



Vidya’s revelation

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

INTERNATIONAL | P10



EPFO’s new rule

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

BUSINESS | P11



Racing prodigy

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

SPORTS | P12

MEDICO GANGRAPE: 5TH ACCUSED HELD

AGENCIES

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. **P4**

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 poll-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 Das said.

Gopalan said with the issuance of the notification, the byelection 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**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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

Twin murders rock City

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

POST NEWS NETWORK

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-to-back 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 wage. 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

OP PHOTO

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-Cut-tack 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 Sarakan-tara under Khandagiri police station. He was working as a laboratory attendant at the healthcare facility through out-sourcing, 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 family.

Later, the police detained three persons in connection with Khuntia’s murder, offi-cials said.

IRCTC LAND-FOR-HOTELS SCAM

Charges framed 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, located 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 Chanakya Hotel.

HOSTAGE EXCHANGE



Red Cross vehicles transporting Israeli hostages, released by Hamas, head toward Israeli border in Khan Younis of southern Gaza Strip, Monday. (Inset) A freed Palestinian is hugged by a 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 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.

“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 without affording them any opportunity 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. **P9**

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 in- to 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

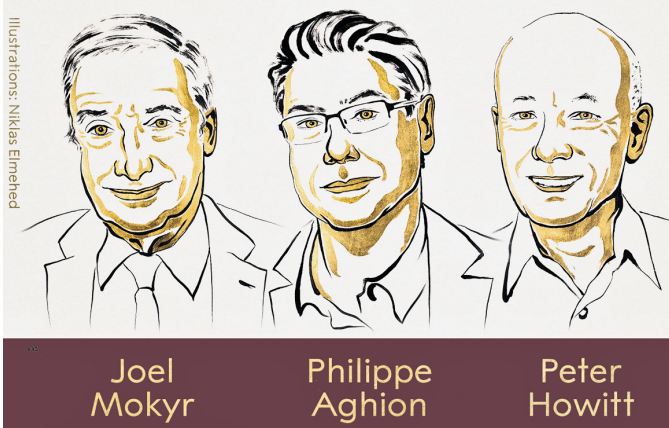
Brown University (US).

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 was going to happen,” he said.

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 — and I am Jewish by the way.”

Mokyr will turn 80 next summer but said he has no plans to retire. “This is the type of job that I dreamed about my entire life,” 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



he would invest his prize money 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

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

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 Monday, 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 average, each ward houses 703 stray dogs, the BMC said.



leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
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.

TAURUS
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.

GEMINI
Emotionally, this will be a 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
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.

LEO
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.

VIRGO
Creativity is bubbling inside you, asking to be uncorked. You may be struggling more than enough to tackle challenges thrown at you. Cash benefits will come your way in office. But Ganesha advises you to pay due attention to your health.

LIBRA
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 improving your mental state of mind.

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. Incidentally, 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.



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.



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 lyrics by @prasoon-joshilive and the song itself as I was by the picturisation... And while I

began to secretly harbour a desire to work with the master storyteller #pradeepsarkar," Vidya wrote on her IG.

As luck would have it, Vidya got a chance to work with the filmmaker in her debut movie *Parineeta*. She further went on to be a part of other projects of the team, including Shantanu Moitra.

Crediting the law of attraction, Vidya concluded, "I don't know if this qualifies as the 'Law of Attraction' but I do know that I'm ever so grateful for this just as I am for so much else in life. Have a beautiful Monday and a lovely week ahead."

IAN S



Harshvardhan's goal

MUMBAI: 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 on #diwali."

The actor's next is *Deewaniyat* starring Sonam Bajwa. The film will be released on October 21. Billed as a musical obsessive romantic drama, *Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat* is produced by Anshul Garg under his banner Desi Music Factory and co-produced by Raghav Sharma.

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 producer, following his success in the music industry with Desi Music Factory and Play DMF. The movie explores intense emotions such as love, obsession, and heartbreak

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

IAN S

I'm a volcano of talent: Kubbra

MUMBAI: Recently, on her social media account, Kubbra Sait hosted a question-and-answer session.

