



Diane Keaton dies

Diane Keaton, Oscar-winning star of Annie Hall, dies at 79 in California, surrounded by family

LEISURE | P2



US-China trade war

China calls Trump's latest tariffs on Chinese goods hypocritical Sunday and defends its curbs on exports of rare earth elements

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Remote KYC for NRIs

SEBI in talks with UIDAI and the RBI to enable secure, remote KYC access for NRIs to save time and money

BUSINESS | P11



Hong Kong beat India

India's men's team suffer a one-sided defeat against Hong Kong in the quarterfinals of 28th ITTF-ATTU tennis championships

SPORTS | P12



FOR GREENER PASTURE: A nomad moves towards warmer areas of Jammu along with his livestock after spending the summer in the higher reaches of Kashmir Valley in Budgam district, Sunday

SHORT TAKES

Fresh SI exam after CB probe concludes

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Police Recruitment Board (OPRB) said it would restart the process for recruitment of sub-inspector (SI) once the Crime Branch (CB) investigation concludes and conspirators are booked. The written examination of Combined Police Service Exams (CPSE) 2024 for the recruitment of 933 sub-inspectors post was scheduled to be held October 5 and 6, but was postponed by OPRB September 30, after Berhampur Police arrested several people, including the 114 aspirants, from the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border.

Boy drowns in Sidua river, another missing

Bhubaneswar: A boy drowned and another went missing after being swept away by strong currents in Sidua river in Cuttack district Sunday, officials said. “Two boys from Basant Kundal had gone to the river, where both slipped into deep water and were swept away. Locals managed to rescue one of them, while the other remains missing,” Assistant Fire Officer Sanjeev Kumar Behera said. “We received a call at 12:04pm about the drowning of two boys in Sidua river, a tributary of Kathajodi. Guru Prasad Nayak, 11, was rescued in a serious condition by locals and shifted to a hospital,” Behera said, adding that he later declared dead. The other boy, Sai Subham Nayak, 12, is still missing and efforts are underway to trace him, he said. CM Mohan Charan Majhi expressed grief over the death of the boy and directed Cuttack Collector to release Rs 4 lakh ex gratia to his family from the SDRF.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Fill whatever you want – ethanol, diesel, anything. Just don't put 75 litres in my 40-litre petrol tank

Af-Pak conflict: Dozens killed, border closed

Tensions escalated along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border Sunday, as Islamabad urged the Taliban to curb militant activities, alleging that attackers operate from safe havens in Afghanistan—a claim the Taliban swiftly denied. The clashes resulted in several dozens of casualties on both sides, even as Pakistan announced the closure of key crossings along the Durand Line, a disputed colonial-era border. This development coincides with a rare visit to India by Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, culminating in India's announcement to enhance diplomatic ties with the Taliban government

REUTERS

Islamabad, Oct 12: Several dozens of fighters were killed in overnight border clashes between Pakistan and Afghanistan, both sides said Sunday, in the most serious fighting between the neighbours since the Taliban came to power in Kabul.



The Pakistan military said that 23 of its soldiers were killed in the clashes, while the Taliban claimed that nine from its side were killed. Tensions have risen after Islamabad demanded the Taliban take action against militants who have stepped up attacks in Pakistan, saying they operate from havens in Afghanistan. The Taliban, which came to power in 2021, denies that Pakistani militants are present on its soil. Each side said it inflicted far higher casualties on the other side, without providing evidence. Pakistan said it had killed more than 200 Afghan Taliban and allied fighters, while Af-

ghanistan said that it had killed 58 Pakistani soldiers. The claims could not be verified by Reuters. Pakistan carried out airstrikes in Kabul and on a marketplace in eastern Afghanistan Thursday, according to Pakistani security officials and the Taliban, setting off retaliatory attacks by the Taliban. Pakistan has not officially acknowledged the airstrikes. Afghan troops opened fire on Pakistani border posts late Saturday. Pakistan said that it had responded with gun and artillery fire. Both nations claimed to have destroyed border posts of the other side. Pakistani security officials shared video footage, which they said showed Afghan posts being hit. Kabul said that it had halted attacks at the request of Qatar and Saudi Arabia. The development coincided with a rare visit to India by Afghanistan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi which resulted in an announcement by India Friday to upgrade relations.

Chidambaram: Ops Blue Star a mistake

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Oct 12: Congress leader P Chidambaram said Operation Blue Star was not the right way to capture militants holed up in the Golden Temple in 1984, due to which the then prime minister, Indira Gandhi, “paid with her life”. “There was a way to retrieve and capture all militants but Operation Blue Star was the wrong way and I agree that Mrs Gandhi paid with her life for the mistake but the mistake was cumulative decision of the Army, intelligence, police and civil defence and you cannot completely blame (just) Mrs Gandhi,” the former home minister said during a book launch in Himachal Pradesh’s Kasauli Saturday. Chidambaram made the remarks during a conversation with journalist and author Harinder Baweja on her memoir ‘They Will Shoot You Madam: My Life Through Conflict’ at the Khushwant Singh Literary Festival. Operation Blue Star was a military operation held be-



tween June 1-10, 1984, to remove Damdami Taksal leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his militants from the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest site among Sikhs. Later that year, Indira Gandhi, the PM at the time, was assassinated. Chidambaram said, “No disrespect to any service or military officer, but Operation Blue Star was not the right way to retrieve the Golden Temple and about 3-4 years later we showed the right way by keeping the Army out in Operation Black Thunder.” Operation Black Thunder was carried out in 1986 and 1988 to flush out militants hiding in the Golden Temple.

Bihar polls: BJP, JD(U) get 101 seats each

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 12: BJP and JD(U) will each contest on 101 seats in the Bihar Assembly elections, while Union Minister Chirag Paswan-led Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) will field its candidates on 29 seats, Union minister and BJP’s Bihar polls in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan announced Sunday. In a post on X, as the meeting of BJP’s Central Election Committee, which includes Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior leaders, started, Pradhan said Union minister Jitan Ram Manjhi-led Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) and Upendra Kushwaha-led Rashtriya Lok Morcha will field their candidates on six seats each. He claimed all National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners have completed the seat-distribution exercise in a cordial manner. He said, “Leaders and workers of all NDA parties welcome this with happiness. Bihar is ready for another NDA government.” The announcement followed days of negotiations involving senior BJP leadership and their allies except the JD(U), which had reached an understanding with the principal NDA party earlier.

90 TELIA FISH FETCH ₹1 CRORE IN AUCTION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhograi, Oct 12: As many as 90 rare Telia fish, caught by a trawler from the deep sea off Digha coast bordering Odisha and West Bengal, were auctioned Sunday at the international fish market for ₹1 crore. Each fish, weighing between 30 and 35 kg, drew intense bidding. According to sources, the lot was finally sold to a Kolkata-based company for ₹1 crore. Traders said the fish are in high demand abroad because oil extracted from the fish is used in producing life saving medicines. The price varies



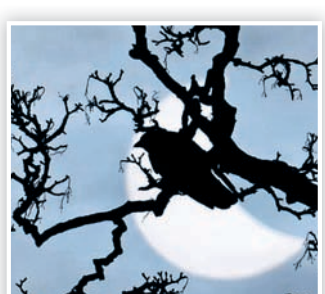
depending on their size and whether the fish are male or female. Large crowds gathered at the market to watch the unloading and auction. The trawler owner and the crew expressed happiness over the sale. In a similar case June 19, 29 Telia fish had been sold at the same market for ₹33 lakh.

Solar eclipse sparks dawn-like behaviour in birds

AGENCIES

Washington, Oct 12: Chirping of birds early in the morning is nothing but natural – owing to several reasons like attracting a mate, defending a territory and a way of communication for the winged species. However, a study has revealed how several birds in North America produced their “dawn chorus”, as if greeting a new day during a total solar eclipse during day-time April 8, 2024. While throngs of people gazed skyward to see the celestial show, scientists were studying the effects of the eclipse on birds, whose daily and seasonal rhythms are strongly guided by sunlight. They documented changes in vocal behaviour in

most - not all - species studied, with birds that naturally make a burst of songs and calls around daybreak the most affected. When the sunlight began to return after totality, some species produced their customary “dawn chorus”, as if greeting a new day. Some species fell silent, while others did not change their behaviour compared to a normal day. “Light is one of the most powerful forces shaping bird behaviour, and even a four-minute ‘night’ was enough for many species to act as if it were morning again. That tells us just how sensitive some birds are to changes in light,” said Liz Aguilar, a doctoral student in evolution, ecology and behaviour at Indiana University



and lead author of the study published this week in the journal Science, opens new tab. “Based on previous research, most of which was collected in the lab, we know that changes in light are the most important cues used by living organisms to time their daily rhythms. As day transitions to night and vice versa, hormone lev-

els and gene expression in the body change, and that causes differences in behaviour,” said study co-author Dustin Reichard, a biology professor at Ohio Wesleyan University. While there had been anecdotal evidence concerning the behaviour of birds during an eclipse and some research involving certain species, this study offered the most comprehensive look yet at the subject, with the findings coming from two datasets. Fourteen recording units placed around Bloomington, Indiana, captured more than 1,00,000 bird vocalisations that were analysed using machine-learning tools to discern the individual species making the songs and calls.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

 **GaneshaSpeaks.com**
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
Today, you will appreciate beautiful things and exotic artefacts. You may even seriously think of pursuing a business related to such commodities. However, you may not be able to make up your mind, says Ganesha. However, you will decide to keep an open mind about it.

TAURUS
You may find it hard to stop the impending outflow of cash while shopping today, says Ganesha. You aren't the one to be dominated and God help anyone who tries to dictate terms to you today. You may end up spending a small fortune, more than lavish to be precise, on the opposite sex today.

GEMINI
Today, you are likely to get encouragement and support for your endeavours from all quarters. You have a gift of gab and your ability to dispel tension with even the simplest of your remarks will be put to test. Still, you will rise to the occasion and prove your mettle.

CANCER
Today is a good day for you. However, don't expect a windfall. It is just one of those days when you will be in a good mood, irrespective of your problems, if any. You will treat your subordinates well, and they will show their appreciation. But if you think the atmosphere at your workplace is good, wait till you reach home.

LEO
Everyone wants to be different. But little do they realise that they already are unique, says Ganesha. Today, you may meet a lot of such different people at work, some of whom may even test your patience. Always remember that working in a team means balancing a variety of egos and opinions.

VIRGO
Take time off all by yourself and introspect today, says Ganesha. Office cubicle looks set to be a war front and pay due attention there, lest things turn to be more difficult, advises Ganesha. New love may just blossom today, and you may even enjoy a nice quiet evening with friends.

LIBRA
Gear up to play the peace maker today! Your ability to handle a 'Brady Bunch' hasn't gone unnoticed. So expect to be put in charge of handling disputes among your subordinates at work today, hints Ganesha. Research work may slow to a crawl today, but the offshoot is that it's an auspicious day to enter into new contracts.

SCORPIO
You shall be completely immersed in your routine today. It's the same old humbug of a day for you, says Ganesha. But this exhausting day may transform into an exciting evening – so be prepared to get surprised.

SAGITTARIUS
Your ship may be rocked by stormy controversies today. Ganesha advises you to steer clear of people looking to give you a piece of their mind. The storm looks to ease away if you lend a patient ear to all such elements, and try and accommodate their views.

CAPRICORN
It's a lucky day for your sweetheart! Wonder why it's written in your horoscope? You will pamper him/her to the hilt, take them out on a shopping spree and buy whatever they lay their eyes on, even if it's way beyond reasonable, says Ganesha. You will go overboard to make your love feel that nothing else matters, and although this lavish outing will serve the purpose, you may later repent not keeping a count of your cash.

AQUARIUS
You find solace in travel today. But if you plan to include others, beware, as you may end up doing all their dirty work too. But, you will find fulfillment even in that, which, says Ganesha, is your strong point. You know how to turn a weakness into strength.

PISCES
Today just might be the day when you invent a better mousetrap. However, your ideas have a propensity to wane and wax at the same speed, says Ganesha. Hence, keep a notebook handy to jot down all your earth-shattering revolutionary ideas.



STILLER BLAMES SOCIAL MEDIA FOR DECLINE OF COMEDY FILMS

Ben Stiller has pinned the blame on social media for the decline of comedy movies. The 59-year-old actor has starred in comedy movies such as *There's Something About Mary* and *Zoolander*. He believes the “im-mediate response” provided to the world on social media has shifted the climate.

WITHERSPOON WANTS TO MENTOR NEXT GENERATION

Reese Witherspoon believes in giving back to her community of actors. The actress has expressed her wish to mentor the next generation of female stars in Hollywood. Witherspoon was grateful for those who helped her out during the early years of her movie career and is determined to 'pass the microphone' to those trying to find their way in the industry.



1946-2025
DIANE KEATON

The timeless star of Hollywood

Diane Keaton, the Oscar-winning actress celebrated for her wit, originality, and enduring presence in American cinema, has died at the age of 79. A family spokesperson confirmed to *People Magazine* that Keaton passed away in California, surrounded by loved ones.

Born Diane Hall in Los Angeles in January 1946, she adopted her mother's maiden name when she began her career in New York theater. Her early Broadway success in *Play It Again, Sam* led to a breakout in film with *Lovers and Other Strangers* (1970), and international recognition followed with her role as Kay Adams-Corleone in *The Godfather* trilogy.

Her role in *Annie Hall* (1977), written and directed by Woody Allen, became iconic. She won the Academy Award, BAFTA, and Golden Globe for Best Actress and redefined the romantic comedy heroine with her quirky charm and unique fashion.

Over her five-decade career, Keaton starred in acclaimed films such as *Reds*, *Baby Boom*, *Father of the Bride*, *The First Wives Club*, and *Something's Gotta Give*—the latter earning her a fourth Oscar nomination. Her collaboration with director Nancy Meyers helped usher in a new era of sophisticated roles for women over 50.

She also directed films and documentaries, authored bestselling memoirs, and remained a fashion icon known for her signature menswear-inspired style.

Though Keaton never married, her romantic life often drew public attention. She had high-profile relationships with Woody Allen, Warren Beatty, and Al Pacino—her co-star in *The Godfather*. Reflecting later in life, Keaton expressed no regrets over

TOP FILMS

- The Godfather (1972)
- Annie Hall (1977)
- Manhattan (1979)
- Father of the Bride (1991)
- The First Wives Club (1996)

survive her. “I just don't think anyone could possibly have the same wonderful, intense, compelling feelings that I have for this family of mine,” she wrote in her 2011 memoir *Then Again*.

Keaton was honoured with the AFI Life Achievement Award in 2017 and a handprint ceremony at the TCL Chinese Theatre in 2022. “I'm just lucky to have been here at all,” she said at the time.

AGENCIES



Akshay's tips to newcomers

Mumbai: Akshay Kumar has a great suggestion for all the newcomers in Bollywood - never sign a three-movie deal with any producer.

Addressing the 70th Filmfare Awards, host Shah Rukh Khan asked Akshay to give some pearls of wisdom to all the newcomers who look up to him.

To this, Akshay was heard saying, “I want to say just one thing to all the newcomers and the upcoming newcomers that never sign a 3-film deal with any producer.”

