Nora's global triumph Nora Fatehi is set to make waves again by joining the star-studded lineup of UNTOLD

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

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

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Dubai 2025

PM to lay stone

for fish market,

aqua park Oct 11

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: Prime

Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to lay foundation

stone for a wholesale fish mar-

ket in Bhubaneswar and an inte-

grated 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.

state-of-the-art wholesale fish

market will be laid in Bhu-

baneswar, and the foundation

stone of an integrated aqua park

at Hirakud will be laid through

VC by the PM," the release added.

programmes on the occasion were underway, it pointed out.

Preparations for state-level

Ahead of the PM's pro-

gramme, Union Agriculture

and Farmers' Welfare Minister

Shivraj Singh Chouhan con-

vened 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.

"The foundation stone of a

BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY | OCTOBER 10, 2025

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 ques tioned 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.



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

GAZA BREAKTHROUGH 2.53L to vote in Nuapada bypoll

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 con-

firmed 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 Mo-



People celebrate at Khan Younis

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 dis-

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.

cuss 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 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

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



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

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

to 1,200 this time. Gopalan fur-

ther reminded political parties

that with the enforcement of

the Model Code of Conduct, pri-

or approval from the poll body

publish details of their criminal antecedents in print media and notify the poll body accordingly. The Nuapada voter list un-

derwent 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 iourney," 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 buving oil from Russia figured in his talks with Modi. Starmer said. "We did discuss this and it is particularly, the outcome that we **P8** "We did discuss this and looked at

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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

Literature Nobel for Hungarian writer László Krasznahorkai

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 Kertesz in 2002. The Literature prize has been awarded by the Nobel committee of the Swedish Academy 117 times to 121 winners.

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'.

eisure



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.



MUMBAI: Actor Chitrang-

da Singh, who stars oppos-

around

Salman Khan in the

upcoming film Battle

of Galwan, recently

addressed the on-

going discussion

and representa-

tion in cinema.

ageing

accuracy • reliability • trust

Today, you will crave total freedom in whatever you are doing, says Ganesha. And sheer entertainment is on the cards for tee nyboppers, 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.

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.

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. You methods may not make you very pop ular with the so-called moral brigade working with you, but you may think that this is the easiest way to the top.

Ever been surprised at your own abilities? Today you shall be, says Ganesha. With 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.

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.

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 thought to the outcome. In matters of joint ventures, adopt a wait-and-watch approach today.



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 wil 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.

NORA'S GLOBAL FEAT

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 UNTOLD lineup. Dubai promises electrifying experience, with Nora's perform-

ance expected to be one of its biggest highlights. Known for her powerful stage presence and dvnamic dance Nora moves, is gearing up to deliver a high-energy act blending pop,

Afrobeat,

and inter-

national

sounds-

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

From chart-toppers like *Oh*

Mama!, Tetema, and Snake,

truly global performer.

returns with an explosive lineup and Nora's inclusion adds even more star powerpromising an unforgettable celebration of global music and culture



MUMBAI: Actor Wamiqa Gabbi may have just hinted at her next big project, and fans are buzzing with speculation. Γhe 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, Muniya, 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 "hor-With Maddock Films known for its creative spin on super-

natural comedy and Wamiqa's fast-rising popularity across films and web series. the collaboration feels like a perfect match. Her versatility and strong onscreen presence have earned her critical acclaim. Wamiqa ing her and citing changed for a gent that blumour horror.
Fans already b ing her an exciting choice for a genre that blends humour and

Fans have already begun guessing her possible role from a spirited ghost to a fearless inhiding a secret twist. Some

speculate this could mark Maddock's first female-led horror spin-off. While there's been no official confirmation yet, the teaser post has certainly raised intrigue. If true, Wamiga's entry into Maddock's horror universe could mark an exciting new chapter in her career.

Chitrangda on age-appropriate casting

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 acknow-

ledged 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. ACENCES

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 Latin pop icon Enrique Iglesias returns

vestigator or even a village girl

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

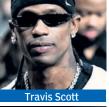
solo India show December 2025, blending hip-hop, and soul with hits like Circles and Sunflower. Early next year, John Mayer makes long-awaited India debut in Janu-





ary 2026, treating fans in Mumbai to his poetic lyrics and soothing guitar magic with songs like Gravity and Your Body Is a Wonderland.

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 HOBBES



BREVITY



DOST **CROSSWORD**

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composer

20 Elaborated

22 Newspaper

reporter

19 The Art of Fugue

Across

7 Not up to

expectations

8 Driving hazard

9 Vichyssoise

ingredient

10 Environmental

science

12 Savoury jelly

14 Heap starter

16 Social blunder

3 Overuse a credit

Down

1 Stead

4 Frogman

card

2 Packet

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

18 Savage

21 Geologic

periods

beautiful place

5 Pointed tool for

writing

6 Seasoning

11 Australian

parrot

13 Satirise

15 Hang on

17 Idyllic,

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					
				22	1	Г	П	4
	7	5	3		-	1		
	2	- 1		9			7	

SOLUTIONS

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

SUDOKU

3 8

owntown

3 MORE ARRESTED FOR VIOLENCE IN CUTTACK

A day after CM Mohan Charan Majhi asked the police to firmly deal with 'trouble-makers' behind the violence in Cuttack, security personnel Thursday arrested three more persons for their alleged involvement in the clash during the Durga idol immersion procession. "We searched the houses of some suspects and arrested three people. The number of persons arrested in the early Saturday morning incident increased to six," ACP Girija Shankar Chakraborty said. He said the alleged stone-pelting started in Hati Pokhari. A total of $31\,$ people, including 10 police personnel, were injured in the clashes, while many shops were gutted or damaged in violence and arson during back-to-back violence, one in the early hours of Saturday and another during a VHP-sponsored motorbike rally on Sunday evening



REMARK ON CUTTACK VIOLENCE

Focus on Bengal, BJP tells Mamata

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: A day after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee blamed the BJP and Bairang Dal for last week's violence in Cuttack, the ruling party in Odisha Thursday said she should focus on her state instead of meddling in affairs beyond her territory.

Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan accused Banerjee of trying to provoke people when the situation had calmed down.

A total of 31 people, including 10 police personnel, were injured in clashes Saturday and Sunday, while many shops were gutted or damaged in violence and arson in Cuttack that originated during the Durga idol immersion procession.

The administration imposed prohibitory orders for 36 hours and suspended internet services for 48 hours in two phases to bring the situation under control.

State BJP president Manmohan Samal said, "It is not proper to comment on the part of Mamata Banerjee. Everyone sees what is happening in Bengal. Odisha is a peaceful state.



REACTING TO WEST BENGAL CM'S STATEMENT 'CUTTACK IS BURNING TODAY', LAW MINISTER PRITHIVIRAJ HARICHANDAN SAID LAW AND ORDER IN WEST BENGAL IS IN COMPLETE DISARRAY, AND BANERJEE NEEDS TO CONCENTRATE ON IMPROVING THAT She should get more informa-

tion on what is happening in Bengal."

The law and order in West Bengal is in complete disarray, and Banerjee needs to concentrate on improving that, claimed Harichandan.

"The West Bengal CM is trying to provoke people when the situation has calmed down due to proper intervention of the Odisha government. Instead of commenting on Odisha, Mamata should try and improve the situation in her own state,

the law minister said. Asserting that the violence in Cuttack was an aberration and the city is as calm as before, he claimed that the people of Odisha have faith in their government.

"Mamata has a habit of going against Odisha, be it our culture or literature," Harichandan said.

Though the minister did not elaborate on this, he was apparently alluding to the establishment of a "Jagannath Dham" in the coastal town of Digha, with the help of the West Bengal gov-

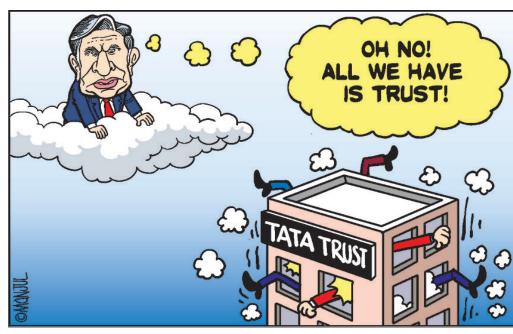
Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister KC Patra claimed that Mamata speaks

'Sometimes she herself doesn't know what she says. What does she know about Cuttack? It is her who is creating riots in West Bengal," Patra claimed.

Speaking to reporters in Kolkata Wednesday, Banerjee had said, "Cuttack is burning today. See how attacks are made, how a communal riot is created. The BJP itself created it... Bajrang Dal also. I am sorry to say that these people will finish the

Referring to communal tension in Cuttack, which witnessed curfew after 34 years and suspension of internet service for the first time, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday claimed that some "motivated groups" are attempting to tarnish the image of Odisha. The CM, during a review meeting on law and order, also directed the Police administration to keep close watch on anti-social elements and trouble-makers

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Bali Yatra on both grounds gets HC nod

CUTTACK: The Orissa High Court Thursday approved the Cuttack district administration's proposal to hold the historic Bali Yatra festival on the upper ground near Barabati fort this year, putting an end to the long-standing debate over the venue. According to reports, earlier the administration had decided to organise Bali Yatra only on the lower ground along the banks of Mahanadi River. However, the decision drew widespread resentment following which the district administration convened a meeting of the community leaders and intellectuals of the millennium city September 29 where a decision was taken to hold the maritime fair at the upper ground as well. However, Cuttack Collector Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde had informed that an affidavit to this effect will be submitted to the High Court and the final decision on the venue would be taken as per the court's direction. The HC Thursday accepted the affidavit and allowed the administration to go ahead with the decision, taking into account public sentiment, cultural continuity, and the festival's rich tradition. The court observed that the festival holds deep emotional and historical significance for the people of Odisha and should be conducted in a manner that upholds the fair's legacy.

