Fearless Deepika Deepika Padukone says she isn't scared of breaking norms

even as she has to lose out on

LEISURE | P2



Kabul blames Pak

Afghan government accuses Pakistan of carrying out airstrikes on its territory and warns it of consequences

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Silver at new peak

Silver prices see the steepest single-day surge in the recent past and skyrocket ₹8,500 to hit a new record of ₹1,71,500 per kilogram

BUSINESS | P11



Seven & soaring

Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal slams his seventh Test hundred as India reach 318 for two at stumps against West Indies

SPORTS | P12

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a few projects

BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY | OCTOBER 11, 2025

SI deputes youth to probe case on his behalf, suspended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhadrak, Oct 10: A sub-inspector of police in Bhadrak district was placed under suspension for sending a youth to investigate a case on his behalf, an officer said.

Bhadrak SP Manoj Rout suspended SI Kartik Jena of Bhadrak Rural Police Station Friday for allowing a civilian to impersonate as a police officer and investigate a case.

The suspended officer was relieved of his duties immediately following the order. The civilian involved in the impersonation, Piyush Ranjan Panda from the Dhusuri area of Dhamnagar block, has also According



to sources, Piyush had been informally assisting Jena with computer-related tasks and other activities at the police sta-

tion in recent days.

On Thursday, instead of personally visiting Rasikabaga village in Kalei panchayat to investigate a case involving a woman, Jena had allegedly instructed Piyush to carry out an inspection in his place. Piyush arrived at the village on his personal motorcycle and began questioning locals regarding the case. The villagers asked him about his credentials. When he failed to provide satisfactory answers, the villagers detained him and alerted the Bhadrak Rural Police.

Subsequent investigation revealed that Piyush had no official ties to the police department, and he had acted as a middleman posing as a police officer as per SI Jena's direction.

"This is a serious breach of duty. The accused individual has no connection with the police department," said Arup Abhisekh Behera, ASP, Bhadrak.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



He wants to know if we should impose tariffs on Norway or Venezuela?

HOPE AT LAST: Palestinians walk past the rubble following Israeli forces' withdrawal from the area, after Israel and Hamas agreed on the Gaza ceasefire, in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, Friday (Report on P10)

J&K statehood: SC gives Centre 4 weeks to reply on petitions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: The Supreme Court Friday gave the Centre four weeks to file its response on a batch of pleas seeking restoration of statehood to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir A bench comprising Chief Justice BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran was hearing multiple pleas, including those filed by academician Zahoor Ahmad Bhat and socio-political activist Ahmad Malik, pressing for the implementation of the Centre's assurance to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir "at the earliest."

They referred to the Centre's assurance on statehood for the union territory during the hearings on the abrogation of Article 370. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told the bench that elections in the region were conducted peacefully last year but the government required more time to evaluate the issue of restoring statehood in view of ongoing se curity concerns and the recent Pahalgam terror attacks.

"Elections were held in a peace ful manner and an elected government is in place. Over the last six vears, substantial progress has been made in Jammu and Kash mir. However, certain recent incidents, such as the Pahalgam attack, need to be factored in before taking a final call," Mehta said.

had never run for office before

took her place. The lead-up to

the election saw widespread

repression, including disqualifications, arrests and human

The crackdown on dissent

only increased after the coun-

try's National Electoral Coun

cil, which is stacked with Mad-

uro loyalists, declared him the

winner despite credible evi-

The election results an-

nounced by the Electoral Coun-

cil sparked protests across the

country, to which the govern-

ment responded with force,

resulting in more than 20 peo-

ple dead. They also prompted

an end to diplomatic relations

between Venezuela and various

foreign countries, including

Machado went into hiding

and has not been seen in pub-

lic since January. A Venezu-

elan court issued an arrest

warrant for Gonzalez over the

publication of election results.

He went into exile in Spain and

was granted asylum.

Argentina.

dence to the contrary.

rights violations.

Key reforms across sectors

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: The state Cabinet led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi approved 15 proposals across 10 departments during its 28th meeting held at Lok Seva Bhawan, here Friday. The decisions, aimed at regulatory ease, irrigation development, sanitation, and public welfare, mark a significant step in the state's governance reform agenda. Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja briefed the press following the meeting.

A new urban sanitation scheme, Swachha Odisha, with an outlay of ₹1,600 crore over five years, was approved to support waste management in urban local bodies. The scheme will bridge funding gaps and strengthen the urban sanitation system, complementing national initiatives like the Swachh Bharat Mission, the Chief Secretary said.

In another decision, the Cabinet extended the In-Stream Storage Structures (ISS-2.0) scheme with a ₹19,941-crore outlay for 2025-30. It also approved



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi chairs the 28th Cabinet meeting at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Friday

a new Intra-State River Linking Scheme with ₹1,790-crore allocation to connect water-surplus and deficit regions. Also, the Nabakrushna Choudhury Secha Unnavan Yojana will continue with an allocation of ₹1.437 crore to restore irrigation in over 1.2 lakh hectares. Additionally, the Cabinet cleared a proposal for a mega lift irrigation cluster in Sambalpur worth ₹211.87 crore, using the Hirakud reservoir's water

to irrigate 8,507 hectares. Apart from these, the Food and Procurement Policy for the Kharif Marketing Season 2025-26 was approved, targeting procurement of 93 LMT paddy (63 LMT rice). Farmers registered via e-KYC will be informed via SMSes about procurement dates. Payments will be made

within 24-48 hours, with priority given to small and marginal farmers. "Strict action will be taken against defaulting millers," Ahuja said.

The Cabinet also approved the Odisha Jan Vishwas Ordinance, 2025, which seeks to amend 16 state laws by replacing criminal penalties for minor violations with civil fines. The move, aligned with the Centre's Jan Vishwas Act, 2023, reflects a shift to trust-based governance, reducing the legal burden on citizens and businesses. Offences under acts such as the Odisha Municipal Act, Shops & Establishments Act, VAT Act, and Co-operative Societies Act will now attract graded penalties rather than imprisonment

In order to align with Central laws, the Cabinet approved framing of new rules under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, ensuring digital issuance of certificates, standardised registration of stillbirths, and updated records for better planning and governance.

Venezuelan Oppn leader gets Nobel Peace Prize

Oslo, Oct 10: Venezuelan Opposition leader María Corina Machado won the Nobel Peace Prize Friday, winning recognition as a woman "who keeps the flame of democracy burning amid a growing darkness.

The former Opposition presidential candidate was lauded for being a "key, unifying figure" in the once deeply divided opposition to President Nicolas Maduro's government, said Jorgen Watne Frydnes, chair of the Norwegian Nobel committee.

"In the past year, Ms Machado has been forced to live in hiding,' Watne Frydnes said. Despite serious threats against her life, she has remained in the country, a choice that has inspired millions. When authoritarians seize power, it is crucial to recognise courageous defenders of freedom who rise and resist." He told the AP that the committee was able to reach Machado just before the announcement and "it came as a surprise.'

Machado's ally, Edmundo Gonzalez, who lives in exile in Spain, posted a short video of himself speaking by phone with

"I am in shock," she said, adding, "I cannot believe it."

Gonzalez celebrated Machado's Nobel win in a post on X, calling it a "very well-deserved recognition for the long fight of a woman and of a whole people for our freedom and democracy.' Maduro's govern

ment has routinely targeted its real or perceived opponents. Machado.

turned 58 this week, was set to run against Maduro, but the government disqualified her. zalez,

Before dawn in Caracas, with few vehicles out yet on the Venezuelan capital's usually crowded streets, some people heading to work expressed disbelief at the news of Machado's win. "I don't know what can be done to improve the situation, but she deserves it," said

Sandra Martinez 32, as she waited at a bus stop 'She's a great woman.'

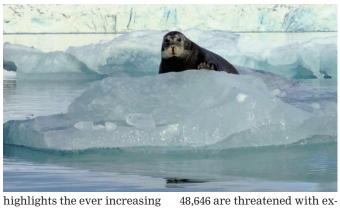
48,646 species now at risk of extinction: IUCN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Gland, Oct 10: Arctic seals and birds are coming under increasing threat, mainly due to climate change and human activity, according to an updated list of endangered species released Friday by the world's top conservation body.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said habitat loss driven by logging and agricultural expansion as a threat to birds, while seals were at risk mostly due to global warming and human activities including maritime traffic. The IUCN said it was changing the status of the hooded seal from vulnerable to endangered while bearded and harp seals are now classified as near threatened.

"This timely global update



impact human activity is havtinction," it said in a statement. Global warming is destroying on nature and the climate and the devastating effects this ing the natural habitat of anihas," its director general Grethmals including seals that live el Aguilar told reporters at its

World Conservation Congress

The IUCN red list now in-

cludes "172,620 species of which

in Abu Dhabi.

in the cold parts of the world. Maritime traffic, mining and oil extraction, industrial fishing and hunting are among

other risks to the species.

"Global warming is occurring four times faster in the Arctic than in other regions, which is drastically reducing the extent and duration of sea ice cover," the IUCN said.

"Ice-dependent seals are a key food source for other animals," it added.

They "play a central role in the food web, consuming fish and invertebrates and recycling nutrients" and are one of the "keystone species" of their ecosystem.

Kit Kovacs, a scientist at the Norwegian Polar Institute. raised the alarm about the Svalbard archipelago, halfway between Norway and the North

"When I lived in the archipelago, just a couple of decades ago, we had five months of sea

ice cover in areas that are now

winter ice-free. It is really hard to express just how rapidly the Arctic is changing," she said. The IUCN said its red list of

birds is the fruit of nine years

of work by "thousands of ex-"Overall, 61 percent of bird species have declining populations -- an estimate that has

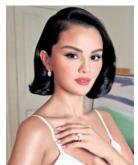
increased from 44 percent in

2016," the IUCN said. It studied thousands of bird species worldwide and found that "1,256 (11.5 percent) of the 11,185 species assessed are globally threatened."

This year's update focused on regions where the destruction of tropical forest poses a growing threat to birds.

In Madagascar, 14 species were newly classified as near threatened and three others were labelled vulnerable.

eisure

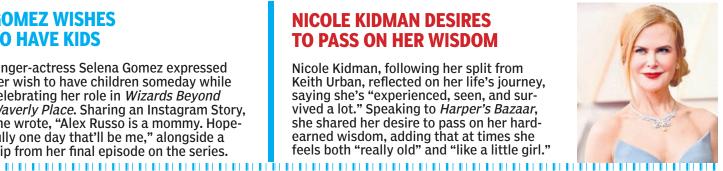


GOMEZ WISHES TO HAVE KIDS

Singer-actress Selena Gomez expressed her wish to have children someday while celebrating her role in Wizards Beyond Waverly Place. Sharing an Instagram Storv. she wrote, "Alex Russo is a mommy. Hopefully 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 survived a lot." Speaking to Harper's Bazaar, she shared her desire to pass on her hardearned wisdom, adding that at times she feels both "really old" and "like a little girl."



