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FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

You may find yourself in a precarious position today, says Ganesha. You may feel challenged and swim against the current, which will be counterproductive. Nothing may seem to work out. Taking a break will ease the stress at such a time.

TAURUS

Almost as if crafted by Cer-vantes himself, you might wake up today feeling passionate and quixotic. Make up and make overs may be on the cards as you will have the urge to be groomed. Once you are done without yourself, you will shower others with attention, says Ganesha.

GEMINI

Even though it is for your own benefit, you will spend the day safeguarding the sentiments of others. Not too unchar-acteristic, but unusual nonetheless. For most part of the day, you will be away from your family, mostly on a trip for business or leisure purposes. Today, family takes a backseat and having a successful career will be the only thing on your mind.

CANCER

The workaholic Bull will have more on their plate than they can chew. They will be under so much work pressure that their otherwise robust shoulders may wilt under pres-sure. Ganesha advises you to take it easy, and learn to say no. Also, this is just a temporary phase and as long as you stay cool, nothing can defeat you.

LEO

When it comes to maintain-ing a balance in any relation-ship, you set an example for others to follow. It is like an inner light guides you towards joyful coexistence, though, at times, it may entail making certain acts of sacrifice, says Ganesha. You may choose to lose an argument in order to win hearts.

VIRGO

Take up the gauntlet that promises to test your business acumen, especially those related to capital and finances. You are most likely to come up with out-of-the-box ideas to resolve issues, and Gane-sha assures that this will work wonders.

LIBRA

Everyone has a dream, but only few have the fortune to realise them. Be among the lucky ones today as you see your dream project materialise and take its first steps towards a successful future. But all good things have humble beginnings. What matters is that you had a dream, and dreaming it was the hardest part, reminds Ganesha.

SCORPIO

Ganesha predicts that you shall work towards building a better future. But do not expect radical or dynamic changes. Cruise control is the best way to go for now, says Ganesha. Patience in itself will reap rich benefits.

SAGITTARIUS

Problems will push you in a corner today. But try resolv-ing them as son as possible. Expect delays in making final decisions. But as the day ends, expect fruitful results to come by, predicts Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

You may have sweated your guts out for an opportunity to pursue higher studies abroad, and met with disappointment. Try again today, advises Ganesha. For those of you engaged in speculation, transaction in stock and shares is likely and may fetch substantial gains. Opportunities galore, but you won't progress until you exploit them to the best of your interest.

AQUARIUS

Work, work, work! That is what will pay rich dividends. Of course, a pat on the back does matter, and with your commitment record, you may be getting a lot of it! You may back off from taking risks, and yet want change. Ganesha wonders how you will fulfill your wish.

PISCES

Arguments lead nowhere, and why argue when, at the end of the day, you can step back and watch them end up with egg on their faces, break a leg, get crushed under a fall-ing safe, or otherwise suffer the numerous disasters you wish them to, for disagreeing with you. You will end up having the last laugh, so you might as well use your time more effectively, says Ganesha.



GOMEZ WISHES TO HAVE KIDS

Singer-actress Selena Gomez expressed her wish to have children someday while celebrating her role in *Wizards Beyond Waverly Place*. Sharing an Instagram Story, she wrote, “Alex Russo is a mommy. Hope-fully one day that’ll be me,” alongside a clip from her final episode on the series.

NICOLE KIDMAN DESIRES TO PASS ON HER WISDOM

Nicole Kidman, following her split from Keith Urban, reflected on her life’s journey, saying she’s “experienced, seen, and sur-vived a lot.” Speaking to *Harper’s Bazaar*, she shared her desire to pass on her hard-earned wisdom, adding that at times she feels both “really old” and “like a little girl.”



Ladhei trailer out



BHUBANESWAR: The trailer of upcoming Odia movie *Ladhei* was launched here at Adilaxmi Convention in the presence of film’s producers, director, cast, and technical crew, Friday. Presented by DRS Enterprises, the movie will hit theatres in Odisha as well as in Pune, Hyderabad, and Bangalore October 17, days before Diwali.

Directed by Ashok Pati and produced by Debasish Pattnayak, *Ladhei* will have a new lead pair in Lohitakshya and Abhilipsa.

Pritiranjana, KK, Bibhas, Udit Guru, Somesh, Madhu, Smrita Choudhury, Manoj Dandapat, Rajlakshmi Dakuwa, Ravi Narayan Behera, Sushant, Rajlakshmi Mahapatra, and Ashok Pattnayak are playing other

key roles in the film.

The story, screenplay, and dialogues have been written by Bharadwaj Panda, while Kuldeep is the DoP. The music is scored by Gaurav Anand and Somesh Satapathy and songs penned by Nirmal Nayak, Babu Goswami, and J.P. Wordsmith. Kuldeep Pattnaik, Asima Panda, Antara Chakraborty, Swayam Prabhaskar, Ananya Shritam Nanda, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Gaurav Anand, and Somesh Satapathy have lent their voices to the songs. The title track also features a special rap performance by Rapper Addiction. Amit has donned the hat of choreography while Prakash Films is distributing the project.

Rhea: It’s okay to be vulnerable

Mumbai: On World Mental Health Day, actress Rhea Chakraborty emphasised that it’s okay to be vulnerable, while Fatima Sana Shaikh encouraged people to accept that it’s okay to fail.

Rhea took to Instagram, where she shared a video featuring her along with Fatima and actress Inayat Sood, who is known for her work in *Scoop*, *De De Pyaar De* and *Tigers*.

The video begins with Fatima saying: “It’s okay to fail and it’s okay to not be okay.”

Rhea, who was taken into custody following the death of late star Sushant Singh Rajput in June of 2020, said: “It’s okay to be vulnerable, it’s okay to stay in your bed and

not be your perfect self every day.”

Inayat added: “It’s okay to give up, it’s okay to take a break, it’s okay to not want to do anything.”

Rhea captioned the post: “It’s ok to not be ok worldmentalhealthday@fatima-sanashaikh.”

World Mental Health Day is an international day for global mental health education, awareness and advocacy against social stigma. It was first celebrated in 1992 at the initiative of the World Federation for Mental Health.



PHN

Konkona talks about women safety

Mumbai: Konkona Sen Sharma, known for her powerful performances and socially aware storytelling, returns to the screen as ACP Sanyukta Roy in *Search: The Naina Murder Case*. Directed by Rohan Sippy, the series premiered on JioHotstar and has already garnered attention for its gripping plot and Konkona’s intense portrayal of a determined investigator entangled in a complex murder case and a troubled marriage. In a recent interview, the actress reflected

on the evolution of women’s safety in the film industry over the past two decades.

She noted that earlier, fewer women were present on sets, and practical issues like access to proper bathrooms, late-night travel arrangements, and safety measures often limited their participation. Highlighting the persistence of predatory behaviour, she stressed the importance of open dialogue to bring gradual change and ensure safer, more equitable workplaces for women.

The series follows the investigation of a teenage girl’s brutal murder, uncovering layers of corruption and political conspiracy. Featuring Abhishek Bhalerao, Shraddha Das, and Shiv Panditt in key roles, *Search: The Naina Murder Case* combines an intense crime narrative with thought-provoking social commentary,

making it both a compelling thriller and a timely reflection on women’s place in cinema.

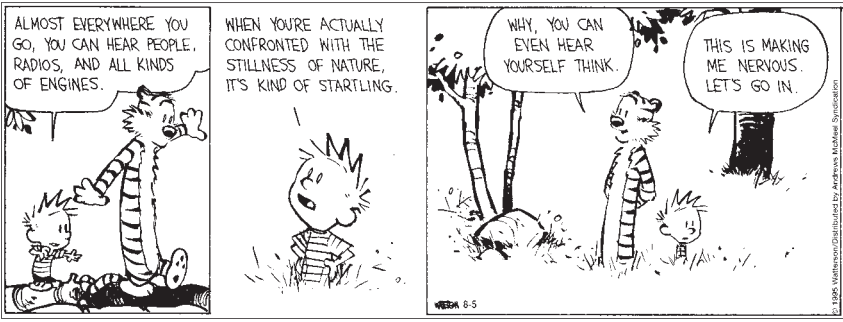


AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

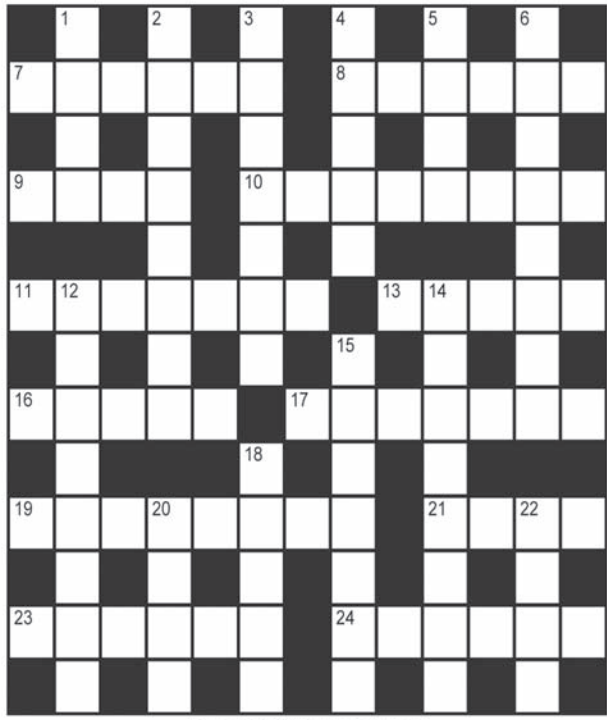


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**

7 Hearsay

8 Whirlpools

9 Tax

10 Caution

11 Fix-it shops

13 Loft

16 Involuntary twitch

17 Wander aimlessly
- 19 Horse type

21 Resting places

23 Flips over

24 Root vegetable
- Down**

1 Burlap fibre

2 Imitators

3 Feared
- 4 Disease-causing bacteria

5 Mideast port

6 Sweat

12 Claps

14 Moroccan city

15 Jump for joy

18 Blotto

20 Bugbear

22 Small recess

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

PM-JANMAN boosts rural connectivity in tribal areas

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: Two major rural road projects under Prime Minister's Janjati Adibasi Nyay Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) are transforming life in the state's remote tribal areas, official sources said.

They said the construction of Telagudutha-Tarabel road in Rayagada district and Purta-Siarhuli road in Deogarh district has, for the first time, provided local residents with safe, all-weather connectivity, significantly improving their quality of life.

In Rayagada, the 2.5 km Telgudu-Tarabel road has made travel easier for villagers who previously relied on a muddy, unsafe path.

During the rainy season, the old route cut off access to schools, markets, and medical facilities. Now, vehicles can reach the village year-round. School attendance has improved, pregnant women can safely reach hospitals, and farmers can transport crops and forest produce to nearby markets, boosting their incomes.

Local residents were also employed during construction, earning wages while fostering community engagement. Measures like tree planting and proper water drainage were implemented to ensure durability, safety, and environmental sustainability. In Deogarh, under Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana, a 2.198km road was built from Purta BLD road to Siarhuli in Barakot block at a cost of ₹1.41 crore, primarily benefiting particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTG).

The road has become a life-line for the tribal community, facilitating access to schools, Anganwadi centres, health-care services, and government welfare schemes. Improved connectivity also allows businesses and service providers to reach the villages, creating livelihood opportunities for local youth.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

BEFORE the Executive Magistrate, Kesinga, Kalahandi, I Lambodar Rana, S/o. Kuber Rana, Vill/PO - Nunmath, PS - Kesinga, Dist. - Kalahandi declared that I have changed my minor son's name from Nitin Rana, S/o. Lambudhar Rana to Nitin Kumar Rana, S/o. Lambodar Rana. Henceforth He will be known as Nitin Kumar Rana, S/o. Lambodar Rana for all future purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Sonapur, dt. 19.12.24, I, Anandini Sarangi, D/o - Basudev Sarangi, W/o - Dhiren Kumar Bedbak, R/o Bhagabatiplot, Sonapur, P.O./P.S. - Sonapur, Dist - Subarnapur (Odisha) declare that my actual and correct name is Anandini Sarangi. But in the R.O.R. of Khata No. 777/43 my name has been mentioned as Anandini Bedbak. That, both the names Anandini Sarangi and Anandini Bedbak are one and same person. Now onwards I shall be known as Anandini Sarangi in all respect.

City AIIMS hosts conclave on travel health clinics



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: AIIMS Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) successfully hosted the 2nd National Conclave on Travel Health Clinics (THCs). The two-day event concluded here Friday, served as a vital national platform to deliberate on strengthening THCs infrastructure in the country and integrating it into the mainstream public health system.

