

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
You are creative, and today you will prove to be resourceful and thereby successful! Okay, you are ambitious, says Ganesha, but don't bite off more than you can chew. Be confident of your abilities, work hard and have faith in providence.

TAURUS
You will feel the burden of financial responsibilities on your shoulders today, says Ganesha. Do not let expenses bother you. Money will come to you from unexpected sources later in the day. If you can maintain an impartial judgement, then you will yield wonderful results on the financial front, advises Ganesha.

GEMINI
You are extremely competitive. And it doesn't matter how far behind the competition is. So today, you will continue your usual quest for getting better. You won't have it any other way as you despise mediocrity. You will find yourself in the company of like-minded people who will inspire you to study new subjects.

CANCER
Your business acquaintances will come forward in the manner that may seem nothing short of some divine intervention. This means that they will virtually save your neck from the guillotine, predicts Ganesha. You will grow wiser in your spending ways, as you will know what to buy and what not to buy.

LEO
Che Guevara may not hold the beacon any more, and the best of the Beatles are long gone. But your desire to revolutionise the world is as strong as ever, sees Ganesha. The best ideas are the ones that come suddenly and subconsciously. So, always carry a pen and paper with you, you may need them to note down ideas that you generate over the course of the day.

VIRGO
Professionalism will be overshadowed by personal preoccupations. Drill your way out of problems today by meeting them head-on. Don't get stuck up on the emotional front, especially in the evening, cautions Ganesha.

LIBRA
Trivialities should be the least of your concerns today. Do not let the small things faze you out. Remember that it is the overall picture that matters, and not one small stroke of the brush. Bear this in mind, since you may come under some pressure from subordinates at your workplace.

SCORPIO
Work pressure will keep on mounting today, predicts Ganesha. But you shall handle it with great style, all thanks to your patience. But keep a watch on the radar and learn how to spot stress early and then act on it as quickly as you can.

SAGITTARIUS
Look before you leap, says Ganesha. Cupid has strung his bow and aimed an arrow at you. Love's labour will easily aid you to woo a young, tender heart. But don't be swept away by easy prospects and guard your reputation at all costs.

CAPRICORN
You will starve for some free time, but will find it difficult to steal even a minute from your busy schedule, even if it is for unwinding your overworked soul, says Ganesha. In times like these, one can hardly think straight, let alone be innovative.

AQUARIUS
Your ideas are bang on target today! Everything you touch turns into gold. You have it in you to make it big, and the time is now. When the going gets tough, the tough get going — you've heard this before, now it's time for some action, says Ganesha.

PISCES
Stabbing with a pen is so much more satisfying than slicing with a sword. With these lofty ideals in mind, you will launch an assault upon your unsuspecting prey with your lethal presentation skills, eliciting cries of sheer ecstasy and tremendous applause. Don't get carried away though, says Ganesha.



BRAD, INES DE RAMON MOVE IN TOGETHER

After three years of dating, Brad Pitt and Ines de Ramon are said to have moved in together and are 'happier than ever'. The 61-year-old actor and 32-year-old jewelry designer have reportedly taken the next step in their relationship and are now "fully living together", according to *People*.

THE WORLD'S SO HARD ON GIRLS: GIGI HADID

While reflecting on her early days as a model, Gigi Hadid has declared the world is "so hard on girls". The model, 30, made the declaration while reflecting on her first appearance in the *Victoria's Secret Fashion Show*.



Anya's journey from adversity to acclaim

Mumbai: For Anya Singh, Bollywood hasn't always been a smooth ride. The young actress recently opened up about the heartbreak of early setbacks and the personal challenges that tested her resilience, lessons that have shaped her journey in the film industry.

"You entered the movies, you got a big studio and all that, that didn't fly the way this has... That opportunity didn't work out but that was not on them...", Anya reflected in an interview with an entertainment portal. Despite landing promising projects early on, the initial successes didn't translate as expected, teaching her the realities of an unpredictable industry.

The challenges didn't end there. Personal tragedy struck, adding emotional weight to her professional hurdles. "My father was in hospital when *Quadi Band* released... I lost my father in October... then my mom was detected with cancer...", she revealed. Yet rather than letting grief and setbacks define her, Anya leaned into perseverance, emphasizing the importance of staying committed to her craft.

"You're so used to failure, you kind of don't know how to accept success... I'm extremely happy that it's (*The Ba***ds of Bollywood*) done so well for everybody across...", she shared, reflecting on the joy and satisfaction that comes when hard work finally pays off. For Anya, true fulfilment goes beyond fame: "As long as I get to do what I love to do and as long as I get to perform... exciting roles... with good people... I've been very fortunate."

Anya Singh's journey from adversity to acclaim is a testament to resilience in the often-turbulent world of Bollywood. Her story proves that with determination, heart, and grit, even the toughest setbacks can lead to triumph.

AGENCIES



Trisha rubbishes wedding rumours

Chennai: Popular actress Trisha Saturday trashed rumours that she was to wed a Chandigarh-based businessman with a sarcastic comment on Instagram.

Taking to her Instagram stories section, Trisha wrote, "I love when people plan my life for me. Just waiting for them to schedule the honeymoon too."

Trisha's sharp post comes in the wake of a section of the media claiming that the actress was to wed a Chandigarh-based businessman soon. The reports claimed that both families knew each other well. This isn't the first time that such baseless rumours have been spread about the actress.

Trisha, who is one of the leading actresses in both the Tamil and Telugu film industries, has had some anxious moments, right from the start of this month.

Meanwhile, Trisha has a number of films lined up for release. The actress, who will be seen playing the lead along with Megastar Chiranjeevi in director Vassishta's much-anticipated socio-fantasy entertainer *Vishwambhara*, will also be seen playing the female lead in actor Suriya's *Karuppu*, which has been directed by R J Balaji.

IAN S



Wishes pour in as Amitabh turns 83

Mumbai: As Bollywood icon Amitabh Bachchan celebrated his 83rd birthday Saturday, many big names from the film fraternity have penned adorable birthday wishes for the legend.

Big B's *Kalki 2898 AD* co-star Prabhas compiled a heartfelt wish saying, "Happy birthday @amitabhbachchan sir. It's a privilege to witness your legacy and work alongside you."

Kajol also dropped a rare photo with Amitabh and wrote, "Happy birthday to the reigning and forever rockstar @SrBachchan .. May u have many more reasons to smile and laugh this year."

Recalling his experience of directing Big B in *Runway 34*, Ajay Devgn penned, "The toughest task was saying 'cut' when sir delivered a shot...Happy Birthday Amit Ji (Folded hands and

red heart emoji) @SrBachchan."

Treating the netizens with a throwback pic with the stalwart, Suniel Shetty added, "To the man who defines greatness... Happy Birthday @SrBachchan. You've inspired me and million others in ways words can't describe, with your strength, grace, and spirit. Always a fan... always in awe."

Farhan Akhtar, who recently appeared in Kaun Banega Crorepati 17 with father Javed Akhtar, shared, "Happy birthday Amit uncle. What a pleasure and privilege it was to be with you on your birthday special."

Veteran actor Shatrughan Sinha wished Amitabh using the following words, "Many many happy returns of the day for our icon, role model, for everybody @SrBachchan."

IAN S

AI-led Mahabharat on DD from November 2

New Delhi: India's timeless epic *Mahabharat* is set to return on Prasar Bharati's official OTT platform WAVES and Doordarshan in a version reimagined by artificial intelligence (AI).

The AI-reimagined *Mahabharat*, produced by the Collective Media Network, will have its digital premiere October 25, followed by a telecast on Doordarshan from November 2.

"Partnering on this AI-led reimagining allows audiences to experience one of India's greatest epics anew, honouring tradition while embracing cutting-edge technology in storytelling. It is an expression of Vikas and Virasat coming together in modern broadcasting," Prasar Bharati CEO Gaurav Dwivedi said in a statement.



tools, the series rebuilds the vast Mahabharat universe, its characters, battlefields, emotions and moral dilemmas with cinematic scale and striking realism.

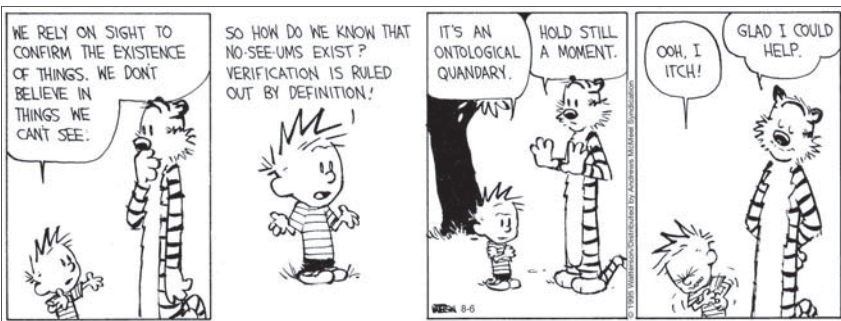
"Like millions of Indians, I grew up watching the classic *Mahabharata* on television every Sunday. It was an experience that shaped my imagination and my connection to our culture. With *Mahabharat*, our hope is to give today's generation a similar touchstone that feels as immersive and unifying as it did for us, but told through the possibilities of today's technology," Vijay Subramaniam, Founder and Group CEO of the Collective Artists Network, said.

PTI

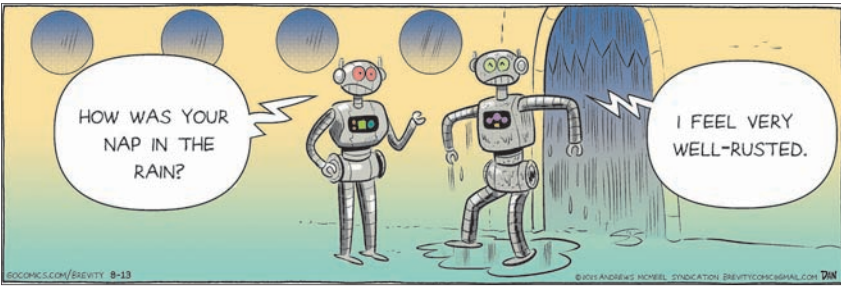
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBES

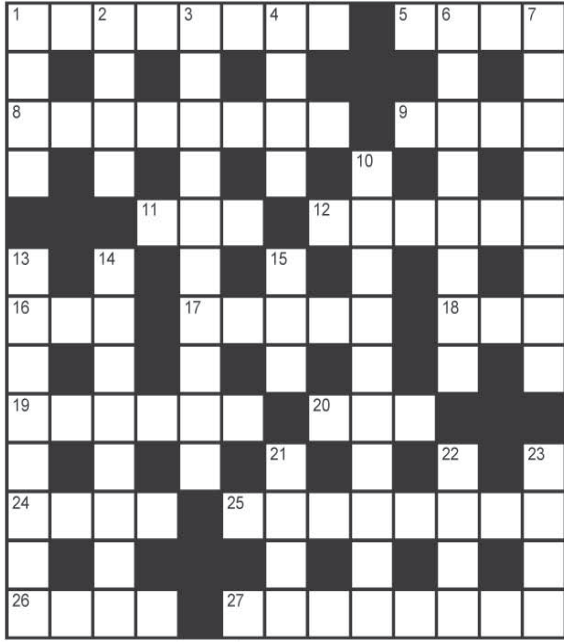


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- Poured
- Kind of spirit
- Heat source
- Coffee choice
- Small number
- Trinidad's neighbor
- Promise to pay
- Recluse
- Predatory fish
- Swimsuit

- Volcano output
- Rich soil
- Jellyfish (3-2-3)
- Lockup
- Impasses (4,4)

Down

- Goofy
- Hominy
- Wellington locale (3,7)

- Epic poem
- Substitute or trade in
- Average
- Exchange messages
- Evil
- Spam (4,4)
- Wildebeest
- Eatery
- Kind of song
- Pinball paths

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

‘Lawyers, judges must ensure justice for all’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 11: Chief Justice of India BR Gavai Saturday said lawyers and judges have a responsibility of strengthening the justice system and they must ensure that the legal discourse does not remain confined to metropolises, but is accessible to even those living in the country’s remotest corners.

