



Nora’s global triumph

Nora Fatehi is set to make waves again by joining the star-studded lineup of UNTOLD Dubai 2025

LEISURE | P2



Putin’s admission

Putin admits that Russian air defences downed an Azerbaijani jet in December, killing 38

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Silver surges

Silver prices rise by ₹6,000 to hit a fresh record of ₹1,63,000 per kg in the national capital Thursday

BUSINESS | P11



SA beat India

Richa Ghosh's 77-ball 94 goes in vain as Nadine de Klerk (84 not out) powers South Africa (SA) to a 3-wicket win against India

SPORTS | P12

PM to lay stone for fish market, aqua park Oct 11

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to lay foundation stone for a wholesale fish market in Bhubaneswar and an integrated aqua park in Hirakud in the eastern state through video conference October 11, an official release said Thursday.

Modi will address the nation from New Delhi and launch the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana October 11, it said.

“The foundation stone of a state-of-the-art wholesale fish market will be laid in Bhubaneswar, and the foundation stone of an integrated aqua park at Hirakud will be laid through VC by the PM,” the release added.

Preparations for state-level programmes on the occasion were underway, it pointed out.

Ahead of the PM’s programme, Union Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan convened a meeting of agriculture ministers of all states Thursday.

Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, who is also the Agriculture and Farmers’ Empowerment Minister, attended the meeting via videoconference.



ALL ALONE: A man walks on a bridge over the Vjosa valley, recently designated a UNESCO site, in Tepelene of Albania, Thursday

REUTERS

CB raids ‘Vanik’ over SI recruitment scam

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: A Crime Branch (CB) team Thursday raided ‘Vanik’, a coaching institution near CRP Square of the City, in connection with its ongoing investigation into the police sub-inspector (SI) recruitment scam.

Sources said CB sleuths questioned several employees of the institution and seized a number of documents during the raid.

CB DSP Narendra Behera, who led the raid, said action would be taken against those found involved in the scam. “Some of those arrested earlier were students of ‘Vanik’. We’re verifying five-year records from the institute and cross-checking them with the information we have. Once verification is complete, further steps will be taken,” Behera said.

Meanwhile, Subrat Chhatoi, a BJD leader and ‘Vanik’ owner, denied the allegations. “Our institute has been providing education for the past 12 years to help students prepare for government jobs. ‘Vanik’ has no involvement in any kind of malpractice,” he said.

So far, 114 candidates and five middlemen have been arrested in connection with the scam.

GAZA BREAKTHROUGH

AP & REUTERS

Cairo, Oct 9: Israel and Hamas have agreed to a pause in their devastating two-year war and the release of the remaining hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners — a breakthrough greeted with joy and relief Thursday but also caution.

Uncertainty remains about aspects of the broader peace plan advanced by the administration of US President Donald Trump — such as whether and how Hamas will disarm and who will govern Gaza.

But the sides were closer than they have been in months to ending a war that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, reduced much of Gaza to rubble, brought famine to parts of the territory, and left dozens of hostages, living and dead, in Gaza.

The war, which began with Hamas’ deadly attack on Israel October 7, 2023, has also triggered other conflicts in the region, sparked worldwide protests and led to allegations of genocide that Israel denies.

Officials on both sides confirmed they had signed the deal following indirect talks in the Egyptian beach resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. However, Israeli strikes continued, with explosions seen in northern Gaza.

In the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, celebrations were relatively muted and often coloured by grief.

“I am happy and unhappy. We have lost a lot of people and lost loved ones, friends and family. We lost our homes,” said Mohammed Al-Farra.



People celebrate at Khan Younis

AP PHOTO

hammad Al-Farra. “Despite our happiness, we cannot help but think of what is to come. ... The areas we are going back to, or intending to return to, are uninhabitable.”

In Tel Aviv, families of the remaining hostages popped champagne and cried tears of joy after Trump announced a deal late Wednesday. In Jerusalem Thursday, Sharon Canot celebrated with some others.

Under the terms, Hamas intends to release all living hostages in a matter of days, while the Israeli military will begin a withdrawal from the majority of Gaza, people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss details of an agreement that has not fully been made public. Some 20 of the 48 hostages still in captivity are believed to be alive. In a short video posted by US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, Trump was seen

170,000 MT AID READY: UN

United Nations: Tom Fletcher, the UN humanitarian chief, told reporters Thursday that officials have 170,000 metric tonnes (MT) of medicine, aid and other supplies at ready for when they are given a green light. “We are ready to roll,” Fletcher said, warning that there should be no ‘backsliding’ from either side of the agreement. He outlined the plans for the first 60 days of the ceasefire, which would include an increase in the pipeline of supplies to hundreds of trucks every day.

Speaking by phone to a group of elated hostage families. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu plans to convene his Security Cabinet late Thursday to approve the ceasefire, and the entire parliament will then meet to approve the release of Palestinian prisoners. Hamas, meanwhile, called on Trump and the mediators to ensure that Israel implements ‘without disavowal or delay’ the troop withdrawal, the entry of aid into Gaza and the exchange of prisoners. Meanwhile, Indian PM Narendra Modi congratulated US President Donald Trump on the ‘success’ of the first phase of a US-brokered peace plan for Gaza. **MORE P10**

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2.53L to vote in Nuapada bypoll

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: A total of 2,53,624 voters are eligible to exercise their franchise in the Nuapada bypoll scheduled to be held November 11 this year, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) RS Gopalan said Thursday.

Presiding over a meeting here, the CEO appealed to all political parties to strictly adhere to the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure that the upcoming Nuapada byelection is conducted in a free, fair, and impartial manner.

Gopalan said that all necessary arrangements have been made by the CEO’s office for the smooth conduct of polling.

The CEO released the final



voter list of Nuapada. “A total of 2,53,624 voters –1,24,108 male, 1,29,495 female and 21 third-gender – are eligible to exercise their franchise in the Nuapada byelection,” he said.

The final electoral roll also includes 9,429 first-time voters, 3,988 persons with disabilities, and 1,786 senior citizens aged above 85 years, the CEO said, adding that as per ECI guidelines, the number of voters per polling booth has been limited

to 1,200 this time. Gopalan further reminded political parties that with the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct, prior approval from the poll body is mandatory before releasing advertisements in electronic, print, social, and web media, as well as through cinema halls, radio, posters, and hoardings.

He also emphasised the requirement for candidates to publish details of their criminal antecedents in print media and notify the poll body accordingly.

The Nuapada voter list underwent a special summary revision from September 16 to 29. He said that eligible citizens can still apply for inclusion in the voter list by October 10. The final updated list will be published seven days later.

Coldrif: Pharma co owner held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Chennai/Bhopal, Oct 9: The owner of Tamil Nadu-based Sresan Pharma which manufactured ‘contaminated’ cough syrup Coldrif was arrested Thursday in the wake of the deaths of more than 20 children who had allegedly consumed it, while drug regulator CDSCO said it had informed the WHO that the syrup, along with two other brands, has been recalled.

CDSCO, which has also started a pan-India drive to test, inspect and audit cough syrup manufacturers, has informed the World Health Organisation (WHO) that cough syrups Coldrif, RespifreshTR and ReLife

SC to hear PIL today

The Supreme Court agreed to hear Friday a PIL seeking inquiry and systemic reform in drug safety mechanisms in the wake of deaths of children in MP and Rajasthan. The plea seeks a court-monitored probe into the incidents and urges the constitution of a national judicial commission or expert committee.

were recalled and manufacturers ordered to stop their production, though none of the products were exported from India, official sources said.

The global health agency had sought to know whether the cough syrup linked to children deaths was exported.

SHORT TAKES

Starmer: India economic superpower in the making

Mumbai: India is an economic superpower in the making, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Thursday, adding the world’s largest democracy is also on track to become its third largest by 2028. “The United Kingdom is perfectly placed to be a partner in this journey,” Starmer told reporters in Mumbai. Starmer, who met Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier in the day, said they also discussed the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Asked if the issue of India buying oil from Russia figured in his talks with Modi, Starmer said, “We did discuss this and looked at, particularly, the outcome that we both want.” **P8**

Govt seeks action over school on forest land

New Delhi: The Union environment ministry has asked the Odisha government to take action against officials responsible for allowing construction of an Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS) in Keonjhar without forest clearance. The proposal for ex-post facto approval was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held September 26. The committee observed that the ‘EMRS building has been constructed over 1.80-ha on the forest land proposed for diversion without obtaining prior approval of the environment ministry under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980’.

P5

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Purification of voters’ list worked. Earlier, 424 voters lived in this house. Now, there are only 420

Literature Nobel for Hungarian writer László Krasznahorkai

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stockholm, Oct 9: Hungarian writer László Krasznahorkai, whose philosophical, bleakly funny novels often unfold in single sentences, won the Nobel Prize in Literature Thursday for his ‘compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art’.

Several works including his debut, ‘Satantango’ and ‘The Melancholy of Resistance’, were turned into films by Hungarian director Béla Tarr.

The Nobel judges praised his ‘ar-

tistic gaze which is entirely free of illusion, and which sees through the fragility of the social order combined with his unwavering belief in the power of art’, Steve Sem-Sandberg of the Nobel committee said at the announcement. “László Krasznahorkai is a great epic writer in the Central European tradition that extends through (Franz) Kafka to Thomas Bernhard, and is characterised by absurdism and grotesque excess,” the Nobel judges said.

He has also written several books inspired by his travels to China and Japan, including ‘A Mountain to the North, a Lake



to the South, Paths to the West, a River to the East’, published in Hungarian in 2003.

Sem-Sandberg said that Krasznahorkai had been on the

Nobel radar for some time, ‘and he has been writing and creating one outstanding work after another’. He called Krasznahorkai’s literary output ‘almost half a century of pure excellence’. Krasznahorkai, 71, couldn’t immediately be reached for his reaction. He didn’t speak at the announcement.

He was born in the southeastern Hungarian city of Gyula, near the border with Romania. Throughout the 1970s, he studied law at universities in Szeged and Budapest before shifting his focus to Literature. According to the biography section of his

website, he has travelled widely throughout Europe, Asia and the Americas, and has lived in many different countries. Krasznahorkai has been a vocal critic of autocratic Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, especially his government’s lack of support for Ukraine after the Russian invasion.

But in a post on Facebook, Orbán was quick to congratulate the writer. He’s the first winner from Hungary since Imre Kertész in 2002. The Literature prize has been awarded by the Nobel committee of the Swedish Academy 117 times to 121 winners.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you will crave total freedom in whatever you are doing, says Ganesha. And sheer entertainment is on the cards for teenyboppers, like mall-hopping or going for a film. The kids will demand a Jumbo Berry ice cone. All in all, it will be a family day for you.

TAURUS
In all probability, it is a favourable day to begin financial planning, says Ganesha. You will focus on your relations and leave no stone unturned to make them prosper. You may yearn for a quiet getaway and end up spending a small fortune to get what you want.

GEMINI
You will spend the day safeguarding sentiments of others and it is in your own interest. For most part of the day, probably the entire day, you will be away from your family, mostly on a trip for business or leisure purposes. Today, having a successful career will be only thing on your mind.

CANCER
You are a master of deception, and your sugar-coated comments play a pivotal role in your methods. Today, you will be able to smell trouble from a distance, and will know when to take a U-turn. Your methods may not make you very popular with the so-called moral brigade working with you, but you may think that this is the easiest way to the top.

LEO
Ever been surprised at your own abilities? Today you shall be, says Ganesha. With the perfect blend of amicable gestures and lack of inimical actions, you are poised to become the cynosure of all occasions. The day will bring to the fore your flexible nature, moderate views, and your mature mannerisms in a cocktail that is as heady as the best blend.

VIRGO
You will shine exceedingly well in all the activities that you undertake today. Your dream of starting business operations on foreign shores will fructify today, says Ganesha. You may pay more attention to your personal appearance, which will boost your morale considerably.

LIBRA
Some days are full of new ideas. Today is one such day as you radiate diligence and intelligence. Consider it an auspicious moment to begin new business schemes, especially if you happen to be self-employed. Today, you will be able to think at a level higher and clearer than the rest. But, as happens when you focus more on work, it comes at the cost of family time.

SCORPIO
Dig in deep and keep yourself in the hunt, says Ganesha. Karma matters, but don't give much thought to the outcome. In matters of joint ventures, adopt a wait-and-watch approach today.

SAGITTARIUS
To do or not to do? That will be the question for most of today as you find yourself pulling out of one dilemma only to trip into the next one. Controversy will surround you and you may find yourself at the crossroads, where you are unsure of which direction to take. Turn to the wisdom of the experienced for proper guidance, advises Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
The most intimidating of ventures can prove successful if fortune favours you; you will be fortunate today, says Ganesha. Those of you dealing in stocks and shares can expect a profitable day ahead, but don't forget to give credit to your spouse; it will be their luck working wonders for you.

AQUARIUS
Bursting with new ideas, you want to make the world a better place! You will give your best in a team and will come up with great schemes and solutions. At gatherings, says Ganesha, you Bulls remain your charming self.

PISCES
Home is where the hearth is, in which the troubles you need to deal with today are smouldering. Running away from your problems will simply have you out of breath; it would be wiser to take a stand and find solutions to petty conflicts without losing your perspective. Make no mountains out of mole hills, says Ganesha.



CATHERINE ZETA-JONES TO STAR IN KILL JACKIE

Oscar-winning actor Catherine Zeta-Jones is set to appear in *Kill Jackie*, a thriller series from streaming service Prime Video. The series, which backed by the streamer in collaboration with Fremantle and Steel Springs, is based on the acclaimed novel *The Price You Pay* by bestselling author Nick Harkaway.