The conclave brought together representatives from various ministries, including the MoHFW, Ministry of External Affairs, and Ministry of Defence, along with experts from 16 AIIMS institutions and state medical colleges.

Emphasis was put on the need to establish THCs across

the country through coordinated inter-ministerial collaboration, said AIIMS Bhubaneswar executive director Dr Ashutosh Biswas. Proposal to adopt a hub-and-spoke model, with AIIMS Bhubaneswar serving as a central hub to provide guidance, training, and operational support to THCs nationwide, added Biswas.

Speaking on the occasion, DDG (PH-IH), DGHS, MoHFW Dr S Senthilnathan addressed the feasibility of in-travel medical care, suggesting that even without doctors on board, trained staff could manage basic health issues effectively.

Joining the ceremony, Dr Vikas Bhatia highlighted the need for structured courses, training programmes, and capacity-building in travel medicine, vaccination, infectious disease prevention, and emergency travel care.

BRIC-ILS showcases bioinnovation ecosystem

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: A national-level summit, titled 'The Life Science Startup Summit 4.0' on the theme 'BioE': Where Biology, Biotech and Business Converge' brought together policymakers, entrepreneurs, industry experts, researchers, and investors to strengthen India's biotechnology startup ecosystem and bioeconomy vision at Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC)-Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) here Friday.

Organised by BRIC-ILS, the summit provided a collaborative platform for academia, startups, investors, and industry to explore pathways from scientific discovery to market-ready innovation.

The inaugural session was graced by eminent dignitaries including NABI director Ashwini Pareek, BIRAC managing



director Jitendra Kumar and former Reliance Industries VP Santanu Dasgupta. During the session, RNA Biotech Pvt Ltd and Jivada Ventures Pvt Ltd unveiled their latest biotechnology products, marking a significant step in translating indigenous innovation into commercial solutions.

Speaking at the event, BRIC-ILS director Debasis Dash stated, "BioE" is a catalyst for transforming scientific innovation into enterprise, driving India's vision of a sustainable and globally competitive bioeconomy."

Delivering his keynote address, Pareek highlighted how

Govt nod for TP Scheme in Andharua, Daspur mouzas

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: The state government has approved the draft plan of Town Planning (TP) Scheme-8, marking another step towards the Capital City's structured urban development. According to an official notification published in Odisha Gazette, the scheme will be implemented over 560.86 acres in Andharua and Daspur mouzas. Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) will be the executing agency for the project.

Under TP Scheme-8, landowners will contribute 40 per cent of their land towards urban infrastructure, while 60 per cent will be set aside as the developed TP area. The project will feature wide roads ranging from 9 metres to 60 metres, apart from basic infrastructure like drainage, water supply, sewerage, and electricity networks, ensuring comprehensive infrastructure development. This approach is expected to not only enhance connectivity and livability but also significantly increase the market value of the retained land.

The TP initiative is a crucial part of 'Samrudha Sahara' programme, which



HIGHLIGHTS
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Under the scheme, landowners will contribute 40% of their land towards urban infrastructure, while 60% will be set aside for the developed TP area
The project will feature wide roads ranging from 9 metres to 60 metres

envisions transforming the state's urban areas into vibrant growth hubs through

GRIDCO signs agreements for renewable energy banking

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: In a step to advance Odisha's Renewable Energy (RE) adaptation and Green Hydrogen landscape, paving the way for a sustainable, prosperous future, GRIDCO signed RE banking agreements with M/s ReNew E-Fuels Private Limited for 50 MW and M/s UltraTech Cement Ltd for 6.25 MW, in presence of Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo here Friday.

Singh Deo said that the agreement reinforces Odisha's leadership and commitment, focused towards industrial development, backed by strong policies, robust green infrastructure and strategic seaports



in the backdrop of growing industrial demand. "So far we have approved 14 Green Hydrogen/Ammonia projects in the state, with a proposed investment of approximately ₹2 Lakh crores. These projects are expected to generate employment opportunities for 22,000 people," he added.

Energy department principal secretary Vishal Kumar Dev said, "Since the generation from

One-day conference held at KIIT University

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: A one-day conference on 'Viksit Bharat 2047' and 'Viksit Odisha 2036' was organised at KIIT University here Friday, bringing together senior representatives from the government and corporate sectors to deliberate on strategies for inclusive growth and development.

OERC chairman Pradeep Kumar Jena graced the occasion as chief guest. Among the distinguished guests were Industries and I&PR additional chief secretary Hemant Sharma, OSFC chairman Arun Kumar Panda, Hindalco Industries Ltd corporate affairs president Ardhendu Mohapatra, NALCO former CMD and organising committee chairman Tapan Kumar Chand.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohapatra highlighted Aditya Birla Group's substantial contribution toward the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' and 'Viksit Odisha 2036'. He noted that the group has already invested around ₹40,000 crore in the state across aluminium, mining, cement, chemical, and apparel sectors, generating direct employment for over 30,000 people — 82 per cent native to the state. Mohapatra further announced plans for an additional ₹50,000 crore investment, which is expected to create 15,000 more jobs through projects such as a new refinery at Kansariguda in Koraput, and the expansion of the Aditya Aluminium and FRP plants in Sambalpur.

STATE-LEVEL SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY

Sr citizens' guidance key to healthy society: Min



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) Minister Nityananda Gond Friday said senior citizens are invaluable sources of knowledge and experience and that their wisdom and guidance are immensely helpful in building and developing a healthy society.

The minister said this while attending the State-Level Senior Citizens' Day 2025 as the chief guest at Rabindra Mandap here.

Addressing the event organised by the SSEPD department,

Gond stated that senior citizens have a significant role to play in realising the vision of a Developed India and in making India a 'Vishwaguru' (global leader). "The government is fully aware of the problems faced by senior citizens and is taking necessary measures for their resolution. By drawing inspiration, blessings, and experience from our elders across various walks of life, we can certainly achieve these national goals," the minister added.

Bhubaneswar-Ekamra MLA Babu Singh, attending the event as guest of honour, stated that all of us are bound by love and respect. Hence, it is the

collective responsibility of everyone to ensure that senior citizens are given due importance and provided with social and economic security. "We must always remember that elderly people are not a burden. By moving forward with their experience, ideals, and blessings, we can lead a life of happiness and peace," Singh said.

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Chanchal Rana said senior citizens often face small but significant problems, many of which can be solved with community cooperation. "BMC always gives priority to addressing the issues of senior citizens.

The Union government has implemented Vaya Vandana Yojana for their welfare and established free health service centres at various locations for their healthcare needs," said Rana.

Delivering the welcome address, Special Secretary to SSEPD Rajani Jani said, "Age 60 is not just a number; it symbolises a wealth of experience. Senior citizens are revered members of our society. The present generation cannot afford to dismiss them as outdated, conservative, or irrelevant."

On this occasion, senior citizens were sensitised and made aware of financial literacy, digital literacy, and cyber safety. A cultural programme was also presented by Shwetapadma Sangeetatalaya Cultural Trust.

Additional Secretary Deepak Routrai delivered the vote of thanks, while the programme was coordinated by Punyashloka Priyadarshini. The event was attended by a large number of senior citizens, intellectuals, departmental officers, and representatives from voluntary organisations.

As part of the celebrations, a Yoga Camp was organised at IG Park in the morning.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	88.78 ▼ 0.09	SENSEX	82500.82 ▲ 328.72	GOLD	₹122,035 ▲ ₹1542
EURO	102.84 ▼ 0.54	NIFTY	25285.35 ▲ 103.55	SILVER	₹147,744 ▲ ₹1420

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	33.6°	32.2°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm
Min Temp	24.4°	23.0°	
Humidity	80%	87%	
Rainfall	NII	NII	

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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.

Vig nabs tehsildar day after release from jail

Mahakalapara tehsildar Siba Mallick was earlier arrested September 24 for bribery and was re-arrested Friday for possession of DA, a day after he got bail in the first case

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Mahakalapara, Oct 10: A day after his release on bail in a trap case, a senior Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) officer was arrested again Friday by the Odisha Vigilance on charges of possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income by around 190 per cent. The accused officer, identified as Siba Mallick, is currently posted as tehsildar at Mahakalapara in Kendrapara district.

Mallik was earlier arrested September 24 by the anti-corruption sleuths after he was caught red-handed while receiving a bribe of ₹20,000 from a complainant for facilitating the eviction of an illegal structure erected over government land obstructing the passage to his (complainant's) house.

Following his arrest, different teams of Odisha Vigilance carried out simultaneous searches at different locations connected to Mallick in connection with the Disproportionate



Assets (DA) angle.

The sleuths, after a thorough enquiry and evaluation, found Mallik in possession of approximately 190 per cent of his known sources of income, including four buildings, seven valuable plots, deposits worth ₹18 lakhs, and ₹1.55 lakh in cash, which he failed to explain satisfactorily. He was arrested for accumulating properties disproportionate to his known and legal sources of income.

“Two cases have been registered against him—one for taking bribe and another for pos-

sessing properties 190 per cent more than his known sources of income”, it added.

2 caught while accepting bribe

Meanwhile, in another trap case, two staffers posted at Jaleswar Municipality in Balasore were apprehended by Vigilance sleuths while accepting a bribe of ₹10,000 from a contractor for clearing his pending bill for works executed under the IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) activity in the locality.

The accused officials were identified as Braja Gopal Ghose Mohapatra, dealing assistant, sanitation-cum-MIS co-ordinator and Ratikanta Patra, sanitation expert. After completing the work, the complainant had been requesting accused dealing assistant Mohapatra to clear the pending bill for about one and a half months.

However, Mohapatra and sanitation expert Patra allegedly demanded a bribe of ₹10,000 to process the file, prompting the complainant to report the matter to the Vigilance authorities.

9 members of interstate ‘Mahakal’ gang held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Keonjhar, Oct 10: Nine members of the ‘Mahakal’ gang were arrested in Keonjhar district Friday along with arms and ammunition, police said.

The gang was allegedly involved in illegal sand mining, cattle theft, arms smuggling, dacoity, robbery, extortion, and contract killing, Keonjhar SP Kusalkar Nitin Dagdu said.

The members of the gang hailed from Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts of Odisha, and Jharkhand, he said.

The arrests were made from an abandoned house near the Narayanpur Shiv Temple in the Keonjhar Town police station



area, following a tense standoff with the police, he added.

“Members of the gang led by Ganesh Giri were intercepted by the police when they were on the way to rob Bank of India’s Narayanpur branch. On

seeing the police, they opened fire. Police personnel took immediate cover and exercised utmost restraint, tactically surrounding the premises where they subsequently took shelter,” the SP said.

Debt-ridden man commits suicide

Patana: A 28-year-old married man committed suicide by hanging in Khamua Ratanpur village under Patana block in Keonjhar district in the wee hours of Friday after reportedly failing to cope with mounting debt burden. The deceased was identified as Rasan and Barik, son of Mangulu Barik. About five months ago, he borrowed money from three self-help groups and a private finance firm to buy a Bajaj Pulsar motorcycle on installments, family members said. Unable to keep up with the repayments, he was allegedly being pressured by collection agents of the finance firm and women from the SHGs who came to his home demanding money. Relatives said he had become increasingly distressed and mentally unstable. Police said Barik was found hanging from a tree behind his house with a plastic rope. An unnatural death case (29/25) has been registered at Patana police station.

Paradip Port recognised as Green Hydrogen Hub

PNN & AGENCIES

Paradip, Oct 10: The Paradip Port Authority (PPA) has been officially recognised as a Green Hydrogen Hub under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) of the Government of India.

With this recognition, Paradip Port is now positioned at the forefront of the country’s clean energy and decarbonisation initiatives.

The designation, granted under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) guidelines, enables projects within the hub to access incentives



and benefits from both Central and state government schemes.

Green Hydrogen Hubs act as integrated centres for hydrogen production, storage, transportation, and end-use applications. Paradip’s strategic coastal location and robust infrastructure

make it an ideal site for large-scale hydrogen production and potential export.

This development aligns with the NGHM’s vision to make India a global hub for Green Hydrogen production, utilisation, and export, thereby promoting sustainable growth and clean energy adoption.

PPA Chairman PL Haranadh said, “We are honoured to be recognised as a Green Hydrogen Hub. Paradip Port will leverage its infrastructure and strategic location to support the nation’s clean energy transition and contribute to India’s decarbonisation journey.”

CM directs NHAI to restore traffic on Kalinga Ghat

Light vehicles may be allowed to ply in a week if weather holds: Official

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar/G Udayagiri, Oct 10: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday directed the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) authorities to restore traffic as soon as possible on Kalinga Ghat road along the National Highway-157 in Kandhamal which had been destroyed in heavy rain-triggered landslide.