Speaking at the LAWASIA Conference at Hanoi in Vietnam on the topic of “Role of Lawyers and Courts in Promoting Diversity and Inclusion”, the CJI said it is crucial that the principles judges articulate in their judgments are reflected in the administrative policies of the court.

“I can share that when I assumed office as the CJI in May, one of my top priorities was to ensure that affirmative action in the recruitment of administrative positions within the court was implemented not just in letter, but in spirit. I directed that marginalised communities receive their due share in all administrative appointments and that these policies be applied consistently and transparently,” Justice Gavai said.

He said the dream of equality, nurtured by Gautam Buddha, Mahatma Gandhi and BR Ambedkar, was enshrined in the Constitution of India in 1950 and it turned the tide of destiny for millions who were historically marginalised and denied their basic rights. “For me, born into a low-caste family, it meant that I was not born untouchable. The Constitution recognised my dignity as equal to that of every other citizen, offering not just protection, but



the promise of opportunity, freedom and social recognition,” he said.

The CJI said lawyers should not be reluctant in hiring women because of assumptions about maternity leave, time constraints or perceived ‘commitment issues’.

“Such biases are unfair and counterproductive. Lawyers have a duty to ensure that the principles they advocate in court and in public life are reflected in their own workplaces and professional conduct,” he said.

Referring to various Supreme Court verdicts, including the permanent commission judgment, where women officers were allowed permanent commission in defence forces, Justice Gavai said the judiciary has played a crucial role in ensuring that the law protects and promotes equality, rather than perpetuating historical disadvantages.

“I also believe that lawyers and judges share additional common goals in strengthening the justice system. We must ensure that the legal system and legal discourse do not remain confined to metropolitan cities, but are accessible to every citi-

zen, even those living in the remotest corners of the country.

“Inclusion is achieved only when the common person can understand, relate to and feel connected with the legal processes, the exchanges between a lawyer and a judge, the judgments delivered and the mechanisms of justice itself,” he said.

The CJI said in his role as the executive chairperson of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), which is mandated to ensure that no one is left without legal aid, he made it a priority to direct his team to reach the farthest and most underserved regions of the country.

“The goal was clear -- no individual should be deprived of their legal rights and every person must have access to necessary legal representation, guidance and support,” he said at the conference of LAWASIA, which is headed by senior advocate Shyam Divan.

Justice Gavai said lawyers often have a more direct access to the public than judges, as the latter are expected to maintain a degree of aloofness, and this proximity gives lawyers a unique opportunity and responsibility to engage with the society.

“Their role is not confined to only the courtroom. It extends to the broader community, where they can raise awareness about rights, legal processes and the principles of justice. By doing so, lawyers serve as vital bridges between the law and the people, ensuring that justice is not only delivered but also understood, accessible and meaningful to all members of the society,” he said.



DIWALI AHEAD: A customer checks out idols of Goddess Laxmi and Lord Ganesh at a shop at Nayasadak in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Kids express freedom at Unmukt art show

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 11: Unmukt Foundation continued the second day of its annual Art Exhibition 2025 Saturday at the Kalinga Art Gallery, Bhubaneswar. The three-day event, themed “Freedom through the Lens of a Child,” is open to visitors from 11 am to 6 pm daily.

The exhibition offers a vibrant platform for children to express their creativity and imagination. Visitors actively engaged with the young artists, who also participated in



live art sessions and creative activities throughout the day.

Speaking on the occasion, Unmukt Foundation CEO Shweta Agarwal said, “This exhibition presents paintings

Event features a diverse collection of artworks, including glass bottle paintings, diya art, bookmarks, and canvas paintings

and artworks created by the children of Unmukt Foundation. Through their art, they have shared their stories and expressed what freedom means to them. Cheers to these children for their creativity, and

heartfelt thanks to everyone who supports our foundation. It is because of such unconditional love and encouragement that these children continue to grow and excel.”

The exhibition features a diverse collection of artworks, including glass bottle paintings, diya art, bookmarks, and canvas paintings — all crafted by children from the foundation.

Proceeds from the sale of these artworks will go toward supporting the education of underprivileged children associated with the foundation.

BJEM School hosts SRMG-2025



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 11: Buxi Jagabandhu English Medium (BJEM) School celebrated the 7th edition of Students Remember Mahatma Gandhi (SRMG-2025) here Saturday, organised in collaboration with the alumni association of Badagada Government High School (BGHS) and Union Bank of India, Bhubaneswar.

The celebration began with an all-faith prayer. Speaking on the occasion, BGHS headmaster Bhakta Charan Paikray emphasised the relevance of truth and non-violence in modern life. Addressing the gathering, alumni association president Manas Mohapatra shared the importance of adopting the

swadeshi spirit.

Later, BJEM principal Sandhya Jena highlighted the role of Gandhian values in shaping students’ character. Eminent Gandhian Manas Ranjan Mishra delivered the keynote address, stressing the relevance of Gandhiji’s ideals in developing disciplined and responsible citizens. Ninety-eight-year-old freedom fighter Braja Kishore Rout from Dhamnagar was felicitated for his lifelong dedication to Gandhian philosophy.

On the occasion, UBI general manager Harekrishna Das, who joined as chief guest and school chairman Sivapada Swain urged students to embody Gandhian virtues in daily life. Around 45 schools participated in various competitions, with 58 winners receiving prizes and mementos. The event concluded with vibrant cultural performances by students.

Activists slam eviction at Mahanadi hearing

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 11: The Mahanadi Bachao Andolan (MBA) committee has strongly condemned eviction of its members from the Mahanadi Water Dispute Tribunal hearing Saturday, calling the move unconstitutional and a violation of fundamental rights.

Before the hearing started, activists including MBA convener Sudarshan Das, co-conveners Basudev Bhatt and Manoj Jena, spokesperson Prasanna Bishoyi and others were pres-

ent at the Mahanadi Tribunal office in New Delhi to observe the tribunal’s stance as both the states—Odisha and Chhattisgarh—were engaged in an inter-state negotiations for an amicable solution to the water-sharing dispute.

However, Tribunal manager Chandan Mukherjee reportedly asked the activists to leave the hall, leading to a brief exchange of words before they stepped out and waited in the lobby.

Later, when the Advocate General of Odisha and the Water Resources department

Principal Secretary arrived to attend the hearing, tension flared, with the MBA members, alleging that AG made remarks on the activists and threatened to book one under the National Security Act (NSA).

Evicting citizens from a public tribunal hearing violates Articles 19(1)(a) and 21 of the Constitution, which guarantee the right to information, freedom of expression and access to fair judicial proceedings, the activists said. The organisation has filed a formal complaint before the tribunal chairperson seeking redressal.

BM Birla Hosp conducts leadless pacemaker implant

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata, Oct 11: In a major milestone for cardiac care, BM Birla Heart Hospital, Kolkata, has become the first centre in Eastern India to successfully implant the world’s first dual-chamber leadless pacemaker. The groundbreaking procedure was led by director of Cardiology at the hospital Anil Mishra.

The hospital used the AVEIR leadless pacemaker system, a next-generation technology that eliminates wires and chest incisions. Implanted via a min-



imally invasive catheter, the capsule-sized device offers up to 20 years of longevity, reducing infection risk and ensuring faster recovery.

“This is a defining moment in the evolution of cardiac pacing,” said Mishra. “The AVEIR system is not just an innovation—it’s a

revolution that brings global-level precision, safety, and simplicity to Indian patients.”

Adding international expertise, Cyrus Adel Hadadi, Associate Director of Cardiac Arrhythmia, MedStar Heart & Vascular Institute (USA), shared insights on leadless pacing technology during the milestone event.

The successful implantation highlights BM Birla Heart Hospital’s leadership in cardiac innovation and patient care. A unit of the CKA Birla Group, the hospital has a legacy of pioneering achievements.

CAO members meet Dy CM



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 11: Members of the Cotton Association of Odisha (CAO) met Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo at Krushi Bhavan here, Saturday, to discuss key challenges faced by cotton growers in the state.

The delegation highlighted various issues related to cotton cultivation and marketing, urging the government to intervene for timely solutions.

The Deputy CM assured the

members that necessary steps would be taken after discussions with Cotton Corporation of India. He further stated that during his upcoming visit to Delhi, he would take up the matter with the concerned Union Minister to ensure an early resolution.

Singh Deo acknowledged state’s high-quality cotton production, acknowledged nationwide for its long-staple fiber and superior durability, making it a preferred choice among weavers.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Vyasanagar, dated- 04.07.2025, I, Santosh Kumar Jena, Addres: At/P.O.- Manatira, P.S.-Jakhapura, Dist.- Jajpur declare that I have changed my name from Santosh Jena to Santosh Kumar Jena. Henceforth, I shall be known as Santosh Kumar Jena for all purposes. Sd./- Santosh Kumar Jena

RSP, NIT Rourkela launch ‘Waste to Wealth’ project

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 11: In a major CSR initiative, the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has launched a project titled ‘Waste to Wealth’ to promote sustainable agriculture and empower women farmers in its peripheral areas.

The RSP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NIT Rourkela for the CSR project focused on sustainable and innovative organic farming techniques, aimed particularly at women farmers.

On behalf of RSP, CGM

(Town Services and CSR) TG Kanekar and representing NIT Rourkela, Dean (SRICCE) Swadesh Kumar Pratihari signed the MoU in presence of officials from both institutions and the CSR department of RSP.

Speaking on the occasion, Kanekar said the collaboration with NIT Rourkela would bring scientific expertise and innovation to grassroots-level farming, thereby enhancing livelihood opportunities for women farmers.

He added that such initiatives demonstrate RSP’s continued commitment to inclusive and sustainable community development.

The ₹42.83-lakh project comes under RSP’s CSR programme on income generation

and livelihood development for women farmers. Over three years, 600 women farmers will receive hands-on training in vermicomposting, bio-fertiliser and bio-pesticide preparation, crop diversification, seed test-

ing and treatment, and kitchen garden development.

The project also includes upgrading a soil testing laboratory at IPD for beneficiaries’ use. By promoting scientific practices and converting agricultural waste into useful resources, the initiative exemplifies the “Waste to Wealth” concept.

RSP and NIT Rourkela’s collaboration underscores the power of industry-academia partnerships in driving innovation, sustainability, and women’s empowerment, Kanekar added.

EMPOWERING WOMEN FARMERS


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Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, **A.P. Tours and Travel**, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, **Aurobindo Market**-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, **Airport Road**-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, **Anish Infotech**- Tankapani Road-9861341488, **Bapuji Nagar**- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, **Baramunda Rental Colony**-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, **Baramunda Housing Board Colony**-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, **Cuttack Road**-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, **District Center (Chandrasekharpur)**-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, **Forest Park**-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, **IRC Village**-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, **Janpath**-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, **Jaydev Vihar**-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, **Jagannath Mobile Point**- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, **Kanan Vihar**-Auro Electronics-8260697560, **Khandagiri**- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, **KIIT Road**-Jugad Jn-9338545031, **Laxmi Sagar**-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, **Lewis Road**-Spider Web-7809186415, **Metro Satellite City**-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, **Madhusudan Nagar**-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, **Maa Santoshi travels**- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, **Nayapalli**- The Cake Room- 7873660137, **Near Mayfair Lagoon**-Cookiemann-9439491273, **Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels**-9668284823, **Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate**- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, **Net Square**- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, **Priyadarshini Market**-Astro Point-9938134346, **R.N. General Store**-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, **Sahid Nagar**- Maa Communication- 9437353424, **Sahini General Store**- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, **Satya Nagar**-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, **Samantapur**- Download Point-7504557743, **Sailashree Vihar**-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, **Saheed Nagar**-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, **Siripur**-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, **Sushree fashion**- Jagmara-9938714347, **Shree Vision**- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, **Unit-3**-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, **Unit-7**- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, **VSS Nagar**-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, **XIMB Square**-LD Books-9658061373.

