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**BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | OCTOBER 9, 2025** 

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**LAW AND ORDER REVIEW** 

### CM: Keep close watch on anti-social elements

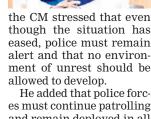
Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: Close on the heels of wide-spread violence in Cuttack during Durga Puja immersion festival and murder of a senior lawyer and BJP leader in Berhampur, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday reviewed the law and order situation in the state and directed the police administration to keep strict vigil on anti-social elements, troublemakers, and other suspicious individuals across all regions.

At the review meeting held in Lok Seva Bhavan, Maihi stated that some motivated groups are trying to tarnish the image of Odisha, which is known as a peaceful state. He emphasised the need to deal firmly with such groups and instructed senior cops to keep close watch on these elements.

It was revealed during the meeting that normalcy has With the lifting of curfew, internet services have also face the law and are given been restored. However, exemplary punishment.

eased, police must remain

and remain deployed in all sensitive areas. Majhi said senior police officials must continue to hold dialogues with leaders of various com munities in Cuttack.



#### Expressing grief over the murder of Berhamapur-based lawyer and social worker Pitabas Panda the CM directed the police officials to identify and apprehend the culprits immediately. He advised that returned to Cuttack city. strong action would be taken to ensure the criminals

#### SHORT **TAKES**

**Bangalore:** 

#### **FIR filed against Rakesh Kishore**

**Bangalore Police** Wednesday registered a zero FIR against lawyer Rakesh Kishore, who allegedly attempted to hurl a shoe towards CJI BR Gavai in his courtroom in the Supreme Court, officials said. The FIR was registered against Kishore under sections 132 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his

duty) and 133 (assault or criminal force with intent to dishonour person, otherwise than on grave provocation) of BNS, after All India Advocates Association president Bhaktavachala lodged a

#### **Zubeen's DSP cousin held**

Guwahati: Zubeen Garg's cousin and Assam Police DSF Sandipan Garg was arrested Wednesday in connection with the singer's death in Singapore. and placed under suspension with immediate effect, an official statement said. Sandipan, the incharge of co-district SP of Boko-Chavgaon in Kamrup district. had accompanied the singer to Singapore, and was allegedly present on the yacht during his last moments.

### his country would achieve

my Chief General Upendra

Dwivedi issued a stern warn-

ing to Pakistan, asking it to

stop state-sponsored terror-

ism if it wants to exist on the

world map, and Defence Min-

ister Rajnath Singh claimed

India's readiness to cross

borders to protect its citizens.

Khawaja Asif responded with

a provocative statement. Asif

warned that the possibility

of war with India is real and

claimed that Pakistan would

achieve a more favorable out-

than before," Asif asserted

Islamabad, Oct 8: Paki-

Khawaja Asif has said that

"chances of war with India

are real" and claimed that

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pakistan's Defence Minister



Why not declare results first and hold polls later after correcting the voter rolls? After all, it's new India

New Delhi: Gold prices rallied for the third straight day and gained ₹2,600 to hit a fresh lifetime high of ₹1,26,600 per 10 grams in the national capital Wednesday in line with strong global trends amid looming geopolitical uncertainties triggered by the prolonged shutdown of the US government. The precious metal has added ₹6,000 in the past three days as global risk-aversion has prompted investors to rush for safe haven

an interview with Samaa TV come in any such conflict. "If Tuesday, where the anchor it comes to war, God willing, asked him about the recent we will achieve a better result statements by the Indian political and military leaders. The minister said that there able results in the event of is a threat of armed confron- a war with India. tation and Pakistan is keeping its guard and watching but the risks are real, and stan's Defence Minister the situation.

Pak Defence Min Khawaja Asif

even bigger success in the

case of any armed conflict

Asif made the remarks in

in future.

added that Pakistan would

#### Pak to get AIM-120 missiles from US

n a significant development,

POURING AGAIN

Pak: Chances of war

with India are real

Vehicles negotiate a waterlogged Jaydev Vihar flyover on National Highway 16 following torrential rains, accompanied by thunderstorms, in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday (Report P4)

Islamabad is expected to receive AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM) from the US, marking a fresh phase in defence coopera tion between the two countries, the US Department of War (DoW) said in a statement. A newly modified arms contract notified by the department listed Pakistan among the confirmed overseas buyers of the missile system made by Raytheon. The compan received an additional USD 41.6 mn on a previously awarded con-tract for production of AMRAAM's C8 and D3 variants, raising the total contract value to more than  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{USD}}\xspace$  2.51 billion, the DoW said.

likely achieve more favour-

"I do not want escalation, I am not denying that. If it "Chances of war with In- comes to war, God willing, dia are real," Asif said in we will achieve a better reresponse to a question. He sult than before," Asif said. He said that Pakistan has

more supporters and allies than it had six months ago, while claiming that India had even lost the support of the atmosphere or harof the countries which were on its side before the May conflict. However, he refrained from naming any country in the category.

Asif also claimed that Innation, except briefly under May confrontation despite several internal issues.

"At home, we argue and compete. In a fight with India, we come together," he said. His remarks come just days after he made similar threats following statements from Indian Army chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi, who warned Pakistan to stop backing state-sponsored terrorism if it wants to exist on

### 3 share Chemistry Nobel for molecular work

Stockholm, Oct 8: Three scientists won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry Wednesday for their development of new molecular structures that can trap vast quantities of gas inside, laying the groundwork to potentially suck greenhouse gases out vest moisture from desert environments.

Heiner Linke, the chairman of the committee that made the award, compared the structures called metdia has never been a united al-organic frameworks to a seemingly bottomless Mughal emperor Aurang- magical handbag featured zeb, and that Pakistan was in the "Harry Potter" secreated in the name of Allah ries or to Mary Poppins' and stood united during the enchanted carpet bag. The containers look small from the outside but are able to contribute to solving some work in the 1980s.



Susumu Kitagawa

Richard Robson

Omar M.

hold surprisingly large quantities within.

The committee said Susumu Kitagawa, 74, Richard Robson, 88, and Omar M Yaghi, 60, are being honoured for "groundbreaking throughs over decades." discoveries" that "may

of humankind's greatest challenges," from pollution to water scarcity.

The chemists worked separately but added to each other's breakbeginning with Robson's

#### **Safe-haven asset:** Gold hits ₹1.26 lakh

### Jumbo dies in Deogarh; 2nd in a month

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: A wild elephant died of suspected electrocution in Deogarh district, the second such case in a month, an official said Wednesday.

The sub-adult tusker was found dead alongside the road near Kaunsitaila village under Rengalbeda section under Deogarh Forest



due to electrocution. Howev-Division Wednesday morn- er, the exact reason behind ing. "Prima facie, it is sust the death can be ascertained pected that the tusker died after the postmortem," Deog-

arh DFO Rashmi G said. The elephant is believed to have died after coming in contact with a live wire fenced to protect paddy crops. It was alleged that some farmers have illegally connected the fencing to a live electricity line, which turned into a death trap for

wild animals, locals said. Usually, solar fencing is in-

stalled by farmers to protect their crops from elephants and other wild animals with a mild electric shock.

## Tagore's 'Pather Puri' to turn into museum

OST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's residence, 'Pather Puri'once used as a boys' hostel for students of SCS College before falling into disuse—is set to undergo a significant transformation. The state government has announced plans to convert this historic building into a museum. It is widely believed that Tagore spent time at 'Pather Puri', where he composed some of



was also penned within these very walls.

The state government Wednesday decided to restore 'Pather Puri' – Nobel his renowned poems, includ- laureate Rabindranath Taging 'Pravasi', 'Janmadin', ore's house in Puri-and con-

Culture Minister Survavanshi Suraj said. The decision in this regard was taken at a high-level review meeting held under the chairmanship of the minister.

and 'Epare Opare'. A portion vert it into a museum, Odia restore Gurudev Rabin- ter of Odisha of British India.

'Pather Puri' in Puri and latial building over the land convert it into a museum in his memory," Suraj said. He said the house located

near the beach was earlier used as Boys' hostel for students of Samanta Chandra Sekhar (SCS) College before being abandoned.

According to historian and Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (Intach), Odisha chapter, coordinator, Anil Dhir, the land at Chakratirtha Road was allotted to Tagore "It has been decided to in 1939 by then prime minis-

dranath Tagore's residence Tagore family had built a paand subsequently donated it to the state government to use the building for promotion of education, Dhir said.

"When there was a move by Puri Municipality to demolish the building as it was completely dilapidated, Intach took up the matter by drawing attention of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The building was saved, but its boundary wall was demolished to widen road to the sea beach," Dhir said.



# eisure



#### JLO, AFFLECK'S **NEW BALANCE**

According to a source close to the former couple, Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck are said to have found a new balance in their relationship since finalising their divorce earlier this year. A source has now told Page Six that the pair have a better dynamic now that they are no longer married.

#### KIDMAN RETURNS **TO SOCIAL MEDIA**

Just after her separation from husband Keith Urban emerged, actress Nicole Kidman has made her return to social media to mark Paris Fashion Week. The Moulin Rouge! star posted a series of images on Instagram Wednesday, showing her attending the Chanel presentation alongside filmmaker Baz Luhrmann and French singer Vanessa Paradis. 



### UNE FORECAST



Flow with the tide today. This is Ganesha's tip per-

taining to your relationships. You are assertive as a general rule but you can save it for later. Today is the day to be generous and accede to the wishes of your beloved. You may even propose

This day appears to be earmarked for a long shopping spree. Ganesha sees you doing the rounds of malls, markets, dollar stores and bargain counters. You are likely to be happily busy in haggling over prices, trying to get the best deals for your pur chases. Before you are done you would have bought tons of stuff.

#### **GEMINI**

You are desirous of perfection in everything that you do, and you practice this philosophy in every aspect of your life. You make sure that all of your energies are concentrated on taking forward you efforts in the right direction. You need to replenish your energies and increase your awareness today, to be able to continue your efforts, says Ganesha.

#### **CANCER**

cultivated healthy eating habits. Today, you will be prone to doing everything in excess. You may overeat or get swept away by emotions. You must keep a check on your emotions, or it may lead to unwanted complications. Eat vegetables or salad for a healthy lifestyle. suggests Ganesha.

You will be seized by a desire to do something new for a change today. Your mood will be bright throughout the day. You will be able to achieve success owing to your energy and enthusiasm. The planets are in your favour, hence you can accept the challenges coming your way and prevail over them, says Ganesha

It is more than likely that you will reap financial profits from foreign contacts, predicts Ganesha. You will excel in all the activities that you undertake today. Your dream of establishing a mammoth business enterprise in a foreign country will take flight today

Ganesha says that today will be a lucky day for you You may receive some financial gain. There will be some good news about your children's progress. This is the right time to invest in business. For financial investors and share brokers this period is beneficial, so make the most of it.

#### **SCORPIO**

In all probability, your mood is extremely hawkish today. Your belligerence may even put off Lady Luck for the time being Ganesha advises you to stay away from confrontations and troubles of any kind. The evening, however, promises to be

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

Those around you will be impressed by the leader in you. You are the general and others will rally at your call to arms. And all the while, you swing your sword and make your way to the top, defying all odds. Do not forget to let people have their own time and space. This will not only help you progress, but will boost

#### **CAPRICORN**

Patience is tested when one is in trouble; your patience could be tried today. The trick is in keeping your composure, says Ganesha. Avoid getting into an argument or scuffle with those around you, as luck may not be on your side.

#### **AQUARIUS**

You will not need a reason to party today. Be it the news of a friend getting married or you buying a new car, you are in a mood to celebrate life like anything! Apart from this, you will have a smooth sailing through out the day, foresees Ganesha.

**PISCES** Looking at your planetary positions for today, there is a likelihood that you will suffer from reversals in fortunes financially. Hence be wary when it comes to financial dealings.



Mumbai: The troubles seem to be mounting for Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra. The legal proceedings are now leaking into her personal life as she and her husband Raj Kundra have been denied permission for international travel by the Bombay High Court.

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) had issued LOC against Shilpa Shetty and Raj Kundra, due to which both of them can not go abroad without the permission of the investigating agency or the court. The actress' lawyer told the court that Shilpa has to go to Colombo for a YouTube event. The event is set to be held from October 25 to October 29. When the court asked the lawyer that she

has any invitation, Shilpa's lawyer said that till the time she is not allowed to travel, the invitation will not be received. On this, the court said that first she has to give Rs 60 crore for the allegation of fraud and then it will be considered. The next hearing in the case has been scheduled for October

For the unversed, businessman Deepak Kothari has alleged that Shilpa and Raj conspired to cheat him of

more than 60 crores. He claimed that the money given of business expansion between 2015 and 2023 was actually squandered

on personal expenses.

Lauren's strong **love for India** 

> Mumbai: Lauren Gottlieb has had a colourful innings in entertainment in USA (her home country) and India. She played a leading role in ABCD: Any Body Can Dance in 2013 and became runner-up in the sixth season of the popular dance

show Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa

Lauren has performed with Rihanna, Mariah Carey, Britney Spears, Shakira, Enrique Iglesias and others and has worked with Tom Cruise, Katie Holmes and the likes. She has done dance in television shows and in movies abroad.

Her latest is her music video Sajri with Indian actor and singer Gurdeep

Despite her international fame, Lauren is hunting for more work in India, which feels like home, she says. While her roots are in USA,

what made India her home? To this she says, "Earlier this year, I did a US tour, and when I came back to India, felt so much at home." Lauren carried on, Like I went to my hometown of Arizona

on that tour and it didn't

feel like home and then

I went to California where I lived for many years and that also didn't feel like home. In London, my husband feels like home, but London doesn't feel like home to me and when I stepped foot in India, I went, "I'm

The actress went on to add, " I just connect with the people here in India. When you're abroad, people really stick to themselves. But here, everyone's saying 'Hi!'. Everyone is connected

ka Madanna is one of the biggest actresses in Indian cinema, who began her career in the Sandalwood industry. However, she is often discussed on social media as being banned from Kannada films. The actress recently spoke that much of what people assume about her is far from the truth. Responding to speculations about

Hyderabad: Rashmi-

her being banned, the actress, expressing that there's often more to the story than what's visible. said, "See, the world doesn't know

what is happening on the inside. Inside, god knows we can't always put a camera on our personal lives. cers, Also, we aren't those people who share our messages online."

that professional criticism is wel come, but personal assumptions are misplaced. "What people say about a person's life doesn't matter, Now, what they say about our professional life, we'll consider it and work on it," she explained. When directly

so made it clear

asked if she has been banned by Kannada produ-Rashmika dismissed the rumours, saying, "So far, I have not been banned. So, yeah...



When SRK said he is the last of stars Arnold Schwarzenegger (\$1.2

wood megastar Shah Rukh Khan recently entered billionaire club, and is now the richest actor in the world. The megastar has dared to go beyond where anyone else in cinhasn't been, and a huge part of it comes from the level of confidence that he has.

A recently resurfaced video of SRK from The Anupam Kher Show is the perfect exhibit of his grit and confidence. The clip shows Anupam Kher asking the actor, "Do you ever think that one day your fame will be in someone else's name? Someone else will be more successful than you, someone else's name will be on the charts. Do you ever think about this?"

Responding to the same, SRK said, "It won't happen. I am modest, as I have told you. But, this won't happen. I am telling you honestly. Should I say it? I am the last of the stars"

Earlier, the actor officially became a billionaire with an estimated wealth of \$1.4 billion. As per the M3M Hurun India Rich List 2025, the milestone places him among the wealthiest entertainers globally. Notably, his wealth surpasses that of several international celebrities, including Taylor Swift (\$1.3 billion),

DOST

billion), Jerry Seinfeld (\$1.2 billion), and Selena Gomez (\$720 million). SRK's wealth extends beyond

his film career, and is anchored in a diversified portfolio of businesses and investments. His flagship enterprise is Red Chillies Entertainment, founded in 2002, which has produced numerous blockbuster films such as Chennai Express, Raees, and Pathaan. The company not only produces films but also manages visual effects, distribution, and content rights, making it a major player in Indian entertainment.

He also co-owns the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), a franchise in the Indian Premier

**CROSSWORD** 

which has been highly profitable both from sponsorship deals and league revenues. addition. he has significant real estate holdings, including his iconic Mumresidence bai Mannat, a villa in Beverly Hills. a farmhouse in Alibaug, and properties in London

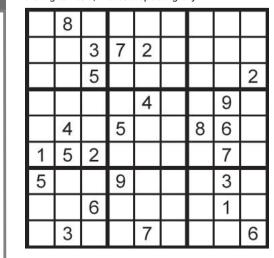
and Dubai.

#### SUDOKU

**SOLUTIONS** 

CROSSWORD

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



#### CALVIN AND HOBBES

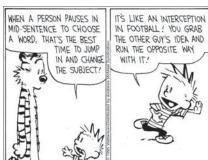
LUCY, DO ME

A FÁVOR...

**PEANUTS** 

LOST ÁGAIN

**BREVITY** 



THE MORE SENTENCES YOU YOUR SCORE! THE IDEA IS TO BLOCK THE OTHER GUY'S THOUGHTS AND EXPRESS YOUR OWN! THAT'S HOW YOU WIN!

ASK OUR PLAYERS

TO LINE UP TO SHAKE HANDS WITH THE

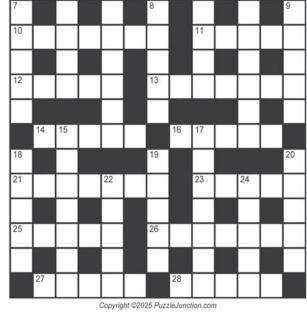
OTHER TEAM AND "NICE GAME"



OKAY, TEAM, IT'S

HYPOCRITE TIME!





25 Hot coal

26 Cork's palce

28 Line to the

audience

27 Marble material

#### Across

1 Take a powder

- 4 Garbage 10 Height
- 11 Court mallet 12 Bonus
- 13 Séance holders
- 14 Kind of limit or skater
- 16 Hesitation
- 21 My car for
  - yours? (5-2)

- 23 Forbidden
- aid 3 Put on a

Down

- pedestal

2 Navigational

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- 5 Unbending 6 Enjoys fully
- 7 Theatre worker fatale
- 9 Bored 15 Quagmire (4,3)
- 17 Moose toppers 18 Catchall
- category 19 Symbol of
- slowness 20 Dutch cheese
- 22 White heron 24 Stigmatise

SUDOKU

ADHERES DECAY

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

downtown

## **CM for Samaleswari temple** devpt as per global standards

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi Wednesday directed officials to ensure that all development activities of Maa Samaleswari temple in Sambalpur be done as per global standards.

The CM's statement came while holding a meeting at Lok Seva Bhawan here to review

pathways will be developed, it was revealed.

Maa Samaleswari, one of Odi-



"The chief minister also recommended that the upcoming devotees' rest house be built

and CM's Principal Secretary Saswata Mishra attended the

### Panda's murder: Lawyers shun court work

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: Lawyers across Odisha Wednesday abstained from court work to protest the brutal murder of senior advocate and Odisha State Bar Council (OSBC) member Pitabas Panda in Berhampur two

The cease-work call, given by OSBC, was observed by all bar associations across the state demanding justice for Panda, also a senior BJP leader.

Stating that Panda was elected to OSBC with the highest number of votes, council pres-

General of Police (DGP) Yogesh Bahadur Khurania and authorities concerned to deal with the incident with utmost urgency.