BAILEY TO RELEASE DEBUT SOLO ALBUM

Hollywood actress-singer Halle Bailey is set to treat her followers with her new endeavour. The singer will release her debut solo album later this month. The actress-singer, 25, has announced plans for her first record as a solo artiste.



NORA'S GLOBAL FEAT

MUMBAI: Global star Nora Fatehi is set to make history once again as she joins the star-studded lineup of UNTOLD Dubai 2025, one of the world's most anticipated music festivals. Taking place from November 6 to 9 at Expo City Dubai, the festival will feature Nora performing alongside global icons like J Balvin, Martin Garrix, and Alan Walker.

Renowned for its spectacular production and diverse lineup, UNTOLD Dubai promises an electrifying experience, with Nora's performance expected to be one of its biggest highlights. Known for her powerful stage presence and dynamic dance moves, Nora is gearing up to deliver a high-energy act blending pop, Afrobeat, and international sounds—

showcasing her evolution as a truly global performer.

From chart-toppers like *Oh Mama!*, *Tetema*, and *Snake*, to collaborations with Jason Derulo and Rayvanny, Nora has built a strong global following. Her latest single, *Just a Girl* with Shenseea, and the viral hit *Dilbar Ki Aankhon Ka* from *Thamma* further cement her status as an international sensation.

As UNTOLD Dubai 2025 returns with an explosive lineup and Nora's inclusion adds even more star power—promising an unforgettable celebration of global music and culture.



Wamiqa drops big clue

investigator or even a village girl

While there's been no official confirmation yet, the teaser post has certainly raised intrigue. If true, Wamiqa's entry into Maddock's horror universe could mark an exciting new chapter in her career.

MUMBAI: Actor Wamiqa Gabbi may have just hinted at her next big project, and fans are buzzing with speculation. The actress recently shared a picture on Instagram of a beautifully curated gift hamper from Maddock Films, the powerhouse behind hit horror-comedies like *Stree*, *Bhediya*, *Munjya*, and *Stree 2*. What caught everyone's attention was a personalised note inside the hamper, paired with her caption — “#NewBeginnings” — sparking rumours that Wamiqa might be the newest addition to Maddock's expanding “horror-verse.”

With Maddock Films known for its creative spin on supernatural comedy and Wamiqa's fast-rising popularity across films and web series, the collaboration feels like a perfect match. Her versatility and strong on-screen presence have earned her critical acclaim, making her an exciting choice for a genre that blends humour and horror.

Fans have already begun guessing her possible role — from a spirited ghost to a fearless investigator or even a village girl hiding a secret twist. Some speculate this could mark Maddock's first female-led horror spin-off.



Chitrangda on age-appropriate casting

MUMBAI: Actor Chitrangda Singh, who stars opposite Salman Khan in the upcoming film *Battle of Galwan*, recently addressed the ongoing discussion around ageing and representation in cinema. Her casting has been widely appreciated for being age-appropriate, marking a shift from the trend of pairing older male actors with much younger female leads.

Chitrangda acknowledged the pressure actors face—especially women—to maintain a youthful appearance. “It exists for everyone. Cinema is a visual medium. If you're playing a 70-year-old, you should look like it, and if you want to be cast as a 30-year-old, you must pull it off,” she said, adding that appearance is often a practical factor for filmmakers.

She emphasised that fitness and image concerns apply to male actors too, citing Akshay Kumar's discipline. “Of course, men have more flexibility in character writing, but it's not necessarily biased. Male stars drive the market,” she noted.

The actor also highlighted how times are changing, with performers like Vidya Balan and Kareena Kapoor Khan leading strong roles. “Female actors now have longevity and substantial stories being written for them,” she said.

With *Battle of Galwan* embracing more realistic casting, Chitrangda believes the industry is moving toward greater balance and inclusivity.

India gears up for its biggest music season yet!

MUMBAI: Get ready, India — the next few months are about to sound electrifying! Some of the world's biggest music superstars are heading our way, promising unforgettable nights of beats, lights, and pure energy.

Latin pop icon Enrique Iglesias returns after more than a decade with two shows in Mumbai October 29 and 30, 2025, performing classics like *Hero*, *Bailando*, and *Escape*. Rapper Travis Scott brings his explosive *Circus Maximus Tour* to Delhi (October 18-19) and Mumbai (November 19) — expect booming bass, wild visuals, and nonstop adrenaline.

Post Malone will headline his first solo India show December 8, 2025, blending hip-hop, pop, and soul with hits like *Circles* and *Sunflower*. Early next year, John Mayer makes his long-awaited India debut in January 2026, treating fans in Mumbai to his poetic lyrics and soothing guitar magic with songs like *Gravity* and *Your Body Is a Wonderland*.



Linkin Park



Travis Scott



Enrique Iglesias



The Lumineers



John Mayer



Post Malone

Rock legends Linkin Park will also perform in India for the first time in January 2026, giving fans an unforgettable dose of nostalgia with classics like *In the End* and

Numb. Finally, folk-rock favorites The Lumineers close the season with a soulful set in Delhi, February 2026, featuring heartfelt hits like *Ho Hey* and *Ophelia*.

From Travis Scott's fiery energy to Mayer's dreamy melodies, 2025-2026 is shaping up to be India's most spectacular concert season yet — a celebration for every music lover! AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

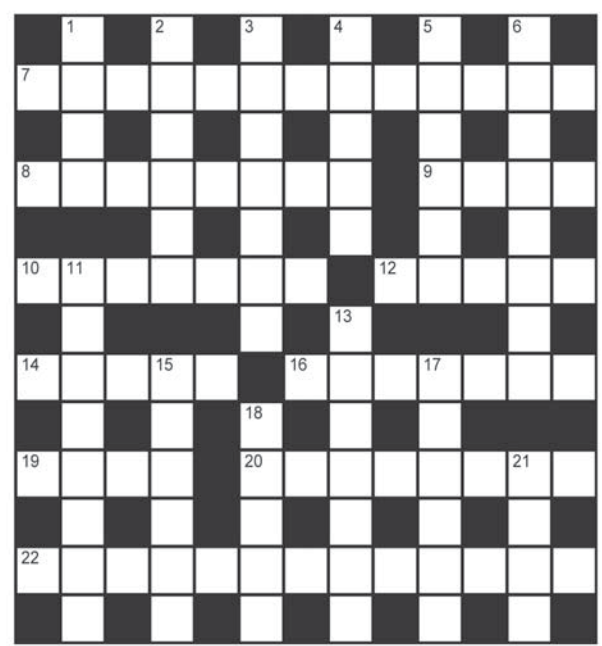


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**

7 Not up to expectations

8 Driving hazard

9 Vichyssoise ingredient

10 Environmental science

12 Savoury jelly

14 Heap starter

16 Social blunder (4,3)
- 19 *The Art of Fugue* composer

20 Elaborated

22 Newspaper reporter
- Down**

1 Stead

2 Packet

3 Overuse a credit card

4 Frogman
- 5 Pointed tool for writing

6 Seasoning

11 Australian parrot

13 Satirise

15 Hang on

17 Idyllic, beautiful place

18 Savage

21 Geologic periods

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

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

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

STATE-LEVEL WILDLIFE WEEK CONCLUDES

₹50 crore for community awareness in Similipal



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: In order to enhance capacity building, community awareness, and infrastructure around the buffer areas in Similipal National Park, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia announced a substantial allocation of ₹50 crore under the ‘Ama Similipal Yojana’ at the concluding ceremony of state-level Wildlife Week celebrations here Thursday.

“Our government has significantly advanced wildlife conservation. With Similipal now a National Park, we are investing not just in protection but also in the people who share space with wildlife. A special armed police force is in place to ensure round-the-year security,” said Minister Singkhuntia.

He also highlighted the state’s growing ecotourism sector, now spread across 53 sites in 21 districts, generating both revenue and livelihoods. In 2024-25, over 1.7 lakh tourists visited these sites, generating ₹19 crore in revenue. The minister further dedicated three new ecotourism destinations—Mahendragiri, Jakhama, and Talabandha in Similipal—to enhance visitor experience and local engagement.

nation’s living heritage. This year’s theme, “Human–Wildlife Coexistence,” underscores the need to move beyond conflict and embrace shared responsibility in safeguarding the natural world.

The Governor called for a holistic approach — one that includes protecting and restoring wildlife corridors, leveraging modern tools such as drone surveillance and GPS tracking, and engaging communities, youth, and traditional knowledge to promote peaceful coexistence.

HAWK tech to combat forest, wildlife crimes

Bhubaneswar: Forest, Environment and Climate Change (F&ECC) department, in partnership with Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and NTT DATA, officially launched Hostile Activity Watch Kernel (HAWK) during the valedictory ceremony of 71st Wildlife Week 2025 here Thursday. “Already operational in Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, the adoption of HAWK by the state marks a significant leap in modernising wildlife protection efforts. It was the need of the hour to introduce more technological solutions for wildlife protection,” Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia said. HAWK is an advanced, made in India conservation technology platform, designed to combat forest and wildlife crimes. It integrates real-time data analytics, artificial intelligence, and centralised intelligence to support enforcement agencies and frontline forest staff. By streamlining documentation, enhancing decision-making, and enabling proactive responses, HAWK empowers teams to tackle illegal wildlife trade and poaching more effectively. The platform offers robust features such as centralised data management, real-time case tracking, and offender profiling and hotspot prediction.



Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, along with other dignitaries and officials graced the concluding ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Kambhampati urged citizens to become active protectors of nature, stressing that government policies and programmes alone cannot ensure environmental protection.

He noted that Wildlife Week, observed across India, serves as a reminder of the collective responsibility to preserve the

PCCF (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden PK Jha, in his address, emphasised the vital role of collective responsibility and the state’s sustained efforts in wildlife preservation.

The prestigious state-level Chief Minister Award for Wildlife Conservation 2025 was conferred upon Sarat Chandra Misra, a distinguished Indian orchidologist and botanist renowned for his work in documenting India’s orchids, particularly those native to Odisha.

More funds for robust fire safety infra at govt hosps

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: The state government will provide necessary funds from the allocations made in the Budget to strengthen fire safety infrastructure in public health institutions, said Health Secretary Ashwathi S, stressing the importance of adhering to deadlines.

Ashwathi S chaired a high-level review meeting at Lok Seva Bhawan here Thursday to assess the progress of government hospital building projects and implementation of fire safety measures across health facilities in the state.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from multiple departments, including Health, Fire Services, Works, Public Health, WATCO and Rural Development.

During the review, the health secretary emphasised the need to speed up construction and renovation works of Primary Health Centres (PHCs), medical colleges and hospitals to ensure all facilities become fully functional at the earliest.

She directed that fire safety should be treated as a top priority in all healthcare institutions. Highlighting the risks of electrical hazards, she instructed officials to ensure safe electrical connections and prevent short circuits in all buildings. Departments were also urged to work in close coordination to put in place all necessary emergency safety systems.

All concerned departments were asked to submit a detailed report by next week, outlining corrective measures and financial estimates.

46 domestic cooking gas cylinders seized

Bhubaneswar: BMC Supply Sub-Division raided Chandrasekharpur area here Thursday, targeting the black marketing of domestic cooking gas. Several complaints about the illegal sale of domestic LPG cylinders at inflated prices were reported based on which the raid was carried out. Under the supervision of Additional BMC Supply Officer Rohit Kumar Das, 46 domestic LPG cylinders were seized. The raid was carried out with the support of BMC supply inspectors Deepti Ranjan Indra Singh, Jatin Kumar Raut, and Oliva Das, among others.

Hirakud Dam set to emerge as key tourist hub

Odisha Construction Corporation has been entrusted with ensuring timely completion and adherence to high-quality standards in executing the landmark projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: The Odisha government is moving ahead with its ambitious plans to transform Hirakud into a world-class tourism destination. As part of this transformation, two major projects — the Water and Light Symphony and the Dam Museum — have been identified as key attractions within the Hirakud tourism circuit.

The Odisha Construction Corporation (OCC) has been entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring timely completion and maintaining high-quality standards in the execution of these landmark initiatives.

A high-level review meeting was recently held under the chairpersonship of Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg to assess the progress of the two flagship projects being implemented under the Central Scheme – Special Assistance to



States for Capital Investment (SASCI). Senior officials from the Tourism department and other key implementing agencies participated in the meeting. Department’s Commissioner-cum-Secretary presented a comprehensive overview of the Hirakud Master Plan, outlining the vision for developing the area into a major tourism hub. The presentation included detailed insights into the proposed projects, innovative design concepts, and the various statutory clearances and approvals required to facilitate smooth and timely execution.

The Water and Light Symphony project is envisioned to narrate the captivating story of the Mahanadi River — tracing its journey from origin to confluence, the creation of the icon-

Youth Cong’s massive protest against job scam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: The youth wing of the Odisha Congress staged a massive protest in the City Thursday, opposing alleged vote theft and the sale of government jobs.

The demonstration was led by Pradesh Youth Congress president Ranjit Patra and attended by All India Youth Congress president Uday Bhanu Chib. Addressing the gathering, Chib alleged that both the state and Central governments lack a genuine public mandate, claiming that large-scale electoral fraud had occurred.

Chib demanded a judicial probe into the Sub-Inspector (SI) recruitment scam, alleging that posts were sold for as much as ₹25 lakh each.