The *Hera Pheri* actor asked all to watch Aryan Khan's directorial *The Ba****s of Bollywood* for a better understanding of why he is saying so.

“You must have seen *The Ba****s of Bollywood* and what our hero had to go

through. The film makes it clear what a debutant should and should not do,” Akshay added.

Calling out co-host Karan Johar, Akshay added, “Do not sign a 3-movie deal. Give your debutant freedom, allow them to run away. As it is said that 'let them free, if they belong to you, they will come back'”. This left both King Khan and KJo laughing.

IAN S



Samantha on self-reflection moments

Mumbai: Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu opened up about a profound personal realisation, sharing that she wants all her thoughts, words, and actions to reflect her highest self.

Speaking about the clarity she found during moments of silence, the *Kushi* actress expressed her hope to truly live by this principle, not just talk about it. Taking to her Instagram handle, Samantha posted a series of images and captioned them, “All that I think, say, do, and aim for should honor my highest self. That's what came to me during my silence. Now, I just hope I can live it, not just say it.”

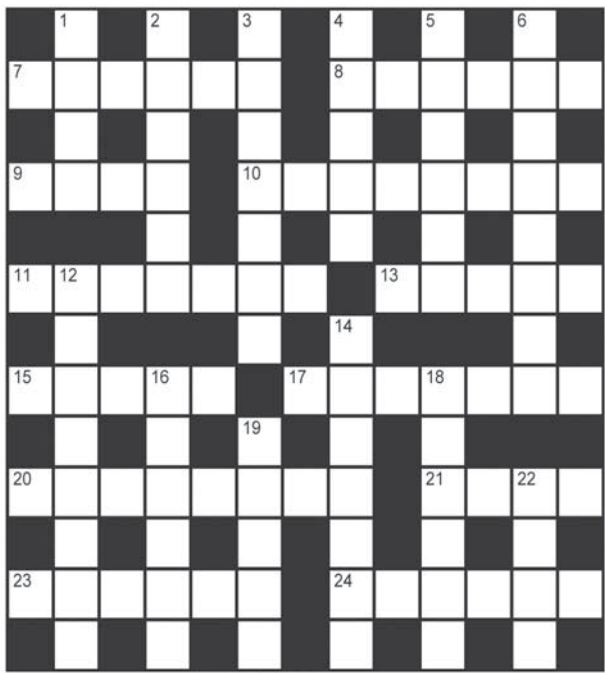
The photo carousel captures Samantha engaging in various activities—performing a pooja, working out in the gym, and playing with her dogs. One of the photos shows her dressed in a vibrant orange suit as she performs a pooja.

Last week, Samantha revealed a quote that had changed her perspective on life. The Yashoda actress held a fun Q&A session on Instagram, during which a fan asked her, “What's a quote or line that changed your perspective?” In her reply, the actress said, “You will find your purpose in the things that bother you, so everything that I am a part of, if you draw a map, will be connected to the things that bother me, and that has simplified my life in many ways and maybe this will help you too, give it a try- you'll find your purpose in the things that bother you.”

IAN S

FUN post

CROSSWORD



Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com

- Across**
- 7 Can cause problems on a computer
 - 8 Pugilism
 - 9 Radiate
 - 10 Chewed the fat
 - 11 Rabbit holes
 - 13 Runs into
 - 15 Musical composition
 - 17 Gauge
 - 20 They occur in the ocean
 - 21 Mascara site
 - 23 Gardener's tool
 - 24 Reveal
 - Down**
 - 1 Sob
 - 2 Spit
 - 3 Pirate
 - 4 Corpulent plus
 - 5 Kick the bucket
 - 6 Aardvark
 - 12 German freeway
 - 14 He gets rid of knots
 - 16 Kind of case
 - 18 Smitten (2,4)
 - 19 Confuse
 - 22 Cookbook direction

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

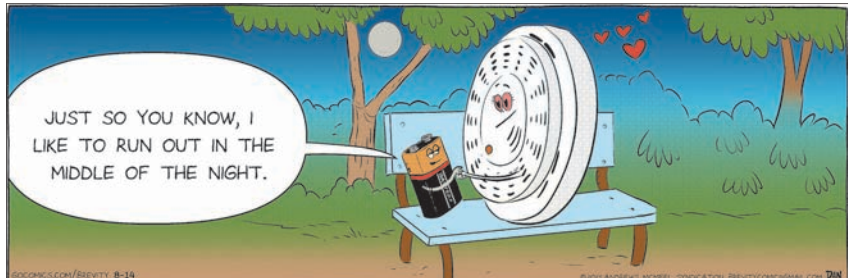
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



OPRB to start SI recruitment after CB investigation ends

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 12: The Odisha Police Recruitment Board (OPRB) said that it would restart the process for recruitment of sub-inspector (SI) once the crime branch (CB) investigation concludes and conspirators are booked.

The written examination of combined police service exams (CPSE) 2024 for the recruitment of 933 sub-inspectors post was scheduled to be held October 5 and 6, but was postponed by OPRB September 30, after Berhampur Police arrested several people, including the 114 aspirants, from the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border.

“OPRB reassures all candidates that once the crime branch investigation concludes, the recruitment process will be resumed and completed at the earliest,” an official statement issued by OPRB said.

The OPRB, headed by senior IPS officer S K Nath, feels that there is a “deliberate conspiracy” hatched to foil the recruitment process of the Odisha government, which is evident from the arrest of around 119 people, including 114 aspiring candidates for the SI post.

The police arrested the candidates while they were being taken in three buses to an undisclosed destination in Andhra Pradesh, where they were supposed to be provided with question papers before the written examinations were held in the first week of October, a senior official said Sunday, adding that there was a conspiracy behind the recruitment process.



“The objective of these conspirators seems to be to stall or delay the ongoing recruitment processes conducted by various agencies,” the official said.

In the recruitment process for SI posts, at least three agencies were involved apart from OPRB. After issuing notification for the recruitment for 933 SI posts in January this year, the OPRB assigned the work of examination conduct to ITI Limited, a central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), through a formal tender process.

ITI Limited was, however, allowed to subcontract the work to Silicon Limited, a Bhubaneswar-based private company, for assistance in conducting the examination. Silicon Limited engaged a Berhampur-based firm named Panchsoft Limited.

“The OPRB was not informed when and how ITI Limit also added Pancoft in the process,” the official said.

Recently, OPRB has issued a show cause notice to ITI Limited for allegedly failing to fulfil its contractual obligations.

As per the original tender and contract between Odisha

Police and ITI Ltd, all major activities — including question paper framing, printing, and related operations — were entrusted to ITI Limited.

“If ITI outsourced any portion of this work to third parties such as Silicon Ltd, the responsibility of oversight and supervision remained entirely with ITI. Similarly, if Silicon further engaged another party such as Panchsoft Ltd, ITI was duty-bound to report and supervise that engagement,” the official said.

After the arrest of 119 people in the alleged recruitment sabotage case, the crime branch of Odisha Police has been scrutinising the engagement of the manpower supplier, with the firm’s (Panchsoft) director, Shankar Prusty, being a prime suspect, sources said.

Asked why the OPRB itself did not conduct the examination, the official said, “OPRB is a small organisation comprising only three members, three officials, and a few constables, tasked with managing the recruitment process from advertisement to final result publication. Therefore, it engaged ITI Limited, a central PSU having its expertise in the work.”

The OPRB said, “It is very crucial to identify the real conspirators behind this episode — those who not only sabotaged the examination process but are also attempting to muddy the waters and derail all ongoing recruitment efforts in Odisha. Their actions are a direct betrayal of the aspirations of the state’s educated youth and must be exposed and punished.”

Empowering visually impaired through tech

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 12: In a welcoming step, aimed to empower the visually impaired through technology, Rama Devi Women’s University (RDWU), Child and Women Development Society (CWDS) and Jindal Foundation, in association with Voice of Specially Abled People (VOSAP), jointly organised “VOSAP Vision Drive 2025” at university auditorium here Sunday, distributing smart assistive glasses to 280 beneficiaries from different regions of Odisha.

Balasore MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi graced the occasion as chief guest and lauded the ini-



tiative for promoting empowerment through empathy and innovation. Joining virtually, VOSAP founding trustee Pranab Desai shared his insights on global accessibility, engagement, and digital inclusion for persons with disabilities.

Distinguished guests including RDWU VC (I/C) Chandu Charan Rath, registrar Manaswini Sahu, State Commissioner for Persons with Disability (SCPD) Bratati Harichandan, SSEPD Special Secretary Sanyasi Kumar Behera,

Odisha native stabbed to death in Thrissur

Thrissur (Kerala): A 19-year-old migrant worker was stabbed to death following a clash between co-workers in Kunnamkulam here, police said Sunday. The deceased was identified as Ghanshyam Naik, a native of Brajrainagar in Jharsuguda district. Police have arrested Dharambir Singh, also from Jharsuguda, in connection with the incident. According to police, both Naik and Singh were employed at a tiles and sanitaryware shop in Kunnamkulam. The incident occurred around 10.30pm Saturday when a group of workers were playing cards in their room behind the shop. A quarrel broke out between the two during the game, and in a fit of rage, Singh allegedly stabbed Naik in the chest and abdomen, FIR said. Though Naik was rushed to a nearby hospital, he succumbed to his injuries. Kunnamkulam police have registered a case of murder and begun an investigation. The accused will be produced before the court, police said, adding that the body will be handed over to the relatives after post-mortem.

ODISHA TO HOST INT’L FILM PRESERVATION WORKSHOP



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 12: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, along with the Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo and Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan officially announced the 10th Film Preservation and Restoration Workshop India 2025 in Bhubaneswar starting from November 12. The international training programme will be conducted by Film Heritage Foundation (FHF), in association with International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) and in partnership with state’s Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts department.

The workshop will take place at the Kalabhoomi— Odisha Crafts Museum, a landmark venue celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the state.

CM Majhi has also graciously accepted the invitation extended by FHF director Shivendra Singh Dungarpur to attend the opening ceremony as chief guest.

Dadasaheb Phalke Award recipient and renowned actress Waheeda Rehman will grace the occasion as guest of honour.

The marks a significant cultural milestone for the state and highlights its commitment to the preservation of film heritage and cinematic history.

Sustainability key to mitigate climate change: Padhy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 12: Climate change and its long-term harmful effects have become one of the most alarming challenges for the entire world today. If timely awareness and action are not taken to find sustainable solutions, humanity will have to face its severe consequences in the near future, said Odisha Legislative Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy while attending the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference in Barbados recently.

Padhy delivered her address at Bridgetown on the themes ‘Climate Change and Its Adverse Impact on Global Health – Pathways for Sustainable Solutions’ and ‘Safeguarding and Preserving the Separation of Powers between National



Parliaments and Provincial, Regional, and Developed Legislatures’.

“Unseasonal cyclones, floods, and heat waves are now common phenomena, disturbing the ecological balance and endangering human lives,” she emphasised, adding that pre-

ventive and proactive measures must be adopted to mitigate such natural disasters.

Citing Odisha’s experience, she recalled the 1999 super cyclone, which claimed over 10,000 lives and left a lasting impact on the state. “With better preparedness during Cyclone

Phailin (2013) and Cyclone Fani (2019), the state government successfully minimised loss of life and property through timely precautionary steps,” she noted, and appreciated the pivotal role of Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) in disaster risk reduction.

Speaking on the subject of preserving and safeguarding the separation of powers between national and regional legislatures, she noted that India’s democracy has always emphasised the decentralisation of power. “This principle has enabled 1.4 billion people across 28 states and 8 Union Territories to coexist harmoniously within a single federal framework. The Constitution of India itself is founded on the principle of power-sharing between the Union and the States,” she noted.

NCERT JD visits City RIE, interacts with teachers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 12: National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) Joint Director (JD) Prakash Chandra Agarwal visited the Regional Institute of Education (RIE) here as part of his official engagement.

On the occasion, an academic interaction session was held with faculty members of the institute and teachers of PM Shri Demonstration Multipurpose School (DM School). During the interaction, Agarwal emphasised the pivotal role that PM Shri DM Schools must play as an exemplar and mentor school in the region to advance academic excellence.

At the outset, RIE Bhubaneswar principal Manasi Goswami extended a warm welcome and felicitated Agarwal. She appreciated Agarwal’s dynamic leadership and consistent support in strengthening the academic ecosystem of the institute.



Delivering his keynote address, Agarwal inspired the faculty by highlighting their crucial responsibility in the successful implementation of key national initiatives, including the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCFFS) 2022, and the National Curricu-

ulum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2023. He reiterated the need for collaborative contributions in teaching, research, extension, and policy development, aligning with the broader vision of ‘Viksit Bharat@2047’.

Agarwal urged faculty members to actively engage with the new NCERT textbooks and ex-

tend academic handholding to PM Shri DM School, in order to ensure that desired learning outcomes are achieved. He emphasised the importance of integrating new content, innovative pedagogy, and assessment reforms for effective curriculum delivery.

Underscoring the significance of academic accountabil-

ity and research productivity, he advised timely completion of all Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) activities. He also encouraged faculty members to focus on the publication and dissemination of research reports to maximise academic outreach and impact.

The meeting was attended by heads of departments including Ritanjali Dash (DEE), Laxmidhar Behera (DE), Kalinga Ketaki (DESSH), and Ved Prakash Verma (DESM), along with faculty members of their respective departments. PM Shri DM School headmaster Akhileswar Mishra was also present during the interaction.

On the concluding day of his visit October 13, Agarwal will inaugurate two key programmes— Capacity Building Programme for Principals and Headmasters of PM Shri Schools in Odisha, and Capacity Development Programme for Teacher Educators of the Eastern Region focusing on the implementation of NEP-2020.



available under the POSH Act, informed centre coordinator Sadasiv Swain. Resource persons Shiba Sahoo, Gitanjali Panda, Saraswati Parida, and Snigdha Das elaborated on various legal aspects and the role of workers in ensuring a safe and dignified work environment.

More than 200 workers participated in the programme. Notably, Bhubaneswar has over 32 labour hubs, and both AAA and CCWD have undertaken several initiatives to raise awareness among workers and strengthen the safety net for women in the unorganised sector.

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	33.1°	31.4°	Light to moderate rain or Thunderstorm very likely to occur
Min Temp	24.2°	22.5°	
Humidity	76%	85%	
Rainfall	NII	NII	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-DayalAgency-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.

8-yr-old injured in blast while burning garbage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Oct 12: In a tragic incident, an eight-year-old boy was critically injured Sunday morning after an explosion occurred while he was burning a heap of garbage in Guptapalli village under Nayagarh block.

The injured child, identified as Soumya Ranjan Pradhan, was first rushed to the Nayagarh District Headquarters Hospital in critical condition. As his condition did not improve, he was later shifted to Cuttack for advanced treatment. According to reports, the incident occurred while Soumya was playing near his house Sunday morning.



No one else was around.

A pile of garbage was lying near their house. Soumya reportedly took a matchbox from home and set fire to it. Moments later, a powerful explosion took place, severely burning his face and hands.

Hearing the loud explosion, villagers rushed to the spot and found the boy lying on the ground with burn injuries. The incident has raised questions about what caused the explosion. Locals suspect that the garbage heap may have contained fire-crackers or some explosive substance. Authorities are investigating the source and cause of the blast.

