

Actor Vidya Balan shares how 'Law of attraction' played a crucial role in giving a boost to her career

LEISURE | P2



### Pak on high alert

Pakistani troops remain on high alert after deadly border clashes with Afghanistan, prompting US President Trump to offer help resolving tensions

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### EPFO's new rule

EPFO's retirement fund body eases part withdrawal rules, allowing subscribers up to 100% withdrawal of funds

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### **Racing prodigy**

Atiqa Mir bosses a male-dominated grid to become the first-ever female winner in the minimax category of RMC UAE Karting

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### **MEDICO GANGRAPE: 5TH ACCUSED HELD**

Kolkata, Oct 13: West Bengal Police Monday arrested the fifth accused in connection with gangrape of an MBBS student, a native of Odisha, at a medical college in Durgapur, taking the total number of arrests to five, officials said.

The accused has been identified as Sheikh Safiqul, a local resident, who was nabbed from Durgapur.

According to the police, Safiqul had been hiding at a relative's house in the area. He and Sheikh Nasiruddin, who was arrested Sunday night, were produced before the Durgapur Sub-Divisional Court later in the day.

### Nuapada: Chopper for remote pockets

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) RS Gopalan Monday said that a chopper has been requisitioned for transportation of voting materials and officials to eight booths in interior and remote areas of bypoll-bound Nuapada for which filing of nomination papers began Monday with the issuance of a Gazette Notification in this regard.

Two major political parties - BJP and BJD – are yet to announce the names of their candidates, while Congress has named Ghasiram Majhi as its candidate. He is set to file nomination papers October 19, OPCC president Bhakta Charan

Gopalan said with the issuance of the notification, the by election process has officially started. He said the candidates can file nomination papers from Monday till October 20, and the papers will be scrutinised October 22, and the last date for withdrawal is October 24. P3



clear a cheque. Now, thanks to same-day clearing, nobody knows when it'll clear

# Twin murders rock City Charges framed

### AIIMS lab attendant shot dead; man bludgeoned to death in Chandrasekharpur area

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: The Capital City woke up to two ghastly murders as assailants gunned down a laboratory attendant of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar, while another man, stated to be a construction worker, was killed with his head smashed under Chandrasekharpur police limits. The back-toback incidents have raised serious questions over the law and order situation under the Commissionerate Police.

In the first incident, a young man was found murdered with his head crushed with a stone at Sailashree Vihar under Chandrasekharpur police station Monday. The unidentified body was found near Chunukoli slum. Police suspect that the man hailed from outside the state and worked as a daily wager. The incident came to the fore after locals spotted the body and informed the police, who reached the spot and sent the body to Capital Hospital for an autopsy.

After receiving information, a team of Chandrasekharpur



Probe into murder of AIIMS lab attendant underway

police visited the site and initiated an investigation. Authorities were working to determine

the circumstances surrounding

the crime. While efforts are underway to identify the body, the deceased was believed to have been associated the ongoing

construction work in the area. A case (631/2025) has been registered in this regard on the basis of a complaint lodged by Ward No-7 corporator Josodhara Pradhan. "The identification process has been challenging as the face has been disfigured and head smashed with stone,' Chandrasekharpur IIC Girish

Chandra Maharana said, A forensic team also visited the site and initiated a detailed investigation. Police are also examining various angles to the crime.

"The investigation is going on. If it is found to be a case of homicide, action will be taken accordingly," Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh said.

In the second incident, a laboratory attendant of AIIMS Bhubaneswar was shot dead by miscreants in the City Monday morning when he was on his way to the hospital, police said.

The deceased has been iden-

tified as 30-year-old Sudhanshu Khuntia, a native of Sarakantara under Khandagiri police station. He was working as a laboratory attendant at the healthcare facility through outsourcing, an official said.

Eyewitnesses said Khuntia's cousin Siba Pradhan has executed the murder owing to past enmity over a parcel of land. Khuntia was going to AIIMS on his motorcycle when Siba, along with his associates chased him on a scooter and opened three rounds of fire on him near the Mangala Temple around 9am. Khuntia collapsed on the spot following which locals rushed him to AIIMS, where doctors declared him dead.

On being informed, a team from Khandagiri police station rushed to the spot and started an investigation. Police seized three rounds of bullet shells and a live bullet from the spot.

Khuntia's family has lodged a complaint against his uncle's

Later, the police detained three persons in connection with Khuntia's murder, offi-

# against Lalu, kin

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 13: In a major setback to Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) ahead of next month's Bihar Assembly elections, a Delhi court Monday framed charges against party chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, former Bihar CM Rabri Devi, and their son, Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav, in the alleged IRCTC hotel scam. The court charged Rabri Devi and Tejashwi Yadav with criminal conspiracy and cheating in connection with irregularities in the allocation of operational contracts for two Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) hotels to a private company. This development is likely to be leveraged by political opponents during the upcoming election campaigns, potentially impacting RJD's electoral prospects.

Special Judge Vishal Gogne said there is a "prima facie" case against the accused and "grave suspicion" regarding the land transfers. The trio pleaded

"not guilty" and claimed trial,

after the charges were read over to them by the judge.

According to the CBI chargesheet, a conspiracy was allegedly hatched between 2004 and 2014 in pursuance of which BNR hotels of the Indian Railways, lo cated in Puri and Ranchi, were first transferred to IRCTC and later, for its operations, maintenance and upkeep, given on lease to Sujata Hotels Pvt Ltd., Patna.

The tender process, the agency alleged, was rigged and manipulated and the conditions were tweaked to help Sujata Hotels, a private entity. The chargesheet also names the group general managers of IRCTC VK Asthana and RK Goyal, as well as Vijay Kochhar and Vinay Kochhar, both directors of Sujata Hotels and owners of Chanakva Hotel

### HOSTAGE EXCHANGE



relative after he was released from an Israeli jail as part of a hostages-prisoners swap and a ceasefire deal in Gaza between Hamas and Israel, in Ramallah (Report P10) PHOTO: PTI & REUTERS

### SC orders CBI probe into Karur stampede

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: The Supreme Court Monday ordered a CBI probe into the Karur stampede in which 41 people were killed and appointed former apex court judge Ajay Rastogi as head of a committee to monitor it.

A bench, comprising Justices JK Maheshwari and NV Aniaria, also criticised Justice N Senthilkumar of the Madras High Court for entertaining petitions on the September 27 stampede at actor Vijay's rally and ordering an SIT probe.

"There was no occasion for the single judge of the main seat to entertain the petitions without orders of the Chief Justice when petitions seeking probe into the incident were pending before the Madurai bench," the bench said.

Noting that Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) and its members were not made party. the top court said observations were made against them with out affording them any oppor tunity of hearing.

"The judgement is completely silent about how single judge arrived at such conclusion, what material was perused by the court. The said order merely refers to the submissions made by the additional advocate general," the bench said.

## 3 share Economics Nobel on innovation-driven growth

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stockholm, Oct 13: Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics Monday for their research into the impact of innovation on economic growth and how new technologies replace older ones, a key economic concept known as "creative destruction".

The winners represent contrasting but complementary approaches to economics. Mokyr is an economic historian who delved into long-term trends using historical sources, while Howitt and Aghion relied on Mathematics to explain how creative destruction works.

Dutch-born Mokyr, 79, is from Northwestern University (US); Aghion, 69, from the Collège de France and the London School of Economics; and Canadian-born Howitt, 79, from Brown University (US).

Mokyr was still trying to get his morning coffee when he was reached on the phone by an AP reporter, and said he was shocked to win the prize. "People always say this, but in this case I am being truthful — I had no clue that anything like this

His students had asked him about the possibility that he would win the Nobel, he said. "I told them that I was more likely to be elected Pope than to win the Noel Prize in economics -

Mokyr will turn 80 next sumlife," he said

Aghion said he was shocked by the honour. "I can't find the words to express what I feel," he said by phone to the press conference in Stockholm. He said

was going to happen," he said.

and I am Jewish by the way."

mer but said he has no plans to retire. "This is the type of job that I dreamed about my entire

in his research laboratory.

Asked about current trade wars and protectionism in the world, Aghion said that: "I am not welcoming the protectionist way in the US. That is not good for ... world growth and innovation.' The winners were credited

Mokyr

he would invest his prize money

with better explaining and quantifying "creative destruction," a key concept in Economics that refers to the process in which beneficial new innovations replace — and thus destroy — older technologies and businesses. The concept is usually associated with economist Joseph

Aghion

Peter

Howitt

Schumpeter, who outlined it in his 1942 book "Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy.'

The Nobel committee said Mokyr "demonstrated that if innovations are to succeed one another in a self-generating process, we not only need to know that something works, but we also need to have scientific explanations for why."

Aghion and Howitt studied the mechanisms behind sustained growth, including in a 1992 article in which they constructed a mathematical model for creative destruction.

Aghion helped shape French President Emmanuel Macron's economic program during his 2017 election campaign. More recently, Aghion co-chaired the Artificial Intelligence Commission, which in 2024 submitted a report to Macron outlining 25 recommendations to position France as a leading force in the field of AI.

### CITY'S DOG RATIO WAY ABOVE NAT'L AVERAGE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: The state capital is home to 47,126 stray dogs, accounting for around 3.62% of the City's 13 lakh population, an official statement issued by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) said Mon-

day, adding that the stray dog ratio (36 per 1,000 people) exceeds the national average (11 per 1,000).

The census report revealed that out of the total stray dog population in BMC area, 23,047 are males, 15,552 females, and 1,124 puppies. As many as 4,068 male dogs and 3,335 female dogs have been sterilised, it added.

"While the national average of stray dog count is 11 per 1,000

people, it stands at 36 per 1,000 in Bhubaneswar," the statement added.

It is for the first time the BMC conducted a stray dog census in the state in two phases from September 18 to 25. The enumeration was carried out across all streets in 67 wards of the civic area between

5am and 7am. A total of 410 teams, supervised by senior veterinary doctors swachh sathis, swachh supervisors, sanitary inspectors, community organisers, and other officials

were engaged in the process. With the city's population estimated around 13 lakh, stray dogs constitute about 3.62% of the total population. On aver

age, each ward houses 703 stray dogs, the BMC said.

## eisure



### **KATE WINSLET WAS** SCARED TO DIRECT

Academy Award-winning actress Kate Winslet, who is making her debut behind the camera, said she was scared to direct before making her debut behind the camera on the upcoming festive film Goodbye June.

### WITHERSPOON ON NEW NOVEL

Hollywood star Reese Witherspoon shared that her new novel is a 'love letter' to her parents because it was inspired by their careers as army medics. The Hollywood actress has branched out into writing by penning a new thriller called Gone Before Goodbye with author Harlan Coben.



### 'UNE FORECAST

😽 Ganesha Speaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

Today, you may want to express your artistic streak. Hence, you may either decide to paint the walls of your house in vibrant colours, or touch up some old unused furniture in art deco style. You may even get nostalgic about an old matchbox collection and decide to restore it. Ganesha encourages all such fulfilling activity.

A good day for money and love (you need more?). A quality, professional approach will help you shine out in business today. Be it launching a product or marketing it, you will win yourself hearts, smiles and a bundle of green. Let the leader in you take over during the day and the lover in you return by night, says Ganesha.

delightful day; professionally, it will be a successful day; and personally, it will be a beautiful day. A very good day, indeed! If you haven't already, get ready to tie the proverbial nuptial knot.

### CANCER

**GEMINI** 

Emotionally, this will be a

You will ponder over financial matters, says Ganesha. There is a chance of investing in new ventures. Events in the afternoon may enhance your social prestige. People form a high opinion about you and give you respect.

The last you remember your soul mate was not a cross between Marquis de Sade and a Chinese politician, so it might be a little unnerving for you to come to terms with the authoritarian and dominating side of your partner, says Ganesha. Just remember that feeling offended is not the solution; what is really required is that you thrash out your individual differences for the sake of the larger interests of your family. Also, workplace pressure takes its toll on you and puts you at your wits' end.

### Creativity is bubbling inside

you, asking to be uncorked.

at you. Cash benefits will come your way in office. But Ganesha advises you to pay due attention to your health.

You may be struggling more than enough to tackle challenges thrown

### Ganesha says you should

beware of small and petty issues that may crop up today and make you undergo mental stress. This is the time to meditate or do yoga and focus on

### **SCORPIO**

Now is the time to hit the right note. As you are loaded with work, show your intelligence and try to win over your superiors and bosses. For all the businessmen. Ganesha advises to delay the bidding on sealed tenders if they are planning to do it today. The day is so hectic that you just want to relax in the evening.

### **SAGITTARIUS**

You juggle between your passion and profession today and try to strike a perfect balance between the two. You are ambitious and will let this know to the world through your work. During the end of the day, you will nurture your talent and passion and feel liberated, says Ganesha.

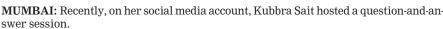
### **CAPRICORN**

Various issues may perturb you, making you feel like it may not be a very fulfilling day. But at work, fortune will be biased towards you and will bring all the luck you need to excel in the work you may have undertaken, says Ganesha. Inciden tally, sentiments may hamper your ability to take rational decisions, while high expectations of the loved ones will burden you with tremendous pressure.

### AQUARIUS

Today, you will have a mix bag of struggle and success both. Patience and performance may go through some testing times at work. But, be strong and don't get disheartened as this will not last for long, feels Ganesha. The busy day will have a perfect end with you spending some quality time with your sweetheart

PISCES Your emotions are likely to rule you today. Expenses, which will cause you to dip into your savings, are indicated. Evening should see you build up an amazing connection with a special someone, says Ganesha.



During the session, a fan asked, 'How you perform both such a good comedy and serious role in such a good way?' The actress replied saying, "Good comedy/serious is

dependent on how good the script is so .... ' Another fan asked, "How was your overall experience in Trial? Btw, you're one of my fav actors!" The actress replied to this saying, "Oh thank you! It was my first ever 2nd season! Bahut maza aaya.'

Another fan praised the multi-faceted side of Kubbra, saying, "You are a rock star! Acting in films, OTT, hosting and now Reality Show! HOW?!" The actress I'm a replied to

this in her signature volcano style, saying, "I'm a volcano of talent." of talent: Kubbra recently essayed Kubbra her character of Sana Shaikh in

season of Trial. She will next be seen alongside Varun Dhawan and Mrunal Thakur in Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai.

the second

Kubbra has been seen in a number of projects in 2025. These include the Shahid Kapoor starrer Deva where she played a serious character. She then showed her fun and vibrant side in the Ajay Devgn starrer multi-starrer comedy Son of Sardaar 2. She was also much talked-about in the reality show Rise and Fall, where she was one of the contestants. Adding another feather to her cap, she also shared screen space with Kajol in The Trial: Season 2.



IUMBAI: Bollywood actor Harshvardhan Rane, who currently awaits the release of his upcoming film *Deewaniyat*, has talked

about the goal he has had since nine years.

Harshvardhan took to Instagram,
where he shared a video montage from a recent holiday he took. In the clip, the actor is seen doing pull ups and other workouts on his caravan. Calling it his goal, Harshvardhan wrote

in the caption: "To be disciplined on my holidays was one of goals since last 9 years 7 days to go #Deewaniyat in the theatre The actor's next is *Deewaniyat* starring

Sonam Bajwa. The film will be released on October 21. Billed as a musical ob essive romantic drama, *Ek Deewane Ki* under his banner Desi Music Factory and The film is written by Mushtaq Shaikh

and co-written by Milap Milan Zaveri, who also directs the project. This marks Anshul Garg's debut as a feature film pro ducer, following his success in the music industry with Desi Music Factory and Play DMF. The movie explores intense emotions such as love, obsession, and

The actor also has Silaa with Sadia Khateeb and Karanveer Mehra.

MUMBAI: Actress Priyamani opened up about her experiences working with Bollywood stars, including Ajay Devgn, Shah Rukh Khan,

approach

to craft

and Manoj Bajpayee. In an exclusive interview with this agency, on top icons' the Family Man actress shared how each of these icons has a unique working style, reflecting their in-

dividual approach to the craft. Priyamani also expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to

collaborate with such talented actors early in her career and hopes to work with them again in the future.

When asked about working with Bollywood legends Ajay, Shah Rukh, and Manoj, Priyamani said each of them is unique and a superstar in their own right. She stated, "Each one of them is unique and a superstar in their own right. Their working

styles are very distinct. I feel extremely lucky to have worked with them so early in my career. And yes, given the opportunity, I'd love to work Priyamani` with all of them again.'

Priyamani added, "They've all worked extremely hard to reach where they are. Their success is well deserved, and I wish them all the best always.' Priyamani worked along-

side SRK in Atlee's action thriller Jawan, while she also collaborated with Ajay in the sports drama Maidaan. The actress

shared screen space with Manoj in the popular web series The Family Man, where she played the pivotal role of Suchitra Ti-

## Vidya's career secret

MUMBAI: Vidya Balan revealed how she manifested working with Parineeta director Pradeep Sarkar. Vidya shared a video of

herself kick-starting her Monday morning by crooning the beautiful track Seekho Na Naino Ki Bhasha Piya.

Talking about the melody, the Bhool Bhulaiyaa actress revealed that when she first heard the track, she immediately fell in love with it and started wishing to work with a director like Pradeep Sarkar.

"I love lip syncing to songs and this song i love which is good reason to do it on a Monday morning. When I watched it for the first time, I was struck as much by the

Parineeta. She further went on to be a part of other projects of the team, including Shantanu Crediting the law of attrac tion, Vidya concluded, "I don't know if this qualifies as the 'Law of Attraction' but I do

began to secretly harbour a

desire to work with the master

storyteller #pradeepsarkar,"

As luck would have it, Vidya

got a chance to work with the

filmmaker in her debut movie,

Vidya wrote on her IG.

know that I'm ever so grate ful for this just as I am for so much else in life. Have a beautiful Monday and a lovely week

ahead."



SUDOKU

3

8

4

5 3

8

2

6

**SOLUTIONS** 

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

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

8

4

1

4

3 2

8

6 8

5

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

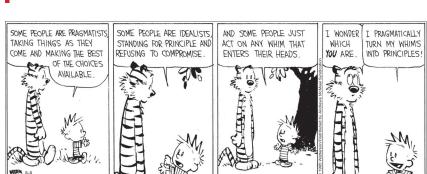
2

### **PEANUTS**





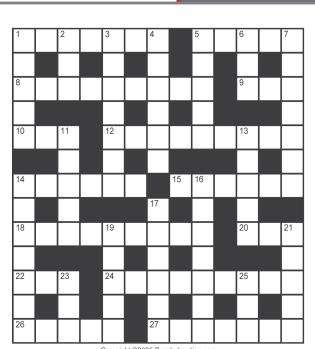
### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**



### BREVITY



### DOST **CROSSWORD**



Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com 20 Carpet

22 Psyches

**26** Illustrious

27 Draws out

24 Fender-bender

### Across

1 Jaguars and leopards, e.g.

- (3,4)
- 5 Blind followers
- 8 Band aid?
- 9 Lady's man
- 10 Not square
- 12 Respites
- 14 Had a hunch
- 15 Oceanic bird
- 18 Italian meal starter

- Down 1 Full of chutzpah
- 2 Swindle
- 3 Friendly
- 4 Black widow

- 5 North Atlantic
- 21 Fellows

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- 23 Harden herring
  - 25 Roadhouse

6 German resort

7 Sunshade

11 Burgundy

grape

14 Train depot

17 Tristan's love

nervously

16 Popinjay

19 Walked

13 Miscue

# CROSSWORD

R R E N S M E E T S lulni

SUDOKU

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



# owntown

# NEP 2020 will play key role in instilling patriotism: CM

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: Describing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 as the first education policy of the 21st century, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday said it would play a crucial role in instilling constitutional values and patriotism among the

Speaking at a discussion on Indian Knowledge Tradition in the Context of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020', organised at the Central Sanskrit University in Puri, Majhi said, "The NEP 2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century. The policy, which has been designed to meet the developmental needs of the nation, would play a vital role in instilling constitutional values and patriotism among the students.

The CM emphasised that India's youth must acquaint themselves with the nation's rich heritage of knowledge,

culture, and glorious history. Majhi said India, despite enduring centuries of foreign invasions, has successfully preserved its ancient wisdom and traditions. "It is everyone's responsibility to protect and sustain this heritage," he said.