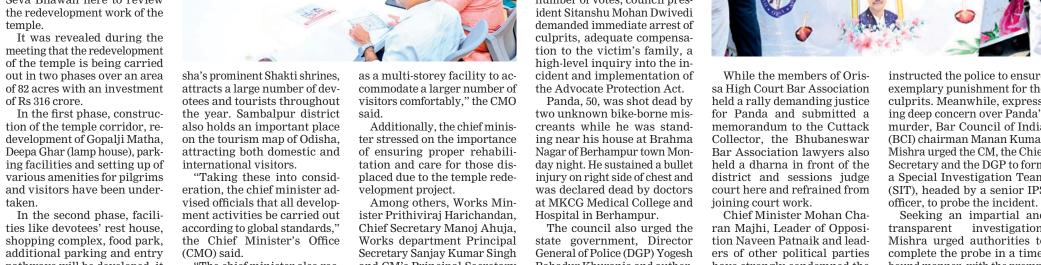
have strongly condemned the incident and condoled Panda's death. The chief minister has

instructed the police to ensure exemplary punishment for the culprits. Meanwhile, expressing deep concern over Panda's murder, Bar Council of India (BCI) chairman Manan Kumar Mishra urged the CM, the Chief Secretary and the DGP to form a Special Investigation Team (SIT), headed by a senior IPS

Seeking an impartial and investigation, transparent Mishra urged authorities to complete the probe in a timebound manner, with the prompt arrest of all perpetrators, conspirators, and facilitators, and

recovery of weapons and digital evidence related to the crime.

Mishra said the safety and dignity of advocates are non-negotiable. Though about 30 hours have already passed since the murder took place the police have no clue regard ing the killers, said advocate Sushant Kumar Rath, a member of the Bhubaneswar Bar Association. Meanwhile, police said that a 9mm pistol was used in Panda's murder. Berhampur police have formed six teams to identify and nab the killers. who were suspected to be pro-





UP IN FLAMES: A major fire broke out at an electric vehicle (EV) showroom in Konark area Wednesday afternoon, reducing at least 30 two-wheelers into cinders. Property worth over Rs 50 lakh was reported to have been gutted. According to Shiba Prasad Swain, brother of the outlet's owner, two customers and three staffers were present when a two-wheeler's battery caught fire. The flames soon engulfed other EVs nearby.

### **UAVs** barred from Bali Yatra

Cuttack, Oct 8: In a bid to tighten security during the historic Bali Yatra, Cuttack district administration has barred drones from flying over the mega fairground this year between November 1 and 15.

Bali Yatra, one of India's largest open-air fairs celebrating Odisha's ancient maritime heritage, will be held from November 5 to 12. It is expected to attract around 50 lakh visitors this year. The order has been issued under Section 14(1) of the BNSS Act. 2023, read with Sec tion 163, in the interest of public safety and to ensure the smooth conduct of the historic festival.

According to the notification. the restriction will cover a 5-ki lometre radius around both the Lower and Upper Bali Yatra grounds, effectively prohibiting the operation of drones, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), oara-gliders. para-motors power hang gliders, microlight aircraft, and hot air balloons during the festival period.

Given the large gathering of people and presence of dignitaries expected almost every

#### Indonesia to be invited as partner country: Min of Odia literature and their

Bhubaneswar: The state government has decided to invite Indonesia as a partner country for this year's Bali Yatra, Odia Language, Literature and Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj said Wednesday

The minister's statement came while chairing a high-level review meeting.

"Indonesia will be invited as a partner country this year and under 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', a major state of the country will also be invited as a partner state. Some countries of South Asia will also be requested to send their cultural teams," he said.

The high-level meeting also resolved to set up a 'Theme Pavilion' on eminent writers

November 5. The meeting also decided to provide financial assistance

works at Bali Yatra starting

to Gajalakshmi Puja pandals in Kendrapara district and fill up all vacant posts at institutions under the Culture department. Moreover, the meeting al-

so decided that the State Archaeology department will take over the responsibility of restoring Kalidas temple in Kendrapara district. The state-owned Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation has been directed to expedite the construction work of Odia Asmita Bhawan near Sainik School in Bhubaneswar

evening during the fair, the administration has put this ban as a preventive measure against potential aerial threats, accidents, or security breaches.

The admin has warned the violators of strict action, including the seizure of prohibited devices and legal penalties under

the relevant provisions of law.

SI RECRUITMENT SCAM

### BJD's youth & student wings demand CBI probe

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: Opposition BJD's youth and student wings Wednesday demanded a CBI investigation into the alleged irregularities in the police sub-inspector (SI) recruitment exam.

Biju Yuva Janata Dal (BY-JD) president Chinmaya Sahu said the 'cash-for-job' scam has deeply hurt the student community of the state.

"Therefore, we have demanded a CBI investigation. Instead of allowing an impartial probe, the state government handed over the investigation to the Crime Branch to shield the big names involved," he alleged.

"The state government had entrusted two private agencies to conduct the recruitment exams as part of their plan to auction off government jobs. The government has no answer as to under which rules the OPRB (Odisha Police Recruitment Board) engaged private agencies," he said, announcing that a state-wide demonstration would be held over it.

Biju Chhatra Janata Dal (BC-JD) president Ipsita Sahoo said thousands of young aspirants, who had been preparing for government jobs, are now dis-

heartened and frustrated. "Many of them have reached Bail pleas of 119 junked

The District and Sessions Judge Court in Berhampur rejected the bail applications of 119 persons, including 114 aspirants for subinspector (SI) of police job, arrested over alleged irregularities related to the now-postponed combined police service examination (CPSE) 2024, official sources said Wednesday.

out to us. To ensure justice, we have called the Yuva-Chhatra Nyaya Andolan," she said.

The written test of the Combined Police Service Examination-2024 was supposed to be held October 5 and 6, but was postponed by OPRB after 117 people were arrested in Berhampur. Of those arrested, 114 were aspirants and had allegedly paid Rs 10 lakh as an advance to a racket for securing the jobs. They were nabbed on the way to a 'special coaching centre' in Andhra Pradesh, ac-

cording to the police. The rest three are suspected brokers, who facilitated the deals. Later, two more brokers were arrested by the Crime Branch. A total of 1.53 lakh candidates have applied for 933 police SI posts, for which the re-

cruitment was being made. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has said persons responsible for the irregularities will be punished.

### BJD FORMS PANELS AHEAD OF NUAPADA BYELECTION



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Wednesday formed steering, zonal and local action committees ahead of the Nuapada by election.

In a notification, the regional party said, "In view of the ensuing Nuapada byelection, the steering committee, zonal committee and local action committee are hereby constituted. The members of the committees have been approved by BJD president Naveen Patnaik."

The steering committee has Prasanna Acharya, Niranjan Pujari, Snehangini Chhuria, Tukuni Sahoo, Niranjan Bisi and Md. Ayub Khan as members, while Kalikesh Naravan Singh Deo, Sarada Nayak, Sudam Marndi, Debasish Acha-

The steering committee has Prasanna Acharya, Niranjan Pujari, Snehangini Chhuria, **Tukuni Sahoo, Niranjan Bisi and Md. Ayub Khan** 

as members, while **Kalikesh Narayan Singh** Deo, Sarada Nayak, **Sudam Marndi, Debasish Acharya and six other** 

rya and six other leaders are part of the zonal committee,

leaders are part of the

zonal committee

The local action committee has three leaders— Adhiraj

it said.

Panigrahi, Abani Joshi and Manoj Mishra, the notification

The principal Opposition party in Odisha has also appointed 11 state office bearers – a vice president, two senior general secretaries, five general secretaries and three secretaries.

Chiranjib Biswal has been appointed as vice president, while Pushpendra Singh Deo and Ganeswar Behera senior general secretaries. While Lambodar Nial, Alka Mohanty, Irani Ray, Sudhir Das and Manoj Mishra were appointed as general secretaries, Santosh Pattnayak, Raju Gheebela and Raiesh Nigam were named BJD secretaries.

The death of senior BJD leader and MLA Rajendra Dholakia September 8 necessitated a bypoll to the Nuapada Assembly seat. Though Congress has announced Ghasiram Majhi as its candidate, both the ruling BJP and the principal Opposition BJD are yet to declare their nominees for the seat.

Senior BJD leader Debi Prasad Mishra, however, hinted towards the candidature of the late MLA's son, Jay Dholakia.

Meanwhile, BJP leader and the party's Odisha in-charge Vijavpal Singh Tomar said the ruling party's candidate for the seat will be announced soon.

### ECoR registers 11.33% rise in freight loading



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has registered 11.33 per cent increase in freight loading and a 5.81 per cent rise in passengers during the first half (April to September) of the current financial year 2025-26, achieving a significant growth over the corresponding period of the previous year, an official said Wednesday.

During the period, ECoR loaded 137.6 million tonne of freight, as against 123.6 million tonne during the same period last year — marking a growth of 11.33 per cent.

Freight operations also contributed to substantial revenue growth. ECoR earned Rs 14.162.58 crore from freight traffic, up from Rs 12,808.30 crore during the same period last year - a 10.57 per cent increase. The ECoR's gross revenue stood at Rs 15,571.08 crore, compared to Rs 14,227,18 crore last year, reflecting a 9.45 per cent rise.

**ECoR carried 48.21** million passengers during April to September this year, compared to 45.56 million during the same period of the previous financial year - an increase of

In the passenger segment, ECoR carried 48.21 million passengers during April to September, compared to 45.56 million during the same period of the previous financial year-

5.81 per cent

an increase of 5.81 per cent. The sustained growth across freight and passenger sectors is the result of efficient plan ning, enhanced operational management, and proactive coordination with freight cus tomers across key industries such as coal, iron ore, cement and fertilizers, the transporter

ECoR continues to play a vital role in strengthening India's logistics and supply chain network, contributing significantly to the nation's economic growth and mobility, it pointed out.

**OrissaPOST** 

#### Nalco to offer skill training

BHUBANESWAR: National Aluminium Company Limited (Nalco) has signed a MoU to implement a skill development programme for youth from the peripheral villages surrounding its operational units in Damanjodi and Angul in the state.

#### **CLASSIFIED**

#### AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Junagarh, No.- 436, date 8.10.25, I, Pratima Rout, D/o-Kshirasindhu Rout, R/o. Village-Kulihariguda, P.O.- Dhamanpur, P.S.- Golamunda, Dist.-Kalahandi, Odisha declare that I have changed my name from Kalyani Rout to Pratima Rout. Henceforth, I shall be known as Pratima Rout for all purposes. Pratima Rout

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Loisingha, No. 142 date 6.10.25, I, Rohit Kumbhar, R/o. At/P.O.: Jharanipali, P.S.: Agalpur, Dist.: Balangir, PIN - 767061 declare that I have changed my son's name from Bijay Kumbhar to Bijaya Kumbhar. Henceforth he shall be known as Bijaya Kumbhar for all purposes. Rohit Kumbhar

#### LEGAL NOTICE

राजस्य मण्डल छत्तीसगढ़, बिलासपूर क्रमांक ६४ /वाचक / अ. / रा.मं. / 2025

बिलासपूर, दिनांक 23/09/2025 पुनरीक्षण प्रकरण क्रमांक आर. एन. / 13 / आर / अ-06/90/2023 पेशी दिनांक 15/10/2025

राजेश शुक्ला -पुनरीक्षणकर्ता

अशोक शुक्ला वगैरह - अनावेदकगण

अशोक शुक्ला आ० स्व० आनंदी सहाच शुक्ला मुकाम झारसुगुड़ा (उड़िसा ) पुनरीक्षणकर्ता शुक्ला आ० स्व० आतंदी सहाच

शुक्ला निवासी रामलीला मैदान म्यूनिस्पल स्कूल के सामने रायगढ तहसील व जिला रायगढ (छ.ग.) के द्वारा आयुक्त, बिलास्पुर संभाग बिलास्पुर के प्रकरण क्रमांक 12 / अ-06/2019-20 में पारित आदेश दिनांक 05/05/2022 के विरूद्ध छ०ग० भू-राजस्व संहिता 1959 की धारा 50 के तहत् इस न्यायालय में पुनरीक्षण चाचिका प्रस्तुत की है। जिसकी सुनवाई दिनांक 15/10/2025 को दिन 11.00 बजे इस न्यायालय में नियत है। अत: इस नोटिस के द्वारा आपको सचित किया जाता है कि आए स्वरं अथवा किसी अधिवक्ता, जो मामले की पूर्ण जानकारी रस्वते हों, के माध्यम से पेशी तारीख 15/10/2025 दिन के 11.00 बजे इस न्यायालय में उपस्थित होकर अपना पक्ष रख सकते हैं, अन्यथा आपकी अनुपस्थिति में प्रकरण में आपके विरूद्ध एकपक्षीय कार्यवाही की जाकर प्रकरण का निराकरण किया

जावेगा । चिंद उक्त दिनांक को अवकाश घोषित होता है, तो अगले कार्च दिवस पर इस न्यायालय में उपस्थित होवें । दिनांक :- 23.09.2025 (माननीच अध्यक्ष महोदच द्वारा आदेशित)

अवर सचिव राजस्य मण्डल छत्तीसगढ बिलासपूर

## **Torrential rains** paralyse Capital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: The Capital city came to a standstill Wednesday afternoon as torrential rains lashed Bhubaneswar, inundating roads, crippling traffic, and displacing thousands of residents. The sudden downpour, which began in the afternoon, caused widespread chaos across major thoroughfares and low-lying areas, once again highlighting the City's vulnerable drainage infrastructure.

According to weather officials, the downpour between 12:30 pm and 2:00 pm led to widespread waterlogging across major routes, including Janpath, NH-16, Vani Vihar, Acharya Vihar, Rasulgarh, Nayapalli, and Saheed Nagar.

Commuters were left stranded for hours as traffic crawled through flooded streets, with several vehicles breaking down in submerged stretches. Kneedeep water was reported in both residential and commercial areas, adding to the chaos.

"The entire City collapsed. Traffic on every major road came to a standstill for hours,' said a local resident. "Even 15 minutes of heavy rain floods prime areas. The drainage system is just not working," anoth-

The rain exposed significant flaws in the City's drainage infrastructure. Residents reported that water levels rose alarmingly fast in several neighborhoods due to blocked

drains and inadequate stormwater management. The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corpo ration (BMC) has come under criticism for poor urban planning and delayed maintenance

Multiple educational institutions suspended classes due to unsafe conditions, and some areas witnessed power outages due to water entering transformers.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for Bhubaneswar and surrounding districts, predicting more showers in the coming days. Officials warn of possible flash floods, particularly in low-lying and riverside areas.

According to IMD forecasts. rainfall is expected to continue throughout the week, with isolated heavy to very heavy spells likely. People are advised to avoid non-essential travel, keep emergency kits ready, and follow updates from authorities closely.

#### **OUTR FOUNDATION DAY**

# Guv calls on students to drive innovation

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati Wednesday urged students to channel their education toward meaningful innovations and sustainable solutions that strengthen India's self-reliance. Speaking at the fourth Foundation Day of Odisha University of Technology and Research (OUTR), he said the country must strive not only to "Make in India," but also to "Design in India" and "Innovate for the World.'

"Education is not merely about acquiring knowledge, the Governor said. "It is about nurturing intellect, integrity, and imagination." He added that true education shapes responsible and compassionate citizens.

Kambhampati lauded OUTR for embodying this vision through its multidisciplinary



approach encompassing engineering, planning, architecture, management, and research, reflecting the university's commitment to holistic education.

He congratulated the university's leadership, faculty, staff, and students for transforming OUTR into a vibrant hub of knowledge and innovation within just four years. "In a short span, OUTR has emerged as a centre of creativity and

excellence, nurturing young minds to become innovators and nation-builders," he said.

Highlighting the university's forward-looking initiatives, he noted the introduction of new courses in Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Quantum Computing, and Semiconductor Technology, underscoring OUTR's commitment to cutting-edge education. He also commended the university for aligning with the National Education Policy 2020, which em phasises interdisciplinary and technology-driven learning.

Referring to recent an nouncements by the Prime Minister, the Governor highlighted Odisha's emerging role in India's semiconductor revolution, with the country's first commercial compound semiconductor fabrication facility and advanced pack aging unit slated to be estab lished in the state. He lauded both the Central and state governments for their efforts to position Odisha as a hub of technological growth under the Semiconductor Manufac turing and Fabless Policy.

Urging students to actively participate in this transformation, he said, "The future of semiconductor technology and artificial intelligence lies in your capable hands.

### Dr Chahal's 'Whispers of the Soul' released

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: Dr Namrita Chahal's debut book 'Whispers of the Soul' was released here Wednesday. The event served as a meaningful prelude to World Mental Health Day (October 10), highlighting the book's strong focus on emotional and mental well-being

Dr Chahal, who holds a Doctorate in Metaphysics, is a Quantum Healer, Life Coach, Reiki Grandmaster, and a seasoned wellness practitioner with over two decades of experience.

Her book serves as a simple yet profound wellness com-



panion. Through short, heartfelt reflections inspired by her own experiences, Dr Chahal encourages readers of all ages to cultivate mindfulness and embrace inner peace.

Attending the event as chief guest, noted author, playwright, and activist Gourahari Das said the book would serve as "a friend, a mirror, and a fountain of wisdom to rely upon in difficult moments of life.

Pioneering entrepreneur and acclaimed author Ratnamala Swain, who joined as guest of honour, remarked that "soft skills are what help us navigate moments of crisis, and Dr Chahal's book is a gentle guide toward cultivating them.

Renowned educator, writer, naturalist, and influencer Panchami Manoo Ukil served as the chief mentor of the entire project. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Chahal shared, "As we approach World Mental Health Day, I hope this book becomes a gentle companion for those seeking clarity, comfort, and connection with their inner self.

#### Khurda Road **Division sees surge** in digital ticketing

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: The Khurda Road Division under East Coast Railway (ECoR) has recorded significant growth in digital ticketing during the first six months of the current finan cial year. According to ECoR sources, overall sales through the Unreserved Ticketing Sys tem (UTS) rose by 7.8 per cent, reflecting growing passenger confidence in digital booking modes

Ticket sales via Automat ic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs) increased by 34.8 per cent, while mobile ticketing surged by 85 per cent compared to the previous year.

The figures indicate a steady shift towards digital adoption reducing dependency on physical counters and enhancing convenience for passengers.

The rising preference for digital platforms has made train travel smoother, faster, and more hassle-free.

Passenger trust in e-ticket ing, ATVMs, and mobile-based enabling

### **Puri Wildlife Division**

PURI: The Puri Wildlife Division marked the 71st Wildlife Week with active participation from students, nature enthusiasts, and conservationists. The celebration commenced with awarding the prestigious Chief Minister's Wildlife Conservation Award (sub-divisional level), followed by the districtlevel drawing competition awards, honouring young artists for their creative depictions of nature and wildlife. A key highlight of the event was the release of the book 'Living Landscapes', along with the premiere screening of the documentary 'Deep Inside Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary', offering a breathtaking glimpse into the sanctuary's rich biodiversity and

### observes wildlife week

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: A training programme on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013—commonly known as the POSH Act—was held Wednesday at Lok Seva Bhavan conference hall here, organised by the Women and Child Development (W&CD) department.

As per the directions of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, the main objective of the training programme was to inform and sensitise deputy and assistant deputy officers of Lok Seva Bhavan about the legal provi-



POSH Act training held to sensitise officers

sions and procedures under the POSH Act.

Acting on the advice of Deputv Chief Minister and W&CD Minister Pravati Parida, the second phase of the training covered around 1,100 depart-

mental officers through two sessions. Eminent advocate Manasi Padhi provided a detailed presentation on the Act, while in the second session Sushmita Das further explained its key provisions to the participants.

women employees. The programme was attended by W&CD department director Monisha Banerjee, additional secretary Sumitra Pattnavak and other senior departmental officials.

Department's Principal Sec-

retary Shubha Sharma graced

the occasion as chief guest and

highlighted the importance of

the POSH Act in ensuring safe

and dignified workplaces for

It is noteworthy that in the first phase of this initiative was held in July in which more than 600 officers of Lok Seva Bhavan were trained on the provisions of the POSH Act through an orientation programme.

UTS has significantly improved. auick er, queue-free, and technology-driven services. The ease of booking tickets anytime, anywhere, coupled with integrated digital payment options such as UPL cards, and net banking has further accelerated the adoption of digital ticketing.