BJD kicks off 'Jan Sampark Padayatra'

BJP alleges Utkalmani invoked for political gains

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: The Opposition Bjiu Janata Dal (BJD) launched its annual walkathon, 'Jan Sampark Pa-

dayatra' Thursday to "make people aware" of the alleged failures of the BJP government in the state. While the month-long state-

wide foot march usually starts on Gandhi Javanti every year, it was delayed this year due to Dussehra, sources said.

BJD senior leader and party vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra said the programme will cover all the 147 Assembly constituencies and 314 blocks of Odisha before culminating

On the inaugural day, the foot march kicked off from Balapur in Sakhigopal and continued till Suando village, the birthplace of Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das, a freedom fighter, social reformer, journalist and educationist.

Opposition chief whip in the Assembly, Pramila Mallik, said BJD leaders will visit every village and create awareness among the people about the "failures of the BJP government in maintaining law and order and ensuring security

for women", and how the saffron leaders "mislead women in name of Subhadra scheme". Mallik further alleged that

the Mohan Charan Majhi government has done nothing for people's welfare in the last 15 months other than just changing the names of schemes. This is for the first time that

the BJD will hold its annual outreach programme -- Jan Sampark Padayatra -- while in the Opposition.

Party president and former chief minister Naveen Patnaik used to launch the padayatra every year but this time, he was not available.

Taking to social media platform 'X', the conch party posted, "People's faith remains unshaken, and BJD is voicing their concerns. Under the strong leadership of Presi dent Shri Naveen Patnaik, let us join the party's Janasampark Padayatra from October 9 to November 9 in large numbers. Let us resolve to move forward united for the rights and entitlements of the people of Odisha.'

Meanwhile, senior BJP leader and Panchayati Raj Minister Rabi Naik slammed the BJD for "using Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das' name for political gains"





Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi pays floral tributes at the statue of Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das on Assembly premises, as Deputy CM Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, ministers and MLAs look on

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday paid rich tributes to 'Utkalmani' Gopabandhu Das, a prominent social worker, reformer, journalist, and freedom fighter, on

his birth anniversary. The Governor's office, in a post on X said, "On the birth anniversary of Utkalamani Pandit #Gopabandhudas, the Hon'ble Governor Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati has offered devout tributes. The Hon'ble Governor has stated that his contributions to the freedom struggle, selfless service, and noble efforts to enrich the Odia language and literature will

make him ever memorable." Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo, BJP state president Manmohan Samal and many eminent persons offered floral tributes at the statue of Gopabandhu on the the

state Assembly premises here. Majhi, in a social media post said, "On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great freedom fighter, a key architect of the formation of a separate Odisha province, a symbol of selfless service and dedicated sacrifice, Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das, I offer my heartfelt tribute and salutations. His profound patriotism, commitment to social reform, and contributions to the fields of

education, literature, and journalism will ensure that he remains forever remembered and revered.'

Leader of Opposition (LoP) and BJD president Naveen Patnaik said, "On the birth anniversary of Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das, the life force of the Odia community, Loffer my respectful homage. He dedicated his life to the service of the people. Along with enriching Odia language and literature, his life of selfless sacrifice for the upliftment of the people remains an eternal source of inspiration.

Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Bhakta Charan Das also paid tributes to Utkalmani and said he was the pioneer of the

freedom struggle and the gem of Utkal. "He was a symbol of sacrifice, service, and humanity, and dedicated his life to serving the distressed and the poor. His ideals and teachings continue to inspire the people of Odisha even today," Das said

Gopabandhu Das was born in Suando village in Puri district October 9, 1877 and was bestowed with the title 'Utkalmani' (Gem of Odisha) by Prafulla Chandra Roy, a prominent Bengali chemist and educationist, for his selfless service to the people of Odisha.

He was the first President of the Congress party in Odisha in 1920 and continued in that post

Gopabandhu Das died of prolonged illness July 17, 1928.

Thunderbolt burns Lingaraj Temple flag damages CCTV cams

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: Light ning struck the Lingaraj Temple here and burnt the pennant atop the 11th-century shrine apart from damaging at least 40 CCTV cameras and the tem ple crown, Wednesday evening.

The lightning also caused ex tensive damage to the temple's electrical systems, including cables. Several servitors and devotees sustained minor iniuries, according to reports.

Soon after the incident, a five-member team from Archae ological Survey of India (ASI) rushed to the temple to assess the damage. They reportedly replaced the damaged spire with a smaller dome built along traditional lines

The incident occurred when several priests and devotees were inside the sanctum sanctorum. 'The entire temple shook, and the deafening sound still echoes in our ears," said one of the servitors.

According to heritage ex pert and convener of INTACH Bhubaneswar Chapter, Anil Dhir, the temple had been struck twice before. July 15 2023, when six temples in Bhu baneswar were hit by lightning with Rameswar Temple being the worst affected.

The Lingaraj Temple, an architectural marvel of the Kalin gan style built during the early Somavamsi period, was already under repair with iron scaffolding on its southern face.

Dhir emphasised that despite many temples being equipped with lightning protection sys tems, strikes continue to cause significant damage. "Lightning has hit over 500 temples in the last decade. Even with arresters, tall temple spires remain vulnerable," he said.

Temple servitor Prafulla Swain urged authorities to install and regularly inspect lightning arresters across all temples in Bhubaneswar's Old Town area.

State to develop its own jackfruit brand: Deputy CM

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: In a significant move to promote agri-entrepreneurship and value addition in horticulture, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Energy, Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo announced plans to develop an Odisha-based Jackfruit brand. leveraging the state's agro-climatic potential.

The announcement came following a meeting with Mithilesh Desai, chairman of JackfruitKing Agro Producer Company Ltd, Maharashtra, who paid a courtesy visit to the Lok Seva Bhawan here. The meeting focused on expanding jackfruit cultivation, processing, and market linkage under public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

Senior officials including Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Principal Secretary (DA & FE), and Kalunge Gorakh Waman, also the Director of Horticulture, were present.

Jackfruit clusters will be developed in Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Koraput, and six other 'Jackfruit Mission' districts – Angul, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Rayagada and Sundargarh, the meeting re-



Additionally, Padmapur (Bargarh) and Patnagarh (Bolangir) sub-divisions will also be included under the programme,

owing to their agro-biodiversitv. This apart, agricultural/horticultural farms may be made available to JackfruitKing Agro firm for area expansion

To facilitate knowledge exchange an exposure visit to Ratnagiri in Maharashtra for farmers and FPOs will be arranged to understand jackfruit value chain, processing, and marketing. Emphasis was also laid on end-to-end integration from cultivation to processing and branding.

Emphasizing the potential of jackfruit as a high-value crop, the Deputy CM said, "An Odisha-based brand in jackfruit will not only promote local entrepreneurship but also boost farmer income through value-added products.'

Sudarsan Pattnaik pays tribute to Zubeen Garg

Puri, Oct 9: Renowned sand artist and Padma Shri awardee Sudarsan Pattnaik has paid tribute to the late singer Zubeen Garg through a touching sand sculpture at Puri Beach, carrying the message 'Justice for Zubeen Garg'.

Expressing grief over the untimely demise of the beloved artiste, Pattnaik said that Zubeen's passing has left a deep void in the hearts of millions.

The six-foot-long sculpture, made with around eight tons of sand, depicted Zubeen's portrait along with a heartfelt call for truth and transparency in the ongoing investigation into his death. Students of Pattnaik's Sand Art Institute also joined him in creating the piece.

"As an artiste, this is my way of expressing deep respect for Zubeen Garg and standing with everyone mourning his loss,' Pattnaik said.

He urged people to remain calm and united, noting that the Government of Assam has already initiated an inquiry.

"I have full faith that the truth will prevail and those responsible will be brought to justice. I appeal to everyone to maintain

peace and patience," he added.

STATE-LEVEL WILDLIFE WEEK CONCLUDES

₹50 crore for community awareness in Similipal



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, Oct 9: In order Bhubaneswar: Forest, Environment to enhance capacity building, community awareness, and infrastructure around the bufofficially launched Hostile Activity fer areas in Similipal National Watch Kernel (HAWK) during the Park, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia announced a substantial allocation of ₹50 crore under in modernising wildlife protection the 'Ama Similipal Yojana' at introduce more technological soluthe concluding ceremony of state-level Wildlife Week celebrations here Thursday. Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia said. HAWK is an advanced, made "Our government has signifi-

cantly 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, Jakham, and Talabandha in Similipal to enhance visitor experience and local engagement.

POST NEWS NETWORK

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

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.

and Climate Change (FE&CC) department, in partnership with Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and NTT DATA, 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 efforts. It was the need of the hour to tions for wildlife protection," Forest, Environment and Climate Change



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

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.

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.