Over 1 quintal cannabis found hidden in truck

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Oct 12: In a major crackdown on interstate ganja smuggling, Boipariguda police seized 158 kilograms of cannabis being illegally transported in a vegetable-laden mini-truck at Kurulgad Square under Boipariguda block late Saturday night.

Acting on a reliable tip-off, OIC Dambarudhar Batria of Boipariguda police station directed SI Dharendra Barik to form a special team, which intercepted the suspicious vehicle and conducted a detailed search. During inspection, the team discovered several sacks of cannabis skillfully concealed beneath layers of vegetables to evade detection.

Police arrested three accused Raju Mandal of Raighar in Nabarangpur district, and Krishna Singh and Hritik Chauhan from Uttar Pradesh who were reportedly transporting the contraband from Balimela in Malkangiri district to Uttar Pradesh via Kudumulgumma and Boipariguda.



OIC Batria Sunday morning said, “Koraput police have intensified operations to dismantle the interstate narcotics trafficking networks that use the Koraput–Malkangiri route as a transit corridor. This seizure is a result of our continuous surveillance and intelligence-based action.”

The seized ganja and vehicle have been taken into custody, and the accused have been produced before court after registration of a case under the NDPS Act at Boipariguda police station.

Police sources confirmed that similar drives will continue to curb the flow of narcotics through southern Odisha’s vulnerable transport routes.

Students cross bamboo bridge, trudge through mud to school

POST NEWS NETWORK



Simulia, Oct 12: A government primary school, located in the middle of a farmland in Dhili village under Bauripada panchayat of Simulia block in Balasore district, lacks road access, forcing students and teachers to wade through a nullah or cross a narrow rickety bamboo bridge daily.

The school, situated just 5 kms from the Simulia block office, remains unreachable by road despite repeated pleas from residents. The continued neglect has sparked growing frustration in the area, home mostly to scheduled caste families. Established in 2019, the school was built on 11 decimals of land donated by the children of Naba Kishore Mallik and is named in his honour. However, the school lies in the middle of a paddy wetland, surrounded by

mud and water.

Currently, the school serves 19 students from Sishu Vatika (kindergarten) to Class V — 12 girls and seven boys — under the care of headmistress Nirmala Debanath and assistant teacher Guruprasad Singh.

“There is no road to the school. We fold our pants and walk through knee-deep slush,” said Singh. “We have no choice.”

Students also rely on a fragile bamboo bridge to cross the nullah, which becomes even more

dangerous during the monsoon season. Two Class IV students, Kahnu Charan Malik and Sai Sritam Malik, said they fear falling off the slippery structure.

“It is disheartening that the government talks about prioritising welfare measures for the

scheduled caste community, yet children here don’t even have a road to their school,” said local resident Dayanidhi Mallik.

Women in the village, including Kaushalya Malik, said conditions become unbearable during rains. After crossing the risky bridge, children must still walk through submerged paddy fields to reach the school raising fears of snakebites.

The headmistress added that trenches surround the area making access even more difficult. “We deposited money for electricity two years ago, but the school is still not connected to the power grid,” Debanath said.

Local sarpanch Dharanidhar Nayak said construction of an access road has been planned after the monsoon ends and the paddy is harvested. However, villagers remain uncertain about when the work will actually begin.

Two of a family assaulted over witchcraft allegation

14-member family flees village to escape attack



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nandapur/Padua, Oct 12: A family of Mariput village in Panthlung panchayat under Nandapur block of Koraput district was allegedly attacked after being accused of witchcraft. The assailants reportedly killed the family’s pet dog and birds and assaulted two family members with spears and axes.

Fearing for their lives, the family of 14 fled the village with the remaining livestock and has taken shelter at a relative’s house in another village, family head Lachhman

Khil said, adding that he filed a complaint at the Padua police station October 7.

With no action taken so far, he has appealed to the district superintendent of police for protection of eight children and three women members in the family. According to reports, Lachhman Khii, 60, his wife Tulasama Khil, 55, their sons Balaraju Khil, 34, Samibabu Khil, 25, their daughters-in-law Lachhmi, 30, and Bangarama, 22, and eight children lived together in Mariput. Fifteen days ago, Lachhman’s mentally ill brother, Raghuram, died.

Following his death, villagers

Ramababu Khil, Rajesh Khil, Sami Khil, Gatiram Khil and Husen Khii allegedly blamed the family, claiming they used sorcery and witchcraft to kill him. The allegation pushed them into distress when they allegedly stormed into his house, hurled abuses, smashed the tiled roof and threw furniture outside.

The assailants also killed the family’s pet dog and birds, Lachhman said. They reportedly chased his two sons from Mariput towards Sobhaput and tried to kill them, but both managed to escape. Since then, all members of the family have taken shelter at a relative’s house in another village for the last five days.

Meanwhile, police allegedly summoned the family members of the accused youths for questioning but let them go later. Lachhman said the accused villagers were roaming scot free armed and intoxicated, forcing them to live in fear and leave their village. They have urged the SP to intervene, ensure safety and take exemplary action against the attackers.

Padua police station IIC Ashok Bisoi said the matter is under investigation.

Body discovered with throat slit; probe on



POST NEWS NETWORK

Attabira/Godbhaga, Oct 12: Panic gripped the Attabira area of Bargarh district after a body with throat slit was found near Satjore, along National Highway 53 connecting Sambalpur and Bargarh.

The deceased has been identified as Mahadev Sahu, 55, a resident of Gaurang Tikra in Barahgoda village under the Bargarh Rural police limits and a tailor by profession.

According to police sources, the body was discovered lying on the roadside early Sunday morning. Miscreants apparently slit his throat and dumped the body near Satjore under the jurisdiction of Attabira police station and Godbhaga outpost.

Attabira and Godbhaga police rushed to the spot soon after receiving information and began an investigation. A scientific team from Sambalpur

and a sniffer dog unit were also deployed to assist in the probe.

Sahu’s brother-in-law, Pramod Gadtia of Saranda village under Attabira police limits, identified the body and lodged a written complaint at Attabira police station.

Family members told police that Sahu had left home towards Sambalpur on a motorcycle with an unknown person Saturday morning around 9am. When he failed to return home by night, family members began searching for him. The next morning, police informed them about the discovery of his body.

Sahu’s relatives have urged the police to arrest the culprits at the earliest and ensure strict punishment.

Police have registered a case of murder, seized the body, and sent it to Bargarh District Headquarters Hospital for post-mortem examination, said Attabira IIC Prakash Karna.

Man found murdered on river islet

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chikiti, Oct 12: A 59-year-old man was found murdered Sunday on an islet of Bahuda river near Nuapada village under K Nuagaon police limits in Ganjam district.

The victim was identified as Narayan Pradhan of Chariapada Sahi in Nuapada village. Police from Nuapada outpost recovered the body and launched an investigation.

Pradhan was working as a

daily wage labourer for the past few days to earn a living. He had been living separately from his family due to a dispute. He earned a small income by cultivating a garden on a river islet and went there every morning to pluck flowers. On Sunday morning, locals spotted his blood-soaked body lying near the water of the riverbank while his clothes were found on the river islet. They informed police, who reached the spot and informed the family about his death after

confirming his identity.

Pradhan’s son, Siba Pradhan, has filed a written complaint at the K Nuagaon police station, alleging his father was murdered in a planned attack. Police have registered a case and launched a probe with the help of a forensic team and a sniffer dog squad. Preliminary inquiry suggested that Pradhan had allegedly molested a minor girl from the same locality some days ago while her parents were away. The girl’s family and relatives

had reportedly assaulted and threatened him afterwards.

This is the first murder reported in the village in recent memory, triggering panic among residents.

The body has been sent to MK-CG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur for post-mortem. K Nuagaon IIC Kishore Kumar Samal said several members of a local family have been detained for questioning. He said the investigation is underway and the accused will be arrested soon.

Musical tribute to Lata Mangeshkar’s legacy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 12: A melodious evening filled with nostalgia and reverence for the legendary Lata Mangeshkar unfolded at the Civic Centre here Saturday, as the Lata Mangeshkar Fans’ Club, Rourkela, hosted its annual tribute concert, ‘Meri Awaaz Hi Pehchaan Hai’, on the occasion of her birth anniversary.

The event marked the eighth edition of the musical tribute organised by the club, a dedicated group of admirers from the Steel City committed to preserving the memory of “Lata Didi.”

Biswaranjan Palai, executive director (Works) of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP), was the chief guest. Guests of honour included Pratigna Palai, vice president of Deepi-



ka Mahila Sanghati; Jayant Kumar Acharya, CMO in-charge (M&HS); SS RoyChowdhury, CGM, RSP; entrepreneur and social worker Kamal Agrawal; and social worker Anita Agrawal. Several senior RSP officers also attended.

The event was hosted by Shyam Patodia, with the inaugural session coordinated by Sasanka Pattnaik, deputy manager (PR), RSP. The packed venue stood as a testament to Mangeshkar’s enduring impact on generations of music lovers.

INVENTOR OF ‘AKASHVANI CHEMENA’ BACK IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Keonjhar man develops human body sensor to check intrusion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, Oct 12: Nirmal Chandra Mohant, 72, of Chemena village under Keonjhar district’s Patana block, who once made headlines in the 1970s for running a self-built radio station called ‘Akashvani Chemena’, is back in the limelight; this time for inventing a human body sensor capable of detecting intruders.

Mohant has developed the sensor using components from a transmitter, which he has installed in homes and fields to prevent unauthorised entry. The system is even capable of switching on lift irrigation points and motor pumps remotely from inside the house.

Mohant had set up ‘Akashvani Chemena’ in the 1970s by connecting a homemade transmitter to other radio receivers. Despite limited financial support, he continued his experiments quietly.



His work recently resurfaced after Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi praised his radio innovation during a public meeting in Keonjhar.

Born in 1952, Mohant studied in Chowdwar Technical School up to Class IX in 1968 and later completed his matriculation from Turumunga DB High School. During school years, he built a transmitter using electronic tubes, coils, resistors, capacitors

and voice microphone parts.

In 1976, while studying Intermediate Science at Keonjhar Science College, he showcased the transmitter at a science exhibition. He and his friends used the transmitter to call the principal to the exhibition and their voice was broadcasted on the radio. The device could broadcast audio directly to radio sets, and he and his friends used it to relay old songs and

comedy programmes across Keonjhar town, branding it ‘Akashvani Chemena’ and ‘Akashvani Keonjhar’.

The transmitter operated on medium wave and could break into any radio frequency in Odisha. Police once attempted to trace Mohant but, failing to find him, warned his friends instead. The group stopped broadcasting, and Mohant remained in hiding for a week. As the broadcast had taken place during an exhibition, no legal action was taken.

In 1985, with ₹150 given by his father, he opened a repair shop for clocks, radios, VCRs and video cameras and continued inventing.

In 2013, he built a battery-powered tricycle on his own and gifted it to a differently abled person in Keonjhar town, earning widespread appreciation.

He now operates an LI point pump installed on his farmland

near a riverbank using a pass-word-enabled mobile phone. While cultivating a garden on his three-acre plot, he developed an electronic human body sensor and transmitter system to protect it.

If an intruder enters the garden at night, the device detects human movement by sensing friction changes and sends a signal to the transmitter. The receiver then emits a loud sound, alerting him that someone has entered the premises.

Nirmal said he could develop more advanced devices with proper encouragement and support. He added that with policy intervention, old mopeds and scooters could be gradually converted to battery-operated vehicles. Expressing his gratitude to the Chief Minister for acknowledging his efforts, he said if the government wishes, he is ready to train young people for the purpose.

Government of Odisha

No.O-912

Office of the Superintending Engineer,
Rural Works Division-II, Dhenkanal
Kamakhyanagar

E-Mail : rw.kamakhyanagar@yahoo.co.in

e-procurement Notice No. 12 / Building Work / 2025-26

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Name of the work | : Building Works |
| 2 Total No. of Works | : 06 (Six) Nos. |
| 3 Tender Cost | : Rs.38.08 Lakhs |
| 4 Class of Contractor | : “C” & “B” Class |
| 5 Period of Completion | : 6 Calendar months |
| 6 Availability of Tender | : 14.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to 23.10.2025 up to 5.00 P.M. |
| 7 Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification | : 22.10.2025 upto 4.00 P.M. |
| 8 Date & Time of opening of Bid | : 24.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M. |

Other Details can be seen from the website
http://tendersorissa.gov.in.

OIPR-25094/11/0035/2526

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
R.W. Division-II, Dhenkanal
Kamakhyanagar



Afghanistan As Friend

Some politicians and feminists are screaming that it is outrageous that the Taliban could display its misogyny on Indian soil by barring women journalists – both Indian and foreign - from attending a Press conference addressed by Afghanistan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi at its Embassy in New Delhi on 10 October. Only 16 male reporters were selected for the event. Some of the women journalists, bristling with anger for becoming victims of the unprecedented gender discrimination, said among the issues they had plans to raise with Muttaqi was the plight of Afghan women who have been robbed of their democratic rights by the Taliban government. These same women journalists have been totally quiet and distanced in matters relating to women’s problems within India. Hardly any of them can claim to have a record of questioning India’s ministers in matters of harassment and deprivation of women at home. Questioning a visiting foreign minister and showing journalistic bravado underpins a dangerous trend.

It is essential to remember that the grounds and building(s) of any Embassy of a country in the capital city of another country is considered as a part of that foreign country. In other words, the press conference held in the Afghanistan Embassy premises in New Delhi ought to be considered as having been held inside Afghan territory and not on Indian soil. It is also quite possible that some of the women journalists of Delhi might have expressed publicly what kind of questions they wished to raise if given an opportunity to grill Muttaqi. This could have prompted or instigated the Embassy staff tasked with preparing the invitee list to weed them out and not allow any unsavoury incident to take place. Any person with reasonable responsibility would like to avoid trouble on his beat.

The Indian government has acted wisely and not yet uttered a single word in this regard. The Afghan minister at an event later said his country’s Embassy in Delhi was not to blame for the incident. However, there is no official word from the Embassy at the instruction of which women journalists were excluded from the Press conference. The government of India must not allow itself to be pushed around and must remain above such squabbles.

Every nation has its own morals and social situations. It is without doubt a terrible situation for women in Afghanistan. While saying this, we in India must also be very aware of the prevailing conditions for women in our country too. Except for women from rich and prosperous families, safety and the very existence of women, both young and old, belonging to middle and lower economic strata is highly deplorable. Rape is a common crime across the country today. All that is being done is to politicise those horrible incidents and brush them under the carpet after a few days of media coverage. When media moves on to new events and forgets heinous crimes of the very recent past the Indian society at large also moves on to the new branch that is dangling and refuses to take corrective steps about past crimes. Our judiciary is a big agent in helping this immediate amnesia. Unfortunately, these very same women journalists rarely, if ever, are noticeable in their efforts to rake up past issues of women’s harassment in their own media. Follow up stories on plight of women in India are not dime a dozen in this country.

The most important aspect of Muttaqi’s visit is that after a long gap of nearly four plus years, the Taliban is now looking at India for acceptance. They might have realized that singularly Pakistan might not be their only saviour nation. Breaking free from the China-Pak axis to visit India, and that too for a long period of over a week marks a momentous period for Gov’t of India which has successfully managed to alienate all the neighbouring countries that were good friends till recently.