Several Congress leaders, including Jaydev Jena and Ramesh Jena, also criticised the BJP and the state government during the protest. Ranjit Patra said the Youth Congress would continue its fight for the rights of unemployed youth in Odisha and raise awareness about vote manipulation and corruption.

Later, Youth Congress workers marched towards Lower PMG, where police stopped them, leading to minor scuffles. The agitators breached two barricades before being detained by police.

Meanwhile, state BJP spokesperson Manoj Mohapatra accused the Congress of deceiving the nation and Odisha’s people for decades, saying the party is now staging protests merely for media attention.

CITIZENS HOLD ‘PEACE AND HARMONY MARCH’ IN CITY



PEACE MARCH: Citizens take out a ‘Peace and Harmony March’ from Raj Mahal to Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Thursday on birth anniversary of Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: On the birth anniversary of Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das, hundreds of citizens from diverse walks of life took out a ‘Peace and Harmony March’ here Thursday, condemning recent attempts to incite communal hatred and violence in Cuttack — a city long celebrated for its spirit of brotherhood and unity.

Starting from Master Canteen Square, participants raised slogans for peace and pledged to uphold the values of democracy, equality, secularism, and constitutional integrity. The march, led by former Delhi Uni-

versity professor Manoranjan Mohanty, moved from Raj Mahal Square to Master Canteen Square, where a meeting was held to reaffirm the message of communal harmony.

The march was also attended by prominent participants including Debaprasad Ray, Suresh Panigrahy, Sudhir Patnaik and others.

Representatives from various political parties, civil society groups, human rights activists, lawyers, farmers, labour and women’s organisations, and concerned citizens joined hands to appeal for peace and communal harmony across the state.

Speakers expressed concern

over the recent communal tensions in Cuttack during Dussehra idol immersion, calling it an attack on the city’s long-standing legacy of unity and goodwill. They urged everyone to protect the spirit of fraternity that has flourished for centuries in Cuttack’s lanes, markets, and neighbourhoods.

The gathering also demanded that the Odisha government take strong measures to maintain peace and harmony across the state, act firmly against hate-mongering and divisive forces, and organise peace rallies involving students, youth, women, and the public in all districts.

BJP organises workshop on tribal devpt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: A day-long workshop on tribal development was organised Thursday at the BJP state office here to deliberate on the planning, implementation, and long-term vision of initiatives aimed at ensuring holistic and inclusive development of tribal communities across the country.

Prominent leaders, including Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, state BJP president Mannohan Samal, Union Minister Jai Oram, BJP National General Secretary BL Santosh, and State In-charge Vijaypal Singh Tomar, attended the event and discussed the roadmap for implementing the initiative, reaffirming the government’s commitment to



tribal welfare under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing the workshop, MP Ananta Nayak said the Modi government has launched this initiative to empower tribal communities to actively participate in the development

of their own regions. He noted that the primary objective is to create sustainable livelihood opportunities within tribal areas and curb distress migration to other states.

He observed that earlier governments had often overlooked the genuine needs of tribal

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.87 ▲ 0.02	SENSEX	82172.10 ▲ 398.44	GOLD	₹122,865 ▼ ₹344
EURO	103.38 ▼ 0.16	NIFTY	25181.80 ▲ 135.65	SILVER	₹150,779 ▲ ₹924

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	33.4°	31.4°	Partly 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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“

Care not for time and success.
Act out thy part, whether it be to fail or to prosper.

SRI AUROBINDO



Dangerous Precedent

Following a flurry of announcements at last month’s United Nations General Assembly, more than 150 countries – including the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, France, and Portugal – now recognize Palestine as a state. With this move, world leaders are expressing their outrage over Israel’s conduct in its war with Gaza following Hamas’ attack on 7 October, 2023. Their outrage is justified: the Israeli government has repeatedly violated international humanitarian law, particularly in its systematic attacks on Gaza’s health-care system.

But offering symbolic support for Palestinian sovereignty is not enough to hold Israel to account. Similarly, diplomatic pressure alone will not end Israel’s flagrant violations of international law. Governments must address Israel’s destruction of Gaza’s health-care system. Failure to do so would create a dangerous precedent for future conflicts.

The rules of war are clear: hospitals are to be protected. The Geneva Convention IV, to which Israel is a party, stipulates that “[c]ivilian hospitals organized to give care to the wounded and sick, the infirm and maternity cases, may in no circumstances be the object of attack, but shall at all times be respected and protected by the Parties to the conflict.” There are similar protections for vehicles and other conveyances transporting civilian patients.

But over the last two years, Israel has targeted health-care infrastructure in Gaza, and to a lesser extent in the West Bank. As an emergency medicine physician and global health researcher, I have followed this situation closely. In a recent study, my co-authors and I spatially analyzed the coordinates of the more than 800 reported attacks on healthcare in Gaza between October 7, 2023, and June 30, 2024, and their proximity to hospitals. In Gaza, 50.4 per cent of the attacks involved damage to physical infrastructure and 49.6 per cent involved harm to health-care workers.

Many of Israel’s attacks were clustered around three of Gaza’s largest hospitals: Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, and al-Awda Hospital in Jabalia. These continue to be hotspots, as evidenced by the widely circulated footage of yet another attack on Nasser Hospital in August. Journalists and first responders were among those killed in the “double strike,” which Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described as a “tragic mishap.”

The consequences have been devastating. Fewer than half of Gaza’s hospitals are functional (all of them only partially), more than 2,000 people have been killed or injured in Israel’s attacks on health-care infrastructure, and Israeli forces have unlawfully detained at least 405 Palestinian health-care workers, some of whom have been reportedly tortured. Even if a ceasefire takes effect immediately, it will take decades to rebuild Gaza’s health-care system.

As a physician, I know that there is no hierarchy of suffering. International law is explicit in protecting hospitals and medical personnel because they are essential to preserving life. To accept their deaths and injury as collateral damage is to call into question our own humanity.

Under international law, a hospital loses its protected status if used for military operations that harm the enemy. Israel has relied on this argument to justify its attacks on medical facilities, claiming that they shelter Hamas fighters. But these allegations are “grossly exaggerated,” according to Andrew Cayley, a former lead prosecutor at the International Criminal Court (ICC) who oversaw its Palestine investigation. Without independently verified evidence to substantiate Israel’s claims, it has no grounds to flatten hospitals and kill civilian personnel.

World leaders must reaffirm their commitment to international humanitarian law. In 2024, the ICC issued arrest warrants for leaders of Hamas and Israel after investigations of, respectively, the 7 October attack and subsequent war crimes in Gaza. The UN Security Council could refer Israel’s attacks on Gaza’s health-care system to the ICC, empowering the Court to investigate and prosecute. A Security Council referral is one of the few ways the Court gains jurisdiction over non-member states like Israel, as was the case for Darfur in 2005 and Libya in 2011. To be sure, this path faces a major obstacle: the United States would likely veto a Security Council referral focused on Israel.

Instead, a resolution that denounces attacks on healthcare globally could break the political gridlock and go a long way toward affirming international law. The last Security Council resolution addressing this issue passed in 2016. Since then, military technologies have evolved and attacks on healthcare have intensified, including recent cases in Ukraine, Sudan, and Syria. Civilian casualties are actively tracked and verified by organizations such as Insecurity Insight and the World Health Organization. Peer-reviewed research, satellite imagery analysis, and frontline testimony from physicians further underscore the need for a resolution that reflects the current realities of conflict zones.

The evidence is irrefutable: health-care workers in Gaza and beyond are under fire. Just as doctors are ethically obliged to provide impartial medical care, world leaders are obliged to uphold the rules of war. When health care is attacked, suffering persists long after the guns fall silent.

The writer, an emergency medicine physician and instructor at the Yale School of Medicine, is a fellow of The OpEd Project.

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WISDOM CORNER

“The free soul is rare, but you know it when you see it - basically because you feel good, very good, when you are near or with them.”

CHARLES BUKOWSKI

“The strength of a man’s virtue should not be measured by his special exertions, but by his habitual acts.”

BLAISE PASCAL

“Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can’t help them, at least don’t hurt them.”

DALAI LAMA

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

■ **1846:** English astronomer William Lassell discovered Triton, the largest satellite of the planet Neptune.

■ **1911:** A group of revolutionaries launched an uprising in Wuchang, China, which many regard as the formal beginning of the Chinese Revolution, a nationalist democratic revolt that overthrew the Qing dynasty.

SHOE-STRIKE AT CONSTITUTION

FOCUS NATION



In a Republic of ‘hurt sentiments’ across communities, the ‘normalisation’ of violence is what is reprehensible, not just the shoe-throwing act per se



Rajdeep Sardesai

IN A MULTI-RELIGIOUS SOCIETY, LAW MUST BE KEPT ABOVE FAITH. AND ANY ACT OF VIOLENCE AND COERCION MUST BE CONDEMNED BY ONE AND ALL

Here is an intriguing question: what if the lawyer who threw the shoe at the Chief Justice of India in open court was not named Rakesh Kishore but Rahim Khan instead? Is it likely that he would not be let off scot-free but instead would face charges under the NSA, Public Safety Act (if he was a Kashmiri Muslim) or maybe even the UAPA? The aim here isn’t to gaslight anyone but to turn the searchlight on a hateful and divisive ecosystem where coarse public opinion can influence the criminal justice process.

Let’s understand the chronology here. Last month, CJI BR Gavai dismissed a plea to reconstruct a damaged Lord Vishnu idol at a temple in Khajuraho. While deeming it a ‘publicity interest litigation,’ Justice Gavai remarked that instead of filing a petition, the petitioner should “go and ask the deity himself to do something. If you are saying that you are a strong devotee of Lord Vishnu, then you pray and do some meditation.” The judge’s seemingly mocking tone was wholly unnecessary but remember these were only observations: the case was dismissed because the court ruled that this was a matter for the Archaeological Survey of India to adjudicate upon.

Unfortunately, the politically weaponised armies on social media have little time to read reasoned court judgments. Justice Gavai’s passing remarks on the Vishnu idol were enough to set off a hysterical response amongst right wing groups and individuals, many of them patronized by the regime at the Centre. The well-orchestrated outrage campaign forced the CJI to clarify that he believes in all faiths, visits all sites of worship and trusts in ‘true secularism.’

But the clarification was clearly not enough to satiate the permanently enraged

Twitter mob fury. Instead it only emboldened them further: memes, hashtags and You Tube videos continued to castigate the CJI. In this surcharged environment, Rakesh Kishore, a 71-year-old advocate, chose to vent his anger by throwing a shoe at the CJI. ‘Sanatan Dharma ka apmaan, nahi sahega Hindustan!’ (the abuse of Sanatan religion will not be tolerated in Hindustan). While Justice Gavai with great dignity chose not to pursue the matter further and refused to file a case, Kishore has been unrepentant, relishing his one week of fame by maintaining that ‘I will do it again!’ Rather than take suo motu action as would be the case with any ordinary citizen, the Delhi police has chosen a ‘hands off’ approach. Kishore, meanwhile, continues to speak with the impunity of someone who knows he can’t be touched by the law even though he is clearly guilty of contempt of court. His cheerleaders, especially on social media, have lauded him instead of ostracizing him.

Nor should any of this come as a surprise. The law minister Arjun Meghwal, for example, was conspicu-

ously silent when the attack took place. And it took eight hours after the incident for Prime Minister Modi to tweet that the shoe-throwing was a ‘reprehensible act which has angered every Indian.’ While the PM’s strong words are welcome, recall that in 2019 Modi expressed similar anguish over remarks made by BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur glorifying Nathuram Godse, saying he would never be able to forgive her fully. Yet, no concrete action was taken against the saffron-robed MP who completed her full term in Parliament without too much fuss.

Advocate Kishore is part of a similar belief system, someone who claims to be a staunch ‘defender’ of Sanatan Dharma. The difference is where Godse pulled the trigger to assassinate the Mahatma, Kishore chose a relatively milder weapon, a shoe, to convey his anger. In both instances, the intolerant mindset is undeniable: any perceived offence to ‘hurt Hindu sentiments’ is enough for a violent streak to instantly surface. In a Republic of ‘hurt sentiments’ across communities, the ‘normalisation’ of violence is what is reprehensible, not just the

shoe-throwing act per se.

There is another troubling angle to this case. Justice Gavai is the second Dalit to hold the post of CJI. He comes from a political family rooted in neo-Buddhist thought and Ambedkarite values and whose father RS Gavai was a prominent figure in the Republican Party of India movement. Paradoxically, his family origins in the Dalit movement make Justice Gavai even more vulnerable to targeted attacks. When, for example, Justice Gavai passed a stern order on ‘bulldozer justice’ a year ago, while affirming that bulldozer demolitions were fundamentally anti-constitutional, he was once again the object of a vicious online campaign from right wing groups.

Which is why the shoe attack must be seen for what it is: an attempt to establish ‘Sanatan Dharma’ supremacy within an avowedly secular constitutional framework. The shoe thrown by Advocate Kishore was not just aimed at Justice Gavai, it was meant to consciously intimidate and undermine a judicial system that is meant to be rational, just and non-discriminatory. Advocate Kishore’s act was not that of an unstable mind but a calculated move designed to make a political statement in full public gaze. In a multi-religious society, law must be kept above faith. And any act of violence and coercion must be condemned by one and all.

Post-script: Since the column started with an intriguing question, let me end it with another one directed at those who seek to rationalize the violent shoe-throwing act as one of ‘courage’: would Indian Muslims be justified tomorrow to display similar anger towards the judges who delivered the contentious Ayodhya judgment? Surely not.