### Wheelchair Rugby team to champion road safety

hidden natural treasures

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: The Odisha Wheelchair Rugby team, which clinched the 7th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2025, bringing immense pride to the state, will now serve as brand ambassadors for the road safety movement.

The team successfully retained their national title with unmatched passion, discipline, and teamwork, qualities that have now made them the face of the 'Come Home Safe' campaign. At a felicitation ceremony

here, Commerce and Transport department principal secretary Usha Padhee and Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur congratulated the players for their remarkable achievement and hailed them as symbols of courage, inclusion and compassion.

Also present at the event were Sports Director Yedula Vijay, representatives from the department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD), and IIT-Madras, the knowledge

partner for the campaign. Speaking on the occasion, Padhee said, "These champions on wheels redefine strength and spirit. Their victory is not just



ience, perseverance, teamwork, and empathy. They embody the very essence of our Come Home Safe movement, reminding every citizen that safety, dignity, and care belong on every road.'

Transport commissioner Amitabh Thakur praised the team's discipline and collective strength, stating that their commitment mirrors the department's mission to promote responsible road behaviour and ensure that every journey ends in safety.

The Odisha Wheelchair Rugby team includes Bikramaditiya Jena, Prasanta Nayak, Sujit Kumar Nanda, Akash Banchhor, Litan Sahoo, Sudhir Malik, Murali Benia, Madhuri Benia, Sitarani Nayak, and Goutam Singh.

jor road accidents, yet their indomitable spirit has turned adversity into triumph. Guided by their dedicated coach Surendra Jena, the team continues to dominate the national arena.

Odisha Para Sports Association secretary Kamalakanta Rath was also present on the occasion, and lauded for his continuous efforts to uplift para-sports in the state and empower athletes to inspire society through their

achievements. The Come Home Safe campaign, spearheaded by the Commerce and Transport department, is state's flagship road safety initiative that envisions a future where every journey

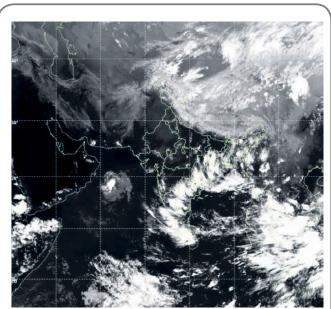
concludes in safety, dignity and

togetherness The campaign promotes empathy-driven awareness, community participation, and behavioural change through activities such as Zero Accident Day (ZAD) and Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) initiatives, implemented in partnership with IIT-Madras.

By associating the victorious Odisha Wheelchair Rugby team as brand ambassadors of care, the campaign gains a profoundly human and emotional dimension, blending sporting excellence with social responsibility.

Their journey from conquering the court to championing safe roads truly reflects Odisha's unstoppable spirit.





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WEATHER			
	BBSR	стс	FORECAST
Max Temp	33.6°	30.8°	Generally cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm.
Min Temp	24.1°	22.6°	
Humidity	82%	90%	
Rainfall	2.0mm	Nil	
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### OUR BOOKING STATION

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

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

### Wildlife plays critical role in maintaining ecological balance: Tathagata



**Dharitri** and **Orissa POST** Editor Tathagata Satpathy addressing the audience in the presence of dignitaries at the 71st National Wildlife Week celebration at the Keonjhar district auditorium, Wednesday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda/Keonjhar, Oct 8: Wildlife plays a critical role in maintaining environmental balance as well as humans, and only humans can correct their own mistakes, said **Dharitri** and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy while addressing the audience at the 71st National Wildlife Week celebration at the Keonjhar district auditorium, Wednesday.

Gracing the occasion as the chief speaker, Satpathy said rapid human expansion has endangered even the mighty elephants. "Raising awareness and staving aware about our environment is our foremost duty as responsible citizens,'

Sharing his experiences from attending various "Hati Sabhas" (elephant awareness meetings) across Keonjhar district's rural areas, Satpathy said he was moved to see that villagers living in elephant-prone zones do not harbour hatred toward the pachyderms. "Patience and mutual trust among villagers have helped reduce human-elephant conflict," he added.

This planet belongs equally to humans and all living creatures, Satpathy said, emphasising that it is still not too late to protect wildlife. He illustrated the point with an example: In one country, people consume snakes. They did it to such an extent that none were left to control the rat population. disrupting ecological balance. As a result, an increase in rodent population caused concern among the residents. Similarly, elephants being massive wild animals often break high

branches and feed on leaves, which in turn helps regenerate forest growth by allowing sunlight to reach the ground. Such natural processes contribute to future afforestation, he said.

He also expressed concern about the alarming rise in plastic pollution, which now affects both land and water. The unchecked use of plastic products has become a serious threat to Earth. However, he noted that the problem can still be solved through collective effort. He urged journalists to write truthfully and raise awareness about environmental conservation among the public.

Telkoi MLA Fakir Mohan Naik, who attended the event as the chief guest, said the government has introduced several schemes for elephant protection and habitat conservation. He emphasised the need

and fauna" to maintain ecological balance. He said the state government has been introducing various conservation programmes, including plantation of bamboo, the favourite food of elephants in their habitats.

Naik added that the government is preparing plans to place underground electric wires in elephant corridors to check frequent power cuts and prevent electrocution incidents. Power lines that are currently at low height will be shifted to higher poles to ensure elephant safety, he said.

Municipality Keonjhar Chairperson Niku Sahu remarked that the earth is limited, but it has space for everyone. Human greed and excessive demand for resources have led to deforestation and illegal encroachment of forest land, disrupting nature's balance, she said. Sahu added that plastic pollution continues to harm the ecosystem and that the destruction of forests has intensified tension between humans and animals.

Speaking as an invited guest in the meeting, Keonjhar Superintendent of Police Shri Kusalkar Nitin Dagudu said protecting human lives and properties is the duty of the police, while safeguarding wildlife, birds and the envi ronment is the responsibility of the Forest department. He emphasised that coordinated efforts between police and forest officials have led to successful joint raids and arrests of poachers. Illegal mining in forest areas is also being curbed, Kusalkar said.

Installing solar-powered lights and CCTV cameras in forest zones could help track wildlife movements and identify poachers, the SP proposed. He also suggested that training local villagers could help reduce conflicts between humans and wild animals.

gramme, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Dhanraj HD lauded the "Hati Sabha" meetings organised by **Dharitri** for their remarkable role in mitigating man-elephant conflict and promoting their coexistence in Keonjhar district. He said incidents of human-elephant conflict are on the rise due to human encroachment and erratic behaviour.

Dhanraj added that the state government provides compensation for loss of life or property due to wildlife attacks. However, in several tribal-dominated villages, lack of awareness often delays reporting such incidents to the department. He said the Forest department also assesses crop losses caused by elephants and provides financial assistance to the affected farmers.

Keonjhar Zilla Parishad member Ashish Chakraborty, while addressed the gathering referred to the Dharitri editopowerful writing of Editor Tathagata Satpathy, Chakraborty said he fully agreed with the ar-

ticle's central message. However, he expressed dis agreement with the remarks made about journalists in the piece. He said many reporters today write stories that cater to personal interests instead of truth, leading to the suppres sion of fact-based journalism He stressed that fearless and unbiased reporting is vital for a healthy democracy.

Sarpanches and samiti mem bers from about 20 panchayats attended the meeting, along with representatives of the Zilla Parishad, Forest department's Gaja Sathi volunteers, and several men and women working in protection duties. Students were also present.

The event concluded with a stage performance of the play "Airavat" by noted actor Ashru mochan Mohanty and Prajnya



### Woman killed in bear attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, Oct 8: Unavailability of ambulance in time resulted in the death of a woman after she was rendered critical in bear attack at Tinikosia reserve forest under Nilagiri block of Balasore district Wednesday. The victim was identified

as Shantilata Naik, 54, wife of Chandramohan Naik of Panabandh village under Sajanagad panchayat and Nilagiri block in Balasore district.

The incident occurred when Shantilata was collecting mushrooms with her husband in the nearby Tinakosia

Sources said that a bear suddenly attacked Shantilata inside the forest and bit her on the neck. Hearing her screams, her husband rushed to rescue her and the bear fled the spot. However, she sustained deep wounds on her neck in the attack. Chandramohan reportedly called the 108 ambulance service, but due to the unavailability of a vehicle, he carried his severely injured wife on his shoulder to the Sajanagad hospital.

As her condition deteriorated, she was shifted in an auto-rickshaw to Nilagiri Sub-Divisional Hospital, where doctors pronounced her dead.

#### Farmer drowns in **Ghodahada** river

Digapahandi: A 70-year-old farmer drowned Wednesday morning after being swept away in the Ghodahad river near Nuagada village under Kaithakhanda panchayat in Ganjam district's Digapahandi block. The deceased has been identified as Arakhita Pradhan, a resident of Nuagada village. According to local sources, Pradhan was crossing the river around 6am to reach his farmland when he accidentally slipped and was swept away by the strong current. Villagers who witnessed the incident attempted to rescue him but failed. They immediately alerted the Digapahandi fire service. After nearly an hour of search operation, fire personnel recovered Pradhan in an unconscious state from the riverbank and rushed him to the Digapahandi community health centre, where doctors declared him dead. Following a complaint lodged by his son, Basudev Pradhan, Digapahandi police registered an unnatural death case (40/25) and sent the body to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital at Berhampur for postmortem. After the autopsy, the body

was handed over to the family

## **Vigilance nets OAS** officer for bribery



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Oct 8: Vigilance sleuths Wednesday apprehended Banamali Satapathy, Executive Officer of Bellaguntha NAC, while accepting ₹25.000 bribe.

According to the Vigilance sources, Satapathy, an Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) officer, was caught red-handed by the Vigilance team while accepting a bribe of ₹25.000 from a staff member in exchange for relieving him after transfer, and releasing his salary arrears and Last Pay Certificate (LPC).

Due to the officer's demand. the employee was unable to draw his salary at the new place of posting and subsequently reported the matter to Vigilance authorities.

Acting on his complaint, a team of Odisha Vigilance laid a trap and caught the executive officer red-handed while accepting the bribe amount at

Balipadar bus stand. The entire bribe money was recovered and seized from the possession of Satapathy.

Following the trap, simultaneous searches are being conducted at three locations linked to Satapathy.

Vigilance teams are searching the NAC office, his residence at Kabisuryanagar and another location linked to Satapathy simultaneously to verify assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

A case has been registered by Berhampur Vigilance Division under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. Investigation is underway. Vigilance sources added.

Following this, Berhampur Vigilance Division has registered a case (14/2025) under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 against Satapathy. Investigation is underway, Vigilance

#### Man held for killing father, burying body

POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogarh, Oct 8: In a shocking incident, a man allegedly killed his father and buried the body in a nearby field at Autal village under Barkote police limits in Deogarh district Wednesday morning.

Police identified the accused as Hrudananda Behera and his deceased father as Balabhadra Behera, 62. According to reports, a heated argument broke out between the two after Hrudananda insisted on selling a ram (male sheep) that they owned and his father opposed Enraged, Hrudananda allegedly attacked Balabhadra with an axe, killing him on the spot.



After the murder, the accused dug a pit in a nearby farmland and buried his father's body to hide the crime. Acting on a tip-off, Barkote police reached the scene, exhumed the body and detained Hrudananda for questioning. Police also seized the axe, a spade and other tools used in the crime.

Given the seriousness of the case, police have launched a detailed investigation with the help of a scientific team.

Villagers told reporters that Hrudananda had been mentally unstable for some time and used to often quarrel with his

### No arrests yet in BJP leader's murder; 30 suspects quizzed

Berhampur, Oct 8: Arrests are yet to be made in connection with the murder of BJP leader and senior lawyer Pitabas Panda in Ganjam district, even as 30 people have been interrogated and six police teams are working to identify those behind the incident, an official said Wednesday

Panda was shot dead from a close range by two armed men, who came on a bike, near his residence in Baikuntha Nagar in the Baidyanathpur police station area Monday.

"We have formed six teams with a senior officer in each of those to investigate the in-



cident. Each team has been assigned specific jobs -- identification of the accused, analysis of CCTV footage, search of the shooters and technical probe, among others," SP Saravana Vivek M said.

"In the last two days, 30 people have been interrogated footage of over 75 CCTV cameras analysed, and raids conducted at 20 locations. The teams are on their jobs and we hope there will be a breakthrough soon," he added.

The SP said they have gathered some clues but refused to share details about those, citing the ongoing investigation. It was a pre-planned murder.

The exact firearm used in

the murder would be known from the ballistic report. Experts are analysing the bullet retrieved from the body of the deceased to prepare the report, he said.

A two-member team of doctors conducted the post-mortem examination at the MKCG Med ical College and Hospital.

### JSW Cement commissions grinding unit at Sambalpur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 8: JSW Cement, part of diversified USD 23-billion JSW Group, Wednesday said it has commissioned a 1 MTPA (million tonnes per annum) capacity cement grinding unit at Sambalpur.

The unit, which will take the company's total installed capacity to 21.6 MTPA, is being commissioned through its subsidiary, Shiva Cement, according to a statement. JSW Cement did not disclose

the investment details for this grinding unit, but said the unit will help meet the growing demand in the eastern region.

The new facility has been funded and supervised by its majority-owned subsidiary Shiva Cement, vide a commercial arrangement with Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd (BPSL),

with a capacity to produce 1.0 MTPA exclusively for use and consumption by Shiva Cement,

Shiva Cement has manu-

facturing facilities, which are strategically located at the geographical border of three states Odisha, Chhattisgarh and

Jharkhand - with proximity to the raw materials required for production. In 2018, JSW Cement ac-

quired Shiva Cement by acquiring the promoters' stake and making an open offer.

JSW Cement CEO Nilesh Narwekar said, "The eastern region of the country is poised for exponential growth in the coming years. With rapid expansion in the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors... Odisha is playing a key role in the industrial and economic growth in the region."

#### **Dist-level wildlife** week celebrated

Koraput: The 71st District-Level Wildlife Week was celebrated Wednesday at the Koranut Forest Division Office with a focus on promoting wildlife conservation and human-wildlife coexistence. The event, held in the Conference and Control Room, aimed to raise awareness about the importance of protecting wildlife and preserving natural habitats. **Koraput Divisional Forest Officer** B Bhaskar Rao attended as the chief guest and emphasised the vital role of forests and wildlife in maintaining ecological balance. He called on citizens to actively support conservation efforts and promote harmonious living with wild animals. Observed annually October 2-8, this year's Wildlife Week carried the theme "Human-Wildlife Coexistence." The week featured seminars, awareness

campaigns, and outreach programs

rural and urban communities. Forest

No.O-894

across the district, targeting both

officials, staff members, students,

and local residents participated in

the concluding event.

### 4 accused appear before SDJM court

Case transferred to District and Sessions Court for speedy trial

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Oct 8: Four accused in the Soumyashree Bishi self-immolation case, currently lodged in jail, were produced before the Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) Court in Balasore Wednesday.

The accused — HoD Sameer Sahu, former students' union president Dilip Ghosh, student Jvotiprakash Biswal, and student leader Shubhra Sambit Nayak — appeared before the court in connection with the death of the Fakir Mohan Autonomous College Integrated B.Ed. student.

SDJM Kishore Kumar Nath informed the accused that the

case had been transferred to the District and Sessions Court for speedy trial.

According to public prosecutor Bijay Kumar Das, the Crime Branch has SOUMYASHREE

DEATH

already sub-

mitted the

chargesheet in the case. "The case was committed to the higher court today as it falls under the under-trial process (UTP). The defence counsel had also filed a petition seeking a

speedy trial before the District and Sessions Court," Das said. Advocate Guru Prasad Behera, who is representing former students' union president Dil-

ip Ghosh, said the lower court

transferred the case to the District and Sessions Court to ensure faster proceedings. "The Crime Branch has submitted around 840 pages of documents to each of the accused.

The Orissa High Court has already heard the bail plea in detail, and the judgment has been reserved," Behera added.

According to the case records. Soumvashree had allegedly faced harassment from department head Sameer Sahu. Unable to bear the pressure, she attempted self-immolation July 12. She succumbed to her injuries two days later while undergoing treatment at AIIMS Bhubaneswar July 14.

**Government Of Odisha** Office of the Executive Engineer

Rural Works Division-II, Nabarangpur, Umerkote e-mail - eerwukt@gmail.com & eerwukt@ymail.com Date: 25.09.2025

e-Procurement Notice 1. Name of the work: Road Works, 2. Total No. of works: 10 (Ten) Nos., 3. Approx. Estimated Cost: Varies from 51.84 Lakhs to 97.46 Lakhs, 4. Class of Contractor: "B" Class of Contractor, 5. Period of completion: As per TCN Availability of tender online Last Date Date & Time of Opening & Time of for bidding of Tende Procurement officer Technical Bid Financial eking Tende No. Executive Engineer Online 13.10.2025 24.10.2025 27.10.2025 Tender/10/ 23.10.2025 at R.W. Division-II. at 11.00 A.M. up to 5.00 intimated Nabarangpur, Umerkote UKT/2025-26

Further details can be seen from the Government website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Sd./- Executive Engineer
OIPR-25103/11/0025/2526 Rural Works Division-II, Nabarangpur, Umerkote





Whatsoever has courage can give courage to others just as the flame of the candle can light up another



Ian Buruma

**AND** 

**THAT** 

**MONARCHS** 

**POWERFUL** 

**NOBLEMEN** 

**MOCKERY** 

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**CORRECTIVE** 

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**TO MAKE** 

TO THE

**UNDERSTOOD** 

THE MOTHER

### Forbidden Jokes

ot all political leaders hate being lampooned by cartoons. Some even proudly display them in their offices. But these tend to be democratic politicians, not authoritarian leaders whose power depends on a cult of personality.

US President Donald Trump, a democratically elected leader with strong authoritarian leanings, can't stand to be ridiculed. It is said that his decision to run for president was the result of then-President Barack Obama making fun of him at the White House Correspondents' Dinner in 2011. There was nothing Trump could do about it back then. But now, as president himself, he can try to silence the mockers.

Last month, Disney's ABC Television network pulled late-night comedian Jimmy Kimmel - a frequent critic of Trump - off the air, after pressure from the chair of the Federal Communications Commission. Trump applauded the move as "Great News for America." This prompted so much protest, with 1.7 million people reportedly canceling their Disney+, Hulu, and ESPN subscriptions, that Kimmel was reinstated a week later. Still, Trump has threatened to revoke the broadcasting licenses of networks that feature comedians who make

Trump is not wrong to recognize the power of humor. The French philosopher Voltaire, one of the all-time great satirists, once said:

'I have never made but one prayer to God, a very short one: 'O Lord, make my enemies ridiculous. Ridicule punctures hypocrisy, hyperbole, mendacity, and self-importance – the standard tricks of the authoritarian leader's trade.

In the past, monarchs and powerful noblemen understood that mockery could be a necessary corrective to the flattery of courtiers. That was the role of court jesters, who were able to make fun of their bosses with impunity – up to a point. But that was because they could be treated as fools IN THE PAST, who posed no threat to power.

Since ancient Rome, satirists and comedians have had two main targets. The first is ideas secular as well as religious articles of faith. This was Voltaire's favoured terrain. He loved to mock the Catholic Church, which he saw as a corrupt institution that oppressed people by spreading superstitious beliefs. "Religion," he said, "began when the first scoundrel met the

Given that satirists, from Voltaire to Kimmel, often ridicule established authority, one might assume that this kind of humor is usually "progressive," or even left-wing. In fact, conservatives have been some of the sharpest satirists. Jonathan Swift, for example, was a staunch defender of the Anglican Church. There is no juicier target for a conservative comic to puncture than the earnest pretensions of idealists, whose zeal for change is often incompatible with a sense of humor. Comedy is more suited to skepticism and doubt than to a passion for great causes.