Muttaqi is in India for a week of high-level talks with the government. He had already met Foreign Minister S Jaishankar who announced that India would reopen its Embassy in Kabul. It is the Taliban’s highest-level visit to India since they seized power for the second time. Muttaqi is to discuss diplomatic, trade and economic ties with Indian officials during an eight-day stay.

Meanwhile, intense clashes erupted along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border on night of 11 October after an attack by the Taliban on Pakistani military posts. This escalation comes after a Pakistani airstrike in Kabul earlier last week, as reported by security officials from both nations. Taliban’s relations with Pakistan have deteriorated to such an extent that India is keen to take advantage of it to build bridges with Afghanistan. This is an urgent need of the hour as Pakistan has become a favourite of US President Donald Trump whose actions so far leave no one in doubt that he wants to inflict damage on India in varied forms.

The Taliban is seemingly sending the message across Pakistan that it is no longer dependent on Islamabad for survival. Deeper engagement with India will also help the Taliban gain legitimacy in the international community which views the regime as retrograde.

India has no option but to gravitate towards the Taliban-controlled Afghanistan beset as it is with sworn enemies like Pakistan and its backer China, while the US under Trump is adopting unprecedentedly hostile positions on key economic and developmental issues. Both India and Afghanistan would do well to cautiously advance their mutually beneficial diplomatic, strategic and economic agendas instead of getting bogged down in needless controversies.

WISDOM CORNER

Acceptance looks like a passive state, but in reality it brings something entirely new into this world. That peace, a subtle energy vibration, is consciousness

ECKHART TOLLE

Zen does not confuse spirituality with thinking about God while one is peeling potatoes. Zen spirituality is just to peel the potatoes

ALAN WATTS

The thing that doesn't fit is the thing that's the most interesting: the part that doesn't go according to what you expected

RICHARD P. FEYNMAN

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1773: First spiral galaxy discovered. French astronomer, Charles Messier, discovered the Whirlpool Galaxy. Also known as Messier 51a, the galaxy is about 30 million light-years from Earth. A spiral galaxy is a type of galaxy where stars, gasses, and other cosmic dust particles rotate or revolve in a spiral around a central bulge. Astronomers think that the bulge consists of a black hole.

1792: Construction of the White House begins. The office and residence of the President of the United States was designed by Irish architect James Hoban. It took 8 years for it to become livable and President John Adams became the first president to occupy the building on November 1, 1800.

1843: B'nai B'rith, the oldest and largest Jewish service organization in the world, was founded in New York City.

power post

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

GETTING TO GREENER STEEL

Burning coal to generate power is so uneconomical that the Trump administration has resorted to issuing stay-open orders to prop up the dying industry. However, there is one area where coal is still king: in the production of primary iron to make steel.

This matters, because iron and steel production account for over 10% of annual global greenhouse-gas emissions. Most of these emissions come from blast furnaces, where coal is used to strip oxygen from iron ore, producing not only iron but carbon dioxide (the main byproduct).

Fortunately, there are better ways to do this. One is simply to avoid making new iron in the first place. Steel is 100% recyclable, and over one-fifth of the global supply by now is derived from recycled scrap. Recycling requires only electricity, so one can envision a perfect circular economy in which wind turbines produce electricity to produce steel from recycled wind turbines. This is already largely economical in places where scrap steel is readily available, such as the United States and Europe, but less so for fast-growing Asian economies.

Another option is to use natural gas. Only around 7% of steel globally is produced this way, because it does entail some additional costs and complications. Nonetheless, this option paves the way to one of the primary methods of cutting steel emissions to near-zero: replacing gas with green hydrogen.

The Swedish startup Stegra does just that. It broke ground in 2022 on the world’s first “deep green” steel plant – a major achievement and a big step in the right direction. The



The world must not lose sight of the importance of moving toward truly low-carbon steel. On the way there, ‘light green steel’ is well worth the small investment

company’s goal of producing five million tons of low-carbon steel annually by 2030 is both ambitious and achievable under the right policy conditions. Moreover, similar other projects are imminent, heralding a future of low-carbon steel.

It will be a steep climb. Stegra’s five million tons are dwarfed by the 1.5 billion tons produced today using coal. For every new green steel plant under discussion, more than two traditional plants are also being planned. Unlike coal power plants, coal-powered blast furnaces will remain economical unless CO2 is priced appropriately. The European Union is starting to do that with its emissions-trading system, charging polluters around 80 (\$94) per ton; but steel producers in China, India, and elsewhere face little to no carbon price.

Moreover, while direct or indirect carbon pricing must be part of the sector’s climate-policy portfolio, it cannot be the only measure. Another big part of the picture is methane. While this greenhouse gas does inevitably leak when

natural gas is used to produce steel, the main culprit is coalbed methane, which vents directly into the air when mining for metallurgical coal to use in blast furnaces.

Methane is a far more potent greenhouse gas than CO2. Over the first 20 years, it traps about 80 times more heat than CO2. While CO2 remains the most potent greenhouse gas in the long run, around half of the rate of warming experienced from the preindustrial period to the 2010s was due to methane emissions rather than CO2.

This outside effect makes coalbed methane an underappreciated problem of global steel production. It alone adds around 25% to blast-furnace steel’s climate footprint – or the equivalent of around one billion tons of CO2 per year. These emissions will continue for as long as blast furnaces dominate the industry.

Fortunately, while no industry-wide change will happen on its own, preliminary calculations suggest that methane could be removed from the supply chain of coal-

based blast furnaces relatively cheaply, at less than 1% of steel’s market price. Moreover, metallurgical coal is produced by a limited number of mining companies in a handful of countries. That means partnerships to measure and effectively mitigate these emissions are well within reach. These could include not only countries like Australia, an early focus of the United Nations Environment Programme’s methane effort, but also China, which accounts for over half of global metallurgical coal and steel production.

With the US ceding the field on climate policy, the EU and China have been working more closely on key climate initiatives. Coalbed methane in the steel supply chain ought to be on their list of problems to tackle. Cutting methane emissions in the steel supply chain will not produce green steel overnight, but it could reduce the sector’s emissions by the equivalent of a billion tons of CO2 annually, and at little cost.

Unlike some arguments for gas as a “bridge” fuel from coal to renewables, there is little danger that a focus on coalbed methane might detract from the need to move away from coal (and gas) toward greener methods. The world must not lose sight of the importance of moving toward truly low-carbon steel. On the way there, “light green steel” is well worth the small investment.

Gernot Wagner is a climate economist at Columbia Business School. Roland Kupers is the lead architect of the United Nation's International Methane Emissions Observatory.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM GOVERNANCE

Bihar in a freebie trap

Bihar’s 2025 elections are shaping up as a decisive moment for the state’s future. Once again, the political narrative is dominated by promises of cash transfers, subsidies, and giveaways. It’s being interpreted as bribe as well. Yet, beneath the loud talk of welfare lies an uneasy truth — Bihar’s real problems remain unsolved.

Unemployment is high, industries are scarce, and migration continues unchecked, the World Bank mentions in its various reports. Young graduates, unable to find work at home, still board trains to Delhi and Mumbai in search of livelihood. The state’s growth story has stalled because politics has been reduced to short-term appeasement rather than long-term planning.

If Bihar is to break free from this cycle, political parties must shift focus — from freebies to factories, from subsidies to skills, and from caste to capital. A difficult job in an adverse situation. Every election, Bihar’s leaders announce giveaways that sound generous but come with a heavy cost. Subsidies for electricity, farm loans, or direct cash transfers may provide relief — but they do not build capacity. The state’s dependency on

central grants and outmigration continues because its political imagination has stalled.

The Rs 10,000 to each woman in the state, announced by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar needs at least Rs 7,500 crore taxpayers’ money for the first instalment. Recent reports from NITI Aayog show Bihar’s debt-to-GSDP ratio at 39.6% in 2022-23.

The incumbent NDA led by Nitish Kumar’s JD(U) and the BJP, is defending its governance record, highlighting past job creation (claiming 10 lakh jobs and 40 lakh employment opportunities provided) and various central and state welfare schemes.

The Opposition (RJD-led INDIA bloc) is not behind. Tejashwi Yadav has promised to bring a law to ensure a government job for at least one member in every household if the alliance is voted to power. He also pledged 10 lakh government jobs, an unemployment allowance, and a domicile-based job policy.

Other players like political strategist Prashant Kishor, through his Jan Suraj campaign, has also focused on issues of employment, education, and governance, aiming to attract disillusioned voters. The AAP has also entered the

fray, promising to implement its Delhi-Punjab model of governance focused on education and healthcare.

Bihar has historically been one of India’s poorer states, with millions still living in poverty. The lack of formal jobs and industries within the state forces thousands of skilled professionals and labourers to migrate. Infrastructure gaps in health and education lag behind national standards, reinforcing the cycle of backwardness.

The World Bank recommends boosting Bihar’s agricultural efficiency through better irrigation, climate-smart farming, crop diversification, and improved market access to raise farmer incomes. It also stresses expanding rural livelihoods—especially for women, and strengthening human capital through greater investment in health, education, and social protection.

Some interventions like flood management—through the Kosi Basin Development Project—and targeted reforms in education, health, and public finance have supported poverty reduction and improved resilience. The state needs sustained institutional reform and inclusive growth

strategies.

Bihar is like the proverbial elephant to the blind. It’s known as the cradle of Indian republic. Few realise that Bihar itself remains a republic unto its own. Improving the state and its people requires detailed study of the state, its people, varied regions, culture and prescription targeted to the state alone.

Munger, for instance, is known for its gun-making culture since the time of Mir Qasim. It cannot be wished away as a law-and-order problem. The skill of the locals has to be recognised and the industry reorganised may be for an international market of “swadeshi” fancy arms. Similar out of the box solutions could turn Bihar into building a self-sustaining economy.

Political parties have to learn to float ideas if they really want to lead. The government mechanisms have to come out of their “file remarks”, if the state has to be a change agent. And finally, the country or Bihar needs a closer date for development say around 2028 and certainly not 2047, when most of those in Bihar today would not be there.

INFA

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
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Regressive act

Sir, This refers to “Afghan FM’s ‘male only’ presser triggers row,” **Orissa POST**, Oct 12. The ‘male-only’ press conference held by Afghanistan’s Foreign Affairs Minister on Indian soil has drawn widespread criticism for its regressive nature. By barring women journalists from attending, the minister not only ignored international norms of gender equality but also sent a troubling message about the treatment of women in Afghanistan. India, which has consistently championed democratic values and women’s empowerment, became an inadvertent backdrop to a deeply discriminatory act. Such exclusion undermines the credibility of official communications and reflects poorly on the visiting delegation, highlighting persistent patriarchal attitudes that continue to marginalise women in public and political spaces. The incident has sparked debates on India’s responsibility to ensure that diplomatic events hosted on its territory adhere to basic human rights and equality standards. While diplomatic protocol allows foreign officials certain privileges, gender discrimination cannot be condoned.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Sustainable Diwali

Sir, Diwali, the festival of lights, celebrates the triumph of good over evil and brings joy, prosperity, and togetherness. People illuminate their homes and streets with lamps, lights, and rangolis, participate in religious rituals, exchange gifts, and welcome new beginnings. At the same time, traditional firecrackers contribute heavily to air and noise pollution, releasing harmful gases such as carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides, which affect human health and disturb animals and birds. This year, let’s celebrate responsibly by using green crackers. Developed by CSIR-NEERI in India, these eco-friendly firecrackers release much less smoke and noise than traditional ones. They use safer chemical compositions, limiting harmful substances like barium, lithium, arsenic, and lead, and reduce air pollution by up to 30%. Popular varieties such as SAFAL, SWAS, and STAR deliver the same festive excitement while protecting our health and the environment. To ensure authenticity, look for the CSIR-NEERI green logo and QR code on the packaging. By choosing green crackers, lighting clay lamps, and planting trees, we can enjoy a joyful Diwali while safeguarding the environment. Let’s make this year a responsible, eco-friendly Diwali, spreading light and happiness sustainably.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

BIHAR POLLS: NDA ANNOUNCES SEAT-SHARING

BJP, JD(U) to contest on 101 seats each

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 12: The BJP and the JD(U) will each contest on 101 seats in the Bihar Assembly elections, while Union Minister Chirag Paswan-led Lok Janshakti Party will field its candidates on 29 seats, Union Minister and BJP's Bihar polls in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan announced Sunday.

In a post on X as the meeting of the BJP's Central Election Committee, which includes Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior leaders, started, Pradhan said, "Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi-led Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) and Upendra Kushwaha-led Rashtriya Lok Morcha will field their candidates on six seats each."

This is the first Assembly poll since Chief Minister Nitish Kumar led the NDA to end the 15-year reign of the RJD-led government in 2005 that his Janata Dal (United) will not be contesting more seats than the BJP in alliance, a clear signal of the acknowledgement within the ruling bloc of the regional party's decline and the BJP's growing heft.

The BJP had contested one more seat in the state than the JD(U) in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, also a first.

Pradhan said all National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners have completed the



seat-distribution exercise in a cordial manner.

He said, "Leaders and workers of all NDA parties welcome this with happiness. Bihar is ready for another NDA government."

Paswan, who seems to have drawn the best bargain, and Kushwaha echoed Pradhan's message.

Manjhi, whose quota of seats is far short of his public posturing, had in a post a few hours before Pradhan's announcement asserted his loyalty to Prime Minister Narendra Modi "till my last breath".

Bihar will again have Modi-Nitish government, Manjhi added.

The announcement followed

days of negotiations involving senior BJP leadership and their allies except the JD(U), which had reached an understanding with the principal NDA party earlier.

Allies like Paswan, Manjhi and Kushwaha drove a hard bargain with the BJP and blew hot and cold in talks, even as the negotiation continued. Paswan appears to have prevailed on the BJP, which conceded more seats than it was earlier willing to.

The 243-member Bihar Assembly will go to the polls in two phases November 6 and 11.

In 2020, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) had contested on 115 seats and the BJP on 110 seats, while Paswan's party had fought independently due to his differences with Kumar.

The NDA had won 125 seats while Mahagathbandhan secured 110 seats in the closely contested election.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 12: For thousands of migrant workers from Bihar living across Tamil Nadu, the idea of travelling over 2,000 km home to cast their vote in the two-phase elections this November remains a distant dream, as their insecure jobs barely allow them to take a day off.

Families that left their home state and settled in Tamil Nadu for low-paying jobs also do not see travel as an option this poll season.

"Most of us in the construction sector stay at the site, cook our own food, and eat there. We rarely go out. We work on holidays and sometimes past sunset to earn a little extra for our families," said Ajay Kumar, a construction worker.

"In case I decide to go to Patna, I would need six days for the round trip and a few more to spend with my family. So, I may not go home," he added.

Many families from Bihar are now spread across Tamil Nadu—some as far as Kanyakumari, bordering Kerala—and work in sectors such as rubber glove manufacturing, coir production, domestic work, and other industries.

They've even admitted their children to local schools, and a few have registered themselves in the electoral rolls here. So, they are unlikely to vote in



Bihar, said Siluvai Vasthian of HEAL Movement, an NGO working to empower marginalised communities and build participatory structures for unorganised sectors.