The writer is a senior journalist and author.

SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

Taiwan: India’s distant neighbour

Between two estranged siblings - Taiwan officially known as Republic of China (ROC) and mainland China or People’s Republic of China (PRC) with which India shares a contested land border, India and its civil society seems to have moved much closer to the former notwithstanding the distance of about 4372 nautical miles and non-recognition of diplomatic relations. Relationship between India and Taiwan, two vibrant and boisterous democracies, is palpable which is evident in the growing popularity of Taiwanese brands starting from electronics to bubble tea. Taiwan which is observing its National Day on 10 October has probed over the years that it is not only a technological miracle, but also a democratic miracle. India and Taiwan have calibrated the bilateral relationship between the two in a substantive way in terms of burgeoning economic engagement and people-to-people contact leveraging the convergence of democratic values.

India does not accord diplomatic recognition to Taiwan because of its ‘one China pol-

icy’. However, there has been simultaneous engagement with Taiwan in terms of trade and people-to-people contacts within the frame work of ‘one China policy’. In 1992, Taiwan’s External Trade Development Council, a semi-official institution affiliated to the Ministry of Economic Affairs, set up a Taiwan Trade Centre in Mumbai as a liaison office in charge of promoting trade with India. A more comprehensive relationship was achieved in 1995 when Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre was set up in New Delhi to provide consular services and facilitate other functions similar to an embassy. India also established the India-Taipei Association as an equivalent institution in Taipei

India is slowly shedding its diffidence to reach out to Taiwan. A report of the Parliamentary Committee of External Affairs, headed by the Dr Shashi Tharoor which was presented to Parliament in the wake of the Doklam incident in June 2017 observed in December 2018, “...It comes as a matter of concern to the Committee that even when India is overly cautious about Chi-

na’s sensitivities while dealing with Taiwan and Tibet, China does not exhibit the same deference while dealing with India’s sovereignty concerns, be it in the case of Arunachal Pradesh or that of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK)...The Committee strongly feel that the Government should contemplate using all options including its relations with Taiwan, as part of such an approach.”

Similarly, in a diplomatic posturing in April 2021, the MEA offered condolences to Taiwan over a major train accident in Taiwan killing 51 people.

What can be a game changer in the relationship between India and Taiwan is the collaboration in the field of manufacturing semiconductors in India and initiation to sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two. While it is a work in progress, Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., known internationally as Foxconn Technology, has invested \$350 million in Foxconn Hon Hai Technology India Mega Development Private Ltd as part of long

term development in India. In a very thoughtful gesture Young Liu, the CEO of Foxconn was conferred with the Padma Bhushan in January 2024.

Although Taiwan is not a member of the Quad, its importance resonates in the constellation of the Indo-Pacific edifice as it is a bulwark against Chinese expansionism. A blockade of Taiwan will have catastrophic consequences not only on regional geopolitics, but also geopolitics of the world at large. Taiwan lies astride the sea lanes of communication. India has urged restraint and avoidance of unilateral action to change the status quo in the volatile Taiwan Strait and alluded to the militarisation of Taiwan Strait. Freedom of navigation and sea lanes of communication are seamlessly intertwined with Indo-Pacific architecture.

The writer, a former senior fellow at the Monohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, was a Taiwan Fellow at National Chung Hsing University in Taiwan.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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Japan’s Thatcher

Sir, Sanae Takaichi is all set to create a record in Tokyo: she will be the first woman prime minister of Japan, fifth prime minister in as many years after Shinzo Abe served for nine consecutive years ending in 2020. A former Economic Security Minister, 64-year-old Takaichi has successfully shattered the male bastion of the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). But Takaichi is said to be a supporter of “war” and “militarism.” Observers feel she may not take a divergent view on the pro-patriarchal stand of her party. Economy and diplomacy are said to be the PM-in-waiting’s priorities: outgoing Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba having failed on both fronts. Former England Prime Minister, the late Margaret Thatcher is Takaichi’s idol. One hopes she proves to be Japan’s “iron lady.”

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Never-ending cycle

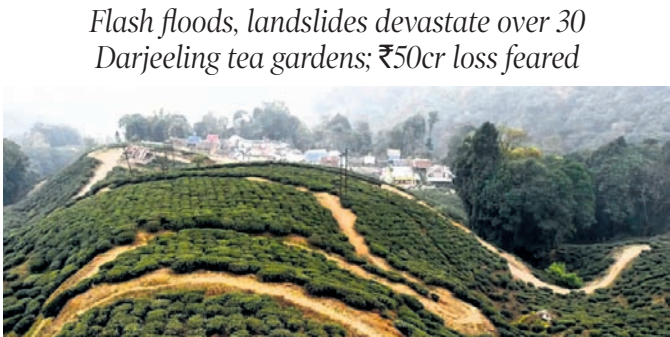
Sir, The fire at the government SMS Hospital, Jaipur that claimed at least eight lives was not an accident by any stretch of imagination. It was not the first such case in recent times, nor is it going to be the last -- this may be an ominous forecast, but this is what recent trends indicate. Ours is a nation where it might take months to replace a faulty tube light at a busy intersection, hours to clear a fallen tree that is blocking a busy road, hours to remove a stinking carcass in a colony, months to remove a live cable that is carelessly lying on the street, years to repair potholes that are huge and dangerous to all vehicles. If this is the tardy response time to dangers that are visible, obvious and in plain sight, only apathy and negligence can be expected in case of fires caused due to short-circuits , because the danger is lurking and not visible to the naked eye. It goes without saying that in this case too, the blame game will play out and those responsible will never be brought to book. Those struck with grief at the loss of their near and dear ones will be left with false assurances of the usual “sakt se sakt karvaiye” type.

Avinash Godbole, DEWAS

AI AND THE NEW DOCTRINE

FRIENDLY BACTERIA

Tea gardens bear the brunt of nature’s fury



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 9: The recent flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rain in north Bengal have caused massive destruction in at least 30-35 tea gardens in Darjeeling, with reports of loss of plantation areas, deaths of workers and damage to houses of labourers, prompting planters to convene a meeting to assess the situation, stakeholders said.

Darjeeling tea planters are now collecting data related to damage from the gardens and will discuss various issues during a proposed meeting Thursday, they said.

Tea bushes in many gardens have been washed away, while the loss of tea-bearing land has left permanent damage to several estates, planters said.

SS Bagaria, chairman of the Bagaria Group, which owns three gardens in Darjeeling, told PTI that the industry's overall loss due to heavy rain and landslides in the hills could be at least ₹50 crore.

"Heavy rain and landslides have severely hit tea gardens in the hills, with reports of loss of lives and extensive damage to property. There was no work or electricity for two to three days. However, power supply was restored on Wednesday. At least 50 per cent of 71 operational gardens in Darjeeling are

On average, each of the affected gardens reported loss of tea-bearing land between 2-2.47 acres due to rain-triggered landslides

SANDIP MUKHERJEE | PRINCIPAL ADVISER, DARJEELING TEA ASSOCIATION

severely affected," industry veteran and Chamong Tea chairman Ashok Lohia told PTI.

Roads have been severely damaged, and the government and the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) are working to clear debris and rubble from the blocked roads, he said.

But the need of the hour is to make the internal roads within the estates motorable, as workers are unable to report for work, he said, adding that restoration of road connectivity is essential.

He said the industry was collecting data from the ground and "a meeting has been convened for Thursday to assess the damage", he said.

"The autumn production in October- November, which accounts for 15 per cent of the annual output, is now in balance, and the loss will be severe if the road communication is not restored at the earliest," Lohia said.

The production of aromatic Darjeeling tea was less than 6 million kg last year.

Pahalgam terror spurs new security playbook

While agencies such as the Intelligence Bureau and Research and Analysis Wing respond to threats, they would now also look for them. This would mean stopping the threat before a strike takes place

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: The Pahalgam attack was a major learning curve for the security agencies in India. While the military doctrine changed following the attack that claimed 26 innocent lives, the strategy, too, is evolving from response to prediction.

In Jammu and Kashmir, life has started to look up. There was peace, and tourism was booming. In hindsight, this was also a ploy by Pakistan to lure the Indian agencies into believing that peace had been completely restored in the Valley.

The idea was to catch the agencies off guard and then carry out a big strike. This event in cybersecurity is known as a Zero-Day event, whereby an unknown vulnerability is exploited by the attackers.

The ISI had told its terror groups to remain dormant and lure the security agencies to believe that all is well. Post the Pahalgam attack, India's response was solid. The Indian armed forces undertook Operation Sindoor, which



exposed to the world Pakistan's every vulnerability. Terror camps, headquarters, training facilities, and terrorists were precisely hit by the armed forces both in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the military doctrine had changed, whereby a terror attack would be treated as an act of war and not cross-border terrorism. The national security planners took note of the Pahalgam attack and, apart from changing the doctrine, also began working on a security plan that would be more about prediction rather than just being responsive.

An official said that a national security policy keeps evolving according to the new threats. "We cannot have just one single policy and treat every incident as the same. The leadership has realised that to

tion, suspicious behaviour, and satellite imagery.

The use of such technology would help the Indian security agencies assess threats and ensure that vulnerable places can be guarded better. For instance, picking up Intelligence in Pahalgam was hard as the tourist spot can be accessed only on foot or on horseback.

Further, there are dense jungles surrounding the place, and this makes it a perfect spot for terrorists to strike. To take the implementation of AI in national security forward, India will use its pool of resources, such as engineers and the DRDO. AI would be used for facial recognition, drone surveillance, predictive modeling, and the use of thermal and radar-based AI systems to secure the border.

AI would come in handy to counter the AI that the terror groups, such as the Islamic State and Al Qaeda, are already using.

An Intelligence Bureau official says that the propaganda material has shot up multifold on social media. "There are AI-generated videos that are in circulation. Further, AI is being used to cater to every person in every region in India."

This means that these groups are preparing AI-generated videos and then using the same technology to translate them into every Indian language. This helps them reach a much larger audience, and hence, the possibility of recruitment becomes higher.

Bengal SIR likely to delete 1.2cr ‘illegal voters’: BJP MP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bongaon (WB), Oct 9: Union minister and BJP MP Shantanu Thakur Thursday claimed that around 1.2 crore "illegal voters" could be removed from West Bengal's electoral rolls through the EC's special intensive revision (SIR), drawing a sharp rebuttal from the Trinamool Congress, which warned the move would mostly hurt Matua refugees.

Speaking at a Vijaya Sammilani event at Gaighata in North 24 Parganas district, Thakur, a prominent leader of the Matua community, said the SIR would ensure a transparent voter list and remove what he termed as "Rohingyas, infiltrators and ghost voters" from the state's electoral rolls.

"If SIR is implemented properly, the TMC government will have no escape route. At least one crore to 1.2 crore people who have illegally become voters in West Bengal will be deleted. Rohingyas, infiltrators and ghost voters will not be able to cast their votes anymore," he said.

Thakur asserted that a "clean" electoral roll would pave the way for real change in West Bengal.

"Those who genuinely want change, who want industries, education, and better healthcare in West Bengal, will be able to vote. With their votes, the BJP will win and form the government," he said.

Later, speaking to reporters, Thakur added that the revision would bring transparency and expose illegal entries in the rolls.

However, his remarks drew a sharp retort from Trinamool Congress MP and Matua leader Mamata Bala Thakur, who warned that the SIR process could backfire on the BJP itself.

"It is the Matua refugees who will suffer the most because of SIR. Those who vote for the BJP will lose their names from the rolls. The TMC will not be affected; in fact, our seats will increase," Mamata Bala Thakur, who is also Shantanu Thakur's aunt, told reporters.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 9: Unpredictability has been a hallmark of Mamata Banerjee's brand of politics. Apparently careless, allegedly carefully curated, her statements and moves have thrown opponents into disarray, while her followers hailed her.

When the West Bengal Chief Minister walked into a Siliguri hospital Tuesday (October 7) to meet Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Khagen Murmu, who was attacked on the way to flood-affected areas in North Bengal, the optics were striking.

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo, accused by rivals of being combative and dismissive of the Opposition,

was seen enquiring gently about Murmu's health, and assuring him of state support.

She told the waiting media that he did have injuries near his ears, but is quite well. She had spoken to the doctors, she said, adding that it was his blood sugar levels that would need time to control.

A day earlier, she was at the receiving end, witnessing a Durga Puja carnival in central Kolkata. She even joined hands with celebrities present on the makeshift podium in an impromptu step, rhythming with the music. That, when North Bengal was reeling under the impact of heavy rains, leading to floods and massive erosions that led to widespread deaths and destruction.

Adding to her discomfort



was a video of the injured Maladaha Uttar (North Malda) MP, blood covering Murmu's face, accompanied by BJP's Siliguri MLA Shankar Ghosh, also hurt in the incident. But Mamata appeared unmoved, and thwarted the brickbats later with a photo-op with Murmu. This was not the first time she has swung sharply in her political responses – sometimes

appearing forced, sometimes calculated.

Over the years, she has displayed a knack for sudden shifts in tone and strategy, often surprising both allies and adversaries. Even after the August 2024 rape and murder of an intern at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, the administration initially tried to play down the incident as a suicide.

Mamata alleged that the outrage was being politically fuelled by the Opposition, calling it a "conspiracy" to destabilise her government.

The posture deepened public anger, especially among medical professionals who staged strikes while common people spontaneously took to the streets across Bengal in

protest. As outrage mounted, Mamata recalibrated her stance and, calling it a "heinous crime", promised strict action. She invoked the Aparajita Bill, passed by the Bengal Assembly, which sought the death penalty for rape-murder cases, and criticised the Centre for not clearing it.