Majhi also assured that the state will consider building an alternative road in the area.

The matter came to the fore when Bhanjanagar MLA Pradyumna Kumar Nayak met the Chief Minister and

urged him to ensure immediate completion of the repairs Friday. Nayak also pressed for construction of an alternative road, noting the age and vulnerability of the existing ghat route.

Despite passage of 25 days since a section of the NH passing through the Kalinga Ghat area on the Ganjam-Kandhamal border was washed out, repair work has yet to be completed after frequent disruptions owing to rain.

Locals alleged the NHAI has not treated the situation with urgency, resulting in a continued shutdown of vehicular movement on the stretch for



more than three weeks.

The prolonged closure of the Kalinga Ghati road has hit residents of Durgaprasad, G Udayagiri, Kalinga, Tikabali, Phulbani, Raikia, Baliguda and other areas. People across the district as well as travellers from other districts and states who rely on the route are facing major inconvenience.

Ambulance services have been the most affected due to the closure of the road. Passenger and goods vehicles are being diverted through longer routes, increasing travel time, fuel consumption and transport costs. Prices of essential goods have risen in markets across the district, burdening households.

Sources said the repair is now in its final phase. Meanwhile, eight to ten inches of concrete was poured Friday. Another eight to ten inches will be added a day later. Guard walls will be built on both sides of the road for safety. Authorities have also begun preparations to blast and remove large boulders perched precariously above the slide hill where the landslide took place.

If the weather remains clear over the next four days, light vehicles could be allowed to ply within a week, said Prashant Kumar Sahu, assistant executive engineer of the National Highways division.

Close shave for 8 after fishing vessel capsizes

Kendrapara: Eight fishermen had a narrow escape after their fishing vessel capsized in Bay of Bengal near Satabhaya, within the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary under Bhitarkanika National Park, following a high tide Thursday night. According to sources, the mishap occurred when the wooden structure of the vessel was damaged, causing a technical snag amid rough sea conditions. As the boat began to overturn, all eight fishermen jumped into the sea and managed to swim to safety. Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary ranger Kapilendra Pradhan said the vessel, along with the fish catch and fishing gear, sank completely in the rough waters.

CBI nabs RPF constable for graft

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela/Bondamunda, Oct 10: Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) sleuths Friday arrested a Railway Protection Force (RPF) constable while he was allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹15,000 from a woman scrap dealer at Bisra Chowk in Rourkela.

Officials seized the chemically treated currency notes from the accused identified as Mohammad Asrar. After preliminary questioning, CBI officers took him to Bhubaneswar around 7pm.

According to sources, Asrar had been repeatedly demanding bribes from a woman scrap dealer and harassing her. She lodged a complaint with the CBI. As part of a planned

trap, Asrar met the woman around 9am Friday at a fruit stall near the Birsra Munda Athletic Stadium at Bisra Chowk to collect the money. CBI officials, who were already in position, caught him red-handed and seized the tainted notes.

The CBI team later searched the RPF police station and barracks at Bondamunda. They examined the room where Asrar was staying and questioned senior officials.

During interrogation, Asrar claimed he was collecting the bribe on behalf of other RPF personnel. Sources said multiple complaints have been registered against him in the past, including allegations of collecting monthly payments from mafia groups.

Herd of 45 elephants wrecks havoc in Angul

Several houses, hundreds of acres farmland destroyed



POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Oct 10: Panic gripped the outskirts of Angul town Friday after a herd of about 45 elephants entered Kangula, Bentapur and nearby areas, damaged houses and destroyed crops on farmlands.

For the past 10 days, the herd has been roaming in and around Bentapur, Gopinathpur, and Ankul villages, causing widespread damage. The elephants have reportedly destroyed several houses and ravaged paddy crops

spread across hundreds of acres.

The herd blocked the road near the Padmapada Math in Gopinathpur Friday and charged at an auto-rickshaw. The driver narrowly escaped without injuries, witnesses said.

According to sources, the elephants migrated from the Dhenkanal forest division to Angul about a month ago. Since then, they have been moving through the forest ranges of Angul, Talcher, and Bantala. Two days ago, they destroyed a house in Gopinathpur. They entered

Bentapur village Thursday night, damaging farmlands belonging to residents Bibekananda Rath, Pratap Kumar Nath, Prabhin Nath, Santosh Khuntia, Abinas Behera, Saudamini Behera, Purnachandra Dhara, Bhaskar Dhara, Surath Behera, and Sudam Behera.

The herd, which includes six calves, spends the daytime near Padmapada Math and moves towards areas without solar fencing after sunset. Locals said fear has spread as the elephants often appear near the NALCO plant road, disrupting traffic movement and posing a risk to commuters.

Forest officials have not made enough efforts to drive the elephants away and crop damage assessment is being delayed, residents alleged.

Angul Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Nitish Kumar said steps are being taken to drive the herd back to a safer forest zone. “We have deployed additional staff from neighbouring forest divisions to ensure public safety. The crop damage is being assessed through relief camps, and compensation will be provided soon,” he said.

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(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MAYURBHANJ LIFT IRRIGATION DIVISION, BARIPADA
Telephone No.: 06792-252734 (E-mail: olicbpd@gmail.com)
e-Procurement Notice
BID ID No.: 5459/OLIC/025-26 Dated: 06.10.2025
No. CAD-1953: The Executive Engineer, Mayurbhanj Lift Irrigation Division, Baripada, At: Baripada, P.O.: Bhanpur, PIN - 757002, Dist.: Mayurbhanj on behalf of Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneswar invites tender through e-procurement in shape of PERCENTAGE rate bids in online mode for Reinforcement of old operable LIPs and Repair of office building at L.I. Sub-Division, Rasgobindpur on turnkey basis from reputed contractors/firms having valid PWD licence of required class.

1	Number of Package	8 Nos. (Badasahi, Bangriposi, Betnoti, G.B. Nagar, Rasgobindpur & Sulipada Block in Mayurbhanj District)
2	Estimated Cost	From Rs.183604 to Rs.1455126 (As per DTCN)
3	Cost of Tender Paper	Rs.600, 2000, 4000, 6000 (in online mode) + 18% GST as per DTCN
4	Date & time of publication	Dt.15.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
5	Last date and time to seek clarification	Dt.20.10.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
6	Date & time of closing	Dt.22.10.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.
7	Date & time of opening of Technical Bid	Dt.23.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
8	Date of opening of Financial Bid will be informed after evaluation of Technical Bid.	
9	The bidders have to participate in online bidding only.	

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation of tender if any, can be seen in the said website.
Sd./- (Er. Jogindra Rath)
OIPR-32149/11/0002/2526 Executive Engineer, M.L.I. Division, Baripada

FORM NO. URC 2
Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act [Pursuant to Section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 4(1) of the Companies (Authorized to Register) Rules, 2014]
1. NOTICE is hereby given that in pursuance of sub section (2) of Section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after 15 days hereof but before the expiry of 30 days hereinafter to the Registrar of Companies (ROC) at Central Registration Centre (CRC) Manesar, that M/s. LOGISTICS SOLUTIONS, a partnership firm, may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of The Companies Act, 2013, as a company limited by shares.
2. The principal objects of the Company is to carry on the business of Logistics Services, Trading of Goods etc. and connected / incidental activities.
3. A copy of the draft Memorandum and Articles of Association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at Room no. 210/211, 2nd Floor, Forum Galleria Mall, Civil Township, Rourkela 769004, Dist. Sundergarh, Odisha.
4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, Plot no. 6, 7, 8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, Dist. Gurgaon (Haryana), PIN 122050, within twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the firm at its registered office mentioned above.
Dated this 11th day of October 2025 Name(s) of Applicant
Logistics Solution, through Partners
1) Shri Bijay Kumar Agarwal, 2) Shri Kailash Kumar Agarwal
3) Shri Vivek Kumar Agarwal
SAI/RKL/0154/25

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CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
CORPORATE OFFICE : "CHOLA CREST", C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, India
Branch Office : 3rd Floor Sreemaa Construction Building, Naya Chowk Madhapatna, Cuttack, Odisha, Pin - 753 010.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

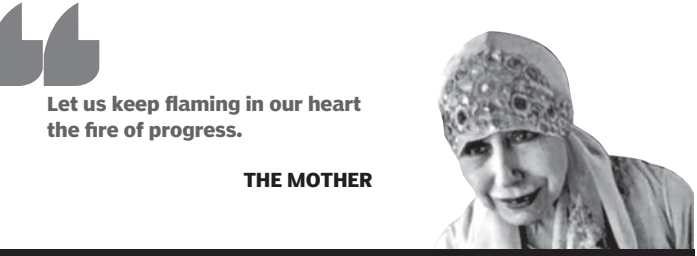
Contact Nos. : Mr. B. Harikrishna (Mob. 99374 90975), Pinaki Dutta (Mob. 94374 79421), Suman Kalyan Satapathy (Mob. 79787 44193)

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagee(s) that the below-described Immovable Properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited** the same shall be referred hereinafter as **Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited**. The Secured Assets will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "What ever there is" basis through E-Auction.
It is hereby informed to the General public that we are going to conduct a public E-Auction through the website <https://bankauctions.in/>.

Account No. and Name of the Borrower / Co-borrower / Mortgagee	1. Date of Demand Notice : 06.02.2025	Descriptions of the Property / Properties	Reserve Price : Rs. 39,50,000.00
Loan A/c. No. : HE01XBJ0000084343 Borrower / Co-borrower / Mortgagee : 1. Prasad Kumar Samal (Applicant) , Balaji Pentho Bandha Huda Berhampur City, Post Office - Berhampur Sadar, Dist - Ganjam, Odisha, Pin - 760 002. 2. M. Buli Samal (Co-applicant) , Balaji Pentho Bandha Huda Berhampur City, Post Office - Berhampur Sadar, Dist - Ganjam, Odisha, Pin - 760 002. 3. Samal Shoppee (Co-applicant) , Balaji Pentho Sahi, Berhampur City, Post Office- Brahmapur, Sadar, Dist - Ganjam, Odisha, Pin - 760 002.	2. Demand Notice Amount : Rs. 37,17,471.00 as on 06.02.2025 3. Total Loan Outstanding : Rs. 35,15,130.00 as on 08.10.2025 together with further interest, penal interest, costs and charges thereon till the date of payment. 4. Possession Date : 10.07.2025 (Symbolic Possession)	All that part and parcel of the Property bearing Plot No. 858/2176, Khata No. 344/962, Area Ac. 0.015 Decimals, Kisan Garbari, Mauza - Madhabpur, Tehsil - Berhampur, SRO Berhampur, P.S. - Badabajari, District - Ganjam, (Odisha), Pin - 760 002. Bounded as : North - Land of Chenna Babu, South - Road, East - House of Basant Rao, West - House of S. Raju,	Earnest Money Deposit : Rs. 3,95,000.00 Bid Increment Amount : Rs. 50,000.00 E-Auction Date and Time : 30.10.2025 (11.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.) (with unlimited extension of 3 Minutes) EMD Submission Last Date : 29.10.2025 (upto 5.30 P.M.) Inspection Date : 16.10.2025 & 17.10.2025 (10.00 A.M to 1.00. P.M.)

1. All Interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website <https://bankauctions.in> & www.cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices. For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact - Mr. Muhammed Rahees, Ph. No. 81240 00030 / 63748 45616, M/s. 4 Closure; Rekha, Ph. No. 81420 00062, E-mail : CholaAuctionLAP@chola.murugappa.com.
2. For further details on terms and conditions please visit : <https://bankauctions.in> & www.cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices to take part in e-auction.
THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT RULES 2002)
Date : 11.10.2025
Place : Cuttack (Odisha)

Authorised Officer
Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited



Trade to Tirade

It started, as many big stories do these days, with a tweet. A blunt social media post by a mid-sized trading firm announced that it was shutting down its India operations after weeks of alleged harassment by Chennai Customs. Not a formal press release, not a court filing, but a post that instantly set off ripples.

The Finance Ministry then intervened with its own tweet, stating that an inquiry would be held. Before long, a well-known analyst was hinting that the exercise was less about justice and more about warning others against going public. In the space of a few hours, a commercial spat had been elevated into a drama about governance, accountability, and reputation.

The real worry isn't whether one company had a bad run-in with officials. That happens and usually gets sorted in hushed corridors. The worry is what the optics say: a business goes public with a complaint, the state responds with an inquiry announced on social media, and commentators suggest the whistleblower might end up punished for speaking out. It feels less like due process and more like a cautionary tale in the making.