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 replied to this in her signature style, saying, "I'm a volcano of talent."

Kubbra recently essayed her character of Sana Shaikh in the second season of *Trial*. She will next be seen alongside Varun Dhawan and Mrunal Thakur in Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai.

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*.

AGENCIES



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

In an exclusive interview with this agency, the *Family Man* actress shared how each of these icons has a unique working style, reflecting their individual 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

Priyamani on top icons' approach to craft

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 with all of them again."

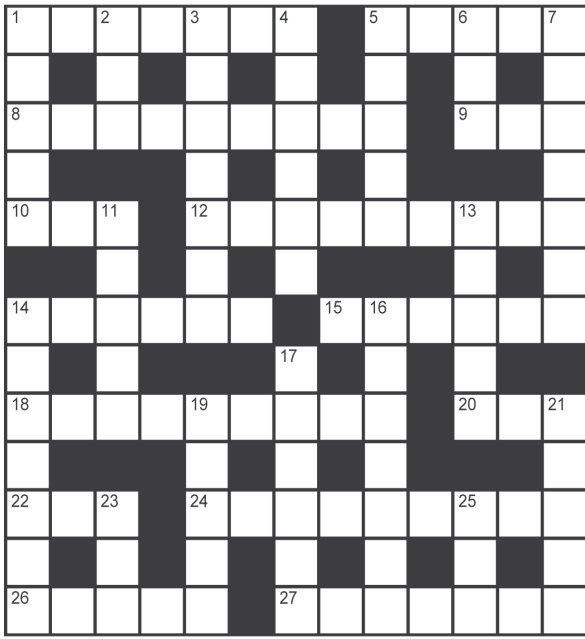
Priyamani added, "They've all worked extremely hard to reach where they are. Their success is well deserved, and I wish them all the best always."

Priyamani worked alongside 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 Tiwari.

IAN S

FUN post

CROSSWORD



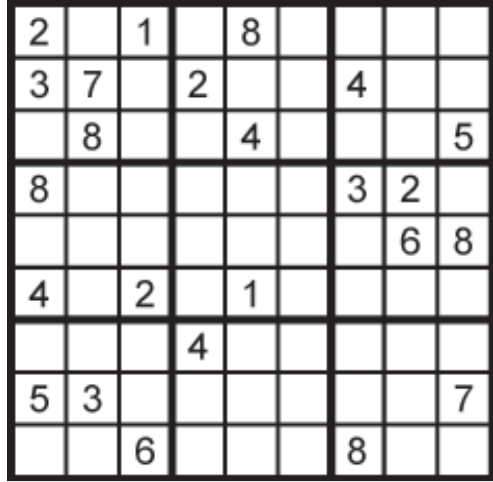
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| Across | | |
| 1 Jaguars and leopards, e.g. (3,4) | 20 Carpet | 6 German resort |
| 5 Blind followers | 22 Psyches | 7 Sunshade |
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| 9 Lady's man | 26 Illustrious | grape |
| 10 Not square | 27 Draws out | 13 Miscue |
| 12 Respite | Down | 14 Train depot |
| 14 Had a hunch | 1 Full of chutzpah | 16 Popinjay |
| 15 Oceanic bird | 2 Swindle | 17 Tristan's love |
| 18 Italian meal starter | 3 Friendly | 19 Walked nervously |
| | 4 Black widow | 21 Fellows |
| | 5 North Atlantic herring | 23 Harden |
| | | 25 Roadhouse |

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



Mamata’s statement on female boarders disappointing: Dy CM

Twin murders spark safety concerns in City

AGENCIES

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, if 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 your state,” Parida said, adding that it is “extremely condemnable not to feel ashamed.”

Banerjee had made an averment Sunday saying, “Students staying 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 with you.”

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.

Meanwhile, the National 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 education,” 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.