The other kind of satire is aimed at the personalities of people in power. These are the brave comedians who dare to point out that the emperor has no clothes. As Bob Dylan once wrote: **JESTERS, WHO** "Even the president of the United States some-

times must have to stand naked." This kind of ridicule is seldom deadly for ordi-

nary politicians. But the authority of monarchs and authoritarians depends on their aura. People obey them because they believe kings, queens, and dictators are invincible. The grand theater of IMPUNITY - UP power is as important to the ruler as the threat of violence to dissenters. When comics poke fun at it and, in the process, reveal these leaders as ridiculous blowhards, they challenge the very source of absolute power.

Hitler was furious about Charlie Chaplin's 1940 comic masterpiece The Great Dictator. Chaplin didn't have to expose the murderous crimes of fascism. All he needed to do was to show Hitler and Mussolini as buffoons. Nothing is more damaging to the demagogue than In liberal societies, like the US, the United Kingdom, and France.

leaders – including kings and queens – have had to put up with a certain amount of mockery. Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century cartoonists were often merciless. Thomas Rowlandson (1756-1827) portrayed the Prince of Wales as a drunken lout. Honoré Daumier (1808-1879) depicted King Louis-Philippe as an obscene glutton.

Like the scandal sheets and yellow press, this type of derision was the price to pay for freedom of expression. This is very much the case in America, where the First Amendment of the US Constitution offers broad protections - more than in any other country - for speech. Public figures can be criticized, parodied, lampooned, and even libeled, unless 'actual malice" can be proven.

The late Czech film director Miloš Forman, who immigrated to the US in 1968, made a 1996 film titled The People vs. Larry Flynt. It documented the legal battle between Flynt, the owner of the pornographic magazine Hustler, and Jerry Falwell, the television evangelist who sued Flynt for emotional distress after Hustler published a parody ad in which Falwell reminisced about having sex with his mother. In 1988, the US Supreme Court ruled unanimously that emotional distress was not sufficient reason to deny the First Amendment right to express critical views of public officials and figures.

Forman, who escaped from communist Czechoslovakia, was a grateful admirer of America's First Amendment, which allowed a sleazy pornographer to mock a famous religious leader. If Trump succeeds in silencing the people who laugh at him in public, the country where Forman, who died in 2018, and millions of others once found freedom will cease to exist.

The writer is the author of numerous books, including Year Zero: A History of 1945, The Collaborators: Three Stories of Deception and Survival in World War II, and, most recently. Spinoza: Freedom's Messiah.

#### WISDOM CORNER

Do not go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first.

Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.

You have to take risks. We will only understand the miracle of life fully when we allow the unexpected to happen.

PAULO COELHO

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

# TRUMP'S GAME

game like of a real estate dealer turned power broker turned part time actor who grew up on the mean streets of New York in the nasty and brutish sixties and seventies, I had always wondered, until I saw the man in a docu movie of his early days some time back and understood how pompous and arrogant his mindset has been from his excessive dalliance with wealth. He has carried that to his mature days when even rolling in luxury, he has mastered that mean and vindictive mindset. This he perfected by jumping on to the political bandwagon, buying off a Republican nomination and manipulating his way into the highest seat of the land in 2016. Surrounded by a battery of lawyers and moving between the costliest law offices of America, he has hired attorneys quick to take up his cases on financial embezzlement, sedition and sexual exploitation with felicity for which he has kept aside enormous funds. How then does one account for a man. twice impeached and held up for multiple cases of embezzlement and battery, incited mass violence in the highest seat of legislation, make a spectacular comeback to the same office four years later.

In 2017 a group of 27 leading psychiatrists and psychologists of USA had diagnosed him as delusional, mentally unstable and vindictive with a streak of lunacy, showing poor judgment and memory loss and thus unfit to hold the highest office of the land (reinforcing the 'madman theory'). Fast forward to the present times, and the man rides to his second term in office bamboozling members of his party, branding a Far-Right ultra nationalist propaganda campaign, the MAGA blitz. Elected as the 47th US President with a majority of both elec-



**Having assembled a cabinet of blind loyalists** he is eager to leave a lasting impact in American history as the man who waded into conflict zones and brokered several ceasefires as he claims with an eye on the **Nobel Peace Prize** 

toral as well as popular votes he has no opposition now and is out to wreak havoc on the system eliminating all those he has felt threatened. Having assembled a cabinet of blind loyalists he is eager to leave a lasting impact in American history as the man who waded into conflict zones and brokered several ceasefires as he claims with an eye on the Nobel Peace Prize, though he had emphatically stated during his election campaign that he would not let America into war again.

India in this effort has scurried out of his favour following the PM's denial of US involvement in ending the four-day conflict with Pakistan in May denying him also the Nobel nomination. Result. India has been at the humiliating end of his diatribes and unbearable tariff and visa tantrums causing severe harassment to Indian people and businesses.

On the other hand, India's sworn adversary has got privileged access to the President's court. Deals have been cut while Pakistan has sold away its cryptocurrency, rare earth minerals and oil exploitation rights and become a close partner in USA's

West and South Asian strategy. The appointment of Sergio Gor as US Ambassador to India and special envoy to South and Central Asia has made Pakistan the lynchpin of Washington's new regional strategy.

The 80th UNGA saw the customary verbal clashes between the two sub-continental neighbours over terrorism. But then, before the UN meeting Islamabad had signed the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement, a NATO-type agreement, with Riyadh signaling the crystallization of a 60-vear-old defence support system. Though the agreement was apparently signed keeping Washington informed and was on the face of it targeted at both Israel and Iran. Rivadh may have taken a grave risk by antagonizing Delhi with which it has worked out a steady strategic and comprehensive relationship taking into account energy, trade and investment, technology and Diaspora factors. In a recent move a Saudi shipload was refused permission to enter signaling India's intent that it did not take kindly to such overtures.

This then is the new India and its newly evolved stra-

tegic autonomy in the age of multi-alignment as a riposte to Trump's muscular unilateralism; a policy paradoxically tilted towards Washington without reciprocal approbation. On the contrary, this could ignite concerns on the part of its powerful Eastern neighbour who has been busy arming its junior partner in a dangerous game to sabotage New Delhi's rise as an emerging power.

New Delhi is caught between the cajoling of the West that it still holds importance as a counter to Beijing's expansionism in the Indo-Pacific and the endearments of the Global South clearly led by China. The full-throated support of the Indian PM to the 20-point Gaza Peace Plan even before ink was dry on the agreement has dug New Delhi further into Washington's embrace.

While it is difficult to situate New Delhi's current posturing, it is amply clear where the American President stands in his inestimable lunacy and mercurial unpredictability. His address at the UNGA last month, castigating the institution which had given the world a semblance of stability despite steady encroachments on its chartered goals, and very recently to an assembly of US Armed Forces Generals and Admirals summoned from all around the world to listen to a delusional President and his delinquent Secretary of War on how to dress, walk and shave beard, quite clearly showed the fatal instincts of a power-hungry megalomaniac. In pitting much of the world against himself and his ideas, wrecking economies, global supply chains and mobility of professionals in the process, Trump may have revealed himself as the ultimate "mad man" in America's history.

> The writer is a retired diplomat and foreign policy analyst.

#### **SPECTRUM**

Malay Mishra

**OF SERGIO** 

**GOR AS US** 

**APPOINTMENT** 

**AMBASSADOR** 

**TO INDIA AND** 

SPECIAL ENVOY

**TO SOUTH AND** 

**CENTRAL ASIA** 

**PAKISTAN THE** 

**LYNCHPIN OF** 

**WASHINGTON'S** 

**NEW REGIONAL** 

**HAS MADE** 

**STRATEGY** 

THE

#### **ECONOMY**

### The chimera of self-reliance



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

**WITHOUT A DETERMINED EFFORT IN** INNOVATION, **INDIAN FIRMS WILL FOREVER BE DEPENDENT ON GLOBAL PLAYERS** FOR TECHNOLOGY

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

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numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

ecently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has Swadeshi path to developed India and urged Indian manufacturers and entrepreneurs to cut dependence on foreign markets and anchor their business models in 'Make in India' and 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'. But critics are of the opinion that 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' is a political propaganda and seems to be a chimera as foreign goods are widely used by Indians. Self-reliance is a wide-ranging, long-term national strategy focused on reducing dependence on external sources by addressing vital challenges rather than relying solely on market-driven growth. It requires promoting policies that involve fostering domestic production and exports, augmenting technological capabilities through investment in R&D and education, and promoting inclusive, sustainable economic policies that benefit the entire population and build resilience against global shocks.

One of the objectives of self-reliance is to have a trade surplus. But India is currently running a trade deficit where the value of its imports exceeds its value of exports.

India's trade deficit for FY25 was \$282.83 billion, compared to \$241.14 billion in the previous year. This widening gap is mainly due to higher merchandise imports (\$720.24 billion) and lower merchandise

exports (\$437.42 billion). After a ferocious scuffle between Indian and Chinese forces in the Galwan River valley, there were many demands to boycott Chinese products. Despite the Make in India initiative, India's imports from China are rising because Indian industries, including electronics, pharmaceuticals, and solar energy heavily rely on Chinese components, raw materials, and technology, which often offer competitive prices and a wide range of availability.

Over the past 15 years, the share of Chinese manufactured goods in India's total imports has increased from 21% to 30%, with imports growing 2.3 times faster than India's total exports. India's imports from China have increased significantly since 2020. Total imports increased from \$70.3 billion in 2018-19 to \$113.5 billion in 2024-25. With exports just about \$14.25 billion, the trade deficit with China has reached a record \$99.2 billion in 2024-25.

The Make in India initiative was launched on 25 September, 2014, to promote manufacturing, innovation and entrepreneurship in India. The main objective was to raise the share of manufacturing in GDP from 14-15% to 25% by 2025 and create six crore additional jobs in the industrial sector to boost economic growth, employment and global competitiveness

The manufacturing sector that contributed 17.3% to India's GDP in 2013-14, a year before the Make in India initiative was launched, increased to a little over 18% in the next few years. reaching 18.5% in 2021-22. Since then, the sector's share in GDP has declined for two consecutive years. It was 17.7% in 2022-23 and 17.3% in 2023-24.

Prime Minister Modi recently said that India's biggest challenge is its dependence on other countries, as he called for indigenous production of goods in various sectors, from chips to ships. This requires higher investment in R&D. But Indian companies have shown very little interest in R&D, an important edifice for building a self-reliant economy. Without a determined effort in innovation, Indian firms will forever

be dependent on global players for technology.

India spends very little on R&D compared to major global economies, with its gross expenditure on R&D varying from 0.6 to 0.7% of its GDP. This figure is significantly lower than the global average of 1.22% and countries like Israel (5.4%), South Korea (4.2%), Japan (3.4%), Germany (3.2%), the US (2.9%), China (2.4%), and Switzerland (2.83%)

Many people think that a key element of Atma Nirbhar Bharat is to reduce imports and increase exports. However, the theory of comparative advantage, developed by David Ricardo, suggests that countries should specialize in producing and exporting goods where they have a lower relative opportunity cost, even though they have an absolute advantage in all goods. This specialization brings benefits from trade for all countries involved, as they focus on their areas of comparative advantage and produce more efficiently and at lower cost.

> The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist.

#### Sensational commentary

potential diplomatic liability

Sir, This refers to the editorial "Military Rhetoric," Orissa POST, October 8. The military's recent rhetorical statements regarding Pakistan and Operation Sindoor were unwarranted and strategically counterproductive. While the operation itself showcased India's precise military planning and operational capability, public declarations bordering on provocations risk undermining both diplomacy and national security. By making such statements, the armed forces inadvertently politicize a sensitive military success, shifting attention from strategic achievement to sensational commentary. In a region already tense with historical hostilities, rhetoric can be misinterpreted, emboldening adversaries and complicating ongoing diplomatic engagements. Credibility of the armed forces relies not only on battlefield competence but also on disciplined, measured communication. Strategic restraint in public discourse, particularly concerning Pakistan, is essential to balance deterrence with responsibility. While demonstrating resolve is necessary, operational achievements speak louder than words; provocative statements, however well-intentioned, risk undermining India's calculated security posture and its image as a responsible regional power, turning a tactical victory into a

 ${\it N\,Sadhasiva\,Reddy},\,{\rm BANGALORE}$ 

#### Arbitrary action

Sir, This refers to the news report "Furnish details of 3.66L excluded voters: SC to EC,' Orissa POST, October 8. I would like to comment that the Election Commission of India (ECI) has allegedly kept the Bihar electorate in complete dark about the exclusion or inclusion of names in the voters' list. It seems the entire process has been carried out surreptitiously and the apex court is smelling rat. The ECI has reportedly refused to give a patient hearing to those voters whose names have been deleted. It appears strange to the Supreme Court that while 3.66 lakh voters who were deleted in the final list in addition to the 65 lakh deleted in the draft list had not been given individual notices which speaks volume of the arbitrary action on the part of the ECI intending to thwart open the democratic process.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA



## TWO STATES





# Bangalore traffic is a global challenge: Dy CM K'taka CM stern warning

**Bangalore, Oct 8:** Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar Wednesday said the traffic congestion is a global and national challenge, citing London and Delhi as examples.

He asserted that the traffic issue in Bengaluru is receiving traction due to the vibrancy of the state's traditional and social

Shivakumar, who is also the Bengaluru Development Minister, said he has moved "heaven and earth" to fix the city's garbage problems and alleged involvement of "big garbage mafia" that has stalled the progress.

He was speaking during a panel discussion on "GBA: Transformative Vision for Bengaluru with GBA" organised by the Bangalore Political Action Committee (B.PAC), in collaboration with Mount Carmel Stressing the need to resolve

the city's traffic woes, he said, "Even in London, people have to travel three hours if they don't go by public transport. Even in Delhi, it will take 1.5 hours to



port, but Bengaluru is making more noise than Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad.

"Because we are very free to all friends, and our social media is picking up. Next is the artificial intelligence and social media. We are not curbing. But as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned. as far as Andhra is concerned and as for other states are concerned, the media is not allowed to work freely as Karnataka has been open to them. We accept criticism." he said.

Speaking on the formation of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), Shivakumar said it aims to ensure better and more effective governance and coor-

dination among departments. "Because managing Bengaluru city is not an easy job. People have a lot of expectations here. The biggest challenges of Bengaluru are mobility, solid waste management, and drinking water issues. Bengaluru is not a planned city," he said.

"Every citizen should have a voice and understand their responsibility towards the city, just as the corporation must respond effectively to citizens' needs...We are policymakers, but we never take decisions

**Legal advice should** 

be sought from

the District Legal

**Services Authority** 

stakeholders and then come to conclusion," he added.

The Deputy CM also said 50 per cent seats in the new civic wards would be reserved for

"From panchayat to parliament, we need more women leaders. They are the decision-makers in families, they should be part of governance too." he stressed.

Reiterating the government's commitment to infrastructure, and service delivery reforms, Shivakumar said, "We will be adding one more ward and making it 369 wards. We will expedite the 104-km Bengaluru Business Corridor soon and fast-track elevated corridors, tunnels, and road projects across the city.

He urged all Bengalureans, especially the youth, to join the government in building a great-

Recalling how Bengaluru was once known as the Garden City, he said, "A lot of encroachments happened... We had good gardens and lakes. We have to keep the environment clean."

# against wildlife killers

Bengaluru, Oct 8: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Wednesday warned that strict action will be taken against those who kill wildlife.

His warning came in the wake of the poisoning of two tigers and four tiger cubs to death in Male Mahadeshwara hills in Chamarajanagar district and electrocution of an elephant in Channapatna in Ramanagara district a few

He emphasised that forests have no value without animal lives and that the survival of forests determines the survival of the planet.

Speaking after presenting the chief minister's medals to forest and environment department personnel at the valedictory of the 71st Wildlife Week celebrations held here at the Banquet Hall of Vidhana Soud ha, the chief minister said, "If forests survive, the earth will survive. Forests and wild lives



are inseparable, and those who destroy them will face the law

Issuing a stern warning, Siddaramaiah said the government cannot tolerate incidents like poisoning tigers just because they have killed cattle.

"Whoever attempts to destroy forests or kill wildlife will face strict legal action. No matter how influential they are, the law will not spare them," he said. The chief minister said the Wildlife Week is being observed to promote the idea of coexistence between humans and wildlife.

Pointing out that Karnataka ranks first in elephant population and second in tiger population in the country, Sidbe harmony between anima health and human life. Studies must be undertaken to under stand why wild animals are staying out of forests and to find scientific solutions to prevent

Expressing concern over re cent cases of tiger and elephant killings, the chief minister di rected forest officials to act with greater responsibility and vigilance. "Those who kill tigers or any wildlife will be dealt with severely," he warned.

Siddaramaiah cautioned that continuous depletion of forest land would endanger human survival itself.

"If forest cover keeps shrink ing day by day, the human race cannot sustain. Everyone must understand that saving forests means saving humanity," he said. Noting that climate change and rising global temperatures pose a threat to nature, he called upon people to take part in conserving the

### UP to strengthen AHT police stations K'taka to improve groundwater levels

rights of women and children,

according to an official state-

Unit (AHTU) has been estab-

lished in every district, which

has now been upgraded to a

full-fledged police station with

vehicles, computers, cameras,

wireless sets and other essen-

tial infrastructure," the DGP

Citing Ministry of Home

Affairs (MHA) guidelines,

DGP Krishna directed that

each AHT police station must

have at least one inspector,

two sub-inspectors, two head

constables and two constables,

with additional manpower de-

Officers posted in AHT sta-

tions should not be diverted

to law and order or routine pa-

trolling duties, he said. He also

instructed that resources of the

AHT stations must not be used

for any purpose other than traf-

ficking-related cases, according

all complaints of human traf-

ficking received at AHT police

stations should be promptly

registered as First Information

Reports (FIRs) without delay.

followed by immediate inves-

tigation and search or rescue

plaint is received at a local po-

"If a trafficking-related com-

DGP Krishna ordered that

pending on case load.

to the statement.

operations.

"An Anti-Human Trafficking



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Oct 8: Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) Rajeev Krishna Wednesday directed all senior police officials across the state to strengthen the functioning of anti-human trafficking (AHT) police stations and ensure swift and effective investigation and rescue operations in cases of human trafficking and missing

In directives issued to all zonal additional directors general of police, police commissioners, range inspectors general, deputy inspectors general, senior superintendents of police and superintendents of police, the DGP outlined key instructions for ensuring that AHT police stations are fully equipped and operate exclusively for their designated purpose.

Describing human trafficking as a "global organised crime", the DGP noted that under Section 143 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, any act involving exploitation through threats, coercion, deceit or inducement, including recruitment, transportation or harbouring of persons, constitutes trafficking.

He said trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced labour, illegal adoption, begging, organ trade or drug smuggling vio-

(DLSA) or the district public prosecutor when necessary, says **UP Director General** of Police Rajeev lice station, the FIR should be

registered there and a copy provided to the complainant. The case must then be transferred to the district AHT police station within 24 hours, with due intimation to the complainant,'

"Cases of missing persons registered at local police stations that later reveal evidence of trafficking must also be transferred to the AHT station under orders from the district police chief or commissioner. he directed.

The state police chief also directed that victims of human trafficking be provided proper rehabilitation, medical treatment, counselling, free legal aid, shelter and compensation in coordination with relevant departments.

He asked the AHT station officers to maintain close coordination with the departments of Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, Labour, Child Welfare Committees, One Stop Centres, Childline and District Child Protection Units.

Legal advice should be sought from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) or the district public prosecutor when necessary.

The DGP also called for periodic workshops to raise public awareness about trafficking laws and to enhance the capacity of AHT staff, according to the statement.

He warned that any negligence in conducting searches or rescue operations would invite strict accountability for both the local police station that transferred the case and the AHT officers concerned, it

Bengaluru, Oct 8: The Karnataka government will launch an initiative to revive natural and traditional water sources and improve groundwater level across the state, Minister for Minor Irrigation N S Boseraju said Wednesday.

The scheme named 'Neeriddre Nale' (Water is Future) will be implemented in 525 gram panchayats identified as groundwater overexploited villages in the first phase, he

maiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar will formally launch the program Thursday, he said.