"As our ancient sages envisioned education for the greater good, the present system must uphold that ideal," Majhi said. The CM urged that the invaluable contributions of In-

dian thought and research in art, literature, science, law, philosophy, yoga, astronomy,

NEP 2020 envisions an education system rooted in Indian ethos - one that

an equitable and vibrant knowledge society and a

MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI | CHIEF MINISTER

contributes directly to

transforming India into

global knowledge

superpower

mathematics, medicine, and agriculture should be presented to the younger generation.

Majhi noted that the NEP 2020 proposes comprehensive reforms in governance, administration, and the structure of education to align with Sustainable Development Goal 4 and the aspirational goals of 21st century learning.

He said education is not merely about developing cognitive skills but also about building foundational capacities in literacy, numeracy, and analytical thinking.

"The NEP places special emphasis on nurturing every individual's creative potential," Majhi stated, adding that the policy envisions an education system rooted in Indian ethos one that contributes directly to transforming India into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society and a global knowledge superpower.

He also said that the ultimate aim of education is to create good human beings -

individuals with reasoning, compassion, empathy, courage, perseverance, scientific temper, creative imagination, and moral values.

"A good educational institution is one where students feel at home in a safe, inspiring, and inclusive environment, the CM added.

Delivering the keynote address, Atul Kothari, Secretary of Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas, New Delhi, said education should be viewed not just as a means of livelihood but as the foundation of life.

He emphasised the need to incorporate Indian values, ideals, and cultural consciousness into the education system.

"When education is seen as an instrument for nation-building, the next generation will emerge as knowledgeable, duty-bound, and patriotic citizens," Kothari remarked.

He described the NEP 2020 as a harmonious blend of Indian philosophy and modern knowledge, enabling India to strengthen its cultural roots while progressing with a global outlook.

Among those present were Pankaj Mittal, Adviser, Association of Indian Universities, and Prabhat Kumar Mahapatra, Vice-Chancellor of Central Sanskrit University, Puri.

The three-day seminar will feature discussions on themes such as education and Indian values, integration of Indian knowledge traditions with modern education, and foundations and directions of the NEP.

### Puri to be developed as world-class religious city: Majhi



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi being blessed by an elderly devotee in Puri, Monday, in presence of Puri MP Sambit Patra, Jagatsinghpur MP Bibho Prasad Tarai, Pipili MLA Ashrit Pattanayak and Brahmagiri MLA Upasna Mohapatra

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, Oct 13: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday announced that Puri will be developed as a world-class religious city.

 $Highlighting \ the \ holy \ city's$ significance beyond being a religious site, the chief minister stated, "The government is committed to developing it (Puri) as a world-class religious city, with its upgradation to a municipal corporation as the first step."

Meeting elderly Habishyalis at Brundabati Niwas, Majhi described their devotion as the moral strength of Odisha and a living symbol of Odia culture

The CM announced that from next year, a dedicated digital registration system will be launched for Habishyalis, providing them access to medical and emergency services

and identity.

Addressing the gathering, the chief minister said the month of Kartik holds a special significance in Odia culture, being associated with self-restraint, compassion, and devotion.

He noted that Odia mothers have observed Habisha for centuries, reflecting the state's

moral and cultural strength. Maihi also announced that

from next year, a dedicated digital registration system will be launched for Habishyalis, providing them access to medical and emergency services.

The chief minister expressed hope that the devotion and prayers of Habishyalis will bless Odisha and guide society towards peace and progress.

He added that this year, approximately 2,500 Habishyalis have been accommodated by the state government at five desig nated locations with an expenditure of around Rs 3.30 crore.

Urging everyone to follow the Jagannath culture, Majhi paid respects to the Habishy alis, took photographs with them, and discussed their convenience and needs.

Among others, Puri MF Sambit Patra, Jagatsinghpur MP Bibhu Prasad Tarai, Puri MLA Sunil Kumar Mohanty Brahmagiri MLA Upasna Mo hapatra, Satyabadi MLA Om Prakash Mishra, Pipili MLA Ashrit Pattanayak and Puri Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida attended the event.

## City home to 47,126 stray dogs

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: The City is home to 47,126 stray dogs, accounting for around 3.62 per cent of the state capital's 13 lakh human population, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) said Monday.

Releasing the stray dog census report, the civic body said of the total stray dog population in BMC area, 23,047 are males (unsterilised), 15,552 females (unsterilised), and 1,124 puppies. "As many as 4,068 male dogs and 3,335 female dogs have so far been sterilised under the City's animal birth control programme," it added.

For the first time in Odisha, BMC conducted a stray dog census in two phases from September 18 to 25. The enumeration was carried out across all streets in the 67 wards under the urban local body between 5am and 7am.

A total of 410 teams - supervised by senior veterinary doctors, swachh sathis, swachh su-



pervisors, sanitary inspectors, community organisers, and other officials - were engaged in the process.

"With the City's population estimated around 13 lakh, stray dogs constitute about 3.62 per cent of the total population. On average, each ward houses 703 stray dogs," the BMC said.

Citing the 20th National and State Livestock Census conducted by the Department of Animal Resources and Dairying under Government of India,

the BMC noted that the number of stray dogs in Bhubaneswar is much higher than the national average. "Bhubaneswar's stray dog density stands at 36 per 1,000 people, far exceeding the national average of 11," the statement added.

The census also highlighted 10 wards, including 23, 7, 49, 65, and 4, with the highest stray dog populations. "Ward 23 recorded the highest number with 1,703 dogs, followed by ward 6 with 1,062," it said.

Stray dogs account for about 3.62 per cent of Bhubaneswar's human population (13 lakh)

Bhubaneswar's stray dog density stands at 36 per 1,000 people, far exceeding the national average of 11

On average, each ward houses 703 stray dogs

"The objective of the survey was to reduce dog bites and protect both the public and animals from deadly diseases such as rabies," it said

The data is also expected to help mitigate traffic problems and accidents caused by stray dogs, and assist authorities in understanding dog population density at the micro-level, it

BMC Mayor Sulochana Das said the survey provided scientific data for better urban animal management, dog sterilisation drives, and public safety

## Nuapada: Nomination filing opens for bypoll

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: The nomination filing process for Nuapada bypoll began Monday with the issuance of a notification in this regard, even as the state's two major political parties - the BJP and BJD - are yet to announce the names of their candidates.

The Congress has named Ghasiram Majhi as its candidate, and he is set to file nomination papers October 19, OPCC president Bhakta Charan Das said.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) RS Gopalan said with the issuance of the notification, the by election process has officially started. He said candidates can file their nomination papers from Monday till October 20, and the papers will be scrutinised October 22, and the last date for withdrawal is October 24.

As per the notification, polling will take place November 11 and counting of votes is scheduled for November 14, he said.

The CEO said that over 2.53 lakh voters will exercise their

democratic rights in 358 booths, of which 56 are new ones. The number of voters in each booth will not exceed 1,200 as per the direction of the ECI. According to the notifica-

tion, the polling will be held in 47 sensitive and left-wing extremism (LWE) infested booths between 7am to 4pm, while the voting time in other booths will be from 7am to 5pm.

The CEO said that adequate force would be mobilised, keeping in view the significance of the bypoll.

"We have requisitioned a chopper for transportation of voting materials and officials to eight booths in interior and remote areas. As many as 14 companies of CAPF would be deployed apart from the state police to ensure a peaceful election at Nuapada," Gopalan said.

Meanwhile, the district police and personnel of the CRPF held a flag march at Nuapada town to boost confidence of the people, a senior police officer said, adding that nine check posts are set up in the Odis ha-Chhattisgarh border to pre vent the entry of any unwanted men and materials, including cash and liquor.

Check posts have also been set up at the entry points to Nuapada from neighbouring Kalahandi, Bolangir and Bargarh districts. The bypoll in the Nuapada Assembly segment was necessitated after the demise of sitting BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia, a former minister and four-time legislator, Sep tember 8, 2025 at the age of 68.

In the 2024 Assembly elec tions, Dholakia had retained the seat with a margin of over 10,000 votes, defeating indepen dent candidate Ghasiram Ma jhi, who this time will be the

Congress candidate. This will be the first byelection in Odisha after the

BJP formed the government

### BJD slams govt over delay in Ratna Bhandar inventory

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Monday came down heavily on the state government over delay in inventory of the Ratna Bhandar valuables even though those were shifted back to the temple vault following its repair September 23.

The valuables from both the inner and outer chambers of Ratna Bhandar had earlier been moved to temporary strong rooms when the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) opened the inner chamber of the vault for repairs in July 2024—its first opening

Briefing media, BJD MP Subhashish Khuntia, who hails from Puri town, alleged that the BJP government's intension was 'doubtful' as it continues to delay the inventory of Srimandir's Ratna Bhandar.

Khuntia recalled that the BJP's 2024 election manifesto promised a comprehensive inventory of the vault's valuables, and charged that the state administration is intentionally stalling the process

"The administration has been delaying the conduct of inventory with evil intentions," he alleged, demanding that the government publicly disclose all details of the vault's contents at the earliest.

He warned that any further delay in the inventory of Ratna Bhandar will indicate

that valuables have been looted from the temple vault and the BJP government will be answerable to the people.

The BJD MP alleged that the Central government delayed granting ASI the permission for repairs under the former BJD regime, which had

established a committee headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Arijit Pasayat to oversee "But after the BJP came to

power, a new committee was set up under a retired High Court judge, replacing Justice Pasayat," he alleged.

### Mahanadi dispute: Ex-SC judge urges PM, CMs to come to mediation table

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 13: Calling for an urgent political intervention to end the Mahanadi water dispute, retired Supreme Court iudge Justice V Gopala Gowda Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Chief Ministers of Odisha and Chhattisgarh to 'come to the mediation table and settle it'.

Addressing the 'Mahanadi Sansad', Gowda said the issue remained unresolved for years despite being referred to the Mahanadi River Water Dispute Tribunal in 2018.

"We request the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers of both the states to come to the mediation table and settle it," he said.

"Seven years have elapsed since the matter was referred to the tribunal. Pleadings are completed, witnesses listed, evidence filed, but the process is so long-drawn that it may take decades," he added.

He warned that the prolonged adjudication could prove disastrous for both states, particular-

**Adjudication has no** resolution. One party may get justice, another may not. This kind of problem must be addressed seriously by bringing the states to the discussion

JUSTICE V GOPALA GOWDA RETIRED SC JUDGE

ly for downstream communities in Odisha, who are already facing depleted river flows due to what he called 'unauthorised barrages' in Chhattisgarh.

"Lakhs of fishermen are deprived of their livelihood. The livelihood deprivation is a violation of fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution," he said.

Gowda argued that the Union government must take a 'proactive role' in mediating the dispute under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, rather than leaving it to lengthy judicial processes.

"Adjudication has no resolu-

tion. One party may get justice. another may not. This kind of problem must be addressed seriously by bringing the states to the discussion table," he said, calling the current approach 'a failure of governance'

Advocating mediation and negotiation as alternatives, the former Orissa High Court Chief Justice said such mechanisms were globally accepted for resolving complex inter-state

"We are not dealing with an individual case but with millions of people, whose lives depend on this river," he reiterated. Gowda said that he had witnessed firsthand the poverty and struggles of the state's riverine communities, and urged civil society participants and experts present at the event to 'give their viewpoints and valuable solutions' to build public opinion and press for

"We wanted good mediators. Mediation must take place. For that, we have to create public opinion," he said.

### Youth arrested in City over social media hate speech

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: A youth was arrested by Bhubaneswar police Sunday night for allegedly spreading communal hatred through social media channels. The accused has been identified as Arshad Ali, 19.

He was arrested following a case registered on the basis of a written complaint lodged by an individual on October 9 this year, the police said.

In the written report to the police, the complainant alleged that a video was uploaded and circulated on social media containing false, baseless, provocative, hate-speech content. The said posting may provoke violence, and it is promoting communal hatred while insulting Hindu sentiments and issuing violent threats, the complaint stated.

According to the complaint, the illegal act of some people in the video was live-streamed on social media, where four individuals were having a video chat with each other. Their video chat promoted hatred on



the grounds of religion. It also insulted the religion or the reli gious beliefs. The said persons also promoted communal vio lence and were discussing the recent violence in Cuttack city, the police said.

On the basis of the complaint, Ali was apprehended from the Biridi police station area in Jagatsinghpur district on the night of October 12, said Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissioner, S Dev Datta Singh

"The persons who are for warding such messages are equally responsible as those who are creating such hate speeches, Singh said. He warned of legal action against the persons who are forwarding such messages on social media platforms.

# boarders disappointing: Dy CM

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida Monday strongly denounced West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's advice to female boarders to not venture out late at night, terming it as 'disappointing'.

Parida, who is also in charge of the Women and Child Development department, said in a post on X, "A woman leader like Mamata Banerjee, who is known as 'Didi' (elder sister) and a female chief minister, has disappointed women with her statement that girls should not go out at night. Her statement has surprised not only me but also the four crore ninety lakh women of West Bengal. Her statement has astonished and insulted all women.

'Instead of delivering justice to the victim, the West Bengal CM has no right to bring gender inequality and raise questions on the rights of girls. Moreover, f you have no sympathy for an Odia girl victim, then let them write to the Odisha government. We can understand the matter of our children even in vour state," Parida said, adding that it is "extremely condemnable not to feel ashamed."

Baneriee had made an averment Sunday saying, "Students staving in hostels, especially

### CM speaks to victim, assures full support

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday evening spoke over the phone with the Odia girl assaulted in Durgapur, her mother, and Odisha State Commission for Women chairperson Shobhana Mohanty, who was present there.

During the conversation, the CM assured the girl, saying, "Do not worry, the Odisha government stands firmly

He said the government is committed to ensuring her speedy recovery and uninterrupted education so she can return to normal life. He also stated that necessary action will be taken as per the law.

those who have come to West Bengal to study from outside, are expected to follow the rules of the hostels. They should avoid venturing out late at night, although they have the fundamental right to go wherever they want." She said this following the alleged gangrape of an Odia student studying at Durgapur in West Bengal while she was out for dinner Friday night.

Commission for Women (NCW) Monday recommended academic relief and enhanced safety measures for the gangrape survivor to prevent disruption in her education and ensure her well-being.

Expressing deep anguish over the incident, the commission's chairperson, Vijaya Rahatkar, sent a set of recommendations to West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose and CM Banerjee, emphasising the urgent need to address the trauma-induced academic disruption faced by the survivor, a statement said.

"As the victim may miss her upcoming examination due to trauma, the National Medical Commission (NMC) and university authorities should arrange a special examination to prevent academic loss," NCW said.

"If the victim does not feel safe continuing her studies at her current institute, the NMC and the state government should jointly arrange for her transfer to an alternative medical college to ensure her safety. comfort, and continuity of ed

ucation," the statement added. The NCW has also called for the establishment of a police outpost on campus and the installation of proper lighting and CCTV camera surveillance on connecting roads.

## Mamata's statement on female Twin murders spark safety concerns in City

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: A spate of violent crimes rocked the City Monday, with one youth shot dead near Sarakantara village and another bludgeoned to death with a stone in Chandrasekharpur, spreading panic among residents. In a separate incident the same day, a national award-winning teacher was assaulted by unidentified miscreants near Bhubaneswar railway station, raising concerns over the city's law and order situation.

Worried citizens and opposition parties have once again questioned the state government's failure to curb rising crime.

Soumya Sahu, a student from Chandrasekharpur, said, "As a student, I feel unsafe after seeing these incidents. If criminals

**ECoR** steps up drive to

prevent cattle run-overs

BHUBANESWAR: The Khurda Road

Division of East Coast Railway (ECoR)

has intensified public awareness

campaigns in villages near railway

which disrupt train operations and

pose safety risks. Over the past five

years, the Division has recorded 501

in recent years. Despite repeated

by railway officials and the local

to let cattle graze near railway

tracks. Such incidents endanger

locomotives, and inconvenience

passengers, ECoR officials said.

animals, cause train delays, damage

administration, villagers continue

such cases, with a sharp rise observed

awareness drives and announcements

tracks to curb cattle run-over incidents

### imagine what happens at night. If such cases continue, our safety will be at serious risk.' Similarly, another resident,

can operate in broad daylight,

Smita Mishra, said, "With rising cases of crimes against

deepen concerns about public safety. The state government must act swiftly and take strong measures to curb crime.'

Opposition parties slammed the state government, alleging a total collapse of law and or-

"Unrest in the state capital is growing, and criminals are operating with impunity. The police act only after incidents oc cur under the BJP government, making offenders fearless as

bullets fly in broad daylight." State Congress spokespersor Rajani Kumar Mohanty said "These incidents clearly show the collapse of law and order across the state. Bhubaneswar has become a safe haven for

criminals under BJP rule."

CPI(M) state secretary Suresh Chandra Panigrahy added, "The double murder reflects a growing pattern of rising crimes, attacks on women, and corruption under BJP's misrule. We demand immediate arrest of the culprits and a ju dicial inquiry into police and

### Fast-track forest land diversion for key projects, officers told

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: The Odisha Government Monday directed all Regional Chief Conservators of Forests (RCCFs) and Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) to expedite forest land diversion proposals for critical infrastructure projects, giving them top priority and resolving pending issues without delay.

The directive came during a coordination meeting chaired by Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department Additional Chief Secretary Satyabrata Sahu, aimed at addressing forest-related bottlenecks and accelerating project clearances.

Sahu directed officials to resolve forest-related issues concerning key infrastructure projects of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Indian Railways, OPTCL, Geolog ical Survey of India (GSI), and Reliance Jio Infocom Limited

He also reviewed the progress made on projects discussed in the previous meeting held in September and evaluated the current status of key projects listed under the PMG and PRAGATI portals of the Central and state governments.

These include the Capital Region Ring Road project, Go rumahisani new railway line of South Eastern Railways 4G-based mobile service project of Reliance Jio Infocom Limit-



**ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY SATYABRATA SAHU DIRECTED OFFICIALS TO RESOLVE** proposals. **FOREST-RELATED** 

**ISSUES FOR KEY PROJECTS OF NHAI, INDIAN RAILWAYS, OPTCL, GSI, AND RELIANCE JIO** 

ed, the mineral exploration proposal of the Geological Survey of India (GSI), the Kalta Iron Ore Mine of SAIL, the Transmission Line Project of OPTCL, and the Integrated Steel Plant

proposal of Kalvani Steels. Sahu instructed nodal officers to ensure regular monitoring and coordination at all levels to avoid unnecessary delays He also advised user agencies to promptly submit all required documents, maps, and related papers to the concerned DFOs to expedite the processing of

He further stressed that forest land diversion proposals must be processed within the stipulated timelines. Sahu urged all depart ments concerned and agencies to maintain close coordination to ensure timely implementation

The meeting was attended by Additional PCCF (Nodal) K Murugesan, CCF (Nodal) AK Kar, Special Secretary Lingaraj Otta, OPTCL CMD Bhaskar Jv oti Sharma, the Chief Engineer of Railways, and other senior

Regional Chief Conservators of Forests, Divisional Forest Officers, and representatives from user agencies also participated in the meeting virtually.

### **BJD questions BJP's silence** on women's safety in state

**BHUBANESWAR:** The Opposition BJD Monday strongly condemned the gang rape of an Odisha woman medical student in West Bengal's Durgapur and guestioned the BJP-led state government's handling of sexual assault cases at home. In a press statement, the party accused that BJP government in the state of not showing such promptness in many rape cases that take place in Odisha While the promptness shown by the Odisha government in condemning the Durgapur gang rape case is welcome, the same seriousness is missing when such violence against women take place in the state," BJD spokesperson and media coordinator Lenin Mohanty alleged. The party also questioned the absence of central and state women's commissions in Odisha during similar incidents. while both were quick to visit Durgapur.

### CLASSIFIED

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Chatrapur, Ganjam. I.E. Sankar Rao, S/o Late E. Venkat Rao. Resident of At Old Police Line, Chatrapur, Dist - Ganjam declare vide Sl. No. 726/03.10.25 that my son's actual name is Sanket Esinidi S/o E.Sankar Rao, E.Swarnalata (Mother's Name) as per my education certificate. But my son's name wrongly written E.Sanket in my son's pass port bearing No. IND - V9496844. That both Sanket Esinidi & E.Sanket both are name is one & same person.

### LOST

ABINASH JENA's B.Tech certificate bearing Regd. No. -1221313020 with Grade Sheet had lost on dt.07.10.2025. If someone found these documents, please contact on -8270394939.