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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 Cervantes 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.

Even though it is for your own benefit, you will spend the day safeguarding the sentiments of others. Not too uncharacteristic, 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.

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 pressure. 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.

When it comes to maintain-

ing a balance in any relationship, you set an example for others to follow. It is like an inner light quides 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-ofhe-box ideas to resolve issues, and Ganesha assures that this will work wonders.

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 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 resolving 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 falling 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.





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.

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

Mumbai: On World Men-

tal Health Day, actress

Rhea Chakraborty em-

phasised that it's okay to

be vulnerable, while Fati-

ma Sana Shaikh encour-

aged people to accept that

gram, where she shared

a video featuring her

along with Fatima and

actress Inavat Sood, who

is known for her work in

Scoop, De De Pyaar De

The video begins with

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

Fatima saying: "It's okay

to fail and it's okay to not

Rhea took to Insta-

it's okay to fail.

and Tigers.

he okay.

Rhea: It's okay to be vulnerable

not be your perfect

Inayat added:

cap-

"It's okay to give

up, it's okay to

take a break, it's

okay to not want

to do anything."

tioned the post:

"It's ok to not

be ok world-

mentalhealth-

day@fatima-

sanashaikh.'

World Men-

tal Health Day

is an interna-

tional day for

global mental

health educa-

Mental Health.

tion, awareness and ad-

vocacy against social stig-

ma. It was first celebrated

in 1992 at the initiative of

the World Federation for

Rhea

self every day.

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, Bapu Goswami, and J.P. Wordsmith. Kul-Pattnaik, Asima Panda, Antara Chakraborty, Swayam Prabhas Padhi, 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. PAN

Deepika unafraid of breaking norms

Mumbai: Deepika Padukone has been making head lines following her exit from Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit, starring Prabhas, and the sequel to Kalki 2898 AD. Reports suggested that her decision stemmed from a request for an eight-hour work shift and other conditions to accommodate her new role as a mother. Deepika and Ranveer Singh welcomed their daughter, Dua Padukone Singh, in September

Addressing the speculation, Deepika clarified that she was simply advocating for healthier work ethics in an industry known for its demanding schedules. She pointed out that many male superstars have worked fixed eight-hour shifts for years without criticism, yet when a woman demands the same, it becomes controversial. "If that comes across as being pushy, so be it," she said.

The actress emphasised that she's unafraid of breaking norms, learning through mistakes, or facing backlash. "I'm okay doing it. I'm okay being the first person. I'm okay making mistakes. I'm okay being abused at," Deepika said. Her resilience, she noted, stems from her upbringing and the discipline instilled by her father, badminton legend Prakash Padukone. "Being an athlete taught me how to cut out the noise," she shared. Deepika add-

that motherhood currently takes most of her time and described the experience as deeply fulfilling and beautiful, marking a new phase of balance and self-awareness in her life.



She noted that earlier, fewer women were present women safety on sets, and practical issues like access to proper bathrooms, late-night travel Mumbai: Konkona Sen arrangements, and safety Sharma, known for her measures often limited powerful performances and their participation. Highlighting the persistence of socially aware storytelling, returns to the screen predatory behaviour, she as ACP Sanyukta Roy in stressed the importance Search: The Naina Murof open dialogue to bring der Case. Directed by gradual change and en-Rohan Sippy, the series sure safer, more equitable workspaces for women. premiered on JioHotstar and has already The series follows the investigation of a garnered attention for its gripping teenage girl's brutal murder, uncovering plot and Konkolayers of corruption na's intense and political conportrayal of a determined

investigator

entangled in

a complex

case and a

troubled

marriage.

In a recent

interview.

the actress

reflected

murder

spiracy. 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,

SUDOKU

4 8 3

2

CROSSWORD

3 9

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

4

5

9 8

4

9

5 1

2

7

8

4

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any

9

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



PEANUTS



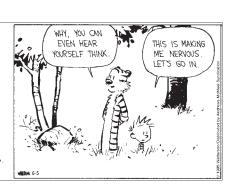




CALVIN AND HOBBES



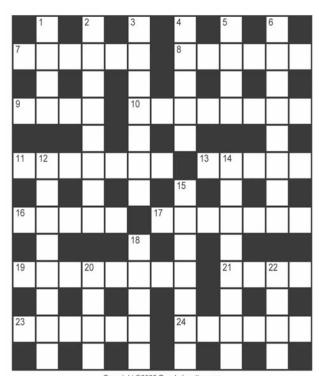




BREVITY



DOST **CROSSWORD**



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19 Horse type

23 Flips over

24 Root

21 Resting places

vegetable

Across

- 7 Hearsay
- 8 Whirlpools 9 Tax
- 10 Caution
- 11 Fix-it shops
- 13 Loft

- 16 Involuntary
- twitch 17 Wander aimlessly
- Down

3 Feared

- 2 Imitators

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- 1 Burlap fibre

- 18 Blotto 20 Bugbear

 - 22 Small recess

4 Disease-causing

5 Mideast port

14 Moroccan city

15 Jump for joy

6 Sweat

12 Claps

SOLUTIONS P S D S A S A P P O I N T I N G R L V Y G PUNC TURE OLOGYASPIC

SUDOKU



downtown

State eyes to be a leading egg production hub: Min

F&ARD Minister Gokulananda Mallik urges youth entrepreneurs in every district and block to take up poultry farming and contribute to the state's mission of achieving nutritional security and economic growth through the livestock sector

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: Odisha has set an ambitious target to produce 500 crore eggs annually by 2029, positioning itself as a leading hub for egg production, Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (F&ARD) Minister Gokulananda Mallik said Friday.

Addressing an event organised by the F&ARD department to mark the state-level World Egg Day celebrations at Lok Seva Bhawan here, the minister said the state currently produces about 1.17 crore eggs per day.

"The per capita availability of eggs in Odisha is around 80 per year, while a healthy diet requires about 182 eggs per person annually. Our goal is to bridge this gap and make the state self-reliant in egg produc-



The per capita availability of eggs in Odisha is around 80 per year, while a healthy diet requires about 182 eggs per person annually. Our goal is to bridge this gap and make the state self-reliant in egg production

GOKULANANDA MALLIK | F&ARD MINISTER

tion," Mallik said.

The minister urged youth entrepreneurs in every district and block to take up poultry farming and contribute to the state's mission of achieving nutritional security and economic growth through the livestock sector.

Describing egg as one of the most affordable and complete sources of animal protein, the minister said it plays a vital role in ensuring good health for children and strengthening the rural economy.

OUAT Vice-Chancellor Pravat Kumar Roul called upon citizens to take a pledge to make Odisha self-sufficient in egg production.

World Egg Day is celebrated globally on the second Friday of October to promote awareness of the nutritional value of eggs and encourage its production and consumption. This year's theme was "The Power of the Egg: Packed with Natural Nutrition".

As part of the celebrations, awareness programmes were organised in schools across Bhubaneswar to educate students about the health benefits of eggs. The F&ARD department also distributed eggs among those at orphanages in the City to mark the occasion.



TIGHT SECURITY: Police personnel patrol in Dargah Bazaar area of Cuttack, Friday

BJP leaders involved in SI exam scam: Cong New assignment for 12 IAS officers

Govt notified Odisha about Coldrif: TN min

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: The state Congress Friday launched a scathing attack on the ruling BJP, alleging that the top leaders of the saffron party – both in the state and the Centre, are involved in the Police Sub-Inspector (SI) recruitment scam.

Addressing a presser at Con-

gress Bhawan here, former minister and senior Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) spokesperson Debashish Nayak said, "While the BJP, during the UPA regime, used to accuse them (Cong) of selling jobs, they are now doing the same after coming to power." He said BJP leaders were once shedding crocodile tears for the unemployed educated youth of Odisha, but after coming to

Chennai, Oct 10: The Tamil

Nadu (TN) government had

alerted the Madhya Pradesh

government and the Union

Health Ministry about the presence of a toxic substance

in Coldrif cough syrup, besides

notifying authorities in Odis-

ha and Puducherry, and thus

averted a major tragedy, state

Health Minister Ma Subrama-

Facing flak from AIADMK

general secretary Edappadi

K Palaniswami and the MP

government over the death

of children linked to the con-

sumption of the adulterated

cough syrup manufactured in

TN, Subramanian denied any

nian claimed Friday.



If BJP knew Shankar Prusty
is a criminal, who assigned
him the responsibilities?
How did he become a part
of the BJP? Why are photos
of Prusty with the CM and
other BJP leaders circulating? What relationship do
these leaders have with
Prusty?

DEBASHISH NAYAK | CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON

power here, they themselves are involved in irregularities in recruitment tests.

He questioned how Shankar Prusty, the main accused in alleged 'job selling' during the previous government, is still active and reportedly continuing such practices under

The state principal secre-

tary of the Health department

ordered an inquiry into the

adulteration of Coldrif cough

syrup October 1, and it was

found that the medicine con-

tained 48 per cent Diethylene

Glycol, a toxic industrial sol-

"We immediately alerted

Madhya Pradesh government

and the Union Health Ministry

about the toxic substance in

the cough syrup, but they said

it was good," Subramanian told

reporters here. "We also noti-

fied authorities in Odisha and

Puducherry about the same,"

The minister said the Health

the government.

vent, he said.

he said.

the current government. "If BJP knew Shankar Prusty is a criminal, who assigned him the responsibilities? How did he become a part of the BJP? Why are photos of Prusty with the Chief Minister and other BJP leaders circulating? What relationship

department took prompt ac-

tion within 48 hours of the in-

cident of deaths related to the

consumption of the adulterat-

Prusty?" said Nayak, seeking answers from the government.

Congress leader Rajani Ku-

Congress leader Rajani Kumar Mohanty further alleged that the widespread corruption in the Police SI recruitment exam, involving Prusty and several middlemen and candidates, has links with the central BJP leadership.

He pointed out that, ironically, the BJP government—which came to power in Odisha for the first time by invoking Odia identity—is now under fire for corrupt recruitment practices. Within just 15 months of their tenure, 16 recruitment exams have been cancelled due to issues like paper leaks and bribery allegations. This is playing with the future of lakhs of talented, aspiring youth in Odisha

taking steps to completely

close down the Sresan Phar-

ma that produced the cough

syrup, the government banned

the medicine in the state and

suspended two senior drug in-

Palaniswami had accused

the ruling DMK government

of 'negligence' and 'regulatory

Replying to a question, the

minister said, "Generally, in

such cases, the incidents of

crime are investigated by the

The pharma company's own-

er was arrested by a Special In-

vestigation Team from Madhya

Pradesh with the assistance of

Chennai Police October 9.

police of the state concerned.'

spectors, he said.

major bureaucratic reshuffle, the state government assigned new responsibilities to 12 IAS and one OAS officers Friday. Panchayati Raj and Drink-

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: In a

POST NEWS NETWORK

ing Water department Commissioner-cum-Secretary
Girish SN will have the additional charge of the Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Mission Shakti department.
Girish shall assume the charge with effect from October 13, 2025, according to a notification issued by the General Administration and Public Grievance (GA&PG) department.

Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) Vice Chairman Noonsavath Thirumala Naik, with additional charge of Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) Managing Director, was appointed as the Commissioner-cum-Secretary of School and Mass Education (S&ME) department.

Tourism Director Mansi
Nimbhal, with additional
charge of Odisha Tourism
Development Corporation
(OTDC) Managing Director
and Scheduled Tribes Director, was appointed as Odisha
Lift Irrigation Corporation
(OLIC) Managing Director.
Nimbhal will have the additional charge of Water
Resources (WR) department
Additional Secretary

Additional Secretary.
Panchayati Raj and Drinking
Water (PR&DW) department
Additional Secretary Surendra Kumar Meena, with additional charge of State Institute
of Rural Development (SIRD)
Director, was appointed as Mi-

Govt relieves three for Central duty

The state government Friday relieved three senior IAS officers from their current assignments to enable them join their new assignments in the Centre. According to a notification issued by the General Administration and Public Grievance department, Shalini Pandit - School and Mass Education department Commissioner-cum-Secretary with additional charge of Commissioner-cum- Secretary of Mission Shakti department - was relieved from the state government to enable her to join her new assignment as Joint Secretary in Department of Financial Services under Ministry of Finance. Similarly, Samarth Verma - Minor Minerals Director with additional charge of Odisha Film Development Corporation Managing Director - was relieved from the state governme to enable him to take up his new assignment as Director in the M/o Ports, Shipping & Waterways. Moreover, Swadha Dev Singh - Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation Limited Managing Director with additional charge of Water Resources department Additional Secretary - was relieved from the state government to enable her to join the new assignment as Director of Census Operation (DCO)/Director of Citizen Registration (DCR) in the Office of the Registrar General of India, New Delhi.

norities & Backward Classes Welfare department Additional Secretary.

S&ME department Additional Secretary Subhashree Nanda was appointed as Planning and Convergence department Additional Secretary.

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Chanchal Rana will have the additional charge of BDA Vice Chairman and BSCL Managing Director.

ST & SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare department Additional Secretary Premjit Nayak was appointed as Scheduled Tribes Director.

Hockey Promotion Council of Odisha Chief Executive Officer Deepankar Mohapatra was appointed as Tourism Director. Mohapatra will have the additional charge of OTDC Managing Director.

Boyanika Managing Director Pranati Chhotray, with additional charge of Handicrafts

Director, was appointed as Home department Additional Secretary.

Home department Additional Secretary Nivedita Prusty was appointed as Boyanika Managing Director. Prusty will have the additional charge of Handicrafts Director.

Similarly, Planning and Convergence department Additional Secretary Madhusmita Samal was appointed as PR&DW department Additional Secretary. Samal will have the additional charge of SIRD Director.

Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) Manager (Adm) Saniay Kumar Biswal was appointed as Commerce and Transport department Additional Secretary.

Private Secretary to Deputy Chief Minister, Women and Child Development, Mission Shakti and Tourism departments, Kanhu Charan Dhir, was appointed as Minor Min-

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL 2025

Edu, safe environment key to empowering girls: Experts

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: As the world observes 'International Day of the Girl 2025' with the theme "The Girl I Am, The Change I Lead: Girls on the Frontlines of Crisis", Odisha's changemakers underscore the urgent need for empowering girls through education, safe & nurturing environment, and equal opportunity, especially at a time when the world is facing socio-economic challenges.

Girls across India continue to face systemic barriers—from gender bias and early marriage to school dropouts—linked to unplanned pregnancies. Several studies suggest that 42.3% of single mothers in India dropped out of school due to unplanned pregnancy, underscoring how lack of education and awareness perpetuates vulnerability.

Unmukt Foundation's founder **Shweta Agarwal** believes true progress comes when every child, not just girls, is nurtured equally. "When we talk about the girl



in a safe, equitable and nurturing environment."

"Change does not come from sympathy; it comes from trust. When we trust girls with opportunity, voice, and space, they create miracles," Agarwal adds.

She recalls Truptimayee, a young girl from Bhubaneswar who once feared joining self-defence classes but is now a state-level judo champion with two gold medals.



"Her journey reminds us that when a girl rises, she lifts an entire community with her," Agarwal says, adding, every girl deserves a fair start — a chance to be seen, safe, and supported.

Linkan Subudhi, Bravery Awardee and Founder of Seva Prayas Foundation, stresses the importance of comprehensive sex education as a shield



"Sex education doesn't only mean learning about physi-

cal intimacy. It's about understanding the body, menstrual hygiene, and emotional changes. Girls

must be educated about the

difference between good touch and bad touch. Parents need to be more aware too. For, only procreation is not enough — protection, sensibility and understanding matter," Subudhi opines.

Stating that societal attitudes, especially in rural India, still tie education to marriage prospects, Subudhi says, "We must normalise conversations about gender, safety, and equality. NGOs and social workers act as bridges between families and awareness."

Renowned author and gender specialist

der specialist
Hiranmayee Mishra
emphasises
that empowerment begins
at home. "Both
girls and boys

must be aware of their basic rights. For girls, especially in a society that still practices son preference, awareness about sexual rights, menstruation, and safety is essential," Mishra says.

She also laid stress on sex education, which she said, should start early—from lessons on good and bad touch to deeper discussions on consent and bodily autonomy during adolescence.

"While urban India is changing, rural areas still struggle with regressive norms—'a son is our future, a daughter is someone else's responsibility'. Until that belief is erased, girls will remain at the margins," Mishra opines.

"While affordability of education and safety of girl child remain the biggest obstacles, State must ensure a secure environment for girls to attend school without fear. Then only will equality become reality," Mishra asserts.

Man gets 20-yr jail for raping teen in City

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

erals Director.

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: A man was sentenced to 20 years in jail by a court here for raping a 13-year-old girl last month.

Additional Sessions Judge

Khurda, Subhanjan Mohanty delivered the verdict Thursday 37 days after the incident.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on the convict.

The girl was on the way to participate in Khudurukuni Osa in Chandaka area September 2 evening when the convict forcibly took her to a secluded place and raped her, according to the prosecution. The court convicted him after examining eight witnesses and other evidence gathered by the police.

The court also directed the authorities to provide compensation of Rs 6 lakh to the victim.

OrissaPOST



PM-JANMAN boosts rural connectivity in tribal areas

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

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 Telgudutha–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 vulner able tribal groups (PVTG).

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

CLASSIFIED

-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, Sonepur, dt. 19.12.24, I, Anandini Sarangi, D/o - Basudev Sarangi, W/o - Dhiren Kumar Bedbak, R/o Bhagabatiplot, Sonepur, P.O./P.S. - Sonepur, 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.

on travel health clinics



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

ed 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.

City AIIMS hosts conclave Govt nod for TP Scheme in Andharua, Daspur mouzas

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



TP Scheme-8 will be implemented over 560.86 acres in Andharua and Daspur mouzas BDA will be the executing agency for the project

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 systematic land reconstitution and planned expansion.

The scheme also supports the goals of the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) 2010, which proposes a 65-km ring road around the Bhubaneswar development area.

To achieve these objectives, BDA is planning to implement TP schemes across revenue villages along the ring road. BDA Vice-Chairman N Thirumala Naik has instructed the officials concerned to expedite implementation and conduct regular progress reviews, stressing the need to ensure high-quality urban infrastructure and sustainable city growth.

One-day conference held at KIIT University

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: A oneday conference on 'Viksit Bharat 2047' and 'Viksit Odisha 2036' was organised at KIIT Universi ty 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 distin guished guests were Industries and I&PR additional chief sec retary Hemant Sharma, OSFO Hindalco Industries Ltd corpo rate affairs president Ardhen du Mohapatra, NALCO forme CMD and organising committee chairman Tapan Kumar Chand

Speaking on the occasion, Mo hapatra highlighted Aditya Birla Group's substantial contribution toward the vision of 'Viksi 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. Moha patra 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.

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 'BioE3: 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)

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, "BioE3 is a catalyst for transforming scientific innovation into enterprise, driving India's vision of a sustainable and glob-

ally competitive bioeconomy. Delivering his keynote address, Pareek highlighted how bioinnovation is reshaping Indian agriculture, while Dasgupta emphasised the transformative role of biotechnology in healthcare and sustainable growth.

The summit featured startup pitch sessions, panel discussions, and technology showcases, with over 25 promising startups from biotechnology. diagnostics, agriculture, and medtech sectors presenting before investors and industry experts. Key discussions were held on 'Building Life Science Ventures in India' 'Investor-Start-up Meet' and 'Industry-Startup-Academia Collaborations'

GRIDCO signs agreements for renewable energy banking

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



dustrial 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 and wind are highly intermit tent in nature and dependent on the weather conditions, bank ing of renewable energy power allows the consumers to bank the energy during surplus generation and utilise during lean RE period."

Odisha has embraced a comprehensive and forward-think ing approach to RE development under the Odisha Renewable Energy Policy 2022 and OERC (promotion of renewable ener gy through green energy open access) Regulations, 2023. The objective of the regulations is to promote green energy through open access, allowing banking of the same and also to promote pro duction of green hydrogen, green ammonia or their derivatives.

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 evervone 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

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 citi zens were sensitised and made aware of financial literacy, dig ital literacy, and cyber safety. A cultural programme was al so presented by Shwetapadma Sangeetalaya Cultural Trust.

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

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





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	Nil	Nil	

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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

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, 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 Vigi-

9 members of interstate 'Mahakal' gang held

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 In-

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.

"Subsequently, the nine ac cused persons were arrested,'

Dagdu said the gang had created a reign of terror at the Odisha-Jharkhand border, targeting transporters and local

He said the police action averted a major violent crime in Keonjhar town.

"Those arrested are being interrogated for further leads The successful operation marks a significant step in dismantling organised crime in Odisha," he said.

Among the items seized were five 7.65 mm loaded pistols, two swords, two machetes, an iron

Debt-ridden man commits suicide

committed suicide by hanging in Khamua Ratanpur village under Patana block in Keonihar district in the wee to cope with mounting debt burden. 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 renayments, he was allegedly 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 un-

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 decarbonisa tion 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 largescale 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 Hydro gen 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 Maihi 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



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

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.