“

Spirituality is indeed the master key of the Indian mind; the sense of the infinitive is native to it

SRI AUROBINDO



Stalled Promise

Thirty five years ago, India chose to go down two paths, on both of which it remains. The first path was to move to a new form of economics. This was informally named liberalisation and involved opening India to foreign capital, dismantling the license raj, and ending public sector monopolies.

Though this was unstated, the goal of liberalisation was to follow the path of Asian nations like Japan, Taiwan and South Korea and industrialise India. Another nation was attempting this at the same time as us, and that is China. On the cusp of liberalisation, whose date we mark as 24 July 1991 (when finance minister Manmohan Singh presented his budget) India and China were at the same stage of economic development. The World Bank says both nations had a per person GDP of \$334 in 1991.

It is said China had a bit of a lead because their process of opening up came just after Mao Tse Tung died, a decade or so before India. But China was coming from a very dark place with no private sector at all and a society that was wounded by the cultural revolution, hammered still by such cruelty as the one-child policy. So it is fair to say that in 1991 we were actually even.

What has happened since on this road is a story that can be understood when summarised by decade. By the end of the 1990s, China's per person GDP was twice India's.

The Atal Behari Vajpayee years that opened the next decade gave us the promise of 'India Shining'. But by the end of the 2000s, China was ahead by three times. In the Manmohan Singh era, China was up four times. In Modi's New India, up by five times.

Till the time of the global financial crisis of 2008, publications that tracked the global economy, such as The Economist, the Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times used to run features speculating that India was on the path to joining Japan, South Korea and China. That ended by the time of the Covid pandemic. It was conceded that India was not doing and could not do what the Asian tigers had done, and was consigned to grow at more or less the same pace as its sisters, Bangladesh and, to a lesser extent, Pakistan.

The reasons for this were likely several, but the primary one was the inability of the state, meaning the apparatus of government, to effectively develop and implement policy. Today, India's per person GDP is \$2696, more comparable to Bangladesh (\$2593) and Pakistan (\$1484) than it is to China (\$13,303).

This is the reason why the majority of Indians are thought by the government itself to be in need of food support and why jobs and gross inequality are the real problem behind the fables of development.

Though it is clear that it is not working as intended, India remains on the same economic path. The second path India chose to go down in 1990 also it remains on. This was to move away from pluralism and secularism and towards whatever Utopia was promised by the BJP's ideology, which it called Hindutva in its manifesto of 1996.

The party's successful campaign against the Babri Masjid and the pogroms that followed, moved India away comprehensively in a new direction. The party formed in 1951 did not have a chief minister of its own, without a coalition, till 1990. Its national vote share was in the single digits for all these decades before doubling under LK Advani after Babri to around 18% and then doubling again under Narendra Modi to 36%.

Unlike the first path of development, the acceleration down this second path has been quite rapid. Under Vajpayee, the BJP was not as full-throated in its expression of anti-minority politics as it is today. This was because some felt Vajpayee was soft, though it is true that he was dependent on allies and therefore forced to be hesitant. The events of 2002 changed that. The BJP found its new leader, who personified both the directions. Coming from a state that had benefited most from the reforms of 1991, he claimed its relative progress was because of him. And the pogrom of 2002, and Vajpayee's inability to get him removed, established him as the primary figure of the future, something that he was able to fulfil. He promised progress down both the paths chosen by India in 1990, but was able to lead it on only one. Today, India is not compared to China and the government has given up on comparisons, along with the rest of the world. Instead, we have found comfort in internal persecution, fighting the Pakistani army and the Bangladeshi refugee along the way. The electoral success of the BJP after 1990 has meant that this road will be difficult to leave, since these policies are rewarded.

For younger readers 1990 will seem a very long time ago, but for many of us it is recent memory. We can look at those decades and see what transpired, and why. The next decades will be similar: hesitant and slow travel on the road to becoming a wealthy and equal society and a rapid, confident march further into the Hindutva utopia.

WISDOM CORNER

“

Die to everything of yesterday so that your mind is always fresh, always young, innocent, full of vigor and passion

JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

“

To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here

JONATHAN EDWARDS

“

The fact that an opinion has been widely held is no evidence whatever that it is not utterly absurd

BERTRAND RUSSELL

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

■ **1901:** President Theodore Roosevelt officially changed the name of the president's residence at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. from Executive Mansion to the White House.

■ **1968:** Equatorial Guinea gained its independence from Spain. 1963: American basketball player Wilt Chamberlain, who was considered one of the greatest offensive players in the history of the game, died at age 63.

power post

FOCUS ANIMAL TESTING

A PARADIGM SHIFT

Even in an era of intense political polarization, there are still moments when a bipartisan consensus can emerge around important ethical issues. One such moment is happening now. Last April the United States Food and Drug Administration released its “Roadmap to Reducing Animal Testing in Preclinical Safety Studies.” The FDA said that it was taking “a groundbreaking step” that would advance public health and limit wasteful expenditure by replacing animal testing with “more effective, human-relevant methods.”

Such a step would, of course, reduce the suffering of millions of nonhuman animals used for tests. Echoing what opponents of the use of animals in drug testing have long been saying, the FDA referred to a growing scientific recognition that animals do not provide adequate models of human health and disease. The Roadmap also noted that more than 90% of drugs that appear safe and effective in animals do not receive FDA approval for use in humans because they are not safe and effective in humans.

Two weeks after the FDA announcement, the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), the world's largest funder of biomedical research added its support for the shift away from animals, announcing a new commitment: to give higher priority to “human-based research technologies” and to reduce the use of animals in the research that it funds. NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya said that integrating data science and technology would “fundamentally reimagine the way research is conducted,” and by doing so, speed up innovation and improve the outcomes obtained from healthcare.

In July, the FDA and NIH



Public funds were wasted on tests that caused immense harm to animals while failing to predict how humans would respond. Patients suffered and died because they were given drugs that worked on nonhuman animals, but not on them

jointly hosted a high-level workshop on reducing animal testing, where papers on new research methods were presented. The event's breaking news was the NIH's announcement to stop issuing new grants for research that relies solely on animal testing.

Senior FDA officials reported that their interactions with hundreds of pharmaceutical and biotech CEOs during a nationwide listening tour had revealed that industry is already using the new, human-centered approach “because it works and because it's highly predictive.” The pharmaceutical and biotech companies were nevertheless still using animals for testing, that the FDA wanted animal data.

Industry representatives reported that they found this troubling, owing to ethical concerns about conducting costly experiments that caused animals to suffer while providing data useful only to satisfy a bureaucratic requirement for bringing their products to market. The FDA commissioner noted that the new methods could accelerate the provision of beneficial treatments to the

public, reduce research and development costs, and eventually lower drug prices, while being “more humane and ethical for animals.”

This shift is cause for celebration, but it is tragic that it has taken so long. Fifty years ago, one of us wrote in Animal Liberation that alternatives to the use of animals “exist already and others would develop more rapidly, if the energy and resources now applied to experiment on animals were redirected into the search for alternatives.” That did not happen. Since the 1938 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, the United States had required animal testing for predicting human outcomes for all drug, therapy, cosmetic, and food safety reviews and approvals.

For more than 80 years, industrial suppliers profited from breeding and selling billions of animals for research purposes. (The shareprice of the largest of these companies, Charles River Laboratories, fell 28% after the FDA announced its intention to reduce animal use.) Public funds were wasted on tests that caused immense harm

to animals while failing to predict how humans would respond. Patients suffered and died because they were given drugs that worked on nonhuman animals, but not on them.

The first step toward changing the paradigm was taken in 2022, when overwhelming, bipartisan majorities in both the House of Representatives and the Senate approved the FDA Modernization Act 2.0, making it legal for the FDA to certify substances as safe based on testing without animals. Some of these methods have existed for a long time, while others are novel. In 2024, the NIH established a nearly \$400 million innovation program to develop, over the next ten years, new methodologies that promise to transform the way we understand biological processes and disease states.

Charles River Laboratories, after seeing its stock price plummet, decided that it didn't want to risk going the way of Kodak. The company announced its support for the FDA's focus on alternatives and stated that it intended to be a leader in the transition.

Animal testing will not stop overnight. Nevertheless, we are hopeful that over the next ten years, we will see a profound change in protecting human safety and developing cures for the diseases that afflict us, without inflicting suffering on animals.

Peter Singer is Professor in Medical Ethics at the Centre for Biomedical Ethics at the National University of Singapore, while Sankalpa Ghose, is a Ph.D. student and President's Graduate Fellow in the Centre for Biomedical Ethics at the National University of Singapore.

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Peter Singer & Sankalpa Ghose

FOR MORE THAN 80 YEARS, INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIERS PROFITED FROM BREEDING AND SELLING BILLIONS OF ANIMALS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES



Aakar Patel

Today, India is not compared to China and the government has given up on comparisons, along with the rest of the world. Instead, we have found comfort in internal persecution, fighting the Pakistani army and the Bangladeshi refugee along the way

SPECTRUM CYBERCRIME

Digital arrest is a scam, not a law

In the fast growing digital world, cyber scams have become increasingly sophisticated, with one of the most alarming threats being digital arrest. Digital arrest scams are among the most manipulative forms of cyber-crime, public face today. Digital arrest is one of the most dangerous cyber fraud trends today, not just because of the money people loose, but because of the deep psychological trauma it leaves behind.

Usually, a victim receive an unsolicited call or video call from someone posing as police officers, customs officials, or other government agency representatives and threaten with arrest, seized bank accounts, or passport cancellation. Victims are mostly accused of a serious offence, like money laundering, cybercrime, or illegal international transfers. Victim is shown forged FIR copies, police IDs, or legal notices. Sometimes, deep fake videos or fake emails are used to add authenticity and say “We have orders to arrest you immediately unless you cooperate.”



Gopabandhu Mohapatra

REAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES DO NOT CONDUCT ARRESTS OVER VIDEO CALLS OR DEMAND IMMEDIATE PAYMENTS TO AVOID LEGAL ACTION

Victims are often directed to switch to video calls via platforms like Whatsapp to make the interaction appear more legitimate. Scammers also create a convincing “police station” at the backdrop to gain trust of the victim. Victims are forced to stay on the video call and they are told not to consult anyone, or else the police will come to their door.

Let us remember that, there is no provision for digital arrest under Indian criminal law. Real law enforcement or government agencies do not conduct arrests over video calls or demand immediate payments to avoid legal action. Such incidents are to be reported to the Cyber Crime cell through the national helpline 1930 or the www.CyberCrime.gov.in portal. We can hang up the call and contact the legitimate authorities directly (e.g., your bank, police) using official numbers to verify any claims. Fear of social stigma and reputational harm keeps many from reporting these crimes, enabling scammers to continue their operations unhindered. It's very difficult to catch those

criminals. Hence, the number of cyber crimes is increasing day-by-day across the globe.

Several instances have occurred wherein people receive phone calls that appear to be from their bank. Always remember that information like password, PIN, TIN, etc., are strictly confidential and are not known even to employees/service personnel of the bank. Do not provide your bank account details to emails offering a job or claiming that you have won a lottery. Avoid opening attachment of emails from unknown senders. Avoid accessing Internet banking accounts from cyber cafes or shared PCs. Keep your system up to date.

In response to the growing menace of cybercrime, the Indian government has ramped up efforts to combat digital fraud. The helpline number 1930 receives an average of 1,600 to 1,800 calls daily, a significant rise from the previous year. Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting System was launched in 2021. This platform has successfully saved over ₹3431 Crore across 9.94 lakh complaints

by allowing immediate reporting of financial frauds. The number of registered cybercrime complaints has seen a steady increase from 2022 to 2025. According to the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), in 2024, over 92,323 cases of digital arrest scams were reported in India. The total financial loss from these scams was estimated at ₹2,140.99 crore.