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 tracks to curb cattle run-over incidents, which disrupt train operations and pose safety risks. Over the past five years, the Division has recorded 501 such cases, with a sharp rise observed in recent years. Despite repeated awareness drives and announcements by railway officials and the local administration, villagers continue to let cattle graze near railway tracks. Such incidents endanger animals, cause train delays, damage locomotives, and inconvenience passengers, ECoR officials said.



can operate in broad daylight, imagine what happens at night. If such cases continue, our safety will be at serious risk.”

Similarly, another resident, Smita Mishra, said, “With rising cases of crimes against women, these murders further

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 order. In a social media post, BJD

president Naveen Patnaik said, “Unrest in the state capital is growing, and criminals are operating with impunity. The police act only after incidents occur under the BJP government, making offenders fearless as bullets fly in broad daylight.”

State Congress spokesperson 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 judicial inquiry into police and administrative failure.”

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

PNN & AGENCIES

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, Geological 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, Gorumahisani 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 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 Kalyani Steels.

Sahu instructed nodal officers to ensure regular monitoring and coordination at all lev-

els 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 proposals.

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

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

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 questioned 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 AFFIDAVIT

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 for pending e-challans goes online

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: The state government has introduced an online payment facility under the one-time settlement (OTS) scheme for pending traffic e-challans, enhancing convenience for citizens.

Initially applicable to offences under 17 sections of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the OTS scheme has now been extended to 24 sections with the addition of seven more. Under the scheme, all e-challans issued on or before July 31, 2025, can be settled with up to 50 per cent relaxation in the penalty amount.

Citizens can now clear their pending e-challans from the comfort of their homes by visiting the official portal <https://echallan.parivahan.gov.in/>.

By selecting the ‘Pay Online’ option and entering their chal-



The initiative will help lakhs of vehicle owners clear their dues easily and avoid legal complications under the Motor Vehicles Act

BIBHUTI BHUSHAN JENA | COMMERCE & TRANSPORT MINISTER

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

Commerce and Transport

Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena said the initiative will help lakhs of vehicle owners clear 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 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 24x7 toll-free helpline number 1800 345 1073.

Collaborative action for child rights at brick kilns

POST NEWS NETWORK

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.

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 department.

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

Sabitrimala 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; map-

ping 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.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	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

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	31.1°	31.4°	Light to moderate rain or thunderstorm very likely to occur at one or two places
Min Temp	23.9°	21.5°	
Humidity	77%	90%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

Fake caste certificate lands Paikmal block vice-chairman in jail

POST NEWS NETWORK

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 reserved seat.

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



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, demanding action.

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.

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 every year.

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 Khalikote was murdered. In 2022, two BJD supporters were killed in Digapahandi block, while in 2021, former Beguniapada block chairman Debaraj Sahu and former Anantel 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 murdered.

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.

POVERTY DRIVES WOMAN TO SELL INFANT SON FOR ₹20,000

POST NEWS NETWORK

Tensa, Oct 13: A woman from Patamunda hutting under Patamunda panchayat of Koida block in Sundargarh district allegedly sold off her newborn son to another person for ₹20,000, reportedly due to poverty.

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 Monday.

Sources said that the woman lost her husband a few years ago and has been living with her five children and mother-in-law at Patamunda

hutting. Around five months ago, she became pregnant but kept it a secret fearing backlash from locals due to social stigma.

However, on learning about her pregnancy, local Anganwadi worker 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 Hospital (RGH) in Rourkela.

Twelve days later, she returned home alone after being discharged from the hospital. When the ASHA and Anganwadi workers questioned her, she revealed that she had handed over the infant to

another person in exchange for ₹20,000 to help meet her expenses. She reportedly said she was struggling to feed her five children and could not raise another.

Former Patamunda sarpanch Abhinash Suman Bage said he had heard about the alleged child sale but could not confirm it.

Anita Das, the Child Development Project Officer of Koida, said she had received information about the incident but could not speak further until an inquiry is conducted.

Koida police station officer-in-charge Jyoti Ranjan Pati said no complaint related to child sale has been received in the police station.