National Testing Agency

(An autonomous organization under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India) First Floor, NSIC-MDBP Building, Okhla Industrial Area, New Delhi 110020, Phone: 011 69095250

Email: procurement@nta.ac.in

Notice Inviting Tender

Sealed tenders are invited under Two-Bid System (Technical Bid and Financial Bid) from registered reputed, experienced and financially sound agencies for providing thirty vehicles on monthly hiring basis for official use of the National Testing

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Submission through e-Tendering on GeM portal

cbc 21354/12/0002/2526 Sd./- Director (Procurement)

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

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

Herd of 45 elephants wreaks havoc in Angul

Several houses, hundreds of acres farmland destroyed

9am Friday at a fruit stall near the Birsa Munda Athletic Stadium at Bisra Chowk to collect the money. CBI officials, who were already in position, caught him red-handed and seized the

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

ODISHA LIFT IRRIGATION CORPORATION LIMITED (A Government of Odisha Undertaking)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MAYURBHANJ LIFT IRRIGATION DIVISION, BARIPADA Telephone No.: 06792-252734 (E-mail: olicbpd@ymail.com)

e-Procurement Notice

No. CAD-1953: The Executive Engineer, Mayurbhanj Lift Irrigation Division aripada, At: Baripada, P.O.: Bharijpur, PIN - 757002, Dist.: Mayurbhanj on ehalf of Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneswar invites tender rrough e-procurement in shape of PERCENTAGE rate bids in online mode or Reinforcement of old operable LIPs and Repair of office building at L.I. ub-Division, Rasgobindpur on turnkey basis from reputed contractors/firms aving valid PWD licence of required class.

8 Nos. (Badasahi, Bangriposi, Betnot G.B. Nagar, Rasgobindpur & Suliapad Number of Package Block in Mayurbhanj District)
From Rs.183604 to Rs.1455126 (As pe Estimated Cost Rs.600, 2000, 4000, 6000 (in online mode Cost of Tender Paper

+ 18% GST as per DTCN Dt.15.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M 4 Date & time of publication Dt.20.10.2025 upto 5.00 P.M clarification

Dt.22.10.2025 upto 5.00 P.M Date & time of closing Date & time of opening of Dt.23.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M. Date of opening of Financial Bid will be informed after evaluation

Technical Bid 9 The bidders have to participate in online bidding only urther details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Addendur

Sd./- (Er. Jogindra Ratha) 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]

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.

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 Rourkela 769004, Dist. Sundergarh, Odisha. 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



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 Madhupatna, Cuttack, Odisha, Pin - 753 010

E-AUCTION SALE

Contact Nos.: Mr. B. Harikrishna (Mob. 99374 90975), Pinaki Dutta (Mob. 94374 79421), Suman Kalyan Satapthy (Mob. 79787 44193) E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interes

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 / Mortgagor(s) that the below-described Immovable Pr nortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance ny Limited the same shall be referred hereinafter as Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. The Secured Assets will be sold or 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 /

Loan A/c. No.: HE01XBJ00000084343 Borrower / Co-borrower / Mortgagor : 1. Prasad Kumar Samal (Applicant), Balaji Pentho Bandha Huda Berhampur City

Odisha, Pin - 760 002. 2. M. Buli Samal (Co-applicant) Balaji Pentho Bandha Huda Berhampur City, Post Office - Berhamapur Sadar, Dist - Ganjam

Odisha, Pin - 760 002. 3. Samal Shopee (Co-applicant)

Balaji Pentho Sahi, Berhampur City, Post Office mapur, Sadar, Dist - Ganjam, Odisha,

1. Date of Demand Notice: 06.02.2025 2. Demand Notice Amount

3. Total Loan Outstanding Rs. 35,15,130.00 as on 08.10.2025 together with further interest, penal interest, costs and charges thereon ti 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, Kisam Gharbari, Mauza - Madhabpur, Tehsil - Berhampur, SRO Berhampur, P.S. - Badabajar, District - Ganjam, (Odisha), Pin - 760 002. **Bounded** South - Road, East - House of Basant Rao, West - House of S. Raju,

Earnest Money Deposit: Bid Increment Amount : Rs. 50,000.00 E-Auction Date and Time

Reserve Price: Rs. 39,50,000.00

30.10.2025 (11.00 A.M. to 1.00 3 Minutes) **EMD Submission Last Date:** 29.10.2025 (up to 5.30 P.M.)

Inspection Date : 16.10.2025 & 17.10.2025 (10.00 A.M to 1.00. 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. Muham med 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) **Authorised Office**

ranges of Angul, Talcher, and Bantala. Two days ago, they destroyed a and compensation will be provided Date: 11.10.2025 house in Gopinathpur. They entered soon," he said.

causing widespread damage. The elephants have reportedly destroyed several houses and ravaged paddy crops

pur, Gopinathpur, and Ankul villages,

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 Benta-

POST NEWS NETWORK

without injuries, witnesses said.

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 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

damaging farmlands belonging to residents Bibekananda Rath, Pratap Kumar Nath, Prabin Nath, Santosh Khuntia, Abinas Behera, Saudamini Behera, Purnachandra Dhara, Bhaskar Dhara, Surath Behera, and Su-The herd, which includes six

Bentapur village Thursday night,

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,

power post





Let us keep flaming in our heart the fire of progress.

THE MOTHER



Trade to Tirade

t 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 pho-

tobook offers an unfiltered, almost voveuristic 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. Al 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.

There is a fine line between censorship and good taste and

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

moral responsibility.

- 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.

FOCUS ENVIRONMENT

COOLING HOMES, HEATING PLANET

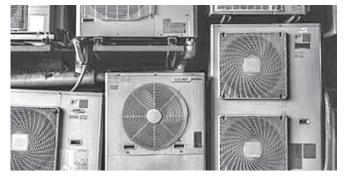
he ozone hole is healing. The layer that shields us from the sun's deadly ultraviolet rays was severely damaged by chemicals like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), once widely used as refrigerants in air-conditioners and refrigerators. Thanks to the Montreal Protocol, these chemicals will be phased out globally by 2030. Scientists now predict that the ozone layer will fully recover by 2066, saving millions of lives from skin cancer.

Yet, as one crisis recedes, another is fast unfolding-this time caused by the new refrigerants that replaced CFCs and HCFCs. The coolants we use today—hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)—are hundreds of times more potent than carbon dioxide(CO) in heating the climate. And in India, we are leaking them recklessly from our room air-conditioners (RACs).

The sale of RACs has been growing at 15–20% annually since 2020. Urbanization, rising incomes, and intensifying heatwaves have turned ACs from a middle-class luxury into a household necessity. India currently has about 70 million RACs. Even with modest annual sales growth of 10%, this number will triple to 245 million by 2035.

But how responsibly are we using and maintaining our ACs? How conscious are we about energy efficiency? How frequently are we refilling refrigerants? And how aware are we of their harmful impacts?

To find answers, my colleagues at iFOREST recently conducted a first-of-its-kind national household survey covering more than 3,100 families from all income groups across seven major cities-Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Pune, and Jaipur. The results are both fascinating and deeply worrying.



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

Chandra Bhushan

CONDITIONERS

REFRIGERANTS

ARE LEAKING

DANGEROUS

POCKETS, AND

HEATING THE

THAN CO2.

DRAINING

CLIMATE

MORE

GEOPOLITICS

The Riyadh-Islamabad shield



Piotr Opaliski

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

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

he 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 portraved as a turning point in relations between Rivadh 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 diversifving 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 securitv 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 SM-DA 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 Rivadh'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

are most welcome to contribute letters requested to send their contact address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to:

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



TWO STATES





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'



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 a 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 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 Wagf 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 wagf 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

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 vear 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



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

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

be held "only after restoration

of proper connectivity", consid-

ering the damage to roads and

out that massive damage was

caused during the monsoons

this year. From June to Sep-

tember, 47 cloudbursts, 98 flash

floods, and 148 major landslides

were reported in the state, and

270 people died in rain-related

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.

the respective deputy commis-

Due to the continued rainfall,

incidents, it said.

The notification pointed

private and public property.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Oct 10: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder 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

The BJP leaders in the state accused the Congress govern

ment of being reluctant to "face people" due to its poor perfor mance and failure to implement its poll promises. "The Congress government

panchayat roads, the notifica-

is aware that its massive de feat 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 ev erything was scripted. "First letters were written by deputy commissioners and elections were deferred soon after,' Thakur said, asking the gov ernment to hold the polls and

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 pradsioners were unable to connect hans will be defeated

face the people.

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 Pinaravi 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

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 Ker-

ala'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 of-

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 Sukhvinder 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: eekldbpt2008@hotmail.com e-Procurement Notice No. e-KLID-02/2025-26

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 (<u>www.http://tenderodisha.gov.in.</u>)

Type of work River Embankment & Improvement to Canal Service Road 09 (Nine) "D" "C" & "B" Class

- Total no works
- Class of Contractor Bid identification No.
- Estimated Cost
- Period of completion
- Date and time of availability of bid
- documents in the portal
- Last date/time for receipt
- of bids in the portal
- 27.10.2025 5.30 P.M. 27.10.2025 up to 5.30 P.M.
- Date of opening of Bid
- 10 Name of the officer inviting
- Superintending Engineer, Kalahandi Irrigation Division, Bhawanipatna, District - Kalahandi

28.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M. in the O/o the

e-KLID-02/2025-26 (01(KLID/25-26) to e-KLID-2/2025-26(09(KLID/25-26)

Varies from Rs.16.93 Lakhs to Rs.42.38

04(Four) Calendar Months

From 13.10.2025 11.00 A.M. to

- Superintending Engineer, Kalahandi Irrigation Division, Bhawanipatna (A) Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said
- website.
 Further details can be seen from Government Website (www.http:/
- tenderodisha.gov.in.)
 The Bidders shall transfer the required amount of EMD (Bid Security) and cos
- WDOM NO-17254/WE Dated 05.12.2017 as mentioned in DTCN. Superintending Engineer Kalahandi Irrigation Division, Bhawanipatna OIPR-32007/11/0005/2526

of Bid by online through electronics payment as per Government of Odisha

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice Letter No.3933, Dated 09.10.2025 Bid Identification No.TENDER ONLINE SNPR-03 OF 2025-26

- Name of the work: Building Works as per DTCN available in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in Total No. of Work: 02 (Two) Nos Approximate Estimated Cost: Vary from Rs.23.57 lakh to
- Rs.47.70 Lakh Period of Completion: 06 (Six Calendar Months) to 9 (Nine Calendar Months) 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. Date and Time of Opening of Tender: 27.10.2025 at 11.00 AM (Technical Bid) & (Financial Bid will be intimated later on)
- Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid : S.E.R.W. Division., Sonepur. 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

OIPR-25054/11/0037/2526 Rural Works Division, Sonepur

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.MM-225 OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER **SUNDARGARH FOREST DIVISION** 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 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 Construction of Civil Work 2 Nature of Works Excavation of Large Water Body (50x40x3 ntr) at Garjanpahad RF near Khutipani village of Kodbahal Section in Hemgir Range under Sundargarh Forest Division 2.Excavation of Large Water Body (50x40x3 mtr) at Garjanpahad RF near Ostali village Type of Works of Hemgir Section in Hemgir Range under Sundargarh Forest Division. 3.Excavation of Large Water Body (50x40x3 mtr) at Pankipahad RF near Pithampur illage of Topria Section in Gopalpur Range nder Sundargarh Forest Division "D" & "C" Class Contractor From 10.00 AM of Dt.17.10.2025 to 5.00 n the Sundargarh portal i.e P.M. of Dt.27.10.2025. https://sundargarh.odisha 7 Date of Opening of Bid :- At 11.00 A.M. of Dt.30.10.2025 Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer

Sundargarh Forest Division

OIPR-08034/11/0022/2526

national



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

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





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

AKHILESH YADAV | SP SUPREMO

and oppression

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



HARSHWARDHAN SAPKAL I

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



UDDHAV 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 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.