The government has also implemented awareness campaigns through SMS, social media, Cyber Dost, SancharSathi portal and even digital displays in public spaces like metro stations and airports, promoting cyber safety and security. Please stay alert and spread the word - 'legitimate authorities will never ask for payments or sensitive details over the phone or online'. Trust your instincts, verify any claims, and report suspicious activities. The next time you or someone, you know gets a call claiming 'immediate arrest,' remember - digital arrest is a scam, not a law.

The writer is a retired banker

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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Ballots, not seats

Sir, In the 2019 and 2024 Lok Sabha elections, India's female voter turnout surpassed male voter turnout for the first time in the country's election history. The increasing participation of women is a notable development in Indian democracy. Such a trend appears to continue in the upcoming Assembly elections in Bihar too. The upward trend in female turnout in India is likely a result of several factors, operating, both at the individual and institutional level. The self-empowerment hypothesis posits that rising literacy levels and media exposure have increased awareness among women who, in turn, feel more empowered to exercise their franchise. The rise in the share of women voters represents a compelling shift; it is in opposition to the marginalisation of women from all levels of politics and economy in the country. However, the euphoria over female voters surpassing male voters in India must be placed within a broader social context. But the sobering fact is that despite rising female voter participation, the number of female candidates fielded by major political parties in the country, both in LS and assembly elections, sadly continue to remain low. .

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Pitiable utterings

Sir, There comes a time when every activity becomes a chore, becomes an effort. We are at the lighter side of life while commenting on contemporary issues. We have had to play with the same set of characters but it has now ceased to be funny. We are no longer amused at the happenings in this world and with increasing intolerance and the need to pussy foot around issues, one is reluctant to push the envelope. The leader of the opposition is pitted against a versatile Narendra Modi who is tied up to foreign visits just to relax and just to put up a gloomy picture and that appears silly under the present circumstances. Let it be like that but the people do not believe the made up stories. It is time to pack up pitiable utterings once for all.

Akhilesh Krishnan, VASHI, NAVI MUMBAI



Delhi's potters craft new story of light with AI

For young potters, technology is a small but useful tool, especially when preparing for large orders and in search of fresh ideas. However, old potters prefer traditional method over AI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 11: This Diwali, as the potters of Delhi's Kumhar Colony work late into the night shaping and painting diyas, the younger members of the community are adding an unexpected tool to the craft -- artificial intelligence (AI).
What began as curiosity has become a quiet experiment in creativity, blending centuries-old traditions with the imagination of the digital age.
The prices of the diyas (earthen lamps) here range from one rupee to thousands, depending on their size and other details. The small, simple ones are sold in bulk to local markets, while intricately-painted or customised lamps fetch higher prices from buyers seeking something unique.
This year, a few families have seen a new kind of creativity among their younger members, who are experimenting with AI for colour and pattern ideas.
"We just use it to see which colours look nice together," said Yash, 19, a college student who helps his family after classes.
"Sometimes it comes up

BETWEEN CLAY AND CODE



with very odd ideas, but sometimes it gives really good ones. We do not copy everything it says, we use our own touch, but it helps us think differently," Yash said. For younger potters, technology is a small but useful tool, especially when preparing for large orders and in search of fresh ideas.
"It is not like we let it decide everything. We just ask for ideas. The final design still comes from our hands," Yash said.
For older artisans though, this new approach feels unfamiliar and unnecessary. Banwari Lal, 62, who has been making diyas since childhood, said he prefers to rely on traditional methods passed

down through generations.
"Our families have been doing this since Shiva and Parvati were married," he said. "We learnt by watching our fathers and grandfathers. Now, these children learn from their phones. I do not know what they keep doing online all day, but if it helps them, maybe that is how things are now," Lal added.
Sitting nearby, Raghu-nath, 58, who has worked with clay his whole life, said technology cannot replace skill or intuition.
"The diya listens to your hands, not to a machine," he said, adding, "Clay has its own life. You have to feel it to know when it is ready. No computer can teach that."
Still, some artisans be-

lieve that the younger generation's curiosity may bring long-term benefits to the craft.
Dheeraj, 54, who runs a small workshop in the colony, said AI has not made a big difference yet but can help attract more customers. "Right now, it is just something new they are playing with, but maybe in the future, it will help us reach new buyers. People like seeing different designs," he said.
Dheeraj believes that blending traditional skills with modern ideas can help the community survive in an increasingly-competitive market. "There are so many ready-made, machine-made items in stores now. If we want to keep our

handmade work alive, new ideas like this might help," he added.
This Diwali season has brought its own difficulties. The unexpected early-October rain has damaged a large portion of the potters' ready stock.
"We have lost around 20 per cent of our diyas," Dheeraj said. "We had kept them out to dry and did not expect any rain. It came suddenly and by morning, many of the diyas had gone soft. Once that happens, you cannot sell those. We had to throw away all the trays." The losses have been hard to recover from, especially with the festival so close.
"We earn most of our income in this one month," said Banwari. "When the diyas get spoiled, we have to start again from the scratch. But there is no choice. We work till late at night to make up for it," he said. Even with the setbacks, the lanes of Kumhar Colony are busy and bright. Rows of diyas line the narrow pathways, glistening in the fading sunlight. The rhythmic sound of clay wheels fills the air as the smell of drying earth mixes with paint and varnish. Children run between houses carrying trays of freshly-painted lamps, while elders sit nearby, shaping new ones for the next batch.
Watching his younger helpers at work, Banwari smiled faintly.
"Maybe, times are changing," he said. "We used to learn by looking at our elders. Now they learn by looking at screens. But if their hands stay in the clay, our tradition will survive."

Bengal makes e-rickshaw registration mandatory



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 11: In a move to regulate the movement of e-rickshaws, known as totos in West Bengal, the state Transport department has made vehicle registration mandatory.
A transport department statement said on Saturday that all e-rickshaws should have a digitised temporary tota enrollment number (TTEN) and the process must be completed by November 30.
The process for registering under TTEN will start October 13.
A new portal will track registered e-rickshaws using QR codes, allowing the authorities to monitor vehicle activity and prevent new illegal totos from operating.
Transport Secretary Saumitra Mohan said the government is cracking down on unregistered and unsafe e-rickshaws, and district magistrates have been instructed to identify

and remove unregistered battery-operated e-rickshaws manufactured by local garages.
"Many of these e-rickshaws don't abide by the Central Motor Vehicles, 1989 guidelines and hence the district authorities will issue notice for sealing those units which don't follow the prescribed guidelines in assembling such e-rickshaws. Only those units which have the license to assemble e-rickshaws following prescribed safety guidelines," he said.
The e-rickshaws which have not been assembled following the prescribed prototype will not be allowed to ply on state and national highways, the department said.
The local administration will prepare a list of e-rickshaws plying in the area, names of the owners and stipulate their designated routes.
The owners of unapproved e-rickshaws will be given two years to replace

their existing vehicle.
Even those e-rickshaws sold by local firms having the approval of the dealers' body, National Testing Agency will not be allowed without the nod of MV authorities and HSRP fitment.
The owners of unregistered e-rickshaws must pay a Rs 1,000 fee for a six-month temporary authorisation number. A smaller fee of Rs 100 is required for subsequent renewals.
Another transport official said there are over 10 lakh e-rickshaws plying in the state.
"While the e-rickshaws, known as totos, perform a great role in local transportation and source of livelihood for lakhs, often there are reports about such vehicles causing traffic-snarl ups on highways and raising issues of passenger safety. We felt the need to regulate their movement and bring them under a structured framework," he said.

RAIN FURY

DARJEELING TEA PLANTERS TO SEEK GOVT SUPPORT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 11: Darjeeling tea planters hit by the recent landslides triggered by incessant rain in north Bengal are planning to seek the state government's assistance for restoration of infrastructure and communication within the estates so that gardens can function smoothly and future production is not hampered, stakeholders said Friday.
At least 30-35 tea gardens in the hills have been affected with reports of loss of plantation areas, deaths of workers, and damage to houses of labourers, they said.
The Darjeeling Tea Association (DTA), at a meeting Thursday, decided to seek the state government's support for restoration of infrastructure and communication within the gardens, as heavy rains severely damaged internal roads in the



estates and washed away tea bushes, industry veteran and Chamong Tea chairman Ashok Lohia said.
"We have decided to make a representation to the state government for assistance for restoration of infrastructure, such as roads, drinking water and electricity, so that the gardens can function smoothly," Darjeeling Tea Association principal adviser Sandip Mukherjee said.

For Darjeeling tea planters, the autumn crop, which is around 15-20 per cent of the annual production in the hills, has been affected due to the widespread devastation.
Last year, production of the aromatic tea fell below 6 million kg.
"Around 200-250 hectares of tea bushes have been affected in the gardens, resulting in financial stress to planters," Mukherjee said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 11: The ban on firecrackers in Delhi is not a new issue. As far back in 1961, concerns over pollution caused by crackers prompted a proposal for a ban, though the government of India did not approve it, according to official records preserved by the Delhi Archives Department.
The proposal, dating back to January 1961, originated from the Deputy Ganj Committee -- one of the industrial market associations in Sadar Bazar, Delhi -- which wrote to the chief commissioner of Delhi, complaining about "noise pollution" caused by large-scale use of fireworks during festivals and other celebrations.
The letter was later forwarded from the office of the chief commissioner, who was the executive head of the national capital functioning under the government of India, to the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply for

BLAST FROM PAST



its consideration, records accessed by PTI showed.
More than six decades later, the debate over ban on firecrackers continues.
The Supreme Court Friday said a complete ban on bursting of firecrackers in Delhi-NCR is "neither practical nor ideal", as such restrictions are often violated, so a balancing of equities

is needed.
The observation, which hinted at relaxation of the ban, was made by a bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavi and Justice K Vinod Chandran, which reserved its order on a batch of pleas seeking permission to manufacture and sell "green" firecrackers in Delhi-NCR.
In 1961, Delhi's popula-

tion was just around 26 lakh -- a fraction of the over two crore residents the city has now. Yet, noise pollution caused by firecrackers was a matter of public concern even then.
The Deputy Ganj Committee, in its letter, said the deafening noise from some high-decibel crackers was causing distress

to the residents, particularly those with heart ailments.
"During the course of fireworks display, it appears as if a complete warfare is going on outside, the association wrote, adding that the authorities seemed "immune to the situation".
The committee also suggested several measures to control the problem, including a complete ban on high-decibel crackers, prohibition of fireworks after 10 pm, strict licensing for manufacturing and sale of fireworks, and heavy penalties for violations.
These recommendations were also part of the records maintained by the Delhi Archive department.
Responding to the proposal, the secretary to the government of India in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply wrote to the chief commissioner of Delhi, saying "a total ban was not considered necessary".

Delhi to boost creative sector, generate jobs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 11: The Delhi government is working on formulating a policy to promote the animation, visual effects, gaming and comics sector, with an aim to boost the city's creative economy and generate employment for youth, officials said Saturday.
The plan, the officials said, is to finalise a draft of the policy by December and put it in public domain for feedback, and subsequently, the policy will come up before the Delhi cabinet for approval.
Earlier this month, the Delhi government's tourism department partnered with streaming platform Netflix for holding a screening of animated series 'Kurukshetra'. The government plans more such initiatives in the future to boost the sector in



the national capital.
At the event, Delhi Tourism minister Kapil Mishra said the government is working to position the city as a Global Content Hub in the AVCG (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality) sector, guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Vikas bhi, Virasat bhi' (development along with heritage).
The government, according to the officials, is studying policies adopted

by states such as Maharashtra to prepare a comprehensive roadmap suited to Delhi's ecosystem.
In September, the Maharashtra cabinet cleared the new Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) Policy 2025 with a roadmap till 2050, projecting the industry to create two lakh jobs and attract Rs 50,000 crore investment over the next 20 years.
Under the policy, dedi-

cated AVGC-XR parks will be developed with world-class infrastructure and special hubs will come up in various parts of the city, including Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Satara and Nagpur.
Last year, the Union Cabinet had approved a proposal to set up the National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) on lines of the IITs and IIMs to anchor the animation ecosystem in the country.
The centre, which will come up in Mumbai, will also have regional centres in other cities.
"We plan to establish one of the regional centres under the NCoE here in Delhi. The government will approach the Centre at an opportune time," the official said.