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

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

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 Har mony 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 University 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 attend-

ed by prominent participants including Debaprasad Ray, Suresh Panigrahy, Sudhir Pattnaik 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 communa 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 demand ed that the Odisha government take strong measures to main tain 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 al

BJP organises workshop on tribal devpt

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: A daylong 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 Manmohan Samal, Union Minister Jual Oram, BJP Na tional 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 communities and implement ed schemes inspired by foreign models. In contrast, the Modi government's approach focuses on indigenous planning, rooted in local aspirations and community participation.

As part of this initiative BJP MPs and MLAs from tribal-dominated constituen cies will each adopt 20 to 25 villages to fast-track their de velopment. The project aims to bring together administrators, elected representatives, and voluntary organisations in a coordinated effort to advance the socio-economic progress of tribal regions.

The workshop was coordi nated by MP Balabhadra Majhi and attended by several MPs MLAs, and senior BJP func tionaries.

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



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-

proposed projects, innovative

design concepts, and the vari-

ous statutory clearances and

approvals required to facilitate

ic Hirakud Dam, and its pivotal role in shaping Odisha's growth

and prosperity. Designed as an immersive experience, the theme will highlight the deep emotional and cultural bond between the river and the people of the state, centered around the central message: "Mahanadi is not just a river — it is us.

The proposed Hirakud Dam Museum will provide visitors with an immersive experience of the dam's history — from the pre-dam years of floods and famines, to the visionary leadership that led to its construction, and the socio-economic

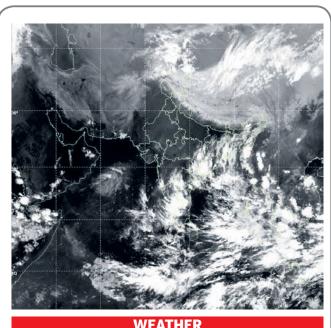
transformation that followed. The museum will include interactive displays, augmented and virtual reality experiences. and experiential learning spaces to make the visit engaging for all age groups.

The review meeting also underscored the importance of integrating environmental sustainability, heritage conservation, and livelihood enhancement for local communities into the overall development

framework. Emphasis was placed on ensuring that tourism growth aligns harmoniously with ecological balance and cultural

Once completed, these projects are expected to significantly boost the region's tourism potential, generate local employment opportunities, and position Hirakud as a distinctive destination that seamlessly blends engineering excellence with natural beauty

BOURSES CURRENCY VARIATION INDEX VARIATION **INDEX** VARIATION DOLLAR 88.87 \$ 0.02 | SENSEX 82172.10 \$ 398.44 GOLD ₹122,865 ♥ ₹344 **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			
Min Temp	24.1°	22.6°				
Humidity	82%	90%	thunderstorm			
Rainfall	2.0mm	Nil				

OUR BOOKING FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT

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

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

TRIBAL SCHOOL BUILT ON KEONJHAR FOREST LAND

Centre seeks action against officials for murder of kin

The project site at **Erendei village in Patana tehsil of Keonihar district** includes 2.803 hectares of Sabik (recorded) forest land and 0.456 hectare of non-forest land

PNN & AGENCIES

Keonjhar/New Delhi, Oct 9: 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 Keonihar district without mandatory 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".

It said that the construction of the school, a flagship initiative of the Tribal Affairs Ministry and the Odisha government, took place "without prior approval", constituting a violation of the Forest Conservation Act

The project site at Erendei village in Patana tehsil of Keonihar district includes 2.803 hectares of Sabik (recorded) forest land and 0.456 hectare of non-forest land.

The district administration admitted the lapse, saying the

"in good faith" based on the then-available land records which classified the site as non-forest. Later verification of old records revealed the land had been previously recorded as "Jungle Kissam"

According to the state's submission, the tehsildar transparently reported the matter to the District Welfare Officer and the Collector. "Though construction was already underway, the matter was promptly reported to the Forest department and a forest diversion proposal was initiated to regularise the inadvertent violation," it read.

The committee also noted that "subsequent inspections by the DFO, Keonjhar, and the DIGF, IRO Bhubaneswar, confirmed that the construction had taken place in good faith, without any mala fide intent, based on the available land classification records at the time"

The FAC took a stern view of the procedural violation and directed that the state government examine the matter and initiate disciplinary action (if applicable) against the officials

prevent use of forest land for non-forestry purposes without prior approval from the Centre.

It further recommended that "the penalty for violation shall be equal to NPV of forestland per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion... with maximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 per cent simple interest".

The regional office of the environment ministry in Bhubaneswar, while supporting the proposal, also advised that "since the instant proposal is a public utility project, diversion of 2.8 ha of forest land is recommended with the condition that five times penal NPV, penal CA may be imposed and action against erring officials may be initiated besides the general standard conditions"

The school aims to provide quality residential education to tribal children in Keonjhar, one of Odisha's predominantly tribal districts.

The project is part of the Centre's plan to establish Ekalavya schools in every block having 20,000 tribal persons and 50 per cent ST population.

Man, son arrested

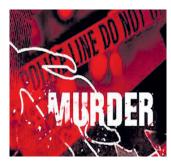
Keonjhar, Oct 9: Keonjhar police Thursday arrested a man and his son in connection with the murder of the former's younger brother that took place over a land dispute in Putulia village of Padmapur panchayat under Keonjhar Sadar police station, Wednesday.

The accused were identified as Kiran Das (45) and his son Satyajit Das (20). The deceased was identified as Chandrasekhar Das (43).

According to the sources, there was a dispute over land between Chandrasekhar and his elder brother Kiran. There was a quarrel between them in the house Wednesday at about 4pm. As a result, Kiran and his son

Satyajit hit Chandrasekhar on the head with a crowbar and an axe. Chandrasekhar sustained severe head injury and was admitted to Keonjhar Dharanidhar Medical College in a critical condition following heavy bleeding.

While the doctor declared Chandrasekhar dead, his wife was receiving treatment after she sustained injury during her



bid to rescue her husband. After receiving information Sadar police station officials rushed to the spot and started investigation with registration

of a murder case.

Police seized the murder weapons and handed over the body to family members after post-mortem was conducted at Keonjhar district headquarters hospital.

Following Chandrasekhar's death, his two sons, daughter and wife are helpless. Police along with the scientific team brought the accused duo to the scene of the incident Thursday morning. Sadar police station IIC Amit Kumar Bhuyan said "The accused were arrested and weapons are seized. Further in vestigation is underway after

Abducted ward member returns home unharmed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, Oct 9: A ward member who was allegedly abducted by some unidentified miscreants from Binjharpur area in Jajpur district last week returned home safely, police said Thursday.

Dhaneswar Sethy, a ward member of Ranapur gram panchavat, went missing near Binjharpur bazar while returning home October 1.

His family members started a frantic search to trace him, but were unsuccessful. Later, they filed a complaint with the police that some unidentified miscreants kidnapped him to prevent him from voting in the no-confidence motion against the local sarpanch which was scheduled October 8.

The Block Development Officer (BDO) of Binjharpur postponed the no-confidence vote following the abduction of Sethi, an official said.

Sethi's disappearance a few days before the scheduled notrust vote had triggered widespread discontentment among a group of ward members, as he had earlier expressed his support to the motion.

Some miscreants had kidnapped him to prevent him from voting in the no-confidence motion against the local sarpanch October 8

Based on the complaint, the police initiated a probe but failed to trace Sethi.

He was found near Binjharpur police station Wednesday night. An officer spotted him and took him to the police station. Sethi appeared unharmed, an officer said.

When police inquired from Sehi where he had gone, he replied that some unidentified miscreants intercepted him on the way while he was returning home from the local market.

"They took me to an unknown location and kept me there for seven days. They released me near Binjharpur police station last night. They did not misbehave with me," he said.

Bhadrak Kali Puja curtailed to 7 days

Women police to patrol on scooters

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Oct 9: The famous Kali Puja at Charampa in Bhadrak district will be celebrated for seven days this year instead of nine. To curb pickpocketing and theft amid large crowds, police officers in plain clothes will conduct surveillance, official sources said.

A peace committee meeting was held Wednesday evening at the Sadbhavana Conference Hall of Bhadrak Collectorate to ensure the smooth and peaceful observance of the festival. The meeting was chaired by District Collector Dilip Routrai and attended by Superintendent of Police Manoj Raut, Additional District Magistrate Rabi Narayan Sahu, Deputy Collector Kaknath Mandal Additional SP (Intelligence) Anshuman Dwivedi, Sub-Collector Saurabh Chakraborty,



Bhadrak Tehsildar Priyadarshi Sangram Keshari Khuntia, and representatives of various puja committees. With the district administration curtailing the festival to seven days this year. the celebration will begin October 20 and conclude October 27. Puja committees have been instructed to complete idol immersion by October 27 night or the following morning.

A social media cell will be formed to monitor online activity during the festival. Women police officers will patrol crowded areas on scooters, SP Raut said. CCTV cameras will be installed at major pandals by both the police and organising committees.

To manage traffic, barriers on the National Highway will be removed to ease movement. Truck owners have been instructed to remove long-parked vehicles along the Bhadrak-Charampa highway. If not cleared within the stipulated time, the vehicles will be towed with assistance from the RTO, the SP warned.

However, some residents have expressed dissatisfaction over the two-day reduction in the festival duration. This discontent has also surfaced on

Beggar beaten to death over monetary dispute

POST NEWS NETWORK

allegedly beat up a beggar to death late Wednesday night near Swargadwar village under Gochha panchayat and Sorada police limits in Ganjam district after he refused to give money for liquor. The deceased was identified

as Sisir Muni, 55, of Singpur village. Alerted by locals, Sorada police reached the spot, recovered the body and detained two suspects for questioning. Police said they were probing whether the murder was solely over liquor money or if there was another motive behind it.