OTS scheme has now been extended to 24 sections with the The initiative will help lakhs addition of seven more. Under of vehicle owners clear their the scheme, all e-challans isdues easily and avoid legal sued on or before July 31, 2025. complications under the can be settled with up to 50 per **Motor Vehicles Act** cent relaxation in the penalty

BIBHUTI BHUSAN JENA | COMMERCE & TRANSPORT MINISTER

lan number or vehicle registration number, users can view pending challans and complete

payments digitally. Commerce and Transport na said the initiative will help their dues easily and avoid legal complications under the Motor Vehicles Act. "The department has simplified the process so that people no longer need to visit RTOs for payment. The entire process can now be completed online," he said. Jena also cautioned citizens

Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Je-

to make payments only through the official Transport Department website and stay alert against cyber frauds.

The 24 sections covered under the scheme include offences such as driving without a helmet, seatbelt, driving license, or valid insurance.

For any queries or assistance, citizens are advised to contact their respective Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) or call the 24×7 toll-free helpline number 1800 345 1073.

### Collaborative action for child rights at brick kilns

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: Aide et Action (AEA), in collaboration with Unicef, Odisha and the Women & Child Development (W&CD) department, has extended its innovative care and education model for migrant children in brick kilns to Ganjam district, following its successful implementation in Khurda and Cuttack.

Citizens can now clear their

pending e-challans from the

comfort of their homes by vis-

iting the official portal https://

By selecting the 'Pay Online'

option and entering their chal-

echallan.parivahan.gov.in/.

Since 2022–23, with support from the District Labour Office (DLO), Ganjam, 17 brick kiln owners have set up child care and learning centres, benefiting nearly 1,000 migrant children. Children under six are being cared for at worksites, while those aged 6 to 14 are being integrated into formal education through the Non-Residential Seasonal Hostel (NRSH) scheme under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

Initially constrained by the absence of budget provisions in Ganjam, advocacy by AEA led to the identification of 242 eligible children, prompting the Odisha government to allocate funds under the SSA's seasonal hostel scheme for the district for the first time.

To strengthen coordinated action, a convergence meeting



was recently held at the DPC conference hall in Chhatrapur, chaired by Ganjam DEO Ahay Kumar Patra. The event was jointly organised by AEA, Unicef, the District Education Office, and the Labour depart-

Migration & Education, AEA director Umi Daniel shared best practices from Odisha and other states. Unicef consultant Ankit Keshari emphasised multi-departmental roles in child protection while SSA District Planning Coordinator

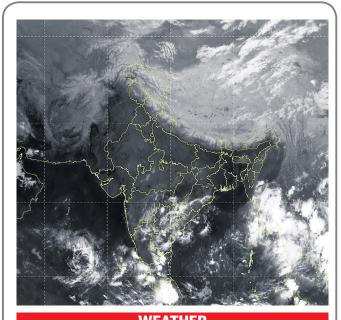
Sabitribala Das detailed the new NRSH budget allocation for Ganjam.

DLOs Barsharani Jena (Chhatrapur) and Subhalaxmi Behera (Berhampur) addressed legal frameworks against child labour and improving worksite conditions.

The convergence resulted in a multi-sectoral action plan that includes: establishing child-friendly ECCE centres at all brick kilns by November; recruiting ECCE facilitators for children under six; mapping and sharing data of all children for inclusion in ICDS and school services; conducting joint community mobilisation with SSA, ALOs, kiln owners, and AEA; ensuring families carry ID and entitlement documents; providing transport or escort support for children living over one kilometre from schools; improving housing, sanitation, and safety at worksites; deploying language teachers for non-Odia-speaking children; ensuring regular monitoring by the Child Labour Task Force and education officials; training ECCE facilitators and linking them with health and nutrition services; holding monthly sensitisation sessions for adolescent girls and mothers; and developing individual child profiles for continuous monitoring.

The initiative marks a significant milestone in safeguarding migrant children, bringing together government accountability, private sector participation, and civil society engagement. This collaborative model is setting a benchmark for replication across Odisha, ensuring that every child-regardless of migratory status—receives their right to protection, care, and quality education.

### CURRENCY BOURSES VARIATION **INDEX** VARIATION **INDEX VARIATION** DOLLAR 88.74 \$ 0.05 | SENSEX 82327.05 \$ 173.77 GOLD ₹124,400 ▲ ₹3,036 EURO **102.95** ♠ 0.03 NIFTY **25227.35** ♥ 58.00 SILVER ₹154,173 ▲ ₹7,707



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1in Temp	23.9°	21.5°	rain or thunderstorm v	
lumidity	77%	90%	likely to occur one or two plac	
ainfall	Nil	Nil		

### **BOOKING STA**

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

Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816 Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vinar- 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.

# lands Paikmal block vice-chairman in jail

Bargarh, Oct 13: The vice-chairman of Paikmal block in Bargarh district, Sanjib Bariha, also known as Barik, has been arrested for allegedly forging his caste certificate to contest elections from a seat reserved for Scheduled Tribes.

Following a complaint, Paikmal police registered a case (239/25) Monday and arrested Bariha. He was later produced before the Padampur court, where his bail plea was rejected, and he was subsequently remanded to judicial custody at Padampur Sub-Jail.

According to reports, Bariha had contested the 2022 three-tier panchayat elections from Kansada panchayat under Paikmal block and was elected as a samiti member. Later. he became the vice-chairman of Paikmal block. The Kansada samiti seat was reserved for Scheduled Tribes, but Bariha, who actually belongs to the Other Backward Class (OBC) category, allegedly forged a caste certificate to contest from the

The Paschim Odisha Adivasi Mahasangha had filed a complaint with departmental au-

Tensa, Oct 13: A woman from

Patamunda hutting under Pata-

munda panchayat of Koida block

in Sundargarh district allegedly

sold off her newborn son to another

person for ₹20,000, reportedly due

However, no police complaint

had been registered in this regard

when reports last came in. The

incident occurred around 45-days

ago but police launched a probe on

its own after the matter surfaced

her husband a few years ago and has been living with her five children

and mother-in-law at Patamunda

Sources said that the woman lost

to poverty.



thorities, alleging that Bariha had fraudulently obtained the post. The organisation had also staged a demonstration in front of the Paikmal block office and later observed a hunger strike outside the Padampur sub-collector's office, demand-

After no action was taken, the Mahasangha's Bargarh district president Gobinda Bariha lodged a written complaint with the state-level scrutiny committee, prompting a departmental investigation.

Subsequently, District Welfare Officer Malay Kumar Satapathy filed an FIR at Paikmal police station, leading to Bariha's arrest. Police sources said the arrested vice-chairman is also facing multiple other cases pending against him.

POVERTY DRIVES WOMAN TO

SELL INFANT SON FOR ₹20,000

hutting. Around five months ago,

she became pregnant but kept it a

secret fearing backlash from locals

However, on learning about her

pregnancy, local Anganwadi work-

er and ASHA took her to the Koida

community health centre (CHC) for

a medical checkup. She was later

sent to Maa Gruha. The woman

subsequently delivered a baby boy

at the Rourkela Government Hos-

from the hospital. When the ASHA and Anganwadi workers

questioned her, she revealed that

Twelve days later, she returned home alone after being discharged

pital (RGH) in Rourkela.

due to social stigma.

## Fake caste certificate Political murders dot Ganjam's underbelly

### 16 POLITICOS BRUTALLY KILLED SINCE 1998

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 13: A disturbing pattern of politically motivated killings continues till date in Ganjam district, with police data revealing that at least one political leader falls prey to the murderous trend ev-

Since 1998, at least 16 political leaders have been killed in the district.

The latest case occurred October 6, when BJP leader and senior lawyer Pitabas Panda was brutally shot dead near his residence at Baikunth Nagar in Berhampur. Two assailants reportedly arrived on a mo-

torcycle, fired at him from a close range and fled the scene. Police, who have launched a probe to trace the culprits, said the motive behind the murder was yet to be determined.

Over the years, Ganjam district has witnessed a string of similar killings. During the 2024 general elections, BJP worker Dillip Pahan of Shrikrushna Saranpur in Khallikote was murdered. In 2022, two BJD supporters were killed in Digapahandi block, while in 2021, former Beguniapada block chairman Debaraj Sahu and former Anantei panchayat sarpanch were slain.

In 2019, Congress candidate

for the Aska Assembly constituency Manoj Jena was shot dead ahead of the elections. That same year, former Sheragada block member Subash Chandra Sahu was also mur-

Previous victims include BJD leader and Chhatrapur NAC councillor Lakshmidatta Pradhan (2017), former Buguda NAC chairman Balakrishna Patra (2015), CPI member Sukura Sahu (2014), Chhatrapur block chairman N Seemanchal Reddy Bishoi (2010), BJD leader Sudarshan Parida (2009), former zilla parishad member Surendra Mohanty (2008), former Aska block chairman Uma Charan Bishoi (2002), and former Aska NAC chairman Saheb Parida (1998).

Former political science professor JK Baral said that the inclusion of individuals with criminal backgrounds in political parties could be one of the reasons behind these recurring murders.

Advocate Surendra Behera added that rivalry in liquor and business activities often contributes to political killings. Investigations into these cases are ongoing and strict measures are being taken to identify and arrest those involved in such crimes, police officials said.

### Dhanu Jatra to begin Dec 24

Bargarh: The world's largest open-air theatre, Bargarh's famous Dhanu Jatra, will begin December 24 and continue for 11 days until January 3, 2026. Preparations are underway, including the selection of artistes for key roles including King Kansa. At a meeting chaired by District Collector Aditya Goyal, officials decided to make this year's festival more organised, innovative and appealing. The meeting, attended by local MLAs and civic leaders, reviewed last year's budget, crowd control and safety measures. Goyal urged collective efforts to preserve the festival's legacy and grandeur, calling Dhanu Jatra a symbol of Bargarh's cultural pride. The committee expressed gratitude for the guidance and pledged a dignified and memorable celebration this year.

### **Retired forester arrested for** possession of wildlife parts

Deogarh: The Forest department Monday arrested a retired forester of the Deogarh forest range for illegal possession of wildlife body parts. The accused, identified as Kishore Chandra Pradhan of Akharashila village under Barkote police limits, was found keeping a spotted deer hide and 745 peacock feathers at his residence. Acting on a tip-off, forest officials conducted a late-night raid at Pradhan's house, where the animal parts were seized. Preliminary investigation suggests that he might have collected the items unlawfully during his tenure in service. Forest officials from the Barkote range have been interrogating Pradhan for further details regarding the source and purpose of the possession.

another person in exchange for

₹20,000 to help meet her expenses.

She reportedly said she was strug-

gling to feed her five children and

Former Patamunda sarpanch

Anita Das, the Child Develop-

ment Project Officer of Koida, said she had received information

about the incident but could not speak further until an inquiry is

Koida police station offi-

cer-in-charge Jyoti Ranjan Pati said

no complaint related to child sale has

been received in the police station.

Abhinash Suman Bage said he had heard about the alleged child sale

could not raise another.

but could not confirm it.

APPOINTMENT OF BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT SUPERVISOR ON CONTRACT BASIS Bank of Baroda, one of India's largest Public Sector Bank invites offline applications for Khordha, Nayagarh and Ganjam

Bank of Baroda Behera Sahi, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012

Bhubaneswar Regional Office,

FI Department, 1st Floor, Bivab Gulmohar

- districts of Odisha from Ex-bankers of any PSU Bank up-to the rank of Chief Manager
- · Retired clerks of Bank of Baroda having completed JAIIB. Any graduates with Computer Knowledge (MS Office, Email Internet etc.), however qualification like M.Sc. (IT)/ BE (IT) MCA/ MBA will be given preference.

The age of ex-bankers at the time of appointment should no exceed 65 years whereas in case of other candidates, i should be in the age group of 21-45 years. All the candidates applying should be resident of Odisha, preferably for respective districts and proficient in local language,

For details, visit our Bank's Website: https://www.bankofbaroda.in/career/current-opportunities

Last date of submission of offline application: 24.10.2025

Name of the

Date: 13.10.2025 Place: Bhubaneswar Regional Head

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

### (SEE SECTION 82(2) (ii) Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) Nayak (Santosh Nayak) Proprietor of Krishna Books F.M. Folai, Near ICICI Bank, Balasore, Baleshwar, Orissa has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No./CC No. 538182/16, U/s 138 NI Act, PS Pahargani, New **Delhi** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Nayak (Santosh Nayak) can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Nayak (Santosh Nayak) has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) Nayak (Santosh Nayak) of FIR No./CC No. 538182/16, U/s 138 NI Act, PS Paharganj, New Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 14.11.2025 at 10:00 AM.

Reserve Price / FMD /

Sh. Arvind Tomar DP/13789/CD/2025 Ld. Judicial Magistrate FC (NI Act)-07 Room No. 507, Extension Block, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

St. Branch Name /

### Bank of India

(Court Matter)

Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Mob.: 7978330922

### **E-AUCTION SALE OF VEHICLES**

Applications are invited from interested bidders for purchase of following vehicles, seized by the Bank on "As is where is", "As is What is" & "Whatever there is" basis as per terms and conditions listed below. This public notice will be treated as a notice to the Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagors of the loan. They are hereby advised to liquidate thier entire dues before the auction date, failing which the vehicles will be auctioned and balance dues, if any will be recovered from them with interest and cost.

No.	Contact No.	Borrowers	Vehicle Details	Bid Increment Amount	Parking Yard Details	
1.	ARB, CUTTACK / Mob: 8249067773	Mrs. Rashmi Rekha Nayak	TATA SIGNA 4830 TK (COMMERCIAL VEHICLE) Regd. No.: OD-09-AA-8203, Date of Purchase: 16.01.2024	₹38,10,000/- / ₹3,81,000/- / ₹10,000/-	M/s. S & D Stockyard, At/PO: Kanpur, PS: Rashgobindpur, Via: Baripada, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, PIN - 757016	
2.	ARB, CUTTACK / Mob: 8249067773	Mrs. Rashmi Rekha Nayak	TATA SIGNA 4830 TK (COMMERCIAL VEHICLE) Regd. No.: OD-09-AA-8265, Date of Purchase: 16.01.2024	₹38,10,000/- / ₹3,81,000/- / ₹10,000/-		
3.	ARB, CUTTACK / Mob: 8249067773	Mrs. Rashmi Rekha Nayak	TATA SIGNA 4830 TK (COMMERCIAL VEHICLE) Regd. No.: OD-09-AA-8213, Date of Purchase: 16.01.2024	₹38,10,000/- / ₹3,81,000/- / ₹10,000/-		
4.	KHANDAGIRI / Mob: 9178286377	Mr. Brahmananda Pujari	HYUNDAI, VENUE 1.0 TURBO GDI DCT SX+ (PERSONAL VEHICLE) Regd. No.: OD-02-BV-3920, Date of Purchase: 26.11.2021	₹6,13,000/- / ₹61,300/- / ₹10,000/-	Bank of India, Officer's Quarter, Toshali Apartment, Neela Block, Satya Nagar, Bhubaneswar - 751007	

Date of Auction: 11.11.2025 From 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each. E-Auction Portal- https://baanknet.com

Last Date of submission of EMD, Application & Documents: 14.10.2025 to 11.11.2025 from 10.00 A.M. to 02.00 P.M. Terms and Conditions: Interested bidders can inspect the vehicles at the premises of the stock yard as mentioned above on 14.10.2025 successful bidder has successful and the balance amount within **15 days** failing which the money deposited by the successful bidder would be forfeited. The cost of transfer of ownership & statutory dues/all misc. charges, if any is to be borne by the successful purchaser. Successful Bidder is fully responsible for taking delivery of the vehicles from stockyard after full payment is made within a period of 15 (fifteen) days. Vehicles will be auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" & "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis. However the Bank reserves the right to accept /reject/cancel the auction sale process of the vehicle at its own discretion at any point of time. There will be bidding in the auctior and the highest bidder will be declared as successful bidder. For further information & clarification contact: Mr. Rabindranath Behera, Mob.: 7978330922. This is also a 15 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Legal Heir(s) of the aforesaid loan accounts for settlement of their outstanding dues with the bank and to participate in the public auction/e-auction on the above mentioned date.

Regional Office: Sambalpur

1st Floor, Balaji Midtown, Budharaja,

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice of 30/15 days for Sale of Immovable Secured Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial

Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(6)/9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the **Authorised Officer of Union** 

Bank of India (Secured Creditor) will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of

outstanding dues to the **Union Bank of India** from the Borrowers and Guarantors mentioned below. The Reserve Price and the Earnest

For SI. No. 1 Date & Time of Auction: 14.11.2025 between 12.00 Noon. to 5.00 P.M.

For SI. No. 2 Date & Time of Auction: 30.10.2025 between 12.00 Noon. to 5.00 P.M.

(with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)

Sambalpur- 768004, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha

Place: Bhubaneswar Date: 14.10.2025

यूनियन बैंक 🕥

₹21,25,500/-

₹2,12,550/-

₹21,255/-

**E-AUCTION** 

SALE NOTICE

### Frequent power cuts plague border villages

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Oct 13: At a time when Andhra Pradesh government has been luring the border villagers from Odisha offering them lucrative facilities, apathy of local administration risks pushing the people further closer to the neighbouring state. Severe power disruptions affecting the residents of four border panchayats under Pottangi block in Koraput district is a case in point. exposing the sheer negligence towards the needs of fringe areas.

Fed up with the frequent and prolonged power cuts, hundreds of villagers from the Andhra-Odisha border areas took out a protest rally from the Pottangi block office to the Electricity Department office Monday. Chanting slogans against the government and power authorities, they demanded an immediate solution and the establishment of

a new power substation to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply.

Locals alleged that despite repeated complaints and written appeals to the administration, no concrete step has been taken to address the power crisis. They claimed that essential services like schools. health centres, and water supply systems have been severely affected due to erratic electricity, pushing villagers into hardship.

"Even after decades of independence, our border panchayats remain in darkness-literally and figuratively. The leaders only visit us during elections," said Laxman Hantal, expressing deep frustration over government inaction.

The villagers also submitted a memorandum to the department officials, warning that if their long-pending demands are ignored, they would intensify their agitation in the coming days.

भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनिमय बोर्ड Securities and Exchange Board of India भारतीय प्रतिमृति ओर विनिमय बोर्ड

conducted.

मुंबई (महाराष्ट्र) - 400 051 , दूरभाष : 26449000 / 40459000

### Tender No.: SEBI/HO/ITD/CSC/2025/10/01

for Proposal (RFP) for "Next Generation Security Operations Centre, Network Operations Centre (NGSOC-NOC) and other security solutions at SEBI" project through open tender. Refer RFP No.: SEBI/HO/ITD/CSC/2025/10/01 under "Tenders" section on official SEBI website (www.sebi.gov.in) for all the necessary guidelines and timelines.

Imstcecommerce.com/eprocn

CBC 15204/11/0174/2526

### **OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BARBIL**

"e"-Procurement Notice **BID REFERENCE MUNICIPALITY (BBLM-5/2025-26)** 

- 1. Name of the work
- 2. No. of work3. Bid value
- 4. Period of completion 5. Period of availability
- of tenders online
- 6. Last Date & time of bidding online
- 7. Date & time of
- opening of Technical
- Rs.97.000/- to Rs.30.50.000/-45 to 90 days
- P.M. of 30.10.2025 : 5.00 P.M. of 30.10.2025
- : 11.00 A.M. of dt.31.10.2025
- 8. Name and address of : EXECUTIVE OFFICER, BARBIL the officer inviting bid MUNICIPALITY Further details can be seen from the procurement portal

OIPR-13108/11/0042/2526

Sd./- Executive Officer.

### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER **RURAL WORKS DIVISION, JEYPORE**

e-Procurement for Building works Bid Identification No.: EERWJYP - Online - 05/2025-26

Date: 26.09.2025 Letter No.: 4408 O1. Name of the work: Building works, 02. Total Number of works: 23 (Twenty Three) Nos., 03. Approximate Estimated cost: Rs.1.99 lakhs to Rs.17.15 lakhs (approximately), 04. Class of Contractor: "C" & "D" Class, 05. Period of Completion: Within 1 or 2 Months, 06. Other Details

- 1	Procurement officer	Bid Identification No.	in notice	bidding		of seeking tender	Opening
- 1			III Houce	From	То	clarification	Opening
	Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Jeypore	Online Tender - 05/ RWD-JYP/2025-26	23 Nos.	15.10.2025 at 10.00 A.M.	27.10.2025 upto 05.00 P.M.	26.10.2025 at 1.30 P.M.	28.10.2025 at 10.00 A.M.
- 1							

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app website to keep themselves updated.