People visit stalls at a 'Diwali Mela' organised by the Blind Relief Association School, in New Delhi, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

of the day

QUOTE

On #InternationalDay-OfTheGirl, we renew our steadfast resolve to ensure every girl has equal access to education, opportunities, and a safe, supportive environment to learn, grow, and lead with confidence -- because every girl is special



HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | CM, ASSAM

AI, digitisation and technology can empower every Indian and turn imagination into reality



DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | CM, MAHARASHTRA

After we left, the new government announced in March that teachers' recruitment for 1.27 lakh posts under TRE-4 would soon take place, but now they have suddenly reduced it by 1 lakh posts. Everyone knows the CM's record of flip-flopping and backtracking on promises. When, who, and how someone made him say or write something, he doesn't even know it



TEJASHWI YADAV | RJD LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Fishermen protest over arrest by SL Navy

Rameswaram (Tamil Nadu): Fishermen hailing from the district Saturday observed a token strike condemning the arrest of 47 fishermen and seizure of boats by the Sri Lankan Navy. The development comes in the wake of the Tamil Nadu government seeking the intervention of the Centre for the release of the fishermen. "Yes, they observed a token strike near the Harbour," an official of Rameswaram Town Police Station told PTI. Chief Minister MK Stalin, October 9, urged External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to expeditiously secure the release of 47 fishermen apprehended by the Navy of the Island Nation. As of October 9, a total of 242 fishing boats and 74 fishermen from Tamil Nadu remain in Sri Lankan custody, the chief minister had said in the letter.

Greens urge Maha to save flamingo lake

Thane: Environmental groups have urged Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis not to entertain city planner CIDCO's proposal to revoke the conservation reserve status of the DPS flamingo lake, a crucial habitat for migratory birds in Navi Mumbai. NatConnect Foundation appealed to the government to save the flamingo abode and protect the city's fragile biodiversity from being destroyed in the name of development. The Foundation claimed that CIDCO, at its board of directors meeting April 30, passed a resolution authorising its managing director to take up the issue with the government and has since expedited its efforts to get the lake "de-reserved."

Paper leak: U'khand cancels examination

Dehradun: The Uttarakhand Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UKSSSC) Saturday cancelled a graduate-level recruitment examination, the question paper of which was allegedly leaked, officials said. The examination will again be held within three months, they said, adding that the date will be announced soon. "The graduate-level examination held September 21 for recruitment to various government departments in the state has been cancelled," UKSSC Chairman GS Martolia said. During the examination, three pages of the question paper were allegedly leaked from a centre in Haridwar, causing a stir across the state.

MANOJ SINHA | LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR

For decades, a manipulated narrative was propagated here in Jammu and Kashmir. Writers and media figures grudgingly admit that, out of fear of terrorists and their ecosystem, they were forced to promote the narrative being pushed from across the border in the Valley

KARUR STAMPEDE: SC TO PRONOUNCE ORDER OCT 13

The Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce its order October 13 on a batch of pleas seeking an independent investigation into the Karur stampede incident in which 41 people lost their lives. A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and N V Anjaria will pronounce the verdict on the pleas

Girl child vulnerable in digital era: CJI Gavai

Emphasising the need for specialised training, the CJI said institutions, policy frameworks and enforcement authorities must, therefore, be attuned to the realities of the times

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 11: Chief Justice of India (CJI) BR Gavai Saturday flagged the vulnerability of a girl child in the digital era due to online harassment, cyberbullying and digital stalking as well as the misuse of personal data and deepfake imagery, and called for the enactment of specialised statutes and training of law enforcers and decision makers.

The CJI voiced his concern while speaking at the national annual stakeholders consultation on "Safeguarding the Girl Child: Towards a Safer and Enabling Environment for Her in India", organised under the aegis of the Juvenile Justice Committee (JJC) of the Supreme Court, in association with UNICEF, India.

He said despite constitutional and legal guarantees, many girls across the country continue to be tragically denied their fundamental rights and even basic necessities for survival and this vulnerability exposes them to disproportionately high risks of sexual abuse, exploitation and harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation, malnutrition, sex-se-

lective abortions, trafficking and child marriage against their will.

"To secure her safety is not merely to protect her body, but to free her spirit. To create a society where she can hold her head high in dignity and where her aspirations are nourished by education and equality.... We must confront and overcome the deep-rooted patriarchal customs that continue to deny girls their rightful place," the CJI said.

Recalling Rabindranath Tagore's poem, "Where the Mind is Without Fear", Justice Gavai said it captures the very essence of what is sought to be achieved in safeguarding the girl child.

"That vision remains incomplete so long as any girl in our country lives in fear -- fear of violence, of discrimination, or of being denied the chance to learn and to dream," he said, adding that only when every girl child grows in an environment of freedom and respect can it be said with conviction that the country has awakened into that "heaven of freedom" of which Tagore so beautifully spoke.

Calling for a deeper examination of the social, economic and cultural barriers that continue to impede girls' lives, the CJI,

in the presence of Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi and Cynthia McCaffrey, the country representative for UNICEF-India, said the threats faced by young girls are no longer confined to physical spaces, they extend into the vast and often unregulated digital world.

"Furthermore, in today's technological era, where innovation defines progress, it is important to recognise that technology, though empowering, also brings new vulnerabilities, especially for the girl child," he said, adding, "From online harassment, cyberbullying and digital stalking to the misuse of personal data and deepfake imagery, the challenges have evolved in both scale and sophistication."

Emphasising the need for specialised training, the CJI said institutions, policy frameworks and enforcement authorities must, therefore, be attuned to the realities of the times.

"Training programmes for police officers, educators health professionals and local administrators should consequently incorporate a sensitive approach, equipping them to respond with empathy, nuance and contextual understanding," he said.

Medical students participate in a walkathon to raise awareness on World Hospice and Palliative Care Day, organised by Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology at Lalbagh Botanical Garden, in Bangalore, Karnataka, Saturday

PM launches 2 agri schemes with over ₹35k cr outlay

Modi attacked the Congress governments for not having any vision and strategy for the growth of the agriculture and allied sectors, which weakened the farm ecosystem

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday launched two major agricultural schemes with an outlay of ₹35,440 crore to boost pulses production and improve the farm sector growth in 100 low-performing districts, as he exhorted farmers to reduce the country's import dependence and increase exports.

Modi, in a special event at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Pusa campus here, launched a ₹24,000-crore 'Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhaan-ya Krishi Yojana' (PM-DDKY)

and a ₹11,440-crore 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses'.

He also inaugurated projects valued at over ₹5,450 crore in agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and food processing sectors, and laid foundation stone for additional projects worth around ₹815 crore.

During his 30-minute address, Modi attacked the Congress governments for not having any vision and strategy for the growth of the agriculture and allied sectors, which weakened the farm ecosystem.

Talking about the two new big schemes, the Prime Minister said that the Centre would

invest over ₹35,000 crore in PM-DDKY and pulses mission, which he said would change

Oppn parties mull sending delegation to Ladakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 11: Opposition parties are deliberating on sending a delegation to Ladakh, where violence during a protest last month for statehood and tribal status under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution left four people dead and several injured.

Sources in several Opposition parties confirmed that there have been informal discussions regarding sending a group of leaders to the Union Territory towards the end of October. Parties like the Congress, the CPI(M), the Aam Aadmi Party, the Samajwadi Party, and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha have held talks on the proposal, they said.

An AAP leader acknowledged that deliberations have been held, but asserted that no final decision has been taken yet. Sources in the CPI(M) and the Samajwadi Party also confirmed that the proposal is under consideration. A senior opposition leader said the matter is being discussed "seriously".

Leh was rocked by widespread violence September 24 during an agitation spearheaded by LAB and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) for statehood and extension of Sixth Schedule safeguards

Opposition leaders have been vocal in condemning the deaths during the protest and the subsequent arrest of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk under the stringent National Security Act (NSA).

They have also supported the demand of the Apex Body Leh and the Kargil Democratic Alliance for a judicial enquiry into the firing incident.

The home ministry has accused Wangchuk, who was leading a hunger strike in Leh at the time, of "instigating" the protesters. Wangchuk called off his hunger strike after the incidents of violence. He was detained under the NSA September 26.

NDA, INDIA work on seat-sharing

PK launches campaign from Tejashwi's seat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 11: The Jan Suraj Party continued to steal a march, ahead of Assembly polls, over the ruling NDA and the main Opposition INDIA bloc, with its founder Prashant Kishor Saturday launching election campaign from Raghapur, the home turf of RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav.

Senior BJP's leaders of the state, including president Dilip Jaiswal and former provincial chiefs Samrat Choudhary and Mangal Pandey, were camping in Delhi, holding meetings with top leaders as well as alliance partners.

Jaiswal told reporters in the national capital, "It is unfortunate that the social media is replete with imaginary seat-sharing figures. Our ally Upendra Kushwaha has come out with an anguished tweet. Let all be informed that talks are still on and an announcement is likely by tomorrow".

Kushwaha, a Rajya Sabha MP who heads the Rashtriya Lok Morcha, had responded to reports in a section of the media that his party has been asked to settle for a single-digit share of seats of the 243-strong Assembly.

The reports also suggest that the JD(U), headed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and the BJP, will contest almost an equal number of seats, in the range of 101-102, while about 30 will be given

to Union minister Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas).

Another NDA partner Jitan Ram Manjhi, who has been pressing for "at least 15 seats" for his Hindustani Awam Morcha, is said to have been asked to settle for seven or eight.

Jaiswal was also asked whether the "announcement" would be made in Delhi itself or in Patna.

He replied, "We will discuss with our allies. Many leaders are away in their constituencies. We will decide on the venue once we get an idea where most of the leaders, whose presence will be required, could be easily available".

Late in the evening, JD(U) working president Sanjay Kumar Jha, who spent the day here re-inducting a former party MP and, thereafter, holding deliberations with the chief minister, left for Delhi.

Talking to reporters before boarding his flight, Jha mocked Yadav's promise of "government job to one member of every household", and wondered whether "any economist across the world" would approve of such a scheme.

Jha also alleged that the promise smacked of "desperation on part of the RJD-helmed opposition which was outperformed by the NDA in Lok Sabha polls last year and, again, in assembly by-polls a few months later."

Windshield of aircraft cracks ahead of landing in Chennai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 11: A crack in the windshield of an aircraft belonging to the largest domestic airliner, IndiGo, carrying 76 passengers from Madurai was detected by the pilot ahead of its landing at the airport here Saturday, authorities said.

The pilot noticed the crack in the front glass and informed the Air Traffic Controller at the airport here.

On receipt of the information, arrangements were made at the airport and the plane landed safely, they said.

The aircraft was taken to a separate bay (Bay No 95) for parking and passengers later safely disembarked. Currently, arrangements are being made to replace the windshield, they said.

The cause of the incident is not yet known, they said.

Due to the incident, the flight's return journey to Madurai has been cancelled, they added.

Meanwhile, IndiGo in a statement to PTI did not mention the cracks in the windshield and only said the aircraft had been grounded for "maintenance requirement".

"A maintenance requirement was noticed on IndiGo flight 6E 7253, operating from Madurai to Chennai on October 10, 2025, before landing at its destination", an IndiGo spokesperson said.