According to locals, Sisir had been living in the area for several years and survived by begging. Two young men al legedly asked him for money to buy liquor Wednesday night. When he refused, an argument



ensued, and the duo reportedly assaulted him with sticks, leading to his death.

The accused then attempted to dump the body in a nearby drain to destroy evidence, but villagers who witnessed the act alerted the police. Sorada police said further investigation is underway to determine if more people were involved in the killing.

2 held for attempt on Taratarini priest's life

POST NEWS NETWORK

scene recreation.'

Purushottampur, Oct 9: Police Thursday arrested two persons in connection with an attack on Taratarini temple priest Gopinath Rana at Gobindapur village under Pu rushottampur police limits in Ganjam district.

Moreover, a minor has also been found to be involved in the incident.

The accused were identified as Ashutosh Rana, alias Jati 22, and Sushant Das, alias Kanki, 20. According to police, the attack took place September 15 when Gopinath was on his way from his house to the temple The assailants, reportedly driven by previous enmity, attacked him with a sword and fled the scene believing he had died.

taken to the Bhatkumarada Community Health Centre and later shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur for treatment.

The injured priest was first

2 Maoists arrested from Rourkela railway station

Rourkela, Oct 9: Two most-wanted members of a Maoist organisation were arrested Thursday afternoon from Rourkela railway station during a joint security inspection aimed at maintaining law and order and ensuring passenger safety. The accused were identified as

Abdhesh Kumar Yadav (26) of Deora village under Lesliganj police limits in Jharkhand's Palamu district and Upendra Yadav (24) of Manika village under Manika police limits in Latehar district. Both had long-standing ties with Maoist outfits and were wanted by Jharkhand Police for multiple criminal cases registered in Palamu and Latehar districts.

The arrests were made around 3pm by teams from the Railway Protection Force (RPF), Government Railway Police (GRP) and Rourkela's Plant Site police station, under the supervision of Rourkela Superintendent of Police Nitish Wadhwani.

According to RPF officials, the duo had travelled by train from Jharkhand to Rourkela. Around 8am Thursday, RPF personnel noticed the two loi-

tering suspiciously on Platform No. 5 and detained them. Officers recovered three mobile phones, four SIM cards, and ₹1.780 in cash from their possession. The phones were found in flight mode, and upon inspection, investigators discovered photos and details related to arms and ammunition.

Following the arrests, SP Wadhwani, accompanied by DSP Amarendra Sahu and Plant Site IIC Bibas Pradhan, visited the RPF post to interrogate the suspects. During questioning, the two confessed to being active members of the Third Conference Preparatory Committee (TPSP) of the Latehar Maoist organisation, involved in extortion and various criminal activities.

Jharkhand Police was immediately informed and a team led by Avneesh Kumar, officer-in-charge of Manika police station in Latehar, arrived in Rourkela to take custody of the accused and transport them back to

RPF officer Kamalesh Samaddar confirmed the arrests, stating that both suspects are active members of the Maoist network. He said further investigation is underway.

connected virtually and lauded

Coal India's sustained commit-

ment to community development

through diverse and high-impact

CSR projects implemented across

Chairman Prasad in his address

emphasised the vital role of Coal In-

dia and MCL in particular in shap-

the country.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Name of the Work: OUTSOURCING OF MANPOWER FOR STRENGTHENING OF SIGNAL & TELECOM MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF 2 (TWO) YEARS.

Tender Value: ₹ 19,49,99,474.07, EMD:

11,25,000/-, Cost of tender document ₹11.800/lidding Start Date: 17.10.2025, Date & Time of

closing of Tender: at 1100 hrs. of 31.10.2025. No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in erson shall be accepted against such tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejecte summarily without any consideration.

complete information including e-tender ocuments of the above e-tender is available i website www.ireps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any hanges/corrigenda issued for this tender. Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/ PR-668/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

NCC GROUP HEADQUARTERS, CUTTACK

FILLING UP OF POSTS AT CSD CANTEEN, **CUTTACK ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS**

Applications are invited for various categories mentioned below on contractual basis. Details are as under:

Vacancy Eligibility Assistant Manger 01 (One) Upto 60 years ESM Only (Open for all) 10+2 MTS (Multi Tasking Staff) 25 (Twenty Five) Pass with adequate Computer Knowledge Upto 50 years (Open for all) 10th Safaiwala 02 (Two) Class Pass

Interested eligible candidates are requested to submit their application by 31st Oct. 2025 at NCC Group Headquarters, SO - 15, Cantonment Road, Cuttack 753001 alongwith photo copy of necessary documents (for MTS & Safaiwala) and proof of retirement documents issued by the respective offices for (ESM). An interview for the same will be held on 17/18 Nov. 2025 at 10.30 A.M. at NCC Group Headquarters, Cuttack with original documents. The pay will be as per Govt. of Odisha Letter No. 6432/LC, Bhubaneswar dated 30 Sep. 2024.

NCC Group Headquarters, Cuttack



ZONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR 1st Floor, Shyam Arcade, Khetrajpur, Sambalpur-768003

APPENDIX-IV [Rule-8(1)] **POSSESSION NOTICE** (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, he Authorised Officer issued a Demand Notice calling upon the following borrower(s) / guarantor(s)/ mortgagor(s) to repay the outstanding amount & interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrower(s) / guarantor(s) mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors and the public in general that the Authorised Officer has taken SYMBOLIC POSSESSION of the property of below mentioned account in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules. The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Bank for an amount mentioned herein below. The borrower attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Notice

BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor(s) BARIPADA BRANCH /

Borrower: Mr. Pratap Chandra Ghadei, S/o - Mr. Purna Chandra Ghadei Co-Borrower: Mrs. Kabita Ghadei, W/o: Mr. Pratap Chandra Ghadei, both are At: Tulasichoura, Ward No.: 14, P.O/P.S: Baripada, Dist: Mayurbhanj.

SAMBALPUR BRANCH/ Borrower: Mr. Rupesh Kumar Mishra, S/o-Rambiswas Mishra / Guarantor cum Mortgagor : Mrs. Rajkumari Mishra W/o: Rambiswas Mishra, both are At Talbhata Pada, Near Durga Mandir, Khetrajpur, Sambalpur.

Date: 09.10.2025, Place: Sambalpur

as on 11.06.2025 04.10.2025 + interest, costs & expenses thereon

Amount outstanding Date of Demand/

as on the date

of Demand Notice

₹2,21,285/-

as on 07.07.2025

+ interest, costs &

expenses thereon

12.06.2025 All that piece and parcel of Land and Building recorded in the name of Mr. Pratap Chandra Ghadei, S/o: Mr. Purna Chandra Ghadei under Khata No.: 332/1190, Plot No.: 285/2154, Area Ac. 0.021 Decimal at Mouza

Description of the

Unit No.: 14, Sungadiasahi, P.S: Baripada, No.: 100, Tahasil: Baripada, Dist: Mayurbhanj Kisam : Gharabari. Bounded by : North : River, South : Road, East : Gokuli Ghadei, West Javaram Ghadei ₹14,38,477/-07.07.2025 All that piece and parcel of Land and Building recorded

No.: 381 (P), South Plot No.: 339 (P), East: Plot No.: 343, 380, West: Plot No. 339 (P)

in the name of Smt. Raikumari Mishra. W/o-06.10.2025 Rambiswas Mishra, At: Mouza: Sambalpur Town Unit No.: 9 (Talbhata), Tahasil/Dist: Sambalpur under Khata No.: 368/489 having Plot No.: 339/2824, Area Ac. 0.060 Decimal. Bounded by: North: Plot

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Indian Bank

PM Prasad, Chairman, Coal India Ltd.; Vinay Ranjan, Director (HR) Coal India; Uday Anant Kaole, Chairman-cum-Managing Director,

Sambalpur, Oct 9: Mahanadi Coal-

fields Limited (MCL) hosted the 4th

edition of Coal India CSR Conclave

2025 at Gopalpur. The one-day

conclave brought together senior

executives and CSR professionals

from across Coal India Ltd. and

its subsidiaries to deliberate on

emerging perspectives, best prac-

tices, and strategies for impactful

CSR interventions.



MCL hosts 4th Coal India CSR Conclave

MCL along with other distinguished tors from other subsidiaries were present at the inaugural ceremony.

Mines, Satish Chandra Dubey,

guests inaugurated the conclave. CVO- Coal India, Functional Directors of MCL, CVO- MCL and Direc-Minister of State for Coal &

ing India's development landscape through the lasting social impact of CSR initiatives in the communities. He highlighted the core principles of People, Profit, and Planet as guiding principles and elaborated on several flagship CSR initiatives benefitting masses.



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





Tushara Surapaneni

International

law is explicit

in protecting

and medical

personnel because

they are essential

to preserving life.

deaths and injury

damage is to call

into question our

own humanity

To accept their

as collateral

hospitals

Dangerous Precedent

ollowing 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 healthcare 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.

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.

The strength of a man's virtue should not be measured by

his special exertions, but by his habitual acts.

BLAISE PA

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.

FOCUS NATIO

SHOE-STRIKE AT CONSTITUTION

ing 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 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



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

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 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 conspicuously 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

Rajdeep Sardesai

MULTI-RELIGIOUS

SOCIETY, LAW

MUST BE KEPT

ABOVE FAITH.