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 safe guarded 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 Shekhariyoti Goswami and singer Amritpraya 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 inves tigation team (SIT) under the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Assam Police is probing into the singer's

KARUR STAMPEDE

SC questions Madras HC over its order to form SIT



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 Subramanium, 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 hear-

Senior advocate C A Sund aram, 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 Ro hatgi, 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 lead er Uma Anandan's plea chal lenging 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 investiga tion" in a time-bound manner

The SIT will be led by IG Chandigarh Pushpendra Ku mar. It will also comprise Chan digarh SSP Kanwardeep Kaur SP City K M Privanka, DSF Charanjit Singh Virk, SDPO (South) Gurjit Kaur and SHO of Sector 11 police station (West), Jaiveer Rana, as members, ac

cording 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 con stituted 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, le gal 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 DGI Shatrujeet Kapur and Rohtak SP Narendra Bijarniya for alleged ly 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".

9 to 14, according to the US State Department. The visit to New Delhi by the two American officials came amid efforts by the two countries to find ways to firm up a trade deal. "US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor and Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources Michael J Rigas will travel to India from October 9 to 14," the US State Department said. Jobs scam: ED raids Sujit Bose's property

SNIPPETS

US ambassador-designate Gor visiting India

undertaking a six-day visit to New Delhi, days after his appointment was

confirmed by the Senate. Gor is accompanied by Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources Michael J Rigas for the trip from October

New Delhi: US Ambassador-designate to India Sergio Gor is

Kolkata: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Friday conducted search

operations at seven locations in Kolkata, including properties linked to West Bengal minister Suiit Bose, in connection with its probe into the alleged irregularities in the recruitment at a municipality. a senior official said. The ED teams raided the minister's residence-cum-office in Salt Lake. a councillor's house in Nagerbazar area, and houses of former officials of the South Dum Dum Municipality, he said. Raids were also underway at a house in Thanthania Kalibari area in north Kolkata, and also at a lawyer's residence in New Alipore in the southern part of the city, the official said.

Woman killed after building collapses

New Delhi: A 32-year-old woman died and her five-year-old daughter was injured after a portion of a three-storey building collapsed while girders were being removed in west Delhi's Uttam Nagar area Friday afternoon, police and fire officials said. According to the Delhi Fire Service (DFS), a call regarding the incident was received around 3.10 pm, prompting the dispatch of five fire tenders to the location. A joint rescue operation was initiated, involving the DFS, police, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), BSES, and disaster management teams. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) said that multiple PCR calls were received at 3.07 pm, 3.08 pm and 3.21 pm reporting that a building had collapsed in Uttam Nagar and several people, including a woman and her daughter, were trapped under the debris.



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

SC seeks Centre, EC reply on undertrials voting rights PIL

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

for years, sometimes 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.

plea

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 whole-

Over sale exclusion of eligible citi-75 per cent of zens, it said. the prison population The PIL said seccomprises undertrial or tion 62(5) pre-trial detainees, many was intended to of whom languish in jails regulate

> decades, before rights of members of acquittal legislative bodies and was never meant to disqualify ordinary electors, particularly

the voting

those yet to be convicted. The application of this section fails the tests of constitutional consistency, non-arbitrariness, precision and fairness, and undermines public confidence in the rule of law, it said. 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, it "Denying such individuals

their right to vote not only contravenes the principle of presumption of innocence but also deprives them of participation in democratic governance despite no final adjudication of guilt," the plea said. The plea referred to inter-

national practices and judicial precedents from other democracies, observing that no major democracy imposes a blanket ban on prisoners voting rights.

national



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

MoS DEFENCE OF INDIA, **UK MEET IN MUMBAI**

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth and his UK counterpart Vernon Coaker Friday reviewed the ongoing defence engagements and discussed ways to deepen cooperation between the two countries



ment should come forward and bring a bill, and we should together try to save our land, jobs

and resources. The PDP is ready to provide its full support to the government on this issue MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP CHIEF

A lot of development is taking place in the field of engi

neering, particularly civil engineering. Engineers should ensure no work of theirs is sub standards as it is associated with

their work ethics. We need to

reduce the cost of production and

improve the quality of construction NITIN GADKARI I UNION MINISTER When I was training in the United States (for the space mis-

sion), my country was my identity. When you leave

the planet, your planet becomes your identity. It is such a strong feeling, the entire Earth becomes your home

SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA | IAF GROUP CAPTAIN

#Nifty 1Yr Return:

#Gold 1Yr Return:

Return: 74%

Silver won Gold medal

Gold won Silver medal

Nifty won participation certificate

SHORT **TAKES**

NDA cadet found

hanging in hostel

National Defence Academy

(NDA) was found hanging in

his hostel room at the premier

institute here early Friday with

the police suspecting it to be a

case of suicide while his family

members alleged harassment

by seniors drove him to take

the extreme step. The NDA

said a court of inquiry has

According to police, cadet

been ordered into his death.

Antriksh Kumar Singh's fellow

coursemates saw him hanging

in his room in the morning. No

preliminary findings suggest

a possible case of suicide, a

police official said.

Meghalaya CM

calls for peace

Imphal/Shillong: A day after

a person was killed in a clash

between two groups near the

in the interstate border areas Sangma, who is in Imphal on

a two-day visit, termed the

problem is the "differences in

terms of the border between

incident as "unfortunate" and said the root cause of the

Assam and Meghalaya.

ED raids jewellery

Kolkata: Sleuths of the

Friday conducted raids at

in connection with their

various locations in Kolkata

probe into a Rs 1,200-crore

acquisition allegedly by a

official said. The central

bank fraud through fake loan

jewellery company, a senior

agency raided the residences

of key officials of the jewellery

company, including its owners

and several employees, in

New Alipore, Girish Park and

Sarat Bose Road area in the

city, he said.

Enforcement Directorate (ED)

firm's offices

Assam-Meghalaya border,

Meghalaya Chief Minister

Conrad K Sangma Friday urged people not to resort to violence and called for peace

note was found at the spot, but

Pune: A first-year cadet of the



Filing of nomination papers begins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 10: Filing of nomination papers began in pollbound Bihar Friday when the RJD, unfazed by rumours of seat-sharing woes, went on to inflict a blow on the ruling NDA by weaning away at least three prominent figures of the BJPled coalition.

Smaller partners in the IN-DIA bloc, however, seemed to be running out of patience as the CPI(M) announced that it will ask both its sitting MLAs to file nomination papers next week while awaiting a consensus on another nine that it wanted to fight.

Till now, only the Jan Suraaj Party of former political strategist Prashant Kishor has made public some of its candidates.

On the first day of filing of nominations, for the first phase in which 121 seats go to polls, only two persons, neither associated with a recognized party, turned up to submit papers.

Meanwhile, RJD leader Teiashwi Yadav welcomed into his party, Santosh Kushwaha. a two-term former MP, who ended his old association with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's

The JD(U) reacted to the development by issuing a statement claiming neither Kushwaha, who had won Prunea seat for the party even in 2014, beating the BJP candidate despite "Modi wave", nor Sharma, whose father Jagdish Sharma had been an old associate of Nitish Kumar, were "active in the organisation".

The BJP, which seemed to be intently watching the goings on, vowed to strike back, claiming "half a dozen MLAs of Congress and RJD will be joining us in the next few days".

State BJP president Dilip Jaiswal made the averment while welcoming back into the party Ajay Nishad, a former MP from Muzaffarpur who contested last year's Lok Sabha polls as a Congress candidate, upon being denied ticket from the constituency he had represented two times in a row.



Women perform rituals on the occasion of 'Karva Chauth', in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh

Kabul to send diplomats to India

New Delhi, Oct 10: Kabul will soon send its diplomats to India as part of "step-by-step" efforts to improve bilateral relations, Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said Friday even as he asserted the Taliban will not allow anyone to use Afghan soil against other countries.

Muttaqi, who landed in New Delhi Thursday on a six-day trip, is the first senior Taliban minister to visit India after the group seized power four years back. India has not yet recognised the Taliban set up.

In an interaction with a small group of journalists, after holding wide-ranging talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, the Afghan foreign minister invited Indian businesses to invest in his country's mining, minerals and energy sectors.

Muttaqi also pitched for India and Afghanistan joining hands to remove obstacles for development of the Chabahar port in Iran in view of the Trump administration bringing it under sanctions.

The Afghan foreign minister's visit to India assumed greater significance as it came at a time when both India and Afghanistan are having frosty relations with Pakistan over a range of issues including cross-border terrorism.

Muttaqi said Kabul will soon send its diplomats to New Delhi. "The foreign minister (S Jaishankar) said you can send diplomats to New Delhi now. When we go back, we will select people and send them," he said.

In his meeting with Muttaqi, Jaishankar announced the upgrading of India's technical mission in Kabul to the status of an embassy. Asked if the Taliban regime will appoint an ambassador, Muttaqi said: "we will now send diplomats and gradu-

No women journalists at Muttaqi's press conference

NEW DELHI: A press conference addressed by Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi saw participation restricted to a handful of reporters while women journalists were conspicuous by their absence. Muttaqi held the interaction at the Afghan embassy in New Delhi, hours after holding wide-ranging talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. It is learnt that the decision on inviting journalists to the media interaction was taken by Taliban officials accompanying the foreign minister. People familiar with matter said the Indian side had suggested to the Afghan side that women journalists should be part of the invitees for the event. The Taliban regime in Kabul has faced severe criticism from various countries as well as global bodies like the United Nations for restricting rights of women in Afghanistan. Muttaqi side-stepped a direct question on plight of women in Afghanistan but said every country has its own customs, laws and principles, and there should be respect for them. He claimed that overall situation in the country has improved significantly since Taliban came to power in August, 2021.

ally the contacts will increase. Till now, the Afghan missions in India have officials who were largely appointed by the previous Ashraf Ghani government.

