda, Suzuki, and Kawasaki machinery. He qualified fourth among 29 riders, then fought through a tough race to finish fourth, clocking 14:20.782s, despite a fall. In the second race, Kavin claimed seventh spot, further underlining his rapid adaptation to European racing standards. Spain's Daniel Saez took the top spot aboard Yamaha. Kavin, born May 11, 2005, in Chennai, currently competes in the Asia Road Racing Championship (AP250 class) with Honda Racing India. "Competing in Spain has been a dream come true. Racing at Jerez sharpened my skills and gave me invaluable experience. I owe this opportunity to EasyRace and Gaman Racing," said Kavin.

Indian trio bow out in Open Squash Classic

New Delhi: India's Velavan Senthilkumar, Veer Chotrani and Ramit Tandon lost their pre-quarterfinal matches to bow out of the Open Squash Classic, a USD 74,000 PSA bronze event, in New York. Reigning national champion and world No. 45 Senthilkumar lost to Mexican fourth seed Leonel Cardenas 7-11, 6-11, 4-11 while eighth seed Tandon went down to Adrian Waller of England 11-6, 9-11, 8-11, 11-8, 7-11 Monday. Chotrani fell to French second seed Victor Crouin 1-11, 8-11, 5-11.

Kaustubh, Taanish make winning starts

New Delhi: Top seed Kaustubh Singh of Uttar Pradesh and fourth seed Taanish Nanda of Chandigarh advanced to the second round of the Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship in the Boys' U-14 Singles category at the DLTA Complex in New Delhi Tuesday. Kaustubh showed his quality by defeating Hariharan Mahamuni 9-2 in just under an hour. The Uttar Pradesh player won straight eight games after Hariharan won the first game and dropped only two games in the entire contest, and sealed victory with consistent baseline control and sharp serves. Taanish also delivered an excellent performance, blanking Rishav Prasad 9-0.

Kolkata Thunderbolts beat Kochi Blue Spikers

Hyderabad: Kolkata Thunderbolts came from behind to beat Kochi Blue Spikers 12-15 15-12 15-6 19-17 in the Prime Volleyball League here Tuesday. Pankaj Sharma was named the player-of-the-match. Coming on the back of a win over Goa Guardians, Kochi came out hard with Hemanth making powerful serves.

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

India beat SL for second win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Oct 7: India produced another clinical performance against Sri Lanka (SL) in their Group H clash to inch closer to the knock-out stages of the mixed team event of the BWF World Junior Badminton Championships for the Suhandinata Cup here Tuesday.

India, the second seeds and firm favourites to top Group H, lived up to expectations with a 45-27, 45-21 victory over Sri Lanka, who had edged the United Arab Emirates in a close tie Monday.

Among the other top nations, 14-time champions China and former champions South Korea registered their second wins in their respective group, while Philippines upset Hong Kong 42-45, 45-28, 45-43.

China playing in Group D defeated England 45-22, 45-19, while



South Korea hammered debutant Bhutan 45-5, 45-17 in Group G.

Playing on the adjacent court to the Koreans, the Indian team hardly broke any sweat despite the team management fielding a fresh bunch of players who didn't get a chance to play in the match against Nepal.

Lalthazuala Hmar gave the team a confident start, beating Keneth Arunggoda 9-2 in the boy's singles and Bhavya Ch-

habra and Mithileish P Krishnan extending the lead to 18-6 against Sanuda Ariyasinghe and Thisath Rupathunga.

It was only girl's singles player Rakshitha Sree, who was playing the team relay-scoring format for the first time, struggled to get going against Ranithma Liyanage and was trailing 3-8 before winning six of the next seven points to take the score to 36-21.

India U19 take 9-run lead over Aussies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mackay (Australia), Oct 7: A disciplined bowling attack, led by the Patel duo of Henil and Khilan, helped India U19 bowl Australia U19 out for 135 runs and take a slender nine-run first-innings lead on the opening day of the second Youth Test here Tuesday.

Right-arm pacer Henil Patel and left-arm spinner Khilan Patel scalped three Australian wickets each for 21 and 23 runs respectively to trigger a batting collapse of the home side, who were all out in 43.3 overs.

Wicketkeeper Alex Lee Young top-scored for Australia U19 with a 66 off 108 balls, while captain Will Malajczuk and Yash Deshmukh made 10 and 22 respectively. All the other batters were out in single-digit figures.

The Australians were reduced to 32 for 5 in the 10th over midway into the morning session before Young and Deshmukh stitched 59 runs for the sixth wicket to stage a brief resistance.

But Deshmukh's dismissal off the bowling of Khilan in the 28th over triggered another collapse around Young who was the last batter out. Australia lost the last five wickets for the addition of just 44 runs.

Pace bowler Udhav Mohan got two wickets while Deepesh Devendran took one.

In reply, India were 144 for 7 from 40 overs at the draw of stumps with Henil and Deepesh batting on 22 and 6 respectively.

Indian batters also struggled to get runs as the visitors were reduced to 41 for 3 in the seventh over with prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi dismissed for 20 off the bowling of Charles Lachmund.

Suryavanshi, who had struck a rapid 113 off just 86 balls in India's innings and 58-run win in the first match, hit two fours and a six from the 14 balls he faced this time.

Vedant Trivedi, another centurion with 140 in the first match, made 25 off 44 balls on Tuesday with the help of four boundaries.

After a brief revival due to a 39-run stand for the fourth wicket between Trivedi and Rahul Kumar (9), India lost three wickets for the addition of just two runs. The Patel duo of Khilan and Henil then stitched 48 runs for the seventh wicket before the former became the last Indian batter to get dismissed on the day.

After his three wickets in the morning, Khilan also was the highest Indian scorer on the day with 26 off 60 balls.



hav, winner of the 54kg category, was named the best boxer among women, while Parthavi Grehwal of Rajasthan (65kg) was adjudged the best challenger and Tamil Nadu's G. Resika (80+kg) was recognised as the most promising pugilist.

In the men's section, Services' Ashish (55kg) earned the best boxer title, Lakshya Rathi of SAI (90+kg) was named best challenger, and Tamil Nadu's Lukas (50kg) received the most promising boxer award.

ASIAN AQUATICS C'SHIPS

India water polo teams suffer heavy defeats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 7: India's water polo teams struggled in the preliminary rounds even as Kazakhstan emerged as the top nation in artistic swimming at the 11th Asian Aquatics Championships, claiming six gold, two silver, and two bronze medals here Tuesday. India men's water polo team lost 11-35 to Japan and the women's side was defeated 4-23 by Uzbekistan in the preliminaries.

Uzbekistan's Khadicha Agzamova and Sabina Makhmudova clinched gold in the duet free event, while Kazakhstan secured top honours in the acrobatic routine. Thailand finished second overall with six medals (2 gold, 2 silver, 2 bronze), and Uzbekistan joined them on the podium with seven medals (2 gold, 1 silver, 4 bronze).