Due to interventions by such organisations and the local administration, children of Bihari migrant families employed across various sectors have been weaned away from labour and enrolled in schools.

Migrant workers from Bihar constitute the second-largest group of inter-state migrant (ISM) labourers in Tamil Nadu after those from Odisha, with nearly 2.51 lakh officially registered in the state. They make up a significant portion of Tamil Nadu's total registered ISM population of over 12.17 lakh, which also includes workers from Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, and the Northeast.

According to an official estimate, Tamil Nadu has around 35 lakh inter-state migrant workers employed across 38 districts in sectors such as construction, mining, quarries, hospitality, manufacturing, textiles, retail, and other commercial establishments.

A recent State Planning Commission report titled 'Life and Times of Migrant Workers in the Chennai Region-2024-25' noted that most workers in the Chennai region hail from eastern and northeastern states, particularly Bihar, Odisha, and Assam.

"Going to Bihar would mean losing several days of wages, which I can't afford," said Alok, who works at a hotel in Chennai. He suggested that the government consider creating a mechanism to help migrant workers vote from their place of work.

After 17 years, Kanchipuram Ekambareswarar temple to be consecrated December 8

CHENNAI: The consecration of 1,300 years old Arulmigu Ekambaranathan Temple in Kanchipuram will be held December 8, after 17 years, said a temple official Sunday. The temple, managed by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR & CE) Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu, underwent renovations, added the official. The date was officially announced by Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment PK Sekar Babu October 12. His department is responsible for the maintenance and administration of the temple. Muthulakshmi P, Executive Officer at HR & CE Department said usually every 12 years temples organise consecration. "But in the case of Ekambaranathan Temple, we had nearly 34 renovation works to undertake. As the temple is 1000-plus years old, there are stipulations regarding how renovation work should be done.

2 RJD MLAs resign from Assembly, may join JD(U)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 12: Two RJD MLAs - Vibha Devi and Prakash Veer -resigned from the Assembly Sunday, amid speculations that they could join Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) ahead of the Bihar elections.

Devi was the Nawada MLA, while Veer represented the Rajauli constituency in the state Assembly. Both legislators met Speaker Nand Kishor Yadav and submitted their resignations to him Sunday, said officials at the assembly.

The Speaker accepted their resignations, they said.

The two disgruntled MLAs of the RJD turned up at a rally addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gayagi August 22, triggering speculations that they might cross over to the

NDA camp, ahead of Assembly polls. Notably, Devi's husband Raj Ballabh Yadav was a former MLA and recently walked out of jail, following an acquittal by the Patna High Court in a POCSO case for which he spent several years behind bars.

Yadav, who is known to have political clout in Nawada district, was said to have been unhappy when the RJD denied a ticket to a member of his family in last year's Lok Sabha polls.

His brother Binod Yadav quit the RJD and contested the Nawada Lok Sabha seat as an Independent.

Veer, who was elected for a second consecutive term from a seat reserved for SCs, has been said to have fallen out of favour with Tejashwi Yadav, the son and heir apparent of RJD president Lalu Prasad.



Youths participate in a voter awareness bicycle rally ahead of the Bihar Legislative Assembly elections, in Patna, Bihar, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

How GI tag 'rescues' lesser known products from obscurity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 12: Geographical Indication (GI) tag filed for the lipsmacking Madurai 'Jigarthanda', a cold drink made from condensed milk, may grab headlines, but it is relatively obscure products like 'kuliadichan sivappu arisi' (parboiled red rice) that gain the most from the certification, said stakeholders.

Ask C Natarajan from Kallakurichi, who has been carving wood for 44 years now, having come into the craft when he was a mere 12 year old, and he'll tell you of a time when middle men ruled the roost.

"They paid us a pittance," added 56-year-old Natarajan.

Things improved marginally with the involvement of the Department of Handicrafts, Tamil Nadu government, according to him.

"We could earn a bit better, but we were expected to go to those exhibitions that were organised across the country. It cut into our production time," Natarajan told PTI over the phone.

All that changed in 2021, when Kallakurichi wood carving, a specialised technique of wood carving that is traced back to Chola period, and yet languishing for lack of market, was awarded the GI tag.

"Earlier, only a handful of us were able to support ourselves fully with our craft. But after the GI tag, all of us — about 200 families in Kallakurichi — make a comfortable living now. More importantly, the custom-

ers come to us, giving us time to concentrate on our craft," said Natarajan.

Although not as enthusiastic as Natarajan, third generation Thanjavur Veenai manufacturer Venkatesan said after the GI tag, which was awarded this year, his customer base has certainly expanded.

"Until recently, outside of Tamil Nadu, we used to get occasional customers from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, at the most. Now we are getting many outside enquiries. More people, not just from India, but also abroad, seem to know what a Thanjavur Veenai is," added Venkatesan.

Incidentally, Thanjavur Veenai holds the distinction of being the first musical instrument to get the GI tag.

This is possible because of enhanced brand visibility, said S Vincent, Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology (TN-SCST), which plays an important role in the identification and protection of potential GI products in Tamil Nadu.

"It didn't happen overnight, but in the last two years we were more successful than when we started in the early 2000s. We are able to get the younger generation involved," added Vincent.

In Natarajan's case, for instance, his son is fully involved in marketing their wood carvings online through various social media pages, especially Instagram reels.

Vishnupriya, project scientist at TNSCST, who is leading

the GI tag promotion team, said Tamil Nadu now leads when it comes to the number of GI applications filed every year.

"To date, we have filed 7,541 GI tag applications. In comparison, Maharashtra has filed 5,309 and Karnataka 4,346 applications," added Vishnupriya.

This year, Tamil Nadu has filed 14 GI

Tamil Nadu, established with the help of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), said the real challenge is in marketing products that are not known outside of the immediate region where the product originates. This is when a valid-ation like GI tag can play wonders, he added.

Perhaps that is why Sholavandan 'Vetrilai', a famous betel leaf supposedly with medicinal properties from Madurai, which even finds mention in Sangam literature, is yet to get a GI tag, lesser known Athoor 'Vetrilai' from Tuticorin already was awarded one in 2023.

Murthy said it is not guaranteed that GI tag will be awarded once the filing is done.

Vishnupriya said of the 7,541 GI applications filed from Tamil Nadu, 71 have received GI certifications so far.

"But it is worth the effort because there is at least a 10

per cent to 15 per cent growth in revenue with a GI tag. One of the reasons why farmers particularly are showing more interest in getting their culturally significant products registered," said Murthy.

Once a product is identified for GI tag, it also piques the interest of academic researchers, as Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) cells are set up in higher education institutions to process GI applications, said Vincent. Till now, about 40 IPR cells are set up in various universities and colleges of Tamil Nadu, he added.

For instance, when Kolli-malai Coffee was identified as potential GI tag product, researchers from KS Rangasamy College of Technology, Tiruchengode, where the GI application was processed, worked along with the coffee growers to develop an AI powered drone to observe the incidences of diseases and the geology, helping them to enhance production, said Vincent.

"Another example is the RTPCR kit developed by Mother Teresa Women's University Kodaikanal researchers, which can verify the authenticity of GI-tagged Kodaikanal Malai Poondi (garlic), preventing adulteration," he said.

"We are still in initial stages, but GI tag has proved to be a valid certification that helps farmers and artisans to tackle conventional market challenges and create a USP for their products," added Murthy.

'GOVT JOB FOR EACH HOME'

Tejashwi's promise evokes mixed reaction from public



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 12: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's promise of a government job for every household if voted to power in Bihar has evoked mixed reactions, with some dismissing it as a mere poll gimmick, while a section of the electorate banking on the assurance to go beyond the rhetoric.

Unemployment is one of the major issues in the state, which witnesses large out-migration to other parts of the country for work.

Yadav, the chief ministerial face of the RJD, recently said that an announcement regarding his poll promise would be made within 20 days of government formation and the jobs will see the light of the day within 20 months.

Rehan Khan, who lives in Phulwari Sharif area, on the outskirts of Patna, said, "This is a mere poll gimmick. The NDA has been working on the ground for the overall development of the state, rather than floating unrealistic promises."

Md Sheru, who works in a tile shop, said in unequivocal terms that it doesn't seem fea-

sible to provide a government job to every household.

"But we, as Muslims, have very little option beyond the RJD," he said. Ashok Kumar Rai, who runs a cement shop in the area, is not sure whether keeping the promise will be possible.

He, however, is optimistic that there would be some improvement in terms of employment if the RJD is voted to power. Rajesh Kumar, who owns a paan shop on Bailey Road, questioned, "From where will he bring such a massive number of jobs? From his home?"

Such promises are normal during the elections, and it would be foolish to believe them, said Kumar who looks forward to a non-BJP alternative in the state.

Md Ansari, who resides in Mithapur area of Patna, too, sounded disenchanted with Tejashwi's poll promise.

He, however, said, "We have a huge regard for Lalu Yadav. He is someone whom we can bank upon."

Amrisha Kumar Puri of Chitkohra, who claims to be a die-hard RJD fan, too, discarded the possibility of one government job in each household.

Bihar's caste survey in November 2023 revealed that the state has approximately 2.97 crore families, while the number of existing government jobs is a mere 26.5 lakh. The gulf Tejashwi is aiming to bridge is massive in factual terms.

People who are giving the statistics of exodus... We also have infiltrators in UP. The chief minister is from Uttarakhand. We want him to be sent to Uttarakhand. He is not the only infiltrator; he is also an infiltrator from the ideological point of view

AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

Forget about women's respect, their safety is paramount

MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

Artisans finding new markets, families running home-stays, women entrepreneurs creating eco retreats, local youth becoming confident guides and hosts

GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

PM greets new Seychelles Prez

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday congratulated Patrick Herminie on his election as the President of Seychelles, and expressed confidence that its time-tested ties with India will gain further momentum during his tenure. "Heartiest congratulations to Dr. Patrick Herminie on his victory in the Presidential Elections in Seychelles," Modi said in a post on X. "The waters of the Indian Ocean are our shared heritage and nourish the aspirations and needs of our people. I am confident that our time-tested and multi-faceted relations will deepen and gain further momentum in his tenure as President," he said.

Delhi police intensified patrolling

New Delhi: The Delhi Police conducted a citywide 'General Gash't' (intensified patrolling) across all 15 districts of the national capital ahead of the festive season, officials said Sunday. Senior officers joined regular police personnel in the exercise, aimed at ensuring law and order, checking traffic violations, and maintaining public safety, they said.

4 held in Ranchi gangrape case

Ranchi: Four people were arrested in connection with the alleged gangrape of a woman in Ranchi district, police said Sunday. The 19-year-old woman was allegedly raped by seven people in the Tamar area of Ranchi district September 30. The victim lodged a complaint at the Tamar police station October 7, and her medical examination was conducted October 8. Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Bundu, Om Prakash said, "As many as 10 accused have been identified in the gangrape case. On Saturday, four of the accused were arrested by police and two, who were minors, were also taken into custody.

Gold seized in airports

Kochi: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) Sunday recovered 630 grams of gold abandoned in the aircraft toilet at Kochi airport here, officials said. Following a tip-off, DRI conducted a search on an IndiGo flight that arrived from Ras Al-Khaimah around 4.30 am. A consignment containing 630 grams of gold was found left behind in the aircraft's toilet.



In our alliance, the parties are able to talk independently. Whereas that is not the case with the DMK. Today, media reports have stated that the Congress has already started to ask for more seats for the forthcoming polls. Cracks have started to appear in the DMK alliance

EDAPPADI K. PALANISWAMI | AIADMK GENERAL SECRETARY

SURESH GOPI OFFERS TO STEP DOWN

Union Minister Suresh Gopi Sunday expressed his desire to step down from his ministerial post and recommended BJP's newly elected Rajya Sabha member C Sadananandan Master as his replacement in the central cabinet



DURGAPUR GANGRAPE CASE

BJP, Cong hold protests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 12: The Opposition BJP and the Congress Sunday held protests in various places across West Bengal over the alleged gang rape of a medical student in Durgapur, seeking exemplary punishment of the accused.

Another Opposition CPI(M) and the BJP questioned the law and order situation in West Bengal after the alleged incident, and claimed that the state is not safe for women.

Asserting that nobody involved in the alleged gang rape of a medical student at Durgapur Friday will be spared, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee urged female boarders, especially those from outside the state, to follow hostel rules and not venture out late at night.

Three persons, all residents of Durgapur, have been arrested in connection with the crime.

CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakraborty criticised Banerjee, saying that by asking female students not to venture out at night, she made it clear that West Bengal is not safe for women.

BJP supporters held a protest march and staged a sit-in outside the Asansol South police station.

Former BJP MP Locket Chatterjee went to the hospital in Durgapur, where the student was undergoing treatment, but was not allowed entry by police personnel.

The party also held a protest in front of the City Centre in Durgapur, the largest industrial city in the state.

The student of a private medical college in Durgapur, hailing from Odisha, was allegedly gang-raped Friday night when she went out with a friend for dinner.

Women Congress workers



Police officials probe site of alleged gangrape of the MBBS student

Toddler 'raped, murdered' in Tripura; accused held

Agartala: A 14-month-old child was allegedly raped and killed in North Tripura's Panisagar area, police said Sunday. The accused, a daily wager, has been arrested from Nilambazar in Assam, they said. The alleged rape took place Saturday, following which she was "murdered and buried in a paddy field in the area", said Officer-in-Charge of Panisagar police station, Sumanta Bhattacharjee. The accused had taken the baby from her mother on the pretext of going on an outing, he said.

also went to the hospital, demanding that they be allowed to speak with the authorities.

Left Front chairman Bipan Bose demanded capital punishment for those found guilty.

Chakraborty, a former CPI(M) Lok Sabha MP, said, "By asking women students not to venture out at night, the chief minister has made it clear that Kolkata, the safest city, or Durgapur, a safe city, was a propaganda campaign.

"She has made it apparent that the state is now not safe for women," he claimed.

The CPI(M) leader alleged that West Bengal has become a safe haven for criminals.

Pointing to the chief minister's advice to female hostel boarders over venturing out at night-time, BJP's West Bengal unit president Samik Bhattacharya claimed that

this is an "admission" that there is "no law and order" in the state.

"Does she (Mamata Banerjee) have any moral right to sit in the chief minister's chair or hold the police minister's post?" he asked.

Claiming that the people of the state are "disgusted" with the Trinamool Congress government in Bengal, Bhattacharya said that law and order will return in the state only when this dispensation is voted out.

The Assembly elections in West Bengal are due in 2026.

Members of Abhaya Mancha, a forum formed after the rape-murder of a doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in 2024, and the Senior Doctors' Association also visited Durgapur to express solidarity with the survivor's family.

HARYANA IPS OFFICER 'SUICIDE'

Committee gives 48-hour ultimatum to remove DGP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 12: A 31-member committee, formed to ensure acceptance of demands of the family of Haryana IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, who allegedly committed suicide, has given a 48-hour ultimatum to the Chandigarh administration and the Haryana government to remove state police chief Shatrujeet Kapur from his post.

Kapur is one of the police officers against whom Kumar's wife, IAS officer Amneet P Kumar, has sought for allegedly abetting his suicide.