The initiative aims to lay a strong foundation for a water-secure and prosperous Karnataka by reviving natural and traditional water sources and improving groundwater levels. The innovative "Neeriddre Nale" concept seeks to create public awareness about water conservation, develop strategic plans for sustainable water management, and make citizens active partners in protecting

In the first phase, the project will cover 525 groundwater-stressed gram panchayats across 16 districts and 27 taluks, including over 100 in the Kalyana Karnataka region, where groundwater depletion is most severe, the minister was quoted as saying by his office in a statement. As part of the awareness campaign, noted Kannada film actor Vasista Simha has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the Department of Minor Irrigation and Groundwater Development, the minister said. The broader goal is to build

state wide groundwater literacy and community participation in the coming months, he added.

Boseraju, in a different statement, also said that an explanation regarding the lakes' buffer zone amendment bill will be submitted to the Governor shortly, following consultation with legal experts. He said that the Governor sought the clarification following a complaint lodged by a Bengaluru-based organisation, and the necessary details are being prepared. The bill has been approved by both Houses of the state legislature

### **UP** to organise Swadeshi Mela to promote MSMEs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Oct 8: Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Minister Rakesh Sachan Wednesday said 'Swadeshi Melas' will be organised across all 75 districts of the state from October 9 to promote micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

He said the government is committed to transforming Uttar Pradesh into a 'Viksit and Atmanirbhar State' and will also promote khadi, handloom, and handicraft products, providing them with a robust platform at the district level.

Addressing a press conference here, the Minister for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, Khadi, Handloom, and Textiles urged people to visit these fairs during the festive season of Diwali and support the 'Vocal for Local' vision by purchasing indigenous products.

"In line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision, the state-wide Swadeshi Mela will not only bring smiles to the faces of small entrepreneurs, artisans, and craftsmen but also usher prosperity into their homes this Diwali," he said.

Sachan noted that while the recently held UP International Trade Show in Greater Noida is organised at the state level, the Swadeshi Melas aim to extend similar opportunities to the district level, ensuring that local artisans and entrepreneurs receive wider exposure. These fairs will be set up in high-footfall areas using tents and other temporary facilities.

Special arrangements have been made to assist small artisans from rural areas, including transportation and logistical support, to ensure their active participation, he said. Sachan also emphasised the overwhelming success of the third edition of UPITS, held in Greater Noida from September 25 to 29, which featured over 2.200 stalls, attracted 500 buvers from more than 80 countries, recorded over 5 lakh visitors, and generated business inquiries worth ₹12,500 crore.

Building on this success, the upcoming Swadeshi Melas will further promote indigenous products and GST reforms, offering a valuable platform for local entrepreneurs and artisans to showcase and sell their products, the minister said.

#### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA. DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES** Office of the Addl. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar Email Address: semechcircle104@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No.ACEM/MDB-35/2025-26

No. of Works

Bid Identification No.

Period of Completion

bid documents in the Portal

bid in the Portal

9. Date and Place of Opening of Bid

10.Name of the Officer Inviting Bio

: Dt.23.10.2025 (12.00 Noon onwards in the O/o the Undersigned) Addl. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar

SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation Shutters/

From Dt.10.10.2025 (10.00 AM) to

Hydro mechanical gates. :ACEM/MDB-35/2025-26

02 (Two) Calendar Months

dt.22.10.2025 (5.30 PM)

Rs.14,03,008/-

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal https://tendersodisha gov.in. Any further issue of Addenda/Corrigenda/Cancellation Notice shall be Sd./- Addl. Chief Engineer

OIPR-32405/11/0090/2526 Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar

#### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES** Office of the Addl. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswaı Email Address: semechcircle104@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No.ACEM/MDB-41/2025-26 Name of the Work : Mechanical Gate Works : 01 (One) : SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation Shutters/

No. of Works Category of executors

. Bid Identification No.

Estimated Cost Period of Completion Date & Time of availability of

bid documents in the Portal Last date/time for receipt of bid in the Portal

OIPR-32405/11/0096/2526

Date and Place of Opening of Bid 10.Name of the Officer Inviting Bid

dt.22.10.2025 (upto 5.30 PM) : Dt.23.10.2025 (12.00 Noon onwards in the O/o the Undersigned)

From Dt.10.10.2025 (10.00 AM) to dt.22.10.2025 (5.30 PM)

: Addl. Chief Enginee Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswa Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal https://tendersodisha gov.in. Any further issue of Addenda/Corrigenda/Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only.

Hydro mechanical gates. ACEM/MDB-41/2025-26

: 02 (Two) Calendar Months

Rs.15,18,909/-

Sd./- Addl. Chief Engineer Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar







### TENDER CALL NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF

**BRASS BAND INSTRUMENTS** 

No.n-170:Sealed tenders under two bid systems are invited from the reputed authorized agency/supplier/manufacturer having valid PAN, GST & IT for supply of Brass Band instruments under PM SHRI scheme. The tender papers (bid documents) containing detailed specification with terms and conditions, application of Technical Bid & Financial Bid, same can be obtained by downloading from the website .e. https://ganjam.odisha.gov.in and www.osepa.odisha.gov.in. The bidders are required to submit demand draft of Rs.5000/- (Rupees Five thousand only) drawn in favour of "DPC SS GANJAM" towards cost of tender paper alongwith the application of technical bid. The last date and

time for receiving of tender paper is 24.10.2025 at 2.00 P.M. and will be

opened on the same day at 3.00 P.M. in the office of the DPC, SS, Ganjam

in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives. The authority

reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any By Order of the Collector-cum-Chairman, SS, Ganjam

OIPR-27081/11/0014/2526

reasons thereof.

DEO-cum-DPC Samagra Shiksha, Ganjam

#### UP man claims wife turns into 'nagin' at night Meraj alleged that his wife, Nasimun, is mentally unstable and spends the nights pretending to be a nagin (female serpent), hissing and scaring him.

He claimed that despite his repeated pleas, local police failed to take action in the matter, forcing him to approach the district administration for help.

The officials present at the grievance redressal programme were reportedly taken aback by the unusual complaint, even as the district magistrate directed police to look into the matter and take appropriate action.

We have received a complaint and the matter is under investigation, a police official said. Later Tuesday, a video of Meraj's wife, Naseemun, surfaced in which she claimed that her husband used to harass her over dowry and wanted to marry again.

Naseemun alleged that Meraj is staging all this for his second marriage.

She also accused him of harassing her over dowry. Naseemun is reportedly four months pregnant and further claims that Meraj is not covering her medical or food expenses.



Sitapur (UP), Oct 8: A man has approached the Sitapur district magistrate with an unusual complaint claiming he can't sleep at night out of fear as his wife "turns into a nagin".

The wife, in a video, claimed harassment by the husband for dowry.

The complainant, Meraj from Lodhasa village in Mahmudabad tehsil, narrated his ordeal before District Magistrate Abhishek Anand during a Samadhan Diwas' (public grievance redressal day) October 4.



# national



Our message is clear: Ecology and economy can grow together. And **India** is showing

BHUPENDER YADAV

#### SC TO HEAR FIRECRACKER **BAN ISSUE TOMORROW**

The Supreme Court Wednesday deferred to October 10 the hearing on issues related to manufacturing and sale of 'green' crackers' in Delhi and the national capital region



Amit Shah. He is behaving like Prime Minister

of this country. But the PM is

aware of everything, I am sorry to say

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

Despite Chief Min ister Omar Abdullah repeat edly promising to protect people's land rights, no

concrete policy or legal stand has yet been adopted to safeguard them in courts MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

Infrastructure upgradation is being done at a massive scale. The entire system will be

modern. In the next summer, there will be no power cuts in

ARVIND KEJRIWAL AAP NATIONAL CONVENER

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### **Karur stampede:** TVK moves SC

New Delhi: Tamil actor Viiav's political party Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam has moved the Supreme Court challenging the Madras High Court order constituting a SIT to probe the Karur stampede that killed 41 people. The apex court agreed to hear the plea Friday, A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran took note of the submissions of a lawver that the plea. filed through TVK's secretary Aadhav Ariuna, be listed for hearing. On Tuesday, the bench agreed to hear October 10 BJP leader Uma Anandan's plea challenging the high court order refusing a CBI probe into the September 27 stampede.

#### 2 soldiers go missing during combing op

Srinagar: Security forces operation in the forests of Kokernag area in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag to locate two missing soldiers after losing contact with them during a combing exercise in the area to track down terrorists, officials said Wednesday. The combing operation was launched two days ago in the Ahlan Gadole area of Kokernag as following inputs that a group to terrorists was hiding there, they said.

#### Sukanta demands **Mamata's resignation**

Kolkata: Senior BIP leader Sukanta Maiumdar Wednesday claimed that the October 6 attack on his party leaders in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district was a "preplanned murder attempt" and demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee for allegedly failing to maintain law and order. Majumdar, who is the Union minister of state for education, also sought a CBI probe into the incident at Nagrakata, where MP Khagen Murmu and MLA Sankar Ghosh were attacked by a mob during a visit to the flood-hit area.

### Punjabi singer

Rajvir Jawanda dies Chandigarh: Punjabi actorsinger Rajvir Jawanda died here Wednesday, 11 days after he was seriously injured in a road accident. The 35-yearold was declared dead at 10.55 am Wednesday, hospital authorities said. Jawanda, a big, emerging name in the Punjabi showbiz industry, had been on life support ever since he was brought to the Fortis Hospital in Mohali in an extremely critical condition.



# **ED** raids properties of actors **Dulquer Salmaan, Prithviraj**

Kochi, Oct 8: The ED Wednesday raided premises linked to actors Prithviraj Sukumaran, Dulquer Salmaan, Amit Chakkalackal and some other persons in Kerala and Tamil Nadu as part of a probe into a Customs case related to alleged smuggling of luxury vehicles from Bhutan to India, official sources said.

The agency also questioned and recorded the statement of 42-year-old Salmaan, son of superstar Mammootty, at his home during the searches, a source told PTI.

The Enforcement Directorate also covered the premises of certain vehicle owners, auto workshops, and traders in Ernakulam, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Kottayam and Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu). A total of 17 premises were

covered, including one in Chennai linked to Mammootty.

The location linked to Mammootty is being searched in connection with the action against his son, the sources said. The action is being taken under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) in a recent case unearthed by the preventive department of Customs related to alleged smuggling of luxury vehicles and unauthorised foreign exchange dealings, they said.

The ED will also soon file a criminal case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to probe the allegations, the sources said.

The searches are based on inputs about a "syndicate" engaged in "illegal" import and registration of high-end cars such as Land Cruiser, Defender, and Maserati through the India-Bhutan and India-Nepal

Preliminary findings, according to officials, point to



THE AGENCY ALSO OUESTIONED AND RECORDED THE STATEMENT OF 42-YEAR-OLD SALMAAN, SON OF SUPERSTAR MAMMOOTTY, AT HIS HOME DURING THE SEARCHES

THE ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE ALSO COVERED THE PREMISES OF CERTAIN VEHICLE OWNERS. AUTO WORKSHOPS, AND TRADERS IN ERNAKULAM, THRISSUR. KOZHIKODE, MALAPPURAM. KOTTAYAM AND COIMBATORE (TAMIL NADU)

A TOTAL OF 17 PREMISES WERE COVERED, INCLUDING ONE IN CHENNAI LINKED TO MAMMOOTTY

a Coimbatore-based network that used "forged" documents (purporting to be from Indian Army, US Embassy, and MEA) and fraudulent RTO registrations in Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and some

The vehicles were later sold to high-net worth (HNI) individuals, including film personalities, at undervalued prices, they alleged.

The ED suspects that the case bears prima facie violations of sections 3, 4, and 8 of FEMA that involves unauthorised foreign exchange transactions and cross-border payments through

In a related development, the Kerala High Court on Tuesday allowed Dulquer Salmaan to file an application for the provisional release of his vehicle seized by the Customs, and directed the agency to consider it within one week if such a plea

According to Salmaan, the vehicle was shipped by the International Committee of the Red Cross to the ICRC Regional Delegation in New Delhi.

The actor said he was under the bona fide belief that the vehicle had valid ownership and registration with the motor vehicles authority, and there was nothing to make him suspect its

The actor claimed that Customs officials refused to examine the vehicle's documents handed over to them, and carried out the seizure in a "hasty" and "arbitrary" fashion.

Customs officials raided around 30 locations across Kerala on September 23, including the homes of Prithviraj, Salmaan and Chakkalackal, and seized 36 luxury cars.

The raids, which were part of 'Operation Numkhor', revealed that some of these vehicles were also used to allegedly smuggle gold and drugs.

#### Akhilesh Yadav meets **Azam Khan in Rampur**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rampur (UP), Oct 8: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav met senior party leader Azam Khan at his Rampur residence Wednesday and enquired about his health. The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said Khan has been subjected to "unprecedented harassment" by the state's BJP government.

The SP chief described Khan as a senior socialist leader with deep roots in the party and as an old associate of SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav.

This was the first meeting between the two leaders after Khan's release from the Sitapur jail last month.

"Azam Khan sahah is among our oldest leaders. Old leaders have their own distinct aura. He is like a tree for our party, the roots of which run deep. The shade of this tree has always protected us," he said in a statement.

Describing the cases lodged against Khan and his family members as "false and politically-motivated", the SP chief said. "No family has been harassed as much as Azam Khan sahab's. The BJP seems to be making a Guinness Record for filing the maximum number of fake cases against one political family.

"His wife, son Abdullah and several associates have been booked in false cases. If someone were to count, it might even enter the Guinness Book of World Records for the most number of false cases filed against one family," he added

Expressing hope for justice, Yadav said, "We are fighting a big battle together. I wish him good health and hope he gets justice soon.

Referring to recent events, the former chief minister said. "What happened in the Supreme Court also sends a message -- that people from the PDA (backward people, Dalits and minorities) are being insulted time and again. In the Assembly too, I have said that PDA families are continuously being humiliated under this government.'

## Cough syrup row: Pharma co to face criminal action



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai/Kancheepuram, Oct 8: A pharma unit producing a now banned cough syrup allegedly linked to the death of children in Madhya Pradesh is in the dock with the plant being sealed by the Tamil Nadu government and a police team from

MP visiting the facility as part

of its probe into the fatalities.

After issuing a second show cause notice, the Tamil Nadu government Wednesday warned of initiating criminal action against the Chennai-based firm. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Madhya Pradesh Police visited the company's registered office here as well as its manufacturing unit in Kancheepuram as part of its probe into the deaths of children, On October 7, Madhya Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla had said that a total of 20 children from the state have died so far while undergoing treatment for kidnev failure after consuming a contaminated cough syrup. The city-based company is accused of making the drug

"Yes. The factory has been sealed Tuesday evening," a government official told PTI Wednesday

The Tamil Nadu Food Safety and Drug Administration department October 4 declared that the samples of cough syrups collected from the manufacturing facility to be "adulterated" and an official had told PTI that the company has been

instructed to "halt production immediately

The Tamil Nadu government has banned the sales of cough syrup 'Coldrif' with effect from October 1 and ordered removal of stocks of the medicine from the market. States including Kerala and Madhya Pradesh have also banned it.

Meanwhile, the seven member SIT led by an Assistant Commissioner of Police from Madhya Pradesh formed to look into the deaths of children from allegedly consuming the cough syrup conducted probe.

The SIT later visited the com pany's registered address in the city and collected relevant de tails as part of the inspection, they said.

"We arrived here last night We are conducting the probe. He (owner of the drug compa ny) had left the premises three days ago. We are collecting de tails based on the CCTV footage (available at the registered of fice)," an official part of the SIT told PTI.

The team is being assisted by the Tamil Nadu police locally. On October 5, the Madhya Pradesh police formed the SIT to probe the death of the children in Chhindwara district due to suspected renal failure linked to the consumption of the 'toxic' cough syrup. The Chennai-based pharmaceutical company has been supply ing the cough syrup 'Coldrif' to Puducherry, Madhya Pradesh

and Rajasthan, besides some

#### **SNIPPETS**

#### Himachal landslide: Death toll rises to 16

SHIMLA: The death toll in a massive landslide that hit a private bus in Himachal Pradesh's Bilaspur district increased to 16 with the recovery of a child's body Wednesday morning as the search and rescue operation concluded, officials said. The incident took place Tuesday evening when a huge portion of a mountain gave way and fell on the moving bus in the Bhalughat area near Berthin. A total of 15 bodies were pulled out from the debris by Tuesday night. "A total of 16 bodies have been recovered while two children rescued. Rescue teams have thoroughly searched the accident site and also broken a hanging part of the debris to look for any trapped people,  ${\bf Bilaspur\ Superintendent\ of\ Police\ Sandeep\ Dhawal\ told\ PTI\ this\ afternoon.}$ 

#### Andhra: 7 killed in crackers manufacturing unit fire

RAYAVARAM: At least seven persons were killed in a fire at a crackers manufacturing unit here in Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema district Wednesday, said a police official. Three persons sustained injuries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the loss of lives was really saddening and extended his sympathies to the victims' families. "I pray for the injured persons to recover soon," said Modi, according to a post on 'X' by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). According to Ramachandrapuram sub-divisional police officer B Raghuveer, a spark had ignited the firecrackers stockpile, leading to a series of blasts and a huge plume of white smoke. "The spark was produced while stuffing a cracker with the chemical, which resulted in the catastrophic explosions and the massive fire accident," he said. The fire accident had occurred around 1 pm at Sri Ganapati Grand Fire Works, which reportedly has been in the firecrackers business since 1932.



A white-throated kingfisher preys on a lizard in Nadia, West Bengal

### Delhi shocker: Wife pours boiling oil on sleeping husband

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Oct 8: As Dinesh lay asleep in his Madangir house, his wife poured boiling oil and red chilli powder on him, sending him into screams that rent the dead calm of the night.

"My wife and daughter were sleeping nearby. Around 3.15 am, I suddenly felt a sharp, burning pain across my body. I saw my wife standing and pouring boiling oil on my torso and face. Before I could get up or call for help, she sprinkled red chilli powder on my burns," he alleged in his complaint. When he protested, his wife retorted, "'Agar shor machaya to aur garam tel daal doongi' (if you shout, I will pour more oil on

But Dinesh could not suppress his screams. The commotion brought neighbours and

PHARMACEUTICAL FIRM WORKER WAS BROUGHT TO SAFDARJUNG **HOSPITAL WITH 20 PER CENT BURNS AND WAS ADMITTED TO** THE ICU IN A CRITICAL CONDITION

ACCORDING TO AN FIR LODGED AT AMBEDKAR NAGAR POLICE STATION THE SAME DAY, THE MAN WAS DINESH, WHOSE WIFE POURED HOT OIL ON HIS TORSO AROUND 3 AM WHILE HE WAS SLEEPING

THE COUPLE'S EIGHT-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER WAS ALSO IN THE HOUSE AT THE TIME, DINESH TOLD POLICE THAT OCTOBER 2. HE HAD RETURNED HOME FROM WORK. ATE DINNER, AND WENT TO BED

his landlord's family, who lived on the floor below, rushing to the house. The landowner also called his brother-in-law, Ram Sagar, to the spot and the two

rushed him to a hospital. Anjali, the daughter of the



house owner, was one of the people who made a run to check on him.

"My father went upstairs to see what was happening. The door was locked. His wife had locked the door from inside. We asked them to open the door. When the door finally opened. we saw him writhing in pain and his wife hiding inside the

house," she told PTI. Anjali said that when her father tried to intervene, the woman told them she was tak-

ing her husband to the hospital. 'But when she came out with him, she headed towards the opposite direction. We got suspicious. My father stopped her, arranged an auto, and rushed Dinesh with Ram Sagar to the hospital," she said.

Dinesh was first taken to a nearby hospital, but seeing the deep burns on his chest, face, and arms, doctors referred him to Safdarjung Hospital.

Police said his injuries were described as "dangerous" in the medical report.