When a local court sentenced the accused to life imprisonment, Mamata publicly sought capital punishment, citing it as the rarest of rare crime. In the Park Street rape case of 2012, she initially dismissed the survivor's allegations as fabricated and politically motivated. But after public outrage and media scrutiny, she reversed her stance, met the survivor, and promised justice.

Rlys marks unloading feat in Jammu



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 9: In a landmark achievement for logistics and transportation in Jammu and Kashmir, the Northern Railways has for the first time carried out simultaneous unloading of two goods rakes in the Union Territory, a senior official said Thursday.

The first dual unloading of NMG (New Modified Goods) rakes loaded with Maruti Suzuki vehicles was carried out at goods shed terminals of Jammu division – Bari Brahmana in Jammu and Anantnag in Kashmir valley, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Division, Uchit Singhal said.

He said these two automobile rakes were transported from Gurgram in Delhi division to the Bari Brahmana

Goods Shed and Anantnag Goods Terminals of Jammu Division.

A total of 113 vehicles of various models were unloaded at the Bari Brahmana terminal, while 118 vehicles were unloaded at the Anantnag terminal.

"This is the first time such a large number of vehicles have been unloaded at both goods terminals of the Jammu division in a single day, marking a significant historic achievement," Singhal said.

He said the vehicles unloaded include popular Maruti Suzuki models such as Alto, Brezza, Eeco, Dzire, Wagon R, S-Presso, Ignis, Super Carry, and Ertiga, reflecting the growing demand and efficient supply chain facilitation offered by rail transport.

"With a strong portfolio of freight products, the Northern Railways has become a preferred mode of transport not only for perishable goods, courier services, and cement, but also for automobiles in large quantities," he said.

"Traditionally, there has been a strong bias toward road transport; however, the advanced infrastructure, reliability, and economic benefits of railway transport are changing this perception," he said.

He said Indian Railways' commitment to strengthening multimodal logistics in Jammu and Kashmir is opening up new opportunities for businesses, helping to reduce carbon emissions, streamline delivery timelines, and provide safe, bulk movement of goods.

PANCHAYAT SAMITI OFFICE, JHARSUGUDA
Tender Call Notice
No. - 3604 / Date - 06.10.2025
No.i-327 : The Block Development Officer, Jharsuguda invites sealed tenders on percentage rate basis for 02 (two) No. of projects. The sale of bid documents will be available in website of Jharsuguda <https://jharsuguda.odisha.gov.in> from dt.09.10.2025 to dt.23.10.2025 and receipt of the bid documents starts from dt.09.10.2025 to dt.23.10.2025 up to 5.30PM on all working days in the office of the Panchayat Samiti, Jharsuguda. The bid will be opened on dt-24.10.2025 at 11.00AM. Intending class "B", "C" and "D" Class contractors may visit website of Jharsuguda <https://jharsuguda.odisha.gov.in> for details information.
OIPR-19363/11/0007/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.H. DIVISION, BHANJANAGAR AT CHATRAPUR
E-mail - eephchpr@gmail.com
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. 37/03/SPH(C)/2025-26 dt.08.10.2025
1 Name of the work 3 (Three) nos of works
2 Estimate cost 17.65 lakh to 21.15 lakhs
3 Date & time of availability From 11.00 A.M. of 10.10.2025 to 5.30 P.M. of 22.10.2025
4 Last date / time of receipt 5.30 P.M. of 22.10.2025 of bid in the portal
5 Date and time of opening 1.00 P.M. on dated 23.10.2025 of bids
6 Name and address of the Superintending Engineer, P.H. Officer inviting the bid Division, Bhanjanagar at Chatrapur
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://www.tenderorissa.gov.in>
Sd./- Additional Chief Engineer
OIPR-13013/11/0036/2526 P.H. Division, Bhanjanagar at Chatrapur

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER KHARIAR (R&B) DIVISION, KHARIAR, DIST. NUAPADA, ODISHA
E-mail: eeroads.khr@rediffmail.com
No.5530, Date:08.10.2025
TENDER CANCELLED
No.B-589: The Tender Call Notice bearing E-Procurement Notice-14, Bid Identification No.SER&BKHR-14/2025-26 vide letter No.5171, dated 22.09.2025 is hereby cancelled due to administrative reasons/issues.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Khariar (R&B) Division
OIPR-34062/11/0045/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRI.), BOLANGIR DIVISION, BOLANGIR
AT-ADARSHAPADA, POST/DIST-BOLANGIR 767001
e-mail: eea.blgr@gmail.com Notice No.1242, Dt.08.10.2025
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Identification No.02/Agri/EE(Blgr)/2025-26, Dt.08.10.2025

01	Nos. of Work	13 Nos.
02	Tendered amount in Rs.	Rs.5.06,130/- to Rs.33.52,443/-
03	Period of Completion	90 days to 180 days
04	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 11.00 Hrs. of 15.10.2025 to 17.00 Hrs. of 23.10.2025
05	Last date/time of receipt of copies of uploaded documents, drafts etc. in the tender box in the office of the undersigned at Adarsha Pada, Near Cold Storage, Bolangir, PIN-767001	Upto 17.00 Hrs. of 27.10.2025
06	Date & Time of opening of bids	11.00 Hrs. of 28.10.2025
07	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Executive Engineer (Agri.) Bolangir Division, Bolangir, AT/ POST- Bolangir, Pin-767001

Further details can be seen from the website:
www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Sd./- Executive Engineer (Agri.)
Agriculture Engineering Division, Bolangir
OIPR-01462/11/0008/2526

of the day

quote

It was Modi who implemented GST, it was Modi who increased GST rates, and now it is Modi who is patting himself on the back



SIDDARAMAIAH

KARNATAKA CM


From cancer screening to eye and dental check-ups and TB awareness, every service here is aimed at strengthening women's health and empowering families



REKHA GUPTA

DELHI CM

Our priority is health, education and infrastructure. In three years, we opened 881 Aam Aadmi Clinics, which will increase to 1,000 in the coming time




BHAGWANT MANN

PUNJAB CM

XPOST

OF THE DAY



You are not broke. You simply just don't have enough options left to make inflation-adjusted after-tax returns.

If you don't understand this complex sentence--go on ChatGPT, read about every term on the sentence above. Deep dive, understand. This impacts your life more than you can imagine.

@Akshat_World

SHORT TAKES

1 killed in Assam, Meghalaya clash

Diphu: One person was killed and another injured on Thursday following a clash between two groups over paddy harvesting in Assam's West Karbi Anglong district along the border with Meghalaya, police said. Tension prevails on either side of the border since the last one week over harvesting of paddy, with both sides claiming that the land was theirs. A meeting of the Inter State Border Peace Committee was held on October 6, where it was decided that agricultural and development activities in the area would be suspended till peace was fully restored along the border, officials said.

ISIS module probe: ATS searches multiple places

Mumbai/Pune: The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) conducted searches at multiple places in Pune in connection with the suspected radicalisation of some people linked to an ISIS module case, officials said Thursday. The ISIS module in Pune came to light after three persons, Mohammad Yunus Mohammad Yakub Saki, Mohammad Imran Mohammad Yunus Khan, and Shah Nawaz Alam, were apprehended by Pune police in Kothrud area while attempting to steal a vehicle July 18, 2023. It led to arrest of several others by the ATS and National Investigation Agency (NIA).

3 of family killed in road mishap

Jaipur: A couple and their four-year-old niece died after a pickup truck ran over their motorcycle in Rajasthan's Dausa district Thursday, police said. Their three-year-old son was severely injured in the accident, they said. The accident occurred on the Dausa-Lalsar Road of Sadar area when the pick-up truck mowed down the motorcycle and then overturned, police added.



“Prime Minister Modi initiated several new endeavours that laid the foundation for fulfilling the dreams of our freedom fighters and brought good governance to the ground level”

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

KERALA CM MEETS SHAH

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Thursday held discussions with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi and submitted a memorandum outlining key proposals to strengthen the state's internal security and development



Battle for poll-bound Bihar intensifies

With just one day left for filing of nominations to commence, the fledgling party floated by former political strategist Prashant Kishor claimed to have stolen a march over NDA and INDIA bloc, the two main competitors, both of which were still busy thrashing out a seat-sharing deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 9: The battle for poll-bound Bihar intensified Thursday when the Congress came out with a “charge-sheet” against the ruling NDA, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav made a fresh, alluring promise of government jobs, and the Jan Suraj Party released its first list of candidates.

With just one day left for filing of nominations to commence, the fledgling party floated by former political strategist Prashant Kishor claimed to have stolen a march over NDA and INDIA bloc, the two main competitors, both of which were still busy thrashing out a seat-sharing deal.

Releasing a list of 51 candidates, one of them a transgender from a reserved constituency, the party's national president Uday Singh said “the next



list will be out in a day or two” but did not reveal whether the party's feted founder will himself enter the fray.

Kishor had said that if he contested, his seat would be either his birthplace of Kargahar, from where the party has given ticket to Bhojpuri singer Ritesh Pandey, or Raghupur, the pocketborough of Tejashwi Yadav, for which candidate was yet to be announced.

Nonetheless, Singh added, cryptically, “Kishor will hit the campaign trail from Raghupur October 11. It will be known in the course of time whether he will himself be the candidate or not”.

Yadav, who at the age of 35 aims at a hat-trick from the seat, in the past represented by his father and mother Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi, announced at a press conference that if the INDIA bloc, which his party helms in Bihar, came to power, “we will bring an Act, within 20 days, to ensure that within 20 months every house-

hold has a member with a government job”.

Yadav pointed out that during his brief stint as the deputy chief minister, he was able to go half way through on the promise of 10 lakh jobs made in 2020, slamming his ex-boss Nitish Kumar for failure to deliver on employment generation.

The announcement was hailed by ally Congress. Talking to PTI video, Congress legislative party leader Shakil Ahmed Khan said, “It does not need to be seen as a promise made only by the RJD. Job creation is a crying need for Bihar and Tejashwi Yadav has shown sensitivity towards it”.

However, Neeraj Kumar, MLC and spokesperson of the JD(U), headed by the chief minister, termed the promise as “anti-constitutional”.

“Tejashwi Yadav would have done well to go through the report of the caste survey according to which there are 2.76 crore families in Bihar. During



Commuters board a metro train after the inauguration of Mumbai Metro Line-3, also known as the Aqua Line, between Cuffe Parade and Aarey JVLR by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday in Mumbai, Maharashtra

PTI PHOTO

SNIPPETS

Chardham Yatra again sees pilgrim rush

Dehradun: The Chardham Yatra, which was repeatedly disrupted due to incessant rain-induced disasters during the monsoon in Uttarakhand, has now picked up pace again despite snowfall and persistent bad weather, with the number of devotees thronging Kedarnath and Badrinath setting new records. According to official figures, new records were set for the Kedarnath and Badrinath Yatra Wednesday. While the number of pilgrims visiting Kedarnath this year crossed 16.56 lakh Wednesday, the number of pilgrims visiting Badrinath surpassed 14.53 lakh.

CJI breaks silence on shoe attack

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India B R Gavai Thursday said he and Justice K Vinod Chandran were shocked when a lawyer attempted to hurl a shoe at him on October 6, but the issue is a “forgotten chapter.” In an unprecedented and shocking incident, a 71-year-old lawyer, Rakesh Kishore, took his shoe in his hand and tried to hurl it at the CJI Monday. The act elicited all-around condemnation. The CJI made the observation during the hearing of a batch of pleas seeking review and modification of the Vanashakti judgement, which had prohibited the central government from granting retrospective or ex post facto environmental clearances to projects found violating environmental norms.

Body of missing soldier found in Kokernag

Srinagar: Security forces found the body of a soldier in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district Thursday, while a search operation to locate another missing soldier entered its third day, officials said here. The body of one of the two soldiers who went missing Tuesday was found from the Gadole forests in the Kokernag area of Anantnag, the officials said, adding that a preliminary examination suggests that he died of hypothermia. They said searches to track the other missing soldier are ongoing but dense vegetation, rough terrain and inclement weather continue to hinder the efforts. The soldiers, both commandos of an elite para unit, went missing during a combing operation at Kokernag Tuesday.

In K'taka, women to get one-day menstrual leave

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 9: The Karnataka cabinet Thursday approved one day of menstrual leave for women working in various sectors, including garments and Information Technology, the government said.

“The cabinet today approved at least one day leave for working women in various sectors, right from garments to Information Technology,” State Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil told reporters after the meeting.

The cabinet also approved several major proposals across labour, infrastructure, urban development, education, social welfare, and tourism sectors.

It cleared the Karnataka Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which enhanc-



es financial assistance under six existing labour welfare schemes, including educational incentives for organised workers and their dependents.

In infrastructure development, the government approved the reconstruction and rehabilitation of 39 major bridges at an estimated

cost of ₹1,000 crore in the first phase. It also sanctioned the purchase of an Aerial Ladder Platform Vehicle capable of reaching 52-54 metres for the Fire and Emergency Services Department at an estimated cost of ₹16 crore to strengthen disaster response capabilities in high-rise buildings. Under

The cabinet also approved several major proposals across labour, infrastructure, urban development, education, social welfare, and tourism sectors

urban development, the cabinet approved the formation of Aurad City Municipal Council in Bidar district by upgrading the existing Aurad (B) Town Panchayat, which had a population of 19,849 as per the 2011 Census. The decision was taken under the provisions of the Karnataka Municipalities Act, 1964. Several projects under

PM Modi speaks to President Trump



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday congratulated US President Donald Trump on the “success” of the first phase of a US-brokered peace plan for Gaza as he hailed the American leader for his efforts to end hostilities.