And this is why the episode has legs far beyond Chennai port. International investors read these signals closely. If the moral of the story appears to be "keep quiet or face the music," that's not the kind of investor-confidence campaign India wants to be running. A minor customs dispute risks morphing into a global anxiety point about how complaints are handled.

Unless the inquiry is seen as swift, fair, and transparent, India might find itself explaining to the world why its digital-age governance appears suspiciously like a theatre of the ugly and absurd.

A peek into global babu ecosystems

Babus in India may be delighted, or perhaps mortified, to know that some of their lowly brethren, both here and abroad, have now been captured for eternity in their natural habitat. A recently released photobook offers an unfiltered, almost voyeuristic glimpse into the bureaucratic underbelly: rooms piled high with files, chai-stained tables, sagging chairs, and faces that seem halfway between resignation and quiet rebellion.

For those lucky enough never to have set foot inside a government office, the pictures are a revelation. They let you linger over spaces you'd otherwise sprint through—dim corridors where dusty ceiling fans drone louder than conversation or cubicles where the most exciting thing that happens all day is a paper jam. Yet, for millions around the world, these spaces are not exotic curiosities but a part of daily life, the frontline of citizen-state interaction.

Each frame tells a story not just of work but of inertia, survival, and ritual. The rooms themselves are characters, speaking of past decisions, postponed reforms, and fading hopes of digitisation. It's bureaucracy as anthropology: fascinating, tragicomic, and eerily uniform across continents.

From Manila to Mumbai, the babu's world is a parallel universe with its own logic, rhythm, and cluttered charm. These are the keepers of process, the gatekeepers of governance, immortalised not by performance reviews or audit reports, but by the gentle click of a camera lens. Perhaps it takes art, not reform, to finally make us look at the system long enough to see what's really inside.

Can AI make babus future-ready?

The government's decision to school babus in Artificial Intelligence is, in many ways, poetic. For decades, the fabled "steel frame" has thrived on paperwork, hierarchy, and procedural delays. Now, it is being asked to embrace algorithms, data sets, and machine learning models. Talk about culture shock.

Of course, AI training for civil servants is a necessary step. Policy today isn't just about rules and regulations; it's about crunching data, predicting outcomes, and delivering citizen services with precision. But no algorithm can fix a system that still runs on outdated file movement and a reflexive fear of innovation. AI in the hands of an inertia-prone bureaucracy risks becoming another decorative acronym—like MIS, ERP, or e-Gov before it.

The programme deserves credit for incorporating conversations around ethics, including bias, transparency, and privacy. If anything, these lessons are more urgent for India's bureaucrats than the technical jargon. After all, a machine learning tool that inherits caste or gender biases from its data sets is no upgrade on human prejudice.

The real transformation will come only if these modules are linked to actual decision-making. Imagine AI helping a district magistrate predict flood risks, or a collector plugging leakages in welfare delivery. That's where the technology justifies the hype. Until then, training modules risk being a tick-box exercise, one more line in a babu's mid-career résumé. AI can make India's governance smarter. But it cannot replace the one thing our system chronically lacks: accountability.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- The only solutions that are ever worth anything are the solutions that people find themselves.

SATYAJIT RAY
- Movie directors, or should I say people who create things, are very greedy and they can never be satisfied.

AKIRA KUROSAWA
- There is a fine line between censorship and good taste and moral responsibility.

STEVEN SPIELBERG

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1899:

The South African (Boer) War began between Great Britain and the two Boer (Afrikaner) republics—the South African Republic (Transvaal) and the Orange Free State.
- 1958:

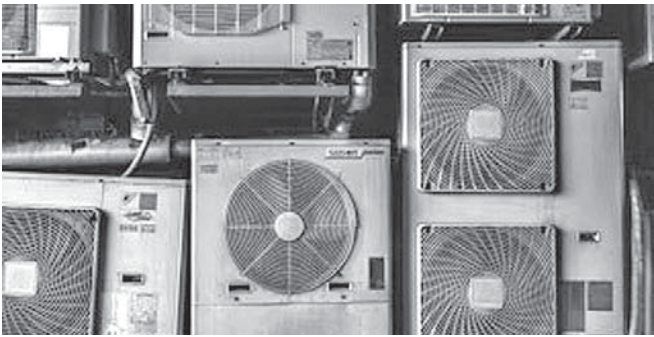
The uncrewed U.S. deep-space probe Pioneer 1 was launched into lunar orbit.
- 1962:

The Second Vatican Council, announced by Pope John XXIII in 1959, opened, lasted for three years, and remains a symbol (controversial to some) of the church's readiness to adapt to modern life.
- 1975:

The TV sketch comedy and variety show Saturday Night Live debuted on NBC and became a landmark in American television.

COOLING HOMES, HEATING PLANET

FOCUS ENVIRONMENT



India showed leadership in the fight to protect the ozone layer by phasing out CFCs and HCFCs well before global deadlines. We can lead once again, this time in protecting the climate

The survey busted some long-held myths. For instance, the perception that most AC-owning households have multiple RACs is incorrect. Nearly 87% of such households own just one AC; only 13% have more than two. This shows that ACs are no longer limited to the wealthy. A large share is now in middle- and lower-income households.

Another myth is that Indians operate their ACs at freezing lows. The survey shows that the most preferred temperature setting across cities is 22–26°C, not the ultra-low levels we often assume. There is therefore little need for the government to mandate thermostat settings.

Encouragingly, Indian consumers are conscious about energy efficiency. Nearly 98% of households own 3-star to 5-star rated appliances, with the 3-star category dominating.

But these positives are overshadowed by one stark reality: the way we service our ACs is damaging for both the climate and consumer pockets.

In India, refrigerant leakage and refilling have reached crisis proportions. About 80% of ACs older than five years require refilling annually. Even one-third of newer ACs—less than five years old—are refilled

every year. In effect, around 40% of all ACs in India are refilled annually. Ideally, ACs should need a refill only once in five years. In India, it happens every two to three years.

This unnecessary refilling comes at a steep cost. In 2024 alone, India's ACs consumed 32 million kg of refrigerant. At an average cost of Rs 2,200 per refill, households spent about Rs 7,000 crore. If business continues as usual, the refilling bill will quadruple to nearly Rs 27,500 crore by 2035.

The environmental cost is even higher. HFC-32, the most widely used refrigerant in India, is 675 times more potent than CO in trapping heat. In 2024, refrigerant leakage from ACs emitted greenhouse gases (GHGs) equivalent to 52 million tonnes (MT) of CO. By 2035, this will rise to 84 MT.

When we add emissions from electricity consumption, the total GHG emissions of India's ACs in 2024 reached 156 MT—about the same as emissions from all passenger cars in the country. Put simply: the annual GHG emissions from an AC that is refilled every two years is as much as a car. By 2035, the total emissions from ACs are projected to double to 329 MT, making them the single largest GHG-emitting

household appliance in India.

While India does have policies on refrigerant management, these are half-measures without strong enforcement. The India Cooling Action Plan aims to reduce refrigerant demand by 25–30% by 2037–38, but lacks regulations to back it. Similarly, the amended E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2023, include provisions for environmentally sound disposal of refrigerants from end-of-life ACs at approved facilities, but these are being poorly enforced.

Therefore, currently there are no effective systems to prevent leaks during servicing, no monitoring of refrigerant refills, and no accountability for end-of-life disposal. Unlike plastics or electronic waste, refrigerants do not fall under any meaningful Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework in India.

The refrigerant leakage crisis is urgent—but it is solvable. India must establish a comprehensive Lifecycle Refrigerant Management (LRM) regulation covering every stage—from refrigerant filling to servicing to disposal. AC manufacturers should be made responsible under an EPR regime to ensure recovery, recycling, and safe destruction of refrigerants. Such regulations are being implemented by many countries including Canada, Australia, the EU, China and Singapore.

If implemented effectively, LRM could prevent 500–650 MT of GHG emissions between 2025 and 2035—worth \$25–33 billion in carbon credits at a moderate price of \$50 per tonne. Consumers too would benefit, saving over \$10 billion in unnecessary refill costs. This is a win-win solution: lower household expenses, reduced refrigerant wastage, and significant climate gains.

The writer is CEO of International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST)

SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

The Riyadh-Islamabad shield

INDIA CONSISTENTLY INTERPRETS EVERY STEP STRENGTHENING SAUDI ARABIA'S DEFENCE TIES WITH PAKISTAN AS A POTENTIAL CHALLENGE TO ITS SECURITY



Piotr Opaliski

The Defence Agreement, signed last month by Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, is another sign of the erosion of Pax Americana in favour of increasing global multipolarity. It limits the US' monopoly on guaranteeing security to the Persian Gulf countries. While maintaining ties with Washington, Riyadh is simultaneously developing alternative security pillars – economic cooperation with China and military cooperation with Pakistan – signalling a readiness for greater strategic autonomy and partner diversification.

The Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (SMDA), formalizes the two countries' military relations, committing them to mutual defence. Any act of aggression against one of the signatories is to be treated as an attack on the other. The signing of the document is often portrayed as a turning point in relations between Riyadh and Islamabad, but in reality it marks the institutionalization of ties that have been developing for decades. They are based on religious community and converging strategic interests.

The foundations of Pakistan-Saudi Arabia cooperation date back to the 1960s, when the government in Islamabad began supporting the authorities in Riyadh with advice, training, and a military presence. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reciprocated with financial assistance and preferential oil supplies, which was particularly important during periods of political and economic crises in Pakistan.

Traditionally, the relationship has been asymmetrical: Pakistan contributed personnel and military expertise, while Saudi Arabia provided capital and energy resources. However, the SMDA changes this dynamic by introducing joint exercises, training programs, intelligence coordination, and technology transfer. The agreement creates a framework for long-term cooperation in the development of the defence industry, which increases interoperability and strategic autonomy for both sides.

The economic component of the agreement paves the way for joint arms programs, industrial contracts, and investments in military infrastructure.

Pakistan gains the opportunity to develop its own defence sector, create jobs, and retain qualified personnel, partially reducing the brain drain. Saudi Arabia, in turn, gains access to Pakistani technical expertise and relatively cheap labour, while simultaneously diversifying its investment portfolio in the security sector.

Strengthening cooperation with Riyadh strengthens Pakistan's international position, gaining not only more stable sources of financing but also the prestige derived from serving as the Kingdom's main military partner, the guardian of Islam's holiest sites.

For Islamabad, the SMDA is a tool for strengthening its international position, confirming its status as a mid-tier state with exceptional military potential, particularly due to its nuclear arsenal. Pakistan's inclusion in the Saudi security architecture strengthens its position vis-à-vis regional rivals – primarily India and Iran – and underscores Islamabad's role in the global debate on nuclear stability.

For Saudi Arabia, the SMDA is a way to build a more

independent security ecosystem in the region, a move that is increasingly important in the context of rivalry with Iran, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and uncertainty about continued US involvement in the Middle East. It represents a diversification of the security system and a way to reduce dependence on the US, while also reaffirming its ambitions as a leader in the Sunni world.

India consistently interprets every step strengthening Riyadh's defence ties with Islamabad as a potential challenge to its security, although India's strategic relations with Saudi Arabia remain on an upward trajectory and have not been hampered by the signing of the agreement. However, it must be noted that Islamabad, which for years has perceived the growing importance of the Saudi-Indian partnership as a threat to its own position, has gained a strong counterweight to New Delhi through the SMDA.

The writer is an expert, Centre for International Relations, Poland

Courage crowned

Sir, The Nobel Committee's decision to award the 2025 Peace Prize to Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado is both timely and inspiring. Her fearless struggle for democracy, human rights, and non-violent reform in a repressive regime exemplifies true courage and moral conviction. At a time when some circles were promoting Donald Trump for the same honour, the Committee's choice sends a clear message — that peace is earned through sacrifice and steadfast commitment to justice, not through power or publicity. Machado's recognition rekindles global faith in integrity and perseverance over political theatrics.

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

Progressive step

Sir, After Bihar, Kerala and Odisha, Karnataka government has decided to allot menstrual leaves for working women. Karnataka's "Menstrual Leave Policy, 2025" appears exhaustive as it covers the government as well as the private sectors barring the unorganised sector. One menstrual leave per month to a total of 12 paid leaves per year is what the government has decided. Notwithstanding some cynical views, the step is pro-women. Since menstrual pain is indeed excruciating, the overall wellness of working women and quality of work across the board stand to gain. Of course, it is important that there is no misuse of the government policy. Also, sufficient care should be taken to ensure that not many women avail the menstrual leave at the same time.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

China's regional grip

Sir, Pakistan has reportedly denied a US proposal to build a new port at Pasni on the Arabian Sea, located near Iran's Chabahar Port. With China's \$60 bn investment in the nearby China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Beijing's pressure appears to have influenced Islamabad's decision. Pasni's proximity to Chabahar—jointly developed by India and Iran—makes it a crucial strategic point. A US-backed port there could have challenged China's dominance and countered Iran's influence, while giving India a new trade alternative in the region. Pakistan's denial, therefore, reinforces China's regional grip and complicates India's connectivity and maritime ambitions in the Arabian Sea.