"Following standard operating procedures, the aircraft landed safely in Chennai and will resume operations only after necessary checks and clearances," the statement added.

international

of the day quote

The belligerent action and rhetoric of the US government objectively point to the fact that we are facing a situation in which it is rational to anticipate that in the very short term, an armed attack is to be perpetrated against Venezuela



SAMUEL MONCADA | UN AMBASSADOR, VENEZUELA

The Treasury Department is degrading Iran's cash flow by dismantling key elements of Iran's energy export machine



SCOTT BESSENT | SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, US

It's incumbent on all of us as Singaporeans to continue the work, so that our next generations can continue to inherit a Singapore that has this kind of religious and racial harmony



K SHANMUGAM | SINGAPORE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

UK, US, NATO jets fly near Russian border

London: Britain said Saturday that two Royal Air Force aircraft flew a 12-hour mission earlier this week alongside US and NATO forces to patrol the border of Russia, amid a series of recent Russian drone and aircraft incursions into NATO airspace. "This was a substantial joint mission with our U.S. and NATO allies," defence minister John Healey said. "Not only does this provide valuable intelligence to boost the operational awareness of our Armed Forces, but sends a powerful message of NATO unity to (Russian President Vladimir) Putin and our adversaries," Healey added. An RC-135 Rivet Joint electronic surveillance aircraft and a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol plane flew from the Arctic region past Belarus and Ukraine Thursday, supported by a US Air Force KC-135 refuelling aircraft.

At least 60 killed in attack on Sudan

Cairo: Drone and artillery strikes by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces on a shelter in the Sudanese city of Al Fashir killed at least 60 people Friday night and Saturday morning, according to local activists. Al-Fashir is under siege by the RSF as it struggles to wrest control of the army's last stronghold in the Darfur region. The siege has spread hunger and disease in the city and relentless drone and artillery strikes have hit displacement shelters, mosques, and hospitals and clinics. "Bodies remain under the rubble, and others were burned alive inside the shelter caravans, children, women, and elderly killed in cold blood, the al-Fashir Resistance Committees said in a statement earlier on Saturday.

Unrest continues in Pak; police kill 11

Lahore: Radical Islamist party Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) Saturday claimed that police shot dead 11 of its supporters as they attempted to march towards Islamabad to stage a demonstration outside the US embassy against Israel's military actions in Gaza. Authorities in Punjab, however, said that at least 40 policemen were injured in clashes with the TLP that began two days ago amid the group's call for anti-Israel demonstrations. A senior police officer told PTI that violent confrontations broke out on Saturday when 10,000 to 15,000 TLP workers, who had camped overnight at Azadi Chowk in Lahore, resumed their march towards Islamabad in the morning.



A ceasefire alone is not enough. Yes, it stops the killing and injuring of children, hopefully, but it also needs to ensure a surge of humanitarian aid that begins to address the tremendous damage that has been done over the past two years

TESS INGRAM | SPOKESPERSON, UNICEF

LIGHT RETURNS TO KYIV

Power was restored to over 800,000 residents in Kyiv Saturday a day after major attacks by Russia on the Ukrainian power grid caused blackouts across much of the country



Israel strikes south Lebanon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beirut, Oct 11: Israel carried out intense airstrikes on southern Lebanon early Saturday killing one person, wounding seven and briefly cutting a highway that links Beirut with parts of south Lebanon, the Health Ministry said.

The pre-dawn airstrikes on the village of Msayleh struck a place that sold heavy machinery, destroying a large number of vehicles. A vehicle carrying vegetables that happened to be passing by at the time of the strikes was hit, killing one person and wounding another, according to Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV.

The Health Ministry later said that the one slain was a Syrian citizen, while the wounded were a Syrian national and six Lebanese, including two women. The Israeli military said it struck a place where machinery was stored to be used to rebuild infrastructure for the militant Hezbollah group. Since the 14-month Israel-Hezbollah war ended in late November with a US-brokered ceasefire, Israel has carried out almost daily airstrikes killing dozens of people. Israel accuses Hezbollah of trying to rebuild its capabilities after the group suffered heavy losses during the war.

Earlier this month, the UN human rights chief, Volker Turk, called for renewed efforts to bring a permanent end to hostilities in Lebanon following the war. He said that until the end of September, they have verified 103 civilians killed in Lebanon since the ceasefire.

The most recent Israel-Hezbollah war killed more than 4,000 people in Lebanon, including hundreds of civilians, and caused an estimated \$11 billion worth of destruction, according to the World Bank. In Israel, 127 people died, including 80 soldiers.

Trump ratchets up US-China trade war

US PRESIDENT THREATENS TECH EXPORT LIMITS, NEW 100% TARIFF ON CHINESE IMPORTS STARTING NOV 1 OR SOONER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 11: President Donald Trump said Friday that he's placing an additional 100 per cent tax on Chinese imports starting on Nov 1 or sooner, potentially escalating tariff rates close to levels that in April fanned fears of a steep recession and financial market chaos.

The president said he is imposing these new tariffs because of export controls placed on rare earths by China.

Trump said on Truth Social that "starting November 1st, 2025 (or sooner, depending on any further actions or changes taken by China), the United States of America will impose a Tariff of 100% on China, over and above any Tariff that they are currently paying."

Trump said Friday that "there seems to be no reason" to meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping as part of an upcoming trip to South Korea and threatened additional tariffs after China restricted exports of rare earths needed for American industry.

The Republican president suggested that he was looking at a "massive increase" of import taxes on Chinese products in response to Xi's moves. It's possible that this could amount to either posturing by the United States for eventual negotiations or a retaliatory step that could foster new fears about the stability of the global economy.

"One of the Policies that we are calculating at this moment is a massive increase of Tariffs on Chinese products coming into the United States of America," Trump posted on his



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

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

Truth Social platform. "There are many other countermeasures that are, likewise, under serious consideration."

The United States and China have been jostling for advantage in trade talks, after the import taxes announced earlier this year triggered a trade war between the world's two largest economies. Both nations agreed to ratchet down tariffs after negotiations in Switzerland and the United Kingdom, yet tensions remain as China has continued to re-

strict America's access to the difficult-to-mine rare earths needed for a wide array of US technologies.

Trump did not formally cancel the meeting with Xi, so much as indicating that it might not happen as part of a trip at the end of the month in Asia. The trip was scheduled to include a stop in Malaysia, which is hosting the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit; a stop in Japan; and a visit to South Korea, where he was slated to meet with Xi ahead of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

Trump's threat shattered a monthslong calm on Wall Street, and the S&P 500 tumbled 2.7 per cent on worries about the rising tensions

B'desh court to indict pregnant Indian woman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Oct 11: A court in Bangladesh is set to indict a pregnant Indian woman and three others on charges of entering the country illegally, a move that could pave the way for their repatriation months after they were reportedly pushed in by Indian law enforcement agencies suspecting them of being Bangladeshi nationals, officials said Saturday.

"Senior judicial magistrate Ashraful Haque has set October 23 for the hearing on charge framing against Sonali Khatun and the three others, alongside two infants. They have been languishing in jail for the past four months," Chief Public Prosecutor (northwestern) Chapai Nawabganj M Abdul Wadud told PTI.

Wadud said if they plead guilty to the charges during the hearing, it would pave the way for their repatriation. He added that they are "likely to" plead guilty.

The top prosecution lawyer in the district bordering India denied Indian media reports that the court has asked Bangladesh's deputy high commission in Kolkata to arrange their repatriation.



Military parade celebrating the 80th anniversary of the founding of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), in Pyongyang, North Korea, in this pictured released October 11, 2025 by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency. The parade featured a new, yet-to-be-tested intercontinental ballistic missile called the Hwasong-20, which it described as the "most powerful nuclear strategic weapons system"

REUTERS

France's re-appointed PM Lecornu calls for calm

Paris: France's newly re-appointed prime minister acknowledged Saturday that there weren't a lot of candidates for his job — and that he might not last long in the post given the country's deep political divisions. Sebastien Lecornu, renamed by President Emmanuel Macron late Friday after a week of political chaos, called for calm and for the support of political parties to produce a budget for the European Union's No 2 economy before looming deadlines. His appointment is seen as Macron's last chance to reinvigorate his second term, which runs until 2027. His centrist camp lacks a majority in the National Assembly and he is facing increasing criticism even within its ranks. But rivals from far right to far left slammed Macron's decision to rename Lecornu. France's fourth prime minister in barely a year. France is struggling with mounting economic challenges and ballooning debt, and the political crisis is aggravating its troubles and raising alarm across the European Union. "I don't think there were a lot of candidates," Lecornu told reporters Saturday during a visit to a police station in the Paris suburb of L'Hay-les-Roses. Lecornu, who resigned Monday after just a month on the job, said he agreed to come back because of the urgent need to find financial solutions for France. Over the past year, Macron's successive minority governments have collapsed in quick succession, leaving France mired in political paralysis as it faces a debt crisis that has worried markets and EU partners, and a growing poverty rate.



POLITICAL CHAOS

Peru wakes up to seventh prez in less than a decade

Lima (Peru): Peruvians woke up to their seventh president in less than a decade Friday, as 38-year-old José Jeri took the reins of the shaken nation after Congress ousted widely loathed President Dina Boluarte in a lightning overnight impeachment. The young lawyer with scarce political experience, who just became president of the Congress in July, said shortly after being sworn in early Friday that he would seek "reconciliation," tackle Peru's runaway crime and ensure "neutrality" in elections when Peruvians elect a new president in April. Lawmakers had set up a debate and impeachment trial late Thursday in the 130-member unicameral Congress after voting to accept four requests for a vote to remove Boluarte from office over what they said was her government's inability to stem crime. They requested that Boluarte come before them shortly before midnight to defend herself, but when she did not appear they immediately voted to oust her. In short order, 124 lawmakers voted just past midnight to impeach Boluarte. There were no votes against the effort, the ninth attempt to remove her. The shocking turn of events came just hours after a man opened fire at a concert in the capital, injuring five and inflaming anger over crime rolling the country.



business

of the day quote

Easing the process to help the Indian diaspora invest in the Indian markets is an “urgent goal” for the capital markets regulator



TUHIN KANTA PANDEY | SEBI CHAIRMAN

As 6G research accelerates worldwide, this declaration underscores our collective responsibility to develop trusted technologies, open standards, and sustainable networks



R K PATHAK | BHARAT 6G ALLIANCE DIRECTOR GENERAL

A developed state means every hand has work, every head has a roof, every field has water, every face is happy, and every daughter and businessman feels safe



YOGI ADITYANATH | CM, UP

Q2 RESULTS

D-Mart's profit up

New Delhi: Avenue Supermarts Ltd, which owns and operates retail chain D-Mart, Saturday reported 3.85 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹684.85 crore for the second quarter ended September 2025. The company had posted a net profit of ₹659.44 crore in the July-September period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from Avenue Supermarts. Revenue from operations was up 15.45 per cent to ₹16,676.30 crore in the September quarter. It was at ₹14,444.50 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal year.Total expenses in the quarter were up 16 per cent to ₹15,751.08 crore. Total income, which includes other income, was at ₹16,695.87 crore, up 15.3 per cent year-on-year.

ARAPL posts profit

New Delhi: Affordable Robotic and Automation Ltd (ARAPL) has posted a net profit of ₹4.57 crore in September quarter mainly on the back of higher revenues. It had a loss of ₹4.83 crore in the quarter ended September 2024. According to a company statement, ARAPL reported a consolidated net revenue from operations of ₹28.04 crore in the quarter ended September 2025, compared to ₹24.53 crore in the same quarter last year, representing a growth of 14 per cent year-on-year. Total income in the second quarter stood at ₹29.57 crore, up 20 per cent from ₹24.69 crore in the same period a year ago. Earnings per share for the quarter stood at ₹4.06, a substantial improvement from negative ₹4.29 in the corresponding quarter last year. For the half year ended September 30, 2025, consolidated net revenue from operations stood at ₹46.81 crore, a 7 per cent increase compared to ₹43.72 crore in H1 FY25.

Waaree Renewable profit doubles

New Delhi: Waaree Renewable Technologies' consolidated net profit in September quarter more than doubled to ₹116.34 crore on the back of higher revenues. The company had logged a consolidated net profit of ₹53.51 crore in the quarter ended September 30, 2024, a BSE filing said. According to a company statement, the company recorded its highest-ever quarterly revenue and PAT (net profit). The revenue stood at ₹774.78 crore as against ₹524.47 crore in Q2 FY25, delivering a growth of 47.73 per cent.