Modi said this during a phone conversation with Trump amid continuing strain in ties between India and the US over Washington slapping a whopping 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods, including 25 per cent levies for India's purchase of Russian crude oil.

In a post on X, Modi said he and Trump also reviewed the “good progress” achieved in the trade negotiations.

“Spoke to my friend, President Trump and congratulated him on the success of the historic Gaza peace plan,” Modi said on social media

Agreed to stay in close touch over the coming weeks,” he said. It was the second phone call between Modi and Trump in the last over three weeks. The US president had called up Modi on September 16 and greeted him ahead of his 75th birthday. Earlier in the day, Modi lauded the efforts of Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to end hostilities in Gaza.

“We welcome the agreement on the first phase of President Trump's peace plan. This is also a reflection of the strong leadership of PM Netanyahu,” Modi said. “We hope the release of hostages and enhanced humanitarian assistance to the peo-

ple of Gaza will bring respite to them and pave the way for lasting peace,” he said.

The US announced that Israel and Hamas agreed on the first phase of the Gaza peace plan that includes a ceasefire in the Strip and the release of Israeli captives and Palestinian prisoners.

Under the Gaza peace plan, the hostilities in the Strip will be ended with the release of all the hostages held by Hamas and the demilitarisation of the Strip.

Israel launched the war in Gaza after Hamas attacked Israeli cities on October 7, 2023, killing about 1,200 people. Hamas also took 251 people as hostages, and over 50 of them are still in its captivity.

Israeli military operations have killed over 66,000 Palestinians since then, according to Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry. Gaza has been reeling under a massive humanitarian crisis largely due to the scarcity of food and medicines.

The World Health Organization said last month that Gaza's malnutrition rates have reached “alarming levels”. The situation in Gaza also figured in Modi's talks with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer in Mumbai Thursday.

“On the issues of the Ukraine conflict and Gaza, India supports all efforts to restore peace through dialogue and diplomacy,” Modi said in his media statement.

Under the plan, Gaza will be a “deradicalised terror-free zone that does not pose a threat to its neighbours” and that it will be redeveloped for the benefit of the people of the Strip.

Salman settles dispute with Jerai Fitness



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: Bollywood actor Salman Khan Wednesday withdrew an insolvency appeal filed before the appellate tribunal NCLAT against Jerai Fitness, after settling over ₹7.24 crore dispute.

Counsel appearing for Salman Khan submitted before the NCLAT that the demand draft, as per the consent terms executed, has been handed over to them and requested permission to withdraw the appeal.

A two-member bench comprising Chairperson Justice Ashok Bhushan and Member (Technical) Arun Baroka took the consent Terms signed between Salman Khan and Jerai Fitness on record and allowed the Bollywood actor to withdraw his appeal. “Appellant (Salman Khan) is permitted to withdraw the appeal. Appeal is dismissed as withdrawn,” said a one-page order by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). The dispute was related to BEING STRONG', a fitness equipment brand founded by Salman Khan, in collaboration with Jerai Fitness.

CELEBRATIONS ERUPT IN GAZA, ISRAEL

Israel and Hamas agree to the first phase of US President Donald Trump's plan for the Palestinian enclave, a ceasefire and hostage deal that could open the way to ending a bloody two-year-old war that has disrupted the Middle East

REUTERS

Khan Younis, Gaza/Tel Aviv, Oct 9: Palestinians and the families of Israeli hostages broke into wild celebrations Thursday after news of a pact between Israel and Hamas to end the war in Gaza and return home all the Israeli hostages, both living and dead.

In Gaza, where most of the more than 2 million people have been displaced by Israeli bombing, young men applauded in the devastated streets, even as Israeli strikes continued in some parts of the enclave.

“Thank God for the ceasefire, the end of bloodshed and killing,” said Abdul Majeed Abd Rabbo in Khan Younis in southern Gaza.

“I am not the only one happy, all of the Gaza Strip is happy, all the Arab people, all of the world is happy with the ceasefire and the end of bloodshed. Thank you and all the love to those who stood with us.” In Tel Aviv’s so-called Hostages Square, where families of those seized in the Hamas attack that sparked the war two years ago have gathered to demand the return of loved ones, Einav Zaugauker, the mother of a hostage, was ecstatic.

“I can’t breathe, I can’t breathe, I can’t explain what I’m feeling ... it’s crazy,” she said, speaking in the red glow of a celebratory flare.

“What do I say to him? What do I do? Hug and kiss him,” she added, referring to her son, Matan. “Just tell him that I love him, that’s it. And to see his eyes sink into mine ... It’s overwhelming — this is the relief.”

Israel and Hamas agreed Wednesday to the first phase of US President Donald Trump’s plan for the Palestinian enclave, a ceasefire and hostage deal that could open the way to ending a bloody



- Israel, Hamas agree to ceasefire, hostage exchange

■ Celebrations in Gaza, Tel Aviv after news
- Hostage release expected within 72 hours

■ Ceasefire deal lacks detail, risks collapse

two-year-old war that has disrupted the Middle East.

“I have no words to describe it,” said former hostage Omer Shem-tov, when asked how the moment felt.

Just a day after the second anniversary of the cross-border attack by Hamas militants that triggered Israel’s devastating assault on Gaza, indirect talks in Egypt yielded a deal on the initial stage of Trump’s 20-point framework for peace.

‘COULDN’T STOP LAUGHING AND CRYING’

In Gaza, circles of young men in the streets applauded the news, one of them clapping as he was hoisted onto the shoulders of a friend.

People in the enclave wept and chanted, “Allahu Akbar” or “God is Greatest”, voicing hopes that the deal would end the war and let them return to their homes. “I couldn’t stop laughing and crying,” said Tamer Al-Burai, a businessman displaced from Gaza City. “I can’t believe that we have survived.”

GAZA WAR AFTERMATH

PA aims for post-war comeback

The Palestinian Authority (PA) expects a significant role in post-war Gaza, even though President Donald Trump’s plan sidelines it for now, and is banking on Arab support to secure its position despite Israeli objections, Palestinian officials say.

Gaza’s future governance has moved into focus with a ceasefire due to begin Thursday, the first step in Trump’s bid to end two years of war. The next phase of the deal must tackle thorny issues, including demands that Islamist militant group Hamas disarm and end its rule in Gaza, from where it launched the October 7 attacks on Israel that ignited the war. Hamas seized control of the coastal enclave from Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas in 2007.

Trump’s proposal foresees an internationally supervised technocratic Palestinian committee taking over Gaza after the war. It requires the PA, which is based in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, to enact reforms before it can assume power. While the PA has welcomed Trump’s efforts, its officials have privately expressed disappointment. An alternative plan drawn up by Saudi Arabia and France had emphasised its leading role in Gaza. Abbas has already declared his commitment to tackling corruption, holding elections, and other reforms requested by Western nations, helping to convince several of them to recognise Palestine in recent weeks.

Three senior Palestinian



were destroyed, go back to Gaza City, sleep without the

fear of being bombed, try to rebuild our lives,” he told Reuters via a chat app.

Others despaired about returning since Israeli forces will stay in the enclave for now.

“Our house was among the first to be destroyed, so even if the war is over, we will remain living in tents, maybe for years until they rebuild Gaza, that if the agreement holds,” Zakeya Rezik, 58, a mother of six.

While happy that none of her children was killed, she said their home was in a border area that would stay under occupation.

The media office of the

Gaza authorities say more than 67,000 people have been killed and much of the enclave flattened since Israel began its military response to the Hamas attack October 7, 2023

About 1,200 people were killed and 251 were taken hostage back to Gaza, according to Israeli officials, with 20 of the 48 hostages still held believed to be alive

officials said they still expect the PA to be deeply involved in Gaza. They noted the role it has played in the enclave since the Hamas takeover, paying salaries to tens of thousands of civil servants and overseeing essential services, including education and Gaza’s electricity supply.

“We’re already there,” Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa told Reuters. Mustafa, 71, was appointed by Abbas last year as part of a shake-up of the Authority after then-president Joe Biden made clear he wanted to see a revitalized PA take charge in post-war Gaza.

“It’s one thing to have some international, temporary arrangements to help and monitor things, it’s another to govern and get things done,” Mustafa said. The three officials cited the PA’s international standing as the Palestinians’ representative body, and the support of Arab states that want Gaza and the West Bank reunited in an effort to preserve hopes of Palestinian statehood. Many countries, including Arab states, believe the PA must be “in-charge” of Gaza not least because “they know that it’s the only practical way of doing things”, Mustafa said.

WORLD REACTION

This means that ALL of the Hostages will be released very soon, and Israel will withdraw their Troops to an agreed upon line as the first steps toward a Strong, Durable, and Everlasting Peace. All Parties will be treated fairly! This is a GREAT Day for the Arab and Muslim World, Israel, all surrounding Nations, and the United States of America, and we thank the mediators from Qatar, Egypt, and Turkey, who worked with us to make this Historic and Unprecedented Event happen. BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS!

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

A big day for Israel...I thank from the bottom of my heart President Trump and his team for their dedication to this sacred mission of freeing our hostages. With God's help, together we will continue to achieve all our goals and expand peace with our neighbors

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | PRIME MINISTER, ISRAEL

We call on President Trump, the guarantor states of the agreement, and all Arab, Islamic, and international parties to compel the occupation government to fully implement its obligations under the agreement and to prevent it from evading or delaying the implementation of what has been agreed upon. We affirm that the sacrifices of our people will not be in vain, and that we will remain true to our pledge — never abandoning our people's national rights until freedom, independence, and self-determination are achieved

THE ISLAMIC RESISTANCE MOVEMENT (HAMAS)

I urge all stakeholders to seize this momentous opportunity to establish a credible political path forward towards ending the occupation, recognizing the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, and achieving a two-state solution that enables Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace and security.The stakes have never been higher

ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECRETARY GENERAL, UN

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to U.S. President Trump, who demonstrated the necessary political will to encourage the Israeli government toward the ceasefire. As Turkey, we will closely monitor the strict implementation of the agreement and continue to contribute to the process

TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT, TURKEY

This is a moment of profound relief that will be felt all around the world, but particularly for the hostages, their families, and for the civilian population of Gaza, who have all endured unimaginable suffering over the last two years

KEIR STARMER | PRIME MINISTER, UK

This agreement must mark the end of the war and the beginning of a political solution based on the two-state solution...France stands ready to contribute to this goal. We will discuss it this afternoon in Paris with our international partners

EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE

For the first time in a long while, there is a real prospect of peace in the region

FRIEDRICH MERZ | CHANCELLOR, GERMANY

We very much hope that these initiatives of the US president will actually be realised in practice

VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

China outlines more controls on exports of rare-earth technologies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Oct 9: China, which virtually holds a monopoly over rare earth materials, Thursday announced further export controls for mining and processing the minerals, alleging that unnamed foreign firms are using its supplies for military purposes.

China’s Commerce Ministry said that it would impose export control measures with immediate effect on technologies related to rare earths.

Exports of technologies and their carriers related to rare earths mining, smelting and separation, as well as metal smelting, magnetic material manufacturing, and the recycling and utilisation of rare earths from secondary sources, will not be permitted without approval, it said.

China accounts for about 70 per cent of the world’s rare earth mining, but it controls about 90 per cent of their processing, which makes it virtually the sole supplier of the precious metals used in a host of modern equipment, including automobiles, electronics, wind energy, and defence.

China’s rare earth metals are



in demand as the US, EU, and India are its top importers.

So much so that US President Donald Trump, who earlier imposed 145 per cent tariffs against Chinese exports, settled for an interim trade deal after China stopped the rare earths exports, linking them to the lifting of curbs on semiconductor chips by the US.

Rare earths are a key component of current trade talks between the US and Beijing.

China’s new curbs on them came ahead of the planned meeting between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in South Korea (APEC)

later this month.

Rare earths have also become an important part of India-China talks in recent months.

While relations between the two countries improved after the August 31 meeting between Xi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Tianjin, Beijing is yet to relent on its restrictions on rare earths exports to India, which affected India’s automobile industry.

The Chinese Commerce Ministry said, “Some overseas organisations and individuals are directly processing rare earth items originating in China and then transferring or providing them to relevant organisations and individuals.”

Putin admits Russian role in 2024 Azerbaijani jet crash

Putin told Azerbaijan's Aliyev that Russia will provide 'compensation' for the deadly crash caused by its air defences

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Oct 9: President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that Russia’s air defences were to blame for downing an Azerbaijani jetliner in December that killed 38 people, his first admission of responsibility for the crash in an effort to ease tensions between the neighbours.

Putin said the missiles fired by Russian air defences to target a Ukrainian drone exploded near the Azerbaijani Airlines plane flying from Baku as it was preparing to land in Grozny, the regional capital of the Russian republic of Chechnya, December 25, 2024. Ukrainian drones have regularly struck deep inside Russia.

Speaking at a meeting with Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev in Tajikistan’s capital of Dushanbe, where both were attending a summit of the former Soviet nations, Putin pledged to punish those responsible and provide compensation.



Azerbaijani authorities had said the jet was hit accidentally by Russian fire, then tried to land in western Kazakhstan, where it crashed and killed 38 of 67 people aboard.