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.

Encroachers evicted

Koraput: After serving repeated notices for over three months, the Koraput Municipal Administration Monday launched a major eviction drive to clear unauthorised stalls and encroachments near the Municipality Office along National Highway 326. The 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.



भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनिमय बोर्ड
Securities and Exchange Board of India

भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनिमय बोर्ड

सेबी भवन II, प्लॉट सं. सी-7, "जी" ब्लॉक, बांद्रा कुर्ली कॉम्प्लेक्स, बांद्रा (पूर्व) मुंबई (महाराष्ट्र) - 400 051, दूरभाष : 26449000 / 40459000

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

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) invites Request 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. Kindly submit your proposals on this link : <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc> CBC 15204/11/0174/2526

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BARBIL

No.C-1259 "e"-Procurement Notice
BID REFERENCE MUNICIPALITY (BBLM-5/2025-26)
TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. 2845/BBL MPLTY Date : 10.10.2025

1. Name of the work : Civil construction works as mentioned in website
2. No. of work : 52 (Fifty two)
3. Bid value : Rs.97,000/- to Rs.30,50,000/-
4. Period of completion : 45 to 90 days
5. Period of availability of tenders online : From 10 A.M. of 16.10.2025 to 5.00 P.M. of 30.10.2025
6. Last Date & time of bidding online : 5.00 P.M. of 30.10.2025
7. Date & time of opening of Technical Bid : 11.00 A.M. of dt.31.10.2025
8. Name and address of the officer inviting bid : EXECUTIVE OFFICER, BARBIL MUNICIPALITY

Further details can be seen from the procurement portal : www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd./- Executive Officer, Barbil Municipality
OIPR-13108/11/0042/2526

No.O-947

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

Letter No. : 4408 Date : 26.09.2025
01. 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

Procurement officer	Bid Identification No.	Sl. No. of work in notice	Availability of tender online for bidding	Last date and time of seeking tender clarification	Date of Opening
Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Jeypore	Online Tender - 05/ RWD-JYP/2025-26	23 Nos.	15.10.2025 at 10.00 A.M. upto 05.00 P.M.	26.10.2025 at 1.30 P.M.	28.10.2025 at 10.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in/ncegeapp
All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.
*N.B. : Any Addendum or Corrigendum will be available in the Website only.

Sd./- Executive Engineer
Rural Works Division, Jeypore
OIPR-25160/11/0022/2526



बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा
Bank of Baroda

Bhubaneswar Regional Office,
F1 Department, 1st Floor, Vivah Gulmohar,
Behera Sahi, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012

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 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 JAIB.
- 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 not exceed 65 years whereas in case of other candidates, it 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

Date: 13.10.2025 Regional Head
Place: Bhubaneswar Bhubaneswar Region

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Bank of India



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.

Sl. No.	Branch Name / Contact No.	Name of the Borrowers	Vehicle Details	Reserve Price / EMD / 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 to 11.11.2025 from 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.. The successful bidder has to deposit 25% of bid amount within one day after bid is 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 auction and the highest bidder will be declared as successful bidder. For further information & clarification contact: Mr. Rabinranath 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.

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 14.10.2025

Zonal Manager
Bank of India

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Union Bank of India



Regional Office : Sambalpur
1st Floor, Balaji Midtown, Budharaja, Sambalpur- 768004, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

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 money deposit is stated in the column respectively.