According to Dinesh, an Uttar Pradesh native, the couple has been married for eight years and has had a troubled relationship. Two years ago, his wife filed a complaint with the Crime Against Women (CAW) Cell, but the matter was settled through a compromise.

Dinesh's wife has been booked under sections 118 (voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt using dangerous weapons or means), 124 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by acid) and 326 (mischief by injury, inundation, fire or explosive substance, etc) of the BNS.

#### **UK PM Starmer visits** YRF Studios in Mumbai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 8:** British Prime Minister Keir Starmer Wednesday visited the Yash Raj Films (YRF) Studios in suburban And heri and announced that major Indian production houses including the YRF will make movies across locations in the UK.

The British PM, on a two-day visit to India, was accompanied by a delegation of his country's film industry including repre sentatives of the British Film Institute, British Film Commis sion, Pinewood Studios, Elstree Studios and Civic Studios.

Flying in from London earlier in the day, Starmer drove to the YRF Studios amid heavy po lice security. He met several Indian producers including YRF CEO Akshaye Widhwani, YRF chairperson Aditya Chopra's actor wife Rani Mukerii, Dinesh Vijan from Maddock Films. Ritesh Sidhwani of Excel Enter tainment and Apoorva Mehta of Dharma Productions, among others, a source said. "Bollywood is back in Britain, and it is bringing jobs, investment and oppor tunity, all while showcasing the UK as a world-class destination for global filmmaking. This is exactly the kind of partnership our trade deal with India is destined to unlock - driving growth, strengthening cultural ties and delivering for communities across the country," Starmer said in a statement.

The meeting between the British prime minister and Indian producers lasted for about 30 to 40 minutes, a source said YRF CEO Akshaye Widhani said they were honoured to host the British PM.



# national



The BJP is doing politics... They are projecting the Congress government as anti-Hindu. I told ministers to condemn it and give a proper reply to them

#### **COLLEGES REOPEN IN LEH AFTER TWO WEEKS**

Colleges across Leh district opened Wednesday, after remaining closed for two weeks following the September 24 violence, officials said. Ladakh Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta chaired a security review meeting and ordered lifting of other restrictions to restore complete normalcy in the Union territory, they said



India transforming. The people in the previous governthemselves secular

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

committed to resolving the pothole problem and are working in want to do politics may do so



make the city an

education hub. Students searching for the best place to get education should think of Delhi first. We have to make our system so strong that our children do not need to go abroad for higher studies

REKHA GUPTA | DELHI CM





angered Dalits Tejashwi Yadav is now most popular CM face

@Politicx2029

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Doc hacked by father of deceased patient

Kozhikode (Kerala): A government doctor was seriously injured after being attacked with a machete by a man whose daughter died of amoebic meningitis recently, police said. The incident happened at the taluk hospital in Thamarassery in this district Wednesday, police said. The doctor, identified as Vipin, was struck on the head and was later hospitalised at the Baby Memorial Hospital here, His health condition is stable now.

#### Two die in J'khand road accidents

the officer said.

Garwha/Gumla/Simdega: Two persons died and three others sustained injuries in separate road accidents in different parts of Jharkhand Wednesday, officials said, In Garhwa district, a 28-year-old man, Babloo Soni of Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh, died when his bike collided with a truck on NH-343 under Ranka police station limits around 7.30 am while he was travelling from Garhwa to Ambikapur. "The deceased's body was sent for post-mortem examination at Sadar Hospital, Garhwa. Both vehicles have been seized," said Chetan Kumar Singh, officer-in-charge of Ranka police station.

#### Man gets 20-yr jail for raping 5-yr-old

Muzaffarnagar (UP): A court here Wednesday sentenced a man to 20 years imprisonment for the abduction and rape of a five-year-old girl. Special Judge Alka Bharti convicted Mehkar (26) under several sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, government counsel Vikrant Rathi said. "The court convicted Mehkar under sections 363 (abduction), 376 (rape), and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC, along with Section 6 of the POCSO Act," he said.

# **Assam Police DSP suspended after arrest**

Guwahati, Oct 8: Zubee Garg's cousin and Assam Police DSP Sandipan Garg was apprehended Wednesday in connection with the singer's death in Singapore last month, taking the total number of arrests in the case to five, a senior officer said. The DSP was remand-

ed to seven-day police **DEATH** custody by the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) of Kamrup Metropolitan district, he said. He was later in the evening suspended with immediate effect. A special investigation team under the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Assam Police is probing into the singer's death.

The police will also issue fresh summonses to 10 people associated with the Assam Association Singapore, as they failed to appear before the investigating agency within the deadline of October 6. Two personal security officers (PSOs) of Zubeen Garg were also suspended, after police unearthed huge financial transactions, worth over ₹1.1 crore, from their accounts, the officer said. CID Special DGP Munna Prasad Gupta told PTI, "We have arrested Sandipan Garg. We are now completing the necessary legal formalities.'

The case was registered under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)

ZUBEEN like murder, culpable homicide not amounting to murder, criminal conspiracy and causing death by negligence. The apprehended police officer,

who was working as the co-district in-charge superintendent of Boko-Chhaygaon in Kamrup, was interrogated several times in the last few days in connection with the singer's death in Singapore September 19. Sandipan Garg was allegedly present with him at the yacht when Zubeen died while swimming in the sea. An official order Wednesday evening stated that he has been suspended with immediate effect following his arrest. During the period of suspen-

sion, the headquarters of Garg, 'if released from judicial custody, will be Assam Police Headquarters, Guwahati, subject to review, if deemed necessary', it said. Meanwhile, Assam Chief

Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the chargesheet in the investigation into the death of singer Zubeen Garg will be

submitted within the stipulated period of three months. The Assam government will "definitely ensure justice to him", Sarma asserted. 'The inquiry is proceeding on expected lines. We have made one arrest after the other, and I am sure that the Assam Police will submit the chargesheet within the stipulated time frame,' he said on the sidelines of a programme in Dibrugarh. During the day, the CM's wife Riniki Bhuvan Sarma filed a criminal defamation case against Raijor Dal chief Akhil Gogoi for alleging that one of her firms had participated in the North East India Festival in Singapore. Bhuyan Sarma filed the case against the Sivasagar MLA at the Kamrup Metro Chief Judicial Magistrate's court for making 'false and unfounded allegations that the Golden Threads of Assam had participated in a fashion show organised during the festival in Singapore".

Besides Gogoi, a case has also been filed against the director of news portal 'Pratibimba Live'. her lawyer Kishore Dutta said here. Dutta said he has instructions to file a defamation case against Assam Jativa Parishad president Luriniyoti Gogoi, too, and it will be done Thursday. Earlier, North East India Festival chief organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta, the singer's manager Siddharth Sharma, and his two band members - Shekhar Jyoti

Goswami and Amrit Prabha Mahanta - were arrested. They are now in police custody.

Asked about the Assamese present in the yacht at the time of the singer's demise in Singapore, Gupta said altogether 11 NRIs from the state were earlier issued notices, asking them to appear before the Assam Police by October 6, but only one of them came to record his statement.

Quizzed if the police have been able to reach out to the non-responsive NRIs, Gupta said, "Some contacts have been established with them. As it is a foreign country, we have to follow some processes and we are doing that." He also appealed to them to come forward and present their version of the incident.

Zubeen Garg's Nandeswar Bora and Prabin Baishya have been with him for a long time, since they were attached to the singer by Assam Police following a death threat by banned militant group ULFA almost a decade back, he said.

"We found financial irreg ularities from their bank accounts... Accordingly, both the PSOs have been suspended and departmental proceedings are being initiated," Gupta said.

Another senior officer told PTI on the condition of anonymity that Sandipan Garg is likely to be placed under suspension, as the court sent him to police



NDA, INDIA hold talks

to end seat-sharing row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Oct 8: The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Opposition INDIA bloc

Patna/Bangalore/Delhi,

Wednesday held hectic parleys to iron out the differences over seat-sharing with their respective allies, who are jostling for more seats in the next month's high-stakes Bihar polls. While the BJP's Election

Committee meeting to discuss seat-sharing arrangements among NDA constituents was held in Patna, the Congress brass met in Delhi to discuss party candidates and is learnt to have finalised 25 of its candidates.

Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, whose party is a constituent of NDA, made it clear that he is "requesting and not making a claim" that his Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) be given a respectable number of seats in the upcoming Assembly polls. "It will be a humiliation for

me and my party if we are not given at least 15 seats in the assembly polls. If we get 15 seats, we can easily win at least 8-9 seats, and we will become a recognised party. I consider it a blot (kalank) that even after 10 years of establishment, HAM remains an unrecognised party. So. I am requesting the NDA leaders (anurodh kar rahe hain) and not making a claim", Manjhi told reporters in Patna.

Manjhi indicated he would have liked his four-MLA-strong party to contest "half" of Bicies, but was willing to "settle for 15" seats to avoid fighting against NDA partners.

The former Bihar CM came out with a post on his X han dle, which seemed inspired by a famous passage in Ram dhari Singh Dinkar's war poem "Rashmirathi", wherein Lord Krishna had tried to broker peace with Duryodhana, whose obstinacy led to the epic battle of the Mahabharat.

Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Dharmendra Prad han, besides Vinod Tawde, met senior party leaders in Patna to discuss the seat-sharing arrangements and will submit a detailed report to the party's top leadership in Delhi. Fina decision will be taken by the party's Central leadership in Delhi, sources said. According to sources in NDA, the bigger allies JD(U) and BJP are likely to contest 102 and 101 seats respectively.

Union minister Chirag Pas wan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), which had earlier settled for around 20-22 seats, is now asking for 25 more.

Senior leaders in the LJP (RV) believe that the party should get at least 45 seats, said a party leader on condition of anonymity.

In the 2020 assembly elections, Paswan walked out of NDA and contested separate ly, winning just one seat but damaging the JD(U) in dozens of constituencies, resulting in its lowest tally in two de-

### WANKHEDE'S DEFAMATION CASE

#### **Delhi HC summons Red Chillies, Netflix**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 8: The Delhi High Court Wednesday issued summons to actor Shah Rukh Khan-owned Red Chillies Entertainment and OTT platform Netflix on a defamation suit filed by IRS officer Sameer Wankhede for allegedly maligning his reputation in their series 'The Ba\*\*\*ds of Bollywood'.

Wankhede has sought ₹2 crore in damages, which he wants donated to the Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital for cancer patients.

Purushaindra Justice Kumar Kaurav issued a notice to defendants Red Chillies **Entertainment Private Limit**ed, Netflix, X Corp (formerly Twitter), Google LLC, Meta Platforms, RPSG Lifestyle Media Private Limited and John Doe in the defamation suit and asked them to file their replies within seven days.

The court listed the matter for further hearing October 30. The court, which did not pass any interim injunction order at this stage, asked the defendants to also file their replies on Wankhede's application seeking to take down the alleged defamatory content from several websites.

"Let them take instructions and file a reply. I cannot pass an injunction in general," the judge said.

### Wife visits Wangchuk in jail of fasting," she said. "The jail

New Delhi/Jodhpur, Oct 8: Speeches and lectures delivered by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk have been quoted out of context and wrongly translated from Ladakhi to suit the "anti-national narrative" in his detention order, his wife Gitanjali J Angmo said Wednesday.

She also asserted that the charges against Wangchuk are "frivolous" and will be challenged in court. Accompanied by lawyer Ritam Khare, Angmo met Wangchuk Tuesday and received a copy of the detention order. Talking to PTI



Wednesday, she said Wangchuk appeared weak, but the jail authorities have assured her that they would take care of him. "He appeared weak.... The way they took him was inhumane. He was detained after 15 days

authorities have said they are taking good care of him and it appeared that they are," she said. Asked about the detention order, Angmo said, "The detention order appears to be very frivolous and weak, and we will challenge it in court." The document lists the alle-

gations against Wangchuk and the reasons for the invocation of the National Security Act (NSA) against him.

The NSA empowers the Centre and states to detain individuals to prevent them from acting in a manner "prejudicial to the defence of India".

### Mumbra accident: Railway

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, Oct 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday inaugurated the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), describing it as a "glimpse of Viksit Bharat", or developed India, that will help make the Mumbai region Asia's biggest connectivity hub.

The first phase of NMIA, also the country's largest greenfield airport, has been built at a cost of ₹19,650 crore and is set to be operational in December.

Earlier, the aircraft carrying Modi landed at the new airport, the second one in the Mumbai region, at around 2.40 pm.

Spread across 1,160 hectares, the airport will have one terminal and one runway in

the first phase with an annual passenger handling capacity of 20 million.

"The long wait of Mumbai is over as the city has now got its second airport, which will also help Maharashtra's farmers get connected with supermarkets in Europe and the US," Modi said after inaugurating the aviation project which has been in making for years and faced numerous delays

The airport will play a significant role in making the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Asia' biggest connectivity hub, the PM declared.

NMIA, spread over 1,160 hectares, is set to significantly boost India's aviation capacity and ease the heavy traffic burden on Mumbai's existing



Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport.

This is a project that has a glimpse of Viksit Bharat (developed India)," he told the gathering at the site. The airport will attract fresh investments and create new job opportunities. the PM noted. Modi highlighted the growth of the country's aviation sector and pointed out how it has evolved and expanded under his leadership since third largest domestic aviation market, had just 74 airports in 2014, but their number has gone up to more than 160 in the last 11 years, the Prime Minister said, suggesting his government's focus on the key sector. According to him, lakhs of

2014. India, which is the world's

people have taken to the skies with the government's regional air connectivity scheme UDAN.

Highlighting that Indian airlines have placed orders for more than 1,000 new aircraft, Modi said the target is to make the country a global MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) hub.

Prior to formal inauguration, the Prime Minister took a walkthrough of the newly constructed facility.

### Commuter's backpack caused

Mumbai: A probe by the Central Railway has concluded that a commuter's "protruding" backpack led to the fall of eight travellers from two trains in Thane district in June, of whom five lost their lives, officials said Wednesday. The probe team ruled out any technical fault, quarrelling among passengers, sabotage or mischief after examining CCTV footage, statements of commuters and witnesses and public responses received through social media and calls, they said. Hours after the accident near Mumbra June 9, an eyewitness and co-traveller had said that the tragedy was triggered by a bag worn by a commuter on a passing train after it brushed against those hanging on the footboard of another local.

### Deepika's 'hijab' look in Abu Dhabi ad sparks debate online

Navi Mumbai lands on aviation map as new airport takes off

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 8: Bollywood star Deepika Padukone is back at the centre of a social media storm with a tourism campaign for Abu Dhabi in which she is seen wearing wearing a hijab as she walks through the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque.

Deepika, who appears in the ad with her husband and fellow actor Ranveer Singh, is no stranger to controversy. She earlier attracted ire on social media for her appearance at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University during the anti-CAA protests and for sporting an orange bikini in the song "Besharam Rang" in "Pathaan"

Padukone now joins her husband as the brand ambassador for Experience Abu Dhabi, the destination brand of the Department of Culture and Tourism-Abu Dhabi. The campaign video titled

"Mera Sukoon" shows the couple exploring Abu Dhabi and Ranveer introducing Deepika to some of his favourite spots in the city, including many cultural and architectural landmarks. In one sequence, the couple is at the Grand Mosque and Deepika is seen wearing a rust abava and hijab. In the vigorous debate that followed, some called the 39-year-old actor a "fake feminist" for promoting conservative attire and others defended her decision and spoke up for her respect for Arab culture. Those criticising her argued that her decision to wear a hijab is in stark contrast to her appearance at the 2015 "My Choice" video, in which she advocated women's freedom to live, dress and love on their own terms.

"Remember Deepika Padukone's video 'My Choice'? 'To wear a Bindi or not, my choice'. 'I decide the clothes I wear'. Now Deepika Padukone has made video promoting Abu Dhabi tourism wearing Hijab. What happened to 'My

Choice'?" asked an X user. Another similar post read "On Hindu Traditions - 'My

body, My Choice'. But no prob lem in Wearing 'Hijab' for monev. This is the reality of Fake Feminists like Deepika Padukone. They are no feminists ..they are just 'Anti Hindus'."

"Gems of Deepika Padukone. On Bindi: My Choice. On Hijab : Paisa do kuch bhi pehan lungi. My choice is limited to money. after all she is an actress, can Deepika, who appears in the ad with her husband and fellow actor Ranveer Singh, is no stranger to controversy

She earlier attracted ire on social media for her appearance at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University during the anti-CAA protests and for sporting an orange bikini in the song "Besharam Rang" in "Pathaan"

do anything for money, there is nothing like feminism and liberty, she can sell her soul for money," read a post. One person wondered why Deepika hasn't promoted any Indian religious site like this.

"Deepika Padukone wore Hijab to promote Abu Dhabi Mosque. But she will never promote his own dharma or a teerth sthal," the user wrote. The other

"This is Deepika Padukone when she has gone to temples. She has always been respectful toward the culture of India. In the tourism commercial, she is wearing what is appropriate for that culture. You should be proud of someone who can go to

any country and be respectful.

Deepika, one of the country's

side was equally vociferous.

One supporter shared her

photographs on X and said,

most prominent film stars, has frequently found herself at the centre of public and political debates. After her unexpected appearance in JNU in January 2020 when she was promoting her film "Chhapaak" came "Pathaan" in 2023 when her song "Besharam Rang" led to widespread outrage from rightwing groups, who claimed her saffron swimsuit insulted Hindu sentiments.

# international



The historic trade deal the UK government struck with India this year is great news for Scotland and especially our whisky industry; but having secured the deal, our challenge and responsibility now is to put this deal into action

DOUGLAS ALEXANDER

#### **CALIFORNIA DECLARES DIWALI STATE HOLIDAY**

In a historic development for the Indian diaspora, California has designated Diwali as an official state holiday, becoming the third state in the US to officially recognise the Indian festival of lights as a holiday





India has bought so much Russian oil They've always had strong re lationships with

Russia, but it's really in the past two or three years that they started buying Russian oil at a discount, not only for consumption, but also

IAMIESON GREER US TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

for refining and resale xxx

The massive increase in cannabis imports and the practice of prescribing cannabis online without any personal medical contact require



sible that Singapore continues to cruelly pursue more executions in the name of drug



#### SHORT TAKES

#### Hikers stranded in Mt Everest rescued

Beijing: Over 850 hikers, guides and porters who were stranded for three days in a severe blizzard on the Tibetan slopes of Mount Everest have been evacuated by hundreds of villagers and rescue teams according to Chinese official media. All the hikers and local service personnel trapped by heavy snowfall in Dingri County at Xigaze City in southwest Tibet Autonomous Region have reached safety, the local government said late Tuesday night. A total of 580 hikers and over 300 personnel, including local guides and yak herders, have safely reached Oudeng Township and nearby areas, where officials are arranging their return journeys, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Xinhua had earlier reported Monday that one hiker was killed in the snowstorm, which caught more than 1,000 holiday trekkers off quard on the Tibetan side of Mount Everest.

#### Arrest warrants against Hasina

Dhaka: Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal Wednesday issued arrest warrants against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and several others on charges of crimes against humanity in alleged cases of enforced disappearances during her Awami League regime. A three-member International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) bench, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, took cognisance of the charges filed in two separate cases, according to media reports. The cases accuse Hasina and 29 others of overseeing the detention, torture and disappearance of political opponents at secret facilities operated by elite

#### French PM scraps severance payouts

security agencies.

Paris: Caretaker French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu said on Wednesday that ministers in his short-lived government would not receive severance pay, aiming to set an example of the budget belt-tightening he says the country needs. Lecornu. France's fifth prime minister in two years, resigned along with his cabinet on Monday - just hours after the government was announced Sunday making it the shortest-lived administration in modern French history. French ministers are entitled to three months of severance pay - nearly 10,000 euros (\$11.617) per month for ministers and almost 14,000 euros for a prime minister - as they do not qualify for

unemployment insurance.

#### Gor confirmed as US Ambassador to India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Oct 8: The US Senate has confirmed Sergio Gor as the next Ambassador of the United States to India.