Days after the crash, Putin apologised to Aliyev for what he called a “tragic incident” but stopped short of acknowledging responsibility. Aliyev, meanwhile, criticised Moscow for trying to “hush up” the incident.

The controversy over the crash has roiled the previously warm ties between Moscow and Baku. Their relations were further destabilised by deaths of ethnic Azerbaijanis rounded up by police in a Russian city in

June and a series of arrests of Russians in Azerbaijan.

Speaking to Aliyev Thursday, Putin said that Russian air defences that targeted a Ukrainian drone fired on the Azerbaijani airliner because of a “technical malfunction,” adding that two missiles exploded just 10 metres (33 feet) away from the passenger jet. “The Russian side will obviously do everything to provide compensation and give legal assessment to all responsible officials’ action,” he said.

“Of course, these words related to this tragedy, aimed at supporting — morally supporting — the families do not solve the main problem: We can’t bring back to life those who died as a result of

the tragedy,” Putin added. He voiced hope for overcoming the strain between the countries and fully rebuilding the ties. “I hope that our cooperation not only will be restored, but continue in the spirit of our relations, the spirit of our alliance,” he said. Aliyev, for his part, thanked Putin for investigating the cause of the plane’s downing. “I would like to thank you for keeping the situation under your personal control,” he said.

The Azerbaijani leader said they had a chance to discuss a “broad and positive” bilateral agenda, voicing hope that “the messages we are sending today to our societies will meet a positive response.



The resumption of direct flights with India after a five-year hiatus as a positive step, it demonstrated that both countries are ‘faithfully acting’ on the understandings reached between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping to strengthen bilateral ties

GUO JIAKUN | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

NK’S RULING PARTY TURNS 80

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has praised the legacy of the country’s ruling party in a speech ahead of Friday’s 80th anniversary of its founding, as delegations from China, Russia and Vietnam arrived in Pyongyang to attend celebrations



of the day

Quote

The government has set a target to increase pulses production by 40 per cent to 350 lakh tonne by 2030-31 crop year

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUDHAN | UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER

While inaugurating 'Bharat Telecom 2025' alongside the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025 here, said that India is rapidly emerging as a global hub for telecom innovation, design and manufacturing — moving beyond just assembling devices to becoming a hub for design, development and innovation

PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR | MINISTER OF STATE, COMMUNICATIONS

With a turnover now exceeding Rs 22 lakh crore, the industry is fast becoming the world's automobile hub, driven by advances in biofuels, ethanol, methanol, biodiesel, LNG, and hydrogen

NTIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER (ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS)

SHORT TAKES

TCS profit rises

New Delhi: India's largest IT services firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Thursday reported a nearly 1.4 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 12,075 crore in the July-September quarter, buoyed by broad-based growth across verticals, particularly the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance segment. The IT major had posted a profit of Rs 11,909 crore in the corresponding quarter of 2024-25. Revenues from operations for the second quarter of FY2025-26 rose by 2.39 per cent to Rs 65,799 crore, up from Rs 64,259 crore in the year-ago quarter.

Rupee falls 4 paise against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee traded with a slight negative bias and hovered near its all-time low levels before settling for the day at 88.79 against the US dollar, lower by 4 paise Thursday, as strong greenback demand and ongoing trade tensions between India and the US weighed on investor sentiments. Forex traders said the USD/INR pair is trading in a tight range as absence of economic data from US amid the government shutdown may also lead to consolidation. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.76 against the greenback and fell to an intraday low of 88.79 and a high of 88.74. It finally closed the day at 88.79 (provisional) against the greenback, registering a decline of 4 paise over its previous close.

Samsung biz grows

New Delhi: Samsung India Thursday said it experienced "strong growth" in the appliances business during the nine-day-long auspicious Navratri period, supported by recent GST reforms by the government and promotional offers. The sales of premium televisions jumped two-fold, as compared to the corresponding festive period last year.

Tata Elxsi net falls

New Delhi: Design and technology services firm Tata Elxsi Thursday posted a 32.5 per cent decline in net profit to Rs 154.8 crore in the July-September quarter of FY26. It had reported a net profit of Rs 229.4 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing.

Global growth is forecast at roughly 3 per cent over the next three years, says the IMF. Blue Dart Express Ltd Thursday launched its instant digital account opening platform that allows businesses of all sizes to open accounts and start shipping with 10 minutes. Digital Account Opening (DAO) platform will power businesses and fuel their growth by enabling them to open accounts anytime, anywhere

KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA | IMF CHIEF

BLUE DART LAUNCHES INSTANT DIGITAL ACCOUNT OPENING

Express logistics firm Blue Dart Express Ltd Thursday announced the launch of its instant digital account opening platform that allows businesses of all sizes to open accounts and start shipping with the company in just 10 minutes. Digital Account Opening (DAO) platform will power businesses and fuel their growth by enabling them to open accounts anytime, anywhere



Silver shines bright

Silver rose more than 2 per cent to breach the crucial \$50 per ounce mark in the spot markets for the first time

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: Silver prices surged by Rs 6,000 to hit a fresh record of Rs 1,63,000 per kg in the national capital Thursday as the white metal touched the \$50 per ounce level for the first time in the overseas markets.

Analysts said robust industrial demand, geopolitical, economic uncertainties and growing expectations of interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve have spurred the demand for the white metal.

The white metal saw such a steep surge for the second time in a week. It climbed Rs 7,400 to close at Rs 1,57,400 per kg October 6.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, silver had closed at Rs 1,57,000 per kg Wednesday.

In the local bullion market, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity stayed unchanged at their all-time high levels of Rs 1,26,600 per 10 grams and Rs 1,26,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes), respectively, Thursday.

Globally, spot gold was trading marginally lower at \$4,039.26 per ounce.

Silver rose more than 2 per cent to breach the crucial \$50 per ounce mark in the spot markets for the first time.

"Silver rose to hit record highs as heightened political and economic uncertainties and bets on US rate cuts drove safe-haven demand," Jigar Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities, said.



Investors continued to weigh the effects of the ongoing US government shutdown, which has clouded the economic outlook and delayed key data releases crucial for Fed policy decisions.

Rajkumar Subramanian, Head - Product & Family Office, PL Wealth said, "Silver's surge past toward the psychologically critical USD 50 per ounce-threshold marks a defining moment for precious metals markets."

Unlike the speculative excesses that characterised the 2011 peak, the white metal's Thursday rally is underpinned by fundamental structural imbalances – persistent supply deficits and accelerating industrial demand from solar, EV, and 5G sectors.

"With the white metal delivering 72 per cent returns year-to-date compared to gold's 54 per cent, we're witnessing silver's unique dual identity as both monetary hedge and

industrial necessity driving prices toward levels not sustained since 1980.

"The convergence of geopolitical uncertainty, monetary accommodation, and supply constraints creates a compelling case for sustained strength beyond the \$50 milestone," Subramanian said.

The latest Federal Open Market Committee Meeting (FOMC) minutes showed officials acknowledging rising risks to the labour market that could justify a rate cut, though concerns over inflation persisted, Trivedi said.

Meanwhile, markets faced renewed political turbulence in France and leadership changes in Japan. Additionally, tight physical market also underpinned silver prices, supported by strong industrial demand from the solar and electronics sectors, with the Silver Institute projecting a global supply deficit for the fifth consecutive year in 2025, he added.

LG IPO breaks all record with 4L-cr subscription

REUTERS

Mumbai, Oct 9: The \$1.3 billion maiden share sale by LG Electronics' Indian unit closed Thursday, becoming the most subscribed billion-dollar IPO (Initial public offer) in nearly two decades, as investors rushed to grab a slice of the appliance maker in a red-hot IPO market.

The share sale drew bids worth 4.43 trillion rupees

(\$49.9 billion) at the top end of its price band of 1,080 to 1,140 rupees per share, exchange data showed, making it the most-subscribed large Indian offering since Reliance Power's IPO in 2008, according to Pranav Haldea, managing director of capital markets data provider PRIMB Database.

LG Electronics India received bids for 3.85 billion shares, or 54.02 times the shares on offer, by 5 pm IST Thursday.

The IPO was fully booked within hours of launch Tuesday.

The shares will likely make their trading debut October 14.

The share sale is India's third-biggest so far in 2025, trailing Tata Capital which closed for subscription this week with \$2.9 billion in bids, and HDB Financial, which drew \$19 billion in bids before its July debut.

Investors seem to have preferred LG Electronics India,

where they expect better listing gains and strong near-term growth prospects thanks to the government's tax cuts," said Prashanth Tapse, senior vice president of research at Mehta Equities.

Other Indian IPOs that saw steep subscriptions include HDB Financial Services earlier this year, Eternal in 2021, and Reliance Power in 2008, which drew bids worth roughly \$80 billion, at the current exchange rate.

MCL conducts Coal India CSR Conclave



Sambalpur: Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) hosted the 4th edition of the Coal India CSR Conclave 2025 at Gopalpur, Odisha, reaffirming the company's commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth. Inaugurating the conclave, PM Prasad, Chairman, Coal India Ltd, said, "Coal India and MCL continue to play a vital role in shaping India's development landscape through meaningful CSR initiatives that empower communities and protect the planet." Minister of State for Coal & Mines, Satish Chandra Dubey, who joined virtually, lauded Coal India's "sustained commitment to community development through diverse, high-impact projects across the country." Vinay Ranjan, Director (HR), Coal India, emphasized that CSR must be "need-based and purposeful, fostering meaningful connections with communities while enhancing visibility and impact."

Waltair Division continues Amrit Samvaad

Rayagada: In line with the vision of Amrit Kaal and the "Panch Pran" (Five Resolves), Waltair Division is continuing the citizen-centric initiative titled Amrit Samvaad as part of Special Campaign. Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer Deeptanshu Sharma and Avinash B, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer engaged directly with commuters and rail users to gather valuable feedback on recent improvements, suggestions, and grievances.



CMPDI organises blood donation camp

Ranchi: As part of the Vigilance Awareness Campaign 2025, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) organised a blood donation camp in collaboration with CCL Gandhi Nagar Hospital, Ranchi, and RIMS Hospital, Ranchi. The camp was inaugurated by Manoj Kumar, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, CMPDI, in the presence of Shankar Nagachari, Director (Technical/CRD); Ajay Kumar, Director (Technical/P&D/RD&T); and Pankaj Kumar, Chief Vigilance Officer, CMPDI and CCL. A total of 104 donors enthusiastically participated in the drive, including employees from CMPDI Headquarters–Ranchi, Regional Institute–3, Ranchi, and Research Camp, as well as sanitation workers and staff members of the State Bank of India, Gondwana Place Branch. This initiative reflects CMPDI's unwavering commitment to community welfare, humanitarian service, and the importance of voluntary blood donation.



OTV hosts Business Odisha Awards

Bhubaneswar: The OTV Business Odisha Awards 2025 ceremony was held Thursday in Bhubaneswar, celebrating outstanding contributions across seven categories – Education, Healthcare, Jewelry, Manufacturing, Real Estate, Startups& Entrepreneurship, and Business. Organised by OTV for the third consecutive year, the event recognized organizations and entrepreneurs driving Odisha's growth story. The evening opened with a graceful performance by acclaimed dancer Saswat Joshi. Odisha's Industries Minister Sampad Swain and Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan attended as chief guests. Addressing the gathering, Minister Swain said Odisha, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, has emerged as a major force in industry and innovation. "Our industry-friendly approach, streamlined processes, and sector-specific policies have made investments easier than ever," he said.

UWA, CUTM to strengthen sustainable mining



(CUTM). Professor Littlefair said, "Odisha and Western Australia share many similarities—from resource strengths to industrial ambition. This collaboration combines Australian expertise with India's innovation to create a globally skilled workforce for the future energy and mining sectors."

Bhubaneswar: The University of Western Australia (UWA), a member of Australia's prestigious Group of Eight (Go8) universities, has taken a major step toward advancing India-Australia cooperation in clean energy and sustainable mining. A delegation led by Professor Guy Littlefair, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience), visited Bhubaneswar and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centurion University of Technology and Management

Odyssey Motors launches Maruti Suzuki's 'Victoris'

Sambalpur: Odyssey Motors launched Maruti Suzuki's latest SUV, Victoris, in Sambalpur. The grand unveiling ceremony was held at the Maruti Suzuki Arena showroom of Odyssey Motors, marking the vehicle's official entry into the region. The launch event was graced by Odyssey Motors Director Ruchi Jalan, SBI Chief Manager Shyammand Tandi, Budharaja Branch Manager Jay Prakash Das, Sundaram Finance Branch Manager Sushil Kumar Das, SBI DBM Kadambini Pradhan, and Orient representative Harish Mishra graced the occasion. The launch of Victoris signifies Maruti Suzuki's strategic move to strengthen its presence in western Odisha's growing automobile market. The SUV is available with multiple powertrain options — a 1.5-litre mild-hybrid petrol engine with both manual and automatic transmission choices, and a powerful hybrid variant equipped with an eCVT gearbox, offering a blend of performance and fuel efficiency, according to the company.