To a question on whether the Indian government will hand over the Afghan embassy premises in New Delhi to the Taliban regime, the foreign minister shot back: "It is with Afghanistan: it belongs to us."

Muttagi said the ties between India and Afghanistan are witnessing steady progress in the last four years. "This is my first visit to India and it was decided that India will upgrade its technical mission in Kabul to a diplomatic mission and our diplomats will come to New Delhi. Gradually, the goal is to take things to normal." he said.

The Afghan foreign minister said his country will not allow its territory to be used to "threaten or harm others" and asserted that there is no presence of any terror group including Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba in Afghanistan. "Not even one inch of soil is controlled by anyone other than the Islamic Emirate. These groups and tanzeems are not present in Afghanistan, they have left Afghanistan in these four years. We finished those against whom we conducted operations," he said.

"The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has proven over the course of the last four years that its territory will not be allowed to be used against others." Muttagi said.

in New Delhi over the possibility of use of Afghan territory by terrorist groups to launch attacks. Against the backdrop of US President Donald Trump asking the Taliban to hand over the strategic Bagram airbase to US forces, Muttagi said Kabul will not accept any foreign military presence in the country.

"Afghanistan has a long history of safeguarding its independence and sovereignty and combating occupations. Afghanistan will not allow mil itary interventions or military presence of anyone," he said.

Muttaqi also criticised Pakistan's approach towards Afghanistan while responding to a question on reports of explosions in Kabul on Thursday night. The foreign minister said Pakistan had a hand in an attack in the border areas and that it was vet to be ascertained how the explosion took place in Kabul. "Afghanistan is an independent country in this region and when peace has come there, why are others troubled? Afghan people too have rights. The peace, benefits and progress of the last four years should be strengthened," he said. "Just as we want good relations with India, we want good ties with Pakistan. But these relations can only be built from both sides, it can't be done

by one side," he said. 'Afghanistan and India should jointly talk with America and also talk among ourselves and derive the maximum benefits from this route, this is the need for both countries and we understand this need because trade between Afghanistan and India last year was more than \$1 billion," he said. "If routes are closed, trade will not decrease, not increase, and we should open all routes, including the Wagah land border." he said.

Pilots' grouping FIP demands grounding of AI's Boeing-787s

thoroughly checked.

Shah backs SIR exercise

Shah stressed that infiltration and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral polls should not be viewed through a political lens, emphasising that these were national issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: Backing the ongoing SIR exercise by the Election Commission, Home Minister Amit Shah Friday said inclusion of infiltrators in the voters' list pollutes the spirit of the Constitution and asserted that voting rights should only be available to the citizens of the country.

Delivering a lecture in memory of Dainik Jagran's former editor-in-chief Narendra Mohan on the topic "Infiltration (ghuspaith), demographic change and democracy", the home minister said the Centre will follow the policy of "detect, delete and deport" in dealing with infiltrators.

"The BJP has adopted the formula of detect, delete, and deport since the 1950s. We will detect the infiltrators, delete them from the voter list, and deport them from this country as well," he said. Shah stressed that infiltra-

tion and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral polls should not be viewed through a political lens, emphasising that these were national issues. "I want to ask all the citizens

of the country -- who should decide who becomes the prime minister of the country or the chief minister? Should anyone other than the citizens of the country have the right to decide this?" he said. Underlining that no one

should interfere in the SIR exercise, Shah said the Congress is in a denial mode on the issue and asserted that the exercise took place during the party's government as well. "The Opposition is opposing the exercise because their vote banks are getting cut...It is the EC's Constitutional responsibility



to clean the voters' list. You can go to court if you have any issues." he said.

Shah said a time will come when the opposition will also not be spared. The opposition says it is the responsibility of the Centre to stop infiltration as the Border Security Force (BSF) is under its control, but there are certain areas on the border which cannot be fenced due to topography, he said.

Free and fair elections can not take place unless the voter list is according to the voters definition, which is being an Indian citizen and attaining the eligible age, the minister said

He also referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement from the Red Fort August 15 of the creation of a high-powered demographic mission to study illegal migration, its impact on religious and social life, the unusual settlement patterns arising due to population changes, and its effect on border management.

This mission will spark controversies, but the BJP is deter mined to save democracy and the country's culture. The BJP will always choose the country, no matter what controversies it has to face, he said.

Alerted Centre, MP about toxic cough

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu government had alerted the Madhya Pradesh government and the Union Health Ministry about the presence of a toxic substance in Coldrif cough syrup, besides notifying authorities in Odisha and Pondicherry, and thus averted a major tragedy, state Health Minister Ma Subramanian claimed Friday. Facing flak from AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami and the MP government over the death of children linked to the consumption of the adulterated cough syrup manufactured in Tamil Nadu, Subramanian denied any regulatory lapse on the part of the government. The state principal secretary of the Health Department ordered an inquiry into the adulteration of Coldrif cough syrup October 1, and it was found that the medicine contained 48 per cent Diethylene Glycol, a toxic industrial

solvent, he said.

syrup, says TN govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Mumbai, Oct 10: In the wake of two incidents involving Air India's Boeing Dreamliner

planes in one week, the Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) Friday urged the civil aviation ministry to ground the airline's entire fleet of Dreamliners, check their electrical systems and also order a DGCA special audit of Air India.

FIP said October 9, Air India flight AI154 from Vienna to Delhi diverted to Dubai due to major technical issues and October 4. Ram Air Turbine (RAT) was deployed AI117 while landing at the Birmingham airport from Amritsar. Both flights were operated with Boeing 787 planes, also known as Dreamliners.

On June 12, Air India's Dreamliner operating the

On June 12, Air **India's Dreamliner** operating the flight **Al171 to London Gatwick crashed soon** after take off from Ahmedabad, killing 260 people

flight AI171 to London Gatwick crashed soon after take off from Ahmedabad, killing 260 people. In a letter to Civil Avia-

tion Minister K Rammohan Naidu, FIP President Captain C S Randhawa said that since June 16, the grouping has been demanding that all Boeing 787s in the country must be checked thoroughly for the electrical systems.



While seeking a thorough List) releases and repetitive investigation into the two insnags on the aircraft especially B-787s." FIP said as it sought cidents involving AI117 and a special audit of Air India by AI154, the grouping demanded that all Dreamliners in the the Directorate General of Civil country should be grounded, Aviation (DGCA). Air India has 33 Dreamliners and their electrical systems and other repetitive snags be in its fleet, and IndiGo operates

these planes leased from Norse "There is a need to check the Atlantic. According to the letter, MEL (Minimum Equipment while operating the flight AI154,

the plane had major technical is sues where the autopilot system suddenly failed, triggering a series of technical malfunctions. "The aircraft experienced

failures across critical systems which included Autopilots, ILS (Instrument Landing System) Flight Directors (FDs) and Flight Control System Degrada tion with no Autoland capabilitv. The pilots could not engage the autopilots due electrical malfunctions; thus, pilots were constrained to fly manually at night and divert to Dubai. "Moreover, the FDs were not

available with degraded flight control systems," FIP, which represents around 5,000 pilots said in the letter. FIP also said the aircraft

landed safely at Dubai and complimented the skill of the pilots for flying the plane with limited automation/systems.

international



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

NATO TO START ANNUAL NUCLEAR DRILL

NATO's annual nuclear deterrence exercise, Steadfast Noon, will be hosted by the Netherlands and start next week, with 71 aircraft from 14 nations taking part. The exercise "sends a clear signal to any potential adversary that we will and can protect and defend all allies against all threats," NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte said

REUTERS

hi, Oct 10: Afghanistan's Tal-

iban government accused Pa-

kistan Friday of carrying out

airstrikes on its territory and

warned of "consequences" as

Islamabad said it was taking

Eleven more Pakistani sol-

diers were killed Friday in a

clash with Islamist militants

in the Tirah area close to the

Afghan border, according to

Pakistani security officials. Is-

lamabad says militants of the

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan

group operate from Afghani-

stan, a charge denied by Kabul.

blamed Pakistan for airstrikes

in Kabul, the capital, late

Thursday and in the eastern

province of Paktika around

"This is an unprecedented,

violent and provocative act

in the history of Afghanistan

and Pakistan," an Afghan De-

fence Ministry statement said.

"If the situation escalates fur-

ther following these actions,

the consequences will be the

responsibility of the Pakistani

According to the Taliban,

A Pakistani security official

there were no casualties from

said a vehicle used by the lead-

er of the TTP, Noor Wali Meh-

sud, was targeted in the Kabul

airstrike. It was unclear if he

The Afghan Defence Minis-

try declined to answer queries

about Mehsud, pointing to its

statement, which did not men-

Islamabad has said its pa-

PAKISTAN VOWS TO DO

WHATEVER IS NECESSARY

midnight.

military.'

survived.

tion him.

the airstrikes

The Taliban administration

action against militants.



Afghanistan accuses Pakistan of air attacks

Islamabad warns of action against militants

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

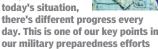
MARK CARNEY | PRIME MINISTER, CANADA

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



Basically the





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 Dnipro 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 Dnipro that divides he capital, crowds waited at bus stops with the metro out of action and people filled water

Switzerland to seal trade deal with China

bottles at distribution points.

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."

Lankan prez effects his first Cabinet reshuffle

Cassis added.

Colombo: Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake Friday effected the first reshuffle of his Cabinet. The reshuffle brings the total number of cabinet members. including Dissanayake, 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

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.

At least 7 dead after

Philippines hit by

Manila: Two powerful offshore

killing at least seven people, while

towns near the epicentre suffered

structural damage and authorities

The first quake of magnitude 7.4,

in waters off the town of Manay

coasts within 300 km (186 miles)

of the epicentre, but the warnings

for the Philippines and Indonesia

were subsequently lifted. A second

earthquake of magnitude 6.8 struck

the same area seven hours later,

with the country's seismology

waves that could be more than

one metre (3.2 feet) higher than

normal tides. People living near

Philippines were "strongly advised

to immediately evacuate" to higher

ground, or move further inland, it

coastal areas in the southern

said in an advisory.

triggering a new tsunami warning,

agency Phivolcs warning of possible

triggered a tsunami alert for

in the province of Davao Oriental,

warned of strong aftershocks.

earthquakes struck off the

southern Philippines Friday,

twin quakes



'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 staving

During the Hamas-led attack on Israeli communities and a music festival October 7, 2023, fighters killed 1.200 people and captured 251 hostages

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

■ amas 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 cities, an initial trickle turned into a flood of Palestinians returning from makeshift tented camps to the homes they had left behind.