As we move from 5G to 6G, There is a tremendous role for AI to improve the intelligence in the networks, make them self-healing, move from generative AI to agentic AI

NEERAJ MITTAL | TELECOM SECRETARY

RUSSIA'S HOMEGROWN BALTIKA BEER TO ENTER INDIAN MKT

Russia's top beer brewer will start supplying its products to India next year, according to a report. Baltika has a numbered beer series, ranging from 0 to 9, which denotes different brews. It is said that 0, which is alcohol-free, and beers numbered 3 to 9 were inspired by Vladimir Putin. Baltika plans to present its flagship collection to Indian consumers at the first stage and later plans to create a beer brewed specially for the Indians



Electronics production hits ₹11.3L-cr

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 11: India's electronics manufacturing sector has witnessed a spectacular transformation, with production projected to reach an impressive ₹11.3 lakh crore in 2024-25—a six-fold increase over the past decade.

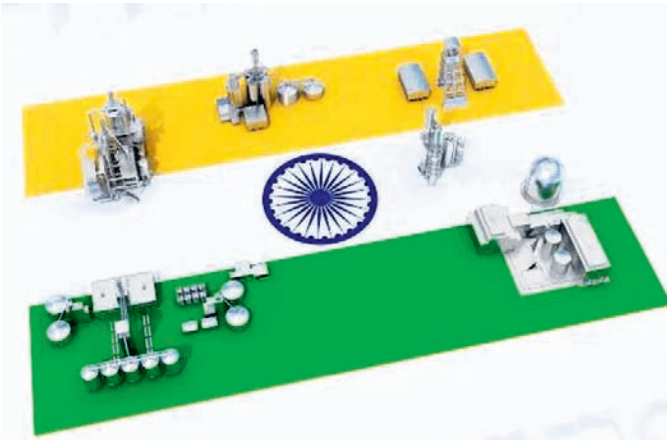
This remarkable growth, accompanied by soaring exports and significant job creation, is positioning India as a formidable global technology powerhouse.

In the last ten years, electronics exports have surged eight times, climbing from ₹38,000 crore to an estimated ₹3.37 lakh crore in 2024-25.

Mobile phone exports alone have smashed records, crossing ₹2 lakh crore this fiscal year, underscoring India's rising prominence in the international electronics supply chain.

The sector's expansion has also been a major employment driver, generating approximately 25 lakh direct jobs over the same period.

Adding to this momentum, India has attracted over \$4 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) in electronic manufacturing since FY 2020-21,



Electronics production increased nearly six-fold from ₹1.9 lakh crore in 2014-15 to ₹11.3 lakh crore in 2024-25

Mobile phone exports rose 127 times from ₹1,500 crore in 2014-15 to ₹2 lakh crore in 2024-25

reflecting strong investor confidence fueled by a supportive policy environment.

Central to this growth story are government initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, which have played a crucial role in encouraging both domestic and global companies to scale

up manufacturing capacities and build a vibrant electronics ecosystem.

India's leading export markets for electronic goods in FY 2024-25 include the United States, UAE, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Italy—key players that are vital to expanding India's global reach

Indian exporters likely to gain from US-China trade clash

The tariffs would affect exports from China to the US as they would push prices of their goods in the American market, making them less competitive, an exporter said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 11: The escalating trade war between the US and China is expected to benefit Indian exporters in increasing their shipments to the American market, according to experts.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (IEO) President S C Ralhan said that imposition of higher tariffs by the US on China will shift demand towards India, which exported goods worth \$86 billion to the US in 2024-25.

"We may gain from this escalation," Ralhan said.

The US has announced an additional 100 per cent tariff on Chinese goods starting November 1, 2025, raising the overall tariff rate on Chinese imports to about 130 per cent.

The move came in response to Beijing's October 9, 2025 decision to impose sweeping new controls on rare earth exports, which are indispensable for US defense, electric vehicles, and

clean-energy industries.

At present, US tariffs on Indian goods are 50 per cent, more than that of China's 30 per cent.

"Now this 100 per cent additional tariff on Chinese goods will give us an upper edge," a textile exporter said, adding the imposition of higher customs duties by the US on imports from China provides huge export opportunities for India to America.

The tariffs would affect exports from China to the US as they would push prices of their goods in the American market, making them less competitive, another exporter said.

Toy exporter Manu Gupta too said that high duties on Chinese goods will help attract buyers from both these nations.

"It will help us. High duty will create a parity and will give us a level playing field," Gupta said, adding American buyers like retail giant Target have reached out to them for new products.

Think tank GTRI said that the escalating trade tensions between the US and China will push prices of EVs, wind turbines, and semiconductor parts in the global markets.

America depends heavily on China for electronics, textiles, footwear, white goods, and solar panels, it said.

India, Canada to boost economic ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 11: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal Saturday held discussions with his Canadian counterpart Maninder Sidhu on ways to strengthen economic ties between the two countries.

"We discussed ways to find mutually beneficial opportunities for our businesses to capitalise on the complementarities offered by our two economies. I emphasised that economic, trade and investment ties between India and Canada should be grounded in the principles of mutual respect, trust and balance," Goyal said in a post on X.

The Canada's Minister of International Trade in a post said that he spoke with India's Minister of Commerce and Industry to advance discussions on deepening economic engagement and increasing connectivity between the countries.

The discussions are important as in 2023, Canada had paused negotiations for a free trade agreement with India.

Normally in a trade agreement, two countries significantly reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them. They also liberalise norms for promoting trade in services and attract investments.

India silver ETFs trade at steep premium amid festive demand

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 11: India's silver exchange traded funds (ETFs) are trading at steep premiums over international benchmarks amidst surging festive demand and constrained physical global supply, a report said Saturday.

Investment inflows into silver products hit record levels globally in H1 2025, adding about 95 million ounces – exceeding the total inflows of the entire previous year, the report from Axis Mutual Fund said.

Further, it pushed total ETF holdings to roughly 1.13 billion ounces (worth over \$40 billion) by mid-2025, Axis Mutual Fund said.

Global mining output has grown only modestly and is expected to peak by 2026, even

as industrial and investment demand climbs, driven by solar photovoltaics, electric vehicles, electronics, 5G infrastructure, and semiconductors.

Recent purchases by Saudi Arabia's central bank have highlighted further central banks' interest in silver, amplifying the demand shock.

Meanwhile, physical demand in India has been exceptionally strong due to festive demand, with buyers snapping up silver – coins, bars, jewellery, and idols – amidst imports doubling in September on-year, as bullion dealers and jewellers scrambled to secure inventory despite record-high price, the report said.

That shortage has flowed through to ETFs, which are trading at premiums of about 5-12 per cent over converted

LBMA prices inclusive of customs and GST, Axis MF said.

Under normal conditions, any gap between Indian and global prices would be small and arbitrated away. But in the current scenario, with physical silver scarce, the premium persisted, and even ETF arbitrageurs could not immediately bridge the difference, the fund house noted.

Axis MF warned that the inflated entry price risks a near-term NAV correction if supply normalises and the domestic premium evaporates. For medium to long term investors, silver is increasingly viewed as a strategic diversifier and hedge, and short term price distortions may be less relevant for multi year horizons, the fund house said.

15th Annual Conference of Odisha Hematology begins



Bhubaneswar: The 15th Annual Conference of Odisha Hematology, ODIHECON-2025, was inaugurated Saturday at a hotel in Bhubaneswar. The two-day conference was graced by Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, Jharkhand Health Minister Irfan Ansari, Odisha Hematology President Niranjan Tripathy, Secretary Rabindra Kumar Jena, Organising Secretary Prithvi Chandra Patra, and Apollo Hospital's COO and DMS Alok Srivastava. More than 300 doctors from across Odisha and 35 eminent national faculty members from Bengaluru, Mumbai, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Ranchi, Bhubilai, Patna, Raipur, Delhi, North-East, and Bihar are participating in the conference. Over the two days, around 60 scientific papers will be presented and discussed.

Sound of debt & its impact on mental health

RACHNA MAHESHWARI, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 11: India is growing rapidly. Trade deals and the vision of becoming the world's fourth-largest economy have often overshadowed the rising debt burden on Indian households. The EMI (Equated Monthly Installment) system, once seen as an easy money plan for convenient purchases, has become a silent contributor to increasing mental health issues across the country.

EMIs may seem like a simple way to buy goods, but they create long-term financial strain. They also encourage a passive desire to own more than necessary. Although not a new concept, EMIs have become an unexpected protagonist in modern financial stress, punctual in their arrival, strict on penalties, and sometimes unforgiving when payments are delayed.

The growing culture of purchasing goods and services on EMI has expanded consumer desires and stretched household budgets. Earlier, a middle-class salaried person maintained a limited and bud-



get-friendly wishlist. But today, the trend of buying on credit has overburdened many urban households.

According to data released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, nearly 70-92 per cent of individuals in India suffer from untreated mental health issues. The pursuit of financial growth and social status has fueled lives with anxiety, depression, and chronic stress. Yet, these challenges

remain largely undiscussed in public spaces.

Dr Shibani Devi from Manipal Hospital, Bhubaneswar, says,

"I have seen families coming for treatment, but they are often hesitant to express their mental health difficulties. It is still treated as an undercover topic."

National sleep surveys also reveal widespread sleep disruption and late bedtimes signs of minds kept alert by con-

stant notifications and nightly worries.

For Bidhyadhar Naik, a 35-year-old driver working in Bhubaneswar, his son's education is a top priority. Living in the city, he wants to ensure his child can compete with peers.

"We don't have enough money, but I have taken a loan so that I can provide good food and a better life for my family. The services we get in the city are much better than in rural areas," he says.

Experts describe debt stress as a silent yet powerful force not merely a financial strain, but a burden that affects both body and mind. The constant pressure of monthly repayments leads to tense muscles, irritability, shallow breathing, and digestive troubles.

Conclusion:

It is time to raise our voices against financial burdens and their impact on overall health. Purchases should be guided by wisdom and necessity, not by trends or social pressure. Responsible spending is not a limitation, it is a step toward mental peace and a balanced life.

Vedanta hosts Power Safety Circle Conclave



Jharsuguda: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer organised the Power Safety Circle Conclave at its Jharsuguda plant Saturday, reinforcing its commitment to safety and operational excellence. The event, held in partnership with STEAG Energy Services and NTPC GE Power Service Pvt. Ltd. (NG-SL), brought together over 200 participants from across the industry.

"At Vedanta, safety is a shared value that defines our purpose and performance. The Power Safety Circle Conclave exemplifies how we empower

teams to take ownership of safety and integrate it into daily operations," said C Chandru, CEO, Vedanta Jharsuguda.

R K Singh, Head-TPP, STEAG Energy Services, noted, "This collaboration demonstrates how technical expertise and a strong safety vision can create real impact, strengthening vigilance and long-term process reliability."

M S Patel, Head-CPP, NTPC GE Power Service Pvt Ltd, added, "Engaging shop-floor teams makes safety a shared responsibility and ensures practical implementation of safety solutions."

Asian Table Tennis Team C'ships serves off

While top-seeded teams, including hosts India, enjoyed an opening-day rest, the inaugural sessions offered fans a taste of the energy and emotion that define Asia's premier continental event

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 11: The much-awaited ITTF-ATTU 28th Asian Table Tennis Team Championships 2025 officially began



NO MAJOR SURPRISES ON OPENING DAY

The 28th ITTF-ATTU Asian Team Table Tennis Championships served off in style as group stage contests went on expected lines here Saturday. Lesser-known contingents displayed flashes of skill and tenacity, earning applause from an eager Bhubaneswar crowd ready to soak in the continent's finest table tennis action. In the men's section, Kazakhstan, in Group A, rested their top paddler Kirill Gerassimenko and still proved too strong for Kyrgyzstan. Alan Kurmangliyev and Sanzhar Zhubanov quickly put their team 2-0 up before Aidos Kenzhigulov battled hard in a five-game thriller to complete the sweep (13-15, 11-13, 11-8, 11-1, 11-5). Sri Lanka began their campaign on a winning note, comfortably overcoming Kyrgyzstan despite an early setback. Nimesh Ranchagoda fell in his opening tie, but Chameera Ginige and Chanul Kulappuwawadu rallied superbly, steering the islanders to their first points of the tournament. Meanwhile, the Maldives managed to take a game off Mongolia in Group 2 but ultimately lost 1-3. In the women's competition, Macau (China) and Uzbekistan engaged in one of the day's most exciting ties. The pendulum swung both ways before Macau edged out a fighting Uzbekistan 3-2. Shoiria Kodirova's early win gave Uzbekistan hope, but decisive victories from Huang Cheong Leng and Seak Hui Li kept Macau in contention. In the end, Kodirova returned to the table with a clinical straight-game triumph to seal a memorable win for her team. With only the group leaders advancing to the knockout among the leaders, the upcoming contests promise to deliver the heat and drama the inaugural day hinted at.