VIOLENCE AND

AND ANY ACT OF

COERCION MUST

BE CONDEMNED

BY ONE AND ALL

GEOPOLITICS

Taiwan: India's distant neighbour



Rup Narayan Das

INDIA DOES
NOT ACCORD
DIPLOMATIC
RECOGNITION
TO TAIWAN
BECAUSE OF
ITS 'ONE CHINA
POLICY', BUT
THERE HAS BEEN
ENGAGEMENT IN
TERMS OF TRADE
AND PEOPLETO-PEOPLE
CONTACTS

etween 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 bourgeoning 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 Foxcon 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.

etters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate,
Bhubaneswar-751010

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.

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.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA Avinash Godboley, DEWAS



TWO STATES





Tea gardens bear the brunt of nature's fury

Flash floods, landslides devastate over 30 Darjeeling tea gardens; ₹50cr loss feared



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 9: The recent flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rain in north 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 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,

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

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

AI AND THE NEW DOCTRINE

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 evolying 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-Dav 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



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

deal with terror attacks, newer methods have to be put in place, and the strategy needs to keep evolving according to the situation.'

Intelligence agencies from across the world have been flag ging a threat wherein terrorists have started relying more on Artificial Intelligence (AI). At first, it was found that these elements were using AI only to create propaganda material. such as text and videos. Now they are using AI to assess the strength of the military and also learn more about the strategies that a country is using to fight against them.

India's national security planners have now started to invest heavily in AI to fight the menace. The use of technology would ensure that they can pre dict a threat more proactively rather than just react to one. Al would be used to analyse phone

Mamata's curveballs throw Opposition off balance

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

FRIENDLY BACTERIA

IISER Kolkata makes cancer breakthrough

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 9: A team of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata has developed a "friendly bacteria" that can safely and effectively fight cancer from within the patient's body, the premier institute said in a statement.

At the same time, they are developing a detection system capable of monitoring the prog ress of the therapy.

Together, these innovations mark a new frontier in the combined therapeutic and diagnos tic approach to cancer treat ment, the IISER Kolkata said.

Their project, titled ReSET (Reprogramming the Suppres sive Environment of Tumour Microenvironment), tackles one of the biggest barriers in cancer therapy. "Cancer ofter hides behind special immune cells called T regulatory cells (Tregs), which suppress the body's natural defence system This makes standard therapies like immunotherapy or chemo therapy less effective," it said.

Following a bold and inno vative approach, the IISER Kolkata team are engineering probiotics to detect tumours and disrupt the activity, re activating the immune sys tem against cancer. In simple words, they are converting friendly microbes into living targeted medicines that could one day work from inside the patient's body to make cancer treatment safer and more effective, the statement elaborated

Taking it out of the lab, the students have integrated human practices into their design by engaging with oncologists, surgeons, cancer survivors and NGOs.

They also organised outreach programmes in schools, cancer awareness campaigns and col laborated with hair donors and

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 report-

ers. 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

"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

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,

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 Maldaha Uttar (North Malda) MP, blood covering Murmu's face, accompanied by BJP's Siliguri MLA Shankar Ghosh, also hurt in the incident. But Ma-

mata 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 po-

litical responses – sometimes

appearing forced, sometimes

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 mount ed. 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 penal ty 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

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

'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' commit-

ment 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.ir 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 Panchaya 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. Sd./- Block Development Office

OIPR-19363/11/0007/2526

Jharsuguda **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

Name of the work 3 (Three) nos of works

Estimate cost 17.65 lakh to 21.15 lakhs Date & time of availability From 11.00 A.M. of 10.10.2025 to 5.30 P.M. of 22.10.2025 of bid document in the

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

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

Sd./- Additional Chief Engineer OIPR-13013/11/0036/2526 P.H. Division, Bhanjanagar at Chatrapur

Nos. of Work

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER KHARIAR (R&B) DIVISION, KHARIAR, DIST:NUAPADA. ODISHA

promised justice.

E-mail: eeroads.khr@rediffmail.com No.5530, Date:08.10.2025

TENDER CANCELLED

No.B-589: Tender Call The Notice Notice-14. Bid E-Procurement 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 OIPR-34062/11/0045/2526 Khariar (R&B) Division

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRIL.). **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/Agril/EE(Blgr)/2025-26, Dt.08.10.2025

	1100: 01 11011		101100.	
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	Ι.	From 11.00 Hrs. of 15.10.2025	
	bid document in the portal	Ŀ	to 17.00 Hrs. of 23.10.2025	
	Last date/time of receipt of	Г		
copies of uploaded documents,				
05	drafts etc. in the tender box in	١.	Upto 17.00 Hrs. of 27.10.2025	
	the office of the undersigned	Ė		
	at Adarsha Pada, Near Cold			
	Storage, Bolangir, PIN-767001			
06	Date & Time of opening of bids	:	11.00 Hrs. of 28.10.2025	
111/ 1	Nome and Address of the		Executive Engineer (Agril.)	
	Name and Address of the	:	Bolangir Division, Bolangir, AT/	
	Officer Inviting Bid		POST- Bolangir, Pin-767001	
Further details can be seen from the website:				

www. tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- Executive Engineer (Agril.) Agriculture Engineering Division, OIPR-01462/11/0008/2526

Bolangir

national



tinent to highlight that this is the first instance in 2025 where such a large number of fishermen have been apprehended on a single day

PUNJAB POLICE BUSTS BABBAR KHALSA TERROR MODULE; 2 HELD

Punjab Police Thursday claimed to have busted a Babbar Khalsa International terror module with the arrest of two persons from Jalandhar, and seized a 2.50 kg RDX-fitted improvised explosive device along with a remote control. The improvised explosive device (IED) was intended for a targeted terror attack, DGP Gaurav Yadav said



has been spread. It was also said that the said leader had already met the BSP chief at Delhi and Lucknow. But as of now, I have no knowledge about any such meeting MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF





KIREN RIJIJU | PARL AFFAIRS MINISTER



iudiciary - to crush the voice of the courts and destroy democracy completely

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | AAP NATIONAL CONVENER

SHORT **TAKES**

Vijay's residence gets bomb threat

Chennai: Police arrested a 37-year-old man Thursday for making a hoax call to the police control room post midnight about planting a bomb at actor-politician Vijay's Neelankarai residence here, said officials. The Shabik, said police sources. On getting a call, the Bomb **Detection and Disposal Squad** early in the morning, and checks were carried out, but nothing was found, police officials added.

Karur stampede: SC to hear TVK's plea today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is slated to hear Friday the plea filed by Tamil actor Vijay's political party. Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam. challenging the Madras High Court order directing that an SIT be constituted to probe the Karur stampede in which 41 people were killed. The apex court had Tuesday agreed to hear the plea October 10. A bench comprising Justices J K Maheshwari and N V Aniaria is scheduled to hear the matter as per the apex court cause list.

Porsche 'racing' BMW crashes on highway

Mumbai: A speeding Porsche car crashed into a road divider, injuring its two occupants, while apparently racing another high-end vehicle on a highway in Mumbai early Thursday, police said. The incident took place at around 2 am on the Western Express Highway near Jogeshwari, they said. The speeding Porsche car, with two persons on board, was apparently racing a BMW car when the driver lost control of the wheels and it crashed into a road divider beneath Mogra Metro station, a Jogeshwari police official said.

Fire cracker unit mishap toll rises

Rayavaram: One more person died of wounds sustained in an accident at a firecracker manufacturing unit in Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema district, police said Thursday. Three people were injured and of them, one succumbed to burn injuries this morning. The fire accident occurred around 1 pm at Sri Ganapati Grand Fire Works Wednesday "The death toll rose to eight today and the injured persons have been reduced to two," Raghuveer told PTI, adding that the inquest and postmortem had been completed for all the bodies and were handed over to their families.

India-UK partnership key to global stability: Modi

plans to supply lightweight multirole missile systems to the *Indian military to* strengthen its air defence capabilities, and agreed to finalise an inter-governmental pact to jointly develop maritime electric propulsion systems for *India's naval platforms*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 9: The India-UK partnership stands as an important pillar of global stability and economic progress at a time the world is witnessing uncertainties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Thursday after holding wide-ranging talks with his British counterpart Keir Starmer that broadly focused on boosting ties in areas of trade, defence and technology Following the Modi-Starmer

talks, the two sides announced plans to supply lightweight multirole missile systems to the Indian military to strengthen its air defence capabilities, and agreed to finalise an inter-governmental pact to jointly develop maritime electric propulsion systems for India's naval platforms.

The Indian side flagged its concerns over activities of pro-Khalistani elements in the UK, and stressed that radicalism and violent extremism should not be allowed to abuse freedom of expression. In their restricted as well as delegation-level talks, the two leaders held that the sealing of the historic free trade agreement between the two sides in July will inject in new energy in ties as it will slash tariffs, increase access to each other's markets, enhance trade, create jobs, and benefit



industries and consumers in both countries

The British prime minister, accompanied by over 100 CEOs, entrepreneurs, university vice-chancellors, landed in India's financial capital Wednesday to a rousing welcome. It is his first visit to India. "India and the UK are natural partners. Our relationship is built on the shared values of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law," Modi said in his media statement in presence of Starmer."In today's time of global uncertainty, our growing partnership stands as an important pillar of global stability and economic progress," he said.