Gor, 38, was among 107 nominees confirmed by the Senate in a single en bloc vote Tuesday, with 51 senators voting in favour and 47 against. The confirmations came despite the current US government shutdown.

Among the other nominees confirmed were Paul Kapur of California as Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, and Anjani Sinha of Florida as Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore.



In August, Trump had nominated Gor. Director of Presidential Personnel, to be the next US Ambassador to India, and Special Envoy for South and Central Asian Affairs.

Describing Gor as a "great friend, who has been at my side for many years", Trump had said that "for the most populous region in the world, it is important that I have someone I can fully trust to deliver on my Agenda and help us Make America Great Again. Sergio will make an incredible Ambassador.'

India's Ambassador to the US, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, had welcomed Gor's nomination, calling him one of Trump's most trusted aides.

## Russia's 'gray zone' tactics alarm EU

EU chief pushes back on repeated airspace breaches by Russia and cyberattacks



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels. Oct 8: Russia is waging a "targeted gray zone campaign" against Europe, including airspace violations, sabotage and cyberattacks that will only escalate if the Kremlin is not challenged, the European Union's top official warned Wednesday.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leven said that in just two weeks, fighter iets breached Estonia's airspace, while drones overflew military bases and critical infrastructure sites in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Poland and Romania.

"Europe must respond. We must investigate every incident, and we must not shy away from attributing responsibility because every square centimeter of our territory must be protected and safe, von der Leyen told EU law-

**Europe must respond. We** must investigate every incident, and we must not shy away from attributing responsibility because every square centimeter of our territory must be protected and safe. If we hesitate to act, the gray zone will only expand

URSULA VON DER LEYEN | PRESIDENT.

makers in Strasbourg, France. "If we hesitate to act, the gray zone will only expand," she

In two weeks, von der Leyen will submit a "road map" for bolstering Europe's defences by the end of the decade to the 27-nation bloc's heads of state and governments for their ap-

Von der Leyen said that it's simply not affordable for European countries to continue to scramble the latest-generation fighter jets to counter relative-

weapons-grade plutonium left over from thousands of Cold War nuclear warheads. The Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement (PMDA), signed in 2000, committed both the United States and Russia to dispose of at least 34 tonnes of weapons-grade plutonium each, which US officials said would have been enough for as many as 17.000 nuclear warheads. It came into force in 2011. "The United

Russia's lower house of parliament Wednesday approved a move to withdraw from a landmark agreement with

the United States aimed at reducing vast stockpiles of

States has taken a number of new anti-Russian steps that fundamentally change the strategic balance that prevailed at the time of the Agreement and create additional threats to strategic stability," a Russian note on the legislation

withdrawing Moscow from the pact said. After dismantling thousands of warheads after the Cold War, both Moscow and Washington were left with huge stockpiles of weapons-grade plutonium which was costly to store and posed a potential proliferation risk. Russia in 2016 suspended implementation of the agreement, citing US sanctions and what it cast as unfriendly actions against Russia, NATO enlargement and changes to the way the United States was disposing of its plutonium. Russia said at the time that the United States had not abided by the agreement after Washington moved, without Russian approval, to simply diluting the plutonium and disposing of it. Russia and the United States are by far the world's biggest nuclear powers, and together they control about 8,000 nuclear warheads, though far less than the peak of 73,000 warheads in 1986, according to the Federation of American Scientists.

Russia moves to pull out from Cold War era plutonium pact with US

ly cheap drones, as happened when several of them entered Polish airspace a month ago. "This is absolutely

not sustainable.

For

swift de-

tection,

intercep-

tion, and

when need-

swift

**ON WAR** We need an an-**FOOTING** ti-drone system that is The EU is preparing a plan for Europe to be ready to confront affordable such challenges by 2030 and for purpose.

wall" of high-tech systems linked to equipment that can detect, track and destroy drones, as well as strike their operating systems or pilots on the ground years, EU officials believe that Russia could be

capable of launching an attack on another European country within ed. swift neuthree to five years tralisation," she said, adding that of their orders with US Europe has much to learn

The commission believes that the best way to encourage European countries to invest

more in defence is to ensure that it creates jobs and is good for business in Europe. It insists that at least 65

per cent of any project funded with EU money should

based The plan includes the development of a "drone on the continent. recent

the member nations have placed about two-thirds

> "Most investment goes outside Europe. In other words these are jobs outside Europe.

defence companies.

This is absolutely not sustainable," von der Leyen said "This is European money and we want to see a return on this investment in jobs here in Europe.'

At a summit in Copenha gen last week, the position of some EU leaders toward the drone incidents, acts of sabotage, cyberattacks and sanction-busting appeared to have hardened. Denmark has not directly attributed a series of drone flights over the country in recent weeks to Russia. French President Emman-

uel Macron said that Europe must take a more aggressive approach with Russia by shooting down drones that enter European airspace and boarding shadow fleet ships illicitly transporting oil to deprive Moscow of

### China: Taiwan prez 'prostituting' self

Beijing, Oct 8: Taiwan President Lai Ching-te is "prostituting" himself to foreigners to try and win their favour but his schemes are doomed to fail, China's government said Wednesday after he gave an interview lauding US President Donald Trump. China, which views demo-

cratically-governed Taiwan as its own territory, has a special dislike of Lai, saying he is a "separatist" and rebuffing his repeated offers of talks. Lai says only Taiwan's people can decide their future. In an interview released

this week with a conservative US radio show and podcast. Lai said Trump should get the Nobel Peace Prize if he could convince Chinese President Xi Jinping to abandon use of force against Taiwan. Trump and Xi are expected to meet this month at a regional summit in South Korea

Responding to the interview, where Lai also talked about China's military threats and increased defence spending. China's Taiwan Affairs Office said Lai was "spouting nonsense", showing his true nature as a manufacturer of crises and destroyer of peace.

Since taking office last year, Lai has been "rampantly propagating separatist fallacies", it said.



giving key national

Taiwan's government

Using unusually strong wording, the statement added: "He has engaged in unprincipled foreign pandering and bottomless selling out of Taiwan, squandering the flesh and blood of the people, prostituting himself and throwing in his lot with foreign forces".

There was no immediate response from Taiwan's government.

The Chinese statement said efforts to seek independence through relying on foreign forces were doomed to fail.

"Lai Ching-te and the 'Taiwan independence' forces are but ants shaking a tree: they will ultimately be swept into the dustbin of history, it added.

The statement also comes

just two days before Lai gives his key national day speech

China, which has never renounced the use of force to bring Taiwan under its control, staged a day of war games around the island last year shortly after that same event in what it said was a

warning to "separatist acts". Lai says that the Republic of China - Taiwan's formal name - and the People's Republic of China are "not subordinate to each other"

The Republic of China government fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war with Mao Zedong's communists. No peace treaty has ever been signed and neither government officially recognises the other to this day.

#### PTI removes Khyber Pakhtunkhwa CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

in this from Ukraine.

Peshawar, Oct 8: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur was Wednesday removed from office by jailed former premier Imran Khan's party, a day after 11 military personnel were killed in an attack in the restive province's Orakzai district.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) secretary general Salman Akram Raja confirmed that Gandapur has been removed from office and he would be replaced by Muhammad Sohail Afridi as approved by the former cricketer-turned-politician. Raja made the announcement while talking to the media after meeting the 73-year-old party founder in Rawalpindi's Adaila Jail where he has been lodged since August 2023.

At least 11 military person nel, including a Lt Colonel and a Major, were killed in clashes with the Taliban militants on Tuesday night during an intelligence-based operation in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, bordering Afghanistan.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) the media wing of the military - said that 19 terrorists of the 'Fitna al-Khawarii' were also killed during the operation in Orakzai district.

### Gaza aid flotilla says Israeli forces intercepted its boats

*The incident was the second such event in recent days.* after Israel had intercepted about 40 vessels and detained more than 450 activists in an aid convov

Tel Aviv, Oct 8: A group of vessels attempting to deliver aid to the war-ravaged Gaza Strip was intercepted by Israeli forces in international waters Wednesday, the coalition behind the convoy said, the second such interception in the past week.

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) is an international network of pro-Palestinian activist groups that organises civilian maritime missions aimed at breaking Israel's blockade of Gaza to deliver humanitarian aid to Palestinians in the enclave.

The flotilla's vessels and passengers were safe, had been transferred to an Israeli port and were expected to be deported promptly, Israel's foreign ministry said in a statement on X. "Another futile attempt to breach the legal naval blockade and enter a combat zone ended in nothing," the ministry said.

The incident was the second such event in recent days, after Israel had intercepted about 40 vessels and detained more than 450 activists in an aid convoy, the Global Sumud Flotilla, that



was also attempting to deliver

supplies to Gaza. The FFC said Israeli forces "hijacked the humanitarian fleet," adding that the "ships were illegally intercepted .. Participants - humanitarians, doctors and journalists from across the world - have been taken against their will and are being held in unknown conditions." "The Israeli military has no legal jurisdiction over international waters," it said, "Our

The ships carried aid worth more than \$110,000 in medicines, respiratory equipment and nutritional supplies intended for Gaza's starving hos pitals, it added on its Instagram

flotilla poses no harm.

### Britain's once-mighty Conservative Party battling extinction

#### The Tories are fighting not just the Labour government to their left, but Reform UK to the right

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, Oct 8: Britain's Conservatives used to boast they were the world's most successful political party. Not anymore.

The centre-right party that governed the UK for more than 60 of the last 100 years before being ousted in 2024 is embracing Donald Trump-style policies, including mass deportations and DOGE-style spending cuts, as it battles to remain a contender for power.

Nigel Farage's hard-right party has topped opinion polls for months, trounced the Conservatives in May's local elections and has welcomed a stream of defecting Tory members and officials.

"Yes, we have a mountain to climb," Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch told party members at their annual conference, which ends Wednesday in Manchester. "But we have a song in our hearts, and we are up for the fight.'

#### **A SHRUNKEN PARTY**

Crowds were thin under the vast vaulted roof of the Manchester Central conference venue, a former railway station in the northwest England city, as delegates absorbed the party's diminished stature.

"It's not in a great place at the moment, we're aware of that," said Neil McCarthy, a member from northern England. "There needs to be passion, and we

need to get the message across that we've changed.'

The Conservatives have undergone years of turmoil – some of it of their own making, some of it shared by incumbent parties in a world of economic and geopolitical instability.

The economic benefits of Britain's 2020 exit from the European Union, championed by those now running of the party, have been elusive. Prime Minister Boris Johnson won a huge election victory in 2019 but was ousted by the party in 2022 after a string of ethics scandals.

His successor, Liz Truss, sent inflation and interest rates soaring with a disastrous tax-cutting plan that wrecked the Conservatives' reputation for economic stability. Under Rishi Sunak, the government staggered on until the July 2024 election that delivered the Conservatives' worst-ever defeat.

#### **LEADERSHIP DOUBTS**

Prime Minister Keir Starmer faces similar discontent within his Labour Party as Reform destabilises parties of both left

Conservative lawmaker Robert Jenrick, who lost the 2024 leadership contest to Badenoch, has spent the ensuing months

building his online brand one popular social media video showed him confronting subway fare-dodgers — and becom ing one of the party's loudest anti-immigration voices. Video published online by

The Guardian newspaper showed him remarking that he "didn't see another white face in a neighbourhood in Birming ham. Jenrick said he was not being racist but expressing concern about "ghettoised commu nities" and lack of integration

Facing an uncertain fu ture, many Conservatives are retreating to their happy place the 1980s, when Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher transformed Britain with her free-market policies.

# business



**Observing that India has a vibrant** fintech ecosystem, the country has close to 10.000 entities. Unified Lending Interface (ULI) aims to enable use of data for lenders to build alternative credit model as UPI has done in payment space SANJAY MALHOTRA | RESERVE BANK GOVERNOR

#### SBI TO SIMPLIFY KYC PROCESS

State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman CS Setty said Wednesday that the bank is working on simplifying the Know Your Customer (KYC) and re-KYC processes to make them more user-friendly. He said the shift to an expected credit loss (ECL) based system of asset provisioning will not impact the balance sheets of banks, given the extended transition period given by the central bank. Earlier this year, June 12, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised its KYC rules to make the process more flexible



India's ambitions extend well beyond 5G, with a target of securing 10 per cent of 6G patents while satellite communications are poised for exponential growth, with the market set to triple by 2033

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER

We have



on how do we prepare ourselves as an industry to go for guantum-safe cryptography based on an action plan where we discover, we prepare and then we act within the next two-three-four years

TUHIN KANTA PANDEY | SEBI CHAIRMAN





#### **SHORT TAKES**

#### EV car sales zoom

New Delhi: Electric car retail sales zoomed over two-fold in September with Tata Motors leading the segment with registrations of 6.216 units. according to the data shared by dealers' body FADA. JSW MG Motor registered 3.912 units last month, an increase of over three-fold as compared with 1.021 units in the vear-ago period. Mahindra & Mahindra sold 3.243 units in September as against 475 units in the year-ago period. It was followed by BYD India with 547 units: Kia India with 506 units: Hyundai Motor India with 349 units: BMW India with 310 units and Mercedes-Benz India with 97 units. Besides. Tesla India also pitched in with retail sales of 64 units last month. In 2W seament, TVS Motor led the space with retail sales of 22,509 units. It had sold 18,256 units in the year-ago period. Baiai Auto and Ather Energy took second and third positions with retail sales of 19.580 units and 18.141 units. respectively, last month, Ola Flectric was at fourth position with 13.383 units followed by Hero MotoCorp with registrations of 12,753 units in September.

### **■** ₹ ends 2 paise

higher against \$ Mumbai: The rupee witnessed a range-bound trade on Wednesday and settled for the day slightly higher by 2 paise at 88.75 against the US dollar, aided by some foreign fund inflow. Forex traders said the US dollar is holding its ground, yet beneath the dollar's steady facade lies a growing tension. At the same time, rupee faced pressure due to negative trend in domestic equities amid a rise in risk-off sentiments. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.76 against the US dollar, touched an intraday low of 88.81 and finally settled for the day at 88.75, registering a marginal gain of 2 paise from its previous close. Tuesday, the rupee fell three paise to close at 88.77 against the US dollar. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 98.88, higher by 0.31 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 1.25 per cent higher at \$66.27 per barrel in futures trade.Foreign institutional investors purchased equities worth Rs 81.28 crore on a net basis Tuesday, according to exchange data. On the domestic equity market front, the Sensex dropped 153.09

points to settle at 81,773.66,

points to 25,046.15.

while the Nifty declined 62.15

### PhonePe, RuPay and JioHotstar partner to simplify subscription payments

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 8: PhonePe Payment Gateway (PhonePe PG) Wednesday announced a partnership with RuPay and JioHotstar to simplify subscription payments with UPI AutoPay.

PhonePe PG announced the rollout of its subscription IQ, anchored by UPI AutoPay on RuPay credit cards, in collaboration with JioHotstar at the ongoing Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2025 here.

move enables PhonePe PG to offer UPI AutoPay mandates powered by RuPay credit cards,

creating a convenient way for customers to manage recurring navments. Traditionally, UPI AutoPav mandates were linked directly to bank accounts, which meant payments could fail if the account balance was low on the debit date. By enabling UPI AutoPay on

RuPay credit cards, customers now have the flexibility to route their subscription payments through a credit line, ensuring uninterrupted access to services like JioHotstar without worrying about failed renewals due to insufficient funds.

For merchants and businesses, this might translate

into fewer payment failures, lower customer drop-offs, and a smoother subscription experience.

The solution supports multiple recurring payment modes -- from UPI AutoPay to eNACH and card-based recurring billing, giving merchants a single platform to manage all types of subscription payments efficiently. "With this launch, our

aim is to give users a simple and reliable way to manage recurring payments. They can set up AutoPay once, enjoy uninterrupted access to services, and cancel anytime as per their choice. For merchants, this feature ensures higher payment reliability and smoother transactions," said Ankit Gaur, Head - Payment Gateway & Dn-

line Merchants, PhonePe. "By bringing RuPay Credit

Cards to UPI AutoPay, we are giving the ecosystem a solution that is simple for users, reliable for businesses, and built for scale," he added.

The new feature will soon

be available to more business es through PhonePe PG's sub scription suite, paying the way for more reliable and custom er-friendly recurring payments across India "At JioHotstar, our priority

is to deliver a seamless entertainment experience to our sub scribers. This partnership en sures our users enjoy uninter rupted access to their favourite shows and movies, and brings both convenience and reliabil ity to subscription payments. making it easier than ever for customers to stay connected to the stories they love," a JioHotstar spokesperson said.

#### Markets halt 4-day rally Unstoppable gold **BSE SENSEX OCTOBER 8, 2025**

Mumbai, Oct 8: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower on Wednesday, snapping their four-day rally following selling in blue-chip stocks Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank. In a volatile session, the

30-share BSE Sensex declined 153.09 points or 0.19 per cent to settle at 81.773.66. During the day, it hit a high of 82,257.74 and a low of 81,646.08, gyrating 611.66 points. The 50-share NSE Nifty

dropped 62.15 points or 0.25 per cent to 25,046.15. Profit-taking in auto, real estate, and banking shares dragged the markets down, analysts said.

Among Sensex firms, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharat Electronics, UltraTech Cement. Trent. Sun Pharma, Power Grid and Reliance Industries were the major laggards. However, Titan, Infosys, Ta-

ta Consultancy Services, HCL Tech and Tech Mahindra were among the biggest gainers.

'Key indices witnessed a volatile session, tempered by profit booking after a sharp rally. Investor caution dominated ahead of the Q2 earnings season, as market participants reassessed valuations and growth prospects," Vinod Nair, Head of



Research, Geojit Investments Limited said. "Markets traded sideways on

Wednesday and ended with a mild downtick, taking a breather after the recent surge. After a quiet start, the Nifty moved within a narrow range for most of the session and eventually settled near the day's low at 25,046.15," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd. said.

The BSE midcap gauge declined 0.74 per cent and smallcap dipped 0.42 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, realty dropped 1.88 per cent, power by 1.49 per cent, auto by 1.35 per cent and utilities by 1.29 per cent.

However, BSE Focused IT surged 1.67 per cent, IT index jumped 1.50 per cent, teck (1.34 per cent) and consumer durables (0.37 per cent).

As many as 2,434 stocks de-

clined while 1,740 advanced

and 156 remained unchanged

on the BSE Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Tuesday, as they bought equities worth Rs 1,440.66 crore, according to exchange data.

In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index settled lower. Markets in China and South Korea were closed

Markets in Europe were trading higher. US markets ended lower Tuesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 1.16 per cent to \$66.21 a barrel

Tuesday, the Sensex went up by 136.63 points or 0.17 per cent to settle at 81.926.75. The Nifty edged higher by 30.65 points or 0.12 per cent to 25,108.30.

# reaches new peak

New Delhi, Oct 8: Gold prices rallied for the third straight day and gained Rs 2,600 to hit a fresh lifetime high of Rs 1,26,600 per 10 grams in the national capital Wednesday in line with strong global trends amid looming geopolitical uncertainties triggered by the prolonged shutdown of the US government.

The precious metal has added Rs 6.000 in the past three days as global risk-aversion has prompted investors to rush for safe haven assets.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, gold of 99.9 per cent purity had closed Rs 700 higher at Rs 1,24,000 per 10 grams on Tuesday, a day after registering a steep surge of Rs 2,700 Monday. Wednesday, the yellow metal

of 99.5 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 2,600 to touch an all time high of Rs 1,26,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) in the local bullion market. It had settled at Rs 1,23,400

per 10 grams in the previous market session.

Analysts said the ongoing  $\operatorname{US}$ government shutdown and rising global geopolitical tensions have fuelled the flows into the safe haven asset. In addition, silver prices

surged by Rs 3.000 to trade near its record high at Rs 1,57,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Wednesday. The white metal had ended at Rs 1,54,000 per kg Tuesday The white metal had hit a

record high of Rs 1,57,400 per kilogram Monday. In the overseas markets, bul-

lion prices witnessed robust traction. Spot gold went up nearly 2 per cent to hit a record high of \$4,049.59 per ounce. Spot gold climbed above the

key \$4,000 per ounce-mark for the first time, driven by safe-haven demand amid concerns about the US economy and the government shutdown.