A decision in this regard was taken by the committee at a mahapanchayat held at Guru Ravidas Bhavan in Sector 20 here Sunday. A heavy police presence was seen around the venue of the event.

"The Haryana DGP and the former Rohtak SP should be ar-

rested in the matter. The Haryana government should remove the DGP from his post. We have given 48 hours after which we will decide the next course of action," a spokesperson of the committee told reporters here after the mahapanchayat. Despite six days having passed since Kumar, who was last posted as IG at Police Training Centre in Rohtak's Sunaria, died, his post-mortem examination and cremation have not been conducted yet, as the family has refused consent until their demands are met.

The event also witnessed unruly scenes after former Haryana MP Raj Kumar Saini, who had floated his own outfit a few years ago, allegedly made a controversial remark, which triggered an angry reaction from the gathering. Order was restored after organisers appealed to maintain calm.



Tourists take a rafting ride in the Beas River, at Manali in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

‘Over 1L single-teacher schools catering to over 33L students’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 12: Over 33 lakh students across the country are enrolled in more than 1 lakh single-teacher schools with Andhra Pradesh recording the highest number of such schools and Uttar Pradesh leading with the most number of student enrolments in them, according to official data

According to Ministry of Education's statistics, in the academic year 2024-25, there were 1,04,125 schools in India run by a single teacher each, and such schools catered to 33,76,769 students -- an average of about 34 students per school.

The Right To Education Act, 2009 mandates a pupil-teacher



ratio (PTR) of 30:1 at the primary level (classes I-V) and 35:1 at the upper primary level (classes VI-VIII).

The highest number of "single-teacher" schools in the country are in Andhra Pradesh,

followed by Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Lakshadweep.

However, when it comes to student enrolment in schools with a single teacher, Uttar Pradesh tops the list, followed

Ambulance catches fire, triggers panic, disrupts traffic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gorakhpur (UP), Oct 12: A moving ambulance caught fire Sunday afternoon in Gorakhpur, sparking panic among locals, police said.

The incident occurred around 3 pm on the Sonbarsa overbridge along the Kushinagar Highway when the ambulance, driven by Santosh Kumar from Varanasi, was transporting a patient, Neelam Devi, a resident of Champaran, Bihar, back home from a hospital.

The explosion triggered widespread panic among bystanders and disrupted traffic on the busy highway for nearly an hour

Preliminary inquiry suggests that the fire broke out due to a short circuit in an air conditioner, quickly engulfing the vehicle in flames.

Acting swiftly, Kumar stopped the vehicle and, with help from locals, managed to rescue the patient and her two relatives. Soon after, the fire intensified, leading to a powerful blast in the CNG tank, officials said. The explosion triggered widespread panic among bystanders and disrupted traffic on the busy highway for nearly an hour. Two fire tenders and police personnel led by Station House Officer (SHO) AIIMS Sanjay Mishra rushed to the spot. After half an hour of effort, firefighters managed to douse the flames. The police later cleared the vehicle from the road, restoring traffic flow.

No one was injured in the incident, and the patient and her family continued their journey in another vehicle, Additional Superintendent of Police (SP) City Abhinav Tyagi said.

20 years of RTI Act: Cong hits out at BJP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 12: The Congress Sunday accused the Modi government of "systematically killing" and "weakening" the Right to Information Act, which was brought by its UPA government two decades ago with an aim to bring in transparency and accountability in governance.

On the 20th anniversary of Right to Information (RTI) Act, the Congress alleged that for the BJP, RTI means "Right to Intimidate", and claimed that the ruling dispensation also made the Central Information Commission a "toothless" body with its top post as well as the posts of seven information commissioners lying vacant for a longtime.

"For the BJP, RTI means Right to Intimidate," AICC general secretary (communications), Jairam Ramesh, said at a press conference on the 20th anniversary of the Act, which was introduced October 12, 2005. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also accused the Modi government of "systematically corroding" the RTI Act and "hollowing out" democracy and citizen's rights.

In a post on X, Kharge said that 20 years ago, the Congress-led UPA government ushered in a new era of transparency and accountability, and the RTI was the first of its several "transfor-

mative rights-based legislations". "In the last 11 years, the Modi government has systematically corroded the RTI Act, thereby hollowing out democracy and citizen's right," Kharge said in his post. The Congress chief claimed that in 2019, the Modi government "hacked away" at the RTI Act, seized control over the information commissioners' tenure and pay, and converted independent watchdogs into servile functionaries.

"The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, gutted the RTI's public interest clause, weaponising privacy to shield corruption and stonewall scrutiny," Kharge alleged.

Ramesh said the purpose and intention behind the "revolutionary" law was to bring transparency in the functioning of the government and make it accountable, alleging that there has been a deliberate and continuous effort to weaken it.

The Modi government brought amendments to the Act in 2019 to weaken it and turn the CIC into a "toothless organization", he alleged.

"The government wants mercy killing of RTI," he claimed, adding that no posts were filled in the CIC to make it a "toothless body". He also claimed the Modi government brought the Digital Personal Data Protection Act to amend the provisions of the RTI Act to effectively dismantle the RTI.

international

of the day

quote

If the conditions were no longer met again, I'd leave. I'm not going to just go along with whatever

SEBASTIEN LECORNU | PM, FRANCE

The topic of Tomahawks is of extreme concern. Now is really a very dramatic moment in terms of the fact that tensions are escalating from all sides

DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESPERSON

China and North Korea are good neighbours, good friends, sharing destiny and helping each other, and the friendship is growing stronger

XI JINPING | PRESIDENT, CHINA

SHORT TAKES

CDC walks back hundreds of firings

Washington: In the second week of the US government shutdown, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notified some 1,300 employees they would be laid off - then rescinded hundreds of those notices within hours, a person familiar with the matter said. The Trump administration is set to lay off entire offices and hundreds of CDC workers as part of mass job cuts during the federal shutdown, four sources told Reuters Saturday. A crowd-sourced list from CDC employees, reviewed by Reuters, suggested several units, including the entire Washington office, were targeted for termination. Two sources within the CDC and two at other health agencies confirmed the list's validity.

Estonia closes road via Russian territory

Tallinn: Estonia has temporarily closed access for its citizens to a road they normally use that passes through a stretch of Russian territory, after the interior minister reported on a group of Russian soldiers standing there, Estonia's public broadcaster said Sunday. Estonia's Police and Border Guard Board said in a statement on Friday that the closing took place that day "after border guards observed a larger-than-usual unit moving on the territory of the Russian Federation." The Estonian border agency said that the closure of the Saatse Border is necessary to ensure the safety of people in Estonia and to prevent possible incidents.

Taliban border attacks add to Pak's internal chaos

Intense fighting between Afghan and Pakistani forces witnessed along the Durand Line marks one of the most serious confrontations since the Taliban took power in 2021

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 12: In a sudden retaliation, beginning late Saturday, Afghanistan's Taliban forces have reportedly inflicted severe casualties on Pakistan's border posts along the Durand Line.

Simmering tensions had led to several skirmishes along the disputed line, leading to intermittent closure of the border, thus affecting one of its major transit points, especially of trade, for the landlocked country.

The skirmishes escalated into a coordinated firefight following

Islamabad's sudden surge in bombing Afghan cities, including the capital Kabul, this week.

It coincided with the visit of Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to India.

Pakistan is already facing a multifaceted crisis that threatens its internal stability and regional security. Late Saturday's escalation in the border region has added to the woes of a federal government already grappling with several eco-political-diplomatic hiccups.

Islamabad is already beleaguered with simmering insurgency in Balochistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), fatal clashes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, resurgence of Islamist hardliners, and an economic problem, plunging the country into volatility.

Pakistan now finds itself enmeshed in its own follies for creating and nurturing various militia groups for spreading instability and terror in the



Islamabad is already beleaguered with simmering insurgency in Balochistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), fatal clashes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, resurgence of Islamist hardliners, and an economic problem, plunging the country into volatility

neighbourhood.

REGIONAL DESTABILISATION

The ongoing clashes between Pakistan and Afghanistan carry serious implications for broader regional stability.

I think you are going to have tremendous success and Gaza is going to be rebuilt. And you have some very wealthy countries, as you know, over there. It would take a small fraction of their wealth to do that. And I think they want to do it

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

EU ENACTS BORDER OVERHAUL

Travellers to Europe, including Indians, will be subject to new entry registrations from Sunday under a phased implementation of the European Union's new digital border system. The EU's Entry Exit System (EES) requires non-EU citizens to register at the border when entering any of the EU countries by scanning their passport and having their fingerprints and photograph taken



Philippines, China trade blame over SCS vessel clash



REUTERS

Manila, Oct 12: The Philippines and China accused each other Sunday of responsibility for a maritime confrontation near disputed islands in the South China Sea, further escalating tensions in the resource-rich waterway.

The Philippine Maritime Council, an inter-agency government body, blamed Chinese maritime forces for deploying water cannon and ramming a Filipino vessel near the Philippine-occupied Thitu Island, locally known as Pag-asa, "strongly condemning" the incident and vowing to pursue "appropriate diplomatic action".

According to Manila's coast guard, three vessels were anchored near the island early on Sunday as part of a government program to protect local fishermen when Chinese ships reportedly approached and used water cannon to intimidate them.

An hour later, a Chinese coast guard ship allegedly fired its water cannon directly at a Philippine vessel before ramming its stern, causing minor damage but no injuries, the coast guard said.

China's coast guard said two Philippine government vessels "illegally entered" waters near Sandy Cay, a coral reef in the northern Thitu Reefs within the Spratly Islands, leading to a collision.

Beijing said a Philippine vessel "dangerously approached" a Chinese coast guard ship, for which it held Manila responsible. Manila's authorities vowed to continue operations in the area, emphasizing the need to protect Filipino fishermen's livelihood.

540 Indian nationals in Nepal jails absconding since Gen Z protests

Kathmandu: Around 540 Indian nationals serving time in various prisons across Nepal have been absconding ever since the Gen Z protests, the Department of Prison Management said Sunday. More than 13,000 prisoners escaped from various jails of Nepal during the second day of anti-government Gen Z protests September 9. At least 5,000 Nepali citizens, convicted in various crimes, are still absconding, followed by 540 Indian nationals and 108 prisoners of other nations, the data revealed. The government has issued alerts across the country to look out for those who have escaped from jail in different parts of the country.

Beijing blames US for trade tensions



China defends rare earth export curbs; threatens 'resolute measures' if US clamps 100% tariffs

REUTERS

Beijing, Oct 12: China called US President Donald Trump's latest tariffs on Chinese goods hypocritical Sunday and defended its curbs on exports of rare earth elements and equipment, but stopped short of imposing new levies on US products.

Trump Friday responded to Beijing's most recent export controls by imposing additional tariffs of 100% on China's US-bound exports, along with new export controls on critical software by November 1.

The revived trade tensions have rattled Wall Street, sending Big Tech shares tumbling, worried foreign companies de-

pendent on China's production of processed rare earths and rare earth magnets, and could derail a summit between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping tentatively scheduled for later this month.

RESPONDING TO TRUMP

The Chinese commerce ministry's statement Sunday was Beijing's first direct response to Trump's lengthy Truth Social post on Friday, where he accused Beijing of suddenly raising trade tensions after an uneasy truce was reached six months ago between the world's two largest economies, allowing them to trade goods without sky-high tariff rates.

"Our relationship with China over the past six months has been a very good one, thereby making this move on trade an even more surprising one," Trump said.

The commerce ministry said in an equally lengthy statement

China says Trump complaints about rare earth export curbs reveal 'double standards'

China accuses US of violating spirit of Madrid talks

No immediate tit-for-tat tariff hike from China

China promises easy licensing for civilian use of rare earth exports

that its export controls on rare-earth elements followed a series of US measures since bilateral trade talks in Madrid last month.

Beijing cited the addition of Chinese companies to a US trade blacklist and Washington's imposition of port fees on China-linked ships as examples. "The US actions have severely harmed China's interests and undermined the atmosphere of bilateral economic and trade talks, and China is resolutely opposed to them," the ministry said.

Beijing stopped short of explicitly connecting these US actions to its export curbs on rare-earth elements, saying they were motivated by concern about these materials' military applications at a time of "frequent military conflicts".

It also held off on announcing a corresponding levy on China-bound US imports, unlike earlier in the year, when both superpowers progressively ratcheted up tariffs on each other until the US rate was 145% while China's was 125%.

Madagascar president warns of attempted coup

Soldiers join anti-government demonstrations



REUTERS

Antananarivo, Oct 12: Madagascar's presidency said Sunday that "an attempted illegal and forcible seizure of power" was underway in the African nation, without providing details, a day after some soldiers joined a protest movement that had begun last month.

Troops from the elite CAPSAT unit that helped President Andry Rajoelina seize power in a 2009 coup, urged fellow soldiers to disobey orders and back the youth-led protests, which began on September 25 and pose the most serious challenge to Rajoelina's rule since his reelection in 2023. A Reuters witness saw three people injured after shots were fired along a road to the CAPSAT barracks on Sunday. Other witnesses said there was no sign of ongoing clashes.

Rival forces claimed Sunday to have command over security operations in the country, with one group - representing the CAPSAT soldiers - saying it would coordinate all branches

of the military from its base on the outskirts of Antananarivo.

The gendarmerie, which has tackled the protests for the last few weeks together with the police and has been accused by protesters of using excessive force, said its orders would come "exclusively from the National Gendarmerie Command Center."

The protests, inspired by Gen Z-led movements in Kenya and Nepal, began over water and electricity shortages but have since escalated, with demonstrators calling for Rajoelina to step down, apologise for violence against protesters, and dissolve the Senate and electoral commission. Thousands gathered in Antananarivo Sunday to protest against the government and pay tribute to a slain CAPSAT soldier, whom the army unit alleged was killed by the gendarmerie Saturday.

The peaceful gathering was attended by church leaders and opposition politicians, including former president Marc Ravalomana, in addition to CAPSAT troops.

FLASHBACKS OF HORROR

Malala relives trauma after marijuana use

The 28-year-old Pakistani woman who was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman in 2012 said the suppressed memories of that shooting resurfaced when she shared the bong, or water pipe, used for getting high on marijuana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Oct 12: Nobel peace laureate Malala Yousafzai has revealed her mental health struggles after a marijuana session with friends at the University of Oxford triggered flashbacks of her attack by the Taliban 13 years ago.

In an interview with 'The Guardian' newspaper this weekend ahead of the release of her memoir 'Finding My Way', the 28-year-old Pakistani wom-



an who was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman in 2012 said the suppressed memories of that shooting resurfaced when she shared the bong, or water pipe, used for getting high on marijuana.

Malala, who was airlifted to the UK from Swat Valley for life-saving surgery, said she realised "her brain just erased" the attack from memory.

"Everything changed forever, after that [night]," she said, with reference to the bong incident at Lady Margaret Hall college at Oxford University.

"I had never felt so close to the attack as then, in that moment. I felt like I was reliving all of it, and there was a time when I just thought I was in the after-life," she tells 'The Guardian'. The incident led to anxiety

and panic attacks, severely impacting her university studies until she sought therapy.