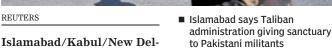
Israel's government ratified the ceasefire with Hamas in the early hours of Friday. Once Israeli troops have pulled back, Hamas has 72 hours to release the 20 living Israeli hostages it is still holding. Israel will free 250 Palestinians serving long terms in its prisons and 1.700 detainees captured during the war. Hundreds of trucks per day are expected to surge into Gaza carrying food and medical aid.

Israeli military spokesperson Brigadier General Effie Defrin urged residents of Gaza to avoid entering areas under Israeli military control: "Keep to the agreement and ensure your safety" he said Friday

HAMÁS GAZA LEADER SAYS HE **RECEIVED GUARANTEES WAR IS**

Israelis and Palestinians alike rejoiced after the deal was announced, to end two years of war in which over 67,000 Palestinians have been killed, and to return the last hostages seized by Hamas in the deadly attack that provoked it.

The exiled Gaza chief of Hamas, Khalil Al-Hayya, said he had received guarantees from the United States and other mediators that the war was over.



■ 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 gov ernment 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". strikes coincided with a rare visit to India by a Taliban leader - Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttagi.

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



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

tience with Kabul is running 'No big deal' if US nixes Trump threatens tariff surge, rules out Xi meeting nuclear limits: Putin

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 vet 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, raiing 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.

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 and foes, said Friday that he was weighing a "massive" increase in such levies on Chinese-made goods.

Such a step could revive a de-



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

US PRESIDENT VENTS ABOUT

CHINESE EXPORT CONTROLS TRUMP: 'NO REASON' TO MEET XI IN THREE WEEKS

RIFT BETWEEN TWO LARGEST ECONOMIES LEAVES MARKETS REELING

STOCKS DROP BY MOST **SINCE APRIL IN RESPONSE TO** TRUMP'S THREAT

tariff truce," said Craig Singleton, a China expert at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, who said Washington viewed the export control steps as a betrayal. "Beijing appears to have overplayed its hand."

In his post, Trump said China has been sending letters to countries worldwide saying it planned to impose export controls on every element of production related to rare earths.

He said he had been contacted by unnamed countries incensed over Beijing's steps and said he was surprised because of the "very good" recent relationship with China.

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 side lines of the Asia-Pacific Eco nomic 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.

business



With over 9 million technology and customer experience professionals, and the world's largest pool of young digital talent, we have both the scale and ambition. What we need now is urgency, vision, and coordination

WORLD INVESTOR WEEK AT NSE

Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Chairman, SEBI, launched the World Investor Week (WIW) 2025 at NSE with a ceremonial bell-ringing. Held under the aegis of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) and promoted in India by SEBI, WIW is a global campaign to promote investor education and protection. In India, WIW 2025 (October 6–12) emphasises two themes - "Fraud & Scam Prevention" and "Basics of Investing"





of our priority markets. India, alongside other focus regions such as China and the United Arab

amount of management focus RAVI THANAWALA

CFO, PAPA JOHN'S INTERNATIONAL

Before the end of this year, hopeful-



model as well S KRISHNAN | ELECTRONICS AND IT SECRETARY



immense opportunities for Tide to empower small businesses and

deepen UK-India collaboration in OLIVER PRILL | CEO, TIDE

SHORT **TAKES**

Forex reserves drop below \$700 billion

Mumbai: India's forex reserves fell by \$276 million to \$699.96 billion during the week ended October 3, according to RBI data. In the previous reporting week, India's forex reserves had dropped by \$2.334 billion to \$700.236 billion. For the week ended October 3, foreign component of the reserves, decreased by \$4.049 billion to \$577.708 billion, the data released Friday showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Value of the gold reserves increased by \$3.753 billion to \$98.77 billion during the week, the RBI said. India's reserve position with the IMF declined by \$4 million to \$4.6669 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data

SBI plans ₹debt sale after vr-long hiatus

Mumbai: India's largest bank is set to return to the rupee debt market after a year with plans to raise funds through Basel III-compliant tier II bonds this month, three sources familiar with the matter said Friday. State Bank of India is in advanced stages of issuing the bonds with a 10-year duration to raise as much as ₹75 billion (about \$845.7 million), the sources said. The lender may invite bids before the end of the month, they added. The bonds will have a call option at the end of five years, and at the end of every year thereafter, the sources said. "The issue would be priced as per a five-year instrument, and currently, there is sufficient gap between fivevear and 10-vear bond vields. which must have pushed them towards the shorter tenor," one

SpiceJet adds three aircraft to its fleet

Mumbai: Domestic carrier SpiceJet Friday said it has received and added three new aircraft, an Airbus A340 widebody and two Boeing 737s, to its operational fleet. SpiceJet said the expansion of its fleet will cater to the surging demand for air travel this holiday season. A total of 20 aircraft will be joining the airline's operational fleet between October and November, and will be operated under a damp lease model, it noted. These new planes will join operations between October 10 and 11, it said, adding that the airline will also unground four planes by mid-December, further boosting capacity.

Equity MF inflows ease in September

Equity mutual fund inflows ease for second consecutive month; SIP and gold, silver ETFs hit record highs

Mumbai. Oct 10: Inflows into India's equity mutual funds eased 9% month-on-month to ₹304.22 billion (\$3.44 billion) in September as a sharp slowdown in sectoral and thematic funds weighed on overall flows, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed Friday. Despite the moderation,

investors continued to pour money into equities through monthly investment plans, with contributions through systematic investment plans (SIP) rising to a record high. SIP contributions rose 4.2%

to an all-time high of ₹294.61 billion in September, helping cushion the impact of a \$2.7 billion sell-off by foreign investors amid global trade concerns. The steady domestic flows helped lift the benchmark Nifty 50 by 0.75% last month.

With September's inflows, equity mutual funds have now seen continuous monthly inflows since February 2021, aided by government reforms and supportive central bank



It's heartening to see equity flows remain resilient even as IPO activity stayed strong through September

ANAND VARDARAJAN | CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER, TATA ASSET MANAGEMENT

policies. "It's heartening to see equity flows remain resilient even as IPO activity stayed strong through September," said Anand Vardarajan, chief business officer at Tata Asset Management.

Sectoral and thematic funds, which contributed to the bulk of the decline in total mutual fund flows, saw inflows tumble 69% to ₹12.21 billion last month. with only one new scheme launched versus two in August.

Among other equity categories, multi-cap funds saw inflows climb 11.5% to ₹35.6 billion, while small-cap and mid-cap funds dipped 12.6% and 4.6%, respectively. Large-cap inflows fell 18.2% to ₹23.19 billion.

"While the pace of inflows softened, the trend still reflects strong investor confidence, backed by consistent SIP contributions and robust retail participation, said Nehal Meshram, senior analyst, manager research, at Morningstar Investment Research India.

Meanwhile, some investors rotated into gold and silver ETFs, which drew record monthly inflows of ₹83.63 billion and ₹53.42 billion, respectively, as investors looked to benefit from soaring precious metal prices, ahead of Diwali, amid supply shortages.

Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company temporarily halted fresh lump-sum investments in its silver ETF-offund on Thursday to protect investors amid a short-term supply crunch.

Unions oppose govt move to open top bank positions to pvt sector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), an umbrella organisation of nine unions, Friday registered a strong protest against the government decision to open top positions in PSU banks to can didates from the private sector

Terming the move as an attack on the public character of national institutions and amounting to a de facto privati sation of the leadership of these

The changes in guidelines is sued without any amendment to the enabling statutes - name ly the State Bank of India Act, 1955, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Acts, 1970 & 1980, and the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 - constitute a serious legal and consti tutional transgression, UFBU said in a statement.

UFBU has demanded that all revised ACC Guidelines in this regard should be kent in abevance with immediate effect pending a comprehensive

Earlier this month, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) revised the guidelines for appointment at the top management level in both public sector banks and insurance companies.

As per the new guidelines, one position of SBI managing director (MD) and LIC MD would be open for private sector candidates. It is to be noted that both organisations have four MDs. ED positions of other public sector banks have been opened for private sector candidates.

Silver skyrockets to record peak

steep backward-

ation, signalling

New Delhi, Oct 10: Silver prices saw the steepest single-day surge in the recent past and skyrocketed ₹8,500 to hit a new record of ₹1,71,500 per kilogram in the national capital Friday, buoyed by persistent safe-haven inflows and severe supply constraints in global markets.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the white metal closed at ₹1,63,000 per kilogram Thursday.

Silver prices soared by ₹17,500 per kg in the past three consecutive sessions.

Meanwhile, gold prices retreated from their record highs.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity fell by ₹600 each to ₹1.26.000 and ₹1,25,400 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes), respective-

ly, on Friday. On Thursday, the precious metal of both categories had closed at record levels of ₹1.26.600 and ₹1,26,000 per

10 grams. "Gold and silver have

re-asserted their ascendancy following Thursday's hiatus, propelled by a waning dollar and pervasive risk-aversion. Globally, the prospect of a Federal Reserve rate taper has materially attenuated US Treasury yields, consequently dulling the dollar's allure. Globally, spot gold rose

demand



Safe-haven demand

he white metal sees steepest single-day surge of ₹8,500 to hit ₹1.71 lakh/kg

Silver prices soared by ₹17,500 per kg in the past three consecutive sessions

It had breached \$51 per ouncemark for the first time in int'l

market Thursday \$16.61, or 0.42 per cent, to

\$3,992.80 per ounce while spot silver climbed 1.52 per cent to \$50.01 per ounce.

white metal had breached the \$51 per ounce-mark **Silver has entered**

for the first time in the interna tional market acute supply tight-Thursday. ness unmatched by rising Analysts said

expectations of

MANAY MODI ANALYST - PRECIOUS METAL monetary easing RESEARCH, MOTILAL OSWAL FINANCIAL by the US Fed-Reserve following dovish signals in the September meeting minutes released

Wednesday, have lent support to the metals. Meanwhile, the US-based

Silver Institute recently projected a fifth straight annual supply deficit for the metal in 2025, reflecting deep structural tightness in the market.

D-St logs best week in 3 months; foreign investors turn buyers

Nifty, Sensex add around 1.6% each this week

REUTERS

Mumbai, Oct 10: India's equity benchmarks logged their biggest weekly gains in more than three months, driven by IT and bank stocks as buoyant sentiment ahead of the earnings season drew in foreign

The Nifty 50 and the BSE Sensex added around 1.6% each this week, marking their best performance in three months.

On the day, they rose 0.4% each to 25,285.35 and 82,500.82 points, respectively.

Twelve of the 16 major sectors rose during the week. The broader mid-caps and smallcaps gained 2.1% and 1.4%, respectively. Foreign investors bought In-

dian shares worth ₹18.5 billion (\$208.59 million) till Thursday this week amid a narrowing valuation gap with emerging market peers, prospects of an India-US trade deal, and hopes of earnings revival.