Modi said India's dynamism and the UK's expertise together will create a "unique synergy' to further enhance the bilateral relations in diverse areas.

"Our partnership is trustworthy, and driven by talent and technology. And today, as Prime Minister Starmer and I stand together on this stage, it is a clear reaffirmation of our shared commitment to work hand-in-hand towards building a brighter future for the people of both our nations," he said.

The two sides unveiled a series of new initiatives to boost cooperation in areas of telligence, telecom, health and education besides rolling out steps to boost cooperation in the defence sector An agreement on govern-

ment-to-government supply of lightweight multirole missile (LMM) systems to bolster India's air defence capabilities, an arrangement for Indian Air Force (IAF) instructors to be integrated with the Royal Air Force (RAF) and supporting each other for a long-term collaboration on "complex" weapons systems were among the highlights to step up defence cooperation. A joint statement said both the prime ministers were pleased with the intent to finalise an India -UK Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) on cooperation in developing maritime electric propulsion systems for Indian Naval platforms. In his remarks, Starmer described inking of the UK-India Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement as a "breakthrough moment" as it will slash tariffs, increase access to each other's markets and create jobs. "It is significant that we're meeting here in Mumbai, India's economic and financial capital, because India's growth story is remarkable. I want to congratulate the prime minister on his leadership, aiming to be the world's third largest economy by 2028," he said. "We are creating a new modern partnership focused on the future and on winning the opportunities that it offers, and we're doing it together because India's growth story is remarkable," he added.

Modi and Starmer also condemned in the "strongest terms" the Pahalgam terror attack and committed to strengthen co-operation to take "decisive and concerted" actions against globally proscribed terrorists, terror entities and their "sponsors".

Judicial officers with seven yrs Bar experience eligible for ADJ quota: Top court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: The Supreme Court, in a significant verdict Thursday, held that judicial officers who have completed seven years of practice as advocates prior to joining the bench can be considered for appointment as district judges against vacancies reserved for members of the Bar.

A five-judge Constitution bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and justices M M Sundresh, Aravind Kumar,

S C Sharma and K Vinod Chandran delivered two separate and concurring verdicts on over 30 petitions.

Granting major relief to iudicial officers, the verdict said "The experience the judicial officers gain while working as judges is much greater than the one, a person gains while working as an advocate. Apart from that, before commencing their work as judicial officers, the judges are also required to undergo rigorous training of at least one year.

The verdict, which redefined the eligibility criteria for appointment of district judges, also held that the eligibility for appointment as a district judge or additional district judge is to be seen at the time of application.

"Judicial officers who have already completed seven years in Bar before they were recruited in the subordinate judicial service would be entitled for being appointed as a District Judge/Additional District Judge (DJ/ADJ) in the selection process for the post of DJs in the direct recruitment process," said the CJI, who au thored a 119-page judgement for himself and justices Aravind Kumar, S C Sharma and K Vinod Chandran.

'Though there is no eligibility prescribed under Article 233(2) for a person already in



judicial service of the Union or of the State for being appointed as District Judge, in order to provide a level playing field, we direct that a candidate applying as an in-service candidate should have seven years' combined experience as a Judicial Officer and an advocate," it

Justice Sundresh delivered a concurring opinion, endorsing the CJI's reasoning while elaborating on the principle of constitutional silence. He observed that the framers of the Constitution deliberately left certain areas open-ended, allowing the judiciary to interpret evolving needs.

"There is no bar on persons in judicial service from competing for vacancies intended to be filled through direct recruitment. Any interpretation to the contrary would amount to creating a reservation in favour of advocates, which the Constitution does not contemplate," Justice Sundresh held.

The CJI, in his verdict, held a person, who is in judicial service and has a combined experience of 7 years or more as an advocate or a judge, would be eligible for being appointed as a DJ under Bar quota under

SC: Sex edu should be provided to kids from a younger age

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: Sex education should be provided to children from a younger age, and not Class IX onwards, the Supreme Court has said.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Alok Aradhe said sex education should be part of the curriculum in higher secondary schools so that young adolescents are made aware of the hormonal changes that come with puberty.

"We are of the opinion that sex education should be provided to children from a younger age and not Class IX onwards. It is for the authorities concerned to apply their mind and take corrective measures, so that children are informed of the changes that happen after pu berty, and the care and cautions to be taken in relation thereto. the bench said.

The top court made the observations while granting bail to a 15-year-old boy accused of offences under sections 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intim idation) of the IPC, and Section 6 (aggravated penetrative sexu al assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The apex court earlier direct ed his release on bail subject to terms and conditions to be fixed by the Juvenile Justice Board, noting that he was a minor.

India, Australia ink three pacts to expand defence ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: India and Australia Thursday signed three key pacts including one on information sharing, to further expand their bilateral defence and military ties following "pro ductive" talks between Defence Minister Rainath Singh and his Australian counterpart Richard Marles in Canberra.

Singh, currently on a two-day risit to Australia, also met Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Foreign Minister Penny Wong. broadly focusing on imparting more dynamism to the relations

The two defence ministers af firmed the importance of enhanc ing cooperation with regional partners to help maintain a free open, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific, underscoring their strong support for freedom of navigation and overflight and unimpeded trade in the region.

Besides the agreement on information sharing, the two sides firmed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will provide for cooperation on submarine search and another on establishment of a framework for joint staff talks. The Singh-Marles meeting marked five years of the India-Australia comprehensive strategic partnership, with both sides reaffirming their shared commitment to deepening defence cooperation across a wide spectrum, including maritime security, defence industry collaboration and joint research in science and technology.

IPS OFFICER'S 'SUICIDE'

Wife, Dalit groups, Oppon call for action

Chandigarh, Oct 9: The mystery around the alleged suicide of a senior Haryana Police officer has deepened, with a note he left behind naming senior officers and his bureaucrat wife demanding an FIR against the state police chief.

Some Dalit groups and opposition parties have also demanded action in the matter. The note left behind by IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, who allegedly shot himself dead at his Sector 11 residence here Tuesday, names "senior officers" and details the "mental harassment" and humiliation he faced over the last few years, according to sources. The body of Kumar (52), a 2001-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer who was recently posted as the inspector general of the Police Training Centre (PTC) in Rohtak's Sunaria, was found

with a gunshot wound in a room at the basement of his Sector 11 house. His wife, Amneet P Kumar, a senior bureaucrat in the Hary ana government, sought Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini's intervention Thursday to ensure that an FIR is lodged against those named in the "suicide note".

In the evening, Saini held a meeting with top officials of his government in the wake of certain developments related to Kumar's "suicide". Opposition Congress demanded an impartial probe into the alleged suicide of Puran Kumar, with Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda saying no culprit should be spared and no innocent harmed. Congress MP Kumari Selia said a fair. independent and high-level investigation into the incident is essential to ensure the strictest action against the guilty.



No age bar for cases before Jan 25, 2022: SC

Students rush for cover during rain, in Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka

SURROGACY LAW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court Thursday said age restriction under the 2021 surrogacy law will not apply to intending couples who commenced the procedure, like freezing of embryos, before the law came into effect January 25, 2022.

The top court dealt with a provision of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, which states that an intending couple requires an "eligibility certificate" certifying that they are married and between the age of 23 and 50 years in case of female, and between 26 and 55 years in case of male, on the

day of certification. A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and K V Viswanathan noted that the Act came into force with effect from January

It said before January 25,

2022, there were no binding laws or certifications regarding age restrictions on intending couples wishing to avail surrogacy. "It is not for the State to

question the couple's ability to parent children after they had begun the exercise of surrogacy when there were no restrictions on them to do so," the bench

It held that Section 4(iii)(c)(I) of the Act does not have retrospective operation.

"Thus, if an intending couple commenced the surrogacy procedure prior to the commencement of the Act, i.e., January 25, 2022, and were at the stage of creation of embryos and freezing after extraction of gametes and on the threshold of transfer of embryos to the uterus of the



The top court dealt with a provision of the **Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, which states** that an intending couple requires an "eligibility certificate" certifying that they are married and between the age of 23 and 50 years in case of female, and between 26 and 55 years in case of male, on the day of certification

surrogate mother, the age restriction under Section 4(iii)(c) (I) of the Act would not apply,' the top court held.

The bench delivered its verdict on two petitions and an application filed by three intending couples, whose common grievance was related to the upper age limit.

The petitioners argued that they had commenced the surrogacy procedures prior to the enforcement of the Act, and when they were in the middle of the procedure, the law brought in an embargo in the form of age-limit.

Justice Nagarathna, who penned the verdict for the bench, said when the petitioners generated and froze their embryos, they qualified for surrogacy under the prevailing law.

"Thus, they came to possess

a right to surrogacy as part of reproductive autonomy and

parenthood," the bench said. It did not accept the Centre's submission that age restrictions under the Act should apply retrospectively to such couples also since the State has an interest in ensuring that

receive adequate parenting. "In this regard, we consider it useful to note that the law does not impose any age restrictions on couples who wish to conceive and bear children naturally," it said.

children born to such parents

The bench said prior to the enforcement of the Act, the petitioners were on the same

footing as couples who wished to conceive naturally, but the stark distinction was that owing to medical reasons/disadvantages, they could not have children naturally.

national



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

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

KERALA CM MEETS SHAH



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



You are not broke. You simply just don't have enough options left to make inflationadjusted 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 vou can imagine.