OIPR-25160/11/0022/2526

Sd./- Executive Engineer Rural Works Division, Jeypore

No.O-947

### No.11, P.O.: Bargarh, Dist.: Bargarh, PIN-REDHAKHOI BRANCH Borrower: M/s. Mahima Indane, through Legal heirs of the deceased Prop. Kalpana Nayak, represented by Pradyumna Kumar Naik / Guarantor: All the Legal heirs of the deceased Kalpana Nayak, represented by Pradvumna Kumar Naik. All are At:

money deposit is stated in the column respectively.

**BRANCH** /

Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantor

Borrower: M/s. Nawdurga Textiles, Prop.:

Mr. Amarnath Bhagat, At: Ward No.11, P.O.:

Bargarh, Dist.: Bargarh, PIN-768028 /

Guarantor: Mr. Hemanath Bhagat, At: Ward

BHATLI CHOWK BRANCH /

Sakasingha, P.S.: Angul Sadar, Tahasil: Road, East: Vacant Land, West: Vacant Land Banarpal, Dist.: Angul-759123

Union Bank

Kumari Mishra, West: Land of Bharati Mishra and Pradipta Kumar Dash Land with commercial Building thereon situated at Mouza: Barsikiakhol, P.S.: Rampur, Tahasil: Redhakhol, Dist.: Sambalpur bearing MS Khata No.: 39/14, Plot No.: 139/397 having Area: Ac 0.40 Dec. Standing in the name of Pradyumna Kumar Naik, Prithiv Raj Singh Mantri, Khirabdhi Mahima & Jayashree Mahima (Legal heirs of Late Kalpana Nayak), Bounded by North: Vacant Land, South:

**Description of Property** 

to be Auctioned

Vacant Land situated at Mouza: Bargarh, P.S

Bargarh, Tahsil: Bargarh, Dist.: Bargarh bearing MS Khata No.: 2414/10616, Plot No.: 3180/13346 having

Total Area: Ac 0.05 dec., standing in the name of

Mr. Hemanath Bhagat, Bounded by North: Road, South: Plot No.: 3043/17685, East: Land of Krishna

₹35,77,500/-₹18,63,448.91 as on 10.10.2025 ₹3,57,750/-+ interest, costs and charges thereon ₹35,775/-

**Total Dues** 

₹21.90.044.05

as on 08.09.2025

+ interest, costs

and charges

Date and Time of Inspection of Property for Intending Purchasers: upto 13.11.2025 (For SI. No.1) AND upto 29.10.2025 (For SI. No.2) during Banking Hours Details of encumbrances if any : NIL

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD : On or before the commencement of E-Auction For registration and login and bidding rules visit

https://baanknet.com and https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx

STATUTORY 30/15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6)/9(1) OF STATUTORY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 This May also be treated as notice under Rule 8(6)/9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.

For any query please contact: Mob.: 7783054070 (SI. No.1)/9090776601 (SI. No.2)

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 13.10.2025 Sd/- Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India

### tration Monday launched a major eviction drive to clear unauthor ised stalls and encroachments along National Highway 326. The

**Encroachers evicted** 

Koraput: After serving repeated

notices for over three months.

the Koraput Municipal Adminis

drive comes as part of a broader campaign by the civic body to restore public spaces, improve traffic flow, and curb illegal occupation of government land in the heart of Koraput town. The officials further warned that any future encroachments on municipal or government property would invite strict legal action. The eviction operation began around 2pm, with police personnel present to maintain

law and order.

भवन ॥, प्लॉट सं. सी-७, "जी" ब्लॉक, बांदा कर्ली कॉम्प्लेक्स, बांदा (पर्व)

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) invites Request

Kindly submit your proposals on this link: https://www

TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. 2845/BBL MPLTY Date: 10.10.2025 : Civil construction works as mentioned in website

52 (Fifty two)

From 10 A.M. of 16.10.2025 to 5.00

<u>www.tendersorissa.gov.in</u>

**Barbil Municipality** 

SI No of work Availability of tender online for Last date and time Date of

All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above N.B. : Any Addendum or Corrigendum will be available in the Website only

SI.





**Detachment is the** beginning of mastery.

**SRI AUROBINDO** 



### Peacemakers

here is rejoicing as peace has started to return to the heart of the war-ravaged Middle East and a ceasefire has come into force between Israel and Hamas in the presence of some of the top leaders of the world. It is heartening to see the process being prefaced by two distinguished peacemakers – winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize Maria Corina Machado of Venezuela and US President Donald Trump - graciously lauding each other for their endeavours to establish peace in their own ways. Spotlight was on the Nobel Peace Prize this year as Trump had been outspoken about his desire for the award, taking credit for ending several global conflicts. He had regularly brought it up, including during his address to the UN General

This triggered speculation how the US President would react if the Nobel Committee did not choose him for the honour, given Trump's track record of behaving belligerently if his wishes were not fulfilled. Predictably, moments after Machado was declared the winner, the White House accused the Nobel Committee of putting "politics over peace" for awarding its most coveted prize to the Venezuelan pro-democracy activist ignoring the claims of the US President.

But Trump surprised everyone as he graciously accepted the committee's decision and congratulated Machado over phone. It appears Machado won Trump's heart when she told him that she was receiving the award in his honour and that she believed he deserved the award more. While reporting their conversation, Trump even joked that he did not tell Machado to give me the Nobel Prize." The President went further to praise the new Nobel laureate for her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and promised that he would continue to help her in achieving her goals. He did mention his own efforts to end conflicts in "eight cases," including the recent India-Pakistan conflict following the Pahalgam terror attack. Trump signed off with the assertion that he was "happy" that he could "bring peace for millions of people." In fact, he posted in his social media account, "blessed are peacemakers."

Many foreign leaders, including Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, had publicly stated that Trump deserved the prestigious honour. Even Russian President Vladimir Putin said Trump was doing a lot to resolve complex crises and effectively endorsed his claim

On the other hand, in keeping with the spirit of her fight for democracy and freedom, Machado praised Trump on X following her win, dedicating the prize to the suffering people of Venezuela and to President Trump "for his decisive support of our cause."

The Nobel Committee probably did not want to be judged as having buckled under pressure exerted by Trump's lobbyists and chose Machado, Nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize close on 31 January of each year, while Trump assumed office for his second term only a few days before the deadline. The Nobel Committee meets between February and September to whittle down the list of nominees. In fact, Marco Rubio, now Trump's secretary of state, was among a group of Congress members who nominated Machado for the prize in August 2024, while he was still a US senator.

Trump has to traverse a long way before he could really be a serious contender for the prize. It is not clear what achievement Trump would have secured to merit the prize for this year. True, the ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas is a significant development, but it is still in its initial stage. Russia's war with Ukraine shows no signs of coming to an end any time soon despite Trump's insistence that both Ukrainian

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Putin agree to a peace deal. Again, in his second term, Trump has pursued an "America-first" policy, jeopardising global economy and diplomacy and cracking down on immigrants ruthlessly and mercilessly. Within weeks of taking office, he gave his nod to his then-advisor Elon Musk's proposal to dismantle the United States Agency for International Development,

The Nobel Committee awards the Peace Prize to leaders who champion arms control and disarmament, peace negotiation, democracy and human rights and work aimed at creating a better organized and

which provided humanitarian assistance throughout the world.

more peaceful world as its website declares. The way Trump has taken his failure to win the Nobel Peace Prize in his stride and is working towards bringing peace in the Middle East is laudable. He needs to keep this momentum going so as to emerge as a true peacemaker, prize or not.

### WISDOM CORNER

There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow men. True nobility lies in being superior to your former self.

Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of human freedoms - to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way

Nothing is more important than reconnecting with your bliss. Nothing is as rich. Nothing is more real.

DEEPAK CHOPRA

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1066:** At the Battle of Hastings, fought this day in 1066, King Harold II of England was defeated by the invading army of William, duke of Normandy, in the Norman Conquest, establishing Normans as rulers of
- 1806: French troops under Napoleon smashed the outdated Prussian army led by Charles William Ferdinand at the Battle of Jena.
- 1926: English humorist A.A. Milne published Winnie-the-Pooh, a children's book featuring the adventures of a honey-loving bear and his friends, including Eeyore and Piglet.
- 1943: Some 300 Jewish laborers at Sobibor extermination camp in Nazi-occupied Poland staged a revolt, killing several SS supervisors and Ukrainian guards; many inmates died, and the camp was subsequently dismantled.
- 1944: German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, the "Desert Fox," ended his life by drinking poison following the discovery of his connection to a conspiracy to assassinate Adolf Hitler.
- 1947: American test pilot Chuck Yeager became the first person to break the sound barrier.
- 1964: Baptist minister and social activist Martin Luther King, Jr., was named the winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace, cited for his work involving civil rights and social justice.

### FOCUS MENTAL HEALTH

# INDIA'S SILENT CRISIS

of IT workers put on their work faces-logging into video calls, answering emails, or rushing through commutes. Outwardly, everything looks fine: smiles, small talk, productivity dashboards. But behind those screens and smiles, an invisible struggle brews. Anxiety, fatigue, sleeplessness, and a creeping sense of helplessness. These are the signs of a silent epidemic that rarely gets the attention it deserves. This is India's "hidden crisis," a public-health challenge quietly eroding our productivity. creativity, and social fabric.According to the WHO, neglecting mental health could cost India over \$1 trillion in lost economic output over a decade. That figure isn't just about hospitals or medication; it represents absenteeism, reduced innovation, and the quiet burnout that drains motivation from classrooms,

startups, and boardrooms alike. When a young software engineer in Pune jumps from his office terrace, or a bank executive ends his life due to unbearable stress, it's not just a personal tragedy. It is also an institutional failure. These are symptoms of a deeper malaise: the neglect of mental wellbeing as a core economic and public health issue, not just a private one. India's suicide rate was 9.9 per lakh in 2017 and rose to 12.4 in 2022, according to the NCRB. Student suicides alone have jumped 65% in a decade. Behind those numbers are academic pressure, job anxiety, and social isolation. A multi-city study in 2024 found that seven out of ten college students report moderate-to-severe anxiety, and six out of ten show symptoms of depression. Yet most never seek help, either because they can't afford it or because of the stigma that still shadows mental illness. As noted by scholar Istikhar Ali and others, mental distress is often viewed as a moral weakness or spiritual failure, not as a legitimate health condition. The advice given in families is just be strong, or pray to the Almighty. This silence and shame cuts



Ignoring mental health isn't just cruel, it's costly. The loss of creativity, productivity, and hope can cripple a society faster than any fiscal deficit

across religion and castes, and is aided by patriarchy. A young woman facing postpartum depression is told to chant; a boy suffering from anxiety is told to "man up." Hence people suffer in silence, delaying treatment until it's too late. Families hide illnesses out of shame.

Mental health is deeply tied to the economy's performance. A depressed worker is less productive; a burnt-out entrepreneur invests less creatively; a stressed student performs poorly and joins the workforce already demotivated. Research shows that every rupee invested in mental-health care and counselling yields up to Rs 4 in productivity gains. Conversely, neglect compounds inequality. Rural Indians, who already face limited access to hospitals, are the worst affected. India has only 0.75 psychiatrists per 100.000 people, far below WHO's benchmark of 3. Over 63% of Indians live in rural areas, but most mental-health professionals work in metros. There is an admirable tele-counselling initiative, but poor digital connectivity and lack of trained professionals have limited its reach. Further, the Mental Healthcare Act (2017) was hailed as a landmark law, reframing mental health as a right. and not a privilege. It guaranteed access, dignity, and insurance coverage. Yet eight years later, the reality is disappointing. India's budgetary spend on mental health is woefully short of global benchmarks. Many insurers still cap mental-health claims below physical-health ones-despite legal mandates. Community-health workers are overwhelmed and rarely trained in mental-health first aid. There is also a rural urban divide. Farmers groping with debt, women trapped in abusive households and adolescents with no outlets for expression.

India's youth i.e. its demographic dividend is under immense emotional strain. College students chase impossible expectations. Youth unemployment among college graduates is more than 30%. Many graduates spend years preparing for government exams, their self-worth eroding with each failed attempt. The rise in educated-youth unemployment and the cultural obsession with "success" have together created a fragile generation, outwardly confident but inwardly anxious

Across corporate India many large firms now run mindfulness sessions and provide Employee Assistance Programmes. However, true workplace wellness needs psychological safety, not token yoga classes. Employees must feel free to admit stress without fear of being judged. Paradoxically, we talk more about mental health today than ever before. Yet awareness hasn't translated into accessibility.

The road ahead needs several actionable items. There are also lessons from global best practices from countries such as Brazil

nutrition and also reduced the mortality of psychiatric patients. In Kenya, the transfers improved mental wellbeing. In India, firstly the mental health component should be raised to at least 5% of total public health budget. This includes counselling services. Secondly, frontline community workers should be trained for basic psychosocial support and suicide-prevention. Thirdly, mandate insurance companies to cover mental illness. Fourthly, like some other countries, integrate mental health into nutrition and economic security welfare schemes. Fifth, while investing in tele-counselling and AI helps, it cannot replace human empathy. Sixth, there must be an active effort to destigmatise mental illness, especially through school curricula. The Supreme Court has recently issued guidelines mandating mental-health policies and counsellors in all educational institutions. These should be implemented. Our collective economic wellbeing is inseparable from mental health. India must build an unbreakable mental-health shield. That shield is made up of empathy, community, and timely intervention. It begins in schools that treat counselling as essential as mathematics, in offices that normalise

Ignoring mental health isn't just cruel, it's costly. The loss of creativity, productivity, and hope can cripple a society faster than any fiscal deficit. As a nation investing in digital infrastructure and green energy, we must also invest in the mental energy of our people. The crisis is silent only because we choose not to hear it. It's time we listened—to our children, colleagues, farmers, and friends. We need to harvest a mental-health dividend, with compassion, access, and

mental-health leave, in families

that listen without judgment.

Ajit Ranade is a noted economist. Sushil Walunj is a PhD Scholar. ©THE BILLION PRESS

Sushil Walunj

**AS A NATION** 

**INFRASTRUCTURE** 

**INVESTING** 

**IN DIGITAL** 

**AND GREEN** 

**ENERGY, WE** 

**MUST ALSO** 

**INVEST IN THE** 

MENTAL ENERGY

**OF OUR PEOPLE** 

### SPECTRUM SOCIETY

### Religious conflicts: A human-made tragedy



Yasobant Das

**ONLY COURAGE, EMPATHY, AND** RESPONSIBILITY **FROM EVERY CITIZEN CAN ENSURE A FUTURE** WHERE FAITH **BECOMES A BRIDGE - NOT A BATTLEFIELD** 

🖊 has long taken pride in the harmonious coexistence of people from all faiths. For decades, the term "Cuttacki" embodied an unmatched spirit of togetherness. Born and raised here, I have seen Hindus, Christians, Muslims, and Sikhs live as one family-celebrating each other's festivals, sharing joys, and standing shoulder to shoulder in times of need. Differences of religion were never part of our lives.

That is why the violent incidents of 5 and 6 October, 2025, during the Durga Puja immersion, have left deep wounds in our collective soul. The streets, which should have been filled with chants and music, instead became scenes of fear and destruction. The idol of Goddess Durga, destined for the Kathaiodi River, was accompanied not just by devotees, but by the shadow of disharmony. Property lay in ruins, contradicting the essence of "Cuttacki." This was a scar not seen since 1965-one we believed would never reappear.

foundation has now been fractured. The pain is personal, shattering trust and mutual respect. Countless peace-loving residents are left shocked, struggling to reconcile this violence with the city we love. Our youth, who deserve a Cuttack free from divisions, now inherit a troubled present.

Yet even in darkness, hope must endure. Healing will take time, forgiveness, and courage to rise above bitterness. We must unite, rebuild and restore our city's dignity. Cuttack belongs to all, irrespective of faith. The spirit of "Cuttacki" must rise again, strengthened by the resolve to safeguard harmony.

Religious discord, however, is as old as civilization and fundamentally human-made. Differences in faith often mask deeper causes - ego clashes. competition for power, and struggles over resources. History is full of examples where religion became a rallying cry not for spirituality, but for

For decades, Cuttack stood kingdoms, territory, and mateand even family members have led their followers into bloody conflict under the guise of faith.

Even within Christianity, militant imagery exists in language, such as "Onward Christian Soldiers," and historically, the Vatican sanctioned military campaigns to defend spiritual territories-like Constantinople against Mohammed II. India too has witnessed intra-religious strife, such as between Shaivites and Vaishnavites. Globally. sectarian disputes have shaped political maps, and contemporary examples like Gaza remind us how civilians bear the brunt. Closer home, incidents like Cuttack's reveal similar patterns, where poor, working-class communities suffer most, losing

livelihoods overnight. Religious conflicts resist easy solutions, Organizations based on faith may sometimes worsen tensions instead of resolving them. This is why India's constitutional secularism - where no state religion exists - is a blessing. Our diverse fabric still

offers moments of harmony: ples, and interfaith devotion at Mumbai's Colaba Church, Haji Ali Dargah, or Ajmer Dargah. Such examples prove genuine camaraderie is possible.

The unrest in Cuttack remains puzzling. Was it flamboyance on one side and intolerance on the other? Though sudden, it bore signs of premeditation - defence turned offence. Ordinary citizens and uniformed personnel suffered alike. The damage to peace, trust, and livelihoods will take years to mend.

Now is the time to rise above blame. The police, the people, the property - and the country - belong to all. Communal harmony must be a mission, not a slogan. Voluntary bodies, media, and government agencies must act together to break cycles of violence. Only courage. empathy, and responsibility from every citizen can ensure a future where faith becomes a bridge - not a battlefield.

> The writer is a Senior Advocate.

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPost B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### The PK factor

Sir, JD(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav remain the frontrunners to retain or capture power respectively in the state that is going to the polls soon. However, without a doubt, interest revolves around political strategist turned leader Prashant Kishor's ability to make inroads into either coalition. That Kishor is a political "Chanakya" behind the scenes is part of folklore. But not much is known about his ability to win popular votes. Kishor has been actively portraying his "Jan Suraaj" party as an alternative to the big shots. He has been building his party from the grassroots for the last three years. An interesting part of his campaign is his direct connect with the rural electorate. Kishor's oratorical skills have come as a surprise for many. Pro-people development schemes have been his major election plank. PK has not dithered an inch in taking over his mighty rivals on their own turf. So, who will "benefit" from PK: Nitish or Tejashwi?

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

### Defence or genocide

Sir, Palestinians hope that the recent ceasefire will evolve into a permanent end to a devastating two-year conflict in Gaza, which has killed over 67,000 Palestinians and wounded around 170,000, while destroying much of the enclave. A United Nations commission and several human rights bodies have accused Israel of committing genocide. Israel rejects these claims, maintaining that its actions were in self-defence following a Hamas-led attack that killed about 1,200 Israelis and took 251 hostages on 7 October, 2023. Analysts argue that the situation highlights a changing global perspective, where civilian casualties, humanitarian law, and proportionality are increasingly scrutinized, raising questions over what constitutes legitimate self-defence versus acts amounting to war crimes. Various perspectives need to be integrated to surface out whether it was genocide or self defence in offensive by Israel.

RS Narula, PATIALA



## TWO STATES





## **Snakebite envenomation** now critical in Kerala

is a life-threatening disease caused by the migration of venomous snakes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 13: The Kerala government has designated snakebite envenomation a disease of "utmost public health importance", a move aimed at enhancing data collection and documentation in response to concerns over fatalities from related incidents. The significant decision was

made under Section 28 of the Kerala Public Health Act, 2023, as per the gazette notification

Snakebite envenomation is a life-threatening disease caused by the migration of venomous snakes, it said.

"Snakebite envenomation is hereby declared a disease of public health importance throughout the state," said the notification signed by Dr Rajan Khobragade, Additional Chief Secretary (Health).

Any disease, whether communicable or non-communicable, can be declared as a disease of public health importance if the government needs to collect more information about it or if any treatment standards are to be followed in its connection, it said.