For Sl. No. 1 Date & Time of Auction: 14.11.2025 between 12.00 Noon. to 5.00 P.M.
For Sl. No. 2 Date & Time of Auction: 30.10.2025 between 12.00 Noon. to 5.00 P.M.
(with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantor	Description of Property to be Auctioned	Total Dues (in ₹)	Reserve Price/ EMD / Bid increment
1.	BHATLI CHOWK BRANCH / Borrower: M/s. Naudurga Textiles, Prop.: Mr. Amarnath Bhagat, At: Ward No.11, P.O.: Bargarh, Dist.: Bargarh, PIN-768028 / Guarantor: Mr. Hemanath Bhagat, At: Ward No.11, P.O.: Bargarh, Dist.: Bargarh, PIN-768028	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 Kumari Mishra, West: Land of Bharati Mishra and Pradipta Kumar Dash	₹21,90,044.05 as on 08.09.2025 + interest, costs and charges thereon	₹21,25,500/- / ₹2,12,550/- / ₹21,255/-
2.	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 Pradyumna Kumar Naik, All are At: Sakasingha, P.S.: Angul Sadar, Tahasil: Banarpal, Dist.: Angul-759123	Land with commercial Building thereon situated at Mouza: Barsikiakhoh, 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, Khirabdhhi Mahima & Jayashree Mahima (Legal heirs of Late Kalpana Nayak), Bounded by North: Vacant Land, South: Road, East: Vacant Land, West: Vacant Land	₹18,63,448.91 as on 10.10.2025 + interest, costs and charges thereon	₹35,77,500/- / ₹3,57,750/- / ₹35,775/-

Date and Time of Inspection of Property for Intending Purchasers : upto 13.11.2025 (For Sl. No.1) AND upto 29.10.2025 (For Sl.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>

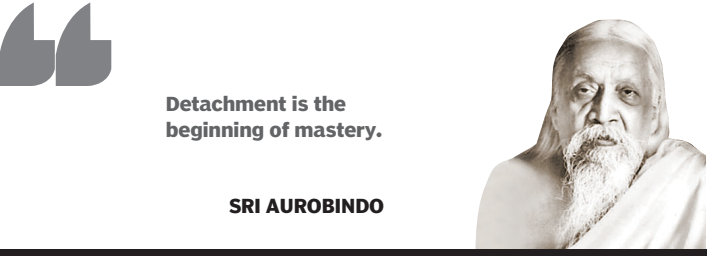
STATUTORY 30/15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6)/9(1) OF STATUTORY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

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 (Sl. No.1)/9090776601 (Sl. No.2)

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 13.10.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India



Peacemakers

There 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 Assembly in September.

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 to the prize.

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, which provided humanitarian assistance throughout the world.

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 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.

ERNEST HEMINGWAY

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.

VIKTOR E. FRANKL

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 England.

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

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

every morning, lakhs 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

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

which has a family cash transfer scheme. This scheme improved 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 mental-health leave, in families that listen without judgment.

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 awareness.

Ajit Ranade is a noted economist. Sushil Walunj is a PhD Scholar.

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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

Cuttack, a city renowned for its unity in diversity, 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 Kathajodi 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.

For decades, Cuttack stood as a symbol of inclusivity. That 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

kingdoms, territory, and material wealth. Chieftains, rulers, and 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: Muslims guarding Hindu temples, 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.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgardi 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 Suraj” 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

Snakebite envenomation now critical in Kerala

Snakebite envenomation 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 issued Friday.

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 schools.

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 interactions.

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 affordable.

"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, Minister of New and Renewable Energy, informed that India added a

GREEN MILESTONE



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

AMITABH KANT | FORMER CEO, NITI AAYOG

record 25 GW of renewable capacity 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,

as the nation accelerates its 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 energy.

"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

non-fossil sources," the minister said. While speaking at the launch event for the 8th session of the International Solar Alliance (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 transforms 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

PTI PHOTO

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 necklaces," the statement said.

"Customs remains vigilant and continues to strengthen its surveillance and enforcement measures at the airport to curb smuggling activities," the statement 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

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 October 11 to October 18, will focus on repairs and painting. The second 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 assistance ranging from ₹15,000 to ₹2 lakh per school, depending on the size and needs of the institution.

The objective is to create a

vibrant 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 uplift the standard and image of government schools in Rajasthan.

He emphasised that the work must adhere strictly to the Rajasthan Public Procurement Transparency Act, 2012, and the General Financial and

Accounting Rules, 2013. To ensure visual uniformity across the state, specific color schemes have been mandated.