"I survived an attack, and nothing happened to me, and I laughed it off. I thought nothing could scare me, nothing. My heart was so strong. And then I was scared of small things, and that just broke me. But, you know, in this journey I realised what it means to be actually brave. When you can not only fight the real threats out there, but fight within," she recounts.

The education activist behind the Malala Fund charity is equally candid about the negative comments targeted at her, with the latest admission of consuming marijuana likely to attract some negative publicity too.

"I am very prepared for that. I don't think I'm going to get defensive about it at all. I'm not going to issue any statement. If anybody has any confusion, they can read my book and decide for themselves," she said.



A view of the sailing boats participating in the 57th edition of the traditional "Barcolana" regatta, in the Gulf of Trieste, north-eastern Italy, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

of the day

quote

Ahead of COP30, India has emphasised equity and differentiated responsibilities, pressed developed countries to meet their Article 9 obligations on finance, sought predictable and concessional support for tech adaptation with capacity building

BHUPENDRA YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER



To help set up big homegrown multi-disciplinary partnership firms, the chartered accountants' apex body ICAI is preparing a report that focuses on bringing finances to firms for expanding their capacities on a global scale

CHARANJOT SINGH NANDA | ICAI PRESIDENT



Women employees are well represented across all geographies and hierarchical levels. Empower 'Her' is a flagship initiative to identify, mentor and groom women for leadership through structured leadership labs

KISHORE KUMAR POLUDASU | DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR (HR), SBI



SHORT TAKES

Prose Tech expands

New Delhi: Germany-based telecom gear maker Prose Technologies expects 15-20 per cent growth in India next year, driven by pent-up demand for 5G network densification by service providers, a senior company official said. Speaking on the sidelines of India Mobile Congress 2025, Prose Technologies, President for the India region, Arshad Fakhri said the company plans to expand the team in India, especially in the service division, to cater to the growing requirement of operations and management in the country.

India exports 7.75L ton sugar

New Delhi: India is estimated to have exported 7.75 lakh tonnes of sugar in the marketing season that ended September, trade body AISTA said Sunday, urging the government to announce an early export quota for the new season. The sugar marketing season runs from October to September. Sugar exports for the 2024-25 marketing season in India were allowed on January 20, 2025. The total quantity permitted for export was 10 lakh tonnes. According to the All India Sugar Trade Association (AISTA), mills have exported a total of 7.75 lakh tonne between February and September of the 2024-25 marketing season. Out of which, white sugar exports were at 6.13 lakh tonne, refined sugar 1.04 lakh tonne and raw sugar at 33,338 tonne till September this year. About 21,000 tonnes of raw sugar were delivered to the refinery in SEZ, considered to be deemed exports.

Signature Global's sales drop

Mumbai: Real estate developer Signature Global (India) Limited has reported a 28 per cent drop in pre-sales in the September quarter of the current financial year (Q2 FY26). The company reported pre-sales of ₹20.1 billion, which is 28 per cent lower than the same period previous fiscal and down 24 per cent compared to the previous quarter, according to its stock exchange filing. The total area sold also declined, falling 44 per cent year-on-year (YoY) and 17 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) to 1.34 million sq ft.



India should focus on its healthcare system. The fact that nearly 90 per cent of clinicians recognise the need for standardised pathways and outcome measures is a strong signal that the system is ready for this transformation

VARUN KHANNA | CO-CHAIR, FICCI HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

SEBI to enable remote KYC access for NRIs

Pump-and-dump schemes follow identifiable patterns, as reflected in SEBI orders, and the new technology will help track such manipulative behaviour using data-driven insights

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 12: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is in advanced talks with the UIDAI and the RBI to enable secure, remote KYC access for non-resident Indians (NRIs), which is currently under testing phase.

According to SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey, this will be an urgent goal for them so that NRIs don't have to come to India for KYC.

"It will be a major development once operational," Pandey said during an event organised by the BSE Brokers Forum (BBF) here.

On the surveillance front, he said "we are moving from reactive supervision to predictive oversight".

"We have revamped our data warehouse system to develop new rule-based alerts to identify pump-and-dump patterns and to detect fraudulent trades in bulk deals," the SEBI Chairman told the gathering.

Pandey also said that pump-and-dump schemes follow identifiable patterns, as reflected in SEBI orders, and the new technology will help track such manipulative behaviour using data-driven insights.

SEBI is also working on a safety net mechanism for de-



pository participants (DPs).

"We are examining the implementation of a safety net so that in the case of an outage at a depository participant, the issue can be handled at the depositories' end — similar to what exists for stock brokers," he noted.

The SEBI Chairman said several regulatory measures have already been implemented after detailed data analysis.

On foreign portfolio investor (FPI) registration, he said SEBI aims to simplify the process further.

"FPI registration is a window to the world, and if the window itself has cobwebs, it won't shine in its glory. This is not about risk; it's about identifying and addressing operational issues," he said. Pandey reiterated that protecting investors

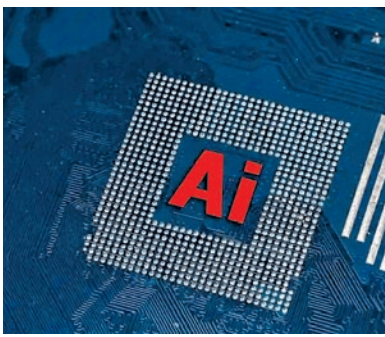
from cyber frauds and misleading advice by unregistered influencers remains a key focus area for SEBI.

Earlier, participating in a panel discussion during the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2025 last week, Pandey said several technology-led initiatives, such as the Investor Risk Reduction Access Platform and a Unified Investor App, have strengthened investor protection and market efficiency.

It has led to consolidated access to holdings, transaction history, e-voting, and proxy advisory recommendations. "Grievance resolutions too have been streamlined with Digital Locker and an upgraded SEBI Complaints Redressal System (SCORES)," the SEBI Chairman added.

EY, MICROSOFT TO BRIDGE AI SKILL GAP

In a major step to bridge the AI skills gap in India, EY and Microsoft on Sunday launched the AI Skills Passport, a free online programme designed to provide young Indians with the tools and knowledge needed to thrive in an AI-driven economy. The initiative, aimed at individuals aged 16 and above, offers equitable access to high-quality AI education, preparing early-career professionals and students with essential, job-ready AI skills



ED offers Flipkart to close FEMA case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 12: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is learnt to have offered the option of closing a FEMA violation case against e-commerce major Flipkart if the Walmart group firm admits its mistake and pays a penalty, sources aware of the development said.

The option was given by the Enforcement Directorate to Flipkart last week under the compounding rules of FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act), source said.

The ED had also summoned Amazon India to check the status of the company.

An official of one of the e-commerce firms, on condition of anonymity, said that the compounding option given by ED is to strengthen India's negotiating power during the ongoing bilateral trade negotiation with the US.

The compounding rules allow companies to voluntarily admit breach of the provision under the FEMA and settle the case by paying a penalty for the contraventions without undergoing lengthy enforcement actions. Flipkart and Amazon India have been under ED scrutiny for alleged breach of FEMA provisions.

There have been allegations that these companies are pushing discounts on their platform to garner sales. The notice was related to the period between 2009 and 2015. In September 2024, a non-confidential version of the CCI DG's Investigation Report was received by one of the Flipkart subsidiaries that alleged certain competition law violations.

Market rally adds ₹1.94L-cr to valuation of top 8 firms



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 12: The combined market valuation of eight of the top 10 most valued companies in India rose by ₹1,94,148.73 crore last week, supported by a strong rally in the stock market.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) emerged as the biggest gainer among them, in line with the positive momentum on Dalal Street.

The benchmark Sensex jumped 1,293.65 points or 1.59 per cent during the week, helping several blue-chip companies registers sharp gains in their market capitalisation.

Among the top gainers, TCS added ₹45,678.35 crore to its market valuation, which rose to ₹10,95,701.62 crore.

Infosys followed with a jump of ₹28,125.29 crore, taking its valuation to ₹6,29,080.22 crore.

HDFC Bank's market capitalisation increased by ₹25,135.62 crore to reach ₹15,07,025.19 crore, while Bharti Airtel's

valuation surged by ₹25,089.27 crore to ₹11,05,980.35 crore.

Bajaj Finance also witnessed a strong week, with its market capitalisation climbing ₹21,187.56 crore to ₹6,36,995.74 crore.

The State Bank of India (SBI) added ₹12,645.94 crore, taking its valuation to ₹8,12,986.64 crore, while ICICI Bank's market worth went up by ₹11,251.62 crore to ₹9,86,367.47 crore.

On the other hand, Hindustan Unilever and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) saw their valuations decline.

The market capitalisation of LIC fell by ₹4,648.88 crore to ₹5,67,858.29 crore, while Hindustan Unilever's valuation dropped by ₹3,571.37 crore to ₹5,94,235.13 crore.

At the end of the week, HDFC Bank remained among the most valued company among the top pack, followed by Bharti Airtel, TCS, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, and LIC.

Tata Motors, Maruti sales up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 12: Tata Motors and Maruti Suzuki saw a year-on-year increase in their retail sales market share last month, according to the latest passenger vehicle registration data for September.

Hyundai Motor India and Toyota Kirloskar Motor on the other hand saw a year-on-year dip in their respective market share last month. Tata Motors saw its market share improve to 13.75 per cent last month as compared to the same period last year when it sold 32,586 units accounting for 11.52 per cent market share in the domestic passenger vehicle segment.

As per the data, Maruti Suzuki India retailed a total of 1,23,242 units in September grabbing a market share of 41.17 per cent. Overall, passenger vehicle retail sales last month stood at 2,99,369 units registering an increase of 6 per cent as against 2,82,945 units in September last year. Mahindra & Mahindra retailed 37,659 passenger vehicles last month recording a market share of 12.58 per cent. It sold 35,863 units in the year-ago period with a market share of 12.67 per cent.

Hyundai Motor India retail sales stood at 35,812 units last month accounting for 11.96 per cent market share. It had sold 38,833 units in the same month last year with a market share of 13.72 per cent. Similarly, Toyota Kirloskar Motor saw its market share drop to 6.78 per cent last month as compared to 7.35 per cent in the same month last year. The company's retail sales stood at 20,303 units last month as against 20,792 units in September 2024.

Kia India's market share saw a marginal year-on-year dip in market share at 6.78 per cent last month. The company sold 16,727 units last month as compared to 16,062 units in the year-ago period. In the two wheeler space, Hero MotoCorp saw its market share rise to 25.10 per cent last month as against 22.48 per cent in the year-ago period. Its retail sales rose to 3,23,268 units last month as against 2,71,820 units in the year-ago period.

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India on the other hand saw its market share drop to 25.05 per cent last month as against 27.7 per cent in September 2024.

Gold to remain in demand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 12: Gold prices are expected to remain volatile in the coming week as traders weigh domestic festive demand and physical market premiums to key macroeconomic data release and political developments in the US, analysts said.

Investors will also closely monitor commentaries by Federal Reserve officials, including Chair Jerome Powell, Tuesday, which will provide more cues on the trajectory of gold prices in the near term.

"In the next week, focus will be on the physical demand for bullion during the festive season in India along with global political and geo-political developments, particularly the passage of the US spending bill and efforts to resume diplomacy on ending the Russia-Ukraine war. These factors are likely to shape gold price trends in the coming months," Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG - Commodity & Currency Research, JM Financial Services Ltd, said.

Mer noted that gold prices closed yet another week on a positive note, but volatility remained elevated with sharp corrections followed by renewed buying at lower levels. This was expected and will continue as the bulls & bears fight out at market tops.

Last week, gold prices rallied by ₹3,251, or 2.75 per cent, hitting a record of ₹1,23,677 per 10 grams on Thursday. However, the rally appeared to take a temporary breather towards the week's close on the Multi-Commod-



ity Exchange (MCX).

"Gold prices have had an astonishing rally in recent months, with a year-to-date gain of more than 50 per cent in 2025. This prompted investors to take profits Thursday, triggering a price correction of more than ₹3,000 from highs of ₹1,23,677 per 10 grams, which contributed to extreme volatility in the yellow metal," Prathamesh Malviya, DVP- Research, Non-Agri Commodities and Currencies, Angel One, said.

Market observers also cited US monetary policy as a key influence.

Pankaj Singh, Founder & Principal Researcher of SmartWealth.ai, pointed out those minutes from the September Federal Open Market Committee meeting reinforced expectations of a prolonged inflationary bias and balance-sheet reduction, both of which supported gold prices.

On the international front, Comex gold futures for December delivery closed marginally

Ankura Hospital organises 'Walkathon - Walk for Arthritis'

Bhubaneswar: Ankura Hospital for Women & Children, Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with AAYU Foundation, 9M Fertility, AD Fitness, and Desi by Smrutisree, successfully organised a 4K Walkathon titled "Walk for Arthritis" - an awareness initiative focused on promoting joint health and encouraging an active lifestyle. Participants from all walks of life joined hands to spread awareness about early detection, prevention, and management of arthritis through exercise and healthy living. The Walkathon was flagged off at 7.15 am from Ankura Hospital for Women & Children, Sishubhavan Chhak, Bhubaneswar, and saw enthusiastic participation from doctors, healthcare professionals, fitness trainers, and community members. The event was graced by celebrity chef and MasterChef India fame Smrutisree Singh as the Chief Guest, who encouraged participants to take charge of their health and make physical activity a part of their daily routine.



Ceramic World unveils Tile and Bathware Showroom



Bhubaneswar: Ceramic World, one of Odisha's most trusted and leading names in tiles, bathware, and sanitary solutions, proudly announces the grand opening of its magnificent 25,000 sq ft showroom at Cuttack-Puri Bypass Road, Bhubaneswar. The new flagship outlet

stands as Eastern India's largest tile and bathware experience center, marking a remarkable milestone in Ceramic World's 25-year journey of excellence. It showcases an exclusive and extensive range of premium tiles, sanitary ware, faucets, and wellness products from some of the most reputed brands in the industry — Simpolo, Nexion, Neotra and Kohler. Speaking on the occasion, Manish Sheth, Director of Ceramic World, shared, "This new experience center is a reflection of our commitment to redefine how customers engage with design and quality. We want every visitor to feel inspired and confident about creating beautiful spaces that truly reflect their taste and lifestyle." Adding to the grandeur of the occasion, Jayant Kumar Dey, Vice President (Sales) of Simpolo Vitrified Private Limited, graced the store opening as a special guest, celebrating the strong association between Simpolo and Ceramic World in bringing world-class design and product innovation to Odisha.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 12: Prolonged delays, arbitrary charges, and inconsistent processes of local authorities for right of way permissions required for rolling out telecom infrastructure are holding back the expansion of digital networks, Minister of State for Communications Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani said.

The minister, during a meeting with state IT ministers at India Mobile Congress 2025, urged the state governments to take action to operationalize

single window systems, enforce time bound approvals, collaborate with local bodies to ensure rational cost based charges and align state IT policies with newer developments.

He said that the National Broadband Mission 2.0 has set forth ambitious targets that will transform the nation by 2030 with 100 per cent broadband connectivity across all villages, number, achieving 80 per cent household broadband penetration nationwide, fibre connectivity to 90 per cent of telecom towers to enable high speed internet and establishing a robust



ecosystem for 5G densification and future 6G readiness.