If appropriate treatment is not provided in a timely manner, the bite of venomous snakes can lead to the death of the person or health problems that may lead to fatal or permanent disability

The significant government notification came two weeks after the Kerala High Court issued a slew of directions. including making snakebite cases a notifiable disease and developing more antivenoms,



The significant government notification came two weeks after the Kerala High Court issued a slew of directions, including making snakebite cases a notifiable disease and developing more antivenoms, to address the issue of snakebites in schools

to address the issue of snakebites in schools.

The directives by a division bench of Chief Justice Nitin Jamdar and Justice Shoba Annamma Eapen came September 26 while disposing of two petitions highlighting the lack of medical care required for urgent treatment of child victims of snakebite in Kerala.

The petitions were filed in the wake of a schoolgirl's death due to snakebite at a government school in Wayanad district's Sulthan Bathery November 20, 2019. Prior to issuing the directions, the bench observed that there was no comprehensive policy to coordinate the role of different departments to address the issue of snakebites in

It also noted many states in India have declared snakebite envenoming as a notifiable disease, making it mandatory

to report cases, as without reliable data, policy interventions remain ad hoc

However, in Kerala, snakebite envenoming has not yet been declared a notifiable disease, the court had said.

It had also directed the state government to take steps to make snakebite cases and deaths a notifiable disease under the Kerala Public Health Act. 2023, as instructed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in November last year, within two months. In the wake of increased straying of snakes into human habitats, the Kerala Forest Department launched the "SARPA" app to manage human-snake inter-

Department sources here, however, said the app, launched in 2020, could bring down snakebite incidents to a great extent in the state

### Rajasthan sets record low battery storage price

With about 125 GW of solar capacity, India is now the third-largest solar producer in the world

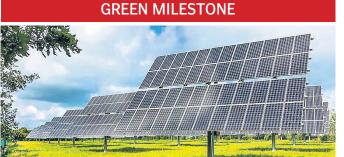
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: In a significant development towards achieving green energy sustainability, Rajasthan has set a new record with the lowest ever battery energy storage price in India at "Rs 1.77 lakh per megawatt (MW)", Amitabh Kant, former chief executive officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog, said Monday.

Sharing a newspaper article, Kant, who also served as G20 Sherpa for India, said the progress would expedite the adoption of renewable energy in the nation by making it more

"A landmark achievement that will strengthen grid reliability, accelerate renewable energy adoption, and make clean power more affordable for India," Kant wrote on X.

Earlier, Pralhad Joshi, Minis ter of New and Renewable Energy, informed that India added a



pacity in the April-September period this year, which was led by solar power.

With about 125 GW of solar capacity, India is now the third-largest solar producer in the world. "India achieves a historic feat in clean energy with a record 25GW renewable capacity added in April-September 2025 (H1FY26), led by solar power. This milestone reflects PM Narendra Modi's vision for a brighter, sustainable future,

journey to global leadership in renewables," the minister said in a post on X.

This milestone shows PM Modi's vision for a brighter and sustainable future. The nation is speeding up its path to becoming a leader in renewable "India has met its renewable

energy goals five years early. The country has surpassed the 50 per cent mark in total installed electricity capacity from

A landmark achievement that will strengthen grid reliability, accelerate renewable energy adoption, and make affordable for India

non-fossil sources," the minis ter said. While speaking at the launch event for the 8th session of the International Solar Alli ance (ISA) assembly, which will take place from October 27-30 in New Delhi, the minister emphasised that India's success story goes beyond numbers; it is about the people.

"We have seen firsthand how decentralised solar trans forms lives, brings light to rural homes, powers local health centres and gives new tools to our farmers. With PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, more than 20 lakh households are benefiting from solar power," according to Joshi.



Police personnel use water cannons to disperse members of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha during a protest over alleged irregularities in the gold-plating of the Sabarimala temple, in Thiruvananthapuram, Monday

### **HIJAB DISPUTE BREAKS OUT AT KOCHI SCHOOL**

St Rita's School declares two-day holiday amid row over student wearing hijab

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kochi, Oct 13: A controversy has erupted at St Rita's School in Palluruthy, Kochi, after a student wearing a hijab was barred from attending classes. prompting threats against the school from certain organisations and a two-day closure.

The management explained that the school received threats demanding that hijabs be permitted, and the temporary closure Monday and Tuesday was aimed at ensuring the safety of other students.

The student's father claimed that his daughter faced mental harassment at school for wearing a hijab and has lodged complaints with the Chief Minister and the Education Minister.

School authorities, however, maintained that the action



was taken because the student failed to adhere to the prescribed school uniform.

The principal emphasised that institutional discipline requires compliance with uniform rules, and allowing one student to defy them could pressure others to do the same.

According to the school, the student had attended classes without a hijab for the past four months. She resumed wearing it last Tuesday, prompting the management to bar her.

The authorities alleged that the student's decision was influenced by external parties attempting to create conflict within the school. They added that other students felt intimidated during the incident.

### Hike in gold prices sees upturn of smuggling at Kerala airports

87 cases resulting in the seizure of 40.6 kg of gold, worth around ₹32 crore, were detected in Kerala between January and July this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 13: After a brief lull, gold smugglers are becoming active again, with smuggling activities ramping up at airports in Kerala.

On Sunday, the Customs and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized smuggled gold at the Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi airports.

In a statement issued by the Customs (Preventive) Commissionerate, Kochi, following the seizure of 360 grams of gold from a passenger who arrived at the Thiruvananthapuram airport, officials said there has



been a noticeable increase in gold smuggling cases through the airport recently.

"Trends point to a resurgence of gold smuggling, which appears to be due to the high gold prices," the statement said.

According to Customs, two persons were arrested last week for attempting to smuggle gold worth ₹1.6 crore in separate incidents at Thiruvananthapuram airport.

"Smugglers are coming up with ingenious methods of concealing gold on their body or in their garments. There has also been an instance of gold being disguised as pearl or bead neck laces," the statement said.

"Customs remains vigilant and continues to strengthen its surveillance and enforcement measures at the airport to curb smuggling activities," the state ment added.

The DRI recovered 630 grams of gold found abandoned on an aircraft at the Kochi airport Sunday.

According to Customs data. 87 cases resulting in the seizure of 40.6 kg of gold, worth around ₹32 crore, were detected in Kerala between January and July this year.

Officials said gold smuggling had slumped after the Union government reduced the import duty on gold from 15 per cent to 6 per cent, but the trend appears to be reversing due to the recent rise in gold prices.

"The current surge is due to the hike in gold prices. Once the price reduces, the smuggling is also likely to come down," an officer said.

### Diwali glow-up: Rajasthan govt schools get makeover

a first,

Diwali

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Oct 13: In a first-ever initiative, the Bhajanlal government in Rajasthan has announced a large-scale beautification campaign to renovate and illuminate all government schools across the state ahead of Diwali.

Under this plan, around 65,000 government schools will be repaired, painted, and decorated with lighting to celebrate the festival of lights.

The campaign will be implemented in two phases. The first phase, from around 65.000 October 11 to govt schools in October 18, will focus on repairs Rajasthan to be painting. second illuminated this phase, from October 18 until Diwali, will involve installing

attractive lighting in all schools. This is the first time such a comprehensive festival-oriented makeover is being carried out in the state's government

education sector. To support the initiative, the Education Department will provide financial assison the size and needs of the invibrant and welcoming atmosphere for students, staff, and the local community during

the festive season. **Education Minister Madan** Dilawar announced that this initiative is part of the government's broader efforts to upliff

ernment schools in Rajasthan He emphasised that the work must adhere strictly to the Rajasthan Public Procurement Transparency Act. 2012, and

the standard and image of gov

the General Financial and Accounting Rules,

2013. To ensure visual uniformity across the state specific color schemes have been mandat-

Government Higher Secondary Schools will be painted in light yellow while government primary schools will be painted in light pink.

Officials have been instructed to ensure that all repair and painting work is completed by October 18. Following this decorative lighting will be installed, giving schools a festive and celebratory look for Diwali.

### tance ranging from ₹15,000 to This campaign aims not only to ₹2 lakh per school, depending beautify the schools but also to instill a sense of pride and celebration among students and The objective is to create a educators across Rajasthan.

## AI to control traffic congestion in Udaipur

If successful, the system could revolutionise *Udaipur's traffic* management -- reducing congestion, saving fuel, and ensuring faster emergency response times

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Oct 13: Udaipur has taken a decisive step towards easing its traffic woes -- Artificial Intelligence (AI) will now manage traffic signals at the city's busy Fatehpura intersec-

tion, officials said. The AI-driven traffic management system began its trial run Friday, marking a new era in intelligent urban transport in Rajasthan.



The system uses high-resolution cameras and sensors to monitor vehicle movement across all four lanes.

Based on real-time traffic flow, the AI will automatically give a green signal to the lane with the highest number of vehicles, ensuring smoother movement and shorter wait-

If no vehicles are detected in a lane, the system will switch signals within five seconds. avoiding unnecessary delays that commonly occur with

### **MODERN URBAN TRANSPORT**

Based on real-time traffic flow, the AI will automatically give a green signal to the lane with the highest number of vehicles. ensuring smoother movement and shorter waiting times

n a major innovation, the Al Is designed to recognise the sound of ambulances and fire brigades

The system uses high-I resolution cameras and sensors to monitor vehicle movement across all four lanes

fixed-timer lights.

In a major innovation, the AI is designed to recognise the sound of ambulances and fire

Upon detecting these sirens,

it will instantly turn the signal green on that route to allow emergency vehicles to pass without hindrance.

The entire setup is connected to a mobile app, allowing real-time monitoring and control by traffic authorities According to Traffic Dep-

uty Superintendent of Police Ashok Anjana, traffic pressure increases sharply during morning and evening hours. The AI system will automat-

ically clear congested lanes and streamline movement. Based on the results from the Fatehpura intersection, we plan to expand it to other key junctions across Udaipur," he said.

The pilot project includes installing high-resolution cameras and smart sensors, costing nearly ₹10 lakh per intersection.



# national



**Pradesh** is emerging as a leader in green energy and preparing to become a hub for artificial intelligence and innovation

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU

### VIKSIT BHARAT BUILDATHON: OVER 3L SCHOOLS PARTICIPATE SIMULTANEOUSLY

Over 3 lakh schools from across the country participated simultaneously in the Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025, India's largest synchronised innovation hackathon for school students Monday, according to officials







things. High high command The opinions of the legislators and the high command are both very important. Without the opinion of the legislators no one can become the chief minister. Only if there is a majority (support of legislators), one can become (CM).

The high command's blessings

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

People of Punjab have their mind to support Prime Minister Modi Thev have seen

the Congress and the AAP governments. When I ask the people of Punjab why they voted for the AAP, they tell me they have made a mistake NAYAB SINGH SAINI I HARYANA CM



of his own and his politics is dependent on his father (Congress president Mallikarjun

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA CM

### SHORT **TAKES**

### Ex-PM Deve Gowda discharged from hosp

Bangalore: Former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, who was hospitalised here last week, is "medically stable" and was discharged Monday, officials at the hospital said. The 92-year-old JD(S) patriarch was admitted to Manipal Hospital October 6 for evaluation of fever and a urinary tract infection. "Our Hon'ble Former PM HD Deve Gowda is medically stable and discharged now," Manipal Hospital officials said. Later in the day, in a post on 'X'. Gowda said he would resume his official duties soon.

### Road caves in on outskirts of Bhopal

Bhopal: A 50-metre stretch of a road caved in on the outskirts of Madhya Pradesh's Bhonal Monday afternoon, prompting authorities to divert traffic on the route, police said. The incident occurred near the Bilkhiria area, under the Sukhi Sewania police station limits. around 35 km from the district headquarters, Fintkhedi area sub-divisional officer of Police Maniu Chouhan told PTI.

### Three STF personnel iniured in IED blast

Bijapur (Chhattisgarh): Three personnel of the Special Task Force (STF) were injured when a pressure Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted by Naxalites went off in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district Monday, police said. The incident took place at a forest in Kandlaparti village under Bhopalpatnam police station area when a team of STF, a unit of the state police, was out on an area domination operation, a police official said. The security personnel inadvertently came in contact with a pressure IED, triggering the blast, causing them injuries, he said.

### **Andhra CM Naidu** meets PM Modi

New Delhi: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu Monday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi here and invited him to preside over a business summit in Visakhapatnam next month. After the meeting, Naidu said he congratulated the prime minister on achieving the "remarkable milestone" of 25 years in public service as head of government.



Security personnel during an event commemorating the 41st Railway Protection Force (RPF) Raising Day, at RPF Zonal Training Centre, Valsad, Gujarat

### **COUGH SYRUP ROW**

### TN govt revokes licence of pharma firm, shuts down company

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 13: The manufacturing licence of Tamil Nadu based Sresan Pharmaceutical company that allegedly produced the now banned adulterated cough syrup Coldrif has completely been revoked, and the company has been ordered to shut down, the state government said Monday.

The state Drug Control Department officials had during an inspection found the cough syrup contained 48.6 per cent of Diethylene Glycol (DEG), a toxic substance. This medicine is linked to the death of children in Madhya Pradesh. The officials had also found

that the company lacked proper  $\,$ good manufacturing practices (GMP) and good laboratory practices (GLP), and they recorded over 300 critical and major violations.

The company's owner, G Ranganathan, was recently arrested by a special investigation team from Madhya Pradesh.

Earlier in the day, a team from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided the premises of Sresan Pharmaceuticals and some officials, in a Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PM-LA) case.

# 4 more expats join Zubeen death probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Oct 13: Four more Assamese expatriates, who witnessed singer Zubeen Garg's dying moments in Singapore, Monday appeared before the police here in response to the second notice to them, in connection with the probe into his death, a top official said.

The Assam Police has also invited a few eminent members of the civil society to give them an update on the case and progress on investigations Tuesday, he added. Jiolangsat Narzary, Parikshit Sharma and Siddhartha Bora reached the CID headquarters in the morning, while another expat Bhaskar Jyoti Dutta arrived in the evening, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Special DGP Munna Prasad Gupta told PTI.

"We have started our interrogation with the four. Their statements regarding the incidents are being recorded now," he added.

Within the next two days, a few more Assamese NRIs living in Singapore are expected to come and record their statements before the Assam Police, Gupta said.

The police had issued fresh summonses to 10 people associated with Assam Association Singapore as they had failed to appear before the investigating



Singer Satabdi Borah arrives at the CID office after she was summoned for investigation

agency within the deadline of October 6.

Earlier, only one Assamese person from Singapore, Rupkamal Kalita, appeared before the CID and was interrogated for more than 24 hours before he was allowed to leave.

The celebrated singer died under mysterious circumstances in Singapore September 19 while swimming in the sea. He had gone to the Southeast Asian nation to attend the 4th edition of the North East India Festival. A yacht was booked by a few office bearers of the Assam Association Singapore, and they were present when Garg allegedly drowned.

П

The police had issued fresh summonses to 10 people associated with Assam Association Singapore as they had failed to appear before the investigating agency within the deadline of October 6

Earlier, only one Assamese person from Singapore, Rupkamal Kalita, appeared before the CID and was interrogated for more than 24 hours before he was allowed to leave

Speaking to reporters later, Gupta said that the post-mortem examination report "will not be made public" but an update will be shared with some eminent personalities

"It is wrong that we are going to make the final post-mortem report public. It is not a public document. We have invited a few eminent members of the civil society tomorrow at 4 pm. We will give them an update that we are giving you now -only that. There is no question of making the report public,"

he added. The SDGP neither clarified what update he will share nor mentioned the names of the eminent personalities whom the police have invited.

Although he declined to share further details, sources close to the development told PTI that most of the invited people are editors of a few TV news channels and newspapers. He stressed that the final

post-mortem examination report, including the viscera analysis, will be presented before the court in due course of time. When contacted, one of the

editors, requesting anonymity. confirmed that he was invited for the meeting.

After Garg's second post-mortem examination at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), the viscera sample was sent to the Central Forensic Laboratory (CFL) in Delhi for a detailed examination.

The first autopsy was done in Singapore immediately after Garg's death.

### India, Canada vow to revive ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: India and Canada Monday unveiled an ambitious roadmap to boost cooperation in areas of trade. critical minerals and energy as Canadian Foreign Minis ter Anita Anand met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs S Jaishankar as part of efforts to rebuild ties that came under severe strain following the killing of a Sikh separatist in 2023

In their meeting, Jaishankar and Anand agreed to commence ministerial-level discussions on bilateral trade and investment at an early date considering the global economic realities and each other's "strategic pri-

It is learnt that the Indian side also flagged its concerns over activities of certain pro-Khalistan elements in Canada

The two sides will pursue a "constructive and balanced" partnership grounded in respect for each other's "concerns and sensitivities" strong people-to-people ties, and growing economic complementarities, a joint statement said.

The talks between the two foreign ministers came nearly four months after PM Modi and his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney held talks in June on the margins of the G7 summit at Kananaskis in Canada.

"In keeping with the priorities that the prime ministers of India and Canada had set out for bringing momentum to the relationship, both sides, based on mutual respect for shared democratic values, the rule of law, and a commitment to upholding the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, reached consensus on a New Roadmap," the statement said.

Anand met PM Modi ahead of her talks with Jaishankar. In a social media post, Modi said he and Anand discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in trade, technol ogy, energy, agriculture and people-to-people exchanges for "mutual growth and prosperity".

Modi conveyed to Anand that her visit to India would contribute to ongoing efforts to impart "new momentum" to the bilateral partnership, an official readout said.

### l REMARKS AGAINST ARMY SC extends stay on trial court proceedings against Rahul

Chennai/Delhi, Oct 13: The Supreme Court Monday extended till November 20 its interim order staying proceedings against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a Lucknow court in a case related to his alleged derogatory remarks about the Indian Army during his 2022 Bharat Jodo Yatra.

The matter came up for hearing before a bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Vipul M Pancholi. "In view of letter circulated by counsel for the petitioner seeking adjournment for filing rejoinder affidavit, list the matters November 20, 2025. The interim order granted earlier August 4, 2025 is extended till the next date of hearing," the bench said. The bench was hearing Gandhi's plea challenging a May 29 order of the Allahabad High Court dismissing his plea challenging the trial court's summoning order in the case.

### T'gana infant dies after polio drops; asphyxia suspected

Hyderabad: A three-month-old boy in Sangareddy district of Telangana died hours after receiving pulse polio drops, raising initial concerns over the vaccine. District health officials Monday said the death was most likely caused by aspiration leading to asphyxia and was not linked to the immunisation. The infant's parents had alleged that their son died within 20 minutes of receiving the polio drops. Health officials, however, denied the claim. The baby, a resident of Bheemra village in Kangti mandal, was brought to the local pulse polio booth by his parents around noon Sunday. He was administered the polio drops and kept under observation until 12.30 pm. during which he remained normal with no complaints, according to the Kangti Primary Health Centre (PHC) medical officer. Around 1 pm, the parents returned to the booth reporting incessant crying and one episode of vomiting, a preliminary report said.

### Tharoor questions sending MoS to Gaza summit

New Delhi: Congress leader Shashi Tharoor Monday said India's presence at the Gaza peace summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, at the level of a Minister of State, was in stark contrast to the heads of state gathered there, and wondered whether the decision reflects "strategic restraint" or "missed opportunity". Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh is representing India at a peace summit in Egypt's Red Sea resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh. It is learnt that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was invited for the summit that is expected to be attended by US President Donald Trump and nearly 20 other world leaders. However, New Delhi deputed Singh to attend the summit.

### **Indian team to visit US** this week for trade talks

New Delhi: A team of senior officials from India will visit the US this week for trade talks, and negotiations on the proposed bilateral trade agreement are progressing well, a top official said Monday. In February this year, leaders of the two countries directed officials to negotiate a proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA). It was planned to conclude the first tranche of the pact by the fall (October-November) of 2025. So far, five rounds of negotiations have been completed. "The Indian team will visit this week. Negotiations are going in a positive direction. Both sides are of the view that talks should be fasttracked," the official added.

## JD-U, BJP discuss seat sacrifice to calm restive allies

Both parties have decided to contest 101 seats each in the polls to the 243-strong assembly, a little less than they had fought five years ago, leaving 29 for Union minister Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) and six each for Rashtriya Lok Morcha of Rajya Sabha MP Upendra Kushwaha and Hindustani Awam Morcha founded by former chief minister, and now a Union minister, Jitan Ram Manjhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 13: Having struck a seat-sharing deal, leaders of the JD(U) and the BJP sat across the table here Monday to thrash out, among other things, constituencies they planned to swap or give up in favour of

smaller allies in Bihar. Both parties have decided to contest 101 seats each in the

polls to the 243-strong assembly, a little less than they had fought five years ago, leaving 29 for Union minister Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) and six each for Rashtriya Lok Morcha of Rajya Sabha MP Upendra Kushwaha and Hindustani Awam Morcha founded by former chief minister, and now a Union minister, Jitan Ram Manjhi.