RS Narula, PATIALA

HC slams Munambam waqf claim as land grabbing tactic

The bench observed that the move has 'affected the bread and butter, livelihood of hundreds of families and bonafide occupants who had purchased tranches of land decades prior to the notification of the waqf property'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Oct 10: The Kerala High Court Friday said that notifying the Munambam land as waqf was a "land grabbing tactic of the Kerala Waqf Board" and upheld the government order appointing an inquiry commission to ascertain ownership of the disputed area.

A bench of justices Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari and Syam Kumar VM also said that the subject property could never have been classified as a waqf property for want of compliance with mandatory procedure and provisions of the Waqf Act of 1954 and 1955.

It said that the notifying of the land in dispute as waqf was ultra vires the provisions of the Waqf Act of 1954 and 1995 and "nothing less than a land grabbing tactics of the Kerala Waqf Board (KWB)".

The bench observed that the move has 'affected the bread and butter, livelihood of hundreds of families and bonafide occupants who had purchased tranches of land decades prior to the notification of the waqf property'.

In these circumstances, the state government could not have been restrained from

constituting an inquiry commission (IC) and submitting a report, the bench said while allowing the appeals against a March 17 single judge order that quashed the appointment of the panel.

Upholding the appointment of the IC, the bench said that the state government was at liberty to implement the panel's recommendations in accordance with law.

The bench also held that the actions of the Kerala Waqf Board of declaring or registering the land in dispute as a waqf property were "bad in law" on the grounds of being "unreasonably delayed" and having been issued in "palpable violation of the provisions of the Waqf Acts of 1954, 1984, and 1995 and, therefore, "non-enforceable".

The court said that merely because the nomenclature of the subject land deed of 1950 was a waqf endowment, will not clothe it with the said character in view of the "absolute vesting of rights of transfer or sale and ownership in the hands of Farooq College Management Committee".

The land in Munambam village of Ernakulam district, whose ownership is being claimed by the waqf, was sold

to the current residents by the Farooq Management.

The bench said that the endowment deed of 1950 never intended to create any permanent dedication in the favour of God.

It was simply a gift deed in favour of the Farooq Management and therefore, "could never have qualified as a waqf deed under any of the enactments of the Waqf Act," the court said.

"However, we restrain ourselves from issuing a formal order of quashing them (KWB orders), since the purpose of returning all the above findings is just to hold that the state government is not bound by such highly belatedly issued declaration by the KWB after 7 decades (69 years)," the court said.

The bench said that it would not be appropriate to interfere with the constitution of the IC at the threshold, when it was yet to furnish a final report which is to be acted upon and taken to a logical conclusion by the state government.

"We expect and hope that the sole member Inquiry Commission (IC) shall respect the expectations placed upon it by us in the preceding paragraphs and provide a room for consideration of grievances of all the aggrieved parties," it said and set aside the single judge's March 17 order.

The state government had appointed a commission headed by former acting Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court Justice CN Ramachandran Nair in November last year to ascertain land ownership in the disputed area.

In the villages of Cherai and Munambam in Ernakulam district, residents have alleged that the Waqf Board was unlawfully claiming their land and properties, despite them holding registered deeds and land tax payment receipts.



A woman views artworks depicting the life and story of Jesus at a painting exhibition, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, Friday

PT PHOTO

Only green firecrackers permitted for sale, use in Himachal's Una: DC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Una (HP), Oct 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Jatin Lal issued orders Friday that only green firecrackers will be allowed for sale during Diwali and other festivals in Himachal Pradesh's Una district.

He said that these directives have been issued in compliance with the orders of the National Green Tribunal and the Supreme Court. All firecracker vendors must obtain a temporary license from the respective sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) to sell firecrackers. The licence can also be obtained online through the e-district portal, Lal said.

"The sale of firecrackers without a license will be strictly prohibited," he added.

'Panchayat polls after restoring connectivity'

The BJP leaders in the state accused the Congress government of being reluctant to 'face people' due to its poor performance and failure to implement its poll promises



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Oct 10: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu Friday said the panchayati raj elections have not been cancelled and would be held once road connectivity is restored.

"Our priority is to provide relief to the disaster-hit people whose houses have been completely or partially damaged and give compensation to the victims," he told reporters here.

"BJP leaders are making planned attempts to malign my image," Sukhu alleged.

His charge came a day after the elections were postponed, a move that the opposition BJP termed a "pre-planned, anti-people act". The panchayati raj elections in the state were scheduled to be held between December and January 2026. The last date for conducting the elections is January 23.

Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Anirudh Singh had said that if connectivity is restored by December-January, the elections would be held on schedule.

In a notification issued Thursday, Chief Secretary and chairman of the State Executive Committee Sanjay Gupta had announced that the polls will

be held "only after restoration of proper connectivity", considering the damage to roads and private and public property.

The notification pointed out that massive damage was caused during the monsoons this year. From June to September, 47 cloudbursts, 98 flash floods, and 148 major landslides were reported in the state, and 270 people died in rain-related incidents, it said.

As many as 1,817 houses were fully damaged, and 8,323 houses were partially damaged during the natural calamities. The total loss was pegged at Rs 5,426 crore.

Due to the continued rainfall, the respective deputy commissioners were unable to connect

panchayat roads, the notification added.

The BJP leaders in the state accused the Congress government of being reluctant to "face people" due to its poor performance and failure to implement its poll promises.

"The Congress government is aware that its massive defeat is pre-decided, and hence postponed the elections on the pretext of natural calamity," said Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur.

The elections to urban local bodies were postponed at the last moment earlier as well, he added. The former chief minister also alleged that everything was scripted. "First, letters were written by deputy commissioners and elections were deferred soon after," Thakur said, asking the government to hold the polls and face the people.

State BJP president Rajiv Bindal called the postponement of the polls a well-planned, anti-people decision, as the Congress knows that it "would draw a blank and all its pradhans will be defeated".

Kerala first state to amend central wildlife law: Vijayan

The Kerala Assembly Wednesday passed the Bill with the objective of reducing the growing incidence of human-animal conflict in the state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 10: Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said that Kerala has become the first state to pass a Bill amending the Central Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

The Kerala Assembly Wednesday passed the Bill

with the objective of reducing the growing incidence of human-animal conflict in the state.

The CM, in a post on social media platform 'X' Thursday, said that the passing of the Kerala Wildlife Protection Amendment Bill marks a major step towards addressing rising human-animal conflicts and ensuring justice for forest-edge communities.

"These reforms reaffirm Kerala's commitment to safeguarding both human life and wildlife, fostering harmony between people and nature," he said in the post.

The Bill will be sent to the



Raj Bhavan, which will refer it to the President as it concerns a Central law, according to official sources.

The Bill was introduced in the Assembly last month.

State Forest Minister AK Saseendran had a day ago informed the Assembly that the government had been compelled to come up with its own amendment to the Central Act, as repeated requests to the Centre for timely changes had met with no success.

He had said that human-animal conflict is an issue directly affecting the lives of one-third of the state's population.

The minister had also said that the main objectives of the amendment bill are to get the authority to declare wildlife as vermin and to ensure freedom for the state government to intervene during necessary situations.

Siblings' miraculous escape in Himachal bus tragedy

THE LANDSLIDE COMPLETELY CRUSHED THE FRONT PORTION OF THE BUS, KILLING 16 PASSENGERS WHO WERE TRAPPED UNDER THE DEBRIS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bilaspur/Shimla, Oct 10: Two siblings had a miraculous escape from the Bilaspur landslide Tuesday, primarily because they moved to the last row of the half-empty bus to play, minutes before tragedy struck.

The landslide completely crushed the front portion of the bus, killing 16 passengers who were trapped under the debris. Arushi (10) and Shaurya (8), who were the lone survivors of the joint family onboard the bus, were rescued from the rear exit.

The bus was travelling on the Marotan-Ghumarwin route in Himachal Pradesh's Bilaspur when

tragedy struck Tuesday evening in Bhalughat area near Berthin.

The siblings lost their mother Kamlesh, aunt Anjana, and two cousins Naksh and Aarav. Vipin, Anjana's husband, who lost his wife and both children, had already reached home.

His brother, Raj Kumar, lost his wife in the tragedy but his son and daughter survived. Shaurya lit the funeral pyre of his four deceased family members Wednesday.

The kids were rescued from under two different seats buried under debris on the rear end of the bus. Their escape was nothing short of a miracle, said a local who witnessed

the landslide hit the fated bus Tuesday dusk.

The siblings were getting bored of looking outside the windows as there was nothing to see in the dark and moved to the last row to play, their relatives said, expressing astonishment at the marvellous escape while they still grappled with the loss of other family members.

"We could not believe that two children covered under the dust were alive," witnesses said.

Arushi suffered minor leg injuries, while Shaurya was rescued unhurt. Both were sent home from AIIMS Bilaspur Wednesday morning. The siblings would now be under the care of the joint family.

Anjana had gone to her parent's village for some function and her parents had offered to drop her by car, but she insisted on returning by bus, distraught relatives recalled.

The family would get a compensation amount of Rs 16 lakhs (Rs 4 lakh for each deceased) as announced by Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to the next of kin of each deceased.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Office of the Superintending Engineer,
Kalahandi Irrigation Division, Bhawanipatna - 766001
Phone No. 06670-230685, E-Mail : eekldtp2008@hotmail.com
e-Procurement Notice No. e-KLID-02/2025-26
No.A-716 : Bid document consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms and condition of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal ([www.http://tenderodisha.gov.in](http://tenderodisha.gov.in).)

1	Type of work	: River Embankment & Improvement to Canal Service Road
2	Total no. works	: 09 (Nine)
3	Class of Contractor	: "D" "C" & "B" Class
4	Bid identification No.	: e-KLID-02/2025-26 (01(KLID/25-26) to e-KLID-2/2025-26(09(KLID/25-26)
5	Estimated Cost	: Varies from Rs.16.93 Lakhs to Rs.42.38 Lakhs
6	Period of completion	: 04(Four) Calendar Months
7	Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal	: From 13.10.2025 11.00 A.M. to 27.10.2025 5.30 P.M.
8	Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 27.10.2025 up to 5.30 P.M.
9	Date of opening of Bid	: 28.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M. in the O/o the Superintending Engineer, Kalahandi Irrigation Division, Bhawanipatna, District - Kalahandi
10	Name of the officer inviting Tender	: Superintending Engineer, Kalahandi Irrigation Division, Bhawanipatna
(A)	Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.	
(B)	Further details can be seen from Government Website (www.http://tenderodisha.gov.in .)	
(C)	The Bidders shall transfer the required amount of EMD (Bid Security) and cost of Bid by online through electronics payment as per Government of Odisha WDOM NO-17254/WE Dated 05.12.2017 as mentioned in DTCN.	

Superintending Engineer
Kalahandi Irrigation Division, Bhawanipatna
OIPR-32007/11/0005/2526

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice

No.O-967
Letter No.3933, Dated 09.10.2025
Bid Identification No.TENDER ONLINE SNPR-03 OF 2025-26
1. Name of the work: Building Works as per DTCN available in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
2. Total No. of Work: 02 (Two) Nos.
3. Approximate Estimated Cost : Vary from Rs.23.57 lakh to Rs.47.70 Lakh
4. Period of Completion: 06 (Six Calendar Months) to 9 (Nine Calendar Months)
5. Period and time of availability of bid document in the portal for bidding : 13.10.2025 at 11.00 AM to 24.10.2025 upto 5.00 PM.
6. Date and Time of Opening of Tender: 27.10.2025 at 11.00 AM (Technical Bid) & (Financial Bid will be intimated later on)
7. Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid : S.E.R.W. Division., Sonepur.
(1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice, (2) Inviting tenders, available in website www.tendersodishagov.in, (3) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website: www.tenderodisha.gov.in.
Sd./- Executive Engineer
Rural Works Division, Sonepur
OIPR-25054/11/0037/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SUNDARGARH FOREST DIVISION

No.MM-225
Phone No.-06622-272243, E-mail:dfo.sundargarh@odisha.gov.in
Tender Notice.FE&CC/DFO(T) SNG/No.08/2025-26
Tender Notice Call for Construction of Civil Work
Office Order No.214 Dated 09.10.2025
The Divisional Forest Officer, Sundargarh Forest Division on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system on OFFLINE MODE.