Saturday at the athletics centre of Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar. The ceremony was graced by Suryabanshi Suraj, Minister, Sports & Youth Services, Higher Education, Odia Language, Literature and Culture, Government of Odisha, who officially inaugurated the championship. He expressed pride that Odisha is hosting international Championships, highlighting the state's growing prominence in the global sports arena. He further added that it is a matter of great happiness for Odisha that this championship is being held here, and we warmly welcome players from all 22 countries participating in this championship. The ceremony was attended by distinguished guests, including Sheikh Hayat Al Khalifa,

World Tennis Masters Tour MT100 Bhubaneswar 2025 inaugurated



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 11: The ITF World Tennis Masters Tour MT100 Bhubaneswar 2025 was formally inaugurated Saturday at the Kalinga Stadium Tennis Centre, Bhubaneswar. The tournament is being organized by the Odisha Tennis Association (OTA) under the aegis of the International Tennis Federation (ITF), with the support of the Department of Sports & Youth Services, Government of Odisha. The tournament was inaugurated by Sachin Ramchandra Yadav, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of Sports & Youth Services, Government of

Odisha, along with Bijay Swain, Additional Secretary, Sports, Government of Odisha. The tournament, being held from October 11 to 15, has attracted participation from over 100 players across Slovakia, Germany, and India. The competition features a wide range of categories including Men's and Women's Singles, Doubles, and Mixed Doubles, with players competing in age groups ranging from 30+ to 70+. The ITF World Tennis Masters Tour serves as a global platform for seasoned and veteran tennis players to showcase their skills, engage in competitive play, and foster international camaraderie through sport.

Swetaparna wins Ekalabya Puraskar

Pritismita Bhoi, Aahaan honoured as citation recipients



Swetaparna Panda



Pritismita Bhoi



Aahaan

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 11: In a significant achievement for Odisha's sporting community, badminton player Swetaparna Panda has been selected for the 'Ekalabya Puraskar' for 2025, while weightlifter Pritismita Bhoi and tennis player Aahaan will be honoured with citations for their outstanding performances. This was announced by Baijayant Panda, chairperson of Ekalabya Puraskar Committee and Trustee of IMPaCT (Indian Metal & Public Charitable Trust), after a meeting of the selection committee here on Saturday. The decision was

reached unanimously by the committee, he said. As part of the award, Swetaparna Panda will get a cash prize of Rs 7 lakh, along with a trophy at the Ekalabya Puraskar award ceremony to be held at a later date. In addition, weightlifter Pritismita Bhoi and tennis player Aahaan will be honoured with citations for their outstanding performances on both national and international stages. Each of the citation winners will receive a cash prize of Rs 1.5 lakh, along with citations at the award ceremony, a statement said. "IMPaCT has been in continuous pursuit to recognise and inspire excellence in sports, besides contributing to the gen-

eral welfare of society at large. Ekalabya Puraskar is instituted to encourage young sportspersons of the state to perform at the national and international arenas," Panda, who is also a senior BJP leader and MP, said. Ekalabya Puraskar, instituted by IMPaCT, in 1993 and managed by IMPaCT, the leading Ferro Alloys producer in the country, has come a long way to be recognised as the most prestigious sports award of Odisha, drawing parallels with many national awards. The award is given every year to young sportspersons of Odisha in recognition of their outstanding performance in the preceding two years.

GILL: THE CALM RUN MACHINE

Shubman ton, Jadeja's scalps take India towards another early finish as the hosts reduce WI to 140/4, visitors trail by 378 runs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 11: Shubman Gill the batter led the way with his 10th century and then the captain gave his strike-bowler Ravindra Jadeja enough time to tighten the noose on West Indies as India galloped towards another comprehensive victory in the second Test, here Saturday. Gill (129 not out) cruised to his century in the post-lunch session but without caring for an easy double hundred which looked inevitable against a poor bowling attack. He declared the Indian innings with hosts reaching 518 for five, one hour into post lunch session. What stood out on the day was how 'Gill the batter' and 'Gill the skipper' were in perfect sync. The skipper didn't let the 'batter' take over in pursuit of personal glory even though there was enough time at his disposal to beef up his personal statistics. Despite the pitch not having any significant wear and tear, it was still good enough for Ravindra Jadeja (3/37) to work his magic in tandem with Kuldeep Yadav (1/45), reducing West Indies to 140 for 4 in 43 overs. For Viv Richards and Brian Lara, seated in the stands, watching the application from some of the Caribbean batters certainly wouldn't have been amusing. John Campbell would consider himself extremely unlucky for the way he got dismissed. His full-blooded sweep that should have gone for a boundary, rammed into Sai Sudharsan's knuckle and got stuck as he was trying an evasive action. But Tagenarine Chanderpaul (34) and Alick Athanaze (41) added 66 runs before Jadeja and Kuldeep struck in quick succession. Chanderpaul perished while trying to open the face of the bat as he dabbed one down to third man and was caught in slips by KL Rahul. Athanaze played a forgettable hoick when Kuldeep baited him and

the lob was taken by Jadeja at mid-wicket. Skipper Roston Chase (0) offered a tame return catch to Jadeja and it was a tale of familial collapse. The second day was all about trying to make a sense of Gill who is starting to be impressive with each passing day. The skipper, who faced 196 deliveries, hit 16 boundaries and two sixes, added 91 for the fourth wicket with Nitish Kumar Reddy (43) and 102 for the fifth wicket with Dhruv Jurel (44), who decided to up the ante after lunch. India on the second day batted for 44.2 overs and added 200 runs to the overnight score of 318 for two. Even as Yashasvi Jaiswal (175, 258 balls) was unfortunately run-out at the start of the day, Gill's concentration didn't waver as he controlled the tempo of the game as per his will. **Brief scores:** **India 1st innings:** 518 for 5 in 134.2 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 175, Shubman Gill 129 not out, Jomel Warren 3/98) **West Indies 1st innings:** 140 for 4 in 43 overs (Alick Athanaze 41, Tagenarine Chanderpaul 34; Ravindra Jadeja 3/37).



In his prime

- In Delhi, Gill brought up his 10th Test century - a crisp, controlled innings that extended his tally to 19 international centuries (10 in Tests, 8 in ODIs, and 1 in T20Is)
- Gill also matched Virat Kohli's ultimate captaincy feat as he scored his 5th Test ton as India captain since taking over the reins from Rohit Sharma
- It's also his fifth century of 2025, making him the leading run-scorer across formats this calendar year

CLUTCH CHESS LEGENDS Ghosts of past haunt Vishy

Viswanathan Anand forgets about clock, loses to Garry Kasparov from winning position

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

St Louis (USA), Oct 11: Thirty years to the day, history was repeated as Garry Kasparov defeated Viswanathan Anand in the 10th game of the Clutch Chess Legends contest to win the match with two games to spare.

It was in 1995 October 10 that Anand took a draw in the 18th game to concede the 20-games Classical World Championship match against Kasparov 7.5-10.5 on the 107th floor of the World Trade Centre in New York. As per rules, the last two games under blitz time control were still played and Anand pulled back two victories albeit a little too late in the day. The scoreline eventually read 13-11 with Kasparov winning \$78,000, while Anand took home \$66,000 in the \$1,44,000 contest. Leading the match by five points, Kasparov knew that Anand still had a chance to win



the match as the final day had as many as 12 points at stake with each victory worth three points. Anand started the day with a hard-fought draw and then seized the initiative early in the second game. However, Kasparov kept himself in contention and a wrong trade by Anand cost the Indian ace dearly as he lost in the queen-and-minor-piece endgame. Kasparov had already sealed the match with two blitz games still remaining and it was Anand's turn to bounce back as he came back with all guns blazing to win both games.

Kasparov said he was not expecting to win this match but was pleased with the buzz it created. Speaking about the match and his play, Kasparov, 62, noted, "I think I was more resilient than he (Anand) expected," pointing out that he'd done surprisingly well when both players were low on time. He also felt that Anand might have had some "psychological discomfort". Kasparov explained, "His score against me historically is bad, and I think it's somehow probably the ghosts of the past visited him during the games."

National Junior Athletics: Bronze for Odisha's Alokika

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 11: Odisha's Alokika Swain won a bronze medal in the U-18 girls' Javelin event on the second day of the 40th National Junior Athletics Championships at Kalinga Stadium here Saturday. The 16-year-old Alokika, from Jajatsinghpur, finished third in the competition with a best throw of 47.56 metres. On Day 1, Odisha claimed a pair of silver medals through sprinter Pratik Maharana and triathlete Chhabindra Behera. The 18-year-old Pratik clocked 10.72 seconds to finish second in U-20 men's 100m event. Pratik will hope to turn silver into gold when he runs in the 200m race, as well as in relay event. Chhabindra, an up-and-coming 13-year-old from Keonjhar, finished second in U-14 boys' triathlon B event.



HUGE BLOW

Simran faces medals loss after guide Saifi fails doping test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 11: World Para-Athletics Championship's gold-winning sprinter Simran Sharma is likely to lose her medals after her guide Umar Saifi was handed a provisional suspension by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for failing a dope test. Saifi, who has been the visually impaired Simran's guide for over seven months, has tested positive for Drostanolone, a banned anabolic steroid that helps increase muscle mass, and strength. He won a 200m gold at the Delhi State Open September 7 where this dope test was likely conducted. Saifi's name appears in the updated list of provisionally suspended athletes issued by NADA Friday. He can appeal against the finding and seek a 'B' sample test. It is not clear why his name did not appear on the NADA website before the World Championships which took place from September 27 to October 5. Besides the 100m T12 gold, Simran also won a silver medal in the 200m race of the showpiece that was held in India for the first time. The 100m gold was her second suc-



cessive top finish in the world championship. As per, the International Paralympic Committee rules, Simran could lose her medals if Saifi fails to prove his innocence. "Yes, there is a big chance of Simran and India losing both medals. The guide is also considered an athlete and part of the event. The guide also gets a medal and certificate though only the medal of the athlete is counted," Indian Para Athletics Chairman Satyanarayana said. Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Saturday felicitated medal winners of the recently-concluded World Para-Athletics Championships here and gave away cash awards amounting to over Rs 1.09 crore while lauding their indefatigable spirit.

Namibia stun SA in T20I for historic win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Windhoek (Namibia), Oct 11: Namibia came up with a breathtaking performance to stun South Africa by four wickets in a last-ball T20I thriller, notching a historic maiden win against the ICC full member here Saturday. Playing their first international match on home turf, at the Namibia Cricket Ground, they restricted the Proteas to 134 for eight. The hosts then earned a hard-fought victory on the last ball of their innings, which was followed by a lap of honour. Namibia, an ICC Association member, had never played an international match against South Africa in any format prior to this T20I. The main South African side, led by Aiden Markram, is currently in Pakistan for a two-Test series, which will be followed by six white-ball games. South Africa were reduced to 68/5 despite the presence of stalwarts like Quinton de Kock and Reeza Hendricks in the top order. In reply, Namibia's top order crumbled with the home side being reduced to 66 for 4. However, their veteran wicketkeeper-batter Zane Edward Green, playing his 72nd T20I, came up with an unbeaten 30 off 23 balls, while Ruben Trumpelmann scored 11 off 8 deliveries to take the home side to 138/6 on the last ball of the innings.