After the meeting that took as many as Kushwaha, even place at the residence of JD(U) working president Sanjay Kumar Jha, state minister and senior BJP leader Nitin Nabin downplayed the outbursts of "There is no bitterness any-Manihi, who has been feeling "undervalued" by getting far

fewer seats than Paswan, and

though unlike the HAM which has four MLAs, the LJP(RV) and RLM have no representation in the outgoing Assembly.

where. All is well and all constituents are now busy finalising candidates so that they could file their nomination papers at the earliest," asserted Nabin, who is himself hoping to retain Bankipur assembly seat in Patna for a record fifth consecutive term.

On Sunday, when the seat-sharing formula was announced in Delhi, Manjhi was back in Patna, where he warned the NDA of "adverse effects" of the "raw deal" given to his party, even though he stopped short of revolting against the

Asked when the BJP was likely to announce its candidates, he replied, "Give us time. It will happen soon.'

Sources in the party, however, said that candidates' names were being considered by the central leadership and upon its nod, the same will

be announced here. They also

said that at the meeting both JD(U) and BJP, which had in 2020 contested 115 and 110 seats respectively, discussed the seats they would "sacrifice' this time in order to accommo date the smaller allies. Based on local "equations", the two parties may also "swap" some of the seats like it was done in the Lok Sabha polls last year. They cited the example of Sheo har, which the JD(U) fought and won in the parliamentary elections, though the BJP had been representing for past several terms. Sheohar MP Lovely Anand's son Chetan Anand had won the eponymous assembly seat, in 2020, on an RJD tick et but had crossed over to the NDA last year when Nitish Kumar had quit the INDIA bloc and gravitated towards the IN DIA bloc.

# national



**Trump's sincere** efforts to bring peace to the region

### **TEJASHWI MEETS CONG LEADERS**

RJD leader and former Bihar deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav met senior Congress leaders Monday evening to finalise the seatsharing arrangement ahead of the Bihar Assembly polls





has always paid special attention to the interests and

It is a matter of joy that the central government has approved the construction of these houses ANURAG SINGH THAKUR I

HAMIRPUR MEMBER OF PARI

Maintaining law and order



between the two is strong, results have been significantly better. Any laxity in law and order will be considered administrative negligence and lead to strict action

VISHNU DEO SAI | CHHATTISGARH CM









Install CCTV Camera, Use AI Identify People Who Throw Garbage

Identify Gutakha Spitters, Open Urination Penalise Offenders Strictly With 7 Day Community Service Or Upto 1 Lakh Fine and 2 Year Jail

SHORT **TAKES** 

Sena (UBT), MNS

Thane: The Shiv Sena (URT)

and Maharashtra Navnirman

Sena Monday held a massive

was rampant corruption and

mismanagement in the Thane

Municipal Corporation. While

the Nationalist Congress Party

Gadkari Rangayatan and ended

at the TMC headquarters, the

Congress was conspicuous

by its absence. Thane is the

stronghold of the Shiv Sena

led by Denuty Chief Minister

Dalit feared drowned,

Kannauj (UP): Three police

negligence after a 15-year-old

Dalit boy was feared down in

a river while attempting to

team in Gursahaiganj area

of Kannauj district, a senior

police official said Monday.

Uttar Pradesh Minister Asim Arun and Kanpur DIG Harish

Chandra Monday reached the village and met the boy's family members. They sought details from them about the incident and assured them of

possible help.

escape from a raiding police

personnel have been

suspended for alleged

three cops suspended

Eknath Shinde.

(SP) took part in the "dhadak

morcha", which began at

protest against what it claimed

hold protest

@Ravisutanjani

KARUR STAMPEDE

## **DMK: SC ORDER FOR CBI PROBE NOT FINAL**

Chennai/Delhi, Oct 13: Claiming misrepresentation in the petition seeking CBI probe into the September 27 Karur stampede, the DMK Monday said the Supreme Court may cancel its order directing investigation by the central agency and TVK chief Vijay, who led the rally on that fateful day, said "justice will triumph".

The principal opposition party AIADMK termed the SC's decision as "clearly a slap in the face for DMK" while the BJP said it would "trust" only the central agency investigation.

Actor-politician Vijay took to 'X' to post his reaction.

DMK Rajya Sabha member and advocate P Wilson, who represented the Tamil Nadu government in the stampede case, said two people have informed the court that without their knowledge, their names had been used to file a petition.

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered a CBI probe into the Karur stampede and appointed former apex court judge Ajay Rastogi as head of a committee to monitor it. A bench, comprising Jus-

tices J K Maheshwari and N V Anjaria, also criticised Justice N Senthilkumar of the Madras High Court for entertaining petitions on the September 27 stampede at actor Vijay's rally and ordering an SIT probe.

Speaking to reporters in Delhi, Wilson said people are celebrating already, but there is a chance that the Supreme Court order can be cancelled if it is proved that the petitions are fraudulently filed.

"Tomorrow if this (two people's petition) is proved, there is a chance that the order can be



AIADMK termed the SC's decision as "clearly a slap in the face for DMK" while the BJP said it would "trust" only the central agency investigation

cancelled, as courts follow the doctrine, 'fraud vitiates all solemn acts'." he added.

He also said the SC had decided to let the one-member commission headed by former High Court Judge Justice Aruna Jagadeesan to continue its inquiry. "The court has also ordered the transfer of the findings of the SIT investigation. This means the court has confidence in the investigation held so far. Otherwise, it could have asked for de novo review, that is, to start all over," Wilson said.

Meanwhile, AIADMK spokesperson Kovai Sathyan said the SC's decision is "clearly a slap in the face for DMK".

"They were peddling narratives and lies instead of doing justice to the victims' families. There were glaring deficiencies in the way DMK took forward the handling of the investigation in this case." he told PTI Videos.

Tamil Nadu BJP former president K Annamalai said it is only proper that a "trained agency like CBI, which has handled manv such cases should take over the investigation".

He also said the BJP wanted a CBI inquiry from the beginning because there was no trust in the one-member commission constituted by the TN government.

"This is about the lives of 41 people. We need to get to the bottom of it. Is it the mistake of the organisers or the local administration or somebody in the crowd," he told reporters here.

Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) chief coordinator Seeman said that the Supreme Court ordering a CBI probe into the Karur stampede was an insult to Tamil Nadu and its police force.

He also asked if the CBI officers are specially endowed.

He also criticised the DMK-led government for readily handing over state matters to the Union government. The top court October 10 reserved its order on a plea filed by Vijay's political party and others. The TVK has sought an independent investigation under the supervision of the Supreme Court, contending that a fair and impartial probe would not be possible if conducted solely by officers of the Tamil Nadu Police.

### '2 AK-47s, ammunition seized near Punjab's Tarn Taran border' PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 13: The BSF Monday recovered two AK-47 assault rifles and ammunition from an area near the India-Pakistan border in Punjab's Tarn Taran district.

Besides two rifles, the border security force troops also recovered two magazines, one pistol and live rounds, said a BSF official. "Today, in the morning hours, based on precise observation of the technical surveillance grid established on the border and corroboration by physical monitoring by troops deployed on duty, the BSF troops acting swiftly seized a big cache of deadly weapons ahead of the border fence adjacent to village Mehdipur in district Tarn Taran," said the official.

The weapons have been handed over to the Punjab Police's State Special Operation Cell for further investigation. "The BSF troops successfully thwarted the nefarious intentions of cross-border terror elements to smuggle deadly weapons into the country to disrupt peace and tranquility during the festive season," said the official. Meanwhile, Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said preliminary investigation revealed that the weapons were sourced from Pakistan. Further investigations are ongoing to identify the smugglers, trace forward and backward linkages in this case to dismantle the entire smuggling network, he said.

Sharing operational details, Assistant Inspector General of SSOC Amritsar Sukhminder Singh Mann said the BSF authorities had received a reliable input about the arrival of a consignment of militant hardware from across the border. The SSOC Amritsar, jointly with the BSF, launched a well-coordinated combing operation in the area of village Mehdipur and a weapon consignment was recovered from the area. Further investigations are being conducted to trace and apprehend the accused involved in this crime.



Snow-capped peaks surrounding the Kedarnath Dham temple, Rudraprayag

### Guv doubts state's safety, calls for 2nd renaissance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 13: Amid public outrage over the alleged gang rape of a medical student in Durgapur, Governor C V Ananda Bose Monday expressed deep concern over the "shocking" incident, saying he lacked confidence to say that West Bengal is safe, and called for a "second renaissance" to make the state secure for women.

Bose, who travelled to the industrial town in Paschim Bardhaman district and met the survivor's family, said the incident has "shaken the public conscience" and stressed that "stern action" must be taken to prevent recurrence of DURGAPUR such crimes. **RAPE** 

"This is a very shocking incident, and it is not that this has happened for the first time. Steps have to be taken to ward off similar instances in future. This has to be looked into seriously and action has to be taken," the Governor told reporters upon reaching Durgapur.

Later at a press briefing in the industrial town, Bose said, "I cannot say with confidence that Bengal is safe. Bengal society led to the renaissance of this nation, today we need a second renaissance. Bengal should be made safe for the girl child. We have to own up to responsibility and ensure justice is given to the victim.

Bengal Renaissance refers to a major social reform movement during the 19th and early 20th centuries in the Bengal region of undivided India.

The governor, who met the 23-year-old medical student, a resident of Odisha, and her parents, said he would not divulge details of their conversation, but added that he assured them that "all steps will be taken to ensure justice." "It is high time that all of us stand together BJP supporters raise slogans a

they hold protest

### TMC MP asks women to 'exercise caution'

Kolkata: Senior TMC MP Saugata Roy commenting on the Durgapur gang rape case, on Monday said that women should exercise caution, as the

police cannot be everywhere at once. His remark came a day after West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee faced flak for advising female students not to venture out late at night Speaking to reporters in Kolkata

the veteran parliamentarian claimed that women's safety in the state is better compared to other regions. "Such cases are rare in Bengal. Women's safety in Bengal is better than in any other place. But women shouldn't leave their colleges so late at night, as the police can't patrol everywh Police cannot be present on every road; police can take action after an incident occurs. So, women should also be cautious," Roy said. "Whatever the chief minister has said is absolutely correct," he said.

and say, 'Stop, or we will make it stop.' We will do everything to give justice to the family, Bose said. Earlier in the day. while speaking to journalists at Howrah station before leav ing for Durgapur, Bose said, " have sought information about the incident. Strict action has to be taken against those who have committed this act. I will first meet the survivor before making any comments on the

Bose's visit came amid mounting political sparring between the ruling TMC and the Opposition BJP, both trading barbs over the state's law and order record.

state's law and order situation.

### Live-in relationships HARYANA IPS OFFICER 'SUICIDE'

### threat to Indian culture: UP Guv

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow**, **Oct** 13: Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel Monday described live-in relationships as a "threat to India's ancient culture" and urged the vouth to stay away from such "decadent trends" that put families and especially young women at risk.

Speaking at the 30th convocation ceremony of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Avadh University in Avodhva. Patel warned the youth, saying that trends like live-in relationships are a blow to a country with an ancient culture like India. It endangers the lives of families, society, and especially daughters.

"Not as a governor, but as a woman and grandmother, I urge all of you to stay away from this subculture. Learn from the experiences of your parents and grandparents. Only then will your path be paved," the governor was quoted as saying in a statement issued by Raj Bhavan.

Oppn steps up attack on govt

Chandigarh, Oct 13: Opposition leaders Monday intensified their attack on the Haryana government over IPS officer Y

Puran Kumar's alleged suicide, demanding swift action on his "final note" and the police complaint filed by his wife against the officers accused of harassing him. There was no breakthrough

in the stalemate over Kumar's autopsy and cremation, with his family members refusing to budge, seven days after the incident.

In an eight-page final note purportedly left behind by Kumar after he allegedly ended his life, he accused eight senior IPS officers, including Haryana DGP Shatrujeet Kapur and now-transferred Rohtak SP Narendra Bijarniya, of "blatant caste-based discrimination, targeted mental harassment, public humiliation and atrocities".

Amneet P Kumar has de-

jarniya be named in the FIR for allegedly abetting her hus-

band's suicide. Bijarniya was transferred Saturday. The officer's family has so far refused to give consent for a post-mortem examination and cremation of the body until its demands are addressed. The Haryana government and the Chandigarh authorities have been making efforts to persuade Kumar's wife, senior IAS offi-

cer Amneet P Kumar, serving

in Haryana. Among the leaders from opposition parties who visited the Kumar's Sector 24 residence here were Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Congress MP from Rohtak Deepender Singh Hooda, INLD chief Abhay Singh Chautala and Punjab Finance Minister and AAP leader Harpal Singh Cheema.

While condoling the death of the officer, they also demanded that justice be delivered to the Telangana Deputy Chief

immediately act against the officers named in Kumar's "dying declaration" (final note). 'Y Puran Kumar gave up his life and in his dying declaration, he mentioned particularly about two officers, Haryana DGP Shatrujeet Kapur and the then Rohtak SP Narendra (Bijarniya), stating that they have humiliated him, insulted him,

and they are the root cause for

Minister Vikramarka said he

came to Chandigarh to console

the family members of Kumar,

who hailed from the southern

state. He described the alleged

suicide as "extremely sad" and

demanded that the government

his suicide," he said. He demanded that the government immediately act upon his "dying declaration" and take action against the officers responsible.

He said Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had spoken to Kumar's family.

## 60% of women join judiciary on merit, not quota: SC

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi issued notices to the Centre, Bar Council of *India*, secretary general of the apex court and others on a plea seeking framing of a uniform and gendersensitive policy for allotment of professional chambers/ cabins to women advocates in different courts and *bar associations across the country* 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: The Supreme Court Monday said around 60 per cent of judicial officers are women entering the judicial services on the basis of merit and not due to reser-

Kant and Joymalya Bagchi issued notices to the Centre, Bar Council of India, secretary general of the apex court and others on a plea seeking framing of a uniform and gender-sensitive policy for allotment of professional chambers/cabins to women advocates in differ-





lawvers can work.

"We have been speaking at various forums and highlighting how more and more women are entering judicial services. Almost 60 per cent of judicial officers entering the services are women and they are doing it on merit not

reservation. I find it a little bit paradoxical as to why are women advocates seeking any privilege, when they can achieve it on the basis of merit?" Justice

The bench said that if the court is to consider the request of women advocates for preferential allocation of chambers, then the other day it could be a case of specially abled persons.

Senior advocate Sonia Mathur, appearing for petitioners Bhakti Pasrija and others, said at present only Rohini court has 10 per cent reservation in chamber allotment for

Justice Kant said the space for advocates in the new building of the apex court has been constructed keeping in view the need for the next 50 years. Justice Bagchi said the need

is to safeguard young women advocates entering the profession by providing facilities like creche, separate washrooms and other facilities, as they are the ones who drop out of the profession to take care of their children.

The petitioners, who are practising women advocates, have claimed that despite prac tice of 15-25 years, they were not allotted any chamber or profes sional space and asserted that the present chamber allotment scheme of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) was with out any reservation for women advocates.

### Ranchi: A 14-vear-old girl was allegedly raped by nine people

Minor 'gangraped'

in Ranchi, 5 held

in Ratu area of Ranchi, police said Monday. Five people have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the crime that took place Sunday night, they said. "The police conducted raids at multiple locations on Monday and arrested five of the accused. The girl's medical examination has also been conducted," Superintendent of Police (Rural) Praveen Pushkar said. Search is underway to nab the other four accused, Pushkar said.

A bench of Justices Surya

ent courts and bar associations

Justice Kant questioned the

plea seeking reservation in chamber allotment to women advocates and said that he is personally against chamber system and instead there should be cubicle system and common sitting space, where

# international



Now, in effect, there is hardly any Russian naval presence in the Mediterranean left. There's a lone and broken Russian submarine limping home

### **FAST TRAINS COLLIDE IN SLOVAKIA**

Two trains collided in eastern Slovakia Monday, derailing an engine and a carriage and injuring at least 66 people, emergency medical services and police said. There were no reports of deaths in the crash



# Tranquility touches Gaza, Israel as hostages freed

THE REMAINING 20 LIVING ISRAELI HOSTAGES WERE HANDED OVER BY HAMAS, AS **NEARLY 2,000 PALESTINIAN PRISONERS, DETAINEES WERE FREED BY ISRAEL** 

REUTERS

Jerusalem/Cairo, Oct 13: Hamas freed the last living Israeli hostages from Gaza Monday under a ceasefire deal and Israel sent home busloads of Palestinian detainees, as US President Donald Trump told Israel's parliament that peace had arrived in the Holy Land.

The Israeli military said it had received all 20 hostages confirmed to be alive, after their transfer from Gaza by the Red Cross. The announcement prompted cheering, hugging and weeping among thousands waiting at "Hostage Square" in Tel Aviv.

In Gaza, thousands of relatives, many weeping with joy, gathered at a hospital where buses brought home some of the nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees to be freed by Israel as part of the accord.

"The skies are calm, the guns are silent, the sirens are still and the sun rises on a Holy Land that is finally at peace," Trump told the Knesset, Israel's parliament, saying a "long nightmare" for both Israelis and Palestinians was over

"Now it is time to translate these victories against terrorists on the battlefield into the ultimate prize of peace and prosperity for the entire Middle East," he said before departing for a summit in Egypt intended to cement the truce.

The US, along with Egypt, Qatar and Turkey, mediated what has been described as a first phase agreement between Israel and Hamas for a ceasefire and the release of hostages by Hamas and prisoners and detainees by Israel. Trump arrived in the Egyptian beach resort of Sharm el-Sheikh about an hour before sundown for the gathering of more than 20 world leaders, which he was to chair alongside President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Large billboards showing a beaming Trump and Sisi with the words 'welcome to the land of peace" lined the road from the airport to the conference centre. At the opening of the summit, Trump signed a document on the ceasefire deal with Egypt, Qatar and Turkey.

FORMIDABLE OBSTACLES REMAIN

The Israeli hostages freed Monday were the last still alive in captivity



A man greets a freed Palestinian prisoner released by Israel as part of a hostages-prisoners swap, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip

- >> Trump signs ceasefire document with mediators Egypt, Turkey,
- >> Trump calls conflict a 'long

>> Hamas hands over four coffins of

- Palestinians, time to translate it >> Trump floats idea of Iran-Israel
- by Hamas in Gaza are now back in
- Hamas during the 7 October attacks several were reunited with their
- Palestinian prisoners and detainees

from 251 seized in the Hamas-led attacks of October 7, 2023 that killed 1,200 people and triggered the war.

The ceasefire and partial Israeli withdrawal agreed last week halted one of Israel's biggest offensives of the war, an all-out assault on Gaza

City that was killing scores of people per day.

Since then, huge numbers of Palestinians have been able to return to the ruins of homes in the Gaza Strip, swathes of which were reduced to a wasteland by Israeli bombardment

that killed 68,000 people.

Formidable obstacles remain, even to securing an enduring ceasefire, much less to bringing a wider, more durable peace.

Among the immediate issues still to be resolved: recovering the remains of another 26 Israeli hostages believed to have died and two whose fates are unknown.

Hamas savs re-DONALD TRUMP PRESIDENT. US covering the bodies could take time as not all burial sites are known. It said Monday it would hand over four bodies. Israel's military confirmed it had received the first two, and an offi-

### JOY, RELIEF ON BOTH SIDES

Beaming with relief and joy, two hostages waved to cheering crowds from vans on the way to an Israeli hospital, one hoisting a large Israeli flag then forming a heart with his hands. Video footage captured emotional scenes of families receiving phone messages from their loved ones as they were being released, their faces lighting up with disbelief and hope after months of anguish. "I am so excited. I am full of happiness. It's hard to imagine how I feel this moment. I didn't sleep all night," said Viki Cohen, mother of hostage Nimrod Cohen, as she travelled to Reim, an Israeli military camp where hostages were being transferred. Palestinians meanwhile rushed to embrace prisoners freed by Israel. Several thousand gathered inside and around Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, some waving Palestinian flags, others holding photos of their relatives. "I am happy for our sons who are being freed, but we are still in pain for all those who have been killed by the occupation, and all the destruction that happened to our Gaza," a Gaza woman. Um Ahmed, told Reuters in a tearful voice message. Freed prisoners arrived in buses, some of them posing from the windows, flashing V-for-Victory signs. The appearance of armed masked Hamas fighters at the scene underscored the difficulty of resolving Israel's demand that they disarm. Israel was due to release 1,700 detainees it captured in Gaza, as well as 250 prisoners from its jails convicted or suspected of security offences, including attacks on Israelis. Samer Halabeya, a doctor freed from jail where he was serving a sentence for planning an attack that wounded an Israeli officer. stood by his weeping mother in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. The prisoners had only learned they would be released long after the agreement had been signed, he said, "We hope that everyone gets freed."