"Geopolitical tensions in Ukraine, political instability in France and Japan, and rising expectations of Fed rate cuts amid ongoing data blackout also supported upside," Kaynat Chainwala, AVP Commodity Research, Kotak Securities, said. Spot silver rose more than 2 per cent to hit a high of \$48.99 per ounce in the global markets.

#### **Centre revises PF** rules for coal workers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 8: The coal ministry is proposing to come out with a new legislation to ensure social security and pensionary benefits to coal workers.

The new law, once approved by Parliament, will replace the 77-year-old Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act. 1948. The new legislation will take

into account important devel opments in areas such as industrial disputes resolution, working conditions, social security, wage regulation and digital isation. The coal ministry has invited comments on the draft Coal Mines Employees' Provi dent Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill, 2025, from the stakeholders.

In the new bill, it is proposed to replace the existing Board of Trustees with the Coal Mines Employees' Provident Fund Board, thereby providing a more robust and accountable

regulatory framework. The Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948, was enacted to make provisions for framing of a Provident Fund Scheme, a Family Pension Scheme and a Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme for the workers employed in coal mines. The Act is a pre-constitution Act and has

been amended several times. '...it is proposed to under take a comprehensive review and strengthen the provisions of the Act. This will ensure its effectiveness in meeting the present and future needs of the

coal sector," the ministry said The Act is administered by the coal ministry through the

Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation. As the Centre is reviewing

the pre-constitutional Acts to assess their continued relevance in the present context, it has been considered neces sary to take remedial actions, including repeal, re-enactment or consolidation of multiple central acts governing similar subject matter into a single, streamlined enactment, as the case may be, the ministry said.

### DGCA fines IndiGo for lapses in pilot training

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi. Oct 8: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed a fine of Rs 20 lakh on IndiGo for alleged lapses in pilot training at Category C aerodromes, airline's parent company, InterGlobe Aviation, informed the stock exchanges Wednesday.

According to the company's filing, IndiGo received the communication from the aviation regulator September 26.The DGCA said the violation was related to the airline's failure to use qualified simulators for pilot training, which is mandatory under aviation safety rules.

"Details of violation(s)/contravention(s) committed or alleged to be committed: Alleged failure to use qualified simulators for pilot training at Category C Aerodromes," the company said in its filing.

In its response, IndiGo said it is contesting the DGCA order before the appellate authority. The airline added that the penalty will not have any material impact on its finances, operations, or business activities.

"The Company is in the process of contesting the Order before the appropriate appellate authority," the airline said.

"There is no material impact on financials, operations or other activities of the Company," the airline added.

The company also explained the delay in disclosure, stating that it was unintentional and happened because of a lag in internal communication regarding the details of the order. "The delay in disclosure was

unintentional and was caused due to a delay in internal communication of details pertaining to the order," the low-cost carrier mentioned. The shares of IndiGo closed

the intra-day trading session at Rs 5,630.50, down by Rs 33.50 or 0.59 per cent apiece on the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

#### **HP World showroom inaugurated** at Budharaja, Sambalpur



**SAMBALPUR:** A new HP World showroom inaugurated Wednesday at Budharaja Main Road, Sambalpur. The inauguration ceremony was organised by Sambalpur Mahamaya Computers. The event was graced by Sujit Das, GM (Sales and Operations) for Jharkhand, Bihar, and Odisha at Savex Technologies Pvt Ltd.; Rit Biswal, ASM (Savex); Soumya Sahu, Senior ASM (Savex); and Santosh Mandal, RM. Proprietors Shyam Pandey and Prateek Pandey of Mahamaya Computers (HP World Sambalpur) along with guest Sidhant Tiwari were also present on the occasion. The new showroom offers the complete range of HP laptops, desktops, printers, and accessories for both personal and professional users.

#### **CMPDI participates in IMC 2025**

RANCHI: The Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) is participating in the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025, being held in New Delhi from October 8 to 11. The institute is showcasing its advancements in next-generation mining through the use of 5G technology and digital innovations. The exhibition was inaugurated by Manoj Kumar, Chairmancum-Managing Director of CMPDI, in the presence of Ajay Kumar, Director (Technical/P&D/R&D&T), and other senior officials. Through its participation, CMPDI aims to reinforce its technological leadership and commitment to advancing India's digital mining future by adopting



## Gen AI, Agentic AI to impact Indian payments landscape: Report

The report, based on a survey of over 175 senior leaders in the fintech and payments sector, showed that 65 per cent ranked credit cards as the top growth segment, with over 90 per cent believing in their promising growth potential

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 8: Gen AI and Agentic AI are expected to significantly impact the country's payments landscape, where digital payments are growing at a rapid pace, according to a survey released Wednesday.

Leading consultancy PwC India's report titled 'The Indian Payments Handbook: 2025-30' said that while UPI (unified payment interface) remains central, the next wave of transformation in the fintech and payments space will be spearheaded by credit cards, followed by BBPS (Bharat Bill Payment System). The report, based on a survey

of over 175 senior leaders in the growth potential.



landscape," it said. PwC India's report further

said digital payments in India FY30.

the ecosystem, increasing credit penetration, regulatory support, adoption of emerging technologies and evolving consumer behaviour.

"India's payments ecosystem is entering a new phase of maturity and integration. Over the next five years, we expect continued innovation and expansion of UPI, strong credit growth, and increasing convergence of payments

Partner and Leader - Payments Transformation and Fintech at PwC India. The key will be balancing

wealth," said Mihir Gandhi,

innovation and scale with interoperability, security and inclusion, to create a digital payments economy for the future, he said The report further said UPI

continues to be the backbone of India's digital payments ecosystem, accounting for nearly 90 per cent of retail digital payment volumes in FY2024-25.

Its growth is driven by offline adoption, interoperability, credit-linked use cases and emerging opportunities such as cross-border transactions (cited by 22 per cent of survey participants).

A favourable regulatory environment is also enabling this shift, with 70 per cent of respondents pointing to tokenisation and the RuPay-UPI linkage as key enablers, while 66 per cent see hyper-personalisation, easier authentication and credit on UPI as critical success factors.

Alongside UPI, credit cards remain a strong growth driver. crossing 100 million in FY24 and projected to double to 200 million by FY30, with robust transaction growth fuelled by product innovation and wider adoption.

Debit cards, however, continue to decline as consumers increasingly prefer UPI and credit, the report said.

As one may glean, the report said India's digital payments journey is no longer just about volumes - it's about unlocking Value that is hidden in build-

ing a future-proof, resilient, inclusive and globally advanced digital payments ecosystem, wherein the next five years of this journey will be defined by data-driven, customer-centric innovation, the PwC India re-

fintech and payments sector, are expected to continue their showed that 65 per cent ranked rapid growth trajectory, with credit cards as the top growth overall transaction volumes segment, with over 90 per cent projected to nearly triple by believing in their promising This growth, it said, will be "The influence of AI is andriven by innovations across

with lending, insurance, and

port added.

**WORLD JUNIOR C'SHIPS** 

# **Shuttlers storm ahead**



**India enter** quarterfinals with clinical win over UAE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati. Oct 8: India stormed into the quarterfinals of the team event at the BWF World Junior Badminton Championships for the Suhandinata Cup with a clinical win over UAE here Wednesday.

In other ties, USA upset France while Japan got the better of top seeds Thailand to top their respective groups at the National Centre of Excel-

While India defeated UAE 45-37 45-34, Japan got the better of Thailand 45-42 45-34 in Group A and USA made it to the last eight stage with 45-43 45-43 win over France in Group B.

The top teams in all eight groups will compete in the quarterfinals for the coveted trophy, while the others will fight in the classification rounds. Other teams to top their respective groups include China (Group D) and Indonesia

India, seeded second, had beaten Nepal and Sri Lanka in their earlier Group H clashes and went into the final round as the only unbeaten team in

That confidence showed in the way they approached the match against UAE, who boast of having a few players who have played in the Indian domestic circuit in the past.

USA Open finalist Tanvi Sharma gave India a rousing start, defeating Prakriti Bharath of UAE 9-5. The mixed doubles combination of C Lalramsanga and Vishakha Toppo then made it 18-10 against Adithya Kiran and Sakshi Kurbkhelgi.

UAE did put up a fight in the boys singles and boys doubles with Bharath Lateesh scoring nine points against Hmar Lalthazuala and then teaming up with Riyan Malhan to score 10 points against Bhagav Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gobburu, but their efforts were not enough to close the gap.

In the second set, Unnati Hooda replaced Tanvi and Suryansh Rawat took the place of Hmar in the line up.

Unnati beat Prakriti 9-6 to start the proceedings and there was no looking back for the Indian team from there on.

On the adjacent court, Japan grabbed the advantage against top seeds Thailand with Yuzuno Watanabe beating Anyapat Phichitpreechasak 9-5 in the first girls singles and the Asian Junior mixed team championships bronze medallist rode on that momentum to win the first

Watanabe gave her team a much bigger lead in the second set by beating Yataweemin Ketklieng 9-2 and the Japanese took the top spot in Group A with another clinical display.

But it was USA that had reasons to celebrate the most as they overcame a strong challenge from 58 seeds France.

With the matches going neckand-neck in both sets, it was USA boys singles player Garret Tan who kept his composure to beat France's Mady Sow 9-8 in the first set and scored nine points quickly enough when under pressure in the second to help his team top Group B.

They will now face Japan in the quarterfinals while India will take on the top-placed team from Group G, which is yet to

## Siraj, Jadeja achieve personal bests

The Indian stars hit career-best ICC Test Rankings after stellar **Ahmedabad Test** against WI. Jadeja ranks 25th in batting; Siraj climbs to 12th in bowling with 7 wickets in the match

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 8: India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja's impressive showing in the opening match of their ICC World Test Championship series against the West Indies in Ahmedabad has elevated him to a career-high 25th spot in the ICC Men's Test Batting Rankings.

The best ranking previously held by the 36-year-old, who scored an unbeaten 104 in India's only innings, was 29th. reached in July this year. He now stands at a personal best of 644 rating points.

Jadeja's four wickets in the second innings have further strengthened his position at the top of the all-rounders' rankings, increasing his lead by 125 points over Bangladesh's Mehidy Hasan.

Jadeja's teammate, fast bowler Mohammed Siraj, built on his strong performance from the England tour, taking four for 40 and three for 31. These figures moved him up three spots to a career-high 12th position and surpassed 700 points for the first time after India's victory by an innings and 140 runs.

Other players who benefited from the Indian team's performance include KL Rahul and Dhruv Jurel, both of whom advanced in the batting rankings following their centuries. Rahul has climbed four spots to 35th, while Jurel has risen 20 places to 65th after scoring his first Test century.

Meanwhile, Kuldeep Yadav, the left-arm wrist-spinner, has



**ICC TEST RANKINGS** 

#### IND VS WI 2ND TEST: GOOD **BATTING STRIP ON CARDS**

A good batting surface is in store for the second and final Test between India and the West Indies at the Feroz Shah Kotla, with curators expecting the pitch to aid strokeplay for the first two days before offering only slow turn as the game progresses. The traditionally black-soil surface at the Kotla has a reputation for assisting batters early on before gradually breaking down to bring spinners into play. For this Test, however, a fresh centre strip has been prepared, and the early part of the contest is expected to be dominated by batters. "The centre strip has been prepared for the Test. This is a different track from the one on which Smriti Mandhana scored a 50-ball hundred," a BCCI source told PTI on condition of anonymity. According to the official, the curators have deliberately focused on ensuring even bounce and true carry in the initial stages. "If West Indies bat better, then the match won't end inside three days. The pitches would only offer turn from Day Three and that too slowish in nature," the source added.

moved up seven places to rank 21st after taking two wickets cheaply in the match.

There was little to cheer for the West Indies players, though, as no batter scored a half-century and no bowler took more than two wickets.

In the ICC Men's T201 Player Rankings, Australia captain Mitchell Marsh has

re-entered the top 10 of the batting list for the first time since February 2024, following scores of 85 in the first match and 103 not out in the third match of the series against New Zealand.

New Zealand's Tim Robinson scored an unbeaten 106 in the first match of the series at Mount Maunganui, helping him climb 58 places to joint-

Bangladesh beat Afghanistan 3-0 in their series in the United Arab Emirates. Saif Hassan's unbeaten 64 in the third match helped him reach the top 20 batters for the first time. Tanzid Hasan moved up from 43rd to 37th, and Parvez Hossain from 71st to 53rd.

Afghanistan leg-spinning all-rounder Rashid Khan's performances of four for 18 and two for 29 in the first two matches have helped him regain the number two spot in the bowling rankings, his highest position since June last vear.

The bowling rankings show improvements for Afghan players Noor Ahmad, who climbed eight places to 17th, and Mujeeb Ur Rahman, who moved up six places to 23rd.

Bangladesh players Tan zim Hasan Sakib rose nine places to 33rd, Shoriful Islam advanced 21 spots to joint-49th, and Player of the Series Nasum Ahmed jumped from 131st to 44th, all making notable progress.

#### **ARCTIC OPEN**

### Lakshya exits, Mannepalli keeps Indian hopes alive

Vantaa (Finland), Oct 8: Unheralded Indian Tharun Mannepalli kept alive the country's men's singles hopes at the Arctic Open 2025, staging a thrilling comeback to upset world No. 14 Toma Junior Popov of France, even as Lakshya Sen suffered his 10th first-round exit of the year here Wednesday.

Mannepalli, ranked 46th, overcame a first-game loss to beat Popov 11-21, 21-11, 22-20 in a one-hour and eight-minute contest, saving four match



points in the decider to pull off a remarkable win in the BWF Super 500 event.

He will take on world No18 Koki Watanabe of Japan in the pre-quarterfinals.

Paris Olympics semifinalist Lakshya fell 21-15, 21-17 in 57 minutes to world No. 11 and fifth seed Kodai Naraoka of Japan.

Lakshya struggled from the start, trailing 11-6 at the firstgame interval and failing to mount a serious challenge.

The second game was closer at 11-10, but Naraoka shifted gears after the break, limiting Lakshya to seven more points.

This marked Sen's sixth defeat in eight matches against Naraoka and his 10th firstround exit of the 2025 season, although he did reach the final of last month's Hong Kong Open.

Other Indians also faced earlv exits.

Former world No 1 Kidambi Srikanth conceded a walkover to Denmark's Rasmus Gemke, while Kiran George retired in his second game after trailing 1-4 after conceding the opener 10-21 to Watanabe.

### Colts sweep Australia tour



AGENCIES

Mackay, Oct 8: India U-19 completed their clean sweep of Australia U-19 in the latter's backyard with a seven-wicket win in the second and final Youth Test, here Wednesday.

Resuming day two at 114 for seven, India U-19 ended with 171 all out for a 36-run first innings lead over Australia U-19.

The home team was once again poor with the bat, managing just 119 runs in their second essay to set India U-19 an 81-run target. India lost their star openers, captain Ayush Mhatre and Vaibhav Survayanshi, early in the chase

but still managed to gun down the target in 12.2 overs

It was, however, their over-aggressive approach on a testing pitch that led to the downfall of Suryavanshi and Mhatre. The southpaw, who is the youngest IPL centurion at 14, tried to hit the first ball he faced over the straight boundary but was unsuccessful.

In the very next ball of the following over, Mhatre perished after playing the ball on to his stumps off Kasev Barton.

The writing was on the wall for Australia U-19, who could not find a way against the Indian attack. Pacer Henil Patel

removed Simon Budge and Zed Hollick off successive balls to leave the hosts reeling at 0 for two in the second over of the second innings. It was all downhill from there for Australia U-19.

India won the red ball series 2-0 after blanking Australia in three Youth ODIs

#### **BRIEF SCORES**

Australia U19: 135 all out and l 16 all out in 40.1 overs (Alex Lee Young 38/ Henil Patel 3/23) lost to India U19: 171 all out in 51.4 vers and 84 for three in 12.2 overs (Vedant Trivedi 33 not out; Kasey Barton 2/32)

#### **UFC** star McGregor suspended for 18 months over missed drug tests

Washington: Former lightweight champion Conor McGregor has accepted an 18-month of anti-doping policy, the UFC announced Tuesday. In a statement on their website, the MMA promotion said that McGregor missed three attempts by Combat Sports biological samples from him in 2024 on June 13, September



"whereabouts failures". "McGregor fully cooperated with CSAD's investigation, accepted responsibility, and provided detailed information that CSAD determined contributed to the missed tests," the UFC said in a statement on its website, opens new tab. "Taking McGregor's cooperation and circumstances into account, CSAD reduced the standard 24-month sanction for three whereabouts failures by six months. His period of ineligibility began on September 20, 2024 (the date of his third whereabouts failure) and will conclude on March 20, 2026." McGregor, who has not fought in the UFC since suffering a broken leg in his last fight against Dustin Poirier in July 2021, has said he wants to fight on a proposed card at the White House in June of next year.

#### Tennis players accused of doping or match-fixing to get support



London: Tennis players involved in doping or match-fixing investigations are now eligible for free legal help, confidential counselling or money to test products they've taken that might have led to a positive drug test, the International **Tennis Integrity Agency** 

(ITIA) announced Wednesday. The trial program begins immediately and will be reviewed after next year. A player can receive up to \$5,000 for a lab accredited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to check a medicine or a supplement for contamination or the same amount for help identifying possible sources of contaminated meat - a frequent explanation for failed doping tests in sports. Sport Resolutions, an independent dispute resolution service that runs tribunals for anti-doping cases in tennis, is extending its free legal support in such cases to when a player first tests positive for a banned substance. Until now, this service was available only after a player was charged. And Sporting Chance, an organization that works with athletes on their mental health, will provide six sessions of well-being support for people being investigated for anti-corruption or anti-doping violations. "We recognise the process can come at both a financial and emotional cost," ITIA CEO Karen Moorhouse said. "No player picks up a tennis racket as a child with any motivation other than playing the game," she said. The ITIA was involved in two particularly high-profile doping cases in tennis that began last year and ultimately resulted short bans for players who have been ranked No 1 and won multiple Grand Slam titles, Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek.

#### THE PORTUGAL GREAT'S NET WORTH STANDS AT \$1.4 BILLION

Ronaldo now football's first billionaire

REUTERS

Lisbon, Oct 8: Cristiano Ronaldo has become the first footballer to reach billionaire status, according to the latest Bloomberg Billionaires Index, which has valued the Portugal great's net worth at an estimated \$1.4 billion.

The 40-year-old striker's financial ascent comes after he signed a new contract with Saudi side Al-Nassr in June reportedly worth more than

\$400 million. Bloomberg said that Ronaldo earned more than \$550 million in salary between 2002 and 2023, supplemented by a decade-long Nike deal worth nearly \$18 million annually, and lucrative



endorsements with Armani, Castrol and others that added more than \$175 million to his fortune.

Ronaldo's move to Al-Nassr from Manchester United in 2023 had already made him the highest-paid player in football history, with an annual salary of 177 million pounds (\$237.52 million), plus bonuses and a reported 15% share in his Saudi Arabia club.

Argentina and Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi has earned more than \$600 million in pre-tax salary during his career. Ronaldo's billionaire status places him among a rare group of athletes that includes basketball greats Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and LeBron James, golfer Tiger Woods and tennis player Roger Federer. Ronaldo suggested he is not

considering retirement any time soon "I still have a passion for

this," he said at the Portugal Football Globes gala Tuesday. "My family says it's time to quit and they ask me why I want to score 1000 goals if I've already scored 900-something. But I don't think that way inside.

"I'm still producing good things, I'm helping my club and the national team. Why not continue? I am sure that when I finish I will leave full because I gave everything of myself. I know I don't have many years left to play, but the few I have left, I have to enjoy them to the fullest.'

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