However, foreign investors remain net sellers of Indian equities worth \$18 billion so far this year, per the securities depository data.



Financials rose 1.6% for the week, following the central bank's lending reforms and better loan growth expectations for the September quarter.

"We expect second-quarter earnings growth to be modest due to the late impact of GST reforms but expect revival of earnings from the third quarter onwards on the back of significant above-average monsoon, and various fiscal and monetary measures," said Vinay Paharia, chief investment officer at PGIM India Mutual Fund.

IT stocks jumped 4.9% this week, and were the biggest gainers, with Tata Consultancy Services' better-than-expected revenue for the quarter helping push the index higher.

Easing geopolitical tensions as Israel and Hamas agreed on the first stage of a ceasefire plan and signs of progress in a potential India-US deal also boosted investor sentiment.

BIZ BUZZ

Hindalco Hirakud, Aditya Aluminium bag ESG awards

Bhubaneswar: Hindalco Industries Limited, a flagship company of the Aditya Birla Group, has once again demonstrated its commitment to sustainability as its Hirakud Power & Smelter and Aditya Aluminium at Lapanga, have been conferred with the prestigious ESG Awards for operational excellence in the field of sustainability. The awards were jointly presented by International Bauxite, Alumina & Aluminium Society (IBAAS) and CETIZION Verifica in recognition of the remarkable achievements of both units. Aditya Aluminium bagged the gold award, while Hirakud Power & Smelter received the silver award for their



exemplary performance in sustainability initiatives. The awards were presented to company officials at a special ceremony held in Bhubaneswar. Representing Hindalco the Unit Head of Aditya Aluminium, Jagannath Prasad Nayak, Pratap Sahu, Vice President, Soubhagya Tripath, Asst Vice President, and Ranjan Jena, GM, Environment from Hindalco have received the honours from Mark Annandale, Director Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) on behalf of the company. All units under Hindalco Industries are known for their strict adherence to sustainability standards, Both Aditya Alumina and Hirakud Power & Smelter have taken a leading role in implementing long-term environmental management practices, promoting energy conservation and efficiency, and executing socially responsible initiatives at the grassroots level, reflecting the company's commitment as a responsible corporate citizen.

CMPDI hosts 'Mineralize-2025'

Ranchi: The Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI) organised a national workshop titled "Mineralize-2025: Unlocking India's Critical Minerals - Pathways for Exploration and Beneficiation" in Ranchi, focusing on advancing India's capabilities in critical mineral exploration and beneficiation. The workshop was inaugurated virtually by PM Prasad, Chairman, Coal India Limited (CIL), who lauded CMPDI's initiative and emphasised the need for Coal India to diversify into critical mineral



exploration, particularly Rare Earth Elements (REEs). He expressed confidence in CMPDI's expertise and readiness to adopt innovative technologies in this domain. Manoj Kumar, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, CMPDI, described Mineralize-2025 as a milestone event reinforcing CMPDI's commitment to self-reliance and sustainability in mineral development. Nearly 150 delegates from government bodies, research institutes, academia, and industry participated. Experts from the Geological Survey of India, IIT-Mumbai, JNU, IREL (India) Ltd, IMMT, and the University of Hyderabad presented insights on six key themes—ranging from hyper spectral imaging and AI-ML applications to beneficiation of REEs and national mineral policies. Organised under the leadership of RK Singh, General Manager (Exploration), the event underscored CMPDI's expanding role beyond coal into critical minerals, aligning with India's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat 2047. CMPDI reaffirmed its position as a driving force in India's quest for mineral self-sufficiency and innovation-led exploration.

Tata turmoil: Mistry wants public listing

The statement comes at a time when the trustees of Tata Trusts are vertically split and the infighting threatens to impact the functioning of Tata Sons and in general the over \$180-billion salt-to-semiconductor conglomerate. Tata Trusts exerts decisive influence over India's most valuable conglomerate through its about 66% stake in Tata Sons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: SP Group Chairman Shapoorji Pallonji Mistry Friday reiterated calls for public listing of Tata Sons to bring transparency, amid infighting among trustees of the trust that controls the holding company of the salt-to-software

conglomerate. In a statement, Mistry called for the RBI's compliance timeline of September 30, 2025 for Tata Sons to be listed "under the "Upper Layer" classification "be viewed with the seriousness and sanctity that regulatory commitments deserve'

The Shapoorji Pallonji Group has consistently advocated the public listing of Tata Sons, Mistry said.

'We firmly believe that listing this premier institution will not only uphold the spirit

of transparency envisioned by its founding father, Shri Jamsetji Tata, but also strengthen trust among all stakeholders employees, investors, and the people of India," he noted.

He further said, "Our stance is guided by a simple yet profound belief - Tansparency is the truest form of respect for

both legacy and the future." As one of India's oldest business houses, he added, "We

have full faith in the Reserve

Bank of India, a constitutional

We firmly believe that listing this premier institution will not only uphold the spirit of transparency envisioned by its founding father, Shri Jamsetji Tata, but also strengthen trust among all stakeholders -- employees, investors, and the people of India SHAPOORJI PALLONJI MISTRY

and autonomous body, to take decisions grounded in the principles of equity, justice, and public interest

The RBI's Scale-Based Regulatory Framework clearly articulates that a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) should not act in a manner detrimental to the interests of its investors, Mistry noted.

In this context, he said, "We trust that the 30th September 2025 compliance timeline under the "Upper Layer" classification will be viewed with the seriousness and sanctity that regulatory commitments deserve.'

He expressed confidence that the RBI will act in accordance with the rule of law and the spirit of fairness.

Mistry asserted that the public listing of Tata Sons is not merely a financial step but" it is a moral and social imperative".

Shapoorii Pallonii family owns about 18.37 per cent of Tata Sons. The SP Group has been looking at leveraging its shareholding in Tata Sons to raise funds and pare its debt. Tata Trusts hold a 66 per cent stake in the promoter and holding company of the Tata Group.

₹ rises 7 paise to close at 88.72

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 10: The rupee appreciated 7 paise to close at 88.72 against the US dollar Friday, on strength in the domestic markets and broad weakness in crude oil prices.

Forex traders said the rupee gained on strong domestic markets and overnight decline in commodity prices.

Intervention by the central bank also supported the domes tic currency. However, a strong US dollar capped sharp gains

they added. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.80 and traded in the range of 88.50-88.80 before settling at 88.72, higher by 7 paise from its

previous close. On Thursday, the rupee closed at 88.79 against the

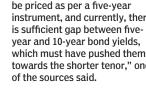
greenback 'We expect the rupee to trade with a positive bias on strength in the domestic markets and broad weakness in crude oil prices. US government shutdown and rising odds of a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve may further strengthen the rupee," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Currency and commodities, Mirae Asset ShareKhan.

Choudhary further added that "a strong US dollar and im porter demand for dollars may cap sharp upside. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 88.40 to 88.85".

Meanwhile, the dollar index which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.21 per cent lower at 99.32, as safe-haven demand for dollars contin ues keeping the dollar well bid

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 0.61 per cent at \$64.85 per barrel in futures trading.





MASTER AND THE PRODIGY

PADDLERS SET FOR ACID TEST

in the elite list, leaving behind even greats like Virat Kohli, Sunil Gavaskar bat recites **Sachin sonnet**

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

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-yearolds. 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 southpaw 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.

SHORT **TAKES**

Kasparov stretches

St Louis: Indian ace Viswanathan

lead over Anand

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.

the first game as disaster struck

position when the Indian ran out of

time after "forgetting" to keep an

eve 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 franchises,

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

took place in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

the IPL 2025 mega auction that

Sabalenka extends

Wuhan win streak

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

champion won the Wuhan Open

year on her return to the Chinese

city. In another clash, Iga Swiatek

was knocked out in a straight-set

title in 2018, '19 and again last

Wuhan: Aryna Sabalenka extended her winning streak at

tournament. The US Open

defeat to Jasmine Paolini.

Kasparov was lucky to clinch

Anand at a close-to-winning

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



The opener becomes second youngest

Indian to reach a tally of 7 Test

hundreds joining Sachin Tendulkar

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

Oct 10: Odis-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

POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar,

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

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 Ka linga 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** press conference. Championships in Odisha, and notably, the event returns to India after a

Asia's best coming to

Bhubaneswar

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,

gap of 16 years

Uzbekistan — are taking part in the championship. Both men and women teams will compete for top honours.

Qatar, Sri Lanka, Thailand and

The top-performing teams from this championship will qualify for the ITTF World Table Tennis Team Champi onships 2026 to be held in London, informed Suraj during the

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, Ya shaswini 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.

Vinay wins gold at Para

Powerlifting Worlds

National Junior Athletics Championships

Himanshu, Mohit excel on opening day

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cairo, Oct 10: India's rising para powerlifting star Vinay won the gold medal in the 72kg ju-

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 Mi-

nior category at the Para Powerlifting World Championships

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

kolaj Kociubinski of Poland,

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 iournev was not easy.

Shuttlers' brave run ends with bronze at BWF jr worlds

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.

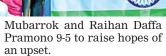
The Indian team, which had secured a historic first medal in the mixed-team competition Thursday with a win over former champions Korea, went down 35-45, 21-45 against pre-tournament favourites Indonesia, who will now face the winner of the other semifinals between 14-time champion China and Japan.

India made just one change to the squad that beat Korea



while once again starting the tie with the boys' doubles cat-

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



Unnati Hooda wasn't at her best in the girls' singles tie against Thalita Wirvawan 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 Vishakha 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 Pramudva and

level at the break and closed the match with 10-9 to wrest back Nastine then teamed up with

Rinjani Nastine raised their

Riska Anggraini to beat Reshika U. and Vennala K. 9-2 to wrap up the set 45-35. With their confidence on a

high, Indonesia then took control of the second set from the very first point with Mubarrok and Pramono beating the Indian boys' combination 9-2. With Unnati Hooda going

down 7-9 against Wiryawan and Rounak losing 7-9 against Ubaidillah, it was too big an ask for the doubles combinations to close the gap.

The Indian players will now prepare for the individual championship that will begin

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

Asia Cup trophy under lock

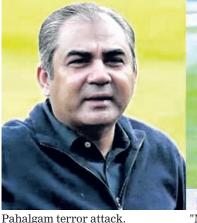
NAOVI INSISTS ON PERSONALLY HANDING TROPHY TO INDIAN TEAM OR BCCI

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 Nagvi 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 Nagvi 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.



structions 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



by the opportunities we cre ate 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

Printed and published by Adyasha Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: (0674) 2580385 (Advt.), Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ODIENG/2011/37159

and pursue excellence.'