People react at Hostages Square as Hamas releases hostages, in Tel Aviv, Israel

cial said two more were handed over later. Aid supplies must

be rushed into the The skies are calm, the enclave, where guns are silent, the sirens hundreds of thouare still and the sun rises sands of people on a Holy Land that is face famine. UN aid chief Tom Fletcher underlined the need to "get shelter and fuel to people who desperately need it and to

massively scale up the food and medicine and other supplies

Beyond that, crucial issues have

yet to be resolved, including how to govern and police Gaza, and the ultimate future of Hamas, which still rejects Israel's demands to disarm.

Hamas gunmen, seeking to assert their presence, launched a security crackdown in Gaza City after Israel's pullback, killing 32 members of a rival group, a Palestinian security source said. Trump, speaking on his flight to

the region, said Hamas had been given a temporary green light for fighters to keep order, "They do want to stop the problems, and they've been open about it, and we gave them approval for a period of time.

### Madagascar's Prez left the Trump on track to meet Xi in SK country after Gen Z protests

Antananarivo, Oct 13: Madagascar's president has fled the African nation, the head of the opposition and other officials said Monday, the second time that young protesters have toppled a government in weeks of worldwide Gen Z

Randrianasoloniaiko, leader of the opposition in parliament, told Reuters Rajoelina left Madagascar Sunday after units of the army defected and joined the protesters.

"We called the staff of the presidency and they confirmed that he left the country", he said, adding that Rajoelina's current whereabouts were unknown.

The president's office. which had earlier said Rajoelina would address the nation at 7:00 pm Monday, did not reply to requests for comment.

A military source told Reuters that Rajoelina flew out of the country on a French military aircraft Sunday. French radio RFI said he had struck a deal with President Emmanuel Macron. The source said that a French Army Casa aircraft landed in Madagascar's Sainte Marie airport Sunday. "Five minutes later, a helicopter arrived and transferred its passenger into the Casa," the source said, adding that Rajoelina was the passenger.

Washington, Oct 13: US President Donald Trump remains on track to meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping in South Korea in late October as the two sides try to de-escalate tensions over trade disputes, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Monday.

The latest rupture followed China's announcement Thursday that it would dramatically expand its rare earths export controls. That drew a sharp countermeasure from Trump Friday that sent markets and relations between the world's two largest economies into a

Bessent said there were substantial communications between the two sides over the

TRUMP, XI MEETING STILL **EXPECTED. TREASURY** SECRETARY SAYS

LINES OF COMMUNICATION ARE OPEN

**US-CHINA HAVE** 

**DE-ESCALATED TENSIONS** 100% TARIFF DOES NOT HAVE

TO HAPPEN, BESSENT SAYS

weekend and more meetings were expected.

"We have substantially de-escalated," Bessent said in an interview with Fox Business Network

"President Trump said that the tariffs would not go into effect until November 1. He will be meeting with Party Chair Xi in Korea. I believe that meeting will still be on."

Trump and Xi had planned to meet during the summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum hosted by South Korea in late October.

finally at peace

The dollar edged up Monday as investors hoped the US would temper its latest escalation of the trade war with China after Friday's selloff.

Bessent said there would be US-China staff-level meetings this week in Washington on the sidelines of the World Bank and International Monetary

Fund annual gatherings. 'The 100% tariff does not have to happen," Bessent said. "The relationship, despite this announcement last week, is good. Lines of communication have reopened, so we'll see where it goes.

**PAK-AFGHAN BORDER CLASH** 

Pakistani troops on high alert

Peshawar, Pakistan/Kabul, Oct 13: Pakistani troops were on high alert on the border with Afghanistan Monday after fierce fighting between the two sides at the weekend left dozens dead and drew the attention of US President Donald Trump, who said he could help end the

Border trade between the neighbours came to a halt as Pakistan closed crossings along the 2,600-km (1,600-mile) frontier, stranding scores of loaded goods vehicles on either side, a Pakistani industry representative said.

Dozens of fighters were killed in border clashes that began Saturday night in the most deadly conflict between the neighbours since the Taliban returned to power in Kabul in 2021.

### **PAKISTAN ACCUSES AFGANI-**STAN OF HARBOURING MILI-**TANTS**

Fighting between the two sides, who were once allies, erupted 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 denies that Pakistani militants are present in Afghanistan.

The Pakistan military said that 23 of its soldiers were killed in the weekend clashes The Taliban said nine of its fighters were killed. Both sides said they had killed more on the other side, but the claims could

### not be verified. TRUMP, CHINA OFFER HELP

The fighting has drawn the attention of Trump, who said he would focus on it soon.

"I hear there's a war now go ing on between Pakistan and Afghanistan," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew from Washington to Israel Sunday as part of his efforts to end the Gaza war.

"I said, I'll have to wait till I get back. You know, I'm doing another one, because I'm good at solving wars, I'm good at making peace," Trump said.

China, which borders Afghanistan and Pakistan in its western region and has sought to play a mediating role in calming hostilities between the two sides, said it was very concerned about the latest clashes

"China is willing to continue to play a constructive role in improving and developing Pakistan-Afghanistan relations," for eign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said during a regular press briefing in Beijing Monday.

### After missing Nobel, Trump claims to resolve 8 wars Trump said that the prize announced by the Nobel committee was for 2024, while he resolved these wars in 2025

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Oct 13: After missing the Nobel Peace Prize, US President Donald Trump has claimed to have resolved eight wars, including the one between India and Pakistan. saying, he did not do this for the Nobel.

Trump has been claiming to resolve seven conflicts till now, including the one between India and Pakistan. However, he has now increased that figure to eight after adding the Israel-Gaza conflict.

While talking to reporters on board Air Force One Sunday, Trump also hinted at planning to resolve the

ongoing conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"This will be my eighth war that I have solved, and I hear there is a war now going on between Pakistan and Afghanistan. I said, I'll have to wait till I get back. I am doing another one. Because I am good at solving wars. I am good at making peace,' Trump said.

The US President also claimed that he resolved most of these wars "within a day."

"We saved millions of lives, think about India, Pakistan, think about some of the wars that were going on for years. We had one going for 31, one going for 32, one going for 37

years, with millions of people being killed in every country, and I got every one of those done, for the most part, within a

Trump said that the prize

day," Trump added.

announced by the Nobel committee was for 2024, while he resolved these wars in 2025. "In all fairness to the Nobel

Committee, it was for 2024. This was picked for 2024," Trump Since May 10, when Trump

saving lives.

said while emphasising, "I did

this not for Nobel. I did this for

announced on social media that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire after a "long night" of talks mediated by Washington, he has repeated his claim dozens of times that he "helped settle" the conflict between India and Pakistan.

India has consistently maintained that the understanding on cessation of hostilities with Pakistan was reached following direct talks between the Directors General of Military Operations (DG-MOs) of the two militaries.

# business



The impact of the **GST** reforms is beginning to be seen. It has increased purchasing power and provided relief to the common man. It has also significantly improved the business and investment environment and promoted ease of doing business

### **RUPEE RISES 4 PAISE AGAINST US DOLLAR**

The rupee appreciated four paise to close at 88.68 against the US dollar Monday, supported by suspected RBI intervention and optimism about a breakthrough in the India-US trade talks. Forex traders said the domestic unit faced some resistance as renewed trade war tensions between the US and China led to risk aversion in global markets. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.75 and traded in the range of 88.57-88.79 before settling at 88.68, registering a rise of 4 paise than its previous close





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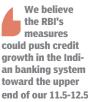


PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER



reservoirs hold 103.51 per cent of last year's storage, reflecting a positive outlook for agricultural productivity

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER





SHINOY VARGHESE | CREDIT ANALYST, S&P GLOBAL

### SHORT **TAKES**

### Tata Capital to double loan book

Mumbai: Non-bank lender Tata Capital aims to double its loan book in the next three years and is confident of cutting credit costs to under 1 per cent going forward, a top official said Monday. The fresh capital raised in the initial public offer will suffice for over two and a half years, its chief executive and managing director, Rajiv Sabharwal, told reporters after the market debut. Shares of non-banking financial company Tata Capital Ltd Monday listed over 1 per cent higher against the issue price of ₹326. The stock was later trading at ₹330.90. up 1.50 per cent from the issue price on both the BSE and NSE. The company's loan book stands at ₹2.3 lakh crore at present, and it took just one year to add ₹50,000 crore to the assets under management (AUM), compared to the ten years it took to reach ₹50,000 crore

initially.

New Delhi: Crude oil prices Monday rose ₹96 to ₹5,342 per barrel in the domestic futures trade, tracking firm global cues as renewed tensions between the US and China stoked concerns over growth and supply chains. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), crude oil futures for October delivery increased by ₹96, or 1.83 per cent, to ₹5,342 a barrel in a business turnover of 10,926 lots. Similarly, the November contract for crude oil futures traded higher by ₹70, up 1.34 per cent, to ₹5,308 a barrel in 9,764 lots. In the international markets, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude for November delivery was up 1.88 per cent at \$60.01 per barrel, and Brent crude for December delivery rose nearly 2 per cent to \$63.84 per barrel in

New York.

SEBI guidelines New Delhi: Market regulator SEBI Monday issued fresh guidelines on minimum information that listed companies are required to provide to their audit committees and shareholders to get related party transaction (RPT) approval. Under this, companies are required to explain why the transaction is in the interest of the listed entity, provide valuation or external reports if relied upon, indicate the percentage of the counterparty's annual turnover represented by the transaction (on a voluntary basis), and include any other relevant details for review by the audit committee for approval of a

proposed RPT.

# **Retail inflation slips to over 8-yr low**

New Delhi, Oct 13: Retail inflation slowed to an over 8-year low of 1.54 per cent in September and slipped below Reserve Bank's comfort zone mainly due to subdued prices of vegetables, fruits and pulses, showed government data released Monday.

The consumer price index (CPI) based inflation was 2.07 per cent in August and 5.49 per cent in September 2024. The previous low was 1.46 per cent in June 2017.

It is for the second time that retail inflation has slipped below 2 per cent in 2025. The government has mandated the RBI to ensure CPI remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on the either side.

"There is decrease of 53 basis points in headline inflation of September, 2025 in comparison to August 2025. It is the lowest year-on-year inflation after June 2017," the National Statistics Office (NSO) said.

Year-on-year food inflation during September 2025 was (-) 2.28 per cent compared to (-) 0.64 per cent in August and 9.24 per cent in September last year.

"The decline in headline inflation and food inflation



during the month of September 2025 is mainly attributed to favourable base effect and decline in inflation of vegetables, oil and fats, fruits, pulses and products, cereal and products. egg, fuel and light," NSO said.

According to the NSO data, inflation in rural India was at 1.07 per cent and in urban parts at 2.04 per cent.

Highest inflation was in Kerala at 9.05 per cent and lowest in Uttar Pradesh (-) 0.61 per cent.

In its October bimonthly monetary policy, the Reserve Bank lowered its inflation projection for 2025-26 to 2.6 per cent

from 3.1 per cent estimated in August. Regarding the inflation outlook for second half of the fiscal, RBI said that healthy progress of the south-west monsoon, higher kharif sowing: adequate reservoir levels and comfortable buffer stock of foodgrains should keep food prices benign. It said that the recently implemented GST rate rationalisation would lead to a reduction in prices of several items in the CPI basket. Overall, the inflation outcome is likely to be softer than what was projected in the August MPC resolution, primarily on account of the GST rate cuts and benign food prices.

Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA said the CPI inflation eased to a 99-month low in September 2025, pulled down by sharper-than-anticipated disinflation in food and beverages to 1.4 per cent (an 81-month low). despite several other categories recording a sequential uptick in year-on-year inflation prints

Earlier this month, Reserve Bank of India expectedly left its key interest rates unchanged as it waited for greater clarity on the impact of US tariffs as well as playout of earlier rate cuts and recent tax reductions.

Ind-Ra expects retail inflation in October 2025 to be around 1 per cent, a new low in the 2011-12 series. According to NSO, inflation

in 'fuel and light' during September was at 1.98 per cent, as against 2.32 per cent in the preceding month. Inflation in 'transport and

communication' at 1.82 per cent during September too was low er than August.

NSO collects price data from selected 1,181 villages and 1,114 urban markets covering all states and UTs

Gold @ 1,27,950 per 10g ty, continues to keep gold's

New Delhi, Oct 13: Gold prices rallied by ₹1,950 to hit a fresh peak of ₹1,27,950 per 10 grams in the national capital Monday, driven by safe-haven demand amid renewed US-China trade tensions.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at ₹1,26,000 per 10 grams Friday. In addition, gold of 99.5 per

cent purity jumped by ₹1,950 to touch an all-time high of ₹1,27,350 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). The yellow metal had settled at ₹1,25,400 per 10 grams in the previous market session. 'Gold prices rose sharply

higher as renewed US-China trade tensions reignited safe-haven demand," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said. The US administration's an-

nouncement of a 100 per cent tariff hike on select Chinese products, coupled with China's threat to restrict rare earth exports, has heightened global uncertainty and risk aversion.

"This geopolitical tension, along with sustained demand from investors seeking safeoutlook bullish," Trivedi said

Silver prices too witnessed robust traction in the spot markets. The white metal bounced by ₹7,500 to hit a new record of ₹1,79,000 per kgram (inclusive of all taxes) on Mon day. It had finished at ₹1,71,500 per kg on Friday, as per the Association.

In the international mar kets, spot gold rose nearly 2 per cent to hit a fresh record high of \$4,084.99 per ounce.

Spot silver increased by nearly 3 per cent to hit a fresh all-time high of USD 51.74 per ounce in the overseas markets. "Silver jumped more than 2

per cent to above USD 51 per ounce on Monday, marking a new all-time high as renewed US-China trade concerns, political instability, and expectations of further US rate cuts fuelled demand for safe-haven assets," Jigar Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities, said.

Meanwhile, expectations that the Federal Reserve will cut rates by 25 basis points later this month and again in December, alongside a tighten ing physical silver supply in London, continued to bolster the white metal's rally," Trive-

### EPFO LIBERALISES RU

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: The board of retirement fund body EPFO Monday approved liberalised part withdrawals for its more than seven crore subscribers, allowing up to 100 per cent EPF withdrawal

The Central Board of Trustees (CBT), the apex decision-making body of EPFO, headed by Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, took several path-breaking decisions during its meeting, a Labour Ministry statement said Monday. To enhance the Ease of Living of EPF members, the CBT decided to simplify the partial withdrawal provisions of the EPF Scheme by merging 13 complex provisions into a single, streamlined rule categorised into three types, namely. Essential Needs (illness. education, marriage), housing needs and special circumstances. Now, members will be able to withdraw up to 100 per cent of the eligible balance in the Provident Fund, including employee and employer share. The requirement for minimum service has been uniformly reduced to only 12 months for all partial withdrawals.



Earlier, under 'Special Circumstances,' the member was required to clarify the reasons for partial withdrawals viz. natural calamity, lockouts/closure of establishments, continuous unemployment, outbreak of epidemic, etc. This often led to rejection of claims and consequent grievances. Now, the member can apply without assigning any reasons under this category. A provision has been made for earmarking 25 per cent of the contributions in the Members' account as Minimum Balance to be maintained by the member at all times.

This will enable the member to enjoy a high rate of interest offered by EPFO (presently 8.25 per cent pa) along with compounding benefits to accumulate a high-value retirement corpus. This rationalization enhances ease of access while ensuring members maintain a sufficient retirement corpus.

Scheme provision simplification along with greater flexibility and zero need for any documentation will pave the way for 100 per cent auto settlement of claims for partial withdrawal and ensure ease of living.

Complementing the above it is also decided to change the period for availing premature final settlement of EPF from the existing 2 months to 12 months and final pension withdrawal from 2 months to 36 months.

The liberalization of partial withdrawals ensures members can meet immediate financial needs without compromising their retirement savings or pension entitlements. The EPFO has also rolled the 'Vishwas Scheme' to reduce litigation through rationalised penal damages. The ministry explained that one of the major reasons for litigations has been the imposition of damages for belated remittances of PF dues.

Under the Vishwas Scheme the rate of penal damages will be reduced to a flat rate of 1 per cent per month, except for a graded rate of 0.25 per cent for default up to 2 months and 0.50 per cent for default up to 4 months.

### **NET DIRECT TAX REVENUE JUMPS 6%**

New Delhi: Net direct tax collection grew 6.33 per cent so far this fiscal to over ₹11.89 lakh crore due to higher corporate tax mop-up and slower refunds. Refund issuances dropped 16 per cent to ₹2.03 lakh crore between April 1 and October 12. Between April 1 and October 12, net corporate tax collection stood at about ₹5.02 lakh crore, up from ₹4.92 lakh crore in the same period of 2024. Non-corporate tax, which includes individuals and HUFs, mop up so far this fiscal stood at about ₹6.56 lakh crore, up from over ₹5.94 lakh crore in the same period last year. Securities Transaction Tax (STT) collection stood at ₹30,878 crore, up from ₹30,630 crore in the year-ago period. Net direct tax collection, which includes personal income tax and corporate tax, recorded a 6.33 per cent growth year-on-year at over ₹11.89 lakh crore till October 12 this fiscal. It was about ₹11.18 lakh crore in the year-ago period. Gross direct tax collection, before adjusting refunds, stood at over ₹13.92 lakh crore till October 12 this fiscal, a 2.36 per cent growth over the year-ago period. In the current fiscal (2025-26), the government has projected its direct tax collection at ₹25.20 lakh crore, up 12.7 per cent yearon-year. The government aims to collect ₹78,000 crore from STT in FY26.

### HERO MOTOCORP ENTERS ITALY

New Delhi: Two-wheeler major Hero MotoCorp Monday said it has

entered the Italian market through a distribution partnership with Pelpi International. The company would be introducing Xpulse 200 4V, Xpulse 200 4V Pro and Hunk 440, in Italy. "Entering Italy, the very heartland of two-wheeler culture, marks a defining milestone in Hero MotoCorp's global expansion journey," Hero MotoCorp Executive Vice President Sanjay Bhan said in a statement. The company aims to redefine the future of mobility at a global scale with next-gen smart mobility solutions that cater to diverse riding preferences, he added. The Italy foray marks Hero MotoCorp's entry into its 49th international market. Initial distribution of products in the country will focus on key cities with over 36 dealers, gradually expanding to 54. Pelpi International is one of Italy's largest distributors offering twowheeler sales, service and parts across Italy through a network of over 160 dealers. "We are proud to champion Hero MotoCorp's entry into Italy. Their global scale, product quality, and the unparalleled commitment of a 5-year warranty give us immense confidence," Pelpi International Managing Director Cesare Gali said. The Hunk 440 and Xpulse 200 fill crucial, highly competitive segments in Italy, he added. Hero MotoCorp shares were trading 1.01 per cent up at ₹5,555 apiece on BSE.

### Lijjat's 60th AGM showcases women empowerment and self reliance model

Bhubaneswar: The 60th Annual General Meeting of Mahila Griha Udyog Lijjat Papad, was held Oct 9, Shanmukhananda Auditorium, Mumbai. Thousands of sister-members from across India attended the event. Roop Rashi, Chief Executive Officer of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while Suvarna Khandelwal Joshi, Joint Charity Commissioner, was the Guest of Honour. Appreciating Lijjat's journey, Roop Rashi said, "Lijjat's work is self-created and self-built; they did not imitate anyone. It has created a model of development that inspires entrepreneurs across India. Lijjat has proved that quality and fair value can go hand in hand, demonstrating India's true potential." Suvarna Joshi said, "True women empowerment happens where the spirit of giving and receiving meets. Lijjat has shown that women of all ages, castes, and backgrounds can unite and progress together." Lijjat's President Swati Paradkar thanked the dignitaries and lauded the collective efforts of Lijjat's members for maintaining quality and unity.