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. This campaign aims not only to beautify the schools but also to instill a sense of pride and celebration among students and educators across Rajasthan.

In a first, around 65,000 govt schools in Rajasthan to be illuminated this Diwali

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 intersection, 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 waiting times.

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

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

The system uses high-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 brigades.

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 Deputy Superintendent of Police Ashok Anjana, traffic pressure increases sharply during morning and evening hours.

"The AI system will automatically 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.



of the day quote

I don't want to respond to such things. High command is 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 are also required

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

People of Punjab have made up their mind to support Prime Minister Modi. They 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 | HARYANA CM

Priyank Kharge is making such statements just for publicity. He does not having any standing of his own and his politics is dependent on his father (Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge)

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

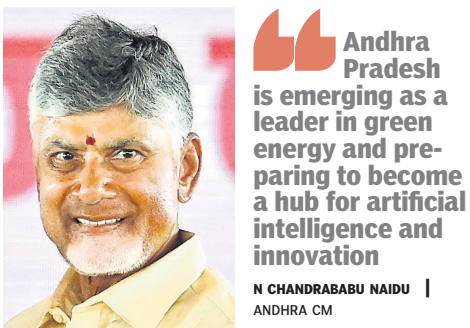
Bhopal: A 50-metre stretch of a road caved in on the outskirts of Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal Monday afternoon, prompting authorities to divert traffic on the route, police said. The incident occurred near the Bilkhiria area, under the Sukhi Sewania police station limits, around 35 km from the district headquarters,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

Three STF personnel injured 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.



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

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | ANDHRA CM

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

VIKSIT BHARAT



BUILDATHON

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 Minister Anita Anand met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister 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 priorities”.

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, technology, 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.



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

PTI PHOTO

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.

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. Jiolangsar Narzary, Parikshit Sharma and Siddhartha Bora reached the CID head-quarters 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

PTI PHOTO

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.

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.

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 Bhemra 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.

SNIPPETS

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 fast-tracked,” the official added.

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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.

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 place at the residence of JD(U) working president Sanjay Kumar Jha, state minister and senior BJP leader Nitin Nabin downplayed the outbursts of Manjhi, who has been feeling “undervalued” by getting far fewer seats than Paswan, and

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

“There is no bitterness anywhere. 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 coalition.

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 accommodate 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 Sheohar, 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 ticket but had crossed over to the NDA last year when Nitish Kumar had quit the INDIA bloc and gravitated towards the INDIA bloc.

of the day

quote

The Central Government has always paid special attention to the interests and needs of Himachal. It is a matter of joy that the central government has approved the construction of these houses

ANURAG SINGH THAKUR | HAMIRPUR MEMBER OF PARL

Maintaining law and order requires equal responsibility from both the collector and the SP. Wherever coordination 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

The BJP cannot win three Rajya Sabha seats (in JK) without horse trading. BJP cannot win even one seat without horse trading

OMAR ABDULLAH | J&K CM

POST OF THE DAY

Need Mission Mode For Cleanliness in India

- Install CCTV Camera, Use AI
- Identify People

Who Throw Garbage

- Identify Gutakha Spitters, Open Urination

Penalise Offenders Strictly With 7 Day Community Service Or Up to 1 Lakh Fine and 2 Year Jail

@Ravisutanjani

SHORT TAKES

Sena (UBT), MNS hold protest

Thane: The Shiv Sena (UBT) and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena Monday held a massive protest against what it claimed was rampant corruption and mismanagement in the Thane Municipal Corporation. While the Nationalist Congress Party (SP) took part in the "dhadak morcha", which began at Gadkari Rangayatana and ended at the TMC headquarters, the Congress was conspicuous by its absence. Thane is the stronghold of the Shiv Sena led by Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Dalit feared drowned, three cops suspended

Kannauij (UP): Three police personnel have been suspended for alleged negligence after a 15-year-old Dalit boy was feared down in a river while attempting to escape from a raiding police team in Gursahaiganj area of Kannauij 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.