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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. lension 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 Shahnawaz 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**

3 of family killed in road mishap

Agency (NIA).

Jaipur: A couple and their four-year-old niece died after a pickup truck ran over their motorcycle in Raiasthan's Dausa district Thursday, police said. Their three-yearold 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.

Battle for poll-bound Bihar intensifies PM Modi speaks to

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 Teiashwi Yadav made a fresh, alluring promise of government jobs, and the Jan Suraaj 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

Ayodhya: Powerful

explosion kills five

Ayodhya (UP), Oct 9: At least

five people were killed and sev-

eral others were injured after a

house collapsed following a pow-

erful explosion in Pagla Bhari

village under the Pura Kalandar

police station area of Ayodhya

Circle Officer (CO) Shailen-

dra Singh told PTI that several

people were still feared trapped

under the debris, and rescue op-

erations were underway. "Five

people have died in the explo-

sion, a few have been injured,

and efforts are on to rescue those

trapped. The cause of the blast is

about the incident, the police,

the fire department and the

local administration teams

using excavators to clear the

rubble, while nearby houses

have been evacuated as a pre-

Officials have appealed to

residents to stay away from

the accident site to facilitate

rescue efforts. Senior police

and administrative officers are

supervising the operation and

have begun an investigation

to determine the cause of the

Chief Minister Yogi Aditya-

nath has taken cognisance of

the incident and expressed

deep condolences over the

Rescue workers have been

Upon receiving information

not yet clear," Singh said.

rushed to the spot.

cautionary measure.

explosion.

loss of lives.

Thursday, officials said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



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 Raghopur, the pocketborough of Tejashwi Yadav, for which candidate was yet to be announced.

Nonetheless, Singh added, cryptically, "Kishor will hit the campaign trail from Raghopur 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 ernment 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, Neerai 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

lakh people have got jobs. These recruitments took place on merit and there is no provision in the constitution under which an Act, as promised by Tejashwi, can be brought," said the JD(U) leader. Meanwhile, top leaders of

the Congress like Jairam Ramesh, Ashok Gehlot, Bhupesh Singh Baghel and Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary flew down to the state capital to release a 42-page-long "charge-sheet" accusing the NDA of having brought "destruction" to Bihar.

Evocatively titled "bees saal vinaash kaal", the document alleged that in the 20 years of its rule in the state, "through remote controls in Delhi and Nagpur", the BJP-led coalition had pushed the state backwards in terms of development markers but made it a top ranker in crime and corruption

Meanwhile, state BJP president denied that the NDA was grappling with seat-sharing woes, asserting "top leaders of all constituents are in touch. The final decision is not going to be taken on the soil of Bihar. But in two-three days, every thing will be made public".

Earlier, state Congress president Raiesh Kumar had also claimed that the party had fi nalised its candidates "in consultation with allies" and hoped that "in a day or two", the IN-DIA bloc, which was to make room for new entrants like JMM and RLJP, will announce

President Trump



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 "good progress" achieved in the trade negotiations.

Modi said on social 'Spoke to my friend, President Trump and congrat-

ulated him on the success of the historic Gaza peace plan,' Modi said on social media. "Also reviewed the good progress achieved in trade negotiations. 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 human itarian assistance to the peoto 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 post on X, Modi took 251 people as

hostages, nostages, and over 50 of them also reviewed the "good progress" achieved in the are still in its trade negotiations captivity. Israeli mili "Spoke to my friend. President Trump and congratulated him tary operations on the success of the historic have killed over

said he and Trump

Gaza peace plan,

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 medi-

66,000 Palestin-

ians since then

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 Thurs-

"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



New Delhi, Oct 9: Bollywood

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 with-

prising 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 Ap pellate Tribunal (NCLAT) The dispute was related to BEING STRONG', a fitness equipment brand founded by Salman Khan, in collabora-

within 20 months every housecrore families in Bihar. During its seat-sharing formula.

between Cuffe Parade and Aarey JVLR by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday in Mumbai, Maharashtra PRI PRHOTO

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 enhances 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 ma-

jor 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

approved several major proposals across labour, infrastructure, urban development, education, social welfare, and

The cabinet also

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

the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWS-SB) also received administrative approval, including the operation and maintenance of a 20 MLD Used Water Treatment Plant (UWTP) and 5 MLD Intermediate Sewage Pumping Stations (ISPS) at Nagasandra for five years at ₹26.02 crore. In education, the cabinet ap-

proved the establishment of a new medical college at Kanakapura with autonomous status and an annual intake of 150 students.

The project, estimated at ₹550 crore, will include college buildings, a 300-bed teaching hospital, hostels for boys and girls, staff quarters, and related facilities, with funding provided by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences.

Salman settles dispute with

the people of the Strip.

Jerai Fitness

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

actor Salman Khan Wednesday withdrew an insolvency appeal filed before the appel late tribunal NCLAT against Jerai Fitness, after settling over ₹7.24 crore dispute. Counsel appearing for

draw the appeal. A two-member bench com-

tion with Jerai Fitness.

international



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

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



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

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

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 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

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



he Palestinian Author-

Gaza, even though President

Donald Trump's plan sidelines

it for now, and is banking on

Arab support to secure its

position despite Israeli objec-

tions, Palestinian officials say.

has moved into focus with a

ceasefire due to begin Thurs-

day, 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 Isla-

mist militant group Hamas

disarm and end its rule

in Gaza, from where

it launched the Oc-

tober 7 attacks

on Israel that

ignited the

war. Hamas

seized con-

trol of the

coastal en-

clave from

Palestinian

Authority

dent Mahmoud

Abbas in 2007.

Trump's proposal

foresees an interna-

tionally supervised techno-

cratic Palestinian committee

taking over Gaza after the war.

It requires the PA, which is

"We can't wait to go back

(PA) Presi-

Gaza's future governance

ity (PA) expects a sig-

nificant role in post-war

- Israel, Hamas agree to ceasefire, hostage exchange
- Celebrations in Gaza, Tel Aviv after news

two-vear-old war that has

"I have no words to de-

scribe it," said former hos-

tage Omer Shem-tov, when

Just a day after the second

asked how the moment felt.

anniversary of the cross-bor-

der attack by Hamas mili-

tants that triggered Israel's

devastating assault on Gaza,

indirect talks in Egypt yield-

ed a deal on the initial stage

of Trump's 20-point frame-

In Gaza, circles of young

men in the streets applauded

the news, one of them clap-

ping as he was hoisted onto

Palestinian

officials see PA

playing role in Gaza,

citing Arab backing

Palestinian PM says plans for Gaza

governance evolving, though basics

covered in US proposal

PA has nominated some 5,500 police for

training in Egypt, training has begun

Gaza reconstruction costs are

estimated at \$80 bln,

work for peace.

'COULDN'T STOP

LAUGHING AND CRYING'

the shoulders of a

friend.

People

the enclave

wept and

chanted,

"Alla-

hu Ak-

bar" or

"God is

Great-

voicing

the

and let them re-

turn to their homes.

end the war

would

hopes

that

deal

disrupted the Middle East.

- Hostage release expected within 72 hours
- Ceasefire deal lacks detail, risks collapse

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**

Gaza authorities

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 electric-

Prime Minister Mohammad

Mustafa told Reuters. Mus-

tafa, 71, was appointed by

Abbas last year as part of a

shake-up of the Authority af-

ter then-president Joe Biden

made clear he wanted to see a

revitalized PA take charge in

"It's one thing to have some

international, temporary ar-

rangements to help and mon-

itor things, it's another to

govern and get things done,'

Mustafa said. The three offi-

cials cited the PA's interna-

tional standing as the Pales-

tinians' 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 practi-

cal way of doing things", Mus-

tafa said

"We're already there,"

ity supply.

post-war Gaza.

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!**

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

uters via a chat app. Others despaired about re-

turning since Israeli forces will stay in the enclave for

"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

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

Hamas-run Gaza government urged people not to return to home areas until the agreement was officially detailed so as to stay out of areas Israel still controls. The Israeli military also warned residents of northern Gaza not to return, saying on X that it remained a "dangerous com bat zone"

If fully adopted, the accord would bring the two sides closer than any prior effort to halt a regional war that drew in neighbours Iran, Lebanon and Yemen, deepened Israel's international isolation and changed the Middle East.

China outlines more controls on exports of rare-earths technologies

"I couldn't stop laughing

and crying," said Tamer

Al-Burai, a businessman

displaced from Gaza City.

"I can't believe that we have

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



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.



based in the Israeli-occupied

PA aims for post-war comeback

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 Re-

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.

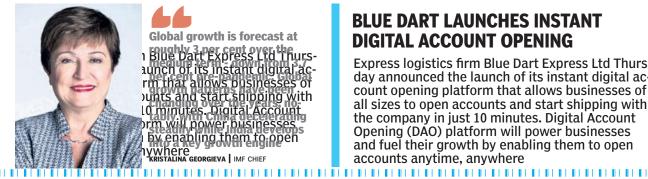
Speaking to Aliyev Thursday, Putin said that Russian air defences that targeted a Ukrainian drone fired on the Azerbaijani airliner because of a "technical malfunction," adding that two missiles exploded just 10 metres (33 feet) away from the passenger jet. "The Russian side will obviously do everything 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.

business



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





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



UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER



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



ethanol, methanol, biodiesel. LNG

and hydrogen NITIN GADKARI I 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 twofold, 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 yearago period, according to a regulatory filing.