### Vedanta Lanjigarh launches cataract surgery drive

Kalahandi: Vedanta Aluminium has launched the first phase of its annual cataract surgery drive under Project Aarogya, its flagship healthcare initiative. The campaign aims to restore vision and improve the quality of life for



elderly individuals across 92 villages in Kalahandi and Rayagada districts. Organised in collaboration with Jagannath Netralaya, Bhawanipatna, the drive will be implemented in eight phases from October 2025 to March 2026. It will provide free consultations, surgeries, and post-operative care to underserved communities. In the first phase alone, around 40 patients will undergo surgery, with a target of benefiting 350 individuals during FY2026. Commenting on the initiative, Pranab Kumar Bhattacharyya, CEO, Vedanta Alumina Business, said, "At Vedanta Lanjigarh, our healthcare initiatives are designed to make a tangible difference in people's lives, ensuring that even the most remote communities can access quality medical services. Through Project Aarogya, we have reached thousands of families with preventive and curative care, including mobile health

units and specialized interventions like cataract surgeries."

### HRAO plea Modi to develop tourist

destinations in India **Bhubaneswar:** The Hotel & Restaurant Association of Odisha (HRAO) has submitted a comprehensive proposal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi 9 October , offering strategic suggestions to develop 50 world-class tourism destinations across India. Citing 2024 statistics, HRAO noted that India recorded 99,51,722 lakh foreign tourist arrivals, while over 3,08,85,048 Indians travelled abroad underscoring the need for world-class infrastructure to retain domestic tourists and conserve foreign exchange. It also recommended creating statutory Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) with full autonomy and sustained funding for 5-10 years. Key suggestions included offering capital and interest subsidies for 3-5-star hotels in underserved areas, developing mega tourism and recreation projects akin to Disney World under viability gap funding, and promoting cruise, wedding, and MICE tourism. The association further urged forming a dedicated

Investment Facilitation

Cell under the Ministry

project clearances and

of Tourism to streamline

attract private investments.

### Khimii Jewellers unveils 'Dhanteras Dhanvarsha'

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's trusted jewellery brand Khimji Jewellers has announced its grand festive campaign 'Dhanteras Dhanvarsha' offering range of discounts across gold, diamond, silver, platinum, polki, and fashion jewellery. Under this, customers can enjoy Flat 3.33 per cent off on the total value of gold jewellery and Flat 15



per cent off on diamond jewellery. The festive bonanza also includes 20 per cent off on silver weight making charges, 15 per cent off on silver MRP, and 10 per cent off on platinum making charges. Additionally, Khimji is offering 20 per cent off on fashion jewellery MRP, 20 per cent off on polki making charges, and 10 per cent off on artifacts. Mitesh Khimji, Managing Director, Khimji Jewellers, said, "At Khimji Jewellers, Dhanteras has always been a time of gratitude, a celebration of our customers' unwavering trust. Through DhanterasDhanvarsha, we wish to make this festive season truly special by offering irresistible value across our entire range." Customers can avail these limited-period offers at any Khimji Jewellers showroom across Odisha.

### Shaifalika Panda gets 'Moment of Lift Award' Bhubaneswar:

Shaifalika Panda, Founder and CEO of the Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF), has been conferred the Moment of Lift Award by Hurun India for her exemplary contributions to social impact and corporate responsibility. The award was presented

at the Moment of Lift

**Summit and Awards** 



2025 held at ITC Grand Central, Mumbai. Panda was recognised as a 'Visionary Leader in CSR' for her pioneering work in inclusive development, sustainability, and community empowerment. Other honourees included Kavita Subramaniam, Co-founder (Upstox), and Neha Narkhede, Co-founder (Confluent), among other distinguished leaders.

### Markets slip as global cues turn week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 13: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty fell on Monday due to selling in IT and FMCG shares and a weak trend in global markets after US Pres ident Donald Trump announced an additional 100 per cent tariff on Chinese goods from November 1.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 173.77 points or 0.21 per cent to settle at 82,327.05, snapping its two-day rally. After a gap-down opening, it tanked 457.68 points or 0.55 per cent to a low of 82 043 14 However resilience in banking and financial majors helped limit the downside in the second half.

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 58 points or 0.23 per cent to 25,227.35 as 30 of its constituents closed lower, 19 with gains and one unchanged.

Among Sensex firms, Tata Motors fell the most by 2.67 per cent a day ahead of the record date for determining shareholders' eligi bility for receiving shares in the demerged commercial vehicle business. Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, Power Grid, Bharat Electronics, ITC, UltraTech Cement and Tata Consultancy Services were also among the laggards. However, Adani Ports Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv and Axis Bank were among the gainers. The BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.43 per cent, and the

midcap dipped 0.18 per cent. IT tanked 0.90 per cent, followed by capital goods (0.85 per cent), FMCG (0.83 per cent), BSE Focused IT (0.82 per cent) and telecommunication (0.66 per cent). Financial Services, util ities, bankex, services, power and realty were the gainers. As many as 2,627 stocks declined while 1,664 advanced and 168 remained unchanged on the BSE

"Tariff escalation concerns particularly after the US President's statement on the possibil ity of imposing an additional 100 per cent duty on Chinese goods triggered risk aversion across global equities, which in turn dampened domestic sentiment,' Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research Religare Broking Ltd said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Shanghai's SSE Composite Index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled lower. Equity markets in Tokyo were closed due to a holiday. Stock markets in Europe were trading higher. US markets ended significantly lower Friday. The Nasdaq Composite tanked 3.56 per cent, while the S&P 500 tumbled 2.71 per cent and the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 1.90 per cent.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 1.77 per cent to \$63.84 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹459.20 crore Friday, according to exchange data.

# India on course of clean sweep

### **INDIA 58 RUNS AWAY FROM VICTORY IN 2ND TEST AGAINST WEST INDIES**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: The Indian bowling attack faced a stern test of character on an unresponsive sub-continental track but came out trumps. leaving the hosts on the cusp of a 2-0 clean sweep over a fighting West Indies on the fourth day of the second Test here Monday.

The Indians need another 58 runs on the final day to win the game after reaching 63 for 1 at stumps in pursuit of 121.

Jasprit Bumrah (3/44 in 17.5 overs), Kuldeep Yadav (3/104 in 29 overs), Ravindra Jadeja (1/102 in 33 overs), Mohammed Siraj (2/43 in 15 overs) and Washington Sundar (1/80 in 23 overs) toiled hard for more than 118.5 overs in the second

They eventually bowled out the West Indies for 390, leaving the home team with a target of 121 to chase in 18 overs left on the fourth evening.

KL Rahul (25 batting) and Sai Sudharsan (30 batting) looked comfortable but didn't take too many risks after Yashasvi Jaiswal (8) holed out in the deep.

This was after Siraj struck a decisive blow with the second new ball before Kuldeep Yadav ran through the lower-middle order as Indian bowlers found their mojo in the post-lunch session on day four.

John Campbell (115 off 199 balls) and Shai Hope (103 off 214 balls) added 177 runs for the third wicket to show the Caribbean team's stomach for fight but the Indian bowling unit's patience paid off once the second new ball came into operation post lunch.

But Jayden Seales (32) and Justin Greaves (50 not out) added 79 for the final wicket to take the match into day five.

The only consolation from this match for the West Indies would be two centuries

**SENSATIONAL SIRAJ** ■ Mohammed Siraj surpassed Zimbabwe fast bowler Blessing Muzarabani to become the highest wicket-taker in Tests in 2025 Siraj has played eight matches so far this year, where he has bowled 1,575 balls (262.3 overs)

> Bumrah, Siraj and Jadeja all played their part with timely dismissals.

> The Indian bowling unit can take heart from the fact that they had to bowl for long across two innings in conditions which were not conducive for either spin or pace.

> The dead pitch at the Feroz Shah Kotla didn't show any signs of wear and tear even well into the fourth day.

In the morning, Campbell

completed his first ever Test hundred in 25 appearances with a slog sweep six off Ravindra Jadeja over the cow corner.

### **BRIEF SCORES**

India 518/5 declared and 63 for 1 in 18 overs (Sai Sudharsan 30 batting; Jomel Warrican 1/15) West Indies 248 and 390 in 118.5 overs (John Campbell 115, Shai Hope 103; Kuldeep Yadav 3/104, Jasprit Bumrah 3/44)

# Paddlers out of medal race

Women disappoint against Singapore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: India's hopes for redemption on the table were dashed yet again as the women's team followed the men to the exit door from the Asian Team Table Tennis Championships after an unexpected quarterfinal loss to Singapore here Monday.

After the men's debacle, all eyes turned to the women to restore national pride. But instead of resurgence, what unfolded was another story of squandered chances and unfulfilled potential.

The fourth-seeded Indian women, expected to assert their growing stature, faltered against qualifier Singapore - a team they should have beaten – exposing the same old frailties: inconsistency, nerves, and an inability to close out crucial

Manika Batra, still India's brightest name, looked out of rhythm and short of answers against a defensive opponent ranked over a hundred places

Diya Chitale let a winning

position slip away, her 2-1 lead dissolving under pressure. Even Yashaswini Ghorpade's spirited win couldn't shift the momentum

In the end, Singapore held their nerve -- whereas India couldn't - sealing a 3-2 victory that spoke louder than rankings ever could.

Meanwhile, the top-seeded Chinese women made short work of Thailand, winning 3-0 in less than an hour. Wang Manyu, Sun Yingsha and Kuai Man did not allow any liberty and needed just nine games to round it off against Orawan Paranang, Sawettabut sisters, Suthasini, and Jinnipa.

The men's quarterfinals opened with an unexpected twist as 15-year-old Benyamin Faraji of Iran stunned world No 2 Lin Shidong of China, edging him out 3-2 in the first rubber.

The teenager, who had earlier shocked world No 1 Wang Chuqin at the Asian Championships in Astana, was in sublime form — so much so that even Lin might have admired his performance.

The two traded games before the world No 137 seized a 2–1 lead. Lin fought back to level the score, but in a tense deciding game, Faraji held his nerve

to close it out 11-9, sparking de light among the spectators and his teammates.

### THE RESULTS (QUARTERFINALS)

Men: China bt Iran 3-1 (Lin Shidong lost to Benyamin Faraji 11-8, 10-12, 8-11, 11-4, 9-11; Liang Jigkun bt Noshad Alamiyan 8-11, 13-11, 11-8, 13-11; Wang Chuqin bt Air Hossein Hodaei 11-8, 11-8, 11-4; Lin Shidong bt Noshad Alamiyan 11-8, 11-9, 11-3); Chinese Taipei bt DPR Korea 3-2 (Liao Cheng-Ting bt RI Jong Sik 11-3, 15-13, 12-10, Kuo Guan-Hong lost to Ham Yu Song 6-11, 11-7, 5-11, 11-9, 9-11; Lin Yen-Chung lost to Chon Jong Bom 4-11, 14-12, 8-11, 11-4, 16-18; Kuo Guan-Hong bt RI Jong Sik 11-7, 11-8, 12-10; Liao Cheng-Ting bt Ham Yu Song 8-11, 11-5, 12-10, 3-11, 11-3).

Women: Singapore bt India 3-2 (Tan Zhao Yun bt Manika Batra 11-8, 11-7, 6-11, 11-8; Zeng Jian bt Diya Chitale 3-11, 12-10, 11-9, 5-11, 11-9; Ser Lin Qian lost to Yashaswini Ghorpade 7-11, 8-11, 8-11; Zeng Jian lost to Manika Batra 9-11, 11-8, 8-11, 10-12; Tan Zhao Yun bt Diya Chitale 11-6, 11-5, 11-4), China bt Thailand 3-0 (Wang Manyu bt Orawan Paranang 11-3, 11-6, 11-6; Sun Yingsha bt Suthasini Sawettabut 11-7. 11-8, 13-11: Kuai Man bt Jinnina Sawettabut 11-6, 11-7, 11-8).



### SHORT **TAKES**

### **Avoid tussle with Indian players: PHF**

Lahore: The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has advised its national team players to avoid any confrontation with Indian players on the ground and just concentrate on their game during their Sultan of Johor Cup match in Johar Bahru. Malaysia Tuesday. In the wake of 'Operation Sindoor', the Indian cricket team did not shake hands with Pakistani players during their recently-conclude Asia Cup matches, including final, that sparked a row with Pakistan lodging a protest with the Asian Cricket Council as well as ICC. And the same gesture is expected from the Indian junior men's hockey team in its match against Pakistan here Tuesday. A senior official of PHF said that the players had been told to be mentally prepared for a no handshakes policy from the Indian team, "The players have been told that if the Indian players don't shake hands before or after the match just ignore the gesture and move on. They have also been told to avoid any emotional tussles or signs during the game," he said. Pakistan didn't send its team to India for the men's Asia Cup in August in Rajgir, Bihar, with Bangladesh replacing them.

### **India face must-win** battle against S'pore

Margao: The Indian football team's hopes of qualifying for the AFC Asian Cup 2027 hang by a thread as they prepare to host Singapore in a crucial return-leg clash at the Fatorda Stadium here Tuesday. With only victory likely to keep their slim chances alive, coach Khalid Jamil will welcome the additions of Mohun Bagan Super Giant defender Subhasish Bose and midfielder Lalengmawia 'Apuia' Ralte to the squad, giving the Blue Tigers a timely boost ahead of the high-stakes outing. With Sandesh Jhingan suspended, the inclusion of Bose and Apuia will significantly bolster India's squad as the former brings leadership and composure to a defence that struggled under pressure in Singapore. It will provide much-needed experience against pacey forwards like Ikhsan Fandi and

# Odisha's Pratik sets meet



and claimed 37 wickets at an

He also recorded 39 maidens.

conceded 996 runs, and achieved

70. His economy rate stood at 3.79

with a strike rate of 42.56, and he

has also taken two four-wicket

nauls and two five-wicket hauls

that forced India to bat for the

It was a sincere bowling

effort as Kuldeep, Jasprit

his best bowling figures of 6 for

average of 26.91

second time.

**Pratik Maharana of Bargarh district timed** 21.24s in men's U20 200m final, which is also the new meet record; 18-year-old also qualifies to U20 worlds

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: Odisha's young sprinter Pratik Maharana sped through the track at the Kalinga Stadium to deliver gold with a life-time best run timed at 21.24 seconds in the U20 men's 200m dash at the National Junior Athletics



Championships Monday. In the process, the 18-year-

old also shattered the meet record of 21.26, as well as breaching the qualification mark for the World Ath U20 Championships, scheduled for August next year in Oregon, USA.

"I had run the 100m in 10.72 seconds to win silver. Today, I corrected mistakes I made in 100m to finish first in 200m in 21.24 seconds," an ecstatic

Pratik said after his victory. Another Odisha athlete Omkar Prasad Nanda bagged bronze medal in the U-20 Men's Shot Put competition.

Harvana's towering teenage thrower Nishchay was cynosure of all eyes as he etched his name in record books by hurling disc (1.5kg) to a distance of 63.69m to win gold in U18 boys' group.

### **TRAILBLAZER ON TRACK**

### record at Junior Nationals Atiqa turns the tide in UAE Karting with first-ever female triumph

10-year-old racing prodigy from Jammu and Kashmir bosses male pack for memorable win in RMC UAE Championship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Al Ain (UAE), Oct 13: Indian racing prodigy Atiqa Mir bossed a male-dominated grid to become the first-ever female winner in the minimax category of the RMC UAE Karting Championship here.

In a fledgling career of many firsts, the 10-year-old took the race lead on lap four before breaking away from the pack and eventually completing a commanding win by over four seconds at the Al Ain Raceway Sunday. The 15-driver diverse grid represented eight different nationalities. With her stellar performance, the F1 Academy-backed driver made it a memorable RMC debut for her



team Akcel GP.

Atiqa fought adversity from third on the grid before coming out on top in a tight race. She made a decisive move on the inside for the lead and never looked back, setting blistering pace in rather windy conditions.

The win came after a difficult last weekend when Atiqa injured her hand but still managed a top-10 finish in the UAE IAME series.

"That felt good. It was tough for the first four laps. I was being pushed around but I fought hard and held on. I got a run on the back straight and went

tough for the first four laps. I was being pushed around but I fought hard and held on. I got a run on the back straight and went for the overtake for the lead

for the overtake for the lead," said the racer from Jammu and

"After that I really pushed hard every lap as I knew I was without a slipstream and there was a chance that the chasing pack would catch me. But I had good pace and managed the win. Big thanks to Akcel GP Team headed by Marc Baines and my mechanic CR. A win on

debut for my team," she added. In the first race of the weekend Saturday, Atiqa charged through the field after falling to 10th on the grid for a well deserved third place finish on the podium. In the process, she set the fastest lap and event record in that race and the only driver to break the 59-second lap barrier in two days of racing.

### C'ship held in City POST NEWS NETWORK

**1st State Roll Ball** 

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: The inaugural Odisha State Roll Ball Championship was successfully held at the Roll Ball Mini Stadium, Bhubaneswar Oct 11-12, marking a major milestone in the promotion of the sport

Athletes from eight districts Angul, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Koraput, Khurda, Puri, and Sambalpur - participated in this two-day sporting event that blended speed, skill. and teamwork.

across the state.

The event was inaugurated by dignitaries such as Subu R. Principal Accountant Gener al; Srijeet Pattnaik, Director Mothers Public School; Rashma Patra, Director, Wonder World and Soudamini Patra, State Secretary, Odisha Roll Ball Association who encouraged the athletes and appreciated the

In the senior category, it was Cuttack who emerged victori ous, proving their dominance on the rink. They were followed closely by Sambalpur, who took the 1st Runners Up position, and Khurda, who claimed 2nd Run-

growing popularity of the game.



## Octogenarian woman scripts Ironman history

EIGHTY-YEAR-OLD BECOMES OLDEST WOMAN TO FINISH IRONMAN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP AFTER

COMPLETING 3.8 KM SWIM, 180 KM BIKE RIDE AND 42 KM RUN IN 16 HOURS, 45 MINUTES AND 26 SECONDS



REUTERS

Hawaii, Oct 13: Natalie Grabow proved that age really is just a number when the 80-yearold became the oldest woman ever to complete the gruelling Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii Saturday.

The American age-grouper completed the 3.8 km swim, 180 km bike ride and 42 km run

All of us in sport are competitive and want to do well, but it's the journey that matters

in 16 hours, 45 minutes and 26 seconds, winning the F80-84 division in her 10th start at the iconic Hawaii event.

Grabow, from New Jersey, discovered triathlon in her 60s after years of running and qualified for this year's World Championship with a time of 15 hours and 53 minutes at Ironman Maryland, becoming the first woman to complete that race in the 75–79 category.

If you're an age-grouper, people rarely remember how you did in a race, but they remember that you had a good attitude, had a smile on your face, and were happy with your

effort. I'm so lucky to be able to do this, so I race with gratitude. Grabow said ahead of the Kona race. Her coach Michelle Lake described her as resilient and disciplined, praising her steady training approach.

"She's competitive. She doesn't just race against her peers - she studies the men in her age group and finds ways to beat them," she said.

She surpassed the previous oldest female record held by Ironman Hall of Famer Cherie Gruenfeld, who completed Kona at age 78. Race organisers celebrated Grabow's achievement, calling her an icon of endurance and highlighting her determination, with the phrase age is just a number on social media posts.

In the professional field, Norwegian rookie Solveig Lovseth won the World Championship in eight hours, 28 minutes and 27 seconds, with Britain's Kat Matthews second and 2024 champion Laura Philipp from Germany third. The men's event was held in September.

More than 1,700 age-groupers also completed the race in sweltering heat and high humidity, testing the limits of every athlete.

ners Up. In the U14 Boys catego ry, Puri clinched the championship title, followed by Cuttack and Sambalpur. The U14 Girls brought fierce competition, with Sambalpur taking the top spot and Puri and Cuttack securing the 1st and 2nd runners-up positions respectively.

The voungest boys, competing in the U11 category, saw Angul emerge as champions while Dhenkanal and Sambal pur followed with strong performances. In the U11 Girls category, Khurda proved their mettle earning the championship title, with Puri and Cuttack placing 1st and 2nd runners-up.

The event not only celebrated sporting excellence but also highlighted the potential of Roll Ball as an emerging sport in Odisha

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