1	Of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system on OFFLINE MODE.	
2	Nature of Works	: Construction of Civil Work
3	Type of Works	: 1.Excavation of Large Water Body (50x40x3 mtr) at Garjanpahad RF near Khutpani village of Kodabahal Section in Hemgir Range under Sundargarh Forest Division. 2.Excavation of Large Water Body (50x40x3 mtr) at Garjanpahad RF near Ostali village of Hemgir Section in Hemgir Range under Sundargarh Forest Division. 3.Excavation of Large Water Body (50x40x3 mtr) at Pankipahad RF near Pithampur village of Topria Section in Gopalpur Range under Sundargarh Forest Division
4	Tender Cost	: Rs.6000/-
5	Class of Contractor	: "D" & "C" Class Contractor
6	Availability of bid document in the Sundargarh portal i.e. https://sundargarh.odisha.gov.in	: From 10.00 AM of Dt.17.10.2025 to 5.00 P.M. of Dt.27.10.2025.
7	Date of Opening of Bid	: At 11.00 A.M. of Dt.30.10.2025
8	The Bidders have to participate in OFFLINE bidding only.	

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer
Sundargarh Forest Division
OIPR-08034/11/0022/2526

of the day **quote**

HERE, NOW
We will keep every oppressed, distressed and humiliated person united in the PDA. We will continue to advance the consciousness of PDA's self-respect and self-esteem. We will decisively defeat the arrogance of the dominant and hegemonic people who perpetrate injustice and oppression

AKHLESH YADAV | SP SUPREMO

The message is clear, farmers can go to hell, ministers can say whatever they want, two communities can keep fighting, yet the CM continues to push his own political agenda without remorse

HARSHWARDHAN SAKPAL | MAHA CONG PRESIDENT

Some people are wearing "blindfolds" and it is necessary to explain to them what true Hindutva and patriotism are

UDHAV THACKERAY | SHIV SENA (UBT) CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

4 armed men held in Ranchi

Ranchi: Four armed men were arrested in Ranchi Friday after a gunfight with police left two of them injured, an official said. Acting on a tip-off, police tried to intercept a motorcycle at Thakurgaon Road near Hochar village in Ratu police station area around 3 am, he said. The two men on the motorcycle fired 25 rounds at police with pistols and tried to escape, he added. "Police also opened fire, in which both the criminals received gunshot wounds on their legs. We then took them into custody," SP (Ranchi Rural) Praveen Pushkar said.

Forest team rescues leopard trapped in well

Kollam: The Forest Department Friday rescued a leopard that fell into a well at a house near Pathanapuram here Friday, officials said. In the morning, residents found the adult leopard trapped in the well at the house of Shiby in Karavur. The family immediately alerted the Forest officials, who rushed to the spot.

BTech student dead after assault by cops

Bhopal: A 22-year-old BTech student died after being beaten allegedly by police personnel in the early hours of Friday in Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal, officials said. A video clip showed a policeman holding Udit Gaayke, while another is seen hitting him with a stick.



“We have finalised Google data centres (and) Artificial Intelligence. After the emergence of financial reforms in India, a single investment of nearly USD 10 billion or ₹88,000 crore in the coming three years is being made in Vizag

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | ANDHRA PRADESH CM

POLICE NABS ACCUSED IN MINOR RAPE, MURDER CASE

A man who allegedly raped and murdered a minor girl here has been shot at and nabbed when he tried to flee, police said Friday. The man, identified as Karthik, was traced with the help of CCTV footage and technical surveillance, officials said Friday



SC hints at relaxing blanket firecracker ban in Delhi-NCR

The observations, which hinted towards relaxation of ban, were made by a bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran while reserving its order on a batch of pleas seeking permission to manufacture and sell “green” firecrackers in Delhi and National Capital Region

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: Days ahead of Diwali, the Supreme Court Friday said a complete ban on bursting of fire crackers in Delhi-NCR is “neither practical nor ideal” as such restrictions were often violated and balancing of equities is needed.

The observations, which hinted towards relaxation of ban, were made by a bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran while reserving its order on a batch of pleas seeking permission to manufacture and sell “green” firecrackers in Delhi and National Capital Region. Vehement submissions were made seeking lifting of the blanket ban by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, NCR states. He also said that the children should be allowed to burst crackers on Diwali and other festivals without any time restrictions.

Questioning the blanket ban which has been in place since 2018 in Delhi-NCR, the bench asked the counsel for the authorities and others as to whether the ban has resulted in any tangible difference or led to decrease in the air quality index (AQI), an indicator of pollution level.

The solicitor general replied that according to data of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), pollution levels had remained “more or less the same”, except during the COVID-19 lockdown period



when industrial and vehicular activity was halted.

“Let the children celebrate for two days. It is only for festivals like Diwali, Gurpurab, and Christmas,” the solicitor general urged, adding that “the child inside me is persuading the child in your Lordships and for a few days there should not be any time restrictions.”

Hinting towards relaxing the ban, the CJI said that balancing of equities is needed.

The CJI said that an absolute ban was “neither practical nor ideal” and such restrictions were often evaded in practice. “Despite a complete ban, firecrackers continue to be used. Extreme orders create problems,” the CJI said, adding that the court was seeking a balanced solution that safeguarded both environmental and livelihood interests.

Before reserving the orders, the bench heard extensive arguments from various stake-

holders, including the Centre, the Delhi government and NCR states, firecracker manufacturers, environmentalists and the amicus curiae.

Mehta, appearing for the Centre, NCR states, urged the bench to adopt a “balanced approach” that protects both the right to livelihood of workers and the right of citizens to celebrate festivals, while ensuring adherence to environmental safeguards.

“We have made suggestions which strike a balance,” Mehta told the bench, proposing that the manufacture and sale of only green firecrackers, as approved by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), be allowed under strict monitoring. He said the use of green firecrackers should be permitted on certain occasions like Diwali, Gurpurab, Christmas and New Year's Eve and there should be no time windows.

Zubeen's personal security officers held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Oct 10: Two personal security officers (PSOs) of Zubeen Garg were arrested Friday in connection with the singer's death in Singapore last month, an official said.

Nandeswar Bora and Prabin Baishya, deputed by the government as part of Garg's security detail, were suspended by the Assam Police Tuesday after multiple rounds of questioning, he said. Financial transactions worth over ₹1.1 crore through their bank accounts were uncovered, raising suspicion, the official said.

They were produced before a local court here, which remanded them to five days' CID custody, he said. Zubeen's wife Garima Saikia Garg had Thursday said that he had given some money to his two PSOs for social work.

The arrested PSOs had been with the singer for a long time, after they were attached to him by the Assam Police following a death threat by banned militant group ULFA almost a decade back. A total of seven people have so far been arrested in connection with the celebrated singer's death.

Earlier, North East India Festival organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta, the singer's cousin Sandipan Garg, his manager Siddhartha Sharma, musician Shekharjyoti Goswami and singer Amritprava Mahanta were arrested. Sandipan, an Assam Police Service officer, was suspended following his arrest.

Zubeen died while swimming in the sea in Singapore September 19. He had gone to the Southeast Asian nation to participate in the North East India Festival. A special investigation team (SIT) under the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Assam Police is probing into the singer's death.

KARUR STAMPEDE

SC questions Madras HC over its order to form SIT



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: The Supreme Court Friday questioned the Madras High Court for constituting a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the Karur stampede in which 41 people were killed.

A bench comprising Justices J K Maheshwari and N V Anjaria wondered how the high court proceeded with the matter. “We are unable to understand how this order was passed? How did the single bench in the Chennai Bench proceed with the matter when the division bench in Madurai was considering the matter?”

“In my experience of over 15 years as a judge, a single bench holds back if the division bench has taken cognisance,” Justice Maheshwari observed.

At the outset, senior advocate Gopal Subramaniam, appearing for Tamil actor Vijay's political party Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, submitted that the petition before the high court was filed only to frame a standard operating procedure (SOP) for political rallies.

He said the SIT was constituted by the high court on the first day itself and the court made adverse remarks against the party and Vijay without hearing them.

Senior advocate C A Sundaram, also appearing for the TVK, submitted that the chief justice of the high court can authorise a special bench to hear the matter but it has not happened in this case.

Both lawyers told the apex court that the high court's observations that the TVK and Vijay abandoned the place and that they did not express remorse were wrong.

They said the police forced the actor to leave the place on the ground that it would aggravate the situation.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the state government, said the SIT was formed by the high court itself and that the state did not give any names.

Rohatgi said the officers are known for their integrity and independence, and there was no reason to doubt.

The bench reserved its order after hearing the parties.

On Tuesday, the CJI-headed bench agreed to hear BJP leader Uma Anandan's plea challenging the high court order refusing a CBI probe into the September 27 stampede.

BJP leader from Tamil Nadu, G S Mani, has also filed a petition seeking a CBI probe into the stampede.

SIT formed to probe Haryana IPS officer's suicide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 10: The Chandigarh Police Friday constituted a six-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the 'suicide' case of senior Haryana police officer Y Puran Kumar for “prompt, impartial and thorough investigation” in a time-bound manner.

The SIT will be led by IG Chandigarh Pushpendra Kumar. It will also comprise Chandigarh SSP Kanwardeep Kaur, SP City K M Priyanka, DSP Charanjit Singh Virk, SDPO (South) Gurjit Kaur and SHO of Sector 11 police station (West) Jaiveer Rana, as members, according to an official order.

Puran Kumar allegedly shot himself dead at his Chandigarh residence on Tuesday and left behind a 'final note'. The order said, “In view of the gravity and sensitivity of allegations in the case... an SIT consisting of following members is hereby constituted with immediate effect to conduct a prompt, impartial, and thorough investigation of the case under the supervision of IGP, UT, Chandigarh.”

It further said, “The SIT shall investigate all aspects of FIR No 156/2025, including evidence collection, witness examination, take expert opinions, legal advice, etc in a time-bound manner and preparation of final report upon completion,” it said. The Chandigarh Police registered an FIR late Thursday evening with charges of abetment to suicide and some provisions of the SC/ST Act based on a 'final note' by the deceased police officer, who had named many senior IPS officers, and specifically referred to Haryana DGP Shatruejit Kapur and Rohtak SP Narendra Bijarniya for allegedly harassing and maligning him. Earlier, a day after an FIR was registered in connection with the alleged suicide of senior Y Puran Kumar, his bureaucrat wife Amneet P Kumar Friday wrote to the police questioning “incomplete information” in it, and asked for it to be amended “to accurately reflect the names of all accused”.

SC seeks Centre, EC reply on undertrials voting rights PIL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: The Supreme Court Friday sought responses of the Centre and the Election Commission on a PIL seeking recognition of voting rights for nearly 4.5 lakh undertrial prisoners lodged in jails across India.

A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran took note of the submissions of lawyer Prashant Bhushan that the present blanket ban imposed under Section 62(5) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, violates constitutional guarantees and international democratic norms.

The petition filed by Sunita Sharma, a resident of Patiala in Punjab, made the Centre, through the Ministry of Law



and Justice and the Election Commission, as respondents.

“This petition concerns the voting rights of about 4,50,000 pre-trial, under-trial, and non-finally convicted prisoners (excluding those prisoners who are in prisons for corrupt practices and offences connect-

ed with elections),” it said.

It seeks judicial intervention to ensure that prisoners, who have not been convicted of electoral offences or corruption, are not arbitrarily deprived of their democratic right to vote.

The PIL sought issuance of “guidelines/ directions to set

polling stations in prisons for local prisoners. And postal ballots for inter constituency/ interstate elector prisoners (excluding those prisoners who are in prisons for any offence related to corrupt practices and offences connected with elections...)”.

The plea said that Section 62(5) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, imposes an unconstitutional and blanket restriction on all incarcerated individuals, regardless of whether they are convicted or awaiting trial.

This is inconsistent with the statement of objects and reasons of the laws, which pri-

marily govern the inclusion and disqualification of electors and members of legislatures, and not the wholesale exclusion of eligible citizens, it said.

The PIL said Section 62(5) was intended to regulate the voting rights of members of legislative bodies and was never meant to disqualify ordinary electors, particularly those yet to be convicted.