DGP Khurania gives away cheque to deceased constable kin

Cuttack: Odisha Director General of Police (DGP) Yogesh Bahadur Khurania Wednesday met with the family members of late Constable Lavani Ganta, who lost her life in a road accident, and offered his condolences at the State Police Headquarters in Cuttack. During the meeting, the DGP handed over a cheque of Rs 1 cr towards the accidental death insurance amount provided by the State Bank of India (SBI). Constable Lavani Ganta was serving at the District Reserve Office in Rayagada. July 5, while on duty near Therubali, she met with a fatal accident. Her father, Brundaban Ganta, received the insurance cheque on behalf of the family. Present on the occasion were ADGP (Headquarters) Prateek Mohanty, SBI Chief General Manager A D Ratnateja, General Manager Kaushal Kishore Singh, Regional Manager Ashish Kumar Mishra, Assistant General Managers Uttara Kumar Patel and Nagendra Sahu, and Manoj Kumar Pradhan, among others. It may be noted that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was earlier signed between Odisha Police and the State Bank of India. Under this agreement, SBI extends financial assistance of Rs 1 cr in case of the accidental death of any police personnel.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Ghosh's fiery knock in vain

De Klerk, Wolvaardt stun India as SA register three-wicket win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Visakhapatnam, Oct 9: South Africa trumped Richa Ghosh's vibrant 94 through collective combativeness of Laura Wolvaardt and Nadine de Klerk to eke out a thrilling three-wicket win over India in the Women's World Cup here Thursday.

Skipper Wolvaardt (70), Chloe Tryon (49) and Nadine de Klerk (84 not out, 54 balls) played lead roles as South Africa overhauled India's 251, and rose to fourth position on the table.

They ended up at 252 for seven in 48.5 overs.

Once half of South Africa's batting unit returned to the hut with less than 100 on the board, their chase appeared to have been doomed.

Pacer Kranti Gaud's stunning return catch to dismiss opener Tazmin Brits for a naught, triggered SA's slide.

Veterans Marizanne Kapp, Sune Luus, Anneke Bosch and Sinalo Jafta did not last long in the middle, as South Africa slid to 81 for five.

Wolvaardt added 51 runs for the sixth wicket with Chloe Tryon to steady the ship.

She essayed some archetypal drives to reach her fifty in 81



balls, however, Gaud returned to snap the alliance with a searing yorker that crashed through Wolvaardt's defence.

The Proteas were 142 for six then, and still 110 runs away from the target. But Tryon and De Klerk, who clobbered Gaud for two successive sixes, braved the variety in Indian attack to

stitch an alliance of 69 runs for the seventh wicket, which carried their side closer to the finishing line. The visitors needed 52 runs off the last five overs, and surmounted that 10 runs an over situation through prudence and power of De Klerk.

Earlier, Ghosh displayed the same qualities in ample

measures to roll to an innings of rare brilliance, which came in 77 balls (11x4, 4x6).

The right-hander found perfect pacing and placing during her fifty after walking in at a marshy 102 for six.

The rescue work started with Ghosh adding 51 runs for the steady seventh wicket with

World records

The valiant knock of 94 by Richa makes her the highest scorer at number eight or lower in a Women's World Cup match

Smriti Mandhana broke a 26-year-old World Record, scoring the most runs in a calendar year in women's One-Day International. The 23 runs she scored Thursday took Mandhana's aggregate for the year to 973 from 17 innings

Amanjot Kaur. A power-hitter, Ghosh curtailed her instincts and raised her fifty in 53 balls, with two slog-swept sixes off Nadine de Klerk and Tumi Sekhukhune giving her some tempo.

A maiden ODI hundred was well within Ghosh's reach but she fell in the final over chasing some quick runs.

Brief scores

India: 251 all out in 49.5 overs (Pratika Rawal 37, Richa Ghosh 94, Sneha Rana 33; Chloe Tryon 3/32) lost to **South Africa:** 252 for 7 in 48.5 overs (Laura Wolvaardt 70, Chloe Tryon 49, Nadine de Klerk 84 not out; Sneha Rana 2/47).

India assured of historic medal

Young shuttlers beat Korea in quarters to assure first-ever mixed team medal in World Junior Championships



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Oct 9: India beat Korea to reach semifinals and assure themselves of a maiden medal at the World Junior Mixed Team Badminton Championships here Thursday.

The hosts won 44-45, 45-30, 45-33 in a nerve-racking quarter-final clash that lasted almost three hours as the semi-final appearance assured India of their first-ever mixed-team medal in the history of BWF World Junior Championships.

The Indian shuttlers will face Asian U-19 mixed team champions Indonesia in the semifinals.

Indonesia defeated Chinese Taipei 45-35, 45-35 in another quarter-final match at the National Centre of Excellence here.

The way India had lined-up for the quarterfinals, it was quite clear that they were heavily

relying on their singles players to bail them out in case the Koreans made the most of their doubles strength.

The first set went accordingly as Bhargav Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gobburu went down 5-9 in the first boys doubles against Cho Hyeon Woo and Lee Hyeon Woo.

The Indian girls doubles combination of Vennala K and Reshika U managed to reduce the deficit by one point by beating Cheon Hye In and Moon In Seo 10-9, before Rounak Chouhan brought them within one point by defeating Choi Ah Seung 11-9.

However, a 4-9 loss for C Lalramsanga and Aanya Bisht in the mixed doubles against Lee and Cheon meant that Unnati Hooda had to win 15 points before her opponent Kim Han Bi could reach nine.

SHORT TAKES

Kasparov grabs early lead against Anand

St Louis: Garry Kasparov stole the eyeballs on the opening day as he defeated Viswanathan Anand in the third game and took a slender 2.5-1.5 lead in the Clutch Chess between the two legends underway here. By consent, the best ever player in the Chess history, Kasparov at 62 showed there is still a lot of chess left in him after retiring 21 years back. Anand had his chances but could not capitalise on them. With the daily schedule having two rapid and two blitz games under the chess 960 format, the pieces are set randomly before the start of the game. It is through a drawing of lots that the position to be played is determined and the same position is played for the whole four games with two white and two black for both players. Interestingly, the first two games of the day were drawn and it was in the third game that Kasparov was able to break the deadlock as Anand walked in to a lost King and pawns endgame, possibly from a what could have been a probably draw. It was in the first game that Anand had outplayed Kasparov and the former world No 1 survived thanks to some unforced error by the Indian ace.

Shanghai Masters: Djoko's dominance

Shanghai: Novak Djokovic's resilience and experience once again came to the fore as he battled past Belgium's Zizou Bergs 6-3, 6-4 Thursday to secure a semi-final berth at the 2025 Shanghai Masters. Despite not being at his physical best, the 38-year-old Serbian extended his dominance on the ATP Masters 1000 stage, becoming the oldest semi-finalist in Masters 1000 history. The 24-time Grand Slam champion is now just two wins away from a record-extending 41st Masters 1000 title, and his first since the 2023 Paris Masters.

Shoplifting: Italian swimmers suspended

Rome: Two Italian swimmers who were stopped for shoplifting in Singapore on their return from the world championships were suspended for three months Thursday. Benedetta Pilato, who won a bronze medal in the 50-meter breaststroke, and Chiara Tarantino will miss the short-course swimming European championships in Poland in December. The Italian swimming federation said it had accepted the individual plea bargain requests from the swimmers and had taken into account "the collaborative attitude of the athletes, who accepted their responsibility." According to reports, Pilato and Tarantino were stopped at a Singapore airport and detained for several days after the latter was seen putting stolen cosmetics inside her teammate's bag.

Bhubaneswar to host National Junior Athletics Championship



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: The 40th National Junior Athletics Championship will be hosted at the iconic Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar with the joint support of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), Odisha Athletics Association, and the Sports and Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha.

The championship will be held from October 10 to 14.

Around 2000 athletes from different states across the country will participate in this national level event. From Odisha, 75 athletes, including 38 male and 37 female participants, will compete in various categories. The highest number of athletes (147) will be representing Haryana, as informed.

Speaking on the occasion, Sachin Ramchandra Yadav, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Sports and Youth Services Department said, "The 40th National Junior Athletics Championship will be held from 10th to 14th October. Alongside this,

the 28th Asian Table Tennis Teams Championship will also be hosted at Kalinga Stadium from 11th to 15th October. Organizing both national and international sporting event simultaneously is indeed a matter of pride and honour for all of us. I am confident that the participating athletes will deliver outstanding performances and bring glory through their achievements."

He further added that Odisha had successfully hosted the World Continental Tour event at Kalinga Stadium in August this year. With the successful conduct of several national and international tournaments, Odisha has carved a distinct identity in the global sports arena.

Expressing his views, Adille Sumariwalla from the Athletics Federation of India said, "Odisha has emerged as a leading hub for sports in India. We are confident that the 40th National Junior Athletics Championship will also be conducted successfully and set new benchmarks of excellence."

ASIAN CUP 2027 QUALIFICATION

Blue Tigers keep hopes alive

Rahim Ali's 90th-minute goal earns India a salvaging 1-1 draw against Singapore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Oct 9: A 10-man India capitalised on a defensive blunder from Singapore at the fag end of play to escape with 1-1 draw and keep their Asian Cup football qualification hopes afloat here Thursday.

India conceded a goal scored by Ikhsan Fandi in the first minute of the first half's stoppage time to find themselves in the backfoot in the Group C match. But Rahim Ali equalised in the 90th minute after Singapore's Jordan Emaviwe gifted a goal by committing a horrible blunder.

Khalid Jamil's team, which arrived here with just around a week's time of training together, played the whole of second half with 10 men as key defender Sandesh Jhingan was sent off after receiving his second yellow card in the 47th minute.

Jhingan was playing with a black face mask as he had recovered from a cheek bone fracture during the CAFA Nations Cup last month, which needed surgery.

India now have two points from three matches after a 0-0 draw against Bangladesh and 0-1 loss to Hong Kong in their earlier match. They are still in a difficult position in their bid to qualify for the main tournament in 2027.



ment in 2027.

Only the top team in the group makes the cut for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup. All the four teams in the group with play six matches altogether in home and away format.

Singapore, who have secured five points after the draw Thursday, had only themselves to blame for the blunder they committed at the end of the match which allowed India to get away with a point.

Singapore dominated the

match all through with more than 60 per cent possession and kept the Indian defence busy with quick, accurate passing, and a lot of attacking moves.

India did not have a clear chance for the whole 90 minutes and would have lost the match had Singapore's Jordan Emaviwe not sent a long back-pass inexplicably from near the centre line in the 90th minute.

The two sides meet again October 14 in Margao, Goa, in their return-leg match.

Experience matters: Gill sees Rohit, Virat in future WC plan

While Rohit is 38 now, Kohli is 36. Both have retired from Tests and T20 Internationals, making their India appearances rare. The duo will next be seen during a three-match ODI tour of Australia from Oct 19 to 25

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: India's newly-appointed ODI skipper Shubman Gill Thursday said senior stars Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli remain a part of the team's 2027 World Cup plans as their skill levels and voluminous experience cannot be ignored.

Gill, who replaced a very successful Rohit as leader of the ODI pack, also said that he would like to create friendships like his illustrious predecessor did during his nearly four-year stint. The 26-year-old Gill is already leading the Indian Test side.

Asked if he feels Rohit and Kohli are in the scheme of things for the 2027 World Cup,

THE MISMATCHED BATTLE: Spin the key again as high-on-confidence India eye clean sweep against floundering West Indies in the second and final Test, starting Friday

Gill wasn't as cagey as chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar, who was non-committal on the issue during a recent press conference.

"Of course. The experience that they (Rohit and Kohli) both have and the number of matches that they have won for India. There are very few players who have won so many matches for India," Gill said while fielding a number of queries on his elevation.

Gill said he wants to imbibe the calmness and camaraderie that Rohit brought to the dressing room during his stint.

"There are so many qualities that I want to inherit from Rohit Bhai. One is the calmness that he possesses and the kind of friendships that he has created among the group is something that I aspire," he said.

While Agarkar announced his appointment after India won the first Test against the West Indies in Ahmedabad, Gill

confirmed that he had been informed of the promotion a few days before that.

"I'm very excited to lead my country in that format. And yes, the last few months have been very exciting for me. But I'm really looking forward to what the future has," he said. I want to stay as much as possible

in the present and don't really want to look back on what I've been able to achieve or what we as a team have been able to achieve. Just want to look forward

and win everything that we have in the upcoming months."

Managing workload of 3 formats

For someone, who is being looked as the next all-format captain, Gill admitted that at times there is mental fatigue that he deals with.

"Physically, most of the time I feel fine. I think more than physical, sometimes there is mental fatigue. Because when you are constantly playing, there are



There are very few players in the world who have the so much skill, quality and the experience that they have

SHUBMAN GILL | SKIPPER, ODI

Rohit, Kohli likely for Vijay Hazare ahead of NZ ODIs

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are expected to feature in at least three if not four Vijay Hazare Trophy games before the New Zealand ODI series in January, provided they are still aiming to play the 2027 World Cup.



Between the conclusion of South Africa ODIs and start of New Zealand leg, there will be at least six rounds of Vijay Hazare Trophy games for Delhi and Mumbai and the national selectors would expect that the ageing duo play in the 50-over event. With chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar making it clear that every centrally contracted player, who is fit and available, is expected to play domestic cricket. "Between last ODI against South Africa on December 6 at Visakhapatnam and the first ODI against New Zealand at Vadodara on January 11, there is a gap of five weeks. "The Vijay Hazare Trophy starts on December 24. There will be six rounds of games for Mumbai (December 24, 26, 29, 31, Jan 3, 6, 8). Rohit will be expected to at least play three rounds before linking up with the squad. Ditto for Virat," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

certain expectations that I have from myself.

"And to be able to keep up with my own expectations sometimes becomes a challenge," said the batter who has already played 121 international games across three

formats.

"I want to play all the formats and want to succeed in all the formats for the country. And win ICC titles. So if I want to do that, then this (playing all three formats) is the challenge that I have to go through," he added.