"One critical factor holds us back, right of way approvals, for too long operators have faced inconsistent processes,

prolonged delays and arbitrary charges from local authorities. These hurdles just don't slow expansion; they escalate costs and ultimately impact our citizens and businesses. The

infrastructure we need sits waiting, trapped in bureaucratic gridlock. We cannot let this continue," Pemmasani said.

He said that the centre has introduced the game changing telecommunication right of way rules 2025 to ensure a more efficient, transparent and predictable system.

The minister said that the rules include provisions for single window clearance, on-line portal for every state and union territory that integrates all relevant departments and agencies to avoid running between offices for approvals.

Dismal start for India

Hong Kong sweep India 3-0 to reach medal rounds in Asian Team TT



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 12: India's men's table tennis team suffered a one-sided 0-3 defeat against Hong Kong in the quarterfinals of the 28th ITTF-ATU Asian Team Table Tennis Championships, here Sunday.

Despite India's higher world ranking at No 4, Hong Kong, ranked sixth, displayed superior composure, tactical awareness, and discipline to claim a comfortable victory.

India, bronze medallists in the last three editions, struggled to mount any sustained challenge. Korea will now face India in the classification round for fifth place.

Wong Chun Ting, ranked 48th globally, set the tone by defeating India's left-hander Manush Shah 11-5 11-9 13-11.

In the second match, India's most experienced player, Manav Thakkar (world No 39), recovered from two games down to level 2-2 against Chan Baldwin but faltered in the decider, handing Hong Kong a 2-0 lead.

Despite India's higher world ranking at No 4, Hong Kong, ranked sixth, displayed superior composure, tactical awareness, and discipline to claim a comfortable victory

Young Ankur Bhattacharjee gave India a spirited start in the third rubber against Lam Siu Hang, winning two games, but Lam's experience saw Hong Kong complete the clean sweep.

India's foreign expert Massimo Costantini lauded Hong Kong's composure and noted that the young Indian team would learn from the defeat.

"Full credit to Hong Kong, especially the way the three played, keeping their cool at tense moments and finishing crucial points well, unlike the Indian paddlers, who had their moments and failed to grab them," Costantini said.

"With pressure mounting on each player after that, they could not sustain and wilted. Yet, I would say, it is a young team, and they will learn from

their mistakes."

In another quarterfinal, Japan overcame South Korea 3-1, with world No. 4 Tomokazu Harimoto leading the way.

Results
Men: Hong Kong (China) bt India 3-0 (Wong Chun Ting bt Manush Shah 11-5, 11-9, 13-11; Chan Baldwin bt Manav Thakkar 11-8, 11-8, 10-12, 9-11, 11-8; Lam Siu Hang bt Ankur Bhattacharjee 7-11, 11-9, 12-14, 11-6, 11-7); Japan bt Korea 3-1 (Tomokazu Harimoto bt An Jaehyun 11-9, 13-11, 11-7; Sora Matsushima bt Cho Daeseong 14-12, 10-12, 4-11, 11-8, 11-4; Shunsuke Togami lost to Oh Junsung 7-11, 5-11, 8-11; Harimoto bt An 11-5, 11-9, 11-6)

Eves register second defeat on trot

Healy's masterclass ton powers Australia to record chase against India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Visakhapatnam, Oct 12: Skipper Alyssa Healy unfurled a hundred touched with genius and grit as Australia achieved the highest-ever successful run chase in women's ODI to register a three-wicket win over India in their World Cup match here Sunday.

Healy (142, 107 ball, 21x4, 3x6) toyed with the Indian bowlers as the seven-time champions ended up with 331 for seven, after the hosts garnered an impressive 330 riding on fifties by Smriti Mandhana and Pratika Rawal. The previous highest successful run chase was Sri Lanka getting past 302 against South Africa in 2024.

The Australians went on top of the table with seven points, while India remained on third with four points.

Healy's batting was all about pristine ball hitting, a result of her wonderfully supple wrists, allowing the right-hander to place the ball precisely in the desired areas.

She had a rather subdued record against pacer Kranti Gaud before this game, but on this night, Healy biffed the Indian for a six and three fours in an



over to break the stranglehold.

Earlier, India woke up from their batting slumber through classy fifties by Mandhana and Rawal to post a 300-plus total.

Asked to bat first, India were served well by openers Mandhana (80, 66 balls) and Rawal (75, 96 balls) on a pitch that had little assistance for the Australian bowlers.

MANDHANA'S MILESTONE

During the course of her innings, 29-year-old Mandhana al-

so completed 5000 runs in WO-ODIs, earning the distinction of being the fastest and youngest player to achieve the feat.

She became the first-ever player in women's ODIs to score 1000 runs in a calendar year. The southpaw also became the Indian player with most 50-plus scores in Women's ODIs against Australia.

Mandhana and Rawal also stitched together their sixth 100-run stand in 21 innings,

now one shy of India's record of seven between Purnima Raut and Mithali Raj (34 innings).

Brief scores:
India: 330 all out in 48.5 overs (Smriti Mandhana 80, Pratika Rawal 75, Jemimah Rodrigues 33; Annabel Sutherland 5/40, Sophie Molineux 3/75) lost to **Australia:** 331/7; 49 overs (Alyssa Healy 142, Ellyse Perry 47 not out; Shree Charani 3/41, Deepti Sharma 2/52) by three wickets

National Junior Athletics: Odisha teen Kuni claims silver in javelin

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 12: Kuni Rajgond wins Odisha another medal in the 40th National Junior Athletics Championships at Kalinga Stadium here Sunday.

The 13-year-old Kuni, who hails from Nabarangpur district, finished second in the U-14 Girls' Javelin event to claim silver on the third day of the five-day meet.

A year ago, at this same venue, Kuni had made a mark by bagging silver at the East Zone Junior athletics championship.



Meanwhile Rajasthan's 18-year-old Basant was among those athletes who

narrowly missed the World U20 Athletics Championships qualification mark. Competing in the men's U20 group, Basant won gold with a height of 2.11m and fell short of the 2.12m qualification mark World U20 Athletics Championships scheduled to be held in Oregon, USA in 2026.

Basant's team-mate Narpat Singh was also a bit disappointed for missing the mark in the hammer throw. Singh won hammer throw gold in men's U20 group with a distance of 67.45m while the World U20 qualification mark was 68m.

SHORT TAKES

Spirited India beat New Zealand 4-2

Johor: Indian junior men's hockey team remained unbeaten as they registered a comfortable 4-2 win against New Zealand in the 2025 Sultan of Johor Cup here Sunday. Arshdeep Singh (2'), PB Sunil (15'), Araijeet Singh Hundal (26'), and Roman Kumur (47') were successful for the winning side, while Gus Nelson (41') and Aidan Max (52') scored for New Zealand. After getting off to a winning start in their campaign by beating Great Britain 3-2 in their opening match, India built on their momentum in their second match of the tournament with a solid start against New Zealand.

No Indian shooter makes it to skeet finals

Athens: None of the Indian shooters could make the individual finals in either the men's or women's skeet events at the ISSF World Championship for Shotgun, here Sunday. In the women's skeet event, Olympian Raiza Dhillon was the best-placed Indian, finishing 16th among 58 shooters with a score of 116 out of 125, three points short of the cut-off mark of 119 required to make the six-shooter final. Parinaaz Dhaliwal and Ganemat Sekhon shot identical scores of 110 each to end 44th and 47th respectively, as India finished eighth in the team standings out of 12 participating nations.

Haaland's historic hat-trick for Norway

London: Erling Haaland further enhanced his superstar reputation with a hat trick for Norway in a 5-0 home win against Israel while Cristiano Ronaldo drew a blank as Portugal beat Ireland 1-0 in World Cup qualifying Saturday. Haaland moved onto 51 Norway goals in just 46 matches, as Ronaldo failed to increase his all-time international men's scoring record of 141.

Women's water polo team seals Asiad berth

Ahmedabad: The 11th Asian Aquatic Championship concluded spectacularly at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Ahmedabad, as China dominated the final day of water polo, winning gold in both the men's and women's categories. Meanwhile, the Indian women's team finished eighth overall and confirmed their qualification to the 2026 Asian Games despite an 11-18 defeat to Hong Kong in their classification match.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 12: John Campbell saved his best for last with a counter-punching unbeaten 87 as the West Indies batters showed rare resilience to live and fight another day after being asked to follow on by India on the third day of the second Test here Saturday.

Riding on a 138 run unbroken stand between Campbell and Shai Hope (66 batting), West Indies reached 173 for two at stumps. These are the only half-centuries that the visitors have managed in this short series, so far.

The West Indies still need 97 runs to force India to bat again and avoid defeat by an innings margin. Although India's victory is a certainty, the counter-attack from Campbell and Hope would give them renewed confidence before their tour of New Zealand.

In the first two sessions, left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav (5/82) had set the ball rolling for an early finish with his fifth five-for in Test cricket with West Indies folding for 248 in



Kuldeep's Test feat

- Spinner Kuldeep scripted history with a brilliant five-wicket haul on Day 3 of the second Test match against West Indies
- Kuldeep became the fastest left-arm wrist spinner to claim 5 five-wicket hauls in Test cricket
- He currently has 5 five-wicket hauls in the longest format of the sport - the most by any left-arm wrist spinner along with England's Johnny Wardle

their first essay. With 270 runs in arrears and history of three back-to-back shoddy batting shows, it was expected that Indian bowlers will make a short work of the Windies line-up.

West Indies went into the tea with scorecard reading 35 for 2 but Campbell altered his strategy by adopting an offensive approach as he took the aerial route against Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep.

With occasional deliveries keeping low but pitch offering no significant wear and

tear, batting wasn't a difficult proposition.

The duo were easily playing the spinners off the backfoot with Hope hitting eight fours and two sixes. Campbell on his part apart from two sixes, hit nine boundaries. West Indies' second innings performance will certainly give head coach Darren Sammy hope that all is not lost and there are a few players, who still have it in them to play with a purpose and not just make up numbers.

West Indies started the day at 140 for 4 in their first innings and just after the first half an hour, Kuldeep produced a moment of magic to dismiss an already set Hope (36). For someone who has always been dubbed as a condition based bowler, one five-for in every three games is a phenomenal record.

Brief scores:
India 1st innings: 518 for 5 declared; 134.2 overs
West Indies: 248 and 173/2; 49 overs (John Campbell 87 batting, Shai Hope 66 batting; Mohammed Siraj 1/10, Washington Sundar 1/44).

Gauff bags Wuhan crown

The 21-year-old secured her 11th career WTA singles title

REUTERS

Wuhan, Oct 12: French Open champion Coco Gauff captured her third WTA 1000 title and first in Wuhan after rallying from two breaks down in the second set to defeat fellow American Jessica Pegula 6-4 7-5 in Sunday's final.

Gauff, who reached the Wuhan semi-finals last year, trailed 0-3 in the second set but clawed her way back, reducing the deficit to 3-5 before winning four straight games to seal victory in straight sets.

The 21-year-old secured her 11th career WTA singles title, adding to her WTA 1000 triumphs in Cincinnati (2023) and Beijing (2024), and reached her third final at this level in 2025 after runner-up finishes in

Madrid and Rome.

Current world number three Coco Gauff, the 2023 U.S. Open champion, is the first woman in a decade to win nine consecutive hard-court finals, a feat last achieved by Serena Williams, who won 12 between the 2013 US Open and 2015 Cincinnati.



Pegula and Gauff, former doubles partners who won titles together in Miami and Doha in 2023, played against each other in a final for the first time in their career.

"When I came on tour, you (Pegula) were one of the first people to be nice to me and welcome me with open arms. And that really goes a long way and still goes a long way," Gauff said during the trophy presentation.

"So I appreciate you. And it's great to finally play in a final against you." Pegula, who beat world number one and defending champion Aryna Sabalenka in Saturday's semi-final to end her 20-match unbeaten run in Wuhan, has played 27 three-set contests in 2025.

REUTERS

Shanghai, Oct 12: Monaco's world number 204 Valentin Vacherot completed a fairy-tale run at the Shanghai Masters Sunday, rallying from a set down to defeat his cousin, Frenchman Arthur Rinderknech, 4-6 6-3 6-3 in the final and secure his first ATP title.

The 26-year-old's victory made him the first player from Monaco to win an ATP singles title and set a record as the lowest-ranked player to triumph at an ATP Masters 1000 event.

The victorious Vacherot was overwhelmed with emotion, before sharing a heartfelt embrace with his older cousin Rinderknech, 30.

Vacherot had earned a little under \$600,000 in career prize money but lifting the trophy in Shanghai will see him pocket

- Vacherot beats Rinderknech in Shanghai to win first ATP title
- Vacherot sets record as lowest-ranked ATP Masters 1000 winner
- Cousins stunned Djokovic, Medvedev in semifinals

over \$1.12 million.

VACHEROT BREAKS INTO TOP 40

Vacherot's remarkable run to the title also means he will be ranked world number 40 on Monday while Rinderknech, ranked 54th, is set to rise into the top 40.

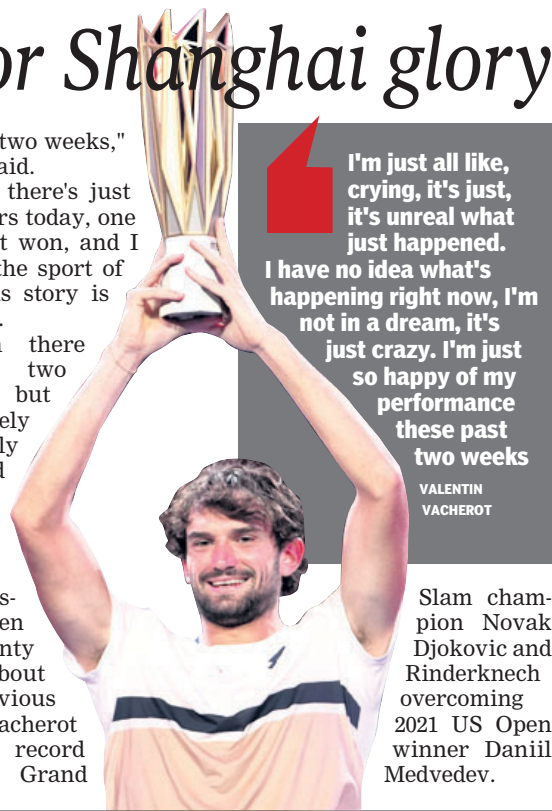
"I'm just all like, crying, it's just, it's unreal what just happened. I have no idea what's happening right now, I'm not in a dream, it's just crazy. I'm just so happy of my performance

these past two weeks," Vacherot said.

"I think there's just two winners today, one family that won, and I think for the sport of tennis, this story is just unreal.

"I wish there could be two winners, but unfortunately there's only one, and for myself, I'm really happy that it's me."

The cousins had given fans plenty to cheer about in the previous round - Vacherot stunning record 24-times Grand



I'm just all like, crying, it's just, it's unreal what just happened. I have no idea what's happening right now, I'm not in a dream, it's just crazy. I'm just so happy of my performance these past two weeks

VALENTIN VACHEROT

Slam champion Novak Djokovic and Rinderknech overcoming 2021 US Open winner Daniil Medvedev.