Silver shines bright

\$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 indus-

trial 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 staved 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.

spot gold was Globally, 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.

REUTERS

Silver rose more than 2 per cent to breach the crucial **GOLD & SILVER** BAS



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 yearto-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 (FO-MC) 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 vear in 2025, he added.

HPI up 3.6% in Q1 FY26

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 9: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Thursday said that all-India House Price Index (HPI) based on transaction-level data of 18 major cities increased by 3.6 per cent (onyear) in the first quarter of the current fiscal (Q1 FY26).

The value of house price index registered a marginal increase in Q1 2025-26, with Nagpur, Chandigarh, Chennai and Kochi registering maximum increase over the last quarter.

'All-India HPI increased by 3.6 per cent in Q1 2025-26 as compared to 7.6 per cent growth in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. On a sequential (QoQ) basis all-India HP increased by 2.0 per cent in Q1 2025-26," the Central Bank said in a statement

The central bank released its HPI for Q1 2025-26 with a new base year of 2022-23. The earlier base year was 2010-11.

The RBI compiles the HPI on quarterly basis based on trans action-level data received from the registration authorities.

The new base year as 2022-23 covers 18 major cities. Eight new cities -- Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram, Ghaziabad, Thane, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Chandigarh and Nagpur, have been added to existing 10 cities in the new series with base year 2022-23.

"House is not just an asset but also a durable consumption good for households, providing shelter and other services. A change in the house price affects the households' perceived lifetime wealth and hence influences the spending and borrowing decisions of households," according to Central Bank.

Stock markets rebound on foreign fund inflows



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 9: Stock markets rebounded Thursday with the benchmark Sensex climbing 398 points following buying in IT firms and blue-chip Reliance Industries amid foreign fund inflows. The 30-share BSE Sensex

climbed 398.44 points or 0.49 per cent to settle at 82.172.10. During the day, it jumped 474.07 points or 0.57 per cent to 82,247.73. The 50-share NSE Nifty has jumped by 135.65 points or 0.54 per cent to 25,181.80.

IT shares such as HCL Tech. TCS, Infosys, and Tech Mahindra gained ahead of the quarterly earnings. IT bellwether TCS, after market hours, reported a 1.39 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 12,075 crore and a 2.39 per cent rise in revenues to Rs 65,799 crore for the second quarter of FY25. Among Sensex firms, Tata

Steel rose the most by 2.65 per cent after the company reported a 7 per cent rise in domestic crude steel production. HCL Tech, UltraTech Cement, Bharat Electronics, Sun Pharma and Tata Consultancy Services were the major gainers. Infosys rose nearly 1 per

cent while Reliance Industries

advanced 0.78 per cent, supporting the recovery in key indices from the previous day's losses. However, Axis Bank, Titan.

Maruti and Tata Motors were among the laggards. "Domestic benchmark indi-

ces staged a smart recovery on Thursday, reversing the previous session's losses, as risk appetite returned across the

board. The Nifty-50 concluded the session on a strong note, settling just shy of the 25,200 milestone, underpinned by sustained buying across key sectors," according to Bajaj Broking Research.

Positive global cues and institutional buying interest sup ported the markets, it added. "The domestic market

showed gains amid Q2 results. while metals indices outper formed, led by an uptick in base metal prices," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd. said. Despite muted earnings ex-

pectations, the IT index moved higher as investors took comfort in attractive valuationscurrently below long-term averages, Nair added. The BSE midcap gauge

jumped 0.75 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.18 per cent.

All sectoral indices ended higher. Metal surged 2.16 per cent, followed by commodities (1.34 per cent), BSE Focused IT (1.13 per cent), IT (1.02 per cent), services (0.87 per cent), health care (0.84 per cent) and capital goods (0.78 per cent).

As many as 2,099 stocks ad vanced while 2,080 declined and 171 remained unchanged on the BSE. Foreign Institu tional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 81.28 crore Wednesday, according to exchange data

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.23 per cent to \$66.08 a barrel.

Wednesday, the Sensex declined 153.09 points or 0.19 per cent to settle at 81,773.66, snapping its four-day rising streak

of capital markets data provid-

MCL conducts Coal India CSR Conclave

CIL CSR CONCLAVE 2025

Gopalpur, Odisha

Sambalpur: Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) hosted the 4th edition

of the Coal India CSR Conclave 2025 at Gopalpur, Odisha, reaffirming

Inaugurating the conclave, PM Prasad, Chairman, Coal India Ltd. said.

the company's commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth.

"Coal India and MCL continue to play a vital role in shaping India's

empower communities and protect the planet." Minister of State for

India's "sustained commitment to community development through

and purposeful, fostering meaningful connections with communities

diverse, high-impact projects across the country." Vinay Ranjan. Director (HR), Coal India, emphasized that CSR must be "need-based

while enhancing visibility and impact.'

Coal & Mines, Satish Chandra Dubey, who joined virtually, lauded Coal

development landscape through meaningful CSR initiatives that

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

Mumbai, Oct 9: The \$1.3 bil-

lion maiden share sale by LG

worth 4.43 trillion rupees

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 er PRIME Database.

(\$49.9 billion) at the top end of

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.

LG IPO breaks all record with 4L-cr subscription

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 In-

Ranchi: As part of the

Vigilance Awareness

Central Mine Planning

and Design Institute

(CMPDI) organised a

blood donation camp in

collaboration with CCL

Gandhi Nagar Hospital,

Hospital, Ranchi. The

Ranchi, and RIMS

Campaign 2025,

listing gains and strong nearterm growth prospects thanks to the government's tax cuts," said Prashanth Tapse, senior vice president of research at Mehta Equities

dia, where they expect better

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.

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 Shyamnand 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 mildhybrid 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.



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.



OTV hosts Business Odisha Awards

service, and the importance of voluntary blood donation.

CMPDI organises blood donation camp

camp was inaugurated by Manoj Kumar, Chairman-cum-Managing

(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

Director, CMPDI, in the presence of Shankar Nagachari, Director

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



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

(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."

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 Uttar 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.

India assured of

ever mixed team medal in World Junior Championships

Guwahati, Oct 9: India beat

Korea to reach semifinals and

assure themselves of a maid-

en medal at the World Junior

Mixed Team Badminton Cham-

The hosts won 44-45, 45-30,

45-33 in a nerve-wracking quar-

terfinal clash that lasted almost

three hours as the semi-final ap-

pearance assured India of their

first-ever mixed-team medal in

the history of BWF World Ju-

The Indian shuttlers will face

Asian U-19 mixed team champi-

ons Indonesia in the semifinals.

Indonesia defeated Chinese

Taipei 45-35, 45-35 in another

quarterfinal match at the Na-

tional Centre of Excellence here.

for the quarterfinals, it was

quite clear that they were heav-

The way India had lined-up

nior Championships.

pionships here Thursday.

Ghosh's fiery knock in vain historic medal

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

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.

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, Sneh Rana 33; Chloe Tyron 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; Sneh Rana 2/47).

ers to bail them out in case the Koreans made the most of their

doubles strength. The first set went according ly as Bhargav Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gobburu went down 5-9 in the first boys doubles against Cho Hyeong Woo and

Lee Hyeong 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 Lal

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 capitalised 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 semifinal 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 24time Grand Slam champion is now just two wins away from a recordextending 41st Masters 1000 title, and his first since the 2023 Paris

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

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 tourna-



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 backpass 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.

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

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

ramsanga and Aanya Bisht in the mixed doubles against Lee and Cheon meant that Unnati Hooda had to win 15 points be fore her opponent Kim Han Bi could reach nine.

India water polo team displays Tricolour on trunks, triggers row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: After the controversy sparked by the display of the national flag on the swimming trunks of the Indian men's water polo team during the Asian Aquatics Championship in Ahmedabad, the Swimming Fed eration of India has clarified the matter, saying the inclusion of the national flag on the athletes competition wear adheres strictly to the World Aquatics regulations governing sportswear.

The Indian men's water po lo team found itself in a major controversy by displaying the tricolour on their swimming trunks during the Asian Championship, a move that violates the country's Flag Code.

Reacting to the matter, SFI secretary general Monal Chokshi said, "In our opinion, there is no controversy. Some media houses picked it up and think it's some kind of a controversy over there or a violation. All countries wear the flag on their competition wear. Every single team has been wearing this and the Indian team has also worn it and it is in line with the World Aquatics competition wear guidelines.'

The reports were emerging that the depiction of the tricolour on the swimming trunks of the players violated the Flag Code 2002 and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

series in January,

provided they

are still aiming

to play the 2027

World Cup.

Between the

conclusion of

South Africa

ODIs and start

leg, there will

of New Zealand

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

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 dress-

ated among the group is something that I aspire," he said.

While Agarkar announced

his appointment after India

ing 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 cre-

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

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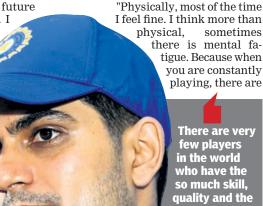
been able to

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able to achieve. Just

we as a team have been



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.

> playing, there are so much skill, quality and the experience that they have

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 inter-

BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

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

won the first Test against the forinside her teammate's bag West Indies in Ahmedabad, Gill and final Test, starting Friday ward national games across three have to go through," he added Printed and published by Adyasha Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: (0674) 2580385 (Advt.), Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ODIENG/2011/37159