Minor 'gangraped' in Ranchi, 5 held

Ranchi: A 14-year-old girl was allegedly raped by nine people 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.

KARUR STAMPEDE

DMK: SC ORDER FOR CBI PROBE NOT FINAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Justices 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 many such cases should take over the investigation".



We support President Trump's sincere efforts to bring peace to the region

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

'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 Mehdiipur 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 Mehdiipur 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, in Rudraprayag

PTI PHOTO

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 such crimes.

"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 as they hold protest

PTI PHOTO

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 everywhere. 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 leaving for Durgapur, Bose said, "I 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 state's law and order situation."

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.

Live-in relationships 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 youth 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 Ayodhya, 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.

HARYANA IPS OFFICER 'SUICIDE'

Oppn steps up attack on govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Shatrueet 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-

mandated that Kapur and Bijarniya be named in the FIR for allegedly abetting her husband'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 officer 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

family.

Telangana Deputy Chief 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 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 Shatrueet Kapur and the then Rohtak SP Narendra (Bijarniya), stating that they have humiliated him, insulted him, and they are the root cause for 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 gender-sensitive 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 reservation.

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 gender-sensitive policy for allotment of professional chambers/cabins to women advocates in different courts and bar associations



Representational image

across the country.

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 lawyers 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 Kant said.

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 women.

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 practice of 15-25 years, they were not allotted any chamber or professional space and asserted that the present chamber allotment scheme of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) was without any reservation for women advocates.



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

MARK RUTTE | NATO CHIEF

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

REUTERS

» Trump signs ceasefire document with mediators Egypt, Turkey, Qatar

» Hamas hands over four coffins of deceased hostages

» Trump calls conflict a 'long nightmare' for Israelis and Palestinians, time to translate it into lasting peace

» Trump floats idea of Iran-Israel peace accord

» The last 20 living hostages held by Hamas in Gaza are now back in Israel after more than two years in captivity

» The hostages were kidnapped by Hamas during the 7 October attacks in 2023 - watch the moments several were reunited with their families

» In exchange for the hostages, Israel has released almost 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees

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 says recovering 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-

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

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

cial said two more were handed over later. Aid supplies must be rushed into the enclave, where hundreds of thousands of people 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 going in". 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."



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

REUTERS

Madagascar's Prez left the country after Gen Z protests

REUTERS

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 unrest.

Siteny Randrianasoloniaink, 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 Ra-

joelina'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.

Trump on track to meet Xi in SK

REUTERS

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 spiral.

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.

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."



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

Trump said that the prize

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

said while emphasising, "I did this not for Nobel. I did this for saving lives."

Since May 10, when Trump 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.

PAK-AFGHAN BORDER CLASH

Pakistani troops on high alert



REUTERS

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 conflict.

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 AFGHANISTAN OF HARBOURING MILITANTS

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 going 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," foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian said during a regular press briefing in Beijing Monday.

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

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 innings.

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) and claimed 37 wickets at an average of 26.91

■ He also recorded 39 maidens, conceded 996 runs, and achieved his best bowling figures of 6 for 70. His economy rate stood at 3.79, with a strike rate of 42.56, and he has also taken two four-wicket hauls and two five-wicket hauls

that forced India to bat for the second time.

It was a sincere bowling effort as Kuldeep, Jasprit

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)

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-concluded 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 Shawal Anuar.

Odisha's Pratik sets meet record at Junior Nationals



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.

Haryana'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.

Octogenarian woman scripts Ironman history



REUTERS

Hawaii, Oct 13: Natalie Grabow proved that age really is just a number when the 80-year-old 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

NATALIE GRABOW

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

TRAILBLAZER ON TRACK

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

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



1st State Roll Ball C'ship held in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

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 across the state.

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.

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

In the senior category, it was Cuttack who emerged victorious, 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-



ners Up. In the U14 Boys category, 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 youngest boys, competing in the U11 category, saw Angul emerge as champions, while Dhenkanal and Sambalpur 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.