The application of this section fails the tests of constitutional consistency, non-arbitrariness, precision



A young girl holds a clay model of Goddess Kali at a workshop ahead of the Diwali in Nadia, West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

Over 75 per cent of the prison population comprises undertrial or pre-trial detainees, many of whom languish in jails for years, sometimes decades, before acquittal

of the day

quote

For the US to produce that much aluminum, it would need the equivalent of the energy of 10 Hoover Dams. Is making aluminum really the first best use of that power at a time when you've got the AI revolution, and you're reassuring manufacturing that you want to keep people's electricity costs down at home

MARK CARNEY | PRIME MINISTER, CANADA

It would have been counter-productive to have called a vote at the UNHRC for a resolution adopted this week to promote reconciliation, accountability and human rights in the island nation

VIJITHA HERATH | FOREIGN MINISTER, SRI LANKA

Basically the drone development and anti-drone developments are very fast, and based on today's situation, there's different progress every day. This is one of our key points in our military preparedness efforts

SUN LI-FANG | DEFENCE MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, TAIWAN

SHORT TAKES

Parts of Kyiv plunged into darkness

Kyiv: Large parts of Kyiv were plunged into darkness in the early hours of Friday after Russian drones and missiles struck Ukrainian energy facilities, cutting power and water to homes and halting a key metro link across the Dniipro river. In the latest mass attack targeting the energy system as winter approaches, electricity was interrupted in nine regions and over a million households and businesses were temporarily without power across the country. Ukraine's prime minister called it one of the heaviest such strikes to date. In southeastern Ukraine, a seven-year-old was killed when his home was hit and at least 20 people were injured. In Kyiv, an apartment block in the city centre was damaged by a projectile, while on the left bank of the Dniipro that divides the capital, crowds waited at bus stops with the metro out of action and people filled water bottles at distribution points.

Switzerland to seal trade deal with China

Zurich: Switzerland hopes to seal an updated free trade agreement with China in early 2026, Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis said Friday, following a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. "We are pleased that the discussions on modernising (our free trade agreement) are proceeding constructively, and we both hope to be able to complete this work soon," Cassis told reporters after the pair met in Bellinzona. "We will probably not achieve this by the end of this year as we had hoped, but we are counting on the beginning of next year for a more open, fair trade based on international free trade rules." Cassis added.

Lankan prez effects his first Cabinet reshuffle

Colombo: Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disasanayake Friday effected the first reshuffle of his Cabinet. The reshuffle brings the total number of cabinet members, including Disasanayake, to 23, under the constitutional cap of 25 members. This is the first reshuffle since he formed his National People's Power (NPP) government a year ago. A fresh face, Susil Ranasinghe, was made the Minister of Housing. The portfolios of three ministers were reshuffled, with the most significant change involving Minister of Transport Bimal Rathnayaka, whose Ports and Civil Aviation subjects were assigned to Anura Karunatilaka.

Gazans trek to ruined homes

REUTERS

Jerusalem/Cairo, Oct 10: Thousands of displaced Palestinians trekked over the wastelands of Gaza to return to the ruins of their abandoned homes Friday, after a ceasefire took effect and Israeli troops began pulling back under the agreement to end the war.

A huge column of people filed on foot north along the coastal road overlooking sandy beaches towards Gaza City, the enclave's biggest urban area, which had been under attack just days ago in one of Israel's biggest offensives of the war.

"Thank God my house is still standing," Ismail Zayda, 40, said in the Sheikh Radwan district of Gaza City. "But the place is destroyed, my neighbours' houses are destroyed, entire districts have gone."

In the south, people picked their way through the dusty moonscape that was once Gaza's second largest city Khan Younis, which Israeli forces razed earlier this year. Most walked in silence. A boy teetered under a foam mattress.

A middle-aged man, Ahmed al-Brim, was pushing a bicycle with bundles of scrap timber tied to the front and back: his family would need the firewood to cook. It was all they had been able to recover from the ruins of their home.



"We went to our area. It was exterminated. We don't know where we will go after that," he said. "We couldn't get the furniture, or clothes, or anything, not even winter clothes. Nothing is left."

NETANYAHU: HAMAS MUST DISARM 'THE EASY WAY' OR 'THE HARD WAY'

The Israeli military said the ceasefire agreement had been activated at noon local time.

The first phase of US President Donald Trump's plan to end the war between Israel and the Hamas militant group gives Israeli troops 24 hours to pull from positions in urban areas, although they will still hold more than half of Gaza.

In a televised address, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israeli forces were staying

Alongside a 125-strong business delegation, we have seized the opportunities created by our trade deal with India in full this week

KEIR STARMER | PRIME MINISTER, UK



During the Hamas-led attack on Israeli communities and a music festival October 7, 2023, fighters killed 1,200 people and captured 251 hostages

Twenty hostages are still believed to be alive in Gaza, while 26 are presumed dead and the fate of two is unknown

Hamas has indicated that recovering the bodies of the dead may take longer than releasing those who are alive

in Gaza to ensure Hamas was disarmed: "If this is achieved the easy way then that will be good, and if not then it will be achieved the hard way."

As the day wore on and it became clear troops were no longer blocking the roads into



Performers take part an event marking the 80th anniversary of the founding of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), in Pyongyang, North Korea, Friday

REUTERS

'No big deal' if US nixes nuclear limits: Putin

REUTERS

Moscow, Oct 10: President Vladimir Putin said Friday that Russia was developing new strategic weapons and it would not be critical for Moscow if the United States declined to extend the warhead limits set out in a nuclear arms treaty that expires next year.

He said it would, however, be a shame if nothing remained of the arms control framework between the two countries, which have by far the world's biggest nuclear arsenals.

Speaking to reporters at a summit in Tajikistan, Putin said an arms race was already in progress.

Russia has said it is willing to voluntarily extend the warhead limits defined in the New START treaty, which expires in February, if the United States is willing to do the same. Washington has not yet formally agreed to the proposal.

"Will these few months be enough to make a decision on an extension? I think it will be enough if there is goodwill to extend these agreements. And if the Americans decide they don't need it, that's not a big deal for us," Putin said.

He added that Russia was continuing to develop and test new-generation nuclear weapons.

"We're ready to negotiate if



it's acceptable and useful for the Americans. If not, then no, but that would be a shame, because then there would be nothing left in terms of deterrence in the area of strategic offensive weapons."

For the second time in a week, Putin referred to the possibility that other countries, which he did not name, might carry out a nuclear test - something only North Korea has done this century. He has said that Russia would also perform a test if this happens.

Security experts say a test by one country would have a knock-on effect, prompting other nuclear powers to do the same, raising geopolitical tensions further from their current, already high, levels.

"There's always a temptation to test the effectiveness of the same fuel that's been in missiles for many, many years. All of this is being simulated on computers, and experts believe that is sufficient, but some of these same experts believe repeat tests are necessary," Putin said.

Trump threatens tariff surge, rules out Xi meeting

REUTERS

Washington, Oct 10: US President Donald Trump threatened to hike tariffs on Chinese exports and cancel a meeting with President Xi Jinping, in a broadside against Beijing Friday that sent markets and relations between the world's largest economies into a spiral.

Trump, due to meet Xi in about three weeks in South Korea, complained on social media about what he characterized as China's plans to hold the global economy hostage after China dramatically expanded its rare earth element export controls Thursday. China dominates the market for such elements, which are essential to tech manufacturing.

Trump said there was no reason to hold the meeting with Xi that he had previously announced. Beijing had never confirmed the meeting between the leaders.

The remarks signaled the biggest rupture in relations in four months and immediately raised questions about whether an economic detente between Beijing and Washington - the world's biggest factory and its biggest consumer - can survive.

Trump, a Republican who has wielded tariffs paid by US importers against friends



stabilizing tit-for-tat trade war that Washington and Beijing paused amid painstaking diplomacy earlier this year. Beijing has long called for Washington to abandon unilateral trade restrictions it says undermine global commerce.

MARKETS TUMBLE ON TARIFF THREATS

The unexpected broadside shook global financial markets, sending the benchmark S&P 500 Index sliding by 2%, its biggest one-day drop since April when a steady barrage of tariff announcements by Trump was a central feature of market volatility. Investors fled into the safe haven of gold and US Treasury securities, and the US dollar weakened against a basket of foreign currencies.

"Trump's post could mark the beginning of the end of the

Afghanistan accuses Pakistan of air attacks

Islamabad warns of action against militants



REUTERS

Islamabad/Kabul/New Delhi, Oct 10: Afghanistan's Taliban government accused Pakistan Friday of carrying out airstrikes on its territory and warned of "consequences" as Islamabad said it was taking action against militants.

Eleven more Pakistani soldiers were killed Friday in a clash with Islamist militants in the Tirah area close to the Afghan border, according to Pakistani security officials. Islamabad says militants of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan group operate from Afghanistan, a charge denied by Kabul.

The Taliban administration blamed Pakistan for airstrikes in Kabul, the capital, late Thursday and in the eastern province of Paktika around midnight.

"This is an unprecedented, violent and provocative act in the history of Afghanistan and Pakistan," an Afghan Defence Ministry statement said. "If the situation escalates further following these actions, the consequences will be the responsibility of the Pakistani military."

According to the Taliban, there were no casualties from the airstrikes.

A Pakistani security official said a vehicle used by the leader of the TTP, Noor Wali Mehsud, was targeted in the Kabul airstrike. It was unclear if he survived.

The Afghan Defence Ministry declined to answer queries about Mehsud, pointing to its statement, which did not mention him.

PAKISTAN VOWS TO DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY

Islamabad has said its patience with Kabul is running



■ Islamabad says Taliban administration giving sanctuary to Pakistani militants

■ Taliban says Pakistan carried out air strikes this week

■ First visit by senior Taliban official underway in India, Pakistan's adversary

out, without acknowledging or denying carrying out the airstrikes.

Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, the Pakistani military spokesman, "noted" the reports of the strikes.

"To protect the lives of the people of Pakistan, we are doing, and will continue to do, whatever is necessary," Chaudhry told a press conference. "Our demand to Afghanistan: Your soil must not be used for terrorism against Pakistan."

The TTP has been fighting to overthrow the Islamabad government and replace it with a strict Islamic-led system of governance. It has had a close relationship with the Afghan Taliban, which inspired the establishment of the TTP.

Pakistan accuses regional big power adversary India of supporting the TTP, through Afghanistan. India denies such accusations, terming them "baseless". The airstrikes coincided with a rare visit to India by a Taliban leader - Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi.

His trip resulted in an announcement by India on Friday that it would upgrade ties with the Taliban administration - giving a boost to the diplomatically isolated group - by reopening its embassy in Kabul shut since the Taliban seized power in 2021.

TRUMP CONDEMNS BEIJING'S 'HOSTILE ORDER'

"Dependent on what China says about the hostile 'order' that they have just put out, I will be forced, as President of the United States of America, to financially counter their move," Trump said on Truth Social. "For every Element that they have been able to monopolize, we have two."

He added, "I was to meet President Xi in two weeks, at APEC, in South Korea, but now there seems to be no reason to do so." Trump had earlier said he would meet Xi on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum being held in Gyeongju, South Korea, starting October 31.

China's move Thursday included adding five new elements as well as dozens of pieces of refining technology to its export-restricting control list. It also required foreign rare earth producers that use Chinese materials to comply with its rules.

China produces over 90% of the world's processed rare earths and rare earth magnets. Many are vital materials in products ranging from electric vehicles to aircraft engines and military radars.

MASTER AND THE PRODIGY

Jaiswal's
bat recites
Sachin sonnet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: Yashasvi Jaiswal drove with precision, cut with ferocity and defended with doggedness to decimate a hapless West Indies attack with another 'Daddy Hundred' that took India to a commanding 318 for 2 on the opening day of the second Test here Friday.

Jaiswal displayed all facets of his extraordinary talent en route an unbeaten 173 off 253 balls. He had skipper Shubman Gill (20) for company when stumps were drawn for the day.

Such was Jaiswal's panache that there wasn't a single awkward boundary during his knock which was laced with 22 hits to the fence.

The control with which he dictated the proceedings also gave enough confidence to another young batter Sai Sudharsan (87), who looked good for his maiden Test hundred but fell 13 short.

In a stand of 193 for the second wicket between the two 23-year-olds, Sudharsan was able to show his true potential and also justify the Indian team management's decision to persist with him as the long-term number three in the Test line-up.

With a languid approach, Sudharsan managed to caress the ball to the boundary without any usage of brute force.

By the time, he got one from left-arm spinner Jomel Warrican that turned and came back into him thudding onto his pads, the Tamil Nadu south-paw had done enough to stop conversations on whether he is running out of time.

Gill also looked assured and would be hoping to make up for the disappointment of missing a hundred in Ahmedabad.

The opener becomes second youngest Indian to reach a tally of 7 Test hundreds joining Sachin Tendulkar in the elite list, leaving behind even greats like Virat Kohli, Sunil Gavaskar

TEST GLORY

■ By reaching the triple-digit score against the Windies, Jaiswal joins an elite group, with only three players in history managing to score more Test hundreds before turning 24

■ The elite list is headed by the GOAT Sir Don Bradman (12), the legendary Sachin Tendulkar (11), and the magnificent Sir Garfield Sobers (9)

As far as West Indies bowling was concerned, they were disciplined during the first hour and pedestrian for the next five, bowling enough loose deliveries that resulted in 43 boundaries (including one six) on Day 1.

For Jaiswal, it was his control that was laudable but he was equally disdainful on pacers and spinners.

Jayden Seales and Anderson Phillips fed him with a lot of half-volleys and over-pitched deliveries that met the fate they ought to have.

As far as the spinners were concerned, Jaiswal was either gifted half-trackers or wide and overpitched deliveries that were driven with such impetuosity that at times, fielders left the chase halfway.

While Warrican still bowled a few wicket-taking deliveries -- two of which accounted for KL Rahul (38) and Sudharsan --, Khary Pierre and Roston Chase were easily dispatched by the Indians throughout the day.

A standout aspect of Jaiswal's innings was the manner in which paced each of his 50s.

If the first fifty runs (82 balls) were all about a cautious approach, there was controlled aggression between 50 to 100 (63

balls) and once he had reached the three-figure mark, he basically dictated the field placements not taking any risks but still managing to score freely between 100 to 150 (79 balls).

The only man who might feel disappointed is Rahul as he got the best delivery bowled on the day. Warrican suddenly changed the pace of his delivery and shortened the length. Rahul came out and saw it turn sharply, beating his outside edge. There was a century there for the taking.

BRIEF SCORES

India 1st innings: 318 for two in 90 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 173 batting, Sai Sudharsan 87, Shubman Gill 20 batting; Jomel Warrican 2/60).

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: Odisha Sports Minister Suryabanshi Suraj expressed pride and optimism ahead of the 28th ITTF-ATTU Asian Table Tennis Team Championships 2025, starting Saturday. "We are simultaneously organising a national and an international event. The 40th Junior Nationals is already underway at Kalinga Stadium and will conclude on the 14th of this month. At the same time, for the first time, Odisha is hosting the prestigious Asian Table Tennis Team Championships," the minister said.

The 40th National Junior Athletics Championships are also being hosted by Odisha, at the same venue 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.

Suraj added that organising two major tournaments simultaneously demonstrates Odisha's increasing competence in sports management, saying, "It's a matter of pride that we can conduct two big events within the same period. This will enhance our experience in hosting multiple sporting events simultaneously. We are strengthening our team's capacity -- physically, mentally, and administratively -- to manage and deliver large-scale

ASIAN TABLE TENNIS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

PADDLERS SET FOR ACID TEST



events efficiently."

The minister further expressed hope that with this experience, Odisha will continue to attract more major national and international sporting events in the future.

The Asian Table Tennis Team Championships will be staged here at the renowned Kalinga Stadium from October 11 to 15. The event will also serve as a qualifier for the 2026 ITTF World Team Championships, with the top 13 teams from each category securing spots.

Odisha is hosting its first Asian-level table tennis event, although the state previously hosted the 2019 Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships. Bhubaneswar, which has hosted several major sporting events recently, is also known as India's sports capital.

Nearly 500 participants, in-

This marks the first-ever hosting of the prestigious Asian Table Tennis Team Championships in Odisha, and notably, the event returns to India after a gap of 16 years

cluding players and support staff from 22 countries -- India, China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Singapore, Macau, Bangladesh, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Oman, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Uzbekistan -- are taking part in the championship.

Both men and women teams will compete for top honours.

The top-performing teams from this championship will qualify for the ITTF World

Table Tennis Team Championships 2026 to be held in London, informed Suraj during the press conference.

He further stated that several top-ranked international players will be showcasing their talent in this championship.

From India, Sreeja Akula, Manika Batra, Diya Chitale, Yashaswini Ghorpade, Swastika Ghosh (women's category) and Ankur Bhattacharya, Payas Jain, Manush Shah, Snehit Suravajjula, Manav Thakkar (men's category) will represent the country.

Athletes from various nations have already arrived in Bhubaneswar and started their practice sessions.

The lights are ready, the tables gleam, and the paddles will soon sing--as India braces for its most defining continental test yet.

■ National Junior Athletics Championships

Himanshu, Mohit excel on opening day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: Haryana's Asian Youth Champion Himanshu booked his ticket to World U20 Championships with a meet record on the opening day of the 40th National Junior Athletics Championships here at Kalinga Stadium Friday. Meet record was also improved in the U20 men's 5,000m.

Himanshu hurled the javelin (700g) to a distance of 79.96m in the U-18 boys' qualification

round which was better than the meet record of 76.50m set in 2014 in Vijayawada by star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra.

The qualification mark for World U20 men's javelin is 68.50m.

"I'll do better in the final tomorrow," claims Himanshu. "I've been regularly crossing the 80m mark in practice and should be able to further improve the meet record."

At the 2025 Asian Youth Athletics Championships held in

April in Saudi Arabia, Himanshu won the gold with a distance of 67.57m. "I didn't carry my personal equipment (javelin) and wasn't able to do my personal best which was plus 74m in April," said Himanshu.

The meet record was also erased in the men's U20 5,000m race in the morning session. Mohit Choudhary of Telangana clocks 14:09.71 seconds to better the previous meet record of 14:12.67 set by Vinod Singh in 2024 in Bhubaneswar.

Vinay wins gold at Para Powerlifting Worlds



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cairo, Oct 10: India's rising para powerlifting star Vinay won the gold medal in the 72kg junior category at the Para Powerlifting World Championships here Friday.

Vinay recorded an impressive series of 137kg, 142kg and 147kg in his three attempts. His final lift of 147kg was ruled invalid by the referees, but his second successful lift of 142kg was enough to secure the gold medal, narrowly defeating Mikolaj Kociubinski of Poland, who lifted 141kg.

This marks Vinay's second major international triumph. Earlier, he clinched gold at the Para Powerlifting World Cup 2024 in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt, competing in the 59kg junior category with a lift of 120kg.

After winning the gold, elated Vinay said, "This medal is not just mine -- it belongs to every person who believed in me when I had nothing. From Gorakhpur's small streets to the world stage in Cairo, this journey was not easy."

India has fielded a strong team of 25 para powerlifters with three Juniors and 22 senior athletes in this World Championships.

SHORT TAKES

Kasparov stretches lead over Anand

St Louis: Indian ace Viswanathan Anand let slip some crucial chances against old nemesis Garry Kasparov as the Russian great stretched his lead to five points with two wins and as many draws on the penultimate day of their much-hyped showdown in the Clutch Chess Legends here. Kasparov was lucky to clinch the first game as disaster struck Anand at a close-to-winning position when the Indian ran out of time after "forgetting" to keep an eye on the clock. In one of the two blitz games of the day, Kasparov again won the first game to lead 8.5-3.5 going in to the final day of the \$144,000 prize money event.

IPL 2026 auction likely in mid-December

New Delhi: The mini-auction for the 19th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) is likely to take place December 14, with a window for December 13 also open in case of a two-day event. While the officials of the IPL Governing Council are yet to send out the final schedule, sources aware of the development told IANS that December 14 is the date that has been mentioned to the franchisees, with November 15 being the last date for player retentions. The auction will likely be hosted by India this time. Notably, overseas venues have played host to the previous two auctions, including the IPL 2025 mega auction that took place in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Sabalenka extends Wuhan win streak

Wuhan: Aryna Sabalenka extended her winning streak at Wuhan to 20 matches with a 6-3 6-3 victory over eighth-seeded Elena Rybakina Friday to reach the semifinals of the WTA 1000-level tournament. The US Open champion won the Wuhan Open title in 2018, '19 and again last year on her return to the Chinese city. In another clash, Iga Swiatek was knocked out in a straight-set defeat to Jasmine Paolini.

INDIA GO DOWN TO INDONESIA IN SEMIFINALS, SIGN OFF WITH FIRST-EVER BRONZE AT WORLD JUNIOR C'SHIPS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Oct 10: India's challenge in the BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships came to an end with a bronze medal after the hosts' spirited effort was not enough to upset defending champions Indonesia in the semifinals here Friday.

The Indian team, which had secured a historic first medal in the mixed-team competition Thursday with a win over former champions Korea, went down 35-45, 21-45 against pre-tournament favourites Indonesia, who will now face the winner of the other semifinals between 14-time champion China and Japan.

India made just one change to the squad that beat Korea



Wednesday by bringing in Vishakhha Toppo for Aanya Bisht in the mixed doubles, while once again starting the tie with the boys' doubles category.

The top Indian doubles combination of Bhargav Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gobburu gave them a perfect start as they beat Indonesia's Muhammad Rizki

Mubarrok and Raihan Daffa Pramono 9-5 to raise hopes of an upset.

Unnati Hooda wasn't at her best in the girls' singles tie against Thalita Wiryawan in the first set, but did enough to keep India's nose ahead at 18-16. It was Indonesia's world junior no 1 boys singles player Mohd Ubaidillah who turned

things around for his team as he beat Rounak Chouhan 11-5 to hand his team a four-point advantage.

The mixed doubles combination of Lalramsanga and Vishakhha Toppo did raise hopes of a fightback as they first drew level at 28-28 and even 9-3. But the Indonesian combination of Ikhsan Pramudya and

Asia Cup trophy under lock

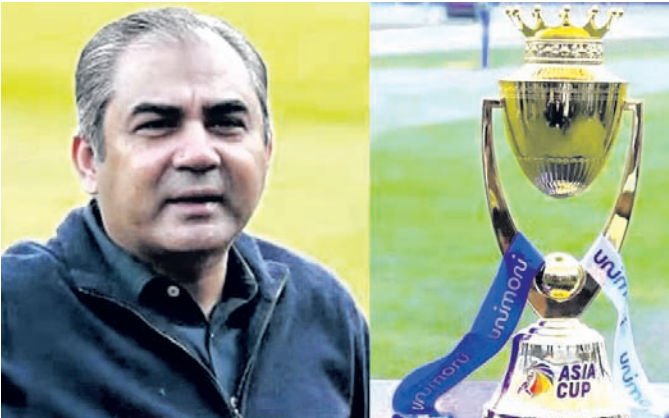
NAQVI INSISTS ON PERSONALLY HANDING TROPHY TO INDIAN TEAM OR BCCI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, Oct 10: The Asia Cup trophy, which was not presented to the victorious Indian team after its refusal to accept it from Asian Cricket Council chief Mohsin Naqvi, has been locked away at the ACC's Dubai headquarters with "instructions that it should not be moved or handed over" without the Chairman's approval.

The trophy has been at the ACC office after Naqvi walked away with it from the presentation ceremony following the Indian team's refusal to accept it from him. India beat Pakistan in the Asia Cup final in Dubai September 28.

Naqvi is also the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman and the Interior Minister of his country and India-Pakistan tensions have hit a peak after the



Pahalgam terror attack.

"As of today the trophy is still in ACC offices in Dubai with clear intructions from Naqvi that it should not be moved or handed over to anyone without his approval and in person presence," a source close to Naqvi told PTI.

"Naqvi has given clear instructions that only he will hand over the trophy in person (whenever that happens) to the Indian team or BCCI," he added.

The entire Asia Cup was overshadowed by Indo-Pak hostilities. The Indians refused to

shake hands with the arch foes throughout the tournament and players from both sides mocked each other with politically charged gestures. Naqvi too made political statements on his social media pages.

The BCCI took strong exception to his act of walking away with the trophy and vowed to raise the matter in an ICC meeting next month. It is being widely speculated that a strong move to get Naqvi censured and even removed as Director in the ICC could be made.

"It remains to be seen what will be the long term ramifications for the PCB or Naqvi because the BCCI is clear he (Naqvi) didn't have any right to insist on handing the trophy himself to the Indian team and refusing to send it to the BCCI who were official hosts of the event," the source said.

Vedanta Lanjigarh hits bullseye with 12 medals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Lanjigarh, Oct 10: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, is celebrating a major achievement for its grassroots sports initiative in Lanjigarh, after young archers from the programme clinched the coveted "Overall Champion" title at the Odisha School Archery Championship.

The archers from Kalahandi district dominated the competition, organised by the School Games Federation of India (SGFI) in Sundargarh, by collectively securing a spectacular total of eight gold, three silver, and a bronze medals.

Commenting on the achievement, Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, CEO - Vedanta Alumina Business, said, "At Vedanta Lanjigarh, we believe



that true progress is measured by the opportunities we create for our communities. The remarkable achievement of our young archers reflects the transformative power of grassroots initiatives that can unlock hidden potential and nurture champions. We are committed to empowering young talent from Kalahandi, helping them build confidence and pursue excellence."